

Second Stamp Issue of the Customs Post of China

Issued in the fall of 1885, the stamps consisted of three values, 1ca. 3ca. and 5ca. Smaller in size in comparison to the Large Dragon stamps, but with greater detail of the dragon, the central theme of both issues remained the same. The first recorded use was of the 1ca. (3x) on a domestic cover in Feb. 1886¹, from Shanghai to Peking. The recognized first year of use is thus 1886. This second issue of the Customs Post would be in service for ten years before the next issue, the Dowager issue would be released. With the creation of the Imperial Post in Feb. 1897, as the replacement of the Customs Post, the currency on postage stamps switched from Candarins to Cents. The Small Dragon stamps would continue with surcharge of Cents brought on as the Imperial Post stamps, the Coiling Dragon issue, did not arrive until the fall of 1897. Stamps were needed for postage and surcharged Small Dragon, Dowager, and Red Revenue stamps were pressed into service. During the Small Dragon period, China was not a member of the U.P.U. As such, foreign incoming mail to China from U.P.U. countries did not have the required domestic Small Dragon postage for mail transit within China from entry Port to any other place. Foreign postage had no validity within China, and the Customs Post would charge a supplementary fee for handling this mail.

Foreign mail delivered to the Customs Post, by foreign post offices would be charged in accordance with the Postal Tariff of Nov. 15, 1884: "Letters each ½ oz., 3ca., between any two places within China, all Treaty Ports, except Pakhoi and Kiungchow"². This rate had been fixed since the Large Dragon Postal Tariff of 1879 and remained the same throughout the Small Dragon period.

Very few surviving³ incoming mail examples destined for Northern China exists with Small Dragon stamps cancelled by Customs/Shanghai. The Postal Tariff of 1894⁴ gives an indication as to why this is so, under 'Winter Service' Note 1. "N.B. On arrival of each American, Canadian, British, French or German mail at Shanghai, a Special Mail (consisting only of Legation Mail Matter from abroad) will be made up and forwarded via Chinkiang direct to Peking, and en route about 12 days." This packet system would logically be extended to faster ship travel in the Spring, Summer and Fall months as well.

Customs/Tientsin then largely handled Northern China incoming mail. Mail intended for Tientsin, Peking or Newchwang, when the sea was free of ice, was routinely forwarded to the Port of Tientsin(Tang ku), or during the winter months using the overland route to Customs/Tientsin. Mail arriving at Customs/Tientsin was in most cases marked with the letter weight, ½ for single weight, and a corresponding 3ca. Small Dragon stamp(s) were added and cancelled with the Customs/Tientsin Seal. Red Customs/Tientsin c.d.s. indicated a supplementary charge to be collected in cash at the final destination. Customs/Tientsin also used a "To Pay" boxed straight line handstamp in lieu of a Small Dragon stamp(s), which differed from that used by Customs/Shanghai.

Foreign mail received by Customs/Shanghai (transit c.d.s. mark) destined for Northern Ports, in lieu of using 3ca. stamps, used a boxed 'To Pay' handstamp for general users or commercial mail, which was added to such mail prior to forwarding, indicating payment at the final P.O. in cash. The 'Mail Matter' oval handstamp for employees of the Customs Maritime Service was used as well.

Mail to foreign countries could be handled by users in two different ways. The 'prepaid' method, in which users placed both the internal China domestic rate of postage, Small Dragon stamp, called for by the Postal Tariff of that year and the required U.P.U. stamp on the letter, with the Small Dragon stamp paying the domestic rate to Customs/Shanghai canceled at the origin P.O. and the letter turned over to the U.P.U post office by Shanghai/Customs for overseas transmission.

The second method or 'fully paid' involved applying the overseas rate in Small Dragon stamps defined by the Postal Tariff for that year, which were cancelled at the origin post office, a portion paying the domestic rate to Shanghai/Customs, whereas the balance paid for a U.P.U. stamp applied prior to delivering the letter to the U.P.U. post office for overseas transmission. The 'prepaid' method was preferred by the Customs Post as proclaimed in the Postal Tariffs: "It is a convenience to Customs and a gain generally to senders if letters be handed in already stamped with sufficient Foreign stamps for Foreign postage. Such letters need only then have Customs stamps affixed sufficient to defray the postage in China⁴."

The following postal history presentation contains examples of Small Dragon combination arrival, outgoing and registered mail, as well as domestic mail. Both methods of handling arrival mail destined for Northern Ports by Customs Shanghai and Tientsin are shown, as well as both methods of handling mail to foreign countries.

Footnotes:

1. Michael M.Y. Ho, *The Small Dragon*, Chinese Taipei Philatelic Society, 2016, page 106.

2. Philip W. Ireland, *The Large Dragons*, Robson Lowe Ltd. 1978, page 106.

3. Robert S.P. Kong, *Asian Philatelist*, Imperial Gems of China 2015, page 52.

4. R. A. de Villard, *American Journal of Philately*, Communications, Vol. VIII (March 31, 1895), pages 146-148.

Mail from Tientsin to the U.S.

1886



1886 (26 Nov.) envelope originating from the U.S.S.PALOS /ASIATIC STATION, franked on reverse with 1885 perf. 12½ 3ca lilac pair, very bright color, tied by Tientsin Seal, alongside Customs/Tientsin c.d.s. Nov. 27, 1886. On front U.S. 5c brown Garfield tied by barred oval killer. "U.S.POSTAL AGENCY SHANGHAI" oval double ring d.s. Dec. 11, 1886 alongside. Reverse shows Customs/Shanghai and San Francisco transit, Washington arrival c.d.s. Jan. 14, 1887 and Carrier d.s. tying Small Dragon pair.

