

FAM 14

30c Midway Island Rate

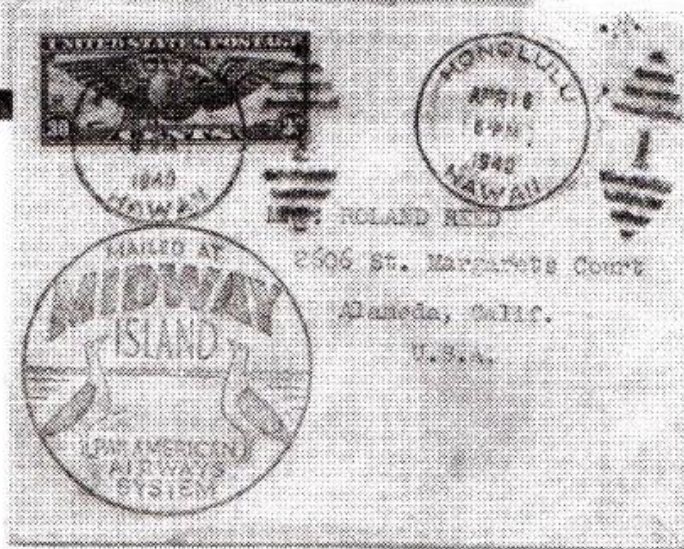
Regular trans-Pacific service from San Francisco to the Philippines on FAM 14 began in 1935, with service extended to Hong Kong in 1937. At the time the 30c Winged Globe stamp was issued, the rate between Midway Island and the U.S. mainland on FAM 14 was 30c. That rate, however, was not published by the Post Office Department. There was no post office on Midway until November 1, 1940, when a Marine Corps postal facility opened. Prior to that time, mail originating on Midway received either a U.S. Engineers cachet or a Pan American Airways cachet and was postmarked at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Midway Detachment Marine Corps postmark, 1941.



U.S. Engineers cachet, 1940.

Pan American Airways cachet, 1940.



The 30c rate was superseded by a special by air mail rate for Armed Forces on December 25, 1941, and for civilian contractors and employees on October 23, 1942.

Route Agent, Contract Carrier, and Non-Contract Carrier

Steam-driven conveyance revolutionized the transport of mail in the 1850s. Some trains and boats carried postal employees called route agents who processed mail in transit. Masters of steamboats under contract to the Post Office Department received one cent for each letter received en route in addition to the contractual amount paid to the owner; these letters were marked **WAY** at the post office where they were deposited. Non-contract carriers received two cents for each letter collected en route, which were marked **STEAM** or **STEAMBOAT** upon deposit at the post office.

Die 1 with Nehitt seal on flap, 1853 and 1854; die 5, 1854.



Pennsylvania R.R. route agent's September 20, 1853, cancel postmarked on the Harrisburg-to-Pittsburgh train. Ex Chase. **WAY** on letter received by contract carrier steamboat upon arrival at New Orleans February 10 (1854). **STEAM** marked on letter received by the non-contract Natchez-to-New Orleans Mississippi riverboat *Southern Belle* upon arrival May 10 (1854).

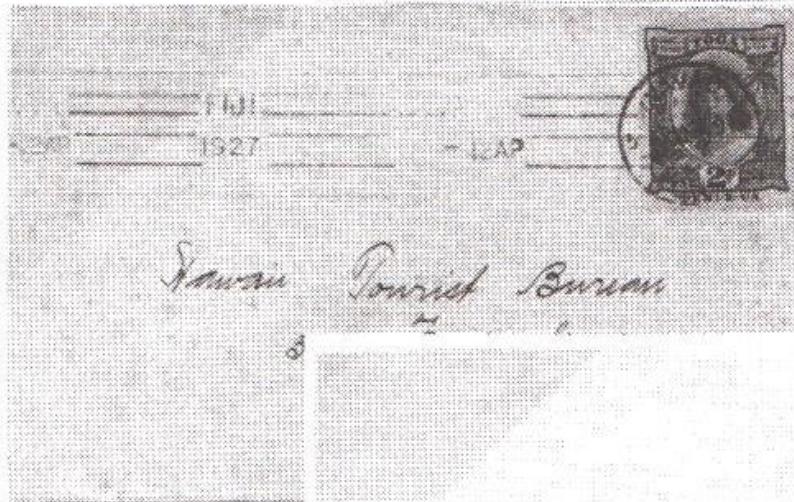
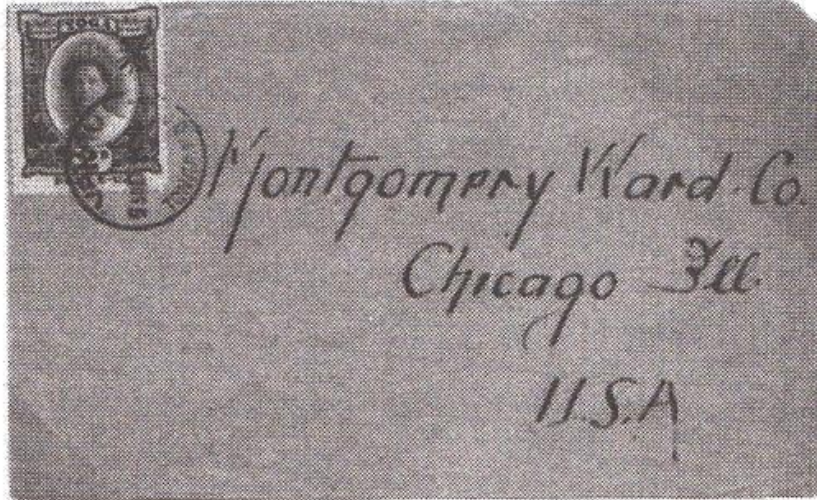
Frame Die 1 — Vignette A
 Tortoise Watermark

