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For members only
Extreme Philately
The Most Unusual Stamps of the World Part 2

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This is the second part of our article on unusual stamps of the world (see Gee and Das, 2019). It features postage stamps that are printed on cardboard or in trading card format; printed on other types of special (including recycled) paper, porcelain and glass stamps; cloth stamps, including those printed on silk rayon, combed cotton, etc; embroidered fabric stamps; cork and wooden stamps (including a Forest Stewartship Council-certified sycamore wood stamp and a laser-cut wood-veneer stamp); plastic stamps (including relief printed, heat-molded stamps and one printed on football material); leather stamps (including cow, buffalo and even fish leather); stamps printed on steel plates, on foils of aluminium, copper-bronze, tin, gilt and gold; stamps with material affixed (such as diamond, ruby, emerald, sapphire, pearl, Swarovski crystals, beads); stamps with powdered materials (such as limestone, clay particles from tennis court, meteorite dust, pulverised granite, volcanic ash, pottery clay, Sahara sand, diamond powder, sea salt, wood pieces, glitter, seeds or grain and fabric, lace or embroidery affixed).

Tanned cod skin attached to stamp issued from the Faroe Islands, 2016 (SG760)

**Stamps on Cardboard**

**Bhutan. French Art**
Issued: 8 July 1968 (SG listed, unnumbered)
Face value: Ch2, 4, 5, 10, 45, 80
Nu1.05, 1.40, 2, 3, 4, 5, Nu1.50, 2.50, 6, 8
Depicted here is a miniature sheet from the set; cardboard paper stamps, with relief

**Bhutan. Taktsang Monastery and Map of Bhutan**
Issued: 15 August 1994 (SG 1039-1040)
Face value: Nu16 (x 6); 20 (x 6)
Stamp cards
Moldova. Airmail. Map of Moldova
Issued: 22 December 1994 (SG 152–153) Face value: MDL1.50 (x 6); MDL2.50 (x 6) Card stamps; self-adhesive

Taiwan. Painting and Calligraphy of the Fan
Issued: 13 January 2016 (SG MS3940)
Face value: T$80
Fan- shaped with bamboo chips affixed on stamp

Stamps on Special Paper
People’s Republic of China. 33rd Asian International Philatelic Exhibition
Issued: 2 December 2016 (SG MS6159) Face value: ¥6.00
Stamp printed on xuan / traditional rice paper

South Africa. International Year of Biodiversity
Issued: 12 March 2010 (SG 1764) Face value: R15.85 (x 4)
Recycled paper stamps
Austria. Classic Trade Marks. Viennese Rose
Issued: 20 March 2014 (SG 3271)
Face value: €5.90
Porcelain stamp, 4 mm thick, 11 gm; Vienna Porcelain Manufactory Augarten; self-adhesive

Austria. World’s First Glass Stamp
Issued: 10 June 2016 (SG 3405)
Face value: €6.30
Glass stamp; reverse glass painted Pietà from Upper Austrian municipality of Sandl; self-adhesive
Austria. Dirndl. Fabric
Issued: 22 September 2016 (SG 3417)
Face value: €6.30
Embroidered stamp

Poland. 400th Anniversary of Polish Postal Service. Sheet
Issued: 12 December 1958 (SG MS1078a)
Face value: Zł50
Silk stamp
Bhutan. Thangka- Buddhist Prayer Banners
Issued: 30 September 1969 (SG listed without numbers)
Face value: ch15, 75, nu2, 5, 6; ch75, nu5, 6
Silk rayon stamps
Alderney. Bayeux Tapestry Final Panel  
Issued: 28 May 2014 (SG MSA521)  
Face value: £3  
Stamp printed on 100 percent combed cotton; thread count 167 / 167

Centenary of the Teddybear Stamps  
Issued: 29 April 2003 (SG unlisted)  
Embroidered fabric stamps

The Gambia (top row, left) Face value: D150  
Grenada (top row, right) Face value: $15  
Sierra Leone (bottom row, left) Face value: Le12,000  
Grenada Carriacou & Petit Martinique (bottom row, centre) Face value: $15  
St. Vincent and The Grenadines (bottom row, right) Face value: $15
Portugal. Cork Production
Issued: 26 December 2007 (SG 3535)
Face value: €1
Cork stamp

