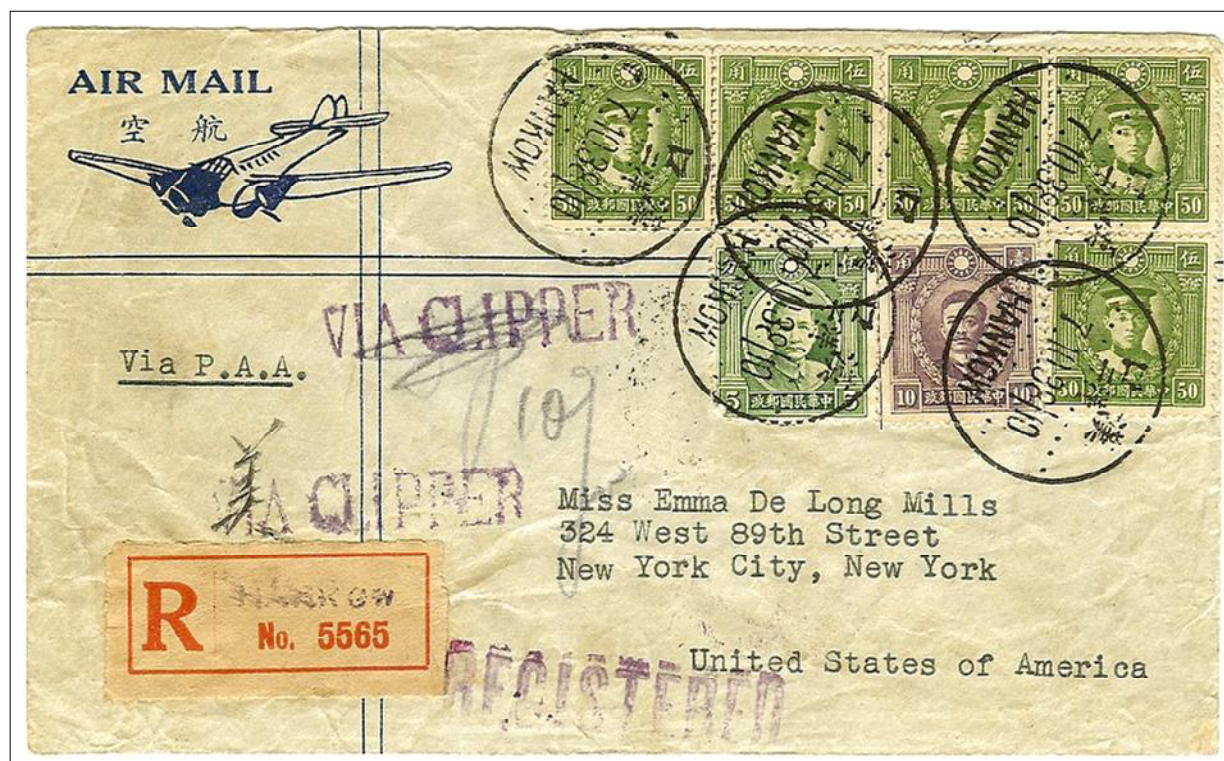


## 50¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei

Satisfied standard air mail letter rates to USA effective Dec. 1, 1931. Paid express delivery fees for U.P.U. letters effective Feb. 1, 1936.



Oct. 7, 1938, Hankow (domestic air rate 25¢, first 20 g + international airmail registered rate 25¢ + airmail rate \$2.40, first 20 g) to USA (FAM14), received Oct. 21



