

# Timely Topicals: Embroidered Stamps

by Gary R. Baker



Figure 1.

Several years ago, while perusing my worldwide collection, I came upon an unusual stamp from Italy. Scott 2624 (shown in Figure 1) was an embroidered stamp. It was not a photograph or engraving of stitches but actual embroidery.

Further research has shown 22 such stamps worldwide produced on large embroidery machines with a self-adhesive coating on the back to enable affixing the stamp. The machines for producing these

stamps were developed in the Swiss town of St. Gallen in the early 19th century.

The stamp from Italy is the only one in my collection which is used as can be seen from the scan with a relatively faint cancellation. The remainder of the stamps are mint, probably because these particular stamps are hoarded by locals and philatelists and not widely utilized for postage. The stamps are larger than a standard postage stamp and more similar in size to a Boy Scout badge.

The first embroidered stamps appeared in 2003 with one particular subject, a teddy bear. Five countries: St. Vincent Grenadines (Scott 3095, Figure 2), Gambia (Scott 2731, Figure 3), Grenada Caracau & Petit Martinique (Scott 2461), Sierra Leone (Scott 2598, Figure 4), and Grenada (Scott 3353) used the same graphic; the only change being the colors, borders and values.



Figure 2.

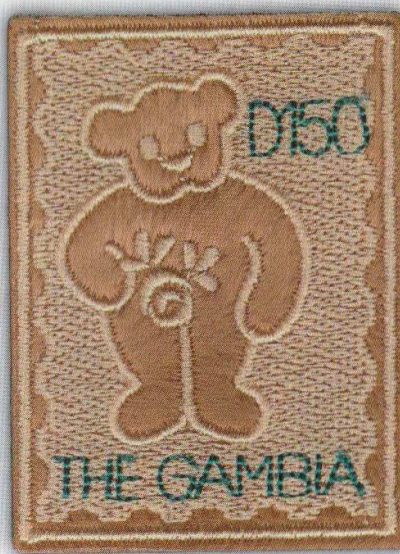


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Austria produced five embroidered stamps of two native flowers, Enzian (Scott 2019) and Edelweiss (Scott 2175) (Figures 5 & 6). In 2010, Austria produced a large stamp (3 1/8" x 2 3/8") of a flower, Petit Point; the stamp itself is printed while the central flower itself is embroidered (Scott 2278, Figure 7).



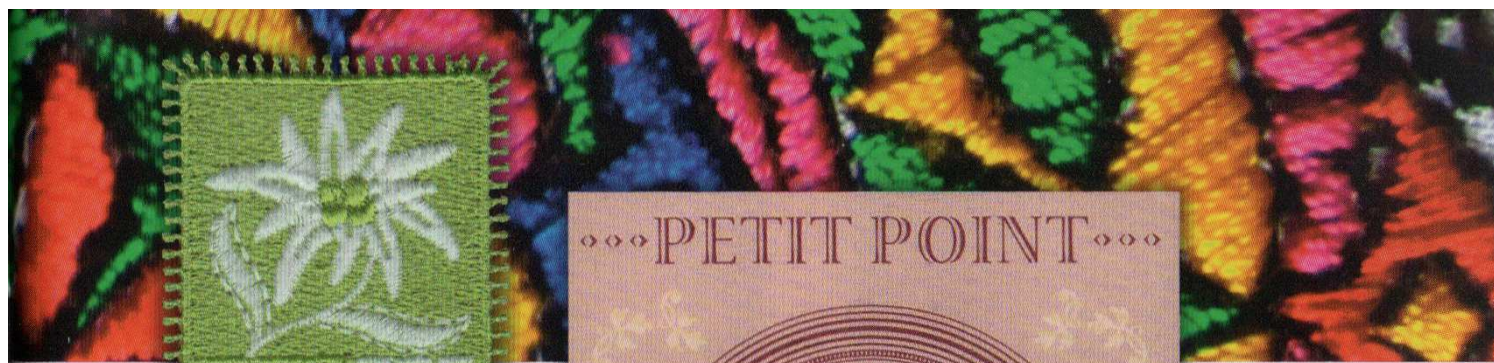


Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

The country paid tribute to local traditions in 2016 and 2018 with a dirndl (Scott 2632) and a Styrian hat (Scott 2757) (Figures 8 & 9). The dirndl and hat are native to the Alpine regions of Bavaria and Austria.

