

# Surveyors on Banknotes, Coins and Stamps

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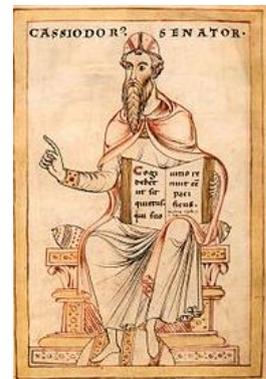
## ABSTRACT

*How many banknotes, coins, medallions and stamp issues do you know of that feature surveyors and surveying? After starting off on a quest to track down these elusive objects, I was quite thrilled and amazed to find many different numismatic and philatelic tributes to the surveying profession and a selection of its legendary characters. Even significant historical icons like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, James Cook, Thomas Mitchell, William Light and a cast of many made the cut to be immortalised on these collector special editions as highlighted in this paper. Surprisingly, there are nearly 100 countries and territories that have chosen our profession to adorn their monetary and stamp products for many assorted reasons and to honour some of the world's greatest individuals who just happened to be surveyors. A lot of these colourful surveyor-centric objets d'art, which have been issued by an incredible number of world nations and territories, are shown in the paper's appendix. We can be proud to be surveyors.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Surveyors, instruments, banknotes, coins, stamps.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

“...the land surveyor is like a judge: the deserted fields become his forum, crowded with eager spectators. You would fancy him a madman when you see him walking along the most devious paths. But in truth he is seeking for the traces of lost facts in rough woods and thickets. *He walks not as other men walk.* His path is the book from which he reads; he shows what he is saying; he proves what he hath learned; by his steps he divides the rights of hostile claimants; and like a mighty river he takes away the field of one side to deposit them on the other.” c.540 AD, Cassiodorus



Now, if this powerful quote from the ancient Greek philosopher is not enough to demonstrate that surveyors are a special group, then the following collection of banknotes, coins and stamps minted to honour surveyors and their work should certainly reinforce the high regard held for surveyors and their work by the entire world. It is not just the notion of someone standing behind a tripod which is emphasised. Great projects and some of the concepts we all take for granted in our everyday life have been created by surveyors. Standard world time, Celsius temperature scale, Sistine Chapel masterpieces and construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House are just a handful of wonders that could not have been possible without the input

of surveyors. In honour of his work leading the monumental Survey of India, even the world's highest mountain, Mt. Everest, was named after Surveyor-General George Everest. This paper showcases how many tributes have been afforded to surveyors.

#### SUBJECT CATEGORISATION OF ISSUES

There are several websites which contain a remarkable number of coins and stamps associated with surveying, mapping and the individuals who carried out the work to create them (e.g. Mazzucato, 2020; ThemePhil, 2022; Uenishi, 2022; US Surveyors Historical Society, 2022a, 2022b; Wydera, 2022). Many stamps have been issued bearing maps of various periods, but I only include “map” stamps if the surveyor is also shown or a cadastral map is depicted. Stamps and coins commemorating geodetic surveys are part of this analysis, with many adding a surveying instrument, control network or portrait of the principal geodetic surveyor in the artwork. Some famous surveyors are often more renowned for other major contributions made by them, but they may still be shown in a commemoration doing surveying, so these I consider to be my most treasured items. Upon some of the envelopes which are First Day Covers (FDCs), the stamp may not always bear a portrait of the surveyor or the surveying event memorialised, but the artwork does feature some excellent images of great surveyors or surveying scenes, while occasionally there will be a specially created postmark for the cancellation of the stamp on its day of issue as well.

For any item contained within my personal collection, a number is allocated as follows:

- JBCB#1 – John Brock Collection Banknote number 1
- JBCC#10 – John Brock Collection Coin number 10
- JBCM#6 – John Brock Collection Medallion or Token number 6
- JBCS#20 – John Brock Collection Stamp or FDC number 20

For other surveyor banknotes, coins and stamps, a corresponding reference identifies the source (INTB, C, M or S#1 – Internet Search number 1) from which I have obtained the images.

## 2 SIGNIFICANT COUNTRY COMMEMORATION

### 2.1 Australia

For surveyors shown on banknotes, some websites portray a famous surveyor or individual plus a surveying instrument, such as the Croatian note issue set with hero surveyor-inventor Ruder Boskovic or a Portuguese note with a portrait on the front and a theodolite on the other, as well as a German 10 Mark note with geodetic surveyor Carl Gauss on one side and a sextant on the reverse. There are also other banknotes with surveyors featured for their other memorable achievements, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Anders Celsius and Gerhard Mercator along with various maritime explorers together with their sextants, astrolabes and other assorted navigation aids like globes and charts. However, I became very excited when, in the last few years, the Royal Mint of Australia issued a new \$100 note which has an image of World War I hero Sir John Monash carrying out a survey in Victoria (Figure 1). The image depicted has been taken from an 1889 photo of him behind his theodolite while on a survey of the Outer Circle railway

line in Melbourne There are a notable number of stamps, coins and medals struck in his honour, but without reference to his surveying achievements. Trawling deeper into the unfriendly internet, I found a brilliant \$50 note issued by the Antarctica Overseas Exchange Office Ltd. with one side having Sir Wally Herbert doing a survey in the polar region (Figure 2). I am unsure from where this organisation comes, so I have placed it in a section for the Antarctic continent until I find out.



Figure 1: (Top) Enlarged part of new Australian \$100 note showing Sir John Monash surveying, and (bottom) new Australian \$100 note with Monash surveying – JBCB#1.

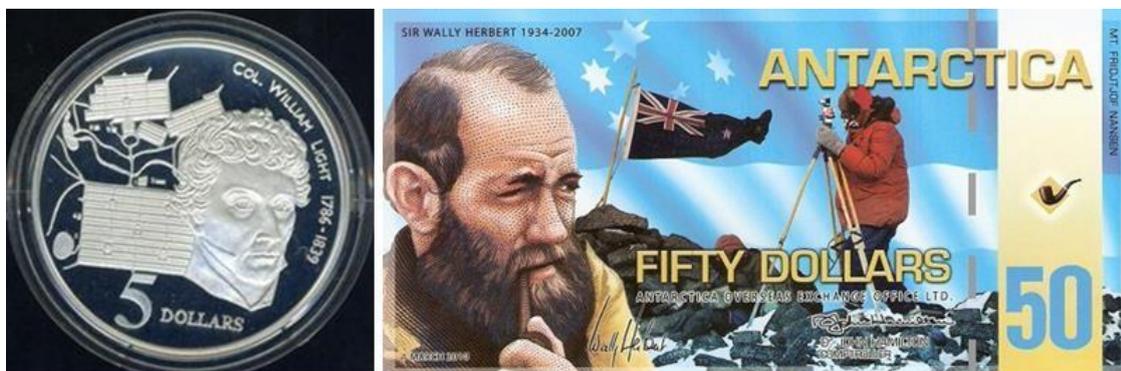


Figure 2: (Left) 1995 Australian \$5 coin with Col. William Light and his Plan of Adelaide – JBCC#1, and (right) Antarctica Overseas Exchange Office Ltd. \$50 note with Sir Wally Herbert surveying – JBCB#2.

There are many notable surveyors and explorers for whom Australia has issued banknotes, coins and stamps. To name but a few, we have James Cook, Matthew Flinders, NSW Surveyor-General Sir Thomas Mitchell, South Australian 1<sup>st</sup> Surveyor-General Colonel William Light (Figure 2), William John Wills (of Burke and Wills), William Lawson (of Blaxland, Lawson

and Wentworth), Hamilton Hume (of Hume and Hovell), Western Australian 1<sup>st</sup> Premier Lord John Forrest, South Australian Surveyor-General Charles Sturt, wheat pioneer and NSW Lands Department surveyor William Farrer and so on. A selection of these is shown in Appendices A-C, especially if a surveying instrument or map accompanies the image of the individual. In the mintage of coins and medals Australia has struck, many issues bear images of the aforementioned characters in various scenes of their exploits, but two such mementoes are of notable mention. An Australian 5 cent stamp issued to commemorate the centenary of settlement in Northern Australia from 5 February 1969 features a photo of Surveyor George Woodryffe Goyder and his survey party around 1869 with one FDC showing his vessel, the “Moonta”, also appearing on the postmark (Figure 3).

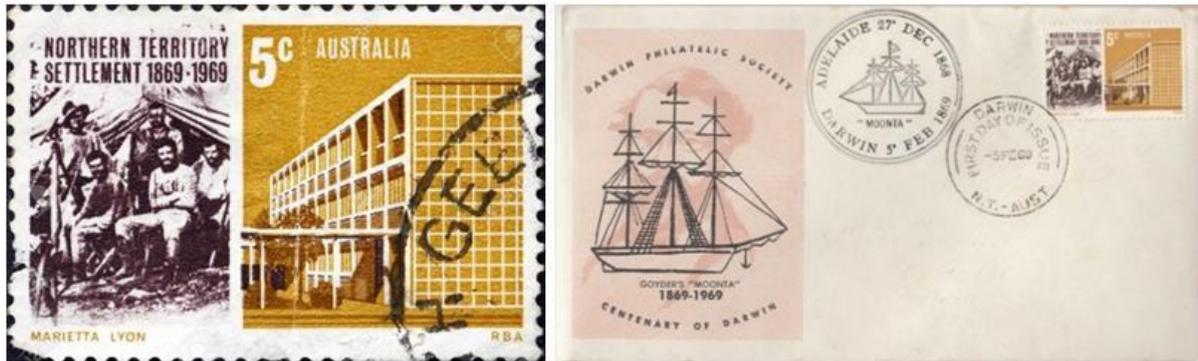


Figure 3: (Left) 1969 Australian 5c stamp with 1869 photo of George Goyder & survey party – JBCS#5, and (right) FDC of Centenary of Settlement of Northern Australia with Goyder vessel “Moonta” – JBCS#6.

To commemorate the Australian Surveyors Congress held in Sydney in 1988, I arranged for a medal to be minted for this event in gilt-bronze and silver with the Institution of Surveyors Australia (ISA) crest on one side and a satellite sending beams to the Sydney Opera House on the other with the wording “Two Hundred Years of Surveying Australia – 1988 Sydney” (Figure 4). A great medal was struck for the 1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opening. Another Australian FDC came in 1990 for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps in 1915 during World War I. This issue has a Parramatta postmark “29 June 1990” (where I live), showing an Army surveyor on a field survey with a pre-stamped envelope bearing a map on the stamp, while the background also displays a military map (Figure 5).



