

世界绘画邮票 鉴赏大图典

上册

薛大德 编著



广西师范大学出版社

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1997

AN ALBUM OF WORLD PICTURE STAMPS FOR APPRECIATION

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序言

朱伯雄

收藏活动,本于对某种文物或历史名迹着了迷便有心地去广为搜求,它是一种充满文化气息的自娱活动。收藏者只满足于“拥有感”,很少商业味。然近年来有些收藏者以此牟利,奇货可居,待价而沽。这样,文化性冲淡了,铜臭味增强了。清代大才子李调元一生好藏各种版本的书籍,矢志不渝,久之,建起了“万卷楼”,终生以书为命。一天,“万卷楼”遭大火吞噬,他呼天抢地:“不如此竟烧我,留我待何如!”

我也偶爱集邮,但东鳞西爪,不成系统。对于邮票上的名画,出于专业本能,我爱不释手,喜自珍藏。在雅典游集市时,我见到来自苏联的一批邮票,要价不高,因见其中不少名画,当即兴奋地买下来。1993年,我参观巴黎卢浮宫美术馆时,那里正在出售一组刚发行的为纪念建馆200周年的馆藏名画邮票。后来才知,这一年不仅在法国,世界各地共有14个国家,包括安提瓜、坦桑尼亚等国为纪念这座彪炳千秋的博物馆而共同发行世界名画邮票。

大约从70年代起,欧美各国常因纪念或展出某位大艺术家的馆藏作品而共同发行名画纪念邮票:如1990年为纪念凡·高逝世100周年,有20多

个国家联合发行凡·高名画邮票;同年,为纪念鲁本斯逝世350周年,有14个国家发行鲁本斯的约157幅名画邮票;1993年,为纪念毕加索而发行的48幅杰作邮票,就有包括多米尼加在内的11个国家印制;1994年,纽约大都会艺术博物馆为纪念马蒂斯逝世40周年而举办的回顾展,轰动了全世界,与此同时,有5个国家联合发行了他的名画邮票。而在翌年该馆为纪念建馆125周年,发行了20张小型张,计有182幅馆藏名画,发行国家包括冈比亚、塞拉利昂、马尔代夫、加纳等亚非国家。解释这种有趣的现象是,方寸小画,名闻遐迩,邮政确是最佳的传媒,它对于日益兴旺的国际旅游与国际贸易,颇多作用,然由于某些发行国的印刷质量问题和滥印,人们也颇有微词。尽管如此,世界各地的美术鉴赏者仍对名画邮票情有独钟。我国从建国以来,也先后发行过许多馆藏名画和历代著名书画家杰作的邮票,与此同时,台湾地区也多次发行过台北故宫博物院的藏画邮票,而且印刷精良。如果有心人把这些集世界美术精品之大成的邮票汇总起来,简直是一部浩瀚的世界美术史微型图册,可是这艰巨工作谈何容易啊!薛大德先生竟然做到了。

当这批洋洋大观的世界各国和各民族地区的名画邮票的样片展现在我的案头时,我深深被他的收藏物打动了!大小名画邮票总计近 6000 枚,印自 160 多个国家和地区,自古迄今,源自欧、亚、非、澳、美各国各族美术史,上下纵横,作品如此广泛,在国内恐怕也是无出其右了。据悉,薛先生用了几乎毕生的精力,坚持不懈,才获如此辉煌的搜集成果,此种收藏是值得出版问世的。

这批名画邮票涉及到东西方美术史上各种流派和历代风格,还有一定数量史前时期的美术文物,其中不少作品是一般读者极难见到的。如没有一定的美术史知识,即便仅仅按地区、国别和历史沿革来划分、编排,对收藏者来说也是一桩学术性的工作。因而,我想到收藏与研究的关系。邮票上的名画没有更多文字著录,考订工作不仅收集者要做,读者也可以做。如果这样,这本《世界绘画邮票鉴赏大图典》就具有了更深层的参考价值。王羲之的《兰亭序》真本,史传为唐太宗所得。后来他命诸书家摹写副本,分赠诸侯。留世副本几达百种,真伪莫辨。南宋姜夔便根据唐代文字记载,又“考梁武收右军帖二百七十余轴”,反复比较与研究,才从历史上第一个发出疑问:“当时惟

