

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

(The Lunar New Year)



Exhibit Plan

The exhibit begins with a circle representing the twelve animals in the lunar zodiac. Each of the twelve lunar or Chinese years and their animal has an appropriate stamp.

There are twelve sections with each one representing one of the twelve animals. The personality traits attributed to each animal is described.

Philatelic items such as stamps, sheetlets, souvenir sheets, gutter strips, full sheets and covers are arrayed in the various sections.

Non-philatelic items include photographs of various aspects of celebrating the Chinese New Year. Additionally, background information on its history and traditions is included.



Red, corresponding with fire symbolizes good fortune and joy. Red is found everywhere during the Chinese New Year and other holidays and family gatherings. A red envelope is a monetary gift which is given in Chinese society during holidays or special occasions. The red color of the packets symbolizes good luck and is strictly forbidden at funerals. It is traditionally symbolic of happiness.



Australia



United States



Canada



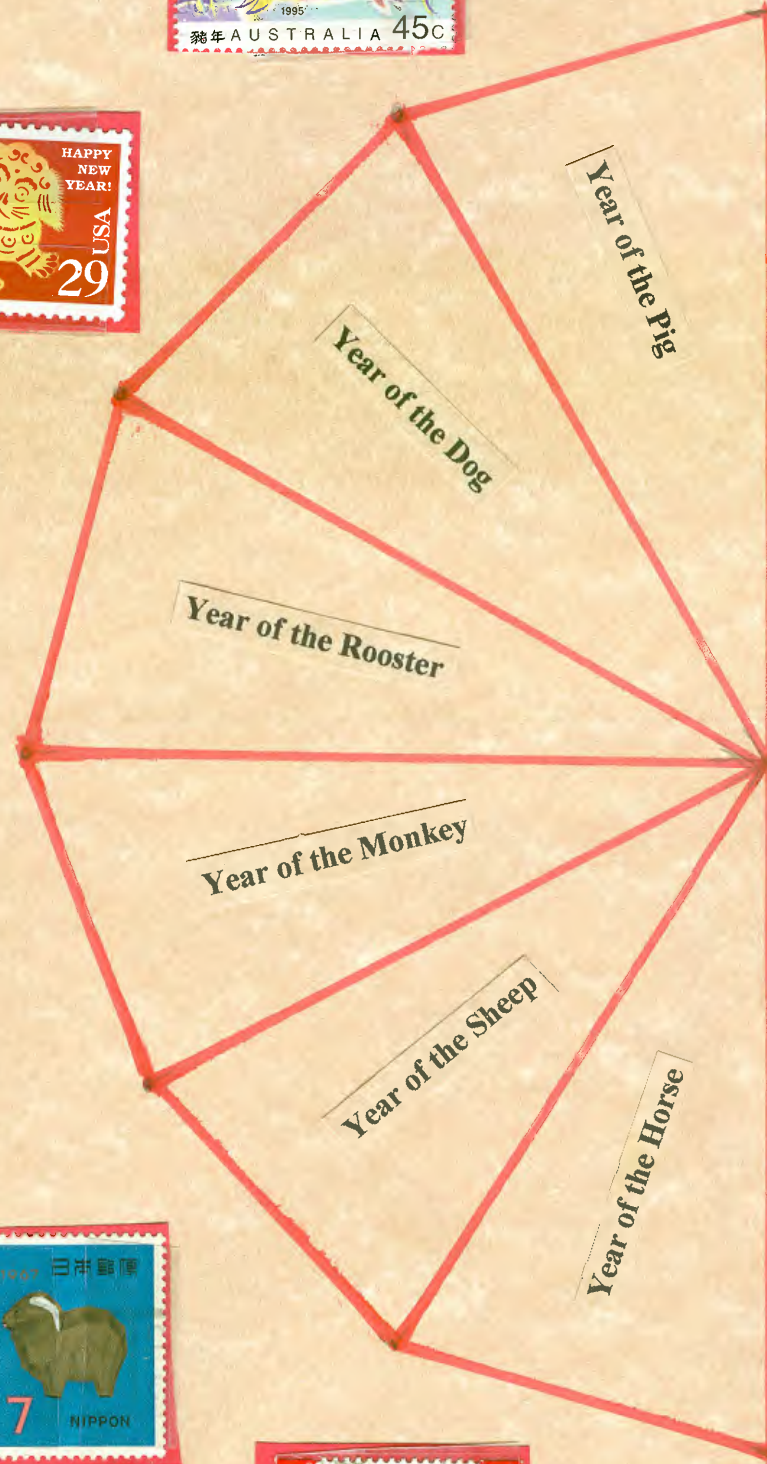
Canada



Japan



Canada



The Chinese New Year starts with the new moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar the Chinese insert an extra month once every seven years out of the 19-year cycle. This is the same as adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

Korea



Year of the Rat

Year of the Ox

Year of the Tiger

Year of the Rabbit

Year of the Dragon

Year of the Snake

New Zealand



The Chinese New Year is similar to the western one, swathed in traditions and rituals.

The Chinese lunar New Year is the longest chronological record in history, dating from 2600 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac.

Canada



China



Canada



Canada



How was it decided what animal would start the cycle of years? One legend is: The animals were having an argument. Each of them wanted to be the very first Animal of the Year. So the gods said that the animals must have a race across a river. The winner would start the cycle of years.

All of the animals leaped into the water together. The strong ox soon took the lead. The other animals struggled behind him—all except the rat. No one noticed him crouched on the ox's back. Just before the ox touched the other side, the rat leaped onto the bank and won the race.



IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL A RAT?

Is your date of birth in this list?

Feb 5, 1924 – Jan 23, 1925

Jan 24, 1936 – Feb 10, 1937

Feb 10, 1948 – Jan 28, 1949

Jan 28, 1960 – Feb 14, 1961

Feb 15, 1972 – Feb 3, 1973

Feb 2, 1984 – Feb 19, 1985

Feb 10, 1996 – Feb 6, 1997

RAT: Intelligent, popular, sociable, gregarious, imaginative, hard-working, observant, opportunistic, thrifty, critical..

2008

Canada – Two different stamps on a souvenir sheet.
Lithography with gold foil application.



祝 您 新 春 愉 快

丙子年

1996年
 中国邮票总公司设计
 上海人民美术出版社
 北京人民邮电出版社
 1996年1月1日
 北京人民邮电出版社
 北京人民邮电出版社
 北京人民邮电出版社
 北京人民邮电出版社

Bing-Zi Year

Postal number: 1996-1
 Denominations: 20¢
 No. of sheets: 4 (2)
 Sheet composition: 2
 Date of issue: January 5, 1996
 Designer: Wang De-Mingling
 Stamp designer: Song Wenzhi, Li Qiang
 Designer of cancellation mark: Liu Jiamin
 Designer of slogan: Zhou Chuanping, Zhang Shou



China – First day of issue ceremony program. Cover reduced in size.



首日封 F. D. C.



邮政编码:

China - First day cover using stamps similar to the ones on the souvenir program on the adjacent pages.

What is a first day cover?

A first day cover has two essential elements, besides the cover.

1. A stamp that has been issued on a particular day for the first time.
2. The stamped envelope has been cancelled on that particular day.
3. A third element on most covers is a cachet (some type of design) on the left side of the envelope.

Postal services in many countries sell first day covers along with stamps and other postal products.

However, in the U.S. collectors may buy envelopes that already have cachets or designs and make their own. Then they buy the stamps and send the covers to the designated post office (city) for cancellation and return.



Jersey -- One of the Channel Islands located between Great Britain and France.

The 15-Day Celebration of Chinese New Year

The first day of the Chinese New Year is “the welcoming of the gods of the heavens and earth.”. Many people abstain from meat on the first day of the new year because it is believed that this will ensure long and happy lives for them.

On the second day, the Chinese pray to their ancestors as well as to all the gods. They are extra kind to dogs and feed them well as it is believed that the second day is the birthday of all dogs.

The third and fourth days are for the sons-in-law to pay respect to their parents-in-law.