Figure 4: (Left & centre) 1988 medal for the ISA Congress in Sydney facilitated by the author – JBCM#6, and (right) 1932 medal struck for the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge – INTC#3.

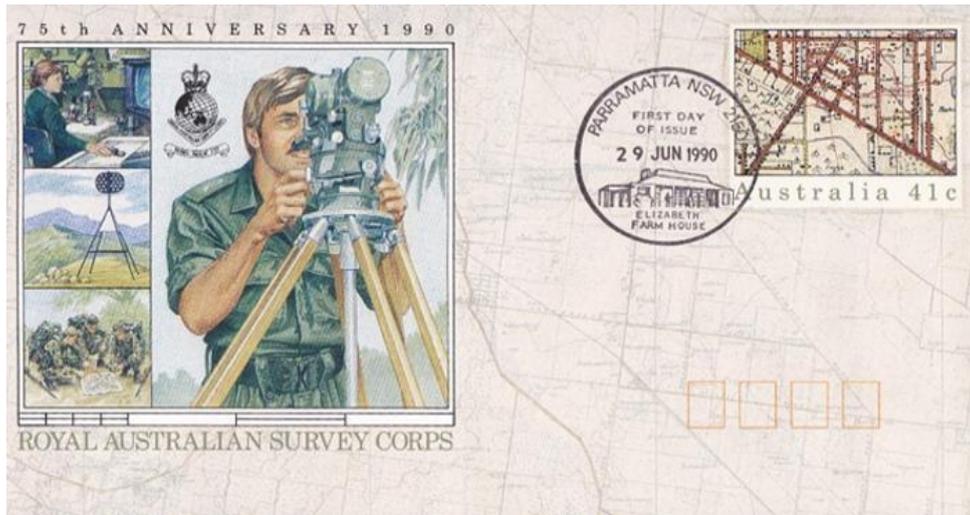


Figure 5: 1990 FDC to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps – JBCS#7.

## 2.2 United States of America

With only two candidates for surveyors on banknotes, I was delighted to find a rather unusual and old \$20 banknote issued in 1860 by the Miners and Planters Bank (USA) with a vignette of a survey party at work alongside a portrait of George Washington (Figure 6).

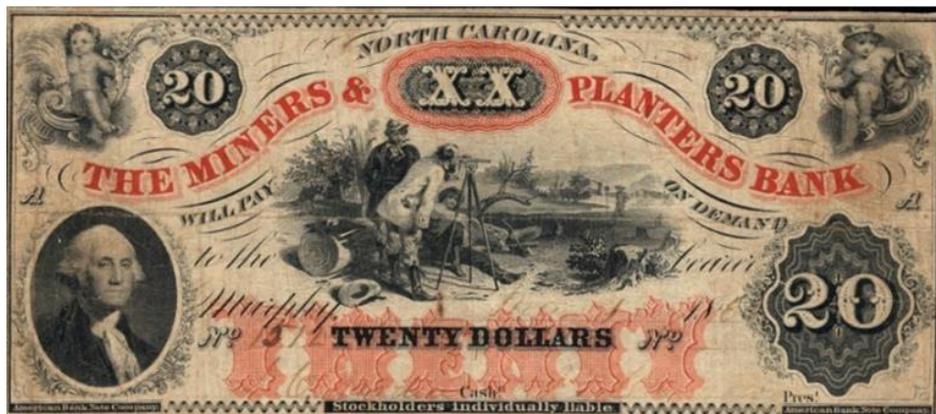


Figure 6: 1860 \$20 banknote minted by The Miners & Planters Bank (USA) with a vignette of surveyors at work in the field alongside a portrait of US President George Washington – INTB#1.

A special type of coin issued in the US is the geocoin, and there is one depicting a Bilby Tower on one side. These survey-purpose portable sighting towers were designed by US Surveyor Jasper Bilby (Figure 7).



Figure 7: (Left) US gilt-bronze Geocoin depicting a Bilby Tower for survey control – INTM#1, and (right) US pewter Geocoin depicting a Bilby Tower for survey control – INTM#2.

By far, the US has been a veritable Fort Knox of coins minted depicting surveyors standing behind their compass or transit, even choosing to show some of their greatest characters at work in this area. The Franklin Mint has been a gold mine in my quest for such items. In the first collection, named “Great Moments in the Life of George Washington” there is a collector silver coin (1970s) described as “First Surveying Expedition”, where George Washington is seen with his surveyor’s compass, then another coin titled “Vintage Postmaster & Surveyor” (“The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln” collection, Lincoln Mint, Chicago, Illinois) has Abraham Lincoln working in the field with his survey instrument (Figure 8). In 2020, I found two more great US Franklin Mint coin issues within a collection titled “The Official History of Colonial America” (1976-80), one showing the surveyor in the background (“New Orleans founded 1718”), the other bearing two of my special men of survey history, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, shown surveying a newly placed boundary stone along their Mason-Dixon line, the survey of which was completed in 1767 (Figure 9). The inscriptions on the reverse side of these four collector coins can be found in Appendix B.



Figure 8: (Left) George Washington silver medal “First Surveying Expedition” at age 17 with survey instrument – JBCM#1, and (right) Abraham Lincoln in the field on silver medal with surveyor’s compass – JBCM#2.



Figure 9: (Left) Pewter medal with surveyor in background while carrying out the survey to found New Orleans in 1718, (centre) Mason & Dixon with surveying instrument alongside newly placed boundary stone on the famous line which still bears their names, and (right) obverse of medal to mark the bicentenary of Hagerstown 1776-1976 with Surveyor Jonathan Hager behind his instrument – JBCM#5.

For the survey to establish the true boundary line between Pennsylvania (owned by William Penn) and Maryland (under the custodianship of William Calvert), Lord Baltimore had been conscripted by these two wealthy colonialists to resolve a dispute which had been violently contested and boiling over for many years. While searching for these coins I came across a medal struck in 1976 for Hagerstown, Maryland, (about 45 km north of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia) to mark 200 years since its foundation in 1776 by Jonathan Hager calling the Town Surveyor “The Architect of Hagerstown, MD” (see Figure 9). Two such medals were struck, one in silver and one in bronze, both of which I have been able to obtain.

The first known stamp bearing an image of a surveyor was a 5 cent US issue from 1898 (Figure 10) upon which renowned explorer/surveyor John Charles Fremont is depicted with a flag in hand atop one of the hills to which he had traversed. There are also other stamps printed in his honour along with an assortment of FDCs from various years. As previously mentioned, George Washington was shown on a collector coin surveying, and, although there are thousands of world stamps minted to honour this statesman of world renown, there are less stamps and FDCs made which refer to him as a surveyor or that depict him in action in the field. However, I have been able to obtain a few fine examples of US FDCs which feature images of him surveying. My favourite is a 1939 US FDC titled “The Young Surveyor Washington...” with an etching of him standing behind his surveyor’s compass. There are other FDCs referring to George Washington as a surveyor in addition to a few more which have images of the great US President carrying out his field measurements (see Appendix C).



Figure 10: (Left) First known “surveyor” stamp in 1898 with John Charles Fremont atop a hill with flag – JBCS#2, and (right) 1939 US FDC of “Young Surveyor Washington” – JBCS#1.

One brilliant FDC issued in 1934 for the tercentenary (300 years) of the US state of Maryland has a sketch titled “Surveyors Laying Out Baltimore Town August 8, 1729” (Figure 11). Another stamp from 1934 shows the painting known as Whistler’s Mother – artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler worked in the Surveyors Department and father, George Washington Whistler, was a railway surveyor.



Figure 11: (Left) FDC of “Surveyors Laying Out Baltimore Town August 8, 1729” issued in 1934 – INTS#1, and (right) Bangladesh 1976 stamp of Mt. Rushmore – JBCS#84.

It should be quite well known that the monolithic sculpture atop Mt. Rushmore in the US state of South Dakota displays the busts of three US Presidents who were surveyors: George Washington – District Surveyor of Culpepper County, Thomas Jefferson – District Surveyor of Albermarle County, and Abraham Lincoln – Deputy District Surveyor of Sangemon County in Illinois (see Figure 11). Not unexpectedly, there are many coins, medals, stamps and FDCs with this magnificent monument on them along with some unofficial collector banknotes emblazoned with this sky-high sculpture (see Appendices A-C).

There was a stamp issued to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey (USCGS) in 1957 which was accompanied by a good number of FDCs showing various scenes of surveyors in action or transits featuring as illustrations on the FDC envelope. One example of these USCGS FDCs is shown in Figure 14, while many more can be viewed in my extended electronic storage file upon request.

Most surprisingly, I could find only two US stamps which depict a surveyor *plus* his survey instrument. The first US “surveyor” stamp was issued in 1944 to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Transcontinental Railroad with a number of FDCs to mark the occasion (Figure 12).



Figure 12: First US stamp showing a surveyor at work (1944) at right of the locomotive with his rodman to the left of the train – JBCS#3.

Then in 1980, as part of the Black Heritage Stamp series, we have the first African-American Man of Science, Benjamin Banneker, on one of the issues with his transit. Many FDCs accompanied this stamp issue, one of which is illustrated on the envelope with Benjamin Banneker standing alongside Andrew Ellicott, the other surveyor engaged by George Washington to survey the site of the nation’s capital, Washington DC, with its surrounding territory, placing prominent boundary stones along the way. A competition was held to choose a design for a District of Columbia quarter featuring a noted African-American. One entry had Benjamin Banneker surveying on it (Figure 13), but the final winner was the design which showed famous musician “Duke” Ellington on its reverse. The Benjamin Banneker design received 34% of the vote... maybe next time he will get the nod.

