

China AR

AR service to and from China and neighbours

Introduction

This is not really an exhibit, more a long article in the form of an exhibit. I did it mainly to organize my Chinese AR material. I found a number of things I couldn't explain, or didn't have the knowledge to figure out. This is particularly so in the domestic section, where there need not be any roman text at all. [I have no knowledge of Chinese, so I have to make inferences from the rates—all the more difficult, since dates are particularly hard to decipher.]

The reader might note a few editorial comments, which would not be appropriate either for an exhibit nor for an article. I tend to agree with Mark Twain, who admired the Boxers (despite their religious tendencies) and despised the missionaries.

If there are comments, suggestions, corrections, or added information, I would be pleased to hear about them (e-mail address below).

I am also interested in buying or trading for material that would fit in.

This was prepared in the typesetting language \TeX (but *not* straitjacket \LaTeX). The font family is \rm ITC Elysium .

David Handelman, Ottawa, March–June 2012
rochelle2@sympatico.ca

China AR

Synopsis

AR refers to the UPU term, *avis de réception*, also known as acknowledgment of receipt, return receipt, *Rückschein*, and particularly in China *double registered* (a direct translation of the characters representing AR. When a registered (less often, an insured) piece of mail was delivered to the recipient, AR service provided that the addressee sign a form or card (AR form, AR card) which was mailed back to sender, providing evidence that the item was delivered.

This is not an exhibit in the usual sense, but merely an organized accumulation of AR material concerning China. I have not been able to find any Chinese AR forms, nor any AR covering envelopes (at least one of each of these is illustrated on the internet, so they do exist), and what is here is almost entirely AR covers. While the use of AR in China is not uncommon, prices have skyrocketed in the past decade, so I don't anticipate getting much new material.

The AR covers are mostly organized by international service (Empire, then Republic of China, then Hong Kong, Taiwan, etc), then domestic service. I am hampered, particularly for domestic service, by my ignorance of Chinese.

There are four levels of headings (excluding the exhibit title)

Title

Subtitle

Subsubtitle

Subsubsubtitle (in-line) Practically all pages have a subsubtitle, and all descriptions of covers have a sub-subsubtitle.

Research & References The standard English language source for Chinese rates is Sieh and Blackburn. I am told there are some errors there, which have been corrected in Chinese language rates books. The rates for the one Manchukuo AR cover are from Simon Watt's *Manchukuo stamps* website, <http://manchukuostamps.com/1937.htm>

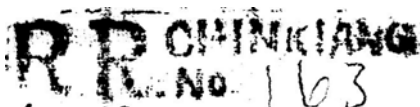
Other rates are from *UPU mail, annual tables of exchange rates & of postage rates to the US, 1881–1953* (Postillon), supplemented by Wawrukiewicz & Beecher, *US international postal rates, 1872–1996*.

Handstamps indicating AR service

Based on this exhibit. Not included are manuscript, typescript, or those of foreign offices



Two separate Rs, indicating double registered.



Doubled R registration box, Chinkiang 1916



Doubled R, Miaochen 1923



Used at Shanghai, at least 1925-48



Also in general use at Shanghai



Shanghai, 1948



Peking, 1920; small framed AR



Peking, 1929; shows wear or poor construction



Peking, 1938



Canton, 1920; very worn



Chefoo, 1923; very worn



Tientsin 13, 1920



Tientsin, 1934; worn



Kuling, 1925; worn R.R.



Kuling, year unknown



Harbin, 1925; crude box



Harbin, 1928; neat box



Harbin, Manchukuo, 1941



Shanghai,
year unknown



Shanghai, 1928;
rubber?

Double Registered

Shanghai, 1938; might
be private handstamp



Shanghai,
1940



Shanghai, 1946; might be private, used
by UNRRA



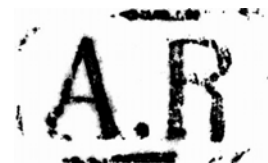
Shanghai, 1947



Kutsing,
1946



Shanghai, 1941; might be private, used
by UNRRA



Tsingtao, 1931



Kunming, 1934;
locally made?



Tsingtao,
1934



Place unknown, 1925



Used at many offices;
1940s, bilingual



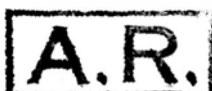
Canton
1921



Hong Kong, 1907–1926
(at least); in oval



Hong Kong, 1919;
in circle



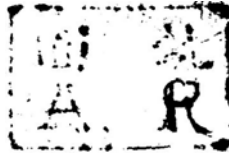
Hong Kong, modern use;
may be rubber



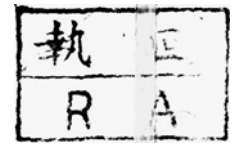
Macau, 1940, 1954



Place unknown
1984



Taipei, 1955
bilingual



Taipei, 1950



Taipei,
1955



Place unknown (to me)
1906; crude



Sian
1929; crude

China AR

AR service in China and neighbours

AR, or as it is commonly known in China, *double registration*, is a service wherein a (usually registered) letter, upon delivery, is signed for on a card (known as an AR card) or form (AR form), which is returned to sender. This provides evidence of delivery. For China proper, AR service began in 1897, well before it joined the UPU. (For Hong Kong and Macau, the service had already been in place by that time.)

It goes under many names; the official UPU term is *avis de réception*, hence AR, which is how it is referred to here; other terms include *return receipt* (US), *advice of delivery* (UK), *acknowledgment of receipt*, *Retour Recepisse* (Austria), *Rückschein* (Germany),

This pseudo-exhibit deals almost entirely with AR covers (that is, registered envelopes sent with AR) of China, mostly international. They are arranged first internationally from China proper, then from the various entities associated to China (such as Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Manchukuo). Then we show an incoming AR form, a few AR cards both to and from China, and finally domestic AR covers. The period covered is 1898–1956.

Chinese rates, particularly during periods of inflation are complicated, and I can't guarantee that the rates are correctly given. I tried to represent as many rate periods as possible.

Contents

An asterisk (*) means *worth a detour*. Included are many more covers, addressed to the US, which essentially represent rate periods.

Pre-UPU To France via Hong Kong (1898)*, to Belgium via French steamer (1902)*

UPU period (1914–1937) To Scotland with TPO (1916)*, to New Zealand & Germany (1920), to UK with notation, *missing form* (1922)*, multiple to Denmark (1926), printed matter to France (ca 1925), multiple to Sweden (1930), to Germany (1930), to Hungary (1937)

UPU period (1938–) Unidectuple clipper (1938)*, clipper (1941), air to Canada (1943, 1946), express to Canada & Australia (1946), air to Australia (1946, two rate periods), air to US (1946, four rate periods), air to US (1947, two rate periods), air to Canada (1947), air to Singapore sent by surface with \$1 000 000 in postage (1948), air to US (1948), air to Canada with overprinted fiscals (1949)*

Manchuria To Japan (1928), Manchukuo to General Government (1941)*

Hong Kong To UK (1907)*, to US (1926), to Macau (1926), to US & UK (1947 & 1956).

Taiwan Air to US (1954–1955, two rate periods), air to Germany (1955)

Macau To US (1940), to Hong Kong (1954)

Foreign devils' offices Japan (Peking & Tientsin) to US (1917 & 1916), Russia (Chefoo) to New Zealand (1920), quintuple US (Shanghai) to UK with air form missing (1920)*, France (Tientsin) & Germany (Tsingtau) (1908 & 1909)

AR form From US PPIE (1915)

AR covering envelope Kwang-Tchéo-Wan (French territory) to US (1939)*

AR cards Used domestically (1925), Czechoslovakia returned from Harbin (1926), returned from Australia & US (1946 & 1948), Japan returned from occupied territory (1943), Japan Darien subsequent returned from Denmark (1937)*, Macau returned from Tokyo (1942–45)

Domestic Peking (1902)*, ?? (1906), Manchuria (1925), Miaochen (1935), to Wei-Hai-Wei (1938), local to French gunboat in Shanghai harbour (1940)*, Hankow to Chengtu by air (1946), Tientsin drop with many slips (1946), Shanghai drop (1947), double airmail (1948), Taiwan (1950).

Pre-UPU AR

Although China did not join the UPU until 1914, from ca 1897, it mostly abided by UPU rules, in particular offering registration and AR service on international mail. Until mid-1942, both domestically and internationally, for China, the AR fee equalled the registration fee, justifying the term *double registered*.

International AR (began January 1897)

Mail to be sent on UK ships was franked with Chinese postage, then its equivalent in Hong Kong postage was applied on arrival at HK. Double franking for mail through HK ceased February 1905.



Peking to Paris via Hong Kong, January 1898. The doubled R (for *double registered*) indicates this was mailed with AR service intended.

Rated 10¢ of a silver dollar for each of first weight UPU, registration, and AR fees (in effect 1897–1922). At Kowloon, equivalent Hong Kong postage (30¢), valid for international mail, applied.

Peking dollar chop, Kowloon and HK daters, French TPOs.

Via French steamer

Double franking on international mail from China via *French* steamer was in effect only January 1897–January 1902. This AR cover was mailed some months after this ceased, with the signing of a France-China mail treaty.



Hankow to Brussels via Marseille, double rate, November 1902. Ms *Return Receipt* is US term for AR. From the Chinese Imperial Train Company. **Rated** 40¢ of a silver dollar, double 10¢ per half ounce UPU plus 10¢ for each of AR and registration.



UPU period

China joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1914.

China–Scotland (1916)

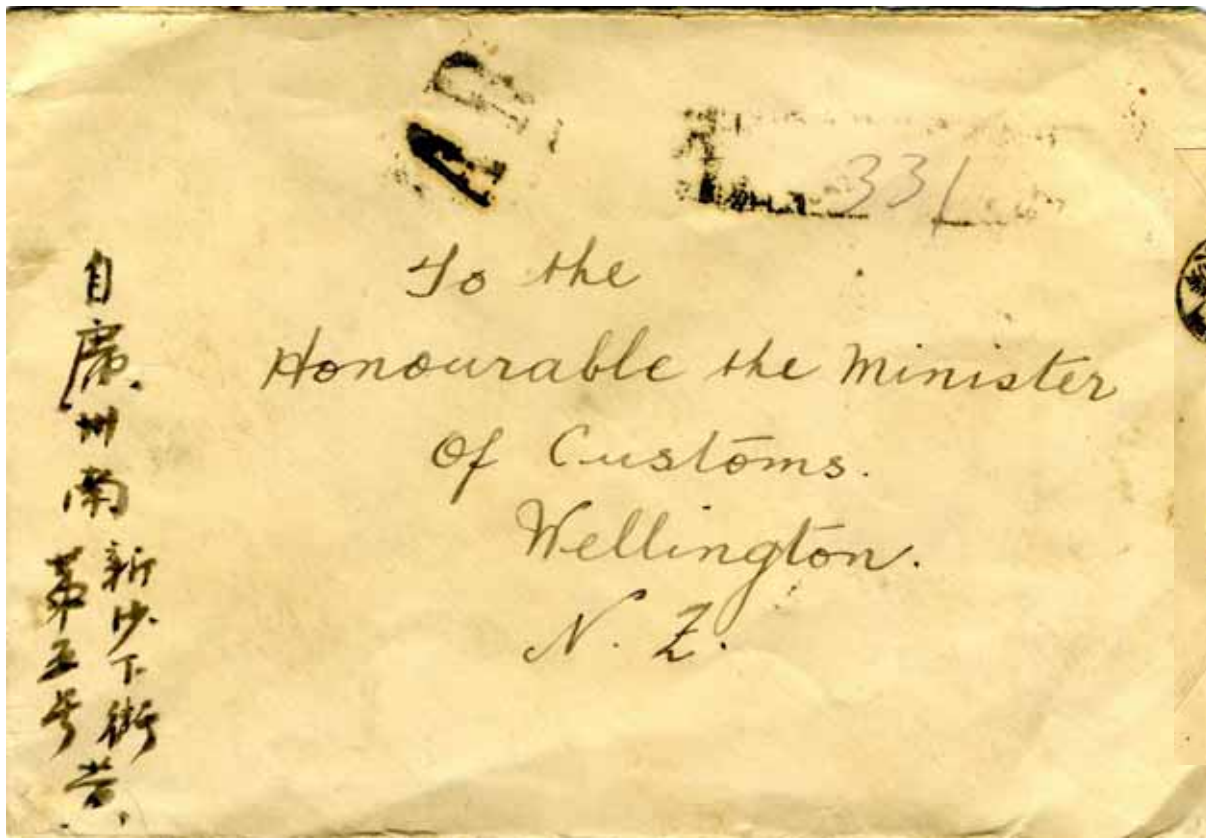


Chinkiang to Edinburgh via Siberia, 1916. Ms Registered & AR, and RR handstamp enclosing registration number. Rated 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees.



Via Chinese TPO, Bureau Ambulant No 1, Peking–Mukden, from the British Municipal Council in Chinkiang, through London. At extreme left are remnants of yellow Chinese AR form.

To New Zealand and US



Canton office to Wellington, 1920. Crude AR handstamp. **Rated** 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. Indian datestamp (lower right, reverse) is dated (19)20.



Peking to Portland (OR), double, 1920. Small boxed AR. **Rated** 36¢, made up from second weight (10¢ first weight plus 6¢ each additional; this multiple rate scheme in effect 1907–1922) UPU, plus 10¢ for each of registration and AR.

To Germany, forwarded (1920 & 1921)



Tientsin to Berlin, forwarded therein, 1920. Small nonserif unboxed AR. **Rated** 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. From Tientsin suboffice #13 via Shanghai and London, to Berlin, and one day within Berlin. Remant of yellow AR form on reverse.



Canton to Gumbinnen, forwarded to Gotha, 1921. Crude AR and ms Rückschein. **Rated** as above.

To UK, missing AR form (1922)

Note by London clerk that the AR form that should have been attached was missing. This would have caused a *replacement* or *duplicate* AR form to have been prepared in London.



Triple, Peking to Aberystwyth (Wales), May 1922. Type-script US-style RETURN RECEIPT DESIRED and ms AR, latter applied in London.

Rated 40¢ made up of UPU, 10¢ for the first 20 g and 5¢ for each additional weight (multiple rate in effect 1 January–31 October 1922); registration and AR 10¢ each.

Absence of AR form noted in IS

Absence of AR form noted in IS (Inland Service)



Via Moukden and London; at least five weeks transit time.

Multiple, to Denmark (1926)



Quadruple, Hanchun to Copenhagen, 1926. Red ms AR. Rated 48¢, quadruple UPU at 10¢ for the first 20 g and 6¢ for each additional (multiple rate in effect October 1925–June 1930), plus 10¢ for each of registration & AR.



Via Moukden and London.

To US (1924 & 1925)



Jukao to Chicago, 1924. With US-style *Return Receipt demanded*. Jukao is a tiny village in Zhejiang, 109 km from Shanghai. From busybody missionaries, spreading their stupidstitions. **Rated** 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees.



Shanghai to Boston, 1925. Ms R/R and boxed **RR**. **Rated** as above. Boston receiver has date inverted.

Printed matter to France



Quadruple rate printed matter, ca 1925. Boxed nonserif **AR**. Part of a large parcel. **Rated** quadruple international printed matter rate at 2¢ per 50 g (in effect 1910–1930) and 10¢ for each of registration and AR (effective to January 1929).

The addressee, Commandant Julien Lignier (1872–1932), was a prominent mycologist who meticulously illustrated and published his findings.

Quadruple to Sweden (1930)



Quadruple, Shanghai to Stockholm, forwarded, December 1930. Obliques nonserif AR and ms double registered. Rated 72¢ (including $4 \times 1¢$ surcharge): UPU, 15¢ for the first 20 g and 9¢ for each additional weight (multiple rate in effect 1 July 1930–31 January 1931); registration and AR 15¢ each (1 February 1929–31 January 1931).



This was an unexpected twist!

To US (1925, 1928)



Shanghai to LA, 1928. Boxed nonserif AR.
Rated 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR (10¢ postage on reverse).

Kuling to St Louis, 1925. **Rated** as at left. Boxed nonserif R.R. Via Shanghai.





To US (1926)

Shanghai to Stockton (CA), 1926. Boxed nonserif R R. With company seal of Tong Song Wo (as opposed to typescript Tung Sang Wo).
Rated 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, & AR.



Registration and AR rate change

For 1 February 1929–31 January 1931, the registration and AR fees were both 15¢.



Peiping to Jackson Heights (NY), June 1929. Ms Return receipt, and heavy worn A R. Rated 10¢ UPU and 15¢ for each of registration and AR. Via Moukden and New York; from the US Legation.



Sextuple to Scotland (1930)

Sian (Xi'an) to Edinburgh via Shanghai, 1929-1930.

