



# INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23rd February 2002

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January 2016  
Volume 14 Issue 1

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

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### EDITORS COLUMN

Welcome to 2016. The year of the Monkey. I read that for 2016 the pace of my professional life will slow down considerably compared to the previous year. This will give me enough spare time to attend to even minor points and enhance my technical knowledge and expertise. Now since I am planning on chucking in my job (aka retiring) from full time corporate employment in March, maybe that will come true. How exciting! Maybe I will get more time for philatelic activities. I can only hope on that score as I already have 6 overseas trips planned for 2016 including the Taiwan Exhibition in October. Philately from afar perhaps.

Hopefully the terms smart, quick and ambitious – will also apply during the year, well perhaps ambitious is a bit ambitious although I am looking at writing at least two books next year. Perhaps while flying. One never knows. Anyway, these are three of the characteristics you're said to have if you were born in the Chinese Year of the Monkey.

Since I think this worth showing here is the miniature sheet from Jersey Post who like so many other countries, yawn! will issue Year of the Monkey stamps.

Jersey will also include a presentation pack illustrated by Beijing artist Wang Huming.

All very nice and a wonderful revenue raiser no doubt.

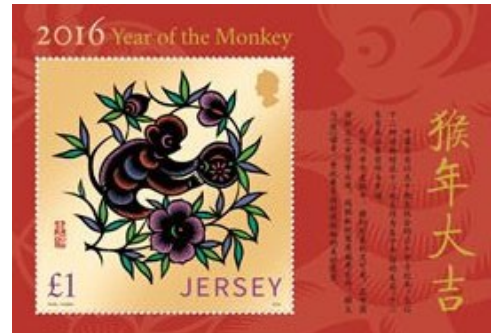
The 2016 Year of the Monkey 'forever' stamp from the US Postal Service will be issued Feb. 5.

Typical Americans, have to be first. The Year doesn't start until February 8th as everyone knows. Anyway, their stamp shows peonies from original artwork by Kam Mak, (yes I know it is the year of the Monkey but read on, they do get there in the end, and it is a lovely stamp).

The stamp will be issued in self-adhesive panes of 12. Ok, for some reality, the peony is the national flower of China, and can be used to symbolize prosperity, beauty and peace, appropriate sentiments for the approach of a new year.

A small gold monkey based on a cut-paper design by artist Clarence Lee is placed in the upper left corner of the stamp illustration. Wow! Lucky last minute inclusion by the designer I suspect.

Not to be outdone, can it possibly be true, that Royal Mail are going to release a 12 stamp issue on February 8th? which fortunately for them falls on a Monday!. Inspiration for the issue is rumoured to have come for the wildly successful revenue raising issues of recent years. Which include dinosaurs (2013), butterflies (2013), bugs (2008), birds (2007), sea life (2007), farm animals (2005) and woodland animals (2004) and, no doubt, lots more I have happily forgotten. No monkeys! so now is the time to rectify that on February 8th. Well actually that is not true I must admit. They did show a tamarin back in 2011 in their anniversary issue for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)



### Stamp of the Month

The Chinese Golden Monkey or Gēngshēn Monkey stamp was issued in China in 1980.

5 million were printed so it is not exactly rare but sheets sell for many '000 \$ and it symbolises the strong market for stamps in Asia.



Enjoy your stamps and perhaps the rest of this first Newsletter for 2016

**Michael**



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## CHINA STAMP SOCIETY CATALOG

*Editors Note: One of our members wrote to me recently about getting a local catalogue on China stamps. I only see Chinese versions in the stamp arcades I go to so when I saw this I thought I would share with you all. Just in case there are others of you who have China material. Ok the catalogue is from the US but since this is a hot market I thought I would share this one with you..*

The new expanded 2016 Edition of the CHINA STAMP SOCIETY SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF CHINA TO 1949 is now available to replace the 2011 edition

It is a 520-page, full color, comprehensive, specialized listing for the Imperial issues of 1878 through the Republic issues of 1949. Although originally built upon the Ma Catalog, it goes much further with thousands of specialized listings of varieties and previously unlisted stamps.

