A symbol for those who have the key to understanding it, is something that immediately communicates to your mind its significance.
In order to communicate something, it is necessary that a symbol is very clear, instantly recognizable and univocally associable to what it represents.

The comet star, appearing in the sky during Christ's birth, that was later identified by astronomer Halley.

The six-footed dog associated to the "Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi".

The various emblems of the International Red Cross: the red cross, the red crescent (Islamic States), the red lion with the sun (Iran).

Symbols have always been used in medical and, in the same way, in philatelic concern.

Symbol of the branch of "pharmacology": venom of the snake called by Greeks "farmacon", coiling round a cup prepared for therapy.

The rod of Asclepius, God of Medicine in Greek mythology.

The rod wreathed with a snake symbolize re-birth and fertility; the rod acts like a crutch.

Stylized symbol meaning disability.
Thanks to the Duke Godfrey of Bouillon (1060-1100), the Cross of Lorraine became a symbol displayed on the flag during the First Crusade (1096-1099) and for this reason was named like the region the Duke ruled, exactly Lorraine.

It directly comes from the cross known as "patriarchal", which itself is a variation of the Christian cross.

Stamped envelope issued during German occupation of Russia, during II World War, with the overprint "LUGA". The 60+40 kop issue depicting patriarchal cross and the Virgin with child belongs, together with the two other pieces, to a local printing in the small town of Pleskau that issued these stamps on August 1941, valid until April 1942, when they were replaced with those of the german occupation overprinted "OSTLAND". The extra charge was to help the local nursery school. Russian troops reconquered the town in 1944.
Continuous rolled cancel on a letter: image of Saint Stephen and Patriarchal Cross

Postal card of Yugoslavia: Saints Cyril and Methodius with "priestly stick" in patriarchal cross shape

Sheet issued on the occasion of the 900th anniversary from the death of Saint Stephen
The adoption of the symbol in the fight against tuberculosis dates twenty years after Robert Koch discovery of tuberculosis bacterium in 1882.

During the First International Conference on Tuberculosis, Berlin 1902, it was suggested to adopt the cross as a symbol of the “crusade” against disease to remember Godfrey of Boullion, leader of the first Crusade.
Sersiron recommendation was adopted and since than the Cross of Lorraine is the symbol of fight against tuberculosis. Belgium from the very beginning issues stamps with extra charge and with particular cancellations.

First Belgian issue pro antituberculosis actions and disabled soldiers 15.12.1925

Letter addressed to Lakeville Sanatorium in Massachusetts-U.S.A. franked with 10.12.1954 issue

buy antituberculosis stamps 15.12.1952-14.02.1953

“no greetings without antituberculosis postmark” during Christmas time

"use antituberculosis stamps 1 December-15 January”
stamps issued in 1935 to commemorate Queen Astrid death, dearly beloved by her people and prematurely dead in a car accident.
Stamps, supporting the fight against tuberculosis depicting the Cross of Lorraine as a symbol, were issued during the years by innumerable postal administrations together with overprints on previous issues. Interesting are slogan cancels too.
On stamps and cancellations

U.S.A: “Fight TB Support your TB Association”
U.S.A: “Use Christmas seals”

Argentine: “Using the shield WE WILL WIN”

Argentine: “Give your contribution to the fight against tuberculosis”
Spain, adopting the symbol, gave it a postal value.

The "National Tuberculosis Foundation (PNA)" was created on 20 December 1936 and, by decree No. 202 of the Postal Administration subscribed in Salamanca on 28 January 1937, it was decided to issue official stamps, overpricing them, in order to raise money for PNA; a double postage items was allowed on 10 each month. This contributed to the issue of the first official stamp in support of the fight against tuberculosis. Thereafter the decree No. 431 dated 11 December 1937 allowed surcharging from 22 November to 3 January each year.

Letter from Dos Hermanas to Seville dated 28 December 1937 with a postage of 45 centimos and military censor mark. The postage included the first antituberculosis stamps issued on 23 December 1937 of 10 centimos

Issues dated 1949-50

shifted horizontal perforation and Cross of Lorraine out of the circle

absence of the Cross of Lorraine
Always a symbol of Resistance of the French people against the invader, the Cross of Lorraine came back onto the battle field at the end of the Second World war as the emblem of Free France and of the government-in-exile leaded by general De Gaulle.

In the aftermath of liberation thanks to french and allied troops, together with "Forces Francaises de l'Interieur" (FFI), it was sent out a communication ordering to overprint ordinary issues, particularly those depicting marshal Pétain. The validity period was from July 1944 to October 1945. Among various overprints there is that one with the Cross the Lorraine. Overprints are classified according to the place in which they have been released. If you consider official and semiofficial overprints there are 51, whereas 81 are private ones.
Postal mail coming out from Lebanese territory, occupied by French Liberation Troops, leaded by General Catroux. It has the symbol of Resistance in the censor mark CP (Contrôle Postal).
Eastern Europe has always been a troubled area: invaded and oppressed states, rebelling peoples, and the Cross of Lorraine often was acquired as a symbol.

The next day the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, defeated at the end of World War I, the borders of the Kingdom of Hungary were defined by the Treaty of Trianon and Slovakia territory became part of the new state “Czechoslovakia”.

On 20/6/1933 Hungary issued (valid until 31/12/1936) two airmail stamps which were basically a protest against the lost territory of Slovakia because of the Trianon agreement. The stamp pictures a plane with the words “Justice for Hungary” and a Slovakian hanging for help together with a cross of lorraine. Letters bearing these stamps are refused by the checkpoint with a sticker “not admitted”.

On the contrary Slovakia, that always considered itself an extraneous body inside Czechoslovakia, tried several times to lift itself up again from subjection.

At first under Austro-Hungarian domination and then forcedly put together with Bohemia and Moravia in order to form Czechoslovakia. It took the chance given by Hitler on 1939 and proclaimed its independence even if during the period of the war it was a “puppet” state in the hands of Germany.

Supporter of Slovakia independence, the priest Andrej Hlinka, who founded in 1913 the Slovak People’s Party.

Czechoslovakian issue with a continuous rolled cancel to celebrate the first President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk.

Josef Tiso, Hlinka’s successor. He was the first President of the new-born Indipendent Slovakia Republic. Collaborationist with Nazi regime, he was convicted and hanged at the end of the war.

Overpriced for “childhood aid”

1993 – Second Republic

The symbol becomes national emblem and is depicted on the official flag of the new-born state.
On postal mail we can often find in addition to ordinary postage fee, unofficial seals issued on the occasion of particular campaigns of fund-raising, with a propagandistic target or as simple seals.

According to the story on a night of December 1903 a Danish postal clerk, Einar Holboel, developed the idea of adding an extra charitable stamp to gather funds for needy children: thus Christmas seals appeared for the first time and antituberculosis seals too are included in this category.
Cinderella alongside the franking

France
National Committee
against Tuberculosis

1931 type II
It differs because of the image of white flowers on the lawn whereas in type I the detail lacks

Switzerland
Postal Stationary with the seal of 1924 campaign illustration with four Christmas cantors, a cancellation postmark dated 21 December 1924

Italy
Letter mail
08.11.1954
First rate L. 25
Alongside a stamp regarding the 16th antituberculosis campaign of 1953