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Country/Type: Asia and Oceania

2003 China Folder, with MNH stamps

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Foto nr.: 2



2003年是中国的癸未年，两枚生肖邮票的图意是“癸未吉祥”（羊祥相通）和“三羊开泰”（羊阳谐音，而三阳指正月），寓意给大家送来羊年新春的祝福。前者主题选用了陕西凤翔民间工艺品——彩泥捏羊。泥塑是中国民间传统的雕塑工艺品，它以粘土作材料，和成泥后掺入少许棉花纤维或纸浆，捏制成各种造型，阴干后，先上粉底，再施彩绘，可作陈设，也可作玩具。陕西凤翔泥塑造型夸张简练，朴实厚重，带有乡土气息，历史悠久，闻名遐迩。“癸未大吉”邮票主图上的一只凤翔泥塑彩羊，白底黄角，黑线勾勒，红绿相间，身背粉色海棠花，打破了“白羊”的思维定式，同时也呈现出雕刻版邮票的魅力，突出了节日的喜庆气氛；面值文字的设计也有所创新，作了形象符号的处理，与生肖邮票所承载的文化内涵和审美情趣相衬映。“三阳开泰”一枚，以彩色剪纸上两只羊托出大大一个“羊”字，构思奇巧，颇见新意。

The year 2003 is the Year of Guiwei according to the lunar calendar. The pictures on the two stamps, "Great Auspiciousness in the Year of Guiwei" (since the Chinese character for "sheep" is interchangeable that for "auspiciousness") and "The New Year Ushering in Good Fortune" (as the Chinese for "sheep" pronounces the same as that for "sun", meaning the beginning of the new year), express best wishes for the spring of the Year of Ram. On the first picture is a color painted clay sculpture of a sheep, a traditional folk handicraft of Fengxiang, Shaanxi Province. Clay sculpture is a traditional Chinese handicraft, which is done by mixing clay with water and a little cotton fiber or pulp, molding it into various figures, and then, after they are dried in the shade, applying foundation and color paint to their surface. The clay sculptures can be ornaments or toys. The clay sculptures of Fengxiang, Shaanxi can be dated far back in the history and are well known for their exaggerated, simple and unadorned shapes, plain style and native flavor. The painted clay sheep of Fengxiang on the stamp entitled "Great Auspiciousness in the Year of Guiwei" has yellow horns, its white body outlined in black and decorated with red and green colors, and with a pink crabapple flower on the back. This design breaks the concept of "white sheep", and at the same time brings out the charm of wood block printed stamps, highlighting the happy atmosphere of the festival. The design of the mark of value is an innovation, making it well match the cultural content and aesthetics the stamp conveys. The stamp "The New Year Ushering in Good Fortune" is an ingenious design, with a large Chinese character for "sheep" set off with a paper-cut of two sheep.



Foto nr.: 3



这套邮票是年画系列邮票的第一套。杨柳青年画始于明代后期，清代达到极盛。主要流行于中国北方的民间，为中国四大木版年画之一。杨柳青年画题材广泛，色彩艳丽，以其夸张的表现，热闹喜庆的画面，浓郁的地方生活气息而独树一帜。邮票上的四幅杨柳青木版年画，原稿选自著名的天津杨柳青画社，是从留存的精品中挑选出极具代表性的作品，在方寸中再现了原作的艺术魅力。将张贴年画的传统习俗引入邮票的鉴赏。由于杨柳青木版年画是在木版印刷的基础上又进行了手工设色，为最大限度地贴近原作，营造出一种统一、协调、典雅的艺术氛围，这套邮票在制版和印制等技术环节都有新的突破。

This set is the first of the stamp series on New Year pictures. The Yangliuqing New Year picture first appeared in the late Ming Dynasty and flourished in the Qing Dynasty. It is one of the four major styles of woodcut New Year picture in China and popular mainly in northern China. The Yangliuqing New Year picture distinguishes itself with wide-ranging subject matters, bright colors, exaggerated figures, joyous tone and rich flavor of local life. The pictures on the four stamps were selected from a collection of highly representative works at the well-known Tianjin Yangliuqing Picture Press. The stamps, small as they are, display the aesthetic charm of the original pictures, and introduce the custom of putting up New Year pictures into stamp appreciation. As the Yangliuqing woodcut New Year pictures are colored by hand on the base of woodcut printing, this set of stamps was produced with new breakthroughs in plate-making and printing technology to be as truthful as possible to the original pictures and to present a united, coordinated and graceful artistic flavor.



Foto nr.: 4





Foto nr.: 5





Foto nr.: 6



The lily is regarded auspicious in China, its Chinese name meaning "all wishes realized" and "a hundred years of marital happiness". The lily is a perennial herb, and the liliaceae family includes 115 species around the world, ranging in the temperate zone in the Northern Hemisphere. There are 55 species of lily in China, among which 35 are unique to China, ranging throughout the country. The trumpet-shaped lily flower consists of six petals, and its color can be white, red and golden. The four stamps show *Lilium taliense*, *Lilium lankongense*, *Lilium distichum*, and *Lilium lophophorum*, respectively. The main picture on the souvenir sheet shows *Lilium leucanthum*. The "Lily" is the sixth set of stamps on wild flowers issued in China. The pictures of lilies are simplified but maintain the natural shapes of the flowers. Each picture shows the top of a flower with a few leaves. Contrast between light and shade is emphasized to highlight the vitality of the flower. The center of the flower is in a bright and warm color as if a beam of light was passing through, setting off the tender and thin petals. The small stamps vividly display the fresh lilies in full bloom.



Foto nr.: 7

中国的桥梁有着悠久的历史，许多古桥构思精妙，将建筑和艺术融为一体。从汉代开始，就形成了梁桥、浮桥、梁桥、拱桥四大基本类型。拱桥是以拱券为桥身主要承重结构的桥梁。《中国古桥——拱桥》邮票是“中国古桥”系列邮票的第一套。枫桥位于江苏省苏州市阊门外的枫桥镇，横跨古运河的枫桥湾。枫桥始建于唐代前期，是一座单孔半圆石拱桥，犹如一弯新月，因唐诗《枫桥夜泊》而闻名天下。小商桥位于河南临颍县，建于隋文帝时期，是一座有三个桥洞的歇檐式红石拱桥，中间桥洞大，两侧小，桥基和主拱与小拱交界处有龙、虎、狮、天马、莲花等浮雕和圆雕的装饰。卢沟桥位于北京永定河上，建于金代，是我国北方最大、保存较好、建筑技术精湛的一座古桥，是国家一级重点文物保护单位。因永定河古称卢沟河而得名。它是一座十一孔联拱石桥，全长266.5米，宽9.3米，两侧的栏柱上共雕有狮子486尊，是我国石刻艺术的珍品。震惊中外的“卢沟桥事变”使这座古桥成为中国人民抗日战争的历史见证。双龙桥，俗称“十七孔桥”，位于云南省建水县，建于清代乾隆年间，横跨在泸江与坝冲河交汇的水面上。桥为南北走向，用巨石砌筑，桥面中间一座高阁将桥身分为两段，桥的两端还各建小亭一座，桥两端原来各有石像一对，现已不存。经电脑技术处理后，方寸中的古桥既保留了古色古香的韵味，又具有现代感。