In addition, historical and explanatory text has been added to tell the "who, what, when, where, and why" information so meaningful to an understanding of the material. Rate tables are included to give meaning to the changing face values during the inflationary period of the Pacific War and the post-War years.

The Preface includes an explanation of the presentation to guide collectors in the use of the catalog. It includes a Glossary of terms and abbreviations used and tables showing the relevant Chinese characters. The Appendix includes a new Overprint and Surcharge Identification Guide, an extensive Bibliography of other publications cited, and a Cross-Reference to additional material in Chiu's Supplement (available from CSS on DVD). It also has a section on Non-Stamp with listings of the Imperial and Republic Official Postal Seals (1899-1948) and the Postal Savings stamps (1919-44).

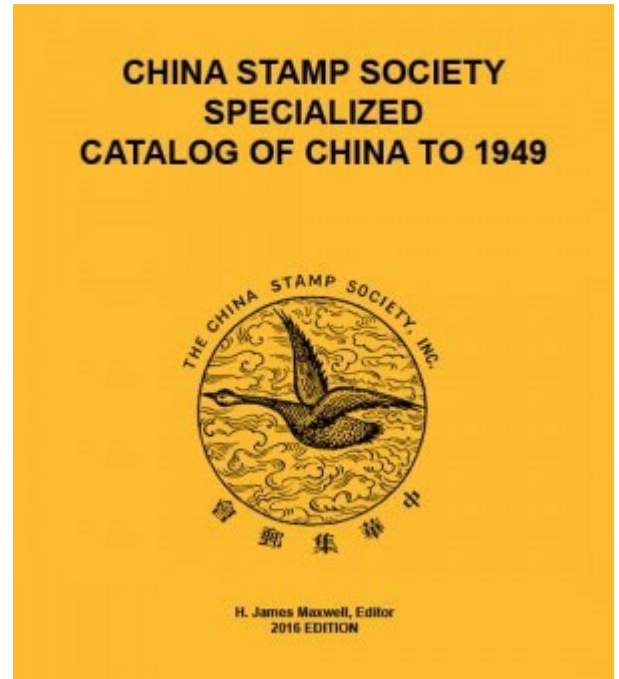
Imperial Issues (1878-1911) includes the Large and Small Dragons (1878-88), the Empress Dowager Commemoratives (1894-97), the Small and Large Figure Surcharges (1897), the Red Revenue Surcharges (1897), the Lithographed Imperial Chinese Post (1897), and the Chinese Imperial Post (1898-1910).

There are sections on the Early Republic Issues (1912-36), the Wartime Issues (1937-45), and the Inflationary Period Issues (Chinese National Currency issues of 1945-48, Gold Yuan issues of 1948-49, and Silver Yuan issues of 1949).

Special Purpose Issues includes the Airmails (1921-49), Domestic Express and Registered Mail stamps (1905-42), Postage Dues (1904-49), Parcel Post stamps (1945-49), Military Post stamps (1942-48), the BRA stamp (1901), and Stamp Booklets (1917-36).

Province Issues include Kirin & Heilungkiang (1927-29), Kwangsi and Kweichow (1925), Northeastern Provinces (1946-48), Sinkiang (1915-45), Szechwan (1933), Taiwan (1945-50), Tibet (1911), and Yunnan (1926-32).

The Japanese Occupation section includes maps, historical information, and introductory material on the stamps and the papers used. It includes the Hopei and Shantung Provincial Overprints (1941); the Small and Large Character District Overprints of Honan, Hopei, Mengkiang, Shansi, Shantung, and Supeh (1941); the Commemoratives on Small and Large Character District Overprints (1942); the North China Surcharges, Overprints and Commemoratives (1942-45); the Mengkiang Surcharges, Overprints and Commemoratives (1942-45); the Central China issues (1943-45); the South China issues (1942-45); and the stamps of Manchukuo (1932-45). It has a new section on the Official Postal Seals of Manchukuo.



