Special Stamp Issue - "The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong"



Mint Stamps

A set of special stamps on the theme of "The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong" will be released on **8 December 2012 (Saturday)**. The "Heartwarming Stamps" Mini-pane to Commemorate The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong Stamp Exhibition" will also be issued on the same day.

As early as 1841 when Hong Kong became a free trading port, a postal bureau was established locally to handle mail items for the British Army and postal matters for the public. In its early days, the Post Office (now also known as Hongkong Post) did not issue stamps but focused on postal service, and mail items were postmarked as a proof of postage payment. It was not until 1862 that Hong Kong had its first stamp issue.

It has been one and a half centuries since the release of our first set of stamps on 8 December 1862 when Hong Kong was under British rule. The stamps came in a set of seven and featured Queen Victoria in profile. To mark the 150th anniversary of stamp issuance in Hong Kong this year, Hongkong Post issues a set of six commemorative stamps and a stamp sheetlet adopting a "stamp-on-stamp" design, modelled on the first set of stamps issued in Hong Kong, with each featuring one of our first seven stamps alongside a writing instrument from an era in history or an electronic data carrier device widely used nowadays. The contrast between the past and the present highlights the progression of time and the unfading charm of stamps.

$1.40 The two-cent stamp from our first stamp set appears on the left and is accompanied on the right by a quill, a writing instrument believed to be invented in the 6th century. The Chinese term "先時" is the then transliteration of "cents".

$1.80 The eight-cent stamp from our first stamp set appears on the right and is accompanied by a fountain pen, a popular writing instrument since the late 19th century.

$2.40 The 12-cent stamp from our first stamp set appears on the right and is accompanied by a ballpoint pen, a prevalent modern writing instrument invented in the 1930s.

$2.50 The 18-cent stamp from our first stamp set appears on the left and is accompanied by a typewriter, a regular item of office equipment between the late 19th and late 20th century.

$3 The 24-cent stamp from our first stamp set appears on the left and is accompanied by a keyboard, the indispensable input device for a computer system since the late 20th century.

$5 The 48-cent stamp from our first stamp set appears on the right and is accompanied by a QR Code, a popular electronic data device today. With a camera phone equipped with compatible applications, one can scan the QR Code on the stamp to gain instant access to the webpage of "The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong" and browse the stamp information.

$10 Stamp Sheetlet Taking centre place of the stamp portion of the sheetlet is the highest denomination stamp from our first issue. Positioned next to a barcode, which is an item commonly used in the modern commercial world, this 96-cent stamp and the other six stamps of lower denominations on the right of the sheetlet form a complete set of our first stamps, making the sheetlet a truly precious souvenir.

This year marks the 150 years of stamp issuance in Hong Kong. Looking ahead, Hongkong Post will continue to excel through innovation by exploring new themes with exquisite designs, and issuance of stamps with aesthetic value through application of various modern printing technologies.

Sales Arrangements

Information about the sales arrangements of philatelic products associated with this special stamp issue is as follows:

Products available from 24 November 2012:

Product	**Description**	**Unit Selling Price (HKD)**	**Sales Restriction per Queuing Customer**
First Day Cover	**(available until 8 December 2012)**	$1	No restriction

First Day Cover (Prestige Version)	**(available at 37 philatelic offices until 8 December 2012)**	$8	No restriction

Products available from 8 December 2012:

Product	**Description**	**Unit Selling Price (HKD)**	**Sales Restriction per Queuing Customer**
The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong Special Stamps			
Mint Stamps	A set of 6 designs of stamps ($1.40, $1.80, $2.40, $2.50, $3 & $5)	$ 16.1	5 sheets of each design (viz. 125 stamps of each design)
Stamp Sheetlet	Containing a $10 stamp	$10	10 sheets
Presentation Pack	Containing a set of 6 stamps and a $10 stamp sheetlet	$40	5 packs
Prestige Stamp Booklet	Containing 3 stamp sheetlets with a set of 6 stamps and a $10 stamp sheetlet	$50	5 books
Postage Prepaid Picture Cards (Air Mail)	Containing a set of 7 cards	$35 / set	5 sets
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps	Affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark **(available at 37 philatelic offices only on 8 December 2012)**	$19.6	5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige	Affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark	$26.6	5 covers

