

Revolutionary Martyrs of the Kuomintang

Peking Print – Chinese Bureau of Engraving & Printing – 1932
 Hong Kong Print – Commercial Press – 1939
 New Peking “Imitative” Print – Bureau of Engraving & Printing, Peking – 1942



This exhibit identifies the Peking and Hong Kong Martyr definitive stamps issued during the Republic of China (1932-42). These stamps are known as the Revolutionary Martyrs of the Kuomintang (KMT), or more simply, the Martyr issues. Examples on each exhibit page demonstrate progression of the Peking, Hong Kong, and New Peking “Imitative” Martyr prints (without overprints or surcharges). What you will see are plate and production varieties, production anomalies, postal markings administered by post offices (from home offices to agencies), markings for typical and special usages (small towns, air, rail, and ocean services), censor tapes applied by various countries on diversified Foreign Air Mail (FAM) service route covers, fraudulent usage, and a post-production Cinderella.

Significant material is highlighted with thick, red-ruled outline borders.

The Exhibit is Divided into Four Sections:

- Section A** Peking Prints – Frame 1, Page 2
- Section B** Hong Kong Prints – Frame 3, Page 3
- Section C** New Peking “Imitative” Prints – Frame 5, Page 15
- Epilogue** Epilogue – Frame 5, Page 16

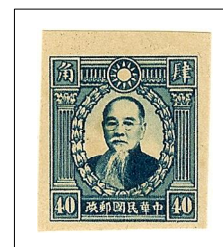
Each part is organized chronologically, in value hierarchy beginning with the ½¢ value and ending with the 50¢ value.

The Values Associated with Each Martyr:

- Teng K'eng — ½¢, 2½¢, 4¢
- Ch'en Ying-shin — 1¢, 25¢, 50¢
- Sung Chiao-ren — 2¢, 10¢, 17¢, 28¢
- Liao Chung-kai — 3¢, 5¢, 15¢, 30¢
- Chu Chin-hsin — 8¢, 13¢, 21¢
- Huang Hsin — 20¢, 40¢

The story unfolds with an explanation of the print production properties (the first page prior to the beginning of the Peking and Hong Kong sections) using examples for an overview of papers, gums, and perforations. The exhibit highlights the KMT's efforts to maintain postal services during many volatile years between warlord controlled regimes operating prior to and during the newly formed Republic of China.

The KMT was founded by Dr. Sun Yat-sen shortly after the Chinese Nationalist Revolution which unified China under KMT control. Later led by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, it ruled much of China until its retreat to Taiwan in 1949, after defeat during the Chinese Civil War. The Republic of China was once synonymous with the KMT and known simply as Nationalist China.



– Cinderella –
 President Lin Sen
 Salesman's Sample
 (post-production)

Note: Often misidentified as an essay.

Production Properties on Peking Prints 1932 - 1939

Engraved by De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London

Identification

“Cheng” Character without Secret Mark

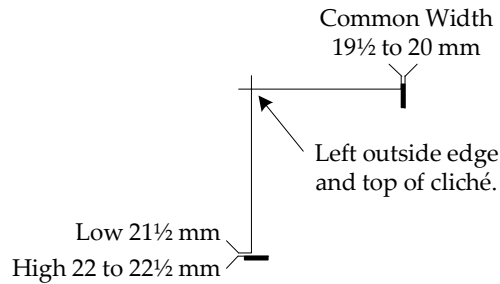


The Cheng character on Peking prints (Chinese Bureau of Engraving & Printing) are referred to as stamps *without secret marks* because the radicals of the character's center stroke do not join.