言《黄庭》、《乐毅》、《告誓》,何为不及《兰亭》?”敢于发问者的主要根据,是实物与文字考证。推此及彼,我觉得这本名画邮票鉴赏大图典,不仅具有欣赏价值,还具有供美术研究者作图考的史料价值,编著者是功不可没的。

1996 年秋于杭州

FOREWORD

Collecting something rare, if initiated by those collectors who are enthralled by a certain sort of historic relics or remains, and as a result, who will set their hearts on the search and collection, is a kind of enjoy-oneself activity imbued with cultural taste. Such collectors are simply content with the “sense of possession”, yet with very little commercial orientation. Of late years, however, there have appeared some collectors who are very much profit-conscious in their collecting practice. They hoard up their rare stuff in wait for sale at an exorbitant price. Thus the collecting on their part is not so much cultural as profit-seeking. Li Diaoyuan, a renowned gifted scholar in the Qing Dynasty, kept a life-long hobby of collecting books of different editions. With this hobby never changed through the whole span of his life, he managed to have his “Library of Ten Thousand Volumes” built at last. Books were indispensable to his life as a bibliomaniac’s. One day, his “Library of Ten Thousand Volumes” was engulfed in a big fire. He cried his heart out, “Better to burn me up! What good is it for me alone to survive the fire?”

I have an occasional preference for stamp collecting but the postage stamps that I have collected are metaphorically “bits and pieces”, and cannot be classified under any series. Out of my professional instinct, I cannot stand to tear myself away from any postage stamp that bears a masterpiece in art, and I will treasure it up. It so happened that my eyes fell on a batch of postage stamps from the USSR on sale at an affordable price when I strolled the markets in Athens. I bought them in excitement without the slightest hesitation, because I had found quite a few famous pictures printed in them. In 1993, when I visited Louvre, the national museum and art gallery of France, a series of newly-issued commemorative stamps bearing the art masterpieces treasured in Louvre was selling there for the second centenary of Louvre in service as a national museum and art gallery. Later on, I knew of the fact that, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of this eternally glorious museum, apart from France, 14 other countries in different parts of the world, including Antigua and Tanzania, had also in the same year of 1993 issued the postage stamps bearing the world-fa-

mous pictures, hand in hand.

It is almost since 1970s that the European countries have joined each other in the issue of commemorative stamps bearing art masterpieces in memory of a great master, or for the sake of the display of his works of art collected by a museum or an art gallery. For examples: in 1990, over 20 countries jointly issued the commemorative stamps that bear Vincent van Gogh's masterpieces to mark the first centennial anniversary of his death; in the same year, 14 countries jointly issued the postage stamps that bear about 157 masterpieces of Peter Paul Rubens to commemorate the 350th anniversary of his death; in 1993, 11 countries, including Dominica, joined each other in producing the postage stamps bearing 48 masterpieces of Pablo Picasso in memory of this great master; in 1994, a retrospective exhibition of Henri Matisse's works to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his death was held by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, which created a sensation throughout the world, and in the meantime, 5 countries joined each other in the issue of the commemorative stamps bearing his masterpieces. And in

the following year, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of its establishment, the Metropolitan Museum, New York, issued 20 souvenir cards that bear totally 182 museum-collected masterpieces in art, and the countries that distributed this sort of commemorative stamps included those Asian and African countries such as Gambia, Sierra Leone, Maldives and Ghana. To explain the above-stated interesting phenomena, we may say that the art masterpieces reproduced on the postage stamps of about one sq. in. size have gained their fame, far and wide. And postal service works as their best carrier or media. Besides, they also play a somewhat important role in the ever-flourishing international tourism and trade. And on the other side of the matter, the printing quality and the abuse of printing the postage stamps bearing masterpieces in art have caused people's veiled words of censure. The connoisseurs of fine arts all over the world, however, will keep a special love for postage stamps that bear masterpieces in art. Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, China has issued at selected moments the postage stamps bearing the famous pictures treasured by

museums or art galleries, and the postage stamps bearing the masterworks of art by the renowned painters and calligraphers through the ages. Meanwhile, China's Taiwan has issued many times the postage stamps bearing the famous pictures treasured by the museum housed in the Forbidden City, Taipei, and in addition, the postage stamps are exquisitely printed there. If there are such people as set their hearts on a collection of all the postage stamps that can epitomize the essence of the masterworks of art in the world, the collection, I think, will become nothing but a small illustrated dictionary of the world art history with rich information. It really is a very hard job but Mr. Xue Da-de has done it in a remarkable way!

