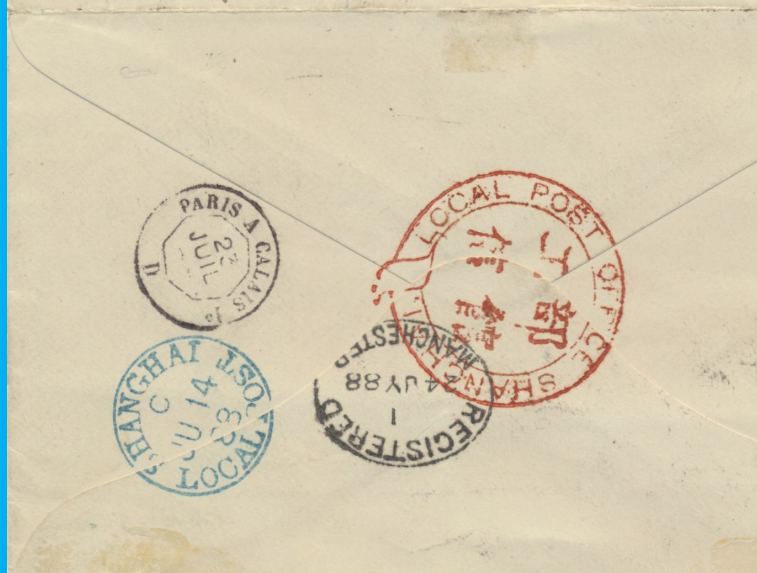




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CONTENTS

Society Officers; Table of Contents.....	3	Peoples Republic of China's First Period Airmail	
Society News.....	4	Cover and Before	Sam Chiu.....17
Registered Combination Cover with Shanghai		Collecting The Dolphin Booklet....	Sam Chiu.....19
Local Post's Belt-Buckle Marking.....	Sam Chiu.....6	Theft of Red China Paper Artifacts Including Stamps	
The Re-Discovery of the Legendary & Unique 1915		Worth more than HK\$4 billion in Hong Kong	
\$2 Hall Of Classics Block of Four With Center		Sam Chiu.....21
Inverted	Tony Banwell.....8	Unregistered?!!	Sam Chiu.....22
Dowagers: The Basics: Identification.....	Sam Chiu.....9		
The Personality Cult and Philosophy of Mao in the			
Peoples' Republic of China	Geoff Rooke.....11		
Examples of Gold Yuan, Silver Yuan and PRC Meter			
Covers	Sam Chiu.....14		
Registered Express Internal Airmail: One Day Rate			
.....	Frank Walton16		

List of Advertisers

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From the President

I would like to thank the members who have stuck with us since early 2018 when we lost our Editor and Secretary, David Sibley. His health had been poor in 2017 and no Journal was produced. It took time to recover Society records etc. and we are not clear that we have all contact details. David's computer was not accessible to us. If you have friends or contacts who were members please ask them to get in touch. Sadly our Treasurer was unable to continue for medical reasons and this is one reason we stayed relatively inactive for so long. I would like to thank John, Alan, Geoff and Chaomo who kept the packet, library, website and auction functioning. As an aside the Chairman's cup appears to have gone missing – anyone know where it is?

Next I wish to congratulate Paul Roebuck for jumping in and taking on the role of both secretary and treasurer. Whilst he has not yet been formally elected at an AGM we are working on the method of one of our founders and 40-year Secretary, the late Bill Lane. "The Society is run by those who turn up!" Sam Chiu has volunteered to edit the Journal and this number is the first of, we hope, many. He will need help from us all to provide articles, news items etc, from a single cover to a multi-part work.

The committee has met via Zoom and decided we will make the Journal quarterly to start with. We will not book any London meetings with the current situation but we still have our room at London2022. If you have an interest in a CPSL Zoom meeting please e-mail me and I will try to arrange one (to cpslpresident@gmail.com please). Various ideas on formats come to mind – a presentation (or maybe two) on a topic? The timing is more difficult! We will never come up with a time that is ideal for everyone. I was thinking 2pm UK time which is 9pm in Hong Kong and 6am in California, probably on a Saturday or Sunday.

Looking forward, we could make this a regular thing as it has always been difficult to get members to London meetings during the week and to coincide with major meetings in London, York etc takes time out from all the other philatelic things going on! Ideas welcome.

I hope my colleagues will give details of their areas below.

Sincerely,
Prof. Paul N. Davey
President

Librarian's Update

Regarding the library, since 2018 there has been no more than a trickle of requests, but perhaps fair to say a steady trickle ! However there have also been a number of general enquiries, which may not necessarily have resulted in any books being loaned, but where possible we have been able to assist in other ways, either by one of the committee members knowing the answer themselves, or at least knowing in which direction to point the enquirer. The library has now been overhauled and the catalogue is fully to date. Additionally it should be noted that a few committee members have library items in their possession, and these items will be returned to the library in due course.

Sincerely,
Alan Pearson
Librarian

Auctioneer's Update

With member's support the auctions have been kept going in the last couple of years. In 2018 we had two auction sales and in 2019 only one. This year we had one sale in January and another is coming in December. Auction 2019-1 was a good one, total realization nearly £16,000 but the others all at around £7-8,000, not enough to make much profit but can just keep it at break even. The auction account now has about £500. We still have enough support from members taking part in the auctions both vendors and bidders so hopefully we will be able to run smoothly in the coming years.

Sincerely,
Chaomo Wang
Auctioneer

Secretary's Update

We currently have 137 active members and with a re-energised committee, the plan is to regain our previous position of 250+ members. Thank you to those members who shared their collecting interests, over half of us collect more than just Chinese stamps, a third of members also collect Hong Kong and Taiwan and a fifth collect Macau. This information will help Sam shape the content of the journal.

The current membership level allows us to print four issues of the journal annually and if we secure two pages of adverts in each edition moving forwards, this would give us the potential to increase the frequency, if and when appropriate or increase our revenue.

Treasurer's Update

I am pleased to report that we are in a secure position financially, with cash reserves of £28,118.86. We asked for 2021 membership renewal last month to facilitate this January's journal relaunch.

As at 19.10.20

Packet bank account	£3,868.98
Auction bank account	£4,205.90
Main bank account	£19,954.44
Paypal account	£89.54
Total	£28,118.86

Sincerely,
Paul Roebuck
Secretary and Treasurer

From the Editor

I have been asked to take over as the editor of JCP. I will try my best to fulfil this task, but without your help, this just cannot be done. Therefore, I am asking for all members, even non-members, to write for JCP. Our members' collecting interest and expertise are very diverse. My vision is to have members commit to writing 1 or 2 short articles per year in their areas of expertise. In this issue, I have started to classify in large categories for each article. It will be wonderful if members contact me and/or send in articles in a category that they like to contribute. These categories are numerous and just too many to be listed. At the end of the day, it is "our society" and "our Journal", but without your support we will not have a Journal. Let's turn the corner of not having a JCP for these past few years and continue the excellent tradition of JCP into the future.

A little about myself. I am the VP of RPS Canada and FRPSC. I am a Jury Fellow with FIP and also FRPSL. I am accredited to judge Postal History and Postal Stationery at FIP shows. Even though I have judged Traditional Class in my last 2 outings at a FIP show, they have still not allowed me to cross-accredit to judge Traditional. At the national level, in order to be a better judge, I have exhibited in 7 different areas and my exhibits have received multiple Gold Medals in all these areas. I collect anything China and Hong Kong. In particular, the postal history of cities like Chefoo/Yantai, Weihai, Hankow/Wuhan and Swatow. I had the good fortune of being able to assist Dr. Shiu-Hon Chan, of Chan's Catalogue fame, with producing his books on the Dowagers and 1891 Hong Kong Jubilee stamp. I co-authored the book, Postage Due and the Handling of Underpaid Mail of Hong Kong, in 1996. I managed the stamp auction business for 3 different companies in Hong Kong from 2009-2014.