Print Production Stages

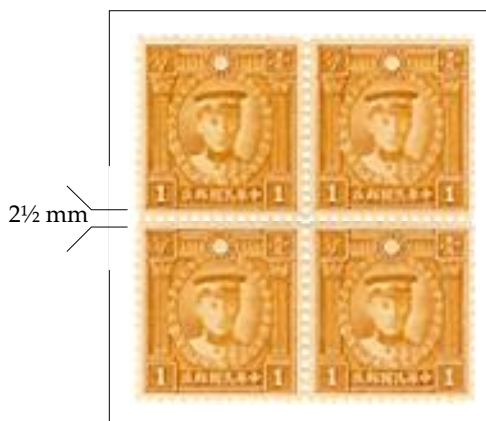


High Type

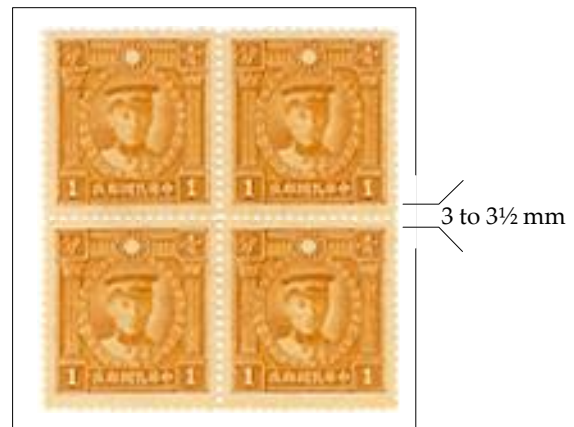


Low Type

There were three production stages. The result produced designs separated into types: *high*, *low-wide* and *low-narrow*. During the first print stage, vertical measurements of the design's height is 22 to 22½ mm, referred to as the *high* type. The second print produced a vertical design measurement of 21½ mm, referred to as the *low* type. Designs on the third print also delivered a height of 21½ mm. Space measured between *low* designs identify additional production types: 2½ mm for *low-narrow*, from *low-wide* which measure 3 to 3½ mm (or greater). Since perforations were not always centered between designs, difficulty identifying *low-narrow* from *low-wide* prints on single stamps is common. Some researchers suggest ¼ mm measurements aid in identification, but paper shrinkage and age detract from consistent precision.



Low, Narrow



Low, Wide

Printing papers were moist during production and shrank in the direction of the paper's grain as they dried. Stamps identified as *low-wide* result from grains that ran horizontally and *low-narrow* are papers with grains that ran vertically.

Postal Markings on Peking Prints 1932 - 1939

Engraved by De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London

Understanding Postal Markings

The Gregorian calendar was adopted by the Republic of China effective January 1, 1912 for official business, but some postal markings continued to show traditional calendar dates. Months using the Gregorian numbers were applied immediately after 1912, but the adoption of the Western calendar years was inconsistent until 1949. The year in the example at left shows number 26 for 1926, but these stamps were not printed until 1932. By adding 11, the correct year (1937) is identified. The example at right shows the correct usage of the Gregorian calendar.

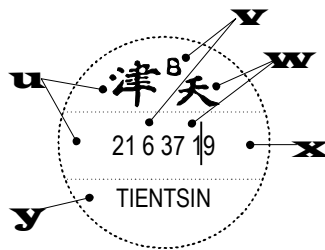


A traditional Chinese calendar handstamp. Add 11 to the 26 (year) to arrive at 1937.



Usage of the Gregorian calendar on the same issue. The handstamp with 1937 is correct.

Elements of the postmarks shown are illustrated at right; Chinese and Arabic numbers registering the **u** month, **v** day, **w** year, **x** the hour (military time) of receipt, and **y** English city or town name.



This is a common example of a postmark design applied during the Republican period. Chinese date characters were often replaced with the city or town name (also expressed as Chinese characters). English and Chinese names can appear above or below the central banner.

Subject Composition

Stamp designs are free of all foreign inscriptions: only Chinese ones are present with the exception of the value, which is given in Arabic figures according Universal Postal Union regulations. Production ceased after the Japanese took Peking (late 1927 to early 1928), and stamp supplies stored by the Directorate General of Posts in Nanking were captured.

Postal Markings on Peking Prints 1932-1939

Engraved by De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London

Basic Set of Designs, their Values, and Relevant Issue Dates

There is no evidence to support the calendar date these stamps were sold to the public. A few experts suggest the 3¢, 8¢, 10¢, 13¢, 17¢, 20¢, 30¢, and 40¢ values were issued on or around August 13, 1932. The ½¢ and 2½¢ values probably appeared later. The 1¢ and 50¢ values were offered for public sale October 1933. There were plenty 1¢ and 50¢ Dr. Sun Yat-sen definitive stamps to satisfy rates prior to the appearance of their Martyr counterparts.

