

China

CHINA joined the U P U in 1914, as the Republic of China. However, beginning 1897, its postal services and rates were modelled on those of the U P U, and it adopted A R service at this time. From 1897 to 1943, A R fees equalled the corresponding registration fees (this applied to domestic and international, although the fees were different). This *may* be the reason that the translation of the Chinese term for A R is *double registered*. China seems to be the only country which used this term, and it appears frequently on covers. Handstamps of doubled **RR** were also in frequent use, even on international mail.

China seems to have used the same A R forms for domestic and international A R service, but the A R cards differentiated the type of service. The fees were also different from each other. Moreover, China had a system of attaching slips to domestic registered or special delivery (and other types of matter). These were intended to be torn off on delivery, and kept by the post office. For A R, the slips are pink.

To the early 1920s, Chinese A R material is scarce to very rare. There are a handful of A R forms known, and just one covering envelopes, and A R covers are few and far between. Later, however, the covers become increasingly common, both domestically and internationally, suggesting increasing awareness of the service. They have become difficult to obtain because of very much increased demand. A R cards are still difficult to find.

It would be futile to put a Chinese rates table akin to those in the US, UK, and Canada exhibit, because of inflation, although prior to World War II, rates are relatively stable. The usual English language source of rates is *Postage rates of China, 1867–1980* (Director General of Posts, Taipei, 1981), which covers China to 1949, and Taiwan to 1980.

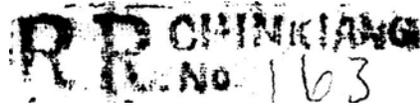
- A R fee is always paid on the registered item, not on the form or card; based on one example, the after-the-fact A R fee is paid in cash.
- There are five known Chinese international (i.e., with French text) forms; two will be shown here, both domestic use. These were to be returned under cover.
- As far as I am aware, there are just two A R covering envelopes reported.
- As with most other entities, 1920s A R cards (for international use) are yellow. They change to deep red in the early 1930s, but are difficult to find.

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, 1947



Shanghai, 1940



Shanghai, 1946; might be private, used by UNRRA



Tsingtao, 1931



Kutsing, 1946



Shanghai, 1941; might be private, used by UNRRA



Kunming, 1934; locally made?



Tsingtao, 1934



Place unknown, 1925



Used at many offices; 1940s, bilingual



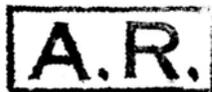
Canton, 1921



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



Hong Kong, 1919; in circle



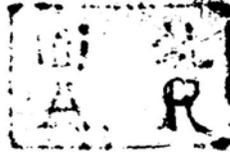
Hong Kong, modern use; may be rubber



Macau, 1940, 1954



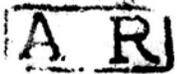
Place unknown
1984



Taipei, 1955, bilin-
gual



Taipei, 1950



Taipei, 1955



Place unknown (to me) 1906;
crude



Sian, 1929

China AR: exhibit synopsis

ALTHOUGH China did not join the U P U until 1914, from 1897, it adhered to most of its conventions; in particular, it offered A R service both internationally and domestically from that date. The term *double registered* is a translation of one of the Chinese terms for A R, and is often seen on covers. It may also be indicated by an R handstamp doubled.

The exhibit covers the period pre-U P U (that is, pre-1914) to about 1949, with a few odds and ends after that, as well as some Taiwan. Offices and colonies of foreign powers (such as Macau, Hong Kong, Kwang-Tchéo-Wan) will be covered in the corresponding exhibits for the individual entities, although Manchukuo (Japanese-occupied Manchuria) will be dealt with here.

Pre-U P U period We begin with a sampling of pre-U P U material, as it is helpful in understanding how A R worked. Of significance is the 1908 A R form (one of four known Chinese A R forms intended for international use), here used domestically.

U P U period

International A R covers I have tried to represent as many rate periods as possible (including the inflationary era), as well as A R and RR handstamps. They are arranged (mostly) chronologically. Includes printed matter A R cover (a very difficult combination). There are quite a number during the inflationary period, mostly air mail.

Manchuria (Includes Manchukuo, the Japanese puppet state.) International A R covers.

A R forms No internationally used A R forms have been reported; an incoming form from the U S (1915).

A R covering envelopes One of two known Chinese examples (1914).

A R cards Around 1921–22, most jurisdictions (including China) replaced A R forms with A R cards, that is, post card-like documents with the signature of the recipient, and did not require a covering envelope. Originally rather drab, they changed to shades of pink around 1930—and China's were bright red, as were those of Japan and Macau.

Of particular significance is the *after-the-fact* (subsequent) card returned from Denmark to the Japanese-occupied Dairen (*Dalian*) in 1937. This refers to a card sent after the registered letter had been mailed, and is extremely difficult to find. This is the only one I know of from China in the Republic era.

Domestic A R Domestic use of a Chinese international A R form (differs from the pre-U P U example, in that the back is addressed). Many covers. Includes receipts for domestic A R items, including one for a parcel (not registered), indicating that A R service was available for parcel post (not all jurisdictions permitted this), although there is no documentation.

There are also a few pages of Taiwan A R, and a strange Canadian after-the-fact A R card concerning a mis-signed for cover to Taiwan from Bileski.

AR in China

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 (1 March 1914).

This exhibit deals almost entirely with AR covers (that is, registered envelopes sent with AR) of China, mostly international. Pre-1914, both domestic and international, are dealt with together. International use, then domestic. The period covered is 1898–1956.

Chinese rates, particularly during periods of inflation, can be very complicated. Many rate periods are represented.

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)*, AR form domestic use (1908)*

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

AR forms From US PPIE (1915)

AR covering envelope To US (1922)*

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 AR form, 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).

Pre-UPU (precursor) AR

Although China did not join the U P U until 1914, from ca 1897, it mostly abided by U P U rules, in particular offering registration and A R service on international mail. Until mid-1942, both domestically and internationally, for China, the A R 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 and its equivalent in Hong Kong postage. 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 A R service intended.

Rated 10¢ of a silver dollar for each of first weight U P U, registration, and A R fees (in effect 1897–1922).

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

Pre-UPU; via French steamer

Double franking on international mail from China via *French* steamer was in effect only January 1897–January 1902. This A R 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 *With Return Receipt* (U S term for A R). From the Chinese Imperial Train Company. Rated 40¢ of a silver dollar, double 10¢ per half ounce U P U plus 10¢ for each of A R and registration.



Pre-UPU; domestic service



Domestic, November 1906. Framed nonserif (locally made?) AR. Rated 2¢ domestic (1 September 1904–4 August 1910) and 5¢ for both registration and A R.

Pre-UPU; international AR form used domestically

AR forms were to be signed by the receiver of the registered item (or the postal clerk handing over the registered item), and then were returned to the sender. In the case of China, both before and after joining the U P U, these forms (in use till circa 1922, when they were replaced by AR cards) were to be returned under cover.

One of five known examples of the form intended for international use (bilingual English/French); 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 (*Letter*) ⁽¹⁾ enregistré *171* au bureau *Shasi*
of a registered article entered at the Office

de *Hupch* le *20th May* 19*09* sous le No. *20* ⁽²⁾
of on the under

expédié par *M. J. J. du Customs*
posted by

et adressé à *M. Hong Shai Bank*
and addressed to

(adresse complète)
(address in full)
Hankow

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 _____ a été dûment
at has been duly

livré le _____ 19____
delivered on the

du destinataire: _____
of the addressee:

SIGNATURE ⁽³⁾

de l'agent du bureau distributeur:
of the employé of distributing Office:
[Signature]

(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.

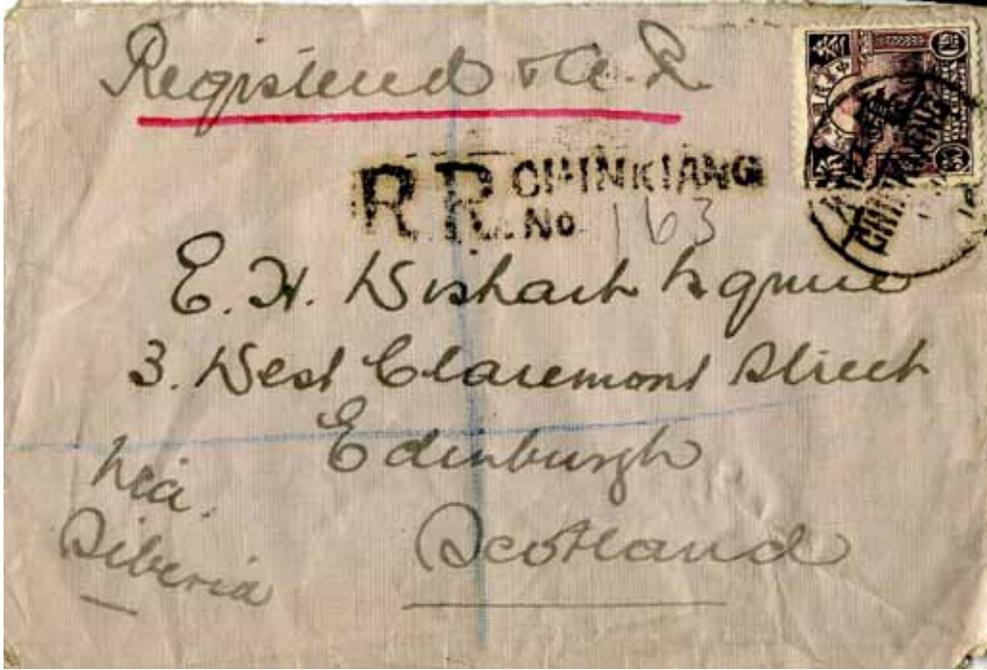


Chinese AR form, Shasi (Shashi), a district in Jingzou, returned from Hankow, 1909. For a registered letter from the Imperial Customs office to a bank. Signed by the postal clerk, and pink seal applied (likely by officer of the bank). No printing on reverse.

UPU period: international AR covers

China joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1914. UPU letter rate, 10¢ first half-ounce, 6¢ each additional; international registration and AR fees, 10¢ each (1910–31 December 1921 and 1 January 1923–30 June 1930).

China–Scotland (1916)

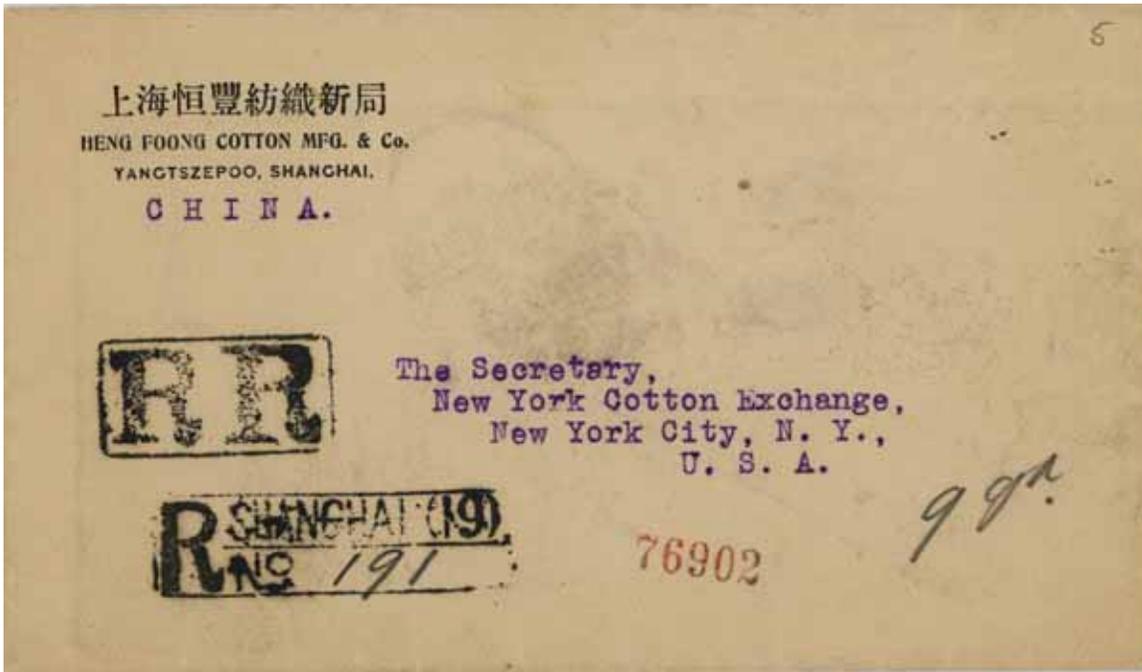


Chinkiang to Edinburgh via Siberia, 1916. Ms Registered & AR, and RR handstamp enclosing registration number. Rated 10¢ for each of UPU, registration, and AR fees.



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

To US (1918, 1920)

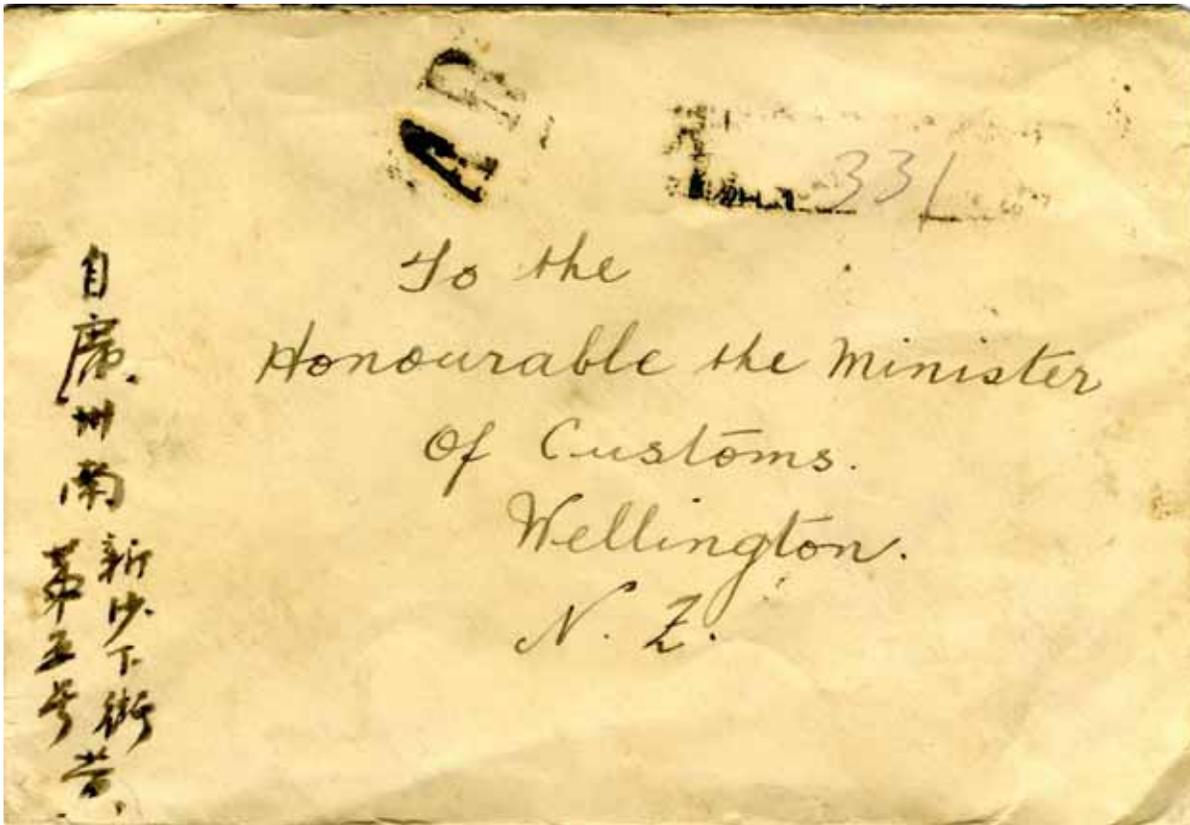


Shanghai (sub-office) 19 to New York, 1918. Unusually clear boxed RR. Rated 30¢: 10¢ for each of registration, AR, and U P U.

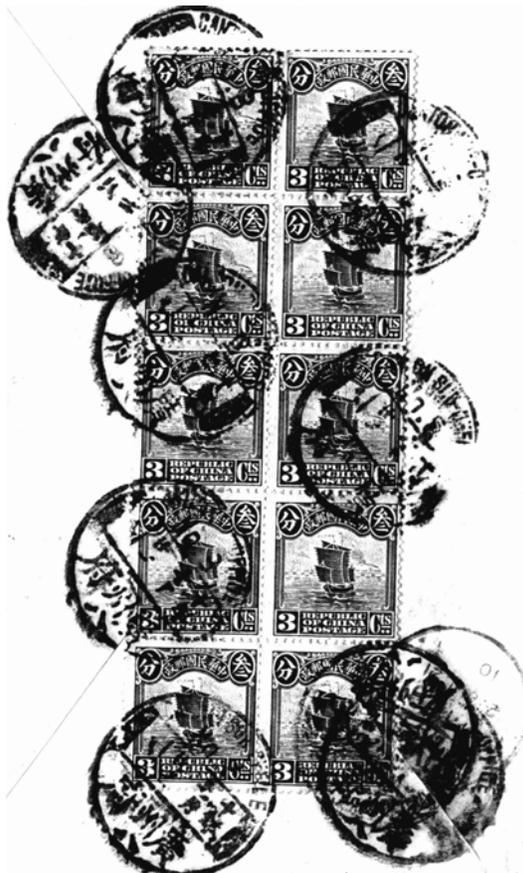


Peking to Portland (OR), double, 1920. Small boxed AR. Rated 36¢, made up from second weight (10¢ first weight plus 6¢ each additional; this multiple rate scheme in effect 1907–1922) U P U, plus 10¢ for each of registration and AR.

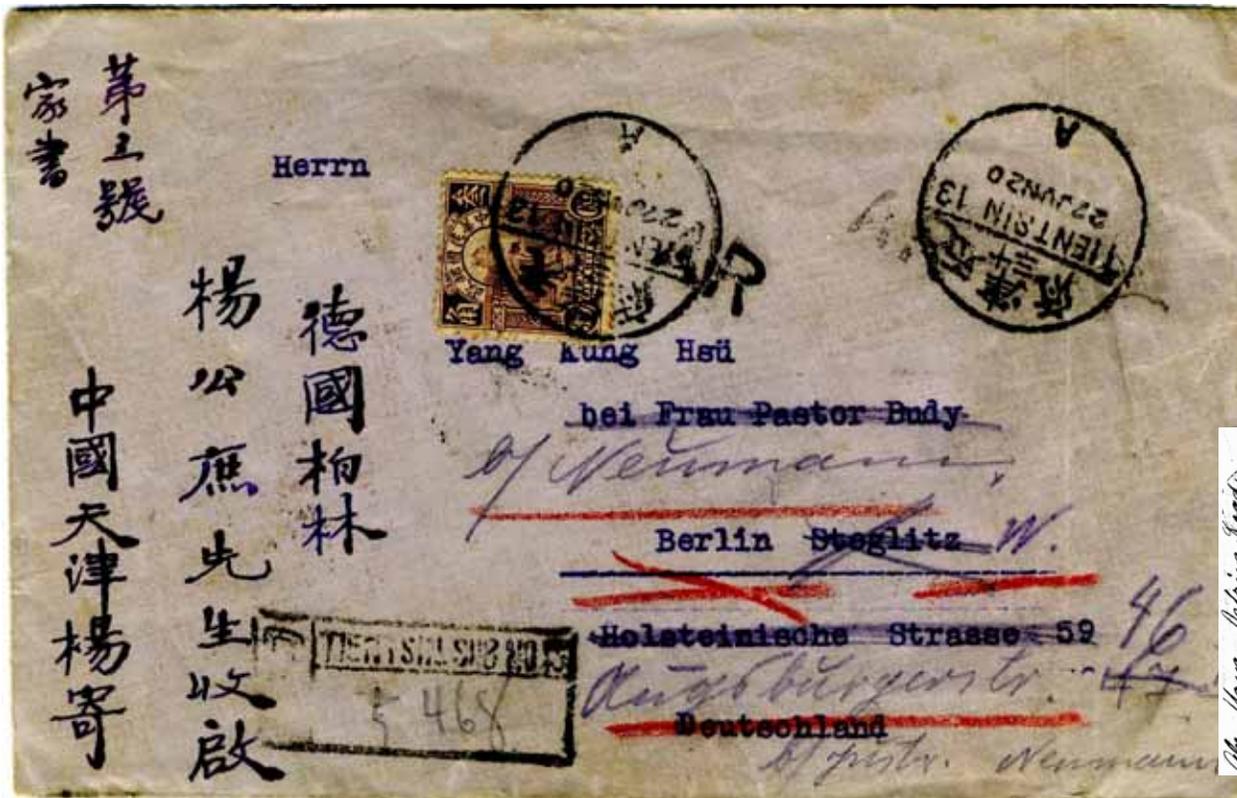
To New Zealand (1920)



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



To Germany, forwarded (1920 & 1921)



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



Canton to Gumbinnen, forwarded to Gotha, 1921. Crude AR and ms Rückschein (frequently applied in Germany on incoming A R covers). 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.

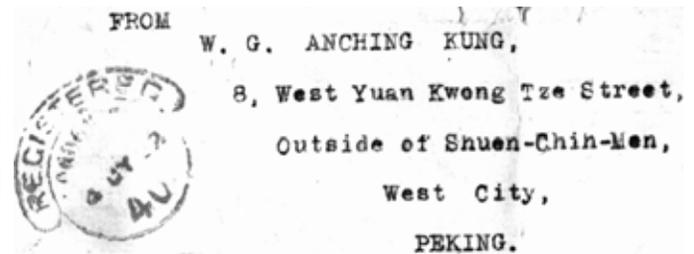


Triple, Peking to Aberystwyth (Wales), May 1922. Type-script U S-style RETURN RECEIPT DESIRED and ms AR, latter applied in London.

Rated 40¢ made up of U P U, 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.

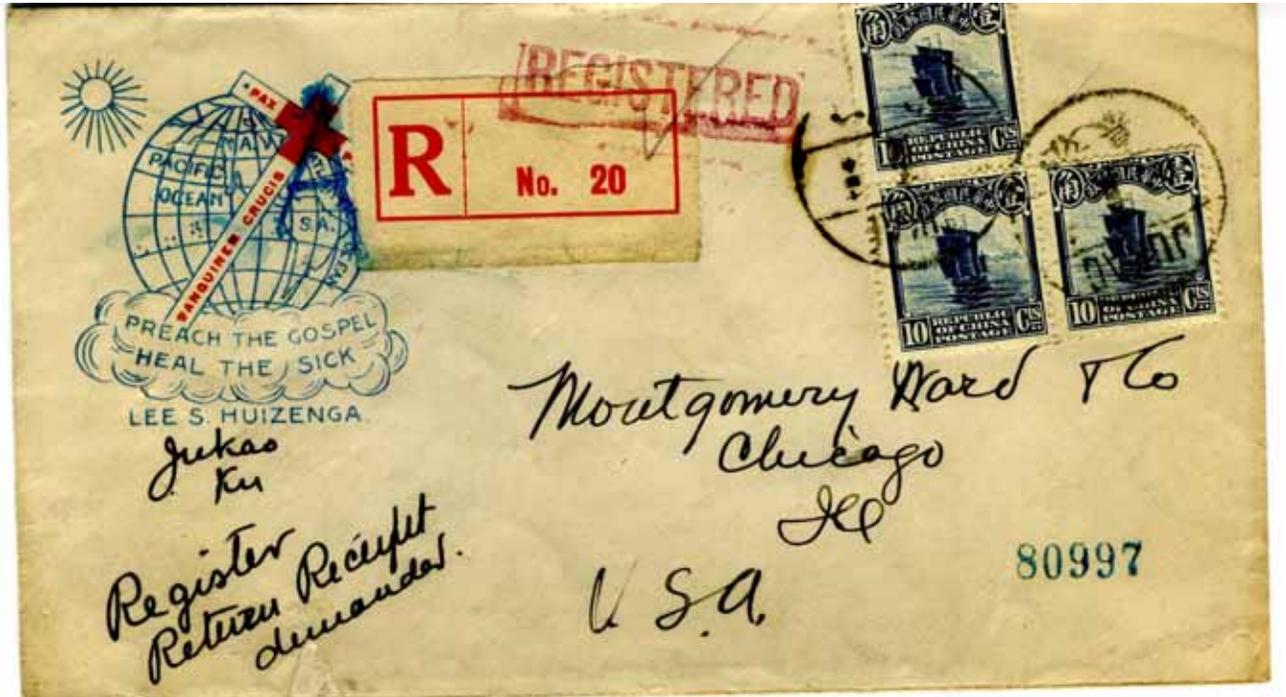
Absence of AR form noted in IS

Absence of AR form noted in IS (Inland Service)



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

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 propaganda. Rated 10¢ for each of U P U, registration, and A R fees.



