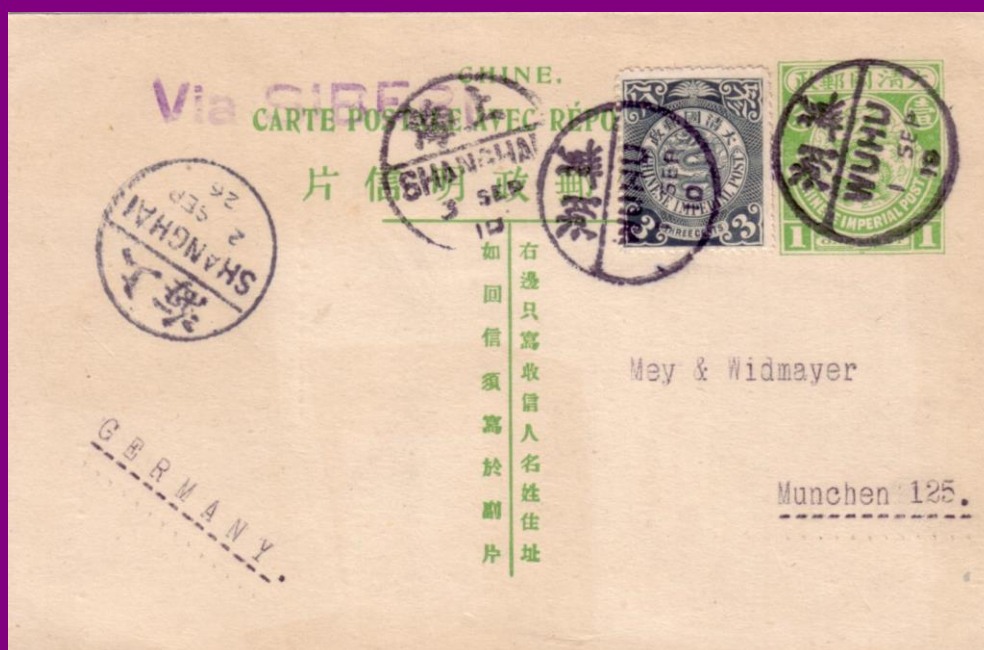


大清帝国国家邮政时期(1897-1911)始发戳系列 半切圆型汉英日戳之进程和沿革



DA QING IMPERIAL POST PERIOD (1897-1911) CANCELLATIONS OF ORIGIN EVOLUTION OF BIASECTED CIRCLE BILINGUAL CANCELLATION

揭开汉英半切圆形“地支”日戳之谜

我在编著《山东省及威海卫》、《东三省》和《新疆与福建》等地区邮集时得到启发：邮戳亦须循需求和职责改变而产生演化或遭受淘汰。

上海的大清帝国国家邮政总局自1897年开局以来，经手处理的邮件比诸北京和天津各总局，恐有过之而无不及。众多洋人聚居于上海各租界，往来信件日益增多，上海总局在1904年时处理邮政函件为出口545.45万件，进口566.68万件，转口20.48万件，合计1132.61万件，故此希望在收发、中转或找到失误邮件时，例如邮资不足、过重或分拣不确时可以凭邮戳来确定经手人的支局或总局某一个收发班次。当然，这种管理上的需要放诸全国省内如北京和天津同样不可或缺，但上述两地的邮政总局在分配、管理邮戳上却有异曲同工之妙。北京各邮政支局在1901年1月开始采用汉英椭圆形日戳（以下简称“椭圆日戳”），以大小规格、戳内月日年或日月年的排列和左右两旁六角星或八角星的位置微观地划分了不同的支局，唯一所不便者，由于胶制椭圆日戳损耗甚快，何局使用何戳的记录亦需不时更新也。至于天津各支局并无采用椭圆日戳，但却大量应用矩形或圆形牌号戳。本人观察到天津大清邮政总局收发或中转分拣时，经手邮务信差多在国际信函和挂号函件上盖上个人代章，例如：S4子、S1子、S3卯、S1卯，S12辰等拣信员(sorter)的代号，后来人手调动频繁，这种简单代号直接改用邮务信差姓名或各类型数码所替代，在感觉上有些混乱和缺乏系统，最终可能失误较少，因此萧规曹随而没有显著的改进。

1899年4月下旬，大清帝国国家邮政总局造册处下发一枚25毫米的汉英半切圆形日戳（习称“汉英双格小圆戳”）给各地邮界的总局和分局作为国际日戳之用，撤回1897下半年已下发而使用达两年多的大圆戳给造册处注销。汉英半切圆形日戳，上格中文地名，下格顶端是英文地名，接而日、月、年分二行排下，又不嵌入“大清帝国 IMPERIAL POST OFFICE”字样，所以在1912年中华民国成立后仍继续使用至二十世纪40年代止。根据目前邮学文献的记载，此枚汉英半切圆形日戳（以下简称“半切日戳”）最早在上海使用。在一件寄往汉口的挂号红条封上盖销10枚邮票，戳内日期为公历1899年4月28日（图1）。又翌日（4月29日）在另一件寄往奥地利的明信片上盖销一枚四分蟠龙票，开始履行原属国际用途的汉英半切日戳本职（图2）。

由于大量邮件源自上海或经上海中转，此枚用作销票、中转及到达用途的上海半切日戳，在邮件上不时见到，给人的感觉是一枚最普通不过的日戳，但它能够沿用偌长的时间，一定有其独特之处，如能观察到这种独特个性，不难了解到邮戳本身的职责是配合邮政管理上的要求。

上海大清帝国国家邮政总局在半切日戳上动脑筋，运用些微的更改来区分不同的收信班次。由于半切日戳戳型较小，没有地方嵌入收发和分拣班次的时段，唯有将年份省略加入代表时段的地支，目前记录到“辰”（早上七时至九时），“巳”（上午九时至十一时），“午”（上午十一时至下午一时），“未”（下午一时至三时），“申”（下午三时至五时），“酉”（下午五时至七时），“戌”（晚上七时至九时）。以本人收藏的14件封片来看，上海嵌时辰的半切日戳源自1904年初，其中9件封和片记录了“辰”、“巳”、“未”和“申”代替(19)04的例证；其余还有“巳”字戳在1909年邮资片和1910年中式挂号封上出现，“午”字戳在1909年邮资片上盖销符志及“酉”字戳出现在两件1909年徽州寄入上海的中式封和一件九江寄上海的清四次片上作到达戳用途，“戌”字戳只见盖在蟠龙低分票上，暂时未记录到实寄封片。这种嵌入时辰的上海半切日戳不足之处是无法显示年份，要靠其他中转或到达戳来确认时间（但亦发现有类似在离开上海时由总局盖上正常年份的中转戳，令收信人可确定邮件寄出的日期）。北京邮政总局也曾于1909年时将“地支”嵌入腰框干支日戳来区分支局，影响邮学研究者的思维认为上海半切日戳

内“地支”极有可能也代表支局，但由于子、丑、寅、卯四种地支至今未有记录，终于认为上海半切日戳嵌入“地支”代表邮政支局之论述应不成立，反而代表收发和分拣时辰班次却较合乎情理，因为“辰”时最早（早上七至九时），“戌”时最晚（晚上七至九时），与邮政局内办公时间相若（注1）。

笔者对所存15件（含李锦华先生提供）实寄封、片的介绍方式也颇费思量，如果以编年次序排列可能看不出奥妙之处，反之以时辰次序排列更有启发性。首先，上海半切日戳在1899年4月28日开始使用后至1903年12月期间并无嵌入时辰班次的记录，到了1904年1月（计有图3、图4、图5）和2月间却记录到“辰”、“巳”、“未”和“申”这四个用地支时辰代替年份的上海半切日戳，大致上可以肯定这种上海大清邮政总局特殊的邮政收发班次日戳在1904年成立，起码有“辰”、“巳”、“午”、“未”和“申”五个班次，“酉”和“戌”这两个班次究竟是否同时存在或于1909年后再加设，则尚待相关邮品的出现才能判断。

对深入研究上海半切日戳嵌地支时辰班次的功能时，从这15件封、片上可以了解上海大清邮政总局的运作模式：首先让我们看嵌入“辰”时的上海半切日戳以中转和到达戳性质盖戳，如1904年嘉兴至胶州海关实寄封（图7），河南道口至上海中式实寄封（图8）和1904年牛庄寄德国明信片上（图9）；接着下来一件作为到达使用的南浔寄上海嵌入“巳”时的上海半切日戳中式封（此封是目前唯一最早记录“地支”时辰的半切日戳，图3）和同年一件本埠信件销嵌入“巳”时的上海半切日戳被用作投递戳（图6）。无独有偶地在1909-1910年“巳”时地支日戳亦见盖在书写英文的本埠邮资明信片（图10）或直接销票投递的国际封上（图11），这种情况在“午”时继续，地支时辰“午”字的上海半切日戳仍直接销票投递本埠邮件（图12）；而嵌入“未”字的上海半切日戳在二件分别于1904年2和3月间由苏州寄山东潍县（图13）和胶州（图14）的实寄封上俱被用作中转戳。此外，嵌入“申”字的上海半切日戳在两件1904年邮封上被发现用作销票投递和到达戳（图4、图5）。到了“酉”时上海半切日戳亦出现在一件1909年九江寄入上海的邮资片（图15）和另两件隔年徽州寄入上海的邮封上（图16、图17），三者均作为到达戳用途。这种以邮戳的些微区分来显示职责和运作模式是一种有趣的研究题目，但由于存世实寄封片罕少，尚难确定上述运作模式是否与本人推测相符。

本来以上述推论来研究上海汉英半切日戳看似合情合理，更忍不住想将成果与大家分享，但开拓式研究的把持是需要多种假设、小心求证和持平态度。如果依上列嵌入“地支时辰”只是代表普通收发、分拣班次的话，肯定存世的邮品多如恒河沙数才是，但事实却相反，无奈下思量了数天仍漫无头绪！一天下午往银行去做转帐，因为银码超逾一个规定，柜台的职员说了一声OVERRIDE（越权批准）后由高级职员取出磁卡在电脑上刷了一下确认交易。这熟悉不过的模式当时在我的潜意识下留了烙印，马上觉得OVERRIDE这个名词有些玄机，但即时又不能确定如何利用。数天后一个头脑灵敏又清新的早上，分析OVERRIDE这种使作业人员不能越权的动作而由高级职员在听到OVERRIDE叫声时才去处理和批示（越权事务），对日常运作而言即具管理性又无碍流水作业的工序。这样就产生一个假设：嵌地支时辰的上海半切日戳，它的功能是否与银行高级职员用来OVERRIDE的磁卡相若，用以处理一些越规或存疑的职务？联想到此，笔者开始埋首研究上海邮政总局的日常运作来尝试找寻答案。

一般邮局在收到邮件后进行分拣工作，将本埠、国内和出口中转的邮件分类处理，而中转邮件目的地众多，需要分拣入不同的邮袋。在处理过程中，当遇上错漏、存疑或发现邮票未盖销、邮资不足、过贴等等，邮务员将邮件转至另一组别候检时，相信必须经较高级的邮务稽查（班长）详细审查才决定如何处置或盖销任何欠资戳记等，更或者批示邮件从某邮袋转封发至另一个邮袋（与银行的OVERRIDE同一性质的复核手续）。最后在纠正了错误或批示邮件转封发等情事，将嵌有“地支”时辰班次的上海半切日戳销盖在函件上，好像比喻上述银行高级职员的磁卡在电脑上刷一下的模样，既符合邮局的运作，也可解释销嵌入“地支”时辰班次的上海半切日戳邮品罕少的现象。剩下来的环节是细心求证销盖带有地支时辰班次半切日戳的15件封片是否均呈现出错的地方。

笔者总括嵌入地支时辰班次的上海汉英半切日戳应是上海大清邮政总局处理分拣存疑邮件时而经邮务稽查（班长）审核批示后所销盖的责任时段班次邮政日戳。现在我们尝试分析下列15件实寄封、片给大家观赏和参

考:

(一) 确认分拣过程的存疑使用

前文图8: 1904.2.中式封河南道口经北京寄上海,封面贴蟠龙票1分一枚(符合各局互寄信函资费),销“道口邮政局”牌号戳,封背亦销“卫辉府邮政局”中转牌号戳、北京汉英半切日戳(1904 FEB 28)和嵌入地支时辰班次的“辰”字上海半切日戳(MAR 6)。

笔者分析: 此封所贴邮资完全符合。这封须寄往上海的信件,估计因河南邮政局全程没销上任何邮政日戳,只得二枚牌号戳,有关邮程时间完全没法知道,又恐怕收件人认为错误封发往北京,所以函件转达上海后,总局邮务佐将它搁下交与上级处理,经邮务稽查(班长)审核确定并销上嵌入地支时辰班次的“辰”字上海半切日戳再投递。

前文图9: 1904 MAR 8图画明信片牛庄经上海寄德国,贴蟠龙票半分二枚、1分三枚(合国际明信片邮资4分),销牛庄汉英半切圆形日戳,片左下方亦销上嵌入地支时辰班次的“辰”字上海半切日戳和销同一天(与工部间相关的年份数字15)上海半切日戳,片上端再销法国客邮局日戳(1904 MAR 21),右下方德国AUGSBURG到戳(1904.4.22)。

笔者分析: 此件明信片由牛庄寄德国,而英文GERMANY却写于片顶端上,恰巧“经过上海”字样的英文“via Shanghai”又出现在片左下方,相信牛庄邮局邮务员认为是寄上海的邮件,因此封发到上海。到达上海后发觉错误,经由当值的邮务稽查(班长)以嵌入地支时辰班次的“辰”字上海半切日戳盖销确认及批示后转交上海法国客邮局。

前文图6: 1904.10.1上海本埠中式封,封面贴蟠龙票1分一枚,销上海腰框戳(甲辰八月廿二日/1904.10.1),封下部另销嵌入地支时辰班次的“巳”字上海半切日戳(OCT 5),封背有模糊的红色印章。

笔者分析: 此封寄上海本埠“自来水公司”的信件,所贴邮资符合。查当时上海租界内分别有英租界及法租界两间自来水公司,寄件人虽然写“法界卢家湾自来水公司”收,但邮务佐仍怕判断错误,因此搁下经邮务稽查(班长)审批后盖上嵌入地支时辰班次的“巳”字上海半切日戳才投递到正确的收件人手里。(此信不明为何耽误了数天投递时间)

前文图10: 1909.12.4清四次邮资明信片上海本埠使用,销江苏/上海九支局单圈三格式己酉年十月廿二日干支日戳,旁销嵌入地支时辰班次的“巳”字上海半切日戳(DEC 5),左上方销同日可能是柜员编号“9”的国际半切日戳和片下方另销上海腰框干支日戳(十月廿二日)等。

笔者分析: 此件是上海本埠邮资明信片因上海9支局邮务员不谙英文而错投国际邮袋的例子。当天到达总局后,遭修正并销同一天嵌入地支时辰班次的“巳”字上海半切日戳确认和批示转发本地邮件投递。

前文图12: 1909.12.13.清四次邮资片也是本埠使用,惟邮资符志上却销嵌入地支时辰班次的“午”字上海半切日戳,左边各销当天上海工部间之英文书信馆日戳和腰框干支日戳(冬月初一),片右下方销不明的全英文大圆戳志(不确定是私章或邮政日戳)。

笔者分析: 与图10邮资片情况大同小异,也是邮务佐不谙英文,把英文地址邮件误为国际邮件,此片较为特别是这名邮务佐选择不盖销邮资符志来引起上级注意(因为国际明信片邮资是4分),结果经审核后亦销盖嵌入地支时辰班次的“午”字上海半切日戳确认及批示转发本地邮件投递。

前文图14: 1904.2.4中式红条封苏州经上海寄胶州,封背贴蟠龙票1分一枚,销苏州汉英半切日戳,左方销嵌入地支时辰班次的“未”字上海半切日戳、“苏州养育巷中芸兰阁纸铺内邮政分局十三号”牌号戳及胶州汉英半切日戳(1904.2.9)。

笔者分析: 信封所贴邮资完全符合,这封与图13(本文列为确认邮资存疑使用实例)均同一天从苏州寄往山东“潍县”和“胶州”,而收件人也姓包(属同一批封发往上海的邮袋)。这封寄件人写成“速寄胶州”,又说“潍县

邮政局”，而潍县邮政局并不在胶州邮界，所以估计因为这种模棱两可的错误书写，使上海总局邮务佐不得不搁下留待批示处理及销上嵌入地支时辰班次的“未”字上海半切日戳确认后才封发。

前文图15: 1909.6.1清四次片九江寄上海，邮资符志销九江汉英戳，符志左边销全汉文干支小日戳(己酉四月十四日/1909.6.1)，并盖有到达上海当天五枚日戳，计嵌有时辰班次的“酉”字半切日戳、上海正常年份“09”半切日戳、嵌入号码“16”代替年份的半切日戳和可能是柜员编号“20”的半切日戳和工部间英文书信馆日戳等。(李锦华藏品)

