

# The Creation Course of "Jinwan Humanities" Series Bookplate

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**Abstract**—The paper is written based on the creation of "Jinwan Humanities" series bookplate and makes statement of topic selection of bookplate, historical background of creation theme, illustration design, creative techniques and other aspects. This paper provides a feasible outlook and plan for the application of bookplates in the field of culture and education, by which the functions of art creation are reflected in the social propaganda and education.

**Keywords**—*Jinwan humanities; bookplate; history; education*

## I. INTRODUCTION

"Jinwan Humanities" series bookplate is a set of series works created by use of black and white woodcut techniques with the Jinwan District historical humanities as theme, which takes the Zhuhai City Jinwan Humanities Association as the bookplate holder. The use of created of the series works. This set of bookplate works has woodcut convex relief plus stone inscription as its creative techniques. Woodcut presents the illustration, and stone inscription is text seal carvings of "Jinwan Humanities" on behalf of the bookplate holder.

"Jinwan Humanities" series bookplate has been produced through a year, and now it has completed the first stage of the works creation. The paper is written to introduce the production process of the series works, including the establishment of the take, the discussion with the experts of Zhuhai City Sanzao Town Humanities Association on selection of the theme for works, bookplate version pattern design and carving as well as the relative modification, till the completion of five works, and then to make discussion and arrangement of the application of bookplates in the field of cultural exchange and education.

The series bookplate is created on base of Zhuhai City Jinwan District humanist heritage. For the design and production of this bookplate, five themes are selected, including "Lin Weimin", "Wu Fa's Resistance against Japanese Aggression", "Sanzao's Crane Dance", "Female Militia in Islands" and "Jinwan Air Show". The experts of Sanzao Humanities Society participate in the selection of the theme and provide relevant historical data and pictures for the task group.

The following describes the historical background and the creative process of the five themes.

## II. "SANZAO'S CRANE DANCE"

### A. Historical Background

Sanzao's Crane Dance has the most extensive impact in the humanist heritage of Jinwan District, enjoying a widespread reputation.

Sanzao's Crane Dance is a folk dance created by the people of Sanzao in the Song Dynasty through their long-term production and life practice, by imitating the crane's demeanor and action, studying the crane's life habits. As a local folk form of spring blessing and birthday congratulation, it has had a history of more than 700 years.

According to the "Xiangshan County Annals" in the twenty-seventh year of Jiaping period of Ming Dynasty, it is recorded that Zhao Qingxian of Xiangshan County in the Song Dynasty had transcendent Crane Dance skill and introduced it into Sichuan. And in the Ming Dynasty, another Crane Dance master of Xiangshan County, He Yong are well known for playing Crane Dance, and got the recognition of the government of Ming Dynasty, therefore He Yong was appointed as the petty San official, and performed crane dance for the notable families and the scholars and gentlemen in the capital.

In the Qing Dynasty, crane dance has become a popular folk entertainment activity. Sanzao crane dance has also developed to the heyday and it has become common practice for the whole Xiangshan County to play crane dance and sing crane song. After the outbreak of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, a large number of Japanese invaded Sanzao Island, and Crane Dance gradually declined due to the war. After the founding of the New China in 1949, Sanzao crane dance rejuvenated and became the main performance program of villagers for celebrating the Spring Festival and the major festivals. During the Cultural Revolution, by the impact of Attack on the Four Olds, crane dance was banned. After the reform and opening up, culture and art began to flourish and develop, crane dance was carried forward but impacted by multiculturalism, nearly endangered. In 2008, in the efforts of all parties, Sanzao Haicheng primary school opened the crane dance class for

heritage, taught by the elderly Chen Fuyan personally who was one of the successors of Sanzao crane dance, and so far the class has run for 3 sessions, with total more than 60 primary school students participating in learning of crane dance.

In order to better show the history and culture of Sanzao crane dance, Jinwan District makes reconstruction of the Shangxian house located in Hai Cheng Village of Sanzao, and rebuilds it into a near 500 m<sup>2</sup> intangible cultural exhibition hall, to show some pictures of crane dance and performance props and so on. After the completion, the exhibition hall will be open to the public free of charge, making the public not only enjoy the beautiful pictures, but also experience the pace and action of crane dance and simulate the performance of crane dance. Crane dance descendants will also offer occasional performance of crane dance in the vicinity of the exhibition hall.