Sincerely,
Sam Chiu Ph.D.
Editor, JCP.
chiusam@hotmail.com



Registered Combination Cover with Shanghai Local Post's Belt-Buckle Marking

Sam Chiu

The writer recently brought an exhibit from the widow of a friend who had collected German Boxer Rebellion for more than 60 years and he had also turned it into an exhibit. There were many more items that he had purchased that were not put into the exhibit for whatever reasons. One of these ex-exhibit items is shown on this written-up page (Fig. 1). There are 2 halves to this story, the cover itself and the provenance of the cover.

If this was an auction lot, it would probably be written up like this:

14 June 1888 Shanghai Local Post large "Belt-Buckle" or "Large Garter" cancellation in red on registered combination cover with German stamps to UK. With originating Shanghai Local Post CDS (14.06) in blue, German stamps totalling 40 pfs cancelled by Kaiserlich Deutsche Postagentur Shanghai CDS (15.06). Also with Shanghai German Office in China registration label, octagonal LIGNE N PAQ. FR No.1 (16.06), Paris A Calais CDS (23.07), London registered oval (23.07) in red and Manchester registered oval (24.07). An absolute show-piece and most likely Unique!

Leaving the fanfare of an auctioneer trying to promote the sale of an item, what is the significance of this item? One may want to consult with perhaps the reigning "King of Chinese Local



Figure 1: Registered Combination Cover with Shanghai Local Post Belt Buckle Cancel in red and German Stamps addressed to UK. This was initially owned by E.F. Hurt, then Robson Lowe followed by Lyons F. Livingston.

Post", Fortune Wang, who had already published a monster work of his Shanghai Local Post collection and exhibit in 4 volumes "Shanghai Local Post, Stamp Issues and Postal History" in 2015. A whopping 10 pounds with slip case, which is a wealth of information and must be consider the most complete publications of Shanghai Local Post supported by the real thing, i.e. actual stamps and covers in his collection. In addition to this, he also published 3 volumes of "Shanghai Local Postal System, The Treaty Ports Stamps and Postal History" in 2017. Another monster work of 10 pounds with slip case, for the rest of the Treaty Ports. On pages 631 and 632 of the earlier work on Shanghai Local Post

proper, Wang showed his 3 covers with the belt-buckle or large garter used in combination. These were impressed in 3 different inks, blue, red and black. The blue ink cover was used in combination with German 20 pf. in 30 Apr 1888 to Germany. The red ink cover was also used in combination with German 20 pf. on 8 July 1889 to UK. The black ink cover was used with any foreign stamps on 28 Apr 1891 to UK and therefore was treated as a postage due cover at the Shanghai British PO. Wang, without showing any other support, called these official covers. But none of these known covers were sent by registered mail.

Wang also showed two of his covers that had a wax seal applied to seal cover flap, impressed with a Shanghai Local Post circular stamp, but without date, as official covers.

Whether these were official covers, or whether this marking was used to show postage paid by sender, as in a subscriber cover, was less important, than the fact that the presence of the Belt-Buckle or Large-Garter marking indicated the postage was received, or covered, by Shanghai Local Post.

Since Wang did not showed another example, this cover would be the only known Shanghai Local Post red Belt-Buckle or Large Garter marking used on a registered combination cover.

The other half of the story, at least to this writer, is even more interesting. On the page it started off with "This cover proves, according to Hurt, from whom I obtained it, that this famous "Belt-Buckle" cancellation, also had of itself Franking Power in Shanghai." Who wrote this up on this page? Who was Hurt? It was the good fortune of this writer that his friend left 2 more pieces of information. One was the letter from Lyons F. Livingston to him (Fig. 2), when he bought the cover from Livingston in June 1958. The other was an aged glassine (Fig. 3) that contained the cover after it was bought by Hurt in Robson Lowe and then sent to Livingston.

The pieces were finally coming together. The writer's friend bought this cover from Livingston in June 1958 and had kept this hidden ever since. Those of us who collected Local Post would at one time or another used the catalog written by Livingston, "Catalog of The Shanghai Postal System", published in 1971. In the Livingston letter, the parts where it showed the author's friend's name and address were removed to protect his privacy. The glassines showed that it first showed up in Robson Lowe's auction 196 in March 1957 as lot no. 234.

So who was Hurt? A quick online search showed Erik F. Hurt as then one of the top collector and expert of Local Post stamps of the world. Hurt passed away in January 1952. The writer concluded that the exhibit page was written by, none other than, Robson Lowe,

who bought this cover from Hurt. Then Livingston bought this in 1957 from the said Robson Lowe auction. Livingston then offered it to the writer's friend in June 1958.

The writer has never owned a cover with so much information on its provenance. The provenance added so much to the value of this cover, at least perceived value to the writer's mind. In the day where color lasers are easily creating Large Dragon combination covers, acquiring such an item is a breath of fresh air.

Postscript

As Paul Davey is on the Publication Committee, after he saw the article, he supplied the following to add to the story. Thank You Paul for the input. The letter was carried by the Sindh. Left Yokohama 26 May , Saigon 25 June and reached Marseilles 22 July. It all fits! It was 1900 tonnes and this was its last voyage from the dates in Salles vol. 5. Total of 37 voyages made in Ligne N, originally built to serve Ligne J.

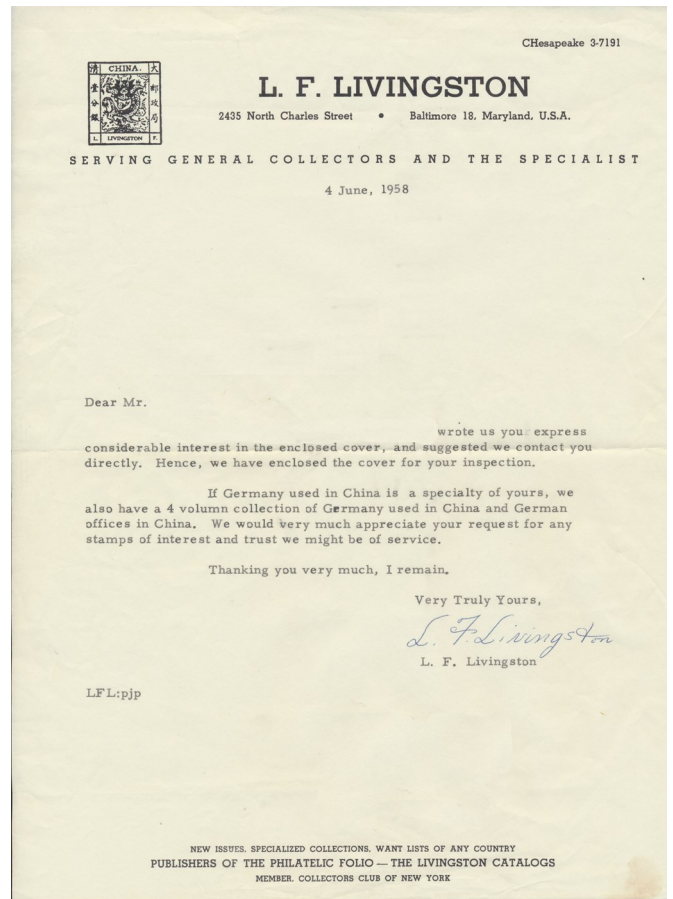


Figure 2: Lyon Livingston's letter to buyer in 1958. Name and address of buyer are removed.