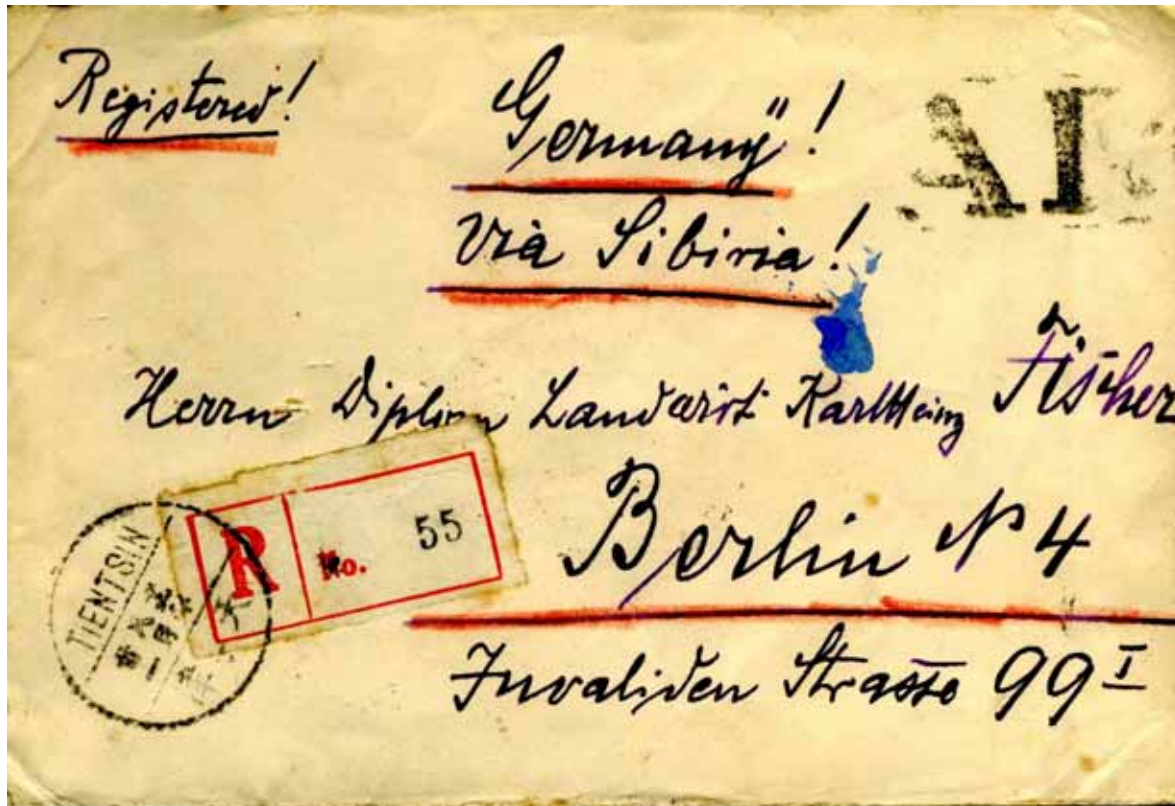
Crude A. R. Missionary mail

Rated 15¢ for each of registration & AR, and 10¢ for the first ounce, plus $5 \times 6¢$ for supplementary weights.



UPU rate change

For 1 July 1930–31 January 1931, UPU rate was 15¢ for the first 20g, and 9¢ for each additional.



Tientsin to Berlin, August 1930. Large worn A R, possibly in frame. **Rated** 15¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees (latter in effect 1 February 1929–31 January 1931).



Chinese registration slip still attached (normally for domestic registered mail, to be removed on delivery).

UPU, registration, and AR rate changes

1 July 1931–31 May 1935, UPU: 25¢ first 20g, 15¢ each additional; registration & AR: 25¢ each.

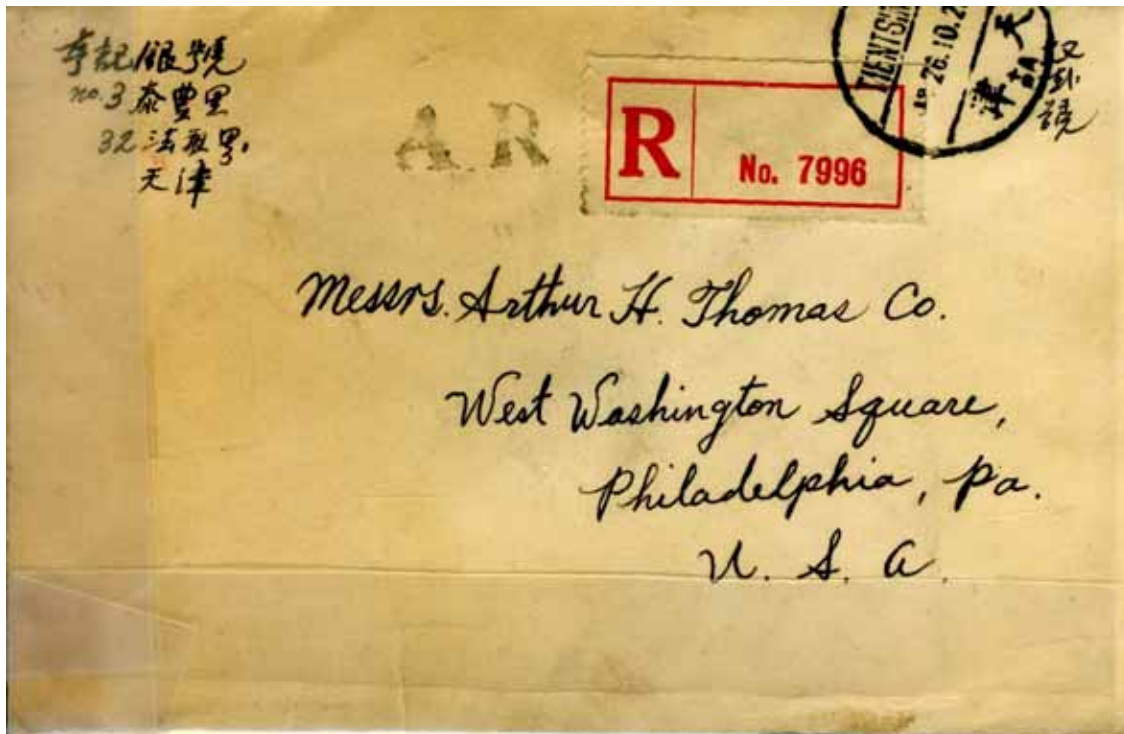


Tsingtao to Hornell (NY), October 1931. Large worn nonserif A.R. in rounded frame. **Rated** 25¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. Via Moukden.



Shanghai to Newton Centre (MA), 1933. Boxed serif RR. **Rated** as above.

To US (1934)



Tientsin to Philadelphia, 1934. Crude worn serif **AR**. **Rated** 25¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. Via Shanghai.



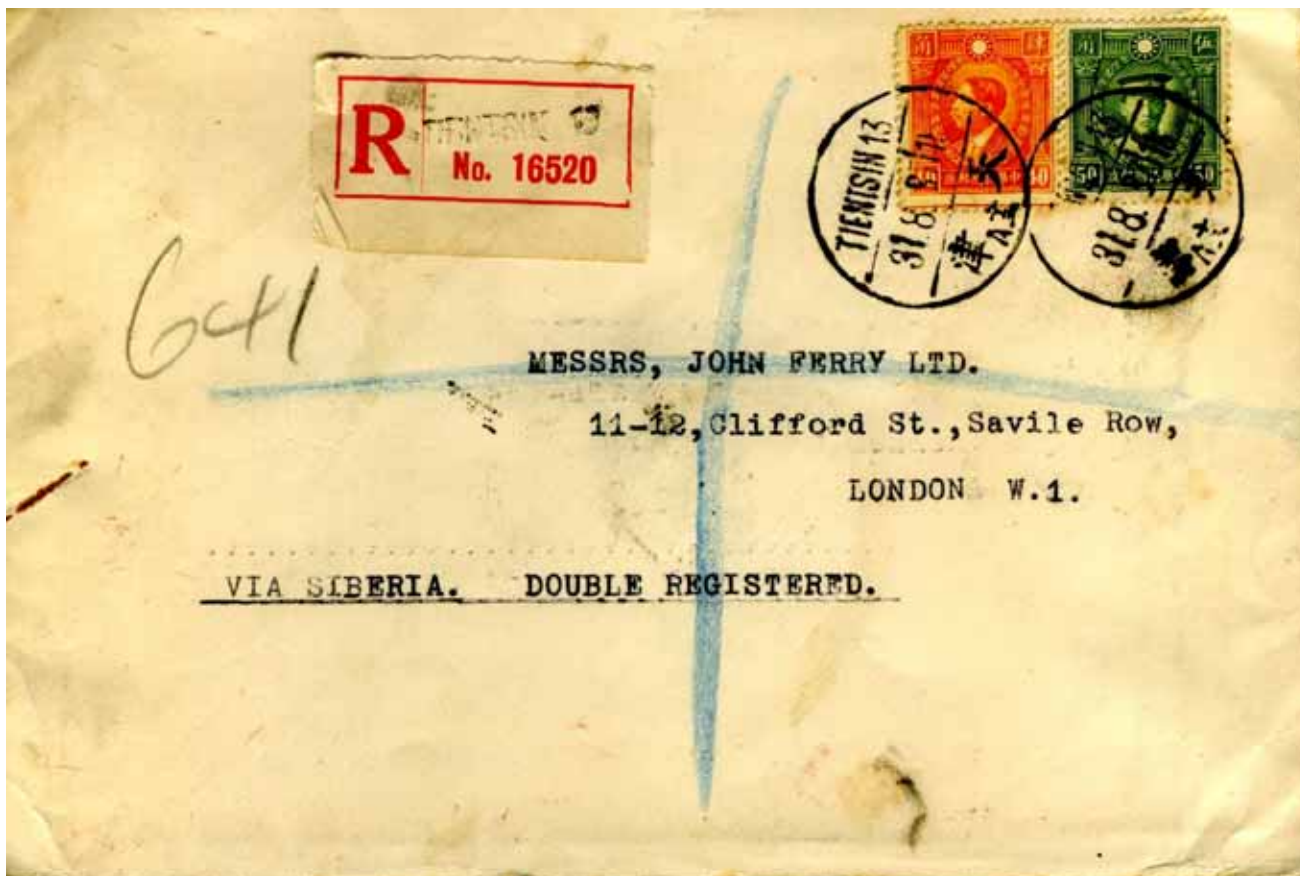
Kunming (Yunnanfou) to New York, 1934. Locally made (?) thin nonserif **AR** in circle. **Rated** as above. Via Shanghai. Overprinted stamps??

To Hungary and UK (1937)



Shanghai to Budapest, 1937.
Boxed serif **R R** and type-
script **R. R.**

Rated 25¢ for each of
UPU, registration, and
AR fees.



Tientsin–London,
double, 1937.

Typescript
DOUBLE REGIS-
TERED only.

Rated 25¢ first
20 g and 15¢
next 20 g UPU;
registration
and AR 25¢
each.

To US (1936, 1938)



Tsingtao to Los Angeles, 1936. Nonserif widely spaced A. R. Rated 25¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. Via Shanghai.



Peking to Claremont (CA), 1938. Thin serif A.R. Rated as above.

China Clipper

For the period 28 April 1937–18 April 1939, air mail supplement (in addition to surface rates) for service NAL to Hong Kong and PAA to San Francisco was CNC \$1.20 per **five** grams.



*Hangkow to Scottsdale (PA), undectuple, 1938. Ms AR. Anomalously **Rated** \$13.25.*

Plausibly, this was for 50–55 g, made up from 11 times air mail supplement, triple UPU rate (at 25¢ first 20g and 15¢ each additional), and 25¢ for each of registration and AR (totalling \$14.25), and shortpaid by \$1 because the clerk miscounted the number of \$1 stamps he applied. (No stamps are missing, back or front.)

From the third officer aboard the *uss Luzon*, patrolling the Yangtze.



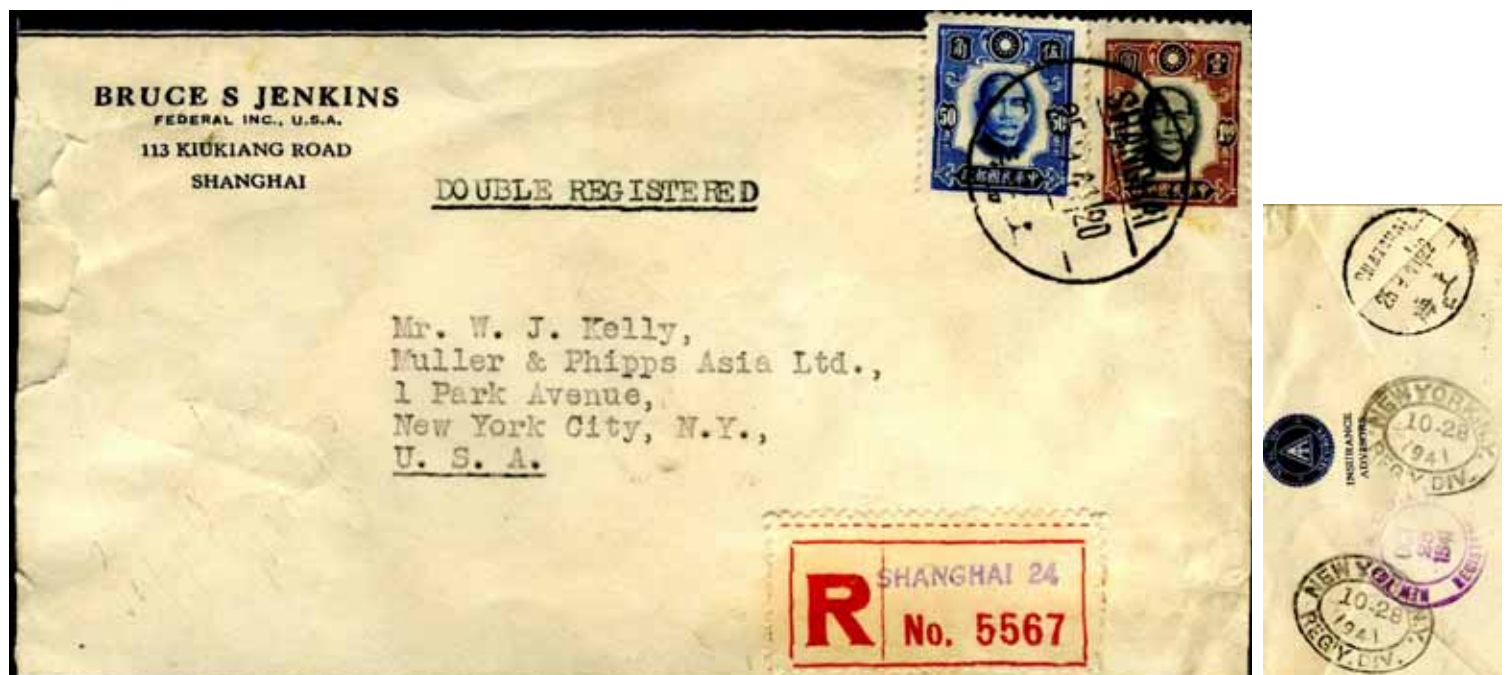
Why did it take ten days to get from Hong Kong to Honolulu?

Rate changes

1 September 1939–31 October 41, 50¢ of Chinese National Currency (CNC) dollar (denoted \$) for each of first UPU weight, registration, and AR.



Toy Shan (Taishan, Guangdong) to Windsor (NS), June 1941. Bilingual red boxed **A. R. Rated** 50¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. Remnant of red Chinese AR card on reverse. Via Canton, Vancouver, and two Canadian RPOs. To standard Canadian small town Chinese restaurant. Canadian censor.



Shanghai to New York, October 1941. Typescript **DOUBLE REGISTERED** only. **Rated** as above.

Clipper mail

1 November 1939–31 October 1941, clipper air mail supplement to US was \$4 per five grams.



Toy Shan (Taishan, Guangdong) to Quincy (MA), *sesqui-rated*, October 1941. Bilingual red boxed **A. R. Rated** \$9.50 for 5–10 g (double) air supplement, 50¢ UPU surface (single), and 50¢ for each of registration and AR. Via Kweilin, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Boston.



Two days from Hong Kong to San Francisco.

Surface to Canada (1942–1943)



Kutsing (Guangdong) via Tihwa (Urumtsi, Sinkiang) to Picton (ON), August 1942. Bilingual boxed A. R. Rated 50¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees. Canadian censorship (likely at Vancouver) and five month delay. From Kutsing to Canton to Tihwa at the western edge of China.



Air all the way to Canada (1943–1944)

29 May 1943–5 November 1943, air mail supplement (to US and Canada) CNC \$9.60 per five grams; NAL to Calcutta, BOAC to Lagos, PAA to Miami, and within North America by air.



Canton to Kelowna (BC), October? 1943. Sender has badly misspelled destination town. Bilingual boxed A. R. Rated \$16.20, made up of \$9.60 air supplement, \$2 UPU surface, registration \$2.60, and AR \$2. Canadian censorship (likely at Vancouver) and several month delay.



Air to Canada (1946)

21 May 1946–28 August 1946, air mail supplement (to US and Canada) CNC \$600 per five grams; NAL to Calcutta, BOAC to London, and PAA to North America.



Kutsing to Trenton (ON), June 1946. Addressed to a different Star Cafe. Primitive encircled A R. Rated \$960; \$600 air supplement, \$300 UPU surface, registration \$270, and AR \$200; underpayment by \$300 might be explained by missing stamp on front (at lower right): uncanceled and fell off (or stolen) before reaching Trenton. Canadian duty free handstamp at Trenton.



Registered item delivered but card ignored, a frequent occurrence in Canada.

Rated (stamps under card) \$2410 (overprinted \$1000 & 2 × \$500, and unoverprinted 4 × \$100 and \$10), 10–15 g triple air supplement (at \$600 per 5 g), single UPU (surface) \$190, reg'n \$270, and AR \$200, underpaid by \$50.

