

RESEARCHES ON  
EXPRESS LETTER STAMPS  
OF QING DYNASTY  
AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA

常增书

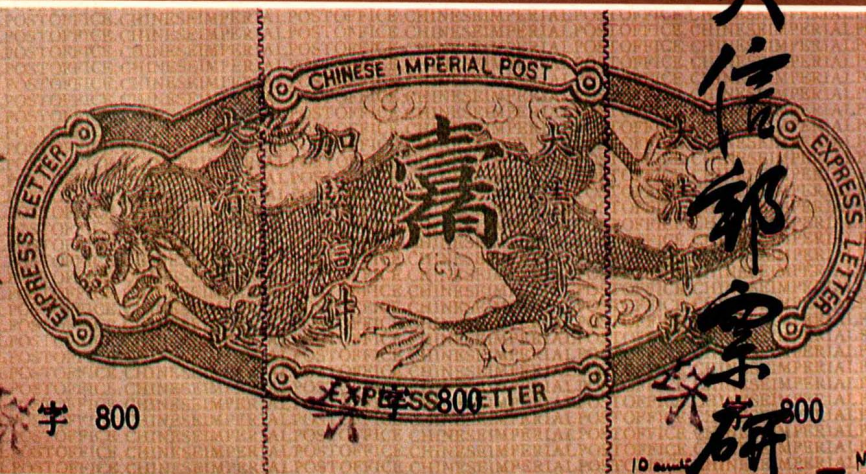
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赵人龙

审校

清代民国快信部  
票研究

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# 清代民国快信邮票研究

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赵人龙 审校

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# 序

清代末期和民国初年的快信邮票是一种颇为奇特的邮票，它具有“两多、两少”的特点。“两多”，一是指它是一种多功能的邮票。每枚快信邮票分为 4 联或 5 联，具有存根、备查、邮资、收据以及编号等功能，这在中国邮票乃至全世界邮票中是绝无仅有的。二是指它是争论得较多的邮票。例如，在它使用年代以及稍后一段时期内，出现了快信邮票“是不是邮票”的争论，后来多数集邮家承认它的确是邮票，绝大多数世界邮票目录也将其作为正式邮票收录。另外，还有“低头龙”的锯齿票和圆齿票中哪一种是第一版，以及快信邮票究竟是在英国还是在中国印制的争论。“两少”，一是指档案资料少，至今邮局档案中找不到多少有关快信邮票发行日期和印刷厂家的资料，也未见到快信邮票的样票及印刷全版，所见仅是无编号的印刷厂半成品。二是指中外集邮家对它收集和研究得少，原因是收集难度大，不易组成专集。至今能收集齐清末民初 9 种快信邮票新票全联的集邮家为数很少；退一步说，能复组全部 9 种旧票的，也屈指可数。有些集邮家知难而退，采取回避的态度；有些则是稍集

几枚，聊备一格。收集不易，研究也就更难了。因此，可以说中国早期的部分快信邮票是块开垦得很不够的“半荒地”。

民国后期的几次快信邮票，使用的时间都极短，属于临时性的暂用邮票，已发表的研究资料也颇少见。

由于历史的原因，中国人开始集邮较晚。正如中国其他早期邮票的收集研究一样，快信邮票的收集研究由外国集邮家开了头，中国集邮家到了后来才急起直追。

中国邮商最先注意购藏快信邮票的，恐怕要数朱耀宗先生（在集邮界称为朱世杰）。他于清代末在邮局服务时，除注意购存各种不同刷色和漏齿变体蟠龙邮票外，还购存了一批快信新票全张。直到 30 年代，在他所经营的“集古社”华邮售品目录中，尚有“清代快信邮票新票全张 5 种”的一项。

中国集邮家中最早收集、研究中国快信邮票的可能是周今觉先生。他为了提高中国集邮家收集中国邮票的兴趣，曾在 1925 年冬发起邮集擂台赛。他将自己的华邮邮集分为 12 部分，例如大龙邮票为第一部分，小龙及加盖大、小字票为第二部分，万寿未加盖邮票为第三部分，万寿各种加盖邮票为第四部分，红印花加盖票为第五部分……而欠资及快信邮票挂号收条为第十一部分。周先生是位好胜心极强而不甘心落于人后的老式集邮家，他既然将快信邮票和欠资票等列为擂台赛的一个部分，可知必有丰富的收藏。可惜的是，周先生研究中国邮票的力作《华邮图鉴》尚未写到快信邮票，因中华邮票会会刊《邮乘》、《邮学月刊》和《邮典》相继停刊，而中断发表。在今觉先生之后，很长时间没有听说有