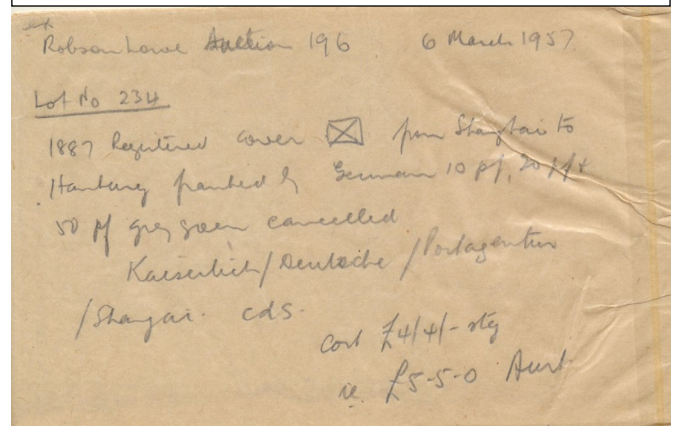


Figure 3: Glassine from the 1957 March Robson Lowe sale as lot 234 for this cover.

Lost and Found



Four Treasures of the Chinese Republic: The Re-Discovery of the Legendary & Unique 1915 \$2 Hall Of Classics Block of Four With Center Inverted

Tony Banwell

After lying for decades in a bank vault and rarely seen, one of the foremost Chinese, and indeed world, rarities has surfaced. I last had the privilege of briefly seeing this icon of philately some twenty-five years ago. Since that time I have handled a number of single examples (there are perhaps twenty or so extant) and I've had the privilege of selling at auction the magnificent horizontal pair owned by the great Chow Chin Tso FRPSL (in April 1996). Another single exists on a cover registered to Shanghai which was sold for around HK\$ 5m.

But my first encounter with a single example of this beautifully engraved bi-coloured stamp was at the sale of the collection of Major James Starr, Mr. Chow's sole collecting rival in the West, in September 1991. That in itself was enough to set the pulse racing, so to finally handle the unique block just a few years later was truly the icing, as they say. It's now believed that just two sheets of fifty (each 10 x 5) were printed with the error in Peking in 1915, one of which we know emanated from the Hankow Post Office, and the other is presumed destroyed. The Peking printings formed part of a series of issues termed "Junk", not because they were considered inferior, but because the design on the lower values was that of a Chinese "junk" vessel (other values showing the design of a reaper or, as in this case, the famous Hall). The first printing was made in London by Waterlow in 1913; then in 1914 when the Chinese Bureau of Engraving and Printing took over with new engraved plates. It was then that the error was made.

Looking at the mint block in more detail, the upper pair shows a broken perforation pin (resulting in a "blind" perf) and while the lower pair shows signs of tropicalisation, the whole remains in a remarkable state of preservation, with just a central hinge remainder. And as if a bonus were needed, it displays a central horizontal guide line. This line appeared at the foot of the second row in the sheet, but only in the Peking printings; so none in the London printings. So how does this phenomenal multiple rank in world terms? In my opinion (and doubtless countless of other people's opinion) it's well up there with the very best. Its provenance does it no harm: it has been in the same family since 1940, when the legendary dealer Mr. L Y Woo (whom I came to know quite well in his later years) was made an offer he felt he could not resist. It can be compared to the famous Small Dollar block of four, separated by just a couple of decades, which has been valued at up to £6m. That is also unique (to the best of current knowledge). And if we look at the similarly iconic USA "Inverted Jenny", of which there are no less than SIX surviving blocks, and consider that they make up to £1.5m (one sold last year, also with the favoured guide lines, for US\$1.74m), then we begin to see just how important this "Hall" piece is.

That the Chinese people revere their stamps as icons of cultural heritage is well known. It is as normal in China to show house-guests a fine philatelic rarity as it would be for any other great artifact, be it a painting or objet d'art. For this reason, two solid blocks of super-quality Perspex screwed together are often used to facilitate general handling, and of course for optimal preservation. So, it is not just philatelists who know about "The Four Treasures of the Chinese Republic" (as the greatest rarities are generally referred to). Many lay Chinese also know. For the record, the others comprise two inverted overprints from 1923 and 1925, and another "Hall" design from Sinkiang Province with transposed characters of overprint. But note these others are all just overprint errors, and thus not integral to the original stamp. The greatest of the treasures x 4 must trump a "full set" !

Dowagers



In the writer's experience, perhaps one of the stamp issues that poses most challenges for many collectors of Imperial Chinese stamps might be the Dowager issue and its subsequent overprint issues. On a totally personal view, the writer found

this stamp issue one of the most amazing for study and collecting. Given time and experience, one would enjoy the identification of the many overprint varieties and might even cash-in on these finds. Many of these varieties were merely positional or constant plate varieties and many would already be present in one's collection. By establishing a few rules and action items, then backing these up with explanations, the writer attempts here, to guide the readers to a complete identification of all the Dowagers and overprinted stamps.

Rule #1: All unoverprinted Dowagers were from the original printing.

Explanation: Any unoverprinted stamps from the subsequent printings were all rare to very rare, the chances of these present in one's collection would be very slim.

Rule #2: All small figure overprints were from the original printing.

Action item #1: Learn to tell the different between a small figure overprint and a large figure overprint. **Fig. 1**, a small figure overprint is on the left and a large figure overprint is on the right.



Figure 1:
(left) **small** figure overprint (right) **large** figure overprint

Rule #3: Large figure overprints could have 2 different spacing or intervals.

Action item #2: Learn to tell the difference between Wide spacing/interval and Narrow spacing/interval. **Fig. 2**, Wide spacing is on the left and Narrow spacing is on the right. Wide spacing is 2.5mm and Narrow spacing is 1.5mm.

Dowagers: The Basics: Identification

Sam Chiu



Figure 2:
(left) **Wide** spacing/interval (right) **Narrow** spacing/interval

Rule #4: With very few exceptions, one's large figure overprints were on subsequent printings.

Explanation: Large figure overprints on original printing stamps were rare to very rare. The chances that these would be present in one's collection would be very slim. This is the place to introduce the different Second and Third Printings. All Wide spacing overprints were on Second Printing (except those few rare ones on original printing). All Narrow spacing overprints were on the Third Printing (except those few rare ones on original printing). **Fig. 3**, top stamps are from original printing,



Figure 3:
(top) original printing (bottom) subsequent printings
(left) Wide spacing/interval (right) Narrow spacing/interval

bottom stamps are from subsequent printings; stamps on the right are Wide spacing, stamps on the left are Narrow spacing. If the reader still saw in a catalogue, in this time and age, that still could not differentiate these 2 different printings, the reader should just throw away that catalog away. The subsequent printings were printed from completely different stones and is an established fact.

Action item #3: Confirming that one's large figure overprints were not from the original printing.

Explanation: Using one's Dowagers from the original printings, there are 2 sources: the unoverprinted stamps and the small figure overprints, compare the colors of

these with your large figure overprints. If some of these matches, chances are these might indeed be the rare one printed on original printing stamps. Aside, how did these occurred? The basic Second and Third printing stamps were printed only to be overprinted. During these time, distant post offices were still sending back to Peking their unsold, unoverprinted Dowager stamps. These were not wasted, but overprinted with either the Second or Third printing stamps that were in the process of overprinting. This also explained why large figure overprints on original printing stamps were rare.

Action item #4: Identifying the 2 Fourth Printing or Redrawn stamps, the large figure overprint narrow spacing 1/2c on 3ca stamp and 2c on 2ca stamp. **Fig. 4**, the stamps



Figure 4:
(top) 1/2 cent on 3 ca. (bottom) 2 cents on 2 ca.
(left) 3rd printing narrow spac. (right) 4th or Redrawn printing

on the left are the Third Printing stamps and the stamps on the right are from the Fourth Printing.

Explanation: The reason(s) why only 2 stamps from the set of 9 were re-issued on newly drawn or redrawn stones remains unknown. The tell-tale feature from the 3ca basic stamp for the Fourth or Redrawn printing was the characters inside the 4 corner tablets had become very large, to the point that it looked like these were touching the frames. The tell-tale feature from the 2ca basic stamp for the Fourth or Redrawn printing had a flat bottom on the character 2.