1. Only a few Small Dragon - U.S. combination covers are recorded in the generally accepted first year of use, 1886.

'Fully paid' letter where the sender added the 6ca. in Small Dragon stamps, outlined in the Postal Tariff of Nov 15, 1882, during the Large Dragon period. This 6ca. rate to the U.S. remained the same throughout the Small Dragon period. These stamps were added to the letter reverse as required by the postal regulations. 3ca. paid for the domestic postage from Tientsin to Shanghai and 3ca. paid for the U.S. 5c. Garfield stamp. The 5c. U.S. Garfield stamp was added at the Customs/Shanghai office to pay the U.P.U. postage to the U.S. The letter then turned over to the U.S. Postal Agency for transmission to the U.S.

Mail from Chinkiang to Denmark
Small Dragon-Large Dragon Combination

1887



1887 (9 Jan.) printed envelope to Copenhagen, Denmark, arrival c.d.s. Feb. 2, 1887. On reverse 1885 Large Dragons thick paper, rough perfs., 1ca. green and 5ca. chrome-yellow, and 1885 Small Dragon rough perf. 12½ 3ca. mauve, tied by two strikes of “Customs/Chinkiang” double-ring c.d.s., showing “Customs/Shanghai” double-ring transit c.d.s. Jan. 10, 1887 and arrival c.d.s. adjacent. On front France Peace and Commerce 25c. cancelled by “Shang-hai/Chine” c.d.s. Jan. 11, 1887. Letter envelope opened out for display, mixed issue Small and Large Dragon franking paying the 9 candarin rate to Europe through the French Post Office.

1. *There are seven known Small Dragon-Large Dragon combination surviving covers, three from the Muhle correspondence to Denmark, one domestic registered combination, paying the 9ca. interport and registration fees from Peking to Shanghai. One used through the U.S. Postal Agency Shanghai at the 6ca. rate to New York, and two used to Europe, both paying the 9ca. rate to England and the other to France.*

‘Fully Paid’ example where the sender added 9ca. in Small and Large Dragon stamps to the envelope reverse, the 9ca. paid the 3ca. rate to Customs/Shanghai, with the 6ca. paying for the French 25c stamp This stamp was added at Customs/Shanghai and the letter turned over to the French Post office for transmission to Denmark.

Mail from Tientsin to Germany

1887



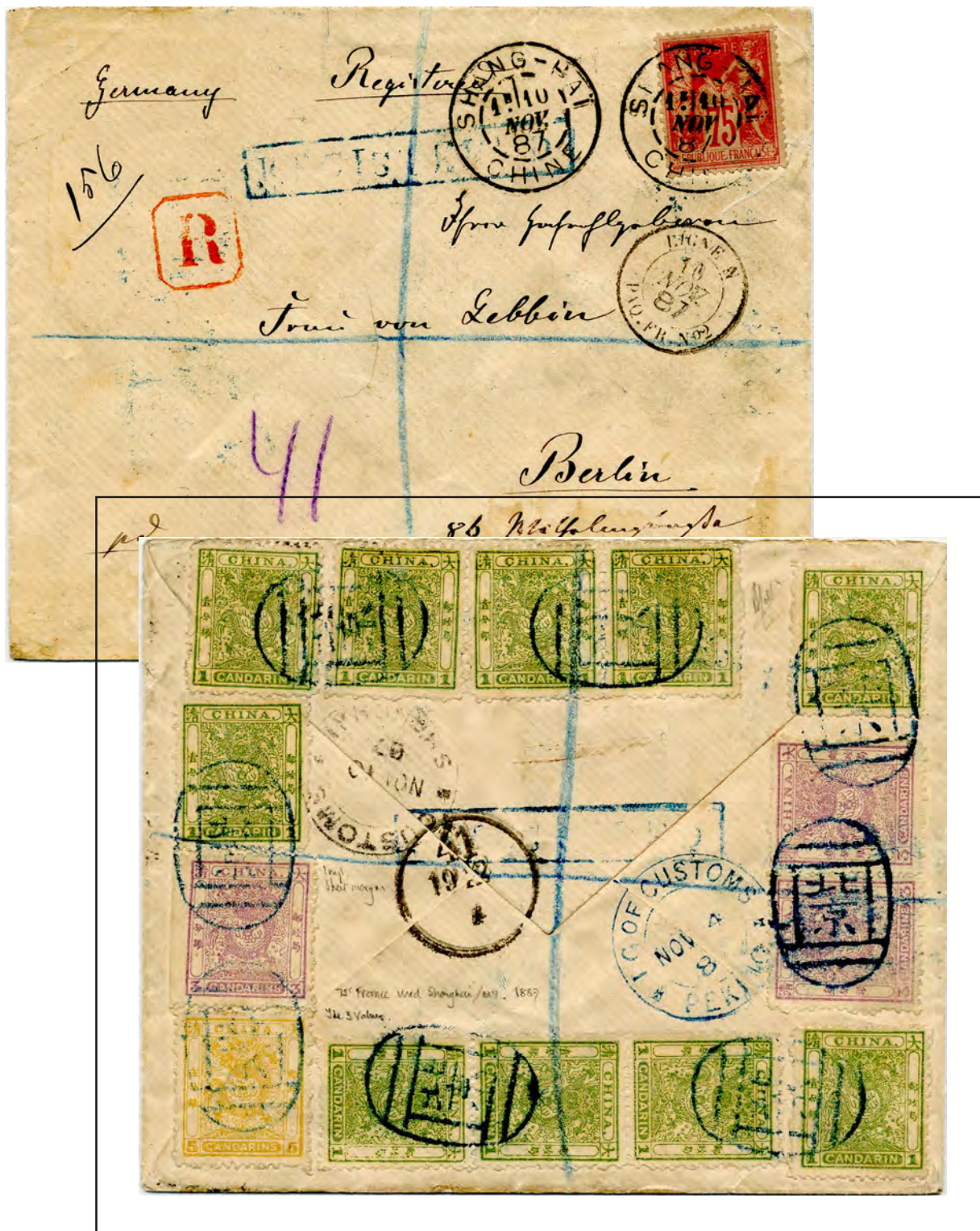
1887 (25 Jan.) opened out envelope to Germany bearing, on the reverse, rough perf. 12½ 3ca. bright mauve horizontal strip of three (one stamp the plate variety cliché 2) tied by fine strikes of Customs/Tientsin c.d.s. in grey-blue plus a light strike of the despatch c.d.s. Jan. 26 1887. Customs Shanghai Feb, 10, 1887. French packet boat and Bremen arrival c.d.s. March 26, 1887. The address side with France 25c. tied by "Shang-Hai/Chine" Feb. 15, 1887 c.d.s.

