

[Hongkong Post to issue "Characters in Jin Yong's Novels" special stamps \(with photos\)](#)

Hongkong Post announced today (November 21) the release of a set of special stamps on the theme of "Characters in Jin Yong's Novels", together with associated philatelic products, on December 6 (Thursday).

Louis Cha began weaving his martial arts world under the pen name Jin Yong in 1955, and by 1972 he had written 15 immensely popular novels that are still devoured today by readers around the world. In his well-constructed martial arts fiction, Jin Yong created a myriad of unique and distinctive characters. Jin Yong's oeuvre transcends geographical and temporal boundaries, and has captured the hearts of Chinese readers the world over for generations.

The renowned Chinese martial arts novelist passed away at the age of 94 on October 30. He showed the world the wonders of Chinese classics, integrating highly valued elements of culture and history with extraordinary creativity. It is hoped that the compilation and release of this set of special stamps may in some way serve to commemorate Cha's life and his timeless works.

The set of special stamps on "Characters in Jin Yong's Novels" features a number of unforgettable characters in seven immensely popular Jin Yong novels. They are Guo Jing and Huang Rong from "The Eagle-shooting Heroes" (\$2), Chen Jialuo from "The Book and the Sword" (\$2.60), Linghu Chong and Ren Yingying from "The Smiling, Proud Wanderer" (\$3.40), Zhang Wuji from "The Heaven Sword and the Dragon Sabre" (\$3.70), Yang Guo and Xiaolongnü from "The Giant Eagle and its Companion" (\$4.90), Wei Xiaobao and Kangxi from "The Deer and the Cauldron" (\$5) and Qiao Feng, Xu Zhu and Duan Yu from "The Demi-Gods and Semi-Devils" (\$10 Stamp Sheetlet). Hongkong Post invited renowned comic artist Lee Chi-ching to draw the characters using traditional Chinese painting techniques, and stamp designer Gideon Lai then turned these beautiful illustrations into stamps.

Hongkong Post is also launching the first stamp booklet with 30 attractive stamps featuring Zhang Wuji practising tai chi. People can flip the pages of the booklet quickly or scan the QR code on the back cover to see this supreme kung fu in consecutive moves. This will surely be a highly collectible item for both stamp lovers and Jin Yong readers.

Official First Day Covers at \$1.30 each will be put on sale at all post offices from tomorrow (November 22). The special stamps and associated philatelic products will be displayed at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office from the same day. Advance orders for servicing self-

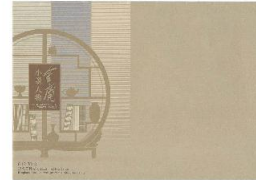
provided covers will be accepted at all philatelic offices from tomorrow (November 22) to November 28.

Information about this special stamp issue and associated philatelic products is available on the Hongkong Post website at www.hongkongpost.hk and via the Hongkong Post mobile app.

Characters in Jin Yong's Novels



Characters in Jin Yong's Novels



Blank First Day Cover



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with a special postmark.



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with a special postmark.

Characters in Jin Yong's Novels



Presentation Pack (Cover)

Presentation Pack (Inside)

Characters in Jin Yong's Novels



Stamp Booklet (Cover)



1 of 40 Stamp Sheets in Stamp Booklet

Presentation Pack (Opened)



Characters in Jin Yong's Novels



Postage Prepaid Picture Cards

[Speech by STH at 2nd Mare Forum Hong](#)

Kong 2018 (English only)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, at the 2nd Mare Forum Hong Kong 2018 today (November 21):

Mr Kostoulas (Executive Director, Mare Forum International, Mr Georgios Kostoulas), Mr Bowring (Consultant, Advisor, Arbitrator and Mediator, Bowring Advisory Limited, Mr Arthur Bowring), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. My warmest welcome to all of you to the second Mare Forum Hong Kong, after its debut last year, also during the Hong Kong Maritime Week. The Mare Forum is a renowned and prestigious event, and we are honoured to have so many prominent leaders and players of the industry here with us to share thoughts and insights.

The main theme of today's forum is "renaissance", which is most fascinating when applied to shipping. For one thing, shipping is an age-old industry. Has it undergone a renaissance, or is there one coming?

The Renaissance is often said to be the start of the modern age. To me, it started during the golden age of discovery and the rush for expedition when sea voyaging burgeoned. Global shipping had further reached a new height during the era of industrialisation as raw materials in the globe were traded and transported for manufacture in the West. The tides subsequently turned east and Asia re-emerged with the four rapidly industrialised Tigers in the 1960s, including Hong Kong being one, followed by China's opening up of its market since 1978. China's merchandise trade has since burgeoned and become the "factory of the world" as you all know. The interconnected production network in Asia further spurred regional trade flows. Today, "Factory Asia" manufactures almost half the world's goods and accounts for over half of the world's seaborne trade volume.