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

CHINA OFFICE
Embankment Building
370 North Soochow Road
Shanghai, China

AIR MAIL
DOUBLE REGISTERED

空 船
PAR AVION

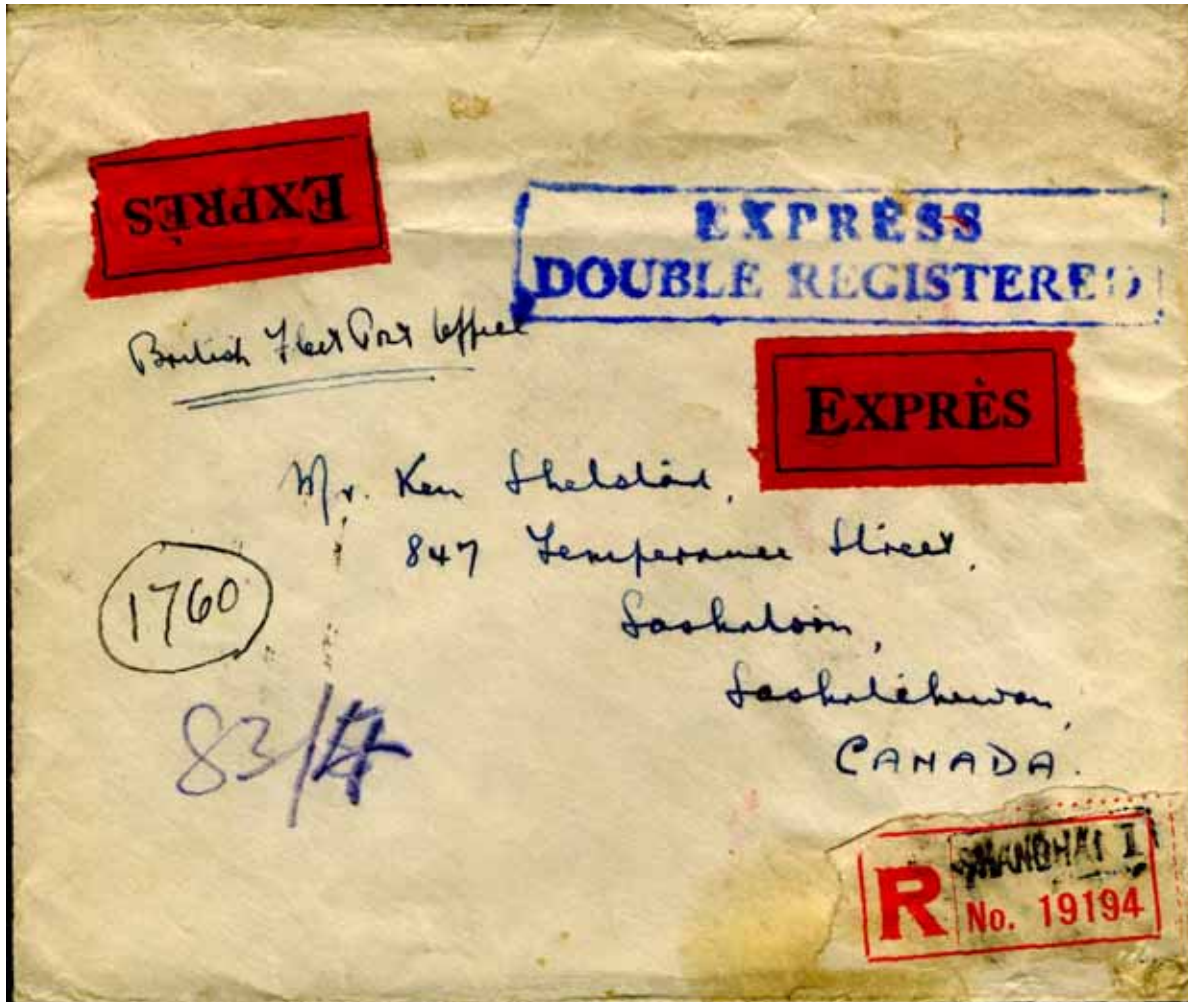
AIR MAIL

Mr. James Beveridge
National Film Board
Ottawa

SHANGHAI
R No. 3733

Express to Canada (1946)

Combination express and registration \$1100, 1 October 1945–31 October 1946



UNRRA, Shanghai to Saskatoon (SK), double, December 1946. Via British Fleet Post Office. Two-line boxed **EXPRESS/DOUBLE REGISTERED** handstamp (used by UNRRA). Rated \$1950 (3 × \$500 overprinted, \$50 overprinted, and 2 × \$200); \$1100 express including registration, \$300 UPU surface first 20 g and \$200 each additional, and AR \$350.



Remnant of Chinese AR card.

Express to Australia (1946)

Same rates as preceding; mailed from same office, Shanghai I.



CNRRA, Shanghai to Kooyong (SK), double, December 1946. Two-line **EXPRESS/DOUBLE REGISTERED** in box handstamp. **Rated** \$1950 (3 × \$500 overprinted, \$50 overprinted, and 4 × \$100 overprinted); \$1100 express including registration, \$300 UPU surface first 20 g and \$200 each additional, and AR \$350. Originally with air mail etiquette, which has been covered by the expès label.



Remnant of Chinese AR card.

Air to Australia (1946)

For the period 21 May–28 August 1946, air mail supplement (in addition to surface rates) for service by BOAC to Australia was CNC \$250 per five grams.



UNRRA, Shanghai to Sydney, quadruple, 1946. Two-line **AIR MAIL/DOUBLE REGISTERED**.

Rated \$1660 (overprinted \$1000, \$500, \$50, \$10), 15–20 g quadruple air supplement, single UPU (surface) \$190, reg'n \$270, and AR \$200.



AR card remnant.

Air to Australia (1946)

1 September 1946–20 October 1946, air mail supplement for service by BOAC to Australia was \$400 per five grams.



UNRRA, Shanghai to Sydney, quadruple, forwarded, September 1946. Blue boxed handstamp

AIR MAIL

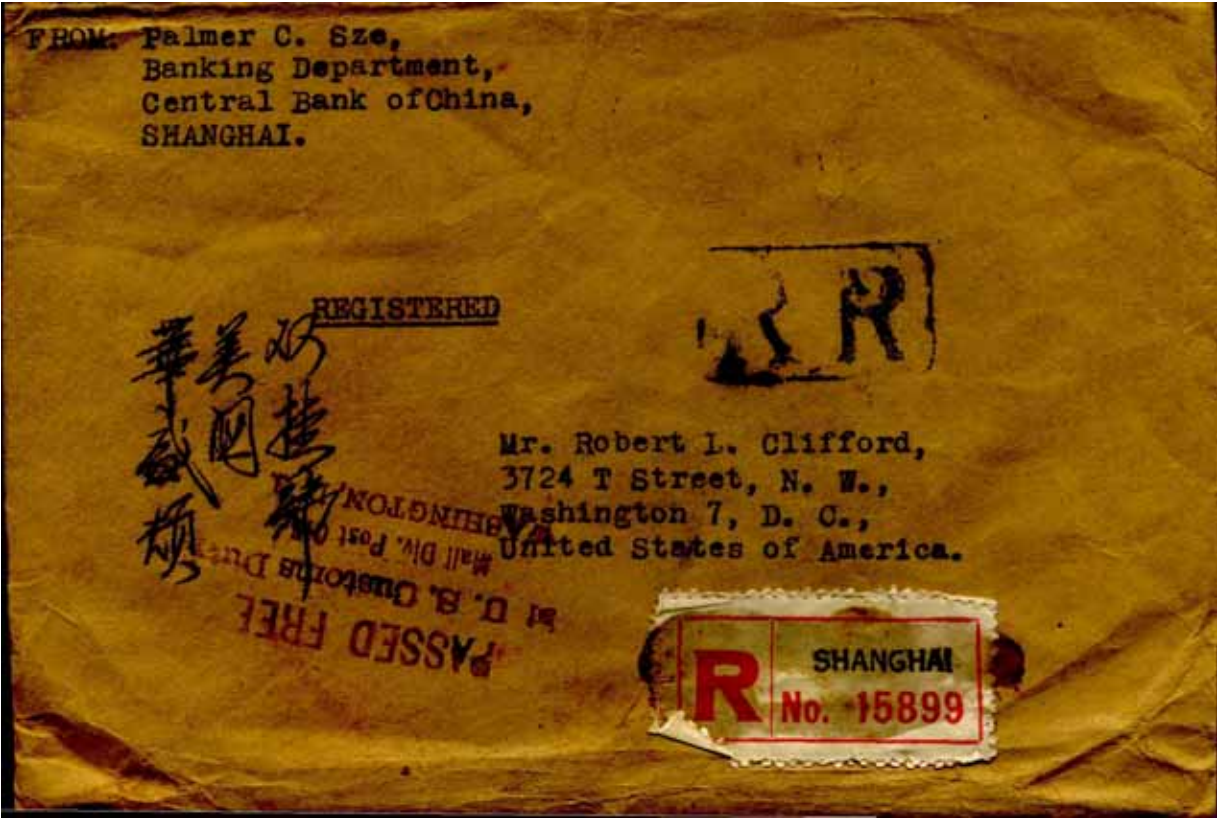
DOUBLE REGISTERED

Rated \$2700 (overprinted 2 × \$1000, \$500), 15–20 g quadruple air supplement, single UPU (surface) \$300, registration \$450, and AR \$350.



AR card remnant.

Surface to US (1946)



Shanghai to Washington, quadruple surface, July 1946. Two-line framed RR. Rated \$1020; surface UPU \$190 for first 20g and \$120 for each additional, registration \$270, and AR \$200.



Air to US (to May 1946)

6 November 1945–20 May 1946, supplemental air fee was \$90 per five grams.



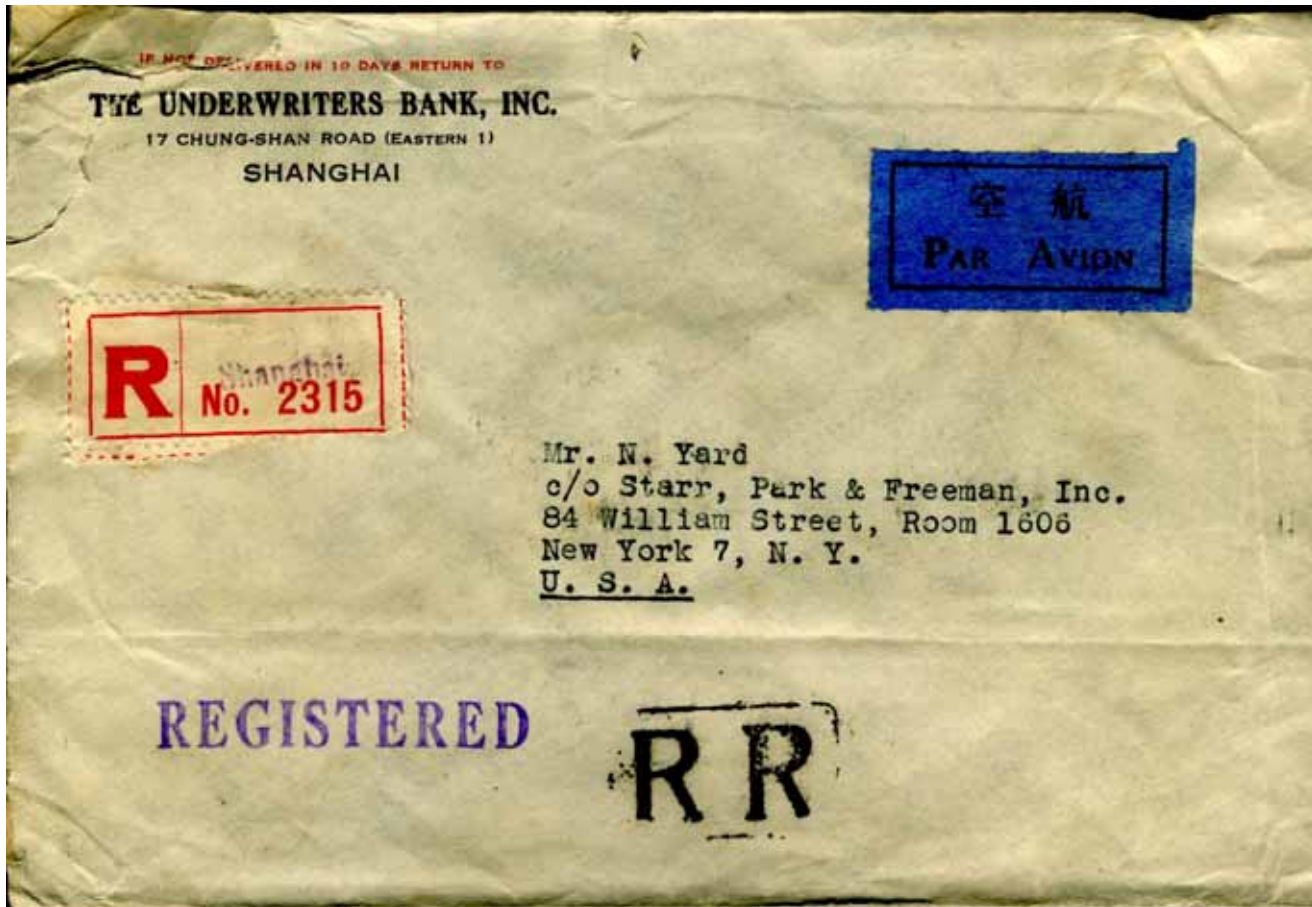
Kunming (Yunnan) to Delaware, triple air and single surface, January 1946. Typescript Double Registered. **Rated** \$400: triple air supplement at \$90 per five grams, single surface UPU \$30 (11–15 g), registration \$50, and AR \$40, overpaid \$10. Remnant of AR card on reverse.



Siulam (Guangdong) to Oakland, February 1946. Bilingual AR. **Rated** \$210; air supplement \$90, surface UPU \$30, registration \$50, and AR \$40. Via Canton.

Air to US (to August 1946)

21 May 1946–28 August 1946, supplemental air fee was \$600 per five grams.



Shanghai to New York, 28 May 1946. Framed RR. Anomalously **Rated** \$1020; air supplement \$600, surface UPU \$190, registration \$270, and AR \$200, vastly underpaid; may have been sent as quadruple surface, which matches the postage exactly.



Air to US (to August 1946)



Dupont, Shanghai to Wilmington (DE), tridectuple, June 1946. Obliqued A.R. at left, and character added to handstamp to indicate double registered.

Rated \$8820, 60–65 g, 13 × \$600 air supplement, quadruple UPU (surface) at \$190 for first 20 g and \$120 for each additional, registration \$270, and AR \$200.



Air to US (to August 1946)



Shanghai to Wilmington (DE), octuple, July 1946. Obliqued A.R. and typescript **DOUBLE REGISTERED**. **Rated** \$5600 (28 × \$200), 35–40 g, 8 × \$600 air supplement, double UPU (surface) at \$190 for first 20 g and \$120 for each additional, registration \$270, and AR \$200, with trivial overpayment of \$10.



Air to US (to end 1946)

22 November 1946–31 December 1946, air mail supplement was \$1100 per five grams.



*Shanghai to San Francisco, octuple, December 1946.
Ms Double registered.*

Rated \$10100 (10 × \$1000 overprinted), 35–40 g, 8 × \$1100 air supplement, double UPU (surface) at \$300 for first 20 g and \$200 for each additional, registration \$450, and AR \$350.



Airmail to US (April 1947)

10 March–30 June 1947, air mail supplement to US & Canada was \$1900 per five grams.



UNRRA, Shanghai to Wakefield (MA), sesqui-rated,
April 1947. Boxed

AIRMAIL

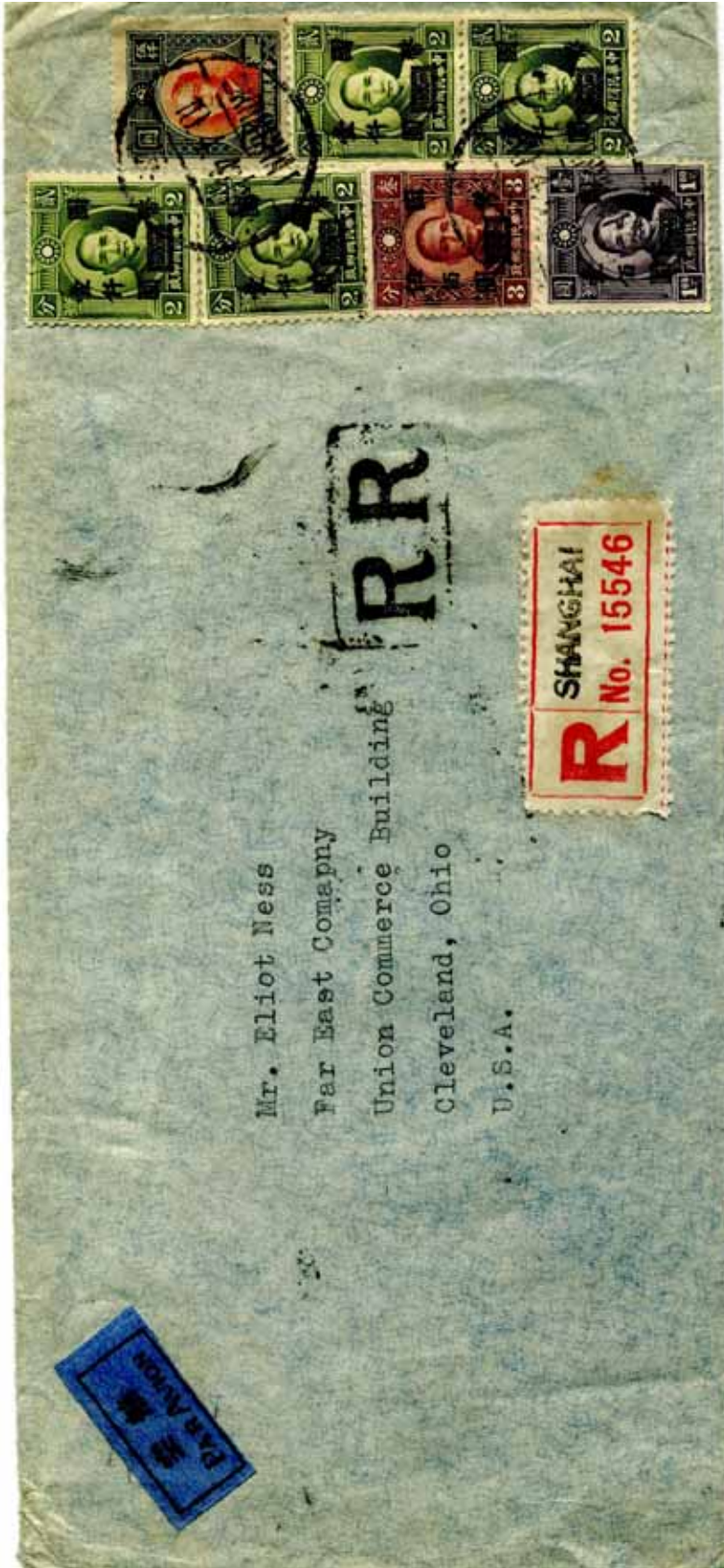
DOUBLE REGISTERED

Rated \$7700 (\$500, \$200 overprinted); 5–10 g,
double air supplement, single UPU (surface) at \$1100,
registration \$1600, and AR \$1200.



