

Special Stamp Issue - "Hong Kong Festivals"



Mint Stamps

A set of special stamps on the theme of "Hong Kong Festivals" will be released for sale with associated philatelic products on **22 May 2012(Tuesday)**.

A predominantly Chinese community, Hong Kong maintains many of the customs of traditional Chinese festivals. Hongkong Post issues "Hong Kong Festivals" special stamps to present five traditional festivals and the way people celebrate them, highlighting the distinctive culture and social customs of our city.

Tin Hau Festival (\$1.40) - Tin Hau Festival falls on the 23rd day of the third month in the lunar calendar. Tin Hau, Goddess of the Sea, is regarded by fishermen and seafarers as their protector. Every year, festive celebrations such as parades and lion dance performances are held in various districts in Hong Kong. The stamp shows a statue of Tin Hau and the fishing boats on parade to pay homage to Tin Hau.

Kwun Yum Festival (\$2.40) - Kwun Yum Festival falls on the 19th day of the second month in the lunar calendar. On the festive day, worshippers bring with them longevity noodles, peach-shaped buns and vegetarian foods to temples to make offerings and attend chanting services. The stamp shows a majestic statue of Kwun Yum and a decorative plaque mounted on scaffolding for Kwun Yum Festival.

The Birthday of the Buddha (\$3) - The 8th day of the fourth month in the lunar calendar is a day to commemorate the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha. On the festive day, worshippers attend Buddhist celebrations and Buddha bathing ceremonies held at temples. They sprinkle scented flowers and purified water on the statue of Buddha in the hope to cleanse their souls. The stamp shows a statue of Buddha used in Buddha bathing ceremony and the Tian Tan Buddha located next to the Po Lin Monastery.

Tuen Ng Festival (\$5) - Tuen Ng Festival falls on the 5th day of the fifth month in the lunar calendar to commemorate Qu Yuan, a virtuous official of the Chu State who drowned himself in the Mi Lo River as a final advice offered to the emperor. Every year, various coastal areas in Hong Kong follow the traditional custom of holding dragon boat races. Today, the traditional custom has turned into a major sporting event of international interest. The stamp shows the head of a dragon boat and an action shot of a dragon boat race.

Mid-Autumn Festival (\$5 stamp sheetlet) - On the 15th day of the eighth month in the lunar calendar, the moon is at its fullest and brightest. It is also the season of autumn harvest, and people made this day the Mid-Autumn Festival to celebrate good harvests and family reunions. On Mid-Autumn night, families enjoy mooncakes and fruits in the shower of moonlight or go to lantern carnivals for enjoyment. The stamp sheetlet features an ornate lantern for Mid-Autumn Festival on the right alongside a stamp on the left showing a traditional star fruit shaped lantern and a couple of mooncakes.

Sales Arrangements

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

Product available from 8 May 2012:

| Product | Description | Unit Selling Price (HKD) | Sales Restriction per Queuing Customer |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| First Day Cover | (available only until 22 May 2012) | \$1 | No restriction |

Products available from 22 May 2012:

| Products | Descriptions | Unit Selling Price (HKD) | Sales Restriction per Queuing Customer |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Mint Stamps | A set of 4 designs of stamps | \$11.8 | 5 sheets of each design (viz. 125 stamps of each design) |
| Stamp Sheetlet | Containing a \$5 stamp | \$5 | 10 sheets |
| Presentation Pack | Containing a set of 4 stamps and a stamp sheetlet | \$28 | 5 packs |

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| Postage Prepaid Picture Cards (Air Mail) | Containing a set of 4 cards | \$20/set | 5 sets |
| Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 4 stamps | Affixed with a set of 4 stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark (available at 37 philatelic offices only on 22 May 2012) | \$15.3 | 5 covers |
| Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a Stamp Sheetlet | Affixed with a stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark (available at 37 philatelic offices only on 22 May 2012) | \$8.5 | 5 covers |

Remarks:

1. The above philatelic products 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. 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.
3. The supply of the above philatelic products are limited and available for sale while stock lasts.

Official First Day Covers will be on sale at \$1 each at all post offices from **8 May 2012** while the stamps and associated philatelic products will be displayed at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Shatin Central Post Office from the same day. Advance orders for servicing self-provided covers will be accepted at all philatelic offices from **8 to 14 May 2012**.

Hand-back Date-stamping Arrangements

A hand-back date-stamping service by the office steel date-stamp and the special postmark will be provided on **22 May 2012** at all post offices for official/private-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, but the GPO-1 date-stamp will only be available at the General Post Office.

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 22 May 2012** to provide date-stamping service by the "Philatelic Bureau" pictorial postmark and the special postmark.

Stamp Printing Details

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Design: | Arde LAM | Printer: | Cartor Security Printing, France |
| Process: | Lithography | Perforation: | 13.8 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical) |
| Stamp Size: | 29 mm × 51 mm | Paper: | Paper with security fibres |
| Stamp Sheetlet Size: | 135 mm × 85 mm | Date of Issue: | 22 May 2012 |



Stamp Sheetlet



Special Postmark



Postage Prepaid Picture Cards (Air Mail)



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of Mint Stamps



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a Stamp Sheetlet



Presentation Pack (cover and inside design)