# 中国东北三省邮戳演革历程 (1875-1932)

Evolution of Cancellations from the Northeast Provinces of China (1875–1932)

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(財)日本郵趣協会
(財)切手の博物館

Yen Ping Sei

52 -- 邮戳演革 --- PB&C-K

# EVOLUTION OF CANCELLATIONS FROM THE NORTHEAST PROVINCES OF CHINA (1875—1932)

This exhibit shows chronologically the evolution of cancellations in the Northeast Provinces from the earliest days of a postal administration there until 1932, and is essentially divided into 3 main sections covering the various postal administrations during the said period of study.

In the Customs Post era, Newchwang was the only place in the Northeast Provinces with a post office. With establishment of the Chinese Imperial Post, more post offices gradually came into being, such that by the time the Republic of China was founded, postal service was very widespread and available even in remote hamlets and villages.

Cancellations in the Northeast Provinces did not per se evolve on its own but they did follow a structured path as specified by the central postal administration of the nation. Selection of items for display in this exhibit had been based on difficulty, scarcity and variety to show as much as possible the diverse range of cancellations that had been used before in the Northeast Provinces, not only in the big cities but also in little known places. Also shown are the minute changes in various types of cancellations to reflect changes of administration, regime, calendar dating methods and differentiation of postal services.

#### Plan

#### Frame 1 1. PERIOD OF CUSTOMS POSTAL SERVICE

- 1.1 Newchwang Customs with display of the double circle Customs Dater including "without year" variety in 1886, doube oval Mail Matter cancels including one unique variety and seal type cancels.
- 2. PERIOD OF CHINESE IMPERIAL POST
  - 2.1 Transition From Customs Post To National Post showing continued usage of the Mail Matter cancel.
  - 2.2 Pa Kua Handstampd & Dollar Chop struck in different colours.
  - 2.3 Bisected Circular Bilingual Daters issued only for the then locations with sizeable foreign correspondence, namely Newchwang, Harbin, Moukden and Antung.
- Frame 2

  2.4 Nameplate Cancels For Sub-Offices & Postal Agencies with display of some types unlike those of other provinces in that provincial name and characters "大清國" appeared in the handstamp, also bisected and trisected rectangular shapes including rectangles with top corners rounded or truncated.
  - 2.5 Circular Cancels For Sub-Offices the appearance of such cancels being later and far scarcer than nameplate type cancels.
- Frame 3 2.6 Lunar Year Datestamps of single circle and double circle types.
  - 2.7 Central Box Type Lunar Year Datestamps showing all-Chinese, bilingual Chinese/English and English/Chinese types including examples of the latter with inclusion of Chinese numeral, celestial stem or horary characters to indicate sub-office or type of postal business.

#### Frame 4 3. REPUBLIC OF CHINA PERIOD

- 3.1 Transition of Lunar Year Daters To Republic Dating with display of examples showing the year indicated by the sexagenary cycle method to as late as 1913 when it had been decreed that from 1 January 1912, daters should show date in the Gregorian calendar and year portrayed as year of founding of the republic.
- 3.2 The "Hung Hsien Empire" Interruption showing change in year display method and modification of character type " $\pm$ " to " $\pi$ " as makeshift effort in daters to display " $\pi$ " for the abortive 83-day monarchy, and latest seen continued usage on 1 June 1916 some  $2^{1/2}$  months after dissolution of the monarchy.
- Frame 5

  3.3 Bisected Circular Bilingual Datestamps showing proliferation of usage in many other cities as international mail volume surged and the variation of type in offices of big cities to cater for sub-office and postal departments.
- Frame 6

  3.4 Continued Usage Of Nameplate Cancels showing the extension of postal services to remote locations with setting up of more sub-offices, postal agencies and letter counters.
  - 3.5 Non-Dated Circular Type Cancels for sub-offices, postal agencies, letter counters and letter box offices, illustrating the evolution from nameplate cancels to a more regular and standard shape simulating a datestamp.
- 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual) with inclusion of province name, whether it be in Chinese or English abbreviation. Examples include change of provincial name from Shengking to Fengtien to finally Liaoning, and use of English abbreviation of provincial name for cities with Romanized spelling identical to others elsewhere in China.
- Frame 8

  3.7 Changes In Datestamps According To Needs illustrating the evolution of regular daters to cope with expansion of postal business by inclusion within dater a Chinese numeral, celestial stem or horary character, and even inclusion of Arabic numeral or alphabet.

#### 1. PERIOD OF CUSTOMS POSTAL SERVICE

#### 1.1 Newchwang Customs

Newchwang was the only Customs Post Office in the whole of Northeast China.

Double Circle Customs Dater Large Dragon Issue Sino-French Combination

Single Letter Rate Of 9 Candarins To Europe



Latest
known usage
of F.P.O.
"5104"
obliterator
on a large
dragon
cover

Newchwang to Oldenburg, Germany
Via Shanghai Customs P.O. on 22 June, then transferred to the Shanghai French P.O. on 23 June
where France 25 centimes adhesive was cancelled. Mail was sent via French Ligne N Paq Post on 28 June
for delivery to Oldenburg arriving on 6 Aug 1882.



#### Double Circle Customs Dater Large Dragon Issue Sino-French Combination

#### **Double Letter Rate Of 18 Candarins To Europe**





Newchwang to Oldenburg, Germany

23 Dec 1882

Double Circle Customs Dater Large Dragon Issue Sino-French Combination

#### Single Letter Rate Of 9 Candarins To Europe



Newchwang to Exeter, England
Via Shanghai Customs P.O. on 17 Aug, then transferred to the Shanghai French P.O. on
the same day where France 25 centimes adhesive was cancelled. Mail was sent via French
Ligne N Paq Post on 23 Aug for delivery to Exeter arriving on 28 Sept 1883.





#### Double Circle Customs Dater Incoming Mail

#### **Used As Transit Cancellation On Non-Deliverable Mail**



London to Shanhaikwan

29 Jan 1896

As address was not precise mail was returned to sender after going through the following routing:-

- 1. London → 2. Hong Kong → 3. Shanghai B.P.O. → 4. Newchwang Customs 29 Jan 1896 29 Feb 4 Mar 2 Apr
  - → 5. Shanghai Customs → 6. Tientsin Customs → 7. Tientsin Customs 7 Apr 11 Apr (in) 14 Apr (out)
  - → 8. Shanghai Customs → 9. Shanghai B.P.O. to be returned to sender 17 Apr 30 May 1896

#### Double Oval "Mail Matter" Cancels



Outer:  $30 \times 20.5$  mm Inner:  $19.5 \times 10$  mm



Outer: 39×27 mm Inner: 30×18 mm Unique Example

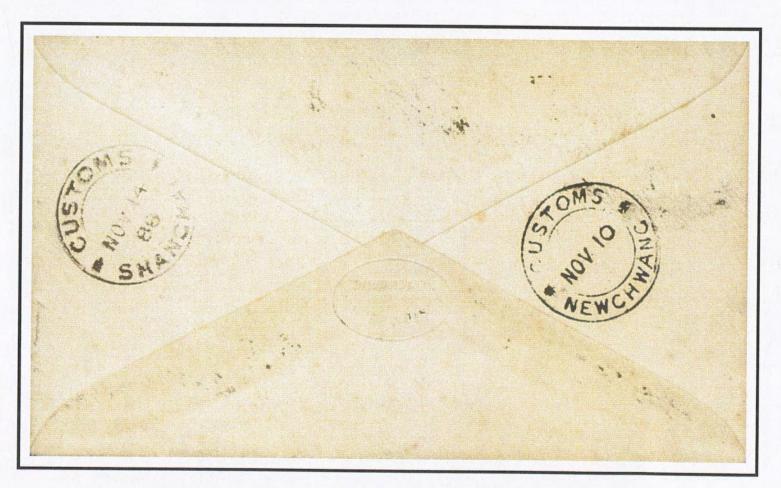
#### Usage On Postage-Free Official Mail



Newchwang to Canton

Via Shanghai 14 Nov. No Canton arrival marking

10 Nov 1886



Between Jan 1885 and Feb 1887 the double circle customs dater used at Newchwang was without depiction of year.





#### **Seal Type Cancels**

Of the 30 Customs Post Offices only 7 had been seen having once used an all-Chinese seal type obliterator to cancel stamps, Newchwang being one of those, and its use in Newchwang was between 1887 and 1895.





















#### 2. PERIOD OF CHINESE IMPERIAL POST

#### 2.1 Transition From Customs Post To National Post

With inauguration of the Chinese Imperial Post on 20 Feb 1897 the Newchwang Customs Post Office became one of the post offices of the new national post. Postage-free official mail were sent with the "Mail Matter" cancel as indication of free-franking status. However as China was then not an U.P.U. member, additional franking of adhesives from one of the several foreign post offices in China was still required for delivery of mail to a foreign country. To show date of posting, the "Dollar Chop" was stamped as a supplement.

#### Official Mail To Europe With Newchwang "Mail Matter" & "Dollar Chop" Cancels







Newchwang to Wiesbaden, Germany
Via Shanghai 8 Nov. the

3 Nov 1897

Newchwang was the only treaty port of the Northeast China provinces and when the Customs post offices at each treaty port became the first batch of post offices to be incorporated into the national post, the "pa kua" handstamp (which was originally intended as a supplemental canceller to the Dollar Chop ordered from Japan but awaiting delivery) was from March 1897 provided to the Newchwang Post Office. The hexagram arrangement of the Newchwang Pa Kua Cancel was 6 horizontal broken bars (designated as "2 2 2 , 2 2 2" format). "Dollar Chop" cancellers were distributed to the 30 various treaty ports for use from May/June 1897 only.

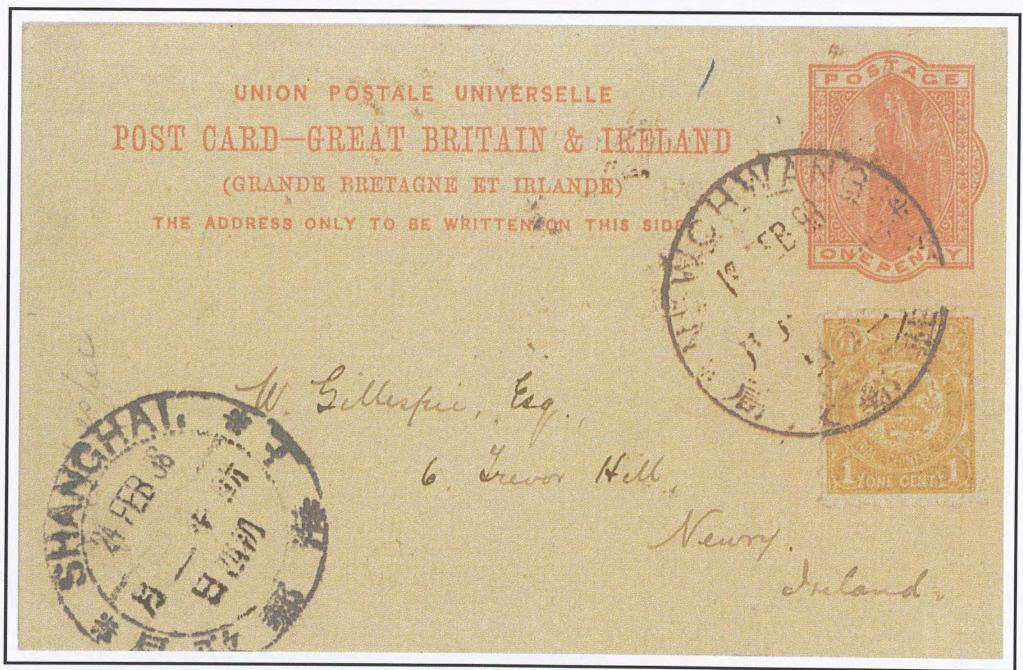


Dollar Chop (cancelled in black)



Pa Kua & Dollar Chop In Parallel Use (cancelled in brown)

#### Newchwang Dollar Chop As Cancel On Unobliterated Foreign Postcard With 1 Cent Winter Rate Surcharge On Postcards



Newchwang to Newry, Ireland

Via Shanghai 24 Feb and Hong Kong 3 Mar (backstamped) Right from outset of the Chinese Imperial Post there was a regulation which stated that "mail franked with unobliterated foreign postage for foreign mailing must be accepted without need for domestic postage". The 1 cent Chinese stamp here affixed was a winter rate surcharge on postcards for mail to Shanghai from cities north of Chefoo.

#### Cancelled in brown







Cancelled in blue









Sino-British Combination Newchwang Pa Kua Handstamp As Cancel On Winter Rate Mail



Newchwang to Bristol, England

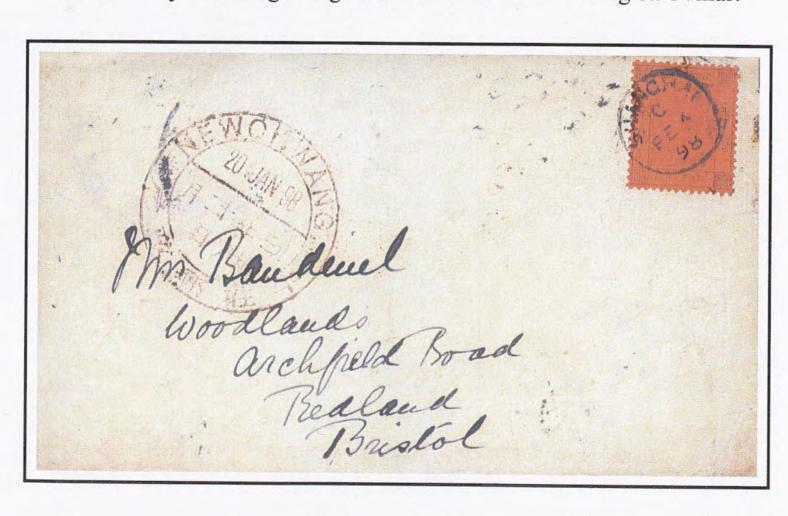
Via Shanghai 3 Feb and then transferred to the Shanghai British P.O. where Hong Kong 10 cents adhesive was cancelled on 4 Feb for delivery via Hong Kong on 11 Feb to Bristol arriving on 14 mar.

20 Jan 1898

Int'l ordinary rate = 10 cWinter surcharge =  $\frac{2 c}{12 c}$ 

Note:

"N" character used in date change in the Newchwang Dollar Chop is always correct unlike use of """ found sometimes in other Dollar Chops.





Because the Pa Kua handstamp lacked dating, non-immediate recognition of place of origin and limited possible permutations to cater for the vast number of new post offices being set up in the country, it lost favour of use by mid 1898. In use of the Dollar Chop, staff in post offices (being more familiar with the lunar calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar) would often make errors of conflicting dates in one same cancel.



Cancelled in black with character "閏" meaning "intercalary month"



Cancelled in brown

Note:
"S"character used in date change in the Newchwang Dollar Chop is always correct unlike use of "2" found sometimes in other Dollar Chops.

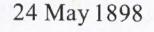
#### **Newchwang Dollar Chop With Non-Corresponding Dates**

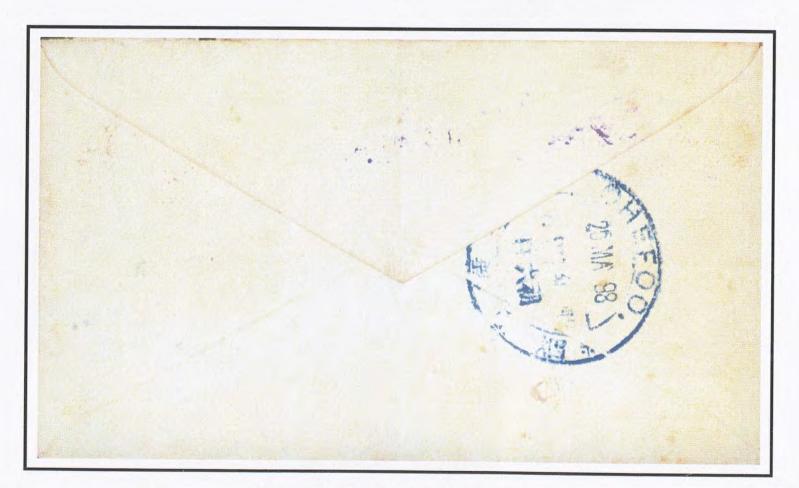


Newchwang to Chefoo

Printed matter mail rate of 1 cent.

"24 May 1898"
corresponded
to the 5th day
of the 4th month
of the 24th
regnal year
of Emperor
Guang Xu. The
Chinese character
"四" for the
4th day was
instead inserted.





Arrival Chefoo 26 May 1898

Arrival datestamp
of Chefoo also
having non-corresponding
dates — off by one day.

(The fact that staff of both the Newchwang and Chefoo post offices made an identical one-day-off error in their datestamps implied that they had probably forgotten that April has only 30 days and not 31 days. Being very much more versed in the lunar calendar, one could assume that mail was actually posted on 23 May (not 24 May) to arrive Chefoo on 25 May).

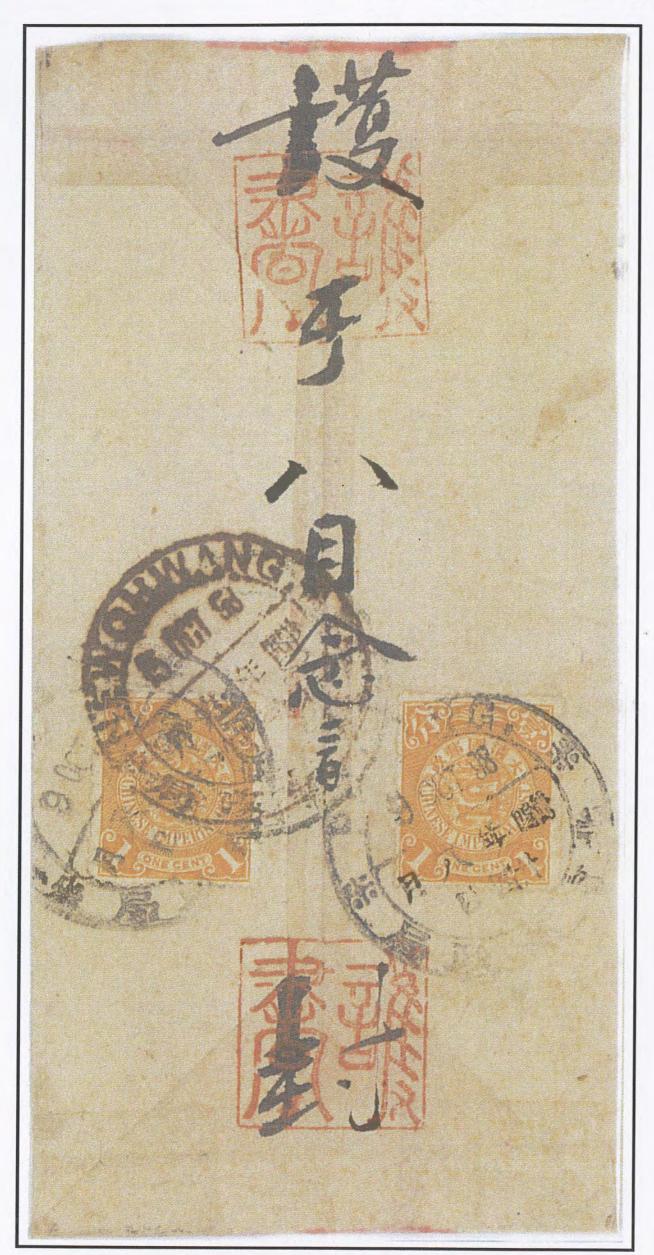
#### **Newchwang Dollar Chop**



13 Jan 1913 Latest seen usage



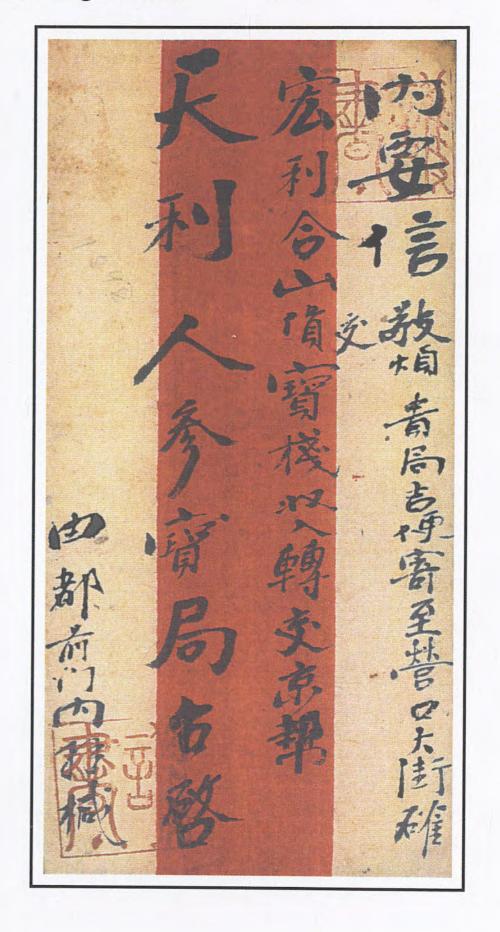
#### Cancelled As Arrival Marking On Domestic Single Letter



Peking to Newchwang

Arrival Newchwang 15 Oct.

2 cents domestic single letter rate.



The bisected circular bilingual datestamps had been distributed to major post offices of each province in China from May/June 1897. Their use in the Northeast China provinces during the Chinese Imperial Post period was however limited to only Newchwang, Antung, Harbin and Moukden possibly because of the fairly large concentration of foreign population living in those places.

#### Newchwang

#### As Obliterator On Domestic Registered Single Letter Of 7 Cents



to Glasgow arriving 5 Aug.



Correct 10 cents Chinese postage for international mail cancelled by nameplate type cancel of the Moukden Post Office.

#### Harbin

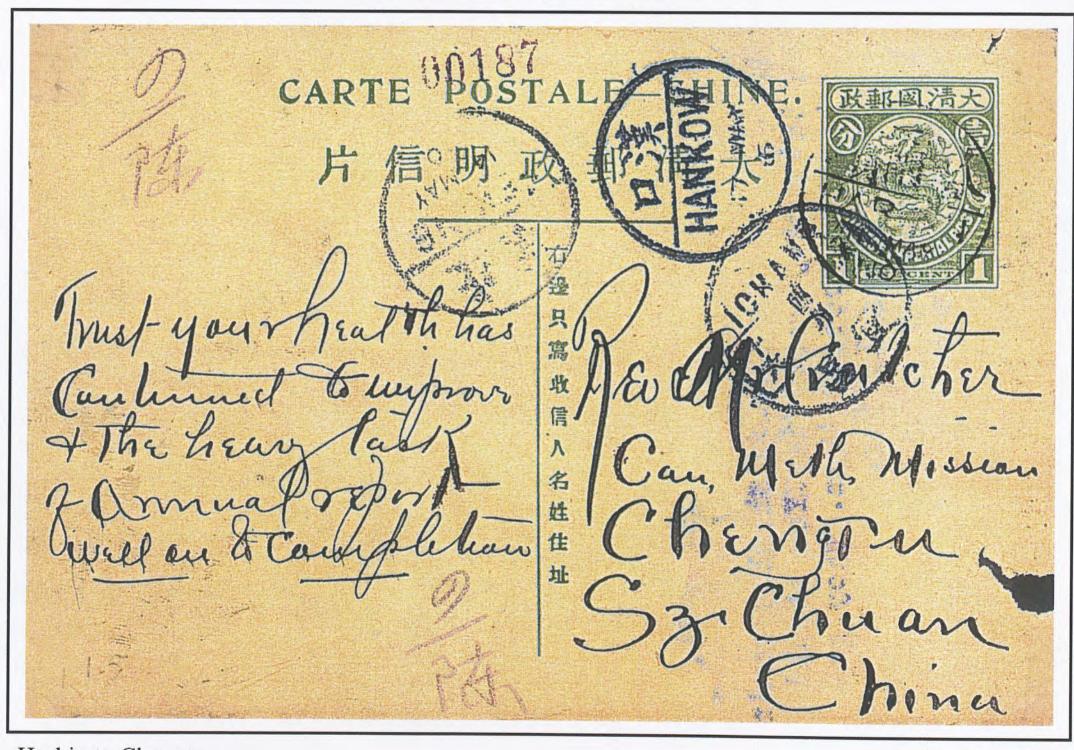
#### **Cancelled On Registration Receipt**



Harbin

9 Mar 1910

#### **Cancelled On Type IV Postcard**



Harbin to Chengtu

11 May 1910

Via Peking 14 May, Hankow 17 May and Ichang 24 May.



#### Moukden

#### **Cancelled On Registered Single Letter To Europe**

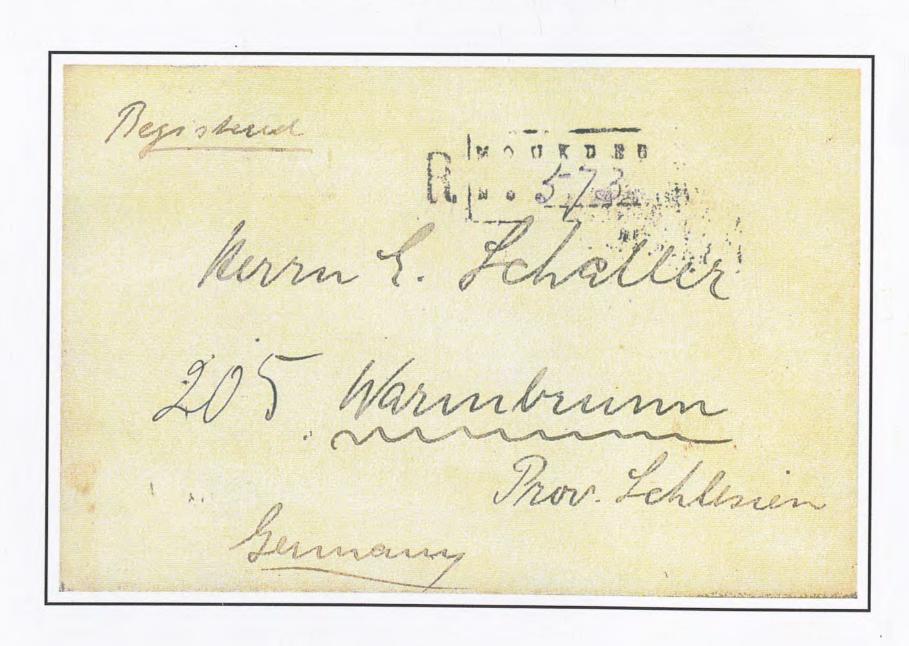


Moukden to Warmbrunn, Germany

Despatched from Moukden on 28 Oct to arrive Warmbrunn on 9 Nov.

Ordinary, 10 cents + Registration fee, 10 cents = 20 cents

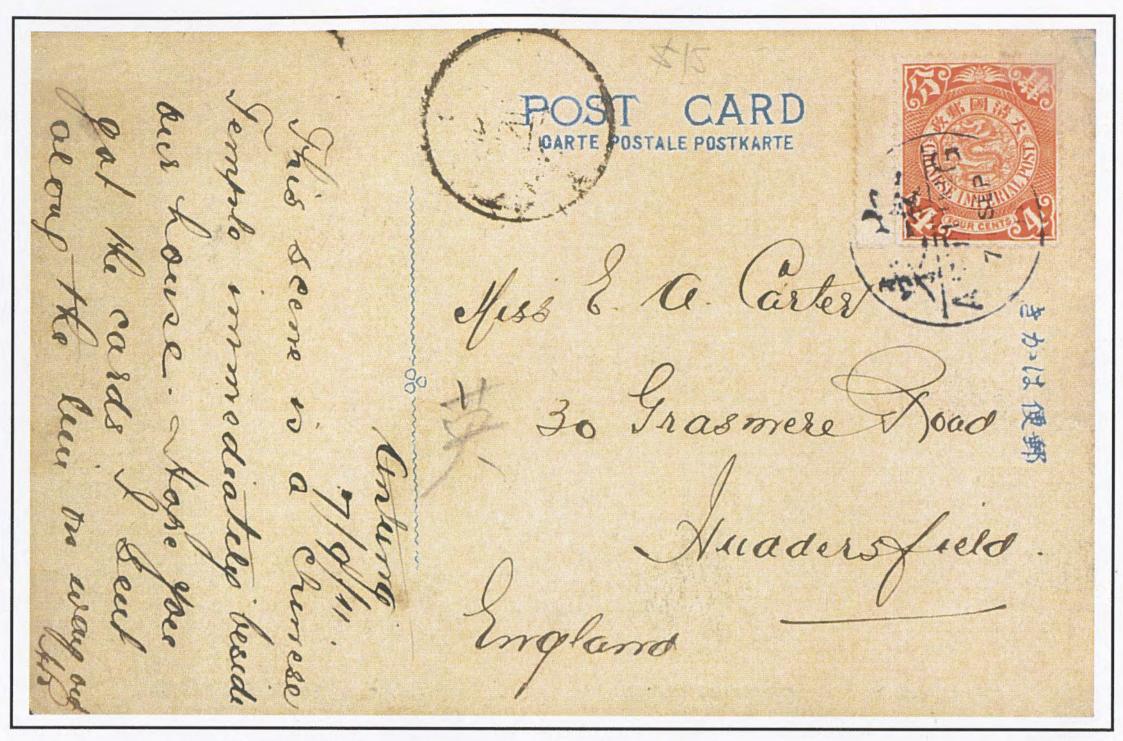
27 Oct 1910





#### Antung

Cancelled On Postcards Paying 4 Cents Rate To Foreign Destinations Other Than Japan & Korea

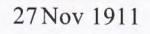


Antung to Huddersfield, England

7 Sept 1911



Antung to Huddersfield, England





According to a Notification from the Postmaster General dated 26 June 1899, no datestamps had been distributed to inland sub-offices and postal agencies but they were to make wooden handstamps of prescribed rectangular types. Apparently not all of these lower level offices followed the prescription, hence resulting in many types of cancels.

