

2023'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 2023. Here are my top 10.

1. 550th Anniversary of Copernicus

In 2023, several countries issued stamps commemorating the 550th anniversary of the birth of astronomer Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543).

Poland

On 29 January 2023, Poczta Polska released a stamp, FDC, mini sheet, and cancellation. The new stamp's image is based upon an epitaph found in the cathedral at Frombork. Painted with oils on a copper sheet, the portrait was modelled on the pictures authored by Mikołaj Reussner and Jakub Boissard. It is thought to be the only surviving image of Copernicus to be found in Frombork. This is the first time this particular image of Copernicus has been used on a postage stamp. The Polish stamp was also a joint release with Vatican City. The Vatican image is of the painting, *Copernicus Astronomer or Conversation with God* for the 400th anniversary (1873). It is the property of the Museum of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow by artist Jan Matejko (1838-1893).



Czechoslovakia

15 February 2023. Česká Pošta. The stamp was designed by Jindřich Ulrich and has no face value

Bosnia and Herzegovina

23 February 2023. Bosnia and Herzegovina – Republic of Srpska. The stamp was released as a se-tenant set honoring mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal (1623-1662).



Bulgaria

11 May 2023. Bulgarian Post. A minisheet was released consisting of three of the Copernicus stamps with an illustration from Copernicus' notes in the background.

Serbia

23 May 2023 Serbia Post.

Lichtenstein

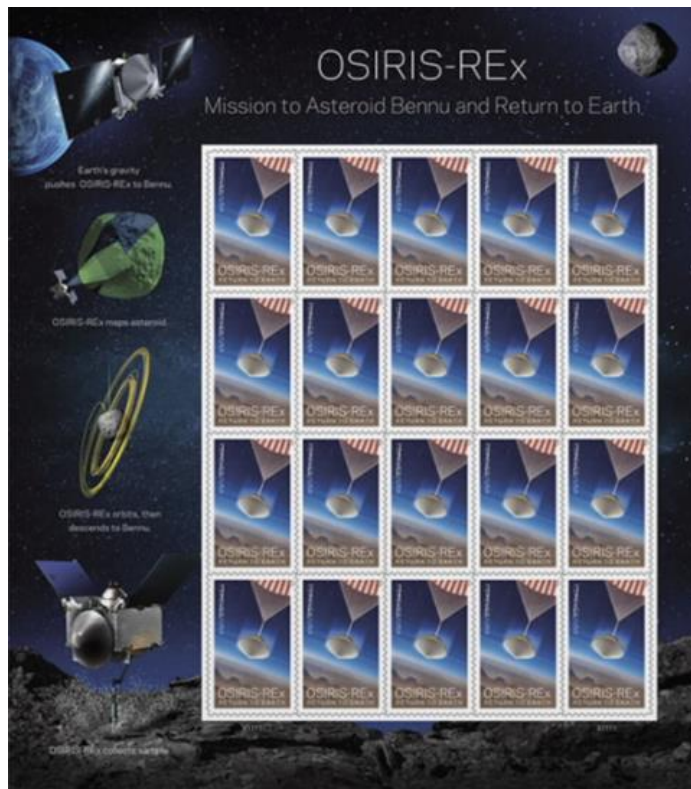
4 September 2023, Lichtenstein Post. A se-tenant set of three stamps that show Copernicus in profile.



2. OSIRIS-REx Return Mission

On 22 September 2023, the United States Postal Service released a stamp celebrating the [NASA's OSIRIS-REx](#) (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer) asteroid return mission. The stamp shows a capsule containing a sample of the asteroid Bennu parachuting down to Earth.





3. Oman – Dark Skies

On 30 May 2023, the Sultanate of Oman released a set of four stamps depicting astronomical objects visible over Oman: the Horsehead Nebula and Flame Nebula (NGC 2024) in Orion [the Flame Nebula is part of the large molecular cloud complex in Orion], the Rosette Nebula [a large complex HII region in the Monoceros region of the Milky Way; various parts are cataloged as NGC 2237-2239, 2244, and 2246], the Milky Way over the Al-Hajar Al-Gharbi Reserve for Star Lights, and the Milky Way over the Graves of Kubaikib.