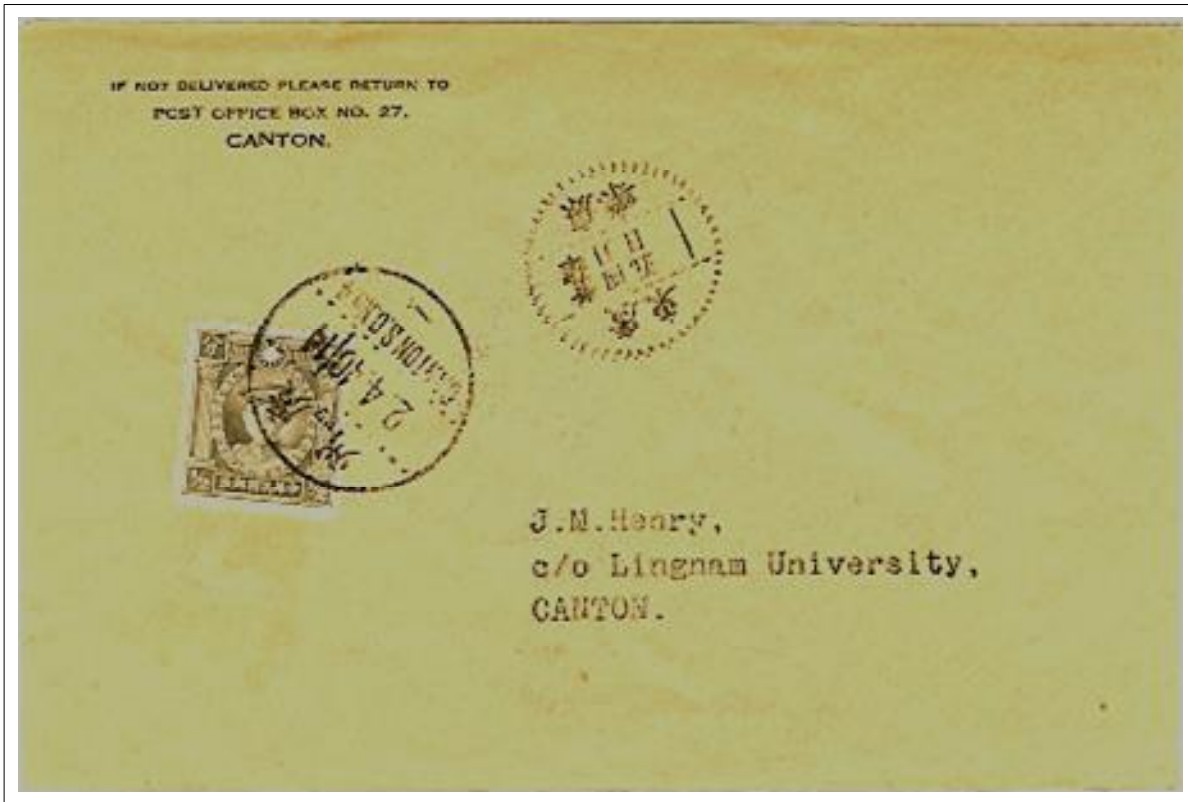


The Peking prints were produced by the Chinese Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a.k.a. the Peiping Bureau of the Ministry of Finance, starting in August, 1932. Stamp designs are portrait effigies of Martyrs of the Kuomintang, veteran revolutionaries and founders of China's Republican political party.

Stamps were produced in sheets of 200 (10 horizontal rows of 20) on wove paper without watermark, and perforated 14. The master dies were produced in London by Thomas de la Rue and Co., while the plates and presumably the transfer pieces were made in Peking. The original set consisted of twelve values, two each of six different types differing only in their center vignettes and values.

½¢ Peking Print – Teng K'eng

Issued to frank "Class A" newspaper rates of 50 g (multiples up to 100 g) for local delivery.
Paid printed matter rates up to 100 g for local delivery.