#### Type 1—(Bisected Rectangle)

Type 1 is ascribed to bisected rectangular handstamps regardless of size, place name, variations in office description and different formatting. Place name is in the top segment with office description in the bottom segment.

#### Liaoyang Sub-Office

#### **Used As Arrival Marking**

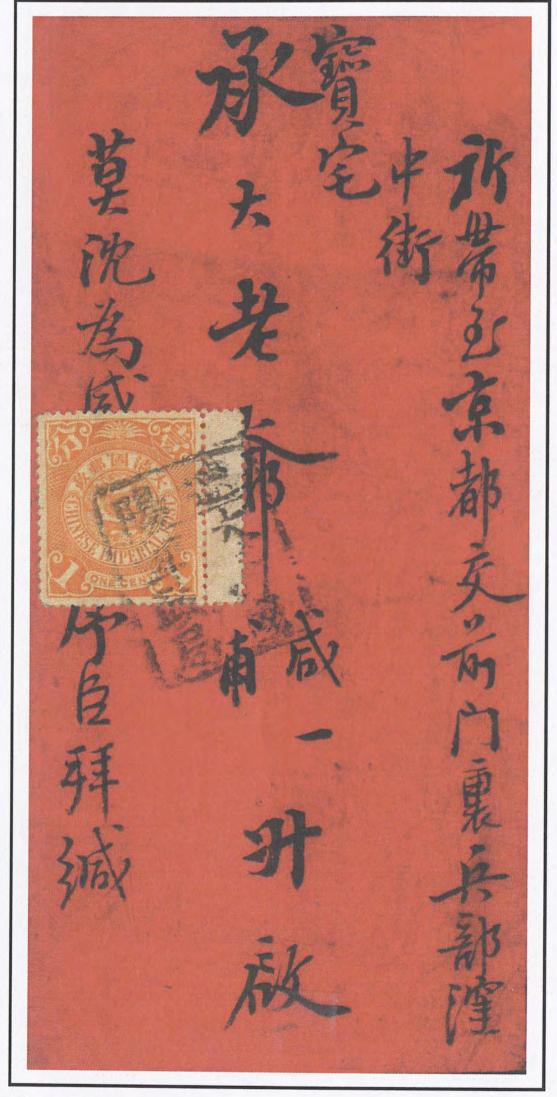


Newchwang to Liaoyang

Domestic postcard rate of 1 cent.

2 Aug 1902

#### **Used As Original Office Marking**

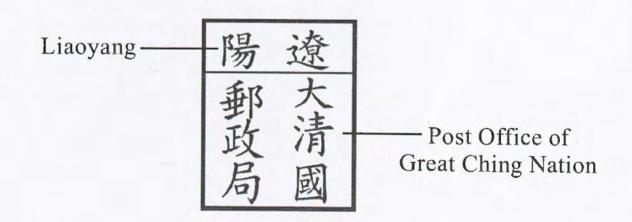


Liaoyang to Peking

Via Newchwang 12 Feb to arrive

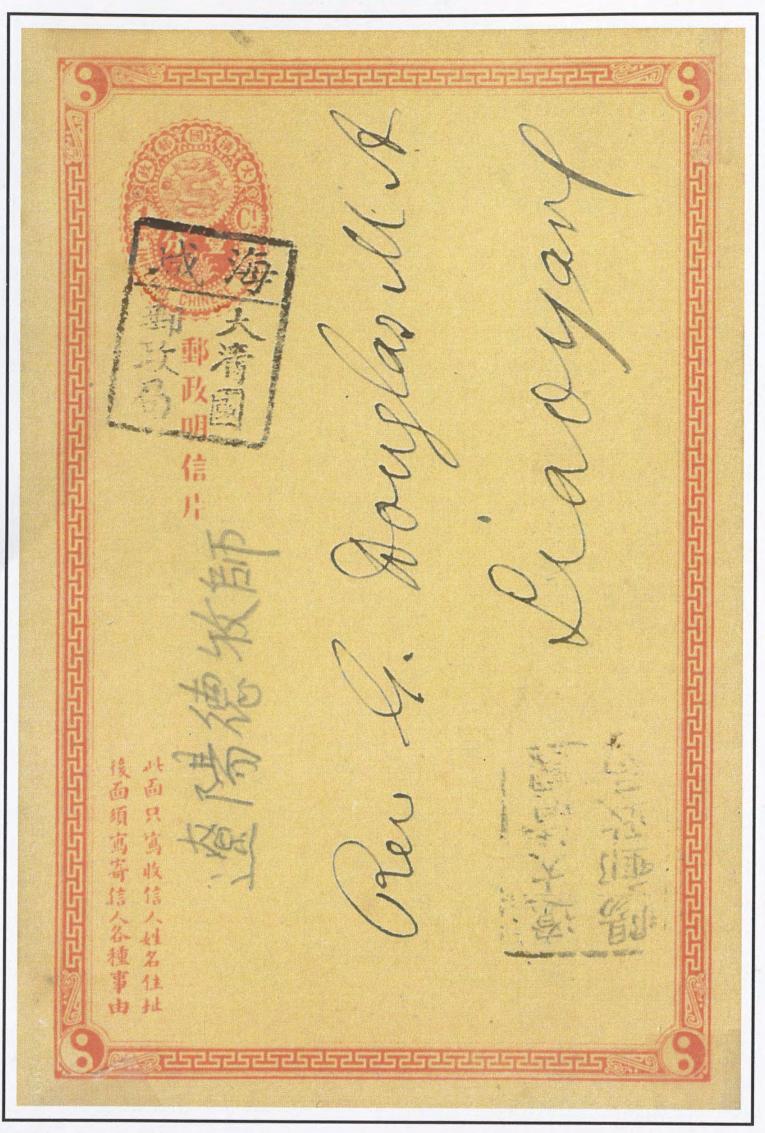
Peking 14 Feb (both backstamped).

Domestic ordinary letter rate of 1 cent.



#### Type 1 — (Bisected Rectangle)

#### **Haicheng Sub-Office**



Haicheng to Liaoyang

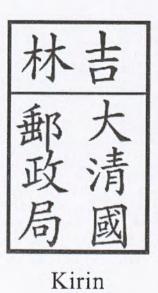
25 Aug 1902

Date here described is when postcard was written.

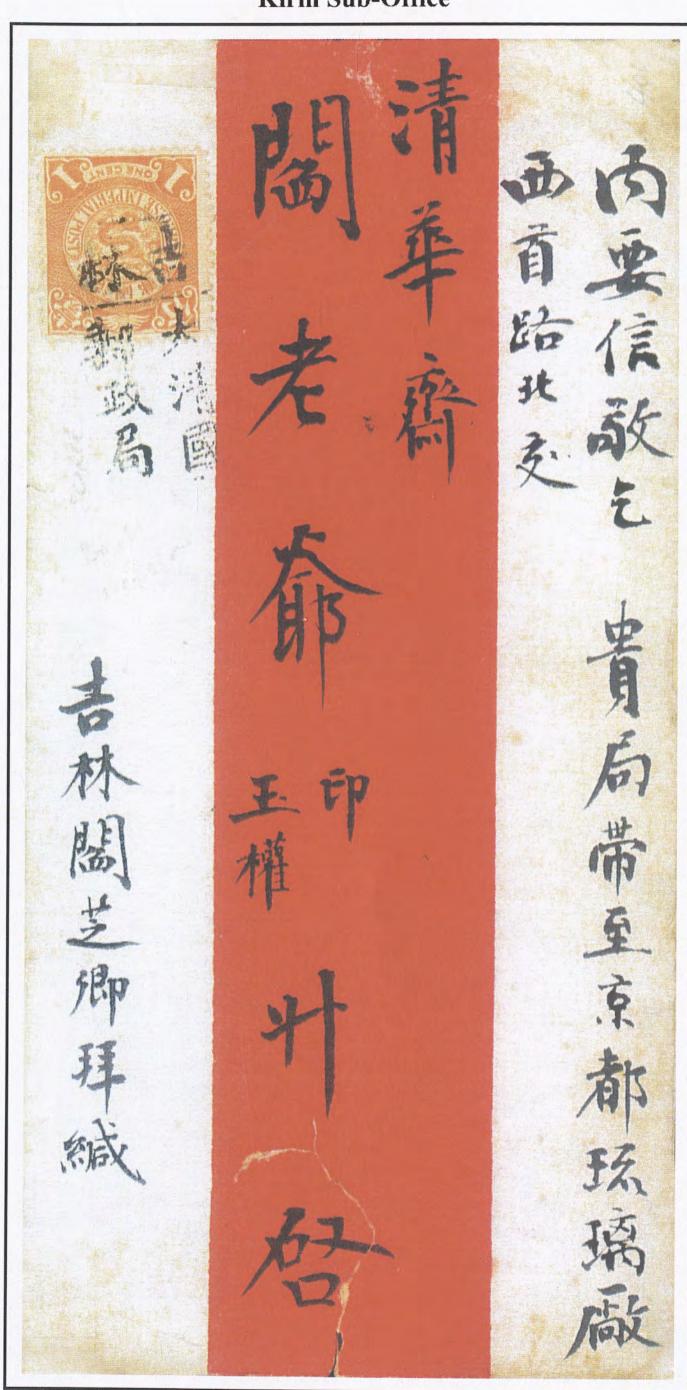
A Type 1 Liaoyang handstamp was used as arrival marking. Domestic postcard rate of 1 cent.



Haicheng



**Kirin Sub-Office** 



Kirin to Peking

Backstamped via Newchwang 11 May 1903 for
Peking arrival (backstamped but date indistinct).

Domestic ordinary letter rate of 1 cent.

Type 1 — (Bisected Rectangle)

#### Shengking Sub-Office Cancelled On Domestic A.R. Registered Mail



Shengking (Moukden) to Peking

Sender had written 14 Sept 1903 on the back as date of posting.

Arrival Peking 25 Sept (backstamped).

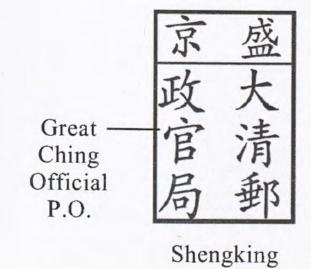
Ordinary, 1 cent + A.R. registration fee, 10 cents = 11 cents.

#### Newchwangting Sub-Office (Previously Unrecorded Cancel)



Newchwangting to Moukden

There is no indication of date on this cover,
but Newchwangting was, according to
historical records, established from 1909 onward.

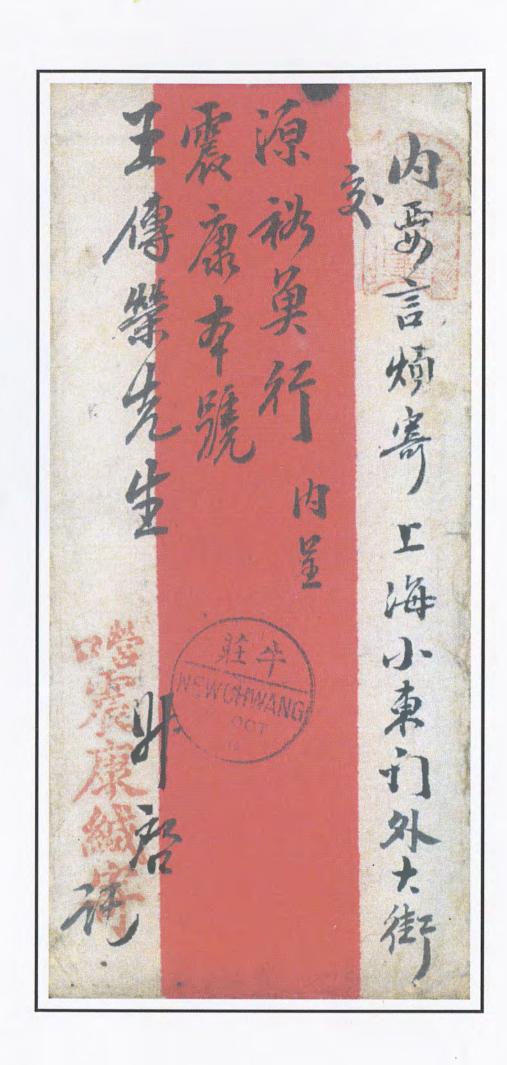




Newchwangting

#### Type 1 — (Bisected Rectangle)







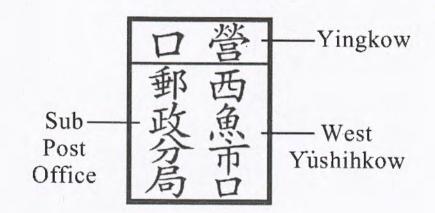
Yingkow to Shanghai 29 Oct 1900
Arrival Shanghai 6 Nov.
Double letter rate of 4 cents



Yichow



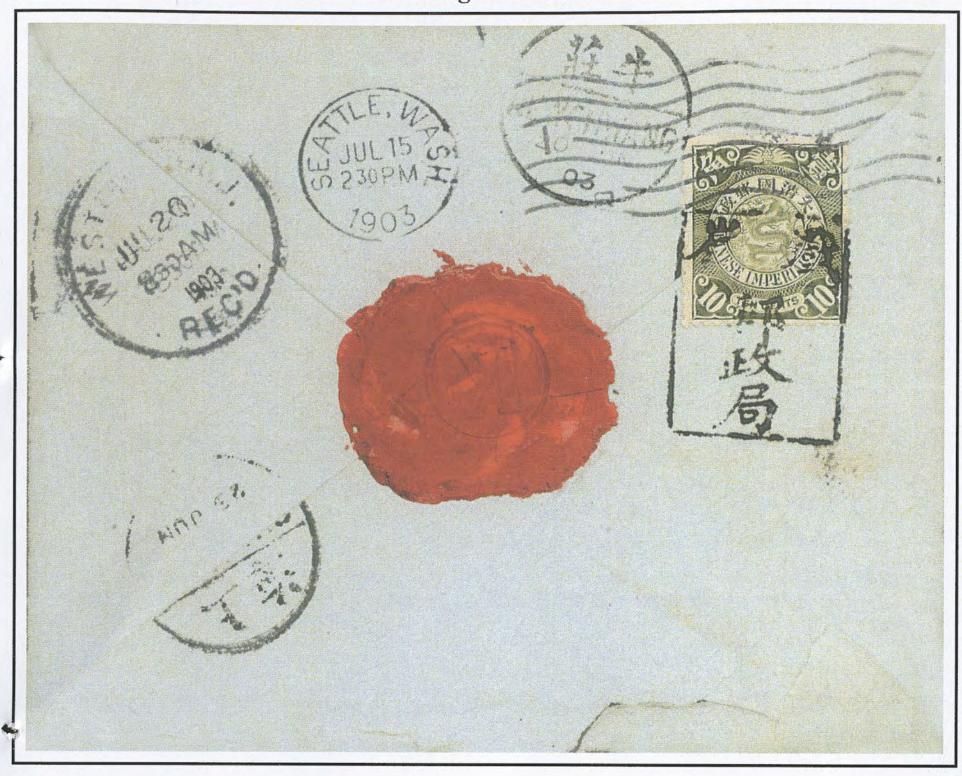
Yichowcheng



#### Type 1 — (Bisected Rectangle)

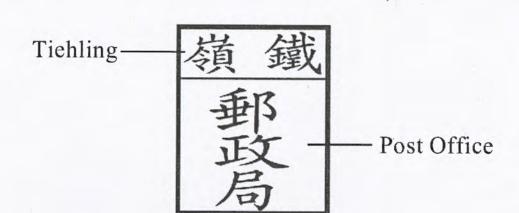
June 1903

#### **Tiehling Sub-Office**



Tiehling to Westfield, U.S.A.

Via Newchwang 20 June and Shanghai 23 June, then transferred to the Shanghai French P.O. on 25 June for delivery via Seattle 15 July to arrive Westfield on 20 July 1903. International single letter rate of 10 cents.



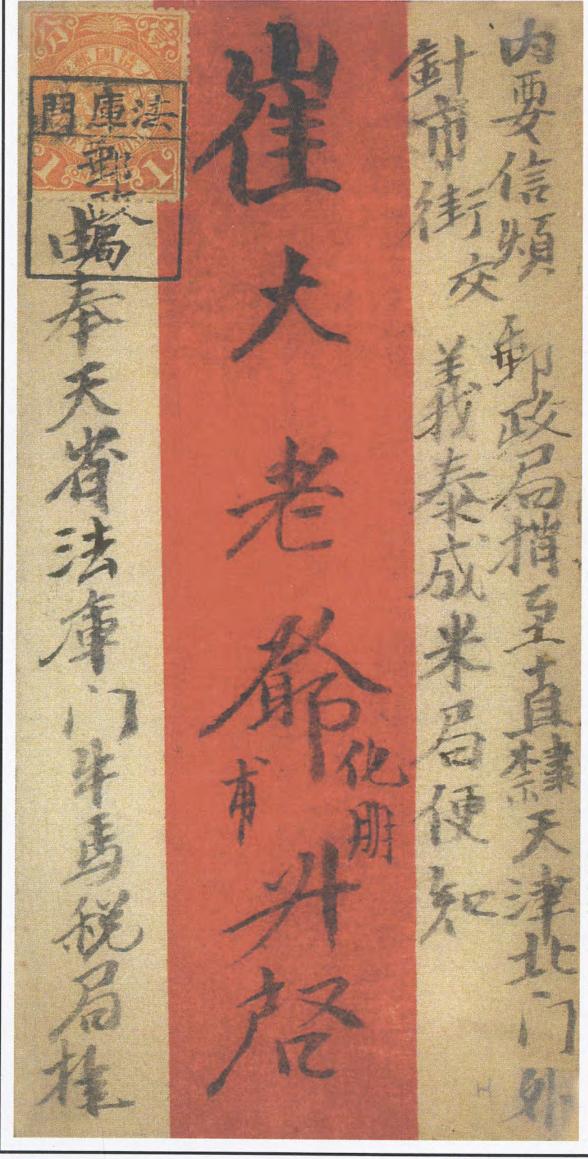


Changtufu



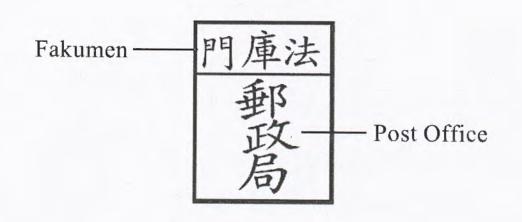
Harbin

#### **Fakumen Sub-Office**



Fakumen to Tientsin

Sender had inscribed on the back the date of posting. Via Newchwang 14 Dec to arrive Tientsin on 16 Dec (both backstamped). Domestic ordinary letter rate of 1 cent.

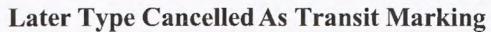


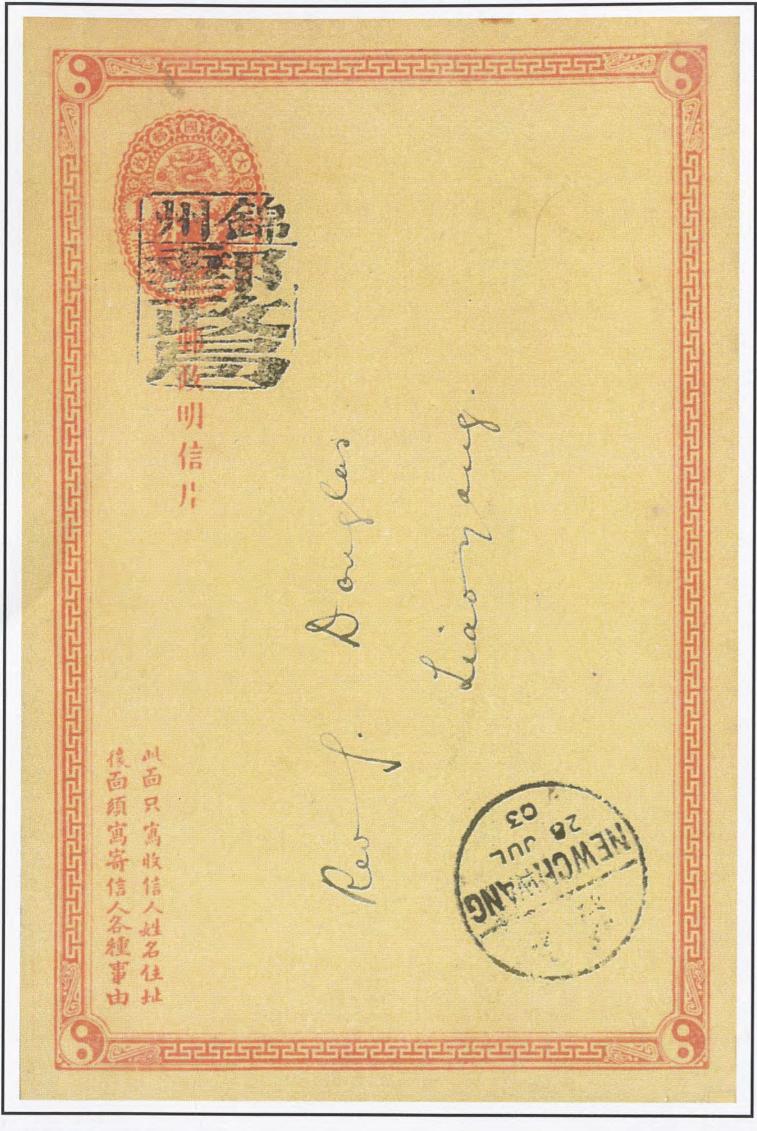
Type 1 — (Bisected Rectangle)

#### **Chinchow Sub-Office**

#### **Two Different Versions Of Cancels**

Earlier Type Cancelled As Original Office Marking





Chinchow to Liaoyang

Date here described is when postcard was written.

Via Newchwang on 28 July. No Liaoyang arrival

marking. Domestic postcard rate of 1 cent.



Moukden to Shanhaikwan

24 Mar 1905

Date of posting as inscribed by sender on the front of the cover.

Via Chinchow before arrival at Shanhaikwan.



As these handstamps were individually carved out of wood and could be easily worn out, it is obvious that when replacements were made there could be considerable differences between the original handstamp and the replacement handstamp.



(Later)



Maimaikai

#### Type 2 — (Non-bisected Rectangle)

In this exhibit, Type 2 is ascribed to non-bisected rectangular handstamps and the only examples seen were used in the city of Kwanchengtze.

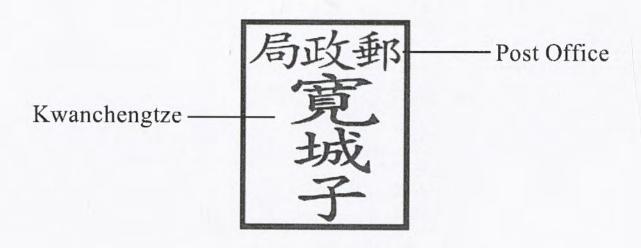
#### Single Letter Rate Of 10 Cents To U.P.U. Member Country



Kwanchengtze (Changchun) to Paris

Nov 1903

Via Shanghai 25 Nov (backstamped) then transferred to the Shanghai French P.O. on 26 Nov for delivery to Paris arriving on 23 Dec 1903 (backstamped).



Type 3 — (Frameless)

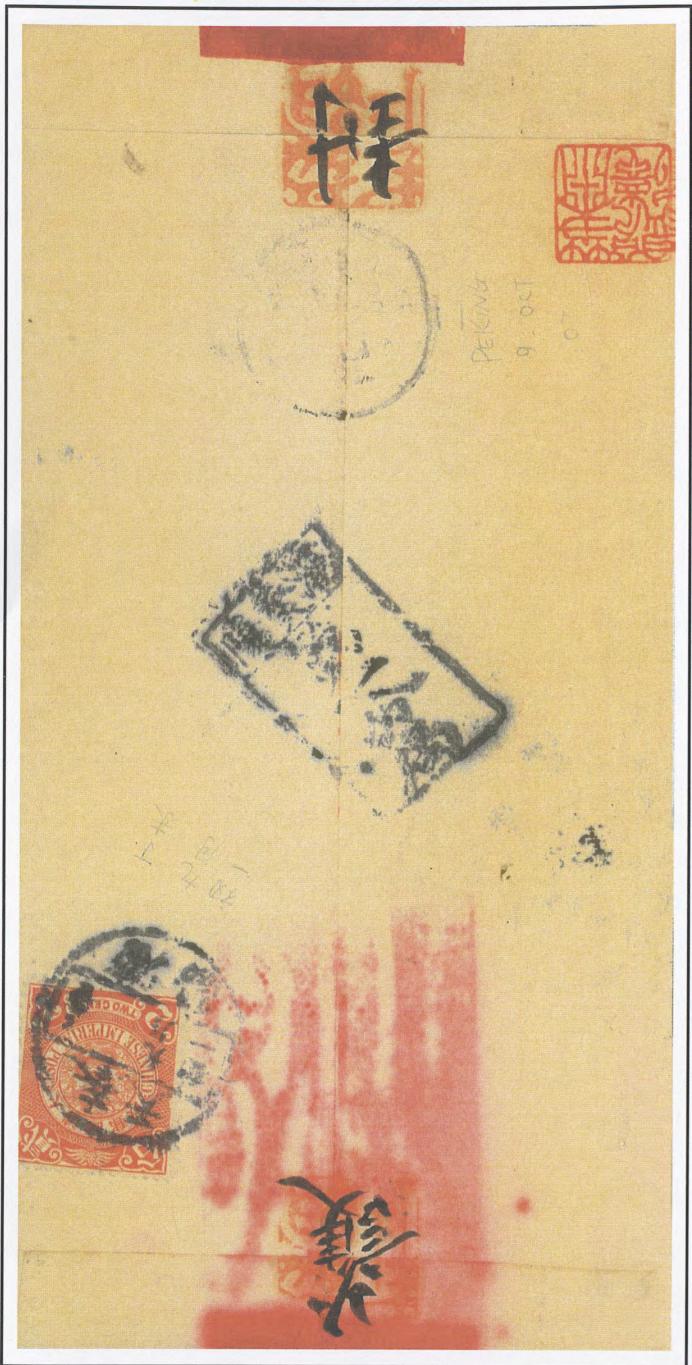
Type 3 is ascribed to handstamps without a frame and to date it is again only the sub-office in the city of Kwanchengtze (i.e. Changchun) seen having used this type.



# 2.4 Nameplate Cancels For Sub-Offices & Postal Agencies Type 4— (Bisected Rectangle)

Type 4 is ascribed to bisected rectangular handstamps with addition of provincial name to the place name. The provincial name could be in vertical reading format (Type 4a) or in horizontal reading format (Type 4b).

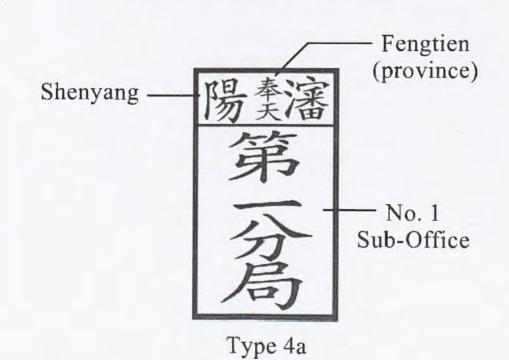
Shenyang No. 1 Sub-Office



Shenyang to Peking

Arrival Peking 9 Oct.

Single letter rate of 2 cents



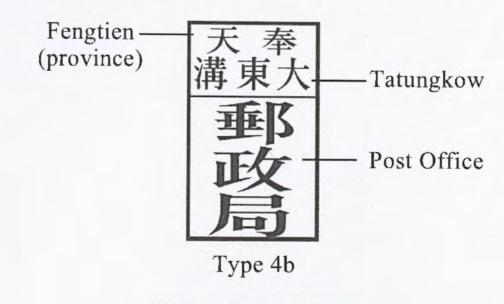
**Tatungkow Sub-Office** 



Tatungkow to Tientsin

Date of posting as inscribed by sender.

Via Antung 3 Apr, Shenyang 6 Apr to arrive Tientsin on 8 Apr (all backstamped).





Newchwangcheng Type 4b

Type 5 — (Trisected Rectangle)

Type 5 designates rectangular handstamps (including those with slightly rounded corners) that are trisected with the top segment carrying the provincial name, the middle segment with the place name and office description in the bottom segment. Size of rectangle and difference in size and font of Chinese characters are ignored.

