

The 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Dr. Sun Yat Sen

Sun Yat Sen was the great pioneer and revolutionist of democratic revolution in modern China; he was born on 12th November 1866 in Cuiheng Village, in Xiangshan County (now Zhongshan City), Guangdong Province. After graduating at Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese in 1892, he carried out medical practice in Macao and Guangzhou respectively.

In 1894, he formed the “Revive China Society” (Xingzhonghui) at Honolulu and put forward the political platform of “establishing prosperity for China”. In 1900, he assigned others to launch an uprising in Sanzhoutian of Huizhou in Guangdong. After the failure, he continued to launch revolutionary activities at both inside and outside China. In 1905, he formed the Chinese United League (Tongmenghui) in Tokyo, Japan, and Sun was elected as the president, affirming the revolutionary program of “expelling the Tatar barbarians, reviving China, establishing a Republic, and distributing land equally among the people.” He also proposed the Three Principles of the People, namely “Nationalism”, “Democracy” and “Welfare”.

On 10th October 1911 (the year of Xinhai of the Chinese calendar), he led the Wuchang Uprising (“Xinhai Revolution”), overthrowing the autocracy ruling of the Qing Dynasty, ended over 2000 years of feudal monarchy in China. On 29th December in the same year, he was elected as the President of the Republic of China. On 1st January 1912, he took the oath of office at Nanjing, and formed the Provisional Government of the Republic of China. On 13th February, since the revolutionaries compromised with Yuan Shikai, Sun was forced to resign as the president.

In 1914, he established the Chinese Revolutionary Party in Japan, and had twice published the declaration of anti-Yuan. In 1917, since Duan Qirui dismissed the parliament, Sun called for an extraordinary session of Congress in Guangzhou and established the Military Government; he was elected as the Generalissimo, and made a vow before the “Northern Expedition”. In 1919, he reorganized the Chinese Revolutionary Party and changed it to Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) in Shanghai. In 1921, he took office as Extraordinary President in Guangdong.

In January 1924, he convened the first National Congress of Kuomintang, and implemented the three major policies through the declaration, which are “forming an alliance with Soviet Union, forming an alliance with the Communist Party of China, and supporting farmers”. Later, he established the Republic of China Military Academy (Huangpu Military Academy) in Guangzhou. In November of the same year, he was invited to head north and discussed about the state affairs, and proposed to “convene National Congress and abolish the unequal treaty”, fighting against the imperialism and Beiyang Army.

Sun died on 12th March 1925 in Beijing and left a will, which stated that, “We must arouse the masses of people and unite in a common struggle with those nations of the world which treat us as equals.”

It happened to be the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Sun Yat Sen this year. In order to commemorate this day of great historic significance, the Macao Post has designed a set of philatelic issue using this as its theme, including four stamps and one souvenir sheet, and also jointly issued with Mainland China and Hong Kong.

The five important nodes of Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s life are chosen for this stamp issue. After summarizing, refining and sublimating, the history is condensed in an instance, which vividly displays the historical scenarios when this great person was carrying out his medical practice at Kiang Wu Hospital in Macao, establishing the “Clinic of Sun Yat Sen” at No.14 Senado Square (the current site of Macao Post) in order to help the public, convening the Highest Cadres Meeting of Tongmenghui in Shanghai, being together with his wife Soong Chingling when he was organizing revolutionary activities in Tokyo, assuming the post of Generalissimo of Military Government in Guangzhou, and officiating the opening ceremony at the Huangpu Military Academy in Guangzhou.

The styling of images are all made by sketches, which are supported and set off by different backgrounds, expressing the in-depth and each side of the images in a better way, forming the stereo vision and lifelike effect. As a result, it creates the image of the revolutionist that is full of vitality and appealed to people’s imagination. In the certainty of history, it provides people with a real, specific and familiar feeling.

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