

Journal of

CHINESE PHILATELY



ISSN 0951-88878

April 2021. Issued by the China Philatelic Society of London. £5
No. 418 (Vol. 63. No.2)

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Worldwide membership* £20.00 \$26.00 € 22.00

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Journal cost per issue £ 5.00 \$ 6.50 € 5.50
(plus cost of postage and packing, without membership benefits)

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Annual General Meeting



From the President, Paul Davey

Observant members will realise the CPSL has not held an AGM since the last that David Sibley organised. We have arranged a meeting using ZOOM as detailed below as we are unable to meet face-to-face. It is virtually impossible to arrange a suitable date and time for everyone and we hope many will be able to join in. If you are unable to attend but would like to bring up any points or comments on items in the agenda please let myself or the Secretary know. If the postal service does not work as efficiently as it should and you are too late for the meeting, minutes will (hopefully!) be published on the website. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

Those with an eye to the detail will note that our constitution and rules are remarkably quiet on the subject of virtual meetings! We are now progressing the best we can during the pandemic and have identified a way forward which I hope will be approved.

China Philatelic Society of London Extraordinary General Meeting / Annual General Meeting

(to be held via ZOOM May 15th 2021 at 14:00 British Summer Time).

For an invitation please email CPSLPresident@gmail.com.

AGM Agenda

- ◆ Apologies for absence
- ◆ Introduction of Officers and Committee members by the President
- ◆ Proposal to update rules to allow meetings and decisions / votes to be held using Zoom or equivalent. (Proposed by the Committee). If passed a draft will be published in the Journal prior to being put to a meeting for formal approval.
- ◆ Chairman's report
- ◆ Secretary's report
- ◆ Treasurer's report including discussion of subscriptions
- ◆ Packet Secretary's report
- ◆ Auctioneer's report
- ◆ Webmaster's report
- ◆ Editor's report
- ◆ Proposal to re-elect the Committee en-bloc (the Webmaster, Editor, Auctioneer and Packet Secretary are appointed by the Committee and are ex officio members of the Committee).
- ◆ Two Vice Presidents – UK and Overseas.

Further items can be discussed in a short meeting to follow the AGM and will be added to the agenda upon request to the Secretary before 1st May 2021. One committee member position is vacant and we invite any interested parties to get in touch.

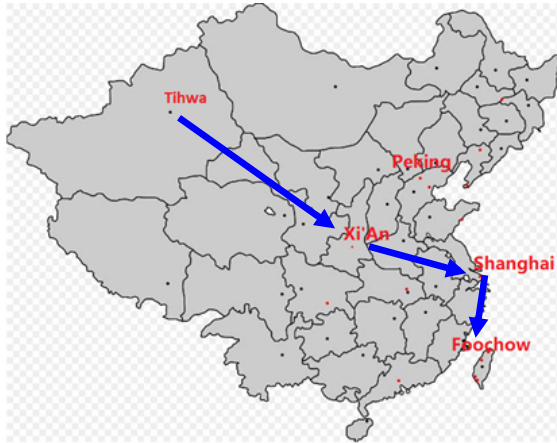
If sufficient time remains in this meeting we hope to have one or two short displays. Subjects are not confirmed at time of going to press. We could continue with such display meetings periodically if there is a demand and sufficient volunteers. The only “in person” meeting we have planned is out room at London 2022. Look out for further details.

Hung Hsein



Hung Hsien Empire: A Long Journey for a Postal Stationery card

Aaron Li



Map showing routing of this card.



Only known Sinkiang to Foochow on Flag 1c stationery card used in the Hung Hsien Empire



Tihwa, Sinkiang
4th year (1915)
Dec 7, 1915



Si'an, Shaanxi
Jan 15, 1916



Shanghai
Jan 24, 1916



Foochow
“元年” 1st year
Jan 26, 1916

Illustrated is a “crossover” 1c Flag stationery card used at the 2 cents single postcard rate from Sinkiang to other provinces. It was sent when China used the Republic’s fourth year date, but by the time of arrival, China had already become an empire again. It took nearly two months to reach the final destination. Sent from the extreme north-western part of China in Sinkiang province, postmarked Dec. 7, 1915, this transited Si’An, Shaanxi and then Shanghai, finally arriving at the French Post Office in Foochow on Jan. 26, 1916.

Yuan Shih-Kai held military power (known as the Baiyang Army) in China in late Qing Dynasty. That was one of the main elements and negotiation tools forcing Dr. Sun Yat Sen to name him as the first president of the new Republic of China after the 1911 Revolution.

With his supporters behind him, on December 11th, 1915, Yuan declared himself as the Emperor of China under the name of “Hung Hsien” and changed back China’s 4-year old Republic to a constitutional monarchy.

Yuan established his empire on New Year’s Day, 1916; however, the monarchy was strongly opposed by the public. Yuan eventually had to revoke the monarchy. His reign lasted for only 83 days (Jan 1- March 23rd). “元年” Yuan Nien was one type of postal marking representing the Hung Hsien Empire. Although the Hung Hsien Empire had already been proclaimed on January 1st, 1916, many post offices continued to use “5th year” of the Republic for year slug until a new year slug with “Yuan Nien” arrived from Peking, some of these arrived as late as the third week of January. This is now the only known Sinkiang to Foochow use of the 1c Flag postal stationery

Forgeries



Forgeries in Auctions

Roman Scheibert

Unfortunately, the number of fakes offered in auctions (online and real auctions), especially in Chinese auctions, is constantly increasing. Thereby the fakes are getting better and therefore more dangerous. Not only high-quality stamps and covers have been forged and falsified for a long time, but also small values, if this promises a cent advantage in the sale.

This article presents a cross-section of some counterfeits that have been offered recently and also how they can be detected. The article serves to sensitize and warn every collector and investor not to blindly believe the reputation or promise of the offering platform and to have everything checked in case of doubt.

Overview of counterfeits. Often only one example representing countless other analog fakes.

1.) Complete counterfeit I. All kinds of postal stationeries are counterfeited (especially the postcards from Port Arthur/ Dairen), sometimes better, sometimes worse. Shown is a particularly bad fake, real card in the background:



Fig. 1: Catalog No. Mizuhara HDPC1
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangqufengpianjian/6049203.shtml>

2.) Complete counterfeiting II. These modern forgeries, in a fine print, are currently sold en masse on all platforms. These are high quality prints of original scanned in stamps. Thus, individual field characteristics can be found on each fake. You can recognize these fakes by good scans with a little practice by too fine, flowing print and mostly by the different paper. The image resolutions in online auctions, to identify the fakes beyond any doubt, are usually not sufficient. The following picture shows a real stamp on the left and a

fake on the right (first stamp from the block of 4 of the auction offer). The fake from the block of 4 could be identified by means of known field characteristics of this edition, which are recurring in fakes.



Fig. 2: Catalog No. Yang NE6
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangquyoupiao/6154439.shtml>

3.) Complete forgery III including false overprint. Only a short tear, of course this is also counterfeited. On the left the real stamp and on the right the already bad forgery on completely wrong paper and a much too homogeneous print, affectionately still provided with a wrong perforation.