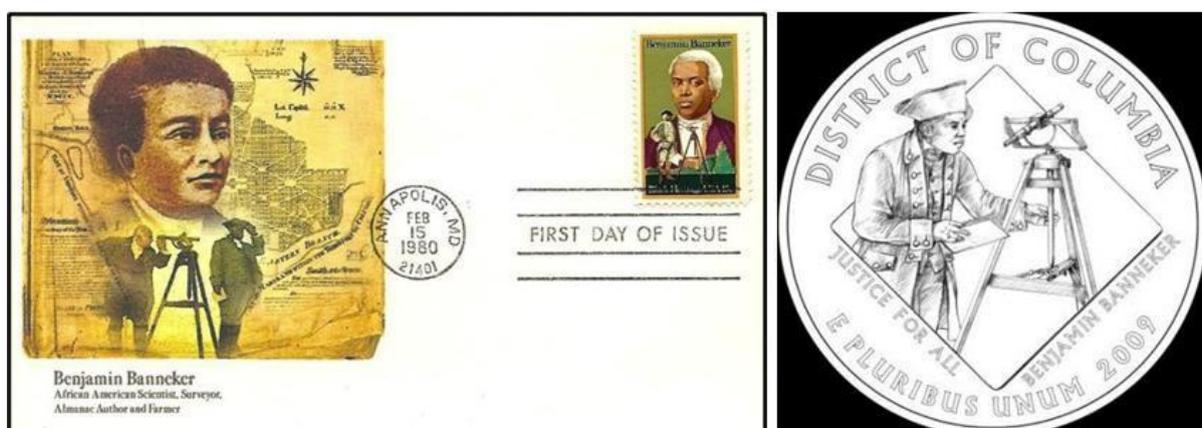


Figure 13: (Left) 1980 US FDC with Benjamin Banneker standing next to Andrew Ellicott surveying Washington DC – JBCC#4, and (right) unsuccessful coin design for District of Columbia competition to select a new commemorative quarter showing Benjamin Banneker surveying.

In 2011, the US Mint struck a half-dollar coin titled “U.S. Army – Service in Peace”, which included a military surveyor behind his total station (Figure 14), being the first legal tender coin minted with such an image.

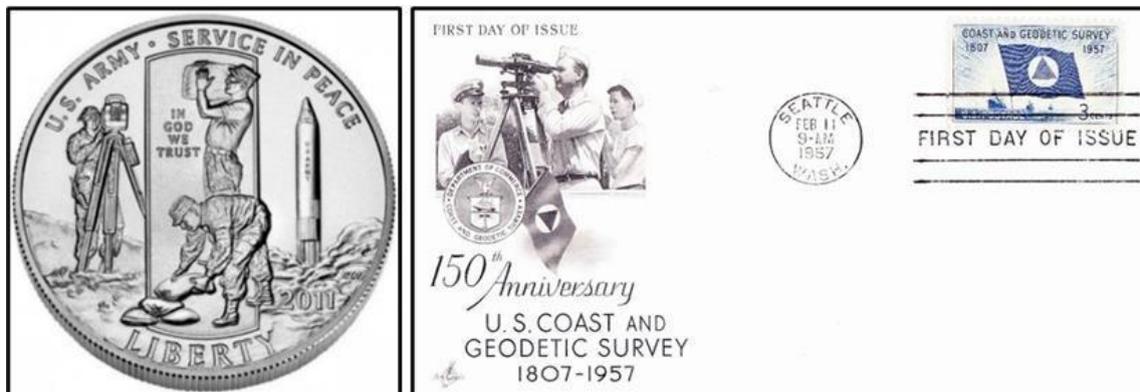


Figure 14: (Left) 2011 US Army surveyor coin – JBCC#2, and (right) USCGS 1957 FDC with surveyor – JBCC#7.

## 2.3 Egypt

Egypt is a land revered for its extravagant culture and figures of renown, but more importantly it is also remembered for its scribes/surveyors responsible for the many surveys to mark out large capital works, such as the pyramids and temples, as well as remarking boundary corners after Nile inundations. It is quite fitting that the Egyptian Survey Authority was commemorated in its 100<sup>th</sup> year through the issuance of both a stamp with FDC and two coins depicting the most famous scene of a survey party from the tomb art of Scribe Menna from around 1400 BC, which is the only attestation of the rod of chord (sacred surveyor’s rope) being pulled tightly revealing the knots which graduate the measuring medium into 100 cubits (about 52.5 metres or 172 feet) (Figure 15).



Figure 15: (Top left) 1998 Egyptian stamp with scene from the Tomb of Menna depicting surveyors with the sacred rope (rod of chord) pulled tight to show knots at each 5 cubits up to 100 cubits – JBSC#9, (right) FDC with above stamp on it and “1898 Egyptian Survey Authority” – JBSC#10, and (lower left) 1998 Egyptian 5 pound coin for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Menna surveying scene – JBCC#3.

## 2.4 United Kingdom

The Ordnance Survey in the United Kingdom turned 200 in 1991, so a release of four stamps featuring maps of that distinguished organisation hit the market along with a host of FDCs with many images. The best one and hardest to get features two surveyors (Figure 16), but others with triangulation networks, maps and instrument manufacturer Jesse Ramsden with his Great Theodolite along with other scenes are obtainable (see Appendix C). There is also a souvenir pamphlet with a first day postmark cancellation on the four stamps accompanying the booklet which includes a brief history of the Ordnance Survey.

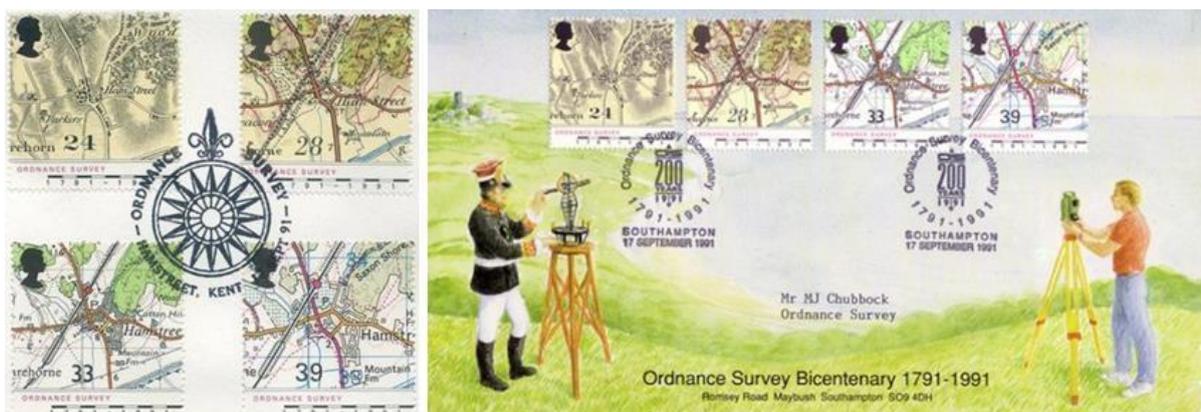


Figure 16: (Left) set of four UK stamps from 1991, and (right) FDC for 200 years of the Ordnance Survey with surveyors of yore and current – JBSC#8.

## 2.5 Canada

The Canadian pieces in my collection are significant with trade tokens (i.e. a ‘coin’ with a monetary value not being legal tender) struck for two most notable icons of their history, Samuel Holland, first Surveyor-General of Canada and mentor of James Cook during his time surveying in North America, as well as Sir Sandford Fleming, the Scottish-born land surveyor who created world standard time in addition to surveying and overseeing construction of the Transcolonial Railway from Ottawa to the Pacific Ocean and the 13,000 km long undersea communication cable from western Canada to Australia via Fiji and Norfolk Island (Figure 17). A double Canadian commemorative stamp issue with Sir Sandford Fleming and Joseph Bernier, an explorer, was printed in 1977 with numerous FDCs as part of the edition, some of which featured illustrations of a theodolite and sextant on the envelope. Pacific island nation Tonga produced a stamp depicting Fleming to mark the centenary of world standard time in 1884, also including the introduction of the international date line, which passes by in close proximity, and the 24-hour day (Figure 18).

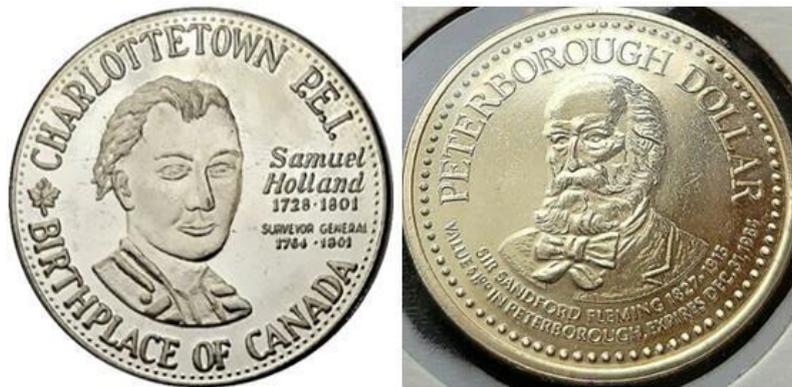


Figure 17: (Left) Canadian Charlottetown \$1 trade token with 1<sup>st</sup> S-G Samuel Holland (expiry 1980) – JBCM#7, and (right) Canadian \$1 trade token from Peterborough with Sir Sandford Fleming (expiry 1984) – JBCM#8.

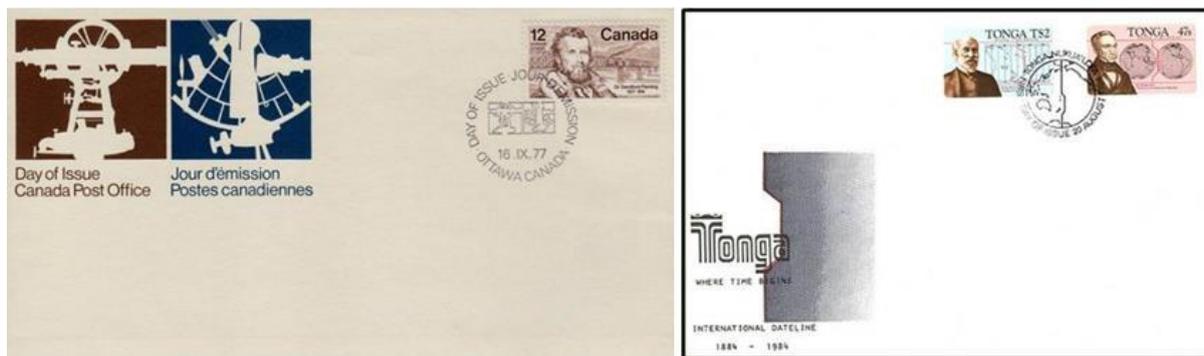


Figure 18: (Left) Canadian 1977 FDC with Sir Sandford Fleming stamp with theodolite & sextant – JBCS#12, and (right) 1984 Tonga FDC showing a diagram & postmark of the international date line and two stamps with Sir Sandford Fleming and Sir George Airy of Greenwich Observatory – JBCS#13.