When the impressive array of the photographed samples of the postage stamps bearing famous pictures issued by different countries and the regions inhabited by different ethnic groups was exposed to my eyes on my desk, I could not but feel deeply moved by Mr. Xue's collection. They are all postage stamps bearing world-famous pictures, almost 6,000 pieces in total, printed in more than 160 countries and regions. They

are of the origin of the art history of different countries or nations in the five continents of the world, and cover so wide a scope of genres, which ranges from the ancient to the contemporary, that Mr. Xue's collection is probably next to none of the same kind in China. To my knowledge, Mr. Xue has devoted nearly all his energy through most of his lifetime to stamp collecting, making the best possible investment of his leisure hours and money in it, and even at the risk of some venture that might occur to him. That is why he has made brilliant achievements in his favorite hobby of collecting stamps. And small wonder that the postage stamps he has collected deserve to be launched into publication.

This batch of the postage stamps bearing world-famous pictures involves the works of different schools that have evolved in the oriental and occidental history of fine arts, and the works in various styles through the ages. In addition, it also covers a certain number of prehistoric artistic relics, quite a few of which are very rare to the common audience. As for a collector without a certain degree of understanding of the art history, it is also an academic work even if he manages to catego-

rize his collected postage stamps according to regions, countries and the historic changes and development. From this viewpoint, I come to think about the relations between collecting practice and academic research. The masterpieces in art reproduced on the surface of postage stamps, owing to the scarcity of expository words, call for the collector's textual research, and the audience can do such a job, too. The present album—*An Album of World Picture Stamps for Appreciation*, when thus wedded with the textual research, will be of even greater reference value. The history has it that Emperor Taizong (Li Shimin) of the Tang Dynasty secured the genuine and authentic calligraphic work entitled *Lan Ting Xu*—A Preface to the Poems Collected at Lan Ting (South Pavilion) Literary Get-Together, which was written by Wang Xi-zhi, a very famous calligrapher in the Eastern Jin Dynasty, who once held the official position “You Jun”, and hence who was also called Wang You Jun. Later on, Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty ordered that this calligraphic work of Wang Xi-zhi be duplicated by the then calligraphers, and that the copies be distributed as gifts among his dukes and princes. The copies that still exist in circulation now are said to amount to almost 100 categories, and it is

hard to distinguish the genuine from the spurious among them. It was based on the historic data of the Tang Dynasty and his repeated “textual research on more than 270 Wang You Jun's scrolls of calligraphic works collected by Emperor Wu of Liang during the period of the Southern Dynasty” that Jiang Kui, a poet and musician in the Southern Song Dynasty, became the first one in history to raise the question, “At that time only such fine specimen of calligraphy as ‘*Huang Ting*’, ‘*Le Yi*’ and ‘*Gao Shi*’ are mentioned, why not make any reference to ‘*Lan Ting*’ (i. e. *Lan Ting Xu* stated above)?” If Jiang Kui dared to raise such a question, that's because he had his question well grounded in his careful examination of artifacts and in his textual research. By parity of reasoning, the present album, is at once of appreciation value and historic data value for the artistic researchers to make textual criticism of the works of painting. And its compiler's exploits are indelible!

Zhu Bo-xiong
Hangzhou
Autumn, 1996

(Translated by Bai Jing-ze)

前言

薛大德

世界绘画艺术一直是艺术欣赏者和收藏者的一个热点。每逢绘画名家的杰作在美术馆展出时,总会引起一阵轰动,产生一定的社会效应,展馆门前那长长的参观者行列就是明证。步入馆内,观众发出阵阵的赞叹声和脸上洋溢着专注的神情,会深深地打动和感染着每一位热爱艺术或为之献身的人的心。

