

Jersey – Single stamp on souvenir sheet.



United States – First day cover using stamped from both series



Christmas Island – Mini-sheet with se-tenant on souvenir sheet.
12 individual animal stamps of lesser denominations.

傳說生肖排行比賽，龍要勝出本是易如反掌之事。然而，他竟然於比賽中途前往協助為旱災布雨；更救助瀾斃在河中的對手兔子，結果只取得了第五位。

In the race to determine which 12 animals made up the zodiac, the Dragon came fifth. He could easily have won the race, but stopped to make rain to alleviate a drought and to help the rabbit complete the race. Dragons are always willing to help those who are in need.



龍年 YEAR OF THE DRAGON 2012



龍年 YEAR OF THE DRAGON 2012

十二生肖的先後排行次序。
The order of the zodiac race.



1st AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 15c	2nd AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 15c	3rd AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 20c	4th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 20c	5th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 15c	6th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 15c
7th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 20c	8th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 25c	9th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 25c	10th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 25c	11th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 25c	12th AUSTRALIA 2012 CHRISTMAS ISLAND 20c

DRAGON

Norfolk Island - Single stamp on souvenir sheet.



Canada – Embossed se-tenant on souvenir sheet.





IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL A SNAKE?

Is your date of birth in this list?

Feb 10, 1929 – Jan 29, 1930
 Jan 27, 1941 – Feb 14, 1942
 Feb 14, 1953 – Feb 2, 1954
 Feb 2, 1965 – Jan 20, 1966
 Feb 18, 1977 – Feb 6, 1976
 Feb 6, 1989 – Jan 26, 1990
 Jan 24, 2001 – Feb 11, 2002

Snake: Highly intelligent, reflective, organized, reserved, determined, distrustful, possessive, jealous.

2013

Kingdom of Tonga – Four different stamps
 Forming two se-tenants on single souvenir sheet.
 Philigraphy with foil application.



Christmas Island – Se-tenant on souvenir sheet.
Lithography with silver foil application.



New Year Activities Set Precedent

All debts have to be paid by this time. Nothing should be lent on this day, as anyone who does will be lending all the year. Back when tinder and lint were used, no one would lend them on this day or give a light to others.

Everyone should refrain from using foul language and bad or unlucky words. Negative terms and the word “four” (Ssu), which sounds like the word for death, are not to be uttered. Death and dying are never mentioned and ghost stories are totally taboo. References to the past year are also avoided as everything should be turned toward the New Year and a new beginning.

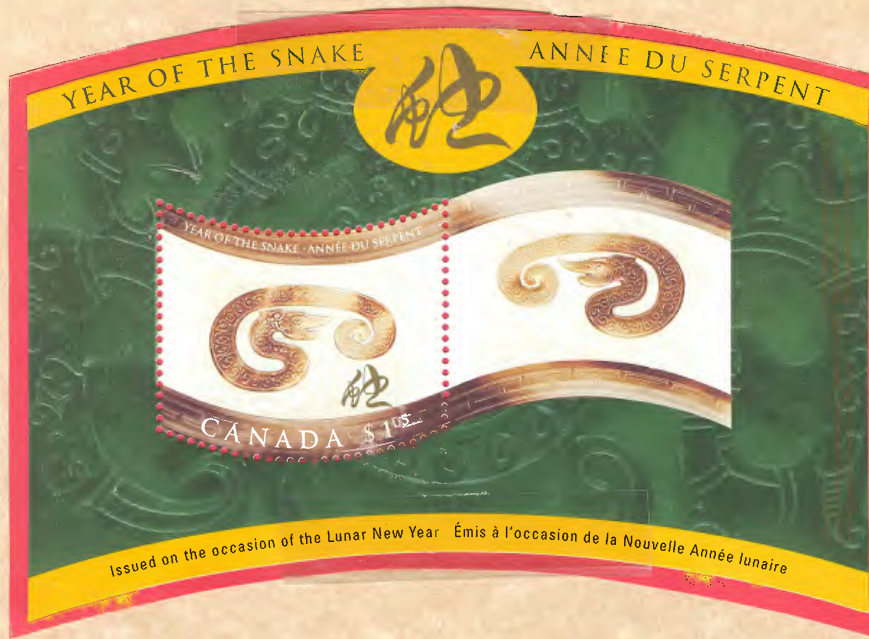
SNAKE



New Zealand — Se-tenant on souvenir sheet. Two gutter pairs using both stamps and a single stamp.