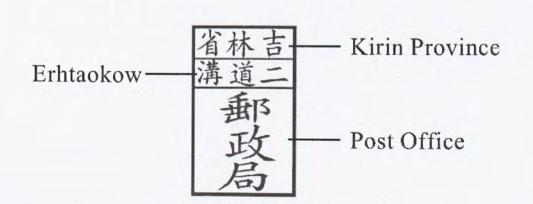
#### **Erhtaokow Sub-Office**



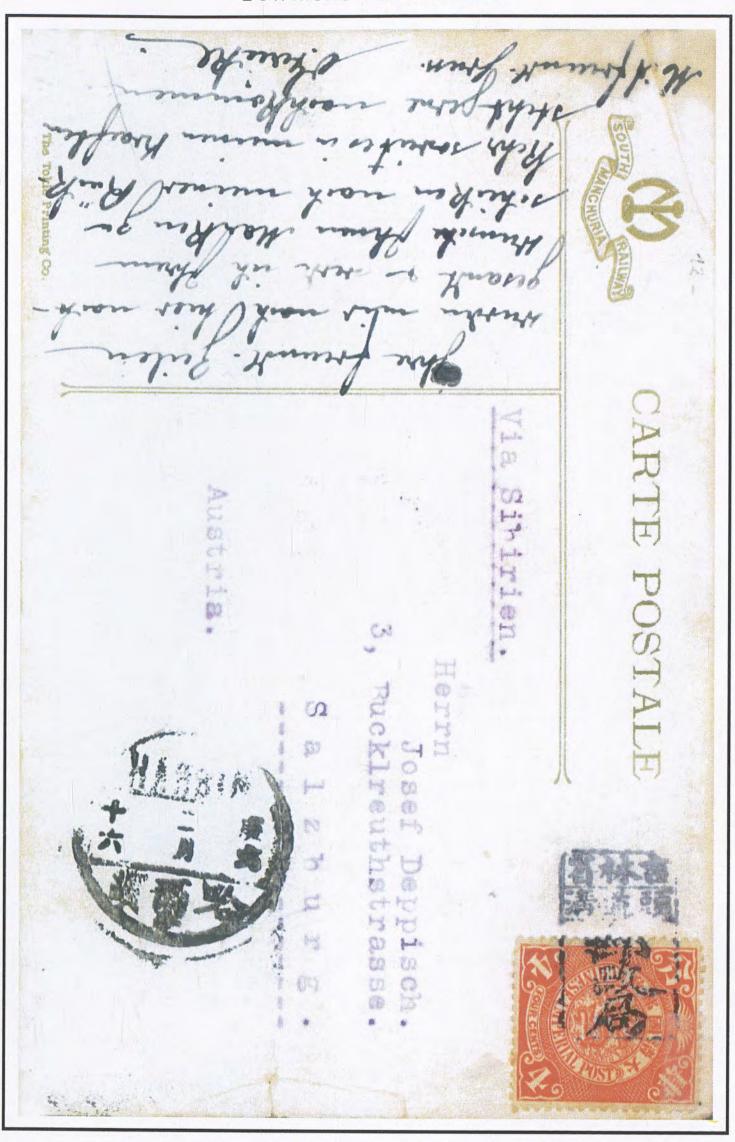
Date of posting as inscribed by sender.

Via Kwanchengtze 14 Jan (backstamped)

to arrive Peking on 17 Jan. Registered
single letter rate of 7 cents (one 1 cent
stamp in top right corner lifted).



#### **Towtaokow Sub-Office**



Towtaokow to Salzburg, Austria

Date here described is when postcard was written.

Via Harbin 26 Mar. No arrival marking at
Salzburg. International postcard rate of 4 cents.





Mengkiatun

#### Type 5 — (Trisected Rectangle)

#### Pankita Sub-Office



Pankita to Pehtaiho

Date of posting as inscribed by sender.

Via Chinchow 3 July to arrive Pehtaiho

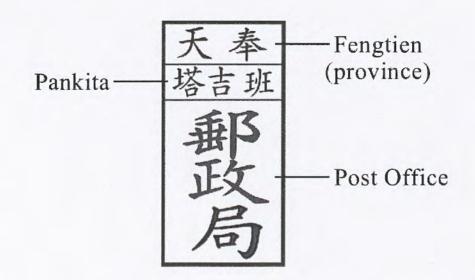
on 5 July. Appearance of the relatively

scarce elliptal frame "FT" cachet

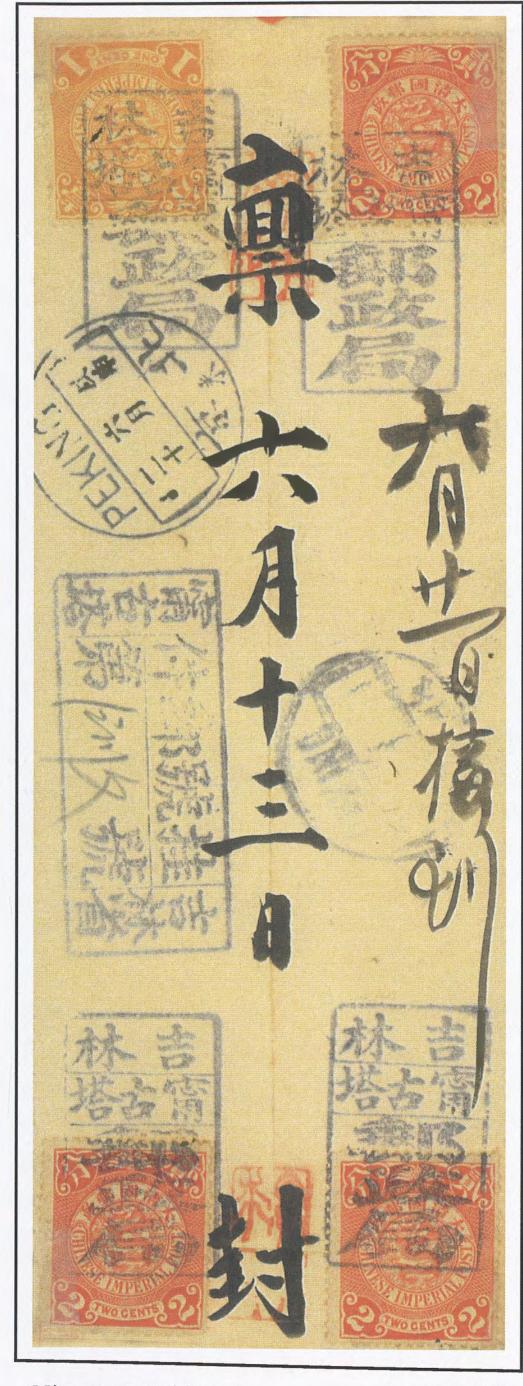
(meaning "First Train") implied that

mail went by train from Chinchow to

Pehtaiho. Single letter rate of 2 cents.



#### Ninguta Sub-Office



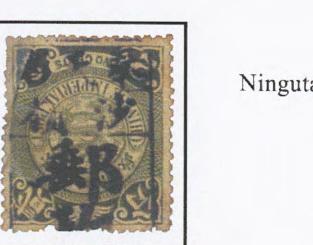
Ninguta to Peking

Date of posting as inscribed by sender.

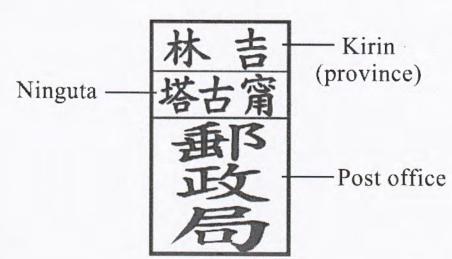
Arrival Peking on 18 July.

Ordinary, 2 cents + Registration fee,

5 cents = 7 cents.

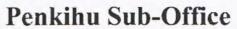


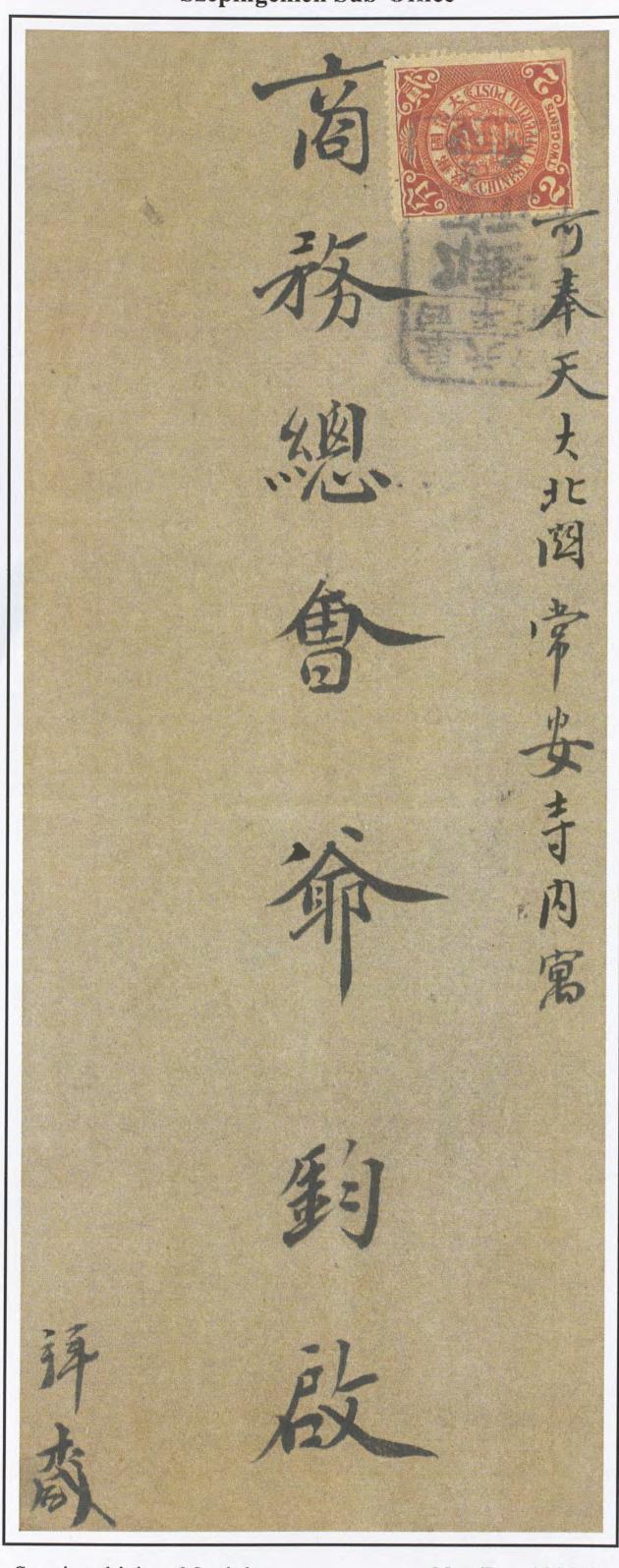
Shaling



Type 5a — (Trisected Rectangle With Rounded Top Corners)

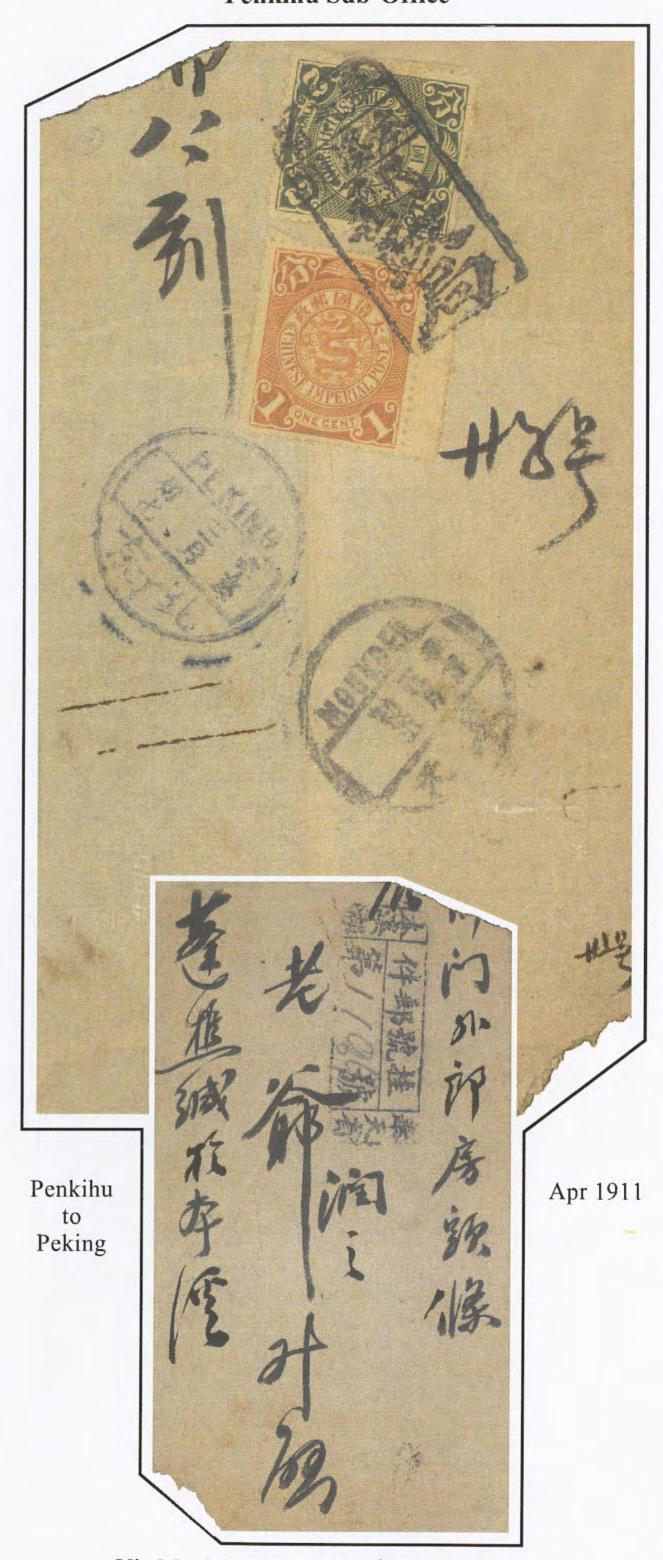
Szepingchieh Sub-Office





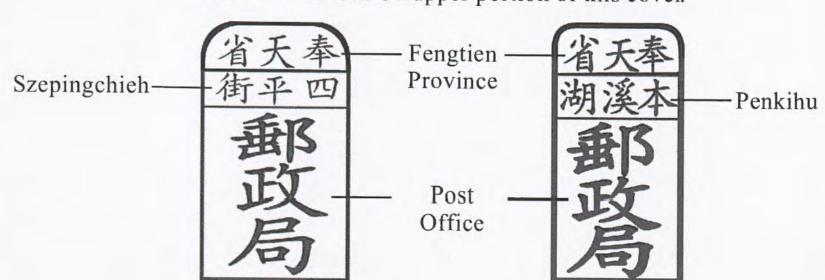
Szepingchieh to Moukden

Sender had only inscribed date of posting as the 20th day of the 10th month and the backstamped
Peking arrival cds showed only date as the 3rd day of the 11th month. From consideration of the 2 cents franking for the single letter rate the above cover could only be sent in Nov/Dec of each year between 1907 and 1909 as recorded use of the trisected rectangular handstamp is from 1907 onward.



Via Moukden 3 Apr to arrive Peking 5 Apr.

Correct franking for this registered mail should have been 8 cents. The missing 5 cents franking was probably affixed in the torn-off upper portion of this cover.



# 2.4 Nameplate Cancels For Sub-Offices & Postal Agencies Type 5b — (Trisected Rectangle With Truncated Top Corners) Tsitsihar Sub-Office



Peking to Payenchow

This double letter rate mail was posted from a postal agency in Peking. Franking was cancelled at Peking P.O. on 11 Oct, then via Shenyang 13 Oct, Harbin 18 Oct and Tsitsihar (undated) to Payenchow (undated).

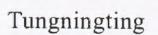


Mail was not deliverable and was returned to sender from Payenchow via Tsitsihar (undated), Harbin 4 Nov and Kirin 23 Nov back to Peking. Original sender had inscribed on the front of the cover 27 Nov as the date of mail being returned.



Hulunpehtze







Wulakai

On 15 October 1899 the Postmaster General issued Notification No. 27 to all post offices instructing them to set up postal agencies in shops. A prescribed example of how the handstamp for postal agencies should be like was also sent, and postal agencies were requested to make their own wooden handstamps following the prescription which was a rectangle with truncated top corners and Chinese numeral characters within a circle in the centre of the rectangle with horizontal hatched line pattern.

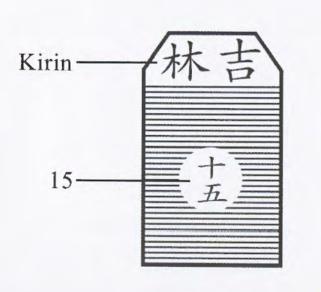
#### Type 6— (Truncated Rectangle Enclosing Circle)

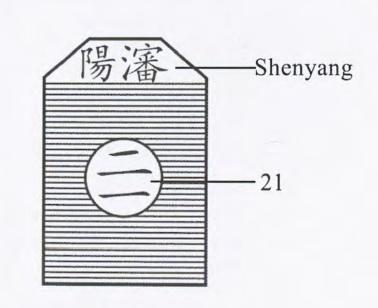
Kirin No. 15 Postal Agency



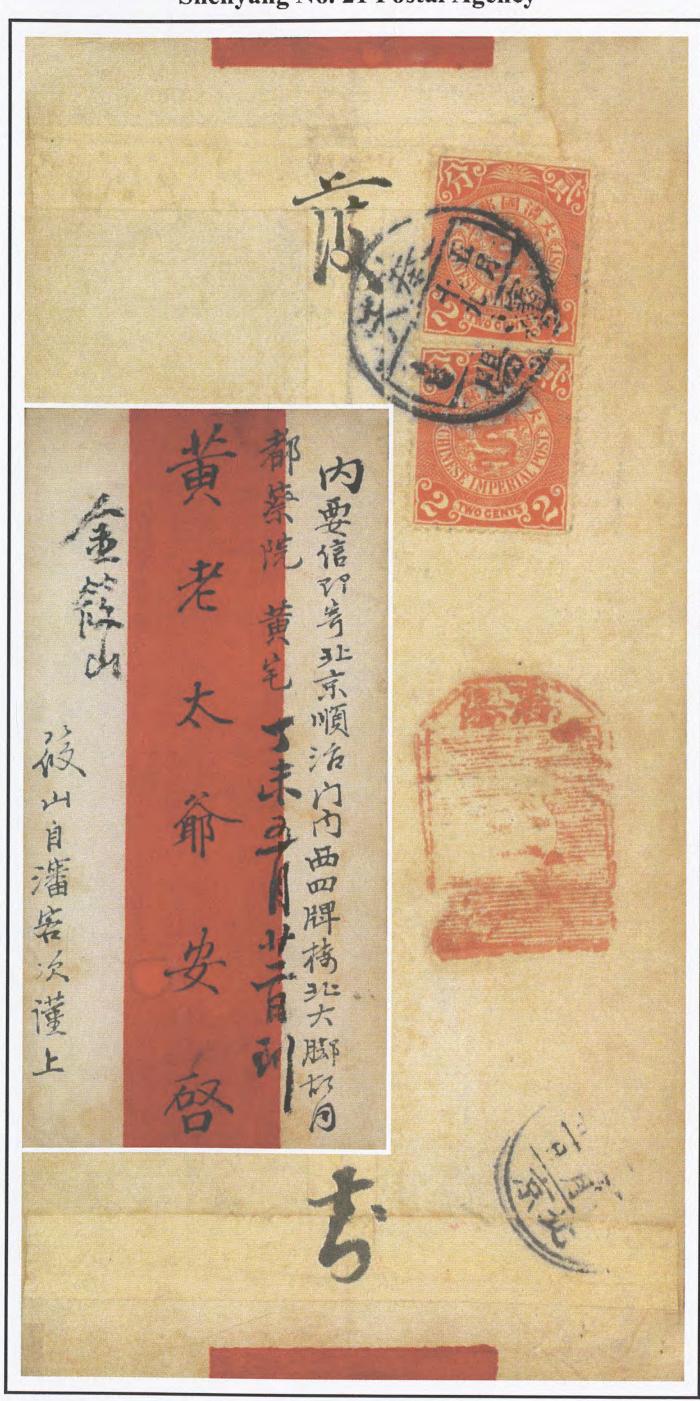
Kirin to Pinchow

Posted from postal agency with franking cancelled by Kirin P.O. Via Ashiho 3 Jan (backstamped) to arrive Pinchow on 6 Jan.





Shenyang No. 21 Postal Agency



Shenyang to Peking

Posted from postal agency with franking cancelled
by Shenyang P.O. Arrival Peking on 1 July.

Although requested to make wooden handstamps of a prescribed format, many postal agencies in reality made handstamps much differing from the standard format and with added descriptions like, "Letter Box", "Letter Counter", etc.

Type 6.— (Standard Format) Kirin No. 9 Postal Agency



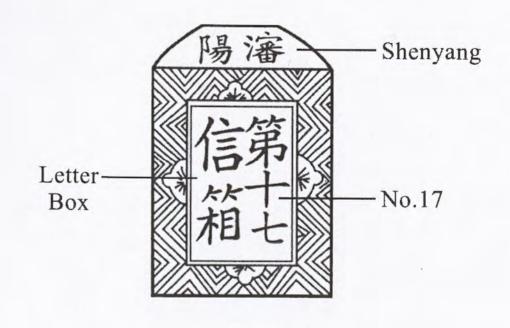
Kirin to Soochow

Posted from postal agency with franking
cancelled by Kirin P.O. Via Shenyang
15 May, Kwanchengtze 19 May and Shanghai
21 May to arrive Soochow on 22 May.

Type 7 (Non-Standard Format) Shenyang No. 17 Letter Box



Shenyang to Liaoyang
Posted from letter box (postal agency) with franking
cancelled by Shenyang P.O. Arrival Liaoyang on 3 Mar.



Type 8 — (Truncated Rectangle Trisected In "T" Style)

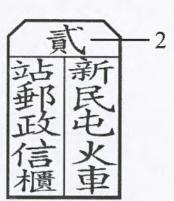
#### **Non-Standard Format**

Sinmintun Railway Station No. 2 Postal Letter Counter



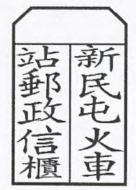
Sinmintun to Tientsin 1 May 1906
Date of posting as inscribed by sender.
Via Sinmintun P.O. on 2 May for arrival at Tientsin on 4 May.





Station
Postal
Letter
Counter

Sinmintun Railway



A similar type but with the top segment blank also existed, example on page 41.

# 2.5 Circular Cancels For Sub-Offices Type 1— (Bisected With "Post Office" Characters)



Changtufu



Kirin

#### 2.5 Circular Cancels For Sub-Offices

For the sub-offices in the Northeast China provinces, cancels in a circular format were much less adopted compared to the rectangular format.

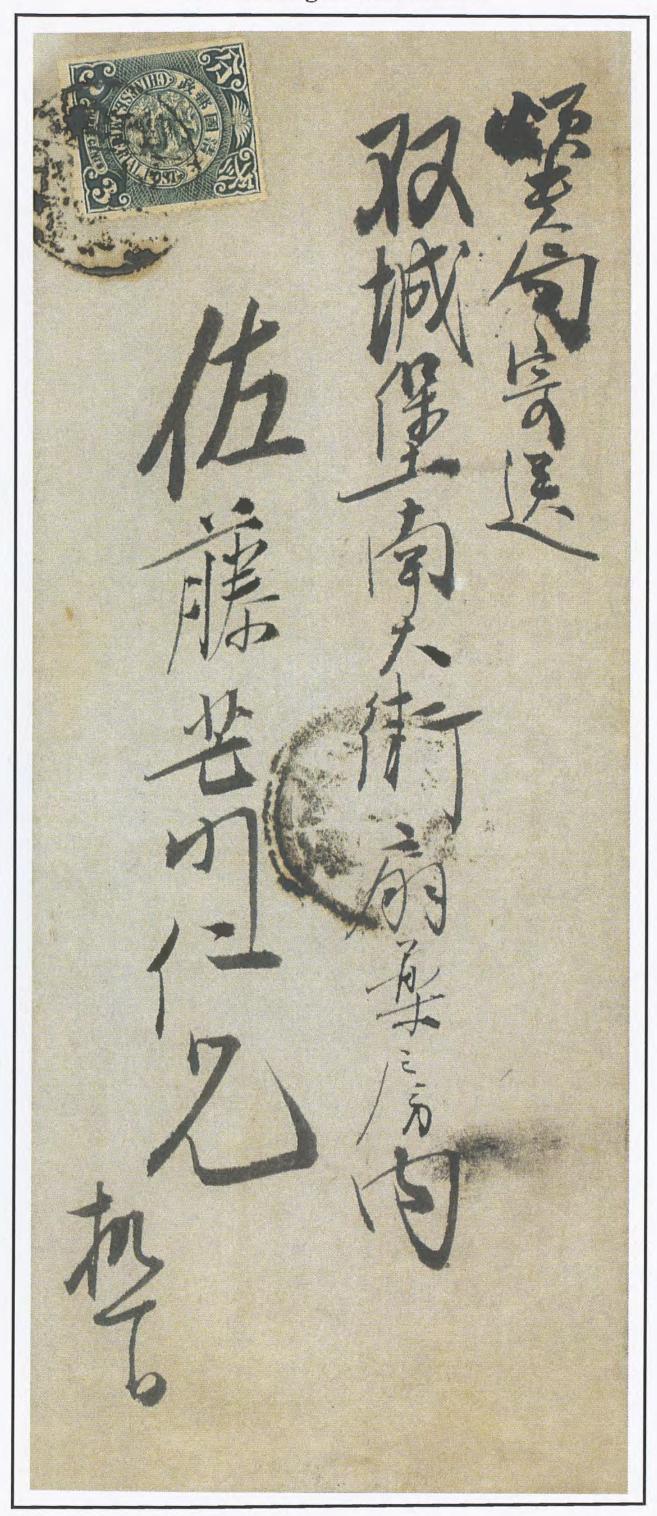
Type 2 (Bisected W/O "Post Office" Characters)
Tsitsihar Sub-Office



Tsitsihar to Peking
Date of posting as inscribed by sender. Arrival
Peking on 24 Nov. Registered double letter rate of 9 cents.



Type 3 (Trisected) Kwanchengtze Sub-Office



Kwanchengtze to Shwangcheng

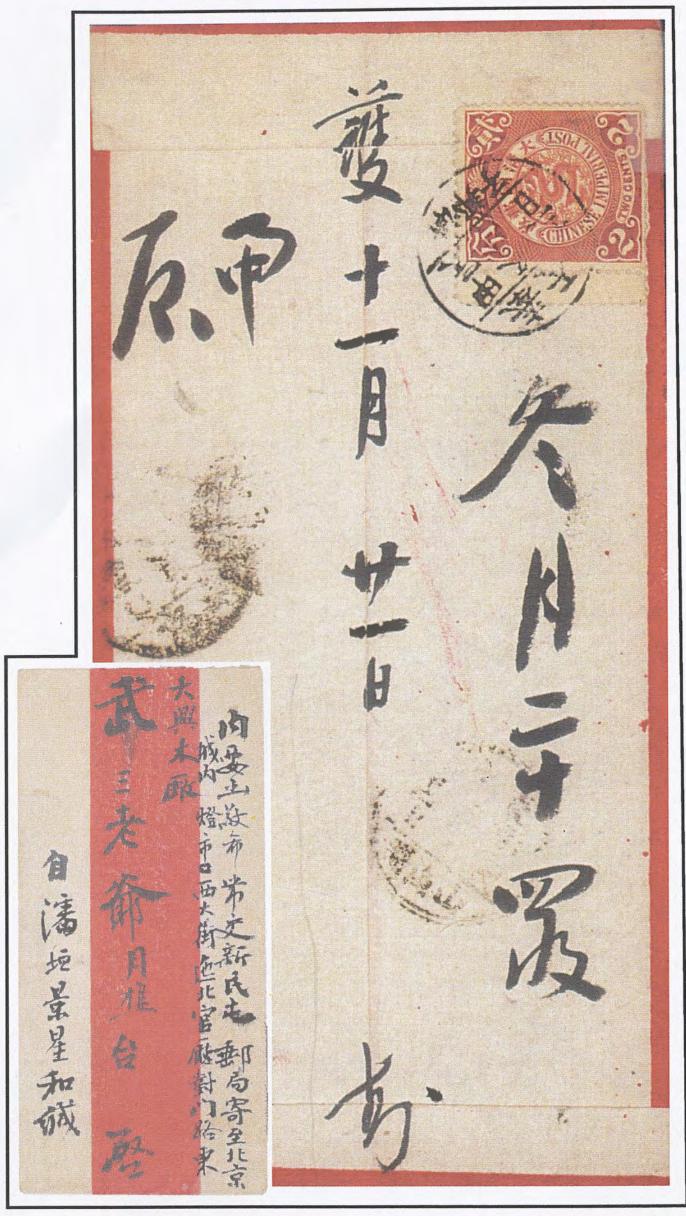
Date of posting as inscribed by sender
on the back. Arrival marking indistinct.



#### 2.6 Lunar Year Datestamps

Postal Notification No. 93 issued by the Postmaster General on 26 November 1903 decreed the use of 3-segmented datestamps with name of province at top, name of post office at bottom, and in 3 vertical rows year/month/day in lunar year reckoning in the middle segment. Depiction for the year was in the traditional sexagenary cycle (*Gan Zhi*) of the Chinese. According to records, these datestamps (both in single circle or double circle) were ordered from Japan.