Foto nr.: 8



China has a long history of bridge construction. Many ancient bridges are ingenious combinations of architecture and art. The four basic types of bridges, chain bridge, floating bridge, beam bridge and arch bridge, formed in the Han Dynasty over 2,000 years ago. The arch bridge is a bridge with arches as the main bearing structure. "Ancient Bridges of China, Arch Bridges" is the first set of the "Ancient Bridges of China" series. The Maple Bridge is located in the Maple Bridge Town outside the Changmen Gate in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, spanning over the Maple Bridge Bay along the ancient canal. Built in the early years of the Tang Dynasty, the Maple Bridge has a single, half-circle arch resembling a crescent moon. It became famous because of the Tang-dynasty poem "To Moor at Night at the Maple Bridge". The Xiaoshang Bridge in the Linying County, Henan Province was built during the time of Emperor Wendi of the Sui Dynasty. It is an open spandrel red stone bridge with three arches. The middle arch is larger than the two on both sides. The areas between the abutments, main arch and smaller arches are decorated with images of dragons, tigers, lions, flying horses and lotus flowers in relief and round carving. The Marco Polo Bridge over the Yongding River in Beijing, built in the Jin Dynasty, is the largest ancient bridge in northern China. This well-preserved ancient bridge built with superb architectural technology is a unit under First-Grade Key State Protection. The 11-arch stone bridge is 266.5m long and 9.3m wide, with 485 carved lions along the railings on both sides, which are treasures of Chinese stone carving art. The "Marco Polo Bridge Incident" in 1937 made the ancient bridge a witness to the Chinese people's anti-Japanese war. The Double Dragon Bridge in Jianshui County, Yunnan Province, also known as "the 17-Arch Bridge", was built in the time of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty. Spanning from north to south over the water where the Lujiang and Tachong rivers converge, the bridge built with large stones is divided into two parts with a high pavilion. At each end of the bridge is a small pavilion. There used to be a pair of stone statues at each end. The pictures of ancient bridges on the stamps, having been processed with computer technology, keep the ancient flavor and show a modern touch.



Foto nr.: 9



中国和伊朗是两个文明古国，有着悠久的友好交...  
 古都西安与伊朗的历史名城伊斯法罕在1989年5月6日...  
 市。此次中伊联合发行邮票上的钟楼位于陕西省西安...  
 建于1384年，当时位置在现在位置以西1000米左右，...  
 代万历十年）被整体拆迁至现今的位置，成为西安城...  
 筑。钟楼为砖木楼阁式建筑，系明代建筑风格，楼高...  
 斗拱，攒尖高耸，檐角微翘，华丽庄严，它由基座、...  
 三部分组成。楼身为正方形木制结构，边长22米，高...  
 五开间，室外环绕回廊；室内为二层楼，有木梯盘旋...  
 现为全国重点文物保护单位。邮票上的清真寺是从伊...  
 多座清真寺中选出的卢图福拉教长清真寺。寺的入口...  
 于1603年，其余部分于1621年完成。与其他清真寺不...  
 是，该寺没有庭院和尖塔，只有一个拱形的带天花...  
 堂；寺的内外都用最精美的马赛克瓷砖装饰，并配...  
 景。寺内还保存了全世界为数不多的最为出色的书...

Iran and China, the two ancient civilizations, have e...  
 friendly exchanges. On 6 May 1989, China's ancient c...  
 and the famous ancient city of Isfahan in Iran became s...  
 set of stamps was jointly issued by China and Iran. The...  
 in 1384, is located in the center of Xi'an, Shaanxi Provin...  
 here in 1582 from its original site about 1,000m to the we...  
 landmark of Xi'an, 36m in height, is a Ming-style struc...  
 wood, with triple eaves, bracket sets, a high-rising pyr...  
 slightly upturned eave corners, giving an impression o...  
 solemnness. The Bell Tower consists of a base, a r...  
 summit. The main body is a square wood structure of...  
 height, with each side 22m in length. It is surrounded...  
 the outside and has two floors connected with a winding...  
 The Bell Tower is a unit under Key State Protection. Th...  
 Mosque was chosen for this set of stamps from the o...  
 in Isfahan. The porch at the entrance to the mosque...  
 and the rest of the building was completed in 1621...  
 mosque distinct is that it has no courtyard or minaret...  
 under a decorated dome. The interior and exterior c...  
 decorated with beautiful mosaic against a creamy...  
 mosque also stores some rare, superb calligraphic w...



Foto nr.: 10



乐山大佛由唐代开元年间名僧海通和尚创建，距今已有一千二百多年。大佛坐落在四川乐山市峨眉山东麓的栖霞湾，依山凿成，面对岷江、大渡河和青衣江的汇流处。佛像属唐代塑像艺术风格：面型圆润丰腴，发髻高耸，细眼薄唇，衣褶流畅，庄严肃穆，雍容镇定。整座佛像与自然山体有机结合，构成“山是一座佛，佛是一座山”的宏伟气势。大佛比例匀称，通高71米，坐身高59.96米，肩宽28米，是中国古代最大的石刻造像工程，也是世界上最高的石刻弥勒大佛。乐山大佛被联合国教科文组织作为文化和自然遗产列入《世界遗产名录》。

The Leshan Giant Buddha was built by an eminent monk named Haitong during the period of Kaiyuan of the Tang Dynasty, more than 1200 years ago. Located by the Qiluan Bend at the eastern foot of the Emei Mountains of the city of Leshan, Sichuan Province, the Buddha was carved in the steep of the mountain, facing the convergence of the Minjiang, Daduhe and Qingyijiang rivers. It is a work of Tang-dynasty style sculpture, with a plump and full face, a vertical hair knot on the top of the head, narrow eyes, thin lips and a robe with fluid pleats. The stately, solemn statue with a peaceful expression has become an integral part of the mountain. Hence it is said, "the Buddha is the Mountain, and the Mountain is the Buddha". The statue, of fair proportions, is 71 meters in total height, its sitting body 59.96 meters high, and its shoulders 28 meters wide. It is the greatest stone-carving statue of the ancient China, and remains the tallest stone-carving statue of Maitreya around the world. The UNESCO has included the Leshan Giant Buddha in the List of World Heritage as a cultural and natural heritage.