笔者分析: 这件邮资片1909.6.1由九江寄上海，因九江邮务员认为是英文书写函件而将全汉文干支小日戳销在邮资符志旁，另采用九江汉英半切日戳销盖邮资符志；到达上海后，邮务佐恐防差错，搁下交予上级审核，经邮务稽查(班长)盖上嵌地支时辰班次的“酉”字半切日戳，并销另枚上海正常年份的半切日戳，再经当天上海大清邮政总局柜员20号半切日戳和工部间之英文书信馆日戳及与工部间相关连的嵌入号码“16”代替年份的半切日戳后才投递。

前文图16: 1909.10.7中式红条封安徽徽州府寄上海，封背贴蟠龙邮票2分一枚，销安徽徽州府腰框干支戳(己酉年八月廿四日)，封左下方销“徽州南源口养真堂信箱”牌号戳，票下另销嵌入地支时辰班次“酉”字的上海半切日戳；而封面另销安徽大通双圈三格式己酉年九月三日之不清晰干支小日戳。

笔者分析: 查看整件邮封后，封上所贴邮资完全符合，邮路亦无差错，但为什么会出现嵌入地支时辰班次的上海半切日戳呢？最后还是仔细观察整个邮封上一切文字和所销日戳时差的显示才窥探出头绪来。原来该封在徽省时已耽误了不短时间[写信人八月廿二日(10.5)~徽州府邮局投寄销腰框戳八月廿四日(10.7)~途经大通邮局销中转戳九月三日(10.16)~不知是否上海邮务员书写之九月初四(10.17)申时和上海地支时辰半切日戳OCT 18]，而寄件人于封背写上“幸弗延误”，估计邮务佐恐收件人质询，故交由邮务稽查(班长)审核后销嵌入时辰班次“酉”字的上海半切日戳(OCT 18)才投递。

前文图17: 1910.5.28中式红条封，与图16雷同，但投寄日期是徽州庚戌年四月廿一日，另销大通腰框干支日戳四月廿九日(6.6)和嵌入地支时辰班次的“酉”字上海半切日戳(Jun 9)等。

笔者分析: 此封收件人与图16相同，原来邮程也是耽误了不少时间[计写信人四月廿日(5.28)~徽州邮局投寄销腰框戳四月廿一日(5.29)~途经大通邮局中转戳四月廿九日(6.6)~不知是否上海邮务员书写之庚五月初三日(6.9)申时和上海地支时辰半切日戳(Jun 9)]，故此邮务佐理所当然地搁下交与上级处理，亦顺应盖上嵌入地支时辰班次“酉”字的上海半切日戳才派送。{当天(6.9)“申时”(即下午三时至五时)到达，即日“酉”时(下午五时至七时)处理完毕。}

(二) 确认邮资的存疑使用

前文图7: 1904.2.24中式红条封嘉兴经上海到胶州，封面和背面前后贴蟠龙邮票半分8枚均销嘉兴椭圆形日戳，封背中间销嵌入地支时辰班次的“辰”字上海半切日戳(FEB 26)及胶州汉英半切日戳(1904 MAR 1)等。

笔者分析: 此封所贴邮资共4分，刚好是第五资青岛4分邮件。当时各局互寄每重半英两是1分，此件误贴青岛邮资，过贴3分，故此上海总局中转邮务佐搁下信件交上级处理，审核批示后确认属多贴并继续以正常邮递处理。当然也销上嵌入地支时辰班次的“辰”字上海半切日戳。

前文图3: 1904.1.4中式封南浔寄上海，贴蟠龙票3分一枚，销南浔英汉椭圆戳(1904 JAN 4)，封左下销北栅宝善街叁牌号戳，左上方又销嵌入时辰班次“巳”字的上海半切日戳(JAN 5)。

笔者分析: 此封邮路均无任何差异，惟信封贴上3分资费与各局互寄一分存在差别，封右上又见酒例“力已付讫”等，所以到达上海后，邮务佐仍把它搁下，等待邮务稽查(班长)批示盖上嵌时辰班次“巳”字的上海半切日戳后才投递。

前文图11: 1910 MAY 12中式红条封上海挂号寄法国，封背贴蟠龙票半分二枚、1分二枚、2分、4分、5分和

10分各一枚(合共邮资23分),销嵌入地支时辰班次的“巳”字上海半切日戳和封右上方销当天正常年份(19)10之上海半切日戳、上海腰框干支日戳(四月初四)、上海法国客邮局日戳(1910.5.4)和法国DISTRIBUTION(分拣中心/1910.6.30)到戳,封面销上海英文挂号戳等。

笔者分析: 查当时国际邮件平信每20公分是10分和挂号费10分。这件挂号寄法国红条封,只需贴邮资20分已足够(溢贴3分),但寄件人当面挂号并过贴3分,邮务员虽然接收,不过,仍谨慎交与上级处理,经确认并以嵌入地支时辰班次的“巳”字上海半切日戳直接盖销邮票后才封发到相关客邮局。

前文图13: 1904 FEB 4中式封苏州寄山东潍县,封背贴蟠龙票半分三枚,销苏州大圆日戳,封上部贴票下方另销翌日嵌入地支时辰班次的“未”字上海半切日戳(FEB 5);封右边销“苏州养育巷中芸兰阁纸铺内邮政分局十三号”牌号戳;而下戳贴票旁另销到达胶州汉英半切日戳,惟不清晰。

笔者分析: 当时国内各局互寄是每重半英两1分,这信件无故多贴半分,故邮务佐不明底蕴下把信件搁下待审核,经批示并销上嵌入地支时辰班次的“未”字上海半切日戳后才正常递送。(此封与图14均属同一批封发上海中转往胶州的邮袋信件,情况或许与图14封存在相关连也不定。)

前文图5: 1904 JAN 13中式仁寿封山东潍县经胶州寄上海,封面贴蟠龙票1分一枚,销潍县椭圆形日戳(1904 JAN 13),封背销胶州汉英半切日戳(1904 JAN 13)和嵌入地支时辰班次的“申”字上海半切日戳(JAN 16)及“潍县叁”牌号戳等。

笔者分析: 此封所贴邮资符合,其它亦无不妥,估计分拣错误甚高,可能误为第五资青岛4分邮件,倘若如是则欠资3分也,故此上海总局邮务佐把邮件搁下,经批示并销上嵌入地支时辰班次的“申”字上海半切日戳后仍按平常信函处理。

(三) 存在不明朗因素的确认使用

前文图4: 1904 JAN 13中式红条封上海经九江到湖北黄州,封面贴蟠龙邮票1分,销嵌入地支时辰班次的“申”字上海半切日戳(JAN 13),封背销九江汉英半切日戳(1904 JAN 19)和黄县椭圆形日戳(1904 JAN 23)。

笔者分析: 信封所贴邮资符合当时国内各局互寄平信1分,其它也看不出有何不妥,但邮票为何直接销盖已嵌入地支时辰班次的“申”字上海半切日戳呢?相信只能猜测函件是过重了,故邮务佐搁下邮件交与上级处理批示后,仍以普通平信派发,当然亦销上嵌入地支时辰班次的半切日戳确认?

书写到此,感觉资料似乎还是不足,于是约会香港一些资深的邮友,看看有无额外资料可补充。李锦华先生的邮资片集内有一件由汉口经上海寄瑞典的一次邮资片(图18),该片加贴两枚蟠龙一分票,连符志合共三分仍然欠资一分,但由于片上无寄件者回邮地址,不能退回收取不敷的一分邮资,又不想向国外收件人动辄补罚邮资,灵活性地在两枚一分票上写了两次HANKOW(表示我局已详,已办理)后并以正规的汉口半切日戳盖销邮票,负责中转的上海邮局和上海法国客邮局亦识趣地不以欠资邮件处理。值得一提的是,本件寄于1899年底,较本文嵌入地支时辰的上海半切日戳早了四年,但与这种纠正因失误、存疑等而设置任何处理专司日戳的情况大致相同,只是采用方式各师各法而已!上海大清邮政总局为了将此类OVERRIDE性质的工作融入流水作业的工序里,所以宁愿将半切日戳(习称“汉英双格小圆日戳”)内编年字钉改为嵌入地支时辰班次来执行此项任务,使这类细微演化的日戳在真相大白之前充满了神秘。

注1: 光绪二十五年初版之《大清邮政章程》第三章“办公时刻”:

五、各处邮政局系每日自早八点钟起,至午后六点钟止,办理一切。若遇万寿暨年节,或星房虚昴安息日,只系自早八点钟至九点钟办理。

六、若遇有来自外国之邮船,所运到之邮件,若不逾晚九点钟,邮政局仍可及时在局递交。

七、若遇有赴外国之邮船,将欲开往,邮政局仍可逾定时办事。



图1 fig.1



图2 fig.2



图3 fig.3



图4 fig.4



图5 fig.5



图6 fig.6



图7 fig.7



图8 fig.8



图9 fig.9



图11 fig.11

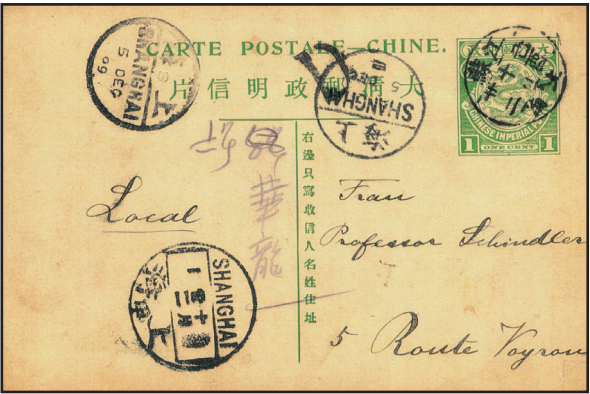


图10 fig.10

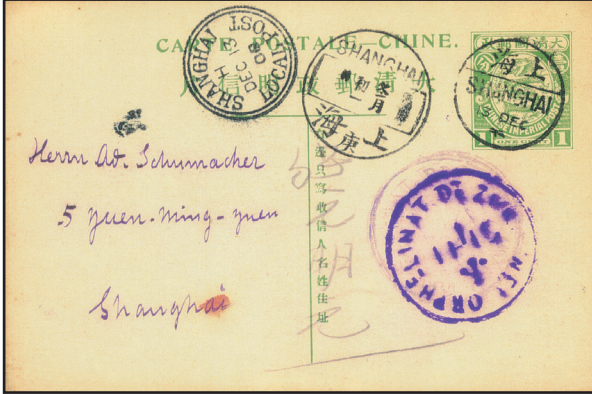


图12 fig.12

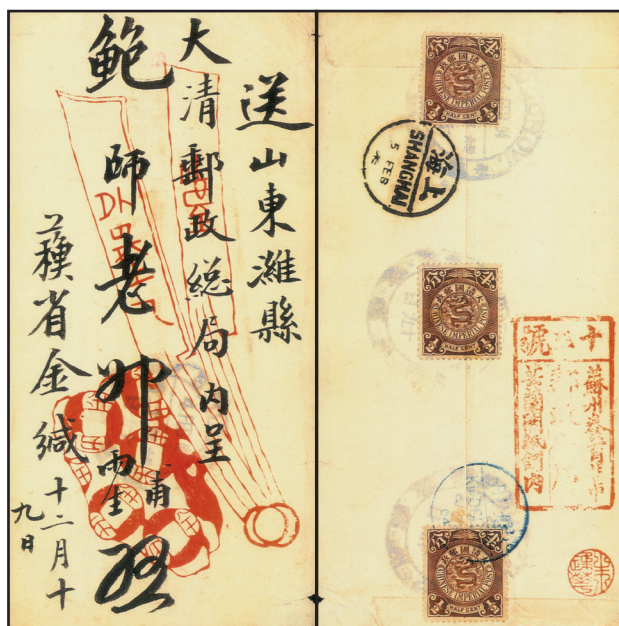


图13 fig.13

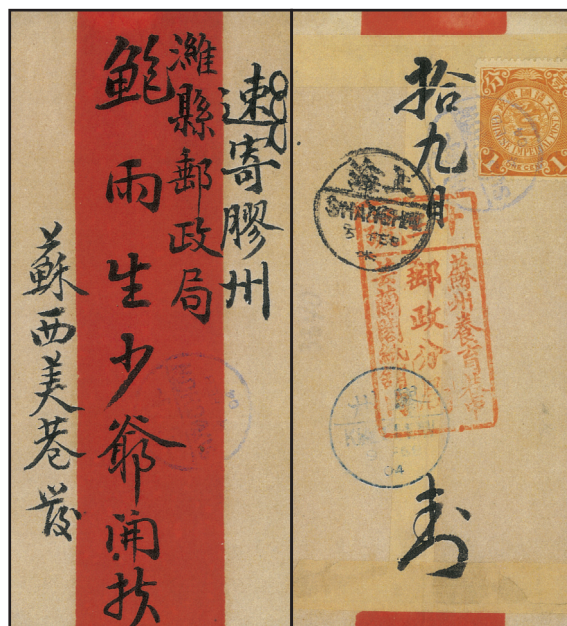


图14 fig.14

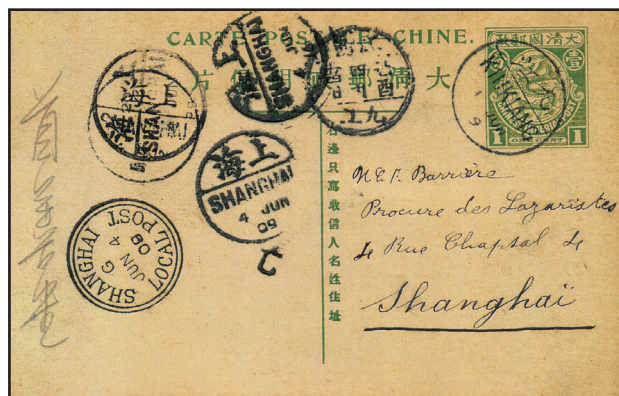


图15 fig.15



图16 fig.16



图17 fig.17



图18 fig.18

Unveiling the Mystery of Shanghai Bisected Circular Bilingual Dater with Insertion of Horary Characters

The editing experience I had gathered whilst producing three books on my four regional collections of “Shantung Province & Weihaiwei”, “The North East Provinces” and “Sinkiang & Fukien Provinces” is rather unique : cancellations are like living things, observing natural laws of evolution, they appear as and when such need arises and they disappear soon after they fail to perform the duty assigned to them.

Ever since the opening of the Imperial Shanghai Post Office in February 1897, the volume of mail items increased steadily until in 1904, the number of export mail items reached 5,454,500, import mail items 5,666,800 and transit mail items 204,800, making a staggering total of 11,326,100. The daily handling of innumerable mail items calls for a system whereby errors in receiving, dispatching, or transiting mail items can readily be traced, simply by looking at the dater, to the postal staff or a particular sub-office or branch office responsible. This need was also present in the Imperial Post Offices of Peking and Tientsin, but here the management technique took a different twist. Take Peking for an example, various branch offices began to adopt oval bilingual daters as from January 1901, the differences in sizes, arrangement of date/month/year or month/ date/year, or the positions of 6- or 8-pointed stars on both sides, serve to make each dater different from the others. Hence by keeping a record of the particular dater used by a particular branch office, attribution of responsibility could be achieved. Unlike the oval bilingual daters of the Imperial Post Office Kiaochow, the Peking oval bilingual daters made of rubber soon showed signs of wear and tear, sometimes to such an extent that it became completely different from the kept record, thus requiring a constant updating of records. As for Imperial Post Office Tientsin, it did not adopt oval bilingual daters but used a vast number of nameplate type cancellations instead, and whilst sorting registered or international mail items, the sorter was required to affix his assigned marking such as S4子, S1子, S3卯, S1卯, S12辰 on the mail item as confirmation of responsibility. Later on, this simple sorter markings became ineffective owing to movement of sorter staff members and were soon replaced by a simpler type marking using sorter's name. This primitive system gave a sense of chaos and lack of system but it stood its ground, perhaps the trivial number of mistakes were tolerated so that the system, chaotic by present day standards, was able to survive longer than it should.

In late April 1899, the Postal Administration Head Office handed down 25mm diameter bisected bilingual daters to various district head offices and first class post offices for use as an international dater, replacing the “dollar daters” which had been used since May 1897 and these were now required to be returned for destruction. The Chinese name was placed in the top segment of this bisected bilingual circular dater, English name at upper part of the lower segment, followed by date, month, year in two horizontal rows. Since the wording “Imperial Post Office” did not appear in this dater, the whole family of circular bisected bilingual daters could still be used after the founding of Zhong Hua Min Guo (中華民國) in 1912 through to late 1940's. According to philatelic literature to date, the bisected circular bilingual dater was first used in Shanghai on April 28 1899, the registered cover from Shanghai to Hankow illustrated in (fig.1) recorded the usage of this Shanghai bisected dater on April 28 1899 canceling 10 stamps on cover back with Hankow dollar type arrival dater. On the ensuing day April 29 1899, the Shanghai bisected dater began to perform the duty assigned to it, as an international dater canceling the 4c stamp on a Sino-British combination post card to Austria (fig.2).

The mere fact that this Shanghai bisected dater having been used abundantly on a large volume of mail items to, from and transit through Shanghai, making it the most commonly used dater of the entire Imperial Chinese Post period, had created a misconception of commonness and lack of flair. But come to think of it, its long term existence was clear exemplification of its efficacy to perform the duties assigned and required of it by the management staff of the post office.