Fig. 3: Catalog No. Yang EC188
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangquyoupiao/5976317.shtml>

4.) Complete fake IV including fantasy "certificate of authenticity". Since about 2000, a large-scale fraud series with fake stamps and so-called "Certificates of authenticity" has been happening. There are now at least 4 different patterns and designs of these fancy certificates, which all have in common as a common denominator to be accompanied exclusively by complete fakes. The named organizations as issuers

of these fakes do not exist or have never issued such certificates. Over the years hundreds of these fakes have been sold and some collectors have been damaged, sometimes by 5-digit amounts.

The first fakes of this kind were brought to the collectors in the USA in a well-known Chinese special auction and in many private sales. From there they spread through auctions all over the world and are still partly offered today. In direct comparison with genuine stamps, the fakes are easy to identify, but since unfortunately even extremely rare brands were offered as complete fakes, of which at most only a handful or less genuine stamps still exist, the comparison could not always be made so easily. Thus it took unfortunately also longer, until the proof was finally furnished that it concerns here a large-scale fraud series. On the left are the genuine stamps and on the right the fake.



Fig. 4: Catalog No. Yang RP11

The fake of the vertical pair in fig. 4 shows some interesting features, attention was paid to individual field features and supposed flaws like dirty paper were included. But the fact that the fakes have completely wrong proportions (compare height + width of the genuine stamp) was probably completely overlooked in the rush. Fig. 5, forgery at right, is again miles away from a genuine stamp.



Fig. 5: Catalog No. Yang RP12

Selection of fantasy certificates:



Fig. 6: Fantasy certificates (there are more versions available)

Sources: Stamp Inspection (left), Zurich-Asia (center), Philachina (right).

5.) Manipulation. It has already been communicated more frequently and also partly noted in the catalogues. Imperforated single stamps from Northeast China and Central China which have been issued in line perforation are not worth collecting. Also, no supposed imperforated marginal or corner margin pieces, since the sheet margins were very often not perforated. Certainly, this is also familiar to the auction houses, but this does not prevent them from regularly listing such offers.



Fig. 7: Imperforated?



Fig. 8: No, perforated!



Fig. 9: Superimposed.

Also representative of truly countless other similar offerings is a stamp with cut-off perforation. To the left and below there are still tooth holes to be seen (green arrows), so one wonders how the auction house staff can miss such a thing? An often-reliable feature to detect such manipulations is also the number of single cuts. Genuine imperforated stamps were usually cut out of the sheet with a single cut, and when teeth are cut off, there are often many small individual cuts and wavy edges, as in this sad example.

Also representative of truly countless other similar offerings is a stamp with cut-off perforation (Yang NE91a without teeth). To the left and below there are still tooth holes to be seen (green arrows), so one wonders how the auction house staff can miss such a thing?



Fig. 10: Perforation removed.
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangquyoupiao/6200587.shtml>



Fig. 12: Yang LSW2 (real / false)
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangquyoupiao/6023726.shtml>

6) Deception. Presenting false facts to increase value is also a frequently chosen topic for of collector deception. Here a silver-yuan stamp is highly "ennobled" to a rare provisional edition from the liberated territories. The Chinese lot description reads: "解放区邕宁邮资半 分代邮券新一枚", translated as "Provisional stamp for Yongning in the Liberated Territories". Such provisional editions from the Liberated Territories regularly achieve 4-digit results, while analogous silver yuan stamps generate only about 10% of these results. Expert collectors immediately recognize that the issue from Yungning (邕宁) was issued in March 1949, but the town was not "liberated" until December 1949. At least the stamp or label is genuine (pos. 6 in the sheet from 9), has already something. Still to be mentioned, but much more dangerous than single stamps are often manipulated letters, which are offered as precursor editions of the Liberated Territories.

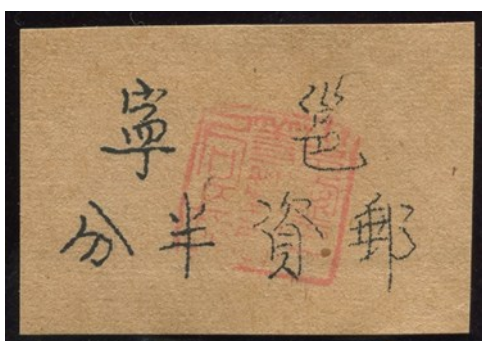


Fig. 11: Silver Yuan Label
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangquyoupiao/6134140.shtml>

7.) Overprint Forgery I. Since basic stamps are usually cheaper than overprinted stamps, this category of forgeries is one of the most frequently encountered problems. In this bad forgery, a bloody beginner has obviously tampered with a hand-carved potato stamp. Unfortunately, there are far better forgeries than this laughing stock. On the left again the genuine stamp (Yang LSW2) and on the right the forgery.

8.) Overprint forgery II. Especially dangerous are overprinted stamps with the base stamps from the former Manchukuo area, because everything is forged. As an example of countless others, here is a clumsy overprint forgery of stamps from the area Port Arthur / Dairen (all three stamps are wrong). Starting price for these worthless forgeries was ~ 240.- Euro / 1.980 RMB. Above the forgeries and below the genuine stamps in direct comparison.



Fig. 13: Top row forgeries, bottom row genuine stamps.
Link to the lot:
<http://www.zhaoonline.com/jiefangquyoupiao/6189089.shtml>

9.) Concealment of defects. Unfortunately, this has become an absolute perennial. It is practically already common and the order of the day in Chinese auctions not to mention even massive repairs. The consignors conceal the repairs and the auctioneers are unwilling or unable to recognize and name repairs. Since often even the most clumsy forgeries are not recognized, probably the latter is true. Presented below as an example for countless other cases is the very rare stamp Yang EC271, which was correctly described and offered with the (unmistakable) defect in Gärtner Auction No. 44, lot 6107, and sold for 500 Euros. This stamp, massively repaired, was offered about half a year later in the Chinese auction SUNGARI AUTUMN AUCTION 2019 on December 13, 2019 as lot 690 for a fabulous ~ 6.140.- Euro / 50.000 RMB as starting price. No mention was made of the extensive repairs. There is no question that the stamp with such damage was sold at a

realistic market price in the Gärtner auction.



Fig. 14: Mark before repair



Fig. 15: Mark after repair

Link to the lot:

<https://www.epailive.com/goods/12931383>

All examples presented have the advantage that the forgeries or manipulations can be identified from the scan by comparison with genuine stamps or can be determined from logical considerations. A good extensive registry of all rare pieces also helps here. It is more difficult to recognize a rotten egg in the case of good and elaborate forgeries, which cannot be easily identified as forgeries on the basis of scans or other criteria that can be recognized from a distance.

New discoveries", i.e. when previously unknown rarities suddenly appear on the market, also harbor a particularly high risk. In case of doubt, the only way to be sure is to send the stamp to an examiner or to exchange information online in specialized forums or interest groups, e.g. the Facebook group "Stamps of China (Liberated Areas and Manchurian Local Overprints)" with more than 400 members.

The link address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1418053941764452>

QR code to the Facebook group:



Questions & Answers

Members are welcome to send in question items if they have difficulty identifying these stamps. Please direct all emails to the editor at: chiusam@hotmail.com. Images of at least 300 dpi is highly encouraged. If taking photos with smart phones, please make sure that these are taken at a close distance to ensure it resulted in a large enough image of the item.

Recent stamps sent in for identifications



These were the 9-18 Incident Commemorative stamps listed in Chan Catalog pg. 897. It was a Bo Tsing local issue printed after the Japanese surrender in September 1946. This is the complete set of 5 values.