## Type I (Single Circle) Kowpangtze "甲辰" (Jia Chen) Datestamp



Kowpangtze to Peking 27 Dec 1904 Via Shanhaikwan 31 Dec to arrive Peking 3 Jan 1905.

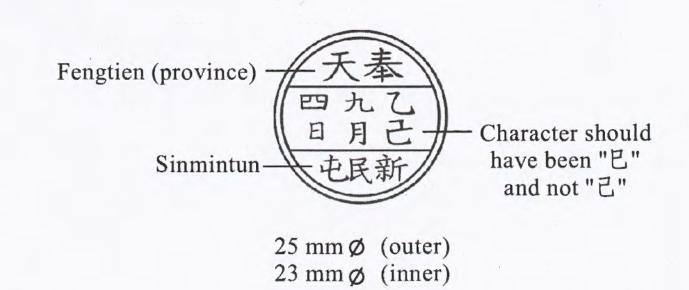


23 mm Ø

### Type II (Double Circle) Sinmintun "乙巳" (Yi Si) Datestamp



Sinmintun to Peking 2 Oct 1905 Via Shanhaikwan 3 Oct to arrive Peking 4 Oct.



#### 2.6 Lunar Year Datestamps

Type II (Double Circle)

Chinchow "乙巳" (Yi Si) Datestamp

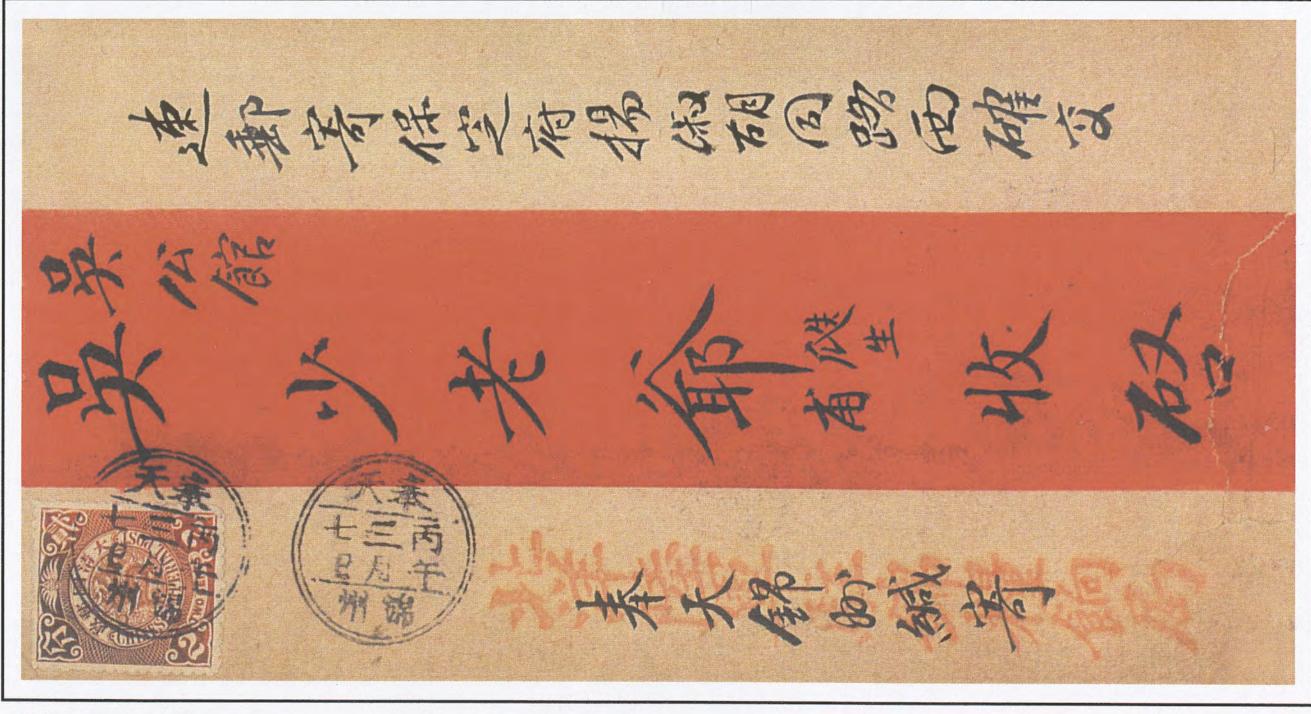


Chinchow to Antwerp

Via Newchwang 2 Aug and Shanghai 8 Aug (both datestamped), then transferred to Shanghai French

P.O. on 9 Aug for delivery to Antwerp arriving 15 Sept 1905 (backstamped). Double letter rate.

Chinchow "丙午" (Bing Wu) Datestamp



#### 2.6 Lunar Year Datestamps

#### Liaoyang Type II "丙午" (Bing Wu) Datestamp As Arrival Marking



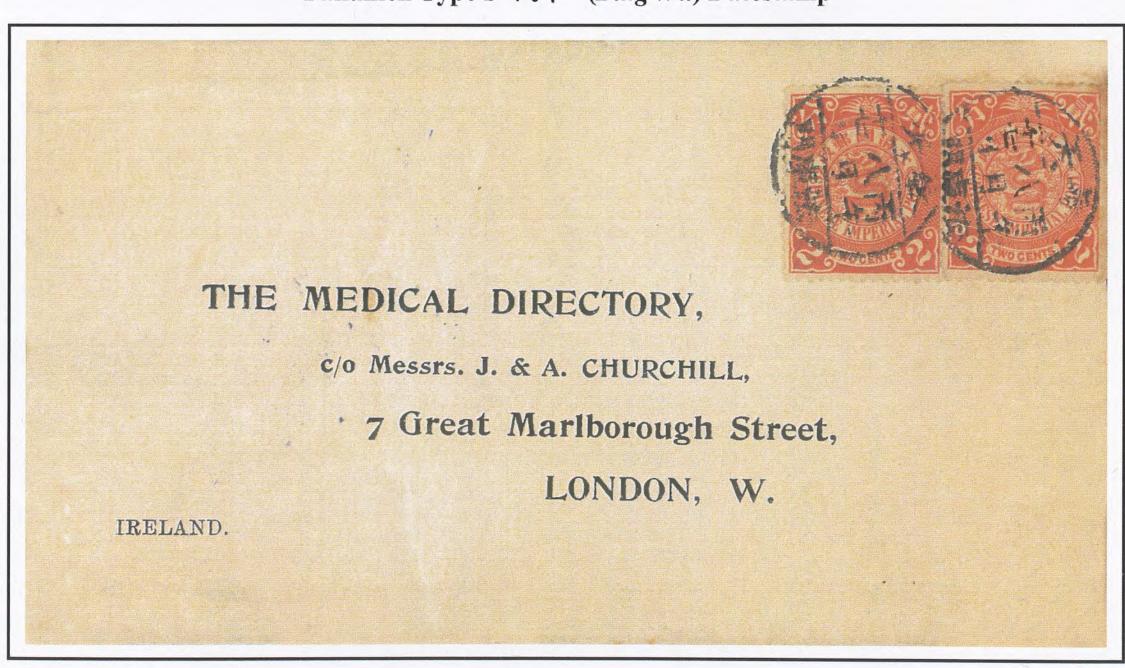
Sinmintun to Liaoyang

14 Sept 1906

Date in Sinmintun datestamp indistinct, but card was written on 14 Sept as inscribed by sender. Via Newchwang, 16 Sept to arrive Liaoyang 17 Sept.

Domestic postcard rate of 1 cent.

#### Fakumen Type I "丙午" (Bing Wu) Datestamp





Fakumen to London

4 Oct 1906

Via Newchwang 7 Oct and Shanghai 13 Oct (both backstamped). No London arrival marking. Double weight printed matter rate of 4 cents to U.P.U. countries.

# 2.6 Lunar Year Datestamps

## Type I

## Wafangtien "丙午" (Bing Wu) Datestamp





Wafangtien

18 Nov 1906

Cancelled-to-order postcard together with datestamp of the Wafangtien Japanese P.O. of the Manchurian Railway dated 19 Nov.

## Shenyang "丙午" (Bing Wu) Datestamp





Shenyang to Kostheim, Germany

11 Feb 1907

Via Shanghai 21 Feb for delivery to Kostheim arriving 20 Mar.

Overfranked by 1 cent as the international postcard rate was then only 4 cents.

## 2.6 Lunar Year Datestamps

These lunar year datestamps (both Type I and Type II) were in use essentially for two years only, for in 1906, a new larger type of lunar year datestamp began to be distributed to various post offices and became widespread in use from 1907. However, for a time in 1907 and even 1908 during the transition period, some post offices were still seen retaining these small lunar year datestamps in use.

## Kirin Type II "丁未" (Ding Wei) Datestamp



Kirin to Peking
Via Kiuchan 3 Aug and Shenyang 5 Aug to arrive Peking
8 Aug. (Note:-Kiuchan and Shenyang were using new
datestamps whereas Peking was using a Type I datestamp
as arrival marking). Domestic single letter mail rate of 2 cents.

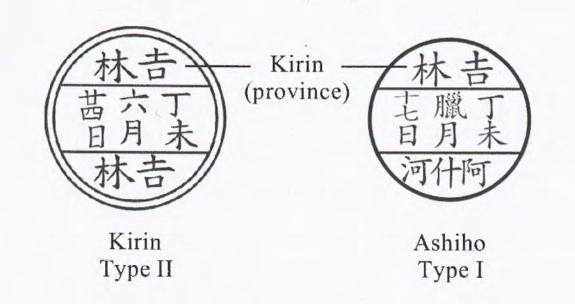
# Ashiho Type I "丁未" (Ding Wei) Datestamp



Ashiho to Shanghai

Via Harbin 21 Jan (new datestamp)

to arrive Shanghai on 2 Feb (Type I
datestamp). Domestic A.R. registered
single letter mail rate of 12 cents.



Two years after the adoption of the single and double circle type lunar year datestamps, the Postal Administration Head Office handed down, in 1906, a larger type of lunar year datestamp with a central box containing the year/month/day (in lunar year reckoning) for use by various offices. Depiction for the year continued to be in the sexagenary cycle (Gan Zhi) method.

## Type I (All In Chinese)

### Tatungkow "丁未" (Ding Wei) Datestamp



Tatungkow to Tientsin 14 July 1907 Via Antung 15 July to arrive Tientsin on 20 July.

Tatungkow

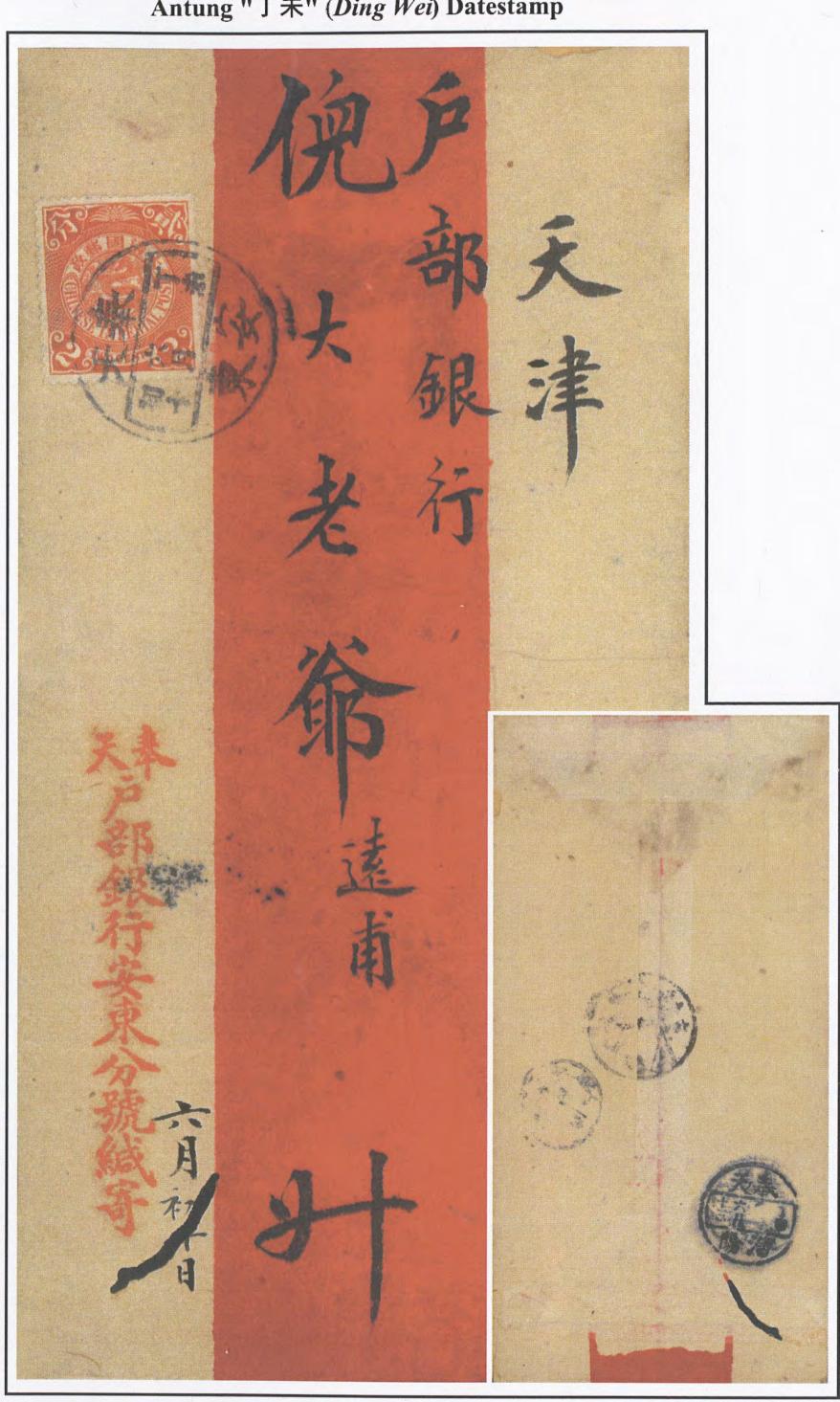


Antung



28 mm Ø

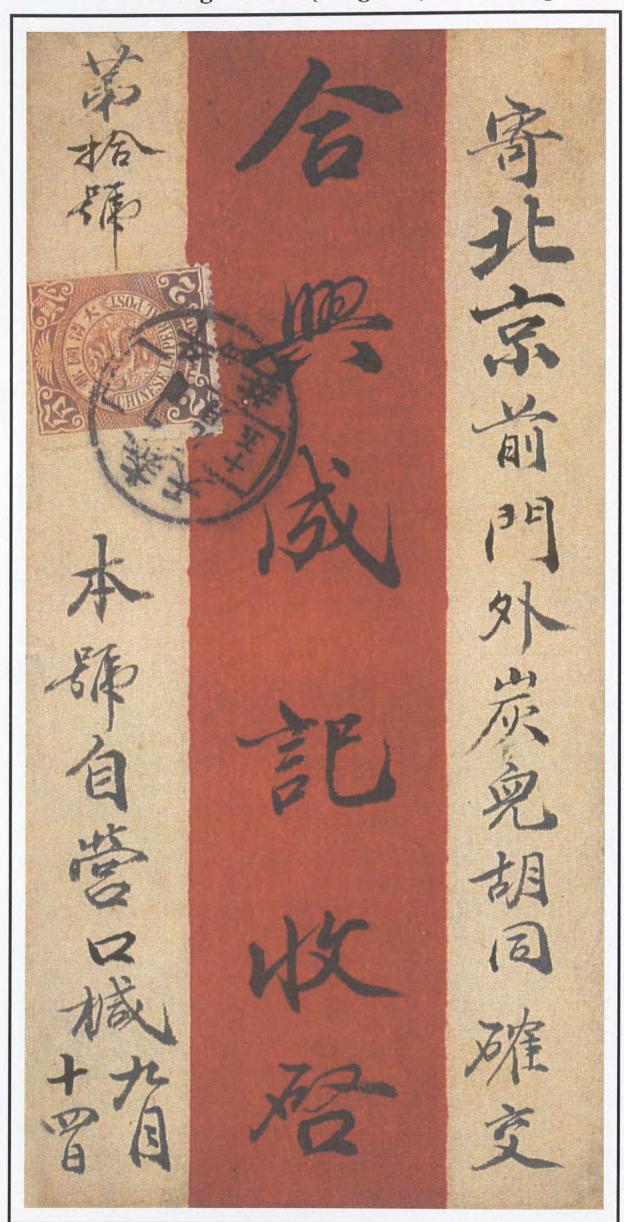
Antung "丁未" (Ding Wei) Datestamp



Antung to Tientsin 19 July 1907 Via Shenyang 22 July (backstamped) for delivery to Tientsin (backstamped but date indistinct).

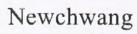
# Type I (All In Chinese)

# Newchwang "丁未" (Ding Wei) Datestamp



Newchwang to Peking 21 Oct 1907 Arrival Peking 22 Oct (backstamped).







Pinchow

## Pinchow "己酉" (Ji You) Datestamp



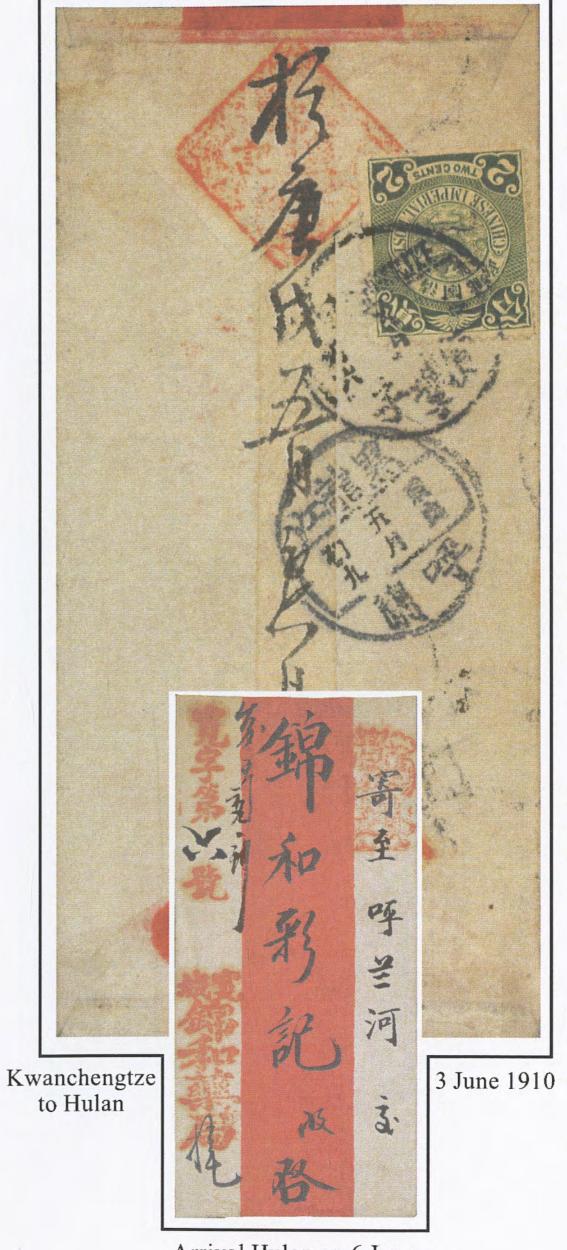
Hweichow, Anhwei to Pinchow 2 Nov 1909 Mail was sent on 2 Nov (as inscribed by sender) through the Hweichow Postal Letter Counter (red handstamp) and franking was cancelled by the Hweichowfu P.O. on 3 Nov. Via Tatung, Anhwei 11 Nov and Newchwang 17 Nov (new issue bilingual datestamp) to arrive Pinchow on 22 Nov.

## Type I (All In Chinese)

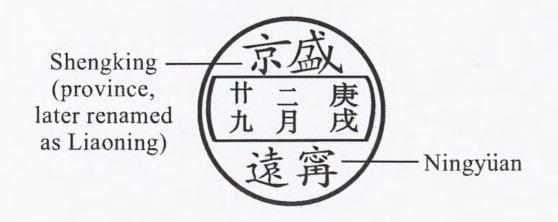
Ningyüan "庚戌" (Geng Xu) Datestamp

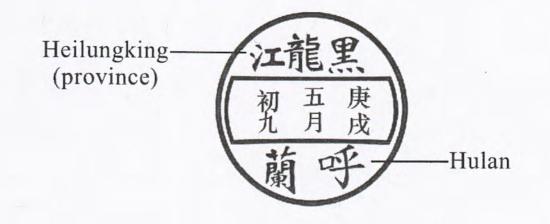


Hulan "庚戌" (Geng Xu) Datestamp



Arrival Hulan on 6 June.

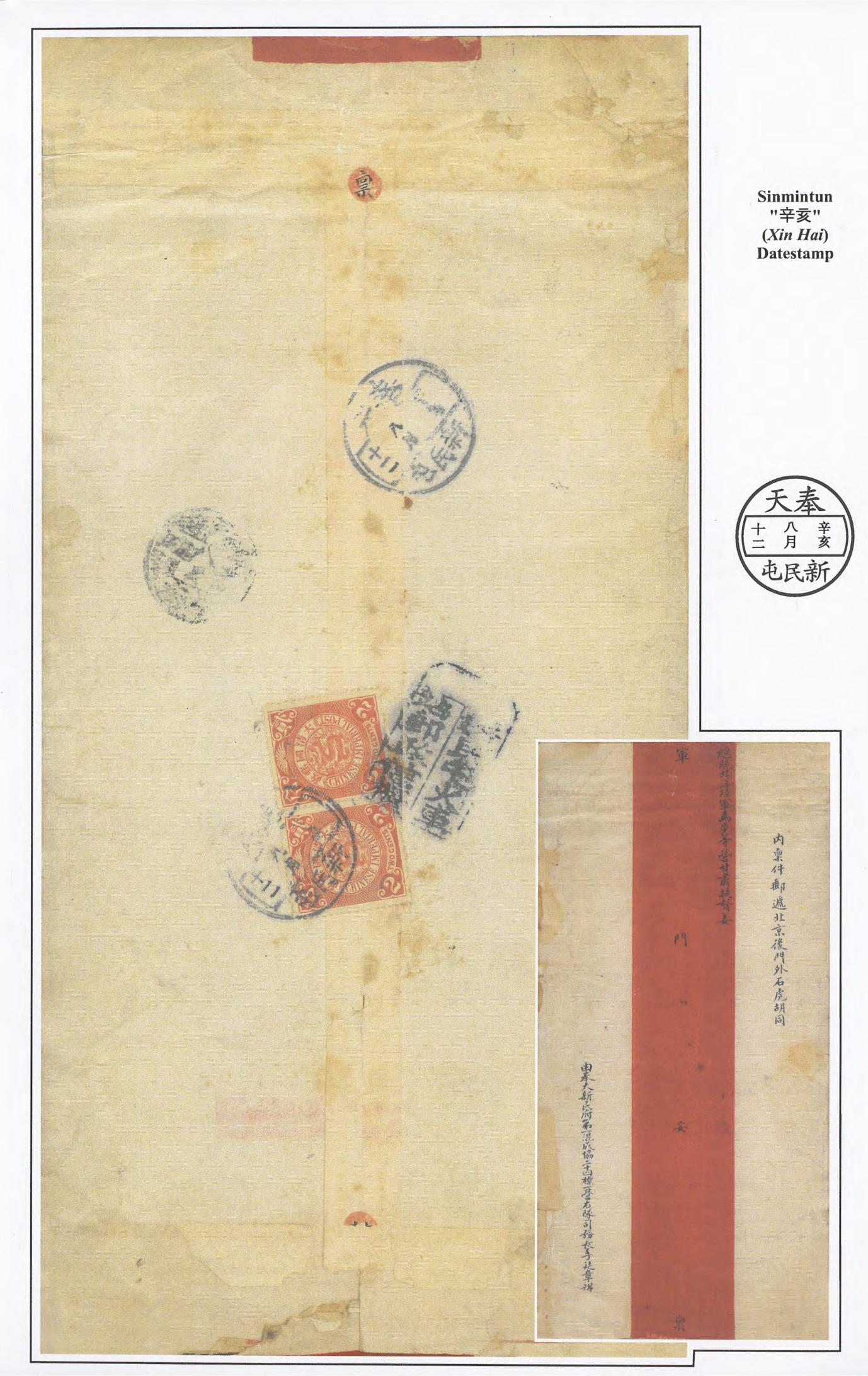




Type I (All In Chinese)

Sinmintun 3 Oct 1911 to Peking

This double
letter rate
mail was first
posted at the
Sinmintun
Railway Station
Postal Letter
Counter as
evidenced by
the nameplate
cancel.



#### Type II (Bilingual)

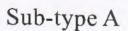
As the amount of international mail increased the central box type lunar year datestamp evolved into bilingual types from 1908. The provincial name was dropped with only the town name retained which was expressed in either Chinese/English (sub-type A) or English/Chinese format (sub-type B) with the latter very much prevailing. Initially only the larger offices had these bilingual types, later spreading to smaller offices. For some very small offices, bilingual types were apparently never issued and their use of the all-Chinese central box type lunar year datestamp (Type I) continued into the republican period.

## Moukden "戊申" (Wu Shen) Chinese/English Datestamp



Moukden to Tientsin 25 Apr 1908 Arrival Tientsin on 27 Apr (backstamped).

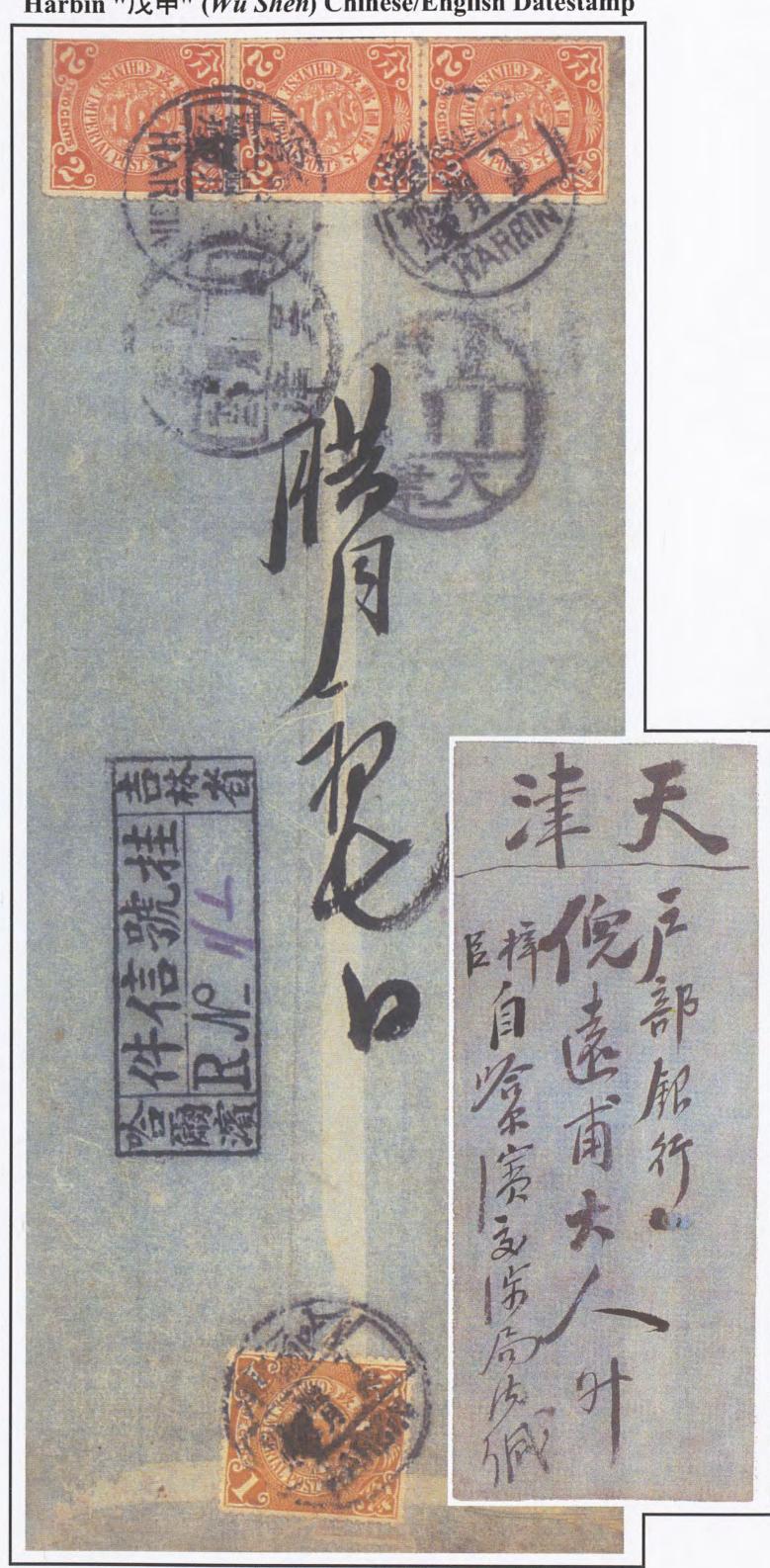






Sub-type A

# Harbin "戊申" (Wu Shen) Chinese/English Datestamp



Harbin to Tientsin

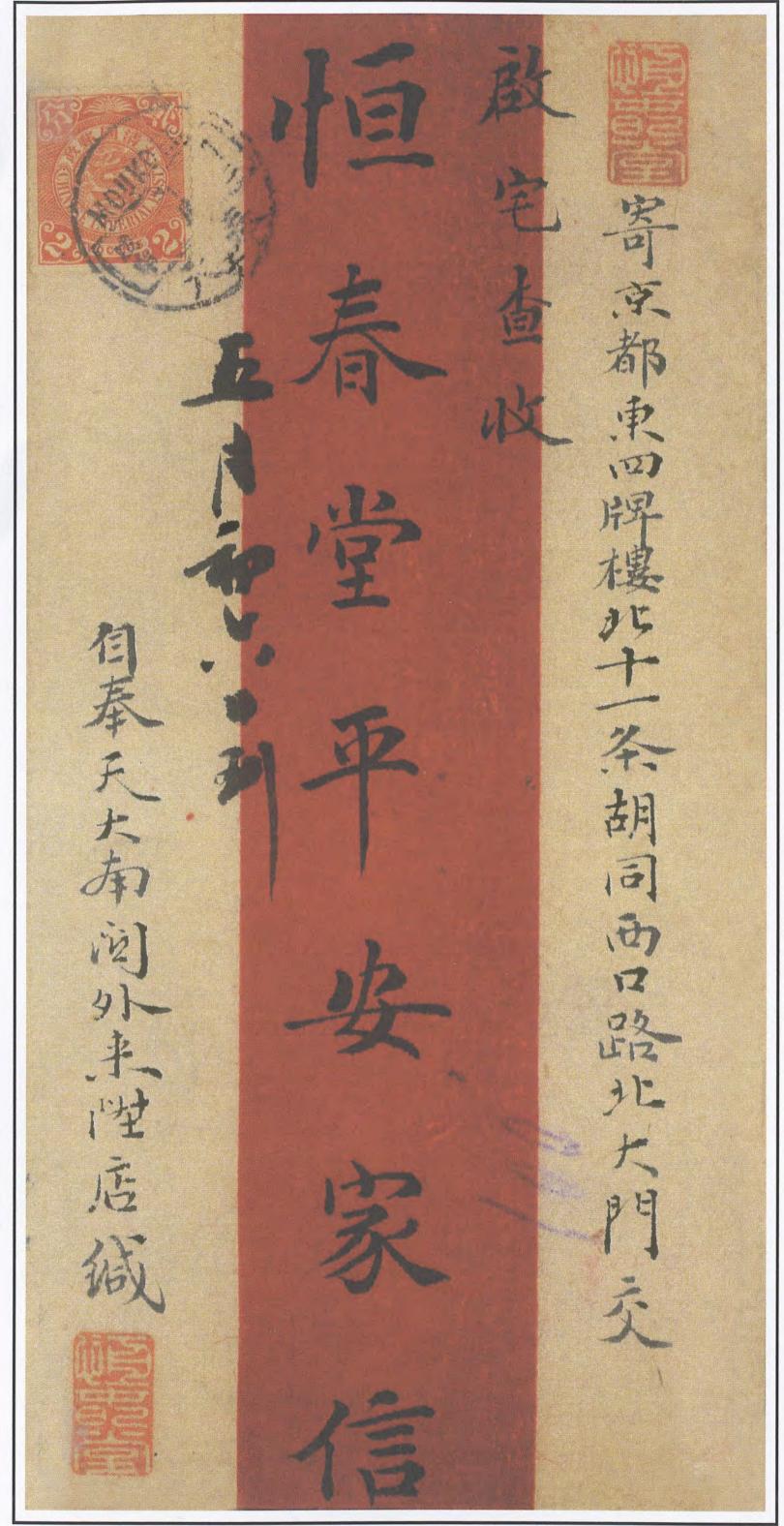
31 Dec 1908

Arrival Tientsin on 4 Jan 1909.

