

Martin Luther's Philatelic Image (1961-1983)

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Martin Luther (10Nov1483 - 18Feb1546) was a German academic theologian whose rejection of several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church in 1517 led to the Protestant Reformation.



1961 West Germany
First image of Luther on a stamp

Priest

He entered the University of Eufurt to study law, but after literally being struck by lightning, he took holy vows becoming a Augustinian friar in 1507.

Theologian

Luther re-entered the university for intensive study of theology becoming an academic scholar at the University of Wittenberg. A common image of Martin Luther on stamps is based on a painting made in 1529 by Lucas Cranach the Elder. Luther wears the flat cap and dark robes of a university professor.



1967 South Africa
Doors of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Germany where Luther posted his 95 theses that initiated the Reformation



1967 East Germany
Luther as a Young Friar



1967 South Africa



1967 Finland



1983 Hungary
Souvenir sheet issued on 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth.



1983 Suriname



1983 France



1983 United States



1983 Czechoslovakia



1983 French Polynesia

Biblical Translator, Author and Composer

Luther's translation of the Bible into German instead of the prevailing Latin versions opened its teachings to lay people resulting in fundamental changes to the church and German culture, including the evolution of a standard for the German language. His writings redefined man's relationship with God as well as challenging church power and authority. He wrote several hymns, many of which are still sung 500 years later.



1983 Bulgaria



1983 Brazil



1983 Germany



1983 Netherlands



1983 East Germany