Airmail to US (April 1947)

10 March–30 June 1947, air mail supplement to US & Canada was \$1900 per five grams.



*Shanghai to Cleveland, triple air mail, April 1947.
Boxed R R.*

Rated \$9600 (4 × \$1000, \$500, \$100 overprinted);
5–10 g, triple air supplement, single UPU (surface) at \$1100, registration \$1600, and AR \$1200.

Airmail to Canada (September 1947)

1 July–1 October 1947, air mail supplement to US & Canada was \$2100 per five grams.



Shanghai to Toronto, unovigintuple (21 ×), September 1947. Framed RR.

Rated \$51000 (2 × \$500 overprinted); 100–105 g, 21 times air supplement, 5 times UPU (surface) at \$1100 for first 20 g and \$700 for each additional, registration \$1600, and AR \$1200, with inconvenience overpayment of \$200 (equivalent to 5 gold centimes). Chinese customs (red) and Canadian National Revenue (blue) handstamps.



Big airmail to US (November 1947)

13 October–30 November 1947, air mail supplement to the US was \$12500 per **ten** grams.



Shanghai to New York, nonatuple rate, November 1947. Framed RR.

Rated \$146000; 90–100 g, 9 times air supplement, 5 times UPU (surface) at \$5500 for first 20 g and \$3500 for each additional, registration \$8000, and AR \$6000.

Purple handstamp in corner has misspelling, REGISTER**DE**.



Not air to Singapore (1948)

21 August–5 November 1948, supplemental air fee was CNC \$800 000 per ten grams; this was the last rate period before conversion to gold \$.



Hapshan (Guangdong) to Singapore, September 1948. Bilingual boxed **AR**. Rated \$1 000 000; surface UPU \$300 000, registration \$400 000, and AR \$300 000. Insufficient postage for air mail, but exact for surface.

Purple boxed handstamp, *POSTAGE INSUFFICIENT FOR AIR-MAIL*

Hapshan is a tiny place in Guangdong (Canton). Singapore receiver dated 8 Sep 48.



Airmail to US (February 1948)

16 January–29 November 1948, air mail supplement to the US was \$40000 per ten grams.



Shanghai to Wilmington (DE), quintuple rate, February 1948. Framed turquoise RR, typescript DOUBLE REGISTERED, and character (indicating double) added to registration handstamp.

Rated \$252000; 40–50 g, 5 times air supplement, 3 times UPU (surface) at \$11000 for first 20 g and \$7000 for each additional, registration \$15000, and AR \$12000.

Massive airmail to US (March 1948)

For 1–16 March 1948, air mail supplement to the US was \$45000 per ten grams, first class surface \$14000 first 20 g and \$9000 for each additional, registration \$20000, AR \$15000.

Shanghai to Wilmington (DE), received in bad condition, octononuple rate (19×), 2 March 1948. Obliqued faintly boxed AR.

Rated \$899000 plus one stamp missing, likely \$5000. There is no combination of first class and air mail supplement that comes close to yielding the estimated \$904000 postage.

However, 19 times the air mail supplement (180+–190 g) and UPU commercial papers at \$3000 per 50 g with a minimum of \$14000 plus registration and AR fees come to exactly \$904000. No other combination of rates applies.



Named clerk of N.Y. & WASH. RPO



Air to Canada (to November 1949)

5 July–17 November 1949, supplemental air fee was silver \$.40 per ten grams.



?? to Montreal, (pre-18) November 1946. Bilingual boxed AR. Rated silver \$.90 (18 revenue stamps surcharged gold \$500; in April, gold \$ replaced by silver \$ at 10,000 to 1); under 5 grams, air supplement \$.40, surface UPU \$.15, registration \$.20, and AR \$.15.

Via Hong Kong, Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal.



To Queen Elizabeth, 1980



Shanghai to London by air, 1980. Bilingual boxed rubber AR. Rated 190 Yuan. British rubber EXAMINED by L/Sgt E BEWSHEAR.



To Malaya, 1984



Kongd...g? to Penang by air, 1980. Steel AR handstamp. **Rated** 170 Yuan.



Manchuria

In northeast China, Manchuria was under heavy Russian influence, until 1931 when Japan invaded and captured it; it became known as Manchukuo. The largest city, Harbin, was largely populated by White Russian emigrés after the Russian revolution. From 1935, the Russian presence diminished considerably, especially as a result of Japanese atrocities.

Harbin to Japan (1928)

Registration and AR fees to Japan were less than their counterparts to other UPU destinations; at this time, they were 5¢ each to Japan, but 10¢ each to the rest of the world.

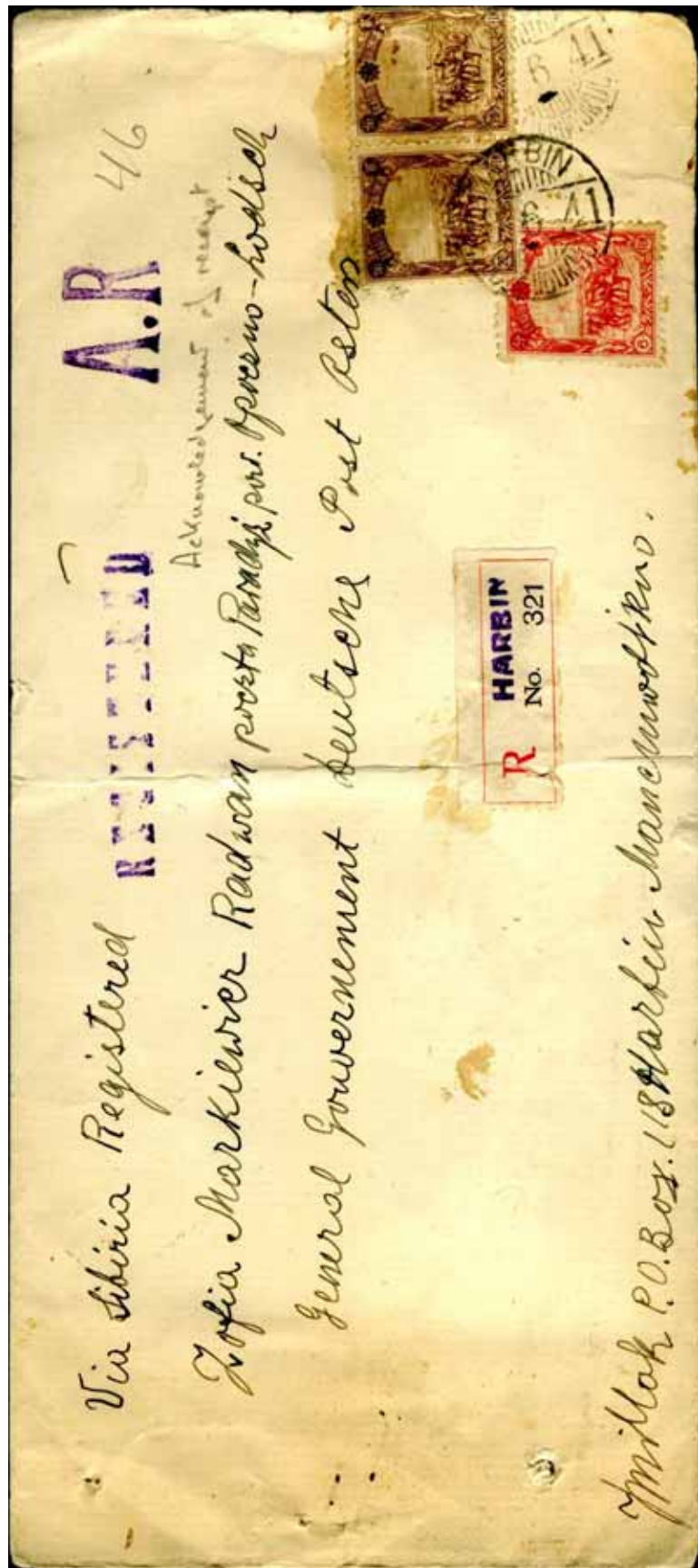


Harbin to Osaka, double, March 1928. Boxed nonserif AR. Rated 18¢; surface to Japan, 2 × 4¢ per 20 g, registration and AR fee to Japan 5¢ each. Remnant of yellow AR form at right, indicating China may not have adopted AR cards until much later than the usual 1921–22.



Harbin, Manchukuo to Poland (1941)

From one puppet state to another.



Harbin to Warsaw, June 1941. Purple A.R.

Rated 46 Fen; 20 F first weight first class international, 16 F registration, and 10 F AR fee. In effect 1937-42, and based on Japanese rates.

Hong Kong

The island ceded (in perpetuity) to UK in 1842, and New Territories leased for 99 years in 1898. Controlled by Japan 25 December 1941–2 September 1945. Sovereignty of the entire region assumed by China in 1997.

Unlike China and Japan, but like most countries in the British Commonwealth and Empire (outside Africa and the Indian subcontinent), the AR fee was always paid in stamps on the AR form or card, rather than on the registered letter.

Formula envelopes

Very difficult to find with AR.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT.	
An acknowledgment of the due receipt by the addressee may be obtained by payment of an extra fee of ten cents.	
INSURANCE OF REGISTERED LETTERS.	
Letters for certain countries may be insured against loss in accordance with Regulations and according to the following table:—	
	Fee.
\$ 120	25 Cents.
\$ 240	50 "
\$ 360	75 "
\$ 480	\$1.00 "
\$ 600	\$1.25 "
\$ 720	\$1.50 "
\$ 840	\$1.75 "
\$ 960	\$2.00 "
\$ 1080	\$2.25 "
\$ 1200	\$2.50 "
The fee for Insurance is in addition to the postage and registration fee.	

Hong Kong to Storminster-Newton (Dorset, England), 1907. Blue crayon ms AR. **Rated** 4¢ British Empire and 10¢ registration fee.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT.	
An acknowledgment of the due receipt by the addressee may be obtained by payment of an extra fee of ten cents.	
INSURANCE OF REGISTERED LETTERS.	
Letters for certain countries may be insured against loss in accordance with Regulations and according to the following table:—	
	Fee.
\$ 120 France 300	25 Cents.
" 240 " 600	50 "
" 360 " 900	75 "
" 480 " 1200	\$1.00 "
" 600 " 1500	\$1.25 "
" 720 " 1800	\$1.50 "
" 840 " 2100	\$1.75 "
" 960 " 2400	\$2.00 "
" 1080 " 2700	\$2.25 "
" 1200 " 3000	\$2.50 "
The fee for Insurance is in addition to the postage and registration fee.	

Hong Kong to Kansas City (MS), 1926. Worn nonserif AR in remnants of frame. **Rated** 10¢ UPU and 10¢ registration fee (embossed).

Hong Kong to UK

Possibly misrated or overpaid.



Hong Kong to London, 1925. Heavily worn encircled nonserif AR. Rated 20¢; Empire rate to UK was less than 10¢, and registration was 10¢.



Hong Kong to US and Macau



Hong Kong to Chicago, 1919. Encircled serif AR. Rated 10¢ UPU and 10¢ registration fee.



Hong Kong to Macau, 1926. Worn nonserif AR in remnants of frame. Rated 4¢ to nearby Macau and 10¢ registration fee.

Hong Kong (1947 & 1956)



Hong Kong to San Francisco, 1947. Typescript DOUBLE REGISTERED. Rated HK \$4 double air mail to US and 25¢ registration fee.



Kowloon to Hong Kong, drop, 1956. Purple rubber boxed nonserif A.R. Rated 10¢ drop letter & 40¢ reg'n.

Hong Kong to US (1957 & 1959)

Marks changeover from payment of AR fee on card to payment on registered cover.



Hong Kong C to Indiana by air, 1957. Standard purple rubber A. R. handstamp. **Rated** \$4.40, made up of double airmail at \$2 per half ounce, and 40¢ registration fee.

Hong Kong to Maryland by air, 1959. Same AR handstamp, in black. **Rated** \$2.80, seemingly made up of \$2 single airmail, 40¢ registration fee, and for the first time, 40¢ AR fee. ↓↓



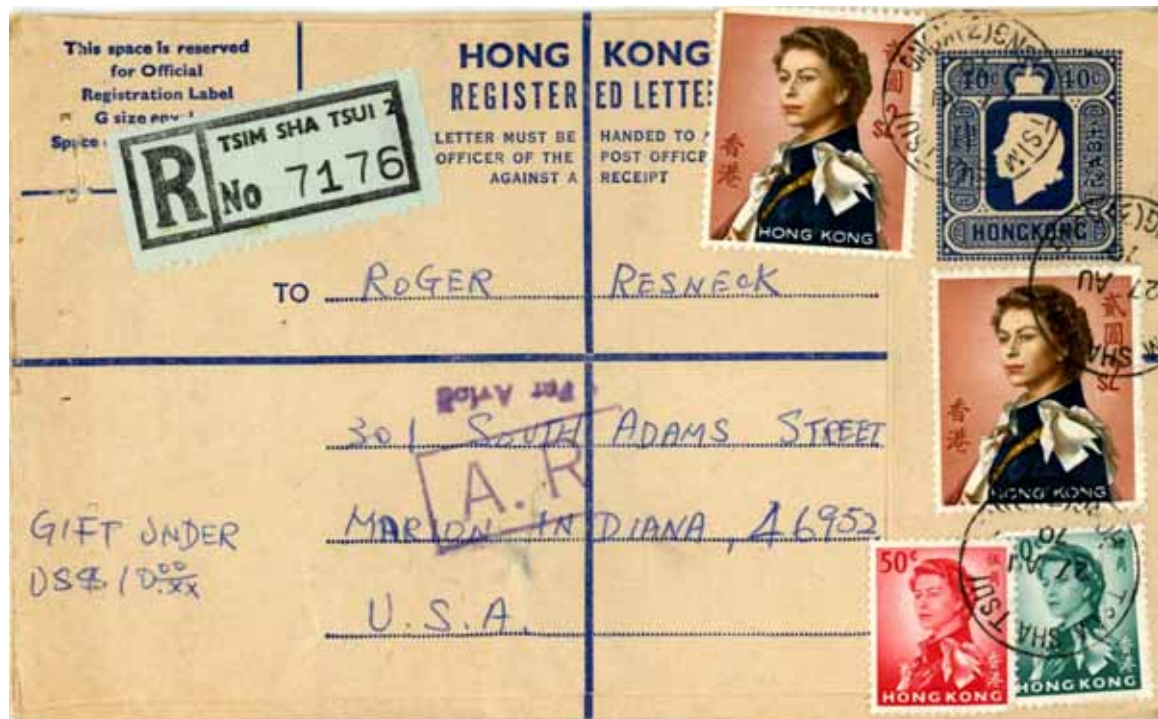
Hong Kong to US (1965)



Man Yee Arcade to New York by air, 1965. Standard purple rubber A. R. handstamp. **Rated \$5.30.**



Hong Kong to US (1970 & 1978)



Tsim Sha Tsui 2 to Indiana by air, 1970. Rubber boxed A. R., and rubber Par Avion. Rated HK \$5.30.



Tsim Sha Tsui C to Georgia by air, 1978. Similar AR handstamp. Rated \$13.50.

Taiwan



Taipei to New Haven (CT), air, September 1954. Company boxed nonserif **DOUBLE REGISTERED** and small boxed **AR** on etiquette. **Rated** NT \$5 air to US (July 1953–March 1955), \$2 registration, and \$1.50 AR.



Taipei to New Haven (CT), air, November 1955. Bilingual AR hs. **Rated** \$7 air to US (April 1955–March 1956), \$3 registration, and \$2 AR.

