Illustrated Identifier

This section pictures stamps or parts of stamp designs that will help identify postage stamps that do not have English words on them.

Many of the symbols that identify stamps of countries are shown here as well as typical examples of their stamps.

See the Index and Identifier on the previous pages for stamps with inscriptions such as “sen,” “posta,” “Baja Porto,” “Helvetia,” “K.S.A.,” etc.

Linn’s Stamp Identifier is now available. The 144 pages include more 2,000 inscriptions and over 500 large stamp illustrations. Available from Linn’s Stamp News, P.O. Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365-0029.

1. HEADS, PICTURES AND NUMERALS

GREAT BRITAIN

Great Britain stamps never show the country name, but, except for postage dues, show a picture of the reigning monarch.

Victoria

Edward VII  George V  Edward VIII

George VI

Elizabeth II

Some George VI and Elizabeth II stamps are surcharged in annas, new paisa or rupees. These are listed under Oman.

VICTORIA

The silhouette indicates this is a British stamp. It is not a U.S. stamp.

INDIA

Other stamps of India show this portrait of Queen Victoria and the words “Service” and “Annas.”

AUSTRALIA

Kangaroo and Emu

GERMANY

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

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2. ORIENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

CHINA

Any stamp with this one character is from China (Imperial, Republic or People’s Republic). This character appears in a four-character overprint on stamps of Manchukuo. These stamps are local provisionals, which are unlisted. Other overprinted Manchukuo stamps show this character, but have more than four characters in the overprints. These are listed in People’s Republic of China.

Some Chinese stamps show the Sun.

Most stamps of Republic of China show this series of characters.

Stamps with the China character and this character are from People’s Republic of China.

Calligraphic form of People’s Republic of China

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12

Chinese stamps without China character

REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ILLUSTRATED IDENTIFIER

MANCHUKUO

Mao Tse-tung
The first 3 characters are common to many Manchukuo stamps.

Temple

Emperor Pu-Yi

The last 3 characters are common to other Manchukuo stamps.

Orchid Crest

Chrysanthemum Crest

Country Name

Japanese stamps without these elements

RYUKYU ISLANDS

Country Name

The number of characters in the center and the design of dragons on the sides will vary.

JAPAN

CHRYSTANDHEMUM CREST

Country Name

The number of characters in the center and the design of dragons on the sides will vary.

PHILIPPINES

(Japanese Occupation)

Country Name

NORTH BORNEO

(Japanese Occupation)

Country Name

MALAYA

(Japanese Occupation)

Country Name

Indicates Japanese Occupation

BURMA

Union of Myanmar

(Japanese Occupation)

Indicates Japanese Occupation

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Other Burma Japanese Occupation stamps without these elements

Burmese Script

KOREA

These two characters, in any order, are common to stamps from the Republic of Korea (South Korea) or the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea).

This series of four characters can be found on the stamps of both Koreas. Most stamps of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) have just this inscription.

Indicates Republic of Korea (South Korea)

South Korean postage stamps issued after 1952 do not show currency expressed in Latin letters. Stamps with “HW,” “HWAN,” “WON,” “WN,” “W” or “W” with two lines through it, if not illustrated in listings of stamps before this date, are revenues. North Korean postage stamps do not have currency expressed in Latin letters.

THAILAND

Yin Yang appears on some stamps.

Country Name

King Chulalongkorn

King Prajadhipok and Chao P’ya Chakri

3. CENTRAL AND EASTERN ASIAN INSCRIPTIONS

INDIA - FEUDATORY STATES

Alwar

Bhor

Similar stamps come with different designs in corners and differently drawn daggers (at center of circle).

Bundi

Dhar

Faridkot

Hyderabad

Indore

Jhalawar

A similar stamp has the central figure in an oval.

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INTRODUCTION

ILLUSTRATED IDENTIFIER

Country Name

Nandgaon

Nowanuggur

Poonch

Rajpeepla

Soruth

Bangladesh

Nepal

Tannu Tuva

Israel

Georgia

Armenia

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AFGHANISTAN

Many early Afghanistan stamps show Tiger's head, many of these have ornaments protruding from outer ring, others show inscriptions in black.

Arabic Script

Mosque Gate & Crossed Cannons
The four characters are found somewhere on pictorial stamps. On some stamps only the middle two are found.

BAHRAIN

EGYPT

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INDIA - FEUDATORY STATES

Jammu & Kashmir

Text and thickness of ovals vary. Some stamps have flower devices in corners.

India-Hyderabad

IRAN

Country Name

Royal Crown

Lion with Sword

IRAQ

Symbol

JORDAN

Similar types have denominations at top and slightly different design.

LEBANON

LIBYA

Country Name in various styles

Other Libya stamps show Eagle and Shield (head facing either direction) or Red, White and Black Shield (with or without eagle in center).

SAUDI ARABIA
INTRODUCTION

ILLUSTRATED IDENTIFIER

INTRODUCTION

THRACE

Tughra (Central design)

YEMEN

Palm Tree and Swords

SYRIA

THRACE

Tughra (Central design)

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN - BAHAWALPUR

Country Name in top panel, star and crescent

TURKEY

Star & Crescent is a device found on many Turkish stamps, but is also found on stamps from other Arabic areas (see Pakistan-Bahawalpur)

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Tughra (similar tughras can be found on stamps of Turkey in Asia, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia)

Mohammed V

Mustafa Kemal

Plane, Star and Crescent

TURKEY IN ASIA

Other Turkey in Asia pictorials show star & crescent. Other stamps show tughra shown under Turkey.

6. GREEK INSCRIPTIONS

GREECE

Country Name in various styles (Some Crete stamps overprinted with the Greece country name are listed in Crete.)

Abbreviated Country Name

Drachma Drachmas Lepton

CRETE

Country Name
These words are on other stamps.

Grosion

Crete stamps with a surcharge that have the year “1922” are listed under Greece.

**EPIRUS**

**IONIAN IS.**

Country Name

---

### 7. CYRILLIC INSCRIPTIONS

**RUSSIA**

Postage Stamp

Imperial Eagle

- **ПОЧТА**
  - Postage in various styles

- **КопѢкъ**
  - Abbreviation for Kopeck

- **РѢбль**
  - Abbreviation for Ruble

- **РОССІЯ**
  - Russian

---

**RUSSIAN OFFICES IN THE TURKISH EMPIRE**

These letters appear on other stamps of the Russian offices.

The unoverprinted version of this stamp and a similar stamp were overprinted by various countries (see below).

**ARMENIA**

**BELARUS**

**FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC**

Country Name

---

Abbreviation for Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

RSFSR stamps were overprinted [see below]

Abbreviation for Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

This item is footnoted in Latvia

**RUSSIA - Army of the North**

**“OKCA”**

**RUSSIA - Wenden**

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SOUTH RUSSIA
Country Name

Circles and Dots on stamps similar to Imperial Russia issues

FINLAND

Circles and Dots on stamps similar to Imperial Russia issues

BATUM
Forms of Country Name

TRANSCAUCASIAN FEDERATED REPUBLICS
Abbreviation for Country Name

KAZAKHSTAN

Country Name

KYRGYZSTAN

Country Name

The trident appears on many stamps, usually as an overprint.

ROMANIA

Country Name

TADJIKISTAN

Country Name & Abbreviation

UKRAINE

Country Name in various forms

The trident appears on many stamps, usually as an overprint.

AZERBAIJAN

Country Name

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<tr>
<td><strong>СФСР</strong></td>
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<td>(A similar Montenegro stamp without country name has same vignette.)</td>
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<td>Country Name in various forms</td>
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