The fifth day is Po Woo. On that day people stay home to welcome the God of Wealth. No one visits families and friends on the fifth day because it will bring both parties bad luck.

On the sixth to the tenth day, the Chinese visit their relatives and friends freely. They also visit the temples to pray for good fortune and health,

The seventh day of the New Year is the day for farmers to display their produce. These farmers make a drink from seven types of vegetables to celebrate the occasion. The seventh day is also considered the birthday of human beings. Noodles are eaten to promote longevity and raw fish for success.

On the eighth day the Fujian people have another family reunion dinner and at midnight they pray to Tian Gong, the God of Heaven.

The ninth day is to make offering to the Jade Emperor.

The tenth through the twelfth are days that friends and relatives should be invited for dinner.

After so much rich food, on the thirtieth day you should have simple rice congee and mustard green (choi sum) to cleanse the system

The fourteenth day should be for preparation to celebrate the Lantern Festival which is to be held on the fifteenth night.

新年快乐



Micronesia - A group of over 600 islands in the eastern Pacific Ocean, north of Ecuador. Has issued new year stamps on an irregular basis: 1995, 1996, 1998, and 2000. Micronesia is one of the Federated States of the United States.

On the first day of the Chinese New Year there is a large family dinner



CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR



United States – Year of the Rat sheetlet and single stamp.
Can you find the rat?



Mongolia
Central Asia, bounded on the north by Siberia, on the west by Sinkiang and on the east by China proper and Manchuria.



New Zealand

A group of islands with North Island and South Island and a number of smaller islands. In the South Pacific south east of Australia. The early Polynesian settlers called the country Aotearoa, meaning Land of the Long White Cloud. It is a name by which New Zealand is quite often known.

Four single stamps two of which are repeated on the souvenir sheet. A second souvenir sheet has the highest denomination stamp and a second stamp without an animal.



Issued by New Zealand Post to commemorate
Taipei 2008 21st Asian International Stamp Exhibition
Taipei, 7 - 11 March 2008



Hong Kong, China – An island off the southwest tip of China.

A set of four different singles (se-tenant) on a souvenir sheet. Four singles and the highest denominated stamp on another souvenir sheet. Lithography with foil application.



YEAR OF THE OX



IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL AN OX?

Is your date of birth in this list?

- Jan 24, 1925 – Feb 12, 1926
- Feb 11, 1937 – Jan 30, 1938
- Jan 29, 1949 – Feb 6, 1950
- Feb 15, 1961 – Feb 4, 1962
- Feb 3, 1973 – Jan 22, 1974
- Feb 20, 1985 – Feb 8, 1986
- Feb 7, 1997 – Jan 27, 1998

Ox: Conscientious, resolute, methodical, determined, sincere, dependable, private, independent, stubborn, conservative.

2009



Jersey – One of the Channel Islands located between Great Britain and France.

Souvenir sheet with single stamp.

Christmas Island – A mini sheet featuring a se-tenant and twelve stamps of the animals in lower denominations

牛年 YEAR OF THE OX 2009



屬牛的人是非常值得深交的朋友，因為他們很有耐性、忠誠和細心。老子一生致力於講教個人道德修養。在牛的陪伴下，著成史經。隨後便與牛相結伴。



The Ox is patient and loyal, tender and caring. Laozi, a prominent thinker in ancient China, discouraged with the political climate, journeyed to the wilderness on his faithful Ox. Before he left he was asked to write down his knowledge. In the company of his Ox, Laozi wrote *Daode jing*, the most important book in Taoism.



牛年 YEAR OF THE OX 2009

十二生肖的幸運顏色。The lucky colours of the Zodiac.



New Zealand – An example of the use of Chinese characters, instead of animals, on stamps. The ox is used in the design of the gutter strip as well as a three stamp se-tenant on a souvenir sheet, two singles and two gutter stripes.





Hong Kong – Se-tenant made up of four adjacent stamps with syncopated edges on souvenir sheet.
Lithography with foil application. Four single stamps and the highest denominated one on a second souvenir sheet.





Ireland – Three joined stamps of the same design on a souvenir sheet.