# Type II (Bilingual)

Sub-type B

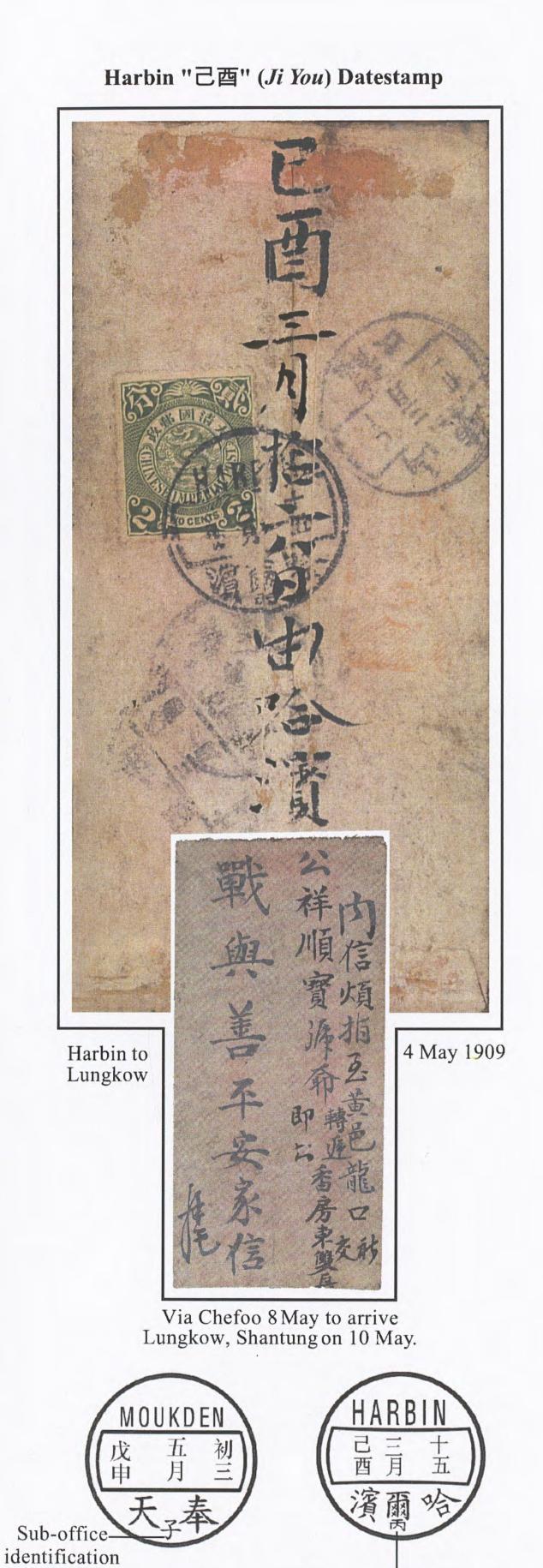
# Moukden "戊申" (Wu Shen) English/Chinese Datestamp



Moukden to Peking
Arrival Peking on 3 June (backstamped).

1 June 1908

character



Business identification character. Only seen utilised in large or busy post offices.

Type II (Bilingual)

Sub-type B

# Sinminfu "己酉" (Ji You) Datestamp



Sinminfu to Peking
Via Shanhaikwan 18 June (backstamped).
No Peking arrival marking.



# Liaoyiianchow "己酉" (Ji You) Datestamp



Liaoyüanchow to Peking 24 Sept 1909 Arrival Peking on 29 Sept.



Type II (Bilingual)

Sub-type B

# Tienchwangtai "庚戌" (Geng xu) Datestamp



Tienchwangtai to Newchwang 15 Feb 1910
Arrival Newchwang on 18 Feb.
Domestic single letter rate of 2 cents.



As the name "Tienchwangtai" was too long if written all in upper case, an upper and lower case format was employed in making of the datestamp.

# Fengtien Datestamp With "庚戌" Omitted



Fengtien to Newchwang 21 Oct 1910
Arrival Newchwang on 22 Oct.

Domestic single letter rate
of 3 cents (effective from 5 Aug 1910).



Characters "庚戌" to denote the year were omitted in the datestamp

Fengtien was actually Moukden, the former being Chinese pronunciation and the latter, Manchurian.

Type II (Bilingual)

Sub-type B

Suifenho "庚戌" (Geng Xu) Datestamp



Suifenho to Celle, Germany Via Harbin 14 Jan. No arrival marking 13 Jan 1911





Ashiho to Kiaocheng, Shansi Via Harbin 1 Apr (backstamped), Peking 4 Apr and Taiyüanfu 7 Apr to arrive Kiaocheng on 7 Apr.



Ashiho "辛亥"

(Xin Hai) Datestamp

Type II (Bilingual)

Sub-type B

# Sansing "辛亥" (Xin Hai) Datestamp



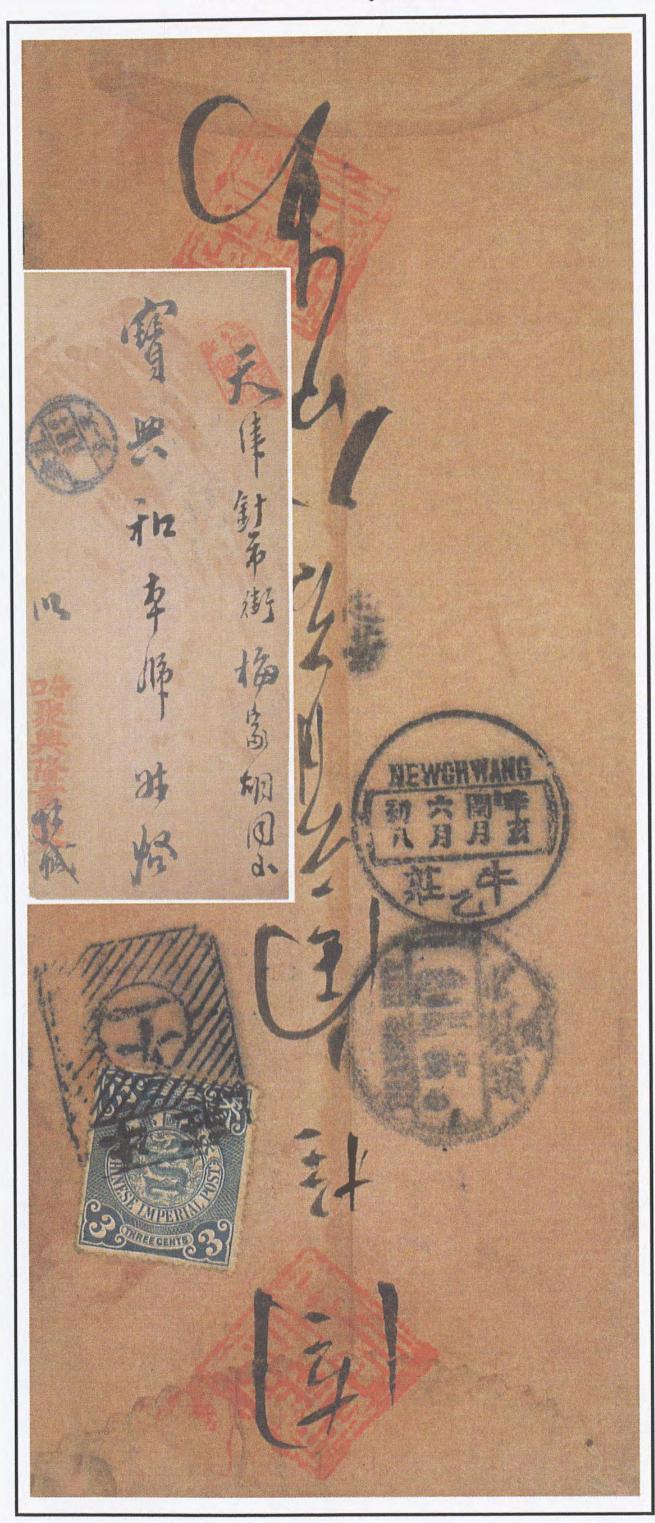
Sansing to Hwanghsien 19 June 1911
Via Chefoo 27 June to arrive
Hwanghsien, Shantung on 3 July.





As only one intercalary month could possibly exist in any particular year, the usual practice was just mere inserting of characters "閏月" (intercalary month) without need of additional insertion of "六月" (6th month).

## Newchwang "辛亥" (Xin Hai) Datestamp With Intercalary Month



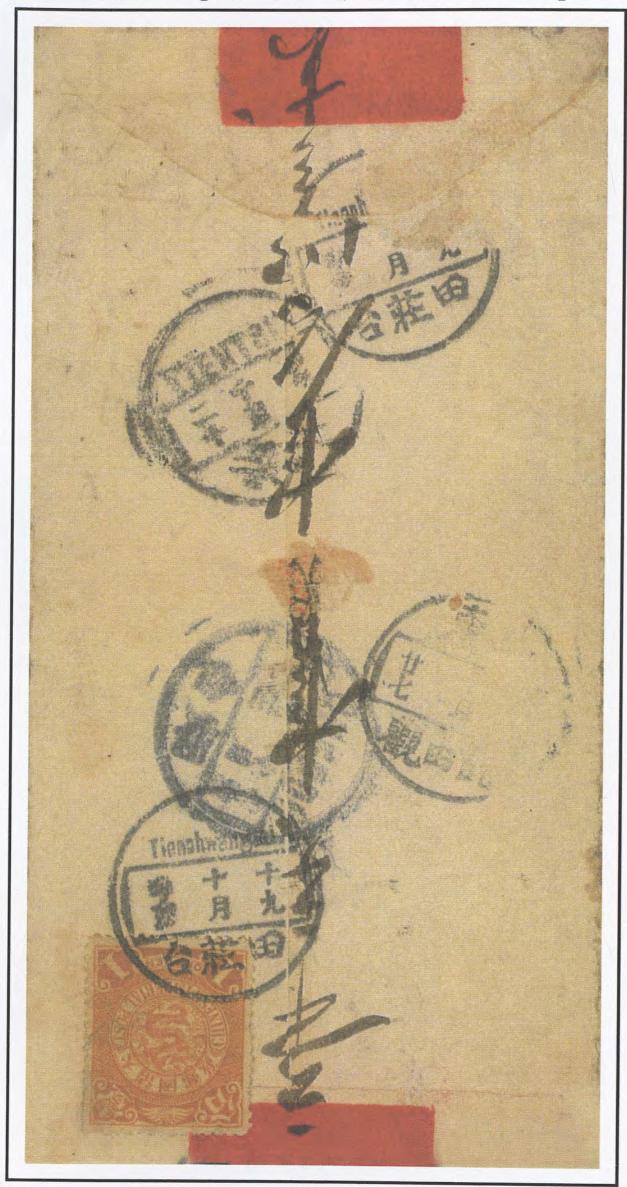
Newchwang to Tientsin

Sender had inscribed 2 Aug as date of posting which was done through the Newchwang No. 11 Postal Agency and relayed to the Newchwang P.O. for transit cancel on 2 Aug. Arrival Tientsin (City) on 4 Aug.

Type II (Bilingual)

Sub-type B

Tienchwangtai "辛亥" (Xin Hai) Datestamp

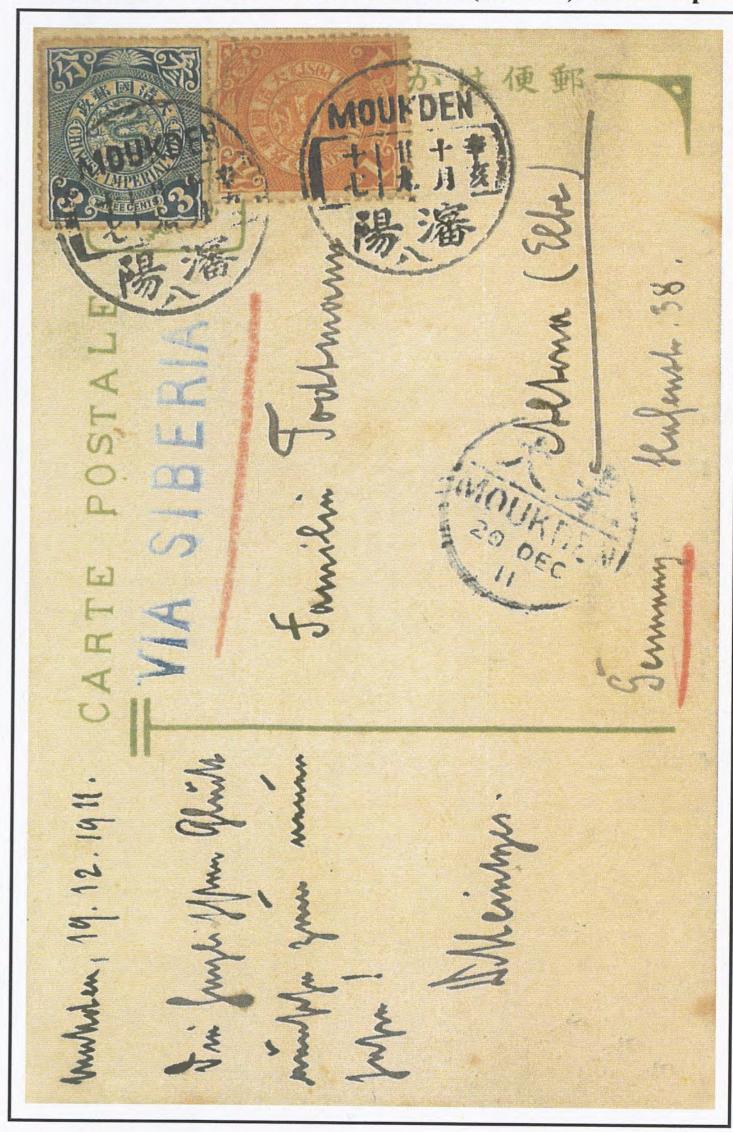


Tienchwangtai to Chuyukwan 9 Dec 1911 Via Tientsin 10 Dec and Chefoo 13 Dec for arrival at Chuyukwan, Shantung on 17 Dec.



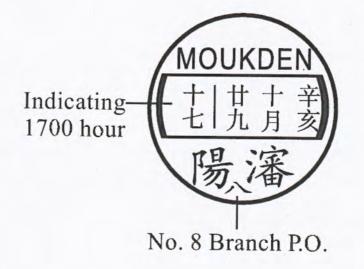
Reading of date from left to right
— a seldom practice in smaller offices.

# Moukden No. 8 Branch P.O. "辛亥" (Xin Hai) Datestamp



Moukden to Germany
Via Moukden H.O. on 20 Dec. No arrival marking

According to regulations, branch post offices had to use a Chinese character to indicate branch number and also to indicate time of processing.

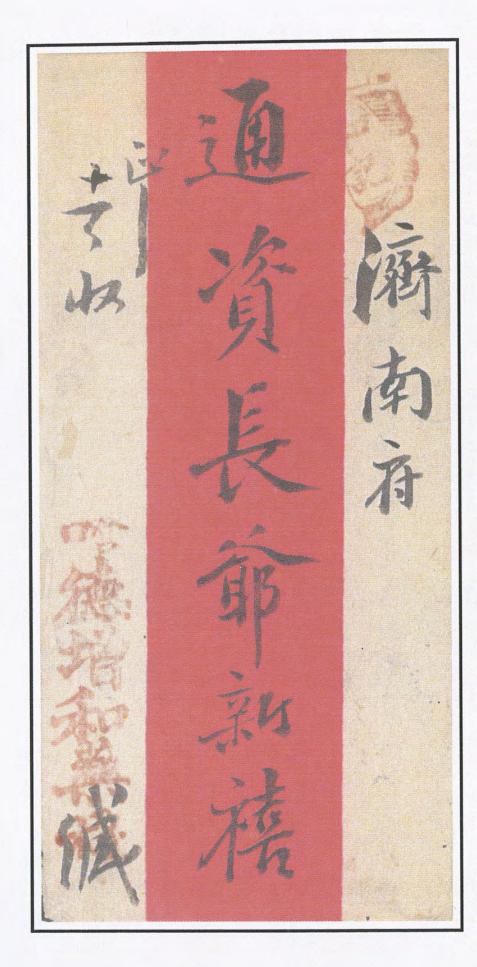


# 3. REPUBLIC OF CHINA PERIOD

# 3.1 Transition Of Lunar Year Daters To Republic Dating

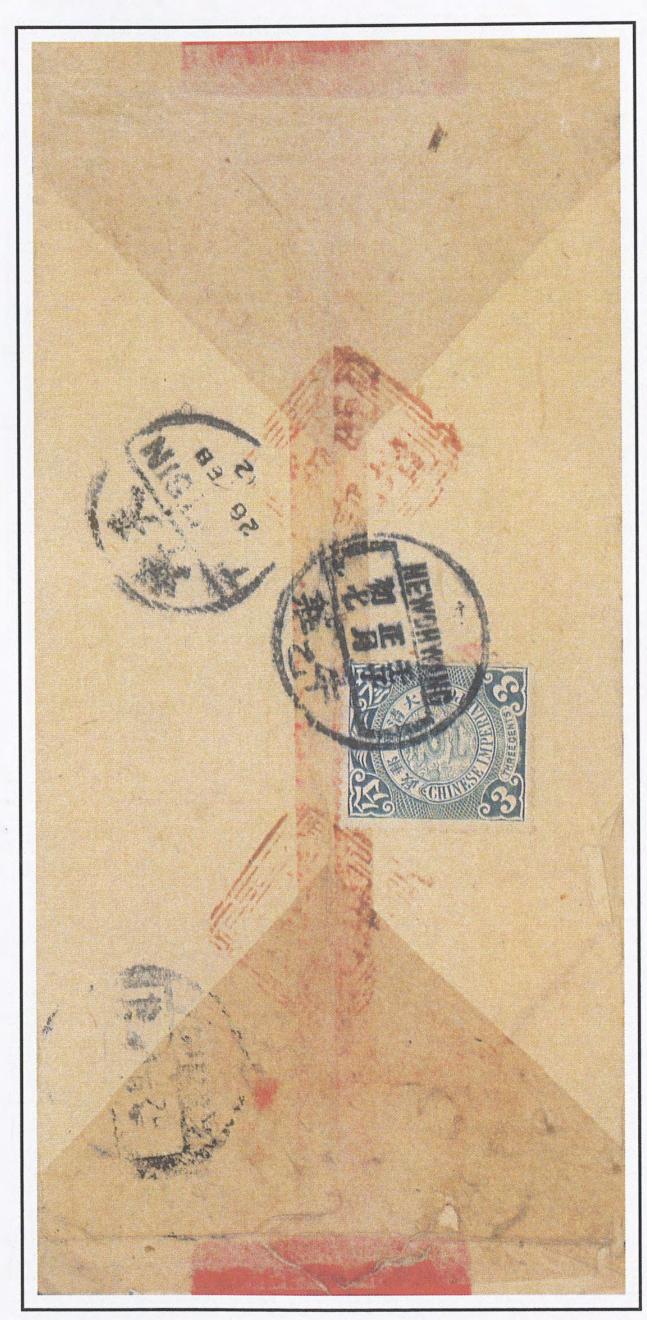
With establishment of the Republic of China on 1 January 1912, it was regulated that henceforth all daters should change from the lunar year dating to the Gregorian calendar and that indication of year by the sexagenary cycle method be changed to "year of the republic" with 1912 being the "元年", i.e. 1st year. However in practice, some post offices took quite some time to enact the change.

# Newchwang Dater Still Using Lunar Dating With "壬子" (Ren Zi) For 1912





Date indicated in the dater was the 7th day of the 1st month of Ren Zi year, i.e. 24 Feb 1912

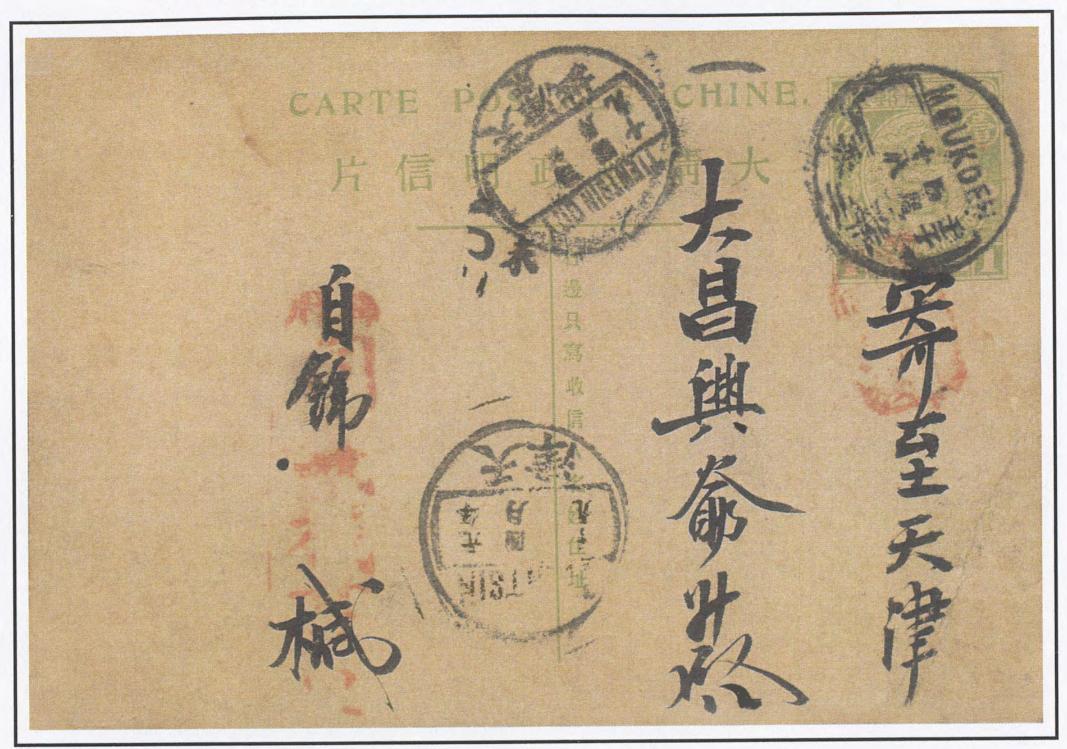


Newchwang to Tsinan
Via Tientsin 26 Feb to arrive
Tsinan, Shantung on 27 Feb.

24 Feb 1912

For some post offices, change was made in their daters to show month/day in the Gregorian calendar, and as for year, the sexagenary cycle year was still employed.





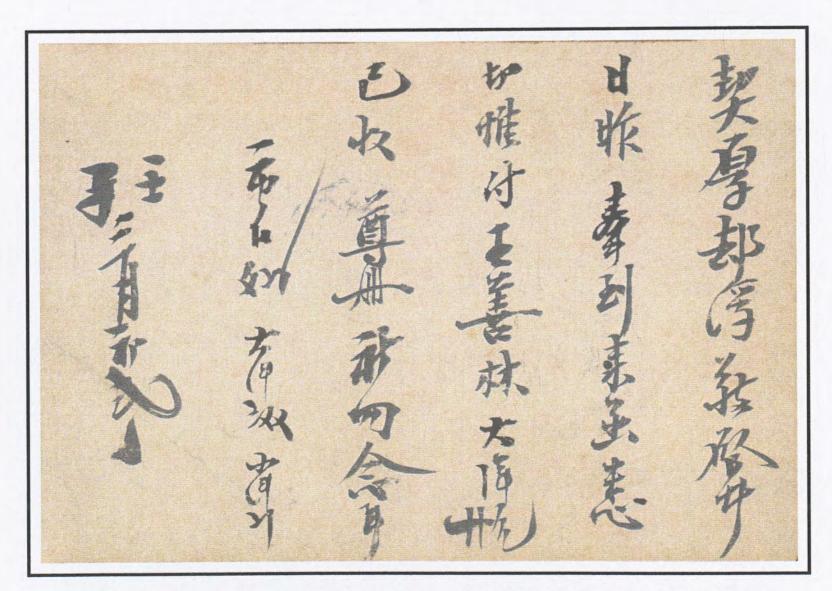
Moukden to Tientsin

Arrival Tientsin on 19 Apr.

18 Apr 1912



Date indicated
was 18 April of
Ren Zi year,
Characters "元年"
should have been
used instead of "壬子"



Sender had inscribed date of writing as "壬子三月初二日" i.e. 2nd day of the 3rd month of Ren Zi year which corresponded to 18 April 1912.

However by May 1912 most post offices in the Northeast China provinces, including smaller offices, had complied with the newly regulated dating method.

# Luyangyi Datestamp In Full Compliance Of Dating Regulation With "元年" As "1st Year" (1912)



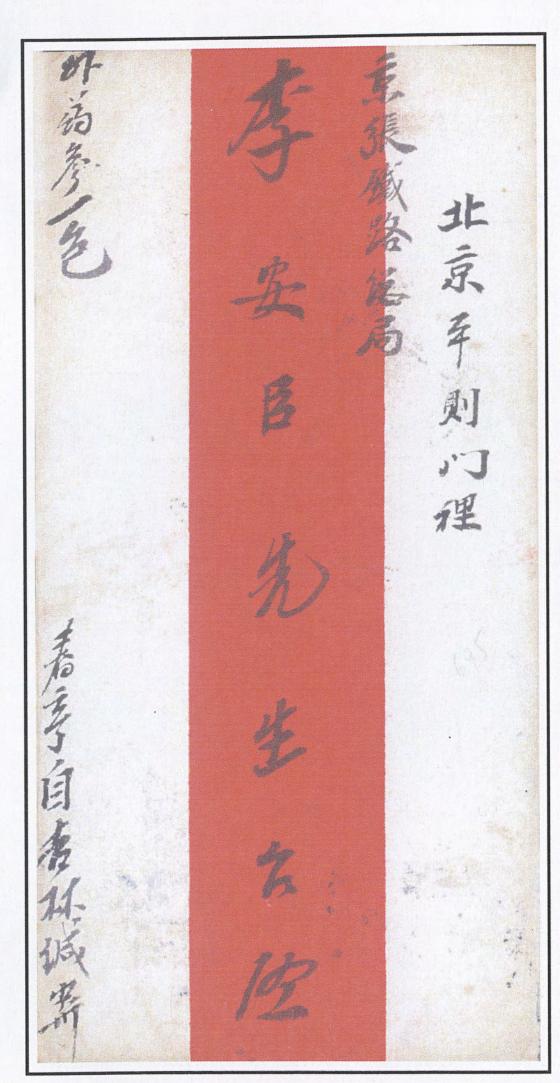


Lüyangyi to Peking 30 May 1912 Via Kowpantze 30 May to arrive Peking on 31 May.



