

# The Foundations Series

Featuring Jason Wells

In my efforts to look up stamps commemorating four authors that influenced my world view ( Dante Alighieri , Aldous Huxley, Niccolo Machiavelli, and George Orwell). I ran across an excellent souvenir sheet featuring 16 classic science fiction authors. San Marino's Scott no. 1429 came out in 1998 and catalogues for \$17.50(mint). It masterfully depicts essential works on 800 lira stamps. Looking at the stamps made me realize that while I consider myself a reasonably well-read person and a sci-fi buff, in fact of the 16 works commemorated on these

stamps, only six have I read. However, another six I've seen on the silver screen. The stamps go as listed: a. Jules Verne (Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea), b. H.G. Wells (no relation, too bad that would have been awesome) (War of the Worlds),c. Aldous Huxley ( Brave New World) , d. George Orwell (1984), e. Isaac Asimov (Chronicles of the Galaxy, the Robot and Galactic Empire books), f. Clifford Simak (World Without End), g. Ray Bradbury (Fahrenheit 451) h. Robert Sheckley (The Seventh Victim, i. Frederik Pohl and C.M. Kornbluth (The Space Merchants), j. Roberto Vacca (Neighbors from the Middle Ages and the Future) k. Robert Heinlein (Stranger in a Strange Land), l. Anthony Burgess (A Clockwork Orange), m. James G. Ballard (Drowned World). n. Frank Herbert (Dune) o. Arthur C. Clarke (Space Odyssey) , and p. Phillip K. Dick (Blade Runner [Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep]).



Apart from the artwork on these stamps, the fascinating element about these stamps is that all these works were written at least 40 years ago, thus we can see how close to the mark their view of the future was. From political machinations of the distant future (Dune, Chronicles of the Galaxy) to dystopias that are disturbingly similar to today (A Clockwork Orange, 1984), these stories helped shape

our perception of the human condition.

Almost all of these authors are featured on stamps in other countries. The U.S. was going to do a set of stamps featuring Frank Herbert, Isaac Asimov, Philip K. Dick, Ray Bradbury, and Robert Heinlein in 2013. Unfortunately, those plans fell through.

[Editor's note. This is the first of what I would like to see as an ongoing series, where club members select stamps that are reflective of who and what they are. Tell us why. Mine will be appearing in the next issue. Use this as an opportunity to tell others about yourself. Out of the 16 authors on this mini sheet – I have read 10 of them. In an odd twist in life, I went to high school in Ft. Lauderdale (1973-1977) with the nephews of Robert Heinlein.]

# World's Largest Stamp.....?

by Steve Patrick

Guatemala produced a set of eight stamps portraying modern coffee production on December 19, 1984. The set shows planting, harvesting, drying, loading, grafting plants, picking beans, and a freeze-drying machine. The stamps are not of any remarkable size, but they chose to issue an enlarged version 86 X 112 mm of design AP 154, and the Scott catalogue values a single used at \$80! To my surprise, I found a first day cover in a lot from Mike Rogers auction of the 25-cent airmail "cosecha de café" picking the coffee. This is not a souvenir sheet, it is the stamp.

So, is this the largest stamps you have ever seen? Keep looking for the catalogue notes there is an almost similar size of design AP155 at 105 X 85 mm that catalogues for \$110!



**Note: this image is not true to scale. The cover is about 7 ¼ x 5 inches.**