Canada – Se-tenant on souvenir sheet.
Single stamp of a different color.



The dragon leads the parade,

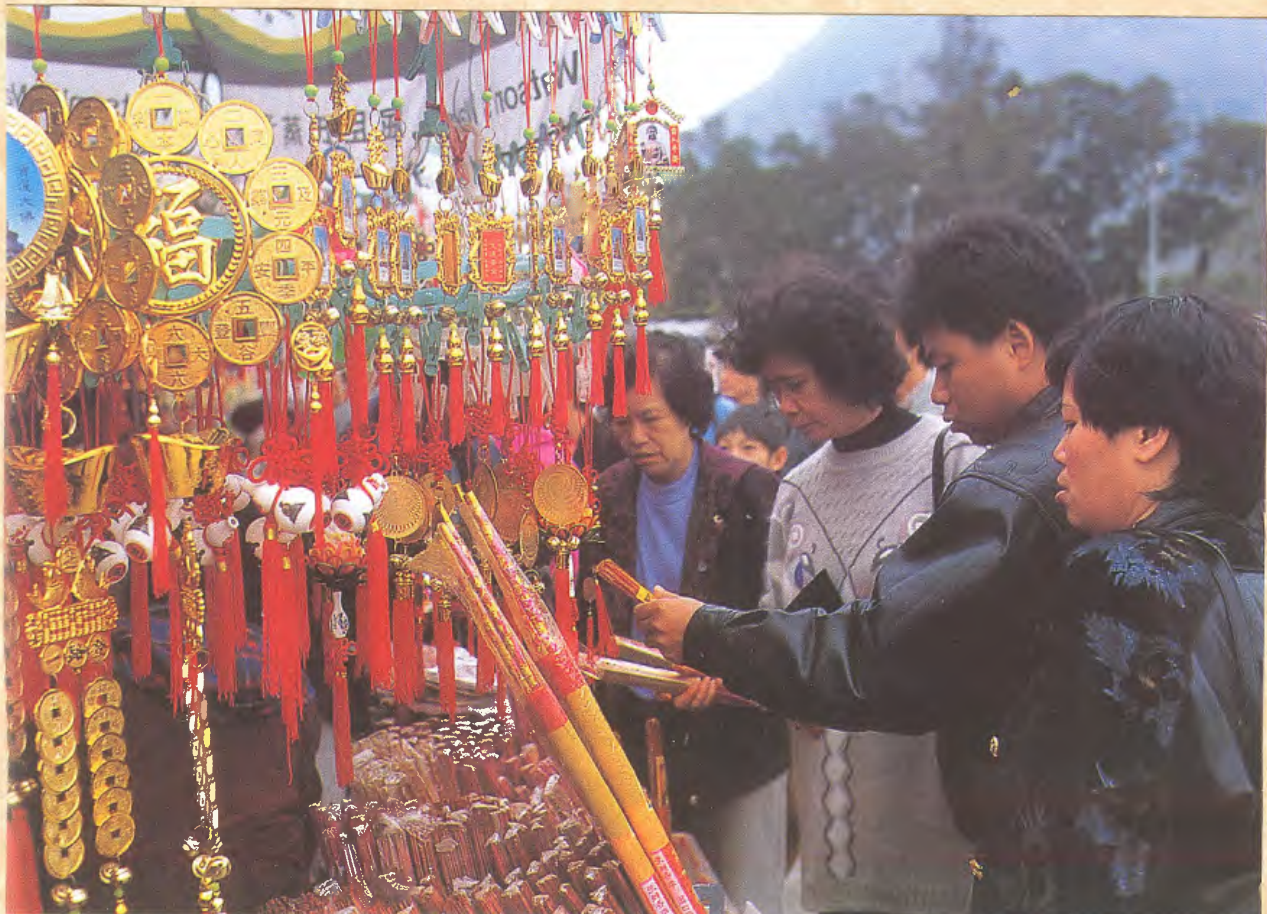


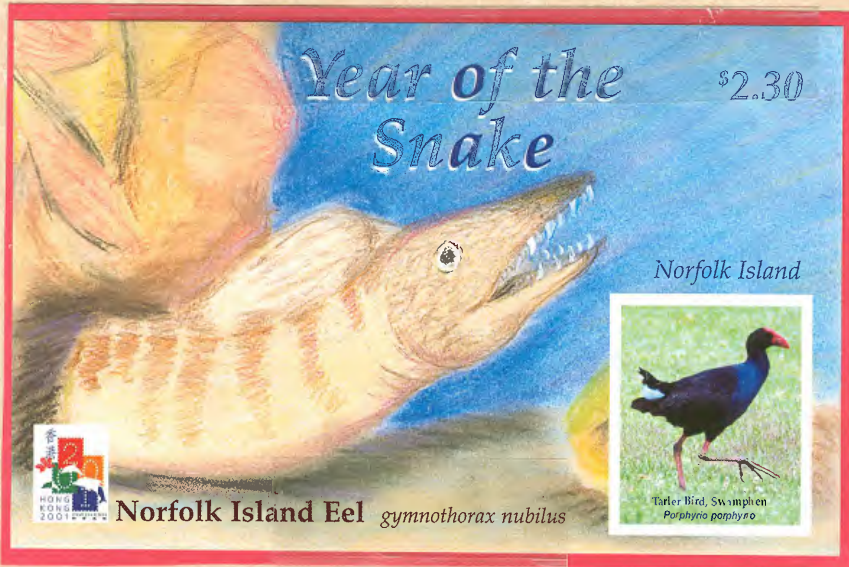


Hong Kong – Four single stamps.



People in Hong Kong are choosing fortune sticks to