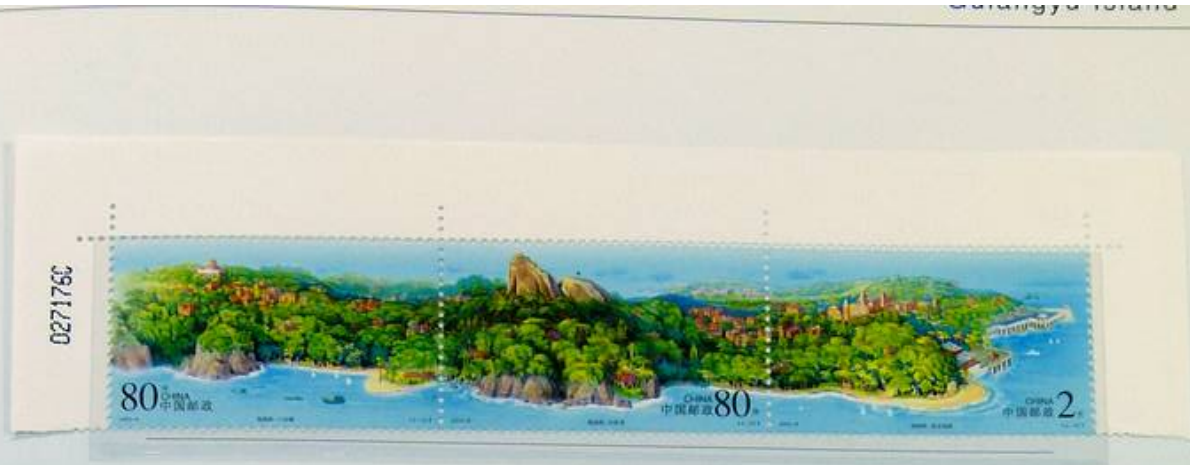
Foto nr.: 11

鼓浪屿位于厦门的西南，面积1.78平方公里。在岛的西南隅，有两块相叠的岩石，长年累月受海水侵蚀，中间形成一个竖洞，每逢涨潮时，海浪撞击着岩石，发出如鼓的巨声，人们称这两块石为“鼓浪石”，故称此岛为“鼓浪屿”。岛长约1800米，宽约1000米，呈椭圆形，海岸线曲折蜿蜒，天然海滨浴场环布四周。岛上四季如春，气候宜人，树木繁茂，鸟语花香，空气清新。鼓浪屿以其特有的山海相拥的绮丽风光被称为“东海明珠”、“海上花园”，还有“音乐之乡”、“钢琴之岛”的美誉，是国家级的旅游景区。鼓浪屿上自然造化和人工雕琢相映成趣，邮票上的日光岩、八卦楼、菽庄花园都是鼓浪屿的胜景，分别从自然景观和人文景观的不同角度再现了鼓浪屿的风貌。邮票采用写意的设计手法和西洋水彩画的形式，以绿色为主导色，描绘出一座令人神往的花园小岛。





Foto nr.: 12



The Gulangyu Island located to the southwest of Xiamen covers an area of 1.78 square kilometers. There are two overlapping rocks in the southwest point of the island with a vertical hole in the middle from long-term erosion by seawater. When the tide rises, the waves dashing against the rocks will produce sounds of drumming. The two rocks are therefore called "Gulang (beating waves) Rocks", and the island "Gulangyu". The oval-shaped island is about 1800 meters long and 1000 meters wide, with a meandering coastline and many natural beaches. The island has a mild and pleasant climate, and a refreshing environment with the lush trees and fresh air. Owing to its unique landscape of mountain and sea, the Gulangyu Island is also called "Pearl of the East China Sea", "Garden on the Sea". It is also reputed as "the Land of Music" and "the Island of Piano". It is a national tourist attraction, with the artificial decoration going well with natural scenes. The pictures on the stamps show three well-known spots of interest, the Sunshine Rock, the Eight Trigram Building and the Shuzhuang Park, which represent the natural and cultural features of the Gulangyu Island. In a prevailing color of green, and of a freehand style, the watercolor pictures present a charming and appealing garden island.

