

Continuing a recent trend, this 2016 Japonica listing is dominated by new issues from wallpaper-issuing stamp agencies with seemingly random and irrelevant subject matter. Some of the more noteworthy issues commemorated major 2016 events such as the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games and the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Several nations around the world: Bhutan, Lithuania, Singapore, and Tunisia, celebrated anniversaries of diplomatic relations with Japan.

Paraguay marked the 80th anniversary of Japanese immigration to the country with a special souvenir sheet. While Japanese have arrived in Paraguay since 1912, the official beginning of Japanese immigration to Paraguay is set at 1936 when the first Japanese agricultural colony of 134 households was established in La Colmena. The early colonists faced difficult conditions, struggling to develop farms without much support from the host government. With the outbreak of World War II and under pressure from the US, the La Colmena colony was declared as an “internment zone” where civilian and educational activities were restricted. After the war, Paraguay opened its door to all immigrants from countries devastated by the war. In 1959, Japan and Paraguay signed an immigration agreement that would permit 85,000 Japanese to settle in Paraguay over 30 years. However, as Japan’s economy recovered, only 7,000 Japanese entered the country in the 30-year period.

Japanese cultural influences are showcased in a stamp from Sweden depicting sushi, the most popular

culinary export of Japan, and a miniature sheet of 20 stamps from Marshall Islands where each stamp featured a haiku poem. Modern day sushi, where a mound of rice is topped with a slice of fish, was first invented by Hanaya Yohei of Tōkyō in the mid-1800s. It quickly

became a popular “fast food” served by street food stalls. Variations of ingredients and constructions have been developed over time and sushi continues to evolve as its popularity grows globally. Haiku is a short form of Japanese poem that often expresses the essence of a specific moment in time. Many haikus on the Marshall Islands stamps featured the sun, the ocean, and the sand, conjuring up images of life on the islands. I conclude this introduction with my favorite haiku from the Marshall Islands stamps:

***WHAT THE NIGHT
REALLY WANTS AT
THE END OF THE DAY
IS TO BE SET FREE***

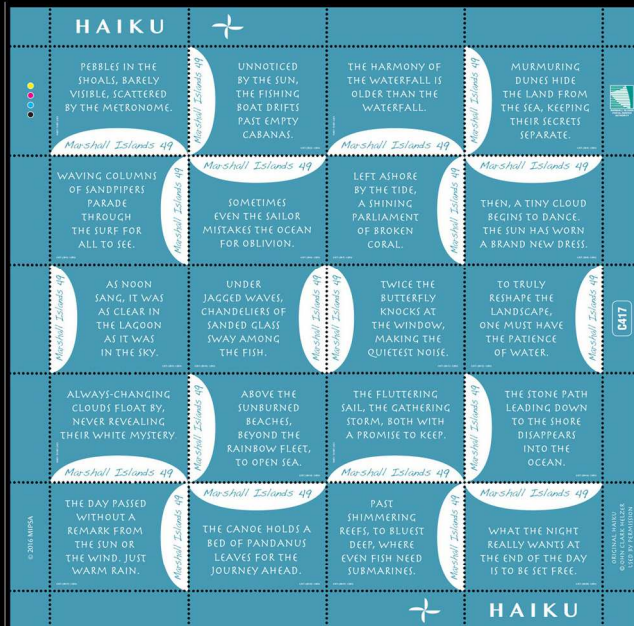
The following list of Japan-related stamps issued through the end of 2016 and not previously reported in this column continues the chronicle of Japonica new issues that last appeared at JP 72/171-173. Scott Catalogue numbers are shown for all issues. An asterisk * after the catalogue number indicates that the stamp is part of a larger set. In the listings below, items with a tinted background are illustrated on page 9. Additions and corrections are certainly welcome, and should be sent to the author at blue_forest@yahoo.com, or 17927Avalon Point Ct, Cypress TX 77429-5267 USA.