*B. The Design Concept of the Bookplate*

The illustration design of "Sanzao Crane Dance I" bookplate presents the crane dance performer looking around with raised head when walking. "Fig. 1"

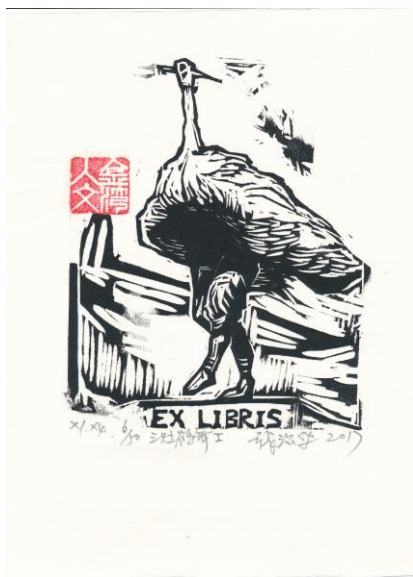


Fig. 1. The illustration design of "Sanzao Crane Dance I" bookplate.

In the design of illustration, "Sanzao Crane Dance I" bookplate abandons the outer frame of picture and enlarges the picture space. The posture of crane dance performer is placed alone in the picture, to ensure a clear image of the crane dance performer. Crane's wings are relaxed, the upper body of crane dance performer is integrated with the body of crane, with legs in a elegant gesture like the walking white crane. The crane raises its head highly, with a manner of inspection tour in its own territory.

The expression technique of wood carving mainly uses the combination of the Yin carving lines and Yang carving line. For the head, neck and body in the crane dance, the Yang carving line with change of thickness and thinness is used to express the image of white crane under the light. In

contrast to this, the dancer under the wings of crane is in the shadow, whose shape is expressed by the Yin carving line, till the legs that walk in a shape of bow under the sunshine are expressed by Ying carving line, so that the head coordinates with the foot, yin and yang interacts.

For the background of picture, a small piece of black print is retained moderately, which enriches the space of background and coordinates with the seal of "Jinwan Humanities" right and left, to achieve a balance of picture. there is a slantwise knife mark in the lower half part of the picture, and the direction of knife mark movement is consistent with that crane's head looks up to, so as to enhance the momentum.

The common logo of bookplate - Latin characters "EX LIBRIS" is arranged in the bottom of the frame, combined with the Yin and Yang lines in the background to form a stage modeling, holding up the crane dancers.

This bookplate is intended to achieve a concise and elegant reflection.

III. "LIN WEIMIN"

*A. Historical Background*

Lin Weimin, pioneer of Chinese workers' movement, born in 1887, from current Sanzao of Jinwan of Zhuhai, had led the Hong Kong seafarers to make strike together with Su Zhaozheng in 1922, was elected as Chairman of the First Executive Committee of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions at the Second National Labor Conference in May 1925, led the Canton-Hong Kong strike together with Su Zhaozheng in June-October of that year, died due to illness in 1927. As a pioneer of the Chinese workers' movement, Lin Weimin made outstanding contributions to the liberation of the Chinese nation.

*B. The Design Concept of the Bookplate*

The design of "Lin Weimin" theme bookplate is changed for many times and discussed with the experts of the Sanzao humanity society for many times, and is finally determined to use the combination of Lin Weimin's portrait and the historical picture of Canton-Hong Kong strike "Fig. 2".



Fig. 2. The combination of Lin Weimin's portrait and the historical picture of Canton-Hong Kong strike.

The illustration of bookplate is straightforward. The image creation of historical figure is often dependent on historical pictures. In order to more intuitively highlight the achievements and historical status of Lin Weimin, the bookplate is illustration style, Lin Weimin's portrait is on the left side of the frame, and on the right side of the frame is the picture of parade workers who hold high the flag of "Canton-Hong Kong strike committee" in the Canton-Hong Kong strike. In the bookplate, clear text is retained intentionally but the image of the crowd is greatly simplified and patterned, so that the portrait of Lin Weimin and "Canton-Hong Kong strike" become the visual center of the bookplate picture, making the bookplate theme clear at a glance.

In the lower part of the illustration, the Chinese font of "Lin Weimin" is carved, on the right is Latin "EX LIBRIS" as the sign of the bookplate, and between the two is a space just for the seal of "Jinwan Humanities", the seal is red, revitalizing the picture.

As the overall layout of the bookplate design is relatively average, some small changes are made in the processing of the external frame of the picture, so as to avoid too square, making some regular pattern.

