

2022's Top 10 Astronomy on Stamps

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The end of the calendar year brings a list of past year's top events, accomplishments, and highlights. Several fantastic astronomy-themed stamps were issued in 2022. Here are my top 10.

1. United States: James Webb Space Telescope

Likely the most popular astronomy stamp of 2022.

The James Webb Space Telescope continues to astound the astronomical community with spectacular data and images. A must have!

On September 8, 2022 the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) released a single commemorative stamp [Sc 5720] celebrating the successful launch (25 December 2021) and deployment of the *James Webb Space Telescope*.

The stamp was designed by Derry Noyes using artwork by James Vaughn and a NASA Space Telescope Science Institute image.



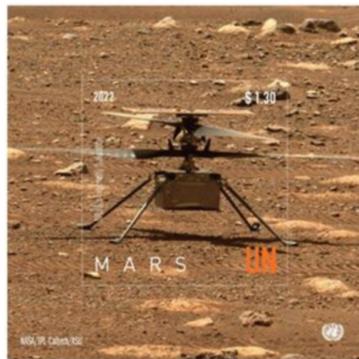
2. United Nations Offices: Planet Mars

A spectacular set of stamps and souvenir sheets commemorating international exploration of the planet Mars. A must have for both astronomy and space collectors.

On April 24, 2022, the United Nations Postal Administration celebrated recent Mars missions in a set of six stamps (two for each U.N. Office) in panes of 10 and three souvenir sheets (with three additional stamps for each U.N. Office).

U.N. New York City Office

- Proctor Crater on Mars from the HIRISE camera on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (*MRO*) (58¢) [Sc 1196]
- Mars 2020 *Perseverance* rover (\$1.30) [Sc 1197]
- Souvenir Sheet featuring the Mars 2020 *Ingenuity* helicopter (\$1.30) [Sc 1198]



U.N. Geneva Office

- Mars from the United Arab Emirates *Hope* spacecraft (1.10 fr) [Sc 653]
- Preparations to launch Emirates Mars mission (1.50 fr) [Sc 654]
- Souvenir Sheet featuring the United Arab Emirates *Hope* spacecraft (2 fr) [Sc 655]



U.N. Vienna Office

- Preselected area for the China Nations Space Administration, *Tianwen-1* spacecraft to Mars (€ 0.85) [Sc 623]
- *Zhurong* rover on Mars (€ 1) [Sc 624]
- Souvenir Sheet featuring the *Zhurong* rover landing platform (€ 1.80) [Sc 625]



3. Denmark: Danish Astronomy

A celebration of remarkable astronomical research from Denmark. On January 3, 2022, Denmark's Post Nord released a set of five stamps [Sc 1891-1895] honoring Danish astronomy and space exploration. The five stamps are each 26.5 x 26.5 mm and were designed by Ella Clausen. Each stamp is 35 dkr (Danish krone).

1. **Stella Nova 1572:** Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe, observed this “new” star on November 11, 1572 and recorded his detailed observation in his book, *de Stella Nova*.
2. **Calculation of the speed of light, 1676:** The first measurement of the speed of light was by Danish astronomer Ole Røemer, accomplished by timing the eclipses of Jupiter’s moons.
3. **Uraniborg Observatory:** The Observatory was built 1576-1580 and was established and operated by Tycho Brahe on the island of Hven.
4. **First Dane in Space, 2015:** Andreas Enevold Morgensen, a Danish engineer and astronaut, was the first Dane to fly in space. He was on the ISS crew from September 2, 2015 to September 11, 2015.

5. Mars 2020 Mission: Danish engineers contributed two supercameras and an oxygen machine, among others, to NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission, which is currently operating on Mars.



4. South Korea: Cheonsang Yeolcha Bunyajido Celestial Map

A spectacular issue from South Korea depicting, in intricate detail, the stars shown on a 14th century celestial map.

On 24 June 2022, South Korea Post releases a beautiful and unique set of stamps [Yt 3356-3362] depicting a Joseon-era celestial map. The stamps, designed by Jung Eun-young, are serpentine die-cut shaped, and contain an enormous amount of detail depicting individual stars and constellations. There are 7 stamps issued. The mini sheet consists of all 7 stamps, each comprising a piece of the celestial map. Each stamp has a value of 520 South Korean won.

The Cheonsang Yeolcha Bunyajido celestial map was created in the 14th century. The royal astronomers were ordered by King Taejo to carve the constellations on a flat, black stone in 1395. The stone contains about 1,467 stars and 267 constellations visible from Korea, including the ecliptic, equatorial lines and scales. The stone map is exhibited in the National Palace Museum in Seoul. The stamp designs are based on a paper copy of the Celestial map, which is kept in the Sungshin Women's University Museum.