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

Printed matter to France

Printed matter send with AR is very difficult to find



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 A R (in effect to 1930).

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

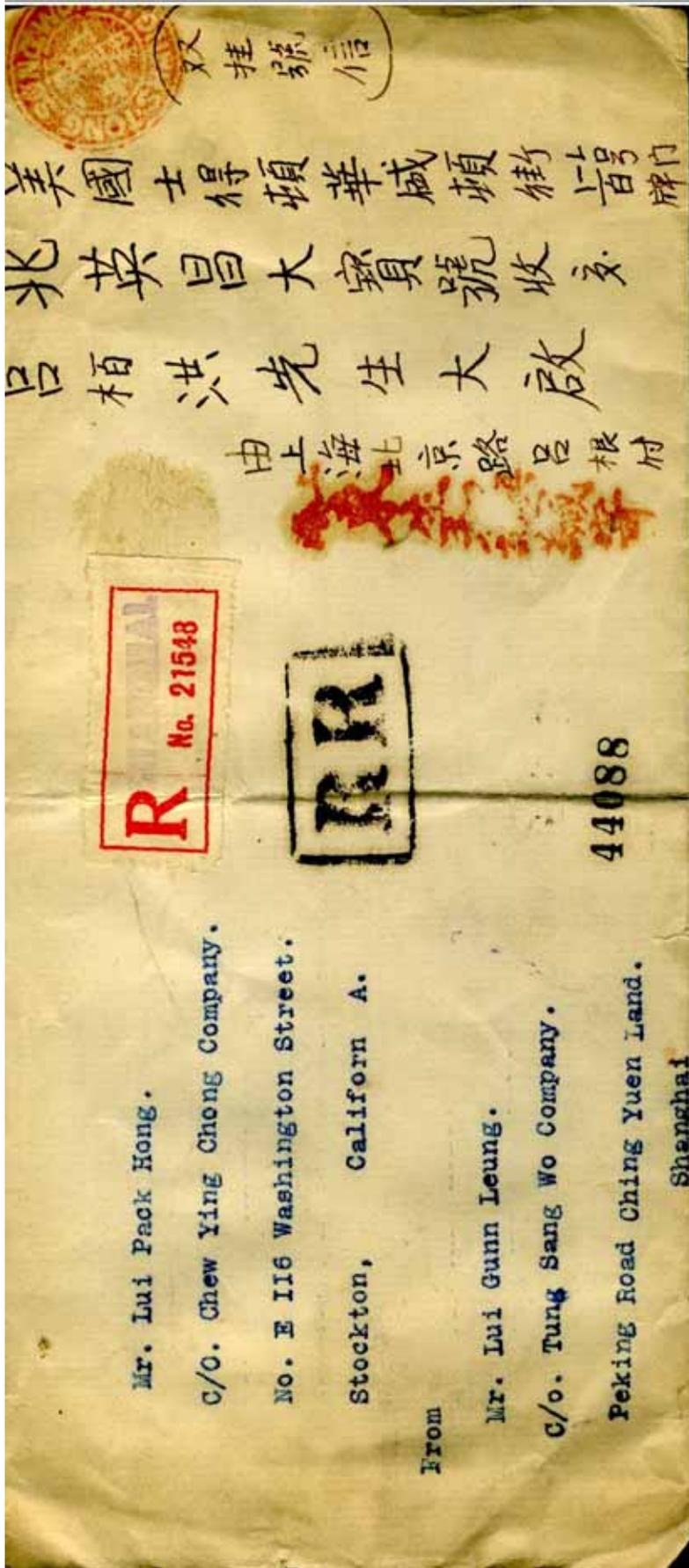


To US (1925, 1928)

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

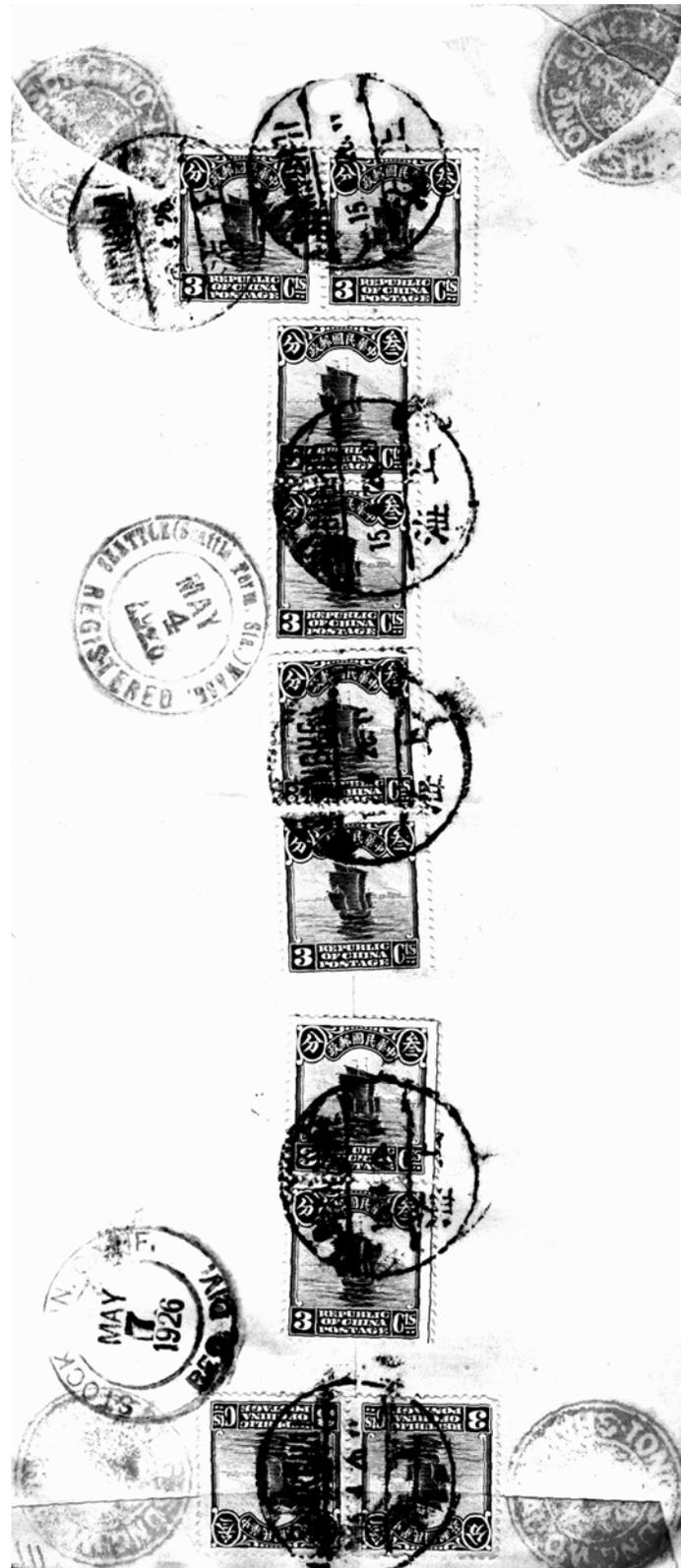
Kuling to St Louis, 1925. Rated as at left. Boxed
nonserif R.R. Via Shanghai.





To US (1926)

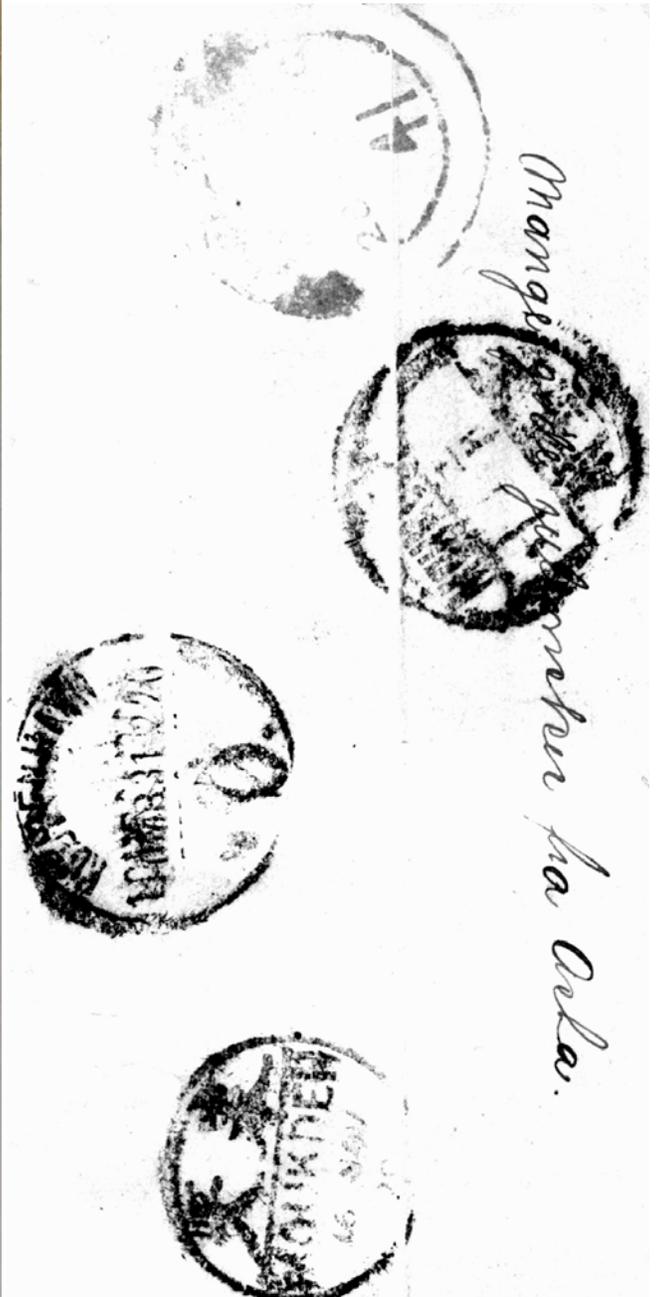
Shanghai to Stockton (CA), 1926. Boxed nonserif R R. With company seal of Tong Sang Wo (as opposed to typescript Tung Sang Wo. Rated 10¢ for each of U P U, registration, & A R.



Quadruple to Denmark (1926)



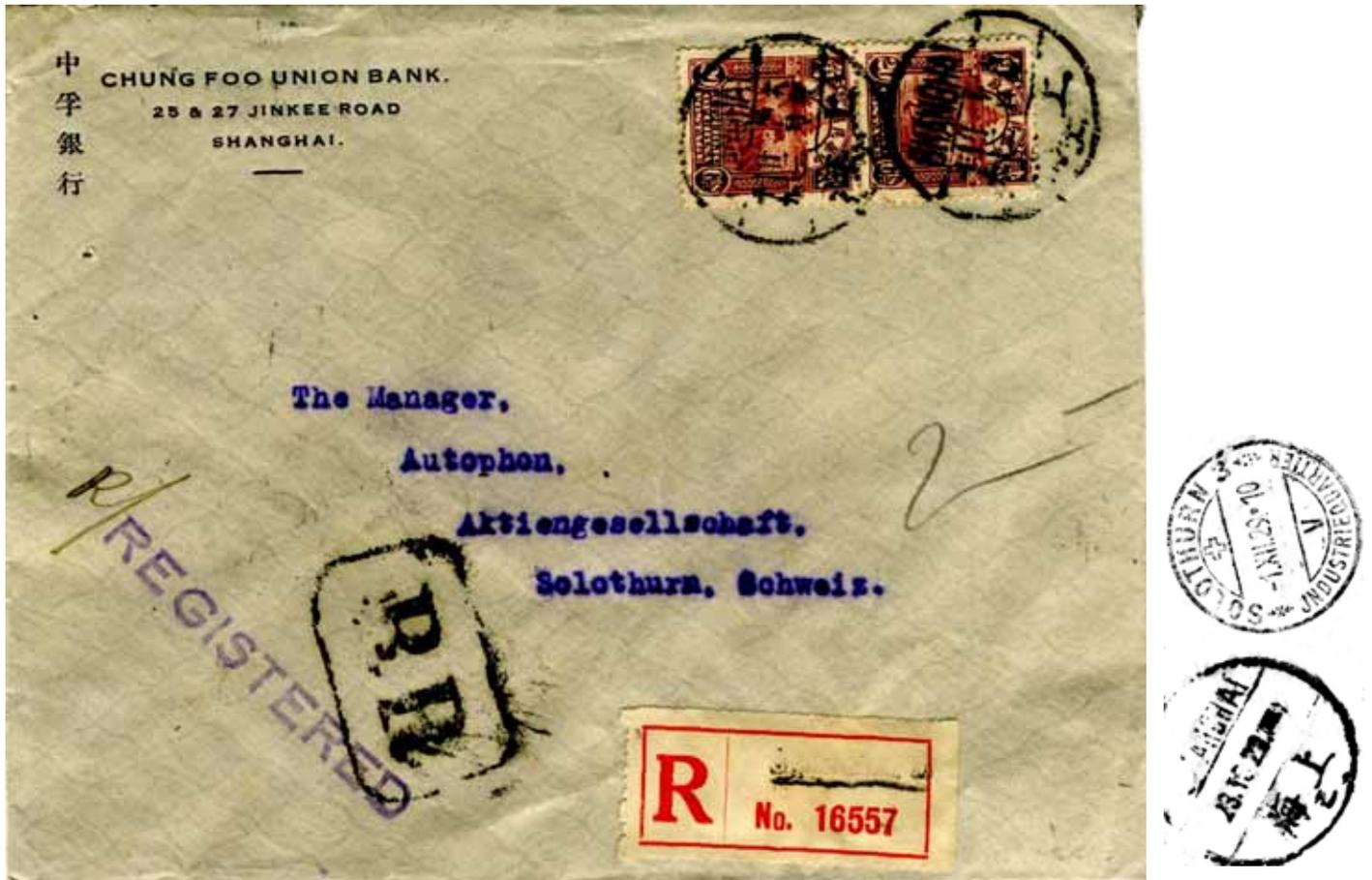
Quadruple, Hanchun to Copenhagen, 1926. Red ms AR. Rated 48¢, quadruple UPU at 10¢ for the first 20 g and 6¢ for each additional (multiple rate in effect October 1925–June 1930), plus 10¢ for each of registration & A R.



Via Moukden and London.

Registration and AR rate changes

1 February 1929–31 January 1931, registration and AR fees both 15¢; U P U letter rate remained at 10¢, first weight, and 6¢ each additional.



Shanghai–Switzerland, December 1929. Boxed R.R. Rated 10¢ U P U, and 15¢ for each of registration & A R.



Peking to Jackson Heights (NY), June 1929. Ms Return receipt, and heavy worn A R. Rated as above. Via Moukden and New York; from the US Legation.



Sextuple to Scotland (1930)

Sian (Xi'an) to Edinburgh via Shanghai, December 1929–January 1930. Crude A. R handstamp. Missionary mail.

Rated 15¢ for each of registration & A R, and 10¢ for the first ounce, plus 5 × 6¢ for supplementary weights.



Quadruple to Sweden (1930)



Quadruple, Shanghai to Stockholm, forwarded, December 1930. Obliqued nonserif AR and ms double registered. Rated 72¢ (including 4 × 1¢ surcharge): U P U, 15¢ for the first 20 g and 9¢ for each additional weight; registration and A R 15¢ each.



通義洋行
W. O. MOEBIUS
115 Kiangse Road
SHANGHAI

This was an unexpected twist!

UPU, registration, and AR rate changes

1 July 1931–31 May 1935, U P U: 25¢ first 20g, 15¢ each additional; registration & A R: 25¢ each.

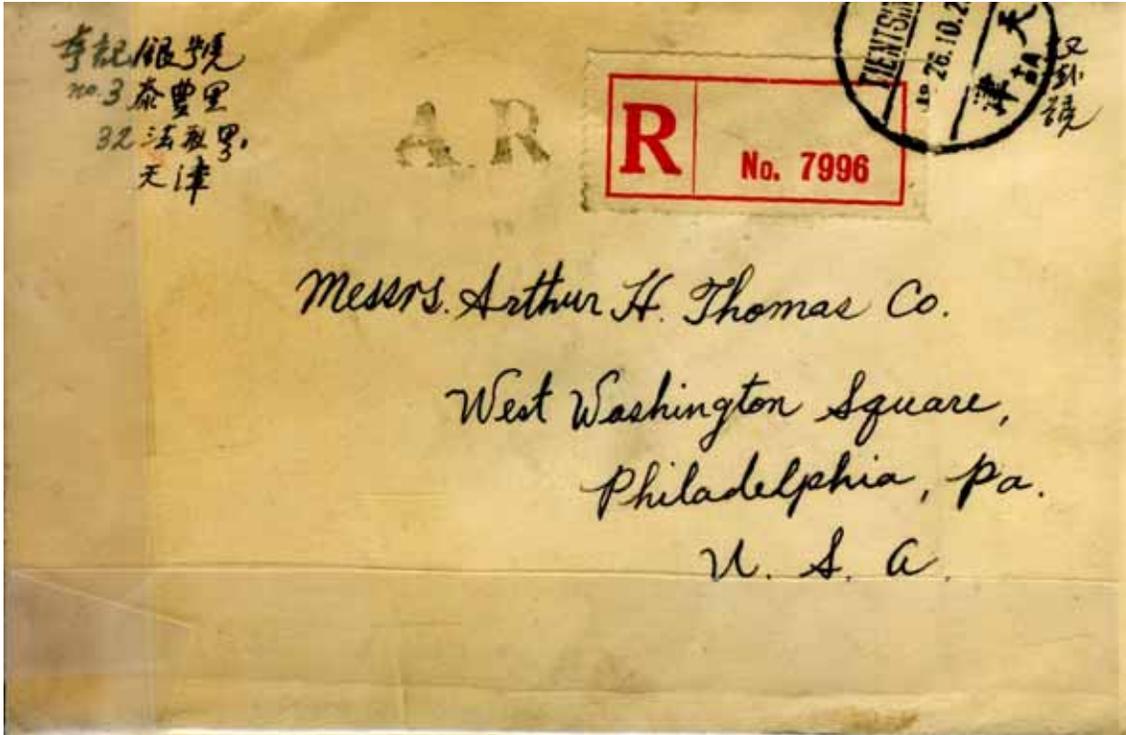


Tsingtao to Hornell (NY), October 1931. Large worn nonserif A.R. in rounded frame. Rated 25¢ for each of U P U, registration, and A R fees. Via Moukden.



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

To US (1934)



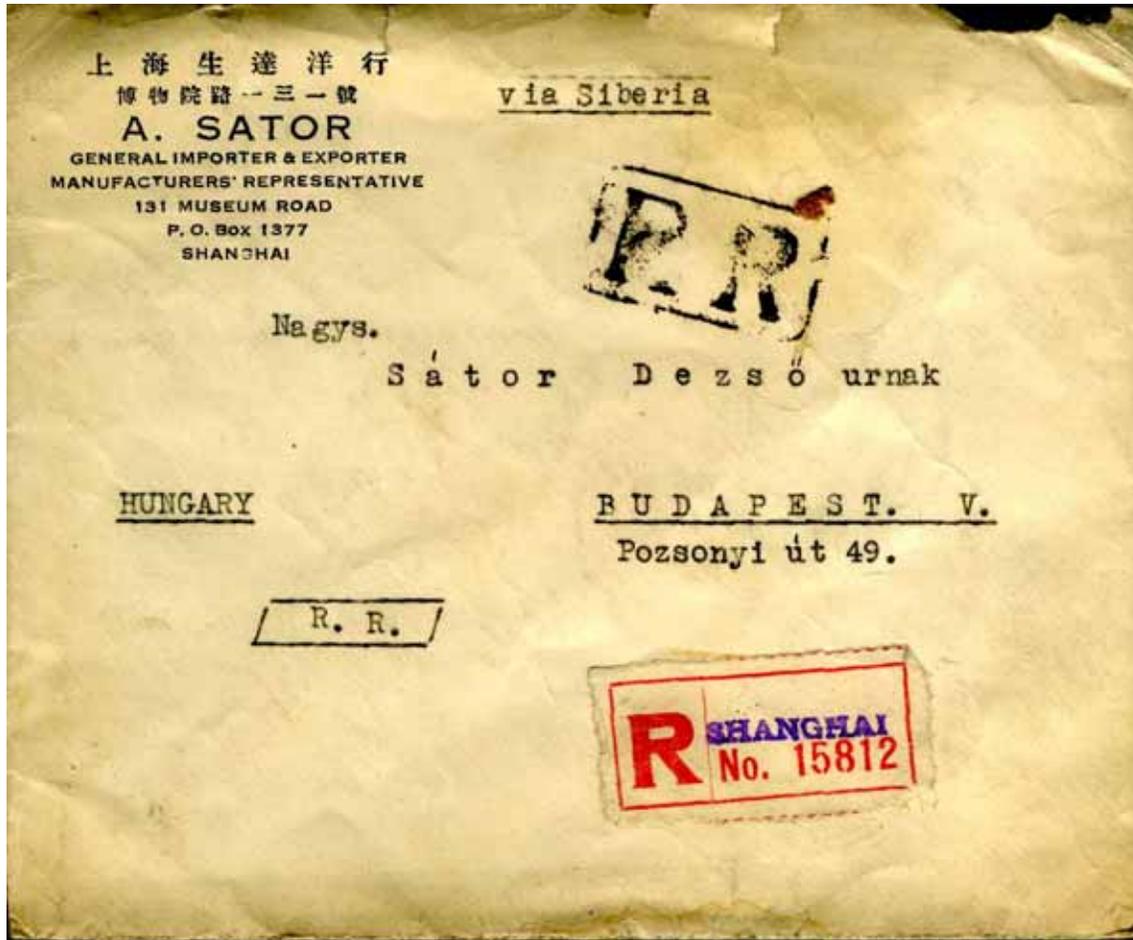
Tientsin to Philadelphia, 1934. Crude worn serif A R. Rated 25¢ for each of U P U, registration, and A R fees. Via Shanghai.