The characters "元年" (1st year) were not among the usual assortment of type slugs provided initially to post offices for changing of dates in their lunar daters and had to be specially ordered. Some post offices while awaiting delivery of the "元年" type slugs simply omitted display of the year in their daters.

## Kirin Dater Without Display Of Year





Display of date only read 11 July without mention of year.



Kirin to Peking

11 July 1912

1913 was the second year of the republic, and as such, daters in post office displayed "二年" (2nd year) to imply 1913. Postal staff in some smaller offices, probably because of habit, added in the date characters to show the sexagenary cycle year beside display of "二年", as did happened in the Sunkiatai Post Office.

# Sunkiatai Dater With "癸丑" As Well As "二年" For 1913



Sifeng to Sunkiatai
Display of date in the Sifeng dater was exact to regulation.
Arrival Sunkiatai on 4 Jan.

3 Jan 1913



Besides making mistake of inserting characters "癸丑" in the dater, the staff had also made an error in the count of the sexagenary year. "癸丑" year ought to only begin on 6 Feb 1913, and 4 Jan 1913 should still be in the "壬子" sexagenary year.

# Sinminfu Dater In Gregorian Calendar With "二年" For 1913





Sender had insribed date of sealing of letter as "壬子十二月十五日", i.e.
15th day of the 12 month of Ren Zi year which corresponded to 21 Jan 1913.



Sinminfu to Tientsin
Arrival Tientsin 23 Jan.

22 Jan 1913

By and large almost all post offices in the Northeast China provinces had by 1913 complied with the regulation that dating be in the Gregorian calendar with year shown as the "republic year".

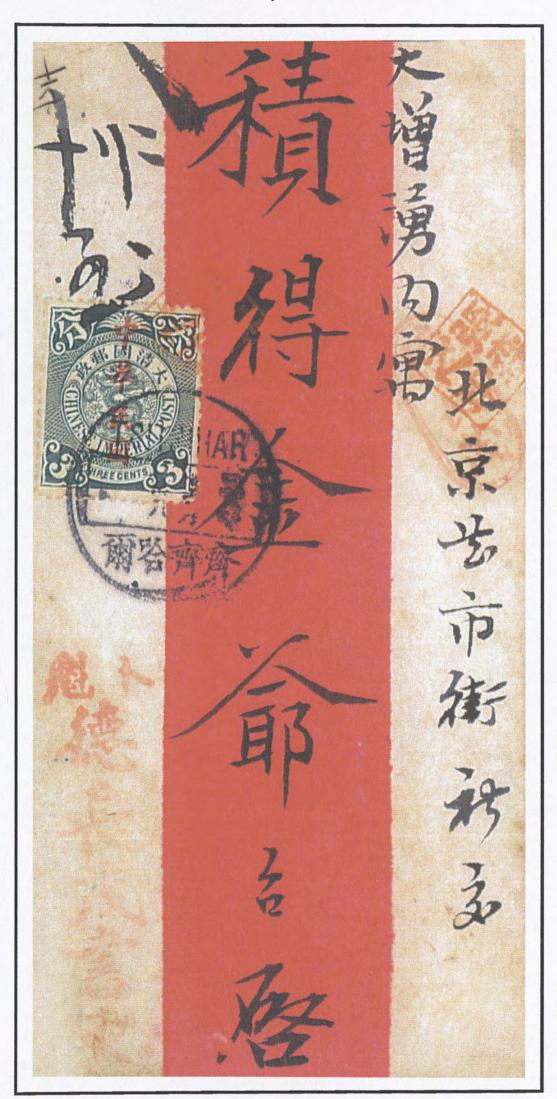
# Newchwang Dater With "二年" For 1913



Newchwang to Foochow
Arrival Foochow 1 Mar.
25 Feb 1913



## Tsitsihar Dater With "二年" For 1913

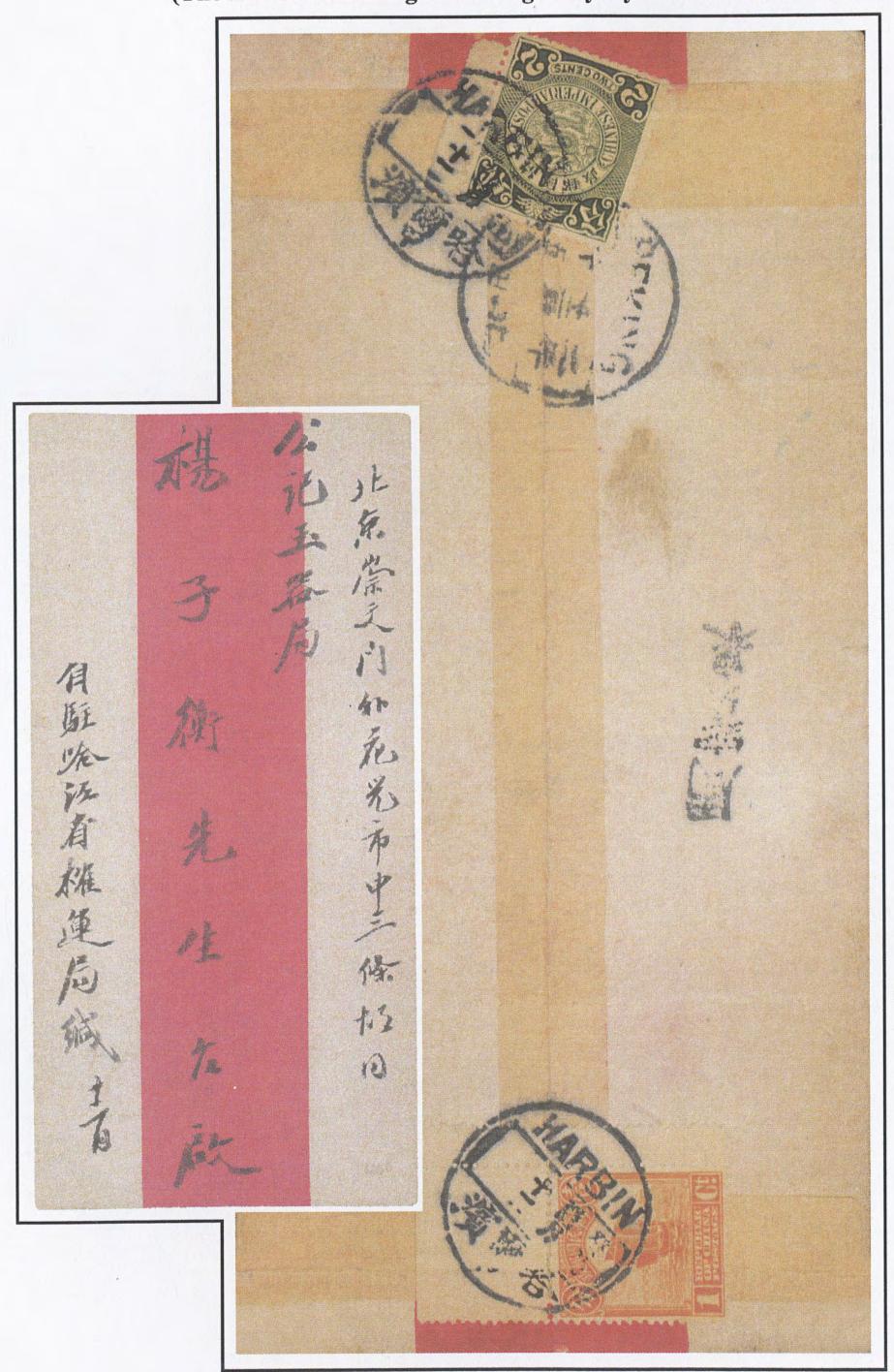


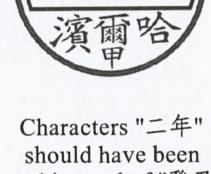
Tsitsihar to Peking 28 July 1913 No Peking arrival marking.



However, inexplicably one of the daters in the very large Harbin Post Office was still using the sexagenary cycle year "癸 丑" (Gui Chou) to denote 1913.

# Harbin Dater With "癸丑" To Denote 1913 (The Latest Seen Usage Of Sexagenary Cycle Year In The Northeast)





used instead of "癸丑"

Harbin to Peking

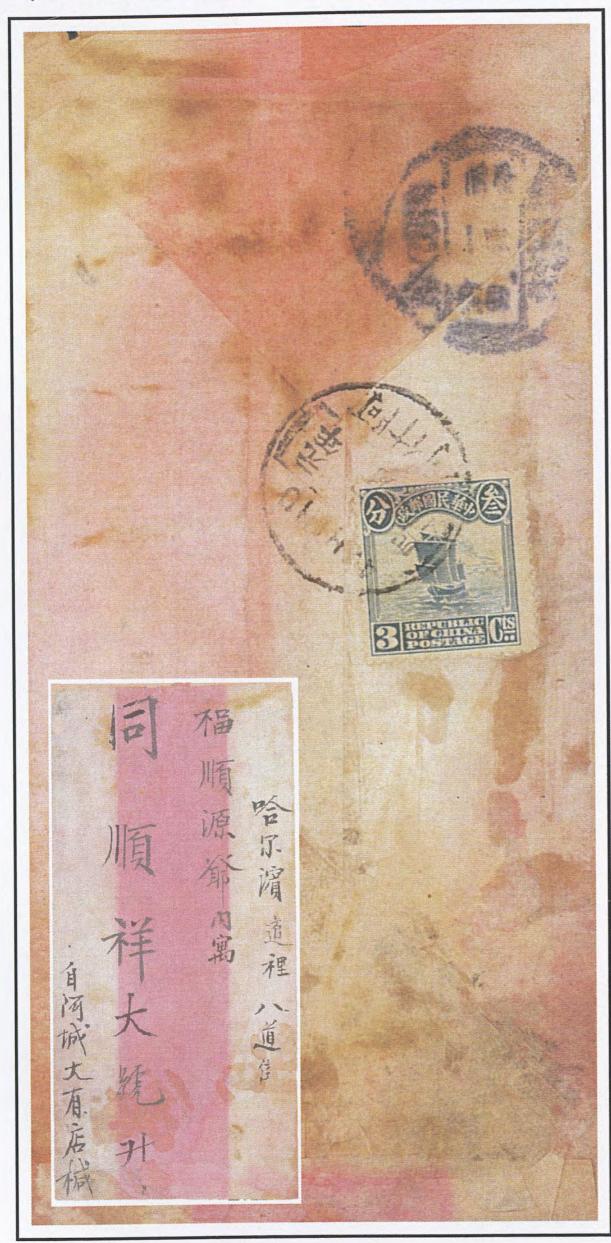
12 Dec 1913

Arrival Peking on 15 Dec.

# 3.2 The "Hung Hsien Empire" Interruption

In late 1915, Yuan Shih Kai, the then President of the Republic of China proclaimed himself Emperor of the Hung Hsien Empire (洪憲帝國) and that from 1 January 1916 datestamps should depict "元年" (1st year) of the reign instead of "五年" (5th year of the republic). In all of China, only the Northeast China provinces, former homeland of the Manchus who last reigned China, were enthused by the return of a monarchy and some cities immediately converted to use of "元年" for 1916.

# Ashiho Dater With "元年" For 1916 (Earliest Recorded Example Of "元年" For 1916)



Ashiho to Harbin
Arrival at Harbin on 5 Jan.





4 Jan 1916

# Antung Dater With "元年" For 1916 Used As Arrival Marking



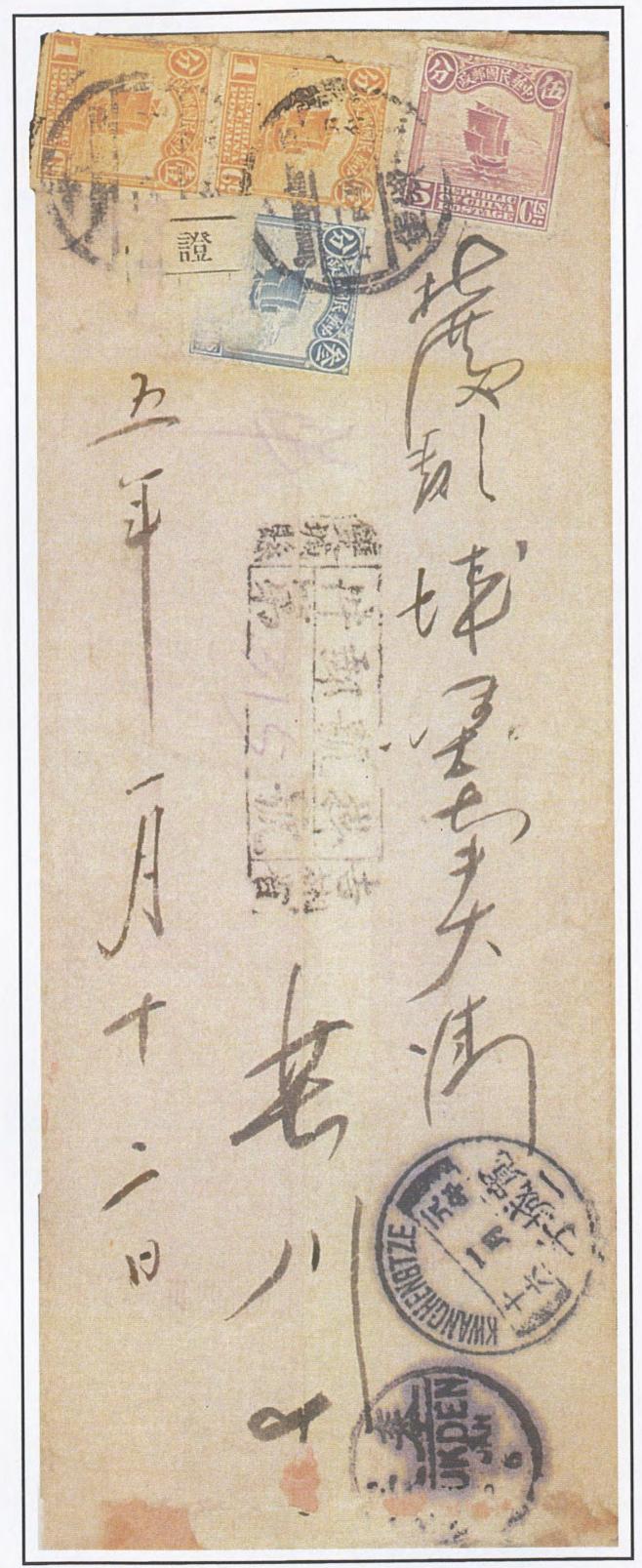
Nuankiakow to Antung 31 Dec 1915
Via Tengchow, Shantung on 31 Dec
and Chefoo Jan 1916 for arrival
at Antung on 5 Jan 1916.



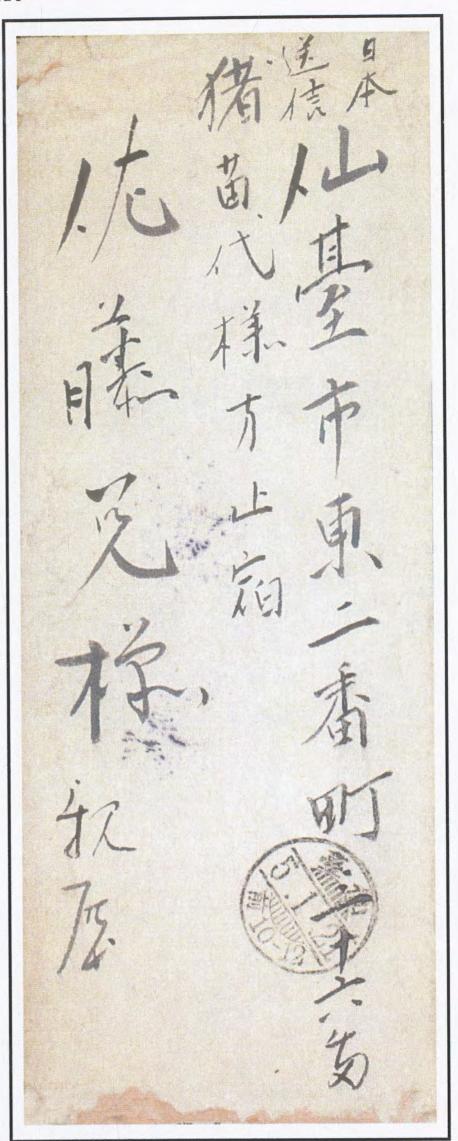
# 3.2 The "Hung Hsien Empire" Interruption

For some post offices the type slug "元" (1st), used only in 1912 and thought never to be used again was probably misplaced or damaged, and to solve the crisis while awaiting new "元" types, the type slug "五" (five) was chiselled off to look like "元" as a temporary measure for "元".

# Shwangchengpu & Kwanchengtze Daters With Chiselled Character "\overline{\pi}" For "1st"



Shwangchengpu to Sendai, Japan 15 Jan 1916
Via Moukden 15 Jan and Kwanchengtze
16 Jan for delivery to Sendai arriving
on 21 Jan. Ordinary (to Japan), 3 cents
+ Registration fee, 7 cents = 10 cents







# Tungping & Tiehling Daters With Chiselled Character "元" For "1st"





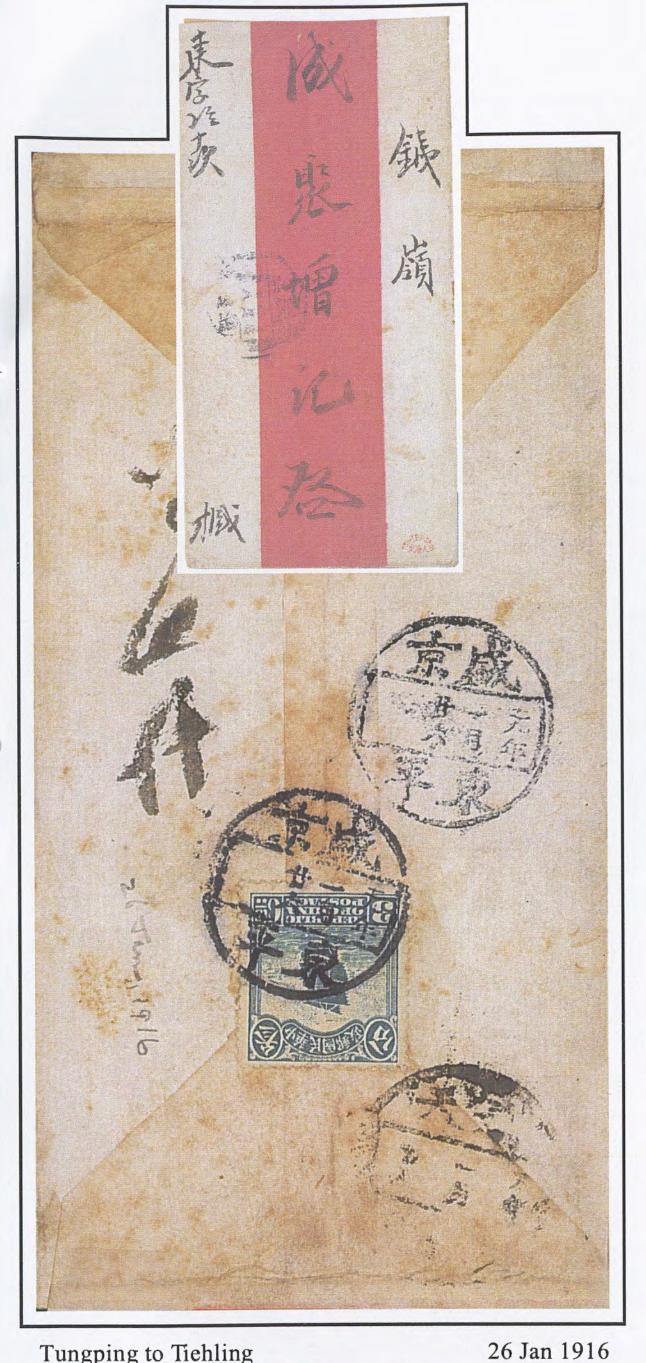




Tungping to Tiehling
Arrival Tiehling on 31 Jan

24 Jan 1916

# Tungping Dater With "元年" For 1916



Tungping to Tiehling
Arrival Tiehling on 28 Jan.



(Note:- As shown on the previous page, Tungping was still using a chiselled character for "元" on 24 Jan 1916, hence the cancel on this cover could probably be a first day usage.)

# Fenglochen & Tientsaocheng Daters With "元年" For 1916



Fenglochen to Anking
Via Tientsaokang 16 Feb for delivery
to Anking (arrival date indistinct).

15 Feb 1916



Fenglochen



Tientsaokang
(Date read right
to left — a
seldom practice.)

## 3.2 The "Hung Hsien Empire" Interruption

Surprisingly enough, into the second month of the "monarchy", the big post offices of Newchwang and Moukden still did not have a "元" character for their datestamps and had to rely on improvisation.

Newchwang & Moukden Daters With Chiselled Character "元" For "1st"

Fengtien Dater With "元年" For 1916



Arrival Moukden 10 Feb. Printed matter rate of 1 cent.





Fengtien (Moukden) to Le Havre, France

Via London 10 Mar to arrive Le Havre on 11 Mar.

Ordinary, 1st 20 gm = 10 cents Additional, 20 gm = 6 cents

Registration fee = 10 cents

26 cents

Jenne gurper che che





17 Feb 1917

# Tiehshanpao & Pehtwanlintze Daters With "元年" For 1916

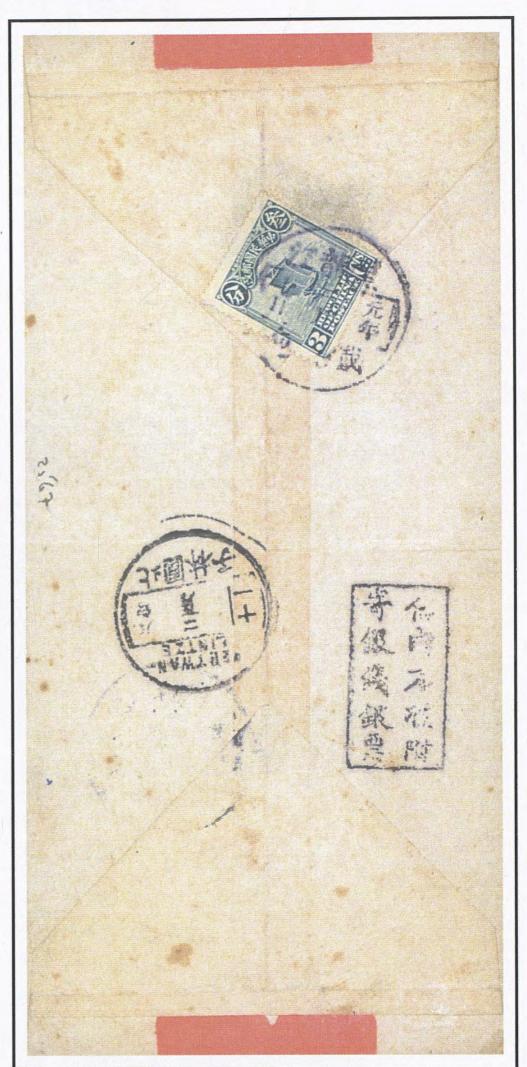


Tiehshanpao to Nanking 7 Mar 1916
Via Pehtwanlintze on 11 Mar to arrive Nanking on 17 Mar.

Ordinary = 3 cents

A.R. registration fee = 10 cents

13 cents







Tiehshanpao

# 3.2 The "Hung Hsien Empire" Interruption

Seemingly by March the Moukden P.O. finally had the " $\bar{\pi}$ " type slugs and the improvised type slug for the character was no longer seen in its datestamps.

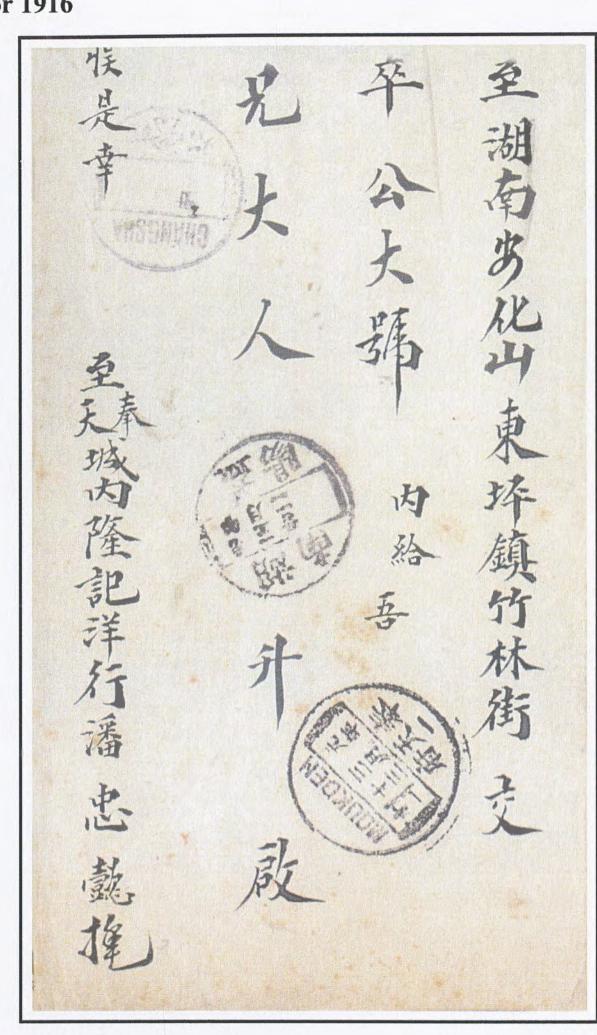
# Moukden Dater With "元年" For 1916



Moukden to Tungping, Hunan

Via Hankow 17 Mar, Changsha 20 Mar and

Yiyang 22 Mar to arrive Tungping on 27 Mar.



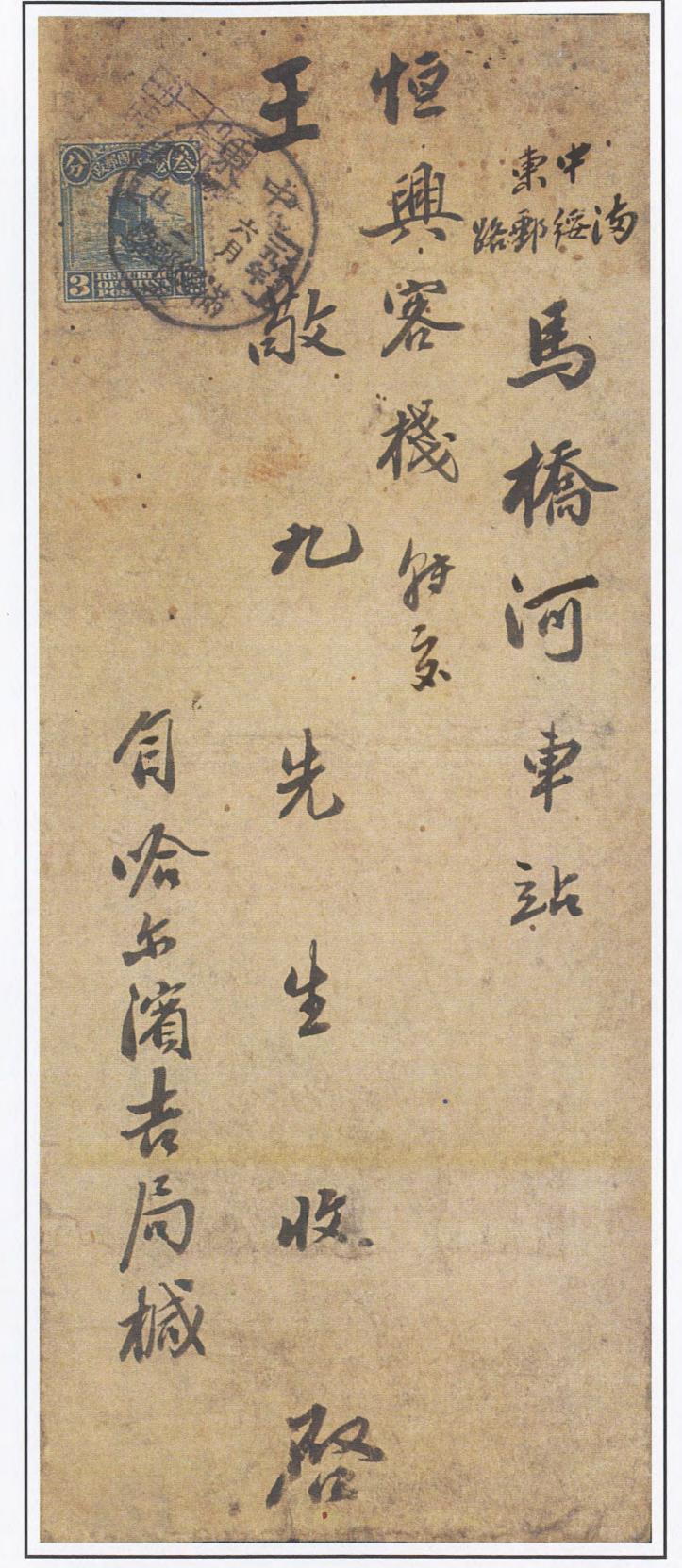
Ordinary = 3 cents Registration fee =  $\frac{5}{8}$  cents (Overpaid by 1 cent)

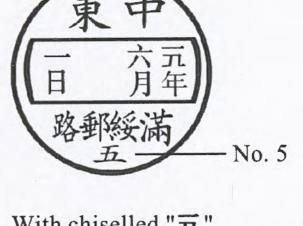


## 3.2 The "Hung Hsien Empire" Interruption

Yuan Shih Kai's ambition to restore the monarchy with himself being emperor had been met from the very beginning with very strong protests from other provinces. As more and more provinces openly objected to his deeds and policies, an opposition coalition began to take shape. Faced with the hopelessness of the situation, Yuan Shih Kai was forced to abdicate on 23 March 1916, a reign of just 83 days. In the Northeast China provinces however, some cities and towns continued usage of the "元" character in their datestamps until June 1916 when rightfully the character "五" (five) should be used now that the republic in its 5th year had been restored.