In order to make a dater perform functions other than indicating the date, the dater itself must evolve, and in most cases, a slight difference was enough to serve the purpose of demarcating responsibilities. The Shanghai bisected bilingual dater was too small to put in additional characters or numerals, but as some collectors observed, a celestial stem occupied the place reserved for the year (usually two Arabic numerals). Up to now, seven of the twelve horary characters had been recorded in the Shanghai bisected dater, they are : 辰(7a.m.-9a.m.), 巳(9a.m.-11a.m.), 午(11a.m.-1p.m.), 未(1p.m.-3p.m.), 申(3p.

m.-5p.m.), 酉(5p.m.-7p.m.) and 戌(7p.m.-9p.m.). Since time immemorial, the Chinese had used the 12 horary characters to denote two-hour time slots as indicated in parenthesis. A quick glance through the 14 covers or cards in my collection and one item from Mr. Lee Kam Wah's collection, four such horary characters appeared on nine covers or cards all dated 1904, being 辰, 巳, 未 and 申. The coincidental appearance of 4 covers all dated January 1904 seem to confirm that the inclusion of horary characters to replace year numerals in Shanghai bisected daters first appeared in January 1904 (fig. 3-5), followed by 午 and 酉 in 1909 on the other six covers or cards. Only a used stamp recorded this 戌 dater, its usage date had to be ascertained by the appearance of a related cover or card in the future. Perhaps one would be amazed how such a horary character was used to replace the year which happened to be so important, however such worries proved superfluous because the year can still be ascertained in all of the 15 covers and cards by noting other issuing, transit or arrival daters. Perhaps the insertion of horary characters in lunar year daters of Peking to indicate branch offices might prompt people to think that these horary characters perform the same function of indicating branch office numbers, but such a theory cannot be substantiated simply because the first four horary characters 子, 丑, 寅, 卯 were missing from the Shanghai bisected dater. It would make more reason to attribute these horary characters to denote two-hour time slots when the earliest 辰 (7a.m.-9a.m.) and latest 酉 (5p.m.-7p.m.) corresponded perfectly well with the usual business hours of the post office during those days as specified in 大清郵政章程 (Regulations of the Chinese Imperial Postal Administration) with normal working hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and in case of arrival of ships carrying mail items to and from Shanghai, overtime might be necessary and this accounted for the appearance and scarcity of 戌 (7p.m.-9p.m.) being such overtime working hours.

By arranging the 15 covers and cards in the sequence of the horary characters, a different picture appears, and the daily routines of the Imperial Shanghai Post Office unveiled right before your eyes. At the early hour of 辰 (7a.m.-9a.m.) post office staff begin to sort out incoming or transit mail items, probably received during the late hours on the previous day, when a 1904 cover from Kiasing to Kiaochow Customs (fig.7) and another 1904 picture post card from Newchwang to Germany (fig.9) both transited through Shanghai and received the bisected bilingual transit dater with inclusion of horary character 辰. During the next two hour period 巳 (9a.m.-11a.m.), a registered cover to Paris (fig.11), postal stationery card (fig.10) addressed to local receiver and a local cover addressed to the water supply company (fig.6) with one further incoming cover from Nanjing (fig.3) recorded the Shanghai bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 巳—it would seem that by that time outward mail items had been collected from various branch offices and mail boxes and are ready for dispatch. The dispatching function continued during the ensuing two-hour period 午 (11a.m.-1p.m.) when the postal stationery card (fig.12) sent to a local addressee was canceled by the bisected dater with inclusion of 午. After lunch during the time slot 未 (1p.m.-3p.m.) fresh mail items arrived when an incoming cover from Daokow to Shanghai (fig.8) and two transit covers from Soochow to Weihien (fig.13) and Soochow to Kiaochow (fig.14) all received the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 未. An incoming cover from Weihien (fig.5) and an outgoing cover from Shanghai to Huangchow (fig.4) received the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 申 (3p.m.-5p.m.) whilst bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 酉 (5p.m.-7p.m.) appears on an incoming postal stationery card from Kiukiang (fig.15) and two incoming covers both from Hweichow (figs. 16-17).

I was overwhelmed with joy to learn that the premeditated routines in the Imperial Shanghai Post Office are succinctly confirmed by the above 15 items, but as I sit by the computer to write this article, an inexplicable question popped up: if the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of horary characters had indeed been used to indicate collecting or dispatching beats, then they should appear in astronomical numbers instead of the mere dozen which I can lay my hands on during the past 30 years. A few days of thinking ended nowhere until one afternoon I went to a bank to transfer funds from one account to another and since the amount exceeded the prescribed limit, the bank's counter staff called out "override" on which a senior staff approached the counter, looked at the intended transaction and finding it in order, she then took out her employee identity card and swiped through the computer to authorize the transfer. At that moment the word "override" had left an impression on my subconscious mind but since there were a few other things to attend that day, I didn't pursue the matter any further. A few days later on a leisurely morning, I retrieved my intention to study the meaning of "override" and came to the conclusion that such a function is indispensable and convenient for operations on a vast and continued scale since it does not jeopardize the smooth execution of daily routines. There and then I asked myself an impartial question: a bank's counter staff requires senior staff to authorize, approve or sometimes reject certain transactions, did the post office staff in the Imperial Chinese Post period need similar approval, authorization or ratification from senior staff in case irregularities occurred? This prompted me to visualize in detail the routines performed by postal staff at the post office,

and above all, the sorting procedure. A number of large bags were present in the post office into which were sorted mail items to various destinations and these items, once sorted into such bags could not be retrieved or transferred to another bag by the postal clerks themselves, unless with authorization or ratification from the superior. The “overriding” function was absolutely necessary there and then, but how was it carried out and under what circumstances? Irregularities could include overpayment or underpayment of postage, postage stamps dropped off, mail items not properly sealed such that the contents might drop out, and sometimes the abnormally long transit time was also noted by the postal clerk who sorted out such items requesting his superior to confirm that the delay was not attributable to his negligence, and the commonest irregularity was error in sorting mail items into the wrong bag. The superior looks at all those irregularities, corrects them as far as possible and authorizes the handling in normal procedure or in any specified form he may indicate and in so doing, he applies the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of horary character to indicate the exact time slot during which he made such a decision. Come to think of it, the reason regarding the scarcity of such daters now comes to light, but still it will be necessary to detect the irregularities on the 15 items exhibited here to see why the postal clerk required authorization or ratification from his superior in the first instance.

(A) IRREGULARITIES IN SORTING

Fig.8 Chinese cover to Shanghai franked on front CIP 1c canceled Daokow nameplate type cancellation, transit through Weihwei with nameplate type marking, bisected bilingual daters of Peking (FEB 28 1904) and Shanghai (MAR 6 辰) all on reverse.

Observation: This cover should have taken an inland route south to Shanghai but it was missent north to Peking before redirection to Shanghai. Postal clerk thought that the recipient might complain against the delay so he requested his superior, in this case the duty officer who applied the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 辰 to note the irregularity.

Fig.9 Picture post card from Newchwang to Germany franked with CIP 1c×3 and 1/2c×2 all canceled Newchwang bisected bilingual dater 8 MAR 04, transit through Shanghai receiving two types of bisected bilingual daters with inclusion of 辰 and 15 respectively, subsequently handled by French Post Office Shanghai (21 MAR 04) with Augsburg arrival dater (22 APR 04).

Observation: The final destination “Germany” was written at the top of the card whilst “via Shanghai” appeared conspicuously at the lower left corner and the sorting staff thought it was a card addressed to Shanghai. When the mistake was identified, a bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 辰 was applied by the duty officer and the card was returned to the bag joining mails destined for Germany.

Fig.6 Shanghai local cover franked on front CIP 1c canceled Shanghai lunar year dater of 1904, bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 巳 appears on cover front.

Observation: The cover was addressed to “The Water Supply Company” and two such water supply companies existed at that time, one in the British concession and the other in the French concession. Even though the cover was properly addressed to the latter with the proper address “Lu Ka Wan, French concession” this item had been picked out for the duty officer to ascertain the correct addressee.

Fig.10 4th issue postal stationery card used locally in Shanghai, the impressed stamp canceled by single circle three segment type Shanghai lunar year dater with 3 different types of Shanghai transit and arrival daters, including the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of 巳.

Observation: The address written in English gave the misconception that this postal stationery card was intended for international destination and hence underpaid by 3 cents. The duty officer during time slot 巳 authorized the transfer of this item into the local dispatch bag.

Fig.12 4th issue postal stationery card used locally in Shanghai, the impressed stamp canceled by Shanghai bisected bilingual dater 13 DEC 午 alongside Shanghai lunar year dater, Shanghai Local Post dater and an unidentified circular dater (firm chop?).

Observation: The text and address written in English had given the misconception that this card was intended for international destination and the impressed stamp was not canceled to alert the duty officer of underpayment (by 3

cents). The duty officer during time slot 午 (11a.m.-1p.m.) corrected this sorting mistake, canceled the impressed stamp and transferred it to the local mail bag.

Fig.14 1904 Chinese cover franked on reverse CIP 1c canceled Soochow bisected bilingual dater with originating sub-office nameplate type marking in red, transit through Shanghai with bilingual bisected dater 5 FEB 未 and Kiaochow arrival dater FEB 04.

Observation: The confusion in putting down the address had caused this item to be excluded from the mail bag because the wording on cover front meant “speedy delivery to Kiaochow/Weihsien Post Office” and since Kiaochow and Weihsien are not in close proximity, the sorting staff did not know how to sort this item into the appropriate mail bag, and the duty officer during the time slot 未 (1p.m.-3p.m.) had to make such decision.

Fig.15 Fourth issue postal stationery card used from Kiukiang on June 1, 1909, the impressed stamp being canceled with Kiukiang bisected bilingual dater alongside normal lunar year dater with 5 different types of Shanghai arrival daters all with the same date of JUN 4 09.

Observation: This item was probably mixed among other mail items written in Chinese and originating from Kiukiang. Upon arrival at Shanghai, it was sorted out and required the authorization of the duty officer during time slot 酉 to switch to the dispatch section which comprised original staff members of the already defunct Shanghai Local Post, but still using the double circle Shanghai Local Post dater.

Fig.16 1909 red band franked CIP 2c on cover back canceled Hweichowfu lunar year dater (8th month 24th day), with originating nameplate type letter box marking in red below, Tatung transit lunar year dater (9th month 3rd day) and Shanghai bisected bilingual arrival dater 18 OCT 酉 all on reverse.

Observation: The sorting clerk had noted an unusually long transit time (8 days) from Hweichowfu to Tatung, and since the sender’s manuscript requested “extremely urgent”, this item was sorted out and presented to the duty officer during time slot 酉 who wrote “9th month 4rd day 申 (3p.m.-5p.m.)” to ascertain the actual time of arrival at Shanghai post office.

Fig.17 1910 Chinese cover to the same addressee as fig.16 franked on reverse CIP 2c canceled Hweichowfu lunar year dater (4th month 2st day) with originating nameplate type marking in red on reverse. Tatung lunar year transit dater (4th month 29th day) appears on cover front and Shanghai bisected bilingual arrival dater 9 JUN 酉 on reverse.

Observation: The story is repeated here, this time being an unusually long transit time (10 days) from Hweichowfu to Tatung and since the sender’s manuscript on cover back requested “speedy delivery without delay”, he thought it advisable to bring this item to the attention of the duty officer during time slot 酉 who wrote down in manuscript “5th month 3rd day 申 (3p.m.-5p.m.)” and applied the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of time slot 酉 (5p.m.-7p.m.) to confirm his noting of the abnormal transit time.

(B) IRREGULARITIES IN POSTAGE

Fig.7 1904 Chinese cover to Kiaochow franked on front CIP 1/2c x 2 and on reverse 1/2c x 6 all canceled Kiasing oval bilingual dater FEB 24 1904, with Shanghai transit bisected bilingual dater 26 FEB 辰 and Kiaochow arrival dater 1 MAR 04 all on reverse.

Observation: The applicable domestic postage was 1 cent and the registration fee 5 cents. The cover was overpaid by 3 cents if treated as domestic item or underpaid 2 cents if treated as a registered item. The duty officer during time slot 辰 (7a.m.-9a.m.), chose the former and authorized its handling as a normal domestic item.

Fig.3 Chinese cover franked on front CIP 3c canceled bilingual oval Nanzing dater JAN 4 04 with originating nameplate type handstamp at lower left, upon arrival at Shanghai it received the bisected dater with inclusion of 巳.

Observation: For domestic mail item posted in January 1904, 1 cent postage would suffice, and since this item was franked with a 3 cent stamp, it had been sorted out to invite the attention of the duty officer during time slot 巳.

Fig.11 1910 registered Chinese cover franked on front CIP 10c, 5c, 4c, 2c, 1c and 1/2c x 2 all canceled Shanghai bisected bilingual dater 12 MAY 巳 with horizontal English type registration marking on cover front, 2 different Shanghai transit daters on reverse, cover was subsequently handled by French Post Office Shanghai 14-5 10 with Paris arrival dater

30-5 10 on cover back.

Observation: The postage represented by the stamps amounted to 23 cents whilst the required postage for an international registered item under 20 grams was 20 cents. If the cover weighed less than 20 grams, then it was overpaid by 3 cents but if it exceeded 20 grams, it was underpaid by 3 cents. Either way, the postage was incorrect and the duty officer during time slot 巳 (9a.m.-11a.m.) canceled the stamps apparently authorizing its delivery as a normal international registered item.

Fig.13 1904 Chinese cover to Weihsien, franked on reverse CIP 1/2c x 3 all canceled blue Soochow dollar dater 4 FEB 04 with originating sub-office nameplate type marking in red alongside, Shanghai transit bisected bilingual dater 5 FEB 未 and Kiaochow arrival dater all on reverse.

Observation: The correct postage for domestic mail item under 20 grams was 1 cent, hence this cover was overpaid by 1/2c and even though the excessive 1/2c had been canceled at Soochow, the postal clerk at Shanghai still sorted this item out and brought it to the attention of the duty officer during time slot 未 (1p.m.-3p.m.).

Fig.5 1904 Chinese cover franked on front CIP 1c canceled Weihsien oval bilingual dater JAN 12 1904, red sub-office nameplate type marking, Kiaochow transit dater 13 JAN 04 and Shanghai bisected bilingual arrival dater 16 JAN 申 all on reverse.

Observation: The famous “5th tariff” became effective on April 8 1902 when the 4 cents letter rate to and from Hong Kong/Macau was applicable. Weihaiwei was included in the 5th tariff area on April 1, 1904 but it was still uncertain when this tariff began to be applicable to Tsingtao. For a sorting clerk in those days who rarely had the opportunity to travel, same postage rates should be applicable to Kiaochow and Tsingtao which are in close proximity. Perhaps this item was purposely sorted out because of overweight or because the 5th tariff had already been effective to Tsingtao, and the misconception that Kiaochow and Tsingtao should pay the same rate of postage was brought to the attention of the duty officer, who in due course applied the bisected bilingual dater with inclusion of time slot 申 (3p.m.-5p.m.) and the letter was delivered as an ordinary domestic mail item.

(C) TO CLARIFY DOUBTS OF DIFFERENT NATURE

Fig. 4 1904 Chinese cover franked on front CIP 1c canceled Shanghai bisected bilingual dater 13 JAN 申 (3p.m.-5p.m.)” with Kiukiang transit dater 19 JAN 04 and Huangchow oval bilingual arrival dater JAN 23 1904 all on reverse.

Obsesrvation: This cover was probably overweight (exceeding 20 grams) with the 1c stamp initially not canceled and the cover was sorted out for the attention of the duty officer. Since only the street name of the sender was written on cover front, it would be time consuming to locate the sender to collect additional postage, and the duty officer for time slot 申 used the bisected bilingual dater to cancel the 1c stamp thus authorizing its delivery as a normal item of under 20 grams.

The random sampling consisting of 14 items from my own collection is by no means an adequate information base and in view of this, I had conversation with several collector friends in Hong Kong to see if they have similar items in their collections. Mr. Lee Kam Wah produced item No. 15 which is a 1900 postal stationery card from Hankow to Sweden (fig.18) uprated by affixing CIP 1c x 2 and canceled Hankow bisected bilingual dater. I noticed that manuscript “HANKOW” appeared twice across the two stamps, as if informing the subsequent post offices that Hankow post office was aware of the underpayment of 1c postage but it did not intend to treat it as a postage due item. Such a message got across, and the Shanghai transit post office and the French Post Office Shanghai both obligingly treated it as a fully paid international post card. This item serves to show that in the face of irregularities, decision had to be made and the message got across one way or the other, and this 1900 Hankow item is a delightful example of ingenuity. Perhaps the Imperial Shanghai Post Office decided to assign this correction and/or authorization and/or ratification procedure to its duty officer in order to streamline daily routines and the inclusion of horary character to replace year numerals was a necessary evolution of the dater to perform duties more important than identifying the date.

