



Shanghai Local Post: The 1865 Large Dragon Provisionals A Review of Previous Commentary and Research



The purpose of this presentation is to review the history of philatelic comments and research pertaining to the first postage stamps to be printed and used in China; the 1865 large dragon provisionals of the Shanghai Local Post Office. In 1863 the multinational Shanghai Municipal Council opened a subscription-based post office to collect and distribute mails between the foreign settlement in Shanghai and Hong Kong and to deliver local Shanghai letters for both the resident foreign and Chinese populations. The Shanghai Local Post Office soon became one of the most important communications hubs in nineteenth-century China. So, it was not a "local post" by any standard definition.

Many of the standard postage stamp catalogs have tried, and continue to try, to treat these stamps using the same logic applied to other stamps of the world. It simply does not work. The production of these stamps is unique in the philatelic world, the way they were printed one stamp at a time rather than in a sheet format, on paper that was chosen randomly, in over 78 printings using a single forme composed of wood and metal to produce eight different denominations. This in an eight month period between August 1865 to March 1866. A history of the collecting and study of these stamps is certainly merited.

The earliest description of the large dragon stamps appeared in *The London and China Telegraph* of October 10, 1865. Printed in London, with Shanghai dates to August 16, 1865 it mentions:

"The new local postage stamps are great curios, and should be bought up in quantity to send home for the illumination of postage stamp albums. There are four kinds, viz. two candareens in black - four candareens in yellow - eight in green - and sixteen in red. The size, the superficies, as compared with a Hong Kong stamp, is as 528 to 270 - that is to say, they are almost as large again, and exhibit the following expression. In the centre a device intended to represent a dragon, though unmistakable as a caterpillar glowworm. On the top, in English, Shanghai L.P.O., and the Chinese characters for Shanghai. On the bottom the value, say 16 candareens, and the Chinese characters for *Kungpoo*, and the local designation of the municipal council. On the dexter side the value in Chinese characters, as one *mace* and six *fun*, and on the sinister side, *Shuisinkwan*, Post-office. In use, both scissors and paste are required, the one to clip, the other to effect adhesion. As we say, the local post stamps are curious, figuratives of the time."

The Stamp-Collector's Magazine (London) of January 1, 1866 repeats Maury's November 1865 account of the four stamps first issued. A rendering of the 2 candareens stamp appears in their February 1, 1866 issue (Figure 1). The same article also chronicles and describes the first regular issue of Shanghai Local Post stamps, that was not received in Shanghai until March 1866.



Figure 1. image reproduced in February 1, 1866 "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine" and early forgery based on it.

A more thorough discussion of the stamps appears in the June 1, 1866 issue of the same London magazine and documents the second issue of stamps as well. The information comes largely from "Stampede" who writes from Shanghai under date of March 8, 1866 including:

Now, as to the stamps. You say they are engraved, but that is not the case, as they are struck off by hand from wooden or ivory, dies, doubtless made here by the natives: in fact, a few days ago, a friend of mine informed me that he went to the post-office for some stamps, and that, not having the ones he required already printed, they struck off some while he waited.

(Regarding the candareen denominations and the 4 candareens "mace" error, print #20, and the second provisional issue): You say truly that there is no such coin as a candareen, it is merely a weight; in fact, the only Chinese coin that I know of is the 'cash,' about thirteen of which are now equivalent to one candareen. Payments in business are here made by weight of silver or gold, and the different weights are as follows: -

1 candareen
10 candareens = 1 mace
10 mace = 1 teal

The teal weighs rather more than one ounce.... In the 4 candareens stamps which I first sent over to you, and one of which I put in my collection, I notice a curious mistake. The Chinese characters on the left are 'Si T'sien Yin, i.e. 4 mace silver, equal to 40c. In the 4c stamps I now send you, however, the "T'sien has been altered to Fun, so that now the Chinese and English values correspond, which they did not before.

.... the 3, 6 and 12c stamps have been issued only lately, I believe, and I should not be surprised to see the colours changed at no far distant period, as at present these three are almost identical in that respect, which must have the effect of considerably retarding the usually quick process of obliterating the stamps at the post-office.

The same issue includes a listing of the new reduced postage rates of November 15, 1865 (Figure 2) that was clipped from the *North China Daily News* and supplied by "Stampede."

LOCAL POST-OFFICE.

It is notified for general information, that since the 15th ultimo, all letters, circulars, newspapers, &c., sent to the local post-office for 'town delivery' are charged at the rate of one candareen each.

To non-subscribers the following rates will, as heretofore, be charged for mail matter dispatched to, and received from, the River, Coast, and Japan ports.

Letters and packages—Native or
Foreign,..... 1 oz. and under 3 candareens.
Do. above 1 .. and under 2 c.t. 6 ..
Do. above 2 .. and under 4 12 ..

Newspapers and printed circulars, 2 candareens.

For every additional or fractional part of an ounce, 3 candareens.

With a view of ensuring security in the delivery of letters, a branch has been opened at Ningpo.

By order of the council,

ALEX. JOHNSTON,
Secretary.

COUNCIL ROOM,
Shanghai, 4th Dec., 1865.

Figure 2. November 15, 1865 Shanghai Local Post Office Rates as reproduced in June 1, 1866 issue of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. The December 4, 1865 notice also mentions the opening of an office at Ningpo.

Jumping forward 30 years, we come to the first major philatelic work on the 1865 Large Dragon issues of the Shanghai Local Post, written by W.B. Thornhill in *Gibbons' Philatelic Handbook of Shanghai* published by Stanley Gibbons in 1895 replete with 8 plates of stamp images. Thornhill showed that the stamps were printed one by one, from a single forme and that all eight denominations were printed from that forme with changes in the surrounding type as needed. Further, he was the first to publish a printing order for groups of the stamps.

John N. Luff, in his series of articles that appeared in the *The American Journal of Philately* in 1897, went much further towards an understanding of the subject and corrected Thornhill's print numbering system. He went a little overboard by identifying some

Regarding the dies used, Luff mentions, "I think we may safely conclude that the centre block was locally engraved on wood and the rest set up from metal type and rules, which could be changed at will, and frequently were."

As to how the stamps were printed, Luff concludes, "I believe that the form - i.e., the central block with its type-set surroundings - was placed on a hand-press and the impressions 'pulled' from it, one at a time, just as proof impressions are pulled from dies today, but with far less care, of course, with inferior results. Luff's source was an 1870 article "from information obtained direct from Mr. Adams, the Manager and organizer of the office."

Regarding paper, Luff states, "I find all the varieties listed by Mr. Thornhill, but I cannot agree with his grouping by paper. ... I doubt if much attention was paid to the paper ... whatever was at hand was used." For me, it seems unfortunate that stamp catalog editors continue to list paper varieties of these issue as major numbers rather than second order numbers for this very reason. Publishers would do well not to enforce arbitrary logic when there was no logic at the origin.

Luff went on to try to justify using "groupings" of similar stamps even after admitting that any grouping that may be made of these stamps is, of necessity, arbitrary. I agree that these groups did work well as an interim solution before a more exact print order could be determined. Later students, including Lyons F. Livingston (1971) and Dr. Wei-Liang Chow (1996), have distilled Luff's 24 groups and 178 different printings (by eliminating shade varieties and varieties cause by minor slippage of fonts in a more strictly defined printing). The groups become moot with the since the precise print order has been published by Fortune Wang (2016). Mr. Wang recognizes the 78 prints listed by Dr. Chow and has identified four additional printings that he identifies with a capital letter suffix. Another important observation of noted in his book is the fact that several of his stamps show distinct of residual ink from the prior print run. This is important proving evidence of the accuracy of the sequencing.

The figures on the following page are provided as a handy reference to the Chinese characters and the shape of the Antique, Modern and Roman numerals

All examples that are listed as being on laid paper should exist showing small portions of the watermark.

A PIRIE & SONS



Figure 3. after Dr. Chow's "Stylized Model of "SHANGHAI" 2ca Large Dragon Stamp"

| | | | |
|--------|----|---------|------------------|
| yi | 一 | one | 1 2 3 4 6 8 |
| er | 二 | two | |
| san | 三 | three | antique numerals |
| si | 四 | four | |
| liu | 六 | six | I Roman numeral |
| ba | 八 | eight | |
| shier | 十二 | twelve | 1 2 3 4 6 8 |
| shiliu | 十六 | sixteen | modern numerals |

Figure 4. numeral types

Roman numeral I found in prints #4, #5, #17, #18, #35, #38, #39, #47

antique numerals except modern numeral found on prints #51 to #54, #55, #66, #67 and #69



Figure 5. broken *yin* character at foot of left tablet (found on prints #51 to #54, #55 and #69 thru #78)



Figure 6. normal and retouched *pu* in lower left corner (found on prints #63 thru #78)

Postmarks and Cancels



Shanghai datestamp



Shanghai large garter



Shanghai small garter



Ningpo

Shanghai datestamp

The English style datestamp, 24mm in diameter, is known used from January 1864. It is usually found struck in a distinct bluish green shade of ink. The central portion of the device includes the control letter "X" at the top, a two-letter month designation, a date number and a two digit year date at the bottom.

Shanghai large garter

The large garter Shanghai postmark, 46mm in diameter, includes the "LOCAL POST OFFICE SHANGHAI" around the perimeter. The Chinese characters in the center translate as "Department of [Public] Works Letter Office." It has been suggested that the small postmark was used to cancel the stamps while the datestamp was used as a dispatch or receiving postmark.

Shanghai small garter

The small Shanghai garter postmark is similar to the large garter cancel except it is 24mm in diameter.

Ningpo datestamp and small garter cancel

On December 4, 1865 the Shanghai Local Post opened a branch office at Ningpo, the office closed on April 1, 1868. A 24 mm datestamp and small garter cancel but with text reflecting Ningpo office was used. Any stamps bearing Ningpo cancels are rare.

Shanghai Local Post Office: The 1865 Provisionals

The following groups, called batches to differentiate them from Dr.Chow's groups, are basically a simplified organizational compromise. The batches are based on common visual characteristics but still retain an order based on print order.

First Batch of Printings (#1 to #4), August 1865

Antique numerals except the 1 of 16ca is a Roman numeral, CANDAREENS is plural on all prints, SHANGHAI is very near vertical frame line at left (~.5mm).



1.



2.



3.



4.

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | 2ca gray black on wove paper | printing #1 |
| 2. | 4ca yellow on wove paper | printing #2 |
| 3. | 8ca green on wove paper | printing #3 |
| 4. | 16ca red on wove paper | printing #4 |

Second Batch Printings (#5 to #21), August 1865

Antique numerals except the 1 of 16ca is a Roman numeral. CANDAREENS is plural on all prints in this group. The Chinese figure in center left panel is normally *fen* (candareens).