Are there anything else? Yes, if one had unoverprinted stamps that did not match the colour of the other original stamps, there might be a small chances that these are the unoverprinted Second Printing stamps. By comparing those Large Figure Wide Spacing stamps and if the colour matched, then chances that these were the rare unoverprinted Second Printing stamps, but further confirmation would be needed. Were there any unoverprinted Third Printing stamps? Yes, the 3ca stamp exists without an overprint, but not the 8 other values. There also exists a Mollendorf Printing. It was on thick paper with no watermark. **Fig. 5**, on the left is from an original printing and on the right is from the Mollendorf Printing.

Paul Davey suggested that it would be interesting also to illustrate the Japanese made “tourist sheet” that had a



Figure 5:
(left) original printing (right) Mollendorf Printing

complete set of Dowagers. **Fig. 6**, on the left is the “real” original printing and on the right is the forgery from the “Tourist sheets”.



Figure 6:
(left) original printing (right) “Tourist sheet” forgery

Modern day forgers are much bolder than these tourist sheet makers. This was an item on Ebay that sold on 2020 Oct. 9 for just under US\$50. The forgers even put in the description that it was a probably a forgery (**Fig. 7**). They made a registered cover with Customs Tamsuy CDS. If the Empress Dowager was still around, these people would probably get their heads chopped off if caught.



Figure 7:
Modern day forgery and a pure fantasy: registered cover with a pair of so-called Dowager 9-candarins used with Customs Tamsuy CDS.

This article only serves as a beginner’s guide. From the experience of the writer, if this procedure would be followed, chances would be very good that all your Dowager overprint stamps would be correctly identified. Side by side visual comparison by colour should still be the simplest yet most accurate. Other more advanced methods would be to compare gums, papers and also examine how the watermark looked, but these methods would not be for the beginner. In the next issues of JCP, the positional varieties will be presented in several articles. The fun begins.

Thematics



The Personality Cult and Philosophy of Mao in the Peoples' Republic of China

Geoff Rooke

For over 3,000 years or, to be more precise, from around 1050BC, the actions, roles and in some cases writings that were ascribed to culturally-defining figureheads, of the like of the early Zhou kings Wen, Wu, and Cheng, the Duke of Zhou, Confucius, Mencius, and Zhu Xi have for most of Chinese history defined what the Chinese world ought to be. These individuals were considered exemplary sage figureheads. However sages they might be but they were still human beings. It follows they were essentially deified. The Chinese term for deification 神化 or *shenhua* literally means spirit and change. It is the implicit turning of human beings into gods.

While aspiring to be such an individual was virtually impossible for Chinese of the Imperial era, the nearest one could get was to be the emperor and act in a "sage-like" manner by following for much of imperial history the Confucian texts, the Imperial orthodoxy of initially the Five Classics and later the Four Books. Books that defined a Chinese cosmic world in which the earth and the heavens were treated as spiritual entities in their own right, human beings, by which was meant Chinese, had a physical and spiritual tie with them, and the emperor was heaven's representative for Chinese people.

It followed from this that certain of the emperors, famously the first emperor Qin Shi Huang (259-210BC) decided they were the Chinese universe rather than the representative of it and there was a convenient philosophy that supported this claim known as Legalism, whose main roots come from the writer Han Fei (279-233BC). Legalism was an unstated but minor part of the Confucian ruling Imperial philosophy. It was based on controlling the population through a systematic use of laws linked to statecraft as a means by which they were ruled and in the interests of the king or emperor. Because Han Fei used and manipulated Taoism, which is based on the cosmic ideas of Lao Zi, Legalism is a ruling philosophy in which the monarch is the Chinese universe with the state and through its laws the people controlled by him.

The collapse of Imperial China and the overthrow of the last emperor in 1911 resulted in not only a power vacuum but also a complete absence of any sage figureheads to define the Chinese world. There was also a lack of a legitimising philosophy

since Imperial-style Confucianism could not survive the fall of the last emperor. Attempts at unifying China in the late 1920s by Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist Party were only partially successful. It was only in 1949 when Mao Zidong the Chairman and leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the efforts of the CCP itself through its armed wing the Peoples' Liberation Army that China (minus Taiwan) was successfully unified when the PLA defeated the Nationalists in their civil war. This led to a new philosophic outlook in the form of Marxism-Leninism to which Mao himself naturally added ideas of his own.

The important implication of this is that because for so long the person of Confucius and others of a similar mindset along with the writings and values that went with them legitimised a continually-existing, Confucian, cosmic truth, so now Marxist figureheads and ideas similarly legitimised a continually-existing, Marxist truth. It follows that the actual individuals themselves who created this continually-existing truth and their writings, namely Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao, were very important for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), as was historical events linked to Marxism in the non-Chinese world such as the



Mao and his pivotal role in the CCP: On a 1949 issue commemorating the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party.



Mao issue commemorating the founding of the PRC linking his authority with the traditional imperial place of authority.

1871 Paris Commune and the 1917 Russian Revolution. Naturally enough contemporary events and movements such as the existence of socialist countries including the Soviet Union and in East-



Lenin and Stalin on issue commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the Russian Revolution.



Commemorating the use of the Earth in the form of agriculture and industry on a 1960 cover to East Germany.

ern Europe, Cuba, and Indonesia, and anti-colonial liberation movements in the third world also helped legitimate the Chinese communists. This by extension also meant the Marxist ideology itself was very important for the Chinese, which given the nature of Marxism and the perception of material progress, from a socialist society based on fulfilling material needs to a communist one based on fulfilling material wants, it follows that the push and the road to communism would be an essential part of the very existence of the PRC. Significantly, due to the explicit nature of Marxism in the form of the use of the earth's resources for economic growth and material well-being, this meant that the CCP was by default anti-Confucian. Mao himself was schooled at an early age in the Confucian classics and he reacted strongly against them. An illustration of this is his sayings in the 1950s calling on Chinese people to use the earth.

Imperial Implications

The implications of the imperial tradition for China meant that not only Marxism but also the entire cultural development that Marxism came from, namely the European-oriented Enlightenment philosophic revolution, was completely absent in its historical development. Karl Marx developed his philosophic and political ideas from Georg Hegel and his economic ones from David Ricardo: individuals who sought to understand human society from the perspective of the developing capitalism in their contemporary world. This revolution in the understanding of the role of the individual as someone culturally distinct, of the legitimisation of economic growth, of a sense of progress, and society understood in terms of nation states, industrial development, and changing class relationships while taking place among philosophers and politicians from Britain, France, Germany, and America did not occur in Imperial China. And while the Chinese had a revolution in 1911 that overthrew the emperor and the imperial institutions, the democratic philosophic beliefs behind it came from a group of exiled Chinese based around Sun Yat-sen of which there was virtually no understanding of these ideals within China itself. It is just that Sun and his followers took advantage of the power vacuum that existed within China at the time.

It follows that the CCP's Marxist revolution and Mao

himself need to be interpreted in the context of how China's core imperial values were interpreted in a Marxist context. With respect to Mao's leadership role, given the anti-Confucian nature of Marxism, this ensured Legalism would inevitably take centre stage but from a Marxist perspective. It would also mean that Marxist figureheads of the likes of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and of course Mao would be essentially deified since the turning of key individuals into gods was a key part of Chinese history. It also follows, given that it was something new in Chinese history, there needed to



Despite worsening relations between the two countries, the existence of the Soviet Union was still important for the People's Republic. Here is a 10th anniversary commemoration of the Sino-Soviet Treaty FDC.

be a separation between before and after the founding of the PRC. This resulted in China now being defined as "New China" and history conveniently separated out between before and after liberation, which is before and after the founding of the People's Republic on 1st October 1949.