### HONG KONG - SCIENTISTS ISSUE

*Editors Note: The stamps are mine own, the text is courtesy of Hong Kong Post and StampNews.com. This recent issue is titled "Scientists in Ancient China" that depicts four of the greatest figures in the realms of astronomy, mathematics and medicine. Each highlighting one aspect of their contributions to science. Personally I think the following make for really interesting reading*

\$1.70 Zhang Heng stamp (AD 78-139), an astronomer in the Eastern Han Dynasty, invented the world's first seismoscope in the first year of the Yangjia Reign (AD 132). At the centre of the cavity of this bronze instrument was a hanging pendulum which carried eight mobile arms and cranks connected to eight corresponding dragons around the instrument's surface. Each dragon held a bronze ball in its mouth and beneath the head of each dragon sat a toad with its mouth opening upwards. In the event of an earthquake, the vibrating pendulum would move the crank of a mobile arm in a specific direction and cause the corresponding dragon to release the small bronze ball into the open mouth of a toad. The time and direction of the earthquake could thus be deduced.

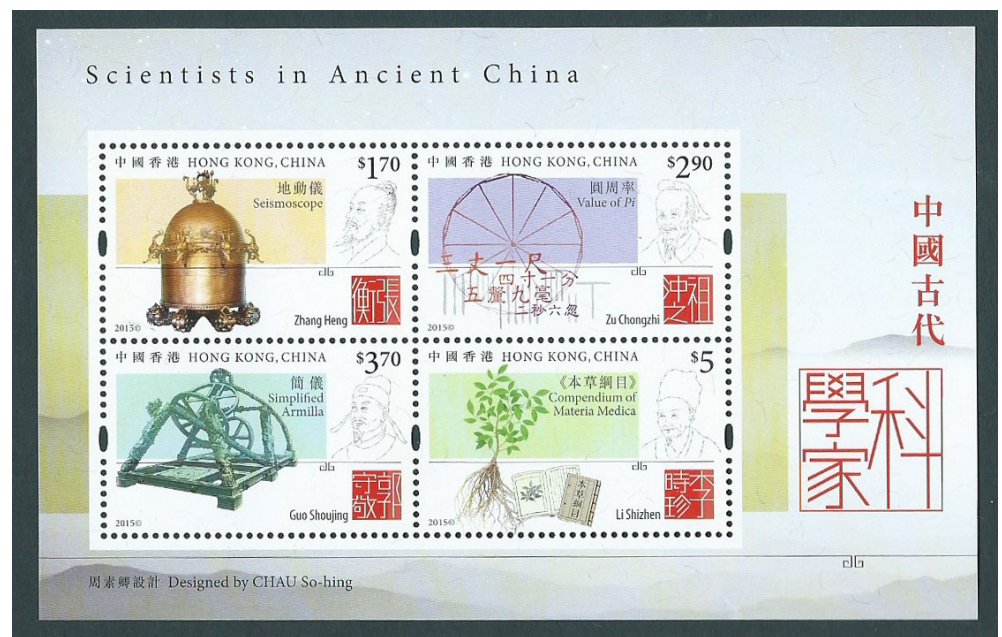
\$2.90 Zu Chongzhi stamp (AD 429-500) was a mathematician-/astronomer in the Southern and Northern Dynasties. His calculation of pi was undoubtedly his greatest achievement in mathematics.

Using the "cyclotomic method", he concluded that the value of pi fell between 3.1415926 and 3.1415927 after some complicated calculations.

This approximation, accurate to the seventh decimal place, was a monumental accomplishment in the world at that time.

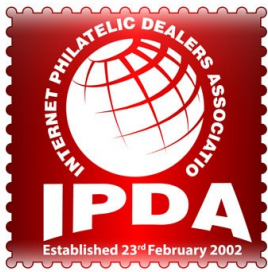
\$3.70 Guo Shoujing stamp (AD 1231-1316) was an astronomer, mathematician and hydraulics expert in the Yuan Dynasty who invented over ten instruments, including the Simplified Armilla, Lofty Gnomon and Pole-observing Instrument. By simplifying the traditional armillary sphere, he created the Simplified Armilla to measure the equatorial coordinates of celestial bodies. Without the traditional ecliptic circle, the Simplified Armilla featured two separated components for measuring equatorial and azimuthal coordinates, and an alidade substituting for the sighting-tube in the traditional armillary sphere. Crosshairs on the alidade allowed accurate pointing at celestial bodies and hence greater observational accuracy.