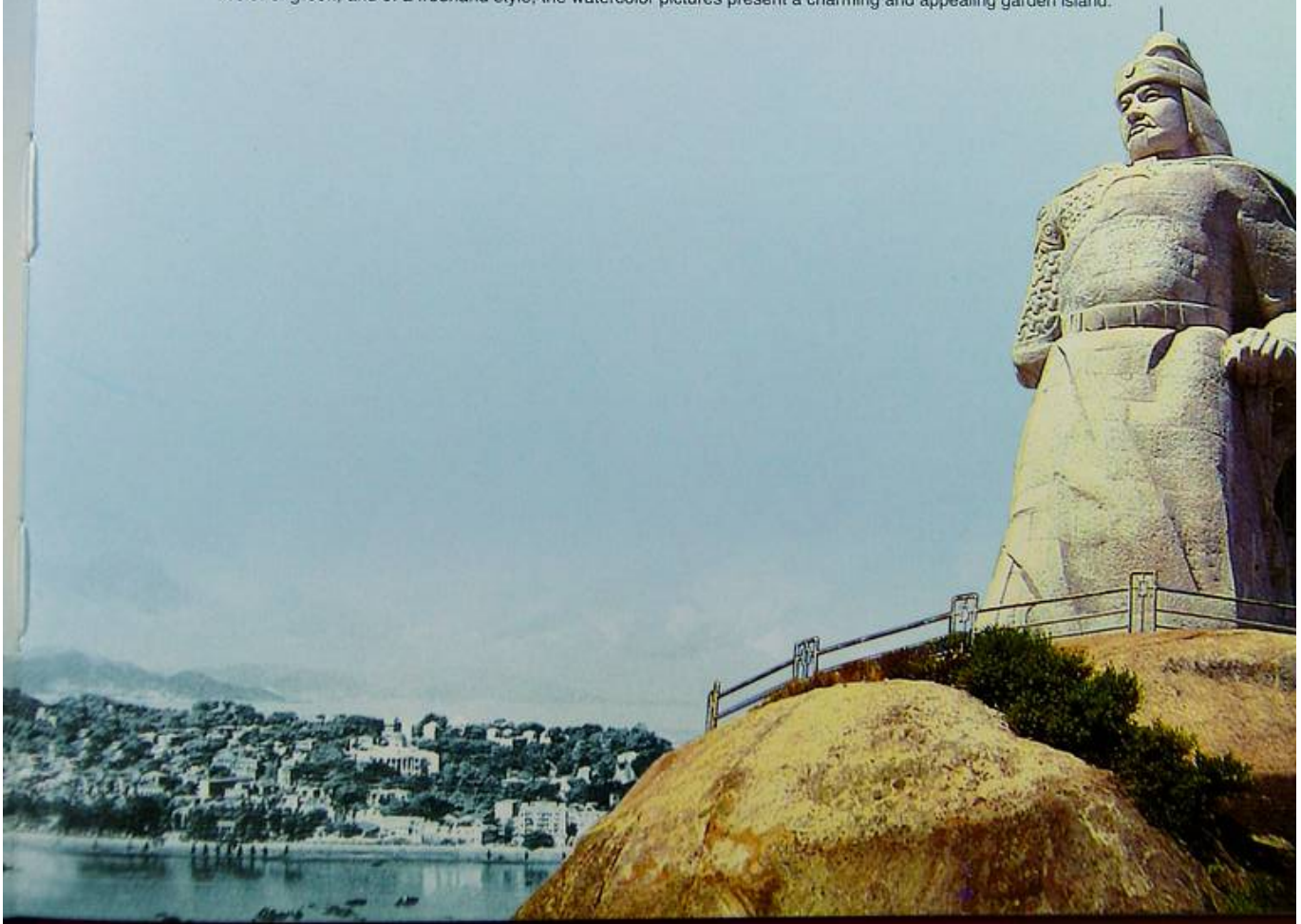




Foto nr.: 13





Foto nr.: 14



The six-piece set of stamps "Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio, One of China's Famous Classical Literary Works (Third Group)" issued by the State Post Bureau is the last set of its series. A miniature sheet was issued along with it. The stories shown on the stamps are "Xiang Yu", "Tiger of Zhaocheng Town", "Huanniang", "Ah Xiu", "Wang Gui'an", "Goddess" and "Princess of the Dongting Lake". "Xiangyu" tells a story of a young scholar named Wang who falls in love with Xiang Yu, a white peony fairy. When the peony is removed and died miserably, Wang cries for it day after day, moving the Goddess of Flowers, who brings Xiangyu back to life. When he dies, Wang turns into a peony and keeps the white peony company. "Tiger in Zhaocheng County" is a story of a lady over 70 years old and a tiger that eats her son. "Huanniang" is about a woman-ghost named Huanniang who is fond of playing the zither. Once she hears by chance Wen Ruchun playing the zither so beautifully and admires his skills. She acts as a go-between for Wen and Lianggong, the girl he loves, and Wen in return teaches her zither skills. In "Ah Xiu", a young man named Liu Zigu falls in love with Ah Xiu and finally marries her with the help of a fox-fairy. In the story "Wang Gui'an", a man by the name of Wang Gui'an from an eminent family falls in love with a girl in a boat at first sight, and becomes lovesick. He meets the girl in his dream, and eventually marries her. "Goddess" is a story of a young scholar named Mi who loses all his properties in a lawsuit and receives help from a goddess. Having come out of the difficult position, he achieves success in the society and marries the goddess. In "Princess of the Dongting Lake", Chen Bijiao inscribes a poem on a red scarf he finds by chance. The princess, the owner of the scarf, reads the poem and falls in love with him. The princess's mother, recognizing that Chen is the one who once saved her life, has the two married.





Foto nr.: 15



Foto nr.: 16



Foto nr.: 17



藏羚（俗称“藏羚羊”）是国家I级保护动物，主要分布在我国西藏、新疆和青海三省区。印度和尼泊尔也有零星的分布。藏羚是生活在海拔4100—5200米的高山荒漠草原的珍稀濒危野生动物，是青藏高原动物区系中的典型代表种类，具有很高的科学价值和生态价值。藏羚体长约1.2米，肩高约0.8米，体重50到60公斤，被毛丰厚绒密。藏羚体形优美，四肢匀称，动作敏捷，奔跑时速可达60公里，优良的器官功能使藏羚成为耐高寒、抗缺氧的“生命禁区的精灵”。20世纪80年代后，国际市场对藏羚绒需求的激增，藏羚被疯狂盗猎，面临灭顶之灾，数量骤减。两枚邮票采用绘画艺术与雕刻技法的自然结合，来表现藏羚羊绒的质感，营造真实朴素的生态环境，突出藏羚羊的可爱、母羚的温情以及公羚的矫健，使人们关注这高原的精灵，从而积极参与保护藏羚的行动。

The Tibetan antelope, also called "chiru", mainly ranges in Tibet, Xinjiang and Qinghai in China and is under the first grade State protection. Small groups of Tibetan antelopes are found in India and Nepal. As a representative but endangered species on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the Tibetan antelope inhabits in mountains, deserts and grasslands about 4100 to 5200 meters above sea level, and has high scientific and ecological value. Normally 1.2 meters long, 0.8 meter high from the feet to shoulders, and 50-60 kg in weight, the Tibetan antelope has rich, fine wool, a graceful figure, and well-proportioned limbs. It is agile in movement and can run as fast as 60 km per hour. With superior functions of its organs, which enable it to resist severe cold and shortage of oxygen, it is reputed as the "creature in life forbidden areas". As a result of sharp increase of demand for Shahtoosh in the international market since the 1980s, Tibetan antelopes have been poached in great numbers, and are on the verge of extinction. The two stamps perfectly combine the art of painting and the technique of engraving to present the life-like texture of the wool, the real ecological environment, the lovely baby antelope, the tender female antelope and the vigorous male antelope. It is hoped that the stamps will direct public attention to this precious animal on the plateau and call on the people to participate in protection of Tibetan antelopes.

Foto nr.: 18

崆峒山位于甘肃省平凉市西约15公里处，泾河与胭脂河南北环绕，在山前交汇东去。它是古代“丝绸之路”上的一座名山，1994年被列为国家重点风景名胜区。崆峒山自古就有“崆峒山水甲于关塞”、“有北方山势之雄，又兼南方山色之秀”的美誉，也是我国道教的发祥地之一。崆峒山由数十座山峰组成，其胜景以山峰为主体，峰林耸峙，危崖突兀，幽壑纵横。4枚邮票中展示了极具道教建筑特色的皇城建筑、幽雅别致的塔院风光、引人入胜的弹琴峡和被誉“崆峒一绝”的神秘莫测的雷声峰，邮票以四季景色的变化贯穿景观，画面单纯简约，表现了西北名山清新、旷远的独特魅力。

The Kongtong Mountain, located about 15 km to the west of Pingliang, Gansu Province, is surrounded in the north and south by the Jinghe and Yanzhi rivers, which converge at its feet and flow to the east. As one of the best-known mountains along the "Silk Road" during ancient times, it was listed as a national key scenic zone in 1994. The Kongtong Mountain has been known for its "scenery topping west China" and "with both the imposing features of northern mountains and the grace of southern ones". It is one of the origin places of Taoism in China. The Kongtong Mountain provides attractive scenery with its dozens of towering peaks, dizzying cliffs and numerous gullies. The four stamps display the typical Taoist buildings in the Town of Huangcheng, the quiet, elegant Pagoda Courtyard, the attractive Gorge of Playing the Zither and the mysterious Peak of Thunder that is "a matchless spot in the Kongtong Mountain". The landscapes are shown through the change of four seasons. Simple and concise, the stamps reflect the refreshing and solitary charms unique to this well-known mountain in northwest China.





