
1. Definitions and Classification System

A proposal for a new classification system for joint issues was made in August 2003 in the journal "Joint Stamp Issues" of the "International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors" (IPS-JSIC). Several comments from collectors helped to refine the definitions and redefine the classification system. The deeper we got into detail, the higher became the number of sub-classes. At a certain point it becomes obvious that some sub-classes will have to merge again, as otherwise, most of the sub-classes will contain only one example of an issue. There are still some issues that could be reconsidered, but overall we think we came up with something that is coherent and reliable for future issues.

The main split is made between what was previously called "True Joint Issues" and "Questionable Issues", the latter containing the omnibus series and the territorial/colonial issues. Within these two categories, it was prudent to select sub-classes of stamps with or without the same design. The difficulties start when the design is not identical but similar, or when a country only takes part of another's design. Sub-classes were created accordingly. Finally, as most of the older joint issues (prior to 1970) have not been claimed as joint, there remains a doubt about the interest of both countries to produce the issue jointly, even if the stamps show the same design or have been issued on the same day.

Improving the classification system is ongoing and remains open to discussion.

General Definition

A Joint Issue can be declared when two or more independent postal administrations reach an agreement to create new postage stamps or items for postal use with a common interest and issue them within a pre-defined timeframe

Definitions:

- The wording "**Joint Issue**" is used here as a generic term to include the issues described in this catalogue that are affected with the wording "Approved" and previously "True" joint issues. On the contrary, the reporting in this catalogue of "Non-approved" issues is done only on an example basis to demonstrate on the most frequent requests for integration the reason of non-acceptance
- **two or more**: there is no limitation in the number of countries involved in a joint issue release. A series becomes "omnibus" if the same printing house has produced all the stamps for all countries for economic reason ("abusive or exaggerated" issues) and not when it is linked to the number of countries or the fact that these countries are administratively dependent
- **independent**: only postally independent countries can be involved. If the stamps are issued together with the parent country, they are Territorial or Colonial issues and become a specific sub-class. Nevertheless if another independent country is involved, the whole territorial or colonial issues become part of the joint issue
- **postal administrations**: not to be confused with printing house. Therefore omnibus series produced at a printing site (House of Questa, Crown's agent, etc...) by the same designer and for which often only the name of the country is modified, will not be considered as joint issues. On top of that, the country (postal administration) must be recognized by the UPU at the time of release of the stamps
- **target and signature**: the issue has to be approved as joint by all postal administrations during the preparation or the design phase. Therefore issues discussed at the UPU or any type of collectivity or

organization (ASEAN, SAARC, Norden, OPEC, Arab League, CEPT, etc...) must be considered joint as well. A recommendation for a common date or a common design must exist. On the contrary, stamps issued by different countries at the occasion of e.g. an anniversary of the creation of such organization, is not necessarily a joint issue and in absence of proof will be systematically classified as doubtful, omnibus, or unacceptable

- **agreement:** an official statement by one or more of the postal administrations must be published, or mixed official covers are produced by the administrations (dealer or private covers are unacceptable). Therefore the use of first day covers completed with stamps from the second country after the issue of the stamps of the first country (post-cancellation) cannot be considered as joint issue. For most of the older issues it is difficult to provide this evidence. Therefore, in the main cases a special sub-class was proposed (waiting list)
- **new:** reprints of older issues are not accepted. Overprinted stamps cannot be considered joint issues, even if these stamps are overprinted in accordance with the partner country. Whenever possible, this information will be reported
- **postage stamps or items:** stamps, souvenir sheets and booklets are the most common items used in joint issues, but postal stationery such as cards, letters, aerograms can be part of a joint issue as well. Revenue stamps, official stamps and stamp labels may even be acceptable
- **postal use:** any item produced within this frame must be accepted as payment for mailing. Therefore if only documents without postal value are produced, the issue cannot be considered as joint. Of course complementary material without postal value (e.g. black prints, assays, ...) printed in parallel to an official joint issue will be described
- **common interest:** all stamps must be commemorative stamps (topical or anniversary) and preferably related to an event that is common to all countries. The topic displayed on the stamps must have received official agreement from all postal administrations
- **defined timeframe:** the time between dates of issues will define its sub-class (twin, parallel or concerted). However, for technical or political reason the difference between two issues could be several months. These issues will eventually be accepted. Aborted joint issues will be considered when the information becomes available.