The Cult of the Personality

The use of Imperial concepts in a modern world naturally enough also involved the deification of specific key individuals. This process however needed to be interpreted differently in order to take the contemporary world into account. The modern translation of the term for deification 神化 or *shenhua* is best interpreted as the cult of the personality. This is why ever since the founding of the People's Republic of China on 1st October 1949 the personality and imagery of Mao Zi-dong has loomed large in China. Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), head of state, and the key figure behind the establishment of the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC), he in many ways personifies the PRC. His beliefs were the military and ideological driving force behind the CCP's rise to power. The path the PRC took after its 1949 founding was however tied not purely to Mao but also to Marxist ideology, and the non-Chinese Marxist figureheads of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin, and legitimising revolutionary events were linked to China as the centre of the Marxist world. This is what eventually led to the split with the Soviet Union. It also meant initially following the Soviet ex-

ample of five year plans with the first one lasting from 1953-57.

Because the Soviet examples did not produce the desired results and the significance of ideology for the CCP Mao introduced the Great Leap Forward (1958-60). This took the form of an attempt at a quick road to a Communist society with attempts at increasing steel production and with respect to agriculture creating Peoples Communes. All this was an unmitigated disaster resulting in mass famines and led to the discrediting of Mao as the leader of China and a reaction against him from other leading members of the CCP. With Mao getting older and isolated he gained his revenge by initiating the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) with his sayings coming down to the masses through his Little Red Book, which ideologically defined this era. His image was absolutely everywhere and he personified China in totality. It was pure Legalism and pure controlling statecraft with direct comparisons made with the



Commemorating Chinese-Soviet friendship on 1950s PRC postcard.



Mao's quick road to Communism: The first anniversary of the People's Communes commemoration FDC.

First Emperor, anti-Confucian campaigns launched, the other Marxist figureheads largely forgotten, and the Communist Party and the Chinese people defined solely in terms of Mao himself. The reason he was able to do this was because he was the continually-defining figurehead for the very existence of the PRC, not only was his role pivotal but also no one could get rid of him.

The end of the Cultural Revolution and the start of economic reforms in 1979 ensured the beginning of the end for Marxist and indeed Maoist ideology. However while Mao's ideology is dead, even today his portrait appears on stamps and banknotes and he is considered a symbol of good luck and the attainment of wealth. Due to Chinese history and the founding of the PRC, Mao, his personality cult, and the existence of the PRC are in reality interconnected. And because of the Chinese link with their history, the collapse of Marxist and Maoist ideology and with Confucianism destroyed by Mao and the CCP, this still left Legalism as a potential philosophy for the CCP retaining control of China. This could be done by Legalism taking on capitalist characteristics through the personality cult of the current Chinese president and leader Xi Jin-ping. With capitalism as equally anti-Confucian as communism and equally linked to the use of the earth for material well-being and economic growth, it was somewhat inevitable that a capitalist form of Legalism would take hold. This is something that can be illustrated in today's world by China's expansionist belt and road programme and the Chinese government's policies in Hong Kong and Xinjiang province.



With the People's Communes shown to be a disaster and with enemies within the leadership of the CCP, Mao becomes China itself. This is Mao and his sayings on an issue during the Cultural Revolution.

Meters



There always has been a following collecting China meters. This was in no way easy, as few had survived. It was common, back then, for people to just throw away covers that had no stamps, as it was thought that it was not valuable enough to be collected. The writer will use several examples, from each time period, as a sampling of this topic that spanned a couple of decades. In China, collecting early PRC meters has become very hot, but as there are limited supply, auction prices realised have been steadily increasing. As late as 2015, Keith Lloyd in JCP no. 410, 2015 Feb, had a good article on the subject and links to probably the best ever China meter collection/exhibit of Richard Stambaugh. His exhibit can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.meterstampsociety.com/Exhibits/ChinaMetersMSS.pdf>

The writer usually collects one cover from each period as shown here. The Gold Yuan period meters are much scarcer than the Silver Yuan period meters. **Fig. 1** was a Gold Yuan Meter airmail cover sent from Nanking to US.

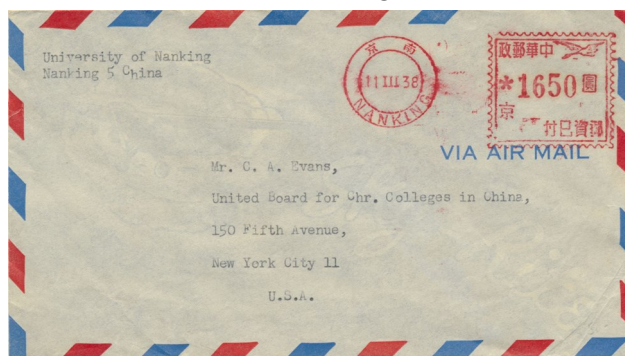


Figure 1: 1949 Nanking Gold Yuan meter airmail cover to US. Also used on the first day of a 10-day rate usage period.

Stambaugh had one shown on page 22 of this exhibit. On that exhibit page, he wrote: "This is one of two known examples of a Universal large frank without an identification number". This cover was sent with a franking of ¥1650 on 1949 March 11th. This rate was calculated by a basic international letter of ¥450 plus airmail surcharge of ¥1200. This rate was only valid for 10 days from 1949 March 11th to March 20th. This cover showed the first day usage of this rate!

Fig. 2 was the same meter used on airmail cover from Nanking on 1949 April 1st. It had a franking of ¥3100. The rate for an airmail cover should

Examples of Gold Yuan, Silver Yuan and PRC Meter Covers

Sam Chiu

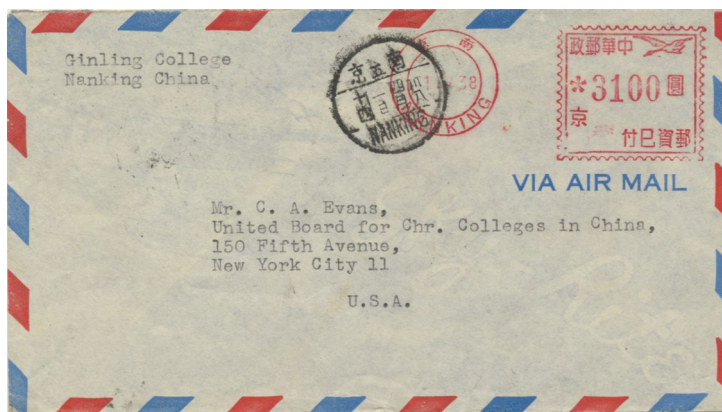


Figure 2: 1949 Nanking Gold Yuan meter airmail cover to US. Also used on the first day of a 10-day rate usage period. However, it had a wrong rate and was still using the old rate that was not valid which ended the day before.

be a basic international letter of ¥1500 plus airmail surcharge of ¥4300 for a total of ¥5800. How come this rate did not match the publish rate which was valid from 1949 April 1 to April 10, another 10-day rate? On checking, the rate period before this, which was from 1949 March 21st to March 31st, (another 10-day rate for an international airmail letter) would have been a basic international letter of ¥800 with airmail surcharge of ¥2300 for a total of ¥3100. Eureka, this cover was using the wrong rate, it had the rate that ended the day before on March 31st. Then there was the fact this cover was also the first day of usage of a new rate, but was wrong! Stambaugh would have no record of these covers as the author had these covers put away for over 30 years.

Fig. 3 was a Silver Yuan meter airmail cover used from 大塘墟, 台山 Datang Market, Toyshan, Canton to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada paying a rate of 55 fen. A Canton (3) meter was paying the 40 fen airmail surcharge rate on front and a Canton (4) meter was paying the 15 fen basic rate on the back. The rate was a 26-day rate that was used from 1949 July 5th to July 31st. The "big deal" with this cover is that this is the only Silver Yuan meter cover that was sent to Canada in the writer's 30 years of searching. In comparison, those sent to the US were much more plentiful. Then checking Stambaugh's exhibit, he did not have one example that used meters from 2 different machines on a single cover. Unrecorded. These same meters were used even after the formation of PRC, but of course, the lettering had been changed to Peoples Republic of China and the value was in RMB. **Fig. 4**, was used from Shanghai machine (4) on 1951 January 25th to Hankow. The receiver had left Hankow, so it was redirected, with stamps, to forward to Norway. A very rare usage, if not unique.