take to the temple. The way the sticks fall shows the kind of luck the person will have.

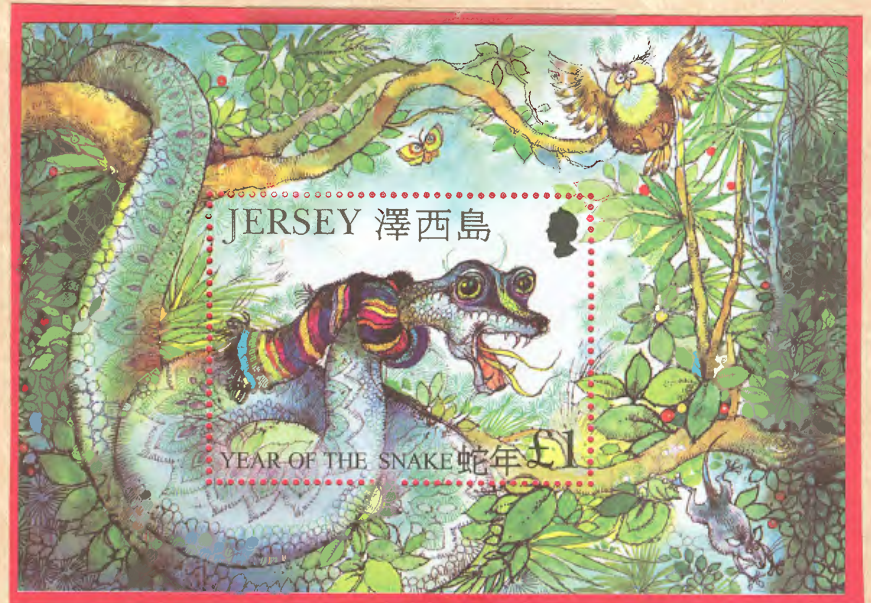




Norfolk Island eel souvenir sheet with imperf. stamp of Tarter bird.

“Imperf” means not perforated.

Jersey – Single stamp on souvenir sheet.