Wording

Beside the official definitions detailed above, there are some words that are used throughout this book that might be interpreted in different manners. To become more precise, some words were used for a specific purpose. In the description of the illustrations of stamps, the word "**Identical**" stands for stamps for which only the name of the country and the denomination are different. However format of the stamp can change for each country. On the contrary "**Same**" can only mean that there is no difference at all between two stamps, except for country name and denomination. "**Similar**" stands for close design, but with different colors, or different size or item distribution, or only partly identical items. "**Equivalent**" means that there is an obvious link between the two issues when only looking at the design and the picture, but different designers have made these drawings.

Dual first day cover stands for an item bearing both stamps first day canceled from the originating country. **Dual first day document** stands for the same type of cancellation put on any type of support including cards, paper sheets, cardboard and of course also covers. In specific cases, when only that specific item is known, the word **Document** is replaced either by the word **Cover** or **Card**. The word "**Mixed**" replacing "Dual" is used when the issue includes more than two countries. Without further specifications, a dual or mixed first day document bears only the stamps defining the joint issue. If there is more than one stamp per country, this is described. It is also specified when items other than stamps are involved in this dual document, such as booklet pages, souvenir sheets, stamps with labels, etc...

Maximum cards follow the official definition of the Maximaphilists, i.e. it is an illustrated card bearing the stamp first day canceled on the illustrated side. All three items (card, stamp and cancellation) have to have a direct relationship. Dual or Mixed maximum cards are special maximum cards bearing all stamps from a joint issue first day canceled. Of course cancellations are those from the stamp issuing country.

Classification system

Based on the previous definition, it became important to separate the different type of joint issues in sub-classes and to identify them specifically. The basic type of a joint issue corresponds to an identical stamp issued on the same day by two postal administrations having reached this agreement. However, the combinations of gap between the exact dates of issue (that can range from one day to more than one year) and the similarity of designs (that can range from exactly the same stamp to completely different stamps) resulted in the creation of well-identified classes. All these classes are described extensively in the next chapter with examples. Below you will also find a determination key that helps to attribute the specific sub-class. The same characters are used throughout the catalogue and limited to a simple two digit/character code.

Two characters are used to describe a joint issue (e.g.: **T2**, **CD**, **PO**). The first letter provides its group classification:

U: *Unique*, **S:** *Siamese*, **T:** *Twin*, **C:** *Concerted*, **P:** *Parallel*.

Sub-classes are defined by the second character that can either be a figure for "true" joint issues categories (Part 1), or a second letter related to the stamp type (Part 2):

O: *Omnibus*, **D:** *Dependencies (Territorial or Colonial)*, **A:** *Accidental*.

It exists some folder collecting stamps from different countries with a common topic. As these items are not true joint issues, they have been collected in a special chapter under:

B: *Books/folders*

Due to the frequent requests from collectors to consider certain stamps as official joint issues, we considered important to describe the reason why such stamps had to be excluded. An obviously non-exhaustive list of those series is given at the end of the book in a chapter that collects false joint issues and common issues. It completes the series considered as **A** (accidental) that are also Non-Approved issues. All these stamps are collected under the title:

N: *Non-Approved issues*

Finally, in order to show that the collection of joint issue is not limited to stamps, there is a short chapter that shows why collectors should also become interested in **Joint cancellations J**.

Joint issues determination keys

A classification system for joint issues is proposed thereafter. By following the chart below, one should be able to easily define the sub-class to which a joint issue belongs. However, the first question to ask oneself if one hesitates to integrate a new pair as joint issue, should be: "**Is there any reason why these two countries should have cooperated to create this joint issue at that period in time?**" If the answer seems apparently positive, the following determination keys should help to confirm the integration or not in this catalogue.