## 2.6 Malaysia

In 2010, Malaysia minted a set of three legal tender coins of 1, 10 and 100 ringgit, each with a surveyor, to honour the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jabatan Ukur dan Pemetaan Malaysia (JUPEM, the Surveyor's Department) (Figure 19). While a very limited number of the 3-coin sets were minted, and they are now expensive to buy, the silver 10 ringgit coin is part of my collection.



Figure 19: Three legal tender Malaysian coins set including a gold 100 ringgit, silver 10 ringgit and Nordic bronze 1 ringgit to honour the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JUPEM (Surveyor's Department) – JBCC#5.

## 2.7 Finland

Finland struck a 10 Euro coin in 2011, showing geologist Pehr Kalm surveying, while there were FDCs and a 1962 stamp issued to celebrate 150 years of the Maanmittaushallitus (Surveyor's Board of Finland) - (Figure 20).



Figure 20: (Left) 2011 Finland 10 Euro coin with geologist Pehr Kalm surveying – JBCC#6, and (right) 1962 FDC with stamp to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Surveyor's Board of Finland – JBCC#122.

## 2.8 Latvia

Latvia issued a 1 Lats coin in 2009 and a 40 Santimi stamp for “Mernieku Laiki”, which is Latvian for “The Times of the Land Surveyors” (Figure 21). An FDC was also produced (see Appendix C).



Figure 21: (Left) 2009 Latvia 1 Lats coin – JBCC#7, and (right) 40 Santimi stamp featuring “The Times of the Land Surveyors” (“Mernieku Laiki”) – JBCS#11.

## 2.9 Czech Republic and Ireland

Figure 22 shows issues from the Czech Republic and the Republic of Ireland, the latter being the first (and only?) stamp depicting a female surveyor.



Figure 22: (Left) 2000 Czech Republic 500 Sk coin with Surveyor Samuel Mikovini & instruments – JBCC#8, and (right) 1986 Republic of Ireland stamp being the first (and only?) to show a female surveyor – JBCS#14.

## 2.10 Israel

My good friend Haim Srebro, Director of the Survey of Israel, gave me information about two Israeli stamps featuring surveyors behind their instruments (Figure 23). The blue stamp pictures the Negev (southern Israel) where a pipeline project had been surveyed and it mentions “Minhelet HaAm” (Directorate of the People) which only lasted one month from 12 April to 14 May 1948 to prepare the government of the Jewish State before the British mandate ended. The 1955 brown stamp marks 20 years of “The Immigration of the Youth” organisation.



Figure 23: (Left & centre) Two very rare examples of an Israeli stamp from the interim period of early settlement of their nation, one with a 14 May 1948 postmark – INTS#2 & 3, and (right) 1955 stamp for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a youth group with a young person surveying – JBCS15.

## 2.11 Bhutan

Although there are hundreds of coins, banknotes and stamps featuring George Washington, there are still some examples of George Washington doing surveying on a coin and illustrations on FDC envelopes. However, there is only one stamp of which I am aware which depicts George Washington at work in the field, and surprisingly it was issued in 1982 to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> year since his birth by the secluded Himalayan nation of Bhutan (Figure 24).



Figure 24: (Left) 1982 Bhutan stamp with George Washington surveying – JBCS#16, and (right) the FDC – JBCS#17.

## 2.12 Turks and Caicos Islands

Benjamin Banneker was engaged by George Washington to carry out the Survey of Washington DC along with its surrounding territory, in cooperation with Andrew Ellicott. Nevertheless, there is only one country which has minted a stamp to honour both men on the same stamp – Turks and Caicos Islands – again on the year of George Washington’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1982 (Figure 25).



Figure 25: (Left) 1982 stamp – JBCS#18, and (right) FDC from Turks & Caicos Islands with Benjamin Banneker & George Washington on it along with three other stamps to honour the occasion – JBCS#19.

### 2.13 Australian and British Antarctic Territories

The Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) and the British Antarctic Territory (BAT) have issued many excellent surveyor stamps along with a collection of FDCs with scenes of field work taking place (Figures 26 & 27).

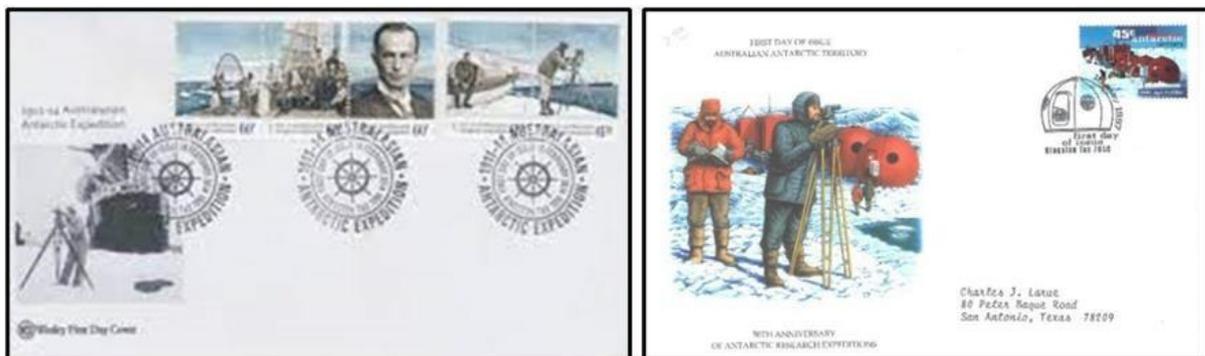


Figure 26: (Left) 2014 AAT FDC with explorer/surveyor Douglas Mawson & a field surveyor on 2 of the 5 stamps plus an image of a surveyor on the envelope – JBCS#20, and (right) 1997 AAT FDC with a surveyor illustration – JBCS#21.



Figure 27: (Top) 1998 BAT set of 5 stamps titled “The History of Mapping” series depicting 5 aspects of survey work utilised to acquire data to create maps of Antarctica – JBCS#25, (bottom left) 1969 BAT stamp with a survey party – JBCS#22, (bottom centre) 1998 BAT stamp for clothes worn while surveying with instrument – JBCS#23, and (bottom right) 1994 BAT stamp with a survey party – JBCS#24.

## 2.14 Pitcairn Islands

The Pitcairn Islands, officially the Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, which are a group of four volcanic islands in the southern Pacific Ocean forming the sole British overseas territory in the Pacific, issued a stamp to commemorate a top-secret joint venture between the British and US governments for satellite recovery (Figure 28).

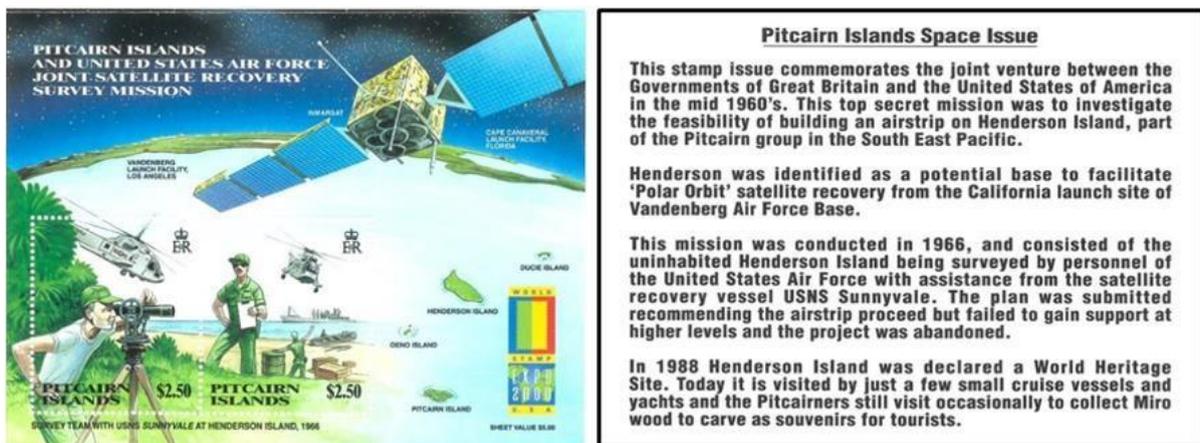


Figure 28: 2000 Pitcairn Islands stamp showing a satellite recovery surveyor measuring for an airstrip – JBCS#26.

## 2.15 Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has the honour of being the only nation to my knowledge that has produced a stamp issue in honour of “Surveyors’ Day”, which features some ancient maps of their island nation and a map of the triangulation control network of their land on the FDC envelope (Figure 29).

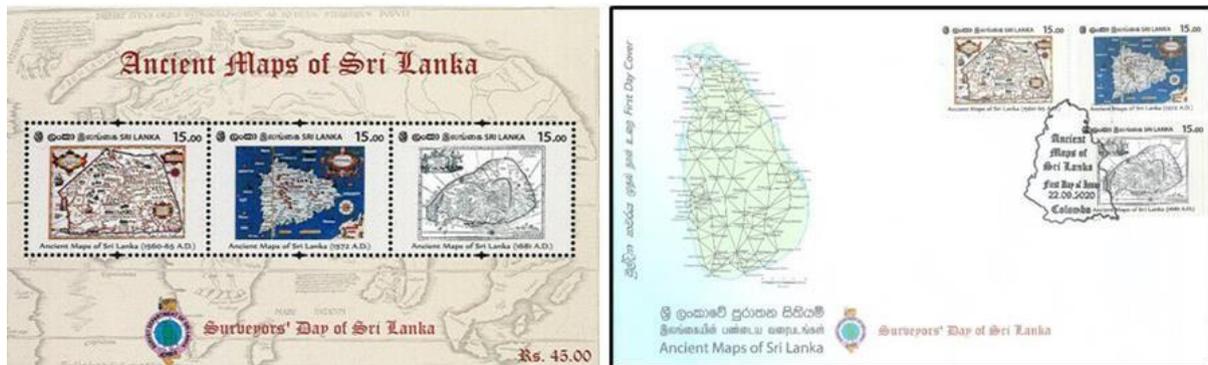


Figure 29: (Left) 2020 Sri Lanka stamp mini-sheet – JBCS#27, and (right) FDC with ancient maps and plan of survey network illustrated on the envelope honouring “Surveyors’ Day” – JBCS#28.

## 2.16 Thailand

Figures 30 and 31 show examples from Thailand, including a 1991 stamp to commemorate the Joint Land Titling Project with Australia as well as a 2001 FDC to celebrate 100 years and a 1976 FDC for 100 years of the Royal Thai Survey Department with illustrations of theodolites on each envelope plus a postmark bearing an instrument.