House Cleaning

The entire house should be cleaned before New Year's Day. On New Year's Eve, all brooms, brushes, dusters, dust pans and other cleaning equipment are put away. After New Year's Day, the floors may be swept. Beginning at the door, the dust and rubbish are swept to the middle of the parlor, then placed in the corners and not taken or thrown out until the fifth day. At no time should the rubbish in the corners be trampled upon. In sweeping, there is a superstition that if you sweep the dirt out over the threshold, you will sweep one of the family away. Also, to sweep the dust and dirt out of your house by the front entrance is to sweep away the good fortune of the family; it must always be swept inwards and then carried out, then no harm will follow. All dirt and rubbish must be taken out the back door..



IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL A HORSE?

Is your date of birth in this list?

Jan 30, 1930 – Feb 16, 1931

Feb 15, 1942 – Feb 4, 1943

Feb 3, 1954 – Jan 23, 1955

Jan 21, 1966 – Feb 8, 1967

Feb 7, 1978 – Jan 27, 1979

Jan 27, 1990 – Feb 14, 1991

Feb 12, 2002 – Jan 31, 2003

Horse: Charming, sociable, honest, eloquent, popular, changeable, enjoys challenges and variety, restless.

2014



Jersey – Single stamp on souvenir sheet.

New Year Activities Set Precedent

All debts have to be paid by this time. Nothing should be lent on this day, as anyone who does will be lending all the year. Back when tinder and lint were used, no one would lend them on this day or give a light to others.

Everyone should refrain from using foul language and bad or unlucky words. Negative terms and the word “four” (Ssu), which sounds like the word for death, are not to be uttered. Death and dying are never mentioned and ghost stories are totally taboo. References to the past year are also avoided as everything should be turned toward the New Year and a new beginning.

If you cry on New Year’s day, you will cry all through the year. Therefore, children are tolerated and are not spanked, even though they are mischievo

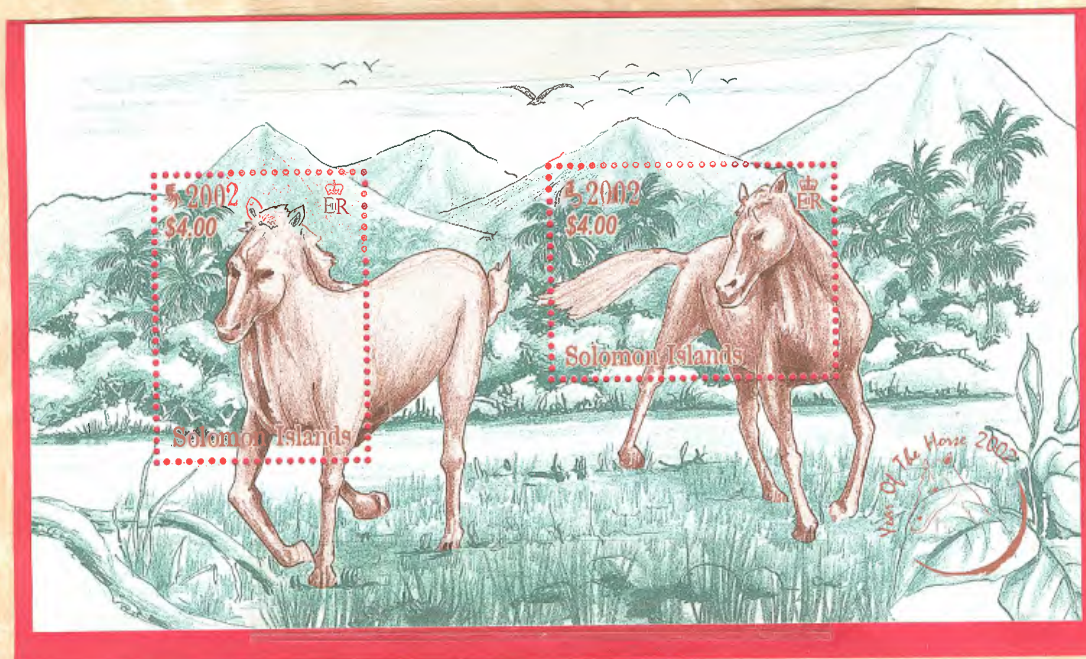


Canada – Single stamp on octagonal souvenir sheet.