#### Latest Seen Usage Of "1st Year" Depiction **Among Northeast China Daters**





With chiselled "\overline{\pi}"

Mail went by rail and was cancelled by the No. 5 Office of the Central Eastern Railway Manchouli-Suifenho Mail Route for delivery to Makiaoho, the very last station on the eastern end of this rail route

Harbin to Makiaoho

1 June 1916

To facilitate foreigners in knowing where and when mail originated, and also which town to return mail to in case of non-delivery, this type of datestamps with date in the Gregorian calendar had been distributed to major post offices of each province back in May/June 1897. However, during the Chinese Imperial Post period only 4 cities in the Northeast China provinces had been assigned such datestamps, namely Newchwang, Moukden, Harbin and Antung.

#### Newchwang

### **As Cancel For Outgoing Mail**



Newchwang local delivery

19 Mar 1906

#### **As Cancel For Incoming Mail**





Bulwell, England to Shanghai redirected to Newchwang Arrival Shanghai 25 Sept and Newchwang 28 Sept.

29 Aug 1916

#### Moukden

With activities growing more busy the Moukden P.O., from the original pre-republic datestamp, eventually had a few types.

#### Type I Datestamp As Transit Cancel

Type I Datestamp As Franking Cancel C. NIMZ, Postkarte — Carte postale

Fangtse, Prevince of Shardung Weltpostverein — Union postale universelle

C. C. 7293, CHINA

Amélie Held

gusteustr. 67. 4. l.

Deubehland

11744

Fangtze Shantung (5 May 1913) via Moukden (7 May 1913) to Munich.

Moukden to Siyusze

Arrival Siyusze on 26 Dec.

23 Dec 1918

機



Type I

25 mm Ø
(original)



Type II 26 mm Ø



Peitaiho Beach to Salmon Arm, Canada

#### Moukden

Type III Datestamp With Character "=" (2) As Transit Cancel



Tientsin to Salmon Arm, Canada

Via Moukden 19 Nov.

18 Nov 1920

# Type III Datestamp With Character "四" (4) As Transit Cancel





Type III 28.5 mm Ø



#### Harbin

Like Moukden, the just as busy Harbin P.O. in the republican period also eventually had a few types of these handstamps.

## Type I Datestamp As Transit Cancel



Type I
25 mm Ø
(original)



Type II 25.5 mm Ø



Harbin to Tientsin

Arrival Tientsin on 4 July.

30 Jun 1917

Type II Datestamp As Transit Cancel



Tatun, Chihli to Deurne, Belgium
Via Chinchowfu 23 Sept and Harbin 25 Sept for delivery
to Deurne arriving on 9 Oct (backstamped).

Sept 1913

#### Harbin

Type III Datestamp As Transit Cancel





Type III 27 mm Ø



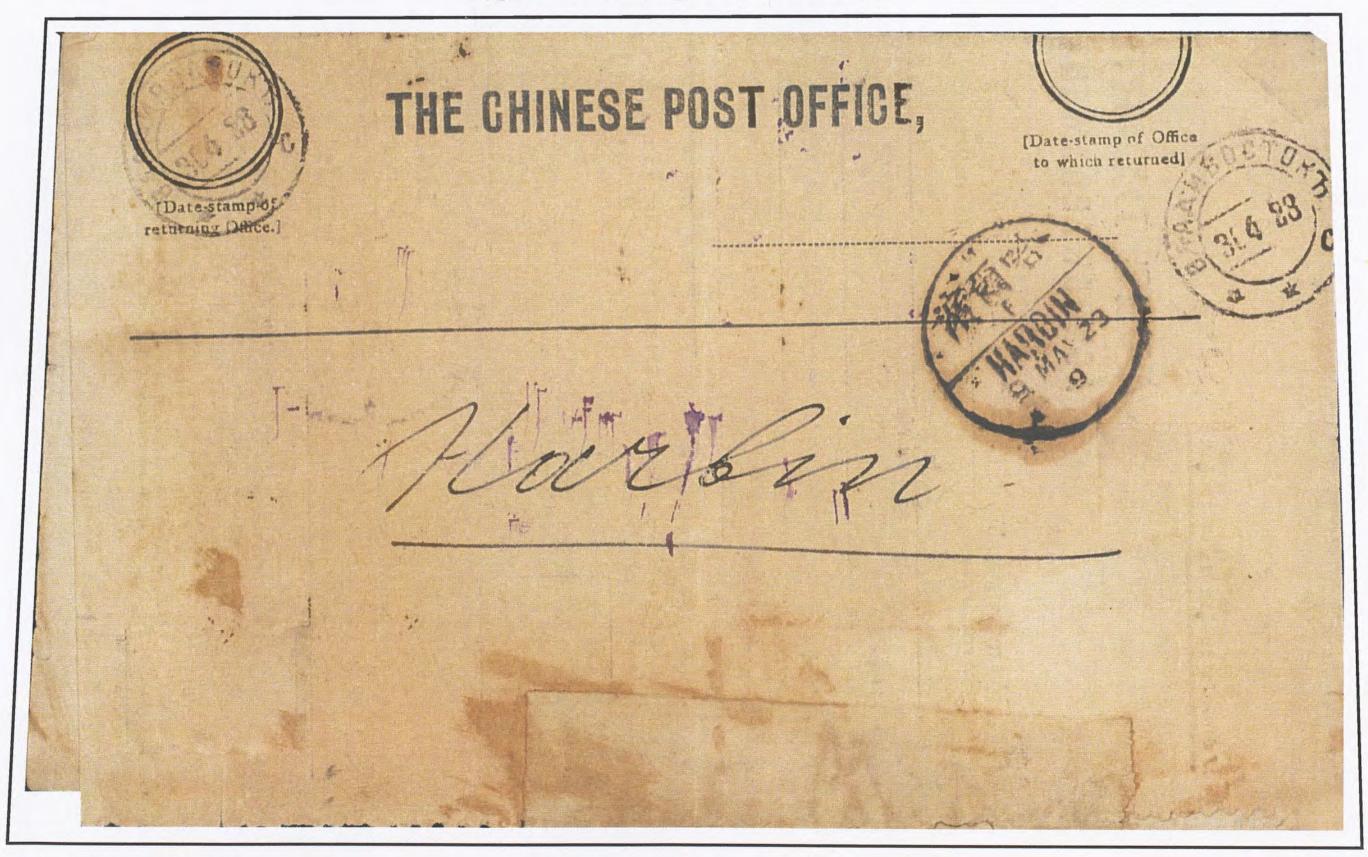
Type IV 28.5 mmø

Hankow to Milan

Via Harbin on 7 May.

3 May 1916

#### Type IV Datestamp As Arrival Cancel

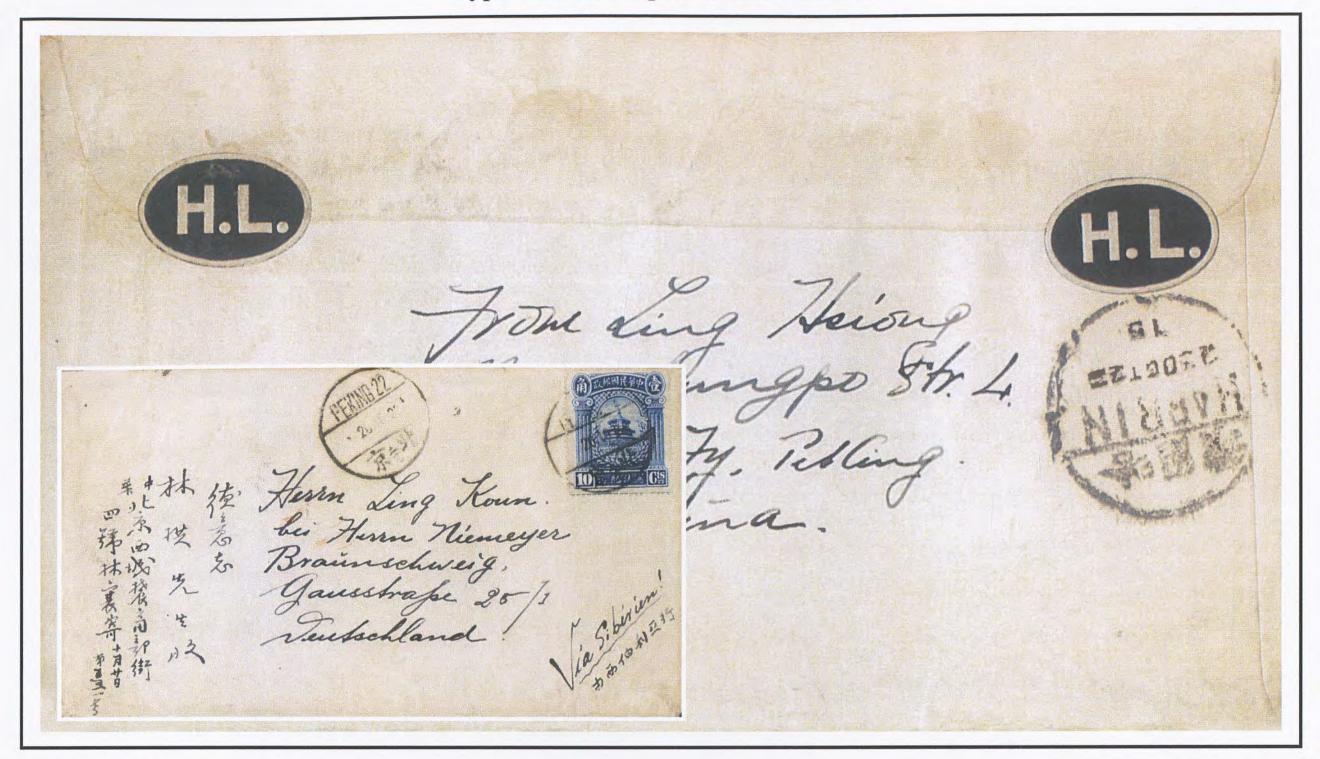


Vladivostok to Harbin

30 Apr 1923

#### Harbin

Type V Datestamp As Transit Cancel



Peking to Braunschweig, Germany

Via Harbin on 23 Oct.

20 Oct 1923

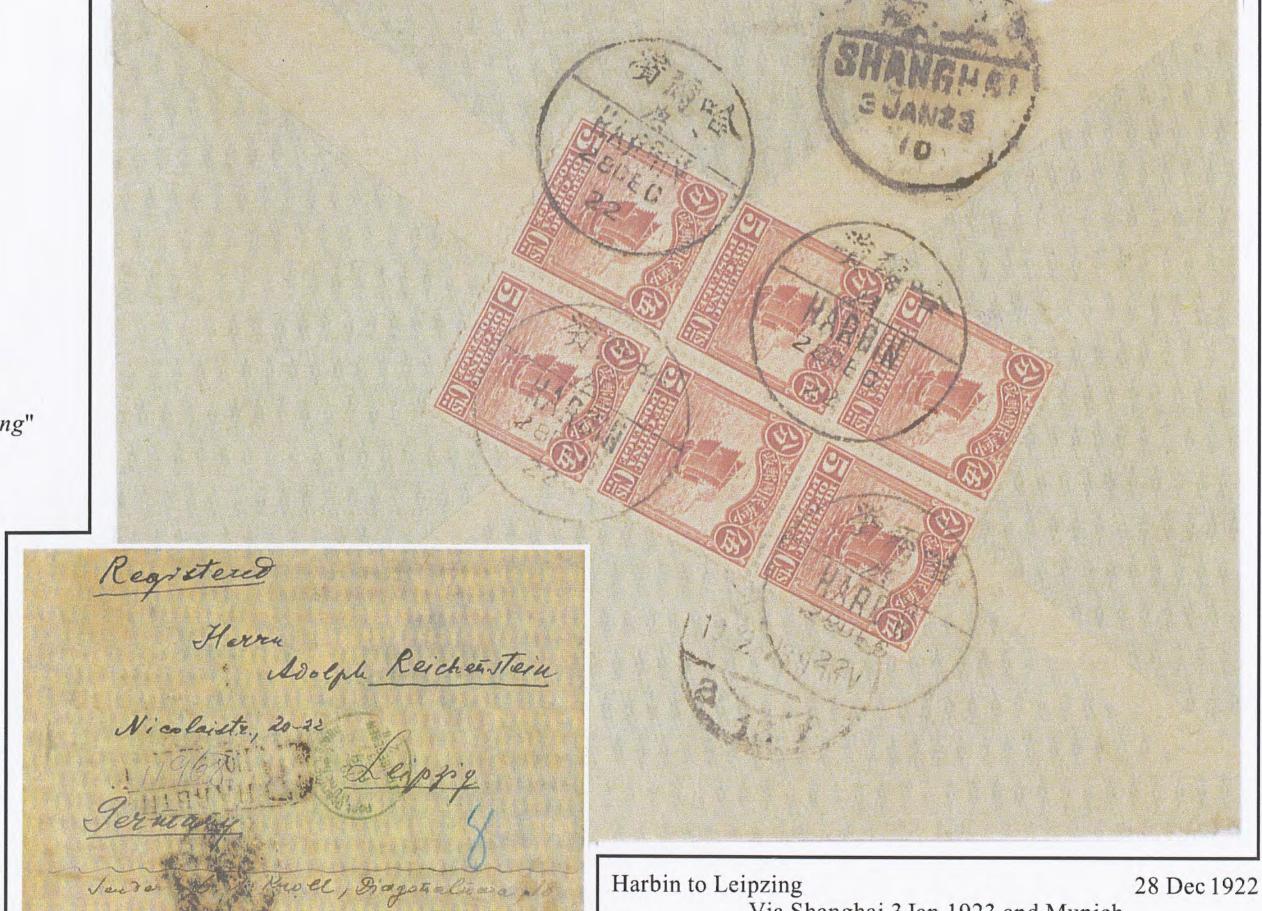
Type VI Datestamp (With Celestial Stem Character) As Franking Cancel



Type V 28.5 mm Ø



Type VI 28 mm Ø (with celestial stem character "庚")



Harbin to Leipzing

Via Shanghai 3 Jan 1923 and Munich

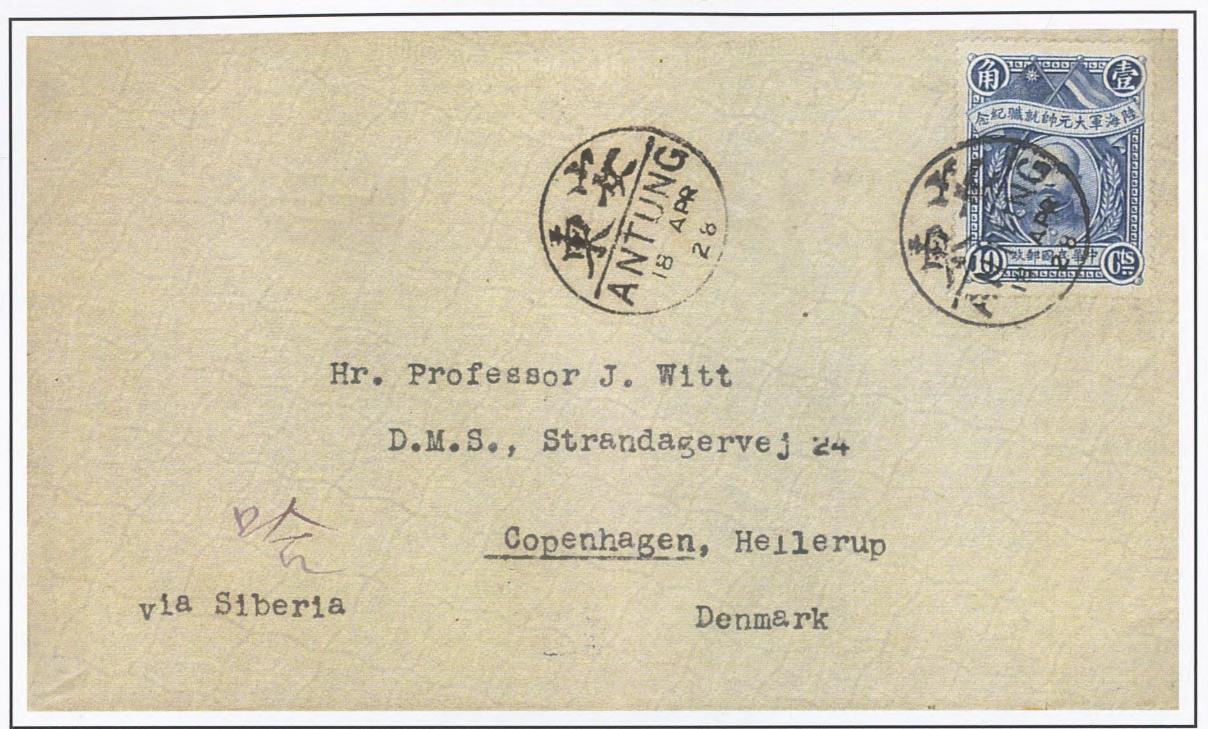
10 Feb for delivery to Leipzing arriving

on the same day.

### Antung

Although Antung was one of the 4 cities in the Northeast originally provided with this type of datestamps, its volume of foreign mail was relatively low, hence into the republican period it was still using the original provision.

#### **As Cancel For Outgoing Mail**



Antung to Copenhagen

18 Apr 1928



Takushan to Copenhagen

Via Antung on 30 Sept.

29 Sept 1928

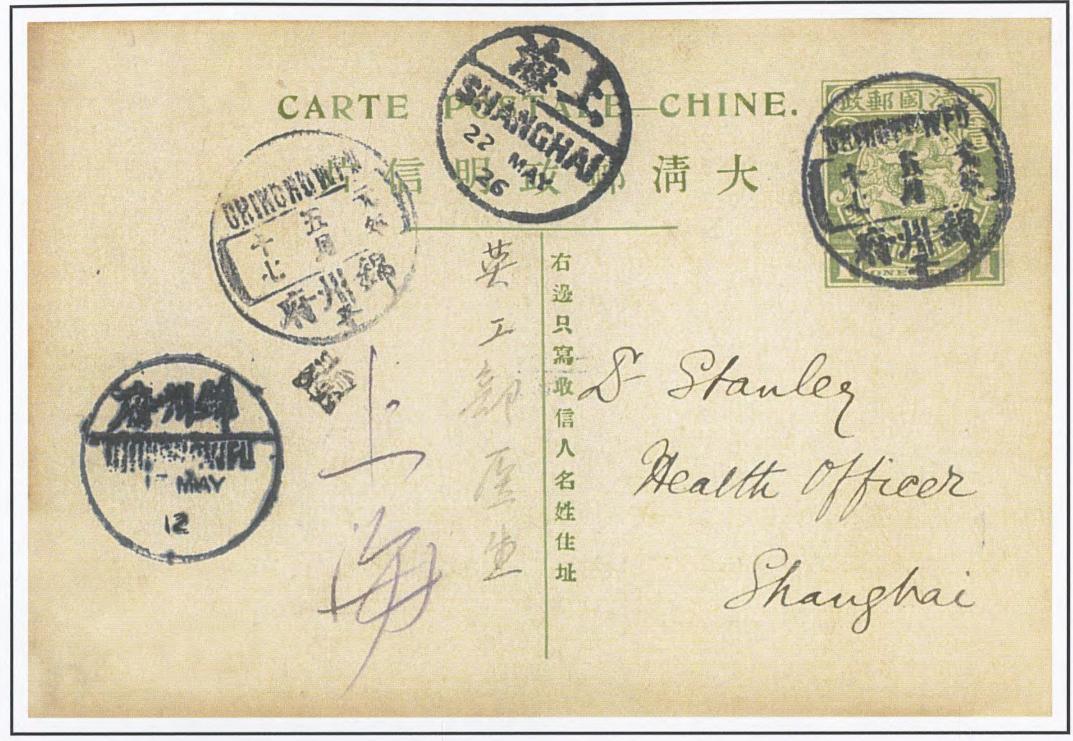


In the republican period the growing number of foreigners in the country brought about a growing volume of foreign mail. Quite some cities in the Northeast, previously without this type of datestamps, became provided with them.

#### Chinchowfu & Suifenho

#### Chinchowfu Datestamp On Outgoing Mail





Chinchowfu to Shanghai

17 May 1912

#### Suifenho Datestamp On Outgoing Mail





Suifenho to Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A.

16 Mar 1929

No transit or arrival markings.

#### Kwanchengtze

The Kwanchengtze P.O. altogether had 3 different versions of this type of datestamps varying in size of circle and letterings.

#### Type I Datestamp





Type I

26 mm Ø

3 mm H letterings



Type II

25 mm Ø

2.5 mm H letterings

Kwanchengtze to Edinburgh

1 Dec 1913

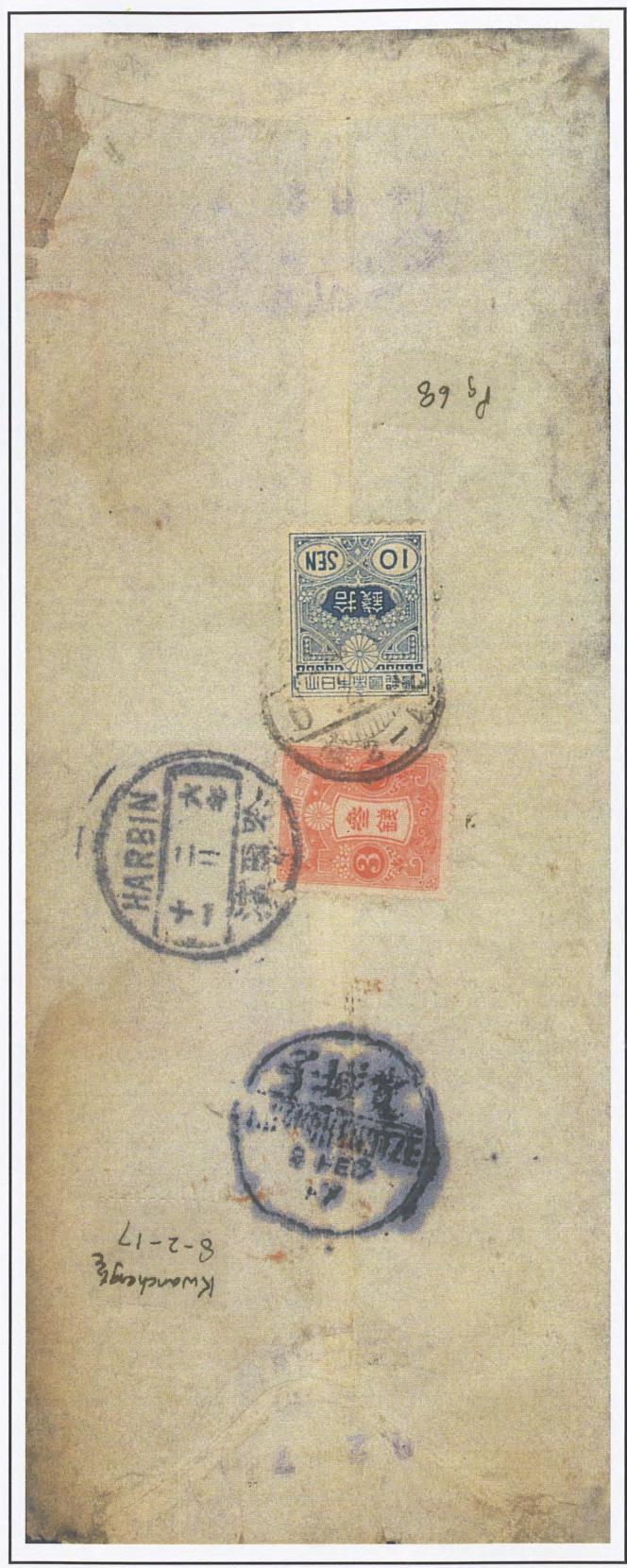
#### **Type II Datestamp**



Kwanchengtze to Bremen

# Kwanchengtze

# **Type III Datestamp As Transit Cancel**



Dairen to Harbin

This registered mail was posted from the
Dairen Japanese P.O. from which it went
to the Changchun (Kwanchengtze) Japanese
P.O. which then transferred it to the
Kwanchengtze P.O. on 8 Feb for delivery

to Harbin arriving 11 Feb.



Date in Changchun I.J.P.O. datestamp indistinct.

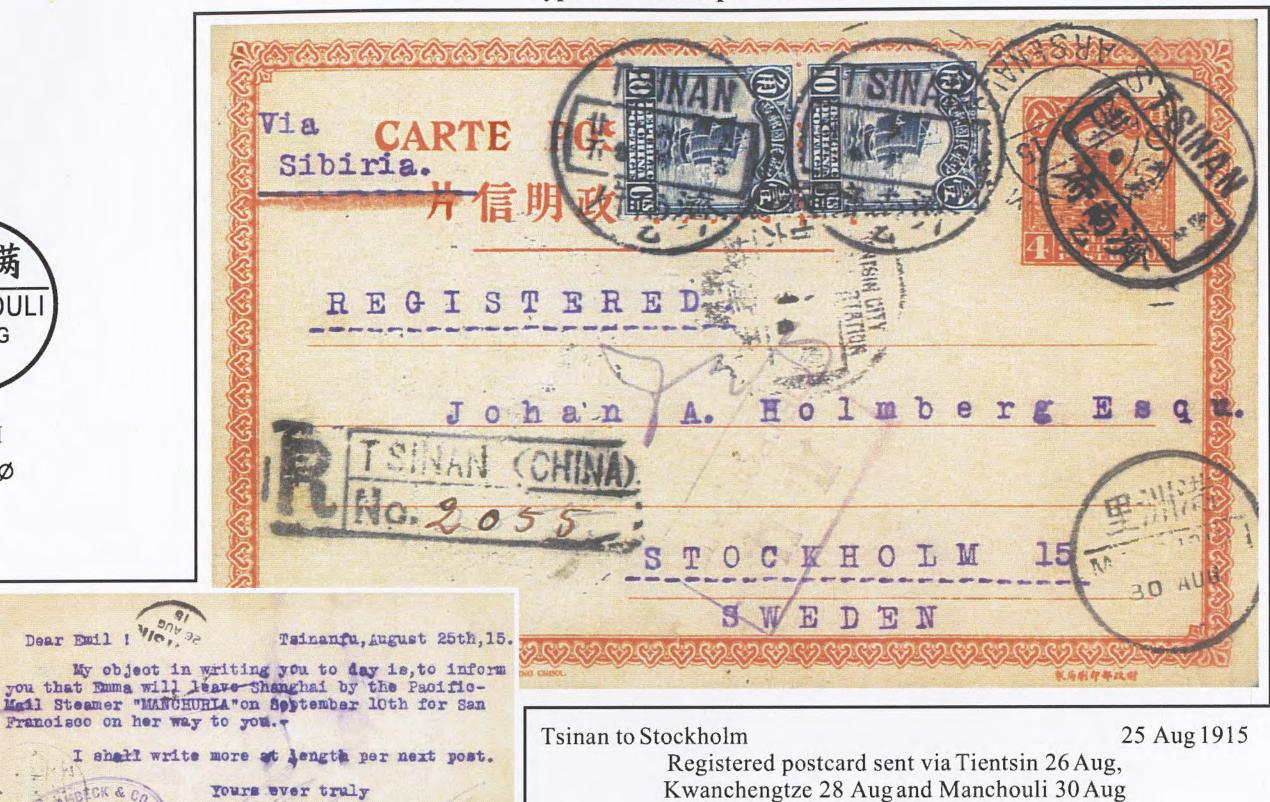


Type III
27.5 mm Ø
3.5 mm H letterings

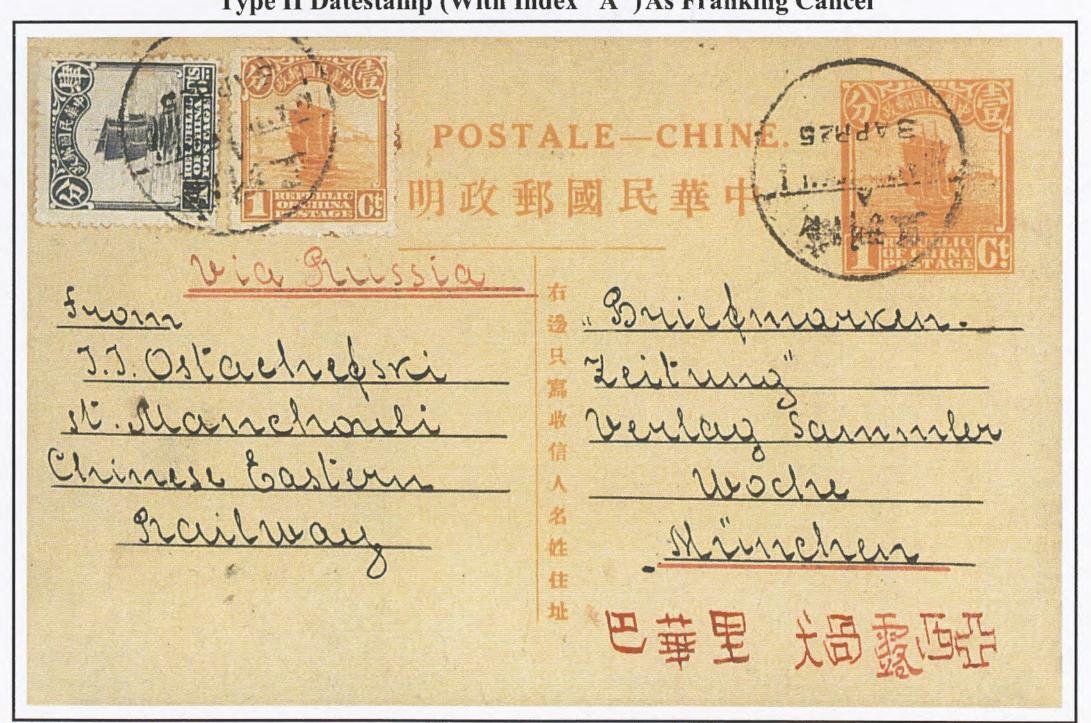
#### Manchouli

Two types of these datestamps had been seen used at the Manchouli P.O.

