

## Treasure Gallery – China National Post and Postage Stamp Museum



### Manuscript of R. A. de Villard

R. A. de Villard (1860-1904) was a foreign official of the Maritime Customs in Shanghai during the Qing dynasty. He was a German draftsman of the Statistical Department of the Imperial Maritime Customs since September 1892.

The “Coiling Dragon, Jumping Carp and Wild Swan” stamps were officially issued by the Chinese Imperial Post of the Qing dynasty since 1897. The denomination of the “Coiling Dragon” was in cent, “Jumping Carp” in ten-cent and “Flying Goose” in dollar. The hand-painted essays of this issue, designed by R. A. de Villard, were the earliest stamp design drawings collected in China National Post and Postage Stamp Museum. He is also the first known stamp designer in China.

The detailed fine lines in the design are clearly shown in this draft. It has great historical value for the study of design and fabrication of stamps in those days. It still maintains its glamour even having hundred of years of history.



### Manuscript of R. A. de Villard

The content of the manuscript of R. A. de Villard includes memorandum about stamps and postcards of the Imperial Chinese Post that were submitted to Robert Hart, the Inspector General of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1896. It also includes the extracts of some correspondences between Robert Hart, Henry Charles Joseph Kopsch, Alfred E. Hippisley and R. A. de Villard. The

content covers the design and fabrication of the Large Dragon, Small Dragon, Empress Dowager Jubilee, Coiling Dragon stamps and postcards, including descriptions of the drawings, denominations, fonts, formats, typesetting, issue date, paper type, printers, fabrication charges, etc.

This precious collection of China National Post and Postage Stamp Museum provides valuable first-hand information for the study of postal history, stamps and postcards during the Qing dynasty. With detailed record about the design and fabrication of Chinese stamps, the manuscript of R. A. de Villard had been translated into Chinese, thus becoming an influential publication in this area.

## Large Dragon Stamps

The “Large Dragon Stamps” is the first postage stamps issue of China. This is a set of three stamps with denomination of one Candarin (green), three Candarins (red) and five Candarins (yellow). They were fabricated by



the Statistical Department of Shanghai Customs and issued in Tianjin. As the set of stamps features a big illustration of dragon, it was commonly known as “Large Dragon Stamps”. During the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the issue of “Large Dragon Stamps” in 1988, it was officially named by the former Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications as “China Large Dragon Stamps”, and in abbreviation “Large Dragon Stamps”. Due to the lack of information, the issue date of the “Large Dragon Stamps” according to study by the philatelic community, can be traced to be a date no earlier than 24<sup>th</sup> July 1878. Until now, there is no proven information about the stamp designer. The “Large Dragon Stamps” is an important symbol regarding the origin of modern Chinese postal history, and also a key milestone in its development.

## Qing Postage Due Stamps Overprinted With “Provisional Neutrality”



Qing Postage Due Stamps Overprinted with “Provisional Neutrality”, also known as “Provisional Neutrality” Postage Due Stamps

When the Republic of China was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1912, A. Théophile Piry, a French in charge of China Post at that time held a neutral position. As there was insufficient time to print new postage due stamps, he ordered the supply office of the Shanghai Post to overprint the words “Provisional Neutrality” in font size 5 with red ink on the London Print Qing postage due stamps which had eight different denominations and put them up for sale starting on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Among these eight types of “Provisional Neutrality” postage due stamps, only six types with blue background were sold in the post office in Fuzhou. However, owing to opposition opinion from the community, these stamps were only sold for a short period of time. According to statistics, the sales of half-cent, 4-cent, 5-cent and 10-cent stamps were one hundred each, while those for 20-cent and 30-cent stamps were 25 each. The remaining two types of postage due stamps with brown background were never sold. Both used and mint stamps of this issue are considered valuable.

### Soldiers of War Against Japanese Aggression Commemorative Stamps



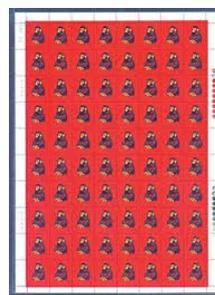
On 26<sup>th</sup> August 1938, the commemorative stamp “Soldiers of War Against Japanese Aggression” was issued by the Shanxi-Hebei-Chahar Border Region Provisional Post. These stamps were distributed to the soldiers free of charge as a benefit to them to send letters. The stamp does not have denomination and perforation.

The design shows the heroic image of the soldiers who combated bravely on the battlefield. It served as an encouragement to the people and military during the war of resistance against aggression.

The “Soldiers of War Against Japanese Aggression” is the first issue of commemorative stamp during the Chinese people’s revolutionary war period. It is also the first one without denomination and exclusive for military use.

### T.46 Gengshen Year Stamps and Original Drawing

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 1980, the famous issue of T.46 “Gengshen Year” that had been planned for years was finally issued. The well-known painter, Huang Yongyu, created a lovely and adorable image of the “golden monkey” in ink wash painting. The carving by Jiang Weijie



was engraved with beautiful fine lines, which is a perfect reflection of the original design. The T.46 issue marks the beginning of the Chinese Zodiac stamp series. After the Third Plenary Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese Zodiac series are adopted in stamps. It is a breakthrough in stamp issues and a good representation of the promotion of Chinese traditional culture.



### W7 Poems of Chairman Mao Stamps

Mao Zedong is a great politician, revolutionist and at the same time an outstanding poet and calligrapher. This series has included 13 stamps of Mao’s poems, describing the reminiscences of his youth, the combat of the people’s armed forces during the revolutionary war period, the perseverance of the Chinese Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army who completed the 25,000 miles Long March, the cheering of the People’s Liberation Army when they captured Nanjing, etc.

It reflects the glorious history and the author’s extraordinary implementation work during the Chinese Revolution.

Regarding the typesetting of the stamps, the designer insisted on reducing only the size of the original work without any other alteration. Therefore, the stamps have various dimensions. The carver has used his superb technique to embody the ups and downs of the strokes, lively rhythm, elegance, free and unrestrained style, as well as magnificence of Mao’s calligraphy.