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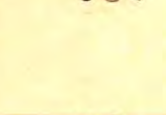
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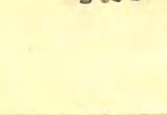
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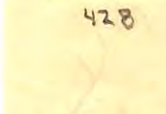
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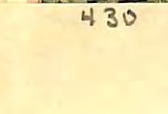
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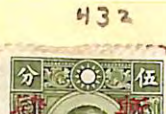
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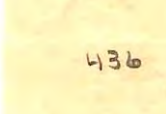
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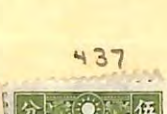
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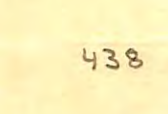
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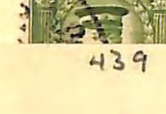
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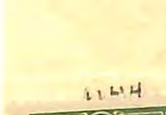
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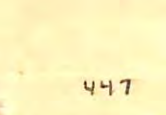
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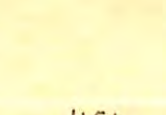
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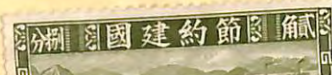
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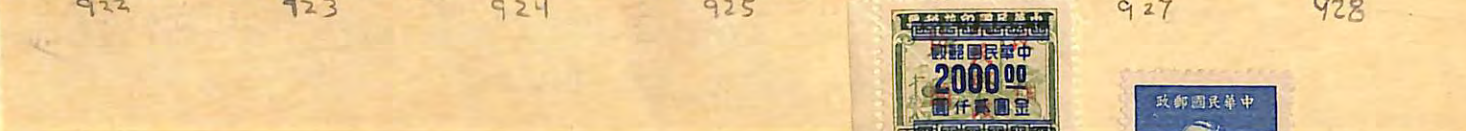
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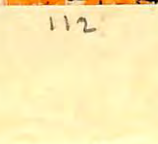
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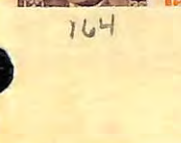
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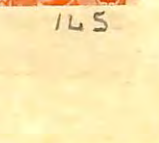
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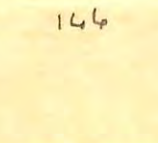
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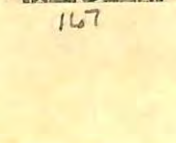
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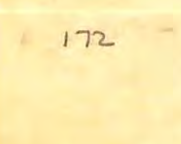
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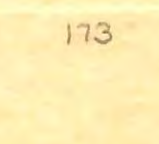
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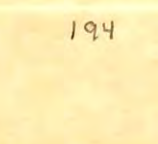
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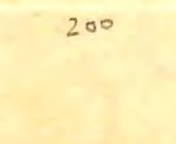
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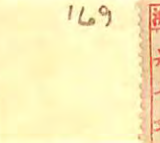
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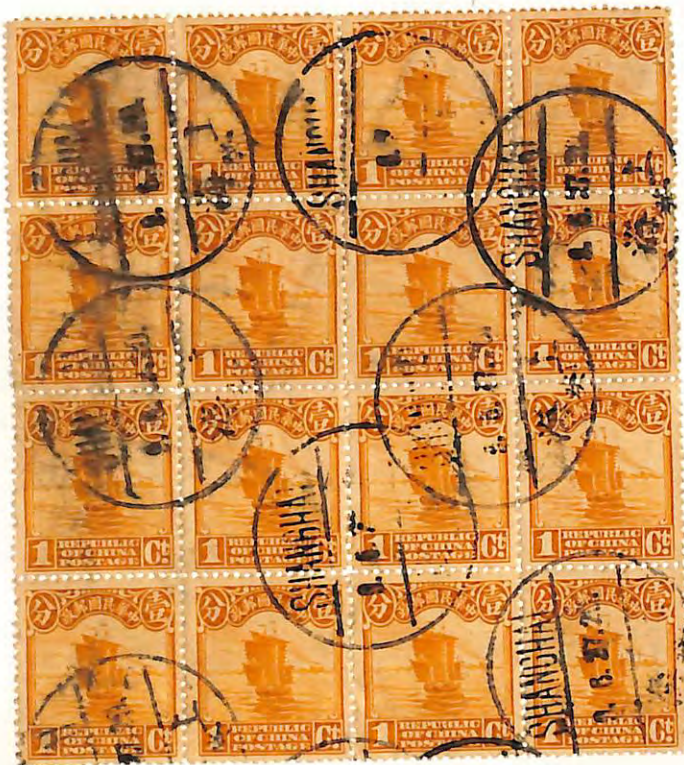
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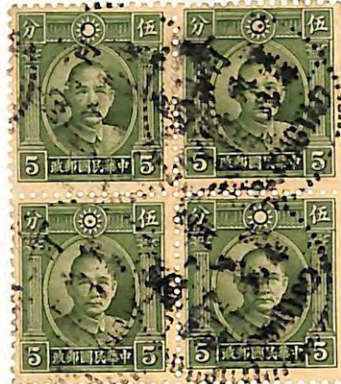
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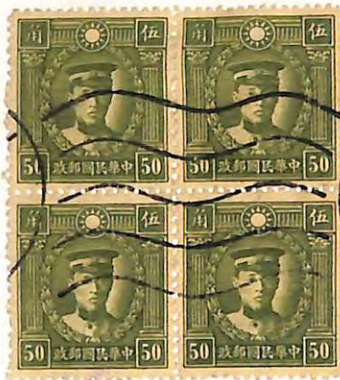


