

International Postage from the Azores

By Joe Brzezowski

Recently Gail and I traveled to the Azores for a nice vacation out of the Buffalo cold and snow. If you haven't heard of the Azores, you are not alone. In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean there are a group of 9 volcanic islands. We visited Sao Miguel, in the city of Ponta Delgada, the largest. The city has a population of around 70,000. The entire Archipelago has a population of 240,000 people. The Azores are officially classified as an Autonomous Region of Portugal and are also the outermost region of the European Union.

On every trip we take, we send our grandchildren postcards for their collections. I bought the postcards at a gift shop near the famous waterfalls, and the shop attendant offered stamps. We had tried to get to a local CTT or Correios de Portugal (Portugal Post) Post office, but they always seemed to be closed. The CTT has mail deposit points all over the city, but you can also just give the completed cards at the hotel front desk which has daily delivery and pick-up.



The stamps shown in the picture to the left are known as International Postage rate stamps and can be used for countries other than Portugal and the Azore Islands. As shown on the stamp it is good for 20 grams, just under an ounce. This first-class stamp costs 1.33Euros or approximately \$1.60US. It's a little expensive, but not too far out of the average that I find for sending a card from anywhere in Europe to the USA.

A bit of history - The Azores stamp history is noted by the use of Portuguese stamps overprinted "ACORES" between 1868 and 1930. There were specialized district issues for Angra, Horta and Ponta Delgada from 1892 to 1906. After 1930 the return of regular Portuguese stamps were the norm. In 1980, it was decided for specific Azore labeled stamps to return and be used showing regional pride.

By the way, the Azores were amazing, beautiful and well worth the trip. Flora, fauna, volcanoes, beautiful beaches and hot springs make the islands an interesting adventure. Plus, it has an amazing postal history.



Buffalo Stamp Club 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Party

You and a guest are cordially invited to join us in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Buffalo Stamp Club! We would be delighted with your presence at a special dinner party commemorating a century of Buffalo Stamp Club history, philately and stories.

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Grapevine Banquet Hall, 333 Dick Road, Depew, NY 14043

Cost: The cost of food and drinks is covered by the Club.

Join club members, collectors, and friends for an evening of delicious food and drink, engaging company, as we celebrate the Buffalo Stamp Club.

Starts at 6 PM with cocktails, cheese & crackers; 6:30 sit down with salads served followed with your entrée choice of Chicken Marsala, Tavern Pot Roast, or Parmesan Haddock and lastly a simple dessert. Planning is in the works for a short program and display. We also plan on celebrating the event with a commemorative pin and a cancelled postcard.

Kindly RSVP with your choice of entrée by April 1, 2026 to Alan Davis or Al Carroccia at ddavis504@roadrunner.com or fuzzy9600@verizon.net . We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you!