

FACT SHEET

Special Stamp Issues: “Year of the Rat”, “24 Solar Terms - Spring”
and “2020 Souvenir Cover”

I) “Year of the Rat” Special Stamp Issue

With a longstanding culture and prominence in Chinese tradition, the twelve Chinese zodiac signs have been a popular theme of folk crafts. To trumpet the start of Year of the Rat in 2020, Hongkong Post launches the ninth issue in its fourth Lunar New Year special stamp series, featuring a set of four stamps portraying rats in various traditional art forms to highlight the theme of the Year of the Rat. Meanwhile, Hongkong Post specially presents the “Lunar New Year Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet – Pig / Rat” as a token of good wishes for the new year.

Sales Arrangements

Information about the sales arrangements is set out below: -

<i>Product</i>	<i>Unit Selling Price (HK Dollars)</i>	<i>Sales Period</i>	<i>Maximum Purchase Quantity Per Queuing Customer for the First Two Days of Issue</i>
(A) Products Available at <u>all Post Offices</u>			
“Year of the Rat” Special Stamps			
First Day Cover	\$1.5	27 December 2019 to 10 April 2020	No restriction
Mint Stamps (a set of four designs of stamps)	\$15.6	11 January to 10 April 2020	5 sheets of each denomination (viz. 125 stamps of each denomination)
Stamp Sheetlet (containing a \$10 stamp)	\$10		10 sheets
Silk Stamp Sheetlet (containing a \$50 stamp)	\$50		10 sheets
Presentation Pack (containing a set of four stamps and a \$10 Stamp Sheetlet)	\$43		5 packs
“Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Pig / Rat”			
Souvenir Cover	\$1.5	27 December 2019 to 10 April 2020	No restriction
Stamp Sheetlet (containing a set of two Gold and Silver \$50 stamps)	\$100	11 January to 10 April 2020	5 sheets

Presentation Pack (containing a Stamp Sheetlet of two Gold and Silver \$50 stamps)	\$125		5 packs
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(B) Products Available at <u>Philatelic Offices</u> only			
“Year of the Rat” Special Stamps			
First Day Cover (Prestige Version)	\$8	27 December 2019 to 10 April 2020	No restriction
Postage Prepaid Lunar New Year Greeting Card (Air Mail) (containing a set of four cards)	\$46 / set	11 January to 10 April 2020	5 sets
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of four stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$19.6		5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a set of four stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$26.1		5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a \$10 Stamp Sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$14		5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a \$10 Stamp Sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$20.5		5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a Silk Stamp Sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$54		5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a Silk Stamp Sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$60.5		5 covers
“Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Pig / Rat”			
Souvenir Cover (Prestige Version)	\$8	27 December 2019 to 10 April 2020	No restriction
Serviced Souvenir Cover affixed with a Stamp Sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$104	11 January to 10 April 2020	5 covers
Serviced Souvenir Cover (Prestige Version) affixed with a Stamp Sheetlet and	\$110.5		5 covers

date-stamped with the special postmark			
“Heartwarming Stamps”(2020 Version) “Year of the Rat” Mini-panes			
Mini-pane (Local Mail Postage) (containing 12 Heartwarming Stamps)	\$46	11 January to 10 April 2020	2 panes
Mini-pane (Air Mail Postage) (containing 12 Heartwarming Stamps)	\$85		2 panes

(C) Products Available at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office only

“Year of the Rat” Special Stamps

Red Packets (A pack of 20 pieces with 4 designs)	\$20 / pack	From 11 January 2020, while stock lasts	5 packs
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Date-stamping Arrangements

A hand-back date-stamping service using the office steel date-stamp and the two special postmarks will be provided on **11 January 2020** at all post offices (except mobile post offices) for official/souvenir and 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 using 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.

Information on Stamps

The “Year of the Rat” Special Stamps, Heartwarming Stamps (2020 Version) “Year of the Rat” mini-panes and the “Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Pig / Rat” are designed by Mr Simon CHUNG. These special stamps and the Silk Stamp Sheetlet are printed in lithography. The \$10 Stamp Sheetlet is printed in lithography plus hot foil stamping and the mini-pane (local mail postage) is printed in lithography plus spot varnishing while the mini-pane (air mail postage) is printed in lithography plus embossing with spot varnishing. The “Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Pig / Rat” is printed in lithography, with silver hot foil stamping and 22-carat gold-plated lace metal. The special stamps, the \$10 Stamp Sheetlet, the Silk Stamp Sheetlet and the “Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Pig / Rat” are printed by Cartor Security Printing of France while the mini-panes are printed by Southern Colour Print of New Zealand.