Ecuador. Bicentenary of Independence (2nd Issue)
Issued: 22 July 2009 (SG MS3105)
Face value: $3.50
Cork stamp; self-adhesive
Djibouti. 200th Anniversary of Birth of John J. Audubon
Issued: 27 January 1985 (SG MS945) Face value: Fr200
Wooden stamp

Jersey. Durrell and Darwin. 25 Years of the Darwin Initiative
Issued: 14 June 2017 (SG MS2168)
Face value: £3
Forest Stewardship Council-certified sycamore wood stamp
Austria. 20th Anniversary of Austrian Federal Forestry Office
Issued: 28 July 2017 (SG MS3474)
Face value: €6.90
Laser-cut wood-veneer stamp

Indonesia. World Stamp Exhibition, Bandung Issued: 7 August 2017 (SG MS uncatalogued) Face value: Rp20,000
Wooden stamp sheetlet
Plastic Stamps

Bhutan. Famous Personalities
Issued: 17 April 1974 (SG listed, unnumbered) Face value: Ch2, 6, 8, 10, 15, 55
Plastic, relief printed, heat-molded stamps; self-adhesive

Austria. EURO 2008. Football Championships (6th Issue)
Issued: 12 March 2008 (SG 2917) Face value: €3.75
Football (polyurethane) material stamp

United States of America. Flag
Issued: 18 May 1990 (SG 2521) Face value: US$0.25
Plastic stamp; self-adhesive
Indonesia. Traditional Textiles of Indonesia
Issued: 18 June 2012 (SG MS3427b)
Face value: Rp5,000
Buffalo-hide stamp

Austria. Lederhosen. Leather
Issued: 24 September 2015 (SG MS3364) Face value: €6.30
Leather stamp, with Swarovski crystals
Faroe Islands. Fish Skin Stamp
Issued: 26 September 2016 (SG 760)  Face value: K50
Tanned cod skin attached to stamp
Bhutan. History of Steel Production
Issued: 2 June 1969 (SG listed, unnumbered)
Face value: Nu0.2, 0.5, 0.15, 0.45, 0.75, 1.50, 1.75, 2
Steel- plated stamps
Aluminium Stamps

**Hungary. International Congress of Light Metal Industry**
Issued: 5 October 1955 (SG 1437)
Face value: Ft5
Aluminium foil stamp; world’s first metal stamp printed on aluminum foil; celebrating International Congress of Light Metal Industry, as well as 20 years of aluminum production in Hungary

**Spain. Anti-bullying**
Issued: 2 February 2016 (SG 1743) Face value: €0.45
Aluminium foil stamp
North Korea. 40th Anniversary of Joining of International Civil Aviation Organization
Issued: 14 September 2017 (SG MSxx)
Face value: W50
Aluminium foil stamp

Paraguay. Airmail. Albrecht Dürer’s "Madonna with Child"
Issued: 17 December 1987 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: G100
Copper-bronze foil stamp
Bolivia. Winter Olympic Games. Calgary, Canada
Issued: 25 September 1986 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: p4, 0.50
Tinfoil stamps

People’s Republic of China. Opening Memorial of 29th Olympic Games
Issued: 8 August 2008 (SG 5296)
Face value: ¥1.20
Holographic effect of printing on tin foil on stamp
Gilt Foil Stamps

Tonga. Pan-Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association Meeting, Nuku'alofa
Issued: 19 October 1964 (SG 143–150)
Face value: p3, p9, Sh2, Sh3, p10, Sh1.2, Sh3.6, Sh6.6 Gold foil, odd shaped stamps
Burundi. 1st Independence Anniversary. Gold Coinage Commemoration
Issued: 9 August 1965 (SG 159–174)
Face value: Fr2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 15, 25, 40
Foil stamps
Bhutan. 40th Anniversary of King Jigme Wangchuck’s Accession
Issued: 8 July 1966 (SG 83–91)
Face value: Ch10, 25, 50, N1, 1.30, 2, 3, 4, 5
Foil stamps