Low Type, Narrow Spacing  
Mechanical Vertical Wave Cancel



High Type



Puyüan  
Chekiang  
Third Class Office



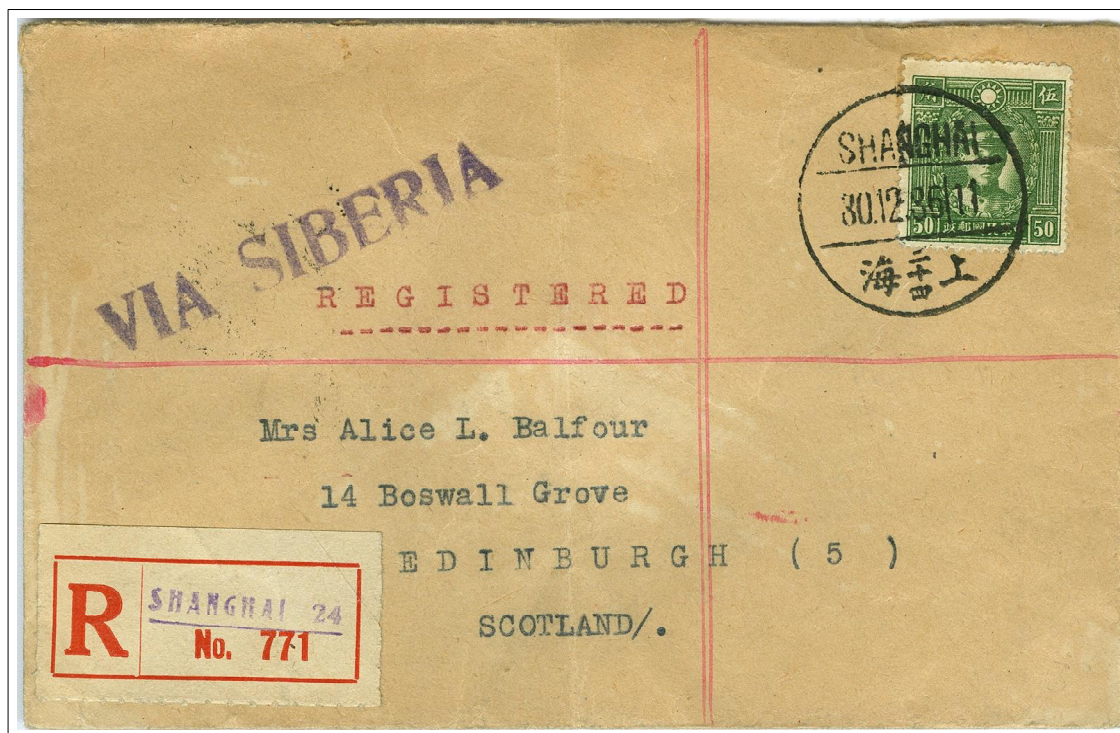
PERForated Initials (PERFIN) pattern for:  
Yee Tsoong Tobacco, Shanghai  
(formerly British American Tobacco Co.)



50¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei



Sept. 3, 1934, Shanghai (special \$1.19 double-weight air/surface rate via Dutch airmail and British steam ship) to Singapore onboard ship, then to England by airplane



Dec. 30, 1936, Shanghai Municipal Council Public Health Dept. (international surface rate 25¢, first 20 g + registered fee 25¢), via Siberia to Edinburgh, Scotland; government correspondence

## Section B

### Production Properties on Hong Kong Prints 1940 - 1942

Engraved by the Commercial Press, Hong Kong, 1939

#### “Cheng” Character with Secret Mark

The Cheng character, modified by the engraver, is referred to as stamps *with secret marks*, when in fact the character was intentionally altered to identify Commercial Press prints from Chinese Bureau of Engraving & Printing prints. This is true for all Hong Kong values except the 21¢, where the Cheng character was not modified.



The Cheng character on Hong Kong prints are referred to as stamps *with secret marks* because the radicals of the character's center stroke are joined.



#### Watermarked Prints

One watermark (called a ‘Yu’ character) appears on Hong Kong issues, but there are four watermark positions; a result of turning the paper as it was loaded into sheet-fed presses. Papers and gum in this category are the same. Below, are examples mounted with the back of each stamp facing the observer. The illustrations depict each watermark as viewed from the back of stamps.



Normal



Invert



Reverse



Invert-Reverse

The printing presses producing these stamps must have been sheet-fed type with the paper cut along consistent grain from rolled stock. Abnormal watermark positions would indicate paper was laid in press feeders with the print side up (Normal), print side down (Reverse), reversed bottom to top (Invert), or print side down and reversed bottom to top (Invert-Reverse). Web style presses could not produce this kind of paper disorientation. All watermarked issues were printed on the same paper and finished with the same gum.