1. This is a rare cover as the Tientsin Post Office nearly always used the seal obliterations to cancel the adhesives, the Customs c.d.s. was very seldom used as a cancellation.

'Fully Paid' example where the sender added 9ca. to the envelope reverse, the 3ca. strip, paid the 3ca. rate to Customs/Shanghai, with the 6ca. paying for the French 25c. This stamp was added at Customs/Shanghai and the letter turned over to the French Post Office for transmission to Germany.

Registered Mail from Peking to Germany

1887



1887 (4 Nov.) double weight envelope registered to Berlin bearing, on the reverse, perf. 12½ 1ca. green (10), 3ca. light mauve (3) and 5ca. yellow-ochre cancelled by Peking seal in blue with I.G. of Customs/Peking c.d.s. and the type I boxed registered handstamp in blue, with Customs/Shanghai Nov. 11, 1887 and Berlin arrival Dec. 23, 1887. On the address side with France 75c. tied by “Shang-Hai/Chine” c.d.s., another strike of the boxed registered handstamp, French boxed “R” in red and French packet c.d.s. Nov. 16, 1887. Pencil notes and signed by Peter Holcombe.

1. The single 3ca. is with variety *imperforate* between stamp and left margin.
2. This is the earliest recorded use of the Peking boxed REGISTERED handstamp on a complete Small Dragon cover.

‘Fully paid’, double rate letter to Europe required 18ca. per the Postal Tariff of 1886. The Registration fee was 6ca. so the sender placed 24ca. on the reverse of the envelope. On arrival at Shanghai/Customs the 75c. French stamp (25c. x2 postage and 25c. registration fee) was added, and forwarded to the French P.O. for transmission to Berlin.

Mail from Tientsin to Chefoo, redirected to Hong Kong

1890



1890 (3 Feb.) envelope to Chefoo Feb. 9, 1890 arrival c.d.s., redirected to Hong Kong bearing perf. 11½-12 3ca. from the top of the sheet, cancelled by Tientsin seal in blue, matching “Customs/Tientsin” origin and “Customs/Chefoo” arrival double-ring d.s., the envelope then redirected Feb. 15, 1890 to Hong Kong, showing “Forwarded by/H. Sietas & Co./Chefoo” cachet in violet, with another perf. 11½-12 3ca. cancelled by Chefoo seal, accompanying “Customs/Chefoo despatch Feb. 15, 1890 and “Customs/Shanghai” transit Feb. 21, 1890 double-ring d.s. on reverse, in combination with Hong Kong 5c. cancelled by “Shanghai/C” c.d.s. Feb. 21, 1890.

1. Rare usage of the Small Dragons stamps from two different towns as a result of redirection with a fascinating routing, further highlighted by its usage through the British Post Office.

2. This is the only recorded example of a usage of Small Dragon stamps from two different towns redirected outside of China. There are less than 15 Small Dragon/Hong Kong combination covers used during the proper period (1886-1894).

The envelope was sent from Tientsin to Chefoo via the winter seapost route which required six days, then held for six days in Chefoo, and from there to Shanghai by sea again, which was quicker than the winter overland route from Tientsin to Shanghai.

The interport rate through the British Post Office was 5 cents.