Version) affixed with a set of 6 stamps	**(available at 37 philatelic offices only on 8 December 2012)**		
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a $10 stamp sheetlet	Affixed with a $10 stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark **(available at 37 philatelic offices only on 8 December 2012)**	$13.5	5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a $10 stamp sheetlet	Affixed with a souvenir sheet and date-stamped with the special postmark **(available at 37 philatelic offices only on 8 December 2012)**	$20.5	5 covers
A set of 3 Serviced First Day Covers affixed with stamp sheetlets	Affixed with stamp sheetlets from the Prestige Stamp Booklet and date-stamped with the special postmark **(available at 37 philatelic offices only on 8 December 2012)**	$36.6	5 sets
A set of 3 Serviced First Day Covers (Prestige Version) affixed with stamp sheetlets	Affixed with stamp sheetlets from the Prestige Stamp Booklet and date-stamped with the special postmark **(available at 37 philatelic offices only on 8 December 2012)**	$57.6	5 sets
"Heartwarming Stamps" Mini-pane to Commemorate The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong Stamp Exhibition			
Mini-pane (Local Mail Postage)	Containing 12 Heartwarming Stamps, with stamp tabs featuring postal equipment of	$40	2 panes

	different generations **(available at General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Shatin Central Post Office only)**		
Mini-pane (Air Mail Postage)	Containing 8 Heartwarming Stamps, with stamp tabs featuring postal equipment of different generations **(available at General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Shatin Central Post Office only)**	$55	2 panes

Remarks:

1. The philatelic products of "The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong" are included in the "2012 Local Standing Order Service" and "2012 Overseas Mail Order Service". For local customers, please contact Hongkong Post Philatelic Bureau Hotline for enquiry at 2785 5711 or fax to 2191 9296.
2. The philatelic products of "Heartwarming Stamps" Mini-pane to Commemorate The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong Stamp Exhibition" are **not included** in the "2012 Local Standing Order Service" and "2012 Overseas Mail Order Service". Order form had already been issued to the customers of "2012 Local Standing Order Service" and "2012 Overseas Mail Order Service".
3. For overseas customers, please ensure there is sufficient balance in your account to pay your advance order. Otherwise, your order will be processed only when the stock is still available after all orders have been fulfilled. For any enquiries, please contact Hongkong Post Philatelic Bureau (Overseas Mail Order Service Unit) Hotline at 852-2928 7211 or fax to 852-2850 6552.
4. The supply of the above philatelic products are limited and available for sale for three months while stock lasts.

Official First Day Covers for the "The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance in Hong Kong" Special Stamps will be put on sale at $1 each at all post offices from **24 November 2012**. Official First Day Covers (Prestige Version) for the "The 150th Anniversary of Stamp Issuance

in Hong Kong" Special Stamps will also be available at $8 each at all philatelic offices from the same day. These items will be displayed at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Shatin Central Post Office on the same day. Advance orders for servicing self-provided covers will be accepted at all philatelic offices from **24 to 30 November 2012**.

Hand-back Date-stamping Arrangements

A hand-back date-stamping service by the office steel date-stamp and the special postmarks will be provided on **8 December 2012** at all post offices (excluding mobile post offices) for official/privately-made covers bearing the first day of issue indication and a local address. All philatelic offices will also provide hand-back date-stamping service by the "Philatelic Bureau" pictorial postmark and the philatelic office pictorial postmark concurrently. However, the GPO-1 date-stamp will only be available at the General Post Office. All post offices (except mobile post offices) will maintain their normal Saturday operating hours on 8 December 2012.

The public hall of the Hongkong Post Philatelic Bureau on 1/F., Trade Square, 681 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, will be open from **9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on **8 December 2012** to provide date-stamping service by the "Philatelic Bureau" pictorial postmark and the special postmarks.

Stamp Printing Details

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Design:</td><td>Colin TILLYER
(Stamps and $10 Stamp Sheetlet)

Ken WONG
(Stamp Booklet containing a set of 3 Stamp Sheetlets)</td><td>Printer:</td><td>Joh. Enschedé B.V., the Netherlands</td></tr>
<tr><td>Stamp Sheetlet Size
($10 Stamp Sheetlet):</td><td>130 mm x 75 mm</td></tr>
<tr><td>Process :</td><td>Lithography</td><td>Stamp Sheetlet Size
(a set of 3 sheetlets):</td><td>150 mm x 90 mm</td></tr>
<tr><td>Stamp Size:</td><td>38 mm x 38 mm</td><td>Perforation:</td><td>13.7 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical)</td></tr>
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Stamp Size ($10 Stamp Sheetlet):	67 mm x 24 mm	Perforation ($10 Stamp Sheetlet):	13.5 x 13.2 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical)
Stamp Layout:	Pane of 25 stamps	Date of Issue:	8 December 2012
Paper:	Paper with security fibres		



Stamp Sheetlet



Special Postmark



Prestige Stamp Booklet



Postage Prepaid Picture Cards (Air Mail)



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps



Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a set of 6 stamps



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a $10 Stamp Sheetlet



Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a $10 Stamp Sheetlet



A set of 3 Serviced First Day Covers affixed with stamp sheetlets



A set of 3 Serviced First Day Covers (Prestige Version) affixed with stamp sheetlets



Presentation Pack (cover and inside design)



Mini-pane (Local Mail Postage)



Mini-pane (Air Mail Postage)