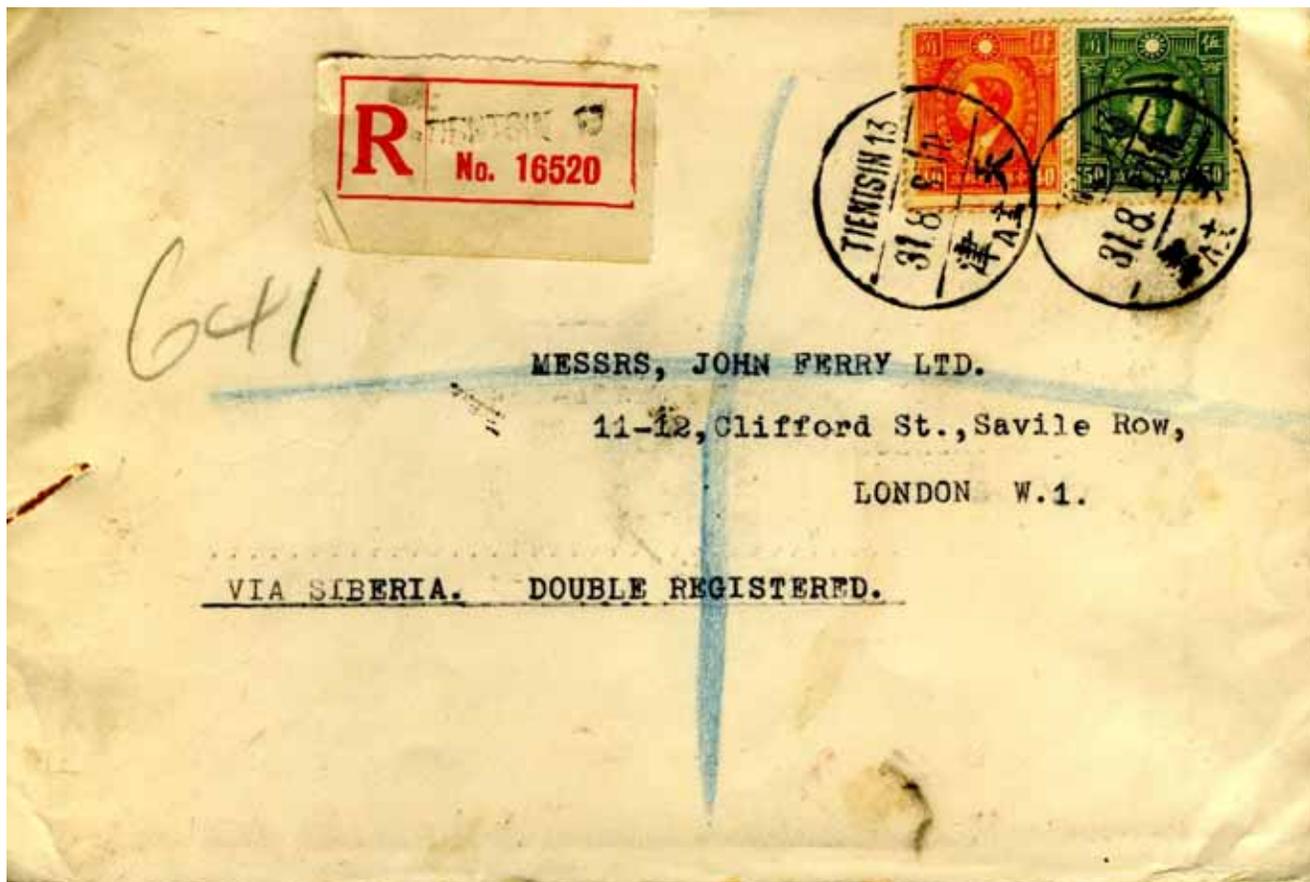
Kunming (Yunnanfou) to New York, 1934. Locally made (?) thin nonserif AR in circle. Rated as above. Via Shanghai.

UPU, registration, and AR fee changes

1 February 1936–31 October 1939: U P U letter rate, 25¢ first half-ounce and 15¢ each additional; registration and A R, 25¢ each.



Shanghai to Budapest, 1937.
Boxed serif **RR** and type-script **R. R.**
Rated 25¢ for each of U P U, registration, and A R fees.



Tientsin–London, double, 1937.
Typescript
DOUBLE REGISTERED only.
Rated 25¢ first 20 g and 15¢ next 20 g U P U; registration and A R 25¢ each.

To US (1936, 1938)



Tsingtao to Los Angeles, 1936. Typescript **DOUBLE REGISTERED**. Nonserif widely spaced A. R. Rated 25¢ for each of U P U, registration, and A R fees. Via Shanghai.



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

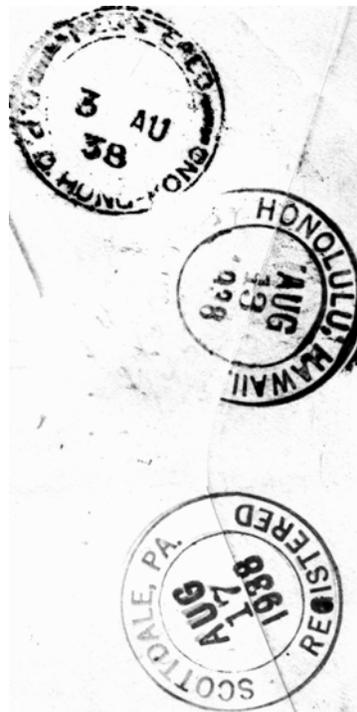
China Clipper

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 Scottdale (PA), unidectuple, 1938. Ms AR. Anomalously rated \$13.25.

Plausibly, this was for 50–55 g, made up from 11 times air mail supplement, triple U P U rate (at 25¢ first 20g and 15¢ each additional), and 25¢ for each of registration and A R (totalling \$14.25); 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.



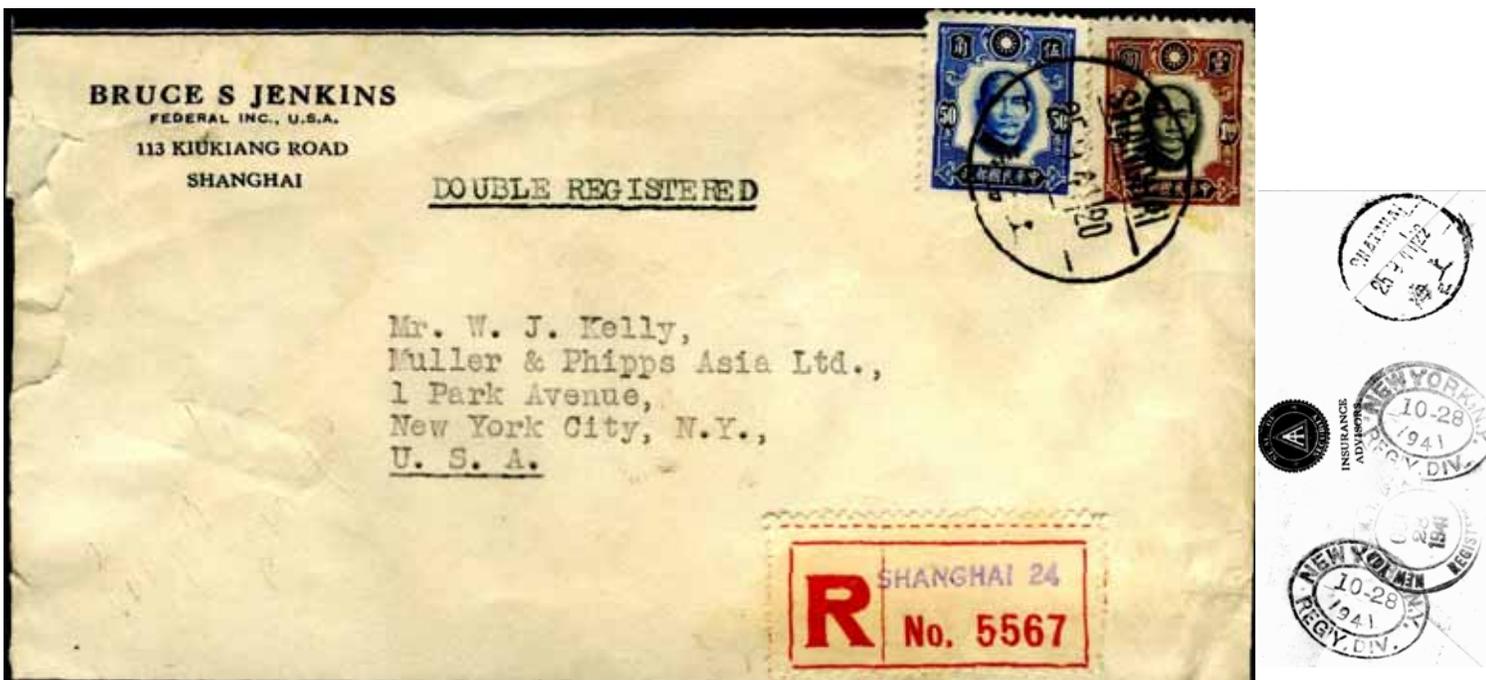
Why did it take ten days to get from Hong Kong to Honolulu?

Rate changes

1 September 1939–31 October 1941, 50¢ of Chinese National Currency (CNC) dollar (denoted \$) for each of first U P U weight (30¢ for each additional 20 g), registration, and A R.



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



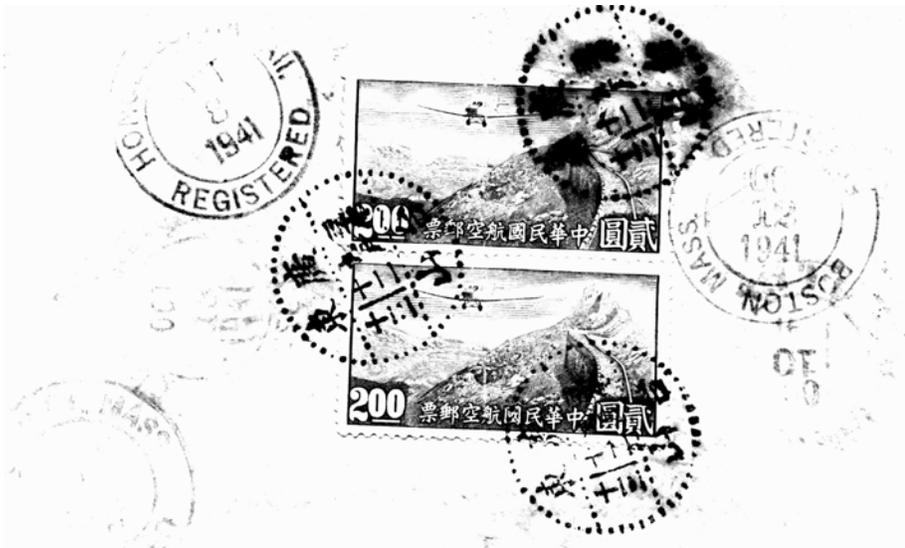
Shanghai to New York, October 1941. Typescript **DOUBLE REGISTERED** only. Rated as above.

Clipper mail

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

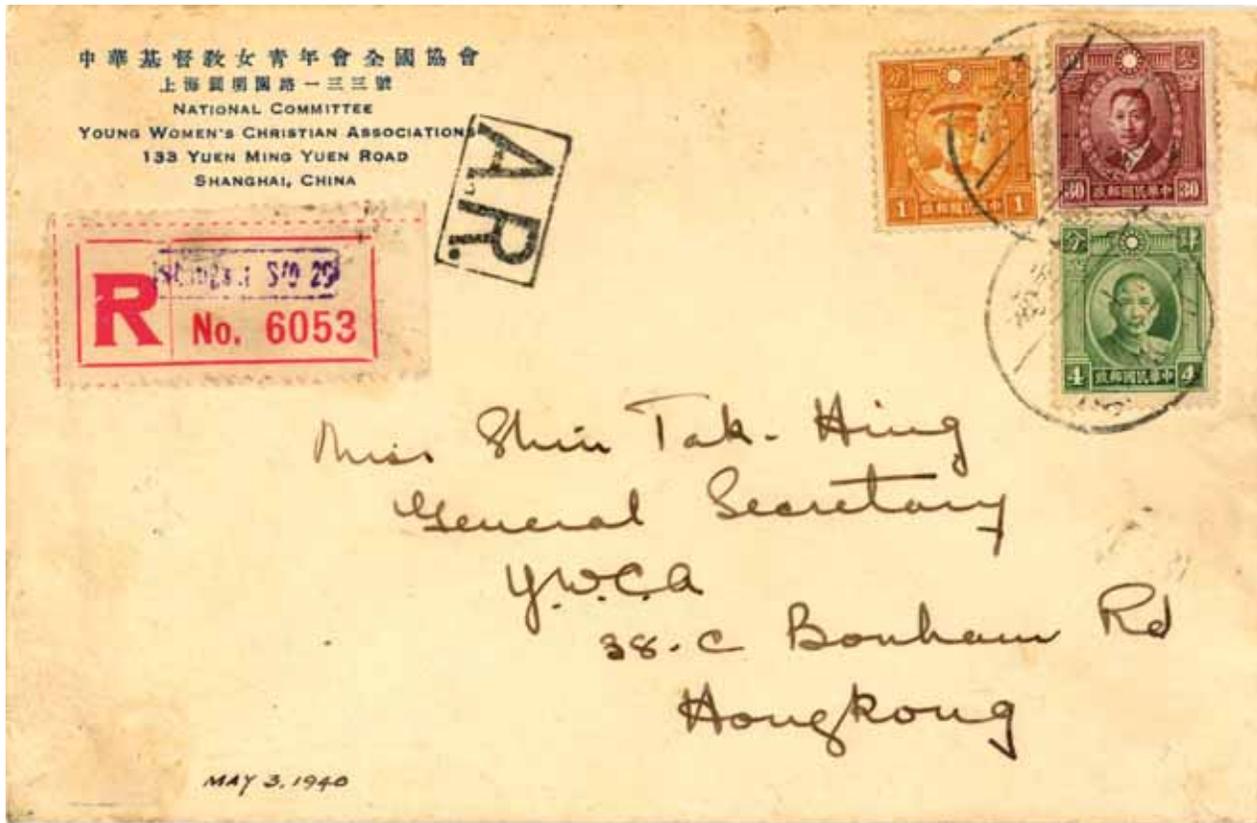


Toy Shan (Taishan, Guangdong) to Quincy (MA), sesqui-rated, October 1941. Bilingual orange boxed **A. R.** Rated \$9.50, made up from 5–10 g (double) air supplement, 50¢ U P U surface (single), and 50¢ for each of registration and A R. Via Kweilin, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Boston.



Two days from Hong Kong to San Francisco.

To Hong Kong (1940)



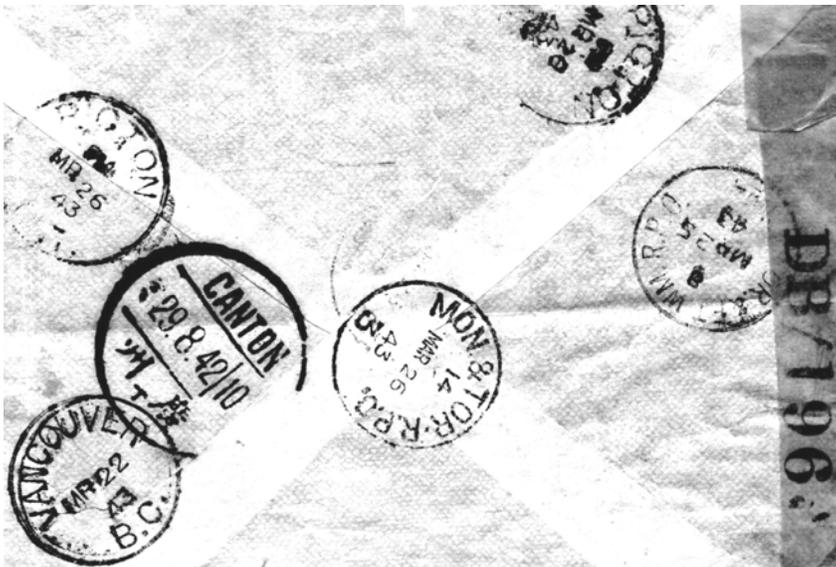
Shanghai S/O (Sub-office) 29 to the YWCA, May 1940. Neat nons serif boxed A.R. Rated 35¢: for each of registration and A R to Hong Kong 15¢, plus single rate to Hong Kong 5¢, all rates effective to 19 September 1940. No backstamps.

Surface to Canada (1942–1943)

1 November 1941–31 October 1942: registration and A R, \$1 each; U P U letter, \$1 for the first 20 g, and 60¢ for each additional 20 g.



Kutsing (Guangdong) via Tihwa (Urumtsi, Sinkiang) to Picton (ON), August 1942. Bilingual boxed **A. R.** Rated \$3; \$1 for each of U P U, registration, and A R fees. Canadian censorship (likely at Vancouver) and six month delay. From Kutsing to Canton to Tihwa at the western edge of China. Addressed to the first of two different Canadian *Star Cafés* (there is a tradition of Chinese restaurants in small Canadian towns).



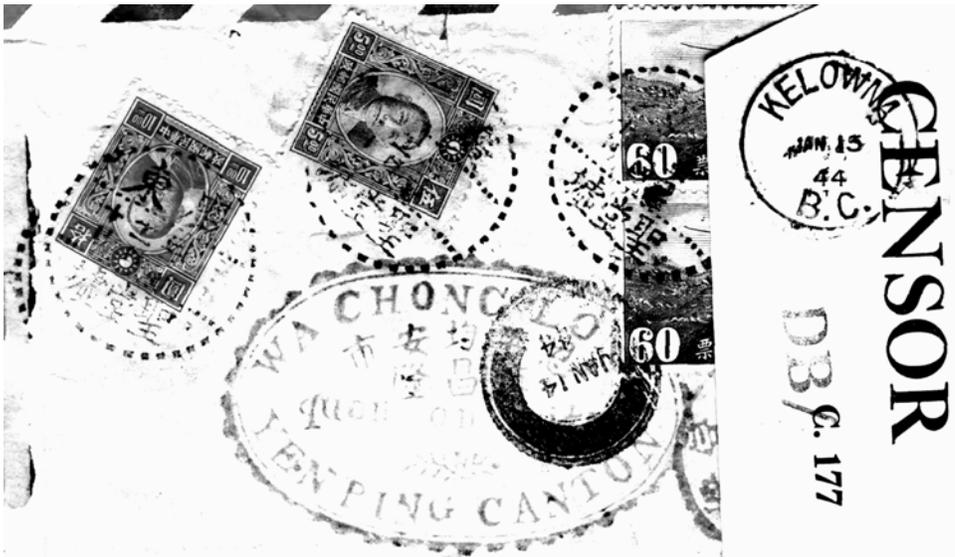
Air all the way to Canada (1943–1944)

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. The U P U rate was \$2 for the first 20 g and \$1.20 for each additional 20 g during 1 June 1943–30 April 1943; over the same period, international registration and A R fees were \$2.60 and \$2 respectively.

This is the first rate period in which the Chinese international registration and A R fees were *not* equal.

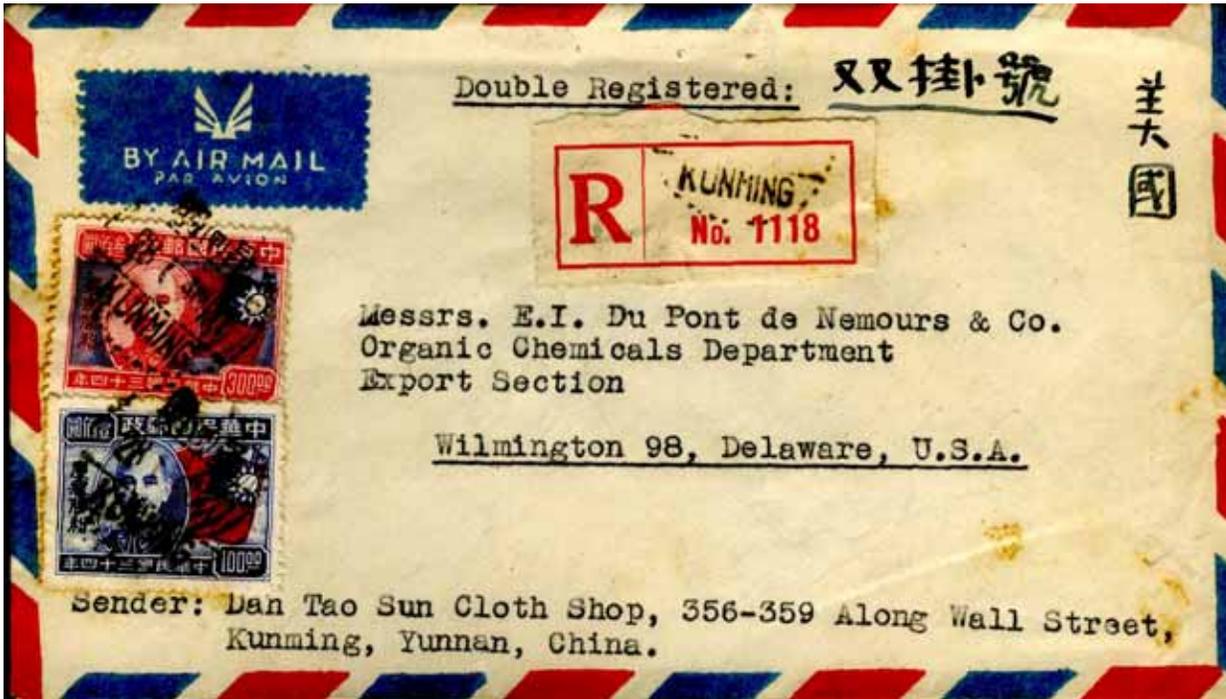


Canton to Kelowna (BC), October? 1943. Sender has badly misspelled destination town. Bilingual boxed A. R. Rated \$16.20, made up of \$9.60 air supplement, \$2 U P U surface, registration \$2.60, and A R \$2. Canadian censorship (likely at Vancouver) and several months delay.



Air to US (to May 1946)

1 October 1945–30 April 1946, registration \$50 and A R fee \$40. 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 (and double registered characters to its right). Rated \$400: triple air supplement at \$90 per five grams, single surface U P U \$30 (11–15 g), registration \$50, and A R \$40, overpaid \$10. Remnant of A R card on reverse.



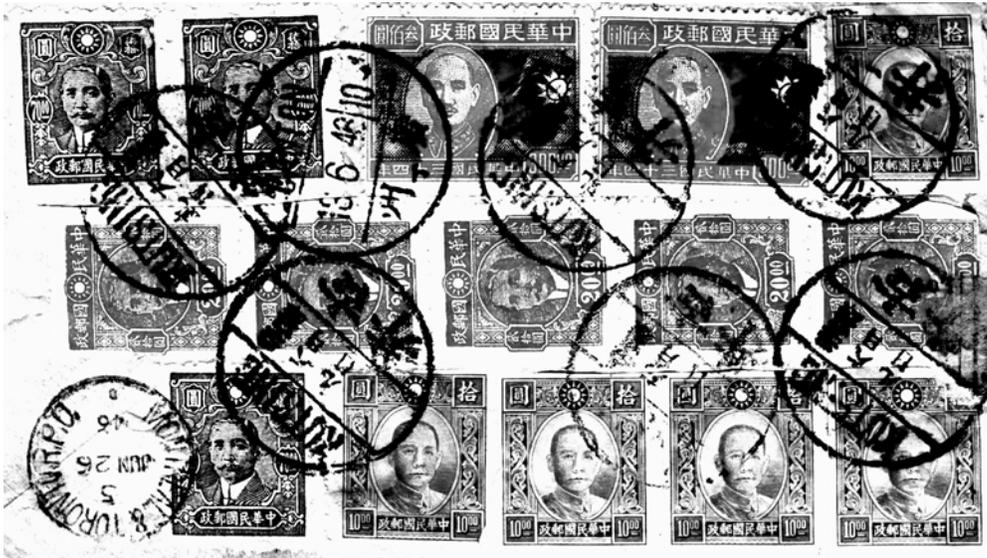
Siulam (Guangdong) to Oakland, February 1946. Bilingual AR. Rated \$210; air supplement \$90, surface U P U \$30, registration \$50, and A R \$40. Via Canton.

