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Detalii emisiune Comandă

[Home](#) » [Philatelic products](#) » YEAR OF THE TIGER

YEAR OF THE TIGER



Romfilatelia continues the series of philatelic themes dedicated to the Chinese Zodiac, through the *Year of the tiger* postage stamps issue, which will enter into circulation on *Tuesday, February 1st, 2022*.

The design of the two postage stamps of the issue, both with the face value of **Lei 10**, illustrate the symbol of the zodiac sign *Tiger* in two hypostases harmonized with the environment in which the real animal lives (lush vegetation and water).

The Chinese zodiac appeared more than three thousand years ago, earlier than European astrology. The concept of this zodiac has become a serious competitor to the Western zodiac system in determining human character. Unlike astrology, which predicts

depending on the position of the sun, stars, and planets, the Chinese calendar based on the moon phases, places the name of an animal in each year of a 12-year cycle. It is accepted the idea that each of the 12 animals of the zodiac has the ability to endow the person born in that year with certain qualities.

An Asian legend says that Buddha summoned all animals to celebrate the New Year together. However, only 12 unreasoning creatures came to the meeting for whom the zodiac established certain years: the rat, the buffalo, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the goat, the monkey, the rooster, the dog and the pig. These are associated with five elements: Water, Fire, Earth, Metal and Wood.

The year 2022 is associated with the “Water Tiger”, found in the zodiacal calendar every 60 years. In the Chinese tradition, this zodiac sign is presented as a sign of the power, daring and predilection to do special things. According to its predictions for 2022, the winner is the one who acts and risks. The members of this sign are those born in 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 and 2022. The year of the “Water Tiger” lasts until January 21st, 2023 when the Year of the “Water Rabbit” begins.

The sign of the “Water Tiger” was registered (according to the 60 year cycle) for the years 1902, 1962, 2022. As an example, we mention the fact that the Chinese New Year has been celebrated in the last five years under the following zodiac signs: February 16th, 2018 (Dog), February 5th, 2019 (Pig), January 25th, 2020 (Rat), February 12th, 2021 (Buffalo), February 1st, 2022 (Tiger).

Regarding the tiger animal, an Indian proverb is worded as follows: *“Do not blame God for having created the tiger, but thank Him for*

not giving it wings!”.

The tiger is a symbol of the warrior caste, of the active principle, of the creative energy, in opposition to the dragon which represents the passive principle. In the mythology of the peoples of Asia, it is characterized as the king of animals, a symbol of power and monarchy. It is considered the god of mountains and caves, protector of the royal dynasty and intermediary between Earth and Heaven.

Household objects, fabrics, adorned with drawings representing the tiger are considered protective. It should be noted that in 1998, in Seoul, the Olympic Games had a tiger as a mascot.

The tiger is also known as an Asian heraldic sign, being the national symbol of India, Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea. According to a survey conducted by Animal Planet, the tiger was voted as the favourite animal, surpassing the dog, dolphin, horse, lion, snake and other animals such as elephant, chimpanzee, orangutan and whale. A collaborator of the list compiling stated: “we can identify ourselves with the tiger, because it is ferocious and imposing on the outside, but noble on the inside”.

Presenting its living environment, a wise definition is given by a Cambodian proverb: “The forest is the mother of the tiger, and the tiger is its protector”. The tiger lives in all forest species, from the humid jungles of Indochina and Indonesia, up to 3,000 meters high, in Nepal.

If we are talking about the favourite colours of the zodiac of the year 2022, we must start from the five elements associated with the zodiac signs, namely Earth, Metal, Wood, Water and Fire, which in turn represent eight directions: North (Water), North-East (Earth), North-West (Metal), South (Fire), South-East (Wood), South-West (Earth), East (Wood), West (Metal).

The year 2022 is not very balanced in terms of elements. We are dealing with an abundance of wood, while fire and metal are missing from the zodiac diagrams. Therefore, the lucky element of 2022 is considered the Metal, represented by the colours white, gold and silver. The second element is Fire, represented by red, purple, and orange.

The predictions of the Chinese zodiac present 2022 as a year of massive changes, of new and bold ideas, especially controversial ones.

The main advice for 2022 is “Don’t lose your humour!”

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CARACTERISTICI TEHNICE / TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Data introducerii în circulație / Date of issue: **01.02.2022**
Număr de valori / Number of values: **2**
Dimensiuni timbre / Stamps size: **36 x 36 mm**
Dimensiune minicoală / Minisheet size: **170 x 170 mm**
Paginare / Page composition: în coală de 28 timbre (14 serii) și minicoală de 8 timbre (4 serii) + 8 viniete / in sheet of 28 stamps (14 sets) and minisheet of 8 stamps (4 sets) + 8 labels
Sistem de tipărire / Printing system: offset, la 5 culori din care 1 culoare specială (galben UV) pe hârtie cromo-gumată (Anglia) / offset, in 5 colours out of which, 1 special colour (yellow UV) on chromo-gummed paper - UK origin
Tiraj / Run printing: **26.400 timbre: 16.800** în coli de 28 timbre (14 serii) și **9.600** în minicoli de 8 timbre (4 serii) + 8 viniete (1.200 minicoli) / **26,400 stamps: 16,800** in sheets of 28 stamps (14 sets) and **9,600** in minisheets of 8 stamps (4 sets) + 8 labels (1.200 minisheets)
Machetatori / Designers: **George URSACHI**
FDC: **212 plicuri** echipate cu timbrele emisiunii, numerotate și obliterate cu ștampila „prima zi” / **212 covers** equipped with the postage stamps of the issue, numbered and cancelled with the “first day” postmark
Cărți maxime / Maxicards: **191 seturi / sets (2 imagini / images)**
Număr de listă / Listing: **2356 (serie / set)**

TIRAJ / RUN PRINTING	Valoare nominală / Face value	10 Lei	10 Lei
	CNPR - coală de 28 timbre (14 serii) / sheet of 28 stamps (14 sets)	7.000 timbre / stamps	7.000 timbre / stamps
	Romfilatelia - coală de 28 timbre (14 serii) / sheet of 28 stamps (14 sets)	1.400 serii / sets (2.800 timbre / stamps)	
	- minicoală de 8 timbre (4 serii) + 8 viniete / minisheet of 8 stamps (4 sets) + 8 labels	4.800 serii / sets (9.600 timbre / stamps)	

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