Fig. 5, was a 1952 February 2nd registered commercial



Figure 3: 1949 Canton Silver Yuan meter cover to Canada. Stambaugh did not have an example in his exhibit where the 2 meters were from different machines. The black arrows shows Canton (3) on the 40 fen label, which was the airmail surcharge for 10 grams on the front and a 15 fen label from Canton (4) for a regular international letter rate (20 grams) on the cover back. Unrecorded usage of labels from 2 different machines used on same cover.



Figure 4: 1951 Shanghai to Hankow cover, still using the Republic machines, but with new lettering. Cover then redirected to Norway with stamps.

cover from Shanghai United Banking Management Center to Kuo Hwa bank in Macau paying 20 times ¥100 rate (¥2000) where the machine basic unit was in ¥100. The machine number was Shanghai (8). The rate period was used between 1950 August 16th to 1952 April 30th. The basic rate was ¥800 plus a registered rate of ¥1200 for a total of ¥2000. Mail to Macau was using the same domestic rate as mail within China. But wait, Stambaugh did not have a registered cover between 1949 October 1st, at the start of PRC, to 1957 November 30th. So can this be the only record of a registered meter cover used within these 8 plus years?

Fig. 6 was a 1952 August 25th Club mail pack from Swatow to a post office box of a Hong Kong Club Mail Office paying ¥7200. The rate period from 1952 May 1st to 1953 January 4th was ¥800 for the basic letter rate of 20 gms. Mail to Hong Kong was using the same domestic rate as mail within China. Therefore, the club mail pack was 9 times the basic rate, so it was weighing under 180 gms. The machine number, Swatow (1) was visible. Although Stambaugh showed a 1950 Swatow machine usage, it had the “double

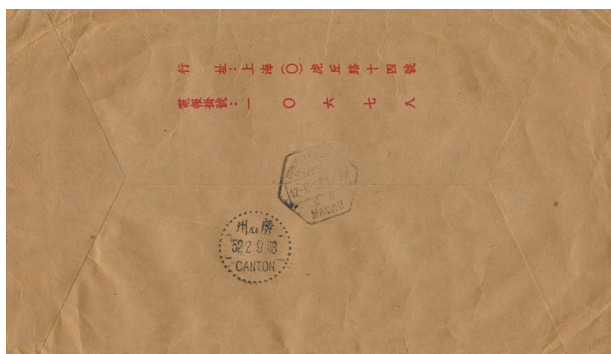
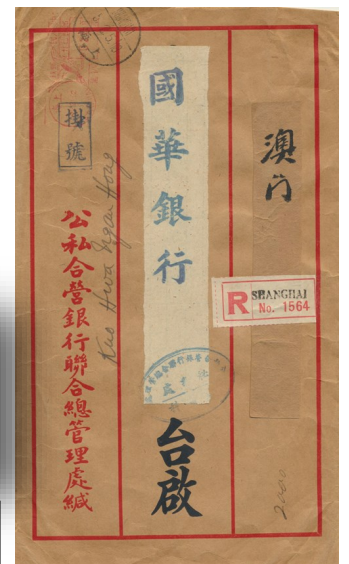


Figure 5: 1952 Canton to Macau registered cover used after the formation of PRC. Stambaugh had not recorded a registered item in 8 years. (meter enlarged at center)

To be continued on the bottom of page 16





Registered Express Internal Airmail - One Day Rate

Frank Walton RDP FRPSL

In 1948 China was experiencing considerable inflation, with several increases in postage rates. For example, there were four different domestic letter rates and fifteen different airmail rates in the calendar year. What is perhaps surprising is that the dates of effect of the changes were not always synchronised. The cover illustrated was sent from Weihsien to Tsingtao on 5 April 1948 at a rate of \$25,000. This is the correct cumulative rate for that day - but this was in place for one day only. The rate is made up of:



	Rate	Effective Dates
Surface postage first 20g	\$5,000	5 April to 20 July 1948
Registration fee	\$10,000	5 April to 20 July 1948
Express delivery fee	\$5,000	5 April to 20 July 1948
Air surcharge per 20g	\$5,000	12 March to 5 April 1948

References

Tables 2C, 8A, 10B and 11B (pages 4, 27, 56 & 60) in Sieh P. & Blackburn J.L., Postage Rates of China 1867-1980, Directorate General of Posts, Taipei, 1981.

00 over formal Yuan” type. He did not show an example that the “00” was not elevated and separated, as in this example in 1952. Another unrecorded usage?

In closing, it seems like a lot is still not known or unrecorded on this subject of China meters and members are asked to re-visit their holdings. Who know, you may have another unrecorded item. For this writer who cannot even consider himself a meter cover collector, analysing these covers have been a good learning experience.

References

Keith Lloyd, Provisional Meter Stamps of China, JCP, No.410, February 2015.

Liu Daoyi, Practical Handbook of the Chinese Postage, Complete edition, China Postal History Publisher, 2003.

<http://www.meterstampsociety.com/Exhibits/ChinaMetersMSS.pdf>

Continued from page 15



Figure 6: 1952 Swatow to Hong Kong Club Letter pack used in 1952 paying 9 times basic rate. (meter on back, enlarged on right)



Peoples Republic of China's First Period Airmail Cover and Before Sam Chiu

If you have your finger on the pulse, one of the hottest topic currently in China is collecting PRC covers of the late 1949 and early 1950. Within this postal history period, perhaps airmail tops the list. Needless to say these are scarce, but more importantly, there are a lot of collectors going for this topic, chasing for the same covers creating a demand that results in high auction prices realised.

The "First Period" was when PRC posted a postage rate for airmail service for the first time. This period was from 1950 February 1st to March 10th, so, this rate was only valid for 38 days (Ref. 1). The airmail rate for every 10 gm. was ¥5400 for Asia destinations and ¥9000 for everywhere else. Few covers have been recorded for this short period as very few people in China were sending airmail letters abroad at the start of the formation of PRC.

The writer had the good fortune of acquiring this cover (Fig.1). 1950 March 10th cover from Tientsin, sent from China Development and Industrial Company, Tientsin branch, to Lindheimer & Co. in London, franked with ¥15,800 in postage. This was a commercial usage airmail cover. The overseas letter rate was ¥2300 for first 20 gm. and ¥9000 for airmail for 10 gm. If this was under 10 gm., the postage would have been ¥11,300. If it was under 20 gm., the postage should have been ¥20,300. So the postage did not seem to match the published postal rate. Was there an incremental rate of under 15 gm. for the airmail surcharge? As that would explain perfectly, the exact ¥4500 difference (half of ¥9000) in either directions. So is this another "new find" of an unpublished incremental rate?

What the "big deal" is about this cover is that it was used on the very last day of the first airmail rate period. Another day later, it would have been in the second rate period, with many more covers were in existence with a much lower auction price realized. Just as aside, the sender wrote in Chinese "USA, London" on the front. It was good that the postal clerk was smarter than that and directed it to the right London. The writer had since traded this cover for another cover. Stupid!



Figure 1: Airmail cover from Tientsin to London England used on the last day of PRC First Airmail Rate Period showing an unrecorded and unpublished incremental rate.

What about the earlier period, after the formation of PRC in 1949 October 1st to 1950 January 31st?