The siamese and unique issues have been omitted from this determination key, as the number of sub-classes remains very limited. These keys apply therefore for series of two or more stamps with the same or different design. Stamps with overprint [**OP**], Non-commemorative [**NC**] or issued by countries non-recognized from the UPU [**NR**] are excluded up front from the list of joint issues. Administration involvement means that postal administrations from all partners have at least approved, either the issue date, or part of the design.

The criteria of **dependency** will differentiate a territorial issue from an omnibus or a normal joint issue. If the stamp was produced in a same printing house and there is no administrative statement that it is a joint issue, this will be an omnibus series.

The determination key follows the order:

Design type -> Date of Issue -> Administrative involvement -> Countries link

1. Same design

1.1. Same date of issue (within seven days)

1.1.1. Different printing house or administration involvement

1.1.1.1. Independent countries (limited number of countries)

T1 {T}

1.1.1.2. Independent countries (countries number >5)

T2 {T}

1.1.1.3. Dependencies

TT {D}

1.1.1.4. Former common state split for political reason

TF {D}

1.1.2. Same printing house without administration involvement

TO {O}

1.2. Different date of issue (more than seven days difference)

1.2.1. Different printing house or administration involvement

1.2.1.1. Independent countries	C1	{C}
1.2.1.2. Dependencies	CD	{D}
1.2.1.3. Former common state split for political reason	CF	{D}
1.2.2. Same printing house without administration involvement	CO	{O}
1.2.3. Obvious absence of reason - anniversary	TA	{N}
1.2.4. Borrowed design re-used at a later stage	BD	{N}
2. Similar design (<i>similar means slightly different from identical but with parts of common illustrations</i>)		
2.1. Same date of issue (within seven days)		
2.1.1. Different printing house or administration involvement		
2.1.1.1. Independent countries	T3	{T}
2.1.1.2. Independent countries, different stamp cuts	T4	{T}
2.1.1.2. Dependencies	TT	{D}
2.1.2. Same printing house without administration involvement	TO	{O}
2.2. Different date of issue (more than seven days difference)		
2.2.1. Different printing house or administration involvement		
2.2.1.1. Independent countries	C3	{C}
2.2.1.2. Design offered to another country	C2	{C}
2.2.1.3. Design adapted to join another event	C4	{C}
2.2.1.5. Dependencies	CD	{D}
2.2.2. Same printing house without administration involvement	CO	{O}
2.2.3. Obvious absence of reason	CA	{N}
2.2.4. Borrowed design re-used at a later stage	BD	{N}
3. Different design		
3.1. Same date of issue (within seven days)		
3.1.1. Design different but identical label	C5	{C}
3.1.2. Different printing house or administration involvement		
3.1.2.1. Independent countries (limited number of countries)	P1	{P}
3.1.2.2. Independent countries (countries number >5)	P2	{P}
3.1.2.3. Dependencies	PD	{D}
3.1.3. Same printing house without administration involvement	PO	{O}
3.1.4. Obvious absence of reason - anniversary	PA	{N}
3.2. Different date of issue (more than seven days difference)		
3.2.1. Official joint issue even with different designs and dates	R1	{P}
3.2.2. Delayed due to double anniversary issue	R2	{P}
3.2.3. Without administration involvement - not a joint issue	NA	{N}
3.2.4. Former common state split for political reason	PF	{D}
3.2.5. Non joint issue stamps collected in a special folder or book	NA	{B}
4. Absence of a partner country		
4.1. Second part (partnership) canceled for political reason	N1	{T} {C} {P}
5. Common topic only and if common date without administration involvement	CM	{N}

Absence of proof of joint issue existence will result in the replacement of the second index character with an "X". Dependencies are considered as independent states if they produce joint issues for a specific topic limited to the two (or more) territories without involving the whole group of territories and/or the parent country.

Part 1: True joint issue sub-classes

Part 1 collects all series for which there is obvious evidence that postal administrations had to come closer in order to produce these joint issues, based either on the design and/or the date of issue. The difficulty in adding new series to these lists starts when some of the countries are politically linked to each other. If more than two countries are involved in a series, two countries remain sufficient to define the sub-group to which this series will belong. Therefore, when only two countries issue identical stamps at the same date beside several other countries issuing stamps at different dates or with different designs, these two countries will define the priority in the classification system.