4. Australia and Indonesia, The April 2023 Total Solar Eclipse

On April 11, 2023, Australia Post issued a set of three solar eclipse stamps in anticipation of the solar eclipse over parts of Australia and Indonesia on 20 April 2023. Each stamp shows an annular eclipse, a total eclipse and a partial eclipse. The release of these new stamps was timed to coincide with the April 20, 2023 rare hybrid eclipse, which was viewable for 62 seconds from the Exmouth Peninsula in Western Australia. The same solar eclipse event over Australia on 20 April 2023, also touched Indonesia.

On that same date, Indonesia Post issued a set of three stamps celebrating the total solar eclipse observed on that same day in the Blak and Kisar Islands and the partial eclipse observed from Indonesia. The three designs visualize the Papuan folklore “Breaking the Sun.”



5. French Andorra – Perseid Meteors

The annual Perseid Meteor shower occurs around August 12-13. The French Andorra Post issued a stamp on 8 July 2023 depicting the meteor shower with a church in the foreground. The stamp describes the “Llàgrimes de Sant Llorenç” or the “Tears of Saint Lawrence” as a reference to the Perseid meteor shower. The Feast of St. Lawrence occurs every year on August 10 very close to the annual peak of the meteor shower.



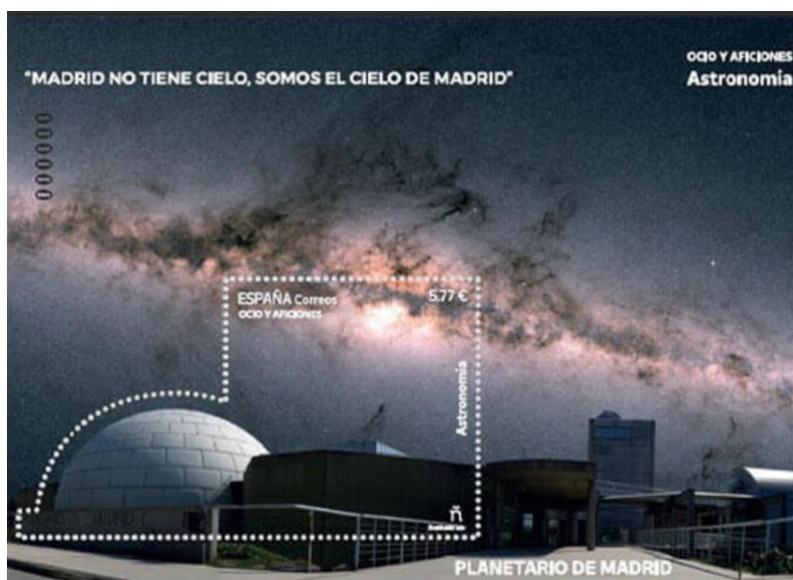
6. Germany Planetarium Centennial

On 5 October 2023, The German Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating the centennial of the Zeiss Mark I Planetarium in Jena, Germany. In 1923, the Carl Zeiss company completed the first planetarium using optical-mechanical light projection. The planetarium was opened to the public in 1925. Over the next two years the Planetarium Jena will be celebrating the centennial with the Deutsches Museum in Munich.



7. Spain - Madrid Planetarium

On 29 September 2023, Spain post, Correos, as part of their Leisure and Hobbies series, issued a stamp and a minisheet celebrating the Madrid Planetarium. The planetarium was inaugurated in 1986 and has since drawn over 7 million visitors.



8. Northern Lights – Norway, Iceland

The Norwegian Post issued a series of six stamps on 21 April 2023 promoting Norway tourism. One stamp in the series depicts the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) over Ytresand Beach in Lofoten, an archipelago in Norway.



9. San Martino - Astrophysics

To mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February 2023, Poste San Marino issued a set of three stamps to honor women astrophysicists and the contributions to science. The stamps were designed by Lucia Rosicini. The first stamp is said to depict a Be emission star (1.25€); the second is said to depict Epsilon Aurigae (1.45€); the third is said to depict a stellar spectra (1.65€).



10. Indonesia Bosscha Observatory

On 4 February 2023, the Indonesian Post released a set of three stamps (single and set) celebrating the Centenary of the Bosscha Observatory. The first stamp depicts Observatory founder, Rudolf Bosscha, the second stamp illustrates the telescope and Milky Way. The third stamp is odd and shows aliens viewing the Earth, although the aliens look remarkable like humans.

