

The Oldest Man in the World

By Howard Grenzebach

Remember this guy? I do. He was called the oldest man in the world in 1954 when he was discovered. His name is Javier Pereira and he was born in 1789 in a small village in Columbia as a part of the Zenu tribe.

The historians that interviewed him found he had intimate knowledge about events such as the Cartagena battle in 1815 and the famine that preceded it. His secret for such a long life (more than 160 years)? First, "Don't worry." Then, drink lots of coffee and every now and then, smoke a good cigar!



Scott #669



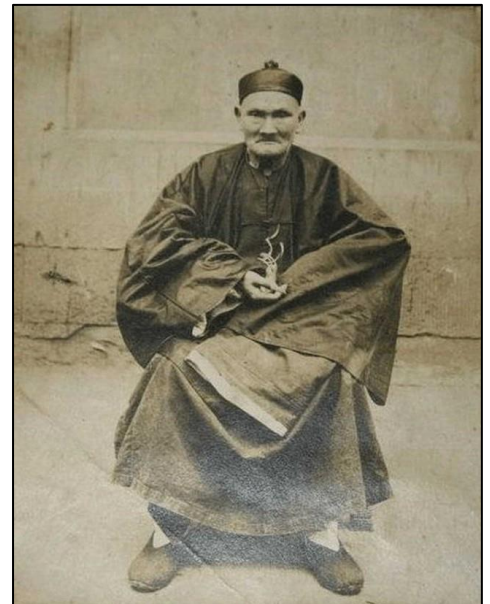
Scott #C288

Columbia honored him with the above stamps (#669) in 1956 and one other, an airmail stamp (C288). There are three dates for his death, 1955, 1956 and 1958. I think it's too bad they discovered him at all. He might have lived longer.

Had anyone lived longer? Well, maybe. The gentleman with the Chinese appearance is said to have been around for 197 years (1736-1933) or, if you believe the Chinese government recognized and congratulated him on his 150th birthday in 1827 with a written message, he was 256. Anybody else? Well, if he is to be believed, the man (a recluse) who taught him "qigong" was over 500 years old at the time.

I'll go for the 160-year-old guy. The doctors who examined him said his blood pressure was that of a twenty-year-old man, he could walk up and down stairs without running out of breath and had the bearing of a man who was ten years younger!

Howard Grenzebach is currently a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.



Li Ching-Yuen (1736-1933)