上海“工部间”汉英半切圆形日戳1至11号

在研究12至29号工部间日戳的性质和用途时，我顿悟到独特“替代演变”情况：1902年开始，大清国家邮政先后与法国、日本、英国(香港)、德国、美国和俄国客邮局签署“邮政协议”，互相交换投递邮件而不需另付客邮局资费。在此措施下国际邮件数量骤增，上海大清邮政局这个主要国际交换局必须快捷有效地处理中转函件并减少失误。早在1897年11月时，上海工部书信馆已结束，员工被纳入上海大清邮政局成为工部间，继续执行工部书信馆未结束前的业务和投递工作至1903年6月前后，该时工部间进行改组，26位信差(注一)被分为两组，十位被编为本地投递组，继续沿用双圈英文SHANGHAI LOCAL POST日戳，编号A至J如旧，到了1904年8月增加K号。其余16位负责投递寄入上海的洋文邮件并处理错失正规船期的洋文邮件，以最快捷方式循其它不定期的邮船来投递。当考虑到工部间在交付邮件时经常与各国的客邮局交接而工部书信馆双圈英文SHANGHAI LOCAL POST日戳又不适宜用作交换局日戳的事实，上海大清邮政局巧妙地运用汉英半切日戳的演变来解决问题，半切日戳的外形不变使各国客邮局接受其为上海交换局的正规日戳而戳内的12至29号这组号码分配给工部间16位信差(后来增至18位?)来区别职责。工部间的改组，理应由工部间日戳的演变来执行，基于客邮局对交换局日戳认同性的因素下改由上海半切日戳的演变作为替代，是罕见的“替代演变”现象。

1至11号的上海半切日戳，是否亦由工部间邮务信差使用，在什么情况下使用呢？我认为在研究之前切勿先下结论然后求证，应该先行了解一些潜在环境来寻找运作上的断层，再行了解1至11号半切日戳可否填补断层的适当性。首先举几个例子来了解工部间邮务信差的日常工作和投递邮件遇到的难题。

二十世纪初叶，共同租界与法国租界在上海并存，无形中将上海分为租界与华界两个邮递区域，邮件的往来由工部间(租界)和上海大清邮政局(华界)各自用其日戳盖在邮件上以资识别。图一的大清一次邮资片由华界寄入租界而图二的大清四次邮资片由租界寄至华界，在这两件邮品上，工部间邮务员仍用编号C和A的双圈英文SHANGHAI LOCAL POST日戳，排除了1至11号半切日戳因此项交换手续而演变出来的可能性。

位于租界南京路11号A的洋人百货公司LIEBE, WULFF & CO.在1904年圣诞节前委托工部间派发400件商品促销传单(图三)，只需支付费用两角五分，如果将讯息印在邮资片背寄给客户的话，费用为四元。传单上销票的是DEC 21 1904椭圆形POST MASTER SHANGHAI(上海邮政局长)日戳，并见工部间编号B字日戳。这件邮品排除了1至11号半切日戳为工部间传单总递服务专用的可能性。

应付投递上遭遇的困难究竟是否1至11号半切日戳演变的真正目的？请试看其中两个例子。图四的1899年大清一次邮资片寄给泊于香港一艘德国船上的德国人，到达香港后该船已离开，邮件退回上海后由工部间询问上海德国领事馆知悉收件人他调后交由上海德国客邮寄往青岛的另一艘德国船。图五的大清二次邮资片的寄片，1905年由华界寄入租界的G Hattori & Co.公司，没有地址，故此由工部间盖上ADDRESSE INCOMPLETE(地址不全)戳记，但在编号A及J的工部间邮务信差的努力下成功投递；这种只凭店名而能确定其地址的本领，与民信局比较，不惶多让。从上述两个例子来看，好像没有问

题可以难倒工部间的邮务人员，是否如此请入正题研究2、6、9和10这四枚半切日戳在大清邮政时期邮件上出现的原因。

图六的中式红条封，1910庚戌年由菱湖寄上洋老北门汪裕泰宝号汪荫庭先生，收件人地址不详而寄件者也没有详细回邮地址，寄到上海后只能依赖民信局对客户名称地址的记录来尝试投递。该时上海大清邮政官局与民信局水火不容，官局巧妙地利用工部间与民信局深厚的交情和互相交换投递的渠道，结果由2号工部间邮务信差顺利找到裕兴康轮船民信局完成投递工作(工部书信馆与民信局俱在十九世纪下叶萌芽而拙壮，两者良性竞争互补不足，反之，邮政官局在二十世纪初不断打击及取缔民信局，势成水火)。图七是另一件由裕兴康民信局负责投递的民信局封，地址正是老北门外汪裕泰茶号汪荫庭君。图八的1911辛亥年邮封，无独有偶地也是寄给汪荫庭，这次10号工部间邮务信差已能自行投递而不需劳驾民信局了。

南京西路46号的 AU-PETIT LOUVRE 百货公司将冬季清货大减价讯息印在大清邮政四次邮资片片背，于1910年12月31日寄给客户(图九)，双圈英文工部书信馆E字戳盖销符志，在无法投递下经询问知悉收件人已搬迁，同时，因附有回邮地址，所以编号E的工部间邮务人员再盖上6号工部间半切日戳后退回。如果没附回邮地址，此宣传片将直接交转往死信室处理而大可不必盖上6号工部间半切日戳。

1912年中华民国成立后，编号1至11的工部间日戳功能持续，图十寄给汪荫庭的银行封由3号工部间邮务人员投递而图十一寄北京用中文书写的邮资片，投入工部间信筒内，5号工部间邮务信差把它检出，交回徐家汇支局办理。图十二的本埠邮资片，转投数次无法投递后盖上7号工部间日戳退回原寄人。另一件1914年由King's Daughter's Society(皇帝女儿社)寄给史葛小姐的开会通知(图十三)，寄出时投入信筒，由双圈英文书信馆编号I日戳销符志，无法投递(收件人他迁?)后盖上9号工部间日戳退回原寄人。图十四寄德国的德文封，只销汉文干支戳，误以为收件人是租界内洋人，但11号工部间邮务佐将它拣出后退回给总局再行投入德国欧洲的邮袋。

以上八件邮品将1至11号半切日戳定位为处理事故的专用日戳，1号可能由工部间邮务稽查(班长)专用，2至11号分配给编号A至J的邮务佐，A配2号，E则配6号(与图九的实际使用情况吻合)，J配11号以此类推，A至J以外的其他16至18位邮务人员则如前述配予12至29号。

研究大清国家邮政时期日戳的演变，是个新颖而有趣的题目，在上海这个城市里凑巧碰上两种独特的环境，其一是上海工部间书信馆这个历史遗物，其二是租界和华界的无形区分，使邮戳产生替代演变的特殊情况，成为绝无仅有的研究专题，令我著迷！仔细回味下觉得这种替代演变措施表面看来有些匪夷所思，但手法简单而有实效，无形中将正式名份授予工部间邮务员，把他们归纳为大清邮政的一份子，不再以工部书信馆历史遗物视之，动机正确，可惜没有留下改组的文献而使这枚半切日戳的演变一直成为百年悬案？

注一：江海关1896年6月27日向总税司遵令查报之呈文第4547号，述及上海工部书信馆组织情况“……计洋员局长，供事各1人，华员经收员1人，听差2人，信差26人，共有工作人员31人。”



图1 fig.1



图4 fig.4



图2 fig.2



图5 fig.5



图3 fig.3



图6 fig.6

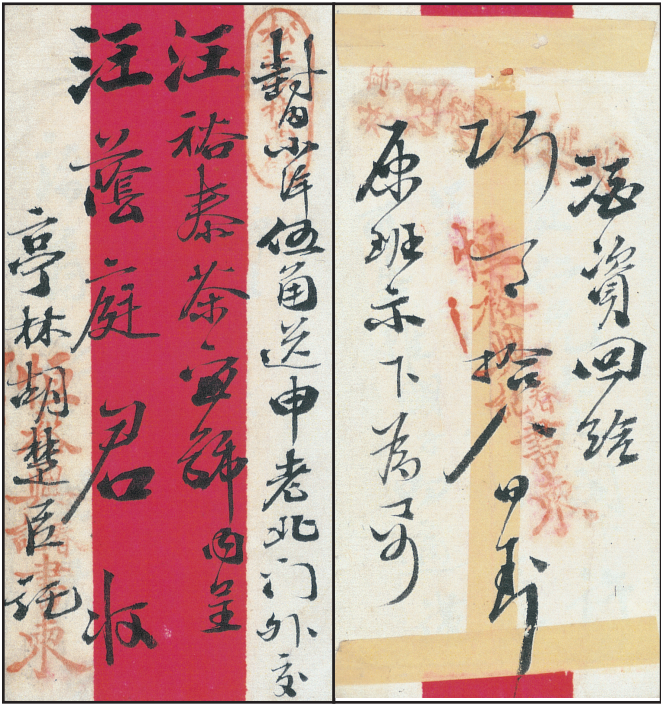


图7 fig.7



图9 fig.9

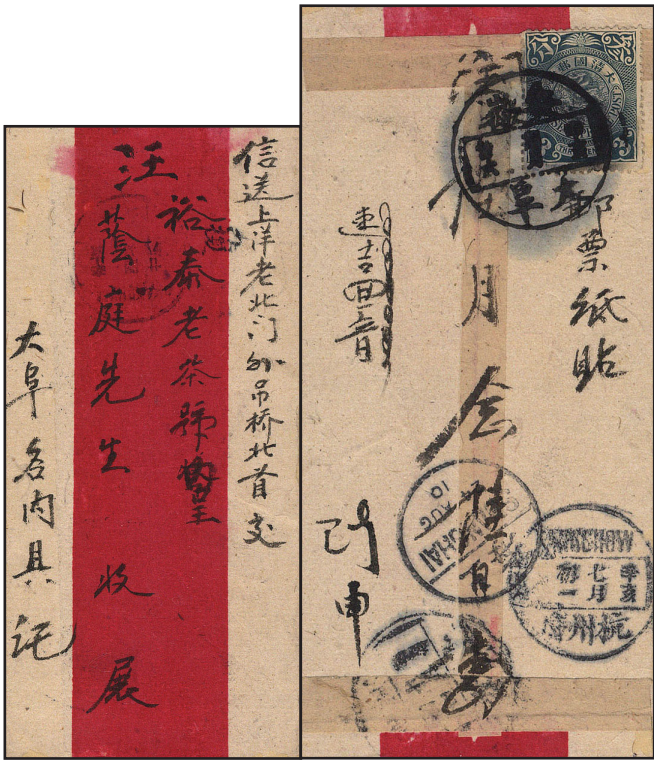


图8 fig.8

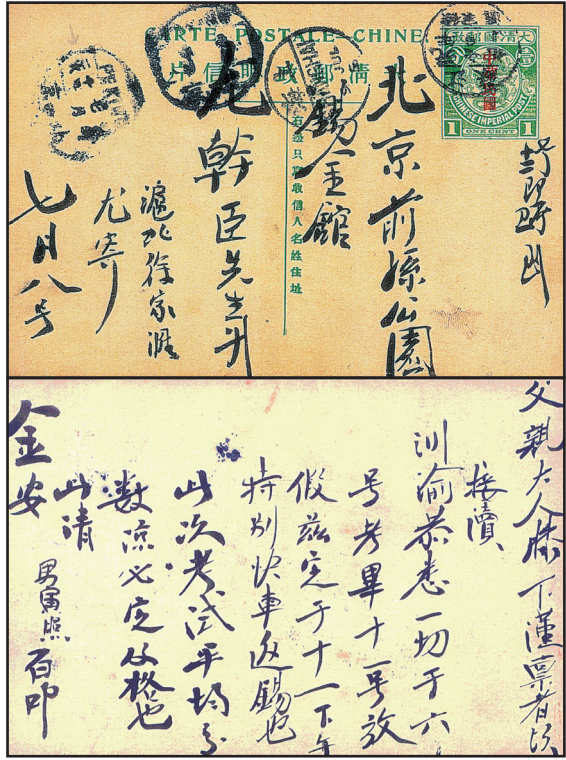


图11 fig.11



图10 fig.10



图12 fig.12

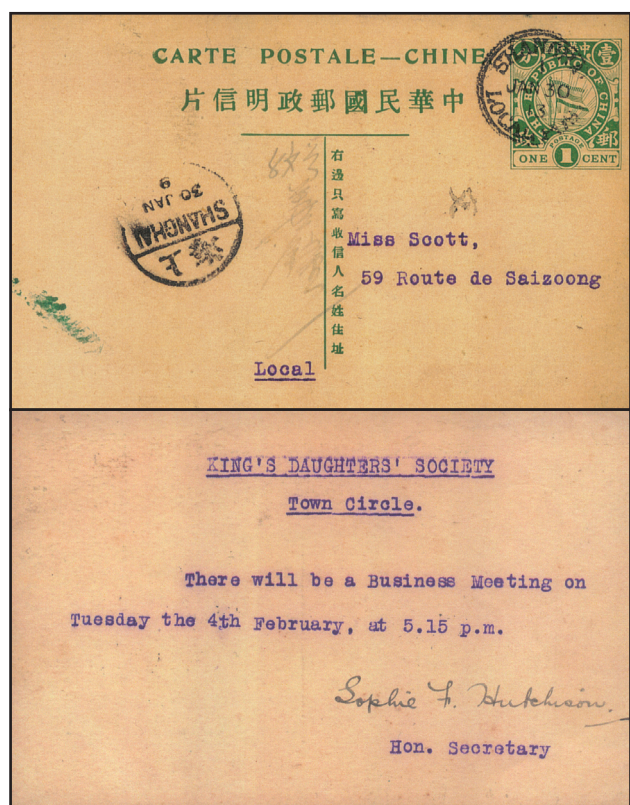


图13 fig.13



图14 fig.14

Municipality Room Dater Nos. 1-11

As the caption suggests, Shanghai bisected bilingual dater Nos. 1-11 had been used by staff members of the Municipality Room following an internal re-organization within Shanghai Imperial Post Office sometime around June 1903. Let us go back in time to Shanghai city June 1903 and reconstruct the events which sparked such re-organization and its implementation. Beginning from 1902, Chinese Imperial Post signed separate Postal Agreements with foreign post offices of France, Japan, Britain (Hong Kong), Germany, United States and Russia under which the Imperial Post could request the foreign post offices to deliver mail items originating from China to international destinations without paying additional postage to these foreign post offices and in return Imperial Post was obligated to deliver free of cost, mail items received from foreign post offices and destined for locations within China. Such a measure promoted an upsurge of international mail items and Shanghai post office, as the dominant exchange centre of international mail items had to work out a system to ensure that each mail item was dispatched promptly on the one hand, and on the other hand any error, omission could be traced to the source without difficulty. The 26 postmen from the defunct Shanghai Local Post (Note 1), previously absorbed into Shanghai Post Office since November 1897 to form the Municipality Room, were divided into two groups, 16 (later increased to 18 ?) of whom began to use Municipality Room dater Nos. 12-29 in their daily handling of foreign language mail items destined for Shanghai or the vast number of transit mail items which missed scheduled mail boats while Nos. 1-11 were used by another group of Municipality Room staff members for a different purpose and is the subject matter of this study.

Municipality Room dater Nos. 1-11 could have been evolved to deal with special circumstances in Shanghai city at that time, one such scenario is the daily exchange of mail items from concession area to non concession area. The second issue postal stationery card (fig.1) was posted from non concession area to concession area, the impressed stamp was cancelled with lunar year dater of Shanghai Post Office and the actual delivery was undertaken by staff member of the Municipality Room, using double circle Shanghai Local Post dater. The fourth issue postal stationery card (fig.2) illustrated the reverse situation, posted within concession area and handled by Municipality Room to Shanghai Post Office. In both cases, double circle Shanghai Local Post daters had been used, thus excluding the possibility that Municipality Room dater Nos. 1-11 had been evolved for this exchange formality.

Every year before Christmas or festivals, upon arrival of new merchandise or promoting clearance sales, many trading firms and emporiums in the concessions sent out circulars to their clients in the concessions and they did so by entrusting the defunct Shanghai Local Post as illustrated by the circular in (fig.3). It only cost 25 cents to distribute 400 circulars in 1904 as opposed to 400 postal stationery cards which would have cost \$4. Double oval POST MASTER SHANGHAI dater canceled the stamps and double circle Shanghai Local Post dater appeared below, apparently responsible for actual delivery operation. This item excludes the possibility that Nos. 1-11 bilingual bisect dater had been evolved for dealing bulk delivery of printed matter.

Two additional examples illustrated how the Municipality Room staff members overcame difficulties encountered during delivery process. The first issue postal stationery card (fig.4) was addressed to a German on board a German ship in Hong Kong but when the card reached Hong Kong, the ship had already left and the card was returned to Shanghai. After making enquiries with the German Consulate in Shanghai, the card was then handed over to German Post Office and subsequently delivered by Marine Schiffspost to another ship in Tsingtau. The reply portion of the second issue double postal stationery card (fig.5) was addressed to a firm “G. Hattori & Co.” within the concession area, since no address was given, ADDRESSE INCOMPLETE cachet was affixed, but under the efforts of Municipality Room staff members A and J, delivery was successful and this marvelous feat of being able to execute delivery with only the firm name makes the Municipality Room the Min Hsin Chu for foreigners.