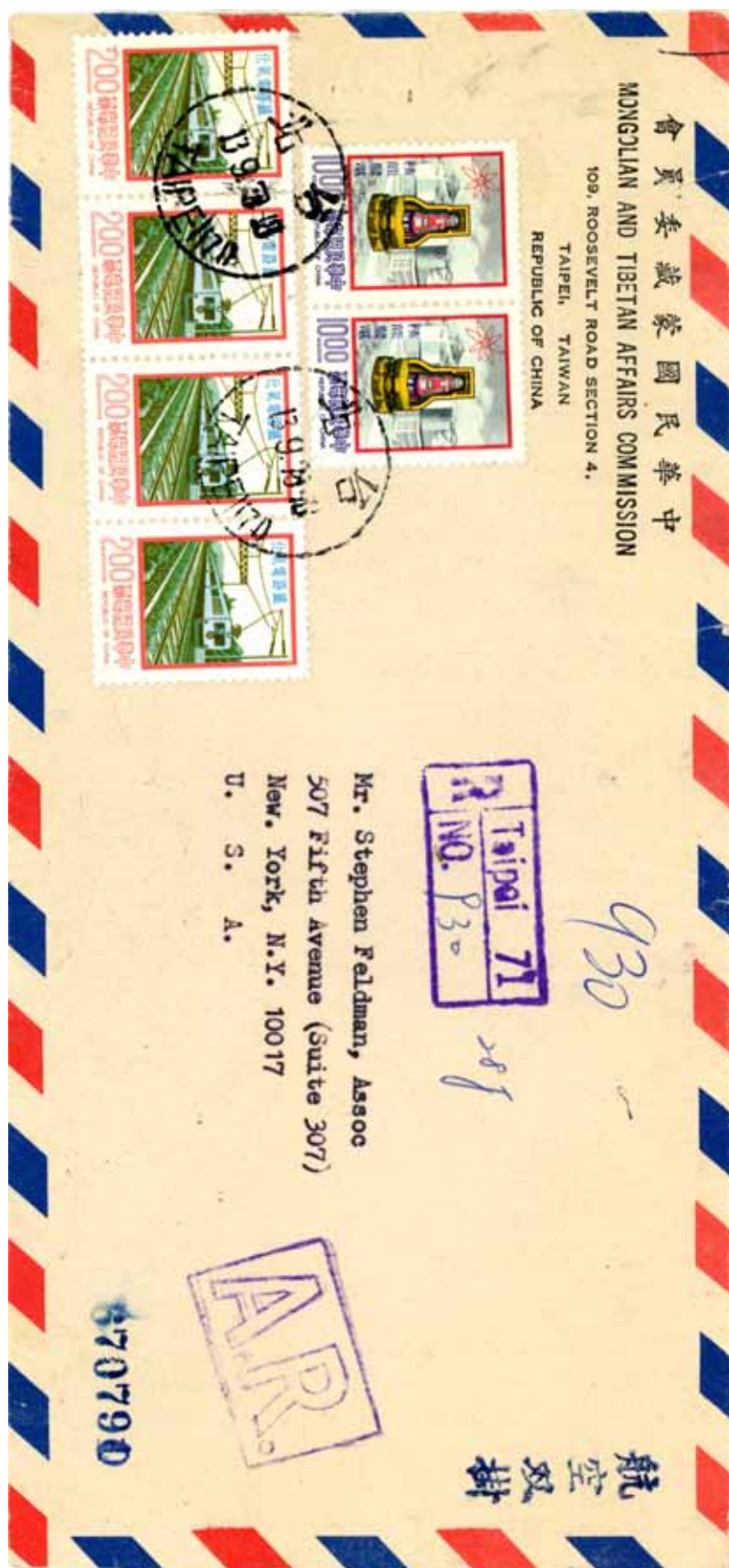
Taiwan, Anomalous air rate to Germany (1955)



Taipei to Hamburg, August 1955. Small purple boxed A. R.

Rated NT \$18; double \$7 air (in effect 1 April 1955–31 March 1956) per ten grams, \$3 registration, and \$2 AR. Shortpaid by \$1, possibly due to clerical error. Ms notation 15g confirms double air mail rate.

Taiwan to US (1978): both misrated



Taipei to New York by air, underpaid, September 1978. Out-line A.R. **Rated** NT \$28 (\$4 short); double air to US (\$10 per half ounce), and \$6 for each of registration and AR.



Same correspondence, overpaid, November 1978. **Rated** \$34 (over by \$2). Also double air (ms 22 g).

Macau (1940)

Portuguese colony 1887–1999, neutral during ww II until protected by Japan (1943–45).



Macau to US, double, 1940. Encircled nonserif AR. **Rated** 48 Avos; UPU 20A first 20 g and 12A next weight; registration 16A; AR fee paid on AR card for Portugal and colonies.



Macau (1954)



Macau to Hong Kong, 1954. Same AR hs as on 1940 example.

Rates unknown.

Commemorative postmark (centennial of the first Portuguese postage stamp). No backstamps. Blue paper may be remnant of AR card.

Foreign devils' offices

Following the Boxer Rebellion, eight countries (and later, the US) established their own post offices (FDO) in China. They were closed by the early 1920s.

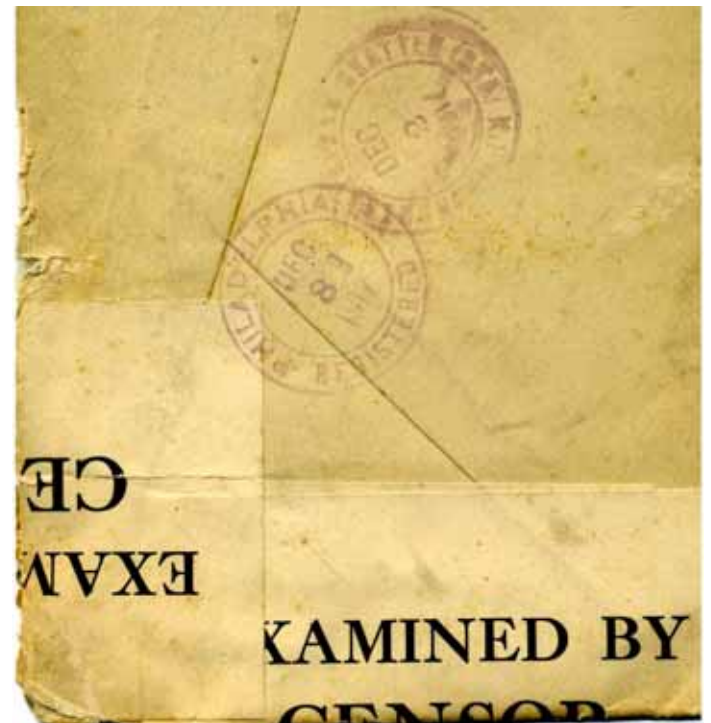


Japanese FDO in Peking (1917)

International Japanese PO in Peking, to US, double, 1917. Red ms AR.

Rated double UPU rate at 10 sen for the first 20g and 6 s for the next; 10 s registration, and 5 s AR fee.

Faded purple address reads, Dr Chas C Harrison, 400 Chester St, Philadelphia. The IPO closed in 1922.



Canadian censorship (in effect 1917–19 on incoming mail to North America from Asia), likely at Victoria or Vancouver.

Japanese FDO in Tientsin (1916)

From an American infantry Chaplain during World War I.



Tientsin to Hartford (CT), 1916. Ms red US-style *Return Registered Card Requested*. **Rated** 10 Sen for each of UPU and registration fees; based on other covers, the 5 S Japanese AR fee should have been paid on the cover. (There are no stamps missing from front or back.) Japanese datestamp, TIENSIN 2, INPO.



Russian FDO in Chefoo



Russian office in Chefoo to New Zealand, February 1920. Ms A.R.

Rated 20¢ (overprinted) made up of single UPU 10¢ and registration 10¢; AR fee would have been paid on the AR form.

Russian post offices in China closed later in 1920.



Chefoo JPO (Japanese Post Office), same day as Russian office, postmark on reverse.

Quintuple US FDO to UK, missing AR form

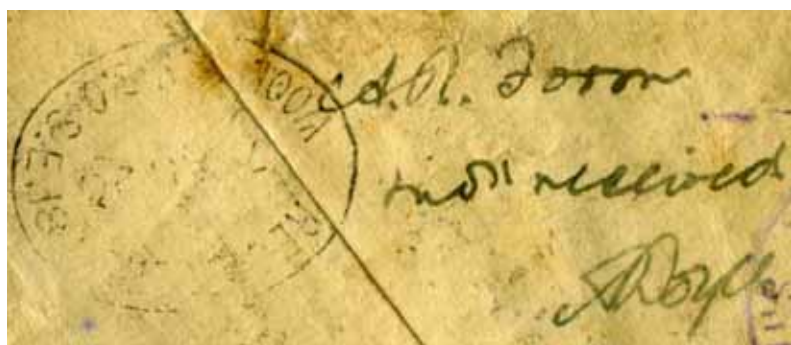
US office in Shanghai; UK clerk noting that the AR form was missing. A *duplicate* would have had to have been prepared in London.



Quintuple, US office in Shanghai to UK, July 1920. Red crayon ms AR. Envelope made of heavy cloth.

Rated 26¢ (US) made up of quintuple UPU 5¢ for the first half ounce, and 3¢ for each additional weight, registration 10¢, and the US did not charge for AR.

Unoverprinted stamps tied by indistinct oval **US Postal Agency Shanghai China RD.** Carried on the CPR *Empress of Russia*, departed 3 July, arrived Vancouver 19 July. Then to New York and London. Ex-Unwin



A.R. Form not received (based on the 1922 example, applied at London).

Aargh, French FDO in Tientsin and German FDO in Tsingtao
Both in really lousy condition.



French office in Tientsin to Ypres (Belgium), February 1908. Usual French and colonial octogonal AR.
Rated 14¢ (overprinted $2 \times 2\text{¢}$, $2 \times 5\text{¢}$, overprinted) and two missing stamps. I have no idea how the rates were computed (French registration was 25 centimes, AR 10 ctm). Backstamps at Ypres.



Kiautschou to Cologne, 1909. [front only] Ms
mit Rückschein. Missing stamp. ↓↓



AR forms

I don't have any internationally used from China, except the little bits of yellow paper stuck to a few of the pre-1925 AR covers. There is one illustrated in the literature. So I will have to make do with an *incoming* AR form (difficult to find, even from the US).

US to China

Mailed from the Panama Pacific International Exhibition (PPIE), 1915. Second reported strike of Model Post Office; only known international AR form mailed from PPIE.

Form 3870.

Administration of United States of America.
Administration des États-Unis d'Amérique.

Model Post Office
Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____ entered at the office
for a registered article (_____) (1) enregistré au bureau
d'un objet recommandé (_____) (1)
of _____ the _____, 19 _____, under No. 3318 (2)
de _____ le _____, 19 _____, sous le No. _____ (2)
mailed by M. *Dir of Leonie & Medal*
expédiée par M. _____
and addressed to M. *Hon Minister of Finance*
et adressé à M. _____
(complete address) *Peking China*
(adresse complète) _____

The undersigned declares that a letter with declared value, or the above-mentioned address, and
that a registered article, or the above-mentioned address, and
Le soussigné déclare qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée, à l'adresse susmentionnée, et
qu'un objet recommandé, à l'adresse susmentionnée, et

Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

originating at _____, has been duly
provenant de _____ a été dûment
delivered the _____, 19 _____
livré le _____, 19 _____
Signature (3) of the addressee:
Signature (3) du destinataire:
Chow Hsin-fai
Minister of Finance
Signature (3) of the postal official of the office of delivery:
Signature (3) de l'agent du bureau distributeur:

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.).
(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).
(2) Office of origin; date of mailing at that office; registration No. of this office.
(2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.
(3) Note.—This receipt must be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of destination permit it, by the postal official of the office of delivery, then placed in an envelope and sent by the first mail to the office of origin of the article to which it relates.
(3) Note.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé par la première courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

5-4172

US AR form to returned from Peking, September 1915. Via Seattle and Moukden to Peking, signed there, and returned under cover to the post office of origin (the Model Post Office), who would forward it to the sender. The original registered letter that this would have accompanied possibly contained medals for the Chinese exhibits.

One of three US AR forms with a watermark, this one being a large seal of the United States.



International AR form used domestically

One of two or three known examples of the form intended for international use; here used domestically.

Administration de Chine.

Timbre du bureau expéditeur.
Stamp of the forwarding Office.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

d'un objet recommandé (L) ⁽¹⁾ enregistré 1108 au bureau Hankow
of a registered article entered at the Office

de Hankow le 26th May 1919 sous le No. 6704 ⁽²⁾
of on the under

expédié par M. Com. Killiard, R.M.S. "Cadmus".
posted by

et adressé à M. H. E. M. A. Picard Destelan.
and addressed to

(adresse complète)
(address in full) Peking.

Timbre du bureau distributeur.
Stamp of the distributing Office.

Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant
The undersigned declares that a registered article to the above address and posted

de Hankow a été dûment
at has been duly

livré le 28. mai 19 19
delivered on the

du destinataire:
of the addressee: H. Picard Destelan

SIGNATURE ⁽¹⁾

de l'agent du bureau distributeur:
of the employé of distributing Office: P. P. O. Peking

(1) Nature d'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).
Nature of article (letter, sample, printed matter).

(2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.
Office of origin; date of posting; registration No.

(3) NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par les destinataires ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

NOTE.—This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee or, the regulations of the country of destination permitting, by the employé of the distributing Office, and returned under cover by the first mail to the Office of origin.

Chinese AR form, Hankow, returned from Peking, 1919. For a registered letter from the commanding officer of HMS Cadmus (sloop, launched 1903, served in Far East until sold in 1921) to Henri-Ernest-Marie-Félix Picard Destelan (1878–1971) co-director general of French post offices in China.

A.R. No. _____

Returned from _____

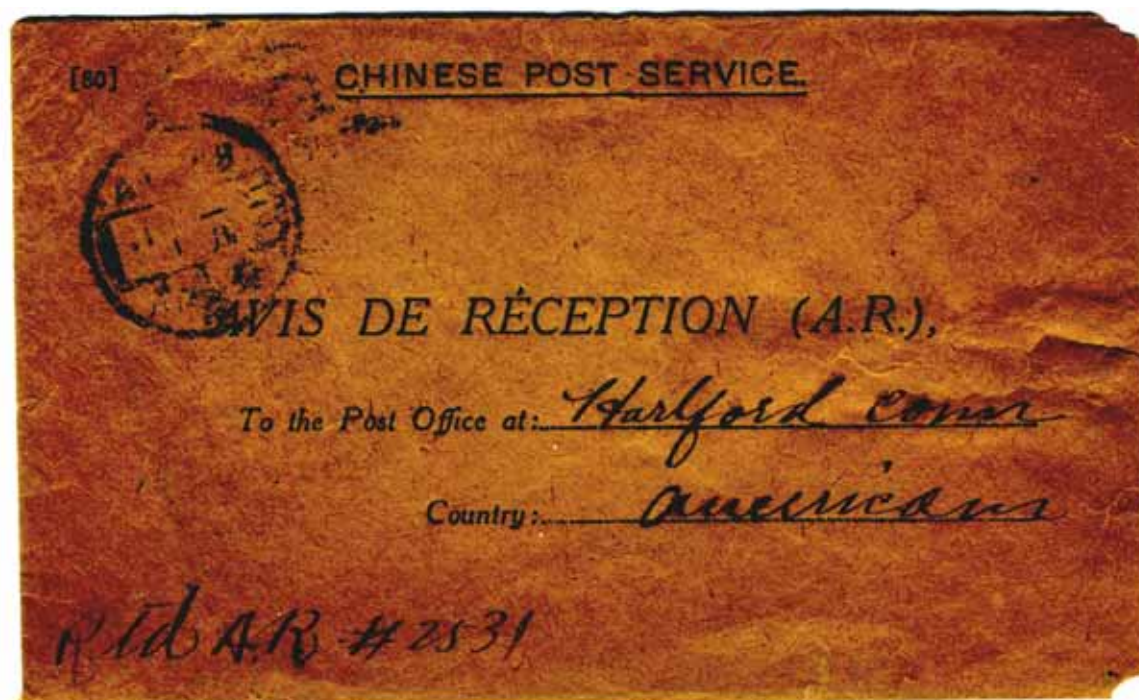
THE CHINESE POST OFFICE,

[Date stamp of returning Office.] [Date stamp of Office to which returned.]

Sent under cover, the back ignored; otherwise, properly signed for. Also signed by clerk at the Chinese Post Office.

AR covering envelopes

Used to return AR forms that could not be sent as folded letter sheets (such as those of the US). Only two others are known from China.



?? to Hartford (CT) via Shanghai, January 1922.



Kwang-Tchéo-Wan AR covering envelope (1939)

Now Guangzhouwan, this was an enclave on the south coast of China leased/annexed by France in 1898, who hoped it would eventually rival Hong Kong and Macau (it didn't). Free French 1940–1943, occupied by Japan (1943–45), recaptured for the French (1945), and ceded by them to China (1946). During the French period, it was administered by French Indochina.

G - 16

GOVERNEMENT GÉNÉRAL
de l'Indochine

DIRECTION
des Postes, des Télégraphes
et des Téléphones

Timbre du bureau expéditeur

ENVOI

D'UN AVIS DE RÉCEPTION OU DE PAYEMENT
d'une demande de retrait de correspondance ou de rectification d'adresse
ou d'un objet revêtu de timbres-poste présumés frauduleux
(SERVICE INTÉRIEUR OU INTERNATIONAL)

Bureau de poste de _____


Province } de _____
ou service }

_____ (Pays de destination).

Timbres-poste

Stockton Calif

NOTA. — Cette enveloppe doit être expédiée sous recommandation.
1^{re} D'office si elle contient un objet revêtu de timbres-poste frauduleux.
2^{re} Avec affranchissement en timbres-poste (taxe) et droit à la charge du requérant s'il s'agit d'une demande de retrait ou de vérification.



Tche-Kam to Stockton (CA), August 1939. Tche-Kam is near northernmost Kwang-Tchéo-Wan. Standard French colony form envelope for returning AR forms (and for other practically nonexistent uses), this one printed for Indochina. By 1922, the US had switched to AR cards, which (normally) did not require covering envelopes; this use is somewhat mysterious.



