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IN THIS ISSUE - Lets go back to the Pictures, The Blond we all Preferred, John "The Duke" Wayne, WETS Inspirational Workshop, **OUR NEXT MEETING**, and Identifying Chinese Stamps.

Lets go back to the Pictures

Throughout the 1940's, 50's, and the start of the 60's, when I wanted to enjoy a romantic adventure, puzzle over a "Who Dun it", or just want a laugh, I had to "go to the pictures". I was delighted by Hollywood stars that became my idols for years. Today those same films can be watched on TV in the afternoon, or late at night, but the stars can be seen on far smaller screens - stamps. So why not collect the idols of our younger days, and remember when we paid 1s 3d for complete enjoyment, or maybe even 1s 9d for the back row, writes Tony Smith.



HOLLYWOOD STARS ON THE SMALL SCREEN

Among the pioneers for both postage stamps and filmmaking, the United States waited a long time to get the two together. In 1968, some 75 years after the countries first commemoratives, they issued a stamp showing Walt Disney the creator/producer of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and many other cartoon characters to delight children around the world. Disney, who put Mickey Mouse on screen in 1929, had moved on to the likes of "Pinocchio", "Dumbo" and "Mary Poppins" before his death in 1966. The mark he made for the USA world-wide was underlined by his stamp two years later. But it was another 16



years before the first Hollywood actor appeared on a US stamp - Douglas Fairbanks. He was shown, as he had been the all action swashbuckler in many films since "The Mark of Zorro" in 1920. His son Douglas Jnr. Followed him with similar movies, but the 1984 stamp didn't need to read Snr. Because US commem's only showed dead people. The rule was broken in 1990 when, perhaps at last realising that its stars were seen all over the world, it issued a "Classic Films" set. Judy Garland with a scene from "The Wizard of



Oz", and Clark Gable with our own Vivienne Leigh in "Gone with the Wind" were joined by a pair of tough guys, Gary Cooper, and John Wayne. In 1991 funny men came along, including English born Stan Laurel with his ever present partner Oliver Hardy, plus Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, Jack Benny, Fanny Brice and Edgar Bergen. Rock Singer Elvis Presley was featured in a 93 set, including a scene from "Love me Tender" and several other



music-movie guys and gals also appeared. In 1994 a set looked back to those earliest Hollywood, silent stars Rudolph Valentino, Buster Keaton, Clara Bow, those comic Keystone Cops, and that other well known Brit, Charlie Chaplin. Two years later America launched a regular issue, "The Legends of Hollywood", Marilyn Monroe, nor surprisingly, was the first and since then James Dean, Humphrey Bogart, British Director Alfred Hitchcock, James Cagney, Edward.G.Robinson, and Lucille Ball have followed. If you want a hint of horror with your stamps then Movie Monsters with the USA's 1997 set featuring the likes of Bela Lugosi as "Dracula", Boris Karloff in "Frankenstein" and Lon Cheney of "Phantom of the Opera". A general set called "the 20th Century" included Charlie Chaplin plus a scene from The Great Train Robbery alongside the Model T Ford car and a box of Crayola crayons. Should you decide to screen a theme, or perhaps persuade a friend to try stamp collecting by remembering their memories of cinema's, US issues have also featured behind the camera men like producer D.W.Griffiths, actors and actresses, or singers who have only made brief appearances on screen but who can still be found on stamps. And of course Hollywood "greats" have appeared in stamps from around the world. If you put these into a collection then tell other thematic friends that at least these stars are known by the folk in obscure issuing lands. You can't say that about many other themes. Watch out for Stars on UK stamps and stars form other countries.





The Blond we all Preferred

The former Norma Jean Baker who became Marilyn Monroe in Hollywood and soon had men drooling over her, at first via her bodily attractions rather than her acting, when she appeared in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes". She was the top crowd puller through a series of 1950's pictures before she ended an unhappy personal life with suicide in 1962 aged just 36. The much married star improved her talent to as she moved on to pack in the audiences for films like "The Seven Year Itch", "Some like it Hot", and "The Misfits". She was the obvious starter for the USA's Legends of Hollywood



series and Germany naturally included her in their Great Screen Stars series. Look too at film issues from Guinea, Antigua, Gambia, Congo, and several more. But Marilyn hasn't been the American actress with the most appearances on stamps.