Another cover in the author's collection is shown in Fig. 2. 1949 December 3rd airmail cover from a small town, Pak Sha, outside Canton mailed to an even tinier town, Geraldton (2016 population of about 1800) in Northern Ontario, over 1000 km. north of Toronto, Canada. It was sent to a Mr. Mah at The Silver Grill and not even to a Chinese restaurant. The franking was a block of 8 ¥500 Hwa Chung Liberation of Wuhan stamp totalling ¥4000. While there was a "national" published rate of ¥1500 for an international letter for the period 1949 November 25th to 1950 January 9th, there was no published airmail rate. The different of ¥2500 must be the airmail rate, right?

However, the writer had images of an exhibit of the same topic and area of the same period showing covers multiple airmail covers of the period of November and December after the liberation of Canton on October 14th. The exhibitor wrote that even though there were no airmail rates, the fact remained that many of the citizens in the surrounding area desperately needed to write abroad to



Figure 2: Currently the earliest known of this “Special 1949 December South China Airmail Rate” by the Canton Post Office on a cover from Pak Sha to a very small town in Northern Ontario, Canada.

ask for money in order to survive after liberation, from their relatives working in US and elsewhere. The Canton PO, under pressure, had to start an airmail service because of this demand. In late November, the Canton PO had a postal rate of ¥500 for an ordinary international letter and an airmail surcharge of 3 times ordinary international letter rate or ¥1500. But because rapid inflation after liberation, by December, the ordinary international rate had doubled to ¥1000, with the corresponding surcharge now at ¥3000 (3 times basic). This was the correct ¥4000 airmail rate for this cover. So it was a Canton area, South China, special airmail rate and was only used for 1949 December. The exhibitor had also shown from his research that the “earliest known airmail cover” using this special Canton airmail rate was on November 26, merely a week before this cover, but that was using the November ¥500 plus ¥1500 airmail surcharge rate. His other December airmail covers were all used later than this cover. Could this cover, December 3rd, be the earliest known usage of the ¥1000 plus ¥3000 airmail surcharge rate for Canton in December?

As an aside, the number of China covers that were sent to the Canada as compared to those sent to the US was very low. The writer guessed for every 30-40 covers addressed to the US, there might only be 1 cover that was addressed to Canada.

Another cover in the writer’s collection posed yet another question (Fig. 3). 1950 January 18th airmail cover from Canton proper to Australia, with ¥1800 franking. On 1950 January 10th was the unification of PRC’s postal services and the official start of international letter mail service. The basic international service was ¥1800, which was this cover’s franking. Already written above was the fact that there would not



Figure 3: On airmail cover but paying surface rate sent from Canton to Australia, before PRC had its first airmail rate. Was this cover sent by airmail or not via Hong Kong?

be an airmail service until February 1st. Even though this was sent in an airmail cover, was this sent by airmail? The writer guessed that most logically, this would then be forwarded to Hong Kong PO and onward to Australia. What would the Hong Kong postal clerk do? To send it by airmail to Australia? Or not? Look at the rapid changes in postal rates from China that faced these postal clerks in Hong Kong. In late November, these workers saw the start of the special November airmail rate. Then another change in airmail rate in December. Then the unification in January 10, only 8 days before this cover was sent. They must be really confused with these rapid changes. Will we ever know how this was sent by the Hong Kong postal workers?

Reference

Liu Daoyi, Practical Handbook of the Chinese Postage, Complete edition, China Postal History Publisher, 2003.

Booklets



The writer first read in Stamp World number 129 about the fact that the 1980 Dolphin booklet, only PRC's second booklet, its souvenir sheet had 5 different easily visible variations and therefore could be plated.

The background artwork on the souvenir sheet, where the stamp was placed on, was not identical. The pattern of the artwork repeated itself once every 5.4 cm, but the souvenir sheet itself was 6.0 cm in height. As the stamp was placed in the center of the booklet pane, it would be placed in different positions in relation to the background artwork, thus creating 5 different souvenir sheets.

The original article suggested the use of the pattern on the left edge of the souvenir sheet to distinguish the 5 different sheets. However, the writer found that it was confusing and was able to find a visually much easier way to distinguish the 5 different sheets from the pattern. The position of the flower on the left edge of the stamp was much more visible and less confusing.

For the top (first) pane, much of the flower was covered by the stamp, only showing 2 part pedals on the left edge. The white arrows in **fig. 1** pointed to the flower for each pane. The second pane, the flower was now at the top left corner, striding the corner. The third pane, the middle circle of the flower was cut in half by the stamp design. The fourth pane,



Figure 1: White arrows showing the positioning of the flower in the background pattern relative to the position of the stamp in five panes.

the flower's bottom edge had completely moved upward away from the stamp design. For the bottom (fifth) pane, the flower was way above the design of the stamp and another flower was coming up from the bottom edge.

With the same logic, there must be also 5 different identifiable front panes (with 6 stamps). The writer was able to identify from the selvedge of the second (2) and third panes (3) that had a sheet number counter of 5 numbers, with the second pane (2) would usually be showing the first/single

Collecting The Dolphin Booklet

Sam Chiu

digit, while the third pane (3) had the other 4 digits (**fig. 2**).



Figure 2: Red arrows showing the sheet numbers counter in the selvedges in pane 2 (top) and pane 3 (bottom).

Then the fourth pane (4) had a different and smaller sets of imprinted numbers (**fig. 3**). The writer failed to identify any markings on the selvedges of the top (first) and bottom (fifth) panes.

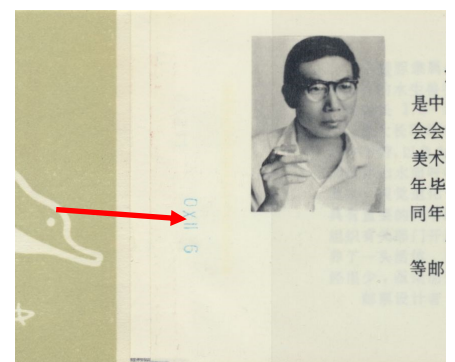


Figure 3: Red arrow showing another set of numbers in the selvedges in pane 4.

The mathematician would instantly come to the conclusion that in order to collect all these, it would mean a 5 by 5 combination resulting in 25 different booklets. Then there are 2 different colors of the front cover. One that was redder and the other that was greener. In **fig. 4**, the greener booklet cover shown (left) was placed under the redder booklet cover (right). That would be a whopping 50 different booklets. With Ebay sellers asking for just under 70 pounds a booklet, which would be a very expensive 3500 pounds for 50 booklets!



Figure 4: The greener, subsequent printing booklet cover on the left (bottom). The redder, original printing booklet cover on the right (top).

However, the philatelist would come to the rescue. In the process of making booklets, what usually happened was the complete top sheet (with 6 stamps sheet) would be placed on top of the back sheet (souvenir sheet times 5).

These paired sheets would then be cut up at the same time and then the selvedge would be adhered to the booklet cover. Therefore, the top pane of the top sheet would be “paired” to the top pane of the bottom sheet and vice versa for all 5 sets of panes. This was, in fact, what had happened, as the writer had 57 booklets in his collection to survey and was able to confirm that this was indeed the case. Therefore, to collect a complete set of the dolphin booklets, one only had to collect 10 different ones, because of the 2 slightly different color covers.

Readers must be thinking that there would no significance to the slight difference in color of the covers. Batch to batch variations of printing ink were a daily occurrence and the color difference would be of no consequence. But that was not the case. The writer was able to identify that on the greener covers, on the selvedge of the front sheet of the second pane, where usually the first digit of the sheet numbers was printed, it was replaced by a blue shape of 2 small jointed double circles (**Fig. 5**).

A sample count from the writer’s collection was a count of only 3 of these blue jointed double circle booklets as compared to 16 of the first sheet with single digit sheet number booklets. The survey also showed that the greener cover was of a much smaller number than the redder booklet cover.