‘Prepaid’ mail from Customs/Tientsin to Customs/Chefoo, 3ca. Small Dragon stamp Seal canceled at Tientsin. ‘Prepaid and redirected to Hong Kong. H.Sietas & Co. added the 3ca. required postage for the interport rate from Chefoo to Shanghai, cancelled by the Customs/Chefoo Seal and the Hong Kong 5c. stamp for U.P.U. postage, cancelled by the Shanghai B.P.O. and sent to Hong Kong

Mail from Hungary to Peking, returned to Hungary

1891



1891 (12 Apr.) opened-out envelope from Hungary to Peking bearing Hungary 5kr. (4, one on the reverse) tied by Nagy-kanizse despatch c.d.s. Hong Kong transit c.d.s. June 3, 1891. This letter **entered China at Tientsin**, where a 3ca. mauve stamp was applied and tied by Tientsin seal type V in blue. Customs/Tientsin c.d.s. June 19, 1891. The 3ca. Small Dragon stamp was added to pay internal postage from Tientsin to Peking. Arriving at Customs/Peking (c.d.s.) on July 23, 1891. The “Peking, China” of the address has been crossed through and written, on the reverse, “**Can not be found in Peking ...**” and **returned to sender**, this mail matter never left the Customs Post so it was returned to sender without further charge. The letter was sent to Shanghai and handled by the German Post Office Shanghai c.d.s. July 31, 1891. With Munich transit c.d.s., Sept. 7, 1891 and Nagy-kanizsa arrival Sept. 9, 1891.

1. This is a very rare China-Hungary combination. F.Z. Chun expert handstamp and signed by Peter Holcombe. This mail was forwarded by the sea route from Hong Kong to Tang Ku, the Port of Tientsin. The 1/2 in blue marked at Customs/Tientsin indicated 1/2 oz., the domestic charge was then 3ca. Customs/Tientsin forwarded the mail to Peking. Returned to sender mail was sent with no additional charge through the Customs Post, back to Shanghai and transferred to the German Post Office. Not surprising since Robert Hart modeled the Customs Post Office after the British Post Office, where first class mail is still ‘returned to sender’ free of additional charges.

Mail from Germany to Peking, redirected to Germany

1891



1891 (15 June) Germany 10pf. postal stationery card to Peking and canceled by Angermünde c.d.s. sent “via Queenstown - Canada” (very scarce and unusual routing) with Yokohama July 14, 1891 and diminutive “I.J.P.A. Customs/Shanghai” July 18, 1891 c.d.s., plus the scarce boxed **framed “To Pay”** in red applied at Customs/Shanghai. This framed “To Pay” required a 1ca. as a cash payment at Customs/Peking for missing postage dues on the postcard for transit within China. The postcard was then returned to Germany by the German Legation Peking, at which the return address was changed. They also added the Small Dragon 1ca. and 10pf. stamps, this making up ‘Prepaid’ postage, where the sender added both the internal China postage and the U.P.U. postage stamp for overseas transit. The 1ca. paying the internal postcard rate Customs/Peking to Customs/Shanghai, which was not seal canceled by Customs/Peking. Both the 1ca. and 10pf. stamps were tied by a single strike of German Post Office Shanghai July 30, 1891. Redirected to Berlin “via Shanghai - Brindisi”, with on the reverse, Customs/ Peking July 24, 1891 and Customs/Shanghai July 30, 1891 c.d.s. Berlin Germany (Pankow) arrival c.d.s. Sept. 8 1891. This was not a ‘return to sender’ mail, but the change in address by the German Legation Peking to Berlin Germany required the added interport and U.P.U. postage. The Customs Post would handle this postal card as original mail to Germany by the German Legation.

1. There are only two Small Dragon postal cards with the 1ca. rate recorded, this and another used on Sept. 1 1891, from Newchwang to Germany. The 1ca. rate was in effect from April 4, 1885 until March 20, 1892. This may be the earliest known use of a 1ca. Small Dragon stamp on a postal card.

Mail from Taku to Scotland

1891



1891 (9 Dec.) double rate envelope to Edinburgh, Scotland arrival Jan. 19, 1892, bearing on reverse perf. 11½-12 3ca. horizontal strips of three (2), one strip cancelled by “I.M. Customs/Taku” oval d.s. in violet and the other uncanceled at origin and subsequently cancelled in transit by Shanghai antique seal, matching “Customs/Shanghai” c.d.s. adjacent, and bearing on front France 25c. pair (applied defective), cancelled by “Shang-hai/Chine” c.d.s. Dec. 14, 1892.

1. Only about five instances of such “double” cancellations (i.e., one of stamps cancelled in Shanghai rather than at origin) during the Customs period are known: two 1884 Large Dragon covers sent from Newchwang, 1895 registered Dowager/U.S. combination from Tientsin to U.S.A., 1896 registered Small Dragon-Dowager/France combination from Taku to Australia, and this 1891 cover also from Taku.

‘Fully paid’ rare and unusual cancellation by two different post offices, Taku Customs and Shanghai Customs. 18ca. paid the double weight letter rate to England. 2x25c. French stamps added at Customs Shanghai, these were then cancelled at the French P.O. paying the U.P.U. rate for 1oz. to England.

Mail from Seoul, Korea to Germany

1892



1892 (13 July) double weight envelope to Berlin, Germany from Customs/Seoul. Bearing on reverse a block of 6 of the 3ca., 1885 perf 12½, Small Dragon stamps. Double cancelled "H.O. of Customs/Seoul" c.d.s. in violet, and one 3ca. stamp tied with Customs/Shanghai transit c.d.s. July 20, 1892. Berlin Germany arrival c.d.s. Aug. 29, 1892. On front a pair of French 25c. stamps cancelled with "Shang-Hai/Chine" c.d.s. July 20, 1892, also with French Paquebot Ligne N, No. 2 transit c.d.s. "JUL 92".

