

Approved First Day Cover Text for
“Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Snake/Horse”
(11 January 2014)

The setting off of firecrackers bids farewell to the Year of the Snake and ushers in the Year of the Horse. The Chinese have, for a long time, used the Chinese zodiac animals to mark the years. In traditional Chinese culture, the snake is a symbol of luck, longevity and wealth, while the horse stands for a wise man and a person of talent. The horse also symbolises a determination to succeed and constant efforts to become stronger.

Hongkong Post celebrates this Lunar New Year by issuing the Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals depicting the Snake and the Horse, to express wishes for a peaceful and prosperous year ahead. Gold and silver ware has a special appeal for Chinese people. Glittering gold and shining silver, symbols of prestige and nobility, are used for production of the stamps on Lunar New Year Animals to herald a new year.

As the second Lunar New Year Gold and Silver stamp issue in the second series released by Hongkong Post, this stamp sheetlet consists of two stamps, one featuring the Snake and the other the Horse, both in a denomination of \$50. The Snake stamp is hot-foiled with silver, while the Horse stamp is affixed with 22K gold-plated lace metal. The main background colours of golden yellow, orange-red and emerald green of the stamp sheetlet set off the strong festive ambience. Coming with a certificate of authenticity, the stamp sheetlet is a perfect collectible.