

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

2006 – June 9th to July 9th, GERMANY

Germany once again hosted the World Cup. 32 countries were distributed across 12 cities and 12 stadiums. Teams from Ukraine, Angola, Trinidad and Tobago, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Tunisia and the Czech Republic made their debuts at the tournament. The final match of the Cup was marked by the assault of the French midfielder Zidane against the Italian defender Materazzi. After the 1-1 draw, Italy won the title on penalties (5-3). The host country issued 11 stamps commemorating the event.



Champions: **Italy**
Runners-up: **France**



03/06/2003: from child's play to the glory of a world sport. The side margins contain the official World Cup logo; in the lower margin the inscription "An invitation to friends around the world" The additional values (symbolized by the +), charged by the German Post in addition to the face value of the stamps, were passed on to the *Stiftung Deutsche Sporthilfe Foundation* in order to promote the sport in Germany. This sponsorship takes place once a year since 1968.



02/10/2005: the mascots *Goleo* (a lion) and *Pille* (a 'talking' ball)



02/09/2006: the Allianz Arena stadium in Munich, home to the opening match of the World Cup



02/09/2006: the official Cup poster, chosen by the Germans through voting; the stars form a soccer ball

2010 – 11 June to 11 July, SOUTH AFRICA

In a new continent hosting a World Cup, a new champion emerged. The Spanish "fury" lifted the cup for the first time. 10 stadiums in 9 different cities were used. In this edition, the selections of Serbia and Slovakia made their debut. The Netherlands national team achieved another runner-up, equaling their best participation in 1974 and 1978. The total number of fans was 3,178,856.

The South African post office issued stamps highlighting its fauna, the popular celebration and the competition stadiums, bringing the return of circular stamps and, for the first time, stamps in the self-adhesive version without perforations.

Champions: **Spain**
Runners-up: **Netherlands**