1. There are nine Small Dragon mail matter items known to have originated at Customs/Seoul. This is the second earliest recorded usage.

'Fully paid' letter where the sender placed the double weight postage required, or 18ca. on the reverse of the address envelope side as required by the Customs Post. On arrival at Customs/Shanghai the pair of 25c French stamps was added. The letter was then turned over to the French P.O. for transmission to Germany. Endorsed 'Germany via Chefoo', though transit through 'Chefoo' was not necessary, since this was summer, and the sea was free of ice, the faster sea route to Shanghai, rather than land route could be used.

Registered mail from Hankow to Germany

1892



1892 (7 Nov.) envelope registered to Berlin bearing perf.12½ 3ca. mauve and perf.11½ 1ca. green and 5ca. olive-ochre block of four tied by Customs/Hankow c.d.s. in red. France 75c. black on yellow applied over the 5ca. and tied by “Shang-Hai/Chine” c.d.s. Alongside are two faint strikes of 19.5mm circular “Registered/-/No.” in purple, believed to have been applied at Customs/Shanghai⁵ and the French boxed “R” in red. The reverse with Customs Shanghai Nov. 10, 1892, French packet datestamp Dec. 10, 1892, and Berlin arrival Dec. 17, 1892. Registered Small Dragon mail from Hankow is extremely scarce. One of four known covers with this very rare circular registry mark on cover.



Believed to be a Customs/Shanghai 1892 recorded registry mark⁵.

It is believed that the above circular “REGISTERED/-/No” mark was applied at Customs/Shanghai⁵. There are four envelopes recorded to date with this registration handstamp.

1. Envelope with Seoul Customs Matter handstamp to Germany via Chefoo and Shanghai (Oct. 7).
2. Envelope front with Chefoo Customs Mail Matter handstamp to Hong Kong via Shanghai (Nov. 4).
3. Envelope from Custom House Shanghai to Hanoi (Sept. 24).
4. The above envelope from Hankow to Germany via Shanghai (Nov. 7).

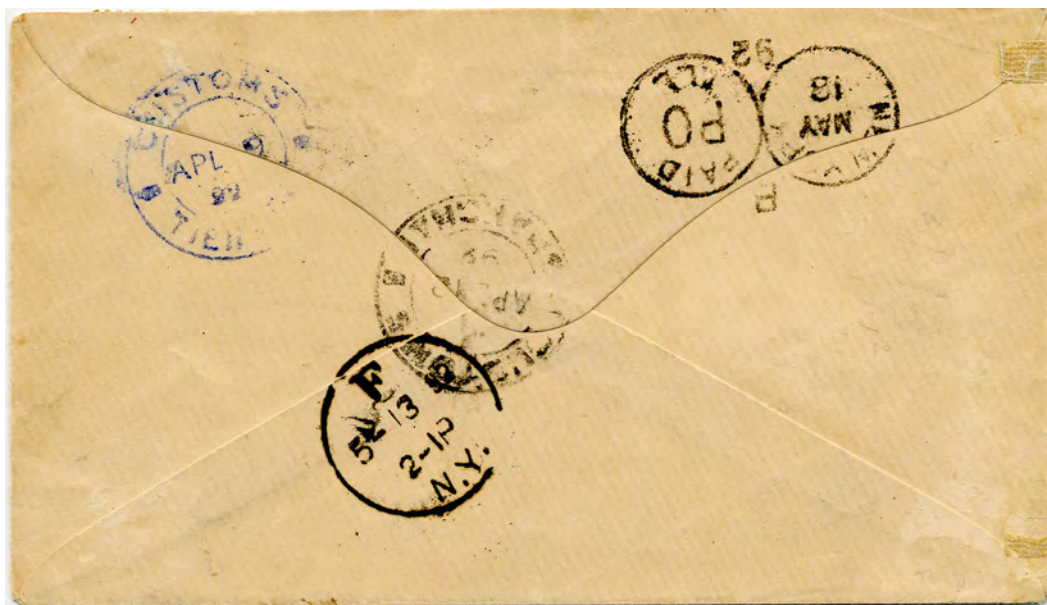
5. *All four covers listed above have only the Shanghai connection in common: These covers all either originated or transited through Shanghai. Therefore the ‘REGISTERED’ circular mark could only have been applied in Shanghai. All four recorded were used over a three month period, Sept to Nov. 1892.*

The 5ca. block includes clichés 5 and 2b from Setting VIII.

‘Fully paid’ double weight registered letter, where the sender placed 18ca. for postage and 6ca. for the domestic registry fee on the envelope at Customs/Hankow. Customs/Shanghai placed the French U.P.U. required postage including the registry fee, France 75c. and forwarded to the French P.O. for transmission to Germany.

Mail from Tientsin to the U.S.

1892



1892 (9 Apr.) envelope to New York arrival May 13, 1892 c.d.s., via Yokohama transit April 21, 1892. Bearing Small Dragon perf. 11½-12 1ca. and 5ca., cancelled by Tientsin seal in blue-violet, matching Customs/Tientsin c.d.s., Customs/Shanghai c.d.s. April 12, 1892 and New York arrival c.d.s. on reverse, in combination with Japan Koban 5s. superimposed on Small Dragons and cancelled by “I.J.P.O. Shanghai/Meiji 25” c.d.s. April 15, 1892 and the 1ca. additionally tied by “Yokohama Japan/Meiji 25” c.d.s.