This is listed on pg. 78 in Yang's Liberated Area catalog as EC 295. 1945 Su-Chung hand surcharge on first print with value indicated. The basic stamp was for Printed Matter.



The basic stamps are printed as Province of Guangdong Treasurer Department Insurance Tax Revenues. The red is \$5 and the green is \$2. These were then overprinted with "Temporarily as China National Currency" \$1 on the \$5 (red) and 50 cents on the \$2 (green) stamps. This pin-point it to the CNC period.

Foreign Powers

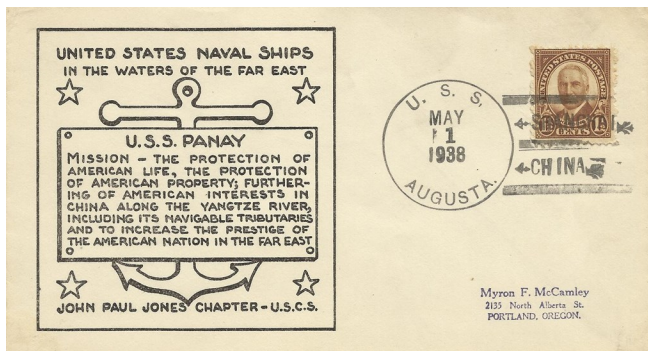
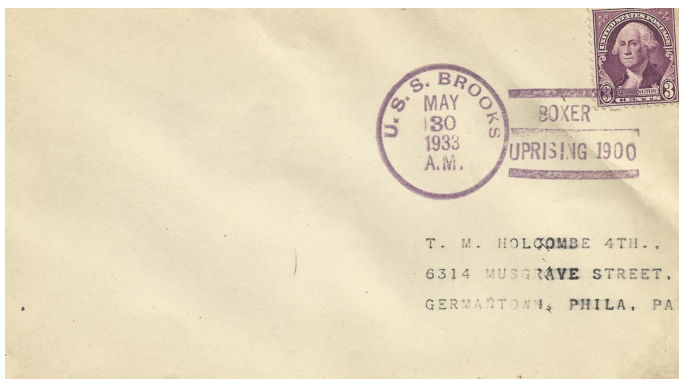


US Naval Commemorative Covers in China During the Interwar Period

Geoff Rooke

The late 1920s and the 1930s saw an explosion of philatelic commemorative covers from the US navy loudly proclaiming its presence in the coastal and inner waterways of China in what can only be described as a display of diplomatic muscle and military strength. At a time when the various American governments kept events in Europe at an arm's length, in China their foreign policy was very different and much more assertive.

and their actions in destroying Imperial Chinese army fortifications. In other words the US wanted trade as well as political, economic, and military influence in China regardless of whether or not the Chinese actually wanted it.

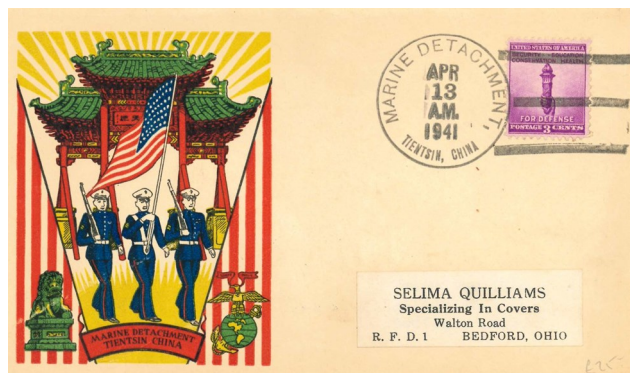


USS Panay: Emphasis on protecting American interests in China. No mention of the ongoing war between China and Japan.

USS Brooks: Historic US intervention in China. Commemorating the American role in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion.

Indeed historically China wanted to keep contact with the outside world to an absolute minimum. An inclusive agrarian, bureaucratic social structure tied to Confucianism with its moral code of conduct in which the Chinese were superior and foreigners inferior in a world that radiated outwards from the emperor who was at its head as the son or child of Heaven. One in which society was explicitly tied to the skies directly above China and the natural world around and below it, for there was no separation between the contemporary Chinese society and the physical and by extension spiritual world around it.

There was however nothing new about this US approach towards China. Illustrations of which in the 19th century was the forcing of the Chinese government to sign the Treaty of Wangxia in 1844 that gave the Americans the same rights in China that the British had exacted two years earlier in the Treaty of Nanjing, attempts by Americans in China in the 1850s to make Taiwan a colony, taking a major part in the opium trade, in the suppression of the Boxer rebellion,



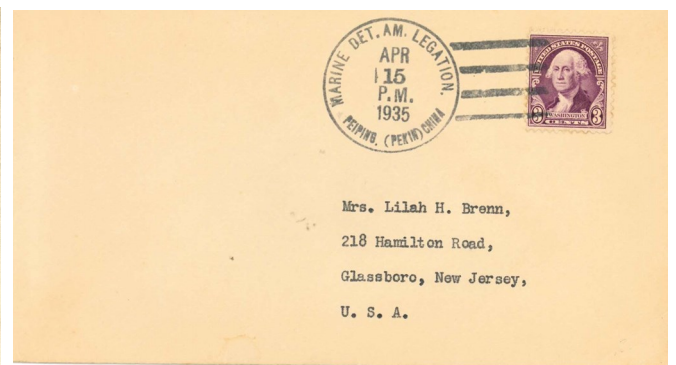
Marine detachment in Tienstn, now Tianjin commemoration on 1941 cover

USS Edsall: US Independence Day commemoration. An explicit illustration of US Neutrality during the pre-war China - Japan conflict.



Protecting American lives and property.

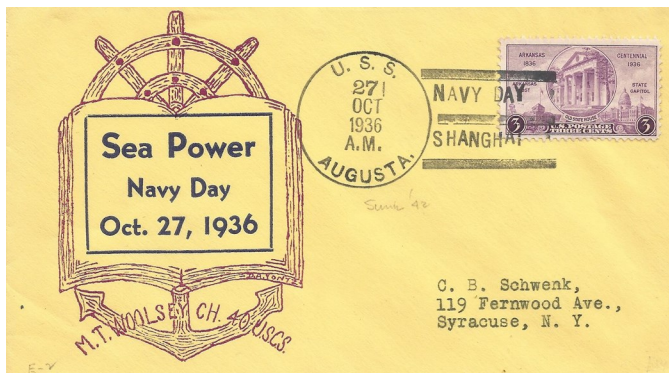
The collapse of imperial China in 1911 and with it the role of emperor was followed by a period of chaos as different warlords without the emperor's status vied for influence and power. It was not until 1927 when Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist Party (KMT) launched a successful military expedition to unify China, establishing their capital in Nanjing, that it had a proper functioning government in any real form. Even then their hold on much of China through the decades that followed was tenuous at best.



Marine detachment postmark from the US legation in Peiping, now Beijing, 1935 cover.