Foto nr.: 19





Foto nr.: 20

飞上  
航空百  
飞机组  
音速飞  
篇也由  
机、新  
气教练  
是中  
老飞机  
的纪念

晋祠位于山西太原市西南25公里处的悬瓮山下，是奉祀西周初晋国开国侯唐叔虞的祠堂。距今已有1500余年的历史，1961年被列为全国重点文物保护单位。晋祠虽处黄土高原，但水草茂盛，泉流环绕，殿、堂、楼、阁、桥、榭、塔点缀在苍松翠柏、潺潺溪流之间，颇有江南园林的风格。晋祠的特点在于自然景色与文物古建相辉映，圣母殿内的宋代彩塑具有很高的艺术价值，是我国雕塑艺术的精品。彩塑主像为圣母邑姜，42尊侍从分列两侧，体现了宋代的世俗生活习惯，其大小如真人一般，比例准确，姿态自然，服装鲜艳，栩栩如生。4枚邮票是从彩塑中精选了4尊侍女塑像，分别为如意侍女、持巾侍女、奉玺侍女和歌舞侍女，从神情动态、服装款式和寓意的不同代表了晋祠宋代彩塑的风采神韵。

The Jinci Temple, located at the foot of Xuanweng Mountain 25 km to the southwest of Tai Shanxi Province, is a memorial hall built more than 1,500 years ago to Tang Shuyu, the fourth Marquis of the State of Jin in the early Western Zhou Dynasty. It has been under key national protection since 1961 as a cultural site. Though located on the Loess Plateau, the Jinci Temple is surrounded by abundant vegetation, fountains and streams. With its halls, pavilions, bridges and towers by cypresses and flowing waters, the temple shows features of gardens of south China. One characteristic of the Jinci Temple is that the natural scenery and ancient buildings set off each other very well. The Song-dynasty painted statues in the Hall of Goddess are works of top order artistic value. Forty-two full-size statues of maids standing on the two sides of the statue of Goddess Yijiang are lifelike, in accurate proportion, unaffected poses, and bright-colored dresses, reflecting the social customs of the Song Dynasty. Four maid statues were selected for the stamps. The Ruyi Maid, Maid Holding a scarf, Maid Holding the Royal Seal, and the Singing and Dancing. Their different expressions, poses and dress styles are representative of the style of the Song-dynasty painted statues in the Jinci Temple.

Foto nr.: 21



我国的少数民族传统体育有着悠久的历史。人们在运动中强身健体，净化心灵。其绚丽多姿的运动形式经久不衰。传统体育已成为少数民族不可缺少的一项生活内容，同时也成为我国体育事业的一个重要组成部分。少数民族传统体育最主要的特征是各类运动项目均直接产生于生产劳动之中，很多运动项目都是现实生活的真实反映。4枚邮票表现的分别是蒙古族的“摔跤”、藏族的“响箭”、维吾尔族的“赛马”和朝鲜族的“秋千”。这些项目都是经过了历史演变而形成的独立运动项目，他们的共同特点是以运动显示力量、充满智慧并喻示着吉祥。我国政府对这种极具民族特色的社会文化现象十分关怀，并高度重视民族传统体育的发掘和发展。这套邮票为纪念国家民委、国家体育总局主办，宁夏回族自治区承办的中华人民共和国第七届少数民族传统体育运动会而发行。

China's minority ethnic groups have a long sport history. Sports strengthen people's health, purify their minds and have lasted and thrived in their various forms. Traditional ethnic sports have become an important part of China's sports, as well as an indispensable part of life of the minority ethnic groups. The main feature of traditional sports of the minorities is that they came directly from productive labor, and many are true reflections of the real life. The four stamps show respectively "Wrestling" of the Mongolians, "Whistling Arrow" of the Tibetans, "Horse Racing" of the Uygurs, and "Swinging" of the Koreans, which have become independent sport events through long-term evolution. Their common feature is that they all show physical strength through sports, and are filled with wisdom and good wishes. The Chinese government gives much attention to these social and cultural phenomena with distinctive ethnic features, and attaches great importance to the development of traditional sports of minority ethnic groups. This set of stamps was issued on the occasion of the China's Seventh National Games of Minority Nationalities' Traditional Sports cosponsored by the State Ethnic Affairs Commission and the State Physical Culture Administration, and hosted by Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.



Foto nr.: 22





Foto nr.: 23



在中国古代名将岳飞诞生900周年之际，国家邮政局发行一套3枚邮票。岳飞，字鹏举，相州汤阴永和乡（今属河南汤阴县莱元镇）人，19岁时参军。传说岳飞临走时，其母在他背上刺了“尽忠报国”四个大字，这成为岳飞终生遵奉的信条。他的一生，大部分时间驰骋在抗金战场上，屡建战功。他严于治军，组建和指挥的“岳家军”纪律严明，勇敢善战，令金军哀叹“撼山易，撼岳家军难”。绍兴十年（1140年）正当岳飞挥师度过黄河收复失地、直捣黄龙府之际，宋高宗和宰相秦桧向金乞和，连发十二道金牌班师诏，迫令岳飞退兵。绍兴十一年（1141年）秦桧以“莫须有”的罪名将岳飞毒死于临安风波亭，殉难时岳飞年仅39岁。邮票采用仿古画法展现了一代名将岳飞的风采。

The State Post Bureau issued a three-piece set of stamps on the occasion of the 900th birth anniversary of Yue Fei, a famous general in ancient China. Yue Fei, alias Pengju, was a native of Yonghe Township in Tangyin, Xiangzhou (the present-day Laiyuan Town in Tangyin County, Henan Province). He joined the army at 19, and it is said that his mother tattooed on his back "Loyalty to the Country" before he left, which was his maxim throughout his life. Yue Fei devoted most of his life to the fight against the invading Jin Empire, and won great distinction in war. He was stern and principled in administering troops. The "Yue's Troop" was renown for being highly disciplined, valiant and skillful in battles, and the troops of Jin Empire bewailed that "it's easier to shake mountains than to shake Yue's Troop". When Yue Fei commanded the army to recover the lost territories beyond the Yellow River and drove straight on to the Jin Empire's Capital in the 10th year of Shaoxing (1140 A.D.), Emperor Gaozong and Prime Minister Qin Hui sued for peace with the Jin Empire and forced Yue Fei to withdraw with 12 imperial edicts. In the 11th year of Shaoxing (1141 A.D.), Yue Fei was executed with poison by Qin Hui on trumped-up charges at the Fengbo Pavilion in Lin'an at the age of 39. The ancient-style pictures on the stamps show the uprightness and integrity of Yue Fei.

Foto nr.: 24

这是继春节、端午节、中秋节之后的“传统节日”系列邮票的第四组。农历九月初九是中国的传统的重阳节。中国古代认为九乃阳数之极，九月初九，两九相重为重九，两阳相重为重阳，所以九月初九既称“重九”，又叫“重阳”。相传在东汉年间，有一名叫费长房的道士，他预言其徒弟汝南人恒景家中在九月九日这天要遭大难，但如果戴茱萸，饮菊花酒，并出户往高山上去，就可避难。恒景照他的话做，一家人到山上避了一天，回来看到家中的鸡、牛、犬、羊都暴死了，唯有家人幸存。从此人们就有了九月初九登高的习俗，并把这天定为“重阳节”，流传至今。3枚邮票就分别表现了“登高”、“赏菊”、“饮酒对弈”的重阳节习俗。

This is the fourth set of stamps on "Traditional Festivals" following those for the Spring Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, and the Mid-Autumn Festival. China's traditional Double Ninth Festival falls on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month. The ancient Chinese regarded the number nine as the largest odd number, and therefore the ninth day of the ninth lunar month was called "Double Ninth", or "Double Yang". There is a legend about the origin of the festival. It is said that once Fei Changfang, a Taoist in the Eastern Han Dynasty, prophesied that a catastrophe would fall on the family of his disciple Heng Jing, a native of Runan, on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, and the catastrophe would be avoided only by wearing cornel, drinking chrysanthemum brew and climbing mountain. Heng Jing followed his instruction and led his family out and stayed in a mountain on that day. When they came back home, they found all their fowl, cattle, dogs and sheep had died. Ever since then, climbing mountain has been the folk's custom on the Double Ninth Day. The three stamps show the customs of "Climbing Mountain", "Enjoying the Beauty of Chrysanthemums", and "Playing Chess and Drinking Wine", respectively.