从世界上一些著名艺术品拍卖行传来的信息,一幅凡·高或克里姆特的油画,竟拍成百上千万美元的高价,而珍藏在世界各国著名的艺术博物馆的绘画精品,更是无价之宝了。如翻阅这些绘画艺术品创作者的传记更为感人,有许多画家如凡·高、高更等生前毕生献身于艺术创作而自身却贫困潦倒,但死后他们的作品却无法想像地达到惊人的高价。法国印象派绘画大师雷诺阿,晚年腿脚瘫痪,手指不服使唤,但仍请人用担架抬着他,把笔绑在手上作画。他临死前对亲人唯一的请求是给他一支笔画个花瓶,他对艺术的执著精神多么感人!我常沉思,这是为什么,绘画艺术吸引着一代又一代人狂热的心。任凭历史的浪花冲击洗刷,时代风云的变幻沉浮,这些艺术品仍经久不衰,保持旺盛的艺术生命力和灿烂的光辉,多

少人为之陶醉倾心,多少人为之作出牺牲,结论是,因为它具有无比的艺术魅力和伟大的精神力量,因为每一幅绘画作品都有其丰富的精神内涵和艺术创造力。几乎每一幅画都有一个动人的故事,它涉及到宗教、历史、文化艺术和美学思维等多方面的知识。当人们逐步理解创作者的意图和思想时,艺术将沟通,并升华成为伟大的精神力量。

中国集邮爱好者已达千万人,爱好绘画艺术的人也不会少于这个数字。几十年来,集邮与绘画艺术爱好一直是我精神生活中的两个热点,我酷爱在这块园地里辛勤耕耘并从中寻找乐趣。我将以此充实我的暮年生活,度过我人生最美丽的时光,并乐意把我的收获奉献给与我同好的精神上的朋友。

在世界上成百个集邮专题中,绘画艺术可属佼佼者,在方寸邮票中可给人观赏到富有艺术生命力的各种五彩缤纷的世界,令人大饱眼福。它不受地域、时间、宗教、肤色、语言和文化背景的限制,把世界各地珍藏的艺术珍品让你尽情欣赏,所以有人形容邮票是国家的名片,是文化与友谊的使者,也是没有国境线的传媒载体。如把你长

年积聚的绘画艺术邮票按画家与流派归类插在集邮册中细加观看,你仿佛在浓缩的世界微型绘画艺术馆中神游,并从中得到丰富的美学知识和无尽的艺术享受。

要把世界名画家的艺术杰作浓缩到方寸邮票中去绝非易事,因为原画中都有丰富的色彩层次和较大的画面,而邮票却局限于方寸之隅,如让人欣赏到原画的风韵和艺术风格,不失其观赏的艺术效果,这就需要邮票设计者精心的构思和合理的布局。一般来说,名画邮票的画面反映近景或人物肖像画之类的作品比较容易处理,而对于反映重大历史场景的绘画却比较难处理。邮票设计者往往选取精彩的局部特写画面或用稍大的小型张来反映。为此,本图典尽量精选比较珍贵的小型张、极限明信片 and 首日纪念封来弥补其不足,尽量使观赏者领略到原画的风采。

据不完全统计,至今为止世界上已有上万幅绘画艺术品搬上邮票。世界各国所发行的绘画题材艺术邮票,无论采用影写版或雕刻版,表现的水平 and 发行的数量都参差不齐。如分析发行的背景与目的,大致可分为四类情况:一为纪念本国本民族或世界级绘画艺术大师诞辰或逝世若干周年而

发行的系列名画邮票。如在1990年为纪念凡·高逝世100周年,全世界有20多个国家发行了40套邮票及52枚小型张,合计有228幅凡·高名画上方寸。其他如拉斐尔、提香、鲁本斯、伦勃朗、戈雅、毕加索、马蒂斯、夏加尔等画家系列名画邮票发行不胜枚举。二是反映各国著名艺术馆藏画或为纪念某艺术馆建馆若干周年而集中发行系列名画邮票。如苏联在七八十年代曾为著名的列宁格勒艾米塔吉博物馆和国立普希金造型艺术馆珍藏的意大利、法国、西班牙、荷兰、英国、德国和俄罗斯等国绘画艺术大师的作品发行了18套名画邮票和14枚小型张,共计94幅世界名画杰作。1993年为纪念法国卢浮宫美术馆成立200周年,世界上有14个国家发行了以古典绘画艺术为主的29套名画邮票和23张小型张,共计有255幅名画收入方寸。1995年为纪念美国大都会博物馆成立125周年,坦桑尼亚等6个国家发行了以印象派为主的20套名画邮票和小型张,共计有近200幅名画上邮票。三是为纪念世界名画收藏和保管发生重大事件而发行名画邮票。如纪念苏联红军在第二次世界大战期间为保护德国德累斯顿画廊和柏林美术馆等珍藏的750幅世界名画免于

