

大隱隱于市的蔡盛先生

因為都喜歡收藏西藏郵票和郵政史所結下的緣分，我認識蔡盛先生 20 多年；2010 年，我創辦《亞洲郵學家》，蔡盛先生表示他樂見其成，默默資助了 13 年；2019 年，我們聯合編撰了《青康藏郵驛史》，兩度獲得國際大金獎，他十分引以為傲！去年，蔡盛先生被診斷出患了癌症，他決定是時候和伴隨了他大半生的郵藏告別了，出乎我意料之外，請我替他處理藏品，於是就有了艾華拍賣。今年 7 月，艾華首拍，他的高隱逸藏賣個滿堂紅，蔡盛先生對於藏品大部分能回到中國，由衷地高興！9 月初，我們一起在休斯頓慶祝，沒想到，剛回到香港，就傳來他離世的噩耗！

蔡盛先生 1946 年出生于紐約州，大學時被徵兵去越南當排雷兵，他屢屢提到，排名在他之前和之後的戰友都犧牲了，也許是戰爭讓他參透生死，不與他人計較！

蔡盛先生是位石油人，地質學出身，專精財務，在西方石油公司先後出任財務主管、總裁和董事會主席。西方石油公司是美國第四大石油公司，前任總裁亞曼德·漢默與蘇聯關係密切，曾被列寧稱為“哈默同志”！蔡盛先生退休後，投資創立了木蘭石油公司。蔡盛夫婦都是虔誠的教徒，熱心公益，在教會、大學、國家公園出任公職，默默付出，不計名利，樂於助人。

在他的訃聞提到：蔡盛先生 2015 年從西方石油公司退休，共同編撰了關於西藏郵政史的著作，然後在 2016 年，他促成了木蘭石油公司上市，集資了 6.5 億美元。集郵研究與他的事業并列，可見在他心中的分量！

蔡盛先生工餘以集郵調劑心身，從尼克松訪華、解除對華禁運開始，就收藏中國郵票和郵政史，他既有恆心和耐力，又不缺財力，半個世紀以來，孜孜不倦，收攬精品無數，收藏領域越來越寬，并且都有所成！我們曾開玩笑，有的記錄只有五六件的珍罕郵品，在他歷年積累的郵集裏可能就有七八件之多！

由於蔡盛先生公務繁忙，拍賣行奉他為上賓，他卻無暇參與郵票展覽和活動，集郵圈裏認識他的不多。對於集郵，蔡盛先生的態度是這跟去劇院沒兩樣，關鍵是享受這過程，沒有人會在演出之後要求退款，我苦笑：問題是有几个人能像你一样负担得起这般洒脱？他也恪守自己的信念，藏品拍賣所得會交給慈善基金會，而不是留給家人。他要求估價必須比較克己，認為只要有兩個人競拍，市場價格自然會呈現，他對自己收藏眼光是信心滿滿的！

蔡盛先生是謙謙長者，他從不吝惜分享其藏品和研究心得，親自執筆郵文，言簡意賅，大多在《亞洲郵學家》發表。如今蔡盛先生大去，艾華公司還是秉承初心，協助他的家人妥善處理他的華郵藏品，爭取讓更多人認識其收藏的廣度和深度，讓更多精品回家，並擬設立基金，鼓勵更多郵人從事學術研究。

In memoriam: Stephen Ira Chazen

The great philatelist Steve Chazen passed away this 22 September 2022. He is remembered as a great leader in the oil and gas industry, yet other than the international auctioneers, not many among the collectors circle have known him. I am one of the privileged few who benefit from his insight and knowledge in postal history articulated by half a century of untiring collection at the highest level.

We have known each other for over twenty years, bonded by common passion in Tibet. He was a keystone sponsor that made *Asian Philatelist* possible. We co-authored the book *Tibet Stamps and Postal History* published by RPSL in 2019 which won multiple international large gold awards. Hence it was only natural but still a surprise that in 2021 Steve asked me to help handling his philatelic properties which led to the formation of Ava Auctions. Just as we celebrated the success of its Inaugural Auction, I receive the shocking news of his passing. I lost my mentor and good friend forever.

Steve was born in 1946 and raised in Buffalo, New York. He attended Rutgers University and received a degree in geology in 1968, and then that fall began graduate school at Michigan State University in the geology department. In 1969, Steve was drafted by the U.S. Army, and after graduation was shipped out to Vietnam, where he and his faithful dog led out in front of the troops to find and disable land mines so the troops could safely pass. After his return he continued his education (and his friendship with Pat) and in December they were married. He finished his PhD at MSU in 1973, and his first job was at NASA/JSC working with the lunar samples. During his stay at NASA, he also enrolled at UH/CLC and earned a degree in finance. He worked in the oil industry for a time, and then joined the M&A energy sector of Merrill Lynch.

After a successful (and hectic) several years at ML, Steve changed careers again and joined Occidental Petroleum. In the 20+ years he was there, he advanced to become CEO in 2011. In 2015 he retired from Oxy but was still involved with other corporate and non-profit boards. During this time, he co-edited a book about the postal history of Tibet – he was an avid stamp collector and collected stamps from all over the world. Then in 2016, he raised \$650 million in an initial public offering to start a small oil company, now known as Magnolia Oil and Gas. He rejoined Oxy in 2020 as the Chairman of the Board, to help advise and guide the company to new growth. Steve was also deeply involved in philanthropic work.

Steve drew a parallel between stamp collecting and going to theatre. You enjoyed the show, that's it. You will not ask for refund afterwards. I responded, well, not many people

could afford taking this view. He abided by his words, for the proceed of sales of his philatelic holdings will go to a charity foundation, not to the family. As he disposes of his holding he wanted the estimate to be low. The market price is determined when there are two competing. Obviously, he was confident of the quality of his materials.

In all his endeavors, Steve was a respected leader. He led with a quiet confidence and was a mentor and friend to many.