

Commemorating 56th anniversary of French chess stamp

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France issued its first chess stamp on April 2, 1966 to commemorate the International Chess Festival held in the town hall at Le Havre in April. The stamp shows a knight prominently on a chess board with the symbols of a King and Queen at the top corners of the stamp. 6,470,000 stamps were printed. The stamp was designed by Clemant Serveau. It was engraved by Piel. The engraving process used was recess printed. The stamps were printed in Paris with a comb-perforation of 13. First Day Covers and Maximum Cards were issued in Le Havre on April 2, 1966. As is evident, many different cachets and designs were used.



There was also a special postmark commemorating the Chess Festival. The postmark was in use from April 9-11.



Knight with its familiar face and a weird looking move has always been favourite piece of postal authorities. No wonder the first “chess stamp” issued by Bulgaria in 1947 had a prominent knight. Lots of water has flown down the river Seine in the intervening 56 years and the author wishes to celebrate and commemorate its 56th anniversary with some interesting tours of knight on 7x8 (=56) board. Readers are well aware of the millennium old knight tour puzzle – view *Philemat* 116 August 2021. Figure 1 has all the square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2 \dots 7^2$, that is, 1, 4, 9 ... 49 arranged in ascending order along the row.



21	46	23	42	19	38	51
14	43	20	47	52	41	18
45	22	15	24	39	50	37
8	13	44	53	48	17	40
1	4	9	16	25	36	49
12	7	54	3	28	33	30
55	2	5	10	31	26	35
6	11	56	27	34	29	32

(1)

Figure 2 and Figure 3 have the square numbers in the knight path. Figure 4 has the square numbers in the path of elongated knight (called giraffe in fairy chess). The line joining consecutive square numbers in Figure 5 has the square shape – squares as square . Figure 6 and Figure 7 are monogram tours with square numbers delineating numerals 5 and 6 respectively. They correlate with 56 years of the first French Chess stamp.

(2)

31	20	5	44	33	18	53
6	43	32	19	54	45	34
21	30	7	4	35	52	17
8	1	42	55	16	3	46
29	22	9	2	51	36	15
10	41	56	25	14	47	50
23	28	39	12	49	26	37
40	11	24	27	38	13	48

(3)

5	52	33	18	37	40	35
32	17	6	3	34	19	38
53	4	51	16	39	36	41
10	31	2	7	50	15	20
1	54	9	14	25	42	49
30	11	24	45	8	21	26
55	46	13	28	23	48	43
12	29	56	47	44	27	22

(4)

1	12	9	42	25	14	49
10	43	26	13	48	41	24
27	2	11	8	15	50	47
44	17	28	3	46	23	40
29	4	45	16	7	36	51
18	55	6	33	52	39	22
5	30	53	20	37	32	35
54	19	56	31	34	21	38

(5)

51	48	53	34	1	46	5
54	21	50	47	6	33	44
49	52	35	2	45	4	7
22	55	20	15	8	43	32
19	36	23	56	3	14	9
24	27	38	11	16	31	42
37	18	25	40	29	10	13
26	39	28	17	12	41	30

(6)

5	2	41	18	43	56	23
40	17	4	1	24	19	44
3	6	9	42	15	22	55
8	39	16	25	20	45	14
35	26	7	10	49	54	21
38	29	36	33	52	13	46
27	34	31	48	11	50	53
30	37	28	51	32	47	12

(7)

37	20	39	6	35	18	31
40	5	36	19	32	7	34
21	38	1	8	3	30	17
10	41	4	29	16	33	56
45	22	9	2	49	28	15
42	11	44	25	14	55	52
23	46	13	50	53	48	27
12	43	24	47	26	51	54

The author wishes to celebrate its centenary. Amen.