Having reviewed the development of global shipping over the past few centuries, we have observed not so much of a renaissance, but a repeat of history with the maritime centre of gravity swinging back and forth between the West and the East.

However, this time is different. Regional and global collaboration at a mega scale is opening a new chapter for global shipping. Among all, the Belt and Road Initiative, which spans over 120 countries and covers more than half of the world's GDP, is expected to swing the East-West pendulum vigorously. With three quarters of the world's population, it is estimated to contribute over 80 per cent of global economic growth by 2050, and that is one of the questions to be asked by the Mare Forum today. New ports are being constructed and old ones rejuvenated in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar and Greece, just to mention a few. The improved connectivity has paved the way for a new boom of maritime exchanges for decades to come. With the necessary infrastructure put in place by foreign investment, the area's growth potential is being unleashed.

Apart from the Belt and Road Initiative, other regional collaborations are set to change the scene of the shipping industry. For example, the new "international land and maritime trade route" is being mapped out. It stems from Chongqing in western China and goes northward to Central Asia and Europe by rail – as of today, there are over 2 000 regular trains set from China to Europe every year – and southward to Guangxi's coastal bay by road and all the way to ASEAN by sea. Just imagine all the goods along the Eurasian corridor that can be consolidated and distributed to different parts of the world through sea routes. With their expertise in cold chain management and inter-modal network, the logistics sector in Hong Kong is ready to seize the opportunities and face the challenges of the booming businesses. Close to home, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge that was commissioned last month has pulled together cities within the Greater Bay Area even closer. Just for the weekend, we have 200 000 people crossing the Bridge. These exciting regional collaborations and the rise of inter-modal transport will usher a long-awaited renaissance and bring about revival in the volume of maritime exchanges.

Technology, as Arthur has just mentioned, is another force that promises to revitalise shipping, perhaps in the same way as it has changed many other different facets over the past decades. Internet of Things, blockchain, big data and artificial intelligence have found their way to revolutionise shipping. Big data analytics enables traffic forecast and route optimisation, bringing about efficiency gains. The application of blockchain's distributed ledger technology improves reliability and real-time security of cargo tracking and helps reduce insurance costs. With the Internet, trade single window systems have turned shipping into paperless operation, which again generates cost saving and efficiency gains.

Internet technologies apart, productivity-enhancing automation technologies and the possibility of unmanned navigation are also oncoming. In fact, our terminal operators are increasingly employing automation in their day-to-day operations. For example, our Container Terminal 9 North has already embarked on the use of remote-controlled rubber-tyred gantry cranes and an automated container stacking system launched earlier this year. This will be expanded to other terminals in phases in the years to come. With all these enabling drivers, the future of global shipping is destined to be very fascinating.

Yet, technology brings its own challenges. Reliance on technology comes with a price of higher cybersecurity risks. Meanwhile, new technologies such as 3D printing have enabled manufacture-to-order. Given Industry 4.0, together with micro-production in mega scale, this may affect shipping demand in the longer run due to shorter distance from production to consumption. Renaissance or not, the destiny of global shipping and technology will be inseparable.

With all these potential changes, what will Hong Kong's shipping scene look like in the future? Many of you, including ourselves, are asking. On one hand, the contribution of the shipping industry in terms of GDP and overall employment in some advanced economies has been declining. For example, Singapore's water transport share in GDP went from 3.1 per cent in 2012 to

2.8 per cent in 2017, while that of the UK's shipping sector went from 0.4 per cent in 2010 to 0.3 per cent in 2015. That said, in terms of global outlook, regional co-operation and technological innovation may spur growth in new markets and unlock new opportunities.

Take for example e-commerce, whose remarkable rise in recent years has implications for global shipping indeed. Last year, global retail e-commerce sales reached a new high of US\$2.3 trillion, up 25 per cent from 2016. While consumers' preference for faster means of delivery may apparently be in favour of air transport, the application of demand forecast technology may empower shipping to give more timely delivery, as popular goods may be shipped well in advance of a placed order. Taking all these into account, unless there is a breakthrough in terms of air transport cost, the bulk of cargoes will still go by sea in the foreseeable future. It can be a win-win situation for both seaborne and other means of transportation.

Turning to Hong Kong, an imminent challenge faced by our shipping sector is the US-China trade conflicts. While the direct impact on our trade remains contained so far, the adverse impact on the global economy outlook has started to emerge – the IMF has already revised the global economic growth forecast for 2018-19 from 3.9 per cent to 3.7 per cent.