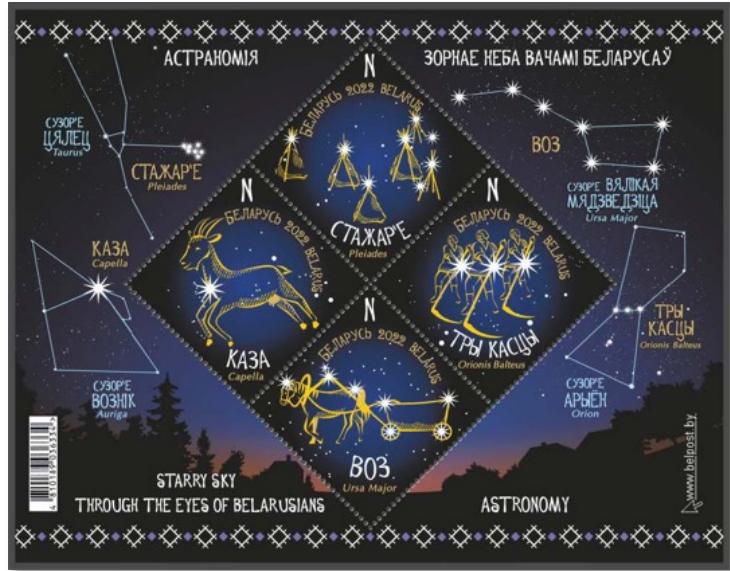
5. Belarus: Constellations Above Belarus

A very nice set of stamps and mini-sheets depicting the stars and constellations that are visible from Belarus.

The Belarus Post (Belposhta) released a set of stamps on 5 July 1922 depicting the stars and constellations visible from Belarus. The stamps were designed by Yauheniya Biadonik. There are four individual stamps in the set (each 52.75 x 52.75 mm), plus five different mini-sheets (each 114 x 112 mm) – four for each stamp design and a fifth consisting of all of the stamps. All the stamps have No Face Value (NFV). The individual stamps are:

1. Capella and the constellation Auriga (aka the “Goat Star”).
2. The Pleiades in the constellation Taurus (aka “The Stazharye”).
3. The three stars in Orion’s Belt (aka “The Three Mowers”).
4. The constellation Ursa Major (aka “The Wagon”)

The set also includes a mini sheet for each stamp, containing four stamps of the same design, with various night scenes and an illustration of the respective constellation (for a total of four mini sheets). For example, the mini sheet depicted above shows the four stamps of the star Capella and an illustration of constellation, Auriga. The fifth mini-sheet consists of all four stamp designs and illustrations of all four constellations [Mi BL212].



6. Faroe Islands: Northern Lights

A very nice set of aurora stamps from the far northern islands of Føroyar, an autonomous territory of Denmark.

On February 28, 2022, the Faroe Islands released two stamps [Sc 801-802] of the Northern lights (or Aurora Borealis). Both stamps measure 40 x 30 mm and were designed by Thomas Vikre with photographs from Árni Øregaard. The 19 dkr stamp shows the reddish-green lights over the water and islands. The 43 dkr stamp shows the green northern nights over land.



7. North Korea: Ancient Astronomical Heritage

It is rare that North Korea releases an astronomically-themed stamp. This one celebrates Korean astronomical heritage and also depicts the celestial map that was released on an issue by South Korea.

On 10 July 2022, the Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) released a set of five stamps [Sc Unlisted] celebrating Korean astronomical heritage

over the last 5,000 years. Each stamp has a face value of 50 North Korean won and each measures 42 x 30 mm. A minisheet containing all 5 stamps with a face value of 200 North Korean won is part of the series “Cultural Heritage of the Korean Nation.” An English translation of what each stamp represents is not yet available, but they depict various tools used to make astronomical observations. One stamp appears to show a star chart, which looks to be the Cheonsang Yeolcha Bunyajido celestial map, created in the 14th century, also depicted on the South Korean issue released in June 2022.



8. New Zealand: Beatrice Hill Tinsley, Astrophysicist.

This is the second stamp released by New Zealand celebrating her famous woman native astrophysicist.

The New Zealand post released a stamp [Sc 3053] on 1 November 2022 commemorating New Zealand astrophysicist, Beatrice Hill Tinsley (1941-1981). The stamp measures 28 x 35.5 mm and was designed by Jo Bailey. It has a face value of 3.80 NZ dollars. The stamp is part of New Zealand’s “Women in Science” series. The stamp depicts Beatrice Tinsley in her office at Yale University in 1975. Tinsley was born in Chester, England on 27 January 1941 and her family emigrated to New



Zealand after the war. She was a professor of astronomy at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut and made fundamental contributions to the astronomical understanding of how galaxies evolve, grow and die. The asteroid 3087 *Beatrice Tinsley* (discovered in 1981) is named for her.

9. Argentina: Aurora Australis

A nice rendering of the spectacular Aurora Australis or Southern Lights.

On 4 October 2022, Correo Argentino issued a stamp [Sc 2966] commemorating the 150th anniversary of the National Meteorological Service. The stamp depicts the Aurora Australis over the Argentine Belgrano II Base in Antarctica. The stamp has a face value of \$150 Argentine peso.



10. Bulgaria: Observatories of Bulgaria

Bulgaria Post released a stamp [Sc Unlisted] celebrating observatories in Bulgaria on 1 November 2022. The stamp shows the People's Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium Nicolaus Copernicus in Varna, Bulgaria. The stamp was designed by Lyuba Tomova. The stamp has two designs: perforation on normal paper and without perforation on UV paper. The souvenir sheet measures 82 x 51 mm. The single stamp measures 39 x 29 mm. It has a face value of 0,75 Bulgarian lev. The astronomical complex consists of an astronomical observatory, a planetarium and a tower that houses a Foucault pendulum.