Figure 30: 2001 Thailand FDC for the Centenary of the Department of Lands with theodolite over a Map of Thailand – JBCS#120

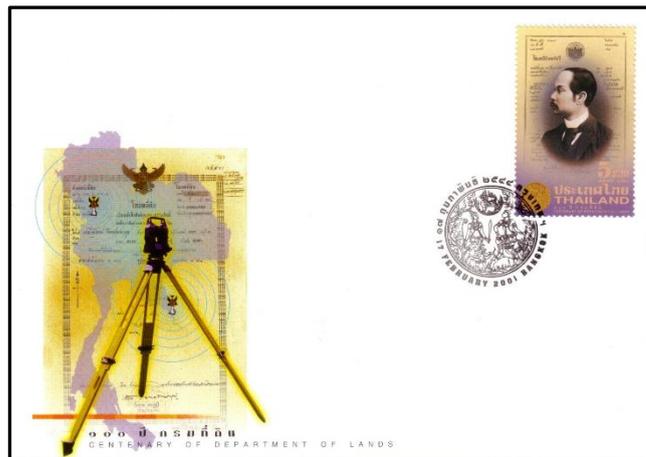
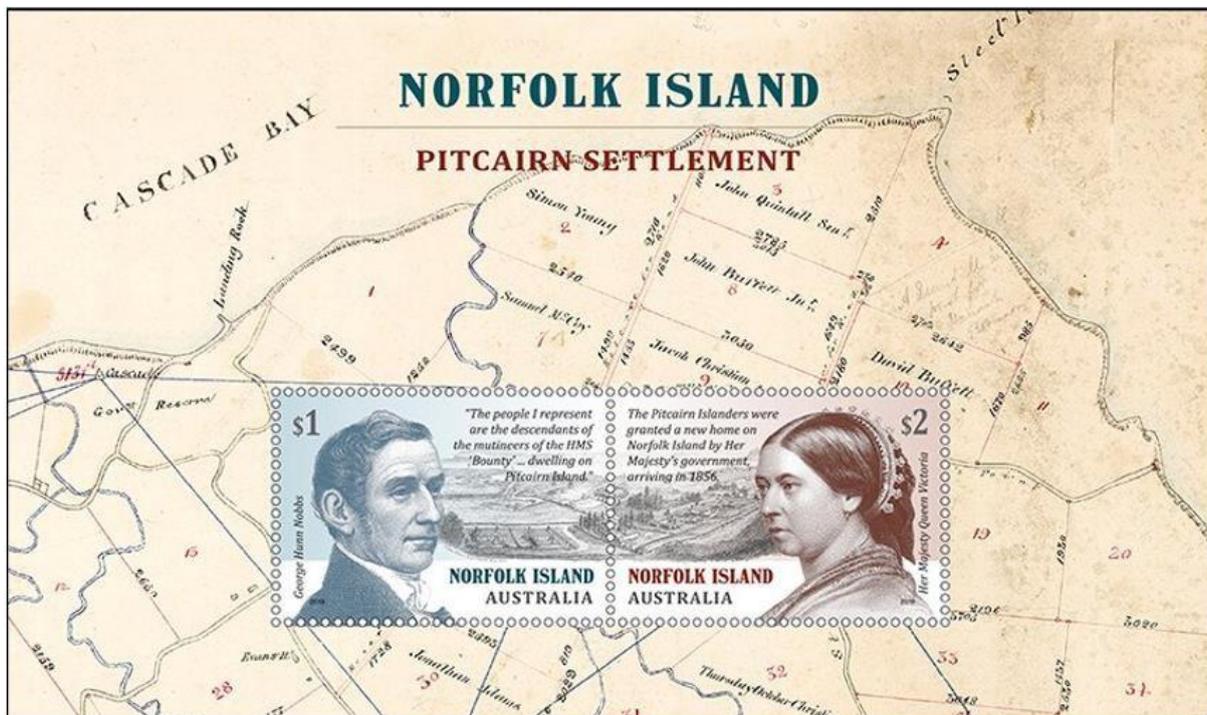




Figure 31: (Left) 1991 Thailand stamp for the Joint Land Titling Project with Australia showing a surveyor – JBCS#29, and (right) 1976 FDC to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Thai Survey Department with images of theodolites on the envelope and the postmark – JBCS#30.

## 2.17 Norfolk Island

After the arrival of the Pitcairn Islanders on Norfolk Island in 1856, a party of two land surveyors being George Jamieson and Thomas Kennedy were sent by Governor Gipps to make the cadastral survey to create the Crown allotments for distribution among the newcomers. The top part of the 1860 plan is the wallpaper of a stamp mini-sheet with images of Rev. George Hunn Nobbs and Queen Victoria (Figure 31). The plan was drawn in Parramatta, NSW.



Surveyors on Banknotes, Coins and Stamps (11790)  
John Brock (Australia)

FIG Congress 2022  
Volunteering for the future - Geospatial excellence for a better living  
Warsaw, Poland, 11–15 September 2022

Figure 32: 2019 Norfolk Island stamp mini-sheet with portraits of Rev. George Hunn Nobbs and Queen Victoria with the 1860 Cadastral Plan of Allotments as a background – JBCS#31.

## 2.18 China

In 2001, China issued a stamp with FDCs to signify the completion of the China-Tibet Railway, constructed through areas of most precipitous country troubled with icy/glacial terrain. The stamp shows a survey party with one member pointing to the distant hills while another stands behind the survey instrument (Figure 32).

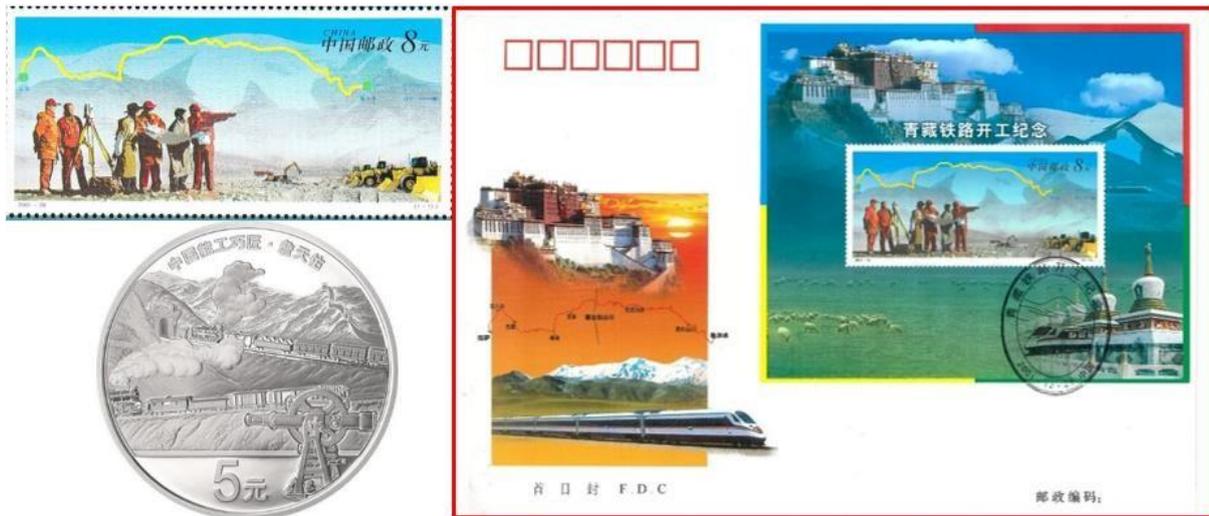


Figure 33: (Top left) China 2001 stamp – JBCS#32, (right) mini-sheet on FDC showing the train and rugged terrain – JBCS#33, and (bottom left) recently issued 2021 China 5 yuan coin with theodolite to mark another railway line project constructed through the mountains of highland China – JBCC#9.

## 2.19 Japan

Figure 33 shows a 10-stamp mini-sheet issued in 2019 and depicting many aspects of modern surveying, including Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) and air-based surveying along with historical instruments.



Figure 34: 2019 Japan 10-stamp mini-sheet showing many aspects of modern surveying (150 years) – JBCS#34.

## 2.20 Other Countries

There are many more examples from a notable number of other countries featuring surveying scenes on stamps. Some of these are shown in Figures 35-58.

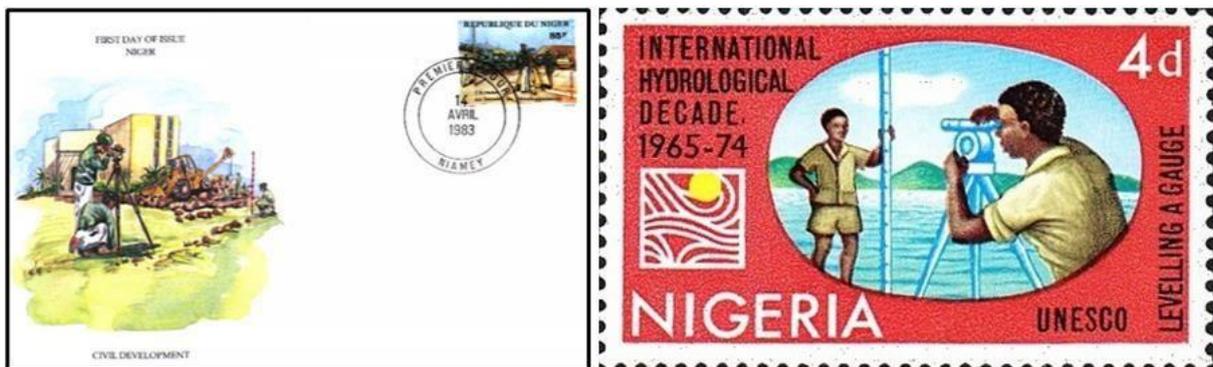


Figure 35: (Left) 1983 Niger FDC – JBCS#35, and (right) 1974 Nigeria stamp UNESCO – JBCS#36.



Figure 36: (Left) 1980 Algerian stamp – JBCS#37, (centre) 1989 Algerian stamp – JBCS#38, and (right) 2011 Argentina stamp mini-sheet with a surveyor on a triangular issue in the polar regions plus a sketch of a surveyor underneath to the lower right – JBCS#39.



Figure 37: (Left) 1971 Belgium stamp with surveyor & tellurometer and penguin escort – JBCS#40, and (right) 1966 Belgium stamp with polar surveyor and dog team in the background – JBCS#41.