#### Dates of Issue

The Chinese Post Office made no prior announcement when stamps would be available to the public. There are no legitimate First Day Covers. Stamps were replenished to district post offices against requisitions, and in turn, supplied post offices and postal agencies in their individual districts with stamps against those requisitions. Perhaps new stamps were received with the requisitions; perhaps old ones. A small postal agency might receive newly printed stamps before they were available for sale by a popular district post office.



# Production Properties on Hong Kong Prints 1940-1942

Engraved by the Commercial Press, Hong Kong, 1939

## Basic Designs, their Values, and Production Data

1940-42 Unwatermarked (Group 1-5) and 1940-41 Watermarked, Perf. 11½-14



Production was initiated in Hong Kong by the Commercial Press in 1939. It is believed these stamps were produced from the original dies used for the Peking prints but with more values added. Equipment used to print the stamps was banknote printing machinery as the transfers are large (5 x 5 subjects, 8 to each plate of 200 subjects to produce one sheet with probable capacity to print two plates, one above the other at the same time).

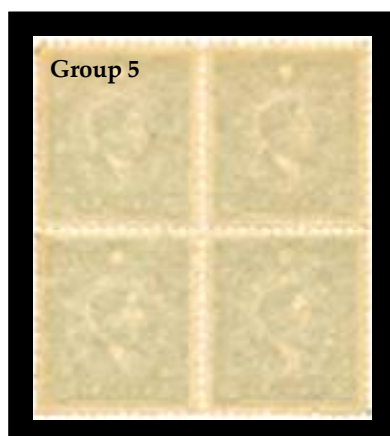
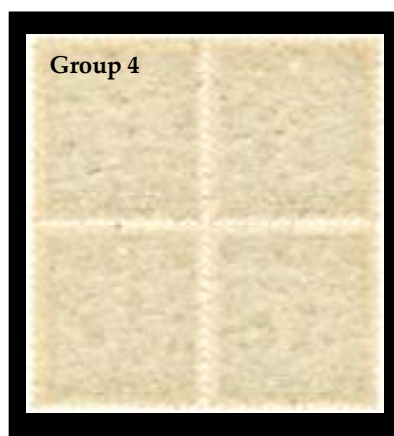
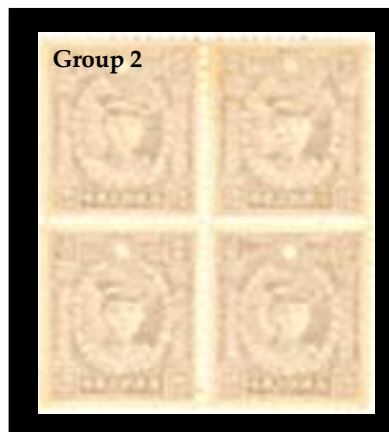
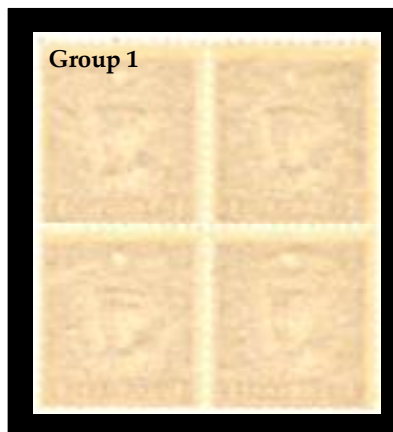
These stamps were produced throughout 1940 and 1941 until the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in December 1941. Several values are known imperforate without gum, and some part perforate sheets have been recorded, including some imperforate between and imperforate margin types (fantails); some of which may not exist without overprints. The war and uncertainty of China's future with the fall of Hong Kong resulted in relaxed security, allowing incomplete production of these stamps to find their way into the philatelic market. Human error may account for the rest.

# Production Properties on Hong Kong Prints 1940 ~ 1942

Engraved by the Commercial Press, Hong Kong, 1939

## Hong Kong print Variations

Misclassified in most catalogues as *wide* or *narrow*, they appear in this exhibit as *Group 1* through *Group 5*.



The five groups were initially defined by Ma Ren Chuen, but were possibly misinterpreted during translation from Chinese into English. It is possible the papers used for Group 1 and Group 2 are the same, but with different gum types and method of application.