Can you name the star whose 1956 picture "High Society" gave a clue to her future? And which Hollywood actor will appear in a different US series eventually?

John "The Duke" Wayne - was, I believe, a contender for the "Legends" stamp of 1989, 10 years after his death. This picture is perhaps the planned issue. The epitome of Western "good guys" in around 20 films up to "true Grit" in 1969 when he won an Academy Award. The Duke will surely get his "Legend" one day.



In the next WETS News we will be featuring British stars on UK stamps, plus world famous film greats from Germany, Italy, Spain, etc. So be ready for the latest news a la 1940's.

We will be extending this subject will more philatelic profiles in future issues. If you can add to this we would like to hear from you.



WETS INSPIRATIONAL WORKSHOP

By Mary Claydon

The Annual WETS Day held on April 5th 2003 was in the form of a Workshop. It was an extremely enjoyable day with many of those attending stating "they thought it was one of the best days we had ever held". Our two visitors Christine Earle and Sheila Foster were very interesting and informative. Christine Earle made the point at the beginning of the day "collecting stamps should be fun", and what you collect thematically should be what interests you. We were shown how to build up our thematic collections and the many different items

that can be used to make a collection interesting to ourselves as well as to others. They covered displaying when of course your main thought is to make the display interesting to those viewing it - you can therefore use many items which would not be included were you exhibiting. It was repeatedly stressed that you should build your collection and display in such a manner that it was not boring to others, and hopefully it should be an inspiration to others to have a go. They then went on to talk about exhibiting and the need to obey the rules. I am sure that many people there like me learned a good deal from this. Did any of you know that a maxicard should be 75% picture and the stamp and the postmark should be different? Maxicards have always intrigued me but I was not sure how and where they could be used. From exhibitions I have been to on the continent I think our European friends make more use of these than we do, but please that is my own observation not either Christine's or Sheila's. No back of the catalogue stamps would be permitted.

I wonder if some of you who did not attend this year thought a workshop might be boring? Those of us who were there can tell you it was anything but - with two superb speakers having so much knowledge who could impart it in a way to hold your attention - you missed a treat. I hope to see you ALL at our June meeting details opposite. **Please bring some material to display after the AGM.**

OUR NEXT MEETING WETS AGM 14th June 2003

to be held at Emmanuel Church, Weston Road, St Thomas, Exeter (close to St Thomas Station)
Dealer Rodney Watts will be there from 12.30.
The main meeting will start at 2.00 p.m.

Agenda

- Apologies for Absence
- Minutes of Last Meeting.
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report
- Secretaries Report
- Treasurers Report
- WETS News Editors Report
- Packet Secretaries Report
- BTA Village Green Stampex Spring 2006
- Date of November 2003 Meeting
- Date of Seminar 2004
- Any other Business.

IDENTIFYING CHINESE STAMPS

Look for

中

= *Zhong* = middle or centre. There are 5 points to the Chinese Compass and Atlas, the 5th being the centre, **CHINA**.

中華

= *Zhonghua* = Centre Flower, in 1964 simplified to:

中华

國

= *Kuo* = Country / Nation "

国

郵

= *You* = Post (al) "

邮

1911 - 49 REPUBLIC of CHINA (R O C)

政 郵 國 民 華 中
Zheng You Guo Min Hua Zhong
SERVICE POSTAL REPUBLIC FLOWER CENTRE

Read from right to left

In 1949 *Chiang Kai Shek (Jiang Ji She)* and the *Kuomintang* moved to *TAIWAN*, still the **REPUBLIC of CHINA**. Stamps titled **REPUBLIC OF CHINA** are stamps of *TAIWAN*.

1949 - PEOPLES REPUBLIC of CHINA (P R C)

中 国 人 民 邮 政
Zhong Guo Ren Min You Zheng
CHINA PEOPLES POSTAL SERVICE

Read from **left to right**

N.B.