Air to Canada (1946)

21 May 1946–28 August 1946, air mail supplement (to U S and Canada) CNC \$600 per five grams; NAL to Calcutta, BOAC to London, and PAA to North America. Over the same period, the U P U rate was \$190 for the first 20 g and \$120 for each additional 20 g; registration and A R fees were \$270 and \$200 respectively in this period.

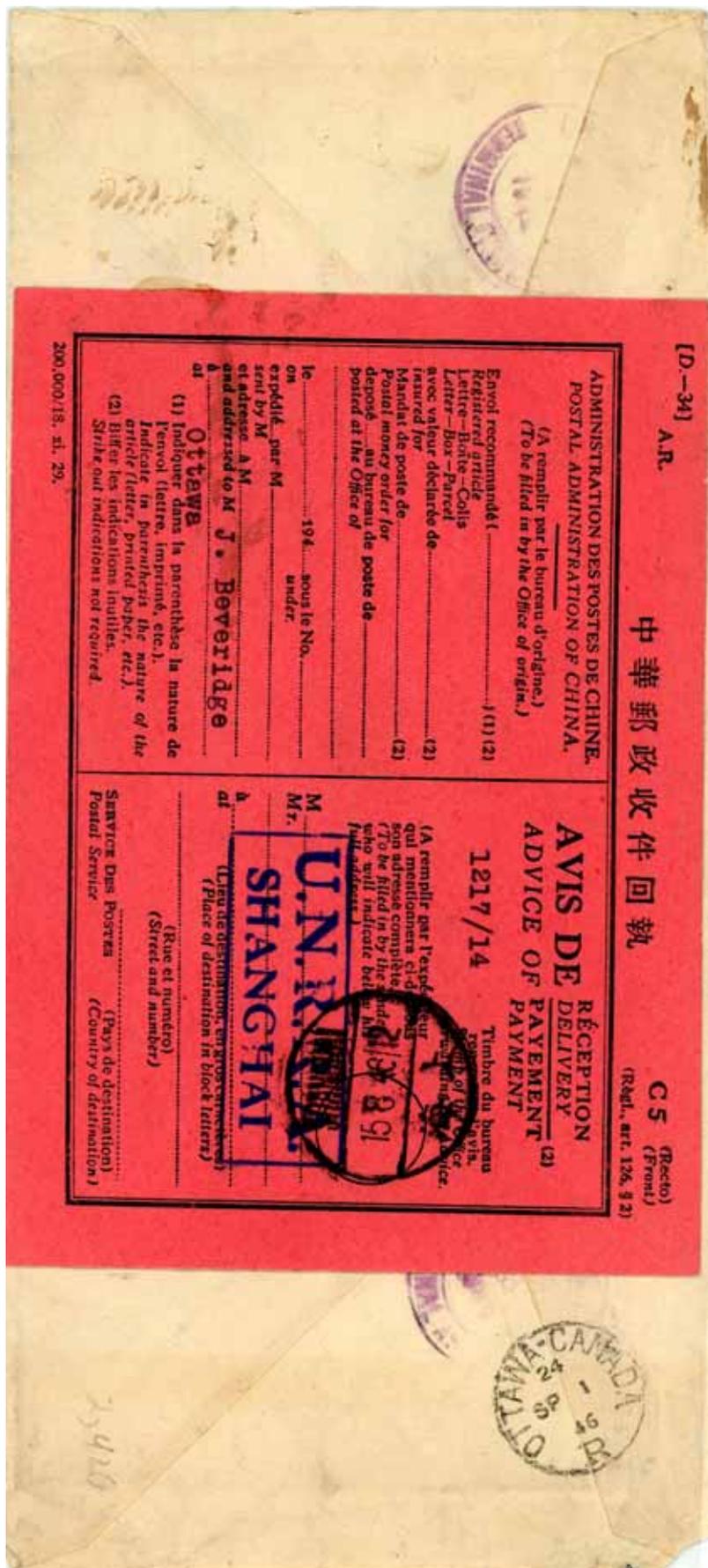


*Kutsing to Trenton (ON), June 1946. Addressed to a different Star Café. Primitive encircled A R. Rated \$960; \$600 air supplement, \$190 U P U surface, registration \$270, and A R \$200; *underpayment* by \$300 might be explained by missing stamp on front (at lower right): uncanceled and fell off before reaching Trenton. Canadian duty free handstamp at Trenton.*

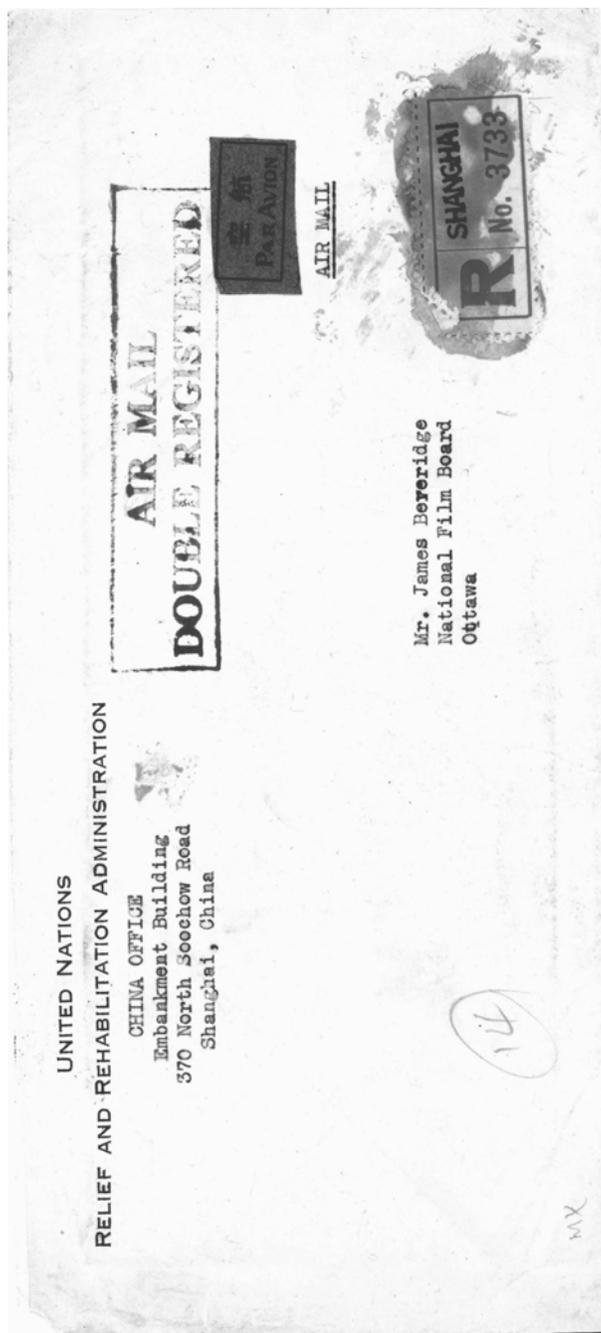


Air to Canada with AR card still attached (1946)

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



UNRRA, Shanghai to Ottawa, triple air, August 1946.
Two-line **AIR MAIL/DOUBLE REGISTERED**.
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 U P U (surface) \$190, reg'n \$270, and A R \$200, underpaid by \$50.



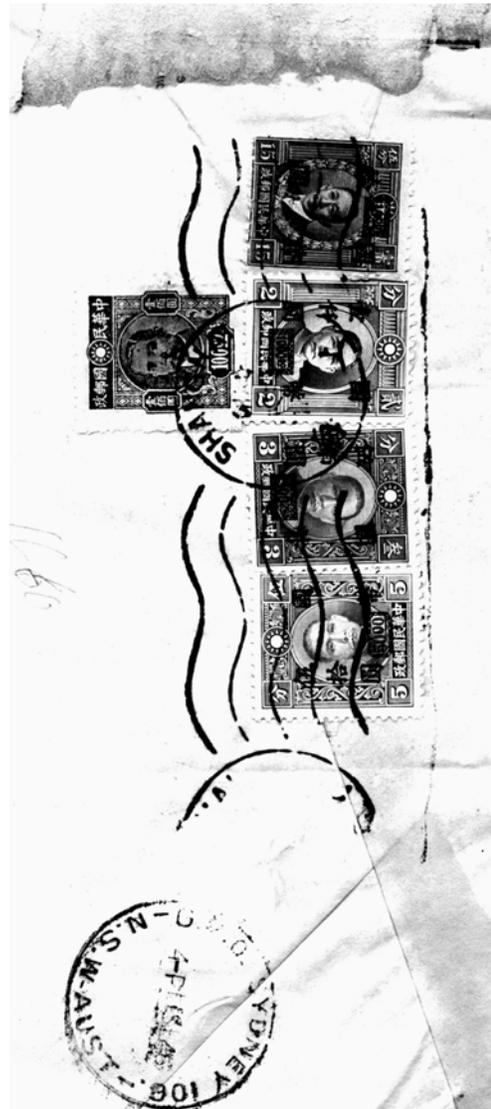
Air to Australia (1946)

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 U P U (surface) \$190, reg'n \$270, and A R \$200.



A R card remnant.

Air desired to US (to August 1946)

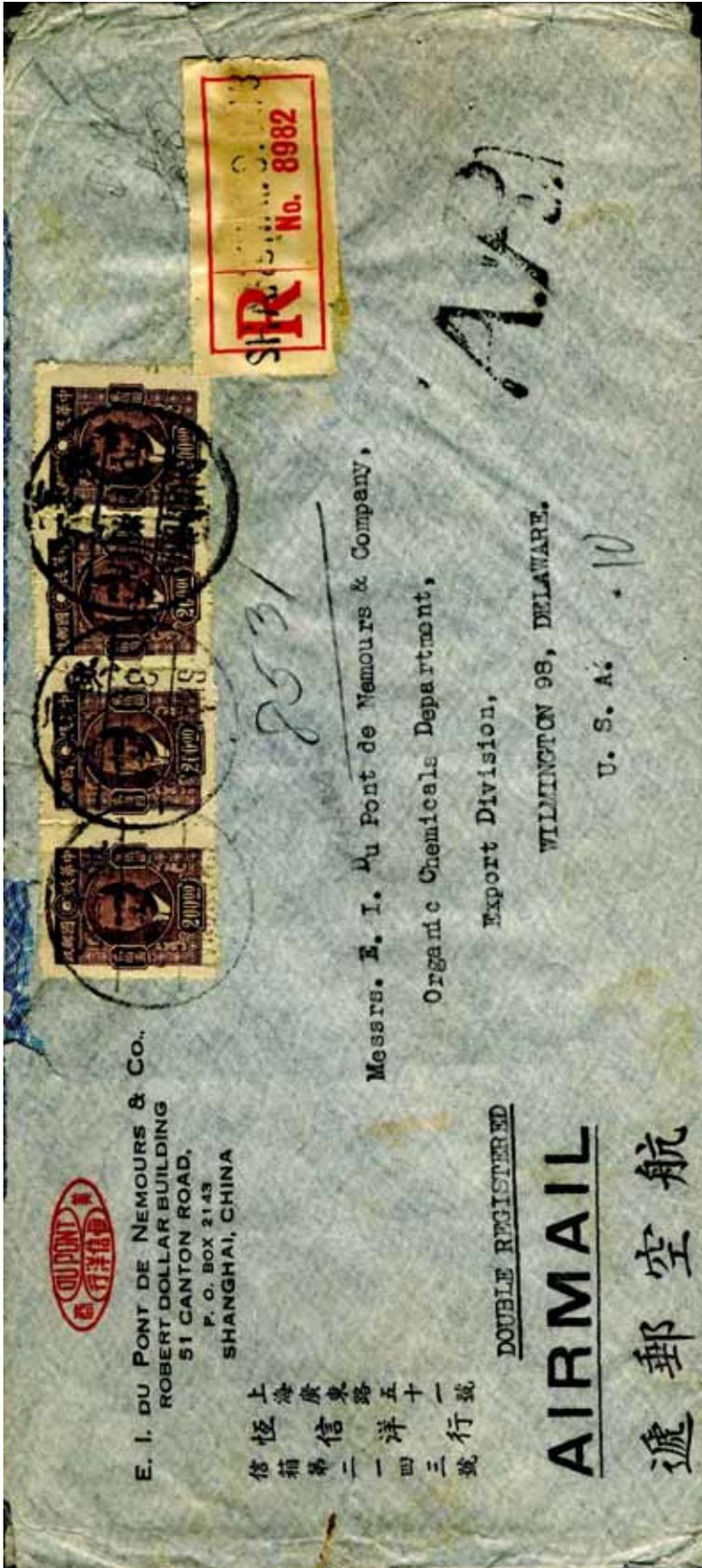
21 May 1946–28 August 1946, supplemental air fee was \$600 per five grams.



Shanghai to New York, sent as surface mail despite [airmail label](#), May 1946. Framed RR. Anomalously rated \$1020; air supplement \$600, surface UPU \$190, registration \$270, and AR \$200, vastly underpaid; likely sent as *quadruple surface*, which matches the postage exactly.



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 U P U (surface) at \$190 for first 20 g and \$120 for each additional, registration \$270, and A R \$200, with trivial overpayment of \$10.



Air to Australia (1946)

1 September 1946–20 October 1946, air mail supplement for service by BOAC to Australia was \$400 per five grams. 1 September 1946–28 February 1947, registration \$450, A R fee \$350, and U P U letter rate \$300 first 20 g, \$200 each additional.



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 U P U (surface) \$300, registration \$450, and A R \$350.



A R card remnant.

Air to US (to end 1946)

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

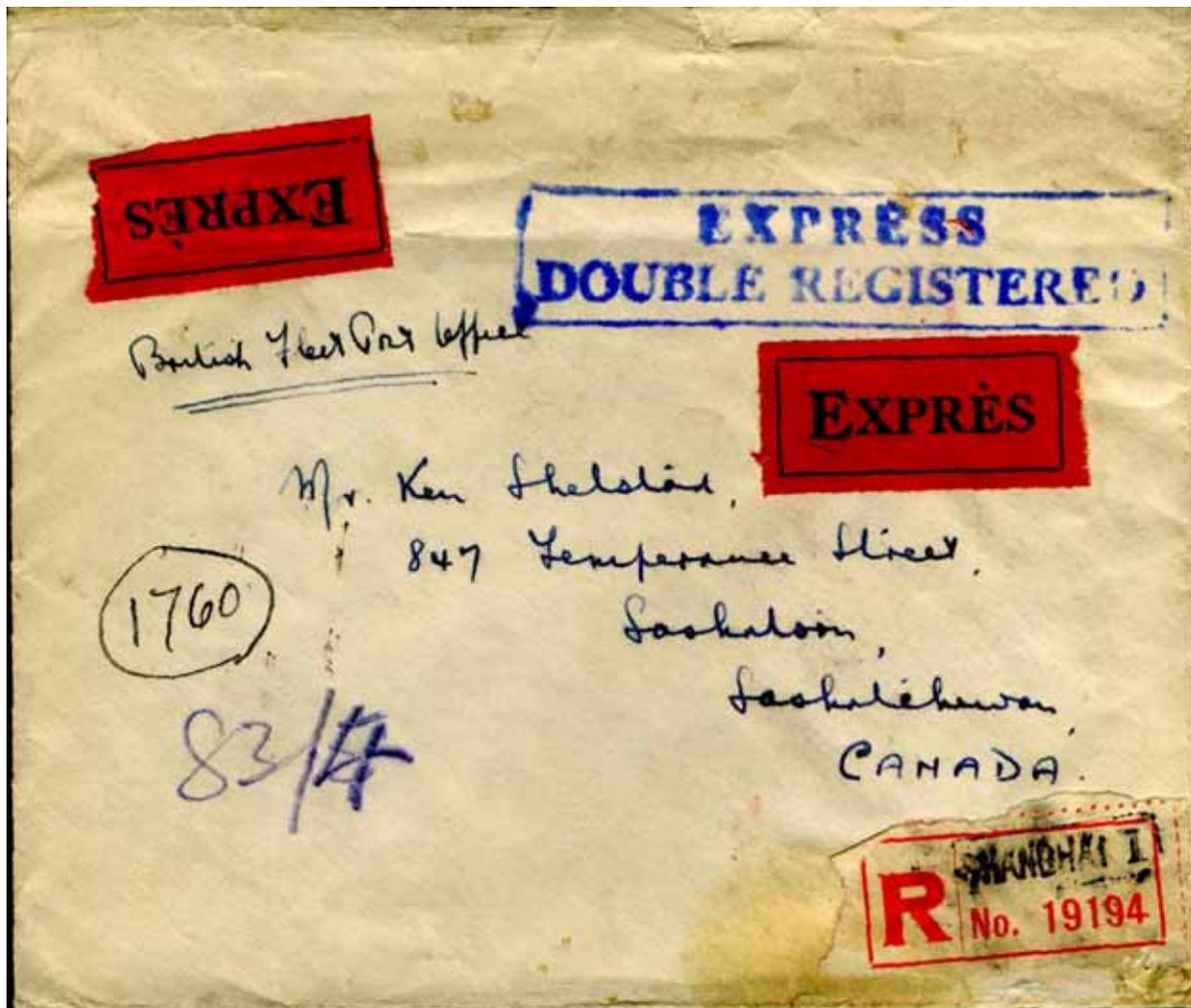


Shanghai to San Francisco, octuple, December 1946.
Ms Double registered.

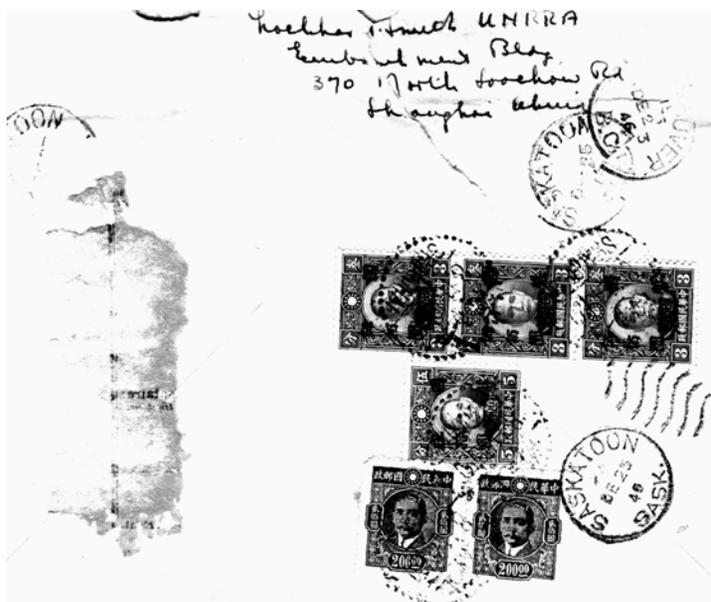
Rated \$10100 (10 × \$1000 overprinted), 35–40 g,
8 × \$1100 air supplement, double U P U (surface)
at \$300 for first 20 g and \$200 for each additional,
registration \$450, and A R \$350.

Express to Canada (1946)

Combination express and registration \$1100, 1 September 1946–28 February 1947; separate registration fee, \$450; A R, 350; U P U letter, \$300 first 20 g, and \$200 each additional.



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



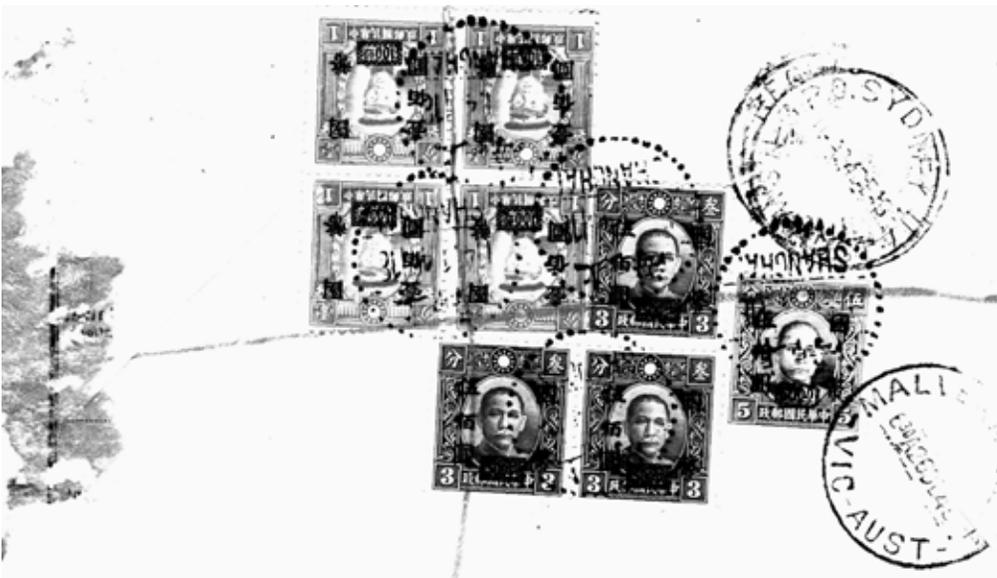
Remnant of Chinese A R card.

Express to Australia (1946)

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



CNRRRA, 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 U P U surface first 20 g and \$200 each additional, and A R \$350. Originally with [air mail etiquette](#), which has been covered by the **EXPRES** label.



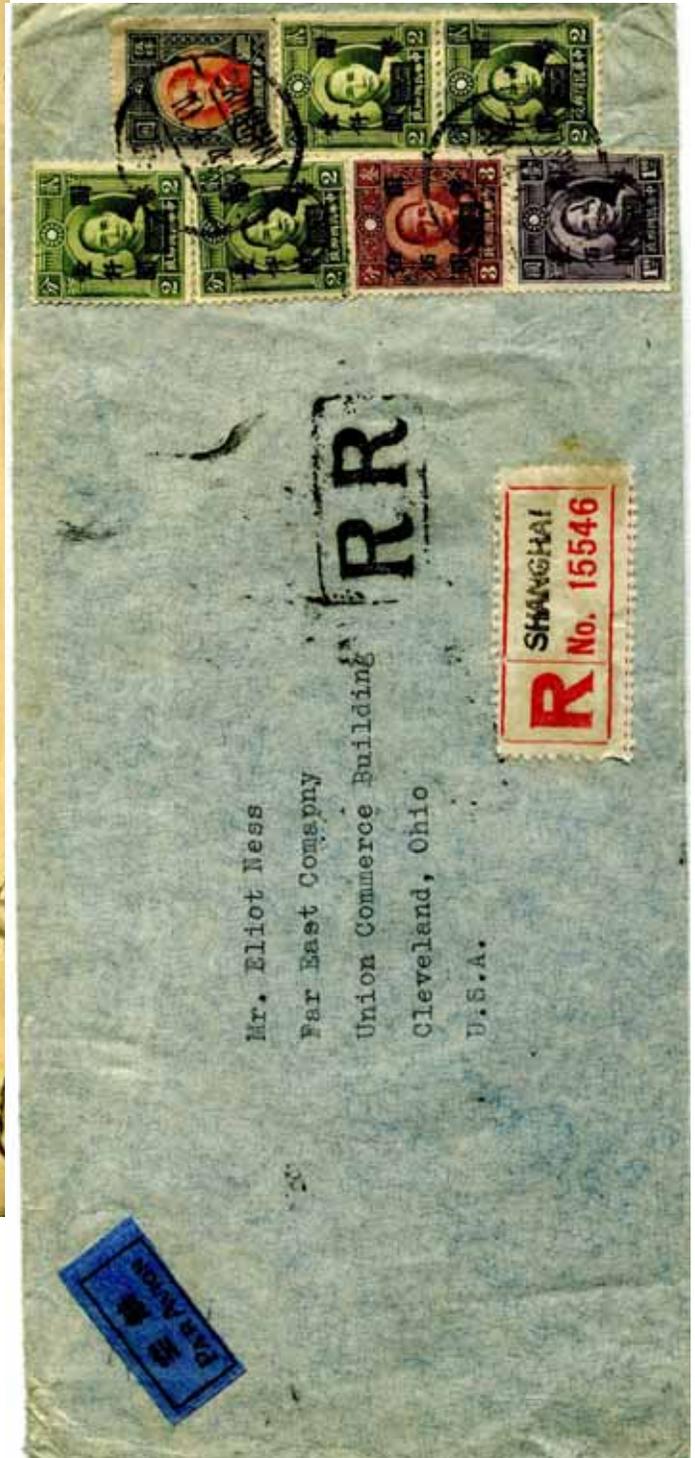
Remnant of Chinese **A R card**.

