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Extreme Philately
The Most Unusual Stamps of the World
Part 3

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Austria. 25th Anniversary of the Vienna Philharmonic Gold Coin
Issued: 5 November 2014 (SG 3308–3309)
Face value: €0.70, 0.90; Gold foil stamps

This is the third part (see Gee and Das 2019a, 2019b) of unusual stamps of the world, featuring postage stamps made of resin, are textured through thermography, are plastic-coated, or with foils of platinum, gold, silver, gun metal or are minted in silver or have embedded gold ore.

Also included are embossed stamps, flocked paper stamps (that produce the effect of fur, wool, skin or the delicate texture of flower petals), Braille stamps, vinyl record stamps, including the first “talking” stamps that play on a gramaphone, CD-ROM stamps as well as stamp pasted on CD-ROM, DVD ROM Stamps, multimedia stamps, including one that uses a specially-made pen that acts as infrared reading system, stamps with augmented reality, including Bee Tagg, or those, when scanned with an app or QR code, play high-definition films or show hidden images, stamps printed with thermochromatic ink, that, when warmed by touch, reveal images or words, and associated with solving games and mysteries.

References
France. European Football Championship, UEFA. France
Issued: 25 March 2016 (SG 5948)
Face value: €1
Polyurethane resin, embossed, rounded stamp; scented with smell of grass; 24 (as many competing teams) star-shaped perforations
Stamps with Thermography
Heat applied to create raised or rough surface effect

New Zealand. Gold Rush
Issued: 6 September 2006 (SG MS2904)
Face value: NZ$0.45, 0.90, 1.30, 1.50, 2
Gold inscription “New Zealand” and fern symbol; 45c stamp printed with thermochromic (heat sensitive) ink which reveals gold nuggets in pan when heat from hand is applied to pan

South Africa. Ukuthunga- To Sew
Issued: 30 May 2014 (SG MS3011)
Face value: Undenominated. R22.80. Inscription “econoparcel” on left side of design indicates rate for parcels not larger than 458 x 324 x 100 mm and under 1 kg
Raised silk screen ink applied to inscription and stamp design
Philippines. Heritage Month. Traditional Filipino Textiles
Issued: 30 May 2014 (SG MS awaited)
Face value: ₱100
Thermographic printing technology gives sheetlet a rough surface

Belgium. EUROPA. Palaces and Castle
Issued: 12 June 2017 (SG 4696)
Face value: Undenominated, “1”
(equivalent to €1.29) (x 5)
Sand-effect feel on stamp through thermographic printing
United States of America. Sports. Have a Ball
Issued: 14 June 2017 (SG 5818–5824)
Face value: “Forever Stamp” (= $0.50 x 8)
Plastic-coated stamps

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<th>Stamps with Platinum Foil</th>
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Canada. Canadian Art (13th Series)
Issued: 7 July 2000 (SG 2011)
Face value: C$0.95
Platinum-foil framed stamp

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Canada. Canadian Art (14th Series)
Issued: 24 August 2001 (SG 2097)
Face value: C$1.05
Platinum-foil framed stamp

Palestine. Bethlehem- Birth of Jesus Christ
Issued: 28 June 2000 (SG PA174–176)
Face value: f2,000 (x 3)
22 carat gold foil and embossed stamps in booklet
Russia. Old Carriages
Issued: 25 July 2002 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: 2.50 (x 2), 5 (x 2)
22 carat gold foil stamps, with certificate
Regular stamp set is SG 7101–7105

Hong Kong. Chinese Lunar New Year Animals
Dragon ● Snake ● Horse ● Ram
Issued: 24 January 2015 (SG 1928–1931)
Face value: HK$10 (x 4)
Gold and silver hot foil stamps
Philippines. 450 Years of Santo Niño
Issued: 19 April 2015 (SG MS awaited)
Face value: ₱200
21 carat gold ink on stamp; three-dimensional embossed with gold foil