#### IV. "WU FA'S RESISTANCE AGAINST JAPANESE AGGRESSION"

##### A. Historical Background

It is recorded in history: on December 4, 1937, Sanzao Island was first attacked and occupied by Japan "Fig. 2". On February 16, 1938, the Japanese army occupied Sanzao Island once again. At night of April 10, Wu Fa led the anti-Japanese youth team of thirty-four people of Sanzao Island to take two skimming boats respectively to dive to Sanzao Island, arrived at the Japanese military camp at Pangu Temple of Dingjiawan at 1:00a.m the next day, they courageously fought the enemy, starting the first shot for the South China Resistance War. Survivors show their wisdom and bravery, the dead and wounded show their loyalty and heroism.



Fig. 3. Sanzao Island.

Sanzao Town Humanities Society provides an old photo of Wu Fa with the triumphant anti-Japanese youth team, in which Wu Fa is showing their trophy.

##### B. The Design Concept of the Bookplate

In the design of "Wu Fa's Resistance against Japanese Aggression", a relatively vintage form and image - militia and enemies in fighting is adopted.

The illustration of bookplate is simple and straightforward, in which Wu Fa raises the sword with his back straightened and steps on a Japanese officer who is making death struggle like a drowned mouse. The design of this illustration is apt to a symbol, mainly to highlight the great image of the anti-Japanese hero, but also to imply the respect for the works of art during the war.

In the carving of image, the artistic technique is of expressionism. The overall picture has its more emphasis on the expression of momentum and atmosphere. The local engraving of characters is impressionistic and symbolic. The positioning and interpretation of the characters is mainly identified by the clothing, e.g. hero Wu Fa is dressed in typical clothes that Chinese folk personages often wear during the period of anti-Japanese war, and the cap and badges of Japanese officers and other finite props are used to convey their identity.

"Wu Fa's Resistance against Japanese Aggression" bookplate expresses that people cherish the memory of the anti-Japanese hero, which is also a reminder.

#### V. "FEMALE MILITIA IN ISLANDS"

##### A. Historical Background

Zhuhai is located in the coastal area of South China, adjacent to Macao, and it is the southern coastal defense outpost of China motherland. It is the sacred mission of Zhuhai to guard the South Gate of the motherland in 1950s-1960s. From the late 1950s to the early 1970s, the Zhuhai militia got a rapid development from zero into thirty thousand people, and female militia are also very active, among which there are three well-known female militia teams in Sanzao: the Ten-sister Artillery Team of Xintian Village, the Haiying Team of Zhengbiao Village and the Hongying Team of Yingbiao Village, and they are valiant and heroic, overawing Nanhai and having the reputation of women heroines "Fig. 4".





Fig. 4. "Female militia" bookplate.

### B. The Design Concept of the Bookplate

"Female Militia in Islands" bookplate presents the warmth of female militia. They are dressed in martial attire, honest and chummy. The bookplate selects the images of two female militias who are dressing up for the design. With fisherman's bamboo hat, sam browne belt, rifles, a couple of sisters devoted them into revolution and defend their homestead, and in the warm sunshine and the gentle sea breeze, they are smiling sweetly.

The female militia on islands is an important part of the Nanhai defending force. In the illustration, the author intends to design the outline of the picture into the form of a shield, implying their contribution to guarding the homestead. In the picture, female militias wear a bamboo hat with headband – a featured device of seafarers that can effectively resist the insolation from the bright sun. The female militia on the left is tall and straight in a soldier's bearing, with a rifle on her shoulder, and the sister right in front of her, with smile, is helping her finish collar.

Bookplate has the Latin "EX LIBRIS" hidden in the lower right corner of the picture. The seal of "Jinwan Humanities" is arranged in the lower middle part of the picture, forming a semi-embedded and semi-exposed state, to cause the change of picture composition, and meanwhile the red of the seal makes a contrast to the black and white, enriching the arrangement of the picture.

## VI. "JINWAN AIR SHOW"

### A. Historical Background

It's November 5, 1996, and on the day the light on the history stage focused on the Sanzao of Jinwan, Zhuhai. People are rapturous all days, and the first China

International Aviation and Aerospace Expo is grandly opening. At the moment, China Air Show is settled in Zhuhai. We can see the bright sun in the blue sky shines upon the sea, and it has the warmest enough to embrace the land under the autumn wind; we can hear the great wave of the South China Sea is flapping the coastline constantly, and the freely-located mountains are long echoing with loud rumbling!