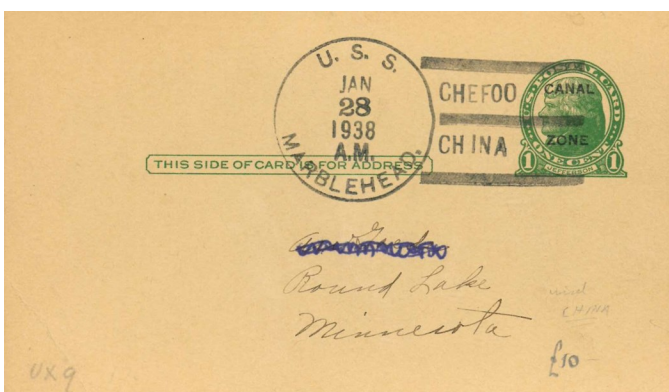


1938 cover from USS Luxon in Hankow, now Hankou and part of Wuhan .

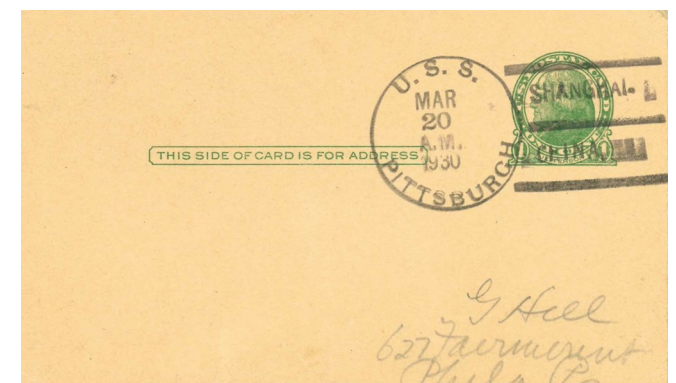


American Sea Power commemoration on Navy Day 1936.

counter any threat from the KMT. For example in April 1927 the Second Battalion Fourth Marines, an infantry battalion of the US Marine Corps, reinforced US forces in Tianjin (Tientsin) for this very purpose. While any Chinese threat to the International Settlement in Shanghai was quickly countered. However it was the Japanese takeover of Manchuria in September- 1931 and the forming of the puppet state of Manchukuo that required some kind of policy response from the American government of the day.



1938 cover posted from the USS Marblehead in Chefoo, now Yantai or Zhifu.



1930 cover from USS Pittsburgh posted in Shanghai.

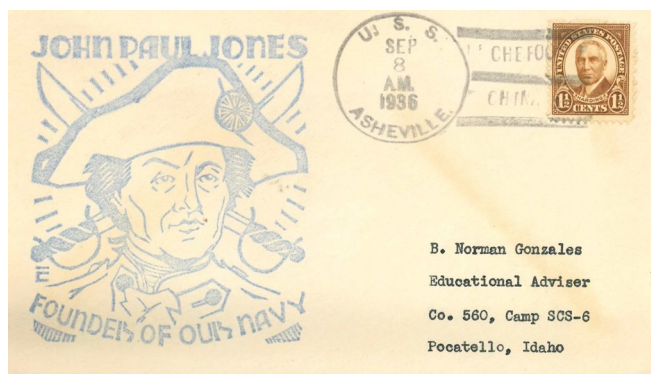
This partial unification of China by Chiang and his Nationalist army was perceived as a threat by all the colonial powers and the US was no exception. In 1927 US forces were in place and indeed were reinforced to

This turned out to be one of non-recognition of the new Manchurian state by refusing to acknowledge the legality of any acts that infringed upon US rights in China and denouncing the violation of the Kellogg-Briand Pact outlawing war. Beyond this however, no



1937 cover from USS Whipple commemorating the US Asiatic Fleet and specifically Destroyer Squadron Five.

new measures were introduced and indeed President Hoover refused to impose sanctions on Japan. Relations got worse under Franklin Roosevelt, who assumed the presidency in January 1933, when aid to China was cut back, Japanese aggression ignored, and a law introduced in 1934 that destroyed the monetary basis of the Chinese economy the Silver Standard. This took the form of a silver purchase act that sucked silver dollars out of China, thereby forcing it off the Silver Standard in 1935 and creating a serious recession. The American government was even heavily split as to what to do when outright war broke out between China and Japan on July 7th 1937. For Chiang Kai-shek and the KMT leadership the attitude of the US administration was incomprehensible. Allies in the US tried to support Chiang. He and his wife were made International Man and Wife of the year by Time Magazine in 1937 but to little avail. It took nearly 18 months following the Japanese attack before the US government policy changed from that of generally ignoring events going on in China. In the mean time Japanese actions such as the bombing of Shanghai, the rape of Nanjing, and the proclamation of the "New Order" in East Asia in November 1938 by Prince Konoe, made it obvious that Japan was becoming an overt threat to not only American but also European colonial interests in the area. Eventually in December 1938 finance was at last



1936 cover from USS Ashville postmarked Chefoo commemorating the founder of the US Navy John Paul Jones.

provided to the desperate Chinese government in form of a \$25 million commodity loan. It was the beginning of the US government's commitments to China and over the next three years, before their entry into the war, monetary assistance through commodity and currency stabilisation loans increased.

This helped reduce the inflation rate, provide funds to buy arms, and generally boost the morale of the Chinese government now exiled in Chungking. A group of American pilots, the American Volunteer Group under Claire Chennault, were allowed to fly as private citizens against the Japanese. In 1940 the US embargoed aviation fuel and iron and steel exports to Japan and in the spring of 1941 the lend lease act was passed that made China more eligible for aid. The American Military Mission to China or AMMISCA was created to assess Chinese needs, help train military personnel, give the Nationalists military advice, and provide the American government with information on what was going on. While Chiang Kai-shek set up a company in the US, called China Defence Supplies, to purchase military equipment and send it to China. Eventually the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 ensured China and America became full allies as the Second World War started officially in China.

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Thematics



International Stamps and Postal History relating to Mao Zedong (Part 1 of 2)

Helmut Opletal

There are few politicians who have been portrayed on postage stamps as often as China's revolutionary leader Mao Zedong – in his home country as well as internationally. In the early days, the depiction of Mao was used for political propaganda. Later on stamps carrying Mao's portrait became sought for by Chinese and international collectors of topical stamps. This article tries to explain how and why stamps from outside the People's Republic of China honour Mao and his life.

Mao Zedong stamps issued by communist China

Mao Zedong (毛泽东) became de facto chairman of the Chinese Communist Party in 1935, but only in 1943 – during the War of Resistance against Japan – he was officially confirmed to this post. After another war and victory over the nationalist Guomindang government, Mao Zedong presided over the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China in Beijing on October 1, 1949. Between 1954 and 1958, he also acted as State President of the PRC.

As early as in March 1944 (**illustration 1**) Mao's portrait appeared on postage stamps of various "liberated areas" (regions under communist control) of China, in the same way as the portraits of kings or queens, presidents or state leaders elsewhere. For some reason this practice was discontinued after 1949, but Mao's portrait continued to appear in commemorative contexts on numerous national issues.



Ill. 1 First stamps with Mao portraits (1944, Shandong Wartime post)

During the height of the Cultural Revolution period (1966-70), Mao became an object of ardent reverence. This personality cult is reflected on virtually every stamp of this period. Mao's portrait is shown together with his sayings and quotations, or sometimes as a

brilliant sun shining on the people of the whole world. (**illustration 2**) After the death of the Great Helmsman in 1976, China continued to issue numerous stamps commemorating the revolutionary leader, his life and his works.