哪一位中国集邮家，曾对中国快信邮票有过系统的收集和深入的钻研。这里应该提及的，有一位满族收藏家裕松庭先生，他因某种机缘曾收集到清代快信旧票近千枚，其精华部分在 50 年代中期进入集邮家姜治方邮集。“文化大革命”初期，姜先生将全部邮集捐献给邮电部，其中快信邮票就成为中国邮票博物馆快信邮票集藏的核心。

值得庆幸的是，海峡两岸的集邮家从 50 年代开始，先后注意收集研究中国快信邮票了，其中以广州市的常增书先生和台北市的黄明正先生最为突出，他们都有丰富的收藏和深入的研究，他们的快信邮票集都在国际邮展上获得过高奖。

常增书先生是中国著名集邮家，中华全国集邮联合会副会长兼集邮名词审定委员会主任，广东省集邮协会顾问，粤闽港澳台集邮学术研讨会顾问。他对于邮票的兴趣很广泛，曾收集过英国早期邮票，以后集中精力于中国邮票的收集与研究，诸如清代大龙、小龙、红印花加盖票，民国票，解放区票和新中国票都有丰富的收藏。他的邮集特点是品相完好，考据详尽。他的《中国航空邮政 1921—1941》邮集曾在 1992 年 4 月西班牙世界邮展获镀金奖。值得郑重介绍的是，他花了 40 年精力组成的《中国快信邮政 1905—1951》邮集全部共有 4 巨册。他以“上穷碧落下黄泉”精神从各方搜罗到的有关中国快信邮票的资料和文献，有一书橱之多。他从浩繁的藏品中筛选组成的中国快信参展邮集，先后在 1985 年 10 月澳门国际沙龙纪念邮展获一等奖，1985 年 11 月新德里印度中国友好邮展获纪念奖（他作为中国参展代

表团副团长出席了这次邮展),1987年6月加拿大多伦多世界邮展获大银奖,1988年3月新加坡亚洲邮展获镀金奖,1988年9月布拉格世界邮展获银奖。

增书先生在繁忙的业务工作之余,根据他个人的收藏和深入研究的成果,编成本书,其研究的深度和广度,已大大超过了前人的著作。这对有志于研究中国早期票中独特的快信邮票的其他集邮家,将提供有益的帮助;对少数至今尚对中国清末、民初快信邮票抱怀疑态度的集邮家,本书将起到以理服人的说服作用。

正如增书先生在本书中指出的,中国快信邮票还有很多问题需要搞清楚;有些存在不同看法的问题,则需要进一步搜寻资料 and 进行科学分析。有些人认为中国早期票已经没有什么可以再讨论研究的,再谈就是炒冷饭,这种观点是不正确的。

增书先生编写此书,付出了辛勤劳动,成绩是应该肯定的。此书出版,必将引起中外集邮家对中国快信邮票的进一步重视。本人荣幸地受增书先生委托审校此书并作序,因此先睹为快,受到很多启发和教育。当然,任何一部著作的写成出版都不可能做到绝无遗漏,正如作者自己所指出的,本书并非完美无缺和无懈可击。有些观点可以讨论,有许多资料尚待补充。希望对中国快信邮票感兴趣的同好一起来切磋研讨,以期本书日后修订再版时更加完善。

最后,我想到,1995年是中国第一套(版)快信邮票发行90周年,我建议,届时海峡两岸收集研究中国快信邮票的同好举行一次专题学术讨论会和小型快信邮票专集邮

展,以志庆祝,并促进中国快信邮票的收集和研究。

赵人龙

1993年7月2日

## Preface

The Express Letter Stamp is queer. Issued in the last days of the Qing Dynasty and early days of the Republic of China, the stamp was characterized by "Two Manies and Two Fewes." The first many is its multi-functions. Each stamp falls into 4 or 5 parts functioning as stub, record, postage, receipt and serial number respectively, which is unique among Chinese stamps, even the world ones. The second many is that the stamp evoked much controversy. For example, the dispute whether it was postage stamps rose even when the stamp was in circulation and continued to late period. Afterwards, most collectors believe that they are postage stamps, and most world catalogues include the stamps as official ones. Other debates courted by the stamp were that which is the first print of the Lower Head Dragons, the serrated perforations or the round hole perforations, and whether these stamps were printed in Britain or China.