These observations made the writer came to this conclusion. There was, a second, smaller number and subsequent printing that had slightly greener covers. The difference

between these 2 printings could also be shown on the selvedge of the second positional pane of the front sheet where it would show a blue jointed double circle. So in order to collect the “complete set of booklets”, one would only have to collect 6 booklets, a set of 5 as shown on the souvenir sheets showing all 5 different positions (with any colour cover) plus a greener cover of pane 2 with a blue double jointed double circle on selvedge of the front sheet. A much easier task to achieve.

Reference

Lee Yuk Qing, Dolphin booklet should be 5 complete, Stamp World, number 129, Philatelic Publication Press, Hong Kong, 1995.

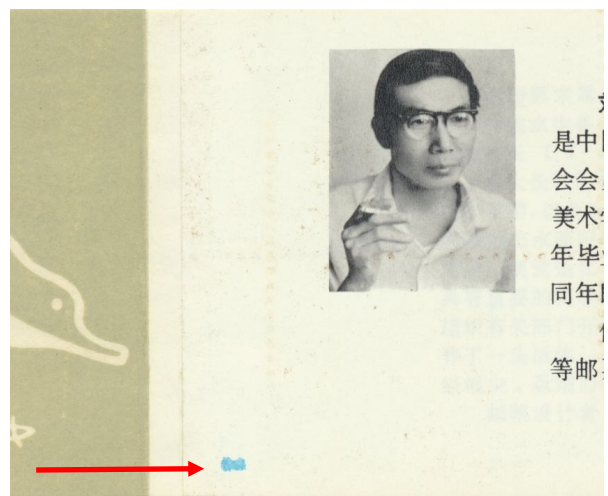


Figure 5: The greener, subsequent printing booklet (greener) cover with a new pane 2. Red arrow showing the 2 small jointed double circles instead of a single digit sheet count. The relatively more elusive booklet.





Theft of Red China Paper Artifacts Including Stamps Worth more than HK\$4 billion in Hong Kong

Sam Chiu

It was reported in all major Hong Kong media that a residential unit on Kowloon's main thru fare, Nathan Road, was broken into and items were taken. It was reported that a famous PRC collector of Red Communist Memorabilia had been using this unit to store his collection of writings of Chairman Mao, battle orders from commander-in-chief of China's Liberation Wars and other written documents of major historical value relating to the rise of communist China, including stamps. It was quoted by the owner that the lost items, including stamps, were valued at HK\$4 billion (£400 million). He resides in China.

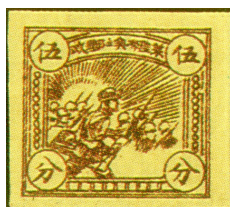
Several days later, the police arrested 3 men and also found the most valuable artifact, a scroll written by Mao, but unfortunately, the thieves found that it was "too long" and had already cut it into 2 halves. The

police also reported that another person was taken into custody and will be charged of buying stolen properties. From what had been reported, these stamps shown below were among the stolen. Large and regular size "Whole Country is Red", Monkey sheet and many other valuable liberated area stamps.

If members are offered any of these items from suspicious sources, then you may want to contact the HK Police about these.



In block of 4 with top margin



In block of 4



Image References

Various auction catalogues and liberated area catalogs.

Auxiliary Markings



Unregistered?!!

Sam Chiu



RÉCÉPISSÉ DU DESTINATAIRE.
RECEIPT BY THE ADDRESSEE.

Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu (le colis désigné / the parcel mentioned) au recto du présent (les colis désignés / the parcels mentioned) bulletin. (this note, &..... been received.

À At le on the 1924

(Signature)

[D.-85] COUPON. COUNTERFOIL. Peut être détaché par le destinataire. May be cut off by the addressee.

Numéros d'enregistrement Number of entry: UNREGISTERED

Pays d'origine: CHINE. Country of origin: CHINA.

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION. DESPATCH NOTE.

Ci-joint Herewith: Nombre de déclarations en douane / Number of Customs Declarations: 2

Valeur assurée Insured value:

Montant du remboursement Amount of trade charge:

Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur: Name and address of sender: Chong Wah Export Co., 3 Fintain Road, Shanghai.

À Messrs Holly Co., 107 Johnson Street, Victoria.

(Lieu du destination) (Place of destination): 107 Johnson Street, Victoria.

(Rue et No.) (Street and No.): Victoria.

Timbre de la douane. Stamp of Custom House. Poids de chaque colis avec valeur déclarée: Weight of each insured parcel:

Drroits de douane. Customs Duty. Acheminement: Route to be followed: Via

Stamp of Office of Origin: SHANGHAI 18 JUL 24

Stamp of Office of Destination: VICTORIA 18 JUL 24

When the writer first saw these 3 pieces in a dealer stock about 25 plus years ago, the first reaction was: You must be kidding! Then the second reaction was: I must buy these. Which the writer did. **Top figure** was on cardstock and had form number [D.-85] on top left corner, while the other 2 were just Customs Declarations on paper and had form number [D.-54] on top left corner. The 2 Customs Declarations forms were for 2 different boxes (**bottom figures**). Of course, the draw was on the boxed marking on top right corner: **Unregistered**. It never occurred to the writer why there was ever a need for such a marking. Since they say "never say never", the marking squarely existed and on all 3 pieces. On further examination, all 3 pieces were

used for sending 2 boxes from a Chong Wah Export Company in Shanghai on 1924 July 18 to a Holly Company in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. To the writer, the back of the card resembled that of an AR notice, as the title on the back was "Receipt by the Addressee". The only guess that this writer had to why the existence of such a marking was that the card resembled that of an AR card. Which meant that the receiver would have been misled in thinking it was an AR card and had to sign it and returned it to origin, which was unnecessary. So, an "Unregistered" marking would have been created to clear the confusion. Can members comment on what reason(s) it could be for the existence this marking?

CHINESE POST OFFICE. UNREGISTERED

CUSTOMS DECLARATION. DOMESTIC PARCEL POST.

Addressed to: Messrs Holly Co., 107 Johnson Street Victoria, B.C.

DESCRIPTION (Bag, Basket, Box, etc.): Box 1

CONTENTS: Pongee, Cam, Lantien Sample patterns

VALUE, INSURED, TRADE CHARGE, IS AN A. R. REQUIRED? (Yes or "No.")

Date of Posting: 18 July 1924

Sender's Name: Chong Wah Export Co.

Full Address: 3 Fintain Road, Shanghai

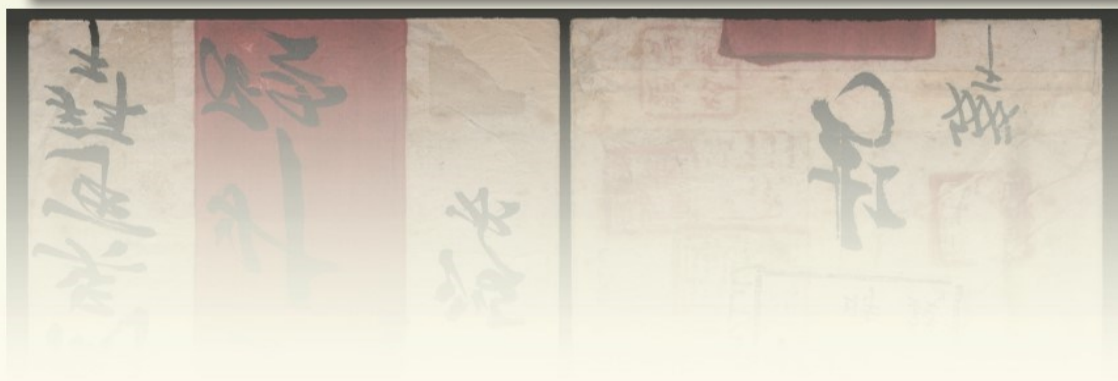
Net Weight, Kilos:

Gross Weight, Kilos:

Stamp of Office of Origin: SHANGHAI 18 JUL 24

Stamp of Office of Destination: VICTORIA 18 JUL 24

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