Mao Zedong's Calligraphy

Peng Zhang

Who Was Mao?

- Born December 26, 1893
- Shaoshan, Hunan Province, China
- First Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, 1949 1959
- Education
 - Only valued for keeping records and accounts



Mao's Calligraphy

- Passion for calligraphy
- Practiced Calligraphy as an active pastime
- Way of strengthening the mind and body while attaining tranquility
- Long March (1934 1935) and Yanan (1935 1947)
 - Wrote Calligraphy on drafts, reports, and official letters
- Wrote Left to Right instead of Top to Bottom
- "Mao-Style" or Maoti







Mao's Calligraphy Continued

- Hard-Tipped Brush, Running Script
- Very Thin Tip Brush vs Thicker Brushes
- Victory over Nationalist Party
- Fill emotional void
- Cursive Script
- No Seal
- Impact of Mao's Calligraphy





Public Displays of Mao's Works

- Memorial to the Martyrs of the Revolution
 - The Monument to the People's Hero





Public Displays of Mao's Works

Mao Mausoleum



Examples of Mao's Works

- Reply to Guo Moruo
 - Expresses the speaker's frustrations with the perceived obstacles to progress.
 - Cursive Script



Auction of Mao's Calligraphy

- Calligraphic Autograph Letter Signed, to the Journalist Yang Yi [1947 1949]
- Written in Black Ink with a Brush Pen
- Late Stage of Chinese Civil War
- 300,000 400,000 GBP is approximately 373,000 498,000 USD
- https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2019/important-manuscripts-continental-books-and-music/mao-zedong-calligraphic-autograph-letter-signed-to

Sources

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- https://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/callig/7calmodn.htm
- https://www.asianbrushpainter.com/blogs/kb/mao-ze-dong-%E6%AF%9B%E6%BE%A4%E6%9D %B1ma-tse-tung-the-chairman-calligrapher
- <u>https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2019/important-manuscripts-continental-books-and-music/mao-zedong-calligraphic-autograph-letter-signed-to</u>