Figure 38: (Left) 1962 construction surveyor stamp from Bolivia – JBCS#42, and (right) 2015 Brazilian stamp with a surveyor representative of the Porte Carta Comercial (Commercial Mapping Industry) – JBCS#43.

In Brunei, three stamps were issued in 2002 to mark the Golden Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary) of the Brunei Survey Department with one image being a silhouette of a surveyor at work (Figure 38).



Figure 39: 2002 Brunei 3-stamp set to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Brunei Survey Department – JBCS#44.

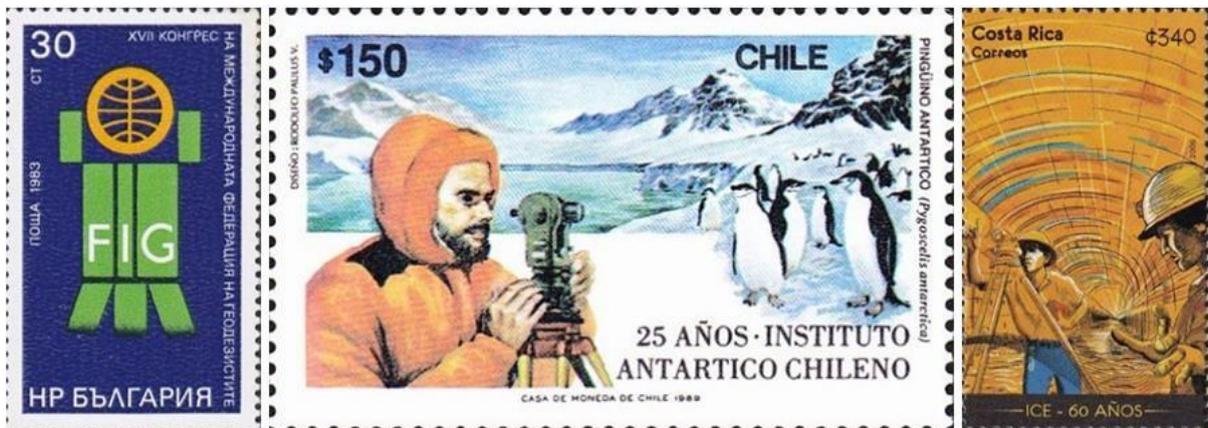


Figure 40: (Left) 1983 Bulgaria stamp for the FIG Working Week held there – JBCS#45, (centre) 1989 Chile issue with polar surveyor and penguin parade – JBCS#46, and (right) 2009 Costa Rica stamp with a tunnel surveyor – JBCS#47.



Figure 41: (Left) 1980 Christmas Island stamp for the phosphate industry with surveyor – JBCS#48, and (right) 2016 Cuba stamp with an image of a survey party at work with plans & total station – JBCS#49.



Figure 42: (Left) 1983 Czechoslovakia stamp with construction surveyor at work – JBCS#50, and (right) 1987 Falkland Islands issue of military surveyors from the Corps of Royal Engineers – JBCS#51.



Figure 43: (Left) 1984 German Democratic Republic (DDR) surveyor stamp – JBCS#52, and (right) 1976 Guatemala issue with surveyor – JBCS#53.



Figure 44: (Left) 1972 Hungary stamp showing ancient surveyors setting out a town in 972 – JBCS#54, and (right) 2004 India FDC with portraits of two surveyors of the Great Survey of India – JBCS#55.



Figure 45: (Left) Indonesian stamp from 1974 with construction survey work – JBCS#56, and (centre & right) two 1971 Iraq stamps with a surveyor & theodolite – JBCS#57.



Figure 46: (Left) 2006 Kazakhstan stamp with survey instrument and man – JBCS#58, and (right) 1971 stamp from Tanzania/Kenya/Uganda with survey party & map – JBCS#59.



Figure 47: (Left) 1982 North Korea stamp – JBCS#60, and (right) 1984 Laos stamp – JBCS#61, each with different scenes of surveyors with their assistants.



Figure 48: 2009 Lithuania combination stamp issue with geodesist Wilhelm Struve, two of his astronomical surveying instruments and a boundary stone marker alongside the triangulation network – JBCS#62.



Figure 49: (Left) 1935 Luxembourg stamp with survey party at work – JBCS#63, (centre) 1994 Madagascar stamp showing a statue of a Roman surveyor with a groma – JBCS#64, and (right) 1962 Mexico issue with the survey party at work observing and recording data – JBCS#65.



Figure 50: (Left) 1984 Nauru stamp – JBCS#66, (centre) 2003 Peru stamp – JBCS#67, and (right) 1972 Qatar stamp – JBCS#68, all with surveyors looking through their theodolites in various scenes of field work.



Figure 51: (Left) 1976 Philippines stamp celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the Bureau of Lands – JBCS#69, and (right) 2006 Norway stamp with surveyor, theodolite and stone cairn – JBCS#70.

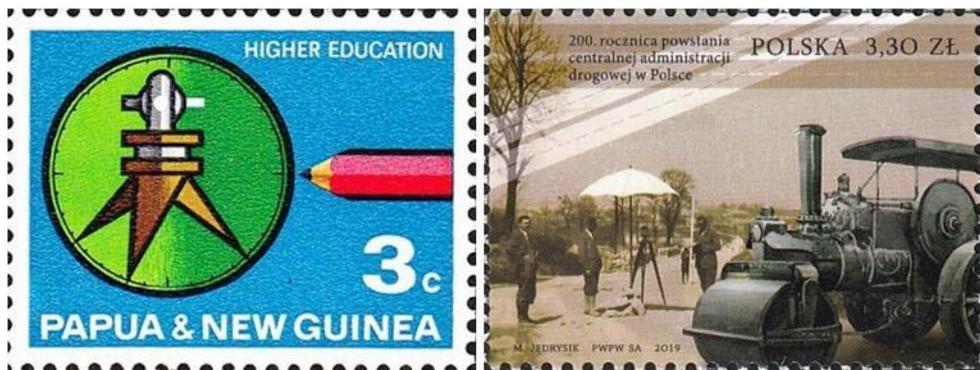


Figure 52: (Left) 1967 Papua New Guinea stamp with illustration of instrument – JBCS#71, and (right) 2019 Poland stamp with a surveyor and theodolite under an umbrella – JBCS#72.



Figure 53: (Left) 2018 Sierra Leone stamp with Percy Fawcett surveying – JBCS#73, and (right) 1979 South Africa stamp with Dr. Wadley and his tellurometer – JBCS#74.



Figure 54: (Left) 1989 South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands stamp – JBCS#75, and (right) 2005 stamp from same territory – JBCS#76.



Figure 55: (Left) 1962 Russia stamp with surveyor – JBCS#77, (centre) 1975 Switzerland stamp – JBCS#78, and (right) 1981 Switzerland stamp for the FIG Working Week held in Montreux that year – JBCS#79.



Figure 56: (Left) 1989 Sweden stamp with surveyor and bird – JBCS#80, and (right) 1971 Suriname stamp with illustration of instrument and a map stamp & postmark – JBCS#81.



Figure 57: (Left) 1987 Tristan Da Cunha (a very remote island south-west of Africa) stamp with illustration of survey party – JBCS#82, and (right) 2017 Tristan Da Cunha issue with surveyor Allan Crawford at work – JBCS#83.



Figure 58: (Left) 1990 Tuvalu stamp with survey party – JBCS#84, and (right) 1986 Niuafo'ou (Tonga) stamp with pipeline construction surveyors – JBCS#85.

### 3 CONCLUDING REMARKS

As can be seen from the impressive number of illustrations with surveyors shown upon the sample of the productions within this paper, it has been a most exhaustive search for the many banknotes, coins and stamps featuring our profession in their philatelic themes. The incredible number was extremely surprising and most rewarding, just another example of how greatly appreciated surveyors are in the community. Not only that, many famous world figures were regarded so highly in their professional work as surveyors, there is also an eminent representation of these notable characters turning up on commemorative issues of this media of paying tribute. When it comes to tracking down surveyors on banknotes, coins and stamps, the internet appeared next to useless, even if you enter the exact words and description of an object you already know about. Entering in a general request for these items will not take you far, but if you drill down into websites, it is possible to discover an Aladdin's cave full of surveying treasures for your viewing pleasure.

Anyone interested in viewing my entire collection of these brilliant specimens of banknotes,

coins, medals and stamps is welcome to contact me to arrange delivery of a USB or electronic file transfer, so that you can appreciate that there are indeed many countries who really do know and appreciate just what we surveyors are capable of and the many aspects of human life which are impacted through our work. To be a surveyor is career and lifestyle of responsibility serving the needs of the world in many areas for which we can all walk tall with pride.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks are extended to the trail blazers who went before me in finding and cataloguing many of the very difficult to find productions of surveyors on coins and stamps (see References). It was actually Mary Root's fantastic folders of surveyors on US and international postage on the US Surveyors Historical Society website that sparked me into action to carry out this research and collect these objets d'art which now form my treasured collection.

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## APPENDIX A: SURVEYORS ON BANKNOTES



Figure A1: Australia – \$100.

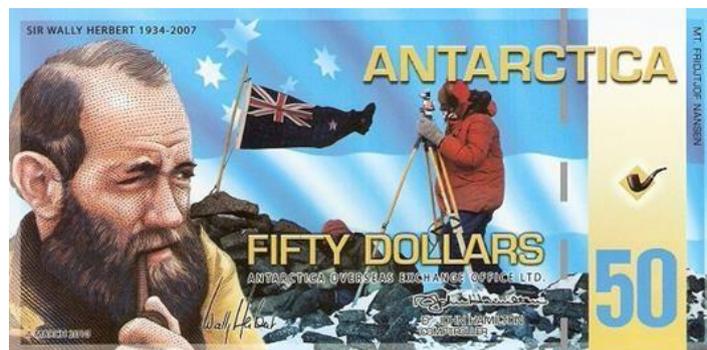


Figure A2: Antarctica – \$50 Antarctic Exchange Office.