Apr. 2, 1940, Canton local post received Apr. 5



High Type

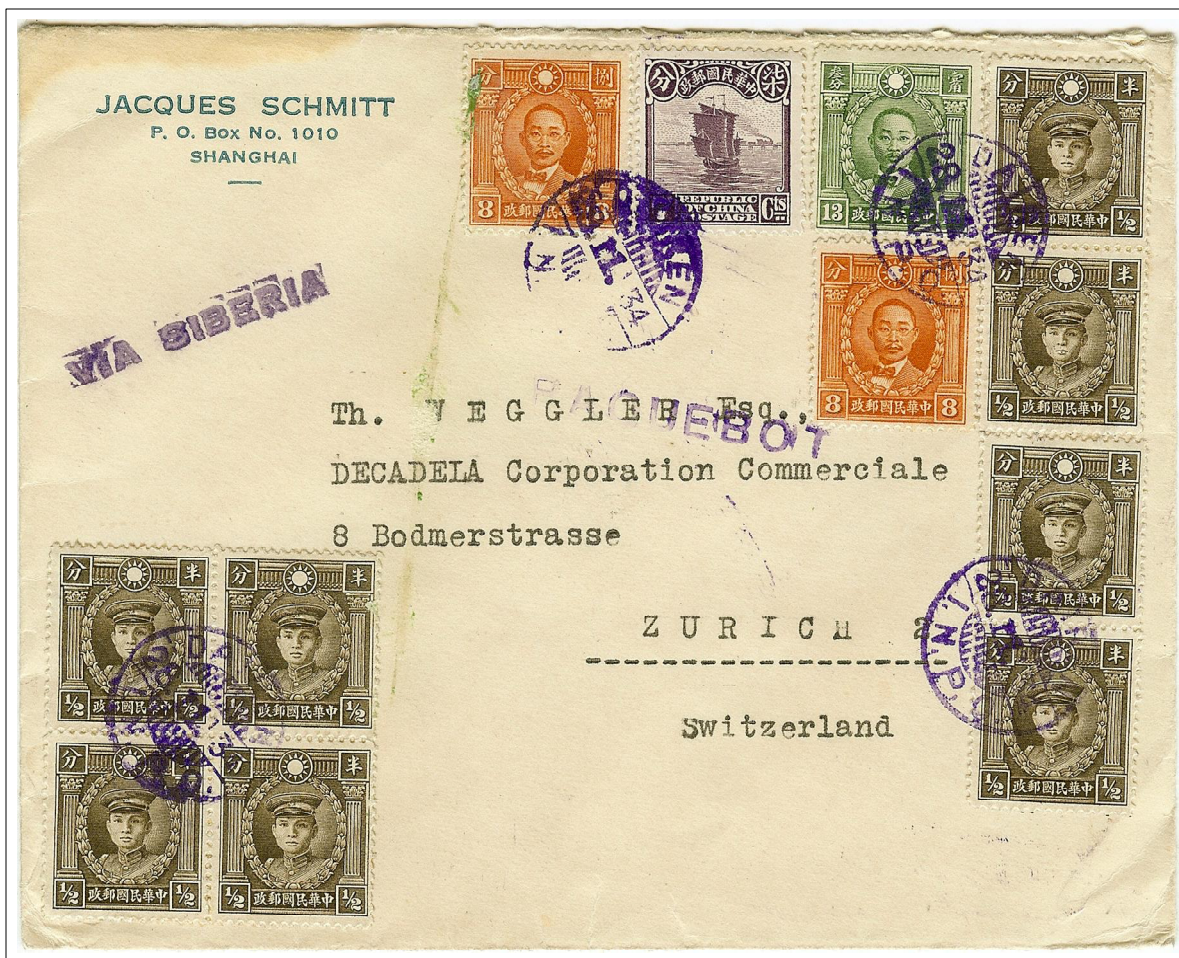


Low Type, Narrow Spacing
Jan. 19, 1934



Low Type, Wide Spacing
Engraver's Imprint and Plate Number

½¢ Peking Print – Teng K'eng



Nov. 28, 1934, Shanghai to Dairen, I.N.P.O. (Imperial Nipponese Post Office) transit postmark via Siberia with “Paquebot” cancel to Switzerland (international surface letter rate 25¢, first 20 g + additional surface rate 15¢, second 20 g)