Bhutan. 60th Birth Anniversary of Fourth Druk Gyalpo
Issued: 7 November 2015 (SG MS1892)
Face value: Nu500
Embossed, 22 carat gold stamps; numbered sheetlets (ours is 01192)
Liechtenstein. 50th Anniversary of Birth of Prince Alois. Imperforate
Issued: 11 June 2018 (SG MS1847)
Face value: SFr1.30, 2.20, 2.80
22 carat gold stamps (3,000 issued)
Hong Kong. Disneyland Hong Kong – Grand Opening
Issued: 12 September 2005 (SG MS1323c)
Face value: HK$50
Embossed, 22 carat gold foil on Mickey Mouse
Singapore. Wedding Jewellery
Issued: 12 July 2017 (SG listed, unnumbered)
Face value: S$10 (x 4)
22 carat gold foil stamps
Stamps with Golden Foil Application

**Hong Kong, Chinese New Year. Snake - Horse**
Issued: 26 January 2013 (SG MS1842)
Face value: HK$50 (x 2)
Gold foil on granite paper

**Hong Kong, Chinese New Year. Pig- Rat**
Issued: 11 January 2020 (SG MS awaited)
Face value: HK$50 (x 2)
Gold foil on granite paper
Thailand. Lunar New Year Animals
Issued: 1 January 2014 (SG awaited)
Face value: ฿3 (x 12)
Gold foil stamps
Stamps with Real Silver

The Netherlands. Replacement of the Guilder
Issued: 25 September 2001 (SG 2137)
Face value: €12.75
Minted on solid silver by the Royal Dutch Mint at Utrecht; self-adhesive

Vatican. 25th Anniversary of the Pontification of Pope John Paul II
Issued: 20 March 2003 (SG 1385)
Face value: €2.58
Silver stamp; self-adhesive
Estonia. 100th Anniversary of Republic of Estonia
Issued: 22 February 2018 (SG awaited)
Face value: €10
Silver AG 999 stamp (5,000 issued)

Libya. Tripoli International Fair. Jewellery and Artifacts
Issued: 2 April 2013 (SG 3104–3109)
Face value: dh500 (x 6)
Embossed silver foil stamps

Stamps with Silver Foil Application
Singapore. The 49th Anniversary of Independence
Issued: 4 August 2014 (SG MS2225)
Face value: S$2
Silver foil stamp

Hong Kong. Kai Tak Cruise Terminal
Issued: 11 June 2013 (SG MS1802)
Face value: HK$20
Silver hot foil stamp

South Korea. Stories of the Mysterious Universe
Issued: 21 March 2017 (SG awaited)
Face value: W300 (x 10)
Silver foil stamps
Thailand. 72nd Anniversary of Birth of King Bhumibol Adulyadej
Issued: 5 December 1999 (SG MS2164)
Face value: ฿100 (x 3)
Gold, silver and bronze leaflet stamps

India. 3rd India Africa Forum Summit, New Delhi
Issued: 29 October 2015 (SG uncatalogued; MS3074 regular issue)
Face value: ₹5 (x 4), 25 (x 2)
Hot foil stamping and embossing. Indian Rhino, African Rhino and Black Buck (hot stamped with gun-metal foil), Asian and African Lions (gold foil) and Thomson Gazelle (copper foil)
Stamp with Gold Nugget

Liechtenstein. Gold Nugget. Personalized Stamp
Issued: 8 October 2018
Face value: SFr1.50
Gold nugget-embedded stamp from Hermann E Sieger GmbH and Liechtenstein Post

Embossed Stamps

United Arab Emirates. First Currency of the UAE
Issued: 25 December 2014 (SG MS1199d)
Face value: f150 (x 3); AED1 (x 3)
Embossed gold, silver and bronze foil stamps
United Arab Emirates. First Currency of the UAE
Issued: 25 December 2014 (SG MS1199e)
Face value: AED2 (x 2), AED3 (x 2), AED4 (x 2)
Embossed gold foil stamps

Brazil. Brazilian Peppers
Issued: 16 October 2015 (SG 3888–3891)
Face value: R$1.95 (x 4)
Embossed stamps; scientific names of peppers microprinted