Second and Third Printings



Second Printing — 1924
 Dull Violet & Gray Black
 Wmk Sideways to Left
 Line Perfs, Wet Process

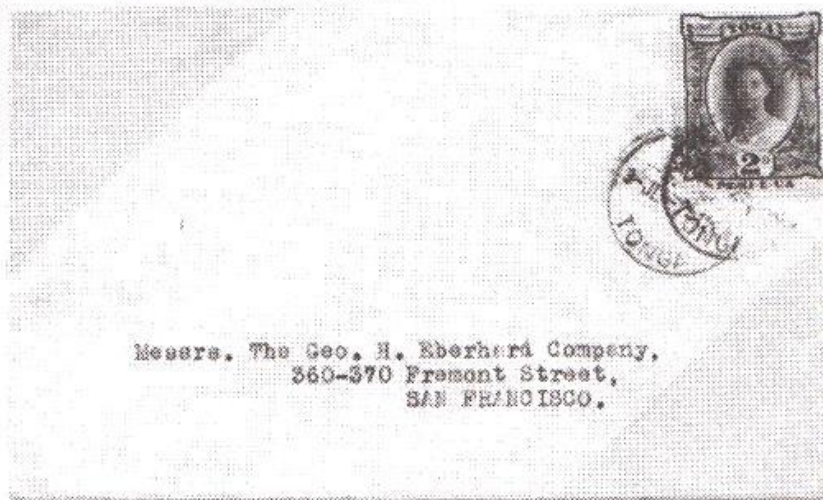
→ Second printing, single letter
 Vava'u to USA. Canceled Vava'u
 Tonga Money Order Office
 (M.O.O.) device, improperly used
 on occasion to postmark letters.



Third Printing — 1925
 Reddish Violet & Gray Black
 Wmk Sideways to Left
 Line Perfs, Wet Process

↑ Third printing, single letter
 rate Vava'u to Hawaii Territory,
 1927. Canceled with Suva, Fiji
 machine cancel and Vava'u cir-
 cular date stamp.

→ Third printing, single letter to
 USA, 1925. Vava'u cancel
 struck in rarely seen purple.



1¢ Peking Print – Ch'en Ch'i-mei



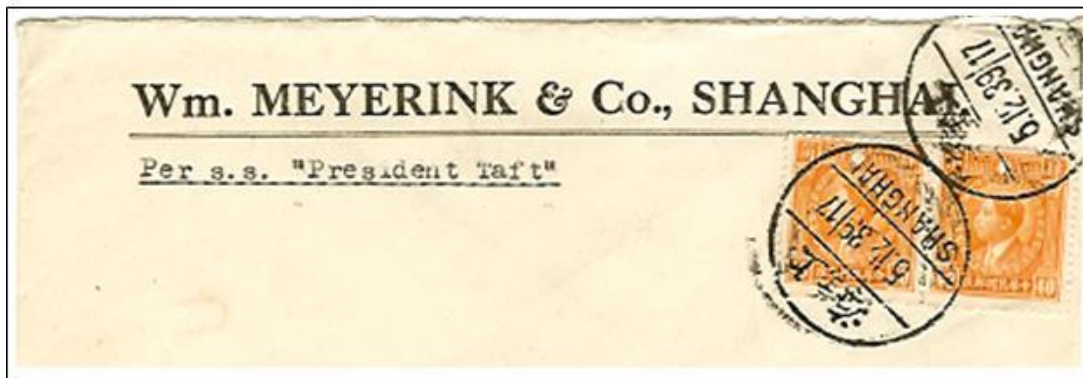
High Type Booklet Pane

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

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.

40¢ Peking Print – Huang Hsing

Paid express delivery fees for U.P.U. letters from June 1, 1935 until Feb. 1, 1936.



Dec. 5, 1939, Shanghai via S. S. President Taft to USA
(international surface letter rate 50¢, first 20 g + additional 20 g rate 30¢)



High Type



Y.T.T.