May, 27, 1934, Tsingtao
Shantung Province
First Class Post Office



North China Daily News
Purple Security Cancel

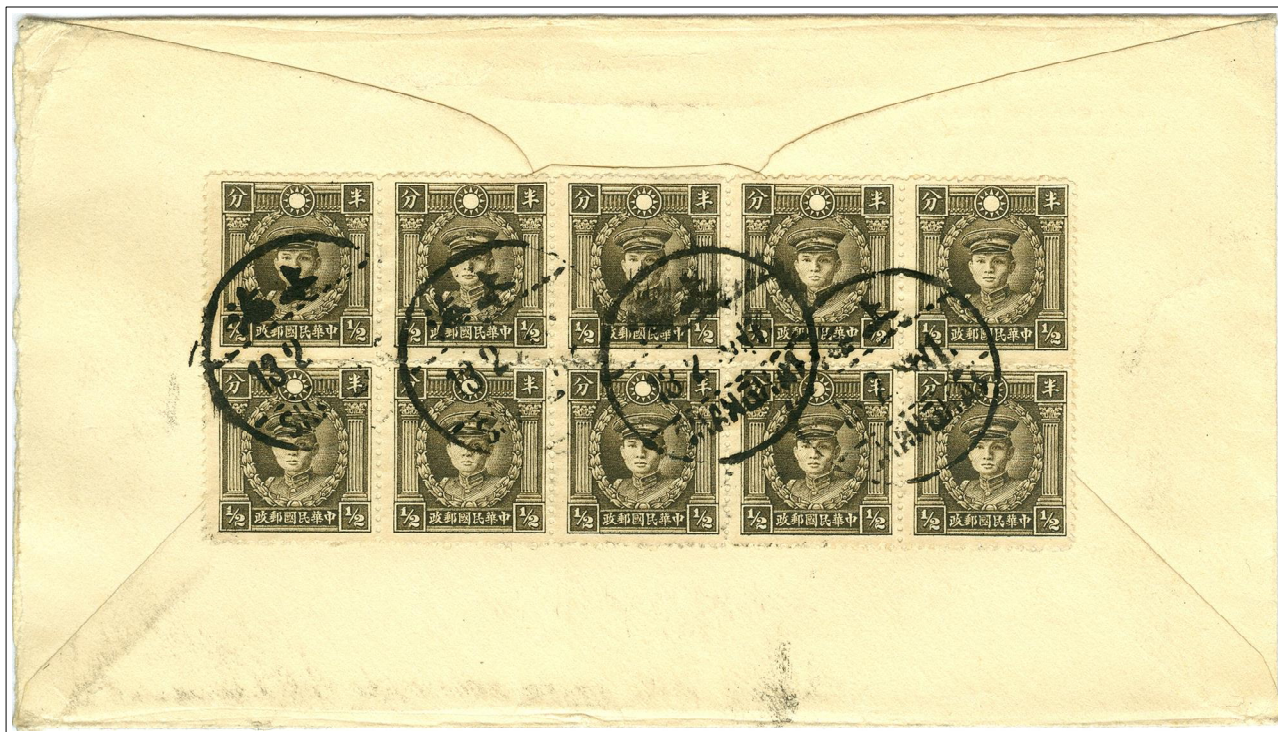


Wuyunkiao, Kiangsi
Agency Post Office



“North China Daily”
Newspaper
Purple Security Chop

½¢ Peking Print – Teng K'eng



Feb. 13, 1934, Shanghai to USA (International surface letter rate 5¢, first 20 g, underpaid)
Low Type, Wide Spacing



Low Type, Wide Spacing
Guide Line Block with Unrecorded Plate Variety
Shaded '1' in LL Value Box, Pos. 63/200 (top row, third cliché from left)

1¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei

This value saw the greatest production volume in this series. Used primarily for local letter delivery up to 100 g.