5.



6.



7.



8.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 5. | 2ca black on wove paper | printing #6, 10, 13, 14, 21 |
| a. | on pelure paper | printing #21a |
| 6. | 4ca yellow on wove paper | printing #8, 9, 15 |
| a. | on pelure paper | printing #9a |
| 6A. | 4ca yellow <i>mace</i> error on pelure | printing #20 |
| 7. | 8ca green (shades) on wove paper | printing #7, 11, 16 |
| 7A. | 8ca green <i>mace</i> error | printing #19 |
| 8. | 16ca red on wove paper | printing #5, 12 |
| a. | on pelure paper | printing #17, 18 |

The Chinese character in center of the left panel is normally *fen* (1 candareen). A major error occurs in printings #19 and #20 where the figure for *mace* (10 candareens) replaced the *fen* character.

mace 錢



Third Batch Printings (#22 to #32), August 1865

Antique numerals. CANDAREENS is singular in this batch with the mistake of no "S" and the end of "CANDAREENS" on denominations 2ca through 16ca.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 9. | 1ca blue on wove paper | printing #29 |
| a. | on laid paper | printing #22, 23, 30 |
| 10. | 2ca black on wove paper | printing #25 |
| a. | on laid paper | printing #26 |
| 11. | 4ca yellow on wove paper | printing #24, 28 |
| a. | on laid paper | printing #27 |
| 12. | 8ca olive on wove paper | printing #32 |
| 13. | 16ca scarlet on wove paper | printing #31 |

Fourth Batch Printings (#33 to #47), August 1865

Antique numerals. CANDAREENS is plural except for the 1ca, prints #35 and 44 contain a raised period after "O." of "L.P.O." Prints #35, 36 and 40-47 all have the characteristics of CAN being raised above DAREENS making a slight crooked appearance in the placement of the word, the 2ca is the first appearance of using the character *erh* instead of *liang* on the left outer panel.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



20.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 14. | 1ca blue on wove paper | printing #38, 39 |
| 15. | 2ca black on wove paper | printing #40, 41 |
| 16. | 3ca red on wove paper | printing #34, 37, 45 |
| | a. on laid paper | printing #37a |
| 17. | 4ca yellow on wove paper | printing #42, 44 |
| 18. | 6ca red on wove paper | printing #33, 36, 46 |
| 19. | 8ca green on wove paper | printing #43 |
| 20. | 12ca red on wove paper | printing #35, 47 |

Fifth Batch Printings (#48 to #65), August 1865

Antique numerals. CANDAREENS is plural except for a misprint on print #53 listing 3CAND rather than CANDAREENS and the 1ca. This group continues the trend of CAN being raised above DAREENS making a crooked appearance in the placement of the word, this almost normalized by printing #57 however, you can still see a slight concave curvature continue through the rest of the group.



21.



22.



23.



24.



25.



26.



27.



28.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 21. | 1ca blue on wove paper | printing #48, 49, 52, 63, 64 |
| 22. | 2ca black on wove paper | printing #51, 54, 65 |
| 23. | 3ca red on wove paper | printing #50, 53, 55 |
| | a. on pelure paper | printing #50a |
| 24. | 4ca yellow on wove paper | printing #56, 57, 48 |
| 25. | 6ca red on wove paper | printing #58 |
| 26. | 8ca green on wove paper | printing #59 |
| 27. | 12ca red on wove paper | printing #60, 61 |
| 28. | 16ca scarlet on wove paper | printing #62 |

Sixth Batch Printings (#66 to #78, less #68), August 1865

Modern numerals. CANDAREENS is plural except the 1ca. All printings have *pu* and *shu* characters that required re-touching as a possible result of a rather drastic cleaning between groups. The break in the *yin* character at foot of the left central panel, that first appeared in #52, remains visible. Printings #75-77 have a shorter line above the value tablet at foot. Printings #69 through #78 comprise the last group of the stamps to be printed and regularly issued. The 2ca stamp, printing #78 was produced somewhat later than the others.



29.



30.



31.



32.



33.



34.



35.



36.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 29. | 1ca blue on wove paper | printing #69 |
| 30. | 2ca black on wove paper | printing #70, 78 |
| 31. | 3ca red on wove paper | printing #66, 67, 71 |
| 32. | 4ca yellow on wove paper | printing #72 |
| 33. | 6ca green on wove paper | printing #73 |
| 34. | 8ca green on wove paper | printing #74 |
| 35. | 12ca red on wove paper | printing #75 |
| 36. | 16ca red on wove paper | printing #76, 77 |

"SHANGHAI" Local Post: The 1865 Large Dragon Provisionals

1 Candareen, (Printings #22/30) This group was issued when the rate for the town letters was reduced from 2ca to 1ca, hence a 1ca stamp was needed, with antique numerals, Apart from introducing the new value of 1ca, this group marked also the first appearance of laid paper, final "N" of "CANDAREEN" is far from the vertical line at the right and the numerals are much below the line of the word.



print #22
1ca blue

on laid paper, bottom inner frame line near omit



print #23
1ca blue

on laid paper, the top center panel must have loosened with the result that the letters in ""SHANGHAI L.P.O." as well as the top three compartment lines shifted their vertical positions wildly, these shifts vary greatly



print #29
1ca blue

central design is wildly spaced from the lines above and below it, minimal inking, giving blurred impressions



print #30
1ca blue

"CANDAREEN" curves inward causing a crooked appearance in the word, "O" of L.P.O." raised above the rest of the word

varieties include left frame line missing at bottom left corner

1 Candareen (printings #38/39) Roman numeral, period after "O" of "L.P.O." inverted, "CANDAREEN" has a curvature in it giving a crooked appearance in the word



print #38
1ca blue

ink dots above and below the "yin" character, "1 CA" raised above "NDAREEN"



print #39
1ca blue

on laid paper, same setting as print #38

1 Candareen, (Printings #48/64) Numeral "1" changed back to antique type, print numbers #48/49 known with the "Ningpo Type" SLP-N" cancellation, numeral dropped below the lines of "CANDAREEN", "SHANGHAI" very close to the lines at left



print #48
1ca blue

the bottom line is lower than the line over "pu"



print #49
1ca blue

the bottom line is higher at left than in #48, nearly level with the line over "pu", numerals "1" very thin and missing its serif



print #52
1ca slate blue

some over inking on period after "CANDAREEN" appearing as a second period



print #63
1ca blue

as a result of a rather drastic cleaning, some characters were damaged and required retouching, this happened to the "shu" and "yin" characters



print #64
1ca blue

as 63 but broken "pu" character

1 Candareen (printing #69) Modern numeral, of the last group of these stamps that were regularly issued, "SHANGHAI" set near to the line at left



print #69
1ca blue

on wove paper, numeral 1 dropped below the line of "CANDAREEN" "O." of "L.P.O." set higher than the rest of the word

2 Candareens, (Printings #1 / #26) Chinese "*liang*" (left tablet, top character) for the word two. Chinese "*er*" in same position on printings #40 / #78. Prints #1 to #14 have narrow setting of "I.P.O." (5mm). "CANDAREENS" is plural on all prints except #25 and #26 which show the singular "CANDAREEN". The numeral "2" is in antique form. Wove paper, sometimes showing a faint mesh paper, was most often used. Laid and pelure papers will be noted.

liang 兩 *er* 二



print #1
2ca gray black

the central dragon wood block has exceptionally delicate lines that are only found on this printing, "SHANGHAI" is very near the vertical line at left (~.5mm) the horizontal rules below "SHANGHAI" at top are in a straight line with the short rules at the sides



print #6
2ca black

"SHANGHAI" inscription now centered at top, the vertical line to left of the central block is smudged, the numeral 2 is raised above the baseline of "CANDAREENS".



print #10
2ca black

the rule below "SHANGHAI" is missing below the "SH"



print #13
2ca black

generally blurred impressions, "2 CANDAREENS" is shifted to the right but the distance between the "2" and the vertical line at its left is 2mm which is slightly shorter than in print #14



print #14
2ca black

clear impression, numeral "2" is slightly further from the vertical line at left (it is now 2.25mm from the line)



print #21
2ca black on wove

center block is very close to the line below, but is separated by a wide space from the line above, the numeral "2" in on the same baseline as "CANDAREENS"

print #21a on pelure



print #25
2ca gray black on wove

singular "CANDAREEN", the base line of the Chinese "kung" character in bottom right corner is on a level with the bottom of "CANDAREEN" and the horizontal line above is raised above the line to its left



print #26
2ca black on laid paper

singular "CANDAREEN", the base line of the Chinese "kung" character in bottom right corner is dropped significantly and the horizontal line above is now only lightly raised above the line to its left

2 Candareens, (printings #40 and #41) The top Chinese character "er" in the left tablet is now the simplified Chinese character for two, "CANDAREENS" is in the plural with "CAN" being raised above the "DAREENS" and both printings have a raised period after "O" of "L.P.O.", both printings were made from the same forme and have identical characteristics



print #40
2ca black on laid paper

on laid paper and raised period after "O" of "L.P.O."



print #41
2ca black on wove paper

on wove paper and raised period after "O" of "L.P.O."

2 Candareens, (printings #51 / #65) Top Chinese character in the left tablet is "*ehr*", modern numeral "2" font used for print #51 and antique numeral font for prints #54 and #65, "CAN" of "CANDAREENS" is raised slightly



print #51
2ca gray black on wove

the bottom serif on the modern numeral "2" is at a midpoint level with the "C" of "CANDAREENS", the bottom frame line appears to bend downward at right



print #54
2ca grey black on pelure

the top of the antique numeral "2" is on the same level as the top of the letter "C" of "CANDAREENS", the line under central block slants downward at right while the bottom frame line slants upward at right



print #65
2ca black on toned wove

the antique numeral "2" extends equally above and below the "C" of "CANDAREENS", the line below the center block as well as the bottom frame lines are level

2 Candareens, (printings #70 and #78) Top Chinese character in the left tablet is "*ehr*", both have modern numeral "2" font



print #70
2ca black on wove paper

legs of the second "N" of "CANDAREENS" are broken, top of the serif of the numeral "2" is on the level of the word "CANDAREENS"



print #78
2ca black on poor quality wove paper

top of the serif of the numeral "2" is on the level of the bottom of the word "CANDAREENS", the second "N" of "CANDAREENS" is not broken

3 Candareens, (Printings #34/45) Antique numerals, numeral "3" set lower than the line of "CANDAREENS"



print #34
3ca red

terra-cotta brown on wove paper, "CANDAREENS" looked crooked in its appearance



print #37
3ca red

on wove, period after "O." of "L.P.O." inverted, "C" raised above "ANDAREENS"

print #37a

print #37a - on laid



print #45
3ca red

terra-cotta brown, the bottom center panel must have loosened with the result that "CANDAREENS" shifted its positions wildly, these shifts vary greatly causing many different crooked looks to it

3 Candareens (printings #50/55) Antique numeral on print #50, while #53/55 contain a modern numeral



print #50
3ca red

some copies show the lower portion of "L" of "L.P.O." completely missing so that the inscription appears to read "I.P.O."