Hong Kong. Hong Kong Museums Collection. Bamboo Carvings
Issued: 14 November 2017 (SG MS2142)
Face value: HK$1.70, 2.20, 2.90, 3.10, 3.70; 5
Embossed stamps
Flocked Paper Stamps
Flocked paper has been used to produce the effect of fur, wool, skin or the delicate texture of flower petals

Hong Kong. Chinese Lunar New Year. Rat, Ox, Tiger and Rabbit
Issued: 22 January 2011 (SG 1644–1647)
Face value: HK$10 (x 4)
Flocked paper stamps

Estonia. Centenary of Estonian Native Cattle Breed Herdbook
Issued: 19 July 2014 (SG 745)
Face value: €1
Flocked paper stamp, creating the texture of cow skin
Iceland. SEPAC (Small European Mail Services). Handicrafts – The Icelandic Sweater
Issued: 27 April 2017 (SG 1517)
Face value: K2.25
Flocked paper stamp, creating the feel of wool

French Southern and Antarctic Territories. 20th Anniversary of the Madrid Protocol
Issued: 14 January 2018 (SG MS awaited)
Face value: €0.85
Flocked paper stamp

Armenia. New Year
Issued: 18 December 2009 (SG 719)
Face value: 120d
Green flocked paper applied to stamp
Braille Stamps

Uruguay. Christmas
Issued: 21 December 1983 (SG 1828)
Face value: np4.50
Embossed Braille characters on stamp

Brazil. 150th Anniversary of First Braille Publication
Issued: 20 November 1979 (SG MS1803)
Face value: Cr3.20
Embossed Braille characters on stamp
Canada. Guide Dogs
Issued: 21 April 2008 (SG 2547)
Face value: C$0.52
Embossed Braille characters on stamp
United Arab Emirates. International White Cane Day
Issued: 13 October 2015 (SG MS1214)
Face value: AED3 (x 2)
Embossed Braille characters on stamps

Hong Kong. Inclusive Communication
Issued: 7 June 2018 (SG MS2180)
Face value: HK$20
Embossed Braille characters on stamp, with lenticular effect
Vinyl Record Stamps

**Bhutan. Phonographic Record Stamps**

Issued: 15 April 1973 (SG listed, unnumbered)

Face value: ch10, 25, Nu1.25, 3, 7, 8, 9

First phonographic ("talking") stamps that play, on a gramophone, clips from the National Anthem of Bhutan and folk songs from Bhutan; narration by the American entrepreneur, Burt Todd (1924–2006); self-adhesive
**Paraguay. Galopera**
Issued: 8 December 1985 (SG unlisted)
Face value: G100
Playable record (on a gramophone) in miniature sheet, with stamp that features song by Luis Alberto del Paraña of the music group ‘Los Paraguayos’

**Switzerland. Swiss Music Sheet**
Issued: 4 September 2014 (SG MS2036)
Face value: SFr5
Vinyl record stamp plays brass band version of the Swiss National Anthem on a gramophone
CD-ROM Stamps

Bhutan. Voting for Happiness
Issued: 21 February 2009 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: Nu225
Compact Disk stamp

Bhutan. Coronation 2008
Issued: 21 February 2009 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: Nu255
Compact Disk stamp

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Stamp on CD-ROM

**Germany. White Christmas**
Issued: 5 November 1992 (SG 2488)
Face value: pfg60 + 30 (issued 5 November 1992, under the theme “Christmas Stamps”)
First soundtrack on CD with stamp; Soundcard No. 1. 16 Christmas Songs by Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Dean Martin, Harry Belafonte, Mahalia Jackson, Nat King Cole, Pat Boone, Peggy Lee and Jim Reeves

**DVD ROM Stamps**

**North Korea. Olympic Games, Beijing, China**
Issued: 15 October 2007 (SG MS4700–4701)
Face value: W300, 500
Round DVD stamps, when played in DVD player, show Korean dance and song from the Olympic programme; “The First Compact Disc Video Stamp of the World”
People’s Republic of China. Tang Poems
Issued: 13 September 2009 (SG 5384a–e, 5384fa; MS5384)
Face value: ¥1.20 (x 4), 1.50 (x 1), 3 (x 1)
Multimedia stamp; an Aigo Digital Pen Reader from Beijing
Huaqi Information Digital Technology acts as infrared reading system, mass storage and MP3 player, and plays text of 300 poems printed in micrograph on sheet. Leaflet contains fragrance of sandalwood; stamp with phosphorescent moon
The Netherlands. Birds of the Netherlands