May 15, 1939, Kushan to USA (international surface letter rate 25¢, first 20 g, underpaid 20¢), backstamp: returned Sept. 16, 1939, Danbury, Conn., received Oct. 10, 1939, Kunming, Kushan



Low Type
Narrow Spacing
Imperf. Vertically



Low Type, Wide Spacing
Engraver's Imprint and Plate Number

1¢ Peking Print - Ch'en Ch'i-mei

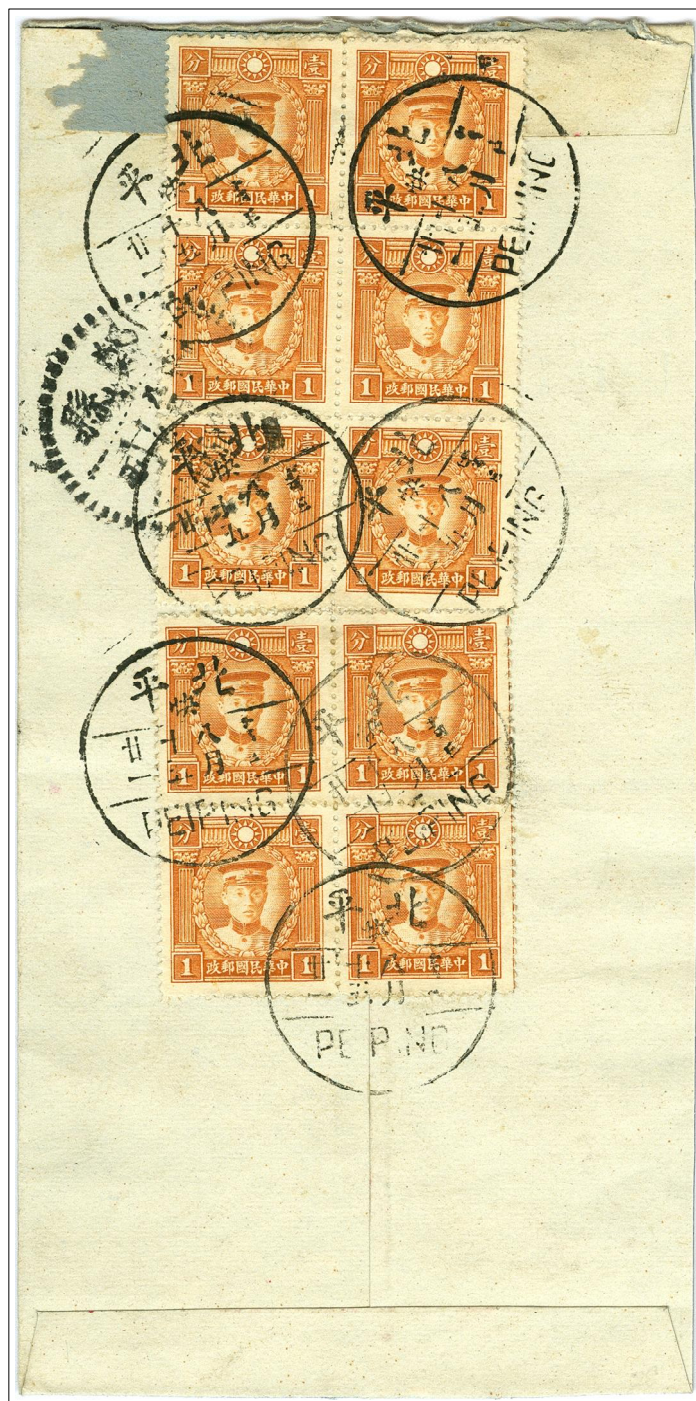


High Type Booklet Pane

Oct. 10, 1935, Canton to Vienna, Austria (international airmail rate 20¢ for first oz + 30¢ for 2½ additional oz, + 1¢ local rate + 20¢ registered fee) via Singapore, Amsterdam and Budapest, received Oct. 20.

Only one booklet pane honoring a Martyr appeared as part of a booklet, containing additional panes honoring Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

1¢ Peking Print - Ch'en Ch'i-mei



Aug. 31, 1936, Kushan to USA (international surface letter rate 10¢, first 20 g), Low Type, Wide Setting