50a on pelure



print #53
3ca red

"CANDAREEN" in the singular



print #55
3ca red

bottom inner frame line slopes downward from left to right

3 Candareens, (Printings #66/71) Contains modern numerals, contains retouched "shu" and "pu" characters, no period at the end of "CANDREENS"



print #66
3ca red

the "3" is nearer to the "CANDREENS" than the vertical line to the left of it



print #67
3ca red

the "3" is nearer to the vertical line to the left of it than it is to "CANDREENS"



print #71
3ca red

of the last group of stamps regularly issued, break in "yin" character

4 Candareens, (printings #2 / #15) "CANDAREENS" is plural on all prints. Prints #2 to #15 have narrow setting of "L.P.O." (5mm). Wove paper, sometimes referred to as mesh paper, was most often used, laid paper and pelure are noted where they exist.



print #2
4ca yellow

"SHANGHAI" is very near the vertical line at left (~.5mm)



print #8
4ca yellow

"SHANGHAI" is set nearer the line above it than below it, "CANDAREENS" is near the vertical line at right (space between the period and the line is about .5mm)



print #9
4ca yellow on wove

center block is very close to the lines above and below it

print #9a on pelure



print #15
4ca yellow orange

orange yellow, "CANDAREENS" is near the vertical line at right (space between the period and the line is about .5mm)

4 Candareens (printing #20) Error showing Chinese "*mace*" character at center of left tablet instead of "*fen*" (candareens).

mace 錢



print #20
4ca yellow on pelure

mace error

4 Candareens, (Printings #24/28) All printed with antique numerals, "CANDAREEN" is in the singular form of the word for all. Wove paper, sometimes referred to as mesh paper, was most often used, laid paper and pelure are noted where they exist.



print #24
4ca yellow

on wove, center block is widely separated from the lines above and below it, shorts lines in NW and NE corner are reversed, upper line now turns downward, "CANDAREEN" in a fairly straight line, minor variety shows "CAND" below "AREEN"



print #27
4ca yellow on laid

ink dot under the "AR" of "CANDAREEN", outer frame lines broken

also exists with papermaker watermark



print #28
4ca yellow

on wove, outer frame lines broken, "pu" character broken, ink dot under the "AR" of "CANDAREEN"

4 Candareens (printings #42/44) Chinese font for denomination is mace (10) rather than candareen (1). "CANDAREENS" near the vertical line at right (space between this line and the "S" of "SHANGHAI" is about (~.1/2mm)



print #42
4ca yellow

either printing #42 or #42a, is an extremely elusive stamp , and probably one of the rarest stamps among all of the "SHANGHAI" Large Dragons



print #44
4ca yellow

period after "O" in "L.P.O." is almost normal, wide spacing between center block from the top and bottom frame lines

4 Candareens, (Printings #56/68) All numerals are antique, broken "*yin*" character on prints #56/57, printings #56/57 differ in the position of the center die relative to the top and bottom lines.



print #56
4ca yellow

center die is much closer to the bottom line, bottom inner frame line sloped up on left side



print #57
4ca yellow

center die is about equally distant between the lines, inner bottom frame line near omitted



print #68
4ca yellow

second "N" of "CANDAREENS" is broken, both the top Chinese character, "*shu*" in the right panel and lower left character "*pu*" are retouched

4 Candareens (printings #72) Modern numeral, of the last group of stamps issued



print #72
4ca yellow

break in the "*yin*" character

6 Candareens, (Printings #33/46) Antique numerals, all contain the word "CANDAREENS" being curved appearing very crooked, numerals "6" raised above the line of "CANDAREENS"



print #33
6ca red

line above "CANDAREENS" set much lower than the horizontal lines above "pu" and "kung" characters



print #36
6ca red

inverted period after "O" of "L.P.O." very blurred and over inked impressions on central panel, bottom inner frame line slopes left to right



print #46
6ca red

central design is widely separated from the lines above and below it, very light ink

6 Candareens (printings #58) Antique numeral



print #58
6ca red

broken "yin" character

6 Candareens (printings #73) Modern numeral, of the last group of stamps printed and regularly issued



print #73
6ca olive green

broken "yin" character

8 Candareens, (Printings #3 / #16) "CANDAREENS" is plural on all prints. Prints #3 to #16 have narrow setting of "L.P.O." (5mm). Wove paper, sometimes referred to as mesh paper, was most often used, laid paper and pelure are noted where they exist.



print #3
8ca green

""SHANGHAI"" is very near the vertical line at left (~.5mm), some examples include gaps between "SHANGH" and "AI" or gaps between "SHAN", "GH" and "AI"



print #7
8ca green

""SHANGHAI"" is set nearer the line above it than below it, CANDAREENS is near the vertical line at right (space between the period and the line is about .5mm)



print #11
8ca green

center block is very close the the lines above and below it, numeral "8" raised higher than the line of "CANDAREENS", slightly omit characters on outer right panel



print #16
8ca green

""SHANGHAI"" is set nearer the line above it than below it, only one complete sheet of six of this printing is known, line over "kung" character set very high

8 Candareens (printing #19) Error of Chinese value font at center of left tablet is "*mace*" instead of "candareens".

mace 錢



print #19
8ca green

mace error

8 Candareens, (Printings #32) Antique numerals, the left end of the line of "CANDAREEN" is about level with the short line over "pu", the final "N" of "CANDAREEN" is still far from the vertical line at the right, "CANDAREENS" in the singular



print #32
8ca olive green

light blurring, "kung" character slightly sloped left to right

8 Candareens (printings #43) Antique numeral, impressions very much blurred from uneven inking, particularly for the center block, wide spacing between the center block and the lines above and below it



print #43
8ca green

the period after "O" of "L.P.O." is raised halfway to the middle of the line, broken or near omit frame lines

8 Candareens (printings #59) Antique numeral, broken "yin" character,



print #59
8ca green

blurred and smudged ink to the point that the dragon head is hardly discernable

8 Candareens (printings #74) Modern numerals, of the last group of stamps issued



print #74
8ca green

break in "yin" character

12 Candareens, (Printings #35/47) Roman numeral "1" and antique numeral "2", "CANDAREENS" curved appears crooked in the word



print #35
12ca red

period after "O" of "L.P.O." inverted



print #47
12ca red

heavy or blurred ink, wide spacing between central panel and lines above and below it

12 Candareens (printings #60/61) Antique numerals, broken "*fen*" character



print #60
12ca red

top frameline overlaps top end of right frameline, "CA" raised above "NDAREENS"



print #61
12ca red

bottom inner frame line sloped downward left to right, "CANDAREENS" slightly crooked in appearance although almost normal

12 Candareens (printings #75) Modern numeral, of the last group of stamps printed and regularly issued



print #75
12ca red

broken "*yin*" character

16 Candareens, (Printings #4 / #18) "CANDAREENS" is plural on all prints. Wove paper, sometimes referred to as mesh paper, was most often used. Prints #4 to #17 have narrow setting of "L.P.O." (5mm), laid paper and pelure are noted where they exist.



print #4
16ca red

"SHANGHAI" is very near the vertical line at left (~.5mm) the horizontal rule below "SHANGHAI" at top are in a straight line with the short rule at right



print #5
16ca red

"SHANGHAI" is set nearer the line above it than below it, "CANDAREENS" is near the vertical line at right (space between the period and the line is about .5mm)



print #12
16ca red

"CANDAREENS" is near the vertical line at right (space between the period and the line is about .5mm), center block is very close to the lines above and below it



print #17
16ca red

on pelure, "CANDAREENS" is near the vertical line at right (space between the period and the line is about .5mm)



print #18
16ca scarlet red

on pelure, the only 16ca stamp with both Roman "I" and wide setting of "L.P.O."

16 Candareens (printing #31) The numeral "1" in printing #31, which was Roman in all the earlier printings of the 16ca, is now changed to Antique types, "CANDAREEN" in the singular, the left end of the line of "CANDAREEN" is about level with the short line over "pu", the final "N" of "CANDAREEN" is still far from the vertical line at the right



print #31
16ca red

numeral 1 lower than numeral 6, "CAND" lower than "AREEN", the period after "CANDAREEN" has dropped below line

16 Candareens, (Printings #62) Antique numerals, characteristic of "CANDAREENS" having a slight concave curvature in the word giving a crooked appearance



print #62
16ca red

blurred ink making central panel and some outer characters hardly discernable

16 Candareens (printings #76/77) Of the last group of these stamps that were regularly issued, broken "yin" character



print #76
16ca red

modern numerals, scarlet color



print #77
16ca red

modern numerals, brownish-red color

Valuations below are based on current market value for very fine quality. A dash indicates an item is known but no market information is available. An asterisk after used price indicates Ningpo postmarks are known.

