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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 gramophone, 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

- Gee, G.V.A. & I. Das. 2019a. Extreme philately. The most unusual stamps of the World. Part 1. Journal of the Philatelic Society of Kuching, Sarawak 11(1):27–66.
- Gee, G.V.A. & I. Das. 2019b. Extreme philately. The most unusual stamps of the World. Part 2. Journal of the Philatelic Society of Kuching, Sarawak 11(2):50–90.

Stamp with Resin

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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

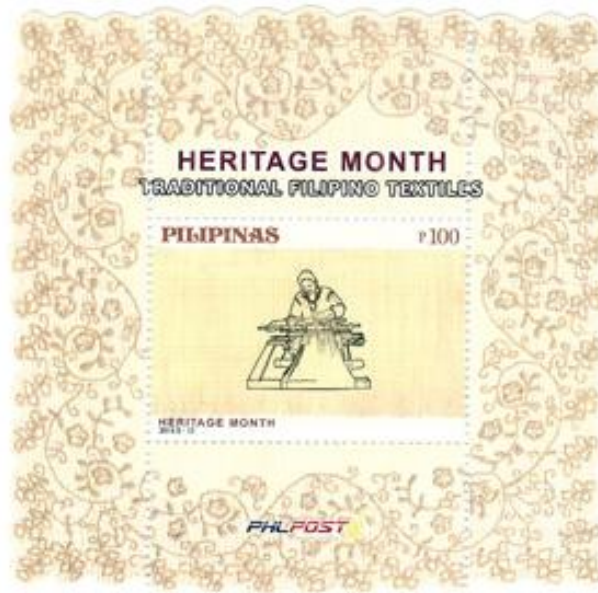


South Africa. Ukuthunga- To Sew

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

Stamps with Platinum Foil



Canada. Canadian Art (13th Series)

Issued: 7 July 2000 (SG 2011)

Face value: C\$0.95

Platinum-foil framed stamp



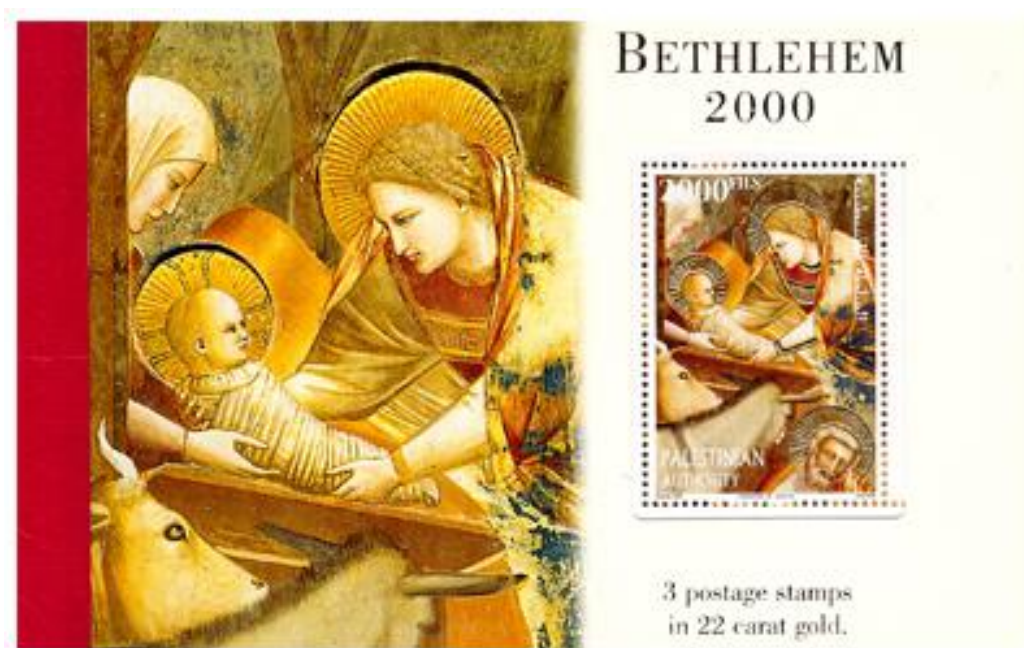
Canada. Canadian Art (14th Series)

Issued: 24 August 2001 (SG 2097)

Face value: C\$1.05

Platinum-foil framed stamp

Stamps with Real Gold



Palestine. Bethlehem- Birth of Jesus Christ

Issued: 28 June 2000 (SG PA174–176)

Face value: £2,000 (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)



黃金成色證明書
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

茲證明香港郵政此枚“香港迪士尼樂園開幕誌慶”金郵票以22K金箔壓印而成。
We, Cartor Security Printing, France, certify that this “Hong Kong Disneyland Grand Opening” gold-foiled stamp issued by Hongkong Post, has been hot-stamped with genuine 22-carat gold foil.