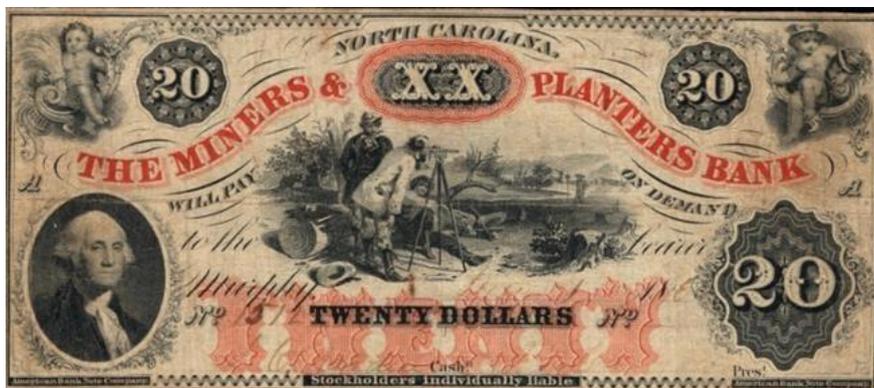
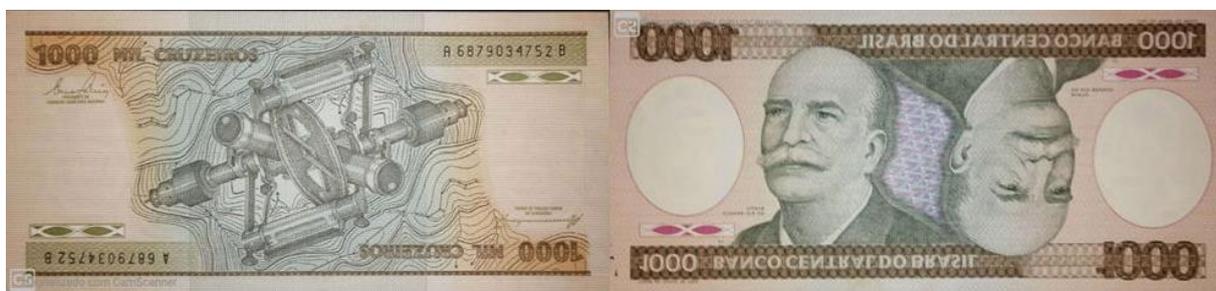


Figure A3: USA – \$20 The Miners & Planters Bank (1860).



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Figure A4: Portugal – 1,000 Escudos.



Figure A5: Germany – 10 Marks with Geodetic Surveyor Carl Gauss and sextant.



Figure A6 : Croatia – Surveyor and inventor Ruder Boskovic on note series (4 of 10)

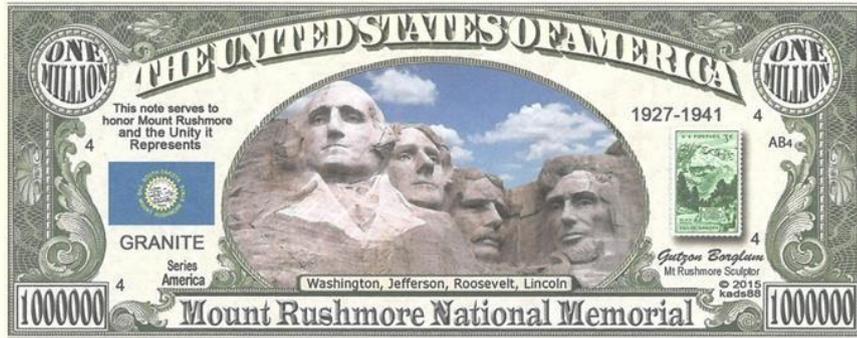


Figure A7: USA - \$1 million Mt. Rushmore souvenir banknote with 1941 Mt. Rushmore stamp on it – JCB#3

## APPENDIX B: SURVEYORS ON COINS AND MEDALLIONS

### Australia



Figure A8: 1932 silver medal for the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge with theodolite (63 mm diameter) – INT#4.



Figure A9: 1932 bronze medal for the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge with theodolite (63 mm diameter) – INT#3.



Figure A10: 1995 Australian proof silver coin of Col. William Light & his Plan of Adelaide – JBCC#1.

## United States of America



Figure A11: Coins and medals shown are listed from top left, then across left to right. Coins in this figure consist of both sides of each minting for the US Army 2011 half-dollar, Franklin Mint 1970 Abraham Lincoln/Petersburg Point of Beginning 1836, William Clark coin with transit on reverse and Meriwether Lewis coin with surveyor's compass on reverse each from the Rugged American series of medals, 1976 Founding of Hagerstown medal 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary with surveyor Jonathan Hager on the obverse and the town symbol of "Little Heiskell" on the reverse, Franklin Mint History of America bronze medal collection with surveyor measuring for the 1785 Land Law Ordinance, George Washington coin for "First Surveying Expedition" silver medals for the "Life and Times of George Washington" set (1970s), and the Lincoln Mint series of "The Life

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of Abraham Lincoln” with Abraham Lincoln surveying titled “Postmaster & Surveyor” – JBCC#2, JBCM#7,  
JBCM#8, JBCM#9, JBCM#5, JBCM#6, JBCM#1 and JBCM#2.

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Figure A12: (Left) Prospector/surveyor medal with survey instruments on reverse – JBCM#10, and (right) bronze ingot “Surveyor” with surveyor on front and job bio on rear – JBCM#11.



Figure A13: (Top left) Surveyors founding New Orleans in 1718, (top right) image details – JBCM#3, (bottom left) surveyors Mason & Dixon survey one of the recently installed boundary stones, many of which can still be found today along the line which still bears their names, and (bottom right) details of year of completion of the Mason/Dixon line 1767 – JBCM#4.



Figure A14: 1991 Mt. Rushmore coins for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, (left) \$1 and (right) half dollar – JBCC#10 & 11.

## APPENDIX C: SURVEYORS ON STAMPS

### United States of America

Figure A15 shows two more examples of the vast collection of FDCs issued by the US Postal Service on 15 February 1980 for the Benjamin Banneker stamp, which was part of the Black Heritage Series. The FDC on the left is number 10 of a hand-painted rare group of only 100 such works by artist Thelma Mayer and her husband, and it is signed by Thelma.

The second FDC is the only one which has postmarks from three cities in which Benjamin Banneker surveyed (Annapolis, Washington DC and Ellicott City), and it is the example used by Mary Root in her “Surveyor’s in Postage” selection on the US Surveyors Historical Society website. I am the only International Life Member of this society, Member No. 499. There are many other brilliant FDCs honouring Benjamin Banneker, which can be found in my electronic storehouse of more surveyor stamps, available upon request.

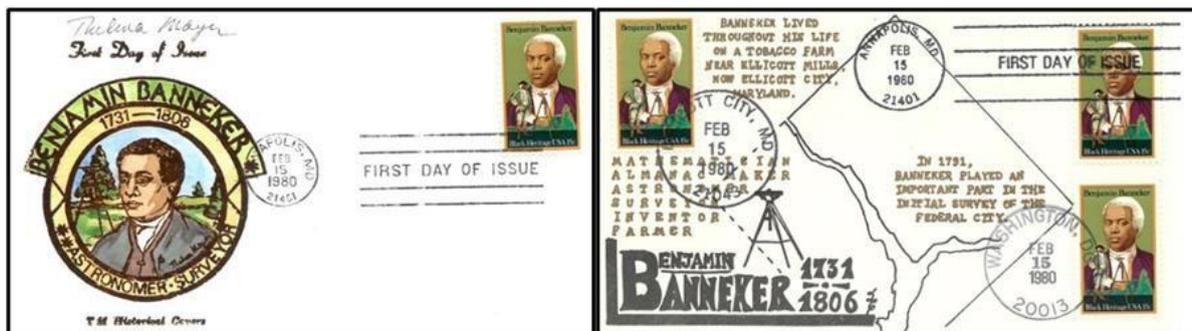


Figure A15: Two fine examples of Benjamin Banneker 1980 FDC issues – JBCS#86 & 87.

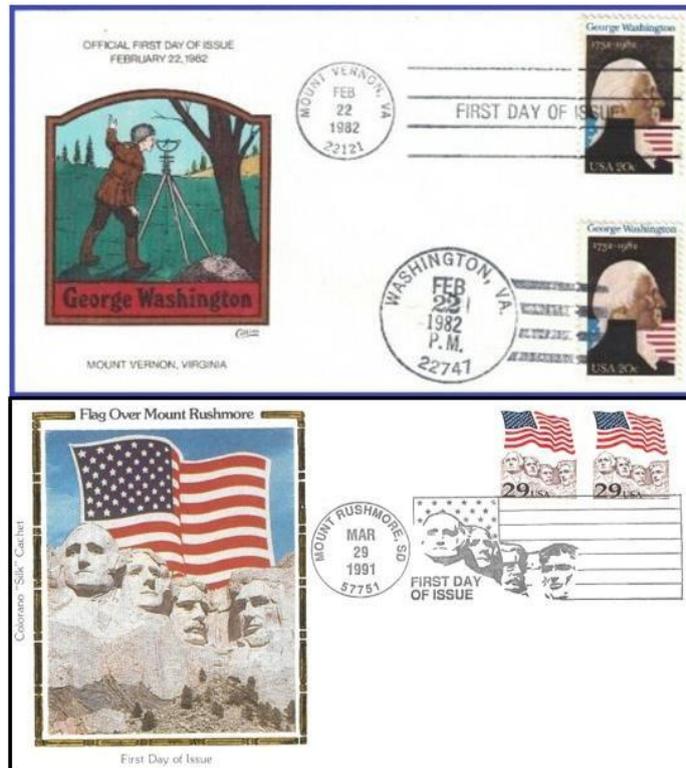


Figure A16: (Top) 1982 FDC of George Washington surveying – JBCS#108, and (bottom) 1991 Mt. Rushmore FDC – JBCS#109.

## Egypt

Figure A17 shows a 1995 FDC from Egypt celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Egyptian Society of Engineers founded in 1920 and the stamp, each having illustrations of a statue of a seated scribe/surveyor and an ancient Egyptian surveying device, called a sbz, with a right-angled frame holding a plumb bob hanging vertically.