Stamps with Material Affixed
Stamps with Diamonds

The Netherlands. Queen of England, Elizabeth II
Issued: 2 August 2016 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: Undenominated, “aangetekend” (= ‘registration’; for domestic registered mail up to 2,000 gm; equivalent to €8.40)
.999 silver stamp, with embedded diamond, 1.2 mm diameter, from Gassan Diamonds, Amsterdam (1,000 issued)
Issued: July 2018 (SG MSxx) Face value: €20
1.25 mm diamond-embedded stamp (7,000 issued)

Guinea. US President Nixon’s Visit to Peking
Issued: 1 January 1972 (SG 767)
Face value: Fr1,200
Gold plated stamp with two embedded rubies
Liechtenstein. Emerald. Personalized Stamp
Issued: 14 November 2016 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: SFr0.55
Emerald-embedded stamp from Hermann E Sieger GmbH and Liechtenstein Post

Liechtenstein. Blue Sapphire. Personalized Stamp
Issued: 12 July 2017 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: SFr0.55
Blue sapphire-embedded stamp from Hermann E Sieger GmbH and Liechtenstein Post
United Arab Emirates. Pearl Diving
Tools Issued: 21 December 2005 (SG 826–830) Face value: 5f, 125f, 175f (x 2), 375f
Four pearl halves attached to stamp sheet

Austria. Pearl of Philately
IBRA- NAPOSTA 09, Essen
Issued: 6 May 2009 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: €0.65
Pearl-embedded stamp
Austria. Crystal Worlds (Tourist Attraction), Wattens
Issued: 20 September 2004 (SG MS2730) Face value: €3.75 (x 2)
Swarovski crystals-embedded stamps

Austria–Hong Kong Joint Issue.
Swarovski Issued: 22 August 2006 (SG MS2826a) Face value: HK$50; €3.75
Swarovski crystal fabric stamps
Thailand. 60th Royal Wedding Anniversary
Issued: 28 April 2010 (SG 3062–3063)
Face value: (฿15 x 2).
12 Swarovski crystals in place of silver hearts on stamps

Stamps with Beads

Singapore. Peranakan Museum Collection
Issued: 8 April 2008 (SG uncatalogued) Face value: $5
Caviar beaded stamp (part of series SG 1771–1778)
Gibraltar. Views of the Rock of Gibraltar
Issued: 13 September 2002 (SG 1016–1019) Face value: 30p (x 2); £1 (x 2)
Limestone-embedded stamps

Russia. Winners of the Davis Cup 2002
Issued: 19 February 2003 (SG MS7162)
Face value: ₽0.50
Clay particles from tennis court embedded on stamp; also, hotfoil stamping with .999 silver
Norway. EUROPA. Meteorite
Issued: 12 June 2009 (SG 1720–1721)
Face value: K10 + 12
Meteorite dust- embedded stamp

France. 50th Anniversary of Asterix
Issued: 2 December 2009 (SG MS4724) Face value: €0.56 (x 6)
Pulverised granite- embedded stamp
Iceland. Eyjafjallajokull Volcanic Erruption
Issued: 22 July 2010 (SG 1288–1290)
Face value: Kr0.50 (x 3)
Fine grains of volcanic ash embedded on stamps

Issued: 4 October 2003 (SG MS2460)
Face value: ฿3 (x 3), 15
Pottery clay-embedded stamps
Morocco. 35th Anniversary of the Green March
Issued: 6 November 2010 (SG MS1274) Face value: Dh7.80 (x 2)
Sahara sand-embedded stamps

Ecuador. Lonesome George
Issued: 4 July 2013 (SG 3426)
Face value: US$3
Volcanic ash-embedded stamp
Philippines. Festival Masks
Issued: 24 November 2014 (SG MSxx)
Face value: ₱100.
Glitter effect created with embedded diamond powder on stamp

Slovenia. Marine Fauna
Issued: 18 September 2013 (SG 1068–1070; SG MS1071)
Face value: €0.60, 0.64, 0.92, 0.97
Sea salt from the Piranske Soline Works applied to front of stamps, using thermography
St. Helena. Bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar
Issued: 20 January 2005 (SG 941) Face value: 30 pence
Embedded pieces of wood from the ship HMS Victory, lead by Admiral Lord Nelson (1758–1805) on stamp