The following eight examples, three from Imperial Chinese Post (up to 1911) and five from Zhong Hua Min

Guo period (from 1912) shed some light as to the special circumstances under which Municipality Room daters 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 had been used.

The 1910 red band cover (fig.6) originated from Linghu and addressed to a firm outside the Old North Gate of Shanghai. The Shanghai Imperial Post Office could not effect delivery without detailed address and at that time, it could not ask the co-operation of Min Hsin Chu's because the two systems were competing antagonistically whereas the Municipality Room had grown up with the Min Hsin Chu's and they helped each other out of necessity or respect. Municipality Room dater No. 2 appeared on the cover and through the efforts of this staff member, a Min Hsin Chu by the name of 裕兴康 was willing to effect delivery and it duly applied its firm marking on the cover. A similar undated cover (fig.7) handled by the same Min Hsin Chu illustrated the identical recipient and the same simple address "outside the Old North Gate", evidencing that the sender had been a long time client of this Min Hsin Chu and hence detailed address had previously been dispensed with. Coincidentally, the red band cover (fig.8) was also addressed to the same recipient, but this time Municipality Room dater No. 10 was able to effect delivery without the help of Min Hsin Chu.

AU-PETIT LOUVRE Emporium situated at No. 45 Nanking Road sent news of bargain sale on December 31 1910 (fig.9) to its clients by printing the advertisements on the reverse of fourth issue postal stationery cards. Delivery had been effected by Municipality Room "E" section but the recipient had relocated and since the return address was available, the No. 6 Municipality Room dater was applied and the card was returned to sender. If return address was absent or could not be ascertained, then the mail item goes straight to the dead letter office without further handling.

Municipality Room dater Nos. 3,5,7,9,11 had been recorded on 5 items after the founding of Zhong Hua Min Guo in 1912 and these may provide identical or additional information to ascertain the specific scenario under which this rare dater had been used. The bank cover (fig.10) was addressed to the same tea firm as figs. 6-8 and delivery was effected by Municipality Room dater No. 3. The 1912 postal stationery card to Peking (fig.11) was written in Chinese, probably dropped into letter box system of the defunct Shanghai Local Post when it was picked out by Municipality Room dater No. 5 and formally handled to Shanghai Chinese Post Office when the impressed stamp was cancelled with Yuan Nian (First Year of the Republic) dater of the latter. The 1913 postal stationery card (fig.12) to a local addressee was redirected several times and subsequently undelivered, Municipality Room dater No. 7 was applied and the card was returned to sender.

The 1914 postal stationery card (fig.13) from King's Daughters' Society had printed notice of meeting on reverse, addressed to a Miss Scott, it was first delivered by Shanghai Local Post index I but the recipient had relocated when the Municipality Room dater No.9 was applied and the card was returned to sender.

The 1912 cover from Yenchow of Shantung Province to Germany (fig.14) paid the correct postage of 10c but the two stamps had been cancelled with Chinese language dater and upon arrival at Shanghai, it was mistaken as a letter addressed to a foreigner in the concessions but the Municipality Room dater No. 11 corrected this mistake, returned this item to the Chinese Post Office Shanghai for delivery to Germany together with other Europe bound mail items.

The above eight examples effectively identified the purpose of the Municipality Room dater Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11: these daters evolved for the purpose of handling irregularities and difficulties on foreign language mail items originating from or directed to addressees within the concession area. The number 1 dater had not been recorded, it was probably retained by the supervisor of the Municipality Room, staff member with index A was assigned No. 2 dater and so on, and the example in (fig.9) confirmed this allocation when No. 6 dater was assigned to staff member with index E. This allocation was probably revised during Zhong Hua Min Guo period when No. 9 dater was allocated to staff member I, the 9th alphabet as illustrated in (fig. 13).

Evolution of cancellations to serve particular purposes is already a fascinating subject by itself but the historic relic of the defunct Shanghai Local Post and the invisible geographical demarcation of the concession and non concession areas within Shanghai added complexity resulting in an unexpected evolution path. Internal re-

organization of the Municipality Room should have been implemented by evolution of the regular daters of the Municipality Room but taking into consideration the appropriateness of double circle Shanghai Local Post dater as official exchange dater with various foreign post offices, Shanghai Imperial Post ingeniously evolved Municipality Room daters out of regular bisected bilingual daters and produced the unique phenomenon of “substitute evolution” and with hind sight, what a simple and effective solution it was to solve a complicated mission ! There is additional merit to this dater : it conferred appropriate capacity to the staff members of the Municipality Room as official members of the Imperial Chinese Post instead of staff members of the defunct Shanghai Local Post and come to think of it, the lack of records or documentation relating to such re-organization had successful kept the true essence of such evolution a century old riddle !

Note 1: In a report from Chinkiang Customs to Inspectorate General of Customs dated June 27, 1896 giving a description of the organization of Shanghai Local Post : “...one commissioner, one assistant, one cashier, two messengers, twenty six postmen, totaling 31 staff members. ”



上海“工部间”汉英半切圆形日戳12至29号

汉英半切圆形日戳于1899年4月28日在上海大清邮政局开始使用后，到1903年中已届三岁半之龄，除个别日戳内字体极些微的区分外，可以说是毫无演变可言，但这种情况因邮件量的骤增而开始演化，目的是确保这枚日戳在工作量大增而错误机率相应提升的前提下，继续发挥其国际日戳的本职。翻查《上海邮电志》可以知道在1904年时，上海大清邮政局函件交换量为：出口545.45万，进口566.68万，转口20.48万，合计1132.61万。一般的汉英半切圆形日戳（以下简称“半切日戳”）虽然暗含不同之处，但是油墨太淡或太浓时难以分辨，无法确定职责谁属。有见及此，上海大清邮政局针对更改错误和区分职责这两个大前提而演化出两种不同用途的半切戳，其一是用于支代替编年作为更改错误或授权继续运作的“地支半切日戳”在1904年开始面世，本人对此戳研究心得已在《邮戳研究》2007年第4期内发表；其二是“号码代替编年”用以区分职责谁属的半切日戳，亦即是本文研究的主题。

本人计划出刊“大清帝国国家邮政时期日戳”丛书时，已经锁定了目标，认为这种以“号码代替编年”的上海半切戳会替汉英半切圆形日戳的专著带来障碍，因为下意识已将这个未破解的谜团标签为百年邮戳谜团之首，把它列入书内又不能了解其性质，故意不提又显示了逃避的态度。以邮戳研究者和邮戳丛书出版者的角度来看，紫禁之巅的约会，迟早来临，不如早作准备才是上着，于是把藏品内为数六十余件“号码代替编年”的上海半切戳排列一下，初步分析后得到以下线索：

（一）六十余件邮品都是外文平信或明信片、邮资片。

（二）半切戳内号码自12开始至29止。

（三）这种号码半切戳用作销票、中转或到达三种功能。

（四）使用日期自1903年8月至1911年（后来找到1903年6月26日使用日期）。

（五）中转邮件经由上海的法国客邮、日本客邮或贴香港票之英国客邮局转投者，均加盖客邮局中转日戳，经德国客邮或俄国客邮中转的邮品，大部份未见加盖有关客邮局之中转日戳。

（六）12至29号与客邮局无固定的关系，各自顺应邮件目的地而转交适当的客邮局。

（七）转投国内邮件，目的地为烟台、广州和琼州。

消化了上述经归纳程序得到的表面证据后，开始做初步筛选工作，把以下四种可能性删除：

（甲）因为25、26、27及29号的出现，戳内号码不可能代表钟点。

（乙）号码不代表支局，根据《上海邮电志》记载，1904年时上海只设位于北京路9号的市局营业厅和里威瓜街115号的南头支局，但26号半切戳在1903年已开始使用。

（丙）号码不代表柜位号码。本人的初步构思是1至11号柜位售卖邮票并处理国内和本埠函件而12至29号柜位专责处理外文邮件。这种想法与上述七项线索全无冲突，后来在《上海邮电志》内查到1897年2月成立的大清邮政局设在该时新建的海关大楼后院，工作人员仅五十人左右，占地狭窄，根本没有地方设置29个柜位。另外一个客观因素更加值得考虑：如果号码半切戳内号码代表柜位的话，那么所有在上海寄出、中转或到步的外文平信都应该盖上号码半切戳才是，但事实适得其反，在外文信函而言，这种号码半切戳与正规半切戳之比例极有可能不超过一比十。再者以管理角度而言，每一个柜台

可以与不同的客邮局联系会产生混乱和重叠，为什么不以邮件的目的地来设置专柜呢？

(丁) 一个偷懒的方法是把号码半切戳注释为：外文平信邮件上区分职责而设的半切戳。假设这种号码半切戳是正规半切戳的10%，那么余下90%的邮件没有区别职责的需要吗？这个论点带出了第二层的线索：号码半切戳的使用设有独特的局限，找到这个局限就真相大白了。

一连串的拍卖会终止了上述迷宫里漫游式的思维，十天后重新开始研究工作时认为撰写中有关福建省销戳演变的文章应该增加些当地背景的资料，于是翻阅《清末天津海关邮政档案选编》，看到有关船期的资料：“……每星期由上海和香港各有两艘船只到达，另外还有三艘轮船到港(不定期)，同时，每星期有七艘船离开此城(福州)”。这两句话给我一种新的灵感，立即查阅六十余件邮品，认为全部用船付运的可能性极高，包括以国内烟台、广州和琼州为目的地的函件。想到这里，脑里闪出一连串有关邮局运作的情景：轮船即将到达，邮务员将依时送上该投递的邮件。有些邮件错失了船期，是否须等上数天至一星期后才交给下班轮船运寄？对于目的地有关的船期，我是门外汉，于是打电话给香港邮学藏书最丰富的潘鉴良先生，希望 he 可以提供1904至1911年邮船到达和离开上海港口的固定或不定期班次，并且请教他另一个假设是否成立：为了提高付运效率，错失船期的函件可交由12至29号的“船期调度员”负责在其它客邮局的轮船和不定期到访船只里找寻更快的投递途径。潘先生初步觉得邮局内的确有经验老到的调度员，他们与船公司紧密联络，每天在外文报纸上找寻适合的船只来运送滞留局内的外文平信。我心里想：潘先生提供的船期资料到手后，如果没有冲突的话，这种号码半切戳可正名为“船期调度组半切日戳”，第四宗百年悬案破解之时已指日可待了。芮伟松顾问知道我在这个难题上锲而不舍，询问进展如何，我将研究过程和盘托出，他听了后觉得有需要查清“调度组”的底蕴，否则撰写的文章可能贻笑大方了？

过了数天，潘先生覆电话说查不到1904至1911年间进入、离开上海港口的船期表，当时十分失望，有些为山九仞功亏一篑的感觉，终点近在咫尺但没有足够的理据无法踏出最后的一步。说也奇怪，只要当事者精诚所至，处理的难题自会迎刃而解；原来潘鉴良先生也给这宗研究深深吸引住，他花了数天翻阅《上海邮电志》全书后认为我心目中的“船期调度组”应该是“工部间”，于是他在傍晚时分第一时间将心得在电话中向我简述一次。原来上海大清邮政局在1897年2月份开张后，该年10月份时工部局书信馆关闭，工作人员并入邮局，其中投递人员与邮局投递人员合并组成工部间，投送范围为当时的上海县城厢、公共租界和法租界。我当时的第六感认为，“工部间”这个名称错不了，于是约定翌日下午到潘先生的办公室共同研究，在参阅了有关资料后，我觉得双圈英文工部书信馆日戳在1904至1905年间仍旧普遍使用，因为我曾经在海外拍卖场所竞投到百余件美国寄上海的明信片，希望可以碰到上海干支日戳的最早使用日期，但这批明信片上的到达戳都是双圈英文工部书信馆日戳，戳号由A至K。当时我提出了这个问题：如果号码半切戳是工部间专用的话，那么工部间有两种不同日戳供用，这是邮史上罕见的例子。潘先生认同这种讲法，两个钟头研究后得出结论要花一番工夫来证明号码半切戳确实由工部间专用，并可能与双圈英文工部书信馆日戳同步使用。

回到家里后，我第一时间将六十余件邮品的图片摊在餐桌上再次仔细地看一遍来找寻新的灵感，皇天不负苦心人此言不虚，因为有两件邮品吸引了我的注意，其一是1903年8月份扬州经日本客邮寄美国的平信(图一)，盖了上海12 AUG 17中转日戳，此为本人藏品中号码半切戳的较早日期。另一件是1903年11月由湖南萍乡寄德国汉堡的邮资片(图二)，盖有三枚上海中转日戳：双圈书信馆日戳DE 15 03、号码半切戳15 DEC “21”和上海法国客邮日戳15 DEC 03。我在无意中找到了书信馆日戳和号码半切戳共用的例子，脸上不禁露出了灿烂的笑容，就在此时，电话铃响了，潘先生劈头就问：你藏品

中最早的一件是否由法国客邮中转？我答说不是，较早的一件是1903年8月扬州寄美国由日本客邮中转者。答完后我反问潘先生这个问题所追求的效果是什么。潘先生说：大清帝国曾经申请加入万国邮政联盟但未能即时生效，无奈与法国、日本、香港、德国和俄国客邮局先后签署《邮政协议》，时间分别为(法)1902年1月1日、(日)1903年7月18日、(香港)1905年2月1日、(德)1905年11月3日、(俄)1909年2月19日，以这个时间表看来，最早的号码半切戳应该在法国客邮中转的邮件上出现。这一轮对话表面上在研究层面的贡献不大，但是我已成竹在胸地对潘先生说：谜团全部解开了，请给我一分钟重组思维后将初步结论讲出来请你指教。

上海大清邮局在1897年2月成立，位于外滩的海关大楼后院(图三)，员工仅五十人，设专差投递洋文信件，中文信件委托全泰盛信局代送，半年后停止委托，自行投递。同年10月间，于1863年7月开局，已成立三十余载兼信誉卓越的工部局书信馆因中外轮船拒载各口岸工部书信馆邮件而关闭，工作人员并入邮局，其中投递人员与邮局投递人员合并组成工部间，是上海最早的邮件投递部门，投递范围为当时的上海县城厢、公共租界和法租界。为保持客户的联系，双圈英文书信馆日戳仍然使用，利用其过去的卓越声誉与民信局竞争。工部间职工一直以来与洋人客户、各国客邮局和轮船公司保持紧密联系至1901年年底。1902年元旦开始，大清帝国国家邮政与法国客邮签署的《邮政协议》开始生效，寄欧美邮件不必加贴法国客邮邮票便可投递。在上海大清邮局而言，由工部间收集该类邮件转交上海法国客邮，但由于工部书信馆已名亡实存，而且不属《邮政协议》的签约者，故此须盖上正规的上海半切戳后才交法国客邮。运作一年半后至1903年中，失误在所难免而正规的半切戳使职责区分产生困难，改革事在必行，凑巧与日本客邮签署的《邮政协议》在1903年7月18日生效，日本客邮局工作态度向来一丝不苟，稍有失误立即投诉，催化了改革。上海大清邮局顺应需要，将12至29的号码代替半切戳内年份，分派给工部间员工使用，以确定职责谁属，17号半切戳于焉在翌月面世了。后来英国客邮、德国客邮和俄国客邮的《邮政协议》陆续生效后，船只和火车班次增加，估计邮局其它部门间收到的误失船期和火车班次的邮件亦可交由经验丰富的工部间职工办理，目的地可包括中国境内烟台、广州和琼州等通商口岸。二十世纪初叶的大清晚期，中国境内的铁路系统渐趋成熟，上海成为邮件主要转口港的地位开始淡化，号码半切戳的应用亦相应减少了。

潘先生思量了半晌后说：恭喜你找到了答案，我知道你所讲的理据合情合理，但是终需要有文献纪录或其它实物证明号码半切戳在工部间使用的例证。我回答说：1903年11月湖南萍乡寄德国的邮资片就是答案，该邮资片到达上海时交工部间处理，经手的邮务佐于当天可能错误地盖了双圈英文工部书信馆日戳，后来发觉后加销号码“21”半切戳才转交上海法国客邮局，因为另外一件相若的邮资片亦在1903年11月由萍乡寄德国盖上了号码“13”工部间半切日戳后交上海法国客邮(图四)，这个正规的程序证明了前片上的上海书信馆日戳是误盖者，无意中证实了工部间半切戳和双圈上海书信馆日戳同期使用的事实。潘先生笑说：你的邮缘确实不错，藏品丰富而且触觉敏锐，往往能在关键性时刻掌握到启发性的邮品，我期待你的研究结论面世，届时切记送一份到我办公室。我开心地应诺了，并多谢他提供多项关键性资料和灵感泉源。

翌日我在太太的手绘彩图邮资片集内发掘出另一件由北京寄上海的大清四次邮资片(图五)，符志销北京干支日戳，经塘沽中转，到达上海后盖上四枚不同的上海日戳，可能因为该片混杂在其它以中文书写的函件内，首先盖了上海干支日戳，由于用外文书写，该片交由另一组接手处理并盖上正规上海半切日戳，日期为DEC 13 09。该组确认本片最终目的地是上海后，转交工部间投递时盖上号