| Print # | Denom | Unused | Used | Notes |
|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 2ca | 6,000 | 7,500 | |
| 2 | 4ca | 2,000 | 5,000 | |
| 3 | 8ca | 1,000 | 2,500 | |
| 4 | 16ca | 1,000 | — | |
| 5 | 16ca | 3,000 | 7,500 | |
| 6 | 2ca | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| 7 | 8ca | 2,000 | 2,500 | |
| 8 | 4ca | 1,500 | 1,250 | |
| 9 | 4ca | 900 | 1,000 | |
| 9a | 4ca | — | — | |
| 10 | 2ca | 600 | 1,250 | |
| 11 | 8ca | 800 | — * | |
| 12 | 16ca | 1,000 | — | |
| 13 | 2ca | 750 | 1,250 | |
| 14 | 2ca | 600 | — | |
| 15 | 4ca | 3,500 | — | |
| 16 | 8ca | 1,500 | — | |
| 17 | 16ca | 1,500 | — | |
| 18 | 16ca | 2,000 | — | |
| 19 | 8ca | 1,200 | — | |
| 20 | 4ca | 1,000 | 1,250 | |
| 21 | 2ca | 300 | 1,250 | |
| 21a | 2ca | 500 | — | |
| 22 | 1ca | 2,500 | — | |
| 23 | 1ca | 300 | — | |
| 24 | 4ca | 500 | — | |
| 25 | 2ca | 400 | 1,500 | |
| 26 | 2ca | 3,000 | — | |
| 27 | 4ca | 850 | — | |

| Print # | Denom | Unused | Used | Notes |
|---------|-------|--------|---------|------------|
| 28 | 4ca | 700 | — | |
| 29 | 1ca | 450 | 1,000 | |
| 30 | 1ca | 800 | — | |
| 31 | 16ca | 300 | 1,250 * | |
| 32 | 8ca | 400 | — | |
| 33 | 6ca | 400 | — | |
| 34 | 3ca | 450 | 1,000 | |
| 35 | 12ca | 220 | — | |
| 36 | 6ca | 250 | — * | |
| 37 | 3ca | 10,000 | — | |
| 37a | 3ca | 30,000 | — | Wang #30A |
| 38 | 1ca | 500 | 1,000 * | |
| 39 | 1ca | 35,000 | — | four known |
| 40 | 2ca | — | — | |
| 41 | 2ca | 300 | — | |
| 42 | 4ca | 1,000 | — | |
| 43 | 8ca | 350 | — | |
| 44 | 4ca | 500 | — | |
| 45 | 3ca | 250 | 1,250 | |
| 46 | 6ca | 350 | — | |
| 47 | 12ca | 250 | — | |
| 48 | 1ca | 200 | 1,000 * | |
| 49 | 1ca | 350 | 1,250 * | |
| 50 | 3ca | 300 | 1,000 * | |
| 50a | 3ca | — | — | |
| 51 | 2ca | 200 | — | |
| 52 | 1ca | 200 | 1,000 * | |
| 53 | 3ca | 200 | — | |
| 54 | 2ca | 250 | — | |
| 55 | 3ca | 200 | 1,250 | |

| Print # | Denom | Unused | Used | Notes |
|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 56 | 4ca | 200 | 2,000 | |
| 57 | 4ca | 500 | — | |
| 58 | 6ca | 250 | — | |
| 59 | 8ca | 175 | — | |
| 60 | 12ca | 250 | — | |
| 61 | 12ca | 175 | — | |
| 62 | 16ca | 175 | — | |
| 63 | 1ca | 250 | — | |
| 64 | 1ca | — | — | |
| 65 | 2ca | 200 | — | |
| 66 | 3ca | 150 | — | |
| 67 | 3ca | 250 | — | |
| 68 | 4ca | 250 | — | |
| 69 | 1ca | 300 | — | |
| 70 | 2ca | 200 | — | |
| 71 | 3ca | 150 | — | |
| 72 | 4ca | 200 | — | |
| 73 | 6ca | 150 | — | |
| 74 | 8ca | 200 | — | |
| 75 | 12ca | 150 | — | |
| 76 | 12ca | 150 | — | |
| 77 | 16ca | 200 | — | |
| 78 | 2ca | 150 | — | |

| Official Re-issues | Denom | Unused | | Notes |
|--------------------|-------|--------|--|-------|
| R1 | 1ca | 300 | | |
| R1A | 1ca | — | | |
| R2A | 2ca | 200 | | |
| R2B | 2ca | 100 | | |
| R3A | 3ca | — | | |
| R3B | 3ca | 200 | | |
| R4A | 1ca | 100 | | |
| R4B | 1ca | 200 | | |
| R5A | 2ca | — | | |
| R5B | 2ca | 200 | | |

The Postal History of the Shanghai Local Post Office

by Richard Frajola

Background Information on the early Shanghai Local Post Office (SLPO)

In 1863 the foreign community in Shanghai lacked adequate postal facilities and expected that British Hong Kong would establish a full service branch post office rather than only consulate or packet agent offices. However, as the Hong Kong Post Office's financial deficit made that improbable, the Shanghai Municipal Council decided to create its own local post office. A subcommittee of local merchants was appointed in May 1863 (David Reid of Reid, Evans, & Co., George F. Heard of Augustine Heard & Co. and Robert Bland of Smith, Kennedy & Co) designed a subscription-based system that allowed firms to pay for mail collection and distribution, while non-subscribers could use the service for a fee.

Initially, when the post office was established on July 13, 1863, the post office was designed to manage the collection and distribution of mail between Shanghai and Hong Kong. By extension the link to Hong Kong would give the Shanghai local post office connections to overseas Britons, residents of the various treaty ports as well as the rest of the vast service network reached from the Great Britain General Post Office in London.

The local post office in Shanghai used a subscription system, with the foreign-owned firms subscribing for 75 taels per year for outports and 50 taels for service within Shanghai, which included collection and distribution of all mail matter. Non-subscribers paid two cents (based on the Mexican silver dollar, equal to three candareens) per letter. The subcommittee ensured that the office was not a financial burden by arranging free carriage of mails by foreign steamer companies.

The municipal council soon realized that their postage rates for non-subscribers were in Mexican cents, causing an exchange rate loss, and switched to candareens, effectively increasing rates by one-third. In 1865 ten candareens (one *mace*, ten *fen*) was equal to one tenth of a tael, which was a unit of weight used to measure silver. Using the exchange rates given on the London exchange for taels to Mexican dollars shows that 63.65 candareens was equal to a Mexican dollar (which had a slightly higher silver content than the US dollar). When first provisionals were issued in 1865, the two candareens stamp had a value of almost exactly three cents. Exchange rates continued to fluctuate, leading to a switch back to cents in 1865 and eventually to Chinese copper cash in 1876.

The August 1865 Provisional Issue of SLPO Postage Stamps

On August 1, 1865 the local post office issued the provisional issue of stamps to alleviate the need of collecting small change for non-subscriber letters. As only non-subscribers were required to use stamps, postmarked examples are substantially scarcer than unused examples. Shortly after the August 1865 stamp issue postmaster W. I. Smith resigned and Alfred J. Adams was hired as the new postmaster. The "London And China Telegraph" issue of 10 October, 1865 reports under the Shanghai Municipal Council heading, *Reports Submitted and Approved at a Monthly Meeting of the Council, held August 7th, 1865* that:

Local Post Office - Postage stamps have been issued, and can be obtained at the local post-office. They have been availed of to a fair extent, but it remains with the agents of steamers to make this office pay. If, on the arrival of the steamers, the agents would as a rule send Chinese letters to the Post-office instead of allowing their compradores to distribute them, it would much assist in making the establishment self-supporting.

And, as general commentary, is a lengthy paragraph describing the August provisional issue:

The new local postage stamps are great curios, and should be bought up in quantity to send home for the illumination of postage stamp albums. There are four kinds, viz. two candareens in black, - four

*candareens in yellow - eight in green and sixteen in red. ... (long description of the stamp inscriptions)
.... In use, both scissors and paste are required, the one to clip, the other to effect adhesion. As we say,
local postage stamps are curious, figuratives of the times.*

A Branch Post Office for the Chinese

The "London And China Telegraph" issue of November 4, 1865 reports under the Shanghai Municipal Council heading, *Reports Submitted and Approved at a Monthly Meeting of the Council, held Sept 5th, 1865* that:

Local Post Office - A branch office has been established in the eastern suburb of the native city for the sale of postage stamps and collection of native correspondence. It is not yet sufficiently known to be much used by Chinese. A contract has been made with Paou Shun, by which, for the sum of \$600 per annum, he is allowed to collect and forward a portion of the Chinese postal matter.

This notice, apparently not previously noted in the philatelic press, certainly relates to Adams' desire to increase revenue by increasing the use of the local post by the Chinese community as already noted above.

The report of the Municipal Council Meeting of November 4, 1865 included:

The local post office rate for delivery of a letter has been lowered by one-third - Mexican cents now being charged instead of candareens as previously.

Stated more clearly, the two candareens local delivery rate had cost 3 (Mexican) cents previous to this change. As of that date, the same service cost 2 cents. This has been mis-construed in previous philatelic literature as meaning that the 1 candareen stamp was needed for the local rate. However, as there was no one candareen stamp available at this date, it is obvious that the two candareens stamp was now being sold for two Mexican cents (a one-third discount) .

The November 1865 Provisional Issue of SLPO Postage Stamps

The earliest reported dated postmark on the November issue of new denominations (1, 3, 6 and 12 candareens) is a one candareen dated December 2, 1865 (the 3ca is January 6, 1866; 6 candareens is January 13, 1866 and the 12 candareens is March 2, 1866). I suspect that in the interim between the announcement and the new denominations being prepared, that existing stocks of the August 1865 issue continued to be used and would likely have been have been sold at a discount.

On December 12, 1865, without consulting the foreign community at Ningpo, the Shanghai Municipal Council voted to establish a branch post office in the city. The Ningpo branch was met with public anger and closed down in 1868. In 1867, an agreement was reached between the British Post Office in Shanghai and the local post office, dividing up postal work on the China coast. A United States Post Office was also opened in Shanghai in 1867 in conjunction with Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company monthly service to Yokohama and onward to San Francisco.

