

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

1958 – June 8th to 29th, SWEDEN

Played by 16 countries in 12 Swedish cities, the sixth edition was marked by the goal number 500 in the history of the Cups (scored by the Scotland National Team) and by the first conquest of a country playing outside its continent. In commemoration of the tournament, the Swedish Post issued 3 stamps. The total audience was 819,810 people in 35 matches.



Final: Sweden 2x5 Brazil



1974: Stamp of current Burkina Faso, erroneously portrayed the final match with both teams wearing yellow jerseys. The Brazilian team wore blue shirts in their first victory.

1962 – May 30th to June 17th, CHILE

Once again disputed by 16 countries, the Cup in Chile was marked by the largest audience in the history of the National Stadium in Santiago: 72,896 people watched the semifinal between the host Chile and Brazil. It also is marked by the fastest goal in the history of World Cups until then, scored 15 seconds into the game by Czech athlete Václav Mašek, in the match Czechoslovakia 1x3 Mexico. This mark was beaten only in 2002. The post office of the host country issued 4 stamps about the World Cup. The tournament had 32 games and brought together a total of 893,172 people.



Final: Brazil 3x1 Czechoslovakia



In the background, the National Stadium in Santiago, stage of the final



The Chile Cup portrayed in the host country's stamp

1966 – July 11th to 30th, ENGLAND

In its eighth edition, a new champion emerged: among 16 countries competing in the FIFA World Cup held in England, the inventors of football triumphed at home by winning the final against West Germany in extra time. It is the only title obtained by the English team to this date. This edition was the first with a mascot: the World Cup Willie lion. The Portugal and North Korea national teams made their debut in World Cups and the Portuguese team managed to reach the semifinals.

The English Post issued 3 stamps in commemoration of the event. After winning the title, the English philatelic innovation was the reissue of one of the stamps adding the inscription "ENGLAND WINNERS".

Total supporters during the competition: 1,563,135 distributed over 32 games

Champions: **England**
Runners-up: **West Germany**

08/18/1966: Cup philately reinvented: post-conquest reissue with England Winners inscription kept at face value, highlighting the hosts' achievement



1963: Venue of the final: Wembley Stadium in London on an issue from Monaco commemorating the centenary of the English Football Association