It can appear that a series could belong to two different sub-classes. Both sub-classes are then given square brackets, e.g. [U1][S1]. If there is a doubt about the sub-group, both possible sub-groups are given the same square brackets, e.g. [U1]/[UD]. The series will be displayed in the sub-group with the highest ranking following the list hereunder.

Name	Type	Basic definition	Remarks and examples
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1.1. Unique Issues {U}

Unique issue	U1	Single stamp (or postal item) issued by all countries	Names of all countries present on the stamp E.g.: Liechtenstein - Switzerland [S19950905]	
	U2	Single stamp (or postal item) issued by all countries	No name of country on the stamp, but used in several countries E.g.: Austria - Hungary [S18670601] - only sample known so far, actually a Non-commemorative stamp, therefore considered here as a precursor	
Unique Dependency Issue	UD	Single stamp (or postal item) issued for different dependencies (territories or colonies)	Unique issue involving dependent countries (extremely rare and should normally belong to Part II - no sufficient examples to create a specific sub-group in Part II) No known example yet. [S20041123] : IOC - Switzerland - United Nations could be considered such a sub-type due to the close cooperation between the UN office of Geneva and the Swiss postal administration	
	UX	Single stamp (or postal item) issued by all countries	Proof needed to confirm the approval of the second country. They could be [U1] stamps. Classified as [UX] until more information is available (waiting list) Eg: letter sheet from Argentina with imprint of Brazilian stamp [S19000000]	

1.2. Siamese Issues {S}

Siamese Issue	S1	Two stamps from different countries, issued se-tenant or part of the same souvenir sheet	Stamps with the same design that can be separated to be used in their respective country E.g.: Italy and San Marino [S19941008]	
	S2	Two stamps from different countries, issued se-tenant or part of the same souvenir sheet	Stamps with a different design Although se-tenant, stamps can be used for postage only in the originating country E.g.: Yugoslavia and Romania [S19650430]	
Siamese Dependency Issue	SD	Two stamps from different dependencies (territories or colonies), either issued se-tenant, or part of the same souvenir sheet, or included in the same booklet	Siamese issue involving dependent countries (extremely rare and should normally belong to Part II There are not enough examples to create a specific sub-group in Part II) E.g.: Australia - Christmas Island [S19961101]	
Siamese Omnibus Series	SO	Stamps from different countries se-tenant; Design is similar, but stamps can be different	Common printing house. Produced as copies of each other in order to reduce printing costs. Usually the number of involved countries is much higher than five. (extremely rare and should normally belong to Part II - no sufficient examples to create a specific sub-group in Part II)	
	SX	One se-tenant pair of stamps (or postal item) issued for two countries	Proof needed to confirm the approval of the second country. They could be [S1] stamps. Classified as [SX] until more information is available (waiting list) No example seen so far	

1.3. Stamps with the same design issued at the same date - Twin issues {T}

Twin Issue	T1	Identical stamps issued on the same day. Most common case, basis of the Joint Issues collection	Difference between dates of issue can be up to one week. E.g.: France - Germany [T19730122]	
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	<p>T2</p>	<p>Identical stamps issued on the same day (larger number of countries involved, usually > 5)</p> <p><i>[T2] stamps belong to series in which the participation of countries was not mandatory. This results in issues that seem to be incomplete in terms of participating countries.</i></p>	<p>These issues cover series that are proposed by an official entity (CEPT, UIT, UPAEP, Arab League, etc...) to a large number of countries at a fixed day, with a common design, but without formal agreement from the countries that they will participate.</p> <p>E.g.: Europa CEPT stamps with the same design and with less than half of the countries having issued stamps at the same date.</p> <p>UPU common issue [T20011009]</p>
	<p>T3</p>	<p>Similar stamps issued on the same day</p>	<p>The design is apparently different, but one element or part of the design of one stamp is adapted to the other country. If there are only size differences, or modifications in printing processes, paper quality, colors or perforations, these stamps are classified as [T1]</p> <p>E.g.: Germany - Japan - same portrait used by both designers [T19960216]</p>
	<p>T4</p>	<p>Identical souvenir sheets issued on the same day with different stamp cuts</p>	<p>The basic design of the souvenir sheet is the same for all countries, but stamps including printing of the country names and denominations are cut out at different positions in the souvenir sheet.</p> <p><i>Once separated from the souvenir sheets, these stamps could be classified as [P1]</i></p> <p>E.g.: Jersey and Guernsey souvenir sheets [T19941001]</p>
	<p>T5</p>	<p>Identical stamps issued on the same day but on a non-commemorative topic</p>	<p>These stamps should be excluded due to their non-commemorative nature. However, as postal administrations commonly issue these stamps, they have to be kept in this heading and are attributed a special sub-group.</p> <p>E.g.: 1977 Kenya - Tanzania - Uganda series with topic fish, telecommunication, religion or trains</p>