Airmail to US and Canada (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, two times air supplement, single U P U (surface) at \$1100, registration \$1600, and A R \$1200.



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

Rated \$9600 (4 × \$1000, \$500, \$100 overprinted); 10–15 g, triple air supplement, single U P U (surface) at \$1100, registration \$1600, and A R \$1200.

Airmail to Canada (September 1947)

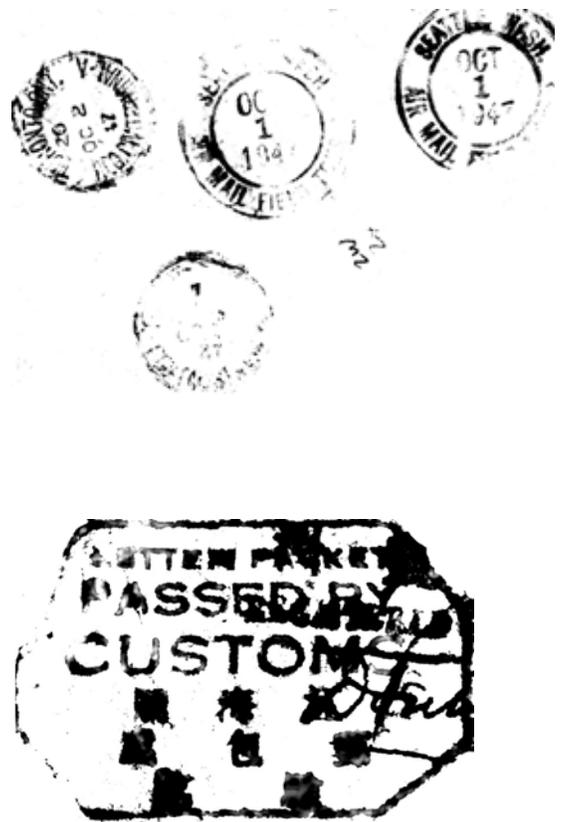
1 July–1 October 1947, air mail supplement to US & Canada was \$2100 per five grams.



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

Rated \$51000 (2 × \$500 overprinted); 100–105 g, 21 times air supplement, 5 times U P U (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 and Canadian National Revenue handstamps.



Big airmail to US (November 1947)

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

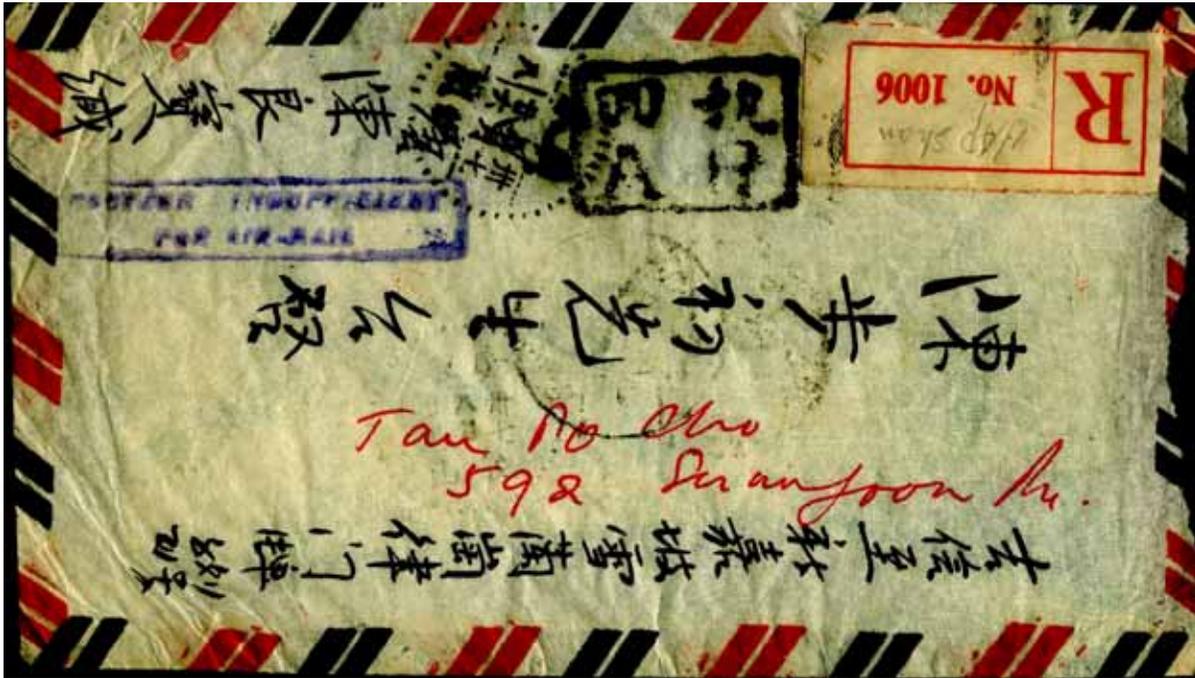


Shanghai to New York, nonatuple rate, November 1947. Framed RR.
 Rated \$146000; 90–100 g, 9 times air supplement, 5 times UPU (surface) at \$5500 for first 20 g and \$3500 for each additional, registration \$8000, and A R \$6000.
 Purple handstamp in corner has misspelling, REGISTERDE.



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 U P U \$300 000, registration \$400 000, and A R \$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 February 1948, air mail supplement to the US was \$40000 per ten grams.



Shanghai to Wilmington (DE), quintuple rate, February 1948. Framed turquoise RR, type-script

DOUBLE REGISTERED, and character indicating double added to registration handstamp.

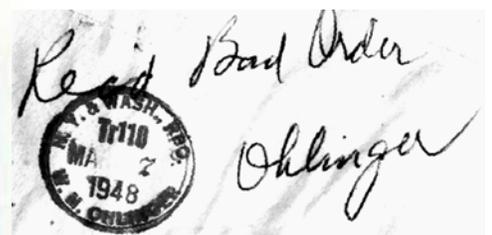
Rated \$252000; 40–50 g, 5 times air supplement, 3 times U P U (surface) at \$11000 for first 20 g and \$7000 for each additional, registration \$15000, and A R \$12000.

Massive airmail to US (March 1948)

1-16 March 1948, air mail supplement to the US, \$45000 per 10 g; first class surface, \$14000 first 20 g and \$9000 each additional; registration, \$20000; A R, \$15000.

Shanghai to Wilmington (DE), received in bad condition, decanonatuple rate (19x), 2 March 1948. Large obliqued 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 air mail supplement (180+ -190 g) and UPU **commercial papers** at \$3000 per 50 g with minimum of \$14000 plus registration and A R yield exactly \$904000. No other rate combination applies.



Received Bad order Ohlinger.
Named clerk of **N.Y. & WASH. RPO**



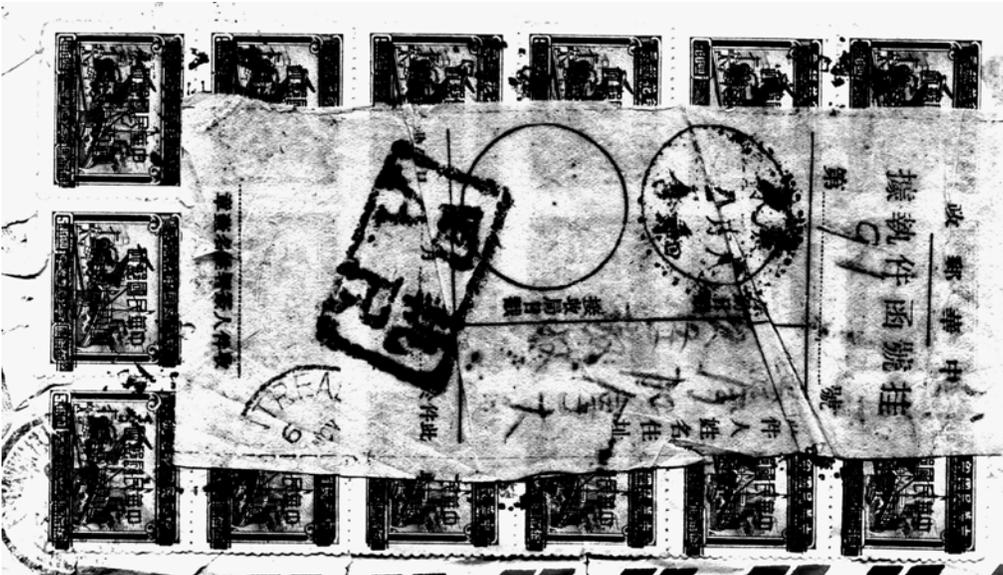
Air to Canada (to November 1949)

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 U P U \$.15, registration \$.20, and AR \$.15.

Via Hong Kong (arrived 22 November 1949, after rate change), Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal.



To Malaya, 1984



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



Manchuria

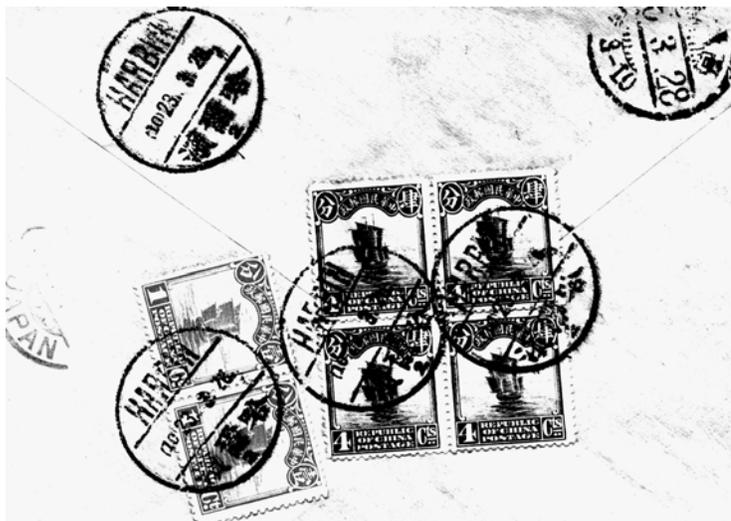
In northeast China, Manchuria was under heavy Russian influence until 1931, when Japan invaded and captured it; it became known as Manchukuo. The largest city, Harbin, was largely populated by White Russian emigrés after the Russian revolution. From 1935, the Russian presence diminished considerably,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

Harbin to Japan (1928)

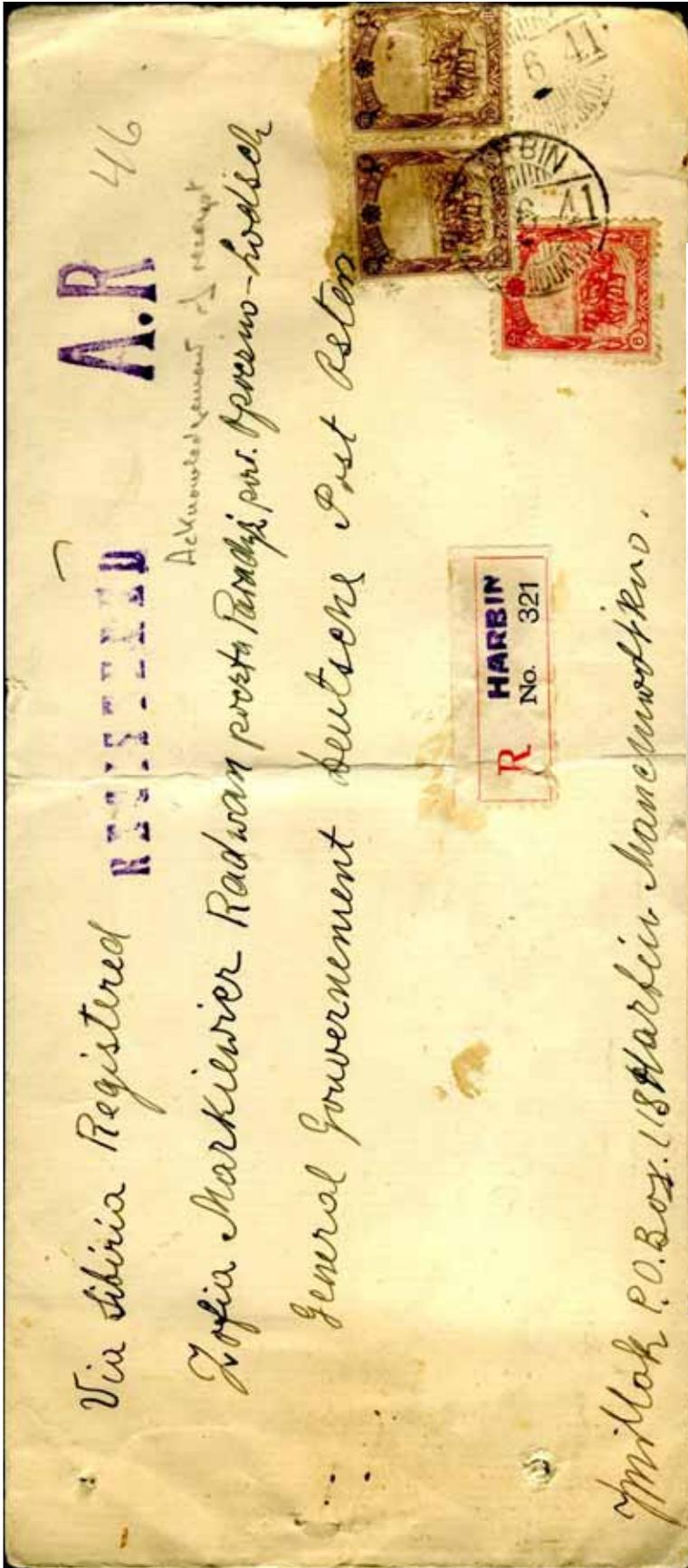
Registration and AR fees to Japan were less than their counterparts to other U P U destinations; at this time, they were 5¢ each to Japan, but 10¢ each to the rest of the world.



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)



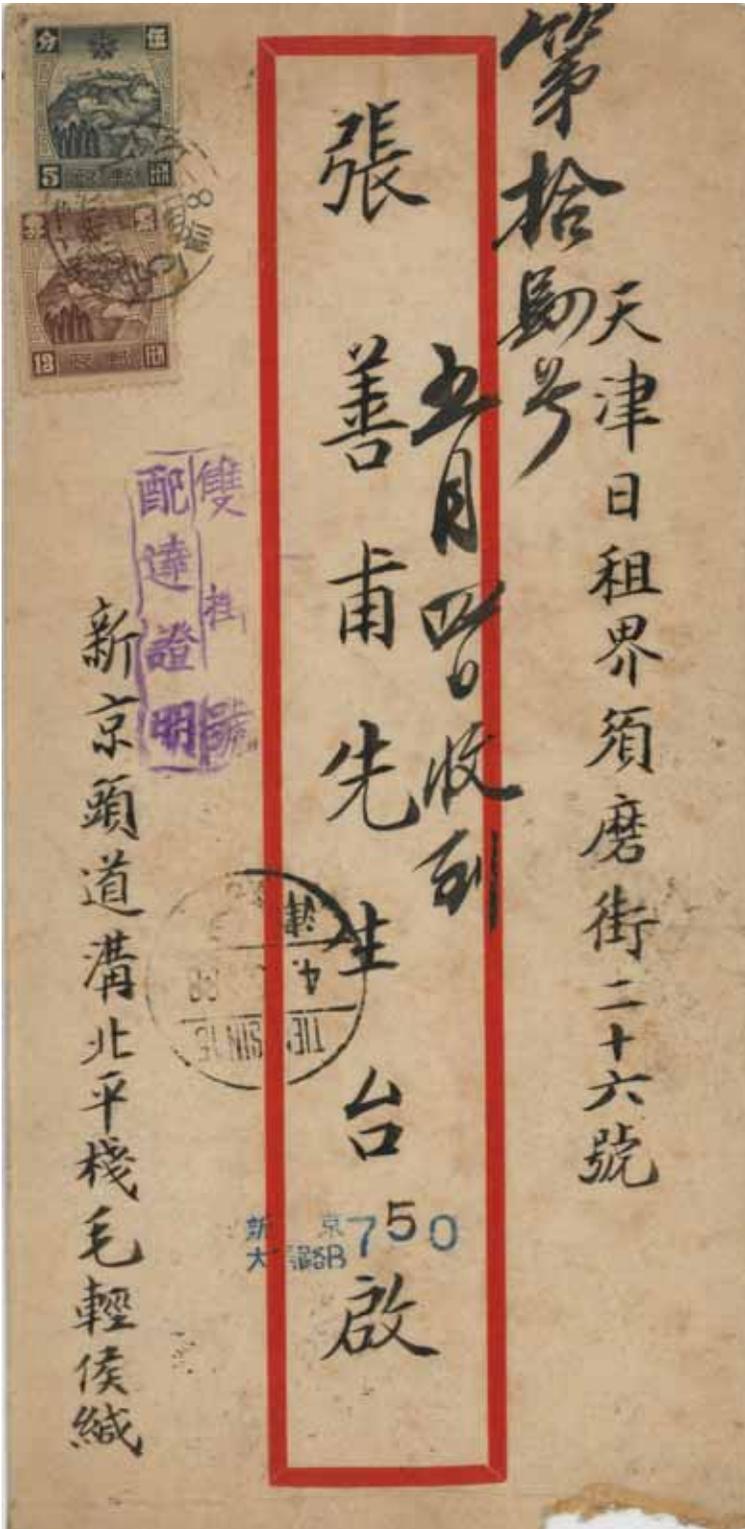
Harbin to Warsaw, June 1941. Purple **A.R.**
 Rated 46 Fen; 20 F first weight first class international, 16 F registration, and 10 F A R fee. In effect 1937-42, and based on Japanese rates.
 From one puppet state to another.



Moukden-Chicago, June 1941. Rated as above. Postmarks on stamps read 8 5 30, counting the years since the Chinese Republic formed!



Manchukuo to China



Hsinking (now, Xinjiang) to Tientsin, 1938. Rated 8 Fen registration, 5 F A R, and 5 F first class to China. Rates in effect 1 April 1937–28 March 1942.

Registration handstamp in blue, Main Road post office, registration number 750.

Right column of purple handstamp means double registered.

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 A R covers. There is one illustrated in the literature. So I will have to make do with an *incoming* A R 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 A R form mailed from PPIE.

Form 3870.

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

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____

for a registered article (_____) (1) } entered at the office
d'un objet recommandé (_____) (1) } enregistré au bureau

of _____ the _____, 19 _____, under No. 3318 (2)
de _____ le _____, 19 _____, sous le No. _____ (2)

mailed by M. Dir of Leonie Medak
expédiée par M. _____

and addressed to M. _____ at _____
et adressé à M. Hon Minister of Finance à _____

(complete address) _____
(adresse complète) Peking - China

The undersigned declares { that a letter with declared value _____ to the above-mentioned address, and
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée _____ 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-pei
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 that 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) NOTA.—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 le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

5-4172

US A R 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 A R forms with a watermark, this one being a large seal of the United States.



International AR form used domestically

One of four known examples of the form intended for international use; used domestically. Differs from pre-UPU (1909) example in this exhibit in having printing on reverse; otherwise virtually identical form.

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

expédié par M. Com. Killiard, N.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 19

du destinataire : H. Picard Destelan
of the addressee: SIGNATURE ⁽³⁾

de l'agent du bureau distributeur : Changyuan
of the employé of distributing Office:

(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

 (Date stamp of returning Office.)

THE CHINESE POST 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 envelope

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



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

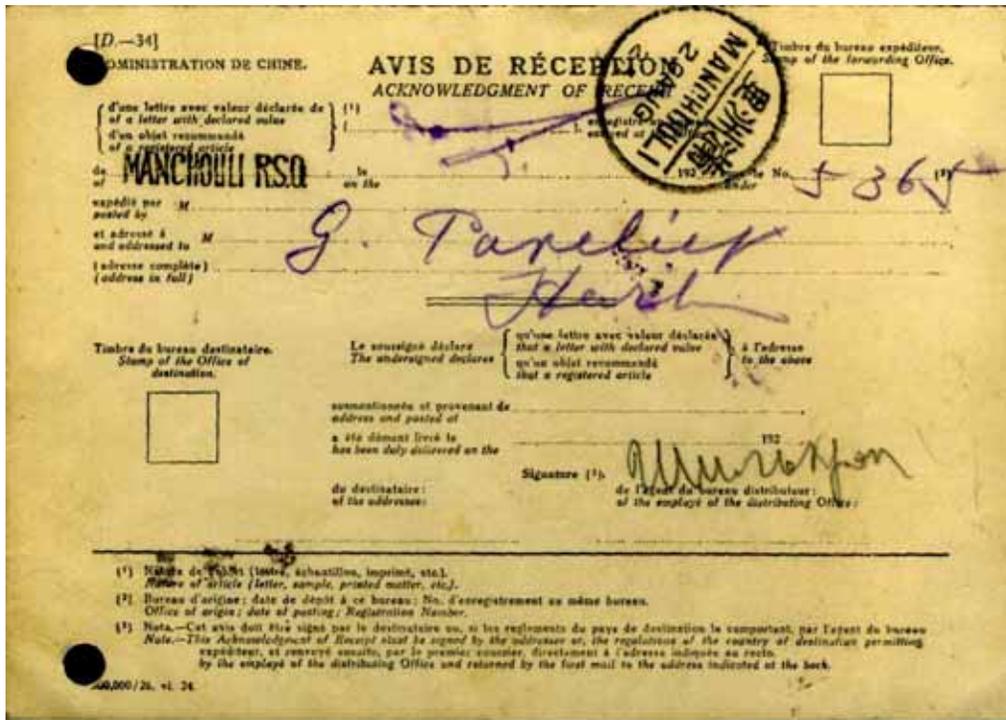


AR cards

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

Pre-1930

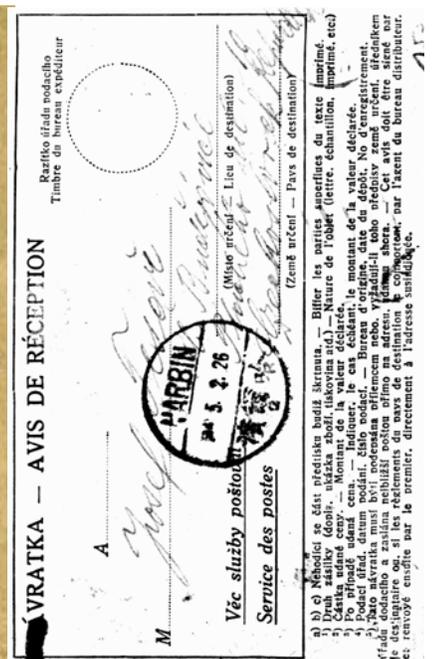
Worldwide, most jurisdictions used drab A R cards until ca 1930



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



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



Post-1930

Most jurisdictions' A R 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-Box-Parcel
avec valeur déclarée de insured for
Mandat de poste de Postal money order for
déposé en bureau de poste de posted at the Office of

le 25 August 1946 sous le No. 194

expédié par M. R. I. V. Kozloff
sent by M. Rev. A. Clark
et adressé à M. 90 Stephens Road
and addressed to M. 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) Biffer les indications inutiles.
Strike out indications not required

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION DELIVERY (2)
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.)