流失而运往苏联并于 50 年代中叶起陆续归还德国这一重大事件,德意志民主共和国从 1955 年起连续三次发行 17 幅世界名画邮票。匈牙利于 1984 年为纪念布达佩斯美术馆所藏的意大利文艺复兴时期 7 幅名画失而复得而发行该 7 幅名画邮票小全张以示举国庆贺。四是每年逢圣诞节之际,在世界许多国家发行的圣诞邮票中也有不少古典绘画艺术精品。

纵观世界绘画艺术邮票发行的历史,早期的绘画邮票几乎都是单色版(影写版或雕刻版),五六十年代以后绘画邮票的画面开始五彩缤纷,这与世界彩印技术的发展水平提高有关。而在题材上开始时大部分以反映古典名画杰作为主,八九十年代以后,特别是绘画专题集邮爱好者所关注的国家如法国、丹麦、葡萄牙、挪威、德国、摩纳哥、阿根廷、巴西等国的名画邮票选题逐渐转入以现代派抽象绘画艺术为主,这与世界绘画艺术发展的潮流与趋势有关。所以,我们通过邮票发行的信息,也可略知世界绘画艺术流派发展和变化的脉搏。

各国、各地区发行的绘画艺术邮票,由于发行的背景与目的不同,所反映的画家与艺术流派也

往往不一定成系列,甚至于有些成套的各类艺术邮票,各流派或不同美术品种搀杂在一起,所以在选编本图典过程中花了很大精力进行梳理与编排。本图典在排列上大致是参考世界绘画史所惯常的分类方法,主要是以画派、国家或地域为主线,并适当地突出了各绘画大师的代表作品,但仍难免有一定的局限性,不能完全做到顺理成章。对艺术史上有重大影响的同一画题,如《圣母子》、《哀悼基督》、《最后的晚餐》、《萨平妇女被劫》、《拿破仑》等,则把不同画家的作品集中在一起,以利于读者可欣赏到不同艺术风格和表现手法的画面。对于同一幅名画也尽量组合全画、局部特写画面,邮票与首日封、极限明信片一起编排,多视角、多层次不拘一格地反映绘画艺术之精华。而欣赏邮票首日封、极限明信片上丰富的纪念邮戳和周边的图案设计,则更能增进读者对绘画邮票发行背景的了解。邮戳上往往有画家的签名、自画像素描或艺术情趣极为丰富的相关图案文字,这更能开阅读者的视野以提高邮识水平。对于世界早期较珍贵的单色版名画邮票以及大家比较喜欢的世界名画家素描杰作,特此专门独立成章排在首尾。名画是让人鉴赏与思索的造型艺术,所

以在页面上均以图版展示为主,评析提示为辅。

中华民族具有悠久的文明史,我们的祖先曾为我们留下了大量宝贵的绘画艺术遗产,其中有许多精品已经反映在邮票上。在中国台湾地区发行的邮票中,有许多是以中国古代名画为题材的,它们同样是中华民族绘画艺术的珍品,本图典从全面反映中国绘画艺术着眼,亦尽量收录,但在制版时作了适当的技术处理,这丝毫不影响读者欣赏。在此特加说明。

本图典曾参考了大量绘画图典画册、文献和世界权威的邮票目录,这里不一一列举。

本图典在编著过程中,曾得到党玉敏、何林夏、朱国荣诸位先生的认真审校,集邮界刘广实、陆兆良、屠良仪、刘集成、张国良等先生的关心和帮助,特别要感谢中国美术学院朱伯雄教授在百忙之中为本图典作序并仔细审阅,提出了许多宝贵的意见,为此再次表示我衷心的感谢。本人由于学识肤浅,编著中如有不当之处望同好指正。

1996年中秋于上海

PREFACE

Che world of art of painting has always been a focus of the artistic appreciators and collectors. Whenever the masterpieces of famous painters are exhibited in an art gallery, a burst of sensation will be created. The long queue of visitors before the exhibition hall can be regarded as the best explanation of the sensation. Walking into the exhibition hall, every lover or devotee of fine arts will for sure be deeply moved and affected by the audience's gasp in admiration of the works of art and by their attentive facial expressions to the exhibits.

