

The History of the Football World Cup under the Eye of Philately

1938 – June 4th to June 19th, FRANCE

The third edition of the Cup had 15 participating teams playing in 10 cities. The Italian national team became the first two-time World Champion. This edition marked the first and only participation of the teams from Cuba and Indonesia until today. In this Cup, only 1 stamp was issued by the host country.



1938: the only French stamp relating to the tournament

A total audience of 483,000 people was distributed among the 18 competition matches. France was the chosen host by the FIFA Congress, so that Jules Rimet could be honoured.



Final match: Italy 4x2 Hungary

1950 – June 24th to July 16th, BRAZIL

Since the 1942 and 1946 editions of the Cup did not take place due to the Second World War, Brazil built the largest stadium in the world – Maracanã – for the competition. However, it was precisely on this imposing stage that the Brazilian dream of winning the title ended as the Uruguayan team triumphed again, becoming two-time champions. The tournament had the participation of 16 countries and was played in 6 cities. This Cup did not have a final match as the champion came out of a quadrangular dispute. The Brazilian mail issued 3 stamps in celebration of the event. The total audience for the event was 1,045,246 people.

1950: Maracanã Stadium, the largest in the world at the time, built for the World Cup



1966: Hungarian stamp, which depicts the last match, shows the Brazilian team with the traditional yellow shirt, although Brazil played with white shirt and shorts at the time



Last match: Brazil 1x2 Uruguay

1954 – June 16th to July 4th, SWITZERLAND

On the 50th anniversary of the FIFA organization, the edition played by 16 teams was marked by the first television broadcast, the first defeat of the Uruguayan National Team in World Cups and by the first time that the Brazilian National Team wore the yellow shirt. It was also the tournament with the highest average of goals per game: 5.38 (140 goals in 26 games). West Germany won the 1954 World Cup, coming from behind after losing by two goals in the final and defeating the Hungarian team, who had not lost for 31 matches. Across 26 matches, the tournament's total attendance was 768,607 fans. Switzerland, host country, issued only 1 stamp in honor of the World Cup.



1954: In the year of Fifa's fiftieth anniversary, the ball returns to its headquarters

Final match: West Germany 3x2 Hungary