码半切日戳13 DEC “13”，而最终投递员亦为工部间邮务信差，他将英文双圈工部书信馆日戳盖在片上，日期也是DEC 13 09。这件邮品显示了上海大清邮政总局的运作细则，再次证实了号码半切日戳和双圈工部书信馆日戳同时在工部间使用的实况。邮友李锦华先生藏有一件九江寄上海的大清四次邮资片(图六)，盖了五枚上海日戳，第三次证实“16”号工部间日戳与上海英文书信馆双圈日戳同日使用。

同日，我心血来潮地将束诸高阁的风景明信片取出翻阅一次，找到了“17”号工部间半切戳在一件1903年6月26日上海寄东京的明信片上露面(图七)，比上述另一件1903年8月21日使用的“17”号工部间半切戳早了近两个月，亦比大清帝国邮政与日本客邮签署之“邮政协议”生效日期1903年7月18日为早。这个发现使我口述给潘先生的结论有修改的必要，因为经过一年半与法国客邮合作投递国际邮件后，上海大清邮政局已决定工部间使用的半切戳以“号码代替编年”，目的是确定职责谁属，而非因日本客邮的《邮政协议》于1903年7月18日生效后所催化者。

当我以为本题的探讨已完美结束时，潘鉴良先生又提供了宝贵的资料，以文献记载来证实上海工部书信馆与上海大清邮政局的关系，以下几段节录自 Major Richard Pratt 所著 *Imperial China-History of the Posts 1897* (《一八九七年帝国邮政史》) 内有关 *The Last Months of the Shanghai Local Post* (上海书信馆的最后岁月)，记载了工部书信馆于1897年10月底结业，全部员工由上海大清邮政局接收，名亡实存的工部书信馆仍可在上海市区范围内运作，并需在经手处理的邮件正面避开邮票盖上其圆形日戳。

1.一般认为：上海工部书信局很幸运地在市区范围内成立了“接水区”，所接收到邮件流量足以支付工部局整体服务费用，确保该类服务得以无限度地沿续下去。

2.(大清国家邮政开办初期) 住在市区边陲人士在投信时遭遇不便，值得垂询关注。住在 *Bubbling Well Road, Carter Road* 或虹桥区上端的人士，需跋涉到海关大楼才能投信。在国家邮政成立之前，他们只需将函件投入邮筒便告一段落。

3.据我们(作者及其资料来源) 询问得知：国家邮政愿意接收工部书信局全体雇员，循已往的收费和服务，在市区范围内继续运作。

4.我们的朋友大卫班泽民先生1897年8月28日有以下报导：我知悉工部书信馆将于下月结业而帝国邮政第一套永久邮票于10月1日发行。其它各埠的书信馆早于年初结业，上海书信馆虽能继续运作，但范围只限于市区，因为帝国邮政不允许其与其它商埠交换函件。上海书信馆已步入最后的岁月。

5.帝国邮政与上海工部书信局签署邮政协议，1897年11月1日起生效，其内帝国邮政同意：工部书信馆(或已改称“工部间”)负责市区范围内(外文)邮件的收集、分拣及投递。处理国际邮件时，工部书信馆日戳须盖于函件正面，不可全部或局部盖销函件上的邮票。

本文探讨的专题现在圆满结束，再次多谢潘鉴良先生多方位的协助。

Municipality Room Daters Nos. 12-29

The standard 25mm bisected circular bilingual daters (hereinafter abbreviated as “bisected dater”) of the Chinese Imperial Post was first used in Shanghai on April 28, 1899, three and a half years later into mid-1903, there were no signs of evolution, only minute differences in lettering to serve as identification of individuality. However, with the rapid increase in mail volume handled there and then, evolution was the inevitable path to enable this bisected dater continue to fulfil its function as an international dater. By looking up the “Chronicle of Shanghai Posts and Telecommunications” (hereinafter called “the Book”), one would appreciate that as at 1904, the amount of mail items handled by Shanghai Imperial Post Office was staggering: export 5,454,500, import 5,666,800, transit 204,800 totaling 11,326,100. Errors and omissions were inevitable and when the ink of the bisected daters happened to be too heavy or too light, the minor characteristics to differentiate individuality became ineffective and for better management of post office routines and demarcation of responsibilities, the bisected daters used by Shanghai Imperial Post Office evolved along two different directions: one approach was to replace the year by a horary character and this evolved bisected dater first appeared in 1904 and was used to correct errors, omissions and mistakes or to authorize the delivery of the mail item as an ordinary mail item and I have published my study article on this subject in “Postmarks Research” Volume No. 8 of 2007, issued by Chinese Postmark Study Society. The other mode of evolution was to replace the year by numbers, apparently aiming at locating the source of errors, omissions or mistakes. This latter type first appeared in 1903 and is the subject matter of this study.

A year ago, a group of friends encouraged me to publish another series of books on various types of cancellations which appeared during Chinese Imperial Post period 1897-1911 and my first reaction was: how am I going to deal with the commonest Shanghai bisected daters with horary characters or numbers? It would be meaningless just to record their presence and it would be even worse to exclude them altogether. These century old riddles must be tackled and solved to clear the final hurdle to my intended book on bisected daters scheduled in mid-2008. It took me a few days to locate 60+ items of such “numbered bisected daters” from my various collections and a preliminary study revealed the following observations.

1. None of the items are registered or express delivery items, all are ordinary mail items or picture post cards written in foreign language.
2. The numbers appearing in numbered bisected daters were 12 through 29.
3. This numbered bisected dater had been used to cancel stamps and as transit or arrival daters.
4. Usage dates of the numbered bisected dater ranged from August 1903 to 1911. (Later finding revealed an earlier usage date of June 26, 1903).
5. For those mail items which subsequently transited through French Post Office, Imperial Japanese Post Office or British Post Office of Hong Kong, appropriate daters of such foreign post offices were received. For items which transited through German or Russian Post Offices, no transit daters had been applied.
6. There is no clear connection between each number with a particular foreign post office.
7. Some items were addressed to destinations within China, such as Chefoo, Canton and Kiungchow.

A fundamental analysis of the 60+ items led to the elimination of the following possibilities:

- (A) With the appearance of 25, 26, 27 and 29, the numbers could not represent hours.
- (B) The numbers could not represent branch office numbers because in 1904, only head office and another branch office were listed in the Book.
- (C) The numbers are not counter numbers. My original concept was that counter Nos. 1-11 sold stamps and handled local and domestic mails whilst Nos. 12 through 29 handled mail items written in foreign language because

this would explain the absence of numbers 1-11. Facts contained in the Book contradicted this idea : at the inception of the Shanghai Imperial Post Office, it only occupied the rear court of the Customs House with a staff of around 50 only and there was no room for 29 counters. Looking at this from another angle, if these numbers were counter numbers then every mail item posted or transited through such counters would receive such numbered bisected dater and this was not the case. If counters ever existed, it would be prudent to specialize according to final destinations of foreign mail items.

(D) A lazy approach is to classify this numbered bisected dater as a responsibility identifying dater used solely on ordinary mail items written in foreign language. My experience told me that the appearance rate of the numbered bisected dater is around 10% and if this was the case, what happened to the remaining 90% ? Were these mail items handled perfectly without errors and omissions such that responsibility identification element was superfluous ? This logic has brought out a direction : the numbered bisected dater had certain unique restrictions in its application and by finding this unique factor, answer to this century old riddle can come to light.

A series of public auctions interrupted my aimless wandering mind and when everything got settled ten days later, I set my heart to edit useful background information into the first draft on my study relating to evolution of cancellations in Fukien province from 1897 to 1911. As I read this paragraph in the book entitled “Late Qing Dynasty Selected Files of Tientsin Customs Post” , I realized that in late 1896, two ships from Shanghai and Hong Kong reached Foochow every week on a regular basis with three additional non-scheduled arrivals, matched by departure of seven ships from Foochow every week. This information gave me fresh inspiration and I immediately perused the 60+ items again and ascertained that all of them could have been carried by ships of one kind or the other, including the few items destined for Chefoo, Canton and Kiungchow. Scenes began to roll in my mind: a particular ship was due to arrive in Shanghai and postmen were busy sorting out mail items to be carried on board the ship upon its arrival. After the hustle and bustle, a few items missed the boat, so to speak, did they have to wait a week or so for the next regular ship ? I have never studied scenario of this kind and for the sake of expedience, I phoned Mr. K. L. Poon for help since he is the only person in Hong Kong with numerous useful reference books to serve as a philatelic library, requesting him to provide information regarding regular visits of mail ships to and from Shanghai during 1904-1911 and consulted him about his view on the hypothetical “ship schedules co-ordinator” , a newly coined phrase to describe certain experienced personnel in the post office who might have close contact with shipping companies or various foreign post offices and whose responsibilities include the speedy dispatch of mail items which “missed the boat” by other non-scheduled ships, without having to wait for the next regular service. Mr. Poon agreed that such co-ordinators did exist in the post office and they relied daily on foreign language newspapers to ascertain non-scheduled ship services but he had never come across such name as “ship schedules co-ordinator” . I thought that as soon as information relating to ship schedules comes to hand, the nature of the numbered bisected dater can more properly be ascertained, selecting a proper name for this dater becomes a formality only. My consultant Mr. Sermon Juai knew all the time that I was pursuing this subject relentlessly and as he enquired the progress and heard the story, he reminded me to be careful with the term “ship schedules co-ordinator” because such a term could not possibly have been used and the entire study results would be marred by such inappropriate nomenclature.

A few days later Mr. Poon phoned in to tell me that the required information on ship schedules in Shanghai for the period 1904-1911 was unavailable, what a disappointment it was, I felt like a contestant who could not raise his feet for the last winning step towards the finishing line. Such disappointment is short lived because my persistent determination to solve this riddle had inspired Mr. Poon who took a few days to peruse the entirety of the Book and came to the conclusion that the proper nomenclature should be “Municipality Room” since this term appeared several times in the Book. On the same evening, he phoned to tell me the result of his finding based on the Book : soon after Shanghai Imperial Post Office opened in February 1897, the Shanghai Local Post closed down for business in October the same year and the work force of the latter was combined with regular post office staff to form the “Municipality Room” which handled receipt, dispatch (walled city, the Common Concessions and the

French Concession) and transit of ordinary mail items written in foreign language. At first thought, I was almost certain that the proper nomenclature is now ascertained and we agreed to meet at Mr. Poon's office the ensuing date to study background information relating to such conclusion. As I went through the information extracted by Mr. Poon the next day, I couldn't help asking this question : It would be unprecedented case if these numbered bisected daters were used by staff of the Municipality Room since they already had the double circle English language Shanghai Local Post dater for use because I remembered my previous purchase of 100 post cards, circa 1904-1905, from U.S.A. to Shanghai in an effort to ascertain the earliest usage of lunar year dater in Shanghai but the Shanghai Local Post arrival daters appeared on all these items, with index from A to K. instead of the anticipated lunar year daters. Mr. Poon appreciated this argument and both of us came to the conclusion that we are faced with a more difficult scenario, that is, to prove that the numbered bisected daters had been used by the Municipality Room simultaneously with the double circle English language Shanghai Local Post daters.

Back to home, I wasted no time at all and laid out the 60+ items on the dining table for further observation. Strange to say, the combination of resolute pursuing spirit coupled with background information and knowledge already acquired, had cast a different view on the 60 items among which two items attracted my attention, one was the August 1903 cover from Yangchow to USA via Imperial Japanese Post Office (fig.1), the other was the November 1903 postal stationery card from Pingshan to Hamburg via Shanghai (fig.2). As I noticed the presence of the double circle Shanghai Local Post dater on the latter item, a smile on my face began to turn into blossom when the phone bell rang and Mr. Poon shot this question right away : “Is the earliest item in your collection carried by the French Post Office ?” I answered in the negative and asked him the purpose of this question when he began to elaborate in quite detail the sequence of events which happened in 1902 to 1905. The Chinese Imperial Post applied to join the Universal Postal Union but could not wait for the abnormally long “observation period” and as a counter measure, the Chinese Imperial Post signed “Postal Agreements” separately with French Post Office (effective January 1, 1902), Imperial Japanese Post Office (effective July 18, 1903), British Post Office Hong Kong (effective February 1, 1905), German Post Office (effective November 3, 1905) and Russian Post Office (effective February 19, 1909). Come to think of it, can you imagine that this was the final missing link to pin point the right direction ? In a delightful tone, I told Mr. Poon : “The riddle is now solved, give me a minute to reconstruct the sequence of events and arguments and I'll outline the preliminary study result for your kind comments.”

Shanghai Imperial Post Office was established in February 1897 with a staff of around 50, located at the rear courtyard of Customs House situated in the Bund(fig.3). Initially it employed postmen to deliver foreign language items whilst items written in Chinese were entrusted to local Min Hsin Chu named Chuen Tai Shing. In October the same year the Shanghai Local Post, established more than 30 years ago in July 1863, had to close down because shipping companies refused to carry mail items any longer when the staff members of the Shanghai Local Post were absorbed into the post office and merged with the delivery staff to form the “Municipality Room” responsible for the delivery of mail items to the walled city and to the Common Concessions and the French Concession. As a measure to guard against Min Hsin Chu's competition, Shanghai Imperial Post Office relied on the old staff of Shanghai Local Post to liaise with foreign clients and continued to use the double circle English language Shanghai Local Post dater. In January 1902 the Postal Agreement with French Post Office became effective, mail items to foreign destinations could be sent via French mail boats without additional payment of postage in French currency. Vast amount of transit mail items written in foreign language converged in Shanghai, apparently sorted by staff of Municipality Room and delivered to the French Post Office. Regular Shanghai bisected daters had been used initially because the French Post Office did not recognize the Shanghai Local Post dater as a valid dater of the signatory party to the Postal Agreement. Eighteen month into July 1903, errors and omissions were bound to occur and the regular Shanghai bisected dater could not trace the source efficiently and evolution was imminent. The Postal Agreement with the Imperial Japanese Post Office, effective from July 18, 1903 catalyzed the evolution because the exact working attitude of the Imperial Japanese Post Office gave rise to many complaints on the one hand, and provided alternative mail routes to foreign destinations on the other hand and the time has come to identify without doubt,

the responsibility on the part of each and every staff member of the Municipality Room and towards this end, the No. 17 bisected dater appeared 25 days later on August 12, 1903 on a cover from Yangchow to USA via the Imperial Japanese Post Office. With the coming into effect of later Postal Agreements with British Post Office Hong Kong, German and Russian Post Offices, alternative mail boats were available and the job of finding the most appropriate mail boat for the mail items on hand rested with experienced staff members of the Municipality Room. Much burden was taken off Shanghai as transit centre of mails to foreign destinations following the ripening of train networks in China, when the application of numbered bisected dater from Municipality Room diminished accordingly.

After a long pause at the other end of the telephone, Mr. Poon said : “I am fully convinced by your deductions, but still, it needs be substantiated by proven records or philatelic items which could identify beyond doubt that this numbered bisected dater had actually been used from the Municipality Room.” I informed him of the November 1903 postal stationery card from Pingshan to Hamburg (fig.2), transit via Shanghai with the inappropriate Shanghai Local Post dater, later corrected by No. 21 bisected dater before handing over to the French Post Office. This inadvertent mistake did not occur on another similar postal stationery card also dated November 1903 from Pingshan to Hamburg (fig.4) and thanks to this mistake on the former item, it can now be ascertained that the numbered “Municipality Room” dater and the double circle Shanghai Local Post daters had been used simultaneously at that time. He smiled and said : “What a lucky guy you are ? You can always produce key items in the most appropriate time to clear all doubts; make an effort to obtain a few more to reinforce your deductions and remember to send the first draft of your study result to my office.” I delightfully consented and thanked him for the invaluable information, and above all, quality conversation to enhance my source of inspiration.

On the ensuing day, I glanced through the 600+ postal stationery cards collected by my wife for the multifarious hand drawn water colour paintings on reverse and found this 4th issue postal stationery card from Peking to Shanghai in 1909 (fig.5). Peking lunar year dater canceled the impressed stamp and the card transited through Tangku, upon arrival at Shanghai, it received four different types of Shanghai daters. Perhaps it had been mixed with other mail items written in Chinese language, the Shanghai lunar year dater first canceled this card and since it was written in foreign language, it was handed over to another section which applied the regular Shanghai bisected dater and when this section ascertained that the card was addressed to Shanghai, the card was handed over to Municipality Room where it received the No. 13 numbered bisected dater and when the staff of Municipality Room actually delivered this card, he applied the English language double circle Shanghai Local Post dater, all daters being of the same day, DEC 13 09. This item clearly illustrated the working procedure in Shanghai Imperial Post Office and supported the assumption that the numbered bisected dater and the double circle Shanghai Local Post daters were used simultaneously by Municipality Room, though with different functions. My friend Mr. Lee Kam Wah has another 4th issue postal stationery card from Kiukiang to Shanghai 1909 (fig.6), receiving 5 different Shanghai daters, including the number 16 Municipality Room dater used in conjunction with the Shanghai Local Post dater.