According to the information from some world-famous auctioneers abroad, one piece of the oil paintings by Vincent van Gogh or Gustav Klimt can be auctioned off at an incredible price that reaches tens of millions U.S. dollars per piece. In contrast, the masterpieces in art treasured in the art museums of world rank will become priceless. If one reads the life stories about the masters who have created those works of art, one will be touched to the heart. Many masters, such as Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin, devoted all their years to creations of art but they lived a poverty-strick-

en life through to the end. Ironically, after their death, their works should be sold at so high a price that it is beyond the reach of one's imagination. Pierre-Auguste Renoir, an important French impressionist master, though hemiplegia and losing control of his fingers in his late years, demanded that he should be carried on a stretcher with a painting-brush fastened to his hand so that he could go on painting. On his deathbed he asked his dear ones for nothing but a painting-brush, with which he drew a flower vase. So touching is his obstinate pursuit of art! I often contemplate why the art of painting can win people's vehement love generation after generation. The works of art created by the masters are long lasting, glittering with exuberant life, though they have undergone the tests of history and the vicissitudes and changeable situations through the ages. A large number of people are spellbound by these works of art, and they are even willing to make sacrifice for them. To sum up, that's simply because such works of art are endowed with both the unparalleled charm and great spiritual force, and because each masterpiece is rich in its spiritual connota-

tion and creative momentum of art. Almost every picture tells a moving story, which may involve many dimensions of knowledge such as religion, history, culture, art and aesthetic thinking. When people come to understand the intent and ideas of the creator, arts will become a vehicle of thoughts and feelings, and will be sublimed into a spiritual force.

There are in total ten million philatelists in China now, and there may be quite as many lovers of the art of painting, too. For the past few decades, stamp collecting and being keen on the art of painting have always been the two focuses in my cultural life, which I would like to compare to a flower garden that I have been running. I love to work hard in this garden with a view to searching for pleasure in it. I shall be enriching my life in my late years by way of working in this garden, spending the most splendid twilight of my lifespan. And I think it a great pleasure for me to contribute what I have harvested from the garden to the friends who are engaged in the same pursuit as I in the cultural life. Of more than 100 special subject matters in the stamp collecting practice, the collecting of

postage stamps bearing masterpieces in art may be the most outstanding one. The ordinary one sq. in.-sized small stamps will display a vivid world of art colorful enough to supply a feast for the eyes of people. Postage stamps are not restricted by region, time, religion, skin color, language, and cultural background. They will present to you the art masterpieces treasured in different parts of the world so that you may admire them heartily. No wonder that some people describe postage stamps as name-cards of a country, as diplomatic envoys of culture and friendship, and as the carrier or media without restrictions on boundary line. If you arrange the postage stamps that you have collected through years in your album according to artists and schools of art, and then make a careful study of them, you will feel as if you were wandering in a miniaturized world picture gallery, and you will get a profound knowledge of aesthetics and an infinite enjoyment of fine arts.

To condense a masterpiece of a world-famous artist into a small one on a small-sized postage stamp of about one sq. in. is absolutely not an easy job, be-

cause the original work usually presents a pretty large picture with rich color gradations whereas the size of an ordinary stamp is so restricted that it is too small for the original work. In order that the audience may appreciate the gracefulness and the artistic style of the original works on a postage stamp, and that a postage stamp bearing a masterpiece in art may have the value of appreciation, it will be a demanding task for a stamp designer that he should put forward some new concepts and a reasonable layout. Generally speaking, on the surface of a postage stamp, it is easier to duplicate the foreground or portrait in an art masterpiece, while in contrast, it could be rather difficult to reproduce a picture representing an important historic event. Usually, postage stamp designers prefer to choose local features that can set the picture's essentials off, or use somewhat bigger souvenir cards, for the representation of the magnificent views of historic events. Therefore, this album consists of as many as possible the hand-picked, much more precious souvenir cards, limit picture post-cards and first-day covers to achieve an effect of perfection. The purpose is to do the utmost to let audience

appreciate the essence of the original masterpieces.