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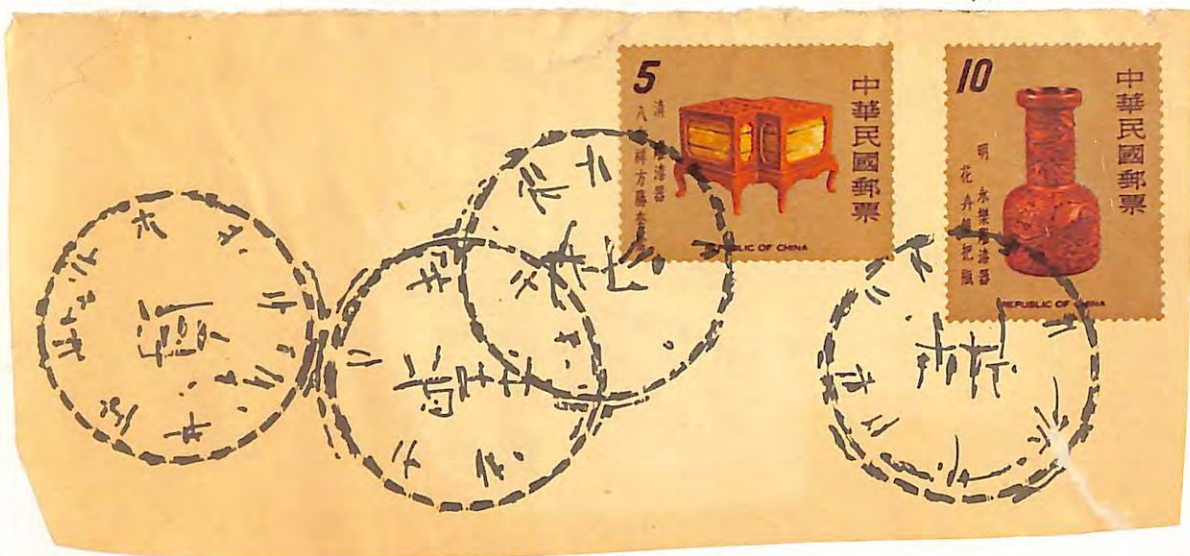
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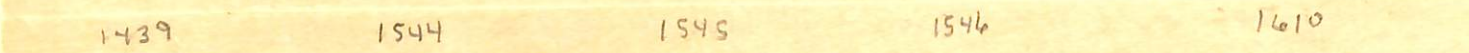
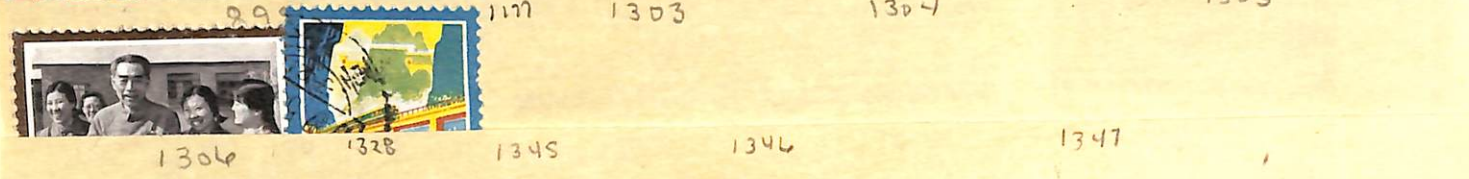
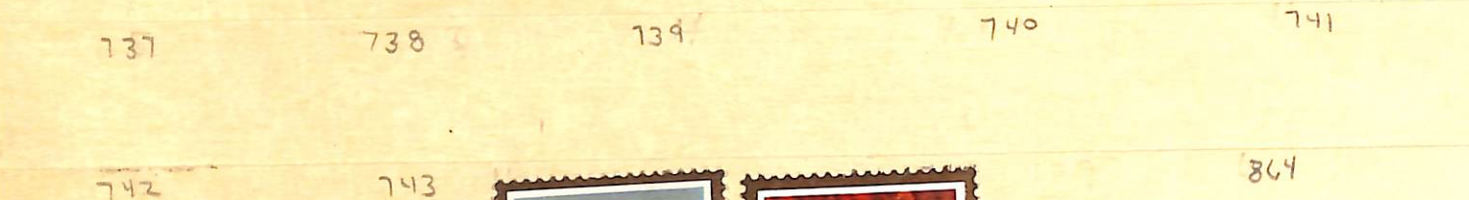
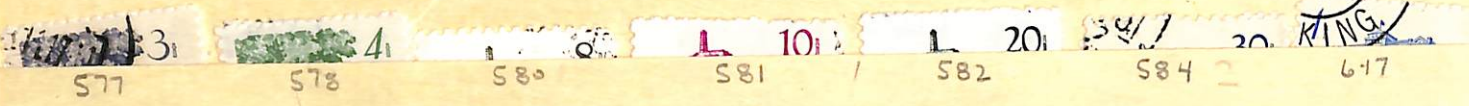
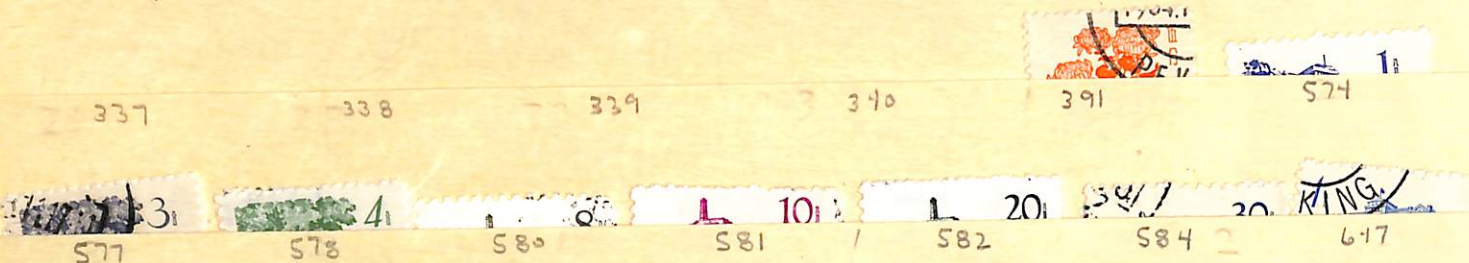
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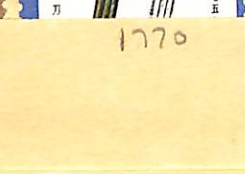
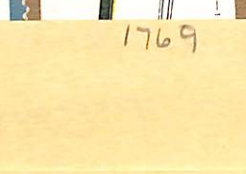
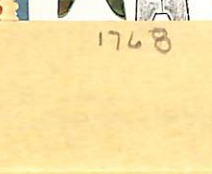
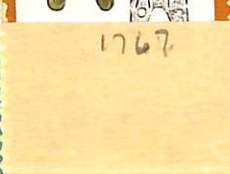
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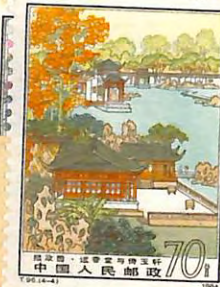
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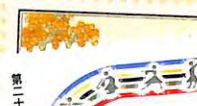
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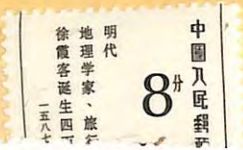