AR cards

For most jurisdictions, AR cards replaced AR forms around 1921–1922; however, the 1928 Manchuria to Japan AR cover has remnants of the AR form. So some offices continued to use forms.

Pre-1930

Worldwide, most jurisdictions used drab AR cards until ca 1930

International Chinese AR card, used domestically, 1925. For a registered letter from Manchouli (Inner Mongolia) to Harbin (Manchuria). No stamps, as Chinese AR fee was paid on the registered letter, not on the card. Properly signed and returned to sender.

Incoming Czech AR card, returned from Harbin, 1926. For a registered letter from Czechoslovakia to Harbin. Properly signed.

International Chinese AR card, used domestically, 1925. For a registered letter from Manchouli (Inner Mongolia) to Harbin (Manchuria). No stamps, as Chinese AR fee was paid on the registered letter, not on the card. Properly signed and returned to sender.

Incoming Czech AR card, returned from Harbin, 1926. For a registered letter from Czechoslovakia to Harbin. Properly signed.

Incoming Czech AR card, returned from Harbin, 1926. For a registered letter from Czechoslovakia to Harbin. Properly signed.

Incoming Czech AR card, returned from Harbin, 1926. For a registered letter from Czechoslovakia to Harbin. Properly signed.

Post-1930

Most jurisdictions' AR cards became shades of red (usually pink).

[D.-34] A.R. 中華郵政收件回執 C5 (Recto) (Front) (Règl., art. 126, § 2)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE CHINE.
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA.

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine.)
(To be filled in by the Office of origin.)

Envoi recommandé () (1) (2)
Registered article
Lettre-Boîte-Collis **Letter**
Lettre-Boîte-Parcelle
avec valeur déclarée de (2)
insured for
Mandat de poste de (2)
Postal money order for
déposé au bureau de poste de
posted at the Office of

25 August 1946

le 1946 sous le No.
on expédié par M. **R. I. V. Kozloff**
sent by M.
et adressé à M. **Rev. A. Clark**
and addressed to M. **20 Stephens Road**
à **S. Brisbane, Australia**

(1) Indiquer dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé, etc.).
Indicate in parenthesis the nature of the article (letter, printed paper, etc.).
(2) Donner les indications utiles.
Strike out indications not required.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
DELIVERY
ADVICE OF PAYMENT
PAYMENT

(A remplir par l'expéditeur qui mentionnera ci-dessous son adresse complète.)
(To be filled in by the sender who will indicate below his full address.)

R. I. V. KOZLOFF
145/12 R-te Grouchy
Shanghai, China

(Lieu de destination, en gros caractères)
(Place of destination in block letters)

(Rue et numéro)
(Street and number)

SERVICE DES POSTES (Pays de destination)
Postal Service (Country of destination)

450,000/4. v. 30.

SOUTH BRISBANE
11 SEP 1946

Le destinataire déclare que le contenu mentionné est bien le sien.
The addressee declares that the contents mentioned are his own.

Signature: *A. Clark*

Chinese AR card returned from Australia, 1946. For a registered letter from Shanghai to South Brisbane. Properly signed and returned to sender.

[D.-34] A.R. 中華郵政收件回執 C5 (Recto) (Front) (Règl., art. 126, § 2)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE CHINE.
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA.

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine.)
(To be filled in by the Office of origin.)

Envoi recommandé () (1) (2)
Registered article
Lettre-Boîte-Collis
Lettre-Boîte-Parcelle
avec valeur déclarée de (2)
insured for
Mandat de poste de (2)
Postal money order for
déposé au bureau de poste de
posted at the Office of

le 1948 sous le No.
on expédié par M.
sent by M.
et adressé à M.
and addressed to M.
à

(1) Indiquer dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé, etc.).
Indicate in parenthesis the nature of the article (letter, printed paper, etc.).
(2) Donner les indications utiles.
Strike out indications not required.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
DELIVERY
ADVICE OF PAYMENT
PAYMENT

Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis.
Stamp of the Office forwarding the Advice.

(A remplir par l'expéditeur qui mentionnera ci-dessous son adresse complète.)
(To be filled in by the sender who will indicate below his full address.)

Mr. Stephen
3035 Fern St
Fresno, Calif
U.S.A.

(Lieu de destination, en gros caractères)
(Place of destination in block letters)

(Rue et numéro)
(Street and number)

SERVICE DES POSTES (Pays de destination)
Postal Service (Country of destination)

200,000/18. st. 29.

FRESNO, CALIF.
11 SEP 1948

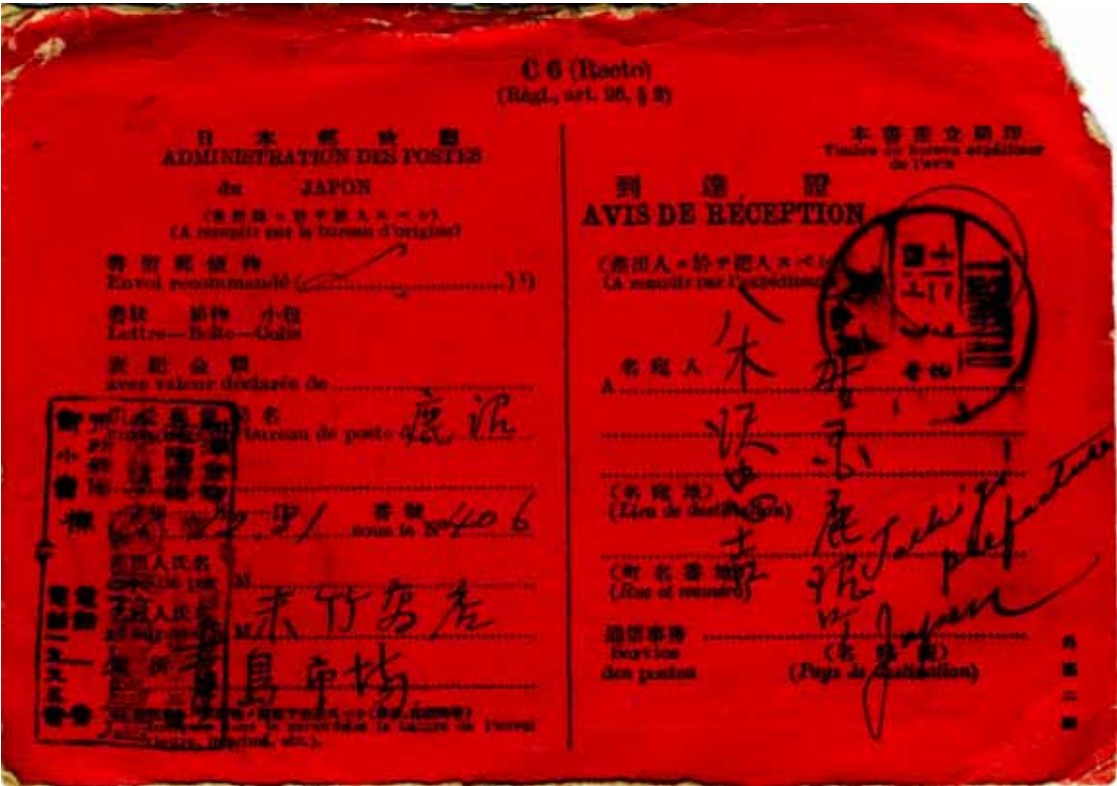
Le destinataire déclare que le contenu mentionné est bien le sien.
The addressee declares that the contents mentioned are his own.

Signature: *Stephen King (Miss Mary)*

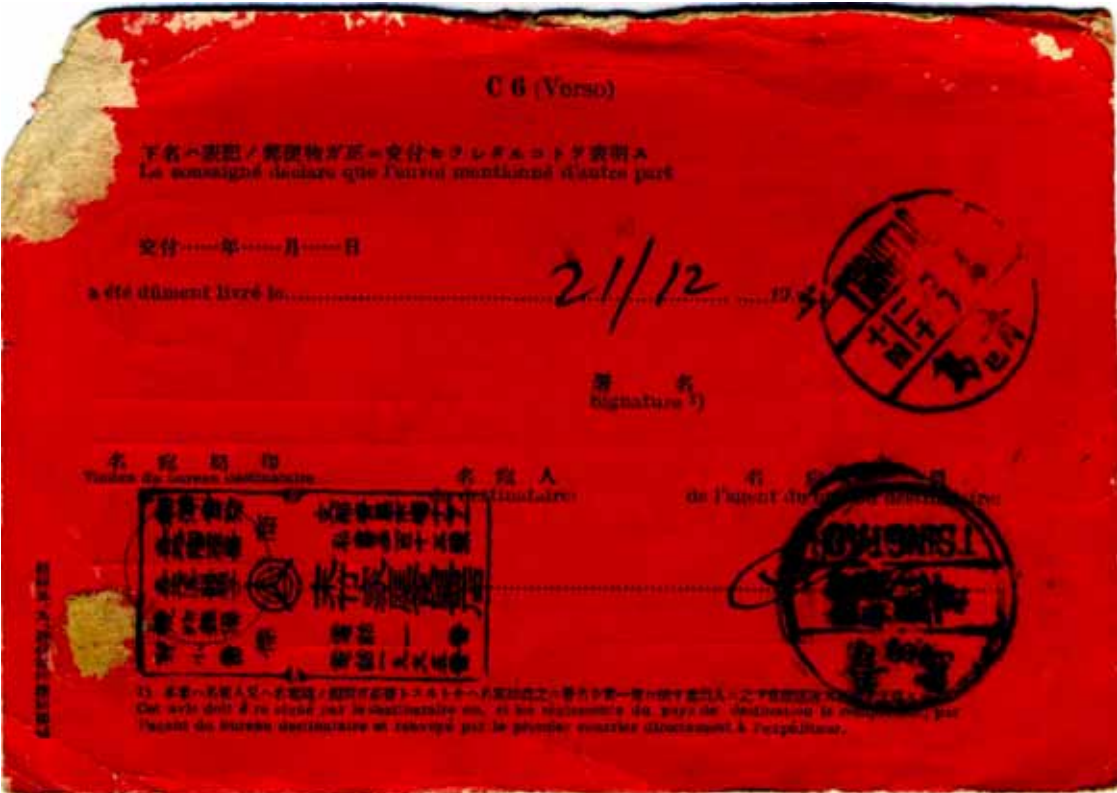
Returned from Fresno (CA) to Nanking, 1948. Properly signed and returned to sender. Card was attached to the registered letter with glue; when card detached, it pulled some of the envelope with it.

Incoming AR card

Japanese AR card returned from occupied China, ca 1942. Tsingtao (Qingdao) was seized in 1938.



Japanese AR card returned from Tsingtao, 1943. For a registered letter from Tachigi Prefecture. Properly signed and returned to sender.



With remnants of the attached envelope.

AR card mailed *after* the registered letter was mailed; very, very seldom seen. Also known as *after-the-fact*, or *delayed* AR. Dairen (Dalian) was part of Manchukuo until it was leased to Japan in 1937.

Subsequent AR card returned from Aalborg (Denmark) to Dairen, November 1937. The original registered letter was delivered 11 September 1937; the card was sent from Dairen 29 November 1937, well after the registered letter was mailed, and signed at Aalborg 14 January 1938.

C 5 (Verso)

下名ノ通知ノ郵便物正ニ交付セテ
送附ノ為ニ送附ヘシタルコトヲ証明ス

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part
le mandat


交付
年 月 日
支拂
a été émis le 11 Sep 1900 10 37

署名
Signature

名宛局印
Timbre du bureau destinataire

名宛人
du destinataire

名宛局員
de l'agent du bureau destinataire

 X L. Jørgensen

1) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

Canadian subsequent AR card to Taiwan (1974), mishandled registered letter

Canadian AR card mailed on 13 November 1974, months after the original registered letter was posted, 4 June 1974. Here it was used as if it were an inquiry form. One other Canadian subsequent AR card is known in this period.

26 WPG-Bileski 1265

to be filled in by office of origin—À remplir par le bureau d'origine

Deposited at the Post Office of / Déposé au bureau de poste de **STATION "B" WINNIPEG - CANADA**

On / le **JUNE 4** 1974 under Registered no. / sous le n° de recommandation **2775**

Name or Firm / Nom ou raison sociale **MR. STEPHEN F. VAN HOESSEN**

No. and Street / Numéro et rue **(CDE) (TAIWAN) INC. - P.O. BOX 181**

Post Office / Bureau de poste **TAOYUAN-330-TAIWAN** Zone Province Country / Pays **REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

To be completed at office of destination—À compléter à destination

(1) I acknowledge that this registered article has been delivered on / Je déclare que l'envoi recommandé recommandé a été dûment livré le **23 JUL 1974**

Signature of addressee OR authorized representative / Signature du destinataire OU de son représentant

Signature of Postmaster at office of delivery / Signature de l'agent du bureau destinataire

(2) This advice should be signed by the addressee or authorized representative or, if the regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the Postmaster of the delivery office and returned by the mail to the address shown on other side. / Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou son représentant ou, si le règlement du pays de destination le comporte, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier à l'adresse indiquée au recto.

Date stamp of office of delivery

Canadian AR card used subsequently, returned to Winnipeg from Taipei; erroneously signed for, 1974. Rated 25¢ subsequent AR fee (ordinary AR fee was 15¢).

According to the accompanying letter from the Secretary of the Board of Trade and another letter, the signature was by a recipient, box 181 Taipei, not the correct box 181 Taoyuan (both in Taiwan). Kasimir Bileski (1908–2005) was a very well known stamp dealer.

May 20, 1975

Mr. K. BILESKEI
STA. "B" WINNIPEG
MANITOBA CANADA
R2W 3A4

P. O. Box 181
Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Mr. BILESKEI:

Upon inquiries of Taipei Post Office we found that your registered mail No. 2775 had, for unknown reason, been delivered to P. O. Box 181 Taipei last July.

We are very much annoyed to know that this mail didn't reach the addressee when it was returned. All parties concerned as of now are still looking for it. However after more than two weeks of futile endeavor searching the mail, we come to a conclusion that the mail might have been lost and perhaps not retrievable because it has lapsed such a long time and also because we took it for a regular mail by the time it was returned to the post office.

Now that we are advised by the people from Taipei Post Office and also agreed upon by Mr. Van Hoesen to contact you directly to settle this unfortunate matter.

Considering our responsibility on this unfortunate matter, though it is apparent we are entangled in, we propose to absorb 50% of your claim amount i.e. to pay you fifty US dollars to close this case.

If our sincere proposal is agreeable then we will notify Taipei Post Office to stop processing your claim by means of international postal agreement. So please let us know your opinion.

We hope this bothering event will be settled amicably between you and us soon.


Truly yours,
M. C. TANG

Hong Kong AR card returned by air

The 40¢ postage represents the charge (equal to the air mail fee to the destination of the registered letter, as prescribed by the UPU) for the optional service of AR card return by air. It does *not* represent the AR fee, which, for Hong Kong, was paid on the registered envelope at least since 1959.

POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
of
d HONG KONG

ON POSTAL SERVICE
SERVICE DES POSTES

(1) 

ADVICE OF
AVIS DE (2)

DELIVERY
RÉCEPTION
PAYMENT
PAIEMENT

Mr. C. W. Chiu,
(Name or firm) (Nom ou raison sociale)

(3) P.O. Box 1657, Hongkong.
(Street and number) (Rue et numéro)

(Locality) (Localité) (Country) (Pays)

(1) If this advice is to be returned by air, mark very clearly with the indication "Renvoi par avion" (Return by air mail) and affix a blue label or stamp "Par avion" (By air mail).
Si le présent avis doit être renvoyé par avion, le revêtir de la mention très apparente "Renvoi par avion" et de l'étiquette ou d'une empreinte de couleur bleue "Par avion".

(2) Strike out whichever entry does not apply.
Biffer ce qui ne convient pas.

(3) To be filled in by the sender, giving his address for the return of this advice.
A remplir par l'expéditeur, qui indiquera son adresse pour le renvoi du présent avis.

Pos-7

Returned from Chicago, 1962. Rated 40¢ for return of AR card by air; this is very difficult to find.

To be filled in by the office of origin
A remplir par le bureau d'origine

(1) Registered item (2)
Envoi recommandé

(1) { Letter (Lettre) insured for
Box (Boîte) avec valeur déclarée de
Parcel (Colis)

(1) Postal money order for
Mandat de poste de (Amount) (Montant)

posted at the office of
déposé au bureau de poste de

on the 19..... under No. 31073
le sous le No.

Mr. Samuel Ray,
(Name or firm) (Nom ou raison sociale)

350 Oakdale Avenue,
(Street and number) (Rue et numéro)

Chicago 14, Illinois, U. S. A.
(Place of destination) (Lieu de destination) (Country of destination) (Pays de destination)

To be completed at the
place of destination
A compléter à destination

The undersigned declares that
Le soussigné déclare que (1) the item mentioned above has been duly delivered (livré)
the money order mentioned ci-dessus a été dûment paid (payé)
le mandat

on the 19.....
le

Signature (3) of the addressee
Signature du destinataire

Signature of the official of the
Office of destination
Signature de l'agent du
bureau destinataire

Stamp of the office
of destination
Timbre du bureau
destinataire

(1) Strike out whichever entry does not apply. (Biffer ce qui ne convient pas.)

(2) Indicate in the brackets the nature of the item (letter, postcard, printed paper, etc.), if necessary.
Indiquer dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, carte postale, imprimé, etc.) s'il y a lieu.