M. R. I. V. Kozloff
185/12 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. VII. 30.

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

livré payé on the 11 SEP 1946 194

Signature (1) *A. Clark*

de destination: de l'agent du bureau destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire:

SOUTH BRISBANE 11 SEP 1946

Chinese A R 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 Letter-Box-Parcel
avec valeur déclarée de insured for
Mandat de poste de Postal money order for
déposé au bureau de poste de posted at the Office of

le 194 sous le No. under

expédié par M. Mr. Stepler
sent by M. 2035 Kern St
et adressé à M. Fresno, Calif.
and addressed to M. (Lieu de destination, en gros caractères) (Place of destination in block letters)
U.S.A. (Rue et numéro) (Street and number)

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

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION DELIVERY (2)
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.)

M. Mr. Stepler
2035 Kern 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. XI. 19.

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

livré payé on the 3 July 1948 1948

Signature (1) *Mr. Stepler*

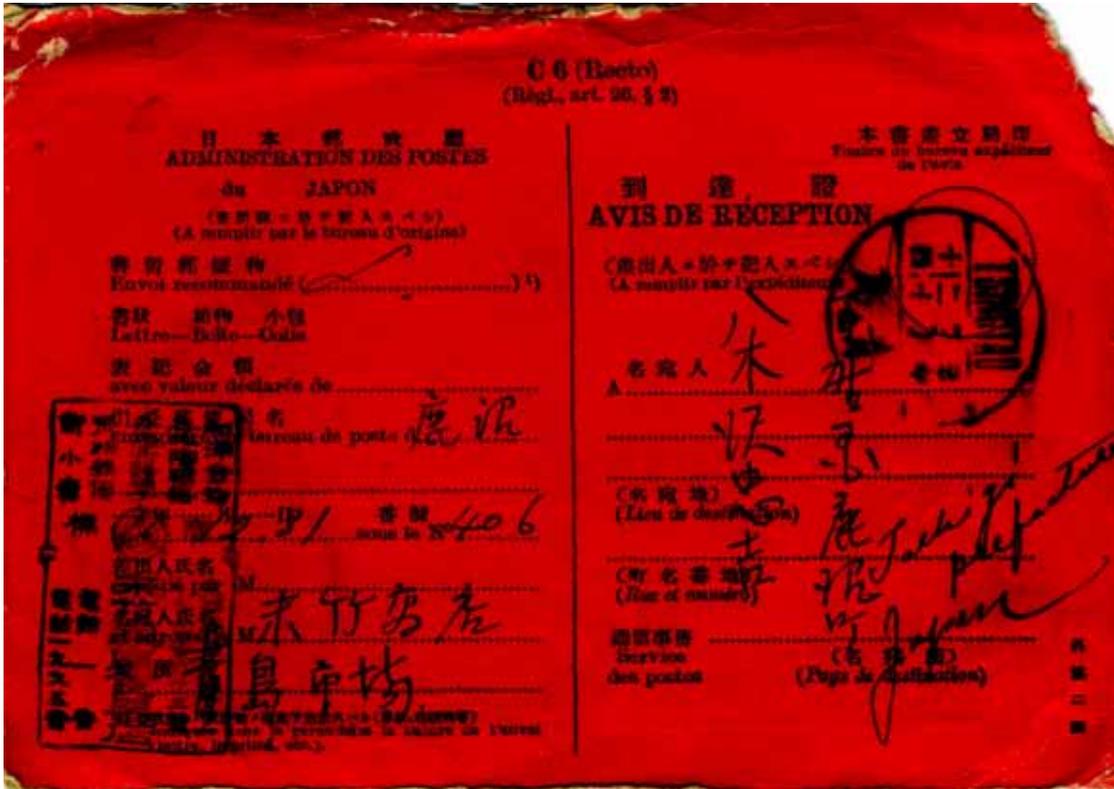
de destination: de l'agent du bureau destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire:

FRESNO CALIF 3 JUL 1948

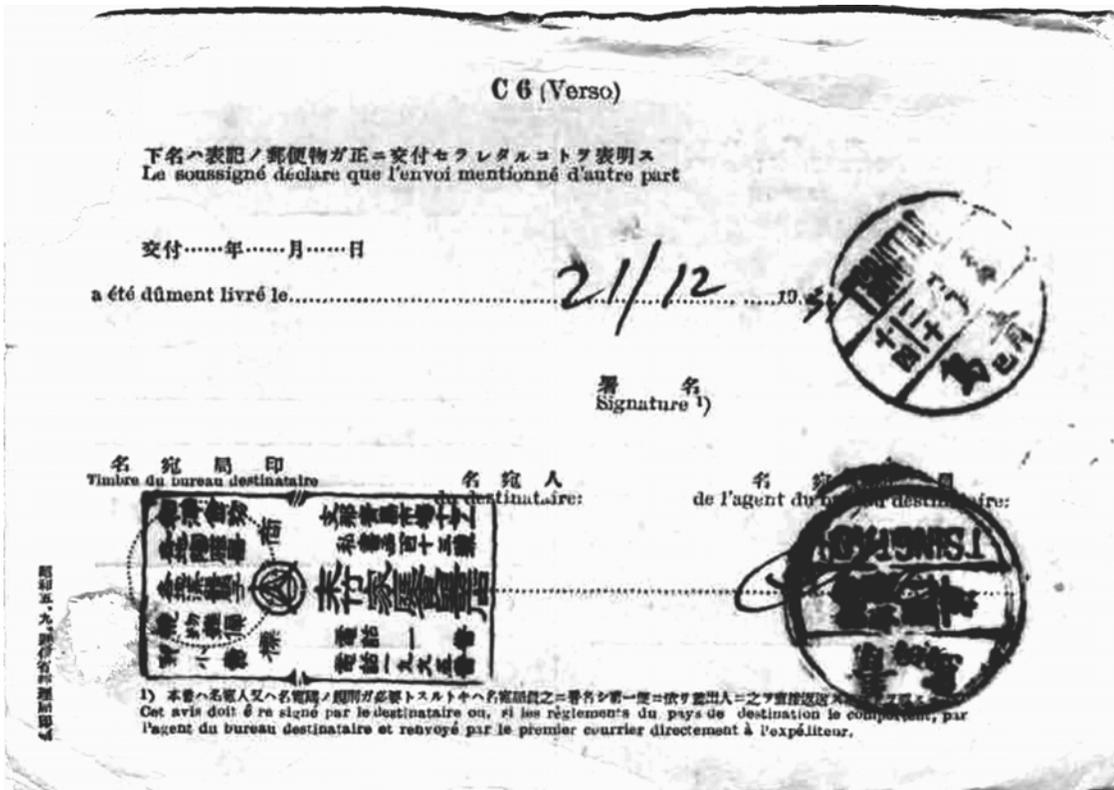
Returned from Fresno (CA) to Nanking, 1948. Name and address of sender and receiver transposed, but properly signed and returned to sender despite this. Card was attached to the registered letter with glue; when card detached, it pulled some of the envelope with it.

Incoming A R card

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



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



With remnants of the attached envelope.

Subsequent (after-the-fact) and normal AR cards from Dairen

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

C 5 (Recto)
(Règl., art. 126, § 2)

日本郵便局
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
du NIPPON
(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)

Subsequent

本署取扱印
Timbre du bureau
renvoyant l'avis

到達證
特異通知書
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
(PAYMENT)

(送出人へ之ノ宛合ナル所
氏名ヲ下段ニ記入スベシ
(A remplir par l'expéditeur
qui mentionnera ci-dessous
son adresse complète)
M. R. H. Baagoe,

Dairen B. P.O. Box No. 544.

(送出人氏名)
(Nom et adresse)
Dairen.

(宛先)
(Pays de destination)
Denmark.

送付事務
Service des postes

29

C 5 (Verso)

下名へ表記ノ郵便物カ正ニ交付セラルコトヲ表明ス
Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part
a été dûment livré le 11 Septembre 1937

署名
Signature)

名宛局印
Timbre du bureau destinataire

名宛局員
de l'agent du bureau destinataire

AALBORG
1416814.00

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.

Subsequent A R 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 letter was mailed, and signed at Aalborg on 14 January 1938.

C 5 (Recto)
(Règl., art. 126, § 2)

日本郵便局
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
du NIPPON
(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)

到達證
特異通知書
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
(PAYMENT)

(送出人へ之ノ宛合ナル所
氏名ヲ下段ニ記入スベシ
(A remplir par l'expéditeur
qui mentionnera ci-dessous
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1416814.00

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.

A R card returned from Arendal (Denmark) to Dairen, January 1939. Refers to same sender of registered letter (different recipient).

Domestic AR

Registration and A R fees for both domestic and local mail were each 5¢, 1897–1922. Domestic postage (except to Hong Kong and Macau) was 3¢ per half ounce, 1910–October 1922, and again 1 January 1923–31 October 1925. Domestic registration and A R fees differed from their international counterparts.



Kuling to Shanghai, 1921(?). Rated 13¢; domestic registration & A R fees, 5¢ each, and 3¢ per weight domestic fee. Shanghai carrier mark.



Hankow to Shanghai, triple, November 1923. Crude AR. Rated 20¢; domestic registration & A R fees, 5¢ each, & 3 × 3¢ per weight domestic fee (all implemented 1 January 1923), overpaid 1¢. Partial Shanghai carrier.

Mailed by Lt Knickerbocker aboard the USS Sicard, part of the US Asiatic fleet, based at Chefoo, Tsingtao, and Manilla (1922–1929). Disabled in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Domestic (ca 1921)



Shanghai to Mokenshan, 1921(?). Rated 13¢; domestic registration & A R fees, 5¢ each, and 3¢ per weight domestic fee. Neat boxed A.R., with ms *Return* added.



Receipts for domestic A R service

A R service was evidently available on domestic non-registered insured parcel post, although there is no literature on it. Below that is a registration receipt showing the item was sent with A R.

郵政儲金便利穩固 郵政匯兌簡捷省費
 [D-100] 中華郵政 POST OFFICE
 No. 3489 包裹收據 PARCEL RECEIPT.
 收包人姓名 Addressee's Name G. L. Mahum...
 住址 Address Shanghai
 內裝何物 Contents Brass solder 重量 Weight 1910

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

 寄件人姓名 Sender's Name Mrs. E. B. Feeney
 住址 Address Harbin Hotel... Wagons. Lts.,
 (Signature of Officer issuing Receipt)

Peiping to Shanghai, receipt for an unregistered parcel sent with A R, November 1923. Crude boxed AR.

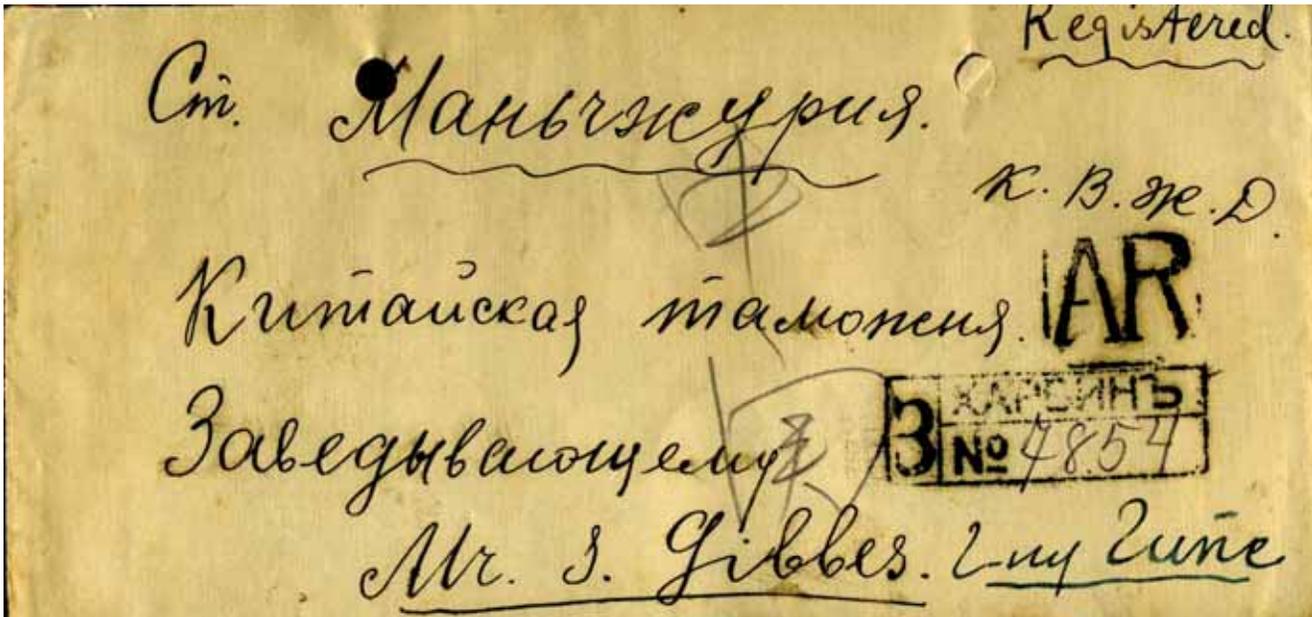
[D-101] CHINESE POST OFFICE. 8842
 No. _____
 Received a registered _____ addressed

 Harbin
 21.9
 濱爾哈
 Signature of Officer issuing Receipt

Registration receipt for local registered letter, Harbin, Manchuria, September 1927.

Domestic Manchuria (1925)

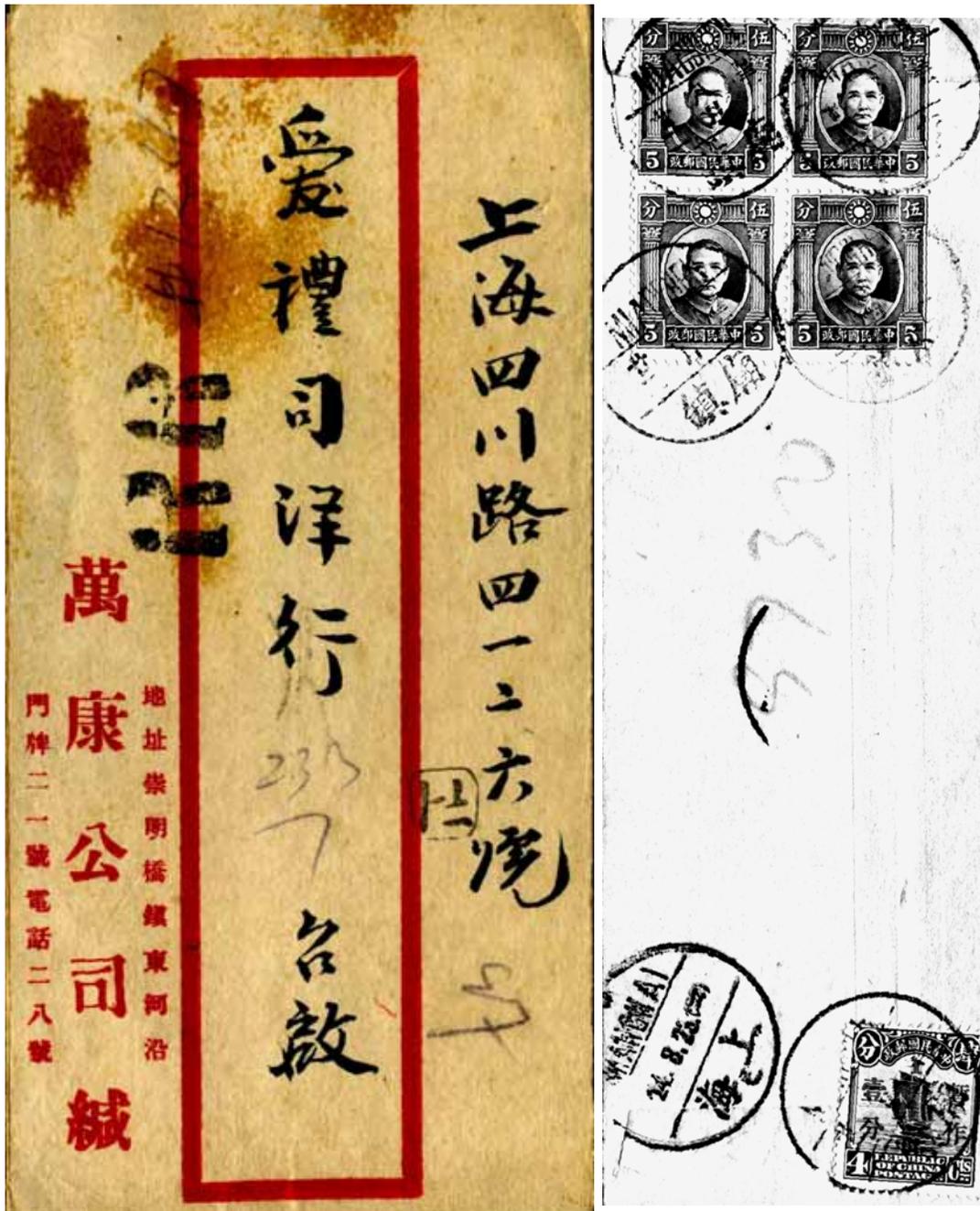
Domestic rate 3¢ per 20 g; in effect 1 January 1923–31 October 1925.



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

Domestic (1935)

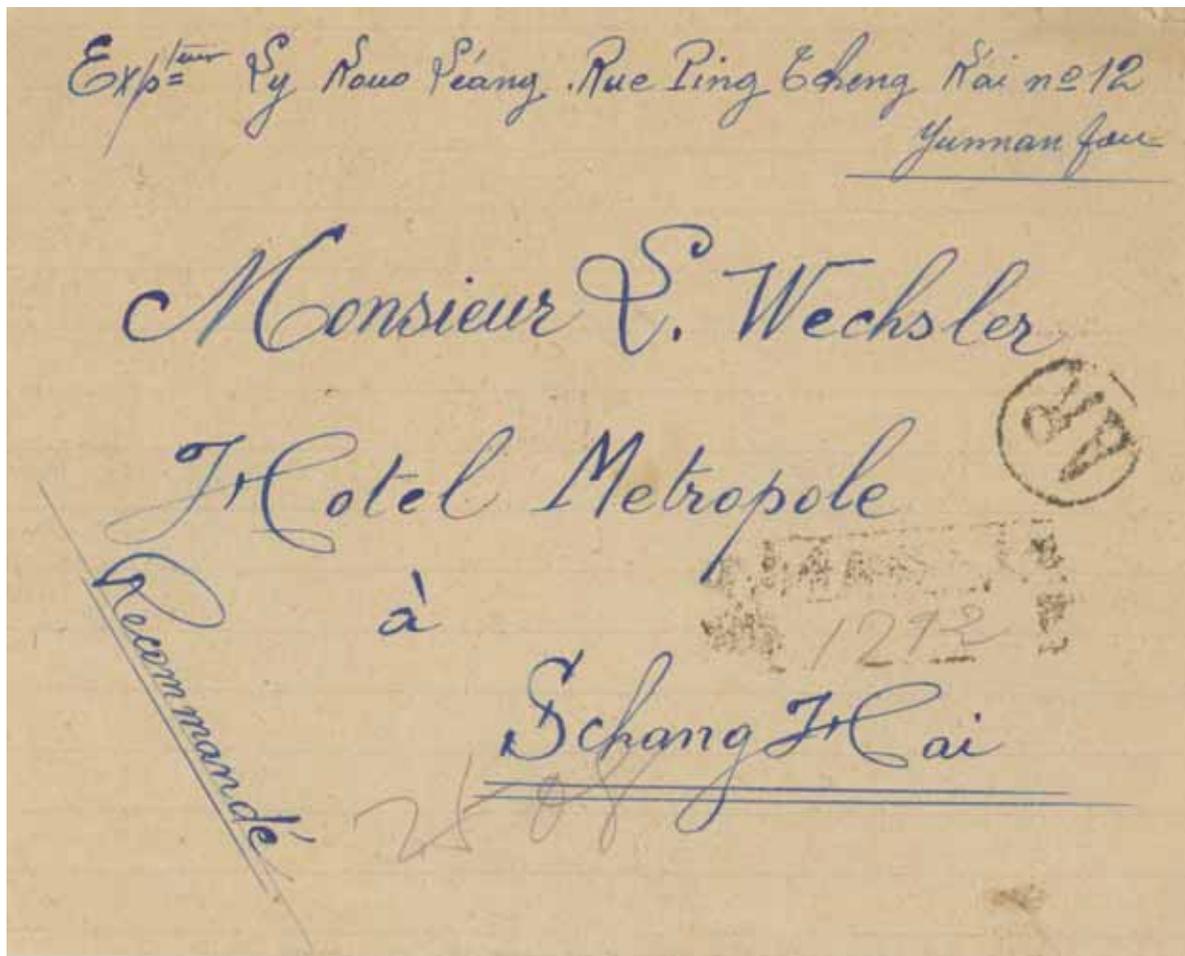
Domestic rate 5¢ per 20 g; registration and A R 8¢ each, 1932–1940.