The first few is that less data of the stamp could be found in files. The issuing dates and printing houses have no records in post office files, and specimens and printing

sheets either. Those found are only semi-finished articles of the printing house without serial numbers. The second few is that a few collectors at home and abroad collect and research these stamps due to that they are not easy to collect and even more difficult to build up a collection. So far, probably only very few collectors own a complete collection of the 9 strips in mint conditions. Even the collectors who gained all the 9 reconstructed strips in used conditions can be counted on the fingers of a hand. Therefore, many collectors beat a retreat in the face of difficulties and take an avoidance attitude. Some collectors own a few of these stamps, serving as a specimen. Difficult to collect and more to research leave these stamps as a piece of wasteland waiting to be cultivated.

The late issues of the express letter stamps were provisional ones in short life, and their data published is rare.

Because of the historical reasons, Chinese began stamp collecting comparatively late. The foreign collectors took the lead in collecting and researching the express letter stamps as in those of other classics of China. The Chinese collectors roused themselves to catch up in late days.

Who took the lead among stamp dealers of China to purchase the express letter stamps? Probably was Mr.

Zhu Yaozong (called Zhu Shijie in philatelic circles). When serving in the post office in the late days of the Qing Dynasty, he purchased some mint strips of the express letter stamps besides imperforates and shades of the Coiling Dragons. As late as in the 30s, "5 mint strips of express letter stamps of the Qing Dynasty" still appeared on the price list of the Good Society managed by Mr. Zhu.

Among Chinese philatelists, Mr. M. D. Chow may possibly be the first one to collect and study China's express letter stamps. To arouse interest of Chinese collectors in collecting China, he invited a philatelic emulation in the winter of 1925, and divided his Chinese collection into 12 parts, such as Large Dragons as the 1st; Small Dragons and their large and small typeface surcharges as the 2nd; Empress Dowager Jubilee stamps as the 3rd; various overprints of Empress Dowager Jubilee stamps as the 4th; the Red Revenue surcharges as the 5th; and postage-dues, express letter stamps, and registered mail receipts as the 11th. Mr. Chow was a traditional philatelist unwilling to lag behind and loving to excel others. We believe that he owned a rich collection of the express letter stamps since he listed these stamps as a part in the emulation. It was to be regretted that he had not written the express letter stamp part of the "Illustrated Catalogue of

Chinese Stamps," one of his most valuable works of Chinese stamp researches, when the *Philatelic Bulletin*, *Philatelic Monthly*, and *Chinese Classic*, official publications of the Chinese Philatelic Society, stopped publications successively. For a long time after M. D. Chow, there were no philatelists who collected and studied the express letter stamps systematically.

Another collector deserved commendation in collecting the express letter stamps is Mr. Yu Songting, a Manchu nationality, who collected almost a thousand pieces of the express letter stamps in used conditions by certain chances. The cream of the collection was put into the collection of Mr. Jiang Zhifang in the middle of 50s, and Mr. Jiang donated his collection to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications at the early days of the cultural revolution. The express letter stamps of Mr. Jiang's collection became the core of the express letter stamp collection of the China National Postage Stamp Museum.

As a matter of rejoicing, the philatelists at the both sides of the Taiwan Straits began to place more importance on collecting and researching China's express letter stamps in the 50s. Among them, Mr. Chang Zengshu of Gangzhou and Mr. Ming J. Huang of Taipei are outstanding philatelists in this field, and both of them have rich

collections, research in depth and won high level medals at international philatelic exhibitions.

Mr. Chang is a noted Chinese philatelist, vice-president of the All-China Philatelic Federation (ACPF), director of the Philatelic Term Defining Committee under the ACPF, and advisers to the Guangdong Philatelic Association and the Philatelic Academic Seminar of Guangdong, Fujian, Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan.

Mr. Chang is interested in a wide-range of stamps. He collected early issues of Britain and then concentrated on collecting and researching China, such as Large Dragons, Small Dragons, Red Revenue Surcharges, and stamps of the Republic of China, liberated areas, and new China.

Mr. Chang owns a rich collection, the items of which are all in good conditions. His "China Airmail Service (1921-1941)" collection won him a vermeil at the Spanish World Philatelic Exhibiton held in April 1992.

Mr. Chang expended 40 years to build up his "China Express Letter Service (1905-1951)" collection occupying four huge albums. He always refuses to give up until all hope is gone in searching for the data and documents on express letter stamps, which hold a bookcase. He formed "China's Express Letter Stamps" exhibits selected from his vast collection, which won him several honours, such

as the first class award at the Macao International Salon Philatelic Commemorative Philatelic Exhibition of Oct. 1985; commemorative award at the New Delhi India-China Friendship Philatelic Exhibition of Nov. 1985 (He attended the exhibition as the vice-director of the Chinese delegation); large silver at the Canada Toronto World Philatelic Exhibition of June 1987; vermeil at the Singapore Asian Philatelic Exhibition of Mar. 1988 and silver at the Prague World Philatelic Exhibition of Sept. 1988.

