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## The Oaks in Philately

by Stelian Radu, Simeria, Romania

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Reading the Editor's letter in the second issue of the IOS Journal, I remembered some of the numerous hypostases of the oak's presence in our life. One of these, less known and not so common, is the appearance of this robust, long-lived and valuable species on postal stamps. Looking through my modest collection, dedicated mainly to trees and forests, I find some specimens which, I think, are of interest for our readers, even expressive, in spite of our modest graphic conditions.

Figure 2 shows postal stamps with oaks, issued in the frame of some descriptions, dedicated to characteristic trees. The stamp issued in 1980 by the former Soviet Union reproduces the outline and a twig of *Quercus robur* with leaves and acorns (fig. a), while the 1982 issue is a miniature copy of the oaks painted by the famous Russian landscape painter, I. I. Schischin (1832-1898)(fig. b). The German stamp exhibits flowers, leaves and fruits of *Q. sessilis* (fig. c). On the English stamp we can see a magnificent solitary oak (fig. d), while on the French one, the habit, leaves flowers and fruits are of the same species, named in this case by its synonym, *Q. pendunculata* (fig. e). The oak on the Isreali mark (1981) is *Q. ithaburensis* (fig. f), while on the English stamp, the United Europe oak in Hauteville is depicted.(fig. g).

In 1976 the French Post dedicated a stamp to the reknowned oak forest, Troncais, a beautiful stand (fig. h). In order to celebrate the "Month of Forest" (1956), the Romanian-issued stamps depict an oak. (fig. i).

In the series dedicated to century-old trees, the Bulgarian stamp presents an 800-year-old oak (fig. j). The anniversary of an old Hungarian pulp factory is certified by a stamp including an oak leaf, although this is not one of the numerous utilizations of oak wood (fig. k).

Figure 3 represents three First Day Covers (FDC) issued by the United States, Tunisia (for the 6th World Forest Congress) and Romania, representing *Q. alba*, *Q. suber*, and *Q. robur*, respectively.

Figure 1 reproduces a maxima card (with the same motif on card, mark and stamp) with an oak; this is a photocopy from the author's original.

These are, of course, a few samples of oaks in philately and this short comment is far away from being a complete one.

And finally, why not a stamp for the inaugural conference of the International Oak Society?