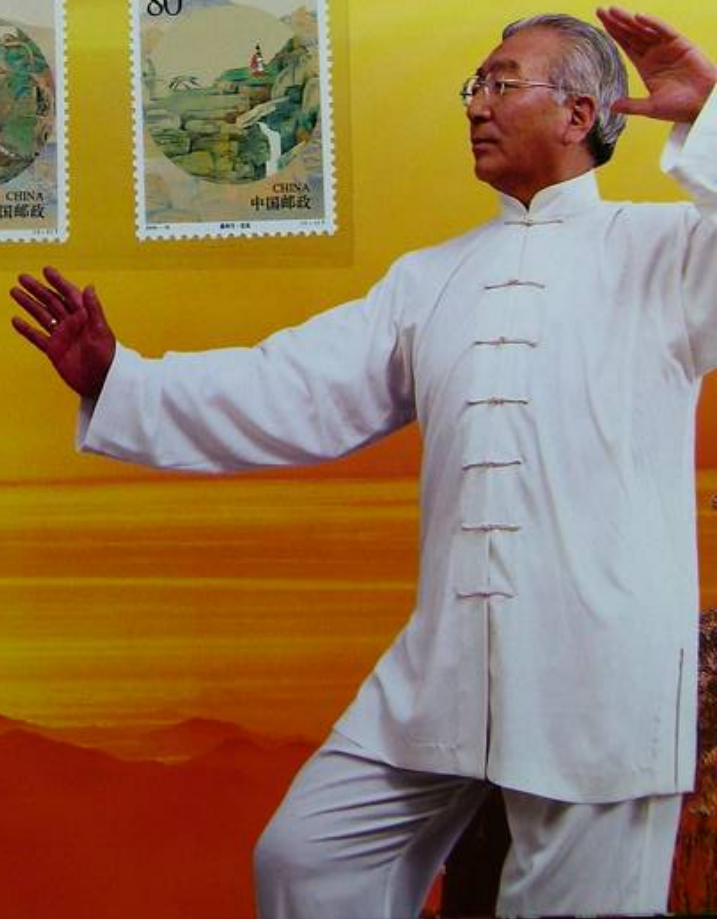




Foto nr.: 25



这套邮票由中国和匈牙利联合发行。第一枚上的书籍是北京大学图书馆所藏的宋刻本《周礼》。此书是用儒家思想写成的有关中国奴隶社会官制的典籍。有汉代郑玄注，唐代陆德明释文，系孤本。此书为南宋福建建阳书坊刻制，图文并茂，印制精美。邮票图案的背景表现了坐落于浙江省宁波市月湖之西的天一阁，它建于公元1561年，是中国现存最古老的藏书楼。第二枚邮票上的书籍是匈牙利塞切尼国家图书馆收藏的《匈牙利编年史》，是匈牙利印制的第一本书，印制出版于1473年。此书是描绘匈牙利安茹王朝统治制度的最重要的历史著作，记录了从潘诺尼匈奴的出现到1333年瓦拉基亚运动期间匈牙利人的历史，书中包括39张图片、4幅风景装饰图案、98幅彩色风景彩图及5个彩色字母。该书是献给大路易国王的，无论从历史还是艺术的角度看，都是匈牙利最有价值的作品。

This set of stamps was jointly issued by China and Hungary. The book on the first stamp is the Song-dynasty block-printed edition of *Ritual of Zhou* preserved at the Peking University Library. It is an ancient record on the civil service system during China's slavery ages, reflecting the Confucian thoughts. This copy annotated by Zheng Xuan of the Han Dynasty and elucidated by Lu Deming of the Tang Dynasty is the only one extant. Both its script and pictures were exquisitely block-printed by Jianyang Printing House in the Southern Song Dynasty. The background of the stamp picture is Tianyi Pavilion on the western bank of the Yuehu Lake in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, which was built in 1561 and remains China's oldest library extant. The book shown on the second stamp is Hungarian Illuminated Chronicle preserved at the National Szechenyi Library of Hungary. Published in 1473, it is the first book Hungary ever printed. It is the most important historical work on the Hungarian royal courts and institutions during the reign of Anjou kings, and records the history from the rise of the Pannonians until the movement of Walachia in 1333. It contains 39 pictures, four decorative landscape patterns, 98 color pictures of figures and landscape and five color letters. It was presented to Louis the Great, and has been the most valuable work of Hungary in terms of both history and art.



Foto nr.: 26



这套邮票是继“许仙与白娘子”“董永与七仙女”之后的“民间传说”系列邮票的第三组。传说女扮男装的祝英台在求学途中结识了梁山伯，两人义结金兰，并在三年的同窗生活中建立了深厚的感情，梁山伯在得知祝英台为女儿身后，前往祝家提亲，无奈祝家已将英台许配当地权贵之子，梁山伯相思成病，离开人世。祝英台在送亲路上也撞墓碑而亡，实现了他们“生前不能同衾，死后也要同穴”的誓言。梁山伯与祝英台矢志不渝的爱情传说故事，距今已有一千六百年的历史，凄婉悲怆，在海内外流传甚广，被誉为“东方的罗密欧与朱丽叶”。5枚邮票讲述了“草桥结拜”、“三载同窗”、“十八相送”、“楼台伤别”和“化蝶双飞”的经典故事情节。

This is the third set of the "Folk Legends" series following "Xu Xian and Lady White" and "Dong Yong and the Seventh Immortal Maiden". As the story goes, Zhu Yingtai, disguised as a boy, came to know Liang Shanbo on her way to pursue studies. They became sworn "brothers", and established profound friendship during the three years of school life as classmates. When he realized that Yingtai was a girl, Shanbo went to her home to propose, only to find that her parents had betrothed Yingtai to the son of a rich, influential family. Liang Shanbo later died of lovesickness, and Zhu Yingtai killed herself by bumping her head against Shanbo's grave stone on her way to the wedding. They fulfilled their swear of "being together alive or dead". The story of the faithful love between Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai has been told for 1600 years, and even spread to other countries known as the "Oriental Romeo and Juliet". The five stamps show the classic scenes of the story: "Becoming Sworn Brothers at Caoqiao", "Classmates for Three Years", "Bidding Farewell", "Sad Parting on the Terrace", and "Turning into Butterflies".