Ill. 2 "Chairman Mao – the red sun in the hearts of revolutionary people all over the world", 1967

Stamps relating to Mao Zedong issued outside the PRC mainland

Since his rise to power in 1949, hundreds of stamps depicting Mao or topics directly relating to him have also been issued outside China, very few though during his life-time (up to Sept. 1976).

Commemorative stamps (and even many "regular" issues) are generally designed to serve propagandistic and/or commercial interests. "Propaganda" often means political propaganda, praising a regime and its leaders, economic successes or historical achievements, culture or beautiful landscapes.

"Commercial interests" behind commemorative stamps mean that the issuing authorities hope that some of the stamps bought will not be stuck on letters or postcards, but kept in the albums of collectors, thus generating some extra revenue for the postal establishments (or marketing companies). This is the raison d'être for any "topical" stamp issues – in China or elsewhere.

Like inside China, these stamps may relate to Mao Zedong in many different ways:

- Mao as a famous personality, commemorating his birth and death anniversaries (**illustration 3**)



III. 3 North Korea commemorating Mao's 100th birthday

- Historical events relating to Mao (such as his 1972 meeting with US president Richard Nixon and the preceding “Ping Pong Diplomacy” (illustration 4), or – in a critical way – the 1989 rebellion on Tiananmen Square)



III. 4 Nixon meeting Mao (overprinted issue with spelling mistake), registered cover to the US.

- Commemorating diplomatic relations, friendship treaties with China or international exhibitions with illustrations relating to Mao (illustration 5)



III. 5 “World Philatelic Exhibition in Beijing” (Chile commemorative)

- Members of Mao's family (illustration 6)



III. 6 Mao's second wife Yang Kaihui (executed by nationalists)

- Quotations and sayings attributed to Mao, or just his name mentioned (illustration 7)



III. 7 “Mao Zedong Industrial Complex” (Albania), regular stamp from 1974

- Buildings and institutions relating to Mao (e.g. his birthplace in Shaoshan)
- Mao's portrait on buildings (Tiananmen), on Chinese trains and locomotives (illustration 8)



III. 8 Locomotive with Mao portrait, “Railways of the World” (1995)

- Mao's works and writings ("Little Red Book"), "Mao badges"
- Mao's calligraphy (slogans, names of institutions in his personal hand-writing) (illustration 9)



III. 9 "Red Flag Canal" in Mao's calligraphy (2014)

- "Mao Stamps on stamps" (illustration 10)



III. 10 Mao and Lin Biao, a rare Chinese stamp from the Cultural Revolution on a stamp from Guinea-Bissau

According to the degree of propagandistic or commercial intentions behind an issue, international stamp relating to Mao Zedong can be roughly put into three categories:

- Stamps issued by political allies or friends of communist China, or third world countries that sympathized with Mao Zedong.
- Early speculative issues (1970's and 80's), usually from African and Arab Gulf countries, that are clearly aiming on international collectors of topical themes.

- Highly speculative issues (starting from the late 1990's) that bear no relation to the issuing country's politics, culture or history, mainly aiming at Chinese stamp collectors and marketed through philatelic agencies.

The Early Period: Design of international stamps relating to Mao

These issues of stamps showing Mao (or other aspects of his life and political career) usually serve some kind of political propaganda. They are printed in relatively large quantities, sold over the postal counters, and could be regularly found on mail items. Most of these "non-commercial" stamps (relating in some way to the history and political life of the issuing country) were released in the 1950s and 60s, some also much later.

In June 1951, East Germany ("German Democratic Republic") issued three stamps to commemorate "German-Chinese Friendship", two of these rather big stamps show a contemporary portrait of Mao Zedong. (illustration 11)



III. 11 Cover from East Germany to USA (1951)

Between February 1954 and April 1955, North Vietnam ("Democratic Republic of Vietnam") celebrated the "Friendship between Vietnam, the Soviet Union and China" by bringing out three stamps with portraits of Georgy Malenkov (who briefly succeeded Stalin as Soviet leader), Vietnamese revolutionary Ho Chi Minh und Mao Zedong. (illustration 12)



III. 12 "Friendship between Vietnam, the Soviet Union and China" (1954)

Another set of four stamps (1956) commemorating the reopening of a cross-border railway line, shows a locomotive decorated with portraits of Ho Chi Minh and Mao. (illustration 13)



III. 13 Cover North Vietnam-France (1955)

In 1966 Vietnam, still a close ally of China, issued a stamp at the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PRC (showing Ho Chi Minh meeting Mao).

Between 1971 and 1977, stamps from several African nations sympathising with communist China (Guinea, Mali, Congo, Benin, Cameroon, Niger and Sao Tomé), commemorated the founding of the PRC, Mao's birthday or the anniversary of his death through various issues. (illustration 14)



III. 14 Cover Niger-Switzerland with stamps commemorating 1st anniversary of Mao's death (1977)

Albania was a country particularly close to Beijing in political terms, and when China broke with the Soviet Union in the late 1950s, Albania was the only Eastern European country that openly sided with Mao's China. Several stamp issues between 1964 and 1974 reflect this political choice. It was the time of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and Albanian stamps from this period showed Mao speaking at a party congress, Red Guards wielding the Little Red Book (a collection of Mao's quotations) and wearing "Mao badges". (illustration 15)



III. 15 Stamp set commemorating 20 years of the People's Republic of China in 1969

On another stamp we can see Mao's famous wall poster "Bombard the Headquarter" (炮打司令部) written out in Chinese (illustration 16)



III. 16 "50 years of Chinese Communist Party" (1971)

A miniature sheet from 1971 celebrates Chinese space projects citing Mao's words „We must also build an artificial satellite“ (Ne gjitshashtu duhet te prodhojme satelite artificiale). (illustration 17)



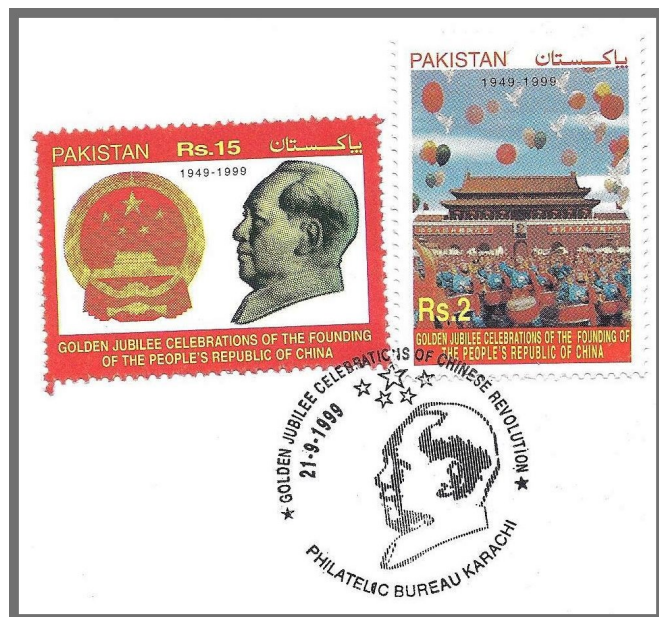
III 17 Celebrating a Chinese space satellite (1971)

Cuba is another country that later, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, became a political ally of China. This is reflected in several stamp issues between 1999 and 2014, commemorating anniversaries of the founding of the PRC and diplomatic relations between Havana and Beijing. (illustration 18)