Apart from the trade conflicts which we hope will ease and settle in the end, the outlook for the maritime sector remains bright.

Hong Kong has over 150 years of maritime tradition. Our initial success as an entrepot started by riding on Mainland China's opening up of the trade markets. We then repositioned ourselves as a regional transshipment hub amid growing competition. Today, we have moved up the value chain to house a vibrant maritime cluster, with over 800 shipping-related companies offering a broad range of maritime services from ship finance to maritime legal and arbitration services. Our strong base of shipping companies own or manage nearly 10 per cent of the deadweight tonnage of the world's merchant fleet. We are a leading international ship finance centre in Asia, home to seven of the world's top 10 bookrunners on syndicated marine loans. Our arbitration awards are enforceable in over 150 signatory states. We are also well recognised for our institutional strengths including the rule of law, a simple and low tax regime, a business-friendly environment and a level playing field. Hong Kong has been rated as the world's freest economy for 24 years in a row as well as the fourth easiest place to do business according to the World Bank's latest report.

With these cornerstones of our success, Hong Kong will continue to flourish, and we have already come up with a package of initiatives to booster our maritime services. For example, tax measures will be introduced to foster ship leasing business and marine insurance in Hong Kong. Riding on our staunch support for sustainable development of the maritime industry, the Hong Kong Government will inject an additional HK\$200 million into our Maritime and Aviation Training Fund. We shall spare no efforts in striving to reinforce our position as an international maritime centre.

While we have no crystal ball, we have the brightest minds here today. I

am sure everyone here is looking forward to hearing your views and sharing on the renaissance and future development of the global maritime industry. Thank you, and I wish you all a very fruitful discussion.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley today (November 21). The arrangements will come into effect one and a half hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp outside Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will be closed except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the up-ramp outside HKJC will be re-routed one way northbound;
- Vehicles from eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road except for vehicles heading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

1. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- The up-ramp on Wong Nai Chung Road outside HKJC leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the Public Stands of HKJC;
- Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East; and
- Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of HKJC will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

The following traffic arrangements will be implemented from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic on southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
- Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

- Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
- Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
- Canal Road East; and
- The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm during day racing, from 4.30pm to 11.59pm during evening racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm during night

racing.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the above affected areas will be towed away without prior notice.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

Romanian theatre production "Sleepy Little Pillow" tailor-made for toddlers

Ion CreangÄf Theatre from Romania will perform "Sleepy Little Pillow", which is tailor-made for toddlers aged 1 to 3, in December and January.

The story follows two little children who don't want to go to sleep, so using their imagination they transform their bedroom into the icy cold cabin of a submarine, the world at the bottom of the sea, a hot air balloon and colourful knolls. Hugging the pillows doesn't mean children are asleep. By using their imagination, children find that pillows can be great fun. Members of the audience are welcome to stay behind to play games with the artists after the performance.

Ion CreangÄf Theatre produces programmes for children up to 12, with the aim of lighting up their fantasies and developing their visual and sensory perceptions. The company also implements educational, social and cultural projects for teachers, trainers, parents and guardians, and helps organise the annual "100, 1,000, 1,000,000 stories" international theatre festival for children in Romania. Since its founding in 1964, the company has received numerous awards in Europe and has been highly acclaimed by international audiences.

Details of the performances are as follows:

December 28 (Friday), 7.30pm

December 29 (Saturday), 11.30am and 2.30pm and 4.30pm

Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre

Tickets: \$220

December 30 (Sunday), 2.30pm, 4.30pm and 7.30pm

Black Box Theatre, Tai Po Civic Centre

Tickets: \$200

January 1 (Tuesday), 2.30pm and 4.30pm
Cultural Activities Hall, Tuen Mun Town Hall
Tickets: \$200

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, "Sleepy Little Pillow" is one of the attractions of the "Cheers!" Series. Tickets are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_653.html.

SCS leads delegation of Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Department for national studies course and visit programme in Beijing (with photos)

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, is leading a delegation of 11 Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government for a national studies course and visit programme in Beijing.

The trip seeks to reinforce delegation members' understanding of major national policies and the future development of the Mainland, and strengthen their working relations and exchanges with Mainland officials.

The delegation today (November 20) attended a course at the Chinese Academy of Governance, and toured a major exhibition commemorating the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up at the National Museum.

The delegation also called at the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council and met with the Director of the HKMAO, Mr Zhang Xiaoming.

The delegation will continue the national studies course and visit programme in Beijing tomorrow (November 21).

