

BONSAI STAMPS: A Checklist, Part 2

by Roger Cichorz

The first part of this checklist appeared in **Biophilately** Volume 70 (2) June 2021. Part two consists of four tables. The first is a list of unauthorized stamps of bonsai. The second is a list with artworks depicting stylized bonsais. The third table shows trees with bonsai appearance or effect as found in the ATA checklist of Bonsai. The last is a list of families and species of plants that appear in bonsai stamps.

Table 1a: Unauthorized or non-Scott-Listed Stamps with Designs Depicting Actual Bonsai Plants

Country	Scott #	Date	Description
Angola	Unauthorized	2000	Bangkok 2000, sheetlet of six different stamps (3 x 2 format)
			3,500,000K, <i>Rhododendron obtusum</i> (Japanese azalea)
			3,500,000K, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> (bald cypress)
			3,500,000K, <i>Wisteria sinensis</i> (Chinese wisteria)
			3,500,000K, <i>Quercus suber</i> (cork oak)
			3,500,000K, <i>Prunus</i>
			3,500,000K, <i>Olea europaea</i> (European olive)
Angola	Unauthorized	2000	Bangkok 2000, sheetlet of six different stamps (3 x 2 format)
			3,500,000K, <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> (Japanese black pine)
			3,500,000K, <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> (Japanese black pine)
			3,500,000K, <i>Buxus microphylla japonica</i> (Japanese boxwood)
			3,500,000K, <i>Wisteria sinensis</i> (Chinese wisteria)
			3,500,000K, <i>Buxus microphylla japonica</i> (Japanese boxwood)
			3,500,000K, <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> (Japanese black pine)
Congo		2009	SS with four different stamps, two depict unidentified bonsais
			400F
			600F
Congo		2009	SS with four different stamps, two depict unidentified bonsais
			400F
			600F
Congo		2014	SS with 1200F triangular, Ishitsuki (root over rock) style

Table 1a (Continued): Unauthorized or non-Scott-Listed Stamps with Designs Depicting Actual Bonsai Plants

Country	Scott #	Date	Description
Congo		2014	SS with four different 600F stamps (unidentified species of bonsais)
			Upper left, Neagari (exposed root) style
			Upper right, Yose-Ue (forest group) style
			Lower left, Kengai (cascade) style
			Lower right, Funinagashi (windswept) style
Djibouti	Unauthorized	2007	SS with four different 800F stamps depicting unidentified bonsais
	Unauthorized	2008	SS with two different stamps, one (150F depicts unidentified bonsai)
	Unauthorized	2008	SS with two different stamps, one (150F depicts unidentified bonsai)
Liberia		2005	SS with two different \$5 stamps depicting unidentified bonsais
Mali			SS with two different 1000F stamps and two nondenominated labels, stamp at right depicts Japanese white pine (<i>Pinus parviflora</i>)
Rwanda	Unauthorized	2005	SS with one 1200F stamp, inscribed "Bonsai tree" (unidentified)
Rwanda	Unauthorized	2007	Sheetlet of 12 (4 x 3) stamps with six (positions 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 12) depicting unidentified bonsais
Somalia		2002	Japex '02, sheetlet of nine stamps (3 x 3 format)
			2500Sh., white pine (<i>Pinus parviflora</i> / <i>P. pentaphylla</i>) and dwarf bamboo (<i>Arundinaria pygmaea</i>)
			2500Sh., Japanese white pine (<i>Pinus parviflora</i> / <i>P. pentaphylla</i>)
			2500Sh., Japanese red maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i>)
			2500Sh., white pine (<i>Pinus parviflora</i> / <i>P. pentaphylla</i>) and dwarf bamboo (<i>Arundinaria pygmaea</i>)
			2500Sh., Japanese red maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i>)
			2500Sh., Chinese juniper (<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> / <i>J. x media</i>)
			2500Sh., Japanese elm (<i>Zelkova serrata</i>)
			2500Sh., Japanese black pine (<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>)
			2500Sh., Japanese red maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i>)

Table 1a (Continued): Unauthorized or non-Scott-Listed Stamps with Designs Depicting Actual Bonsai Plants