副總裁 Vice-President
Ian Brigham

副總裁 Vice-President
Gilles Le Baud

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)

Stamps with Silver Foil Application



Libya. Tripoli International Fair. Jewellery and Artifacts

Issued: 2 April 2013 (SG 3104–3109)

Face value: dh500 (x 6)

Embossed silver foil stamps



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: ₩300 (x 10)

Silver foil stamps

Stamps with Gold, Silver and Bronze Foil Application

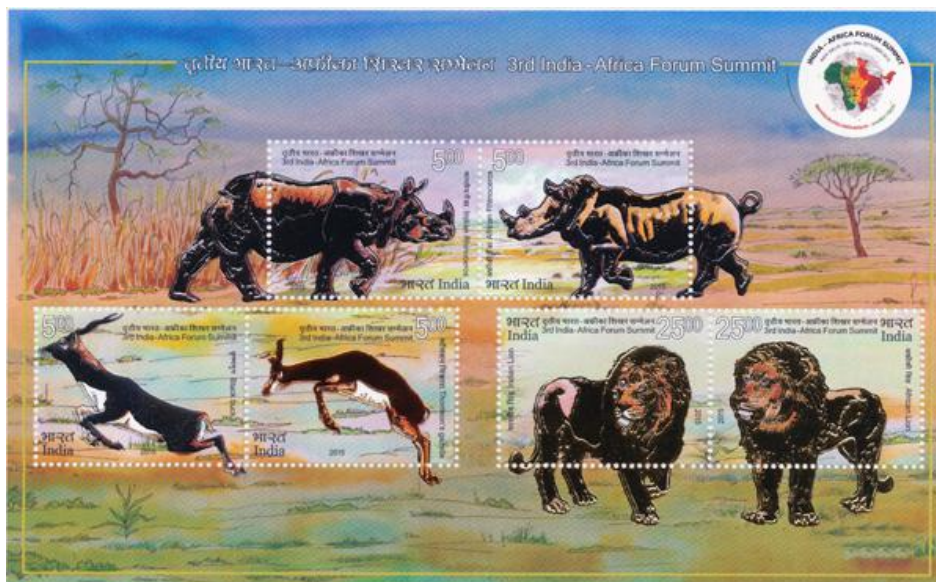


Thailand. 72nd Anniversary of Birth of King Bhumibol Adulyadej

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

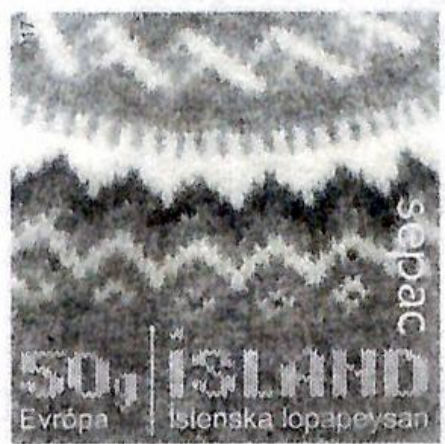


Estonia. Centenary of Estonian Native Cattle Breed Herdbook

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

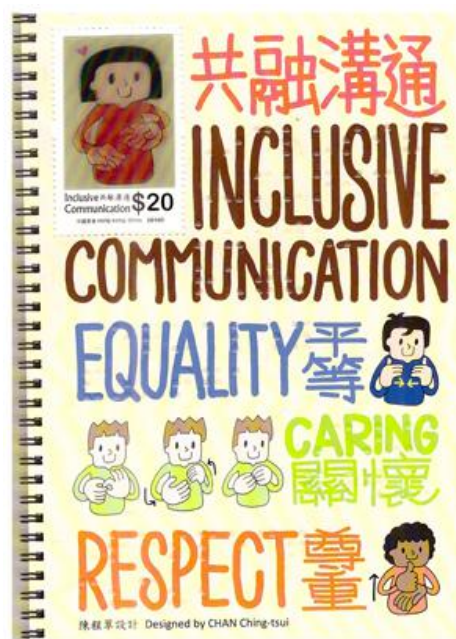


United Arab Emirates. International White Cane Day

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

Stamp on CD-ROM



Germany. White Christmas

Issued: 5 November 1992 (SG 2488)

