

# **The Communist DPP Chops and Labels of Southern Anhui and Northeastern Jiangxi Provinces**

## **Synopsis**

### **Scope and Importance:**

The thesis of this article is that **the Domestic Postage Paid chops and labels used in two adjoining counties in Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces in mid-1949 were exclusively Communist postal issues rather than mere carry-over uses by Communists of chops or labels formerly used by the Nationalists.** The importance of this article derives from the fact that there were many areas in China where a large number of these chops and labels were in use at this time, even though the geographic area on which this article focuses is quite small. It is probable that many of the chops and labels from these other areas were also exclusively Communist issues.

**This article constitutes my original research and introduces a new area of Chinese Communist Liberation Area philately that has not been explored or discussed in any Chinese- or English-language writings** of which I am aware. Specifically, no such discussions can be found in any of the books, articles, or listings, in Chinese or English, that broadly discuss the DPP chops and labels in use throughout the Gold Yuan and Silver Yuan currency periods (October 1948 to September 1949) in the various provinces of China. I would note that while a few such writings occasionally note that a given cover is a post-liberation use of a specific chop or label, none examine or seek to examine the period of use of the chop or seal.

### **Research:**

As noted in the first paragraph of this article, I first became aware of the possibility that these chops and labels might be exclusively Communist while preparing an exhibit that debuted in the mid-1990's. In researching the exhibit, I learned that the Chinese had continued to prepare local gazetteers into the period of The People's Republic of China and that a very substantial number of these (more than a thousand, I believe) could be accessed at the East Asian Library of the University of California, Los Angeles, about two hours from where I live.

From prior studies, I was aware that local gazetteers have been sources of local Chinese history (whether provincial, county, township, city, or town) for more than a thousand years. I had not, however, been aware of these more recent ones. The recent gazetteers, not usually considered philatelic research materials, provide accurate, detailed data on the dates of liberation of even small towns and villages. This, taken in conjunction with my review of existing literature and an exhaustive review of auction catalogs from the last 50-60 years, permitted, for the first time, a more definitive determination of the period of use of a given chop or label and whether such use was either exclusively prior to or following the date of liberation, or extend from before until after that date.