

Jin Yong's Novels

Jin Yong (Louis Cha Leung-yung) was an internationally well-known writer in the literary world. His 15 martial arts romance novels have been so popular that they have a widespread following in Chinese communities worldwide. It is said that “Where there are Chinese people, there are Jin Yong’s novels”.

In the academic world, Jin Yong was regarded as one of the “20th-century Chinese Literary Masters”. Each of his novels has been adapted many times into films and TV series. And some have been adapted into Chinese and Western shows such as dance dramas, symphonies, dramas, cartoons, comics, acrobatics, narrative singings, and puppet theatres. Others have even been adapted into video games and others cultural creative products. They have a far-reaching influence, for decades, in the popularization and development of culture in the various social quarters on both sides on the Taiwan Straits, namely Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and mainland China.

The stamp issue “Jin Yong’s Novels” is designed by Lio Man Cheong, the famous painter in Macao. The souvenir sheet is based on Jin Yong’s debut novel “The Book and the Sword” and the four stamps are originated from one of Jin Yong’s masterpieces, “The Legend of the Condor Heroes”.

The Book and the Sword

The creation of “The Book and the Sword” was originated from a martial arts competition held in Macao in 1954. In the following year, Jin Yong was entrusted to publish a series of martial arts romance novels on the “New Evening Post”, which later won him the great fame and made him the leader of “new faction” martial arts romance novels.

Set in the Qing Dynasty during the reign of the Emperor Qianlong, this novel describes the grudge between Qianlong and the “Red Flower Society”, which was a secret society in the southern region of Yangtze River aiming to overthrow the Manchuled Qing Empire and restore Han Chinese rule in China. The novel has shaped many heroes of “Red Flower Society” headed by Chen Jialuo and has definitely been a success by capturing the unique, firm and independent characters, coupled with fascinating and mysterious plots. By merging history with legends, mixing facts with myths, Jin Yong outlined a magnificent historical scroll with poetic strokes.

The Legend of the Condor Heroes

Chivalry Heroes: Guo Jing is a man of integrity, loyalty, honesty, and faithfulness. He is very clear on distinguishing right from wrong, and has well-defined likes and dislikes. He is the “chivalry hero” devoting to “the motherland and its people”. Although he is a little bit rustic and slow-witted by nature, he is a man of fortitude and tenacity. He has finally become a hero of the generation after hard-practicing. Huang Rong is clever in mind and skillful in hand. Smart and tricky as she is, she never makes vague decisions on major issues, such as her faithful love with Guo Jing. Although there were setbacks and adventures, the love matched couple eventually get married and live a happy life together.

Love between Yang and Mu: This is the plot of the 7th Chapter of the novel “Martial Arts Contest for a Spouse”. Mu Yi, whose real name is Yang Tiexin, is the

father of Yang Kang and is also the sworn sibling of Guo Xiaotian, the father of Guo Jing. In order to escape from the enemy's pursuit, he changed his name and made a living as a martial arts performer. Mu Nianci is Yang Tiexin's adopted daughter. Tender and weak, she fell in love with Yang Kang at the martial arts contest and made herself enslaved ever since. Yang Kang, Yang Tiexin's son. The family tragedy that forced her mother to remarry a powerful member of the royal family, named "Wanyan", and his name became "Wanyan Kang". Brought up in the lap of luxury, he lusts after wealth and prosperity. Cunning and admiring vanity, he reconciles himself to help his evil step-father to do evil things.

Eastern Heretic and Western Venom: Huang Yaoshi, the owner of Peach Blossom Island in the East China Sea, is a grand master of martial arts, known as "Eastern Heretic". Arrogant, conceited and independent, he has unorthodox and heretical views on traditional Chinese rites and social norms. He is a person with immense knowledge and he is proficient in astrology. In his life, he has created many exclusive martial arts. Ouyang Feng, the master of a manor on Mount White Camel in western China, is also a grand master of martial arts. Insidious and wicked in heart, he is a man of scheming. He is best known for his expertise in toxicology and ruthless means, so he is also called as "Western Venom". In the 18th Chapter of the novel: "Three Test Questions", Huang Yaoshi and Ouyang Feng compete the internal force and the wit by using the soft tone of jade flute and by the desolate tone of iron zither.

Northern Beggar, Southern Emperor and Central Almighty: The "Northern Beggar", namely Hong Qigong, is the 18th chief of the "Beggars' Sect". Free-and-easy, he is a gourmet and a great martial artist. Guo Jing and Huang Rong are his apprentices. The "Southern Emperor", namely Duan Zhixing, is the emperor of the Dali Kingdom of today's Yunnan Province, also known as "Emperor Duan". Later, he was called "Reverend Yideng" after became a monk. He is elegant and sentimental and his "Yi Yang Zhi" is the peerless martial arts skill. Wang Chongyang, the founder of "Quanzhen Sect", is known as "Central Almighty". He pursues chivalry in his life and is praised as the champion at the first martial arts contest on Mount Huashan. Zhou Botong, known as the "Old Imp", is the junior master of the "Seven masters of the Quanzhan school". Childlike and innocent, he has been obsessed with martial arts in all his life. He is famous for his Technique of Ambidexterity and he has created his own martial arts skill: Vacant Fist. The above-mentioned martial artists are all grand masters.

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