中国税票 1896 - 1949

Revenue Stamps of China 1896 to 1949

This exhibit is a quick overview of the stamps used for revenues to support government services.   Presented by the **China Stamp Society - Chang Qing Long Chapter**.
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Postal System

China's first postal type system started in the 700's BC. The system was for official and military documents. There was no charge for the service, but the priority of transfer was set by a "Tallies" list for the source and type of material to be moved.

The Sung Dynasty later issued regulations on methods and speed with which the documents were be transferred.

The Ching Dynasty added **"I - Chan"** which was a 'log' form attached to each document to track the location and time of each step along the trip. This system used until the 1911 Republican Revolution. The "**I - Chan**" is seen on many of the Treat Port Stamps.

The first non-governmental message system "**MIN HSIN CHU**" was a groups of small private companies "Hongs" working together to move business mail and some personal letters between port cities started in the early 1400's BC.

The system grew to cover from northeast China to Malay Archipelago. The costs were usually split between the sender and recipient. The Hongs also provided travel guides, translation and the writing and reading of messages for the illiterate.

In the mid 1800's, the Hongs started using "CHOPS" to indicate that fees had been paid. Usage of actual stamps started in 1878.

The **MIN HSIN CHU** ceased to operate in 1935 because the government wanted to control all postal activity.

Stamps for Customs, Judicial, and other Internal Revenue Systems

Collection and recording of customs fees and duties were controlled by local port officials with little consistency between day to day and port to port operations. This corruption disrupted revenue collection and encouraged illegal trade.

In mid 1854, a new Customs Department centralized control that normalized operations for the 5 original Treaty Ports (Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai).

This improved revenue collection, but angered the old bureaucracy and caused more hostilities between the Chinese and British. A new treaty in 1858 opened more ports and secured mail service for French, British, and American governments.

In 1896 China followed the lead of other countries in the use of stamps to document collection of fees and duties.