# Production Properties on Hong Kong Prints 1940~1942

Engraved by the Commercial Press, Hong Kong, 1939

## Perforation Varieties

No documentation exists to validate the perforating machinery used to perform this work. What we do know is that the Chinese were at war. Unless they already had a large supply of spare parts, broken machinery was probably cannibalized to maintain a fewer number of operable machines. Quality control was not considered and it is highly likely more than one machine was used to perforate sheets produced from the same press.

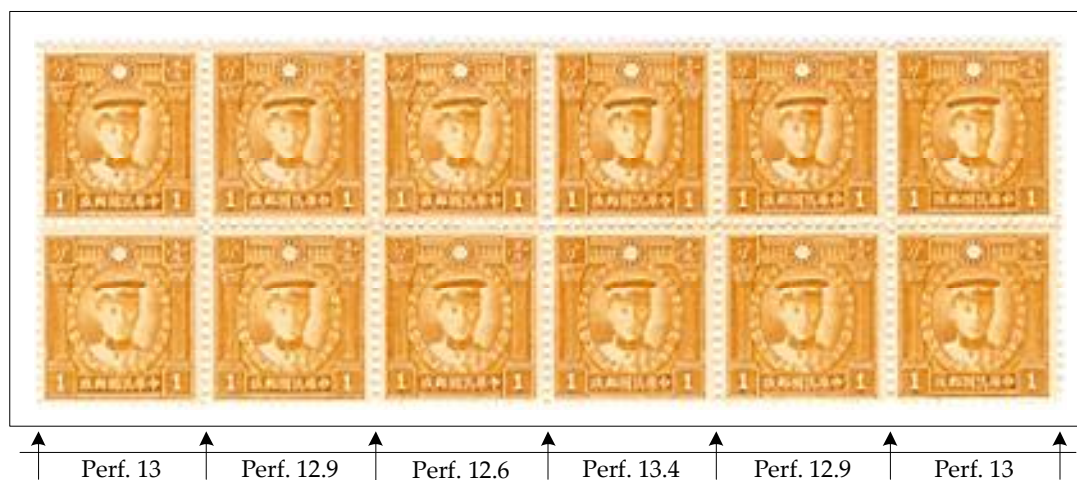
## Perforator Inconsistency

Intentional perforation varieties on watermarked paper.



## Irregular Perforation Varieties

Perforation varieties on unwatermarked paper.



Perforations were produced with line perforating equipment. Determining variations while inspecting perforations in single stamps produce many combinations that is almost endless. This is, in part, due to the many different line die sets used to perforate the stamps. Considerable variation in the perforations resulted from irregular spacing of the perforation pins within the dies. Some of the spacing is sloppy and measurement of perforations on stamps punched by these dies can lead to all kinds of varied readings. In many cases the irregular perforations can only be confirmed while inspecting large blocks, panes, or sheets.



## ½¢ Hong Kong Print – Teng K'eng

Valid for posting printed matter up to 100 g locally until September 20, 1940. After that date, the rate increased to 1¢, but newspaper rates remained unchanged until November 1941. It was the last 1/2¢ value to be produced.



Group 1



Watermarked  
Normal



Watermarked  
Reverse



Group 3



Imperf.  
Group 5



May 5, 1939, Tientsin Pehmalu-Hsitou (including Japanese Occupation cancel)  
Hopeh Province, Sub-Post Office

# 14 Hong Kong Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei

This value saw the greatest production volume of any in the series. The intended usage satisfied increased printed matter rates after September 1940 for local post fees. First ten plates from a master die did not join the radicals of the Chen character. This unintentional error was produced during the first production on unwatermarked paper.