(3) This advice should be signed by the addressee or by a person authorised to do so under the regulations of the Country of destination, or, if those regulations permit, by the official of the office of destination, and returned by the first mail direct to the sender.
Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou par une personne y autorisée en vertu des règlements du Pays de destination, ou, si ces règlements le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

Properly signed and stamped.

Hong Kong AR used domestically (1949)

Administration des Postes d' HONG KONG
Postal Administration of HONG KONG.

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)
(To be filled in by the office of origin)

Envoi recommandé }
Registered article } (.....) 1/2

Lettre }
Letter }
Boîte } avec valeur déclarée de..... 3)
Box } insured for
Colis }
Parcel }

déposé au bureau de poste de }
posted at the office of }

le } 19..... sous le No. }
on } under No. }

expédié par M } 祥利號
sent by M }

et adressé à M } 威灵頓街170號地
and addressed to M }
à } 香港
at }

1) Indiquer dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi
Indicate in parenthesis the nature of the article
(lettre, imprimé, etc.)
(letter, printed paper, etc.)

2) Biffer les indications inutiles.
Strike out indications not required.

Timbre
Stamp

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION 30c

1874 1949

HONG KONG

AVIS DE RÉCE
ADVICE OF DEL

(A remplir par l'expéditeur)
(To be filled in by the sender)
with the address to which
should be returned

A.....
To.....

Kwong Yuen Co.

Rue et Numéro.....
Street and Number

P.O. Box 1270.

Lieu de destination.....
(en gros caractères)
Place of destination
(in block letters)

Hong Kong

Service
des postes
Postal service.

(Pays de destination)
(Country of destination)

Hong Kong AR card for drop letter, October 1949. Rated 30¢, domestic AR fee

(G.P.O.—R.B. 8)

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part
The undersigned states that the article mentioned overleaf

a été dûment livré le.....19.....
was duly delivered on.....

Signature du destinataire
(Signature 1)

du destinataire:
of the addressee:

de l'agent du bureau destinataire:
of the official of the office of destination:

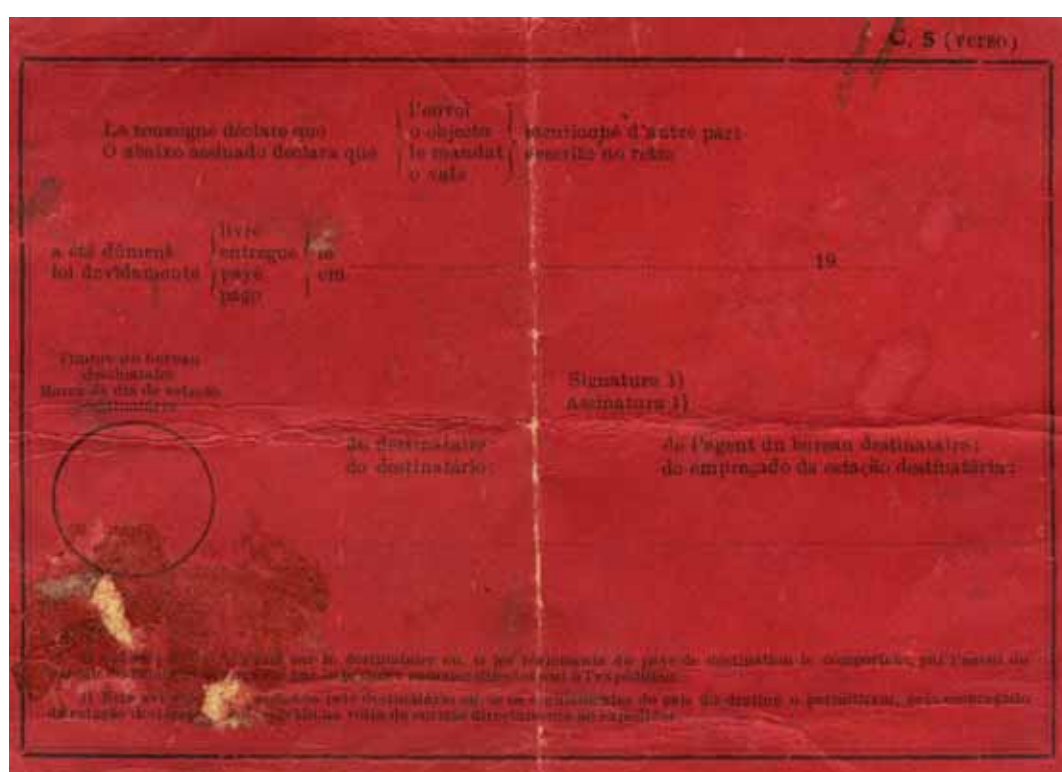
Stamp of Delivering Office.

1) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.
This advice must be signed by the addressee or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the official of the delivering office, and then sent by first mail directly to the sender.

AR card from Macau (1940)



Macau AR card returned Tokyo, unsigned, August 1940 [date determined by notation at middle left]. For Macau (as with other Portuguese colonies), the AR fee was paid on the AR card, not the registered cover. **Rated** 22 Avos, overpaying the AR fee by 2 A. Stamps uncanceled and no signature, indicating either the registered letter was returned to sender, or the registered letter was delivered but the card was ignored.



Glued to the registered letter at lower left.

Domestic AR

For most of these covers, I really don't have a clue. Registration and AR fees for both domestic and local mail were each 5¢ 1897–1922. Domestic postage (except to Hong Kong and Macau) was 1¢ per half ounce, 8 April 1902–31 October 1904. Domestic registration and AR fees generally differed from their international counterparts.



To or from Peking??, quadruple?, November 1902. Doubled **R.R** (double registered). Apparently **Rated** quadruple domestic at 1¢ per half ounce (this does not seem correct), and 5¢ for both registration and AR.

This is fake: Pointed out by Sam Chiu

Domestic (1906)

Domestic rate increased to 2¢ per half ounce; in effect 1 September 1904–4 August 1910.



To or from ??, November 1906. Framed nonserif (locally made?) **AR**. **Rated** 2¢ domestic and 5¢ for both registration and AR.

Domestic parcel post (1923)

AR service was evidently available on domestic non-registered insured parcel post, although there is no literature on it. Below is a receipt for the sender of such an item.

郵政儲金便利穩固 郵政匯兌簡捷省費

[D-100] 中華郵政 POST OFFICE

第 No. 3489 包裹收據 PARCEL RECEIPT.

收包人姓名 Addressee's Name G. H. Mulholland

住址 Address Shanghai

內裝何物 Contents Brass solder 重量 Weight 1900

包費價值 Value	元 5	角分 10	郵費 Postage	元 5	角分 8
保險數目 Insured for			保險費 Insurance fee		
代寄貨價 Trade Charge (C.O.D.)			代收貨價 Fee		

寄件人姓名 Sender's Name Mrs. E. R. Feeney

住址 Address Shan Hotel Wagons, Ltd.,

(Signature of Officer issuing Receipt)

Peiping to Shanghai, November 1923. Crude boxed AR.

Registration receipt stamped AR (Manchuria)

[D 1]

CHINESE POST OFFICE. 8842

No. _____

Received a registered _____ addressed _____

W. K. L. Chen Bank.

Harbin

HARBIN
Date stamp 27.
1 21 9
哈尔滨

Signature of Officer issuing Receipt } _____

Harbin, September 1927.

Domestic Manchuria (1925)

Domestic rate 3¢ per 20 g; in effect 1 January 1923–31 October 1925.



Harbin to Manchouli, October 1925. Boxed nonserif (locally made?) AR. Rated 3¢ domestic, and 5¢ for each of registration and AR. Cyrillic registration hammer used in Harbin. Next day service to Manchouli (Manzhuli) in Inner Mongolia.

Domestic (1935)

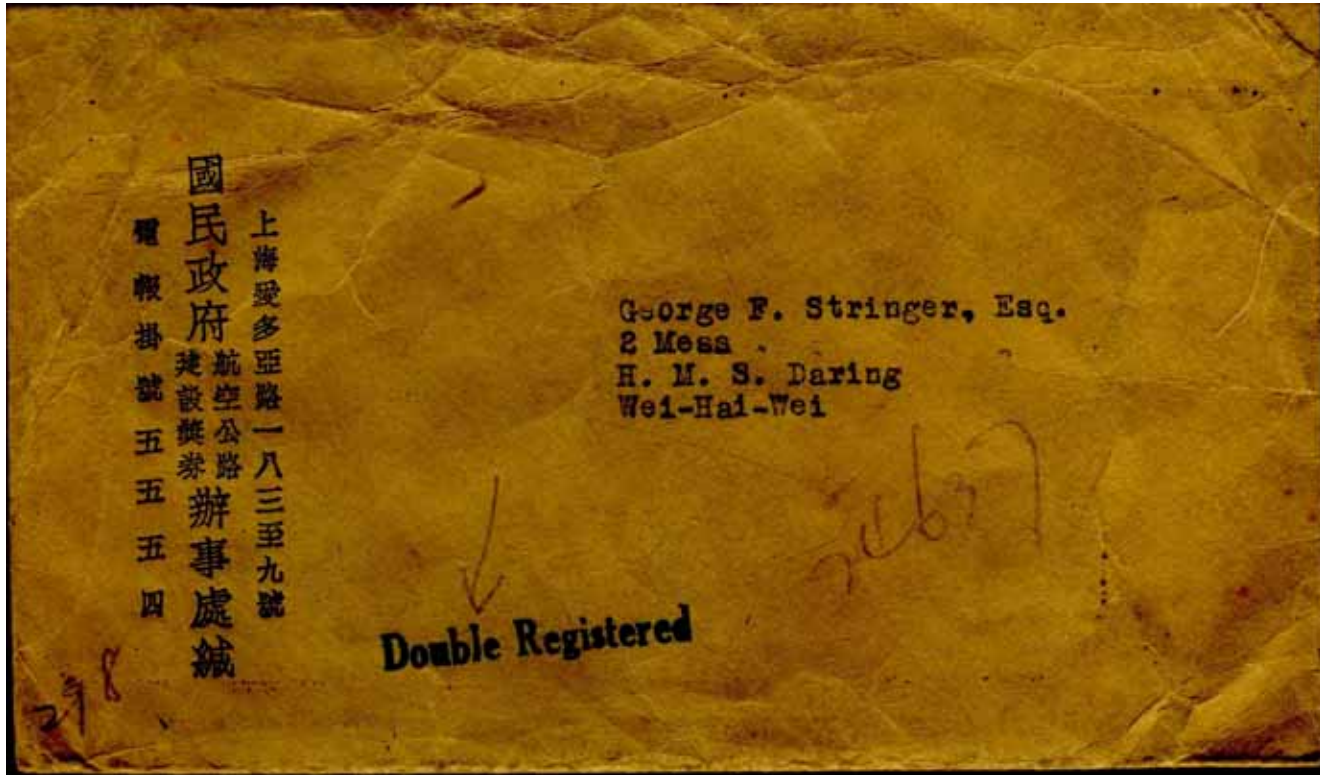
Domestic rate 5¢ per 20 g; registration and AR 8¢ each, 1932–1940.



Miaochen to Shanghai, 1935 (postmark is dated 23, for years after the Chinese Republic was founded). Crude R R. Rated domestic 5¢ and 8¢ for both registration and AR (the junk stamp is surcharged 1).

Mioachen is a tiny village about 80 km from Shanghai. Shanghai postman's chop.

Domestic (1938)



*Shanghai to Wai-Hai-Wei, 1938. Handstamp **Double Registered**. Rated domestic 5¢ and 8¢ for both registration and AR (1¢ surcharge on 4¢ stamp). From the State Lottery administration. Wei-Hai-Wei (Weihai) was leased by UK 1898–1930 and then reverted to China.*

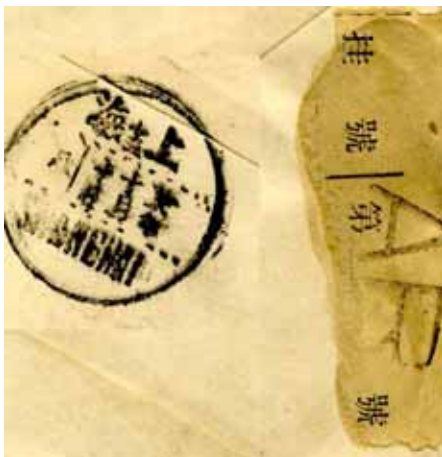


Local (1940)

Local rate (cheaper than domestic) was 2¢ per 20 g, 1932–19 September 1940.

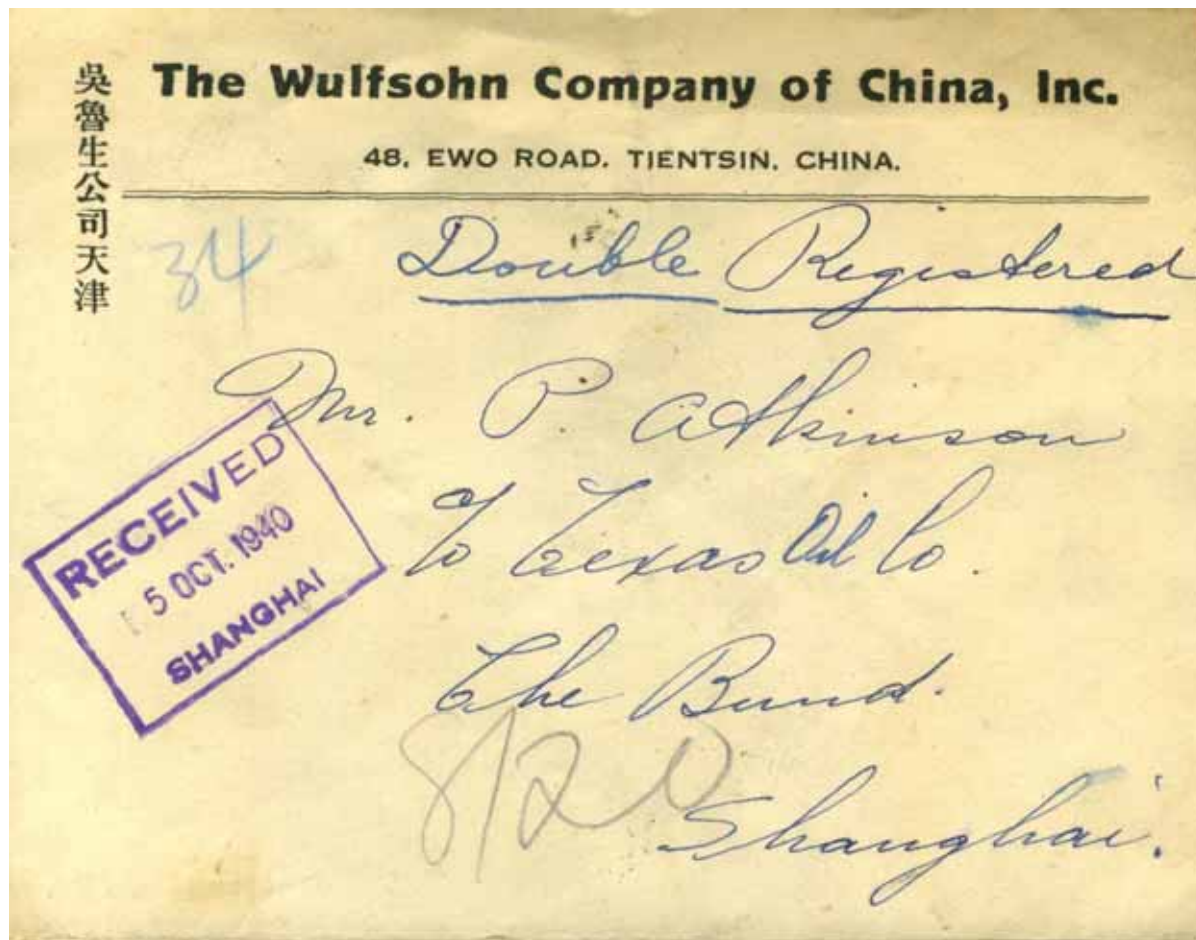


*Shanghai to French gunboat in the harbour, pre-20 September 1940. Date of Shanghai hs reads 9 10 28; add 12 to the year, and take away several weeks. Handstamp nonserif AR on front and on remnant of registration slip on reverse. **Rated** 2¢ local and 8¢ for each of registration and AR (10¢ surcharge on 25¢ stamp). Shanghai postman's chop.*

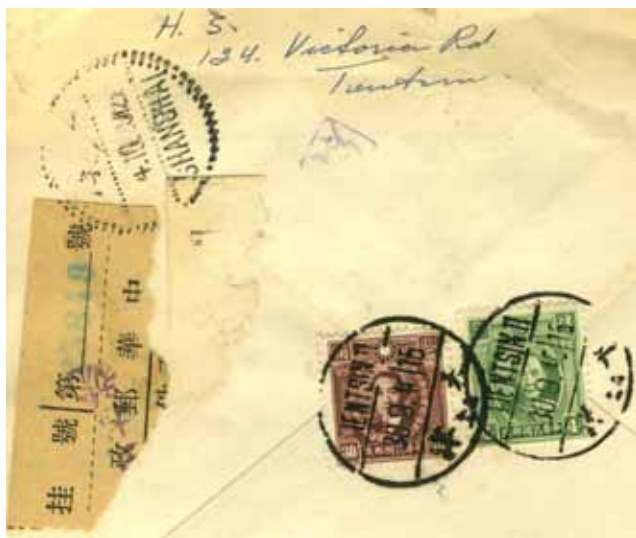


Domestic (September 1940)

20 September 1940, domestic rate changed to 8¢ per 20 g, and AR & registration fees became 13¢ each.



Japanese-occupied Tientsin (Hopei) to Shanghai, 30 September 1940 (ten days after rate changes). Ms *Double Registered*, first word added as an after-thought. **Rated** 8¢ domestic and 13¢ for each of registration & AR.