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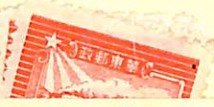
   
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LEGENDARY CHINESE PHILOSOPHER HONORED

Country of Issue: China Year of Issue: 1989

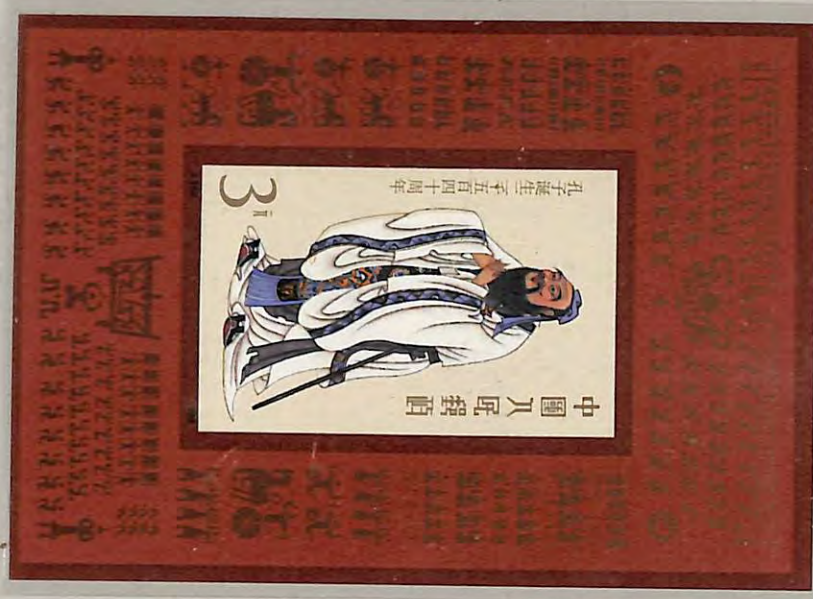
Of all the famous figures who have played important roles in China's long history, no one had a greater influence on Chinese culture than a man who was a wandering teacher and philosopher during his own lifetime. He is now known throughout the world as Confucius, a westernized version of K'ung Fu-tzu, or Grand Master. In China, his philosophy became a state religion known as Confucianism that guided its government and society for over 2,000 years.