Secret Mark  
Group 1



Secret Mark  
Group 2



Secret Mark  
Group 3



Secret Mark  
Group 5



Transfer Variety  
Shade Lines Under 'Cheng' Character  
Paper Fold with Broken Sun TC  
Position 1/25



No Secret Mark  
Group 1



Transfer Variety  
Dot in UL Frame of LL Box  
Position 7/25



Imperf.  
Group 1



Imperf. No Secret Mark  
Plate 1, Pos. 125-126, 145-146, Group 1



Horiz. strip of 3 Imperf. between  
Group 2



# 14 Hong Kong Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei



Dec. 10, 1940, Kuyih, Hopeh, Domestic to Peking,  
(under Japanese occupation) received Dec. 11



June 28, 1930, Wucheng, Shantung Province  
Third Class Post Office

## 1¢ Hong Kong Print – Ch'en Ch'í-mei



Watermarked  
Normal



Watermarked  
Reverse



Watermarked  
Invert



Watermarked  
Invert-Reverse



Misaligned Perfs.  
Group 3



Double Perf. in Margin, Group 3  
Inspector's mark 'C' on back selvage

The 1¢ Hong Kong print probably reached quantities well into the hundreds of millions and perhaps billions. Exactly how many reached post office windows will probably never be known as a result of the turmoil that consumed China's turbulent republic.



## 2¢ Hong Kong Print – Sung Chiao-jen

This stamp was produced to frank local post after the rate increase in September 1940, although it did not appear until May of the following year. The production had a short service time due to an additional rate change on November 1, 1941, which raised the local postcard rate to 4¢.



Aug. 1, 1943, Shanghai (domestic express rate 50¢, first 20 g) to the French Concession, Shanghai  
Purple oval cancel reads: "Return of Concession to China"



Group 3

Group 5



Watermarked  
Normal

Watermarked  
Reverse

Watermarked  
Invert-Reverse

## 2¢ Hong Kong Print – Sung Chiao-jen



Imperf. Horizontally  
Top Sheet Margin  
Group 3



Imperf. Horizontally  
Bottom Sheet Margin  
Group 3



Imperf.  
Group 5



Horizontal Pair  
Imperf. Between  
Group 3

Workmanship left much to be desired. Tiny flaws can be seen in almost every cliché, even from the low numbered plates where the transfer roller was fresh. Two prominent and obvious transfer varieties are shown here.



Transfer Variety  
Square Dot Under  
'Chung' Character  
Position 4/25



Transfer Variety  
Watermarked  
Dot in LL '2'  
Position 8/25



## 2½¢ Hong Kong Print – Teng K'eng

The stamp did not appear until early October 1940 (watermark version); unwatermarked versions were not reported until December 1940, which indicates the rate was abolished by the time it was available to the public. The postcard rate between cities as well as the 100 g to 250 g of printed matter rate was increased from 2½¢ to 4¢. This stamp is one of the more difficult to find used.



Group 2



Watermarked  
Reverse



Watermarked  
Normal



Watermarked  
Invert



Nov. 26, 1942 Kansu Province, Registered Express to occupied Shanghai  
2-1/2¢ watermarked print tied by 'Lanchow (Kaolan)' postmarks  
Infrequent application of 2-1/2¢ shortly before the Dec. 1 rate increase

### 3¢ Hong Kong Print – Liao Chung-k'ai

There is no reason why this value was issued, but perhaps in anticipation of the proposed postal rate hike of September 20, 1940. The increased fee raised domestic letter fees to 8¢ requiring this value to be used with existing 5¢ stamps. Shortly after the rate hike the 8¢ Hong Kong issue was produced.



Sept. 9, 1940, Tientsin to Manchouli, Manchoukou, Airmail Registered Express



Group 2



Watermarked  
Normal



Group 3



Sheet Number



## 4¢ Hong Kong Print – Teng K'eng

Not available for use until the summer of 1941 (perhaps June). This was a new value in the series. It saw heavy demand since it satisfied postal rates (beginning in September 1940) for franking local letters, local double cards, domestic single cards, and because the current Dr. Sun Yat-sen series did not include a 4¢ value.



Oct. 13, 1941, Canton to USA (international surface letter rate 50¢, first 20 g)



Group 3



Watermarked  
Normal



Watermarked  
Reverse



Group 5

# 4¢ Hong Kong Print – Teng K'eng



Perforation Variety  
12½ x 12½



Perforation Variety  
12½ x 13



Pengpu  
First Class Office



Double Perf. in Margin  
Group 3



Transfer Variety  
Watermarked  
Spot on Eyelid  
Position 19/25



Imperf.  
Engraver's Imprint (Chinese)  
Group 5