Though busy at his professional work, Mr. Chang compiled this book in the light of his collection and findings in research. Surpassing the works by our predecessors both in depth and width in the field, the book will benefit those philatelists who devote themselves to the study of China's express letter stamps and will give rational persuasions to those philatelists who still take a sceptical attitude towards the stamps.

As Mr. Chang pointed out in the book, many puzzles still remain in China's express letter stamps, which need to be answered. The controversial questions need further evidence and scientific analysis. Some believe that to discuss and study China's early issues further is to heat left-over, without any new content. This is an incorrect viewpoint.

Mr. Chang worked assiduously in compiling the

book, and his achievements should be affirmed. Asked by the author, I have the honour to go over the manuscript and write the preface. I am pleased to be the first reader of the book, and I learned a lot. The publication of the book will make philatelists at home and abroad lay great store by China's express letter stamps. As the author pointed out, the book does not leave nothing to be desired and no room to be criticized. Some of the standpoints can be further discussed, and a lot of data need to be replenished. Hope our fellow collectors interested in China's express letter stamps to join efforts in looking into the stamps in order to perfect the next edition of the book.

1995 will be 90th anniversary of China's first issue of express letter stamps, and came to my mind a proposal that the fellow collectors collecting and studying the express letter stamps at the both sides of the Taiwan Straits will hold a thematic academic seminar and a small-scale express letter stamp show in celebration of the event and in order to promote the collecting and study of these stamps.

Zhao Renlong

July 2, 1993

# 前 言

我国清代国家邮政局于 1905 年 11 月 4 日开办快递邮件业务,同日发行称为“加紧信件”的快信专用邮票 1 枚。这种形状奇特的邮票,敢于打破当时世界各国邮票的设计模式,一票具有多项邮政业务功能的作用,被誉为“世界上最大的邮票”、“设计巧妙的连票”。它的问世,对我国邮政业务的革新有着某种启迪意义。因此,颇受世人注目。

清代快信邮递制度是在官办邮局取缔民办信局,和民办信局反取缔斗争的基础上产生的。清代快信专用邮票就是为了适应这项斗争的需要而发行。由于这种邮票功能全,使用方便,深受商民欢迎,从而使邮局的快信业务得到迅速发展。

清代快信专用邮票问世以后,中外集邮者极为重视,普遍认为它的图案富有民族风格,印刷精美,加上发行量少,使用时间短,很有收藏和史料价值。不少在华任职或经商的外国人纷纷高价收购旧票,甚至通过某种特殊关系或利用职权获取全条新票。然而,当时的中国人除个别朝廷官员或文人大贾外,收集邮票的人很少,这种快信邮票更不受人们重视,甚至有人怀疑它是不是邮票。

对于清代快信专用邮票进行研究，首推美国人吉姆司·施塔(Major James Starr)。他于1930年发表了对这种邮票推崇性的研究论文，并展示他收集的不同版次的票品，震惊世界邮坛。另一个美国人卢兰(Dr. Lloyds Ruland)不惜高价收购了菲纳根(E. H. Finegan)的清代快信藏品，经过精心研究，比较正确的区分出版别特征，于1941年写出专著发表在美国《中国飞剪号》邮刊上。该刊英文本几年后才传到中国。著名集邮家孙君毅先生阅毕，大为感叹：中国集邮人不识此物，连中国出版的邮票目录也不将此票列入。他为了推动我国的集邮，一口气将卢兰的著作译成中文，在他主编的《邮友》邮刊上分期发表。孙先生对原著作中明显的错误作了纠正，还补充了民国发行的第三版快信邮票资料。从此之后，一些世界有影响的邮票目录开始收入清代、民初的快信邮票。由中国人编写的中国邮票目录，也逐渐将这些邮票编录其中。尽管这些目录在编排版次上尚不够确切，造成集邮界认识上的一些混乱，但总比有的目录至今不肯将快信专用邮票收入要好得多。

老一代的中国集邮家和著名邮商，多数人重视收集清代快信专用邮票，然而集成全部者却不多。他们多以旧票复组全条，在版式特征及一、二版的区别上做文章，朱世杰、谢鄂常、万灿文、姜治方、赵善长、张包子俊等多位集邮名人撰写过不少有关快信邮票的研究文章，散见于《甲戌》、《新光》等邮刊上，为我们留下了珍贵的资料，为后人继续收集、研究快信邮票奠定了基础。这是值得我们永远感谢的。

我本人第一次看到清代快信专用邮票是1951年，那时我还不满20岁，开始集邮不久。有一天中午去广州和平邮