	TX	Identical stamps issued on the same day	<p>Proof needed to confirm stamps were issued jointly. They could become [T1] stamps. Classified as [TX] until more information is available (waiting list)</p> <p>E.g.: Pilgrimage to the Mecca [T19791109] - Egypt (November 7) - Iraq (November 9) - Kuwait (November 9) - Oman (November 1) - Saudi Arabia (November 6)</p> 
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1.4. Stamps with the same design issued at different dates - Concerted issues {C}

Concerted Issue	C1	Identical stamps issued at different dates	<p>Difference between dates of issues more than one week. Postal administrations must claim stamps as being issued jointly and explain difference of issue dates</p> <p>E.g.: [C20010411] Chile (April 11) - Poland (July 3)</p> 
	C2	Identical stamps issued at different dates	<p>This sub-class contains stamps that were initially not announced as joint, but one country has offered its design to another country for implementation in their philatelic program</p> <p><i>These stamps will be classified as [C2] only if proven as a joint issue</i></p> <p>E.g.: [C19631012] Panama (Republic) (January 22, 1964) - Spain (October 12, 1963)</p> 
	C3	Similar stamps issued at different dates	<p>Design of the stamps not identical, but similarities show that postal administrations from both countries had worked together.</p> <p>E.g.: Austria Hungary souvenir sheet [C20040428]</p> 

	C4	Adapted reprint: Same design, but for another occasion, different initial dates and postal agreement	<p>One country took the design of a previous issue and adapted it to this topic and the other country took this design. Issue confirmed by mixed first day cancellations</p> <p>E.g.: China - Malaysia [C20040531]. The Chinese stamp was initially issued on August 5, 2003 with a different label. On the joint issue date, Malaysia took the same design, while China adapted the label to fit with the topic of the issue.</p>
	C5	Different stamps issued at different dates, but affixed part (label) of the stamps is identical	<p>Once label is separated from the stamp, stamps are classified as Non-Approved joint issues</p> <p>E.g.: [C19681230]: <i>Philexafrique</i>, label identical for all 15 stamps/countries of this series</p>
	CX	Identical stamps issued at different dates	<p>Same as [C1] but no proof of a mixed cover. A joint issue for which there is still doubt will belong to this sub-class as long as they cannot be confirmed as [C1], [C2], [CD], [CO] or [CA] (waiting list)</p>



1.5. Official Joint Issues with different designs {P}

Parallel - or simultaneous - issue	P1	Different stamp designs but issued on the same date	<p>Difference between dates of issue can be up to one week. Postal administrations must claim the stamp was being issued jointly and explain the difference of design if an official (not private) mixed cover exists</p> <p>E.g.: Denmark - Germany: [P19630514]</p>
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	P2	Different stamps designs issued around the same day (large number of countries involved > 5)	When more than two countries are involved but not all of the stamps are issued on the same day, the most common date will be kept. Typical examples are the Europa-CEPT or UPAEP series with a common topic but different designs.
	PX	Different stamp designs but issued on the same date	Same as above but no proof of mixed cover. A joint issue for which there is still doubt will remain in this sub-class as long as they cannot be confirmed as [P1] , [P2] , [PD] , [PO] or [PA] (waiting list)

1.6. Delayed (Retarded) Joint Issues

Stamps collected under this heading correspond to pairs with different designs that have been produced at different dates but with the agreement of both postal administrations (the explanation of the delay and the proof of the postal agreement must be provided). As these series correspond to a special sub-group of parallel issues, they will be displayed in the same chapter **{P}**.