Issued: 17 February 2016 (SG 2823; set of 74
Netherlands PostNL semi-official, personalised stamps)

Face value: Undenominated; large “1” at bottom right of each stamp design indicates basic
domestic rate for letters weighing under 20 ounces, currently €0.73

Scanned barcode using an Aigo Digital Reader Pen Reader redirects users to website that
plays bird calls. Issued via subscription. The folder depicted here, with the Grey Heron on the
front cover, was privately produced to house our set
Switzerland. Internet Stamp
Issued: 31 October 2007 (SG 1740)
Face value: SFr100
Bee Tagg, a two-dimensional code (similar to honeycomb) that can connect to the Swiss Tourism website via a smartphone; self-adhesive

Guernsey. Marine Life (2nd Series)- Crustaceans
Issued: 30 July 2014 (SG MS1524)
Face value: £3
Augmented reality: when scanned with an app, plays a 3 minute high-definition film, made by award-winning natural history photographer, Sue Daly
**Indonesia. Total Solar Eclipse**
Issued: 23 February 2016 (SG MS awaited)
Face value: Rp5,000 (x 3)
Glow-in-the dark under UV light; augmented reality- when scanned using the 4D-ID App, a picture of the god Batava Kola about to swallow the Sun appears

**Liberia. Chocolate**
Issued: 21 June 2011 (SG uncatalogued)
Face value: $30 (x 9); $30 (x 9)
Scanning QR Code allows one to see a documentary, “From Bean to Bar: The Making of Chocolate); also, cocoa-scented stamps
France. Star Wars
Issued: 9 November 2017 (SG MS awaited)
Face value: €5.50
Augmented reality stamp: when scanned with the App Courrier Plus, plays ‘The Ultimate Jedi’ (an animation film)
Austria. Crypto Stamps

Issued: 11 June 2019 (SG awaited)
Face value: €6.90 (x 5)

Plastic, holographic stamps, with augmented reality, based on open source programmable block chain Ethereum, with its own cryptocurrency, called Ether (ETH). Printed on a Plastic Card with a QR code and a tearaway part, with scratch off-printing. Stamp set comes in two parts. The left part, with a 3D hologram unicorn logo associated with Ethereum, functions as a standard stamp that can be used to send mail. The right section contains the credentials used to authenticate the crypto collectible via blockchain (a type of decentralized data storage).

This defines a digital wallet, in which the stamp is stored as “a virtual collector’s item”, belonging to the wallet owner (150,000 issued, including 1,500 red stamps; yellow, 10,000; blue, 20,000; green, 40,000; black, 78,500).

A collaboration between Österreichische Post AG and Austrian Capacity Blockchain Solutions GmbH. Token IDs from 0 to 149,999. Illustrated here are the blue (left) and green (right) stamps from our collection.
Stamp with LED

Portugal. Christmas
Issued: 22 October 2019
Face value: €3.50 (SG MS awaited)

LED light built into miniature sheet gets activated with the NFC (near field communication) touch of smartphone (need to activate NFC capability in android smartphone. For iphone users, some models have limited NFC capability.

iPhone XS, iPhone XR and iPhone XS Max - LED blinks once when sheet is put across iPhone, whereas in an NFC activated android phone, the LED blinks continuously)
Stamps with Thermochromic Ink
A change in temperature or application of heat triggers a change in colour or reveal an image or words

**Great Britain. Agatha Christie**
Issued: 15 September 2016 (SG 3885–3887)
Face value: 1st (x 2), £1.33 (x 2), 1.52 (x 2)
Hidden clues in microtext, thermochromic ink, or visible under ultra-violet light

**Spain. The Abbey of Crime**
Issued: 8 May 2017 (SG MS5142)
Face value: €0.60 (x 10)
Thermosensitive videogame stamps