III. 18 “50 years of diplomatic relations”, cover from Cienfuegos to China

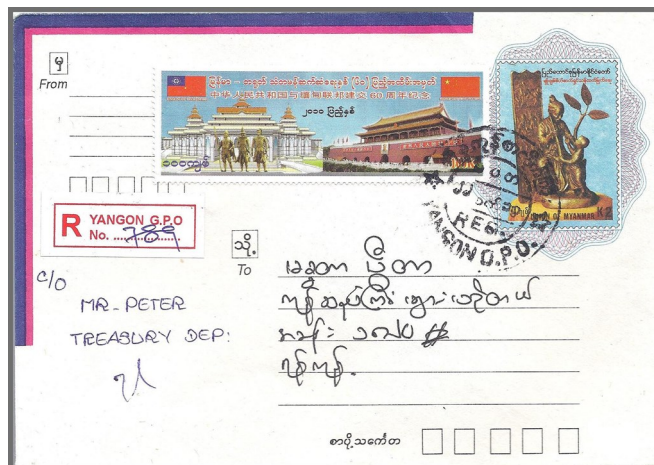
The 50th anniversary of the founding of the PRC is also marked by two stamps from Pakistan in 1999, showing Mao’s portrait and Tiananmen. The same portrait is used for a First Day cancellation from several Pakistani cities. (illustration 19)



III. 19 “50 years of the PRC” – stamps and First Day cancel

After the turn of the millennium, anniversaries of the establishment of diplomatic relations or the signing of “friendship treaties” became a regular subject of commemorative issues in a number of countries around the globe (Oman, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, San Marino, Myanmar and others). Many of these stamps are illustrated by a view of Beijing’s “Gate of Heavenly Peace” (Tiananmen) with

Mao’s portrait displayed over its entrance. It can be assumed that the issuing of such stamps was driven by wishes to please the Chinese government or even on direct suggestions from Beijing. (illustration 20)



III. 20 60 years of China-Myanmar relations (local registered cover, Yangon, 2009)

Some other countries honoured their own political leaders when they issued stamps showing them in bilateral meetings with Mao. Such stamps were put on sale by Zaire (1975, Mao and Mobutu), Ghana (2009, with Kwame Nkrumah), Thailand (2011, Kukrit Pramoj), Zambia (Kenneth Kaunda) and Congo-Brazzaville (both 2014). (illustrations 21)



III. 21 Mao receiving Zaire’s President Mobutu (1975)

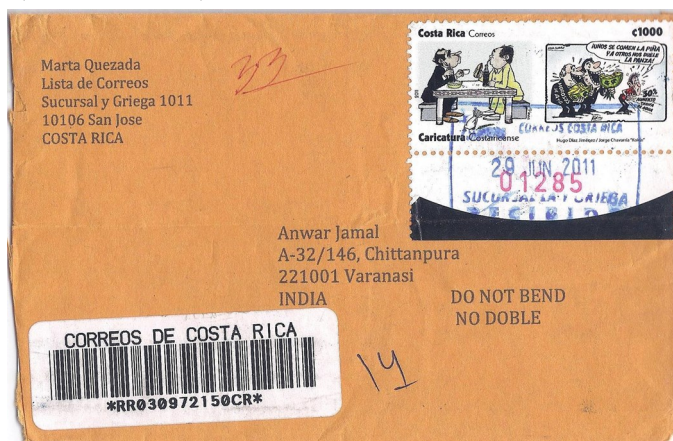
Tanzania, also a close African ally of China, had during the 1960s and 70s its main railway link with Zambia constructed by China (“Tazara Railway”), and several stamps refer to this. One from 1985 shows a Chinese diesel locomotive of the type “The East is Red” (东方红), with this brand name in Mao’s personal handwriting. (illustration 22)

A year later this stamp was overprinted at the occasion of the “10th Anniversary of Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority“. Another Tanzanian locomotive stamp from 1989 shows a type designation “Progress” (前进) on the engine, again in Mao’s personal script..



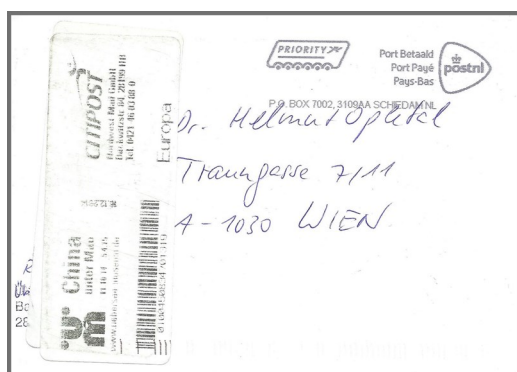
III. 22 Mao's calligraphy for a locomotive type name

A rather unique stamp and commemorative sheet comes from Costa Rica (2011): It honours local cartoonist Hugo Diaz "Lalo". One of the stamps shows Mao Zedong and Richard Nixon at a table, Mao sipping from a bottle of Coke and holding a hamburger. (illustration 23)



III. 23 Mao cartoon (on registered cover Costa Rica-India, 2011)

An interesting postmark (of a privatized forwarding service in Germany) comes from Bremen: It displays a slogan cancel advertising for an exhibition at the local ethnographic museum titled "China under Mao". (illustration 24)



III. 24 Advertising cancel of German "City Post" (2014)

There are two foreign stamps mentioning "Mao" in name only: A 1974 stamp from Albania's regular series depicts a textile factory in Berat called Mao Zedong Industrial Complex ("Komb. Mao Ce Dun"). And a North Korean regular stamp from 1960 shows "Mao Zedong Square" (모택동광창 in Korean) in the capital Pyongyang. (illustration 25) North Korea's issuing policies will be described in a separate chapter further down.



III. 25 Pyongyang "Mao Zedong Square" (1960)

Early speculative issues (1970s to 1990s) aiming at collectors of topical stamps

Such stamps have been officially issued by the respective authorities, and most of them did serve regular postal purposes. But they bear no relation to the culture or economy of the issuing country, and in most cases they are devoted to a general topic like "famous people", "historical events", "important buildings", "trains/locomotives" or international stamp exhibitions.

It was the time when topical stamps started to flood the international philatelic markets. But stamp collecting was not yet popular in China, therefore only few topics related to China or Mao then.