The legendary date of Confucius' birth is 28 September in the year 551 B.C. Although this falls into China's Classical Age, from 600 B.C. to A.D. 200, Confucius saw only chaos and change in China during his lifetime. China had yet to be united and rival city-states fought for power. It became the ambition of Confucius to restore order to Chinese society. Although entirely self-educated, he became the most learned man of his day and saw himself foremost as a reformer. He believed that knowledge meant wisdom that would improve life for both the individual and society.

Confucius first had the opportunity to reform and improve Chinese government and its rulers when he was appointed as a high minister in the state of Lu. When he was in his fifties, however, he resigned his post and began a period of traveling through various Chinese states that lasted for 13 years. During his travels, Confucius attracted thousands of disciples and students to his teachings. At the age of 67, he returned to Lu where he spent his remaining years teaching and editing the *Five Classics*. Confucius died at the age of 72 in the year 479 B.C.

During his lifetime, Confucius was one of many wandering sages traveling throughout China. After his death, his fame was spread by the writings of his disciples. The *Analects of Confucius* was based on the notes and journals of disciples describing the sayings and activities of Confucius. Another famous work containing Confucius' philosophy was the *Four Books*, which became the basis of education in all of China.

His philosophy stressed the importance of the individual and the virtues of loyalty, humanity, goodwill and respect for the past. Most importantly, he believed that all governments were responsible for the happiness and enlightenment of their people. This attitude was developed by the rulers of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) into the cult of Confucianism. It upheld the divine authority of the emperor, whose responsibility was for the well-being of his people and setting an example of moral virtue. The people, in turn, must be obedient to their ruler to gain the benefits of his wisdom and virtue.



1985



GIANT PANDA OF CHINA

Country of Issue: China

Year of Issue: 1985

In 1972 after President Richard M. Nixon's historic visit, the People's Republic of China presented a pair of giant pandas to the United States. Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, as they were named, were housed in the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. What a gracious and fitting offering of friendship, for there is perhaps no other animal which has so thoroughly charmed zoo visitors than the striking giant panda.

Native only to the dense bamboo forests of China's northern Szechwan and Kansu provinces, the large, bearlike panda was known to the Chinese as far back as 2205 B.C. They were named Bei-shung, which means white bear, though their distinctive markings include broad black shoulder bands, black limbs, ears, and eye patches. This remarkable color pattern makes them virtually undetectable against the background of snow, black rocks, and dark shadows of their 6,000 to 14,000 foot high habitat.

The large bobtailed animal may reach as much as 6 feet in length, and a fully grown male may weigh as much as 300 pounds. Because their only relatives are a small, red panda that looks much like a raccoon, pandas have been classified alternately as members of the raccoon family and the bear family. Some zoologists assign them a category all their own.

In their natural habitat pandas feed solely on the shoots, stalks, and leaves of the bamboo plant. For this diet they have developed extremely large, broad molar teeth, massive jaws, and jaw muscles that are capable of tremendous crushing power. Their forepaws are also especially adapted to their diet, for they have a long wristbone that works much like an opposable thumb. With it they can grasp even the very slenderest leaf or stalk.

Watching the giant panda feed is a treat for the zoo-goer. The panda sits down, stretches out his hind legs, and gnaws contentedly

on a long stalk of bamboo. Sometimes it will let itself roll backward and munch away happily with its legs extended up in the air. And feeding is a common sight. To support their bulk, the giant panda may consume as much as 20 pounds of bamboo in a single day, and as a rule the animal spends 50 to 75 percent of its day feeding.

No one knows what the total panda population is today. Chinese experts estimate there may be as few as 1,000 since the mid-1970s when more than 100 giant pandas starved to death because one species of bamboo died off in a large section of their habitat. And because the giant panda has difficulty breeding in captivity, the number of these enchanting animals available for the zoo-goer to see is quite limited. The animals are now protected in China. Your commemorative sheet was issued to draw the world's attention to the plight of the unique and precious giant pandas.