According to an incomplete statistics, over 10,000 masterworks of art have been reproduced on the surface of postage stamps so far. But the picture stamps issued by all those countries in the world differ from one another in both quality and quantity, no matter whether they are facsimile reproduction or cuts. If we analyse the background and aim of the issue of such postage stamps, we will probably arrive at the following four major cases. **A.** To commemorate the anniversary of death or birth-day of a national master or a master of world rank, a series of postage stamps bearing his famous pictures is issued. For examples: In 1990, over 20 countries in the world issued 40 sets of postage stamps and 52 souvenir cards, which bear 228 masterpieces of Vincent van Gogh, in order to commemorate the first centennial anniversary of the master's death. What is more, it is hard to tell how many series of postage stamps bearing the masterpieces have been issued in memory of Raphael, Titian, Rubens, Rembrandt, Goya, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. **B.** To represent the collections of masterpieces in art treasured

in the museums or art galleries of various countries, or to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of an art gallery, a certain number of series of postage stamps bearing famous pictures are issued in a steady flow. For examples; in 1970s and 1980s, USSR issued 18 sets of postage stamps and 14 souvenir cards, which bear 94 world masterpieces in art, in order to let it be known to the public that Hermitage in Leningrad and Pushkin Fine Arts in Moscow have treasured the precious works of those masters whose native lands are Italy, France, Spain, Holland, Great Britain, Germany and Russia. In 1993, to commemorate the second centenary of Louvre in its service as an art museum, altogether 14 countries in the world issued 29 sets of postage stamps and 23 souvenir cards, which bear totally 255 masterpieces mainly in classic art of painting. In 1995, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Tanzania and the other 5 countries issued 20 sets of postage stamps bearing famous pictures and souvenir cards, with almost 200 masterpieces mainly in impressionism reproduced on the stamps. **C.**

To commemorate the great events that have ever occurred in the field of collecting and preserving the world-famous pictures, postage stamps bearing masterpieces in art are issued. For examples; Since 1955 the former German Democratic Republic had issued three times in succession the commemorative stamps bearing 17 world-famous masterpieces in art in order to keep a fresh memory of the historic fact that, the Soviet Red Army had transferred to the Soviet Union the 750 world-famous pictures originally treasured by Dresden Picture Gallery and Berlin Museum of Art during the World War Two for fear that the treasures might vanish into nowhere, and after the War, the Soviet Union began to return the batch of treasures to the Eastern Germany in a successive way in the middle of 1950s. In 1984, Hungary issued booklet panes bearing 7 masterpieces in art, to demonstrate a nation-wide celebration of the 7 found-after-lost pieces of treasures of Italy Renaissance art, which were originally the collection of Budapest Gallery of Art. **D.** Immediately before the advent of Christmas season every year, many countries issue merry Christmas stamps, inclusive of quite a lot

that represent the best of the classic masterpieces in art.

If we study the chronicles of the issue of the world picture stamps, we will know that almost all the early picture stamps are monochrome prints (no matter whether they are facsimile reproduction or cuts). It was during the period from 1950s to 1960s that the picture stamps began to look very colorful, which was the outcome of the rapid development of color printing. And in this period of time, there was a main tendency that the motif of picture stamps switched to the manifestation of the famous classic works. Since the beginning of the period of time through 1980s until 1990s, France, Denmark, Portugal, Norway, Germany, Monaco, Argentina and Brazil—namely the countries on which the picture stamps collectors focus their attention—have come to choose the masterpieces created by the artists of modern abstract expressionism as the main subject to represent on the surfaces of the picture stamps they issue. This phenomenon has some relevance to the tide and tendency of the painting art in the world. Therefore, from the issue of postage stamps, we will get some information

in relation to the pulse of the development and changes of the artistic schools in the world. Due to different background and purpose of issue, the picture stamps printed in different countries or regions all over the world usually cannot be categorized as a certain series that focuses on the reflection of the style of an artist and the reflection of an art school. What is more, some series of picture stamps are simply a mixture of the works of various artistic schools and different genres of fine arts. Therefore, I have made arduous efforts on the arrangement and editing of the picture stamps in the course of compiling this big album. I have consulted the books on the history of world arts for some information about the conventional methods of categorizing works of art before I start to lay out the collected postage stamps in this album. The job is done in the light of artistic schools, countries or regions, with a proper prominence given to the representative works of the masterpieces. However, there occur restrictions to a certain degree, which renders the layout not wholly in good sequence. As regards the masterpieces under the same motif that exert great influence on the history of