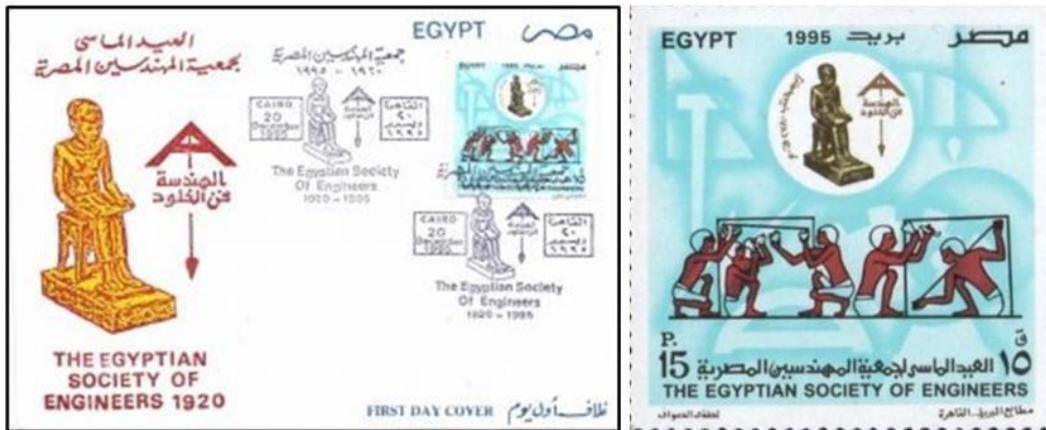
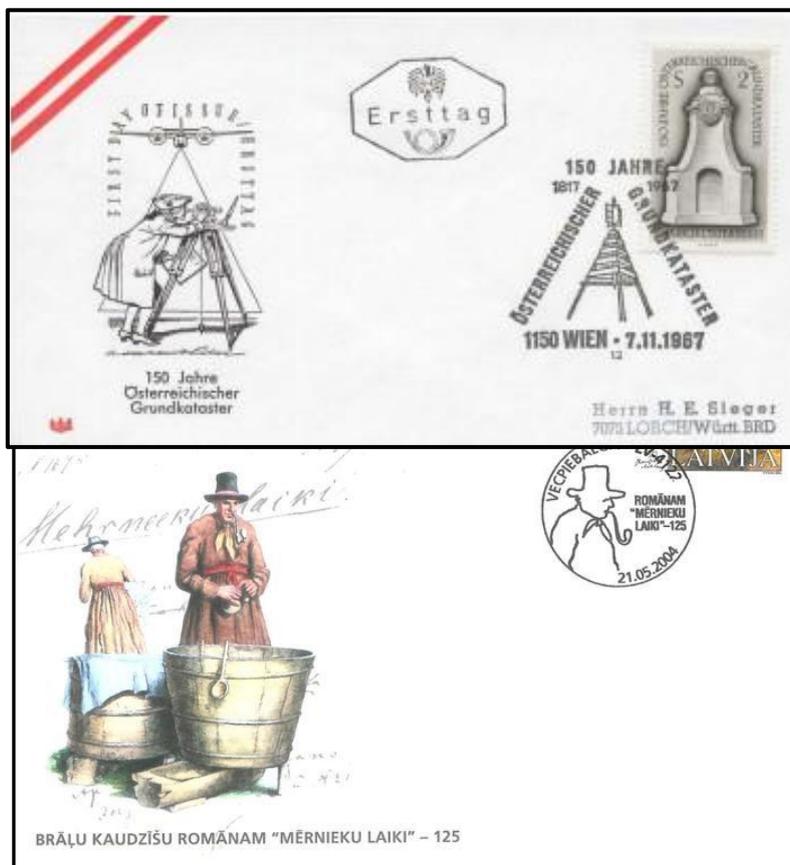


Figure A17: 1995 FDC and stamp for the Egyptian Society of Engineers with an ancient Egyptian surveying instrument (sbz) and a scribe/surveyor statue – JBCS#88 & 89.

## Austria and Latvia



In Austria the Grundkataster is the Land Cadastre and in 1967 it celebrated its 150 year since it was founded in 1817. “Ersttag” postmark means “First Day”.

In Latvia there was a period of settlement reestablishment when the Land Surveyors were the most important group in the country because land was a richly valued commodity. Books and films were made on this era and these coins, stamps and FDCs were issued to mark

the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this.

Figure A18: (Top) 1967 Austria FDC celebrating 150 years of Grundkataster (“Land Cadastre”) with a surveyor making observations, a stamp featuring a boundary stone and a postmark with a trig tower for Vienna 7.11.1967 – JBCS#121 (Bottom) 2004 FDC from Latvia with stamp, postmark and illustration commemorating “Mernieku Laiki” which translates as “The Times of the Land Surveyors” – JBCS#110.

## Japan



Figure A19: (Left) 1991 FDC of stamps and illustration with surveyor's level for the centenary of the levelling network in Japan – JBCS#111, and (right) 1995 FDC and postmark from Japan to honour their greatest surveyor, Ino Tadataka, with the stamp featuring part of his iconic 1821 Map of Japan – JBCS#112.

## Australia



Figure A20: (Left) 1955 postcard from Australia with Surveyor-General Sir Thomas Mitchell on three stamps with a map of Queensland as background – JBCS#113, and (right) 1980 Australia Day stamp with Matthew Flinders in front of a map of Australia – JBCS#114.



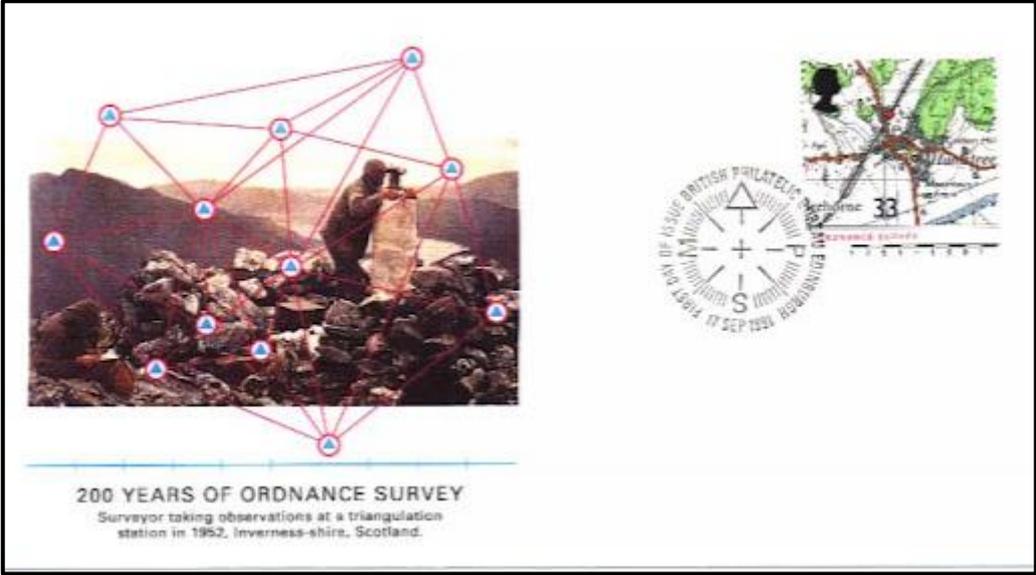
Figure A21: (Left) 1976 Australia stamps featuring NSW Surveyor-General John Oxley – JBCS#115, and (right) first WA Premier, Surveyor John Forrest – JBCS#116.

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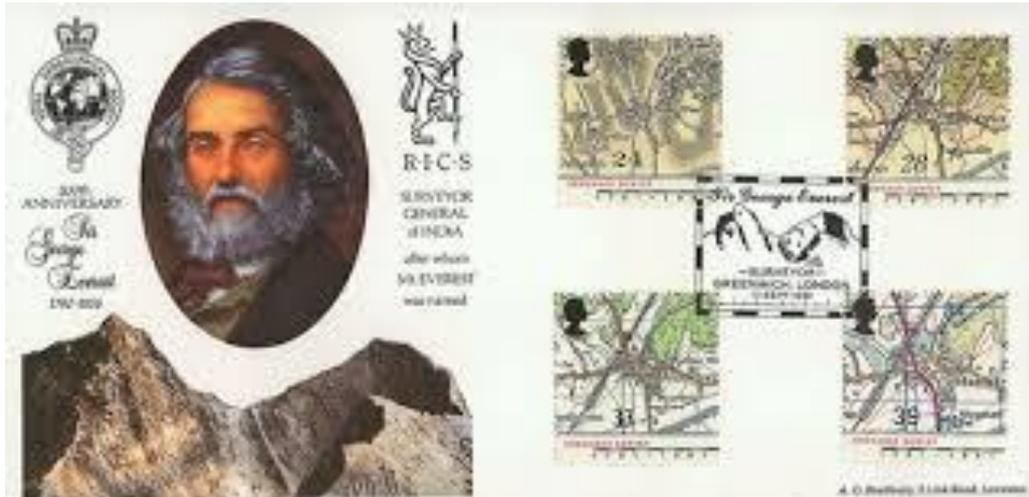


Figure A22: Three 1991 UK FDCs honouring the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordnance Survey.  
 (Top) Instrument maker Jesse Ramsden and his Great Theodolite – JBCS#117.  
 (Centre) Surveyor observing angles from a trig pillar with network superimposed – JBCS#118.  
 (Bottom) Surveyor-General of India Sir George Everest with mountain below – JBCS#119.

### Samples of Various Other Countries



Figure A23: (Left) 1974 Albania stamp – JBCS#90, (centre) 1987 Ascension stamp – JBCS#91, and (right) 2014 Bahamas stamp – JBCS#92.



Figure A24: (Left) 1954 China stamp – JBCS#93, (centre) 1955 China stamp – JBCS#94, and (right) 1999 Montserrat stamp with a globe & theodolite – JBCS#95.



Figure A25: (Top left) 1986 stamp from the Netherlands with staff man and part of staff – JBCS#96, (top right) 1981 Nicaragua issue with surveyor on site of road construction – JBCS#97, (bottom left) 1979 Cyprus stamp for the Centenary of the Lord Kitchener survey of Northern Cyprus – JBCS#98, and (bottom right) 1994 Denmark stamp for the 1906-08 expedition – JBCS#99.



Figure A26: (Left) 1959 Soviet Union stamp with a surveyor & tellurometer – JBCS#100, (centre) 1961 Soviet Union stamp with a surveyor – JBCS#101, and (right) 1962 Soviet Union stamp with a surveyor – JBCS#102.



Figure A27: Twin surveyor 1951 stamp issue by Spanish Guinea (now Equatorial Guinea) – JBCS#103.



Figure A28: (Left) 2000 Sri Lanka stamp – JBCS#104, and (right) FDC to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sri Lanka Survey Department – JBCS#105.



Figure A29: (Left) 1972 Turkey stamp – JBCS#106, and (right) 1987 UN “Shelter for the Homeless” stamp – JBCS#107.