Brazil – Large country in eastern South America. Foil application on souvenir sheet.



Solomon Islands – Two single stamps on a souvenir sheet.



In 2005 the U. S. Postal Service issued all 12 of the lunar calendar stamps in one page. Much to everyone's confusion it was issued as a two-sided sheet. The reason for this is the total face value of the \$.37 stamps was \$4.44. The unluckiest number in the Chinese culture is "4". Two-sided sheets totaled \$8.88, thus solving the problem. The face value of the 2006 stamps totaling \$4.68 for the 12 stamps is not a problem even though one "4" is part of the value.

H A P P Y · N E W · Y E A R !

恭
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What is a first day cover?

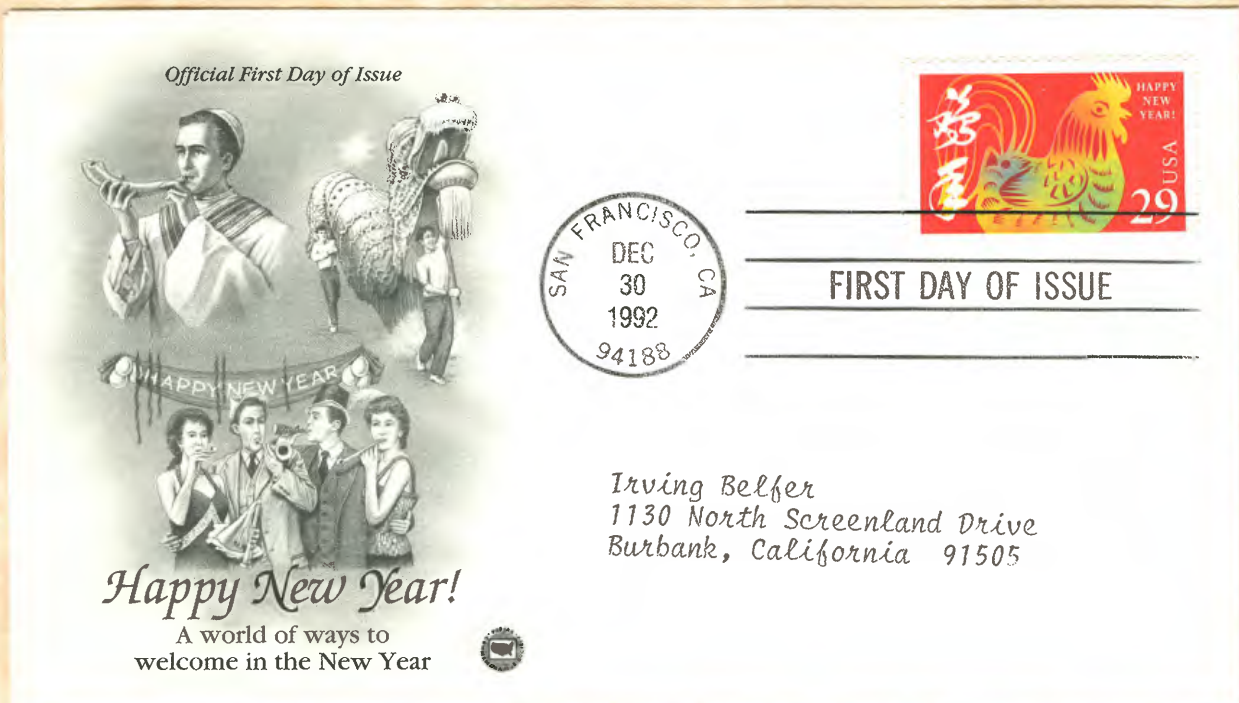
A first day cover has two essential elements, besides the cover.

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.

United States – First day cover,



YEAR OF THE SHEEP



Hong Kong

IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL A RAM?

Is your date of birth in this list?

Feb 17, 1931 – Feb 5, 1932

Feb 5, 1943 – Jan 24, 1944

Jan 24, 1955 – Feb 11, 1956

Feb 9, 1967 – Jan 29, 1968

Jan 28, 1979 – Feb 15, 1980

Feb 15, 1991 – Feb 3, 1992

Feb 1, 2003 – Jan 21, 2004

Sheep: (also Ram and Goat) Artistic, creative, easy-going, persuasive, amusing, team player, kind, understanding.

