

Stamps from a Non-Existing Country?

By Emmanuel GPS

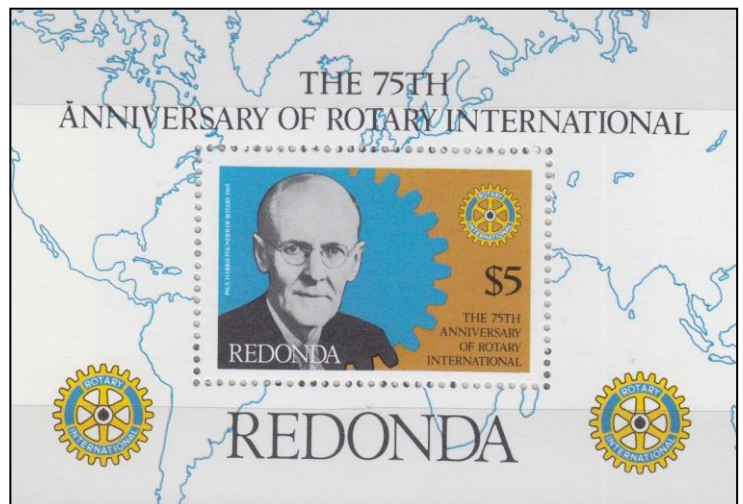
In the April 2020 Post Boy, **Patrick Crosby** wrote: “*The barren, uninhabited Redonda (once mined for phosphate) also has postal issues, but no one considers them to be legitimate.*” I would like to differ with him as members of the Rotary International Stamp Club [Rotary on Stamps, ROS] are respecting these issues as legitimate.



Located 34 miles west-southwest of Antigua, Redonda is little more than a rock of approximately 1 square mile in area rising out of the Caribbean Sea. A dependency of Antigua, the island is said to be uninhabited. Postage stamps overprinted “Redonda” appeared in 1979 and shortly thereafter stamps specially printed for Redonda were issued. Stamps inscribed “Redonda” are reportedly valid for use from Antigua and there are very few

covers seen canceled from Redonda. They were mostly printed and issued by Disney. In 1980, Scott catalogue printed a specialty album for the stamps of Redonda [they are no longer listed].

Even an imaginary country put its stamp on Rotary International’s 75th anniversary. We are not talking about a stamp from Antigua overprinted. Redonda is little more than a rock covered in bird droppings that belongs to the real country Antigua and Barbuda, but at least three people claim to be “King” of the uninhabited island, a title passed down since a mariner landed there in 1865. In trying to find out more about the history of the stamps, **Emmanuel** found the e-mail address of one of the three, “*Robert the Bald*”, who said: “I have never seen these stamps before now. So, in ignorance and from what I was told by this government, I don’t know how they came into existence!” He also said that if I owned a boat, I could register it as part of the island’s naval fleet for \$50. Another of Redonda’s would-be monarchs, *King Leo*, has a website on the island’s eccentric tradition, see <http://www.redonda.org/>.



EmmanuelGPS@gmail.com, a native Frenchman, is a past Director and life member of <https://www.rotaryonstamps.org/> and the lead person of the Inverness (California) stamp club where he resides. He owns the stamps on this page.