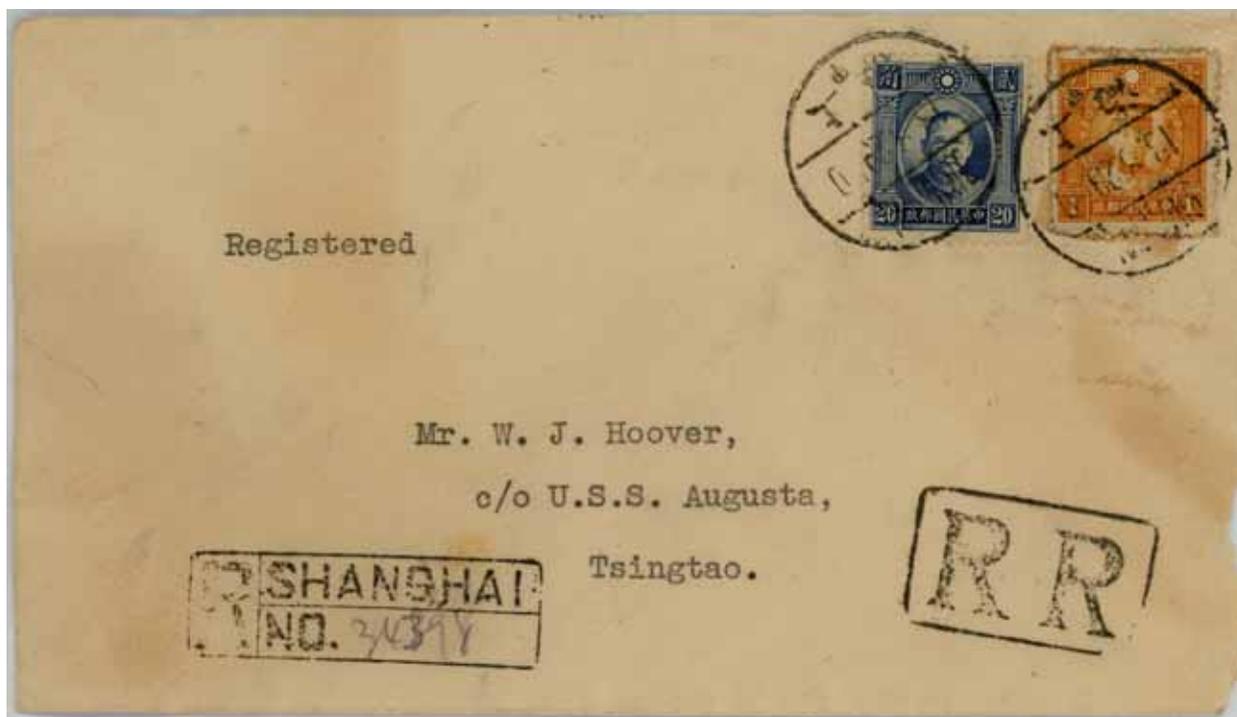
Miaochen to Shanghai, 1935 (postmark is dated 23, for years after the Chinese Republic was founded). Crude R R. Rated domestic 5¢ and 8¢ for both registration and A R (the junk stamp is surcharged 1).

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

Domestic



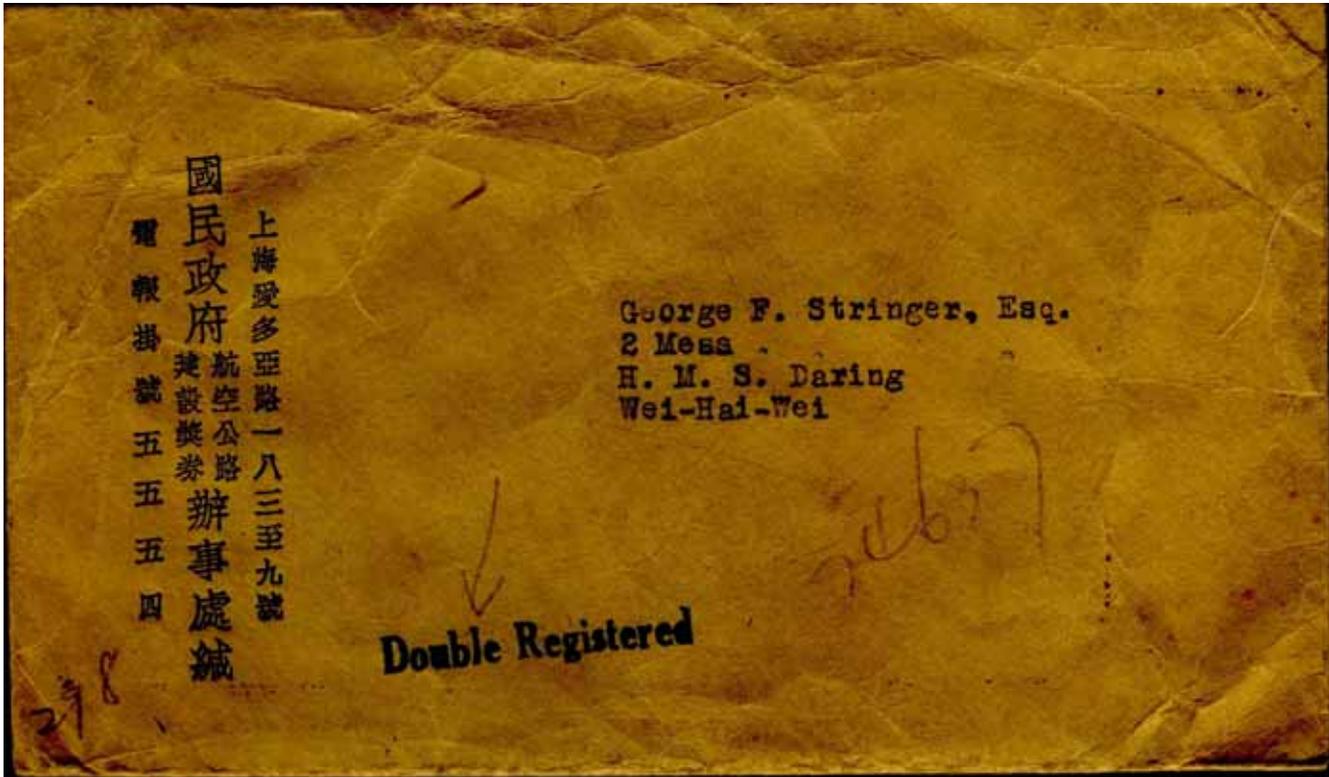
Yunnanfou–Shanghai, 1936. Rated 21¢; registration and A R at 8¢ each, plus domestic 5¢ (top stamp is overprinted 1 ct). All three rates in effect 1932–September 1940.



Shanghai–Tsingtao, August 1940. Rated as above.

U S S Augusta (1931–46), a heavy cruiser, operated out of Tsingtao August to September, observing Japanese operations.

Domestic (1938)

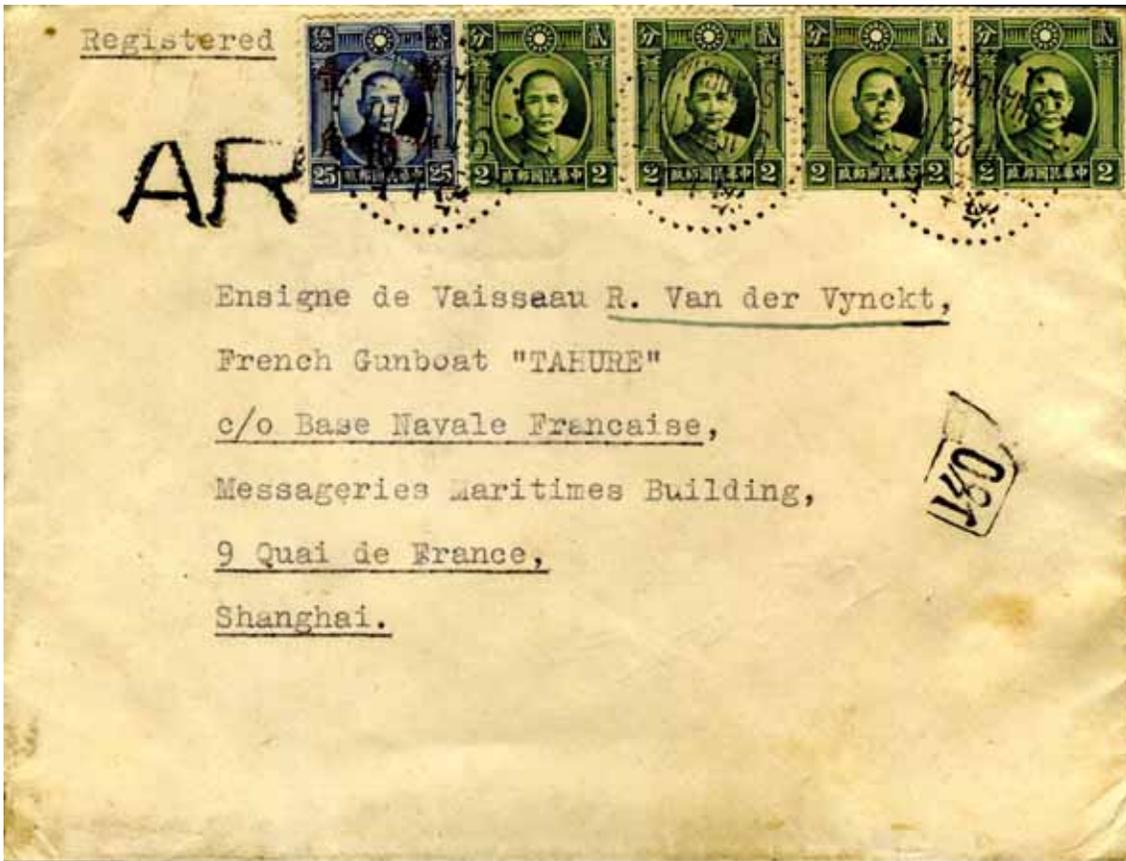


Shanghai to Wai-Hai-Wei, 1938. Handstamp **Double Registered**. Rated domestic 5¢ (double rate), and 8¢ for each of registration and A R (1¢ surcharge on 4¢ stamp). From the State Lottery administration to HMS *Daring* (launched in 1932 and briefly commanded by Louis Mountbatten; sunk by U-boat in 1940). Wei-Hai-Wei (Weihai) was leased by UK 1898–1930 and then reverted to China.

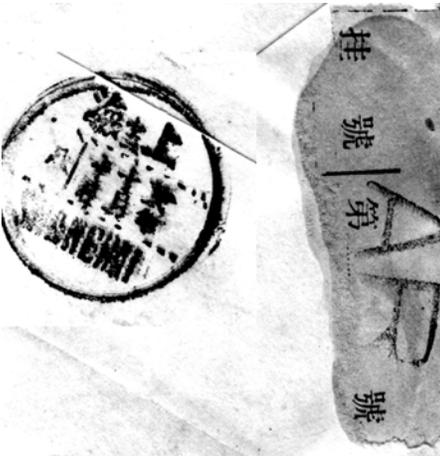


Local (1940)

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

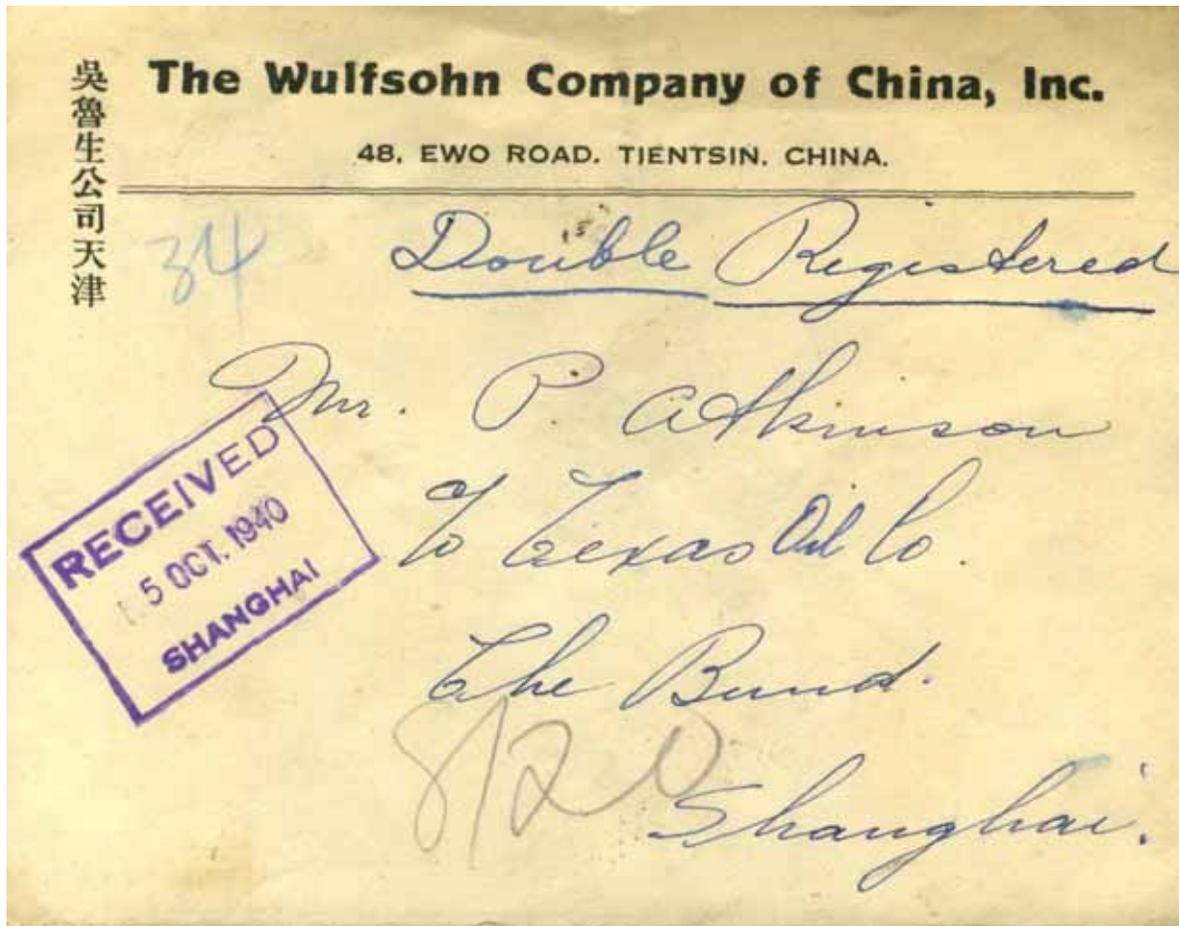


Shanghai to French gunboat in the harbour, pre-20 September 1940. Date of Shanghai hs reads 9 10 28; add 12 to the year, and take away several weeks. Handstamp nonserif AR on front and on remnant of registration slip on reverse. Rated 2¢ local and 8¢ for each of registration and AR (10¢ surcharge on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

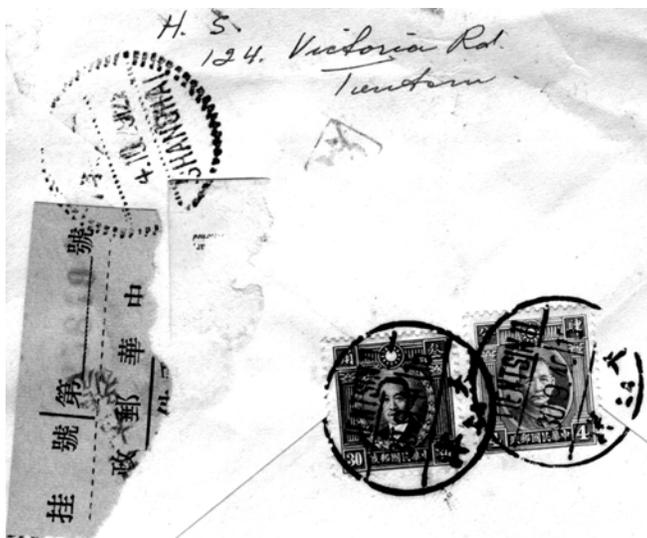


Domestic (September 1940)

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



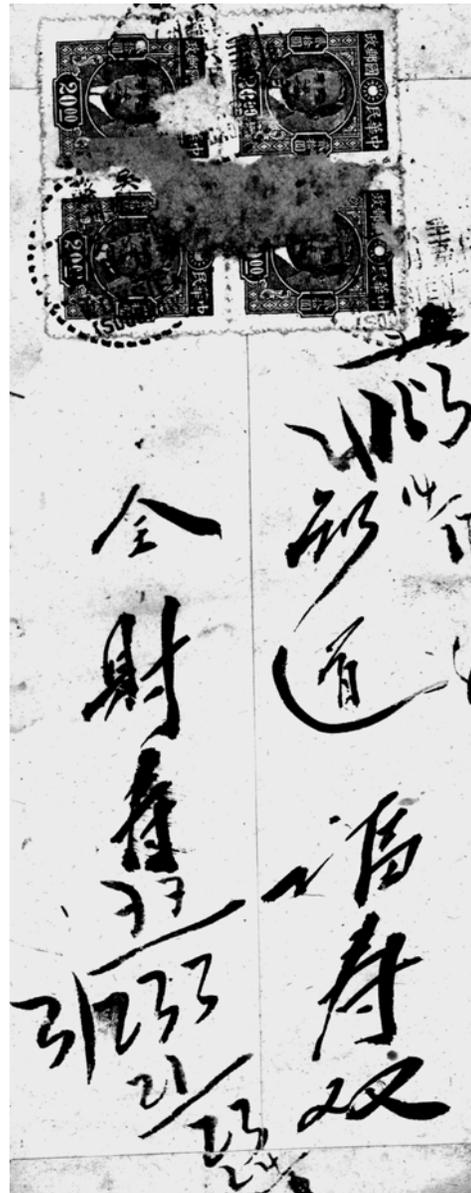
Japanese-occupied Tientsin (Hopei) to Shanghai, 30 September 1940 (ten days after rate changes). Ms *Double Registered*, first word added as an after-thought. Rated 8¢ domestic and 13¢ for each of registration & A R.



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

Domestic (1945–1946)

During the period 1 October 1945–31 October 1946, domestic rate was 20¢ per 20 g, and A R & registration fees were 30¢ each.



From Wunsien (Soochow), date unknown. Faint bilingual boxed A R. Rated 20¢ domestic and 30¢ for each of registration & A R.

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 A R were \$30.

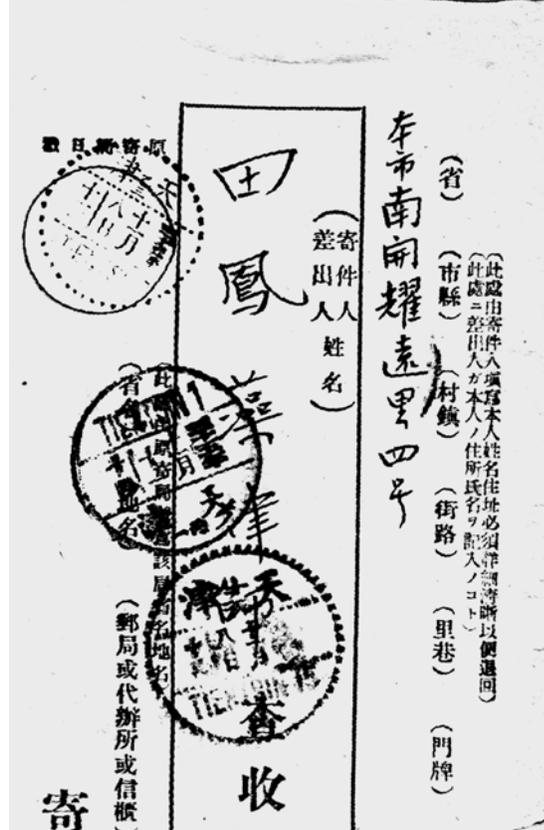
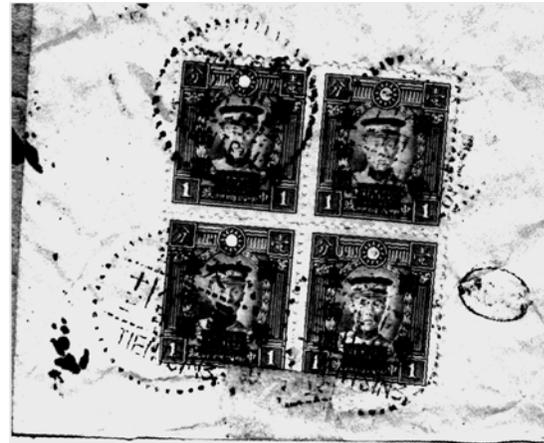
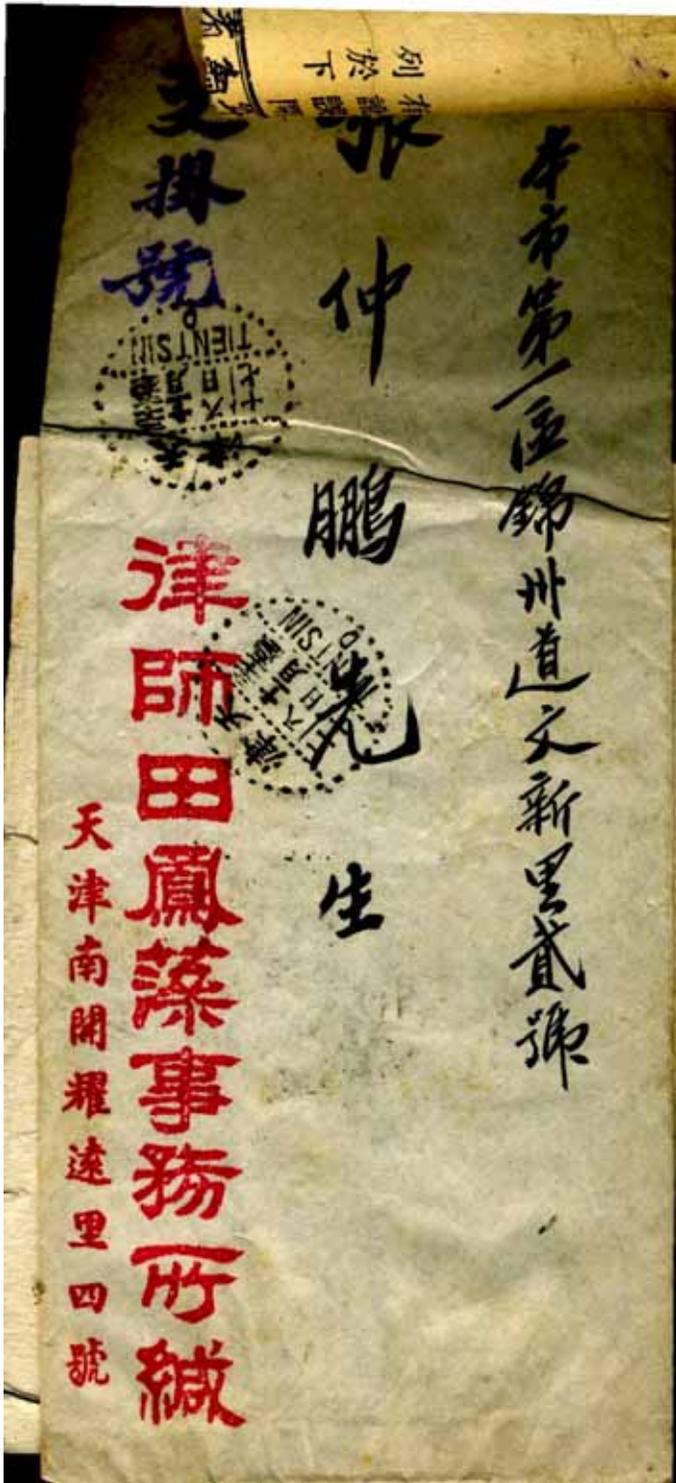


Darker area at bottom is part of pink slip (*not* portion of A R card), used on domestic A R items, intended to be removed on delivery.

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 A R.

Local/domestic (1946)

For the period 1 November 1946–30 June 1947, domestic rate was \$100 per 20 g, and \$150 for each of registration and A.R.

