

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT STAMP COLLECTION

The Australia China Friendship Society is delighted to be invited to show its historically significant collection of Chinese stamps at the Swan River Stamp Show, to be held at the University of Western Australia, Student Guild Building. This exhibition will show stamps of interest to collectors and interested persons during the weekend of 8th-9th October, 2011 (10am to 5pm on Sat and 10am to 4pm on Sunday).

The Chinese Stamp collection is of historical importance to our two countries as the giving of the stamps to Australia, by the People's Republic of China, is thought to have happened in the days of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam; Prime Minister of Australia 1972-1975. Mr Whitlam had frequently displayed an interest in China, even from his early days in politics in Australia.



During his visit to China in 1973, Prime Minister Whitlam was praised by Chairman Mao Zedong for "his foresight and wisdom in establishing formal relationships" at a time when many world powers were hesitating to establish diplomatic relationships with the country. This actually was Gough Whitlam's second visit to The People's Republic of China. The Prime Minister was the second world leader to visit China. President Nixon of the United States of America visited China in 1972.



Gough Whitlam was the (Labour) Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament, when he made his first visit to the P.R.C. Against the wishes of the then Prime Minister McMahon, Whitlam led a Labour Party delegation to Beijing. At this time, among others including early Friendship group's representatives, he met with Premier Zhou Enlai and was entertained at a banquet held in the Great Hall of the People. In so doing, he opened up the door to China and made a connection that has continued and grown stronger through the years.

It has been surmised that because of these actions of Prime Minister Whitlam, at such an important and delicate time (the Cultural Revolution was occurring) that the presentation of the stamps was made to the Australia China Friendship Society by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. "We placed great importance to this visit." remarked Li Zong, who was Prime Minister Whitlam's interpreter, during the recent China visit of our present Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

The colourful and imaginative stamp collection is contained in twenty four "ornate presentation" panels (packages) covering a multitude of topics of cultural, economic, scientific, folklore, flora, ancient persons.

Certainly "a must" for any person with a great interest in stamps and in particular the People's Republic of China. For more information phone 9397 5741 (Roz Hanley) or 9384 7426 (Bruce Haynes).

