

# THE REFUGEE STAMPS OF CYPRUS 1974-2014

**INTRODUCTION** - Turkish military forces began an invasion of Cyprus on 20 July 1974, and eventually took over the northern one-third of the island. The events in August 1974 created an immediate need for funds to house, clothe, and feed the displaced Greek Cypriots, and a Refugee Relief Fund (RRF) was set up. The Department of Postal Services made urgent arrangements to supply a special postage stamp, value 10m, which was to be used on every postal item posted in Cyprus with a few minor exceptions, the income to be used to alleviate the suffering of refugees.

The first refugee stamp was released for sale on 1 October 1974. The stamps have had a very long life, first released in 1974 and still in use in 2014, 40 years later. They have been printed in three distinctly different designs, with numerous relatively minor variations, a range of different colours, and been priced in three different currencies, although the sale value has remained more or less the same over the whole period of use. The Cyprus RRF itself could well have claims to be the longest ever running fund of its kind.



## PLAN

1 – The Provisional Refugee Stamps.

2 – First Design of Refugee Stamps.

3 – Second Theme

3.1 - First Design (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Printings*)

3.2 - First Design Cents Currency (*1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Printings*)

3.3 - Second Design (*1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Printings*)

3.4 - Second Design (*Alex Matsoukis Printings*)

3.5 - Second Design (*Oriental Press Printings*)

3.6 - Second Design Colour Printings

4.0 - Pre-printed stamps and Inclusion Values

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*The information has been gathered from Study Paper No.16 of the Cyprus Study Circle of which the material shown formed a part of the content.*