Ping-Tung, Taiwan

1¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei

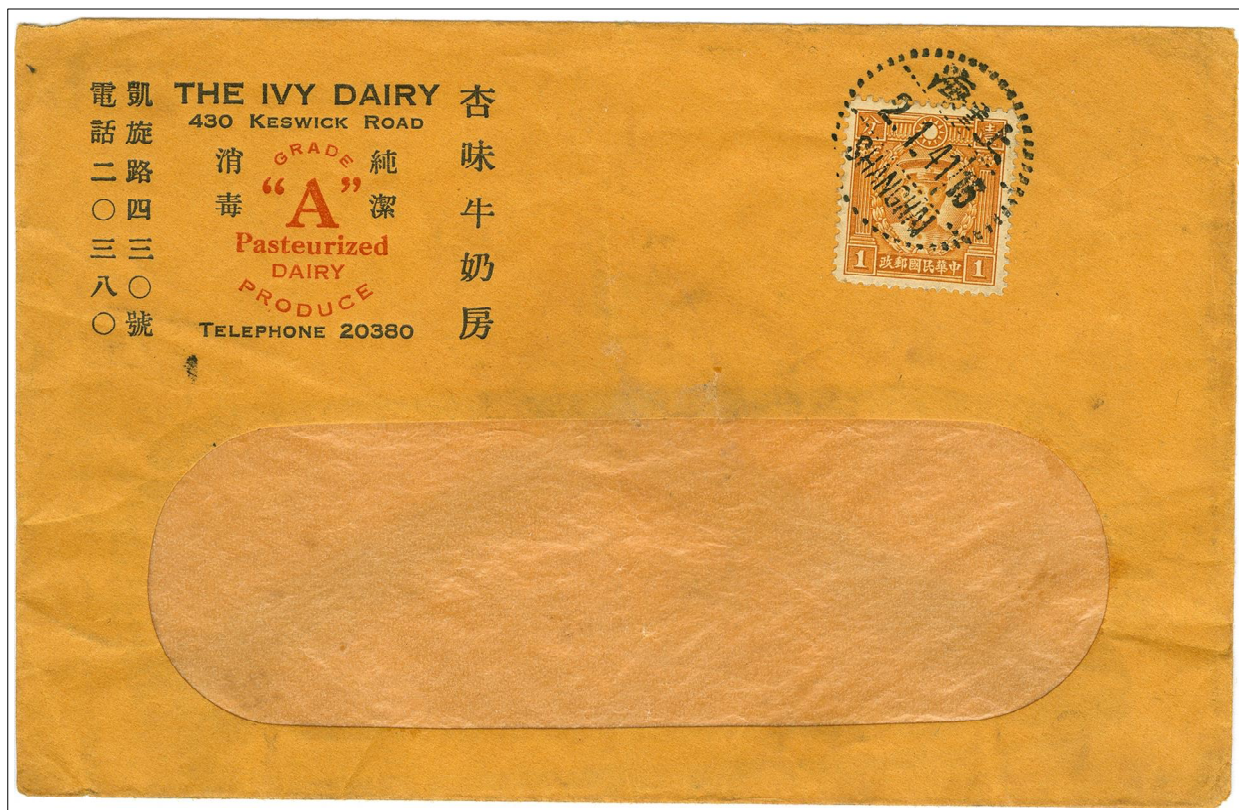


Mar. 1940, Tangshan to Tientsin (local post letter rate 1¢, first 20 g), received Mar. 29, advertising cover



Jul. 11, 1937, Pehtaiho Beach, Hopeh Province
Resort Community, Second Class Post Office

1¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei

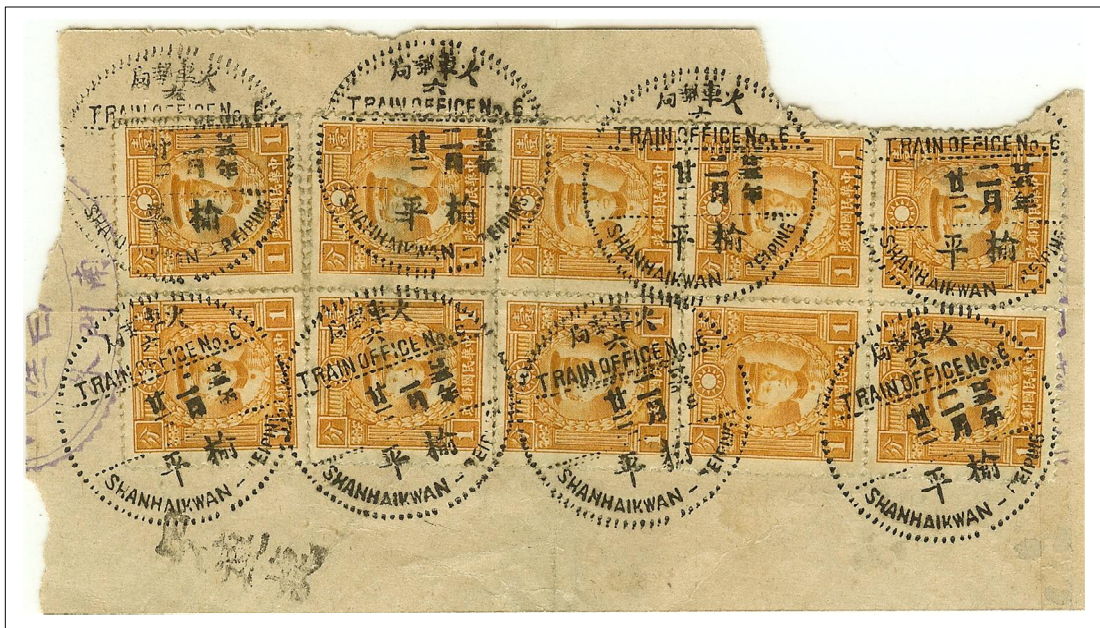


Jan. 2, 1941, Shanghai (local post letter rate 1¢, first 20 g), windowed advertising envelope



Sept. 8, 1935, Tientsin to the Italian Concession Barracks – Italian Offices in China
(local post letter rate 1¢, first 20 g + 1¢, additional 20 g)

1¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei



Feb. 22, 1936, Shanhaikwan, Peking "TRAIN OFFICE No. 6", Peking-Liaoning-Shenyang Rail Line



Victoria, Canada
Paquebot



Nagasaki, Japan
Paquebot



Tombstone



Hong Kong
Paquebot



Dec. 29, 1940, Pindichuan
Japanese Occupation cancel



Censor Chop

1¢ Peking Print - Ch'en Ch'i-mei

Postal districts were divided into Head Offices and First Class Offices in primary cities. Second Class Offices, Third Class Offices, Sub-Offices, Offices only open during summer months, and Agencies operated through the Head Offices.



Danyang
Nanking



Hwaining
Anking City, Anhwei
Home Office



Jin Jing
Hopeh



Kinganchen
Kiangsu
Third Class Office



Paotow
Suiyüan
First Class Office



Sihoying
Chahar
Third Class Office



Siking
Changan, Shensi
Head Office



Tangshan
Hopeh
Second Class Office



Tientsin
Hopeh
Home Office



Tinghai
Chekiang
Second Class Office



Tsingtao
Shantung
First Class Office



Tsingyang
Kiangsu
Third Class Office



Tsingyüan
Paoting, Hopeh
First Class Office



Tsinan
Licheng, Shantung
Head Office



Weihaiwei
Shantung
Second Class Office



Xintai
Hopeh

2½¢ Peking Print – Teng K'eng

Paid the domestic postcard single rates. Used in multiples and with other values for international surface letter rates.



Apr. 1, 1940, Shanghai to USA (international printed matter rate 10¢, 50 g minimum)



Kunming
Yünnanfu, Yunnan
Home Office



High Type



Xin An



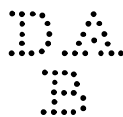
Sept. 21, 1938, Shanghai to Germany ((international surface letter rate 25¢, first 20 g + additional 20 g rate 15¢, second 20 g + registered fee 25¢ (stamps on reverse side of cover equal 50¢)), German customs control sticker, received Oct. 13

3¢ Peking Print – Liao Chung-k'ai

Purpose unknown. There was no rate this value could prepay by itself.



Dec. 12, 1936, Shanghai to Tientsin (domestic surface letter rate 5¢, first 20 g + additional surface rate 5¢, second 20 g + airmail surcharge 25¢ + overpaid 1¢) with Deutsche Asiatische Bank perfins



PERForated INitials (PERFIN) pattern for:
Deutsche Asiatische Bank, Shanghai



Tsinghwayuan
Hopeh
Second Class Office