Brazil. Brazilian Trees
Issued: 3 October 2011 (SG 3686–3693) Face value: r$2.70 (x 4)
Square block of wood piece at back of stamp sheet
New Zealand. The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies

Issued: 5 November 2014 (SG 3628)
Face value: NZ$2.50

Stamp with piece of wood from the Party Tree at the Hobbiton Movie Set. Features iconic door to Bag End in the Shire, home of Hobbit Bilbo Baggins and his nephew Frodo Baggins, protagonist of ‘The Lord of the Rings’ motion picture trilogy. Door created using wood from the Hobbiton™ party tree, which featured in ‘The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring’ at Bilbo Baggins’ eleventy-first birthday party. Party tree wood ground to fine powder and affixed to door image on stamp.

Set is SG 3623–3629
Stamps with Glitter

**Thailand. New Year 2013**
Issued: 15 November 2012 (SG 3288–3291)
Face value: B3 (x 4)
Glitter on stamps

**Philippines. Miss Universe 2015**
Issued: 17 April 2016 (SG MS uncatalogued)
Face value: ₱40
Glitter in crown of Miss Universe, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach (1989–) in stamp
Belgium. Diamond Industry
Issued: 29 January 2018 (SG MSxx) Face value: €1 (x 5)
Glitter, diamond-shaped die-cut stamp

United Arab Emirates. Ghaf Tree. Combat Desertification Campaign
Issued: 31 March 2011 (SG 1072)
Face value: AED4
Stamp with embedded fibre and seed of Ghaf tree (*Prosopis cineraria*)

**Stamps with Seeds or Grain**
Singapore. Our City in a Garden
Issued: 13 July 2013 (SG MS2124)
Face value: S$0.50 (x 2)
Biodegradable stamp sheetlet with
Portulaca grandiflora seeds

The Netherlands. Flowers
Issued: 1 May 2007 (SG MS2593)
Face value: €0.44 (x 8)
Embedded flower seeds on stamps
Thailand. 83rd Birth Anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyade
Issued: 17 February 2011 (SG 3162a)
Face value: ฿9
Embedded rice grain from Chitralada Royal Experimental Rice Field on stamp

Austria. EUROPA. Forests
Issued: 8 September 2011 (SG MS3112) Face value: €1.70
Stamp with embedded seeds
New Zealand. Grow Your Own
Issued: 4 October 2017 (SG MS3927)
Face value: NZ$1 (x 2), NZ$2.20 (x 1), NZ$2.30 (x 1), NZ$2.70 (x 1), NZ$3.30 (x 1)
Seeds embedded on stamp sheet

Stamps with Fabric, Lace or Embroidery Affixed

Singapore. Orchids
Issued: 6 May 2009 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: S$5
Embroidered stamp
Thailand. Bangkok 2010 International Stamp Exhibition (2nd issue). Thai Silk

Issued: 4 August 2010 (SG 3086) Face value: ฿25

Embossed gold foil peacock on white silk material

Thailand. Bangkok 2010 International Stamp Exhibition (2nd issue). Thai Silk

Issued: 4 August 2010 (SG MS3088)

Face value: ฿25

Embroidered brown silk thread peacock on golden silk material
France. Traditional Laces from Calais, Le Puy en Velay, Chantilly and Alencon
Issued: 10 October 2011 (SG MS5037-5040) Face value: €2.50 (x 4)
Lace hot-glued on paper attached to stamps. The lace represent Leavers Chantilly (red background), Puy-en-Velay (green background) and surrounding regions bobbin lace, Leavers Alençon (yellow background), and Leavers Calais (purple background). The symbol Φ (phi) is included in design of three stamps, and is not on the Le Puy one.

India. Khadi
Issued: 12 February 2011 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: ₹ 100
Khadi (hand-woven) cotton stamp

89
Colombia. Ship School ARC
Gloria 50 Years, 1968–2018
Issued: 24 July 2018 (SG MS3013)
Face value: C$100,000
Sail of ARC Gloria (Colombian Navy training ship's name a reference to national anthem, *Oh Gloria Inmarcesible*), embedded on stamp (1,800 issued).
Ours is numbered 0640.