HERE BE DRAGONS

A TOPICAL ALBUM FROM
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
AND AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION
HERE BE DRAGONS

The American Topical Association currently has more than 550 listings for dragons and dragon images on stamps. Some listings are for a single stamp; some are for as many as four or more stamps. In other words, there are a lot of dragons on stamps. As you can see, it would be nearly impossible to give you a complete album featuring dragon stamps, but we can give you a nice variety to get you started.

Dragons started appearing on stamps as early as the late 1800s, as shown here by this stamp from China (Scott No. 1), which was issued along with three others like it in 1878. Other countries that included dragons on their stamps more than 100 years ago include the Australian states of Tasmania, in 1863, and Victoria, in 1879; Japan, in 1872; Belgium, in 1896; Crete, in 1900; and Indochina, in 1908.

Many countries have recently issued stamps featuring dragons in correlation to the Lunar (Zodiac) Calendar. The most recent Year of the Dragon was 2012; the next will arrive in 2024.

Aside from images of dragons themselves, you can find dragon boats, dragon kites, dragon puppets and dragon artwork on stamps. Some dragons fly, others swim and some slither. The dragons in our album — who appear as everything from terrifying human-chomping beasts to cute, fun-loving friends of children — fill a number of roles, from deadly marauders to symbolism of strength and even political unity.
DRAGON STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2000 Year of the Dragon (Scott 3370; Artist Clarence Lee)

2012 Year of the Dragon (Scott 4623; Artist Kam Mak)

2018 Set of Four Dragons (Scott Nos. TBA; Artist Don Clark)
STAMPS FEATURING FRIENDLY DRAGONS

Great Britain
1994 Children’s Literature
Noggin the Nog and the Ice Dragon
(Scott 1542)

2011 Latvia
Christmas Dragon
(Scott 797)

1999 Germany
Tabaluga Jumping Rope
(Scott B854)

Sweden – Red Eyes by Astrid Lindgren
(Scott 2367-2369; 2000)

Romania
2010 Children’s Literature
(Scott 5167)
STAMPS FEATURING CLASSIC DRAGONS

Wales
1999 Welsh Dragon
(Scott 14)

Austria
1926 Siegfried Slays the Dragon
(Scott B71)

Belgium
1944 St. George Slaying the Dragon
(Scott B389)

Ireland
2000 Irish Dragon
(Scott 1226)

Greece
1935 Triptolemos, King of Eleusis
(Scott C28)

Czechoslovakia
1952 Dragon Killer, Trutnov
(Scott 563)
Greenland
1995 Figurehead
From Danish brig Hvalfisken
(The Whalefish)
(Scott 299)

Japan
1971 Painting
Based on Work by Hashimoto-Gaho (1835-1908)
(Scott 1098)

Norway
1972 Dragon’s Head
on Viking Ship
(Scott 588)

Argentina
1996 Mural in Subway
(Scott B170)

Laos
1971 Staircase Sculpture
Miss Rotary Stands
by former Buddhist Temple
(Scott 215)

Korea
1965 Blue Fresco,
Koguryo Dynasty
(Scott 374A)
STAMPS FEATURING ENTERTAINING DRAGONS

Great Britain 1998 JRR Tolkien
Smaug, from The Hobbit
(Scott 1820)

Ukraine 2017 Mykyta Kozhumyaka
Dragon from block of 4
Featuring Animated Film
(Scott TBA)

Great Britain 2018 Game of Thrones
(Scott TBA)

Jersey 2015 Beowulf
From Dragons, Set of 6
(Scott 1816)
STAMPS FEATURING DANCING, FLYING, FLOATING DRAGONS

Hong Kong
1998 Dragon Kite
(Scott 833a)

Taiwan
1966 Dragon Boat
(Scott 1483)

Singapore
1968 Puppet Dance
(Scott 92)

People’s Republic of China
1959 Dancing at Gate of Heavenly Peace
(Scott 453)
STAMPS FEATURING DRAGONS IN CULTURE

Iceland
1989 Guardian Spirits
Legend of Helmskringla
(Scott 677)

People’s Republic of China
1958 Aiming Higher
(Scott 75)

Canada
Lunar New Year 2000
Traditional Art of Embroidery
Created via Computer Graphics
(Scott 1836, 46 cents; and 1837, 95 cents)

Japan
1964 Happy New Year
Toy Dragons of Tottori
and Yamanashi
(Scott 805)

Albania
1997 The Azure Eye
One of two issued
(Scott 2532)

Vietnam
1952 Day of Wandering Souls
One of four issued
(Scott C6)
STAMPS FEATURES SCARY DRAGONS

Australia
Part of 2011 Folklore and Mythology Set of 6
(Scott 3580)

Serbia
From 2012 Lunar New Year Set of 2
(Scott 580)

Austria
1997 Dragon of Klagenfurt
(Scott 1731)

Belgium
2012 Mythical Creatures
1 of Booklet of 10
(Scott 2544)

New Zealand
2000 North Island Sea Guardian
(Scott 1629)

Great Britain
2009 Part of Mythical Creatures Set of 6
(Scott 2673)
A SPACE FOR YOUR STAMPS
FEATURING DRAGONS