Delayed (Retarded) Joint Issue	R1	Different designs and different initial dates but postal agreement	Production of one stamp by one country and existence of official mixed covers by using one previously issued stamp from the other country with authorizations from both postal administrations E.g.: France and Switzerland (Leman Lake, [P19850615])
			
Delayed (Retarded) - Double Anniversary Issue	R2	Different designs and different initial dates but postal agreement	Delay officially acknowledged and a relationship exists between the two linked events in both countries [P19810503] Departure from Pitcairn (May 3, 1981) and arrival at Norfolk (June 5, 1981)

1.7. Incomplete Joint Issues

Aborted Series	N1	Incomplete issue <i>These stamps will be displayed within the original categories for which they were designed (T, C or P) and no specific sub-chapter will be created.</i>	Related counterpart stamp missing or stamps that were not issued (however designer and printing samples exist), or stamps printed at another occasion, although the agreement between the postal administration was published E.g.: [P19470521] Argentina (May 21, 1947) and Brazil (postal usage forbidden)
			

Part 2: Common issues sub-classes

Colonial, territorial, omnibus series, false joint issues and as issues with an unacceptable gap between releases dates are collected in this second part. For purists, the following series should be excluded from the lists of joint issues. However it appears that some philatelists include some of these classes, mainly territorial and omnibus series, in their collections. It is also important to have some explanation about pairs that have been excluded from Part 1.

Name	Type	Basic definition	Condition and Remarks - Examples
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2.1. Dependency (Territorial, Colonial, etc) Issues {D}

As the definition of a colony differs from one country to another, there will be no splitting between territorial and colonial issues. The term territorial includes all countries that are "postally" dependent on each other whether they are called dependencies, colonies, territories, oversea department, dominions, etc. Once such a territory gains its complete postal independence and produces its own stamps different from the parent country, it will be considered as a country *per se* and subsequent series will be reported in Part 1. A table providing independence dates of all countries is printed at the end of the catalogue. If only a sub-group of the dependencies is involved (without participation of the parent country) and if the topic is related to a local event, then these stamps will be considered as Twin ([T1]-[T5]) or Joint ([C1]-[C5] or [P1]-[P2]) series.

Dependency Unique Issue	UD	Single stamp (or postal item) issued for different dependencies (territories or colonies)	Unique issue involving dependent countries are rare and will be reported together with all other Unique issues in Part I - 1.1.
Dependency Siamese Issue	SD	Two stamps from different dependencies (territories or colonies), either issued <i>se-tenant</i> , or part of the same souvenir sheet, or included in the same booklet	Siamese issue involving dependent countries are rare and will be reported together with all other Siamese Issues in Part I - 1.2.
Dependency (Territorial or Colonial) Twin Issue	TD	Identical stamps issued by postally dependent territories (or colonies) on the same date	<p>List of administrations considered as territories is given at the end of the catalogue. However stamps issued jointly with a country other than the parent country must be reported as [T1]-[T5]</p> <p>E.g.: Dutch Antilles - Netherlands - Surinam [D19710629]. Overprinted territorial twin issues with different colors will be classified under this heading as well.</p>
Dependency (Territorial or Colonial) Concerted Issue	CD	Identical stamps issued by postally dependent territories (or colonies) on different dates	<p>List of administrations considered as territories is given elsewhere. Stamps issued jointly with a country other than the parent country must be reported as [C1]-[C5]</p> <p>E.g.: 1955 Algeria (June 13) - France (February 23) Fiftieth anniversary of the Rotary International [D19550223].</p>