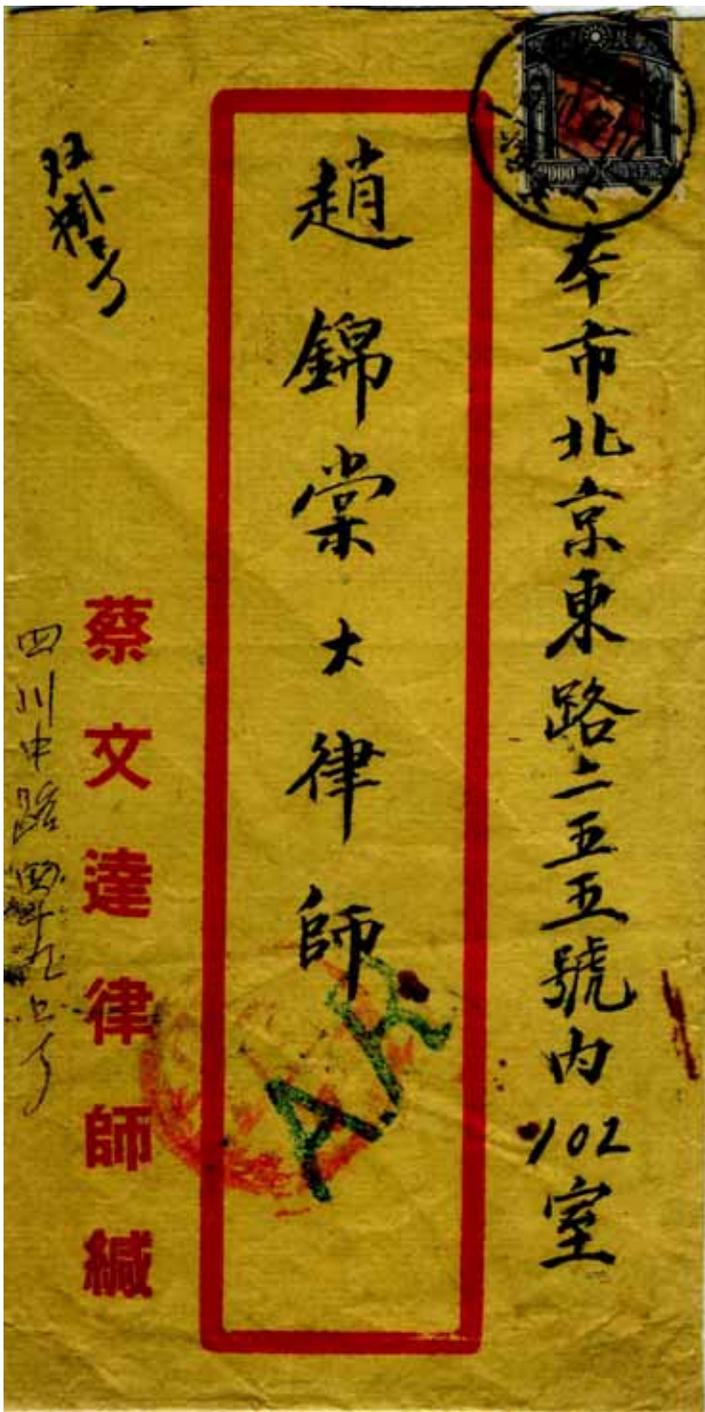


Tientsin drop letter, moved around, 1946–47. Chinese characters only indicating A.R. Rated \$100 domestic and \$150 for each of registration and A.R.

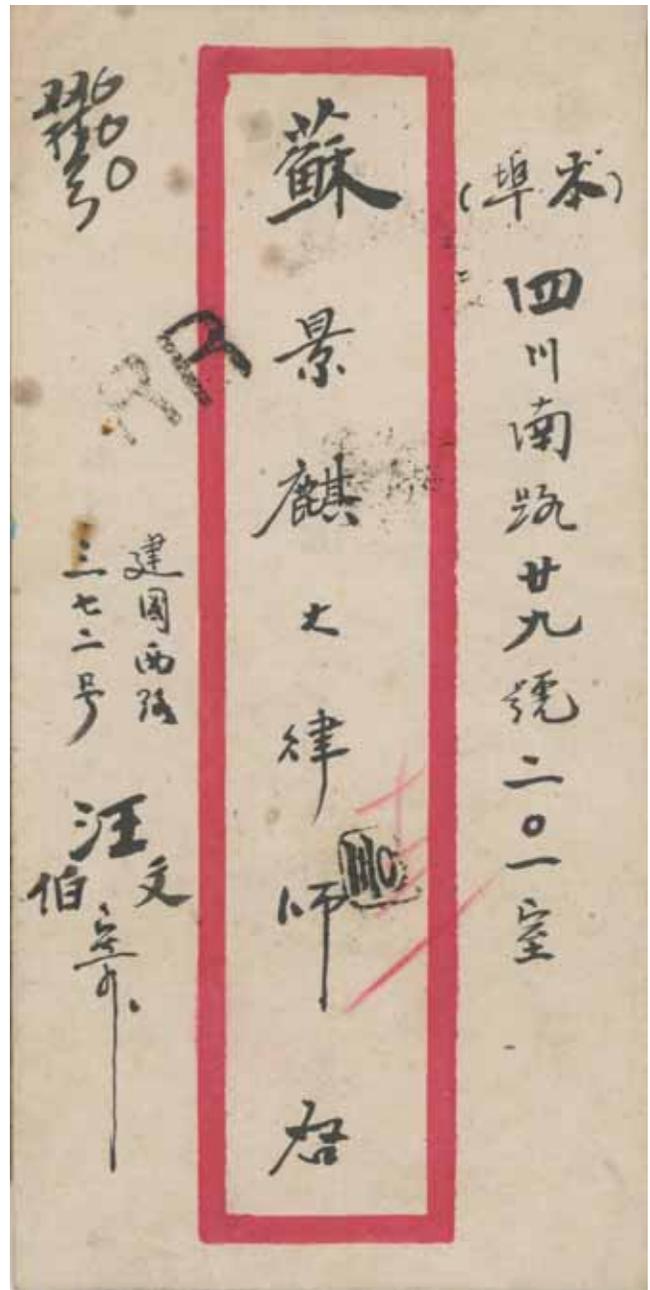
Postmarked Tientsin, Tientsin 1, Tientsin 3, Tientsin D, and Tientsin 15. Three slips attached. Faint oval postman's chops, probably numeric.

Local/domestic (1947)

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



Shanghai drop letter, September 1947. Blue obliqued nonserif *A.R.* Rated \$500 domestic and \$750 for each of registration and A R, paid by single \$2000 stamp. Shanghai postman's carrier mark (reverse).

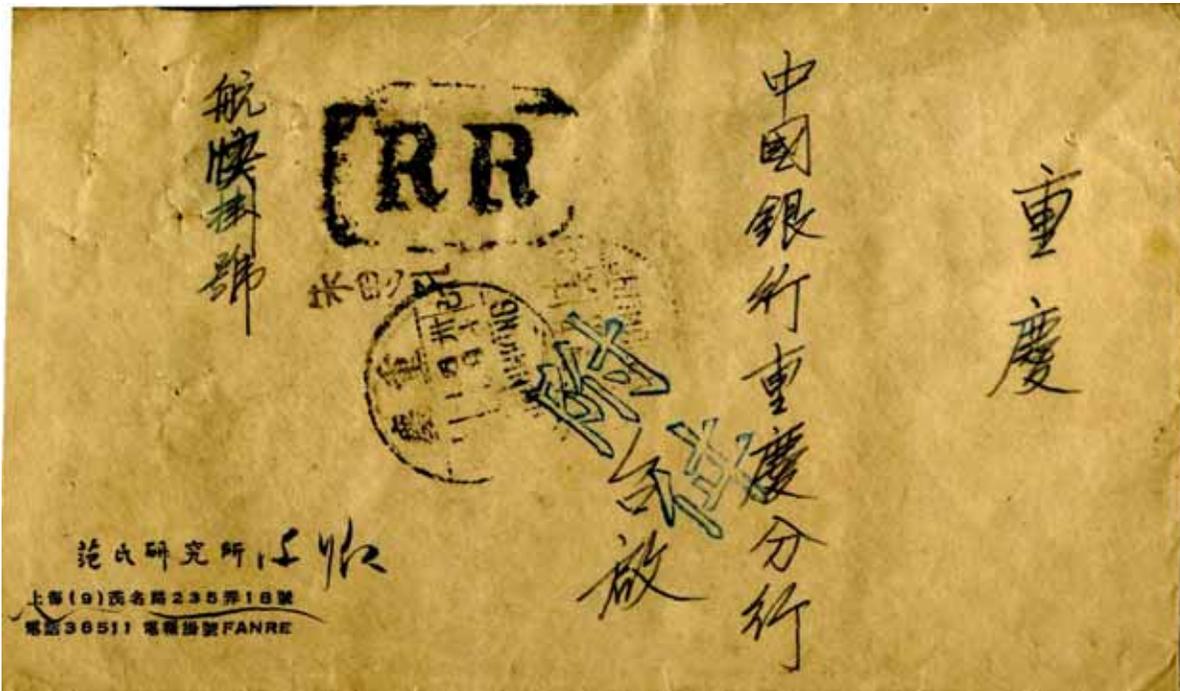


Shanghai drop letter, 1947. Nonserif *RR*. Rated as at left, but paid with pair of \$1000-overprinted \$2 stamps. Shanghai carrier mark.

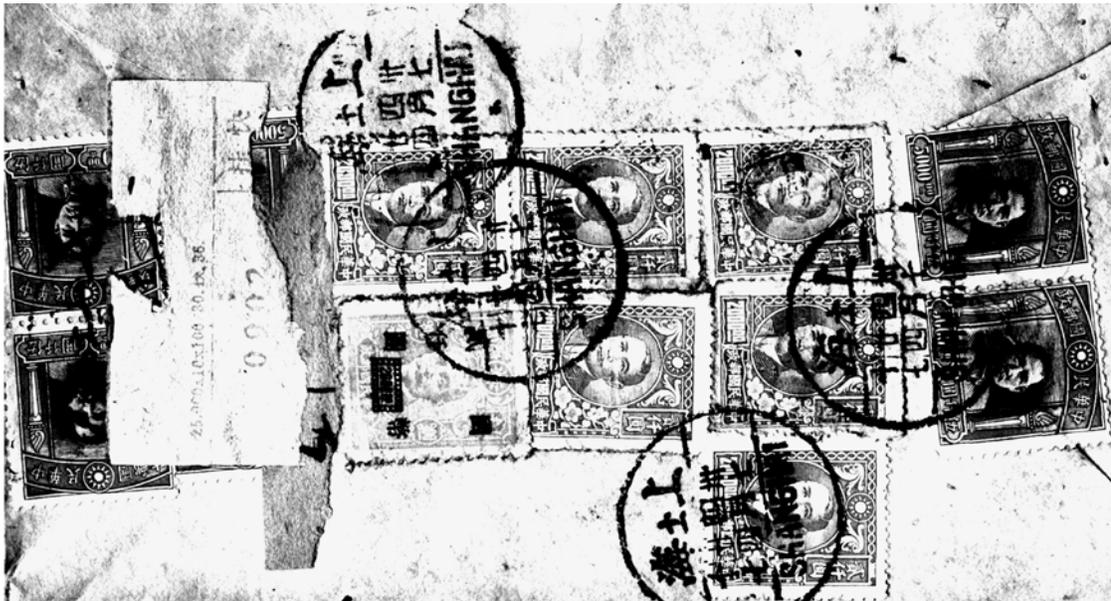


Domestic airmail (1948)

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 A R were \$10000.



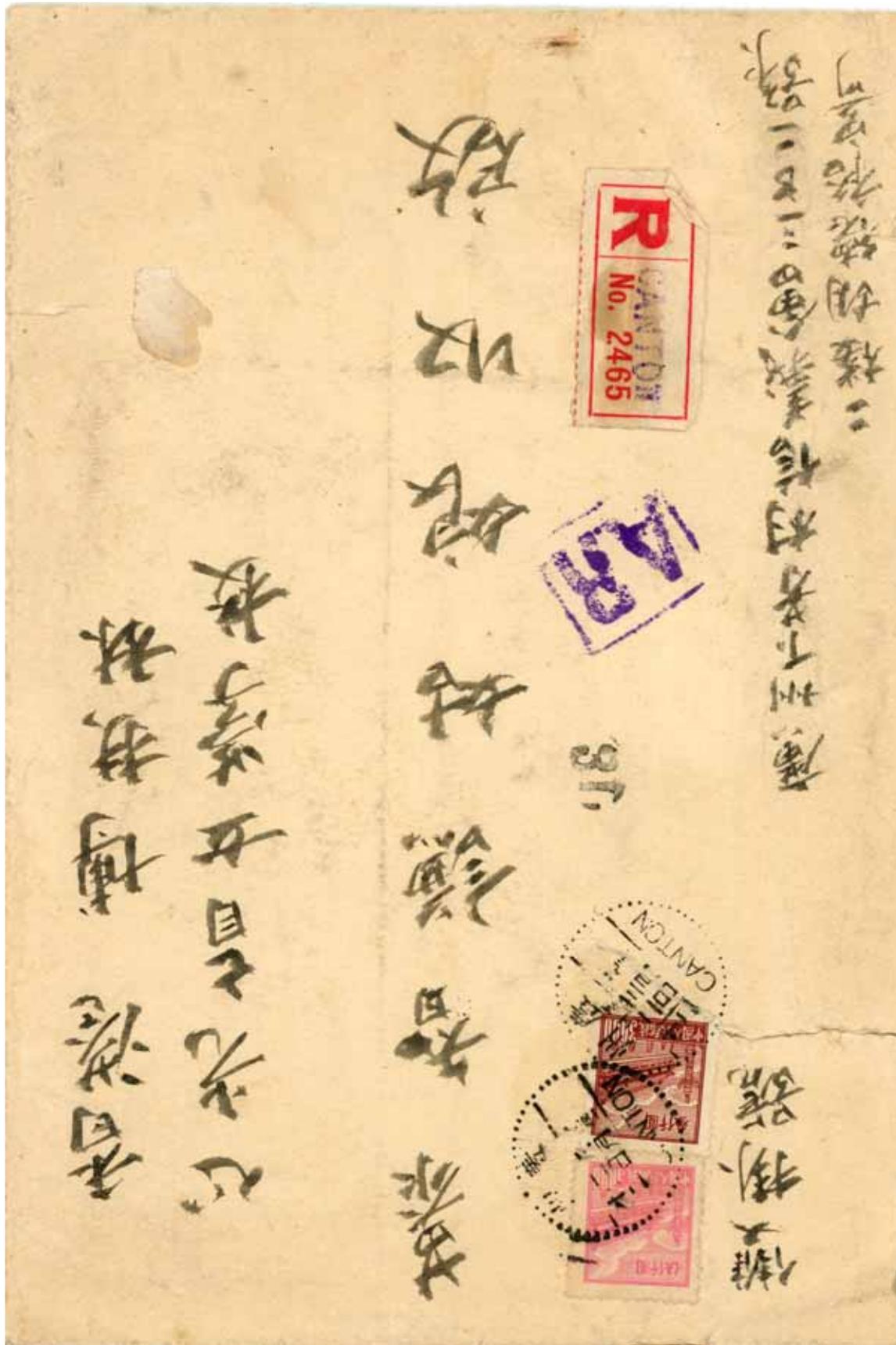
Shanghai to Chungking (??), double air mail, April–July 1948. Framed worn AR. Rated \$44000 (there are two \$5000 stamps almost completely hidden by the label remnants, and seven \$2000 stamps): double \$5000 domestic and double \$7000 domestic air mail; and \$10000 for each of registration and A R.



Pink slip, indicative of (domestic) A R; and also green printed slip, usually used for express mail, but not in this case.

Inexplicable (1951)

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



Canton, multiple weight, 1951 (stamps issued 1950). Framed purple AR. Postman's beat chop 31. Rated \$8000; I don't know what the rates are.

Domestic airmail (1958)



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



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 A R.



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

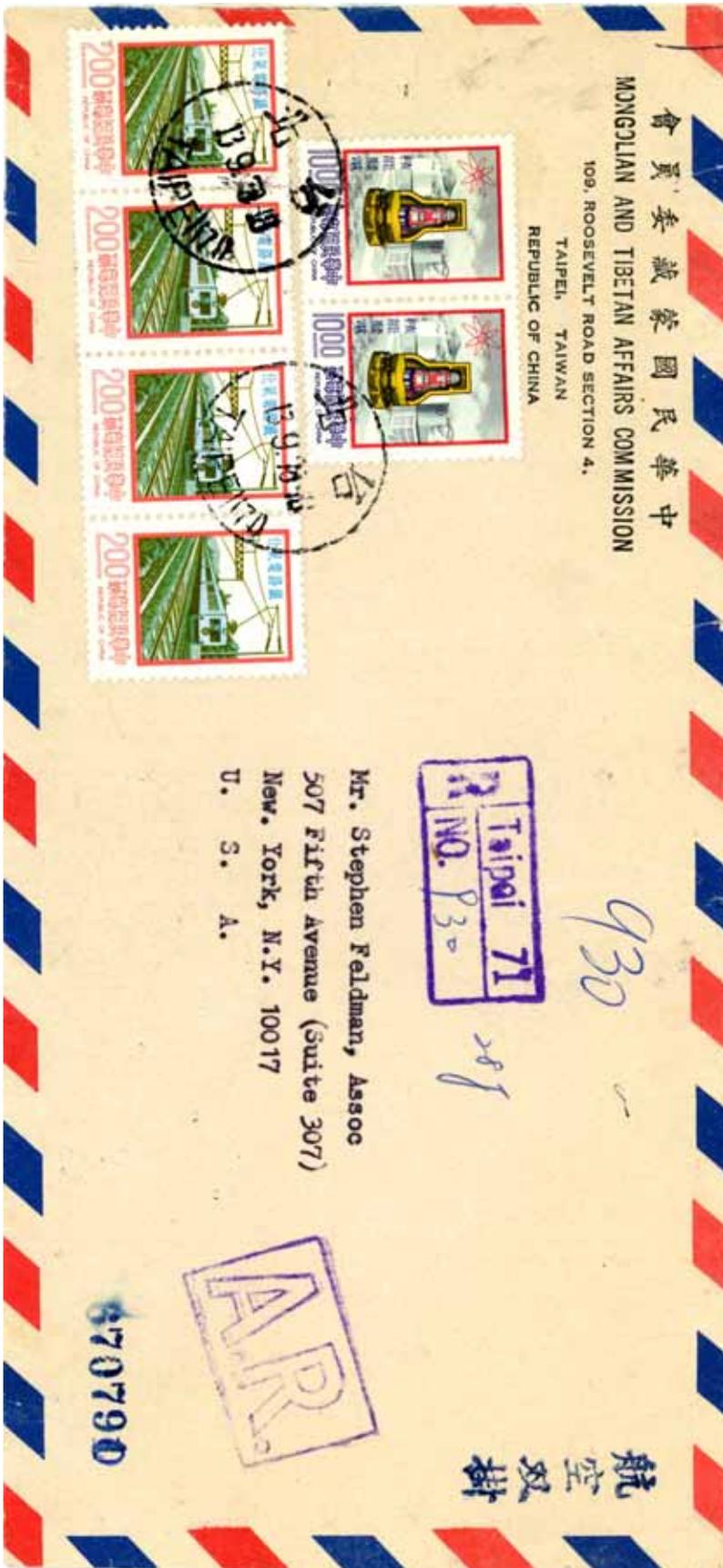
Taiwan, Anomalous air rate to Germany (1955)



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 A.R. Shortpaid by \$1, possibly due to clerical error. Ms notation *15g* confirms double air mail rate.

Taiwan to US (1978): both misrated



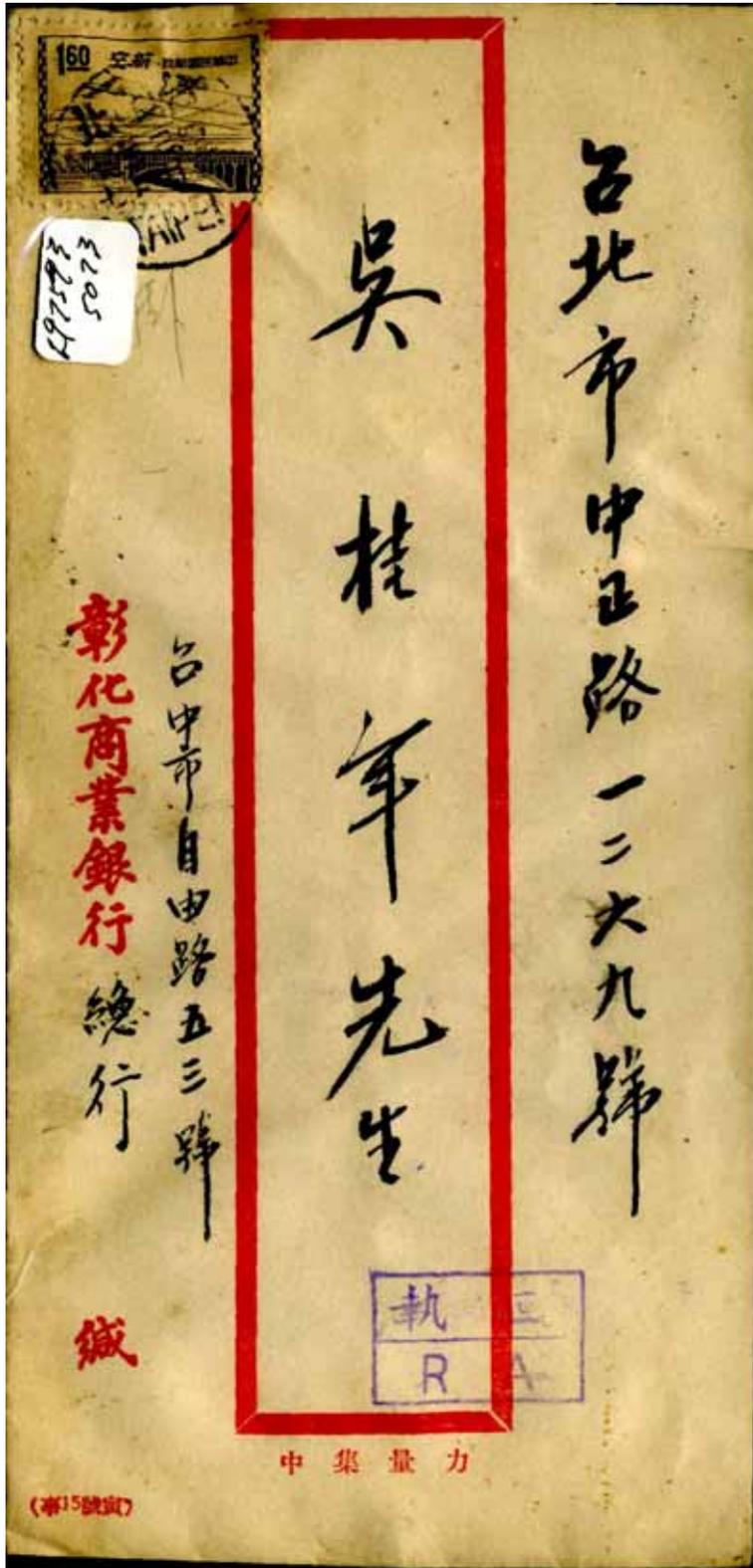
Taipei to New York by air, underpaid, September 1978. Outline A.R. Rated NT \$28 (\$4 short); double air to U s (\$10 per half ounce), and \$6 for each of registration and A R.



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

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 A R 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 A R.

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

Canadian A R 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 A R card is known in this period.

26 WPC-Bileski/265

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 13 NOV 1974 under Registered no. / sous le n° de recommandation # 2775

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

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 was delivered on / Je déclare que l'envoi recommandé recommandation a été dûment livré le

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 the postmaster 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 verso.

Date stamp of office of delivery

台北 23 11 74

補寄日

Canadian A R card used subsequently, returned to Winnipeg from Taipei; erroneously signed for, 1974. Rated 25¢ subsequent A R fee (ordinary A R 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. BILESKI
STA. "B" WINNIPEG
MANITOBU CANADA
R2W 3A4

P. O. Box 181
Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Mr. BILESKI:

Upon inquires 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 responsible on this unfortunate matter, though it is apparrent 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 mean 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