Face value: pf60 + 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



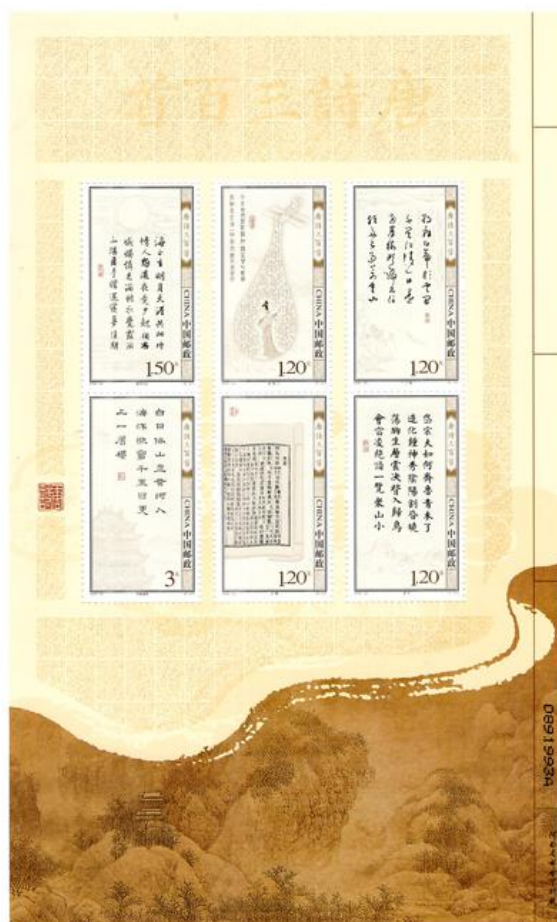
North Korea. Olympic Games, Beijing, China

Issued: 15 October 2007 (SG MS4700–4701)

Face value: ₩300, 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”

Multimedia Stamps

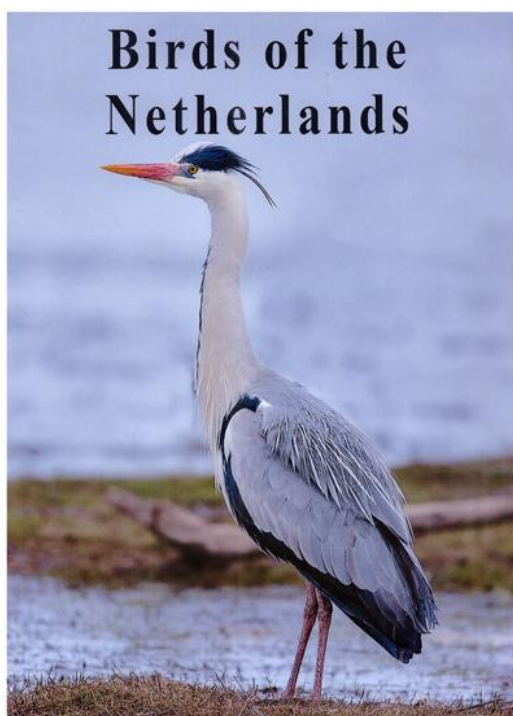


People's Republic of China. Tang Poems

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

Stamps with Augmented Reality

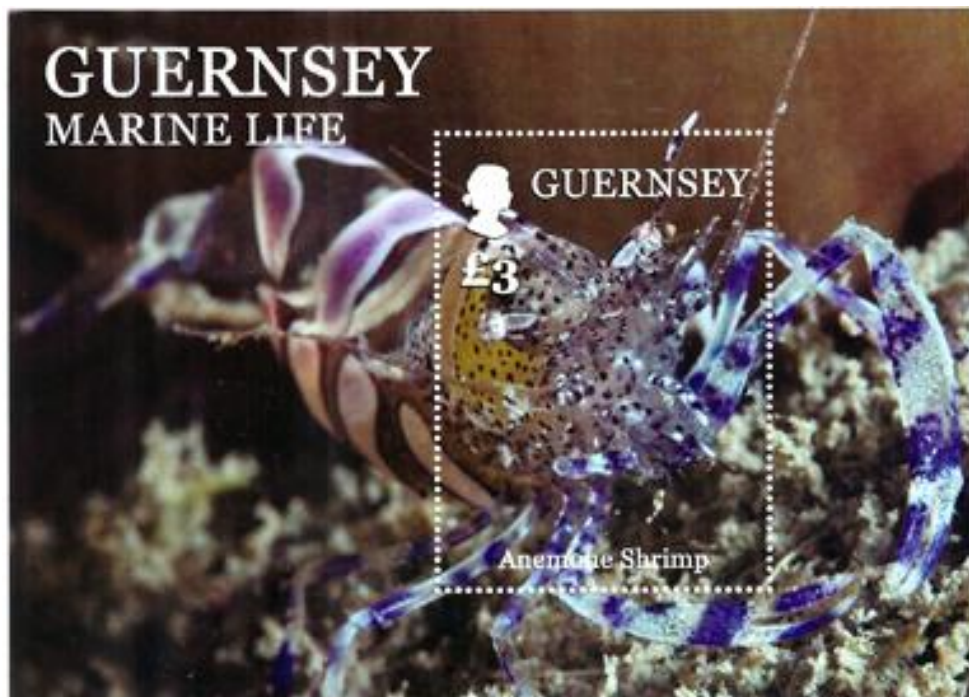


Switzerland. Internet Stamp

Issued: 31 October 2007 (SG 1740)