Norfolk Island – An island in the south Pacific Ocean, 900 miles east of Australia. A territory of Australia.

Irregular: 1996 year of the rat, 1998 year of the tiger, 1999, year of the rabbit, and 2000 year of the dragon.

Single stamp on souvenir sheet.

Christmas Island (A Territory of Australia). In the Indian Ocean 230 miles south of Java. Started celebrating New Year in 1994 with the year of the Dog. In 2002 a new artist designed the most recent stamps.



First day cover.

Se-tenant on souvenir sheet with single se-tenant.



牛年 YEAR OF THE OX 2009

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
YEAR OF THE OX 2009

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
YEAR OF THE OX 2009

AUSTRALIA 55c

AUSTRALIA \$1.65

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忠誠

DEILIGENT LOYAL



Christmas Island – Gutter strip with se-tenant zodiac animals in the gutter. Two single stamps, one with an ox and the other a Chinese character for the animal. Lithography with foil applicaton. A se-tenant of the ox and Chinese character on a souviner sheet.





IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL A TIGER?

Is your date of birth in this list?

- Feb 13, 1926 – Feb 1, 1927
- Jan 31, 1938 – Feb. 18, 1939
- Feb 17, 1950 – Feb 5, 1951
- Feb 5, 1962 – Jan 24, 1963
- Jan 23, 1974 – Feb 10, 1975
- Feb 9, 1986 – Jan 28, 1987
- Jan 28, 1990 – Feb 15, 1999

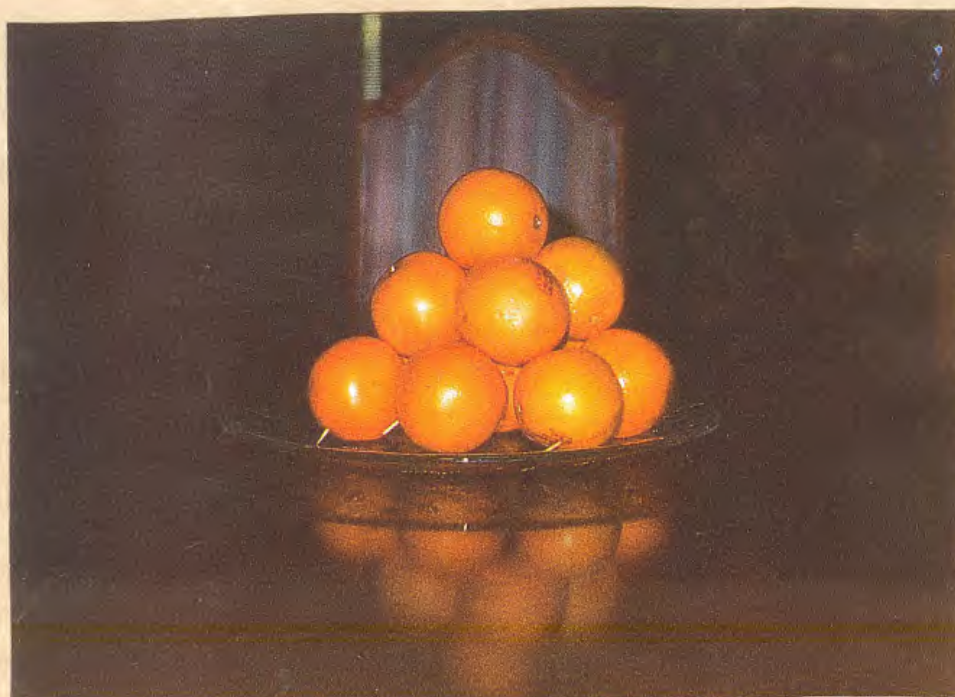
Tiger: Strong-willed, determined, alert, quick-witted, restless, impulsive, adaptable, honest, open, indecisive.

Korea – Se-tenant on souvenir sheet.

2010



The arrangement of oranges is considered to be good luck.



TIGER

Embossed single stamp
and stamp on bookmark.



Canada



Se-tenant on souvenir sheet with single stamp.



Jersey – Single stamp on souvenir sheet.