Stamps of Various Shapes

We are all familiar with our usual rectangular stamps, but several countries have produced more unusual designs. Such stamps are issued for decorative reasons or represent a particular object such as a football, a map of the country, or a lunar module.

Many countries have issued triangular stamps, usually isosceles right-angled or equilateral. Scalene triangles are rare, with an early example from Colombia.

Although most four-sided stamps are rectangular, they can also take the form of parallelograms, rhombuses, and trapezoids (or trapezia if you are British). A few countries have produced pentagonal stamps; the Maltese ones are Christmas stamps that represent the crib at Bethlehem. Hexagonal stamps depicting beekeeping were issued by the Pitcairn Islands, and there are also unusual heptagonal and octagonal stamps.

Several countries have issued circular stamps, often to commemorate sporting events. A set of semicircular stamps was produced by Singapore, and one of elliptical stamps by Sierra Leone.

Circle

Octagon

Heptagon

Hexagon

Ellipse

Parallelogram

Scalene Triangle

Trapezoid

Pentagon

Semicircle

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