Face value: SFr100

Bee Tagg, a two-dimensional code (similar to honey comb) 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 Courier Plus, plays 'The Ultimate Jedi' (an animation film)

Cryptocurrency Stamps



Austria. Crypto Stamps

Issued: 11 June 2019 (SG awaited)

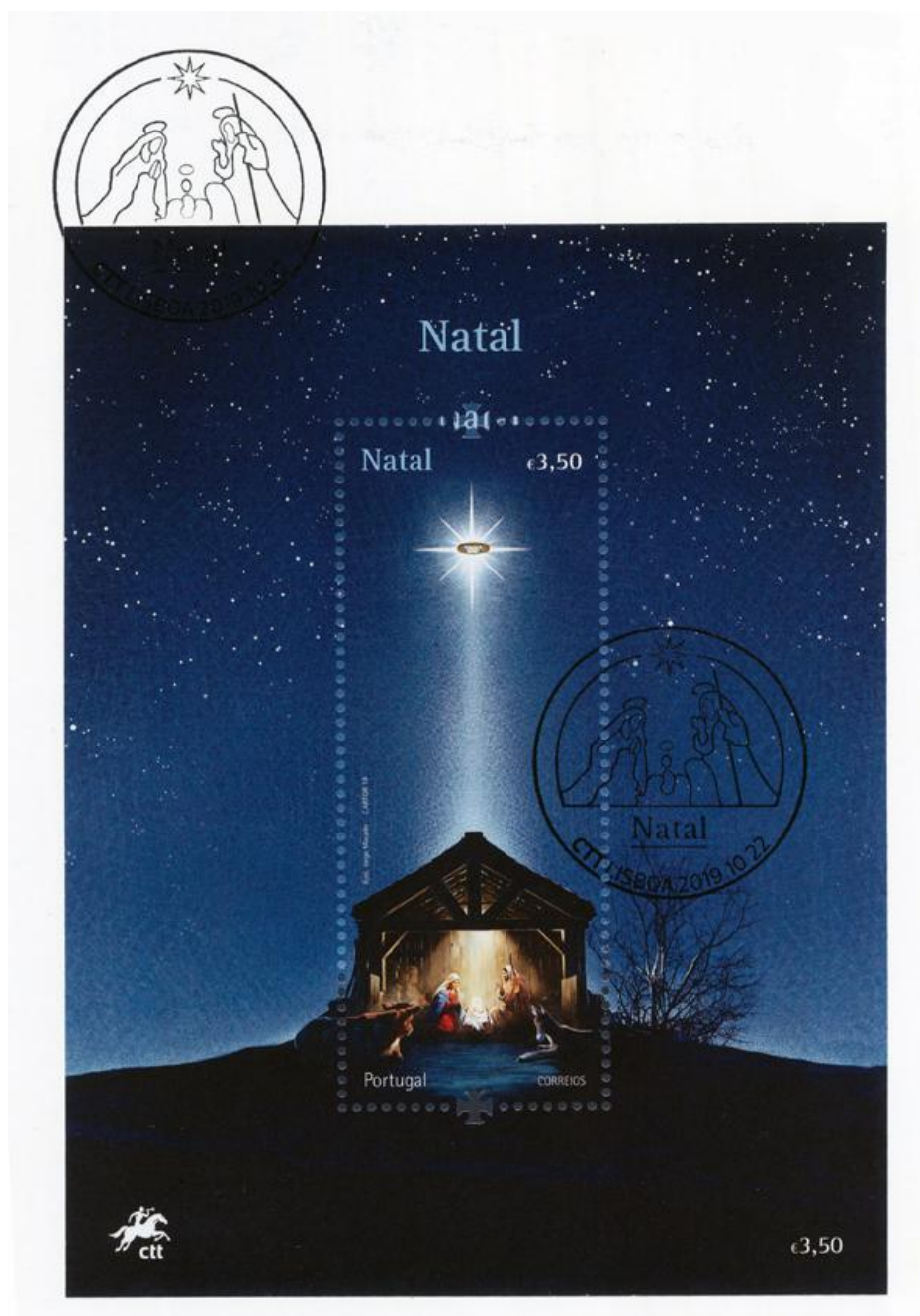
Face value: €6.90 (x 5)

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