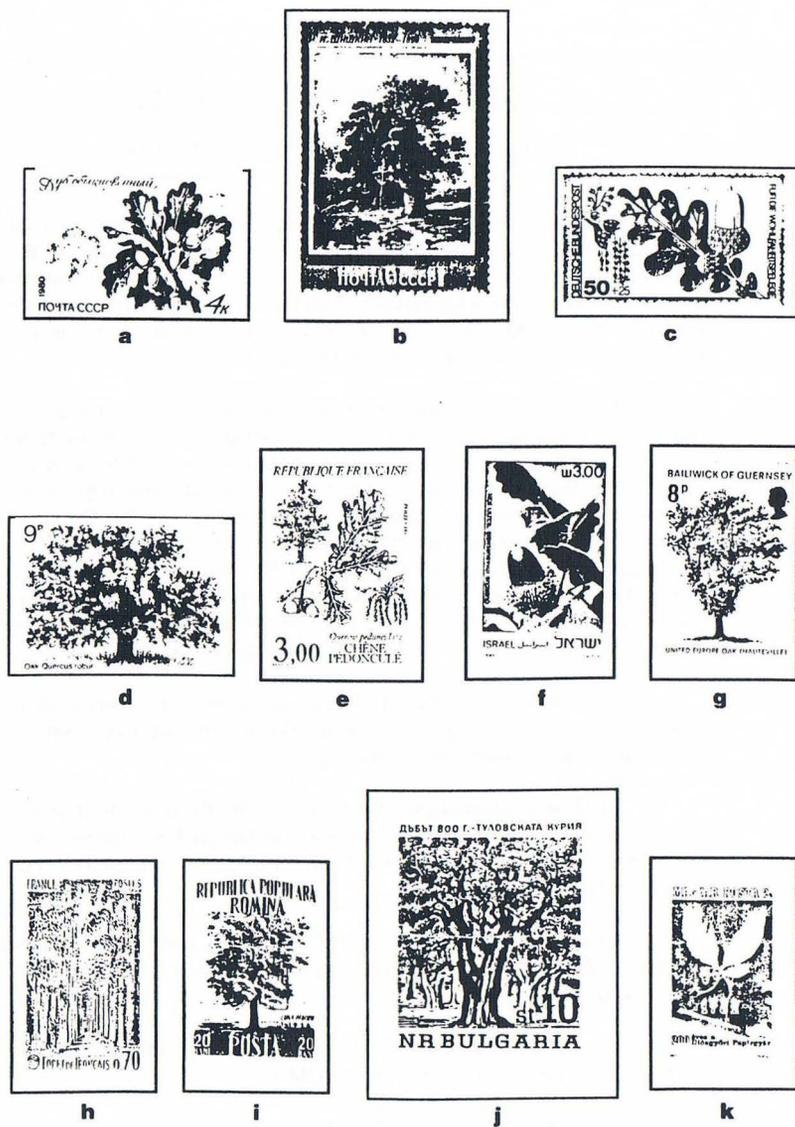
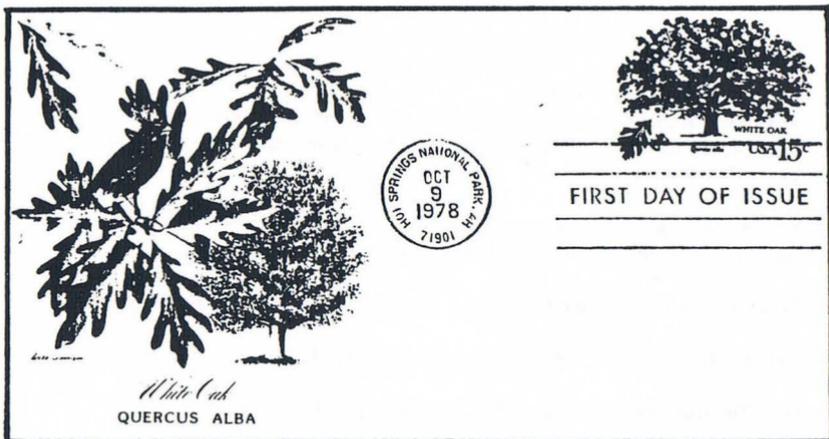
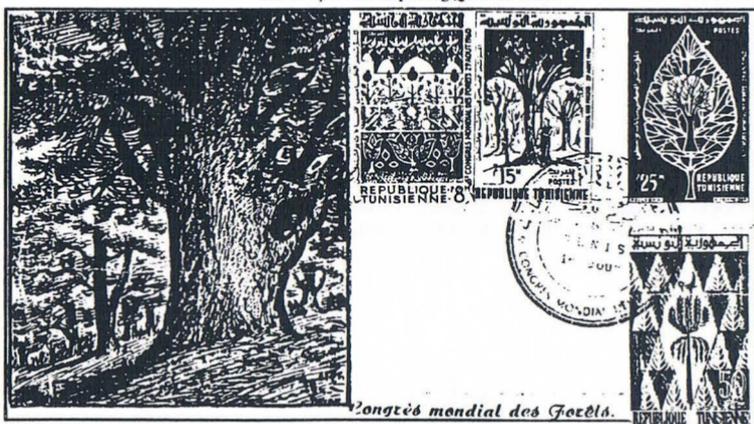


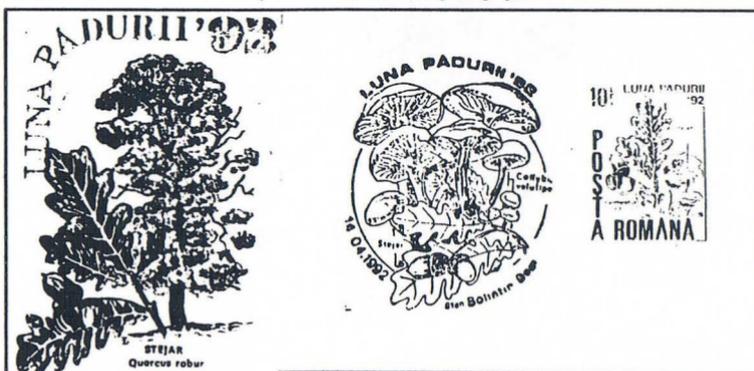
Figure 2



First Day Cover depicting *Quercus alba*



First Day Cover from Tunisia depicting *Quercus suber*.



First Day Cover from Romania depicting *Quercus robur*

Short contribution to the Oaks Bibliography  
by Dr. Stelian Radu

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