

STAMP SCOOP



YEAR OF THE RAM

Soon, Asian communities around the globe will celebrate the Lunar New Year, commemorating a sacred tradition that honors the turn of the Chinese calendar. The Chinese calendar does not count years in an infinite sequence (like our Gregorian counterpart), but rather on a celestial cycle and astronomical zodiac. The Chinese Zodiac follows a 12-year cycle, in which each year is represented and characterized by a different animal of the Zodiac.

2015 will mark the Year of the Ram (alternately referred to as Sheep or Goat). Those born under the Year of the Ram are said to be quiet, gentle, and compassionate, with a proclivity toward the arts and an abundance of spiritual faith. To their discredit, however, they can also be pessimistic, overly sensitive, and indecisive.

The Year of the Ram stamp follows its seven predecessors in the U.S. Postal Service's Celebrating Lunar New Year stamp series, painted by Kam Mak. This year's stamp features a *chuen-hop*, or Togetherness Tray. Celebrants of the Chinese New Year send these decorative trays filled with dried fruits and candies for a "sweet beginning to the New Year."

© 2015 Powers Communications © 2015 USPS