Country	Date of Issue	Scott Catalogue Number	Description
Bhutan	2016.09.05	1552	30 th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bhutan and Japan
Bosnia & Herzegovina (Serb administration)	2016.07.07	547b *	Summer sports: jūdō
Bulgaria	2016.10.22	4783-5	Suzuki V-Strom 1000, Honda VFR800X Crossrunner, Suzuki Multistrada 1200S Motorcycles

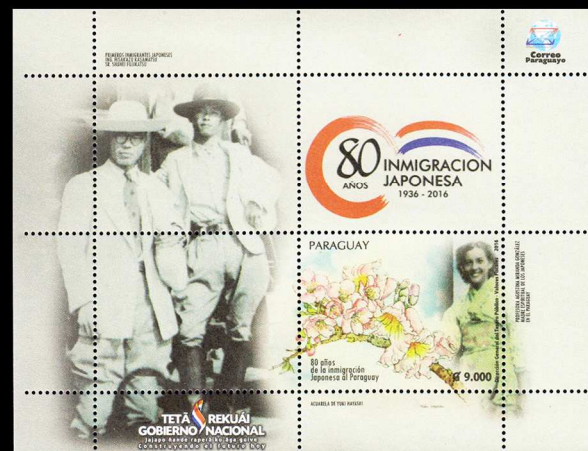
Country	Date of Issue	Scott Catalogue Number	Description
Central Africa	2011.12.20	1575a *	Princess Diana visiting Tōkyō National Children's Hospital after the Great Hanshin (Kōbe) earthquake
Djibouti	2016.03.05	902a, 905a-d, 925 *	2010 Nobel laureate in chemistry Ei-Ichi-Negishi; attack on Pearl Harbor 75 th anniversary
	2016.05.05	938c, 944b-d *	Table tennis player Ishikawa Kasumi; high-speed trains: Shinkansen Series E6, E621-2, N700A, H5, H523-1
	2016.11.25	1072b, d *	Motorcycles: Suzuki TU250X and Yamaha Star VMAX
Gambia	2015.07.01	3646-7	Akatsuki Venus Climate Orbiter, a Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) space probe
	2015.07.13	3652a	International Year of Light, photography of city lights in Asia, including Japan
	2016.02.20	3695 *	Famous shipwrecks: USS Arizona Memorial
	2016.11.14	3720d *	Volcanoes: Mt. Fuji
Ghana	2016.10.10	2914a-d, 2915a-b	Visit of US President Barack Obama to Japan
Grenada	2016.12.13	4204a-d, 4205a-b	Attack on Pearl Harbor, 75 th anniversary
Guyana	2016.07.07	4478b *	2016 Summer Olympics, Rio de Janeiro: Ono Takashi, Olympic gymnast
Honduras	2015.02.09	C1330-7	Cooperation between Japan and Central American Integration System countries
Indonesia	2015.07.28	2427	23 rd World Scout Jamboree, Japan
Korea (North)	2014.07.25	5298 *	Sports: jūdō
	2014.08.05	5299	Japanese cranes
Korea (South)	2016.07.19	2472b *	Mailboxes of the world: Japan
Lithuania	2016.04.16	1076	25 th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan
Macedonia	2016.08.05	723 *	2016 Olympics: jūdō
Marshall Islands	2016.01.05	1130a-f	Miniature sheet of 20 with haiku on each stamp
	2016.07.20	1141e,j,t *	US Marines raising flag on Mt. Suribachi; US liberates Marshall Islands from Japan; James "Jimmie" Doolittle
	2016.08.05	1142b *	Peace doves and Japanese Peace Bell
	2016.12.07	1147	Attack on Pearl Harbor, 75 th anniversary
Nepal	2016.11.03	1014	Diplomatic relations with Japan, 60 th anniversary
Palau	2016.03.08	1307a *, 1308	Oda Mikio 1928 Olympic triple jump gold medalist; Tsuruta Yoshiyuki 1928 Olympic 200-meter breaststroke gold medalist
	2016.04.19	1322f *	Nancy Reagan (1921-2016), US First Lady, with Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro and his wife Tsutako
	2016.12.30	1347a-e, 1348a-b	Attack on Pearl Harbor, 75 th anniversary
Paraguay	2016.05.31	3041	Japanese immigration into Paraguay, 80 th anniversary
Romania	2016.08.05	5824	2016 Summer Olympics: jūdō