For example, there are several stamps commemorating U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972 (from the Gulf Emirates of Ajman, Fujairah and Umm-al-Qiwain). Some issues are doubtful, but a few actual covers are known. (illustration 26)



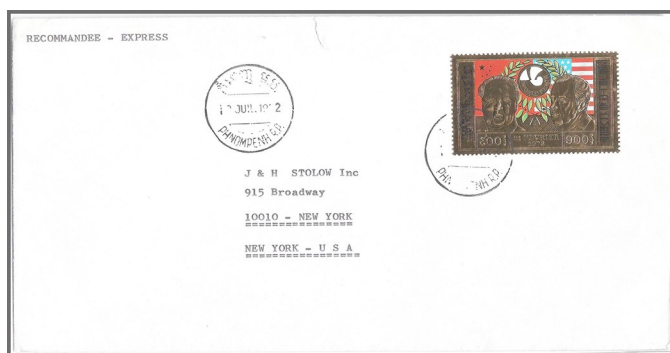
III. 26 Registered cover (with rare non-perforated issue) Umm-al-Qiwain (U.A.E.)-France, 1972

In December 1971, a silver and gold foil issue from Guinea (Conakry) remembered the so-called “Ping-pong Diplomacy” (US-Chinese détente through a 1971 table tennis tournament between the two countries) – already a few months before Richard Nixon set out for his historic journey to Beijing. (illustration 27)



III. 27 “Ping-pong diplomacy” (Guinea 1971)

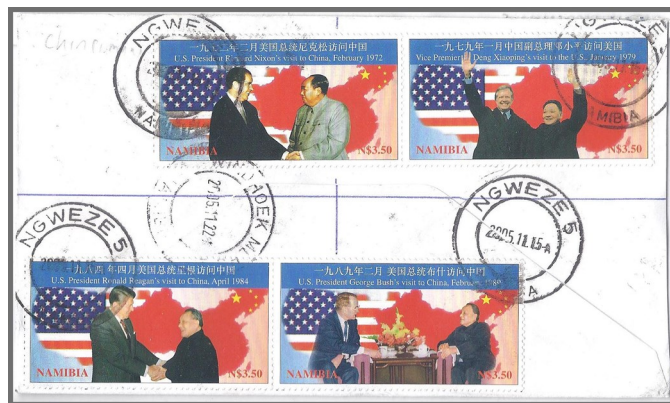
A somehow mystery issue concerning Nixon’s visit to China comes from Cambodia, then “Khmer Republic”. Two gold foil stamps showing Nixon and Mao were issued in September 1972 according to the German Michel catalogue. The “Khmer Republic” was supported by the US at that time and definitely a political enemy of China, fiercely fighting the Maoist “Red Khmer” guerrilla movement. No commercial envelopes are known, only some CTO covers. (illustration 28)



III. 28 Philatelic cover, date blurred (Khmer Republic 1972?)

Some of these earlier issues were already promoted by international stamp agencies like the IGPC (Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation), a private company that meanwhile assists over 70 different countries “in the design, production, and marketing of postage stamps. ... IGPC claim to produce nearly half of the different postage stamps issued each year but have been criticised for inappropriate and excessive issues.” (Wikipedia, retrieved on 26/10/2020)

The “Great Men of the Decade” series from Togo (1980) with one stamp picturing Mao, already comes into this category as well as the 1984 “Famous Men” series from Antigua (also overprinted “Barbuda Mail” in the following year) or the “Famous Faces of the 20th Century” issued by Gambia in 1996. The same goes for stamps from Namibia (1998) at the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Shanghai Communiqué (one stamp showing Nixon and Mao) (illustration 29), issues commemorating international philatelic exhibitions held in China (Mali 1996, Grenada 1996, Chile 1999) as well as some of the “millennium” commemoratives produced between 1999 and 2000.



III. 29 Cover from Namibia to Germany (2005, with 1998 commemorative set)

Among these numerous “millennium” issues we find two stamps that shed a critical light on Mao in connection with the 1989 Tiananmen Square rebellion: A stamp from Palau depicts demonstrators in front of the entrance to the Party and government headquarters in Beijing showing Mao’s slogan “Serve the People” (为人民服务). Another “Events of the Millennium” stamp from the Marshall Islands shows Chinese police harassing demonstrators who have erected a “Goddess of Democracy” statue right in front of Mao’s portrait on Tiananmen. (illustration 30)

This already heralds the era of inflationary topical stamps – fuelled by the emerging philatelic interest in China and by even more greed for profit from commercial stamp agencies.



III. 30 Tiananmen protests of 1989, postcard from Majuro, Marshall Islands

PART 2 will continue in next Journal

SMART PHONE PHILATELY



Philately in China – An Evolution

Sam Chiu

A lot has changed in the last few years in collecting in China. For those who are interested in these changes, here is a brief report. This report is based on behaviour and the processes of what collecting has evolved to. In a later report, it will be more on trends of collecting.

Smart-Phone Philately

Perhaps the most important and wholesale change is the use of smart-phones and Wechat in collecting. With nearly everyone having a smartphone and nearly everyone in China uses Wechat, much collecting has moved onto this platform. More advanced collectors, specialists and dealers have started their own Wechat groups, where the group-chat owners will invite fellow collectors who have the same collecting areas or interests or those from a society to join these groups. Some may just be friends. One gets “invited” to these groups. The writer belongs to half a dozen of these. After the writer joined the first one, your contact would have been shown and other group-chat owners would quickly invite you to join their chat-groups. It seems that the more the merrier is the whole idea of these chat groups, as most groups that the writer has joined are over 500 in membership.

Besides “chatting” about ones collecting interest, what do members do in these chat-groups? Since sending images is now a breeze using this platform, some use this to sell stamps and covers. So it is a platform for buying and selling. Of course, one can post a want ad for the collecting area one wants to buy material from. The images usually include a price that also includes postage within China. There may even be a short description of the item written on with the price in the image or these may have been just typed in on the image. With the advance of online payment systems, like Alipay, buyers can easily send payments and sellers can receive money, all with a record. With respect to using money from a smartphone, China is just light years more advanced than the rest of the world. For outside China chat-members, like the writer, payment for the item will be an issue, if one does not have an Alipay account. Then some sellers may refuse to send outside of China. Many of these chat-group sellers do not have PayPal accounts. The writer found the way to overcome this is to ask the seller to find a friend who has a PayPal account to receive money and then his friend will transfer money to the seller, usually at no additional cost. Since sellers want to sell their stamps/

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2	文2万岁	10500	3800	2700
3	文3文艺座谈会	6000	3200	2300
4	文4万寿	2800	1100	700
5	文5文艺路线	8500	3500	2000
6	文6人民	1800	800	500
7	文7诗词	25000	11000	6500
8	文8题词	220	90	25
9	文9抗暴	2000	680	350
10	文10语录	45000	16000	10500
11	文11题词	250	100	40
12	文12安播	1600	800	350
13	文13指示	1500	750	300
14	文14大桥	820	350	150
15	文15公报	500	250	120
16	文16红灯记	800	260	100
17	文17老农	950	380	160
18	文18保边疆	1100	280	180
19	文19金训华	280	95	60

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Sharing current price trend. This is a sample for W-headed stamps.

Auction house reporting star item with high prices realised

Auction house advertising upcoming auctions.



Sharing photos at stamp talks/meetings. This was City of Shanghai Philatelic Society meeting in November 2020.

covers, they are motivated to use this more involved procedure, so that they can close the deal. With the pandemic, it has gotten worse as China has stopped airmail service to some countries.

Some of these chat-groups can have a very broad focus, like one group-name that the writer is a member of that can be loosely translated as “one’s dream in philately”. As the name implies, this chat-group has a lot of members buying and selling.

Then the writer is in a group that uses the name of a small rural wartime office that lasted only for a few months as the chat-group name. This will bring up the question of how does the group-chat owner sustain interest in his group as it is such a small area and a short time period? To say the least it is not easy, but the chat-group owner has broadened the scope by not limiting discussion only to this small area/time-period and by re-posting from other chat-groups. On every Sunday night, while another chat-group had an invited specialist of a certain topic to post a talk, this chat-group owner would repost these talks. These specialists would sometimes post 100-150 pre-input messages on their topic within the 30-45 minutes the talk is scheduled. Those group-chat members who are “attending” are welcomed to ask questions and send

comments. However, it is just good etiquette not to post during the speaker’s posting, but afterwards. The writer has seen the same post by speakers over 3 or 4 different chat-groups. Of course, the group-chat owner from which these talks have originated may have given permissions to these other group-chat owners to repost, or not?