Foto nr.: 27





Foto nr.: 28





Foto nr.: 29

为纪念中国大龙邮票发行 125 周年，促进中国邮政和集邮事业的全面发展，促进中国西部开发建设，促进亚洲、大洋洲各国和地区集邮文化的交流，增进友谊和了解，经中国政府批准，并经亚洲集邮联合会通过，在四川省绵阳市举办“中国 2003 第十六届亚洲国际邮票展览”。这是中国继成功举办“96 亚洲国际邮展和中国‘99 世界邮展”之后又一次举办的大型集邮盛会。此次邮展于 2003 年 11 月 20 日至 24 日在绵阳市博物馆举行，规模空前，展出邮集 240 多部，1260 框，其中竞赛类邮集 1100 框，并增设了现代类、开放类和一框类三个类别。邮票主图是绵阳出土的国家一级文物“东汉铜马”，它是迄今发现的全国最大的汉代青铜马，造型优美，刻画细腻，惟妙惟肖，形神俱佳，是汉代青铜器中的珍品。

With the approval of the Chinese government and under the auspices of the Federation of Inter Asian Philatelic, China 2003: The 16th Asia International Stamp Exhibition was held in Mianyang, Sichuan Province, to mark the 125th anniversary of the issuance of the Large Dragon stamps of China, promote the overall development of China's post and philately, facilitate the development and construction of China's west, and enhance philatelic exchange, friendship and mutual understanding among Asian and Oceanian countries and regions. It was another large-scale philately event after the successful China '96 Asia International Stamp Exhibition. It was held in the Mianyang Museum from November 20 to 24, 2003 in an unprecedented scale, with 240 stamp-albums and 1,200 frames, which included 1,100 competing ones. Three categories were added, which were modern time, opening and single frame. The main picture of the stamp is the "Bronze Horse of the Eastern Han Dynasty", a grade-1 national cultural relic excavated in Mianyang. It is the largest bronze horse of the Han Dynasty ever excavated in China, and a treasure in bronze wares of the Han Dynasty with its graceful shape, fine workmanship and lifelikeness.



Foto nr.: 30



这是中国首次以防治艾滋病为主题发行的邮票。艾滋病，即后天免疫丧失综合征。艾滋病毒被称为“人类免疫缺损病毒”，它能破坏人体免疫系统，使人体丧失抵抗各种疾病的能力，从而引发多种疾病，直至死亡。此病传播迅速，病情凶险，病死率高。世界上首例艾滋病病例于1981年在美国洛杉矶被诊断出，1982年被正式命名为“艾滋病”（AIDS）。由于世界医学界一直未能找到根治的方法，所以这种病又被称为“世纪瘟疫”。1988年，鉴于艾滋病已波及世界众多国家和地区，世界卫生组织宣布将12月1日命名为“世界艾滋病日”，并强调为这一天开展适当的活动具有重要的意义。2002-2003年世界艾滋病运动的主题是“相互关爱，共享生命”，运动的重点是勇敢面对耻辱和歧视，积极寻求治疗，力争战胜艾滋病。至今，世界上已有6000多万人感染上艾滋病，艾滋病在中国也已进入快速增长期，中国政府已采取一系列防治艾滋病的举措，并首次为纪念世界艾滋病日发行邮票。

It is the first stamp China has issued with the theme of prevention of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). The virus causing AIDS, or HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), destroys the immune system of the human body, resulting in its loss of resistance against diseases, and eventually death. AIDS spreads fast, causes serious illness and has a high fatality rate. The first case of AIDS in the world was diagnosed in Los Angeles, U.S., in 1981 and it was officially named AIDS in 1982. Since no cure has been found so far, AIDS is also called "the plague of the century". In 1988, the World Health Organization designated December 1 "the World AIDS Day" as it had spread to many countries and regions, and stressed that pertinent activities on that day were of great significance. The theme of the World AIDS Campaign 2002-2003 was "live and let live". It emphasized the importance of standing up to stigma and discrimination, seeking treatment, and striving to defeat AIDS. There are more than 60 million people affected by AIDS in the world. AIDS has entered the stage of rapid growth in China, and the Chinese government has adopted a series of measures for prevention, and issued for the first time a stamp to mark the World AIDS Day.

Foto nr.: 31



毛泽东于1893年12月26日出生在湖南湘潭一个农民家庭。他是一位伟大的马克思主义者，伟大的无产阶级革命家、战略家和理论家，中国共产党、中国人民解放军和中华人民共和国的主要缔造者和领导人。毛泽东同志继承和发展了马列主义，并成功地将其普遍原理与中国革命的具体实践相结合，建立了毛泽东思想理论体系。在新世纪，我们要继承和发扬毛泽东思想，高举邓小平理论伟大旗帜，全面贯彻“三个代表”重要思想，开创创新的时代。为纪念毛泽东同志诞生110周年，国家邮政局特发行一套4枚邮票，邮票主图分别为“毛泽东在西柏坡”、“毛泽东在北戴河”、“毛泽东在庐山”、“毛泽东在广州”，通过这些真实亲切的画面，再现了人民领袖的风范。

Mao Zedong, born in a peasant family in Xiangtan, Hunan Province on 26 December 1893, was a great Marxist, proletarian revolutionist, strategist and theorist; and a major founding-father and leader of the Communist Party of China, the People's Liberation Army and the People's Republic of China. Comrade Mao Zedong carried on and advanced Marxism-Leninism and established Mao Zedong Thought and Theories by combining the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism with China's revolutionary practice. In the new century, we shall carry on and forward Mao Zedong Thought, hold high the banner of Deng Xiaoping Theory and comprehensively carry out the important thoughts of "Three Represents" to create a new age. The State Post Bureau issued a four-piece set of stamps to mark the 110th Birth Anniversary of Comrade Mao Zedong. The pictures on the stamps are "Mao Zedong in Xibaipo", "Mao Zedong in Beidaihe", "Mao Zedong in Lushan Mountain", and "Mao Zedong in Guangzhou", respectively, which are familiar to the Chinese people, and which show the bearing of this leader of the Chinese people.



Foto nr.: 32



《东周青铜器》邮票是继《殷代铜器》、《西周青铜器》后发行的第三套青铜器邮票。青铜，是指铜与锡的合金，因颜色呈青灰色而得名。青铜器在中国原始社会末期已经被制造出来，之后中国经历了长达十六个世纪的青铜时代，青铜器集造型、雕塑、绘画等多种艺术之大成，具有极高的实用价值和艺术审美价值，是中国古代文物中的瑰宝，也是世界美术史上的精华。东周（前770年-254年）时代的青铜器，普遍采用更高水平的制作工艺，风格纤巧、清新，极富地方性和生活色彩，以构思独特、铸造精美著称。8枚邮票均为东周青铜器的代表作品。

It is the third set of stamps issued on bronze wares following the "Bronze Wares of the Yin Dynasty" and "Bronze Wares of the Western Zhou Dynasty". Bronze, an alloy of copper and tin, is greenish lime in color. Since the late Slave Society Period when bronze wares were first manufactured, China experienced the Age of Bronze, which lasted as long as 16 centuries. Bronze works epitomize artistic achievements of modeling, sculpture and painting, and have high practical and artistic value. They are treasures among China's antiques and the quintessence in the world's history of art. Bronze wares of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-254 B.C.) were made with higher producing techniques, in delicate and fresh styles, with rich local colors, and reflecting daily life. They are known for their unique composition and exquisite modeling. The eight stamps show the representative bronze works of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty.