1. This envelope was addressed by *W. C. Eaton, a Naval engineer, who served on several vessels in the U.S.N. Asiatic Fleet in China. He was an avid stamp collector and was a correspondent to the American Journal of Philately from 1891 to 1894 (during his service in China). His comments appeared over these and subsequent years in the ‘Comments’ section of the A.J.P. The A.J.P. was published by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. He won a bronze medal for his complete China ‘Treaty Ports’ collection at the 1913 International Stamp Exposition in New York.*

‘Fully paid’, Small Dragon example meeting the 6ca. single weight letter rate to the U.S.A. The 5s. Japanese stamp applied at Customs/Shanghai, and applied over the 1ca. and 5ca. stamps. The Small Dragon postage of 6ca. prepaid the internal rate from Customs/Tientsin to Customs/Shanghai, with the 3ca. the domestic rate for 1/2 oz., and 3ca. paid for the 5s. Japanese postage stamp applied at Customs/Shanghai before transferring the letter to the Japanese P.O. for transmission to the U.S.A.

6. Jeffrey Schneider, *Asian Philatelist* 2017, Commodore William C. Eaton..., page 23-36, Fig. 4

Mail from Chefoo Local Post to Peking
Small Dragon-Chefoo Local Post Combination

1894



1894 (6 Oct.) opened out envelope to the Italian Legation Peking, from the Treaty Port Chefoo. On front bearing a Chefoo Local Post 1c. red (Smoke Tower) stamp cancelled with triple ring Local Post Chefoo c.d.s. dated Oct. 6, 1894. This letter was forwarded to Customs/Tientsin for transmission to Peking. The Customs Post Office charged a supplemental fee on entry of Foreign or Local Post arrival mail, for this 1/2 oz. letter the interport rate between Tientsin and Peking was 3ca. **Postage on letters franked with Local Post stamps had no validity within the Customs Post.** This charge was to be paid in cash on delivery, by the addressee in Peking. Customs/Tientsin added and seal cancelled the 3ca. stamp for the letter's transmission to Customs/Peking. On the reverse Chefoo Local Post triple ring c.d.s. of Oct. 6 and 8, 1894. Customs/Tientsin arrival c.d.s. Oct. 10, 1894 and departure c.d.s. Oct. 11, 1894, I.G. of Customs/Peking c.d.s. Oct. 12, 1894.

1. *There are only two known combination mail matter items used domestically, originating at the Chefoo Local Post Office, which passed through the Customs Post and have stamps cancelled by both Post Offices: This letter and an earlier used Postal Card sent as well to Peking.*

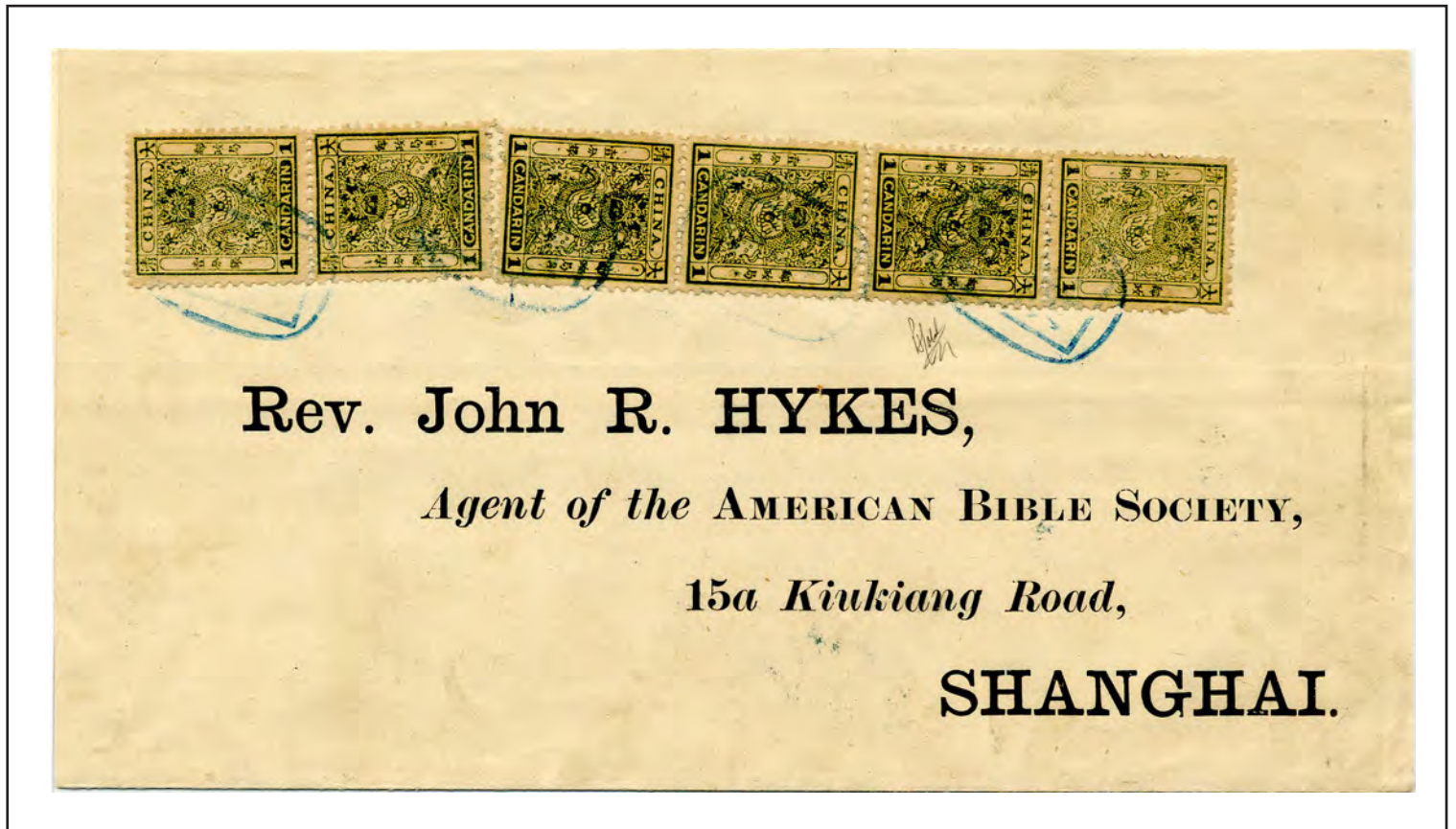
The Treaty Ports Chefoo, Hankow, Kewkiang, Ichang and others, with the approval of the Shanghai Local Post Office, set up a 'Local Post' Office and issued stamps, competing with the Customs Post. This was usually under the auspices of a local Municipal Council, but where none existed, as was the case in Chefoo, by a group of foreign residents. The Chefoo Local Post was opened in Oct. 1893, with lower rates offered on postage than the Customs Post Office, and thus popular with Foreigners⁷. Chefoo Local Post users sending mail to foreign countries would be required to hand in such mail with U.P.U. postage applied. Failure to do so would result in the letter being held or returned to the sender. There was no "fully paid" Customs equivalent method for handling mail in the Local Post⁸. Chefoo Local Post mail intended for Foreign countries would transit China through the Shanghai Local Post, which transferred such mail to Shanghai U.P.U. Post Offices. No Customs charge was required.