2015



Jersey – Single stamp on souvenir sheet.

SHEEP



New Zealand – Five single stamps, two of which are repeated on souvenir sheet. Lithography.





**Canada – Single stamp with a different one on souvenir sheet.
Lithography with foil application.**

More New Year Superstitions

For those most superstitious, before leaving the house to call on others, the Almanac should be consulted to find the best time leave home and direction which is most auspicious to head.

The first person one meets and the first words heard are significant as to what the fortunes would be for the entire year. It is a lucky sign to see or hear songbirds or red-colored birds or swallows.

It is considered unlucky to greet anyone in their bedroom so that is why everyone, even the sick, should get dressed and sit in the living room.

Do not use knives or scissors on New Year's Day as this may cut off fortune.

While many Chinese people today may not believe in these do's and don'ts, these traditions and customs are still practiced. These traditions and customs are kept because most families realize that it is these very traditions, whether believed or not, that provide continuity with the past and provide the family with an identity.

YEAR OF THE MONKEY



IS YOUR CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL ANIMAL A MONKEY?

Is your date of birth in this list?

- Feb 6, 1932 – Jan 25, 1933
- Jan 25, 1944 – Feb 12, 1945
- Feb 12, 1956 – Jan 30, 1957
- Jan 30, 1968 – Feb 16, 1969
- Feb 16, 1980 – Feb 4, 1981
- Feb 4, 1992 – Jan 22, 1993
- Jan 22, 2004 – Feb 8, 2005

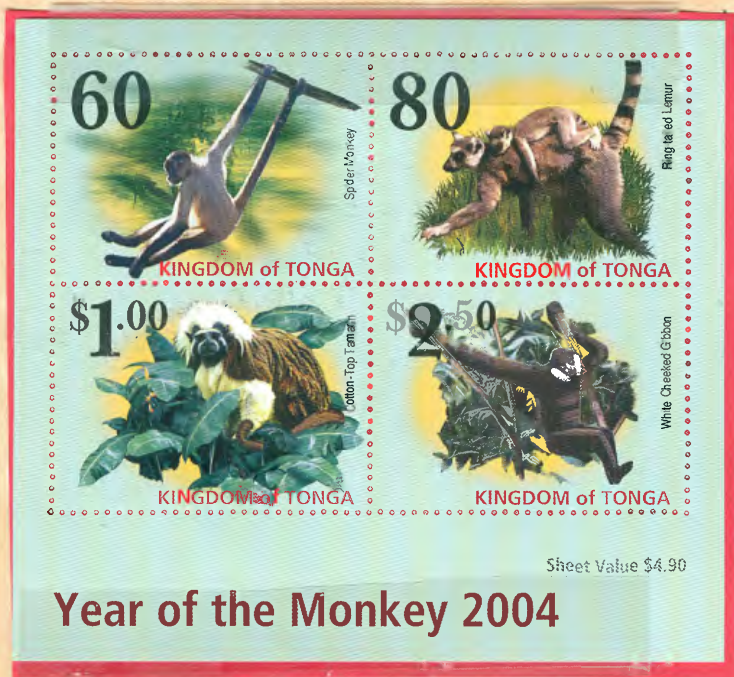
Monkey: Imaginative, inquisitive, helpful, opportunistic, resourceful, problem solver, extravagant, easily distracted.

2016

Ireland – Three stuffed animals on a souvenir sheet.



MONKEY



Kingdom of Tonga – Four stamps on souvenir sheet.
Please note: The design on the bottom sheet is the negative of the top sheet.





Jersey – Single stamp on souvenir sheet.



Christmas Island - Se-tenant in souvenir sheet. Two singles in the se-tenant



Christmas Island – Se-tenant on souvenir sheet.
Lithography with foil application.



Singapore – An island just off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, south of Johore. Started issuing new year stamps in 1996. Se-tenant on souvenir sheet.