After the 1964 simplification of Chinese Characters came a simpler form of transliteration to Roman Letters. This is known as **PINYIN** (spoken as **PUTONGHUA**) and succeeds the **Wade-Giles** system, often referred to as **MANDARIN** (from the Latin *mandare*, to command, by the learned) So *Mandarin* is an obsolete term.

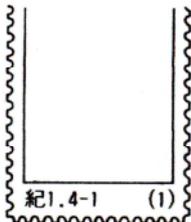
Hong Kong (*Xiangguang*) and Canton (*Guangzhou*) speak and write Cantonese, e.g. at your local 'Takeaway', so they may not be able to translate for you !

IDENTIFYING (P R C) STAMPS

1949 – 1967

(I) 'C' (Commemorative) Stamps

1 October 1949 until 10 March 1967 issues are numbered C1 to C124. The issue number, of each set, is at the left of the lower margin.



The character 紀1, after C.8_紀 shows the set to be the first issue of commemorative stamps since the founding of the P R C on 1 October 1949. (4-1) Indicates stamp number. The number at the lower right is the number in the whole series.

1951 – 1966

(II) 'S' (Special) Stamps

1 October 1951 until 1 August 1965 issues are numbered S1 to S74.

The issue is used mainly to publicise or announce. The issue number of each set is at the left of the lower margin.



The character 特1 shows the set to be the first issue of Special Stamp Issues. (5 - 1) indicates stamp 1 of a 5 stamp set. The number at the lower right is the individual stamp number in the whole series.

1967 – 1968

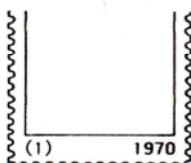
(III) 'W' Stamps

20 April 1967 until 25 November 1968 issues are known as 'WEN' Stamps, WEN is a *Hanzi* (Chinese Characters) prefix indicating culture. The stamps were issued during a period of Cultural Revolution in China. They carry no serial or index number.

1970 – 1973

(IV) Serial Numbered Stamps

1 August 1970 until 15 October 1973 issues are numbered from 1 to 95 and carry no indication as to a Special or Commemorative issue.

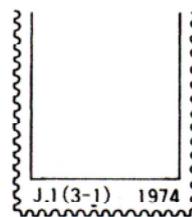


'(1)', on the left of the lower margin is the consecutive number of each stamp issued, without indication of number or place in the set. In the right hand corner is the year of issue.

1974 – 1992

(V) 'J' (Commemorative) Stamps

15 May 1974 until 16 November 1991 issues are numbered J1 to J185. The issue number, of each set, is at the left of the lower margin.



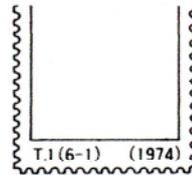
'J' is the initial letter of 'Jiniande', the transliteration of the *Hanzi* (*Hanzi* = Chinese characters) for Commemorative. (3-1) Indicates stamp 1 in a set of 3, the year of issue is on the lower right..

1974 - 1992

(VI) 'T' (Special) Stamps

1 January 1974 until 14 September 1991 issues are numbered from T1 to T169.

The issues were used mainly to publicise or announce.



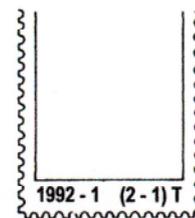
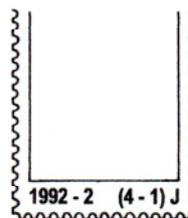
'T' is the initial letter of 'Tiebie', the transliteration of the *Hanzi* (Chinese Characters) for Special. (6-1) Indicates the first stamp of a set of six. The year of issue is on the lower right.

1992 – 200—

(VII) 'T and J' Stamps, Revision

1 January 1992, indexing was revised: 中国人民邮政 shortened to 中国邮政 and the name CHINA added. Index numbers are consecutive, whether T or J class.

On the lower left is the year and issue number. On the right, the number in the set and its position in that set, with T or J classification.



N.B.

Regular, Airmail, Postage-due and Military Stamps are not indexed.