7. W. C. Eaton, *American Journal of Philately*, Communications, Vol. VII (June 30, 1894).

8. Major Richard Pratt, *Imperial China -History of the Posts to 1896*, Christies Robson Lowe, 1994 page 378.

Domestic Mail from Tientsin to Shanghai

1896



1896 (31 Jan.) envelope, opened out for display to Shanghai. Customs/Shanghai transit c.d.s. Feb. 11, 1896. Bearing perf. 11½ -12, 1ca. vertical strip of four and pair, deep rich colour, cancelled by Tientsin seal in blue, matching Customs/Tientsin origin and Customs/Shanghai transit c.d.s. and "Shanghai/Local Post/F" arrival c.d.s. on reverse, the envelope having been transferred from the Customs to the Shanghai Local Post for delivery.

Double rate domestic cover, the charge was 6ca. per 1oz., sent via the winter overland route. This overland route usually took 12 to 13 days to complete. Shanghai Local Post acted as a delivery agent for the Customs Post. Signed Peter Holcombe.

John Hykes, born in 1831 in Penn. was a U.S. Vice Consul-General in Shanghai¹, and a missionary with the American Bible Society, their goal was to translate the old and new testament of the Bible into the many languages of China, this to help spread Christianity. He died in Shanghai in 1921.

