

World of Stamps:

Island Communities: Easdale, Ecrehou, Elleore

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Easdale Island

Easdale Island is one of the Slate Islands in the Firth of Lorn in the Western Isles (Hebrides) of Scotland. It has an area of 20 hectares (50 acres) and around 60 inhabitants.

At the height of the slate industry, the island had more than 500 residents, working seven slate quarries. The slate, known as Easdale Slate, was cut until the 1950s. Today, tourism is the main economic activity of the island.

Since 1985, the late Clive Feigenbaum, known both as a knowledgeable stamp dealer and a producer of many suspect stamp-like labels, owned most of the island. The inhabitants of the island were freeholders however, and owned the grounds of their homes.

The stamps, inscribed "Easdale Island" and produced by Mr.



Local labels produced by Clive Feigenbaum



Feigenbaum, therefore had no postal usage on the island, as it was served by the British Post-Office. The stamps were available at the local shop, and could be used as souvenir labels.

(Les)

Ecréhous

Les Ecréhous is a group of very small islands and rocks half way between Jersey and France and which belongs to Jersey. The name derives from Old Norse and means something like "Reef islands" (Old Norse, "Sker Holm").

Today, there are no permanent inhabitants there, but on Maitre Ile there are ruins of a chapel/abbey and during 1848-1898, Philippe Pinel lived permanently on the islands and titled himself "King of Ecréhous." Another man lived there during the 1960s and 1970s. There are buildings on three of the islands

The sovereignty over the small islands was long disputed between France and Britain, and the case was brought to the International Court of Justice in 1950. The court in 1953 ruled that the islands belonged to Britain.

The philatelic references to the islands are partly a souvenir la-

bel produced by a philatelic visitor in 1984 (inscribed Les Ecréhous), and a set of Jersey stamps from 2003 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the decision of the International Court of Justice confirming Jersey's sovereignty over the islands. Two of the stamps of the set of five depict scenes from Les Ecréhous. These stamps also exist with "2004" and "2006" imprints from subsequent reprints.

Elleore



Left, 1984 label for token mail transport from Les Ecréhous to Jersey (the stamp is black on pink paper); Right, Jersey 2003 stamp celebrating 50th anniversary of International Court of Justice judgement over Les Ecréhous

The Kingdom of Elleore is located on a small island in the Roskilde fjord in Denmark and has an area of 3.7 acres. It is one of the oldest modern-day micronations, founded in 1944 by a group of Danish schoolteachers. It was used by the Kildegård College in Gentofte for outdoor school activities.

The island was used to shoot the first feature Danish film, *The Lion Hunt*, in 1907. Today, it is a bird reserve, and therefore, the citizens are only allowed to the island one week a year.

Since 1947, Elleore has issued its own coinage and stamps. These are not valid outside the kingdom, however, and letters addressed to foreign destinations also require Danish franking.

Various stamps issued by Elleore in 1977 and 1982

