

## TAIWAN PROOF SOUVENIR SHEETS

### Ai Li-Shan

In 1997 the philatelic department in Taipei was looking for ways to increase interest in philately and to prepare items to be given out free at stamp shows etc. It was decided to issue a series of high quality "Proof" souvenir sheets for this purpose. All were printed by the intaglio process and are of superb quality. The first one was issued in April of 1998, and shows the National Theater (this set was issued on October 30, 1990). The initial distribution of the sheet was with a letter from Tsai Min-Ting, the Director of the Philatelic Department. The letter had two slits at the corner of the square in the lower left corner that had the souvenir sheet inserted.

Issues have continued at the rate of one per year. It is easy to determine the sequence, the first one was "A", the second "B" and continues to "J" which was the last sheet that will be issued. Please see the illustrations for each sheet.

The second issue "B" was also sent with a similar letter from Mr. Tsai. However, starting with "C" and continuing through "J" a special folder was prepared, one in English and one in Chinese. If at all possible the folder should be collected with the sheets. However, most of the sheets were given away at exhibitions and philatelic events without the folders. I have found it rather difficult already to find the older folders, apparently not many of them were retained. With sheet "D", the illustration of the sheet was printed in the space to mount the sheet. An illustration is provided for the "I" airmail booklet.

The quantity of the proof sheets were 600,000 for A - F sheets issued. Sheet "G" had a quantity of 500,000 and H to J were 300,000 each..

The quantity issued is certainly sufficient to assure they will be around for a long time and sold at a most reasonable price. Most of them without the folder is in the 1-3 US\$ range. I consider the folder to add about the same value to the sheet.

It has been noted that some of the sheets have had the stamps cut out in pairs and being sold as "Specimen" proof pairs. One price given was US\$20. Please beware of such offerings, we can expect more to appear in the years ahead.

Sheet	Issue Date	Color Top Inscription
A	April 1998	Green
B	March 1999	Red
C	March 2000	Blue
D	September 2001	Purple
E	October 2002	Red
F	June 2003	Magenta
G	April 2004	Purple
H	October 2005	Brown

I November 2006 Green  
J September 2007 Red

It should be noted that the "stamps" are all printed in black, with the two horizontal bars obliterating the value. These are fun to collect, but try to get the folders.



Directorate General of Posts  
Republic of China

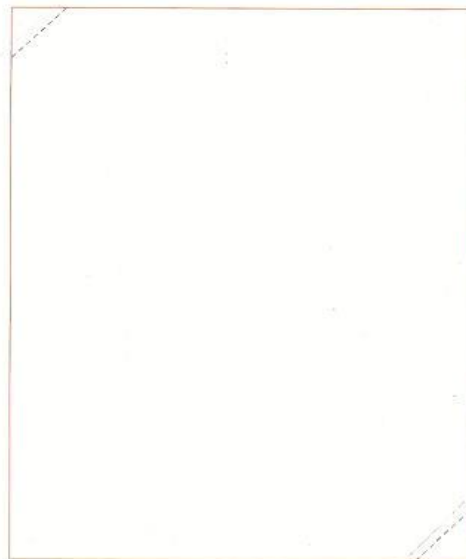
Dear long-term stamp subscriber,

Greetings. First of all, we would like to thank you for your patronage which has helped to make our philatelic business grow steadily.

We have enclosed a token of our appreciation, something that philatelists are sure to treasure: proofs of the "National Theater and National Concert Hall Stamps". We spared no expense in their manufacture, commissioning the China Engraving & Printing Works to print them using intaglio. Since this is a limited issuing, each set of proofs has its own serial number, which attests to its authenticity. We hope you enjoy this gift.

In the near future, we plan to issue a series of unique postal cards, stamped envelopes and aérogrammes for collectors. We have also enclosed a questionnaire, the answers to which will direct us to provide better service. Please send it back as soon as possible, for we are eager to learn your opinions.

With best regards,



Yours sincerely,

Tsai Min-ting  
Director  
Philatelic Department

夔龍團雙鯉郵票拓樣票



B010608

# 中國石獅郵票拓樣票



C086763

# 中國詩人郵票拓樣票



杜甫

100 票郵國民華中  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA



李白

200 票郵國民華中  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA



杜牧

250 票郵國民華中  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA



白居易

300 票郵國民華中  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

D453851

# 雁行圖郵票拓樣票



E010081

# 海關一次雲龍郵票拓樣票 (大龍票)



F329502

金門莒光樓郵票拓樣票



G012981

# 總統府郵票拓樣票



H379870

# 台北版航空郵票拓樣票



I006051

# 雙鯉圖郵票拓樣票



票郵國民華中 圖雙



票郵國民華中 圖雙



票郵國民華中 圖雙



票郵國民華中 圖雙

J164701

雁行圖郵票拓樣票



Presented in October 2001

Dear Subscriber,

We would like to thank you for your years' support. To express our sincere gratitude, this year we have printed the proof version of 'Flying Geese in Lines Stamps' and make a gift of you for your treasured collection.

To guarantee the refined proof version, we commissioned to China Engraving & Printing Works, original stamps printing factory, for the intaglio printing. This proof version has not only been printed in accordance with the designed protocol but also been offered with an exclusive serial number started with 'E' on each of it for identification.

We honestly hope you will appreciate the delicate proof version and be always in support of us. Thank you very much.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Young Huang Bing  
Director  
Philatelic Department



交通部郵政總局