Shanghai still using republic dating scheme (29).
Purple Shanghai postman's chop.

Domestic air mail (1946)

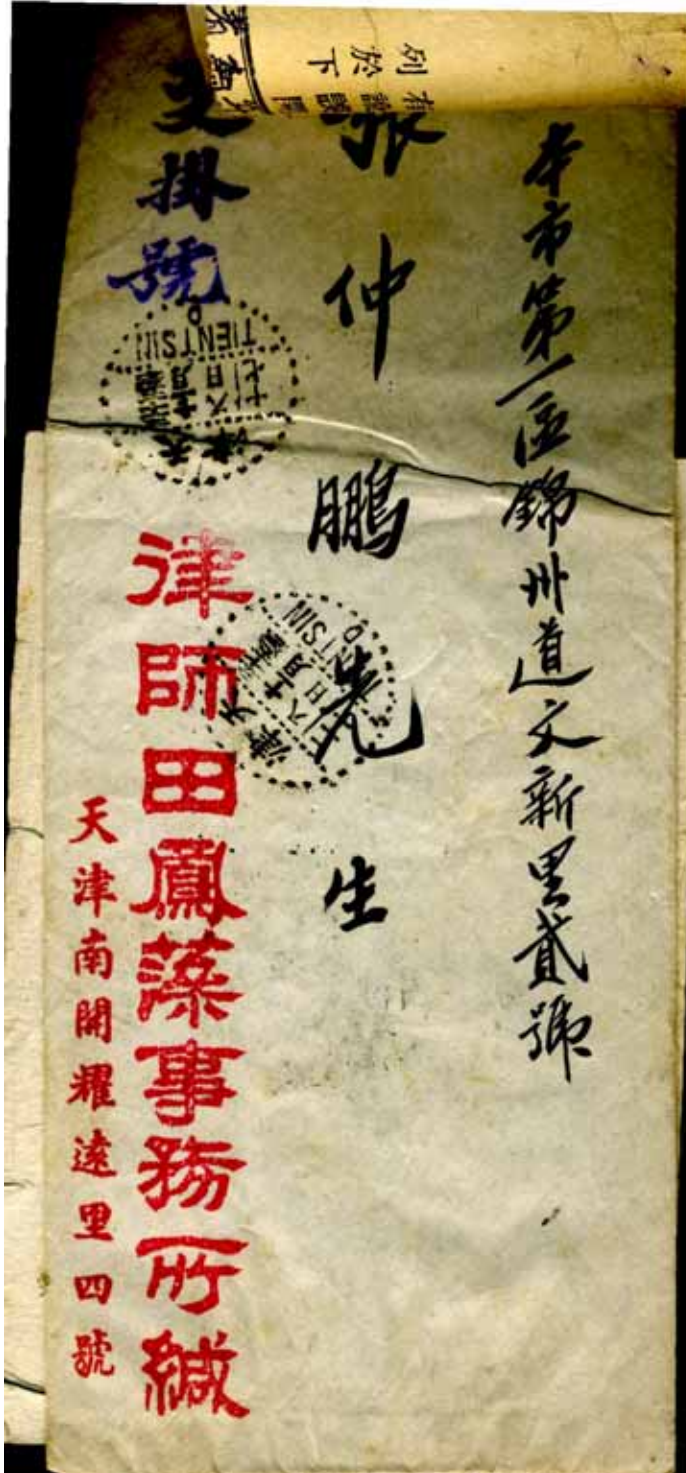
For the period 3 May–8 November 1946, domestic air mail supplement was \$30 per 10 g. For the period 1 October 1945–31 October 1946, domestic first class was \$20 per 20 g, and each of (domestic) registration and AR were \$30.



Hankow to Chengtu by air, May–October 1946. Bilingual A.R. Rated \$110 (3 × \$20 surcharge, and \$50): \$20 domestic plus \$30 domestic air supplement, and \$30 for each of registration and AR.

Local/domestic (1946)

In 1945, local rates ceased. For the period 1 November 1946–30 June 1947, domestic rate was \$100 per 20 g, and \$150 for each of registration and AR.

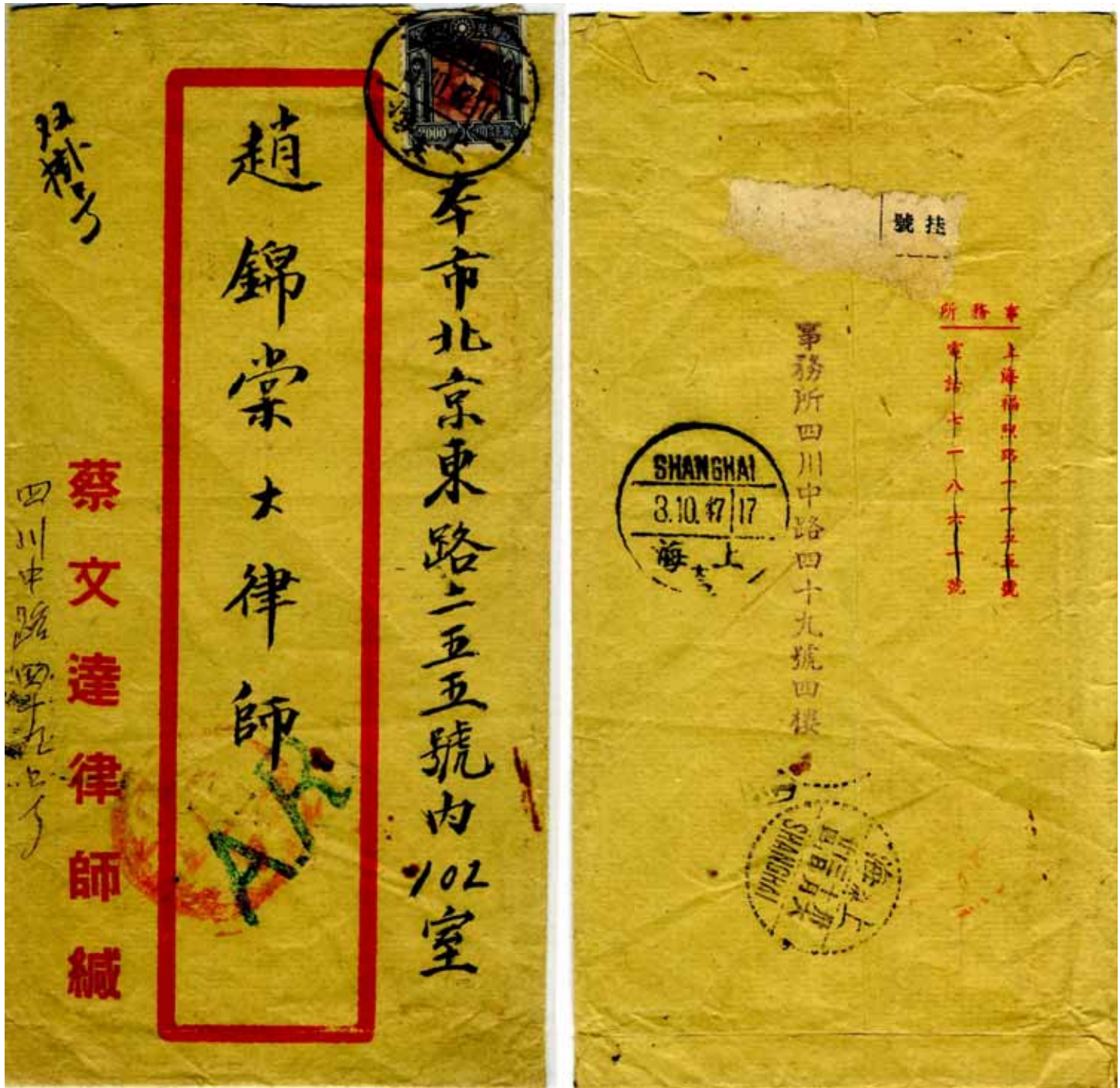


Tientsin drop letter, moved around, 1946–47. Chinese characters only indicating AR. **Rated** \$100 domestic and \$150 for each of registration and AR.

Postmarked Tientsin, Tientsin 1, Tientsin 3, Tientsin D, and Tientsin 15. Three slips attached. Faint oval postman's chops, probably numeric.

Local/domestic (1947)

For the period 1 July–10 December 1947, domestic rate was \$500 per 20 g, and each of registration and AR were \$750.



Shanghai drop letter, September 1947. Blue oblique nonserif AR. Rated \$500 domestic and \$750 for each of registration and AR, paid by single \$2000 stamp.

Faint Shanghai postman's chop.

Domestic airmail (1948)

For the period 5 April–20 July 1948, domestic rate was \$5000 per 20 g; domestic air mail supplement 6 April–9 July 1948 was \$7000 per 20g, and each of registration and AR were \$10000.

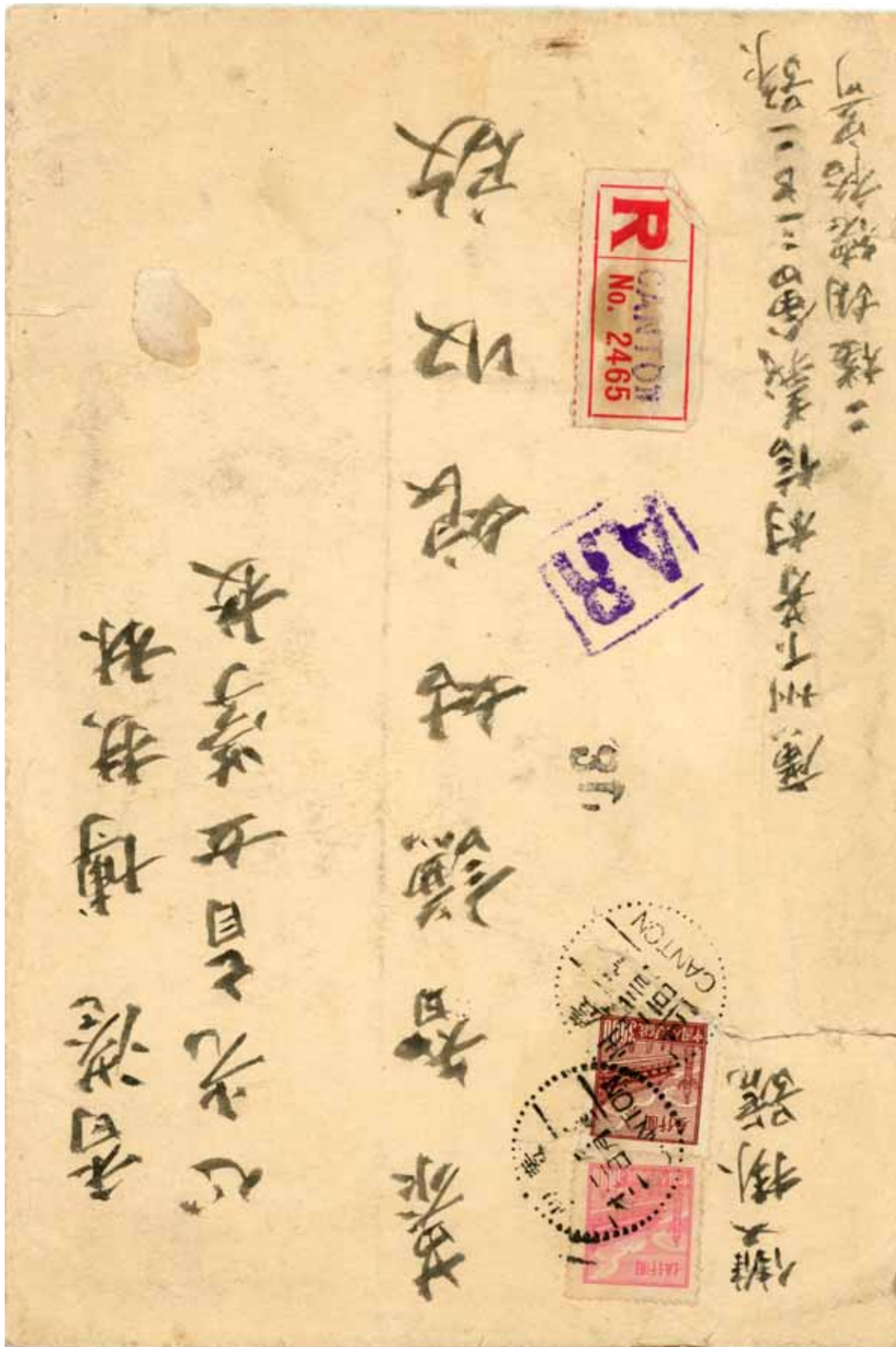


Shanghai to Chungking (??), double air mail, April–July 1948. Framed worn AR. Rated \$44000 (there are two \$5000 stamps almost completely hidden by the label remnants, and seven \$2000 stamps): double \$5000 domestic and double \$7000 domestic air mail; and \$10000 for each of registration and AR.



Inexplicable (1951?)

With inflation-period stamps totalling \$8000, but apparently dated 1951.



Canton, multiple weight, 1951? Framed purple AR. Postman's beat chop 31. **Rated** \$8000; rates match single domestic (at 2000 per 20 g) and \$3000 for each of AR & registration) 11 December 1947–4 April 1948; also, septuple domestic (at C\$.5 per 20 g, C\$1.5 registration, and C\$3 AR) 1 January–6 February 1949.

Domestic airmail (1958)

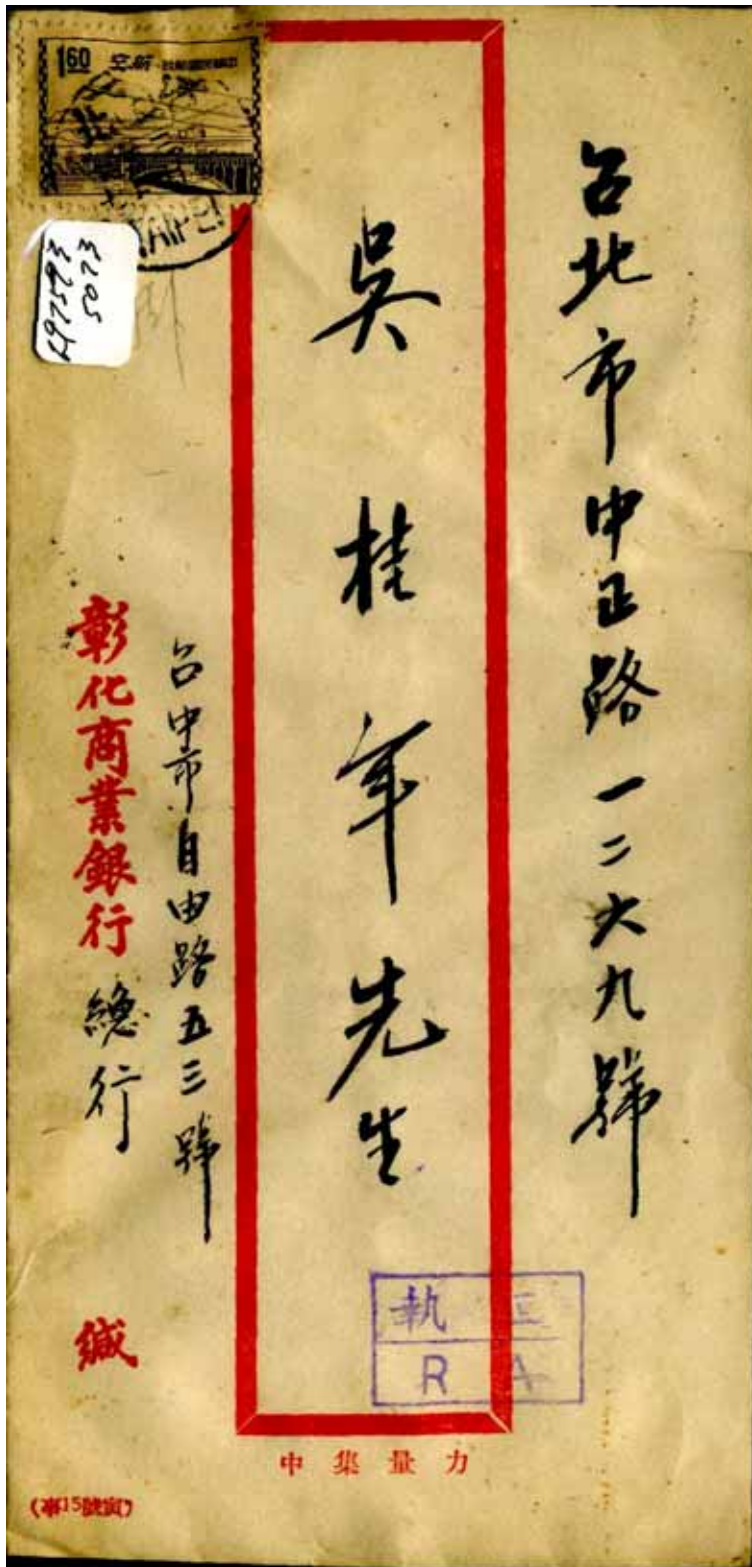


Tientsin-15 to Shanghai, January 1958. Bilingual boxed AR. Rated 40 Yuan. With Shanghai postman's carrier mark S19.



Domestic Taiwan (1950)

For the rate period 6 May–30 July 1950, domestic fee was NT \$.40 per 20 g, and the domestic registration and AR rates were \$1.20 each.



Taipei drop letter, September 1950. Weird bilingual boxed R A (!). **Rated** NT \$.40 domestic and \$1.20 for each of registration and AR.