1. U.S. Census Bureau, *Summary of Foreign Commerce of the U.S.*, Vol. 8 Part 2, 1901, page 2925.

Mail from Peking to France
Small Dragon-Dowager Combination

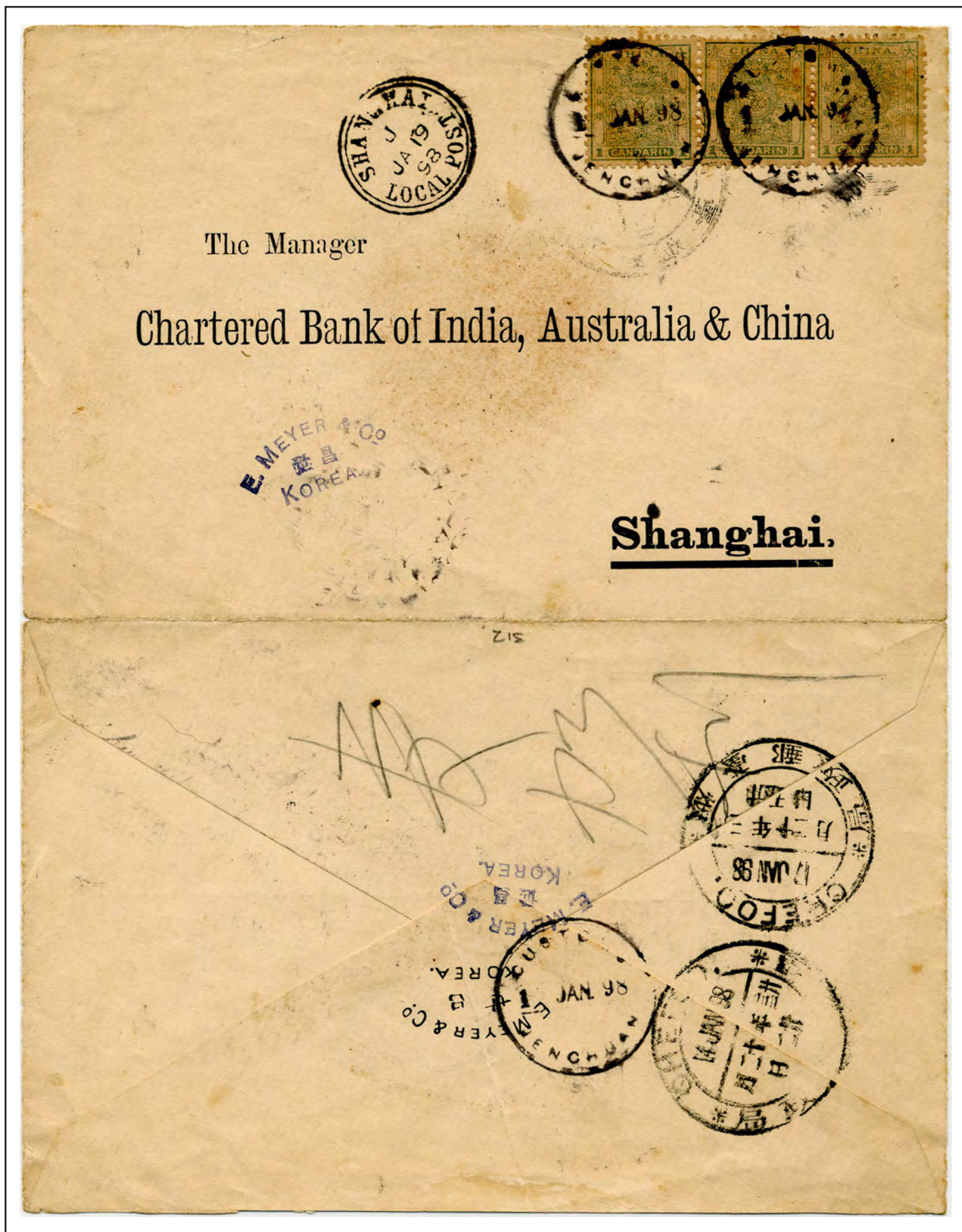
1895



1895 (17 Oct.) envelope to Paris bearing 1888 Small Dragons perf. 11½-12 3ca. mauve and 1894 Dowager Empress 3ca. orange-yellow (2), cancelled by Peking seal in blue, matching "I.G. of Customs/Peking" double-ring origin d.s. and "Customs/Shanghai" double-ring transit d.s. Oct. 22, 1895, in black, both on reverse, in combination with France "Chine" 25c. cancelled by "Shang-Hai/Chine" c.d.s. Oct. 25, 1895.

'Fully paid', mixed issue combination cover paying the 9ca. single weight rate for mail to Europe. The 6ca. Dowager and 3ca. Small Dragon stamps applied in Peking by the sender, paying the 3ca. domestic rate to Customs/Shanghai and 6ca. for the 25c. French "Chine" stamp added at Customs/Shanghai, then transferred to the French P.O. to pay the U.P.U. rate to Paris France.

1898



1898 (1 Jan.) printed envelope (opened out for display) from E. Meyer & Co. to the Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China in Shanghai (Jan. 19, 1898 Local Post arrival) bearing perf. 11½-12 1ca. bright green strip of three, cancelled by “Customs/Jenchuan” c.d.s., with another strike on reverse and two strikes of the “Chefoo” dollar dater applied on different days (Jan. 14, 1898 & Jan. 17, 1898), rare Korean usage from this famous correspondence. 3ca. paid the domestic single weight rate.

1. Besides the scarce Jenchuan Korea origin, a very important postal history usage, representing the first time that the winter overland route was combined with the sea route to Shanghai.

The Small Dragons stamps were used in Korea up until early 1898, since the I.C.P. stamps were not delivered to the two Customs Post Offices in Korea until late 1897 or early 1898.

The full winter overland route took too much time and was costly; thus, for the first time with this cover, the mail was carried overland only as far as Chefoo and then carried by sea (evidenced by the two-day transit between Chefoo and Shanghai). One could not sail in the winter from Newchwang, but could from Chefoo.

Mail from Shanghai to the U.S.

1898



1898 (14 Jan.) envelope to the U.S.A., franked with combination of 1897 New Currency surcharges and a 2c. I.C.P. stamp, making up a total of 10c. postage. Small Figures 2c. on 3ca. Small Dragon, and Dowagers 1c. on 1ca. plus Large Figures 1.5 mm. and 2.5mm. settings respectively on later printings 2c. on 2ca., and 1c. on 3c. Red Revenue surcharged, with Imperial Chinese Post 2c., all tied by Shanghai dollar dater cancels, Jan. 14, 1898. The 10s. Koban was added at the Shanghai/Customs, and then the cover was transferred to the Imperial Japanese P.O. and tied by 'Shanghai I.J.P.O. Jan. 19, 1898' c.d.s. The red 'PREPAID IN FULL' was most likely applied at the I.J.P.O. The cover was then sent to Yokohama (transit c.d.s. Jan. 25, 1898), Boston Mass. (transit c.d.s Feb. 18, 1898) and Fairfield Maine. Signed Peter Holcombe.

1. Rare use of surcharged 2c. on 3ca. Small Dragon stamp with an 1c. on 3c. surcharged Red Revenue stamp on the same cover, to the U.S.A.

As of Oct. 1, 1897 the overseas rate to the U.S. for mail handled by the Japanese P.O. was 10c.