



Sealand Souvenirs by Bernhard Luerssen

In 1978, a strange report on German TV caught my eye. There had been a coup d'etat in Sealand. 'Where on earth is that', I thought.

My interest in extraordinary corners of the globe had found a new focus. Not much could be researched easily in those dark pre-Internet days.

What made it highly interesting for me as an active ham radio enthusiast was the fact that Sealand was (at the time) undisputable located well outside the UK territorial waters.

So three friends and I approached Prince Roy for permission and transmitter license to get Sealand "on the air" on the ham radio bands. Soon an agreement was reached, and were happy to spend 6 days working away in Sealand on all available bands. More than 3000 contacts were made, from Felixstowe to New Zealand. Crown Prince Michael and his team made the stay remarkable and unforgettable.

Back home, I tried to find out as much as possible about Sealand, and also about other places on Earth fighting for recognition of their sovereignty. A truly vast field to cover.

In the process, I began to acquire all postage stamps Sealand had ever issued. This includes overprints, First Day Covers, printing errors, stamp dealers' information sheets, rejected drafts for stamp issues and a number of other facts and details.

Having assembled quite a complete collection, even if it will never be truly complete, my thoughts turned to publishing. The result is a 55-page, full colour brochure about Sealand and their stamps. A few pages on the country are followed by a very detailed look at issues, colours, perforation types and postmarks.

If any of the readers should be interested, the brochure is 20 Euros including postage. Feel free to contact me at tardis@gmx.li for details.