Arrangements on Obtaining the Autographs of Postmaster General and Stamp Designer

Members of the public who would like to obtain the autographs of Miss Cathy CHU, Postmaster General and/ or Mr Simon CHUNG, Stamp Designer, are required to bring along the First Day Covers or Souvenir Covers of “Year of the Rat” (must be affixed with valid Hong Kong stamps with postage of HK\$2 or above) in person to the Counter Hall, 1/F, General Post Office, Central at the designated time specified below. Hongkong Post will call

the applicants for the collection of the signed First Day Covers or Souvenir Covers at General Post Office once they are available and the expected collection date is late March 2020.

Details of the arrangements are as follows -

Date: 11 January 2020 (Saturday)

Time: 9:30a.m. – 11:30a.m.

Venue: Counter Hall, 1/F, General Post Office, Central

Each person is entitled to submit up to five First Day Covers and/ or Souvenir Covers for the autographs of the Postmaster General and the stamp designer. Stamp products other than First Day Covers or Souvenir Covers will not be accepted. In case the number of people waiting exceeds far beyond our capacity, Hongkong Post may stop people from joining the queue before 11:30a.m. as actual circumstances warrant.

Hongkong Post reserves the rights to alter or cancel the above arrangements without prior notice.

II) “24 Solar Terms — Spring” Special Stamp Issue

Hongkong Post takes pride in presenting the first special stamp issue themed on the “24 Solar Terms — Spring”. Introducing six solar terms for spring, the stamps feature “Spring Commences”, “Spring Showers”, “Insects Waken”, “Vernal Equinox”, “Bright and Clear” and “Corn Rain”. It is also first-ever to have stamps that are semicircular in design, depicting the corresponding cultural conventions or farming life of each solar term in vivid colours, which reflects its various aspects of cultural significance and social functions. With the stamp sheet arranged in tête - bêche pairs, the stamps will be launched on the day of “Spring Commences” to herald the first season of the year, rendering the issue exceptionally meaning.

Sales Arrangements

Information about the sales arrangements is set out below:

<i>Product</i>	<i>Unit Selling Price</i>	<i>Sales Period</i>	<i>Maximum Purchase Quantity Per Queuing Customer for the First Two Days of Issue</i>
<i>(A) Products Available at <u>all Post Offices</u></i>			
First Day Cover	\$1.5	17 January 2020 to 3 May 2020	No restriction
Mint Stamps (a set of gummed stamps of 6 designs)	\$12	4 February 2020 to 3 May 2020	5 sheets of each denomination (viz. 120 stamps of each denomination)
Souvenir Sheet (containing a set of 6 stamps)	\$12		10 sheets
Presentation Pack (containing a set of 6 stamps)	\$30		5 packs

<i>(B) Products Available at <u>Philatelic Offices only</u></i>			
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$16	4 February 2020 to 3 May 2020	5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a souvenir sheet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$16		5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of tête - bêche stamps (a set of 6 pairs)	\$28		5 covers

of stamps, one design for each pair) and date-stamped with the special postmark		
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From 17 January 2020, Official First Day Covers will be put on sale at all post offices and the stamps and the associated philatelic products will be displayed at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office. Advance orders for servicing self-provided covers will be accepted at all philatelic offices from 17 to 23 January 2020.

Date-stamping Arrangements

A hand-back date-stamping service using the office steel date-stamp and the two special postmarks will be provided on **4 February 2020** at all post offices (except 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 using 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.

Stamps Information

This set of special stamps is designed by Ms Shirman LAI, and printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing of France.

III) 2020 Souvenir Cover

A newly designed “2020 Souvenir Cover” will be put on sale at **all philatelic offices**, as well as Hongkong Post’s Online Shopping Mall “ShopThruPost” from 27 December 2019 to 31 December 2020.

Sales Arrangements

Information about the sales arrangements is set out below: -

<i>Product</i>	<i>Unit Selling Price</i>	<i>Sales Period</i>	<i>Maximum Purchase Quantity Per Queuing Customer for the First Two Days of Issue</i>
2020 Souvenir Cover (Available in 3 sizes. Small size: 220mm x 110mm Medium size: 229mm x 162mm Large size: 265mm x 190mm)	\$1.5	27 December 2019 to 31 December 2020	No restriction

Information about this special stamp issue and associated philatelic products is available on the Hongkong Post website at www.hongkongpost.hk and from any post office, the Hongkong Post mobile app and the Hongkong Post Philatelic Bureau hotline on 2785 5711.