Country	Scott #	Date	Description
Somalia		2004	2500Sh., sheetlet of four stamps (2 x 2 format) (unidentified bonsais)
			2500Sh., pine (longleaf pine?)
			2500Sh., maple (trident maple?)
			2500Sh., pine (<i>Pinus sp.?</i>)
			2500Sh., maple (Japanese red maple?)
Somali Republic		2004	3000Sh., fig tree (<i>Ficus sp.</i>)
			3000Sh., Japanese red maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i>)
			3000Sh. manzanita/bearberry (<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi?</i>)
			3000Sh., juniper (<i>Juniperus sp.?</i>)
Somali Republic		2004	Four SSs titled Flora & Fauna with Boy Scouts symbol and butterfly in central design; each SS has one of the (perforated) stamps above
Touva		2006	35, flowering quince (<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>)
			35, common pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i>)
			35, hawthorn (<i>Crataegus sp.</i>)
			35, common crape-myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>)
			35, Morrow's honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>)



Unauthorized stamps from Djibouti



Unauthorized stamps from Somalia

Table 2: Stamps Depicting Artwork Incorporating Stylized Bonsais

Country	Scott #	Date	Description
China (ROC/Taiwan)	2427-30	08/20/84	<i>The Eighteen Scholars</i> , Sung Dynasty hanging scroll
	2427		\$2, Playing Musical Instruments – lower-left foreground: double-layered juniper in a blue, long tray; left edge: palm penjing (miniature landscape) on a raised stand
	2428		\$3, Playing Chess – lower-right foreground: small pine in a jade-colored tray on a small table next to a cream stand holding tall stone in which is growing a brownish yellow-leaved plant on a cream-colored rectangular table
	2429		\$5, Practicing Calligraphy – lower-left foreground: large pine in a long rectangular tray and two pentsai (plant landscapes) just behind and to right
	2430		\$18, Painting – lower-right foreground: large conifer in a round tray
Gambia	1090	08/22/91	50b, Phila Nippon '91, Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse playing "Go" – center background: bonsai in a blue-gray round tray
Gibraltar	661	08/22/91	£1.05, SS, PhilaKorea 1994, two bonsais in blue trays in sheet margin at bottom to left and right of central stamp + three (stylized) bonsais in rocks at left, center, and right above stamp
Grenada Grenadines	1319	05/06/91	\$6, SS, Phila Nippon '91, Disney tea ceremony – center foreground: bonsai in a tan round tray on table
Japan	1012-15	10/01/69	16th UPU Congress, set of four paintings (one stamp with bonsai)
	1014		50¥, <i>Two Women Reading a Letter</i> by Harunobu – right foreground: bonsai in a round pot on an elongated stand at top
Korea (DPR/North)		01/19/01	Right background: (bamboo clump) bonsai in a pot on a rectangular stand
Uganda	888-95	05/29/01	Phila Nippon '91, set of eight, Disney scenes (three stamps with bonsais)
	889		20/-, bonsai in brown tray at left
	894		500/-, bonsai in tan pot at left
	895		2000/-, bonsai in brown tray at center

American Topical Association Bonsai Checklist Shortcomings:

- several catalogue number, date, and species identification errors
- naming and identification inconsistencies (primarily uses Scott identification versus various country specialized catalogues)
- includes bonsais (actual and stylized in art, paintings and tapestries), but also includes stamps depicting “trees with bonsai appearance or effect”); this is my major objection because the list only includes a

Table 3: Stamps Depicting Trees with Bonsai Appearance or Effect (ATA Bonsai List)