Like websites or Facebook groups, chat-groups have the same issues of trying to sustain interest for its members. For website or Facebook groups, it is not a mystery that continuous addition or revision of new content is the answer to this. Chat-groups have more options open to them, or it has just evolved that way.

These are some of the positive changes in the writer’s opinion. The stamp talks are a great feature for learning. Then chat members post their own collection items that are very interesting and one can learn a lot too. Even the posting of for-sale items are useful even if one does not collect these. One can learn what sells, what is hot and what gets sold and at what price, and what does not get sold. Auction house managers can instantly link their websites or the current catalog to this audience. Then some of the



Sharing photos when visiting stamp shows.



Sharing photos of exhibits on frame at stamp shows.



Selling stamps in chat groups.



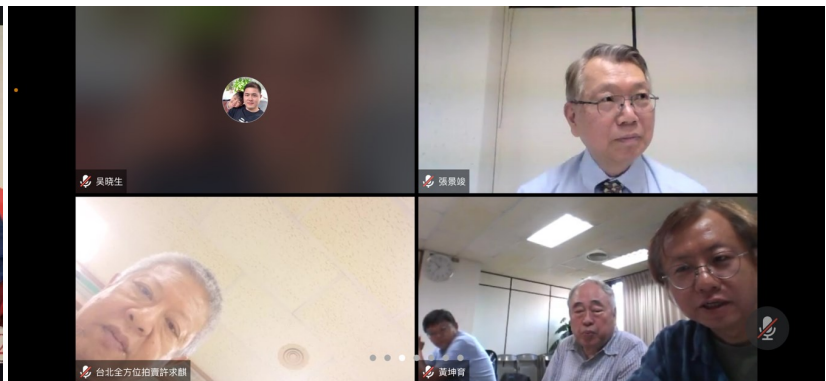
Sharing instant auction results in auctions in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

group-chat owners attend auctions and instantly send out prices-realised for some of the lots that have achieved great results. Overall, the flow of information is near instantaneous. Then at stamps shows, a lot of images are posted during the shows. The announcements of stamp shows or other stamp related meetings are also very efficient as well. Chat members can then contact each other directly and one-on-one by requesting to become friends, just like other social media platforms.

These are some of the negatives in the writer's opinion. These chat-groups have become the personal use of the group-chat owners. Maybe it is because of the owners trying to increase posting, but some of the conversations with his friends are personal with a lot of joking around. Some mornings, the writer saw a couple of hundred posts overnight (daytime in China) and it was all posting of this nature. However, there are a lot of well-wishers too, for example, on a chat-member's birthday. Then it is common to see 20—30 "good morning" wishes per day. Particularly on days of celebrations, like New Year, these groups are flooded with well-wisher chats. The writer has to be fair, as there are a lot of well-wishers for a successful stamp

show as well. The writer has also seen, in one instant, that a member was severely and repeatedly criticising another member for their past dealings, where he was claiming he was cheated. To the writer, like in any other social media platforms, the changes of public humiliation or shaming, with or without any basis, is highly possible and worrisome. The writer has also seen group-chat owners warning members for posting that did not seem fit and threatened to kick the members off the chat group. Along the same line, a group-chat owner allows a friend (who is also a philatelist) to post daily posts to promote and sell his health product. This, and other non-philatelic postings, maybe allowed by the group-chat owners, to generate more postings, are flooding the chat groups with a lot of noise. Then there are also frequent postings of poetry and links to popular songs that the writer finds useless and distracting.

In summary, the writer finds there are more positives than negatives to the use of these chat groups to the advancement of philately in China. Will the same work outside China? That remains to be seen.

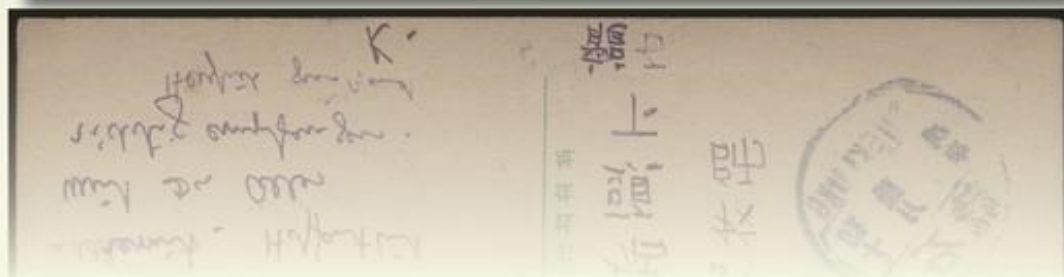
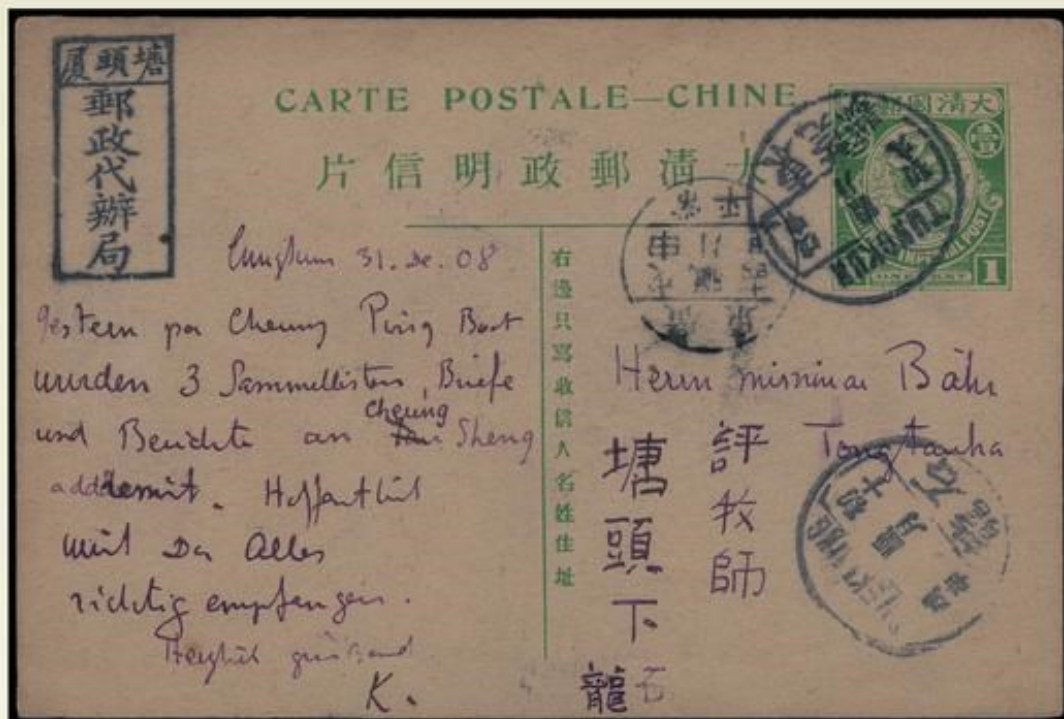


Zoom meeting from Taiwan shared in China (3 photos).



Sharing images from Macau Stamp Show.

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