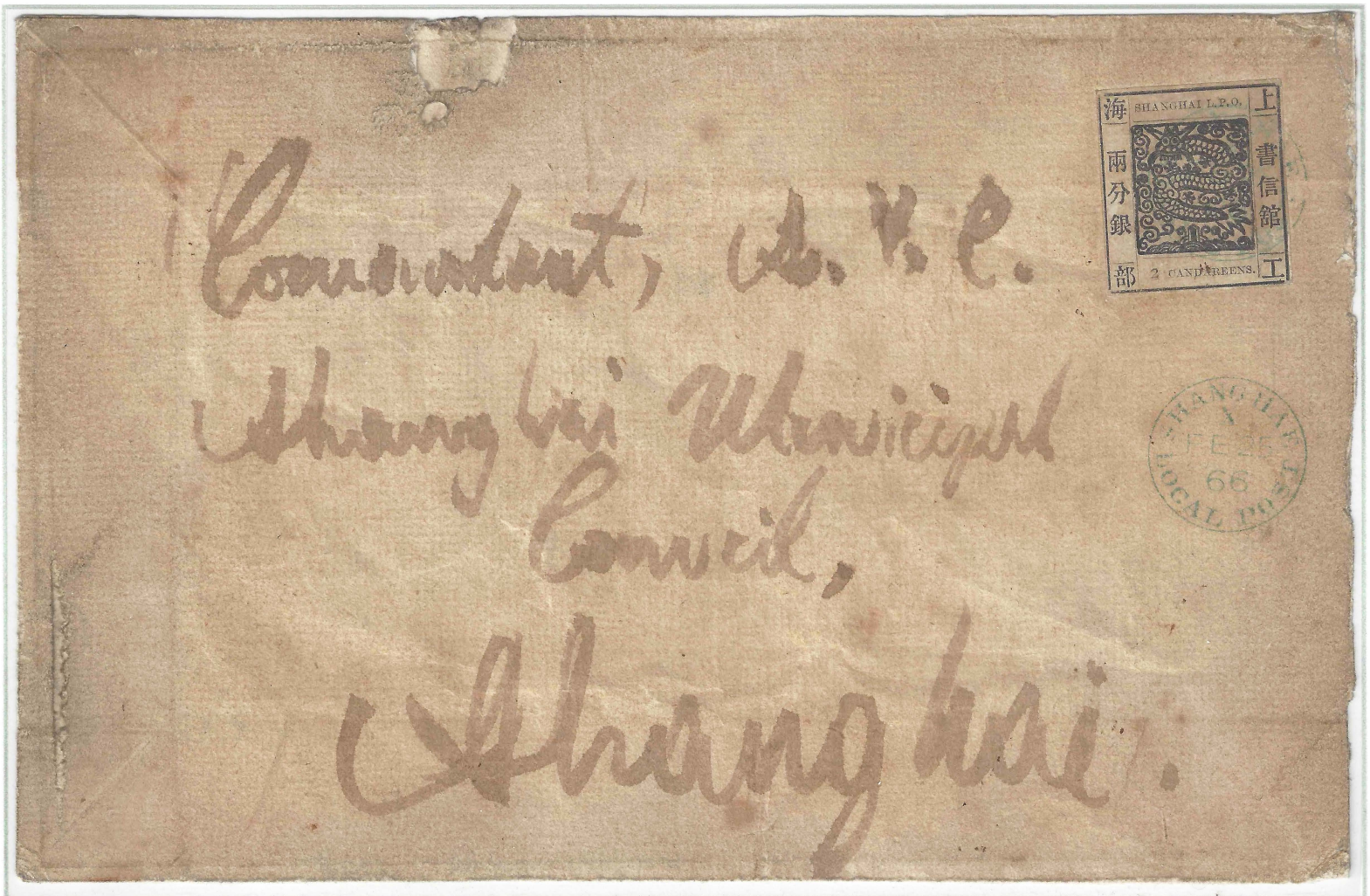
The Known Covers

At present I am aware of only three full covers bearing Shanghai Local Post Provisional Issue "large dragon" stamps. Fortune Wang illustrates and describes in Volume I of his series on the Shanghai Local Post, page 36, a wonderful combination cover with 2 candareens (printing #10) used with Hong Kong 8c stamp. It is the earliest known use and was posted in the Shanghai Local Post on 8 December 1865 with their blue datestamp tying both stamps. The cover, used to India, bears a British Agency Shanghai backstamp of the same day as well as Hong Kong transit of December 13, 1865. The other two known covers were found together with third cover, with adhesive torn away, in Europe in 2018. The four mounted exhibit pages follow - the two covers with stamps are shown first followed by pages with the stamp torn away and one of the enclosed maps.

The Shanghai local post handled two kinds of letter - covers from subscribers which did not need stamps and cover from non-subscribers which did need stamps. A subscription only paid for delivery within the foreign settlement of Shanghai. This cover, addressed in the brush hand of a Chinese writer, enclosed a map and report of the Volunteer Corp's policing patrols over the six bridges that crossed Soochow Creek into the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

In the Report of the Monthly Meeting of the Shanghai Municipal Council held on 5 September 1865 it was noted under the heading "Local Post Office" that:

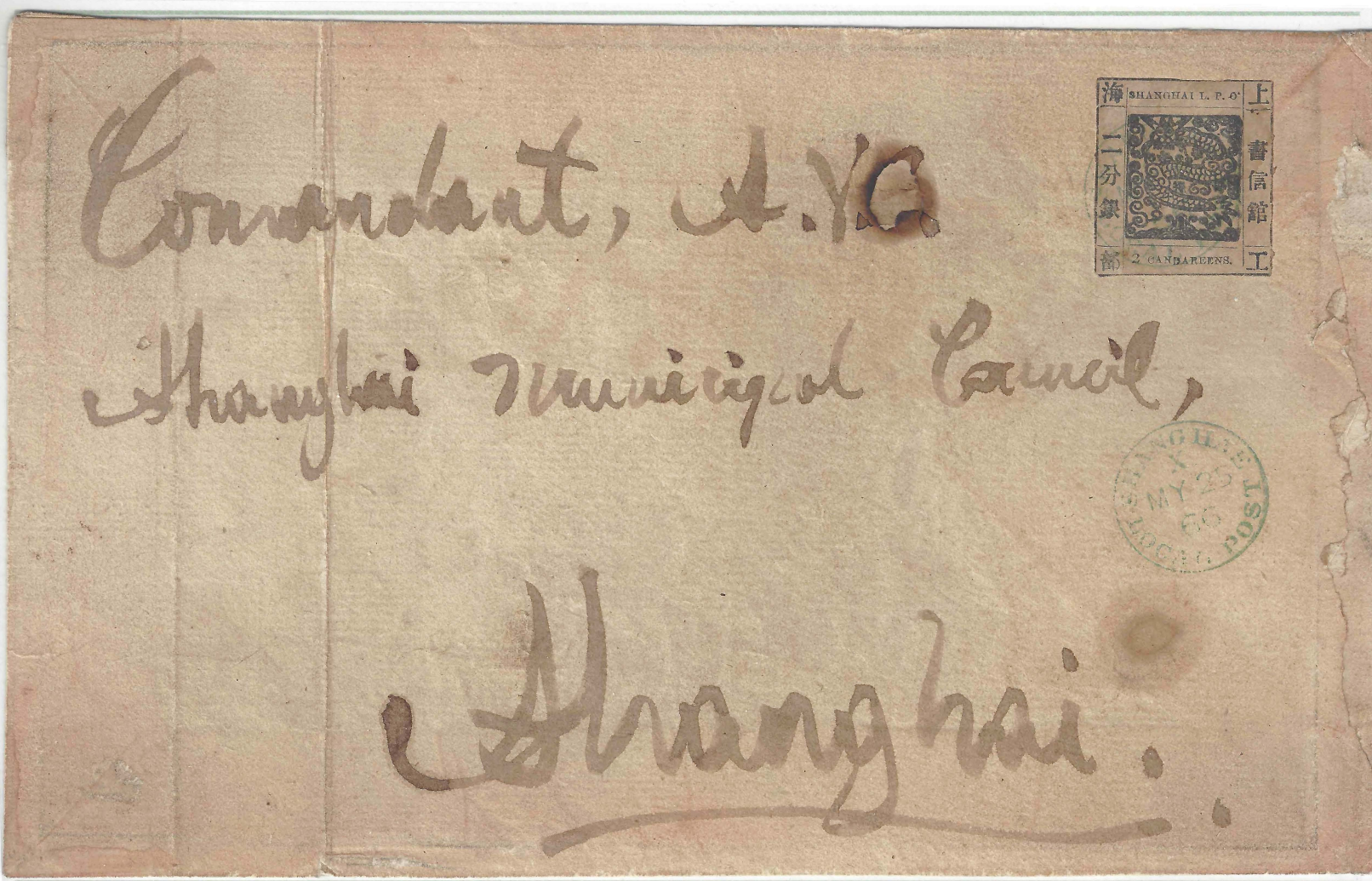
A branch office has been established in the eastern suburb of the native city (as opposed to the foreign settlement where the main Shanghai Local Post Office was located) for the sale of postage stamps and collection of native correspondence. A contract has been made with Paou Shun, for the sum of \$600 per annum, he is allowed to collect and forward a portion of the Chinese postal matter.



25 February 1866 Shanghai "town letter" prepaid 2 candareens (print #14) blue-green Shanghai Local Post postmark and cancel, use from a non-subscriber addressed to the Commandant of the SVC, Shanghai Municipal Council, Shanghai

probably deposited at the "Paou Shun" branch post office and subject to the 2 candareens rate

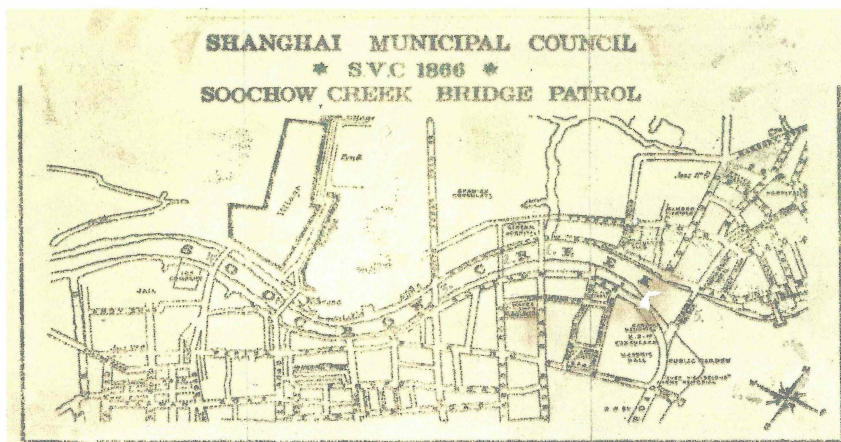
one of three known Shanghai Local Post large dragon stamps on cover



25 May 1866 cover from a non-subscriber to Shanghai, prepaid 2 candareens (print #41) blue-green Shanghai Local Post postmark and cancel addressed to the Commandant of the SVC, Shanghai Municipal Council, Shanghai

probably deposited at the "Paou Shun" branch post office and subject to the 2 candareens rate **one of three known uses of the Shanghai Local Post large dragon stamps on cover**

Reduced and cropped image of the original enclosure, dated on reverse, May 1866. The map is imprinted "Shanghai Municipal Council *SVC 1866 * Soochow Creek Bridge Patrol" and includes manuscript numbers on the bridges. Three covers from the original find accompanied five dated maps. One cover had a the stamp removed, two are shown.



Shanghai Local Post



The earliest dated cover from a find of three covers, two bearing two candareens large dragon stamps (prints #14 and #41), and five maps is shown below. The original enclosure in the cover is the 1865 map of the Soochow Creek Bridges shown overlaid on the cover in a cropped and reduced image. The reverse of the map is endorsed "Dec. 65 / R.20 S.V.C." in the same "brush" hand as the address of the cover. The maps probably each accompanied a written report of the Volunteer Corp patrols over the 6 bridges shown.



The "Shanghae Local Post" datestamp struck in blue-green is reported used as a dispatch postmark on covers dated between July 1864 and June 1865 and is later found used as a cancel on stamps.

