

Presentation

The National Statistics Institute has a time-honoured tradition in publishing statistical data. On this occasion, however, tables of statistics have been replaced with stamps. Indeed, this publication presents postage stamps issued around the world during the 20th century, and the topic appearing on them is related to Statistics. It is intended to illustrate how Statistics have been promoted by means of stamps in different countries throughout the last century.

Statistical science, which came about as a means for recording and summarising social and economic facts, such as censuses and budgets, has gradually developed as a research instrument, eventually becoming the auxiliary science par excellence, alongside mathematics. This auxiliary nature relates Statistics to all sciences, and therefore it is not unusual to find it paired with the most diverse range of studies. As a matter of fact, this publication may be regarded as a continuation of other INE publications which have studied the relationship between Statistics and subjects as wide-ranging as music, and more recently, Don Quixote.

This book has been possible thanks to the dedication of statistician, Mr Eduardo García España, who kindly provided access to his stamp collection in order to produce this publication.

It is our hope that this well thought-out publication, which we owe to the fondness of stamps and dedication to statistics of staff at the National Statistics Institute, will appeal to Philately enthusiasts and those with an interest in the development of Statistics.



Jaume García Villar
INE President