

Thailand

First Crypto Stamp in ASEAN – Pigeon

Introduction

On 14 August 2022, Thailand Post issued its first ever Crypto Stamp, to celebrate the 14th Anniversary of Thailand Post. The publicity for Thailand Post indicates that Thailand is the first of the 10 countries which make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to issue such a stamp. Here is a reduced size image of the folder which contains the card with the code and the stamp:



Image source: <https://www.theodorechampion.fr/thailande-1st-crypto-stamp-ms>

The Crypto Stamp and what you can do with it

In theory, the first thing that you can do with this stamp, which bears an image of a pigeon, is to use it for normal postal purposes. The stamp (on the left in the image below) is self-adhesive:

Thailand 2022 – Crypto Stamp Removed from Folder (reduced size)



Image source: author's collection and Thailand Post

I tried to find out what the postal rates are in Thailand, to establish what the 140 baht stamp might be used for. Unfortunately, the Thailand Post website proved to be rather frustrating: it has a postage rate ready reckoner, but when you have entered basic data and then press search, the data (and any answer) just disappears. Going then to the Bangkok Post newspaper website, I found that in July last year, the domestic postal rate for a letter up to 10g was 3 baht; whereas in the maximum weight bracket of 1-2 kilos, domestic postal rates were 55 baht.¹ Clearly, the most likely usage for the 140 baht stamp would be overseas post.

A review of the regular issues from Thailand Post indicates that the usual value of stamp issues is between 3-10 baht, so 140 baht is a very high value (equivalent to £3.40)² for Thailand Post to issue.

Thailand 2022 – Crypto Stamp - Scratchcard Revealed



Image source: author's collection and Thailand Post

I then sought to register on the Thailand Post website, hoping to unlock the special features of this Crypto Stamp issue. Once again, I was unable to do this, because the compulsory data that you have to enter as part of registration (phone number and passport number) are geared, I think, to Thailand residents and/or nationals. So, I was unable to get access to the Non-fungible Token (NFT) Stamp. About the NFT Stamp, Thailand Post says:

- There are 50,000 individual and unique designs of the NFTs (where 50,000 is the number of the Crypto Stamps issued by Thailand Post);
- These unique designs are the work of famous NFT artists; and
- The digital stamp cannot be used for any postal charges.³

¹ Source: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/>

² Source: <https://themoneyconverter.com/THB/GBP?>

³ Source: <https://nft.thailandpost.com/en#Speical>

When Thailand Post issued the Crypto Stamp, it also ensured that there was a degree of scarcity attached to digit artwork designs superimposed onto the right-hand side of the digital version of the stamp card.

These rarity levels are as follows: common, equating to 28,000 of the 50,000 NFT Stamps available; then uncommon, found in 14,000 of the available NFTs, moving to rare, found in 6,400 of the NFTs, then epic (1,400) and legend, found in just 140 examples.

From the designs, there is one that stands out for bird stamp collectors. This is the cartoon image of the Jay Bird, which is one of the basic images (from 20 characters) that appear on the NFT Stamps.

Further examples of the Jay Bird artwork can be found here:

<https://instore.jaymartstore.com/JayBird-NFT-Collection/>

Jay Bird Cartoon



Image source: <https://nft.thailandpost.com/en#Speical>

The Thailand Post website provides two illustrations of the Jay Bird appearing in two of the NFT Stamps at different scarcity levels, uncommon and rare, as shown below.

Jay Bird Cartoon (Uncommon) 14,000



Image source: <https://nft.thailandpost.com/en#Speical>

Other indicators of scarcity of the NFT Stamps are the colours of the pigeon. On the physical stamp, the pigeon is silver, but in the NFT version, can be: white, grey or black (common); colourful tone (uncommon); colourful gradation (rare); silver gradation (epic) and graphic crystal design (legend). On the website <https://nft.thailandpost.com/en#Speical> the “crystal design” artwork on the pigeon at the legend level does give the bird some indication of plumage, which is rather effective.

Jay Bird Cartoon (Rare) 6,400



Image source: <https://nft.thailandpost.com/en#Speical>

What is not clear from the website is how many of the Jay Birds are available at which level in the scarcity stakes. I guess that until the 50,000 examples are revealed, we will not know.

Conclusion

This is an interesting stamp issue from Thailand Post and one of only two (as I write) Crypto Stamps that feature birds. For my collecting interest, the purchase of this Crypto Stamp did end in disappointment, as I was unable to access the NFT Stamp equivalent of the physical stamp. It would have been nice to know if I had happened on to one of the Jay Bird examples (even at the most common level) as I quite like this particular cartoon image.

Further reading can also be found on this website: <https://bittergrounds.com/crypto-stamp-catalogue/> which claims to have the first catalogue of Crypto Stamps. The site provides helpful images as well as links to the postal authorities where you can get more information. The website also distinguishes between the different types of Crypto Stamp.

Acknowledgements

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