To celebrate the 2013 50th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Gambia (Scott 3536, Figure 10) and Grenada (Scott 3940, Figure 11) issued identical stamps. The stamps contain a silhouette image of the Queen and a crown over the text "Diamond Anniversary of the Coronation."



Figure 9.



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Figure 10.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.

Liechtenstein produced a blue and green globe (Scott 1816, Figure 12) on a large embroidered stamp in 2020. Probably the most eye-catching is a Princely Hat (Scott MI1932) composed of gold thread on maroon cloth. The stamp comes in a little folder that contains a brief description of the creation of the principality of Liechtenstein (Figure 13).

To commemorate the Year of the Dragon in 2011, Micronesia produced a stamp with a writhing dragon (Scott 959) (Figure 14). Grenada (Scott 3947) and Sierra Leone (Scott 3189) commemorated the Year of the Horse with two similar renditions.

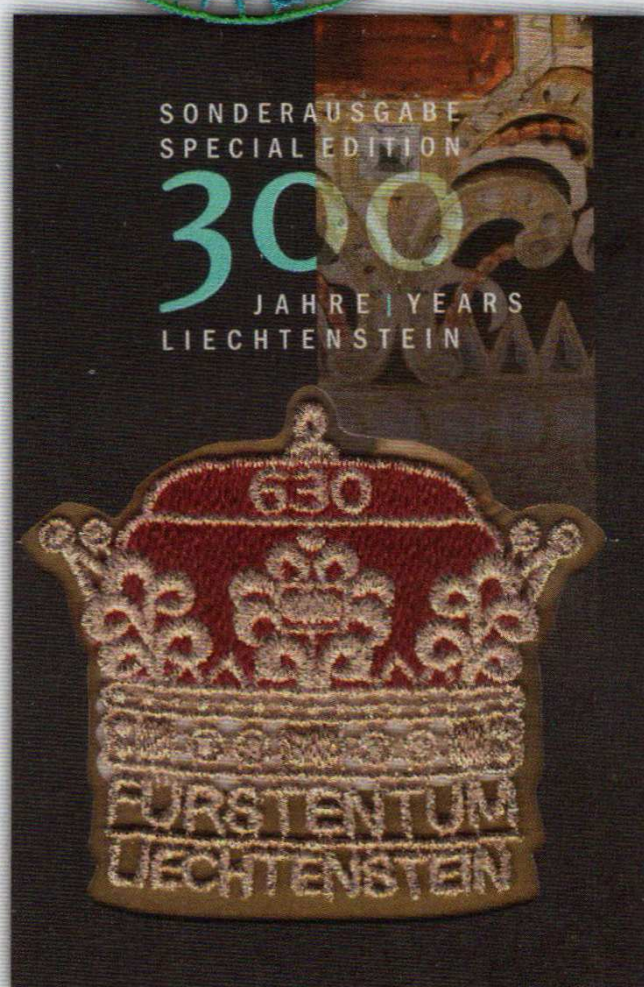


Figure 13. A commemorative folder with a die-cut cover (left) carries this embroidered stamp issued in 2020 by the Principality of Liechtenstein.



Similar to the Austrian Petit Point stamp, in 2009, Singapore issued a 2 ½" x 3 ½" souvenir sheet with the Pigeon Orchid flower in the perforated central portion embroidered (Scott 1372, Figure 15).

In June 2000, Switzerland issued a piece of embroidery (Scott 1075) as its inclusion in this topical category (Figure 16). Austria issued the last item in



Figure 14.



Figure 15.

my collection as a COVID-19 mask (Figure 17). I have yet to find any used in my online searches. However, I do have St. Vincent and Grenadines Scott 3095 on cover as well as the Vatican 2019 cover commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Latern Accord that granted sovereignty to Vatican City.



Figure 16.



Figure 17.

My journey in this medium was strictly accidental; a single embroidered stamp in my collection stimulated my research. I submitted a checklist to ATA (ATA Checklist #1671), which contains the stamps I could identify as embroidered. 