A casual thought came to my mind that there might be treasures hidden in my collection of picture post cards stashed in high cabinets, I diligently located and perused the collection and retrieved a No. 17 Municipality Room dater used on June 26, 1903 on a picture post card (fig.7). My previous preliminary verbal conclusion related to Mr. Poon over the phone has to be amended in the light of this finding. Eighteen months (January 1902 to June 1903) into joint efforts on the part of Chinese Imperial Post and the French Post Offices to deliver international mail items, errors and omissions occurred to such an extent that the Shanghai Imperial Post Office decided that the year in the bisected daters used by Municipality Room staff be changed to numbers in an effort to locate source of mistakes and responsibility. The decision came earlier than the coming into effect of the Postal Agreement between the Chinese Imperial Post and the Imperial Japanese Post Office and my former preliminary conclusion that the adoption of the Municipality Room dater was catalyzed by the coming into effect of the aforesaid Postal Agreement has to be revised accordingly.

Just when I thought that this case is now satisfactorily concluded, Mr. K. L. Poon executed the perfect finishing touch by producing the following extracts from the book entitled “Imperial China-History of The Posts 1897”

by Major Richard Pratt FRPSL and the chapter on “The Last Months of the Shanghai Local Post” is particularly interesting and relevant, here are some of the extracts to give a broad picture of the sequence of events which happened at the critical point in time and to some extent, substantiate our proven theory that two types of cancellations had been used by the Municipality Room.

(a) “.....it is generally believed, that the Shanghai Municipal Post Office was lucky enough to have a catchment area within the environs of the city, and a flow of mail for local delivery that was of a size sufficient to pay for the entire service’s operation, thus guaranteeing its indefinite continuation as a service.” This explained why Shanghai Municipal Post Office was able to survive for the few months from February to October 1897.

(b) “Having been asked to mention the fact that the people living in the outskirts of the settlement have considerable trouble in posting letters, it has caused us to make inquiries into the matter. If people living in Bubbling Well Road, Carter Road, or the upper end of Honkew, they have now to travel to the Customs House before they can do so. Before the Imperial Post Office started they had only to drop their letter into a pillar box and there the matter ended.” From this paragraph, one would appreciate that the foreign residents were used to the convenient services provided by the Shanghai Municipal Post Office, they had the confidence in dropping mail items into pillar boxes provided at various locations, knowing full well that the mail items would duly be collected and handled properly, without having to post them at the post office.

(c) “From enquiries made by us we learn that the Imperial Post Office is willing to take over the entire staff of the Local Post Office and continue to work on the same lines and at the same tariff, so far as concerns town delivery.” In spite of the change of ownership or reorganization, it’s business as usual and Imperial Post Office was prudent not to replace the double circle Shanghai Local Post dater because this dater represented efficient service, and it had the added effect of prompting the recipients of mail items to drop their reply mail into the pillar box provided by the Shanghai Local Post in the usual manner.

(d) “Our friend Mr. David Benjamin, of Shanghai writes under the date 28th August 1897, ‘I understand that our Local Post will be closed next month, and that the now permanent stamps of the Imperial Chinese Post Office will be issued on the 1st October.’ All other Local Post Offices were closed at the beginning of the year; the Shanghai Post remaining open to do purely local business i.e. delivering mail from one part the city to another, as the Imperial Post Office did not allow them to receive or forward letters to the ports. So this will be the last of the Shanghai Local Post.” In a later paragraph, Municipal Postal Notification 1226 dated 16 November 1897 mentioned the sale of now obsolete stamps : “The following obsolete stamps etc. being unsold stock of the now closed Local Post Office will be sold until further notice at their face value at the Tax Office of the Council where application for the whole stock or any part thereof will be received by Mr. A. Johnsford, Overseer of Taxes. The dies from which these stamps were struck are now being forwarded from England and will be destroyed. ”

(e) “A Postal Agreement was signed between the two Postal Services and implemented on 1 November 1897” which provided, inter alia, “The Imperial Post Office agreed that It (Municipal Post Office) should be responsible for the collection, distribution, and delivery of mail within the environs of Shanghai ” and “When handling international mail and domestic mail the Local Post Office shall place a strike of its c.d.s. ‘elsewhere’ on the front of the item of mail i.e. so as not to even partially obliterate the postage stamps thereon.” This explained why the double circle Shanghai Local Post dater appeared on all items actually delivered by its staff members, sometimes in combination with the numbered bisected daters of the Municipality Room.

The century old riddle is now solved, case closed with hearty thanks to Mr. K. L. Poon.

大清帝国国家邮政时期汉英半切圆形日戳各省使用简表
Table Of Usage Of Bisected Circular Bilingual Daters In Various Provinces
During The Chinese Imperial Post Period

Page/页			Page/页		
1. AMOY(Fukien 1)	厦门(闽1)	2	44. PEKING(Chihli 4)	北京(冀4)	51-52
2. ANTUNG(North East 1)	安东(东1)	3	PEKING(1)(Chihli 4a)	北京一(冀4-1)	52
3. CANTON(Kwangtung 1)	广州(粤1)	4-5	45. SAMSHUI(Kwangtung 7)	三水(粤7)	53
4. CHANGSHA(Hunan 1)	长沙(湘1)	6	46. SANTUAO(Fukien 4)	三都澳(闽4)	54
5. CHANGTEH(Hunan 2)	常德(湘2)	7	47. SHANGHAI(Kiangsu 4)	上海(苏4)	55-57
6. CHEFOO(Shangtung 1)	烟台(鲁1)	8	48. SHASI(Hupei 4)	沙市(鄂4)	58
7. CHENGTING(Chihli 1)	正定(冀1)	9	49. SI-AN(Shensi 2)	西安(陕2)	59
8. CHENTU(Szechwan 1)	成都(川1)	10	50. SOOCHOW(Kiangsu 5)	苏州(苏5)	60
9. CHINAN(Shangtung 2)	济南(鲁2)	11	51. SWATOW(Kwangtung 8)	汕头(粤8)	61
10. CHINHAI(Chekiang 1)	镇海(浙1)	12	52. SZEMAO(Yunnan 3)	思茅(滇3)	62
11. CHINKIANG(Kiangsu 1)	镇江(苏1)	13	53. TAIYUAN(Shansi 1)	太原(晋1)	63
12. CHINKIANGPU(Kiangsu 2)	清江浦(苏2)	14	54. TAKU(Chihli 5)	大沽(冀5)	64
13. CHUNGKING(Szechwan 2)	重庆(川2)	15	55. TANGKU(Chihli 6)	塘沽(冀6)	65
14. FOOCHOW(Fukien 2)	福州(闽2)	16	56. TANGSHAN(Chihli 7)	唐山(冀7)	66
15. HANGCHOW(Chekiang 2)	杭州(浙2)	17	57. TATUNG(Anhwei 2)	大通(皖2)	67
16. HANKOW(Hupei 1)	汉口(鄂1)	18-21	58. TENG YUEH(Yunnan 4)	腾越(滇4)	68
17. HANYANG(Hupei 2)	汉阳(鄂2)	22	59. TIENTSIN(Chihli 8)	天津(冀8)	69-70
18. HARBIN(North East 2)	哈尔滨(东2)	23	60. TSINAN(Shangtung 4)	济南(鲁4)	71
19. HOKOW(Yunnan 1)	河口(滇1)	24	61. --INAN(Shangtung 5)	济南(鲁5)	
20. HSI-AN(Shensi 1)	西安(陕1)	25	62. TSINSHAN(Kwangtung 9)	前山(粤9)	72
21. ICHANG(Hupei 3)	宜昌(鄂3)	26	63. TUNGCHOW(Chihli 9)	通州(冀9)	73
22. KAIFENG(Honan 1)	开封(豫1)	27	64. TUNGHING(Kwangtung 10)	东兴(粤10)	73
23. KIAOCHOW(Shangtung 3)	胶州(鲁3)	28	65. WANHSIEN(Szechwan 3)	万县(川3)	74
24. KIASING(Chekiang 3)	嘉兴(浙3)	29	66. WENCHOW(Chekiang 5)	温州(浙5)	75
25. KIUKIANG(Kiangsi 1)	九江(赣1)	30	67. WHAMPOA(Kwangtung 11)	黄浦(粤11)	76
26. KIUNGCHOW(Kwangtung 2)	琼州(粤2)	31	68. WOOSUNG(Kiangsu 6)	吴淞(苏6)	77
27. KONGMOON(Kwangtung 3)	江门(粤3)	32	69. WUCHANG(Hupei 5)	武昌(鄂5)	78
28. KOWLOON(Kwangtung 4)	九龙(粤4)	33	70. WUCHOW(Kwangsi 3)	梧州(桂3)	79
29. KUEIYANG(Kweichow 1)	贵阳(黔1)	33	71. WUHU(Anhwei 3)	芜湖(皖3)	80
30. KULING(Kiangsi 2)	孤岭(赣2)	34-35	72. WUSUEH(Hupei 6)	武穴(鄂6)	81
31. KUMCHUK(Kwangtung 5)	甘竹(粤5)	36	73. YANGCHOWFU(Kiangsu 7)	扬州府(苏7)	82
32. LUNGCHOW(Kwangsi 1)	龙州(桂1)	37	74. YANGCHOW()(Kiangsu 8)	扬州府(苏8)	
33. MENGTSZ(Yunnan 2)	蒙自(滇2)	38-39	75. YOCHOW(Hunan 3)	岳州(湘3)	83
34. MOUKDEN(North East 3)	奉天(东3)	40	76. YOCHOW CITY(Hunan 4)	岳州城(湘4)	84
35. NANKING(Kiangsu 3)	南京(苏3)	41	77. YUNNANFU(Yunnan 5)	云南府(滇5)	85
36. NANNING(Kwangsi 2)	南宁(桂2)	42	Non-Standard 不规范半切日戳		
37. NEWCHWANG(North East 4)	牛庄(东4)	43-44	78. KIANGYIN(Kiangsu)	江阴(苏)	86
38. NGANKIN(Anhwei 1)	安庆(皖1)	45	79. KUMCHUK(Kwangtung)	甘竹(粤)	87
39. NINGPO(Chekiang 4)	宁波(浙4)	46	80. NAM-TAU(Kwangtung)	南头(粤)	
40. PAGODA ANCH(Fukien 3)	罗星塔(闽3)	47	81. NANCHANG(Kiangsi)	南昌(赣)	88
41. PAKHOI(Kwangtung 6)	北海(粤6)	48	82. KWANGYUAN(Szechwan)	广元(川)	89
42. PAOTING(Chihli 2)	保定(冀2)	49	83. TSINGTAU(Shantung)	青岛(鲁)	
43. PEITAIHO(Chihli 3)	北戴河(冀3)	50			

依省份排列之大清时期汉英半切圆形日戳地名简表

Listing By Province (Chinese Imperial Post Period)

Page/页			Page/页		
ANHWEI Province	安徽省(皖)		KWANGSI Province	广西省(桂)	
1. NGANKIN	1. 安庆	45	1. LUNGCHOW	1. 龙州	37
2. TATUNG	2. 大通	67	2. NANNING	2. 南宁	42
3. WUHU	3. 芜湖	80	3. WUCHOW	3. 梧州	79
CHEKIANG Province	浙江省(浙)		KWANGTUNG Province	广东省(粤)	
1. CHINHAI	1. 镇海	12	1. CANTON	1. 广州	4
2. HANGCHOW	2. 杭州	17	2. KIUNGCHOW	2. 琼州	31
3. KIASING	3. 嘉兴	29	3. KONGMOON	3. 江门	32
4. NINGPO	4. 宁波	46	4. KOWLOON	4. 九龙	33
5. WENCHOW	5. 温州	75	5. KUMCHUK	5. 甘竹	36
CHIHLEI Province	直隶省(冀)		6. PAKHOI	6. 北海	48
1. CHENGTING	1. 正定	9	7. SAMSHUI	7. 三水	53
2. PAOTING	2. 保定	49	8. SWATOW	8. 汕头	61
3. PEITAIHO	3. 北戴河	50	9. TSINSHAN	9. 前山	72
4. PEKING	4. 北京	51	10. TUNGHING	10. 东兴	73
PEKING(1)	北京一	52	11. WHAMPOA	11. 黄浦	76
5. TAKU	5. 大沽	64	KWEICHOW Province	贵州省(黔)	
6. TANGKU	6. 塘沽	65	1. KUEIYANG	1. 贵阳	33
7. TANGSHAN	7. 唐山	66	NORTH EAST Provinces	东三省(东)	
8. TIENTSIN	8. 天津	69	1. ANTUNG	1. 安东	3
9. TUNGCHOW	9. 通州	73	2. HARBIN	2. 哈尔滨	23
FUKIEN Province	福建省(闽)		3. MOUKDEN	3. 奉天	40
1. AMOY	1. 厦门	2	4. NEWCHWANG	4. 牛庄	43
2. FOOCHOW	2. 福州	16	SHANSI Province	山西省(晋)	
3. PAGODA ANCH	3. 罗星塔	47	1. TAIYUAN	1. 太原	63
4. SANTUAO	4. 三都澳	54	SHANTUNG Province	山东省(鲁)	
HONAN Province	河南省(豫)		1. CHEFOO	1. 烟台	8
1. KAIFENG	1. 开封	27	2. CHINAN	2. 济南	11
HUNAN Province	湖南省(湘)		3. KIAOCHOW	3. 胶州	28
1. CHANGSHA	1. 长沙	6	4. TSINAN	4. 济南	71
2. CHANGTEH	2. 常德	7	5. --INAN	5. 济南	71
3. YOCHOW	3. 岳州	83	SHENSI Province	陕西省(陕)	
4. YOCHOW CITY	4. 岳州城	84	1. HSI-AN	1. 西安	25
HUPEH Province	湖北省(鄂)		2. SI-AN	2. 西安	59
1. HANKOW	1. 汉口	18	SZECHWAN Province	四川省(川)	
2. HANYANG	2. 汉阳	22	1. CHENTU	1. 成都	10
3. ICHANG	3. 宜昌	26	2. CHUNGKING	2. 重庆	15
4. SHASI	4. 沙市	58	3. WANHSIEN	3. 万县	74
5. WUCHANG	5. 武昌	78	YUNNAN Province	云南省(滇)	
6. WUSUEH	6. 武穴	81	1. HOKOW	1. 河口	24
KIANGSI Province	江西省(赣)		2. MENGTSZ	2. 蒙自	38
1. KIUKIANG	1. 九江	30	3. SZEMAO	3. 思茅	62
2. KULING	2. 孤岭	34	4. TENG YUEH	4. 腾越	68
KIANGSU Province	江苏省(苏)		5. YUNNANFU	5. 云南府	85
1. CHINKIANG	1. 镇江	13	Non-Standard 不规范半切日戳		
2. CHINKIANGPU	2. 清江浦	14	KIANGYIN(Kiangsu)	江阴(苏)	86
3. NANKING	3. 南京	41	KUMCHUK(Kwangtung)	甘竹(粤)	87
4. SHANGHAI	4. 上海	55	NAM-TAU(Kwangtung)	南头(粤)	87
5. SOOCHOW	5. 苏州	60	NANCHANG(Kiangsi)	南昌(赣)	88
6. WOOSUNG	6. 吴淞	77	KWANGYUAN(Szechwan)	广元(川)	89
7. YANGCHOWFU	7. 扬州府	82	TSINGTAU(Shantung)	青岛(鲁)	89
8. YANGCHOW()	8. 扬州府	82			

中华民国时期汉英半切圆形日戳各省使用简表
 Table Of Usage Of Bisected Circular Bilingual Daters In Various Provinces
 During The Republic Of China Period