Dependency (Territorial or Colonial) Parallel Issue	PD	Different stamps issued by postally dependent territories (or colonies) on the same date	<p>List of administrations considered as territories is given elsewhere. However stamps issued jointly with a country other than the parent country must be reported as [P1]-[P2]</p> <p>E.g.: Algeria - France Centenary of the creation of the Military Medal. French colonial twin issue [D19520705]</p>
Twin series from former unique state	TF	Divided series made of identical stamps issued on the same day from former unique state	<p>This series arose from the division of countries that were continuing issuing the stamps that were planned initially when the country was still unified. Stamps were printed in the same printing house.</p> <p>E.g.: Stamps issues in 1993 by Slovakia and the Czech Republic: Cyril and Method, [D19930622]</p>
Concerted series from former unique state	CF	Divided series made of identical stamps issued at different days from former unique state	<p>This series arose from the division of countries that were continuing issuing the stamps that were planned initially when the country was still unified. Stamps were printed in the same printing house.</p> <p>E.g.: Stamps issues in 1993 by Slovakia and the Czech Republic [D19930514]: trees, Czech Republic, October 26, Slovakia, May 14, 1993</p>
Parallel series from former unique state	PF	Divided series made of different stamps from former unique state (not necessarily issued on the same day - delayed)	<p>This series arose from the division of countries that were continuing issuing the stamps that were planned initially when the country was still unified. Stamps were printed in the same printing house.</p> <p>E.g.: Stamps issues in 1993 by Slovakia and the Czech Republic and split in sub-series one for each country [D19930520]: Personalities, Czech Republic, August 26, 1993, Slovakia, May 20, 1993</p>

2.2. Omnibus Series {O}

Omnibus Series include all large series of stamps printed at the same location from the same printing house for countries that are not politically linked. British Territory issues from the 40's and 50's have the generic catalogue name "omnibus series", due to the number of countries involved, but they will not be considered in this sub-class, as at that time, the countries were directly governed by Great Britain. Therefore these series will be classified as Colonial/Territorial under **[TD]**, **[CD]** or **[PD]** and the subsequent issues become **[TO]**, **[CO]** or **[PO]** series as soon as independent countries participate in the issue. The class modification is directly linked to the date at which the country gained its independence. In case of doubt, a double classification is proposed

(e.g. [TO]/[TD], [CO]/[CD], [PO]/[PD]) and some collectors may wish to consider the classical omnibus series under the heading [TO] and not [TD].

Omnibus series usually involve many countries and the total number can reach 30. However some of the series that are produced on the basis of the same design by the same printing house can be as low as two countries. If it is obvious that there is no postal or political link between these countries, these stamps will still be classified under the heading "omnibus" and the definition will be "same printing house series".

The high number of a joint issue does not necessarily define an omnibus issue. Series initiated by an association of countries (e.g. Arab League, Europa/CEPT, OPEC, SAARC, Norden, etc...) to commemorate a common event or related to a topic that was commonly approved by the organization will be first considered as classical joint issues. They will only become omnibus series, if the stamps from all countries are printed at a same place. If both the designs and the dates of issue are different, although the general topic was agreed, series will be excluded (e.g. most recent Europa CEPT issues). Official holidays valid for the whole world or a sub-population (Christmas, New Year, Ramadan, Chinese New Year, Hanukah, etc...), organizational anniversaries (October 9 UPU anniversary, etc...) or first day of an event (such as philatelic exhibitions) are excluded from joint issues and omnibus series (unless there is an official claim for being joint) and are not reported in this catalogue (except as example in the Non-approved section).

Siamese Omnibus Series	SO	Stamps from different countries se-tenant; Design is similar, but stamps can be different	Obviously from common printing house. Produced as copies of each other in order to reduce printing costs. Usually the number of involved countries is much higher than five. As the number of Siamese Omnibus series is rather limited, they will be reported together with all other Siamese sub-types in Part I - 1.2.
Twin Omnibus (or same printing house) Series	TO	Same or common design and same date of issue	<p>In all cases, common printing house Produced as copies of each other in order to reduce printing costs. Usually the number of countries involved is much higher than five</p> <p>E.g.: [O19810722], involving 39 countries. The criteria for switching from Territorial [TD] to Omnibus [TO] is the presence of independent countries, in this case Gambia or Sierra Leone.</p> 
Concerted Omnibus (or same printing house) Series	CO	Similar design, but different dates of issue	<p>In all cases, common printing house. Produced as copies of each other in order to reduce printing costs. Usually the number of involved countries is higher than five.</p> <p>E.g.: Stamps "United we stand" commemorating the September 11 attack by several countries at different dates during 2002, showing each the local flag.</p> 
Parallel Omnibus (or same printing house) Series	PO	Same date of issue but different designs	<p>In all cases, common printing house. Actually the design remains similar (frame) and stamps are produced as copies of each other in order to reduce printing costs. Usually the number of involved countries is higher than five.</p> <p>E.g.: [O19860723] Prince Andrews marriage with Sarah Ferguson: design for all stamps is similar but the central photograph is different for each one</p> 