\$5 Li Shizhen stamp (AD 1518-1593) was a medical expert and pharmacologist in the Ming Dynasty. He spent about 30 years compiling books on medicine, culminating in the completion of the Compendium of Materia Medica in 1578. The Compendium grouped 1,892 medicinal substances into 16 divisions and 60 orders with a precise description for each substance. The book was regarded as the most comprehensive pharmacological taxonomy work at that time.



### IPDA NEWS

Sorry people but there is none. My apology is offered for not attending the last scheduled Board meeting. The week before Christmas and I was out partying so much I just did not wake up at 5am that morning. The week prior and that week was every night partying. How decadent of me. I am too old for all that fun. So, sorry no IPDA News. But then with two exceptions I have also heard from no one, so I can only assume you were all in the same state as me. Yeah, well done! Oh, and finally, the winner of the Christmas Hamper, was me, as I was the only person to complete the crossword! But thanks to the two of you who wrote to me about the idea.



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## THE NEW BACK PAGE

*Editors Note: If you thought the stamps for the Year of the Monkey issues shown on the front page were not that inspiring, then think again. New Zealand have topped it. Seriously, I am not making this up! Monkey Island !!!!*



## DISCOUNTS—GOOD OR BAD IDEA

Ok so tell me how often do you discount? I get an email from a dealer about 3 sometimes, 4 times a week. I am on a distribution list somehow. No problem. I enjoy seeing what he is doing and sometimes get ideas. Mostly ideas what not to do in my view. Assuming this individual has a large distribution list I would think he must either be getting lots of sales, or very few. And, if he is getting sales I am wondering what discount rate he is selling at when he does sell, because each week the same or close to same material is shown and the prices keep going down. The discounts get bigger and bigger as the week goes on. By Friday it can be up to 32%. Honest.

So what do we think? Are customers, and potential customers just going to wait to the end of the week and hope the item they want is still there? Are they thinking, hey this guy has very large margins? Are they eventually going to be unimpressed and perhaps not follow the items offered because they press Delete from the mailing list?

Interesting? What is your view. Lets start 2016 with a letter to the editor with an opinion. Should you repeatedly and with ever increasing %s keep discounting and, does it undermine your value proposition? There, I said it all in a few short words!, email me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)

## KELLEHER AUCTIONS—TWO INTERESTING USA COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

These might interest some of you. Two auctions of pretty impressive US material. Just read the Contents.

**Sale 677** consists of the "Larkspur" Collection of quality United States stamps including revenues, a one- owner collection with 480 lots of rare and high quality "graded" and ungraded U.S. stamps. This collection was assembled by a scrutinizing collector and contains some scarce quality items including all issues of United States stamps and revenues. January 12<sup>th</sup> Danbury Connecticut click [here](#) for details and contents.

Or the following day, this one; **Sale 678** consists of the **Harold B. Nogle Collection** of the origins and progression of plate number singles, imprint strips and plate blocks. A single owner collection with over 1300 lots of United States and Possessions. January 13-14 Click [here](#) for details

## THE LAST WORD

Well not really the last, last word, just the last word, or a few anyway, for this Newsletter. I wish everyone a wonderful 2016. May it be happy, healthy and successful. May your philatelic dealing be rewarding and prosperous. May you write to me and keep me amused and even provide ideas and material for this new format Newsletter. Any views, like, oh my god what has happened to that 8 page thing I never really read anyway, please share. Perhaps this is easier at only 4 pages. And finally, please do not bid on any stock lots I am bidding on at the really excellent upcoming UPA Auction. Lets support each other this year and make all our business succeed.

Happy New Year Best wishes , Michael [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)