Foto nr.: 33

## 万众一心 抗击“非典”

这是中国邮政自20世纪90年代以来，为我国突发性重大灾害性事件发行的第三套邮票。在全国人民齐心协力抗击“非典型肺炎”的关键时刻，国家邮政局为抗击“非典”斗争特别发行了这枚邮票。邮票以极富视觉冲击力的符号化语言，表达了提示、警示、声援和宣传的主题。邮票图案中由众多红心组成的圆圈，既表示爱心，又表示团结一致；英文“SARS”字样被一个国际惯用的“禁止”符号所包围，表示坚决抵制“非典”病毒侵害和传播的决心。这套邮票从设计、印制到发行只用了十几天的时间，国家邮政局和各省市自治区邮政局还将邮票和邮品赠送给卫生部和当地的卫生部门，作为广大医务工作者参加抗击“非典”战斗的纪念。

This is the third set the State Post Bureau has issued for emergent disastrous incidents in China since the 1990s. During the critical period when all the Chinese people were joining efforts to fight against SARS, the State Post Bureau issued this stamp for the anti-SARS war. With an eye-catching symbol language, the stamp expresses the theme of alert, support and publicity. In the picture, the circle composed of red hearts implies love and unity; the word "SARS" surrounded with the international symbol for "prohibition" represents the resolution to resist the harm and spread of the SARS virus. It took only ten-odd days to design, print and issue the stamp. The State Post Bureau and the post offices of all the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions presented the stamp and relevant philatelic items to the Ministry of Public Health and local public health organizations as souvenirs of the medical workers' contribution to the war against SARS.



## 民族精神的伟大胜利

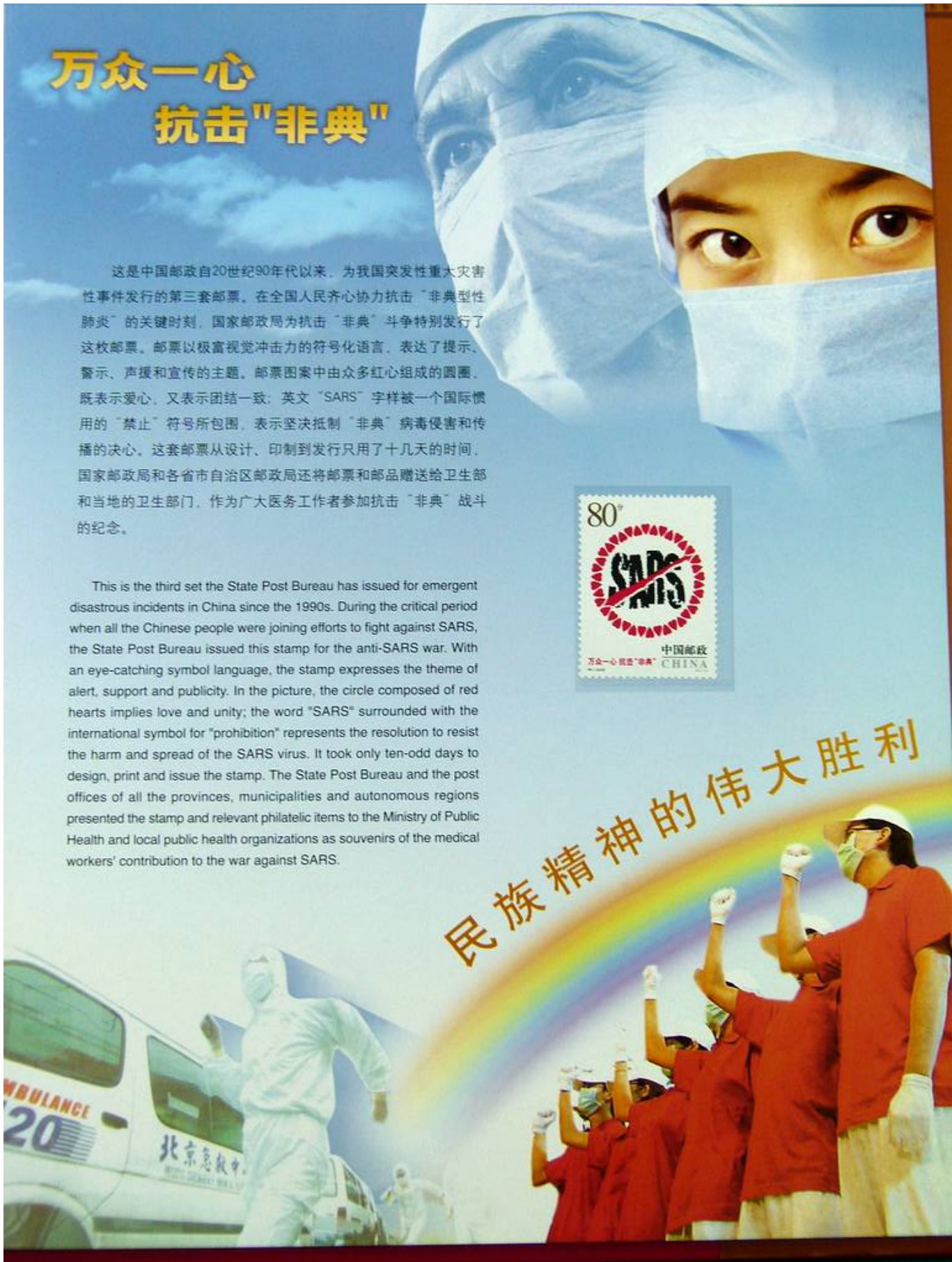


Foto nr.: 34



2003年10月15日，在中国酒泉卫星发射中心，我国自行研制的长征二号F运载火箭将首次载人的神舟飞船准确送入预定轨道。首次飞入太空的中国航天员杨利伟在飞船上按预定程序完成了各项实验任务后，航天员乘坐的返回舱于10月16日在我国内蒙古指定区域安全返回地面，我国载人航天工程首次载人飞行获得圆满成功。中国人几千年的飞天梦想，由神话变成了现实。这标志着我国已进入航天高科技领域先进行列，成为世界上第三个独立掌握载人航天技术的国家。为纪念我国航天事业这一伟大的里程碑，国家邮政局特别发行一套《中国首次载人航天飞行成功》邮票，分别表现了我国宇航员在航天飞行中的工作情况和凯旋的情景。这是以我国航天建设成就为题材发行的第七套邮票，也是通过邮票发行对这次具有里程碑意义的载人飞行的纪实记录。

On October 15, 2003, at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, the Long March 2F launching vehicle, which was independently developed by China, projected China's very first manned spaceship accurately into the planned orbit. China's first astronaut Yang Liwei made a successful return in the recovery capsule to the appointed area in Inner Mongolia on October 16 after completing various experiments according to plan, marking the complete success of the first manned space flight of China's manned space project. The dream of space flight the Chinese had cherished for thousands of years came true. The success represents that China has joined the ranks of countries with advanced space technology and become the third in the world to master manned space flight technology. The State Post Bureau specially issued a set of stamps titled "The Successful Flight of China's First Manned Spaceship" to mark this great milestone in China's space industry. The stamps show the working situation of the astronaut during the space flight and the successful return. It is the 7th set on China's achievements in space, and a truthful record of this manned space flight of milestone significance.

Foto nr.: 35