Page/页			Page/页		
1. AMI(Yunnan 1)	阿迷(滇1)	129	44. KULING(Kiangsi 4)	牯岭(赣4)	170
2. AMOY(Fukien 1)	厦门(闽1)	129	45. KUMCHUK(Kwangtung 5)	甘竹(粤5)	170
3. ANTUNG(North East 1)	安东(东1)	131	46. KWANCHENG TZE(North East 6)	宽城子(东6)	171
4. ANYUAN KI(Kiangsi 1)	安源(赣1)	131	47. KWEI HWA(Shansi 1)	归化(晋1)	172
5. CANTON(Kwangtung 1)	广州(粤1)	132	48. KWEILIN(Kwangsi 2)	桂林(桂2)	172
6. CHANGSHA(Hunan 1)	长沙(湘1)	133	49. KWEIYANG(Kweichow 2)	贵阳(黔2)	173
7. CHANGSHA(Hunan 2)	长沙府(湘2)	135	50. LANCHOWFU(Kansu 1)	兰州府(甘1)	173
8. CHANGTEH(Hunan 3)	常德(湘3)	136	51. LANCHOW() (Kansu 2)	兰州() (甘2)	174
9. CHANGTEH(Hunan 4)	常德府(湘4)	137	52. LUNGCHOW(Kwangsi 3)	龙州(桂3)	174
10. CHEFOO(Shantung 1)	烟台(鲁1)	137	53. MANCHOULI(North East 7)	满州里(东7)	175
11. CHENGLINGKI(Hunan 5)	城陵矶(湘5)	139	54. MENGTSZ(Yunnan 3)	蒙自(滇3)	177
12. CHENGTING(Chihli 1)	正定(冀1)	140	55. MENGTSZ(Yunnan 4)	蒙自县(滇4)	178
13. CHENTU(Szechwan 1)	成都(川1)	140	56. MOUKDEN(North East 8)	奉天(东8)	178
14. CHENG TU(Szechwan 2)	成都府(川2)	141	57. MOUKDEN(North East 9)	奉天府(东9)	180
15. CHINCHOWFU(North East 2)	锦州府(东2)	142	58. NANCHANG(Kiangsi 5)	南昌府(赣5)	181
16. CHINKIANG(Kiangsu 1)	镇江(苏1)	142	59. NANCHANG(Kiangsi 6)	南昌() (赣6)	181
17. CHINKIANG(Kiangsu 2)	镇江府(苏2)	143	60. NANKING(Kiangsu 3)	南京(苏3)	182
18. CHUNGKING(Szechwan 3)	重庆(川3)	144	61. NANNING(Kwangsi 4)	南宁(桂4)	183
19. CHUNGKING(Szechwan 4)	重庆府(川4)	145	62. NANNING(Kwangsi 5)	南宁府(桂5)	184
20. FOOCHOW(Fukien 2)	福州(闽2)	145	63. NEWCHWANG(North East 10)	牛庄(东10)	184
21. FOOCHOW(Fukien 3)	福州府(闽3)	146	64. NGANKIN(Anhwei 1)	安庆(皖1)	185
22. FOOCHOW CITY(Fukien 4)	福州城(闽4)	147	65. NINGPO(Chekiang 3)	宁波(浙3)	186
23. HANGCHOW(Chekiang 1)	杭州(浙1)	148	66. NINGPO(Chekiang 4)	宁波府(浙4)	186
24. HANGCHOW(Chekiang 2)	杭州府(浙2)	148	67. NINGPO(Chekiang 5)	宁波() (浙5)	187
25. HANKOW(Hupeh 1)	汉口(鄂1)	149	68. PAGODA ANCH(Fukien 6)	罗星塔(闽6)	187
26. HARBIN(North East 3)	哈尔滨(东3)	153	69. PAKHOI(Kwangtung 6)	北海(粤6)	188
27. HOKOW(Yunnan 2)	河口(滇2)	158	70. PAOTING(Chihli 3)	保定(冀3)	188
28. ICHANG(Hupeh 2)	宜昌(鄂2)	159	71. PAOTINGFU(Chihli 4)	保定府(冀4)	189
29. ICHANG(Hupeh 3)	宜昌府(鄂3)	160	72. PEHTAIHO BEACH(Chihli 5)	北戴河南山(冀5)	190
30. IMIENPO(North East 4)	一面坡(东4)	160	73. PEITAIHO(Chihli 6)	北戴河(冀6)	190
31. KAIFENG(Honan 1)	开封(豫1)	161	74. PEKING(Chihli 7)	北京(冀7)	191
32. KALGAN(Chihli 2)	张家口(冀2)	162	75. SAMSHUI(Kwangtung 7)	三水(粤7)	194
33. KIACHTA(Mongolia 1)	恰克图(蒙1)	163	76. SANTUAO(Fukien 7)	三都澳(闽7)	195
34. KIAOCHOW(Shantung 2)	胶州(鲁2)	163	77. SHAMEEN(Kwangtung 8)	沙面(粤8)	195
35. KIRIN(North East 5)	吉林(东5)	164	78. SHANGHAI(Kiangsu 4)	上海(苏4)	196
36. KIUKIANG(Kwangsi 2)	九江(赣2)	166	79. SHANHAIKWAN(Chihli 8)	山海关(冀8)	202
37. KIUKIANG(Kwangsi 3)	九江府(赣3)	166	80. SHASI(Hupeh 4)	沙市(鄂4)	203
38. KIUNGCHOW(Kwangtung 2)	琼州(粤2)	167	81. SHEKLUNG(Kwangtung 9)	石龙(粤9)	204
39. KIUNGCHOW(Kwangtung 3)	琼州府(粤3)	167	82. SHUMCHUN(Kwangtung 10)	深圳(粤10)	204
40. KONGMOON(Kwangtung 4)	江门(粤4)	168	83. SI-AN(Shensi 1)	西安(陕1)	205
41. KUEILIN(Kwangsi 1)	桂林(桂1)	168	84. SIANFU(Shensi 2)	西安府(陕2)	205
42. KUEIYANG(Kweichow 1)	贵阳(黔1)	169	85. SIAN() (Shensi 3)	西安() (陕3)	206
43. KULIANG(Fukien 5)	鼓岭(闽5)	169	86. SIANGTAN(Hunan 6)	湘潭(湘6)	206

中华民国时期汉英半切圆形日戳各省使用简表
 Table Of Usage Of Bisected Circular Bilingual Daters In Various Provinces
 During The Republic Of China Period

Page/页			Page/页		
87.SOOCHOW(Kiangsu 5)	苏州(苏5)	207	104.TSINAN(Shantung 4)	济南府(鲁4)	225
88.SUCHOW(Kiangsu 6)	徐州(苏6)	207	105.TSINGTAU(Shantung 5)	青岛(鲁5)	225
89.SUIFENHO(North East 11)	绥芬河(东11)	208	106.TSITSIHAR(North East 13)	齐齐哈尔(东13)	226
90.SWATOW(Kwangtung 11)	汕头(粤11)	208	107.TUNGHING(Kwangtung 12)	东兴(粤12)	226
91.SZEMAO(Yunnan 5)	思茅(滇5)	210	108.WANHSIEN(Szechwan 5)	万县(川5)	227
92.TAHEIHO(North East 12)	大黑河(东12)	211	109.WENCHOW(Chekiang 6)	温州(浙6)	228
93.TAIYUAN(Shansi 2)	太原(晋2)	211	110.WUCHOW(Kwangsi 6)	梧州(桂6)	228
94.TAIYUANFU(Shansi 3)	太原府(晋3)	213	111.WUHU(Anhwei 3)	芜湖(皖3)	229
95.TANGKU(Chihli 9)	塘沽(冀9)	213	112.YANGCHOW() (Kiangsu 7)	扬州府(苏7)	229
96.TANGSHAN(Chihli 10)	唐山(冀10)	214	113.YOCHOW(Hunan 7)	岳州(湘7)	230
97.TATUNG(Anhwei 2)	大通(皖2)	215	114.YOCHOW CITY(Hunan 8)	岳州城(湘8)	230
98.TENGYUEH(Yunnan 6)	腾越(滇6)	215	115.YUNNANFU(Yunnan 8)	云南府(滇8)	231
99.TENGYUEH(Yunnan 7)	腾越厅(滇7)	217	116.TAHCHENG(Sinkiang 1)	塔城厅(新1)	233
100.TIENTSIN(Chihli 11)	天津(冀11)	217	117.TAHCHENG(Sinkiang 2)	塔城() (新2)	233
101.TIENTSIN(Chihli 12)	天津府(冀12)	221	118.TIHWAFU(Sinkiang 3)	迪化府(新3)	234
102.TIENTSIN(Chihli 13)	天津() (冀13)	223	119.TIHWA() (Sinkiang 4)	迪化() (新4)	234
103.TSINAN(Shantung 3)	济南(鲁3)	224			

依省份排列之民国时期汉英半切圆形日戳地名简表

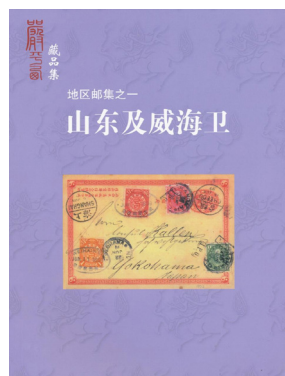
Listing By Province (Republic Of China Period)

		Page/页			Page/页
ANHWEI Province	安徽省(皖)		KWEICHOW Province	贵州省(黔)	
1. NGANKIN	1. 安庆	185	1. KUEIYANG	1. 贵阳	169
2. TATUNG	2. 大通	215	2. KWEIYANG	2. 贵阳()	173
3. WUHU	3. 芜湖	229			
CHEKIANG Province	浙江省(浙)		KIANGSI Province	江西省(赣)	
1. HANGCHOW	1. 杭州	148	1. ANYUAN KI	1. 安源	131
2. HANGCHOW	2. 杭州府	148	2. KIUKIANG	2. 九江	166
3. NINGPO	3. 宁波	186	3. KIUKIANG	3. 九江府	166
4. NINGPO	4. 宁波府	186	4. KULING	4. 牯岭	170
5. NINGPO	5. 宁波()	187	5. NANCHANG	5. 南昌府	181
6. WENCHOW	6. 温州	228	6. NANCHANG	6. 南昌()	181
CHIH LI Province	直隶省(冀)		KIANGSU Province	江苏省(苏)	
1. CHENGTING	1. 正定	140	1. CHINKIANG	1. 镇江	142
2. KALGAN	2. 张家口	162	2. CHINKIANG	2. 镇江府	143
3. PAOTING	3. 保定	188	3. NANKING	3. 南京	182
4. PAOTINGFU	4. 保定府	189	4. SHANGHAI	4. 上海	196
5. PEHTAIHO BEACH	5. 北戴河南山	190	5. SOOCHOW	5. 苏州	207
6. PEITAIHO	6. 北戴河	190	6. SUCHOW	6. 徐州	207
7. PEKING	7. 北京	191	7. YANGCHOW()	7. 扬州府	228
8. SHANHAIKWAN	8. 山海关	202	KWANGSI Province	广西省(桂)	
9. TANGKU	9. 塘沽	213	1. KUEILIN	1. 桂林	168
10. TANGSHAN	10. 唐山	214	2. KWEILIN	2. 桂林	172
11. TIENSIN	11. 天津	217	3. LUNGCHOW	3. 龙州	174
12. TIENSIN	12. 天津府	221	4. NANNING	4. 南宁	183
13. TIENSIN	13. 天津()	223	5. NANNING	5. 南宁府	184
FUKIEN Province	福建省(闽)		6. WUCHOW	6. 梧州	229
1. AMOY	1. 厦门	129	KWANGTUNG Province	广东省(粤)	
2. FOOCHOW	2. 福州	145	1. CANTON	1. 广州	132
3. FOOCHOW	3. 福州府	146	2. KIUNGCHOW	2. 琼州	167
4. FOOCHOW CITY	4. 福州城	147	3. KIUNGCHOW	3. 琼州府	167
5. KULIANG	5. 鼓岭	169	4. KONGMOON	4. 江门	168
6. PAGODAANCH	6. 罗星塔	187	5. KUMCHUK	5. 甘竹	170
7. SANTUAO	7. 三都澳	195	6. PAKHOI	6. 北海	188
HONAN Province	河南省(豫)		7. SAMSHUI	7. 三水	194
1. KAIFENG	1. 开封	161	8. SHAMEEN	8. 沙面	195
HUNAN Province	湖南省(湘)		9. SHEKLUNG	9. 石龙	204
1. CHANGSHA	1. 长沙	133	10. SHUMCHUN	10. 深圳	204
2. CHANGSHA	2. 长沙府	135	11. SWATOW	11. 汕头	208
3. CHANGTEH	3. 常德	136	12. TUNGHING	12. 东兴	226
4. CHANGTEH	4. 常德府	137	MONGOLIA Province	蒙古省(蒙)	
5. CHENGLINGKI	5. 城陵矶	139	1. KIACHTA	1. 恰克图	163
6. SIANGTAN	6. 湘潭	206	NORTH EAST Provinces	东三省(东)	
7. YOCHOW	7. 岳州	230	1. ANTUNG	1. 安东	131
8. YOCHOW CITY	8. 岳州城	230	2. CHINCHOWFU	2. 锦州府	142
HUPEH Province	湖北省(鄂)		3. HARBIN	3. 哈尔滨	153
1. HANKOW	1. 汉口	149	4. IMIENPO	4. 一面坡	160
2. ICHANG	2. 宜昌	159	5. KIRIN	5. 吉林	164
3. ICHANG	3. 宜昌府	160	6. KWANCHENG TZE	6. 宽城子	171
4. SHASI	4. 沙市	203	7. MANCHOULI	7. 满州里	175
KANSU Province	甘肃省(甘)		8. MOUKDEN	8. 奉天	178
1. LANCHOWFU	1. 兰州府	173	9. MOUKDEN	9. 奉天府	180
2. LANCHOW()	2. 兰州()	174	10. NEWCHWANG	10. 牛庄	184
			11. SUIFENHO	11. 绥芬河	208
			12. TAHEIHO	12. 大黑河	211
			13. TSITSIHAR	13. 齐齐哈尔	226

依省份排列之民国时期汉英半切圆形日戳地名简表

Listing By Province (Republic Of China Period)

Page/页			Page/页		
SHANSI Province	山西省(晋)		YUNNAN Province	云南省(滇)	
1.KWEIHW	1.归化	172	1.AMI	1.阿迷	129
2.TAIYUAN	2.太原	211	2.HOKOW	2.河口	158
3.TAIYUANFU	3.太原府	213	3.MENGTSZ	3.蒙自	177
			4.MENGTSZ	4.蒙自县	178
SHANTUNG Province	山东省(鲁)		5.SZEMAO	5.思茅	210
1.CHEFOO	1.烟台	137	6.TENGYUEH	6.腾越	215
2.KIAOCHOW	2.胶州	163	7.TENGYUEH	7.腾越厅	217
3.TSINAN	3.济南	224	8.YUNNANFU	8.云南府	231
4.TSINAN	4.济南府	225			
5.TSINGTAU	5.青岛	225	SINKIANG Province	新疆省(新)	
SHENSI Province	陕西省(陕)		1.TAHCHENG	1.塔城厅	233
1.SI-AN	1.西安	205	2.TAHCHENG	2.塔城()	233
2.SIANFU	2.西安府	205	3.TIHWAFU	3.迪化府	234
3.SIAN()	3.西安()	206	4.TIHWAFU	4.迪化()	234
SZECHWAN Province	四川省(川)				
1.CHENTU	1.成都	140			
2.CHENG TU	2.成都府	141			
3.CHUNGKING	3.重庆	144			
4.CHUNGKING	4.重庆府	145			
5.WANHSIEN	5.万县	227			



1



2

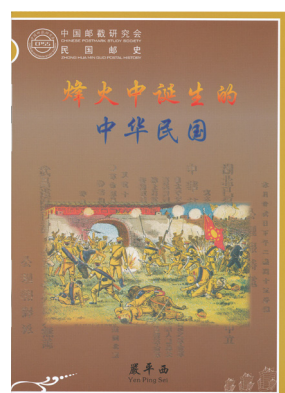


3

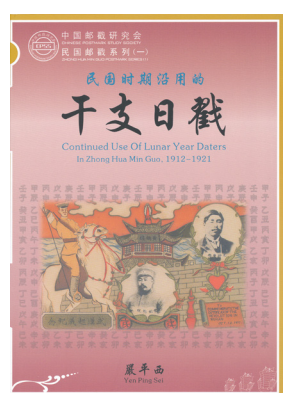


4

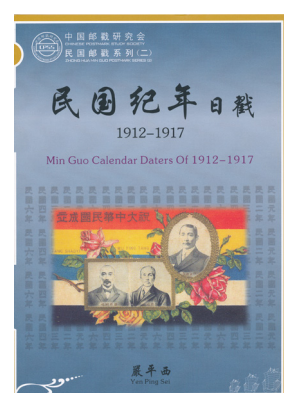
1-4 平装及精装



5



6



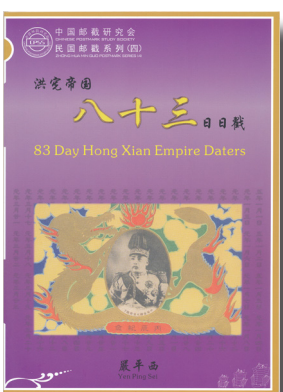
7



8



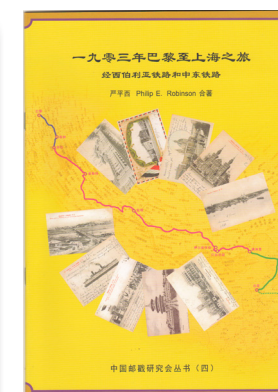
5-8合订本



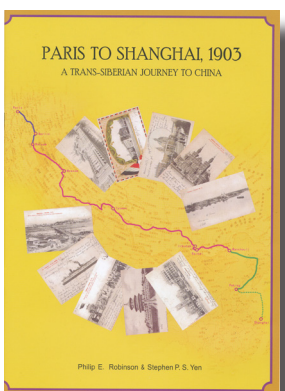
9



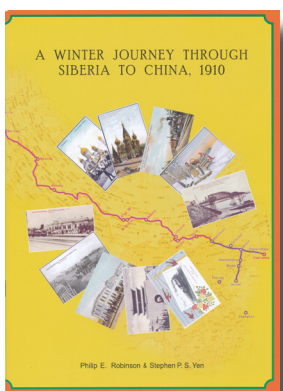
10



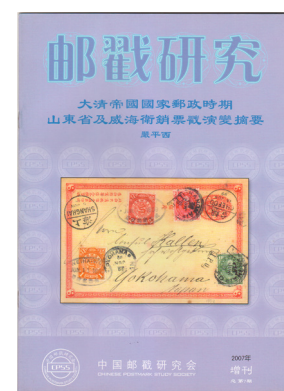
11



12



13



14



15