Country	Scott #	Date	Description
China (PRC)	1901-04	03/24/84	Set of three stamps + SS, showing portions of painting <i>Beauties Wearing Flowers</i> , by Zhou Fang (one stamp and SS depicts bonsais)
	1903		70f, shrub planted on rock
	1904		\$2, SS, shrub planted on rock
China (ROC/Taiwan)	1835-40	06/20/73	Set of 14 stamps, showing designs from scroll titled <i>Spring Morning in the Han Palace</i> , by Chiu Ying (one stamp depicts bonsai)
	1835c&d		<i>Ladies Watering Peonies, Stone Ornament</i>
	1835e		<i>Lady Musicians</i> (two potted bonsais)
	1836		\$5, <i>Ladies Watering Peonies, Stone Ornament</i>
	1838a		<i>Ladies Playing Go</i> (one potted bonsai)
China (ROC/Taiwan)	2030-32	01/12/77	Set of three, showing Chinese paintings of trees growing out of rocks
	2030		\$2, <i>Bird and Plum Blossoms</i> , by Ch'en Hung-shou
	2031		\$8, <i>Wintry Days</i> (pine), by Yang Wei-chen
	2032		\$2, <i>Rock and Bamboo</i> , by Hsia Ch'ang
China (ROC/Taiwan)	2175-78	11/21/79	Set of four, showing Chinese paintings of trees
	2175		\$2, <i>Trees on a Winter Plain</i> , by Wen T'ung
	2176		\$5, <i>Bamboo</i> , by Wen T'ung
	2177		\$8, <i>Old Tree, Bamboo, and Rock</i> , by Chao Meng-fu
	2178		\$10, <i>Twin Pines</i> , by Li K'an
China (ROC/Taiwan)	2439-41	11/12/84	Set of three, showing tree branches
	2439		\$2, pine tree
	2440		\$8, bamboo
	2441		\$10, plum tree (pale yellow bistre background)
	2441a		\$10, plum tree (grayish tan background)

small percentage of the stamps showing these trees that could qualify. So, where does one draw the line in including these in such a listing? Include all or none! Also, trees in nature do not resemble bonsais; it is vice-versa where bonsais are “trained” to resemble the actual distressed trees found in nature.

Table 3 (Continued): Stamps Depicting Trees with Bonsai Appearance or Effect (ATA Bonsai List)

Country	Scott #	Date	Description
China (ROC/Taiwan)	2495-2500	01/10/86	Flora types of 1984 (cf., Scott #2439-41)
	2495		\$1, pine tree
	2496		\$11, bamboo
	2497		\$18, plum tree
	2498		\$1.50, pine tree
	2499		\$7.50 bamboo
	2500		\$16, plum tree
Japan	1003	07/21/69	50¥, <i>Cypresses</i> , painting attributed to Eitoku Kano
Japan	1071	01/21/72	20¥, aged and gnarled pine tree
	1071a		20¥, booklet pane of ten (5 x 2 format), aged and gnarled pine tree
	1282	11/16/77	50¥, aged and gnarled pine and flowers
	B35	09/15/69	50¥ + 10¥, aged and gnarled cherry blossoms
Korea (ROK/South)	781-86 781a-86a	06/20/71	Set of six stamps + six SS, paintings (one stamp and one SS depict bonsai)
	786		10w, <i>Man and Boy Under Pine Tree</i> , painting by Eitoku Kano, aged and gnarled pine tree
	786a		10w, SS comprising two stamps, <i>Man and Boy Under Pine Tree</i>
Korea (ROK/South)	1210	08/09/80	Aged and gnarled pine tree, Pavilion, Mountain