Country	Date of Issue	Scott Catalogue Number	Description
Saint Thomas & Prince Islands	2016.01.26	3054, 3073	Attack on Pearl Harbor, 75 th anniversary
	2016.03.30	3083c *	Jūdō
	2016.03.30	3085b *	Shinkansen Train
	2016.09.12	3159a, c *, 3178	Stamps on stamp design featuring Japanese stamps Scott #616, #1480, and #Z119 ⁽¹⁾
Saint Vincent	2016.06.07	4080b *	Arai Shigeo, Japanese swimming gold medalist in 1936 Olympic Games.
Samoa	2016.09.02	1247	2016 Summer Olympics: jūdō
Sierra Leone	2015.06.26	3305d *	General Douglas MacArthur signs Japanese surrender document
	2015.07.24	3348a, c, d *	High speed trains, Yamanashi MLX01, L0 Series, E5 Series Shinkansen
	2015.11.27	3505a *, 3516	2015 Nobel Prize Winners. Physiology or Medicine laureates Ōmura Satoshi, Tu Youyou, and William C. Campbell. Physics laureates Kajita Takaaki and Arthur B. McDonald
	2015.12.21	3543, 3563	Jūdōkas
	2015.12.21	3552a, d *	Table tennis players Ishikawa Kasumi and Niwa Kōki
	2015.12.21	3562, 3582	23 rd World Scout Jamboree, Japan
	2016.02.26	3643, 3662	75 th anniversary of attack on Pearl Harbor
	2016.06.30	3823, 3843	Japanese paintings
	2016.09.29	3927, 3946	Olympic jūdō champions
	2016.11.28	4011, 4031	Toyota Corolla 50 th anniversary
Singapore	2016.11.29	1812-3, 1813a	Ōsumi Yoshinori, 2016 Nobel Physiology laureate
Solomon Islands	2016.11.29	1812-3, 1813a	Diplomatic relations between Singapore and Japan, 50 th anniversary (see JP 72/66, 163).
	2016.08.01	2039a-d	Attack on Pearl Harbor, 75 th anniversary; Aichi D3A, Mitsubishi A6M Rei-sen, Nakajima B5N, Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku
	2016.09.01	2077d *	E5 Series Shinkansen hayabusa, flag of Japan
	2016.12.01	2133d *	2016 Nobel laureates: Ōsumi Yoshinori
	2016.12.01	2134a-d, 2152	Toyota Corolla 50 th anniversary
	2016.12.01	2167ab *	Cat breeds: Japanese Bobtail
	2016.12.12	2186a-d, 2211	Japanese high-speed trains: Shinkansen E2 Series, E7 Series, E5 Series, L0 Series, Maglev, N700 Series
2016.12.12	2188c *, 2213	Zeni Shima Lighthouse, Joyato Lighthouse	
Sri Lanka	2016.07.21	2030 *	2016 Summer Olympics: jūdō
Sweden	2016.03.17	2772b *	Japanese food (sushi)
Syria	2016.08.06	1755e *	2016 Summer Olympics: jūdō
Tunisia	2016.07.07	1616	60 th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Japan
United Nations	2016.10.06	1146a *	World Post Day: mailbox from Japan
United States	2016.01.29	5048 *	Botanical art: Japanese irises

¹ These are respectively: the 1955.11.1 Philatelic Week issue, the 1981.10.6 International Letter Writing Week issue, and the 1992.5.29 Hokkaidō prefectural issue depicting arctic foxes.



Marshall Islands 1130a-f



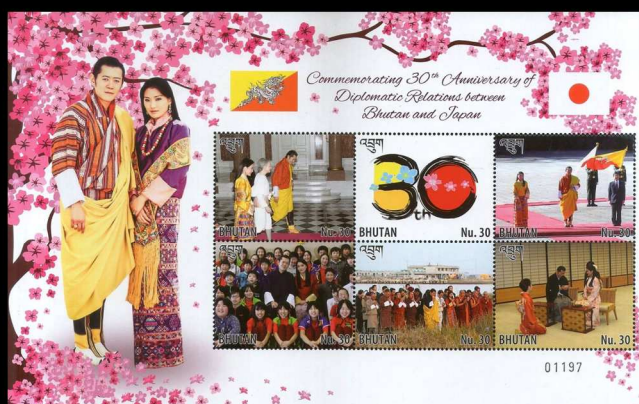
Paraguay 3041



Sweden 2772b



Saint Thomas & Prince Islands 3178



Bhutan 1552



Marshall Islands 1142b