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



Victoria, Canada
Paquebot



Pengpu
Anhwei
First Class Office

10¢ Peking Print – Sung Chiao-jen

Paid combined letter rates with ordinary express fees.



Oct. 5, 1934, Dairen, I.N.P.O. (Imperial Nipponese Post Office) transit postmark via Siberia with "Paquebot" cancel to Germany, redirected (international surface letter rate 25¢, first 20 g)



Low Type, Wide Spacing



'PAQUEBOT POSTED AT SEA'



Jan. 31, 1937, Sancian Island, Canton, Towshan via steamship "Empress of Russia", to USA (international surface letter rate 25¢, first 20 g). Orange field post office chop with black octagonal Local "Postage Paid" cancel



High Type



Perfin – NCB
National City Bank

40¢ Peking Print – Huang Hsing

Paid express delivery fees for U.P.U. letters from June 1, 1935 until Feb. 1, 1936.



Dec. 5, 1939, Shanghai via S. S. President Taft to USA (international surface letter rate 50¢, first 20 g + additional 20 g rate 30¢)

May 13, 1938, Hankow to Hong Kong to USA (domestic airmail rate 25¢, first 20 g + international airmail to USA via PAA FAMI4 rate \$3.75, first 20 g, underpaid 15¢), received May 26



High Type



Normal



Re-entry
Plate 3, Pos. 116/200



Re-entry



Perfin. Y.T.T.
Yee Tsoong Tobacco
(British American Tobacco Co.)

Re-entries show evidence of doubling throughout most of the design. Obvious locations are: 1) Extra lines make the portrait appear darker with matted hair, 2) Horizontal lines in the UR box are doubled, and 3) in the sun appears to have double lines. It is always found with a horizontal guide line above the cliché. The doubling, or shift is relatively vertical. Additional shift can be seen along the bottom frame.

Shown at right are three known color varieties. Variation in some shades could be the result of ageing or natural chemical changes in inking solutions (oxidation).



Orange



Yellow Orange



Brown Orange

Production Properties on Hong Kong Prints 1940 - 1942

Engraved by the Commercial Press, Hong Kong

“Cheng” Character with Secret Mark

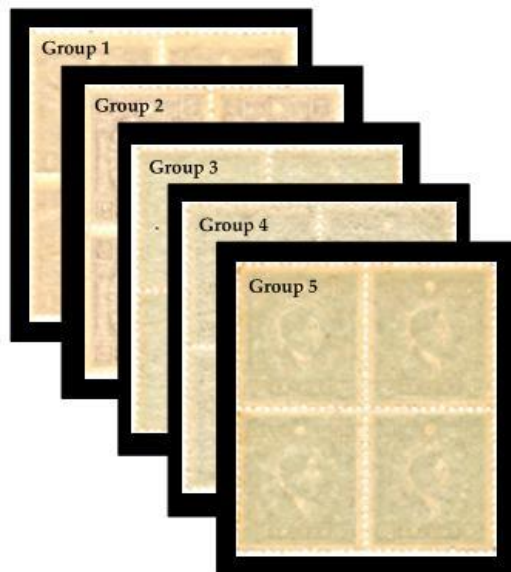
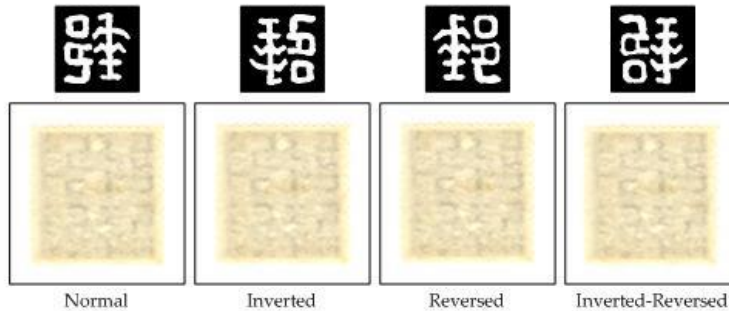
Hong Kong prints were produced to replace diminishing supplies of Peking prints. Stamps misclassified in catalogues as *wide* or *narrow*, appear in this exhibit as *Group 1* through *Group 5*. The Cheng character, modified by the engraver, is referred to as stamps *with secret marks*, when in fact the 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.



Cheng character
with radicals connected

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.



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.

An additional gum and possible paper variety has been observed in Group 3. Other researchers suggest Group 4 may include a paper or gum variation of the 28¢ and 30¢ values. The research continues.

20¢ Hong Kong Print – Huang Hsing

Paid registered express fees effective Sept. 1940. Effective value for foreign letter and parcel post rates; often found with foreign mail and parcel cancellations.



1941, Shanghai via Hong Kong to USA (international printed matter rate 20c, first 20 g) wrapper with Hong Kong censor handstamp

Jan. 4, 1944, Wuhsi domestic surface registered express to Shanghai, received Jan. 5 (Japanese Occupation)



Group 3

Watermarked

Group 5