China (PRC) Scott #1903



China (ROC/Taiwan)
Scott #2495



Japan Scott #1014



Korea (ROK/South)
Scott #786

Table 4: Concordance of Bonsai Names and Families

Family Name	Common Name(s)	Scientific name
Amaranthaceae (amaranth)	No English common name Bai jiang guo xian (Chinese)	<i>Deeringia polysperma</i> Roxb.
Apocynaceae (dogbane)	Desert rose/pink sabi star/ mock azalea	<i>Adenium obesum</i> (Forssk.) Roem. & Schult.
	Wild water plum/water jasmine	<i>Wrightia religiosa</i> Hook f.
Boraginaceae (borage)	Fukien tea/Philippine tea	<i>Ehretia microphylla</i> Lam. (= <i>Ehretia buxifolia</i> / <i>Carmona microphylla</i> / <i>Carmona retusa</i>)
Buxaceae (boxwood)	Japanese boxwood	<i>Buxus microphylla</i> Siebold & Zucc.
	Japanese boxwood/Harland boxwood	<i>Buxus harlandii</i> Hance.
Cactaceae (cactus)	Mammillaria/Arizona snowcap	<i>Mammillaria gracilis</i> 'Arizona Snowcap'
Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle)	Morrow's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> var. <i>morrowii</i> (A. Gray) Q. E. Yang, Landrein, Borosova & J. Osborne (= <i>Lonicera morrowii</i>)
Celastraceae (spindle tree/staff tree)	Winged euonymus/staff tree/ spindle tree	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (Thunb.) Siebold
Cupressaceae (redwood/evergren)	Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.
	Chinese juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> var. <i>sargentii</i> (= <i>Juniperus procumbens</i> ; = <i>J. chinensis</i> var. <i>procumbens</i>)
	Chinese hybrid juniper/ pfitzer juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> × <i>pfitzeriana</i> (Späth) P.A.Schmidt (= <i>Juniperus x media</i>)
	Meyer juniper	<i>Juniperus squamata</i> (= <i>J. squamata</i> var. <i>meyeri</i>)
	Sargent juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> var. <i>sargentii</i> A. Henry
	Shimpaku juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> var. <i>sargentii</i> variant
	Sierra juniper	<i>Juniperus occidentalis</i> Hook.
Dipterocarpaceae (dilleniid dicot)	Mai khen/merawen bunga	<i>Hopea pubescens</i> Ridl.
Ebenaceae (ebony)	Japanese persimmon	<i>Diospyros kaki</i> L.f.
	Bantolinao/bantulinaw	<i>Diospyros vera</i> (Lour.) A.Chev. (= <i>Maba buxifolia</i>)

Table 3 (Continued): Concordance of Bonsai Names and Families

Family Name	Common Name(s)	Scientific Name	
Ericaceae (heath)	Azalea	<i>(Rhododendron arborescens)</i>	
	Japanese azalea	<i>Rhododendron obtusum/Rhododendron japonicum</i>	
	Satsuki azalea	<i>Rhododendron indicum</i> (L.) Sweet	
	Manzanita/bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (L.) Spreng.	
Euphorbiaceae (spurge)	Bignay/Chinese laurel	<i>Antidesma bunius</i> (L.) Spreng.	
Fabaceae (legume/pea)	Chinese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> DC.	
	Logwood/bloodwood tree	<i>Haematoxylon campechianum</i> L.	
Fagaceae (beech/oak)	English oak/pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i> L.	
	Cork oak	<i>Quercus suber</i> L.	
Ginkgoaceae (ginkgo)	Maidenhair tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> L.	
Lamiaceae (mint)	Headache tree	<i>Premna serratifolia</i> L.	
Lecythidaceae (dicot/magnoliopsid)	Sea poison tree	<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L.) Kurz (= <i>Barringtonia speciosa</i>)	
	Wild almond/kandu almond	<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i> (L.) Gaertn.	
Lythraceae (loosestrife)	Bantigue/small-leaved mangrove	<i>Pemphis acidula</i> J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.	
	Crape myrtle/melindres	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> L.	
Moraceae (fig/mulberry)	Fig tree/balete	<i>Ficus</i> sp.	
	Banyan	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	
		Bodhi tree/bo-tree/peepul tree	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.
		Indian rubber plant	<i>Ficus elastica</i> Roxb. ex Hornem.
	Benjamin tree/Java tree/weeping fig	<i>Ficus benjamina</i> L.	
	Cluster fig	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L. (= <i>Ficus glomerata</i>)	
	Viet Nam Scott #3227	Laurel fig/Chinese banyan	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> L.f.
	Red balete	<i>Ficus concinna</i> (Miq.) Miq.	
	Brown-woolly fig	<i>Ficus drupacea</i> Thunb. (= <i>Ficus pilosa</i> Reinw.)	
	Sleekrodea/kalyos/toothbrush tree	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	