2.3. Non-Approved Joint Issues (Accidental or Unplanned Joint Issues) {N}

There are series of stamps that look like joint issues, but cannot be accepted as such as they do not follow the strict initial definition. As very often collectors are asking to have these stamps re-classified as Joint Issues, it appeared of greater importance to provide a list of the most frequent requests, together with the explanation of their exclusion. Of course only limited information is given on these stamps, as they should not appear in this catalogue. Publication in these pages will help to better identify these stamps and explain also why some stamps that were reported in the first edition of the catalogue are now excluded from the list. However, as philatelists can collect whatever they are interested in, this list can also become a complementary database for their specific topic.

The Non-Approved Joint Issue list includes stamps that are Accidental ([**TA**], [**CA**] or [**PA**]), have a borrowed design [**BD**], Non-commemorative [**NC**] or overprinted stamps [**OP**], stamps issued by countries that are not (yet) recognized by the Universal Postal Union [**NR**] and common issues [**CM**]. False joint issues [**FJ**] refer to issues that were produced definitely without the mutual approval of both postal authorities.

Accidental Twin Issue	TA	Same design and same date of issue	Not a Twin Issue, as they are issued without agreement between postal administrations. Usually these stamps are issued at an anniversary date and are based on the same painting or picture E.g.: On the occasion of the 150 th birthday (1972) of Louis Pasteur several countries issued a stamp in honor of the scientist and used the same classical portrait painting.
Accidental Concerted Issue	CA	Same design but different date of issue and no link between countries - in some cases can be considered also as borrowed design [BD] - see below	Stamps produced based on the same design (e.g. portrait, logo, painting, etc...). Some issue dates can be several years apart E.g.: France and Venezuela used exactly the same logo for their respective anti-smoking campaign [N19800405]. Stamps are almost identical. The first one was issued on April 5, 1980, the second one on May 27, 1993.
Accidental Parallel Issue	PA	Same topic and same date of issue but different design Accidental or Coincidence	Stamps produced at an anniversary date, but without agreement between postal administrations. It includes series of certain countries that "copy" stamps from other countries and issue them at the same date E.g.: Enrico Fermi, USA - Italy [N20010929]
Borrowed Design	BD	Same design as an already existing joint issue, but not being part of the issue	Includes shared, rented, borrowed and stolen designs E.g.: Bulgaria in 1969, parallel to the Norden issues <i>Will be described with the original basic design - see [T19690228]</i>
Overprinted Issue	OP	Common date, but only overprinted stamps	The issues that will be reported are exceptions. Overprinted stamps are normally excluded from the scope, except in the cases where the colors of the stamp differ
Non-Commemorative Issue	NC	Definitive stamps with common dates of issue and design	Definitive stamps are excluded from the scope. Usually first colonial stamps
Non-UPU Recognized Countries	NR	Stamps issued by countries not recognized by the UPU	Joint issues are limited to countries that have a political and postal worldwide accepted existence at the time of issue of the stamp E.g.: Abkhazia and Ossetia [N19960000]
Common Issue	CM	Same topic but different design and different date of issue	Except as examples, those will not be reported in the catalogue
False Joint Issue	FJ	Only the topic is common	Any stamp pair that does not fit with one of the above definitions Non exhaustive list of common design or topic stamps issued the same year, but definitely not as joint issue

Finally, the Joint Cancellations section {**J**} gives some examples of similar cancellations created as a consequence of an agreement between postal administrations that did not include the creation of joint stamps. This first list is obviously non-exhaustive. The cancellations that will be reported are exceptions and mainly examples to show opportunities to extend the collection of joint stamps to cancellations.