China International Aviation and Aerospace Expo is the only international professional aviation and aerospace exhibition approved and held by the central government, which is mainly characterized by physicality display, trade negotiation, academic exchange and flight performance. It is one of the world's five most influential international air shows.

The China International Aviation and Aerospace Expo, referred to as "China (Zhuhai) Air Show" or "Zhuhai Air Show", approved by the central government, which is an international professional aviation and aerospace exhibition and mainly characterized by physicality display, trade talks, academic exchanges and flight performance. Zhuhai Air Show, hosted by Zhuhai Air Show Co., Ltd. who successfully held the first air show in 1996, has now developed and integrated the functions of trade, profession and appreciation, representing the advanced technology mainstream of current international aerospace industry and showing the development level of the world aerospace industry today, and it has been listed among the world's five major air shows. As a national action, China (Zhuhai) air show has got great attention from the party and the state leaders. The former president Jiang Zemin specially offered epigraph for China Air Show; the former Premier of State Council of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Li Peng made ribbon cutting for the opening ceremony of Air Show successively for three times; the former vice premier of State Council of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Wu Bangguo has served as director of the board of establishment of China (Zhuhai) Air Show for successive three times; the former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council attended the fifth opening ceremony of China (Zhuhai) Air Show.

With the renovation and updating of China's aviation infrastructure in recent years, as well as the growth of leisure and business tourism, the aviation industry in China has great development space and growth potential, which will also have a long-term positive impact on China's economic development.

### B. The Design Concept of Bookplate

The design of "Jinwan Air Show" bookplate is apt to the symbolic simplicity and the decorative beauty of pattern.

The illustration of the bookplate presents the aerobatic fight of China's fighter plane. Fighter planes are arranged in lines and sharply fly in the vast sky, with colorful and

gorgeous ribbon ejected at their tails. In the illustration, the author consciously designs a pitch of about 15°, which is consistent with the flying direction of the planes, in order to obtain the momentum of sharply flying upward. At the top of the picture, the clouds in the sky are reduced into a curvilinear state, forming an effective enclosure of the picture, so as to ensure the integrity and unity of the picture "Fig. 5".



Fig. 5. "Jinwan Air Show" bookplate.

The comparison among many factors is made, such as that between the curve of the clouds and the straight line of colorful ribbon from fighter planes, between the harmonious black block of fighter plane and the multicolored layers, between the black and white pattern and the red seal, trying to get a concise but not simple, abstract but vigorous scene.

Bookplate is a "pearl" in print art and it is a works of art with high appreciation, we used to make cognition and creation of bookplates more around the crystallization of human civilization - books. And in the moment, the creation of bookplates has actually involved all aspects of people's lives. In this subject, as a form of art, bookplates are associated with the local cultural heritage and landscape in Jinwan area, and a series of thematic bookplates about this place are created. The works have been recognized by the Association of Social Science of this district, and now its subsequent development direction is in preparation, for which it is expected to design a postcard as the cultural present of Jinwan District for foreign exchange.

Bookplates enter the tourism industry chain as commodities or gifts, which can be reflected well in the plurality of print. The series of bookplates can be used as a souvenir to enter people's lives with the death and birth. It can be practicably and long retained in people's lives to deepen and continue people's impression on the historical and cultural landscape of Jinwan District, which undoubtedly has a positive and useful effect.

The production of thematic postcards of bookplates requires a subsequent subject, for which we first should expand the quantity of works, represented fields and so on. For these, we are going to study with the teachers of Sanzao humanistic society.

The serial bookplates of "Jinwan Humanities" were shown in the Guyuan Art Museum of Zhuhai City (the "Road" –six-people bookplate (small print) works show hosted by the Bookplates Research Institution of Chinese Artists Association) in December 2016, and won a good social response.

## VII. CONCLUSION

In the 2017 Jinwan social science popularization project solicitation activities, the "Jinwan Humanities themed series bookplates exhibition and appreciation" organized and declared by the Zhuhai City Sanzao Town Humanities Association has been approved. The exhibition of series works and the Jinwan District historical and cultural knowledge popularization activities are scheduled in May 2017 and will be held in the Jinwan District Sanzao Time House. The event is an attempt for the "Jinwan Humanities" series of bookplates and the local humanities education, and we hope the project of art creation can reflect its literary propaganda function and strength from this, and hope the creation of a series of works can be continued and ultimately achieve a complete looks.

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