Philippines Scott #2918d

Table 3 (Continued): Concordance of Bonsai Names and Families

Family Name	Common Name(s)	Scientific Name
Nyctaginaceae (four-o'clock)	Bougainvillea	<i>Bougainvillea sp.</i>
Oleaceae (olive)	Olive tree/European olive	<i>Olea europaea</i> L.
Pinaceae (pine)	Banguet pine/Khasya pine	<i>Pinus kesiya</i> Royle ex Gordon (= <i>Pinus khasya</i> Hook./ <i>Pinus khasyana</i>)
	Black pine	<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i> A.Murray bis
	Japanese black pine	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i> Parl. (= <i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>)
	Japanese white pine	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> var. <i>pentaphylla</i> (Mayr) A.Henry
	Japanese five-needle pine	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> Siebold & Zucc.
	Mugo pine/mountain pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i> Turra
	Scotch pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.
	Sumatran pine/Merkus pine	<i>Pinus merkusii</i> Jungh. & de Vriese
Plumbaginaceae (leadwort/sea lavender)	Indian wood apple	<i>Limonia acidissima</i> L.
Poaceae (grasses)	Dwarf bamboo	<i>Pleioblastus fortunei</i> (Van Houtte) Nakai (= <i>Arundinaria pygmaea</i>)
Podocarpaceae (evergreen/conifer)	Chinese podocarpus/ shrubby yew/ plum pine/ lohan pine	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> (Thunb.) Sweet/ <i>Podocarpus chinensis</i>
Punicaceae (pomegranate)	common pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i> L.
Rhamnaceae (buckthorn)	hedge sageretia/Chinese sweet plum	<i>Sageretia thea</i> (Osbeck) M.C. Johnst. (= <i>Sageretia theezans</i>)
Rosaceae (rose)	firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> M.Roem.
	flowering quince	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> (Sweet) Nakai (= <i>Chaenomeles lagenaria</i>)
	peach	<i>Prunus persica</i> (L.) Stokes (= <i>Persica vulgaris</i> Mill.)
	hawthorn/thorn apple/ ornamental thorn	<i>Crataegus sp.</i>
	various fruit trees	<i>Prunus sp.</i>

Table 3 (Continued): Concordance of Bonsai Names and Families

Rubiaceae (quinine/coffee)	snowrose/evergreen, tree of a thousand stars	<i>Serissa japonica</i> (Thunb.) Thunb. (= <i>Serissa foetida</i> (L.f.) Lam.)
	santan/Chinese ixora	<i>Ixora chinensis</i> Lam.
Rutaceae (rue/citrus)	lemonsito/limeberry	<i>Triphasia trifolia</i> (Burm.f.) P.Wilson
	orange jasmine	<i>Murraya paniculata</i> (L.) Jack
	kamuning binangonan/ kimini/Chinese box tree	<i>Murraya paniculata</i> (L.) Jack (= <i>M. exotica</i> L.)
Sapindaceae ()	Japanese maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> Thunb.
	Japanese red maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> Thunb. (two types: "Chishio" & "Deshojo")
	trident maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i> Miq. (= <i>Acer trifidum</i> Hook. & Arn.)
Taxodiaceae (bald cypress)	swamp/Southern/bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> (L.) Rich.
Theaceae (tea)	camellia	<i>Camellia japonica</i> L.
Ulmaceae (elm)	Chinese elm/lace bark elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Jacq.
	Chinese hackberry	<i>Celtis sinensis</i> Pers. (Ed note: moved to Cannabaceae)
	Japanese elm/Japanese gray bark elm	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> Makino (not <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> / <i>U. parvifolia</i>)
	no common name: <i>Ulmus lanceifolia</i> -type elm with exfoliating bark indigenous to northern Vietnam and western China	<i>Ulmus tonkinensis</i> Gagnep. (when found in North Vietnam and China) <i>Ulmus lanceifolia</i> Roxburgh, ex Wall (elsewhere)
Verbenaceae (verbena/vervain)	common bulang/bulangan/ mulawin aso	<i>Gmelina elliptica</i> Sm.
	mulawin daga/molave tree	<i>Vitex</i> sp.
Need tree species identification	Thailand stamps: mai hok-hian, mai kam-ma-lo, mai khabuan	

The author is a member of ATA and its Topic (ATA #76) Chapter, and besides bonsais, his topical interests are puffins and Abbott Pentothal "Dear Doctor" postcards. Roger is a life member of APS/APRL and MEPSI, and longtime member of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, Channel Islands Specialists Society, Lundy Collectors Club UK Chapter, Cinderella Stamp Club (London), Philatelic Writers Unit, AAPE, Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, and Collectors Club (Denver). His collecting passions include the postal history of Åland, Faroes, Lundy, and Herm Island. Roger presently is serving as acting librarian of the SCC Library in Denver, Topic President, and a regular columnist and article contributor for SCC's quarterly, *The Posthorn*.