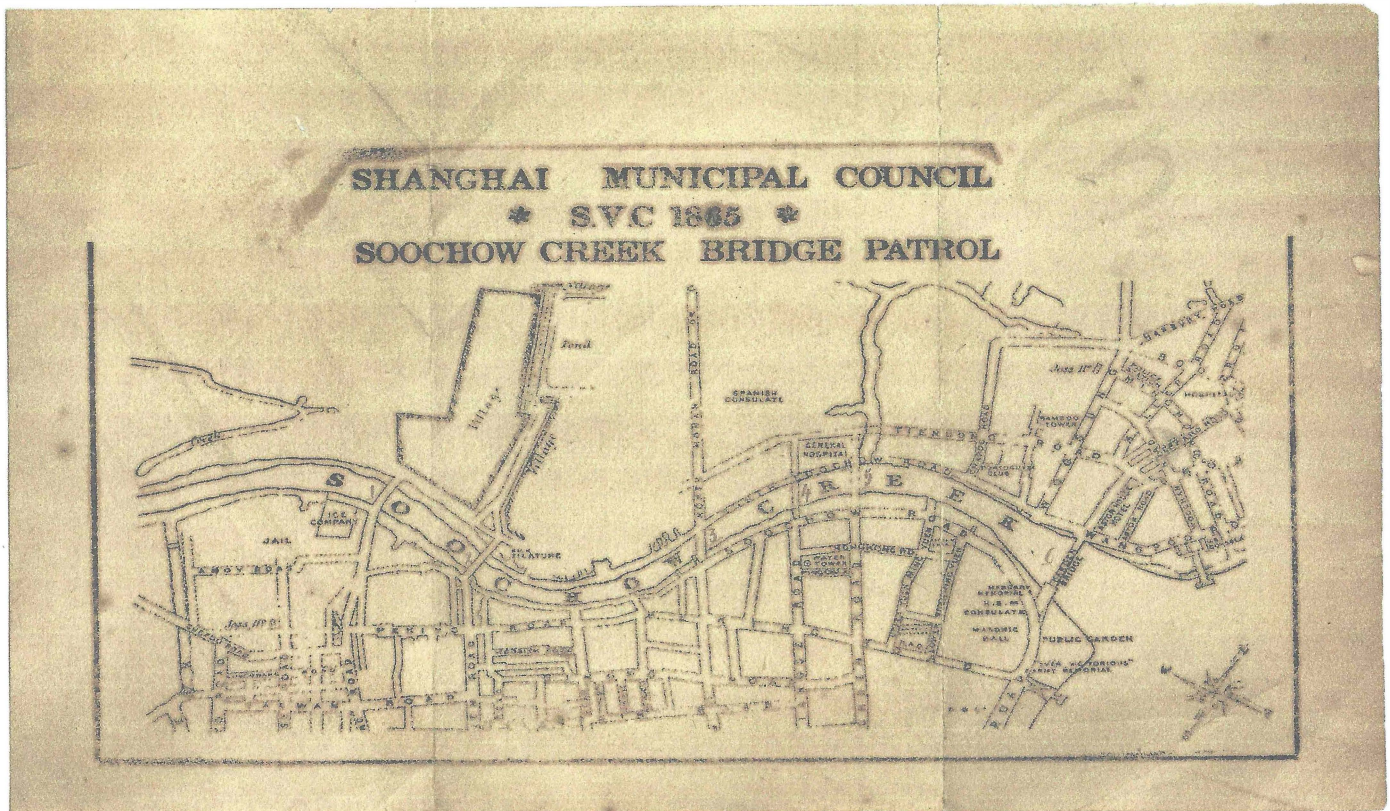


21 December 1865 Shanghai Local Post postmark and cancel, stamp torn away, to Commandant "Shanghai Municipal Council / * SVC 1865 */ Soochow Creek Bridge Patrol" map bridges numbered "1" to "6" by hand from left to right

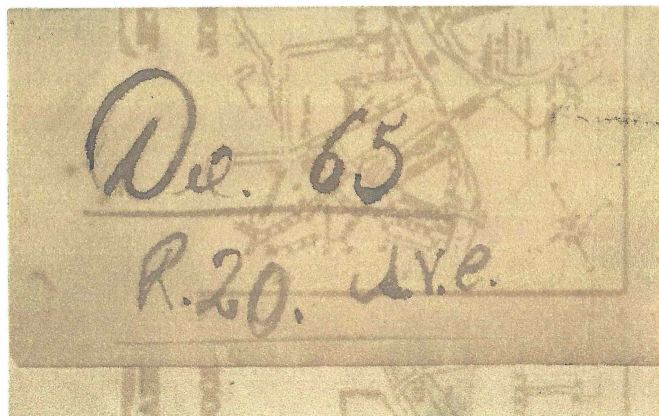
Shanghai Local Post



The earliest dated enclosed map from the find is shown below. It originated in the December 1865 cover that has stamp torn away. The endorsement on reverse is in the same Chinese brush hand as the covers. The find includes 5 maps and 3 covers. These apparently accompanied reports of the Volunteer Corps reports to Commandant Hornby. The 5 maps are dated November and December 1865, as well as February, March and May 1866. The maps differ in the numbering of the bridges in pen, two include "Senior Patrol") The three covers include the cover below (December 1865 with stamp torn away) and uses with two candareens stamps dated February and May 1866.



"Shanghai Municipal Council / * SVC 1865 * / Soochow Creek Bridge Patrol" map
bridges numbered "1" to "6" by hand from left to right, (reduced image)
endorsed on reverse "Dec 5 / R.20. S.V.C. in a "brush" hand



1 CANDAREEN



printing #22



printing #23



printing #29



printing #30



printing #38
wove paper



printing #39
laid paper

1 CANDAREEN



printing #48



printing #49



printing #52



printing #63
original *pu* character



printing #64
with retouched *pu*



printing #69

2 CANDAREENS



printing #1



printing #6



printing #10



printing #13



printing #14



printing #21

2 CANDAREENS



printing #25
wove paper



printing #26
laid paper



printing #40



printing #41



printing #51



printing #54



printing #65

2 CANDAREENS



printing #70



printing #78

3 CANDAREENS



printing #34



printing #37



printing #45



printing #50



printing #53



printing #55



printing #66



printing #67



printing #71

4 CANDAREENS



printing #2



printing #8



printing #9



printing #9A (Wang)



printing #15



printing #20

4 CANDAREENS



printing #24



printing #27



printing #28



printing #42



printing #44



printing #56



printing #57



printing #68

4 CANDAREENS



printing #72

6 CANDAREENS



printing #33



printing #36



printing #46



printing #58



printing #73

8 CANDAREENS



printing #3



printing #7



printing #11



printing #16



printing #19



printing #32



printing #43



printing #59



printing #74

12 CANDAREENS



printing #35



printing #47



printing #60



printing #61



printing #75

16 CANDAREENS



printing #4



printing #5



printing #12



printing #17



printing #18



printing #31



printing #62



printing #76



printing #77

OFFICIAL REISSUES



printing #R1



printing #R2A



printing #R2B



printing #R3 (A+B se-tenant)



printing #R4A



printing #R4B



printing #RB5A



printing #RB5B

FIRST BATCH



printing #1



printing #2



printing #3



printing #4

SECOND BATCH



printing #5



printing #6



printing #7



printing #8



printing #9



printing #9A (Wang)
ink trace of previous print



printing #10



printing #11



printing #12

SECOND BATCH (continued)



printing #13



printing #14



printing #15



printing #16



printing #17



printing #18



printing #19



printing #20



printing #21

THIRD BATCH



printing #22



printing #23



printing #24



printing #25
wove paper



printing #26
laid paper



printing #27



printing #28



printing #29



printing #30

THIRD BATCH (continued)



printing #31



printing #32

FOURTH BATCH



printing #33



printing #34



printing #35



printing #36



printing #37



printing #38
wove paper



printing #39
laid paper



printing #40



printing #41

FOURTH BATCH (continued)



printing #42



printing #43



printing #44



printing #45



printing #46



printing #47

FIFTH BATCH



printing #48



printing #49



printing #50



printing #51



printing #52



printing #53



printing #54



printing #55



printing #56

FIFTH BATCH (continued)



printing #57



printing #58



printing #59



printing #60



printing #61



printing #62



printing #63
original *pu* character



printing #64
with retouched *pu*



printing #65

FIFTH BATCH (continued)



printing #68

SIXTH BATCH



printing #66



printing #67



printing #69



printing #70



printing #71



printing #72



printing #73



printing #74



printing #75

SIXTH BATCH (continued)



printing #76



printing #77



printing #78

Le Timbrophile (Paris, Maury) issue of 1 November 1865 included a rendering of the 2 candareens stamp. The first row of forgeries below are derived from that illustration.

Benzinger Type "TO" with curved element in NW corner in two pieces.



black on yellow



black on pale buff



black on dark buff

Type "LK" with curved element in NW corner in four pieces rather than two.



Type "LM" with curved element in NW corner in one piece, "SANGHAI" at top.



character in NE corner has an upward stroke at end of the shorter horizontal line



NE corner character has a tiny upward stroke at end, two solid ovals at top two variations: on pelure paper with intact Chinese yin at left and wove paper with broken yin

first variation on pelure paper with intact yin



singular "CANDAREEN"



plural "CANDAREENS"

second variation on wove paper with broken yin



singular "CANDAREEN"



plural "CANDAREENS"

Type "LD"

no claw above tail, top central frame slopes down at left



singular "CANDAREEN" and plural "CANDAREENS"

Type "LF"

left horn does not touch frameline, ornament at foot are joined



large numerals



small numerals, both with Chinese er (2) for denomination at left



large numerals

small numerals, Torres fake cancels

Type "LH"

reversed "N" at top, dragon's horns and ears do not touch frameline



Type "LI"

guard house door has dividing line, horns and ears do not touch frameline



Type "LJ"

eight thin whiskers, horns and ears do not touch frameline



Type "LO"

side ornaments at right cross frameline, central block corners rounded



"L.F.O." instead of "L.P.O." at top, Chinese *Liang* for all values.



metallic gold ink



"L.F.O.," instead of "L.P.O." at top



metallic gold ink



Type "LP"

top scroll at left connected to frameline above by vertical line



Type "LQ"

nine short whiskers, dragons has stars instead of claws



Type "LR"

five short whiskers, "HA" of "SHANGHAI" joined



Type "LS"

left horn does not touch frameline, scroll at bottom left touches dragon



large "6"



small "6" almost touching "CANDAREENS"



