

World of Stamps:

Landlocked Countries: Iraqi Kurdistan, Pt. 2

by Geir Sør-Reime

In 2000 there was a series of 10 stamps with agriculture as theme and 13 stamps with Kurdish headgear as motives. There also were four stamps with technology and engineering as theme and six stamps featuring Kurdish personalities. A souvenir sheet was also released in 2000, with six different 1999 and 2000 stamps.



Left to right, top row first: Agriculture, Cow; Kurdish broadcasting (1 of 4 stamps); Personalities (one of six); Headgear (2 of 13 stamps)



2001, new motifs



2003, new motifs



new stamps showing the government building and Kurdish soldiers were issued.

In 2005 23 stamps were released, several with the same motives as previously issued but with new and much higher values.

A number of minisheets featuring famous paintings came on the market in 2005, but these did not originate with the Kurdish authorities but from a producer of fraudulent stamps that were marketed on Delcampe and eBay.

Until 2005 Kurdish stamps were printed locally and usually with bad perforations.

From 2007 is has been possible to use the stamps of Iraqi Kurdistan on international mail if sent directly from the Kurdish region. The Universal Postal Union has approved this and has assigned a unique code for Iraqi Kurdistan: IQEBLA.



Registered cover sent from Erbil (Shorsh branch post office), Kurdistan Region, Iraq to a Kandahar-based employee of the UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Sent



by a staff member of the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Iraq (UNAMI). Addressed to the P.O. Box of the UNAMA liaison office in Dubai because for security reasons UNAMA did not want to rent P.O. Boxes in Afghanistan that would have necessitated regular, risky visits to the post office. Postage paid with two stamps of the Kurdistan Region. The autonomous Region of Kurdistan has been issuing its own postage stamps since the 1990s.

In addition to postage stamps, the Kurdish authorities have also two series fiscal stamps and unlike the postage stamps, these revenue stamps have text in Kurdish only.



First issue Kurdish revenue stamps (2001-2002)



Second issue revenue stamps, 2009

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find any Kurdish stamp issues 2006-08, but in 2009, a stamp for the qualifications for the Asian U-19 soccer championship, a flower stamp, and four stamps featuring landscapes and cultural heritage were issued.



Qualifications for the Asian U-19 soccer championship



2009, Flower



2009, Iraqi Kurdistan sights

In 2010 there were stamps for the World Post Day, for the 112th anniversary of a Kurdish newspaper, and two other stamps (caves, and women in front of outhouse).



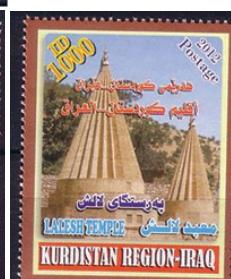
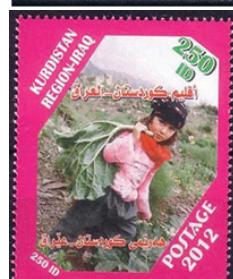
The flag and arms of Kurdistan from 1946 to present day were presented on two 2011 stamps, and there was a 2011 stamp stressing the rights of handicapped persons.



2010, arms of shortlived 1946 Kurdish state; Arms of self-government region; Rights of handicapped persons



The four 2012 stamps show a monument remembering the victims of Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish people in Helebja, cultural heritage, and a woman on her way home with cabbage from the fields.



Four stamps were also issued in 2013: one for the Assyrian alphabet, one showing a Turkoman costume, one for Erbil as tourism capital, and one (right) for the elections to the Kurdish parliament. See also, page 3



2013: Alphabet, costume, tourism

I do not know of stamps issued 2014-15, but from 2016 I know a stamp for the Kurdish Environment Day April 16.



Above, 2017 cover, the left stamp being a charity issue

2017, New alphabet

From 2017 there is a stamp with nature scenery.



2016, Environment Day



2017, first school in Erbil



From 2018 four stamps, of which two show cultural heritage, one a woman on horseback, and one with a child with a flower bouquet. Although dated 2018, it looks like they were issued 2019.

In 2021 Pope Francis visited the Iraqi Kurdistan and the authorities planned to issue a stamp to celebrate the visit, but when images of the planned issue were published, the Turkish government protested as the essay showed a map of all Kurdistan, including Turkish Kurdistan, and the stamp was never issued.



Essay for unissued papal visit stamp



In 2022, five stamps were issued, honoring the Kurdish flag and the Kurdish soldiers.

There might be other 2020-25 issues, but I have not been able to discover such issues.