Type "LU"

solid ovals at top and above Dragon's tail, whiskers connect to side oval



Type "LV"

single colored oval at top right of central image



single arc in white space below guard house, the ends of the ornamental loops are solid,
no period after "CANDAREENS" (one candareen with period)



framelines are all the same thickness, the letters of "CANDAREEN" are tightly spaced and the serif on the terminal "N" extends over the top line of the word



nine whiskers, dragon's two top lines has seven defined segments, three arcs in hill beneath guard house, square piu with tail, open SW corner

modern numerals



open SE corner

open SE corner

Chinese mace instead of fen error, modern numerals

Roman numeral I



antique numerals



laid paper

one piece element in NW corner, period after "O" of "L.P.O." is raised



top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



top character at left has a diagonal slash,
NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "1" varies substantially depending on the position

top character at left has a diagonal slash,
NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the Roman numeral "II" varies depending on the position

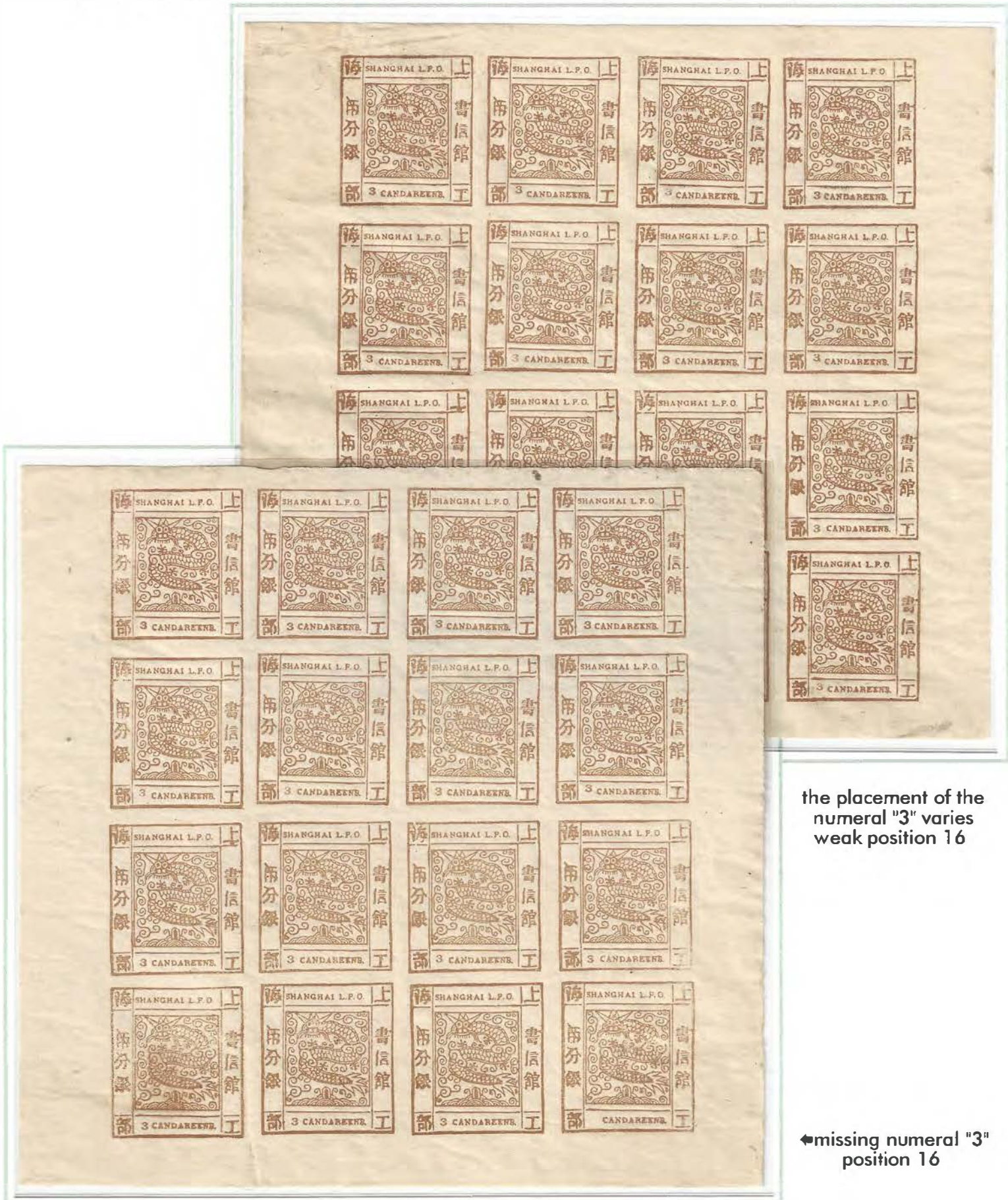
top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "2" varies weak position 16

missing numeral "2" position 16

top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "3" varies weak position 16

←missing numeral "3" position 16

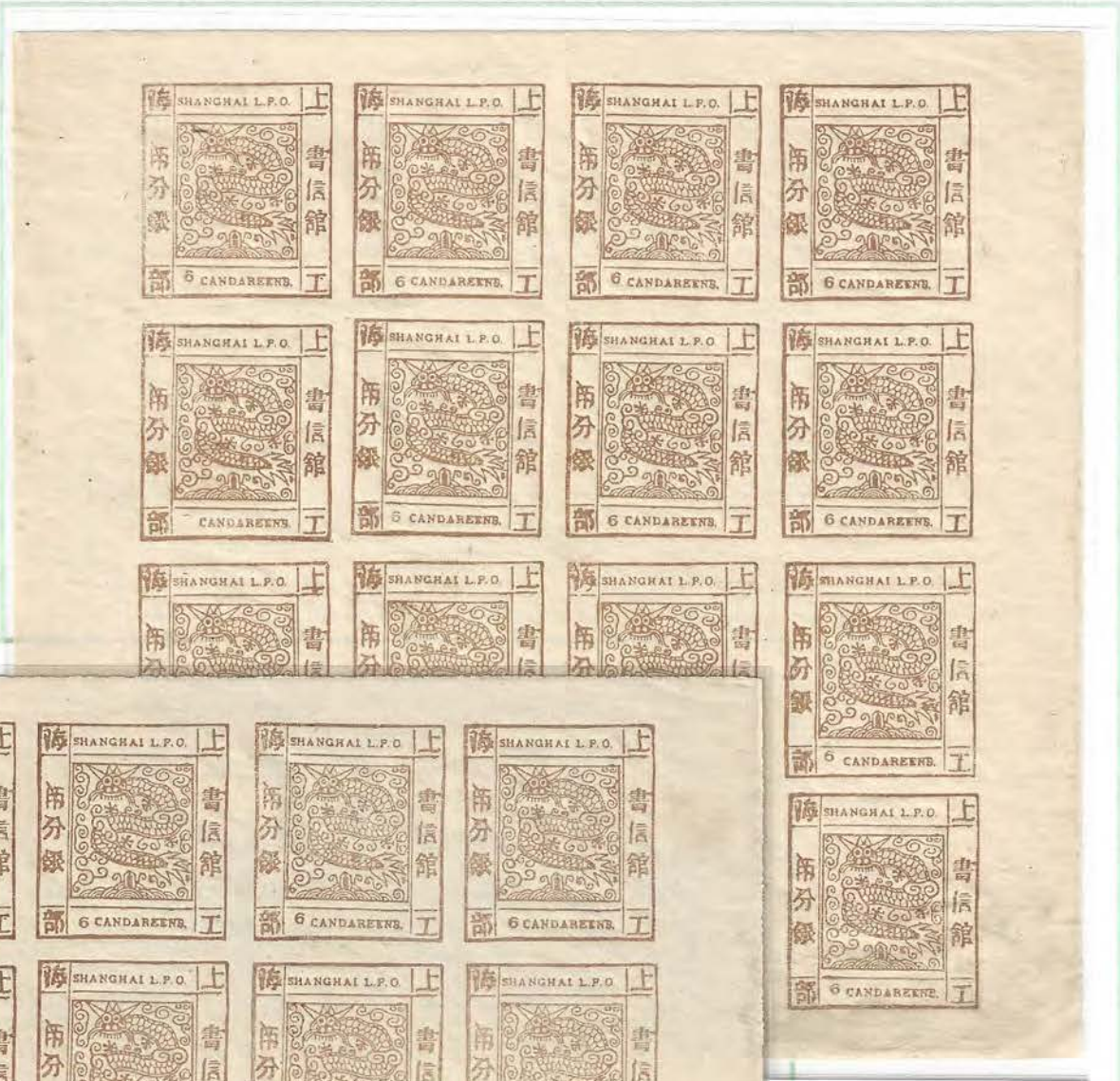
top character at left has a diagonal slash,
NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



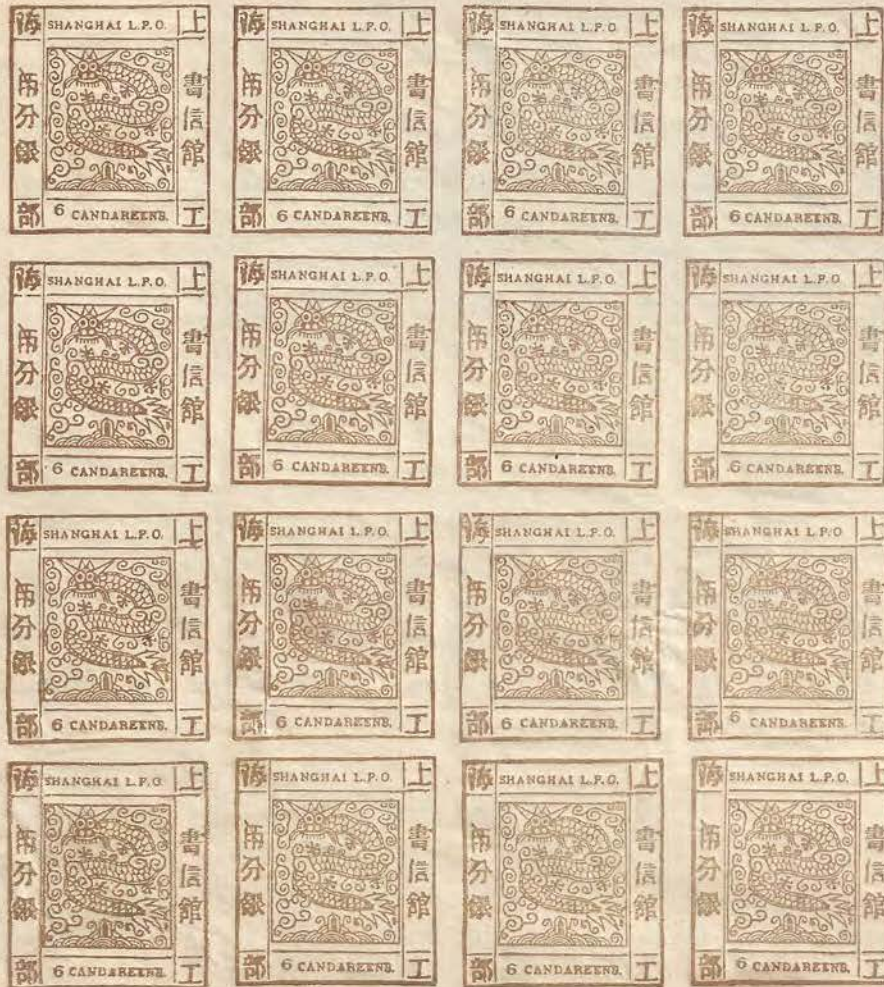
the placement of the numeral "4" varies substantially depending on the position

top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line

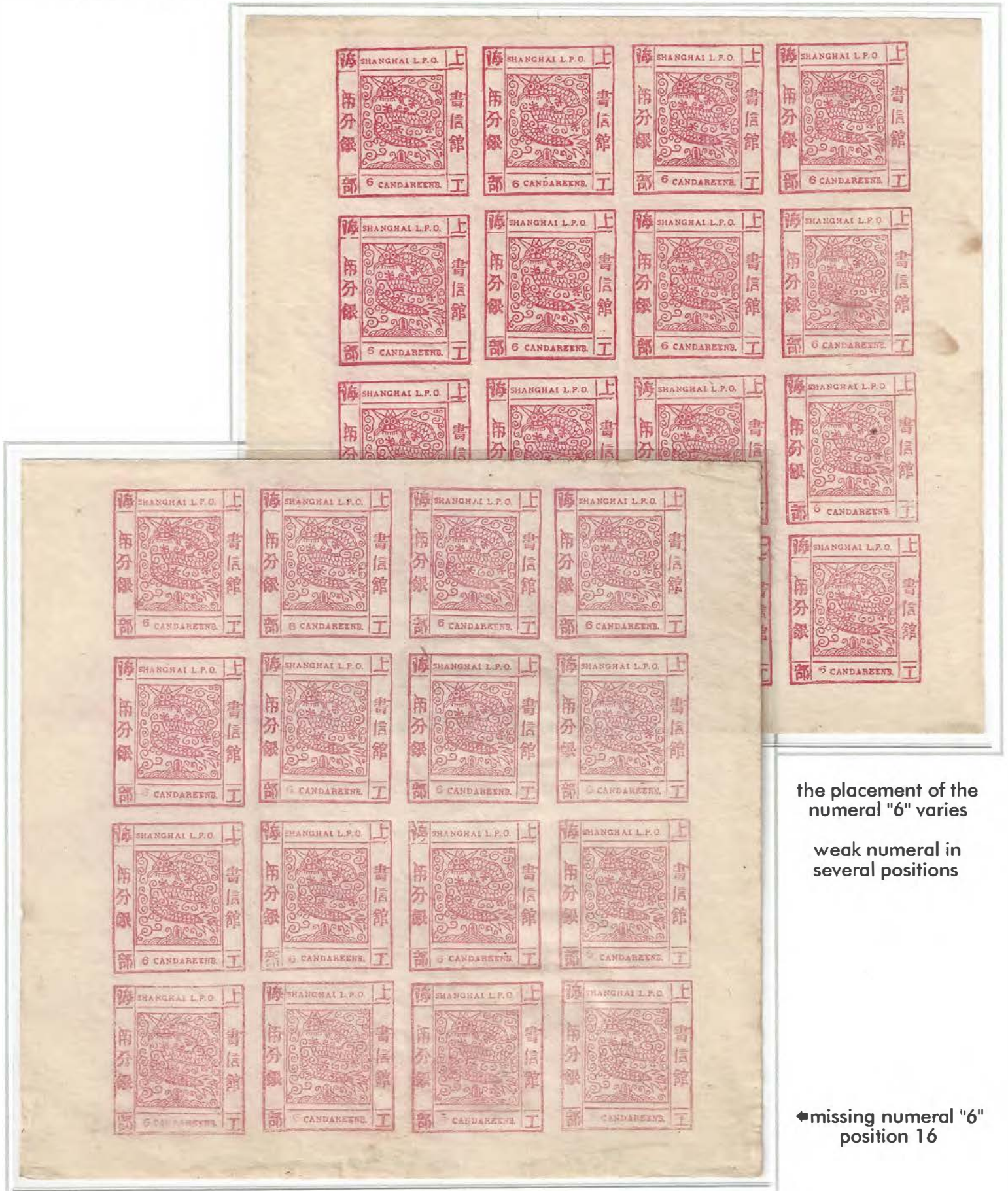
missing numeral "6" →
position 5, weak at
position 6



the placement of the numeral "6" varies



top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "6" varies

weak numeral in several positions

◆missing numeral "6" position 16

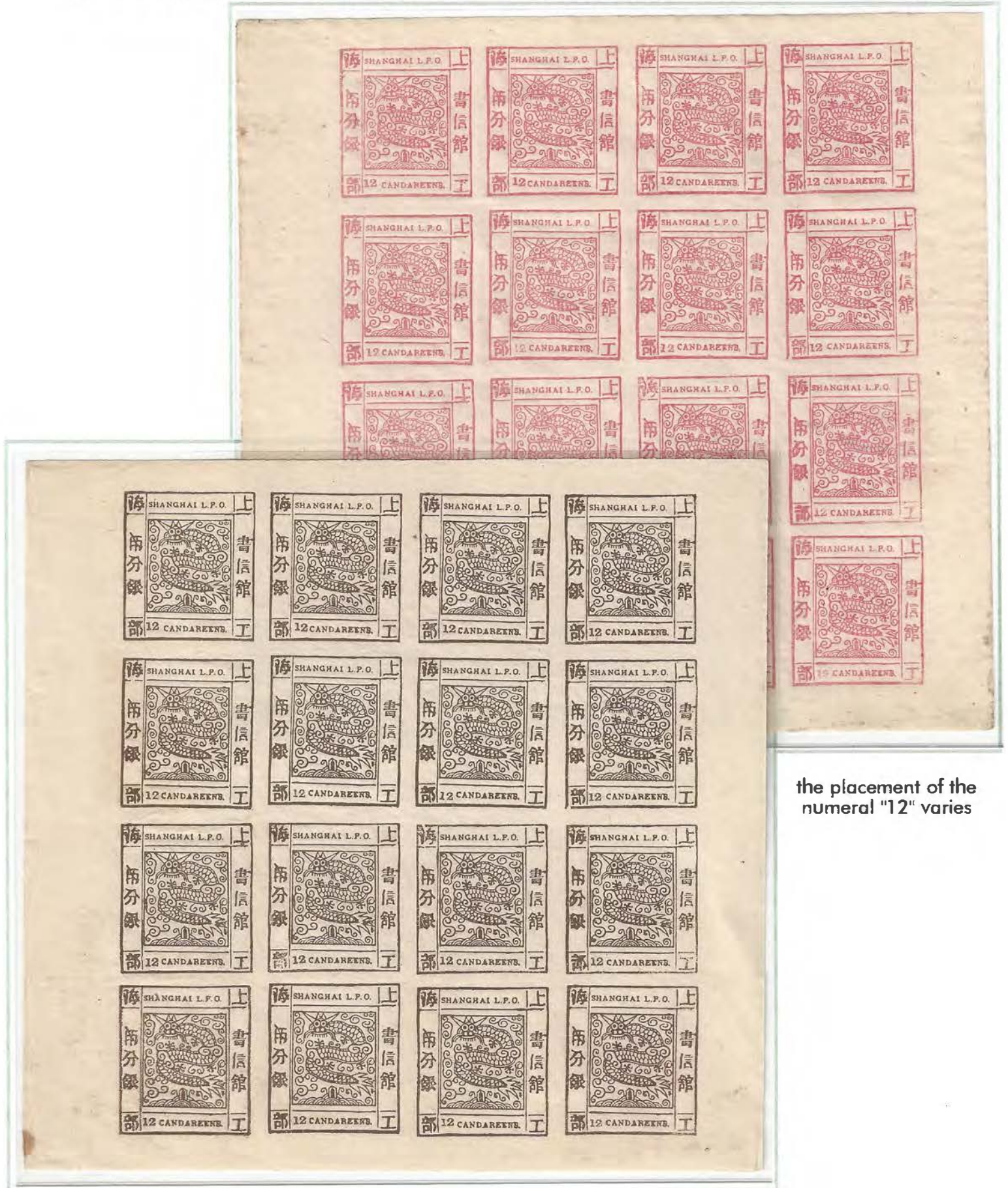
top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "6" varies

the placement of the numeral "8" varies

top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "12" varies

top character at left has a diagonal slash, NW corner includes reversed "C" over vertical line



the placement of the numeral "16" varies

Type "TL"

center block almost touches framelines at sides, perforated 10.75



flaw in tail

Type "TM"

similar to Types LU and TK, unusual mustache, perforated 11.5



Torres fake cancel

Type "TK"

similar to Types LU and TM (above), unusual mustache



Type "TS"

tail touches frameline in two places at right and corner scroll beneath



These forgeries form a group and individual values were printed in a composite setting with plural over singular denominations. Although individual cliches vary, the share characteristics: two separate arcs in hill under the guard house, the pattern in the body scales match.

singular "CANDAREEN."



plural "CANDAREENS."



combination blocks



top pair is plural, lower pair is singular



top pair is singular, lower pair is plural

See previous page. The individual values were printed in a composite setting with plural over singular denominations. Other denominations have not been reported. The Benzinger types are:

| | Benzinger Type |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 CANDAREEN. | TX |
| 1 CANDAREENS. | TV |
| 2 CANDAREEN. | TW |
| 2 CANDAREENS. | TU |
| 4 CANDAREEN. | not listed |
| 4 CANDAREENS. | TT |
| 6 CANDAREEN. | not seen |
| 6 CANDAREENS. | TAA |
| 8 CANDAREEN. | TAB |
| 8 CANDAREENS. | TAA |
| 16 CANDAREEN. | TZ |
| 16 CANDAREENS. | TH |

combination blocks



top pair is singular, lower pair is plural



top pair is plural, lower pair is singular

"32 Candareens"



possibly related to Type "TO" but frame lines cross

Unlisted



this row possible related to next row but have correct "L.P.O." at top



this row seem to be related as all have "L.F.O." at top



both with "L.F.O." at top, crude prints similar to Type "LL"

album illustration French text on reverse