#### Type I Datestamp As Transit Cancel



Type II Datestamp (With Index "A") As Franking Cancel





Type II
28 mm Ø
(with index "A" letter)

**MANCHOULI** 

30 AUG

Type I

25 mm Ø

to Stockholm arriving on 19 Sept. Mail

was subjected to Russian censorship at

Petrograd because of World War I.

#### Manchouli

Type II Datestamp (With Index "B") On Registered Mail



(with index "B" letter)



Type II

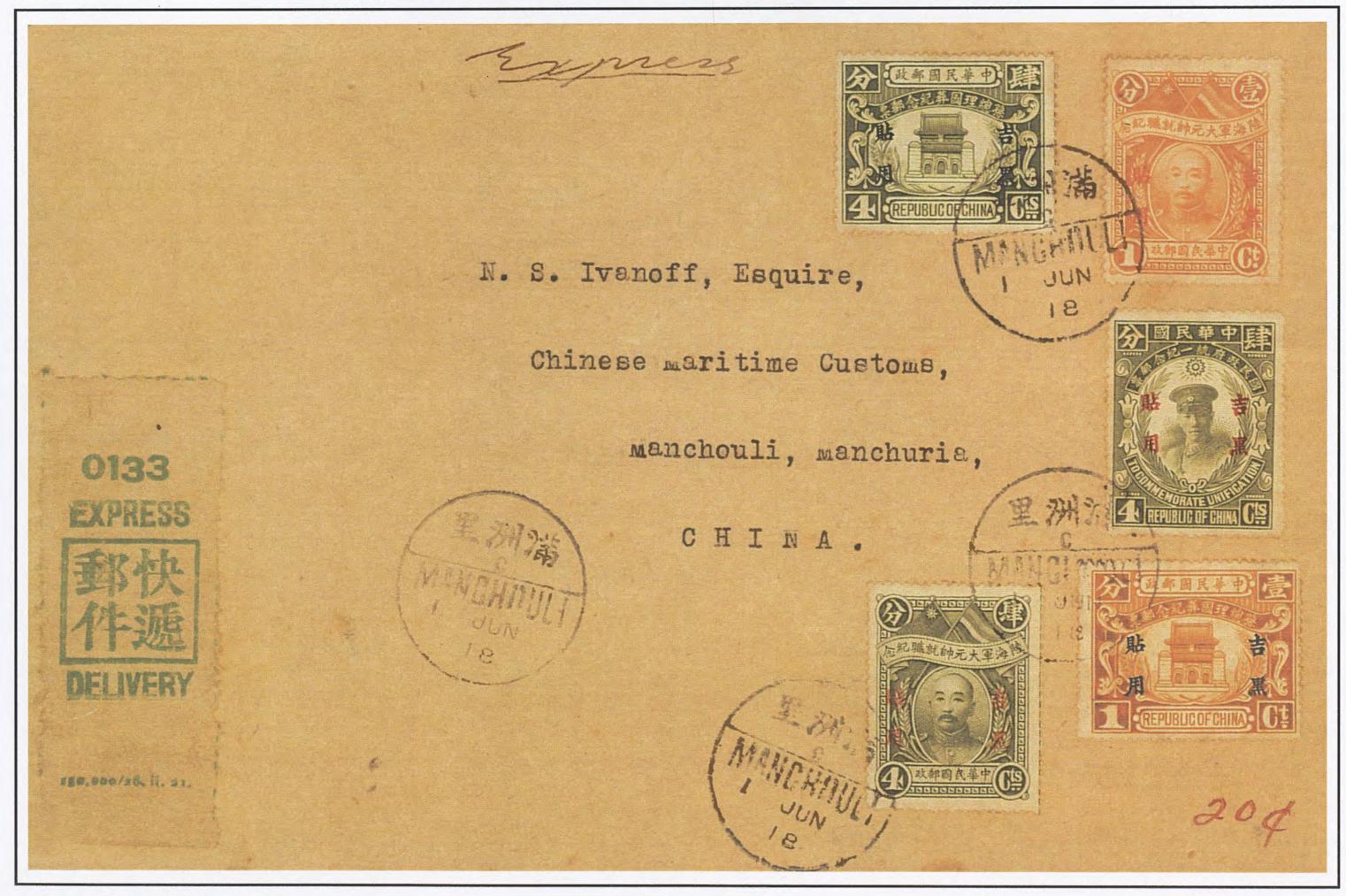


Manchouli to Columbus, U.S.A.

1 July 1928

Via Moukden 3 July to arrive Columbus on 28 July.

Type II Datestamp (With Index "C") On Express Delivery Mail



#### Kirin

Dater With Year Represented By Only The Last 2 Digits



Kirin to Oxford, England

Mail was delivered via Harbin 16 Sept and London 29 Sept to Oxford arriving on the same day (all backstamped). The Kirin P.O. might have omitted stamping a registration marking on the mail, and as such, the London P.O. added a registration label on the cover and crossed it

in blue crayon. Registered international single letter rate of 20 cents.

#### Dater With Year Represented By Only The First 2 Digits



Kirin to Stockholm 17 Dec 1917

As the Trans-Siberian Railway route was interrupted by the Russian Revolution, mail was delivered through Shanghai 22 Dec then via the Pacific to Seattle 14 Jan 1918 and overland to New York arriving 20 Jan. No Stockholmarrival marking. Registered international postcard rate of 14 cents (overpaid by half cent). Additionally struck with diamond censor marking of Kirin Prisoners-of War Refugee Camp.



Last 2 digits of year



Digits for year incomplete. To avoid being mistaken as "1919", "17" in manuscript was added.

#### Kirin

Dater With Year Represented By Complete All 4 Digits



Kirin to Peking

Free-franking official registered mail addressed to the Netherlands Legation in Peking. Additionally cacheted with the censor marking of the Kirin Prisoners-Of-War Refugee Camp in violet. Arrival Peking on 18 May (backstamped).

## **Dater With Year Digits Completely Missing**







Kirin to Stockholm
Via Moukden 21 Mar (backstamped) and New York 16 Apr to arrive Stockholm on 3 June.

# Taheiho & Imienpo

Taheiho and Imienpo were 2nd Class post offices and assignment with this kind of datestamps was relatively late in the 1920s.

# **Only Example Seen To Date**



Taheiho to Shanghai 9 Feb 1925
Arrival Shanghai on 18 Feb. Domestic A.R.
registered rate of 13 cents.
Ordinary, 3 cents
A.R. registration fee, 10 cents
13 cents

(Effective from 5 Aug 1910 to 31 Oct 1925)



Only 3 Examples Seen To Date



Imienpo to Changchun
Arrival Changchun on 24 Dec
(backstamped). Domestic A.R.
registered mail rate of 16 cents.

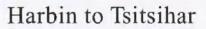
Ordinary,
A.R. registration fee, 12 cents
16 cents

(Effective from 1 Feb 1929 to 30 Apr 1932)

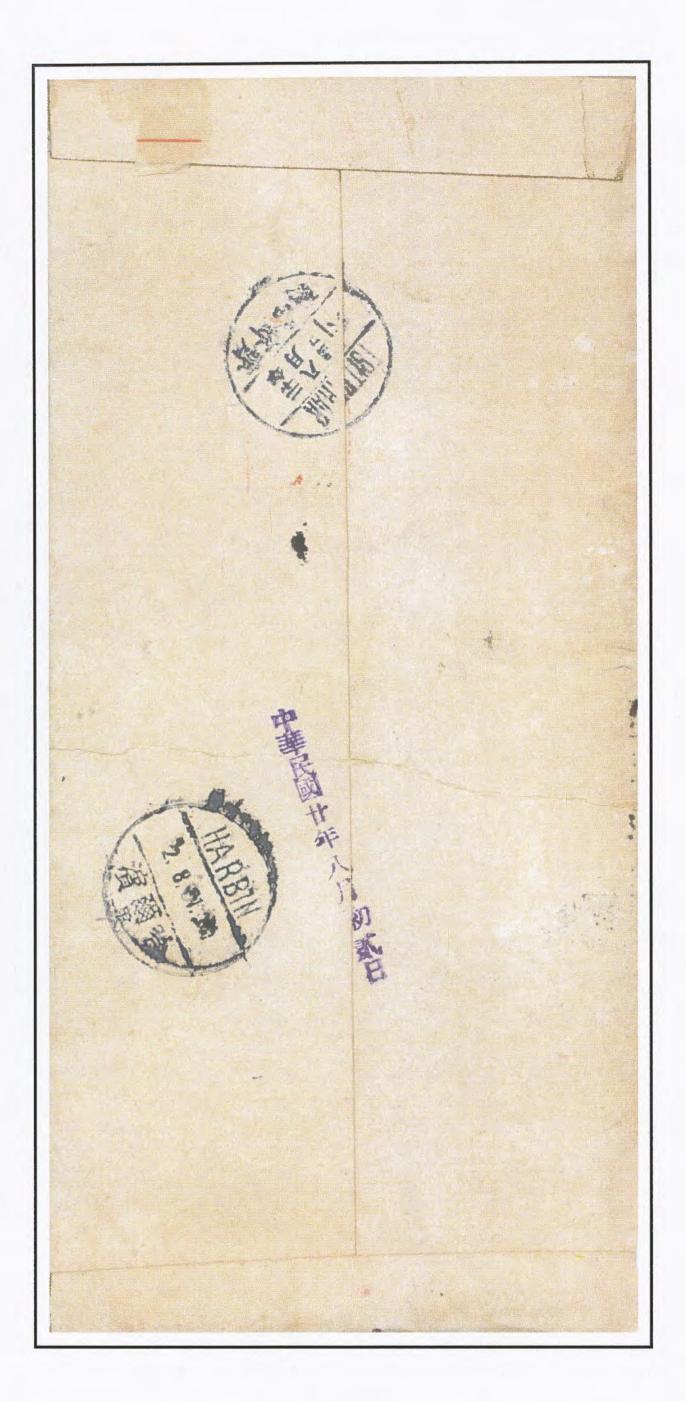


# Tsitsihar





Arrival Tsitsihar on 4 Aug where postage due of 8 cents (double penalty on single letter rate of 4 cents) was imposed and cancelled by Tsitsihar P.O.



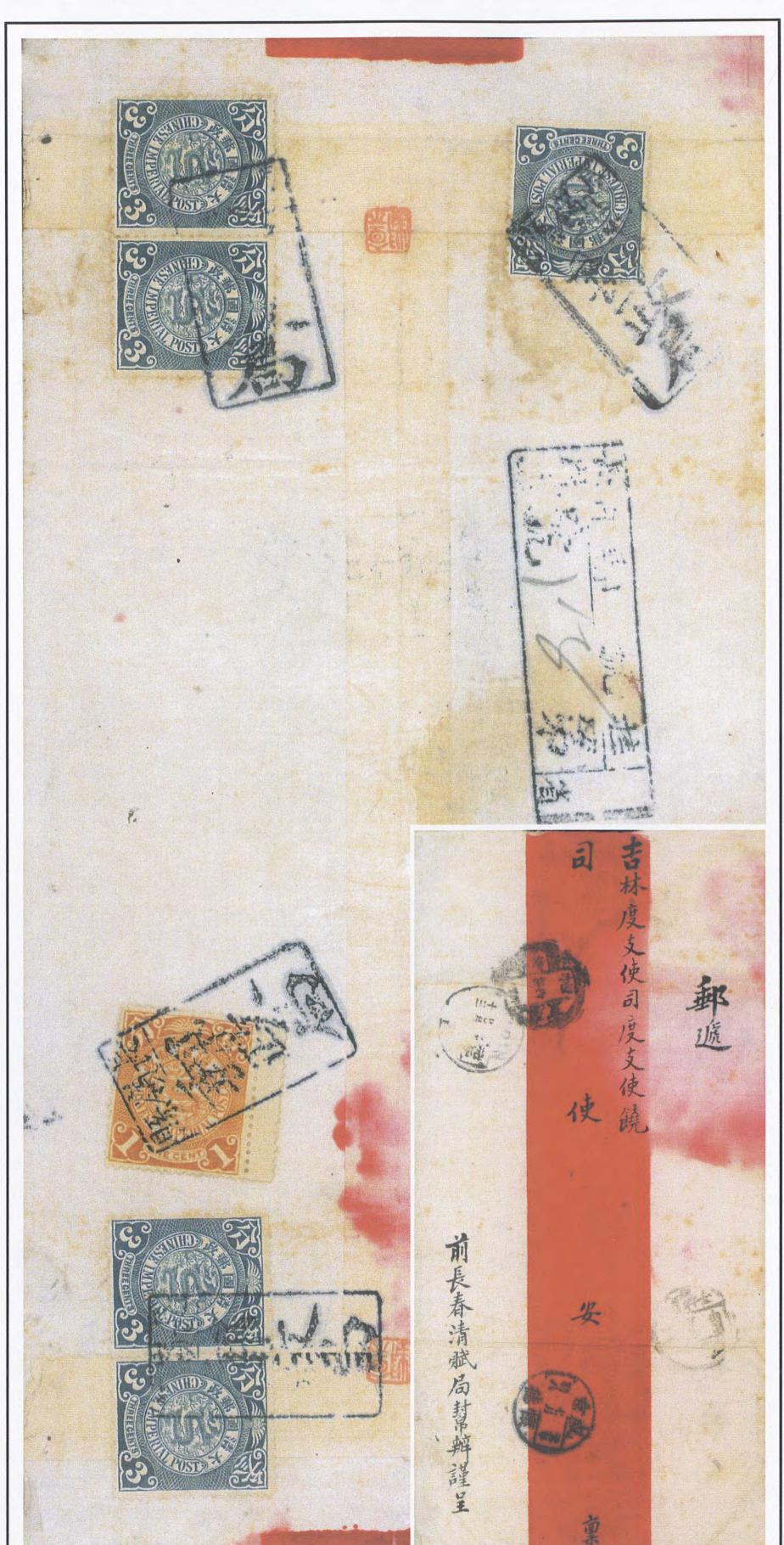


Contrary to regulation on use of this datestamp which specified that date should strictly be in the Gregorian calendar, office staff had inserted "20" (20th year of the republic) instead of the rightful "31" for 1931.

# 3.4 Continued Usage Of Nameplate Cancels

With entry into the republican period the non-dated nameplate and circular handstamp cancels used earlier by sub-offices, postal agencies and letter counters dwindled considerably when the majority of such cancels began to be replaced by standardized regular datestamps. As replacement was progressive, some of the undated handstamp cancels were continued in usage for some time.

**Cancelled On Double Letter** A.R. RegisteredMail



Changlinghsien

rdinary, 1st step = Add'1 =

A.R. registration =  $\frac{10}{16}$  c

Via Hwaite 8 July, Kungchuling 10 July, Kwanchengte 11 July to arrive Kirin on 13 July.

Changlinghsien to Kirin

July 1912

# **Fangshanchen Sub-Office**



Fangshanchen to Peking

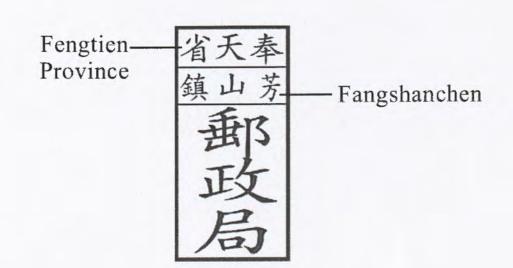
Sender had also inscribed on the

cover 14 July 1912 as the

posting date. Via Chenan 14 July

for arrival at Peking on 16 July

(backstamped).



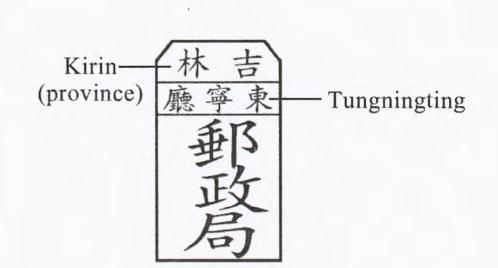
# **Tungningting Sub-Office**



Tungningting to Tientsin

Via Suifenho 2 Sept and Harbin

4 Sep for Tientsin arrival on 7 Sept.



# 3.4 Continued Usage Of Nameplate Cancels

# Mishanfu Sub-Office



Mishanfu to Tientsin
Via Muling, Kirin in Jan 1913
for delivery to Tientsin (arrival
date in cancel indistinct).





Jan 1913

Seen used in 1911 and 1912 only.

Tsitsihar No. 8 Postal Agency



Tsitsihar to Fengtien (Moukden)

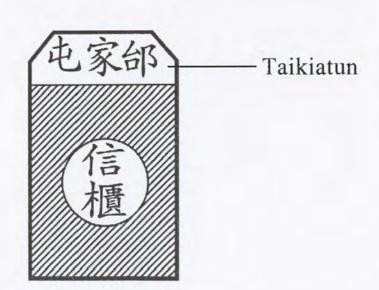
Posted from agency franking was cancelled by Tsitsihar
P.O. on 4 Nov for delivery to Fengtien arriving on 6 Nov.

# **Taikiatun Letter Counter**



Taikiatun to Peking
Posted from the Taikiatun Letter Counter
mail was delivered via Shanhaikwan (date
indistinct) to arrive Peking on 17 June.

June 1918



# **Kiangtientze Letter Counter**



Kiangtientze to Peking July 1919
Via Tunghwa 2 July and
Moukden 7 July (backstamped)
for delivery to Peking (no arrival marking).



# 3.4 Continued Usage Of Nameplate Cancels

By the 1920s most of the postal agencies and letter counters in the Northeast China provinces had their nameplate cancels replaced. However some of these establishments in very remote places were still in use of these into the early 1930s, although by then they were even allowed to handle registration services.

#### **Kungchaikow Letter Counter**



Kungchaikow to Odense

18 Oct 1925

Date described is when postcard was written. The postcard rate to UPU countries was then 6 cents, hence overpaid by 1 cent. No arrival date



Kungchaikow



Siaochaimen

#### Siaochaimen Letter Counter



Siaochaimen to Harbin June 1931 Via Siaopehho on 25 June to arrive Harbin on 27 June.

Ordinary, 4 cents A.R. registration fee,  $\frac{12}{16}$  cents

In the Northeast China provinces during the Chinese Imperial Post period the use of nameplate type handstamps for sub-offices, postal agencies and letter counters seemed far more popular than circular types. During the Republic of China period it was the reverse as nameplate types evolved into circular types. However, being non-dated, these circular types were also progressively replaced by standardized regular datestamps.

#### **Shwangchaho Sub-Office Cancel**





Previously unrecorded

Shwangchaho to Kiaochenghsien, Shansi

Via Kirin 11 Mar, Peking 14 Mar and Taiyuanfu 16 Mar
to arrive Kiaochenghsien on 17 Mar. Double letter rate of 6 cents.

In the evolution from nameplate types to circular types a standard format with specified wordings was prescribed.

# Kuoerhloszetsienki Postal Agency

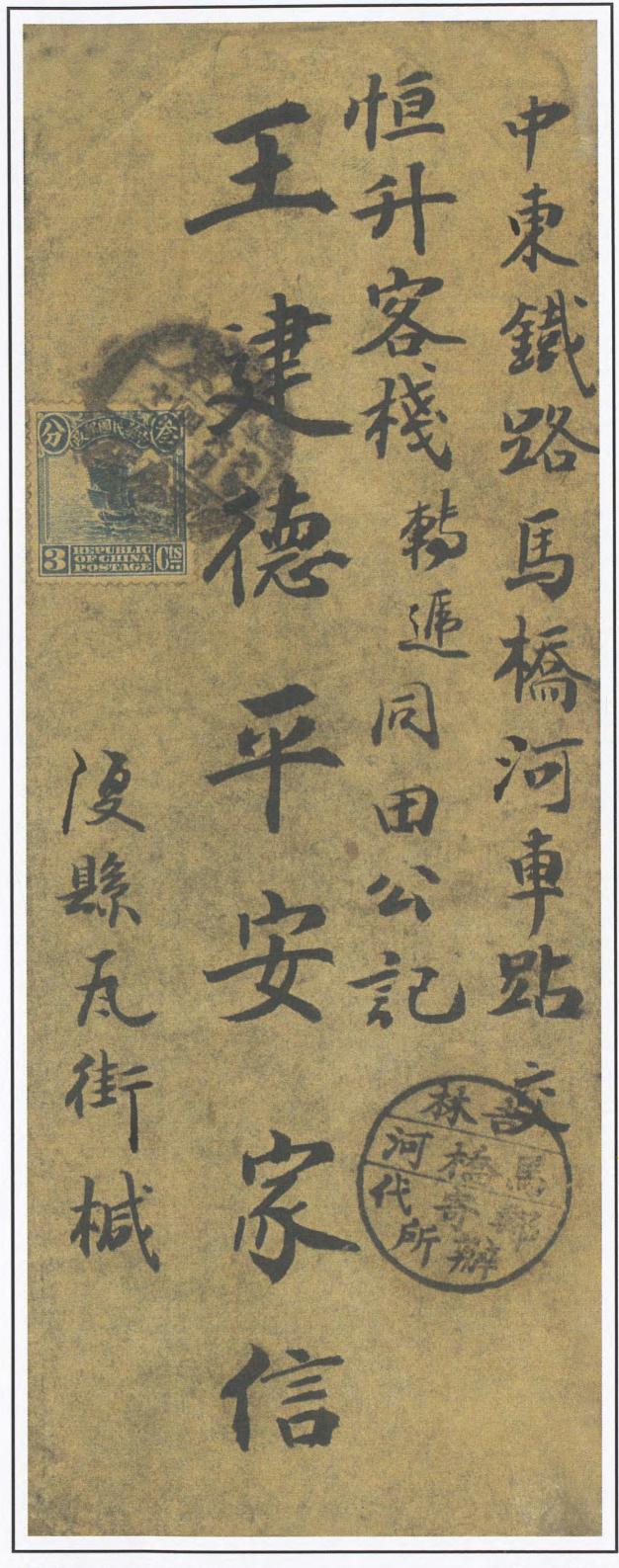


Kuoerhloszetsienki to Peking

Date as inscribed by sender. Mail was
delivered via Nungan 15 Oct and
Kwanchengtze 17 Oct (both backstamped)
to arrive Peking on 19 Oct. Domestic
A.R. registered mail rate of 13 cents.

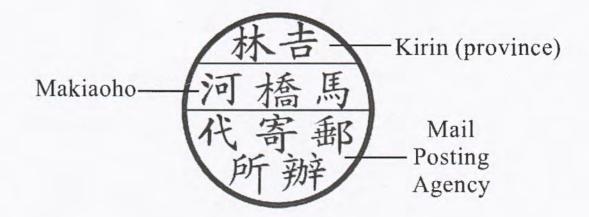


# Makiaoho Postal Agency



Wafangtien to Makiaoho

4 June 1917



Unlike earlier times during the Chinese Imperial Post period when postal agencies were requested to make their own handstamps, these circular cancels were centrally made and distributed.

# **Tafangshen Postal Agency**



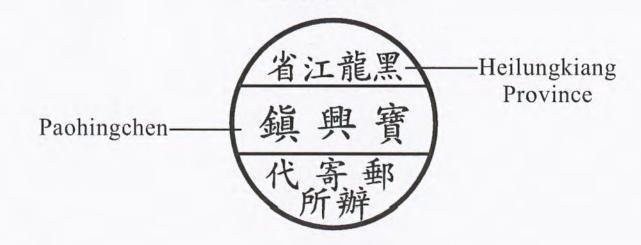
Tafangshen to Fenghwangcheng
Mail posted at agency was delivered via
Tungkow 23 Nov and Antung 24 Nov (both backstamped) to arrive Fenghwangcheng on 25 Nov.



# **Paohingchen Postal Agency**



Via Harbin 28 May. Hwangshanarrival date indistinct.



# **Tiehlingho Postal Agency**

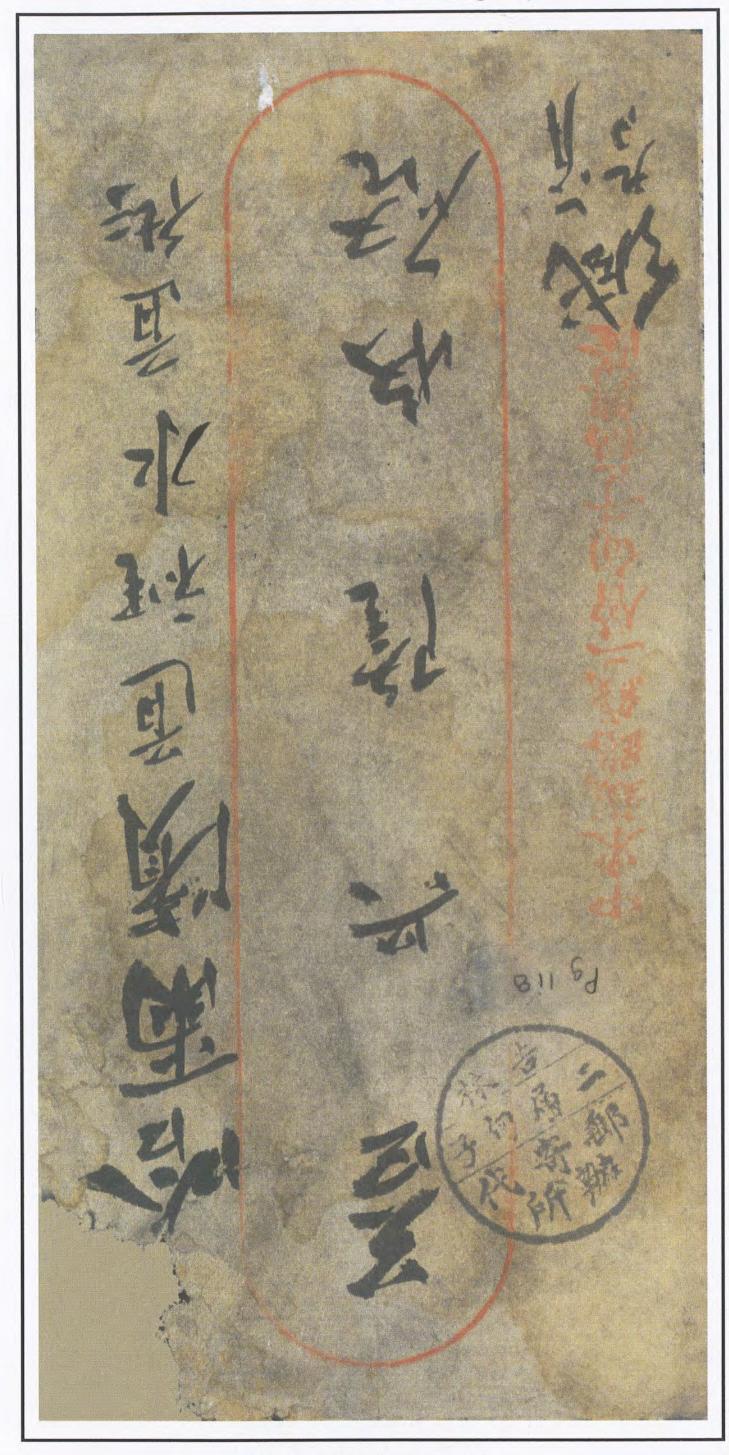


Tiehlingho to Harbin

Date unknown

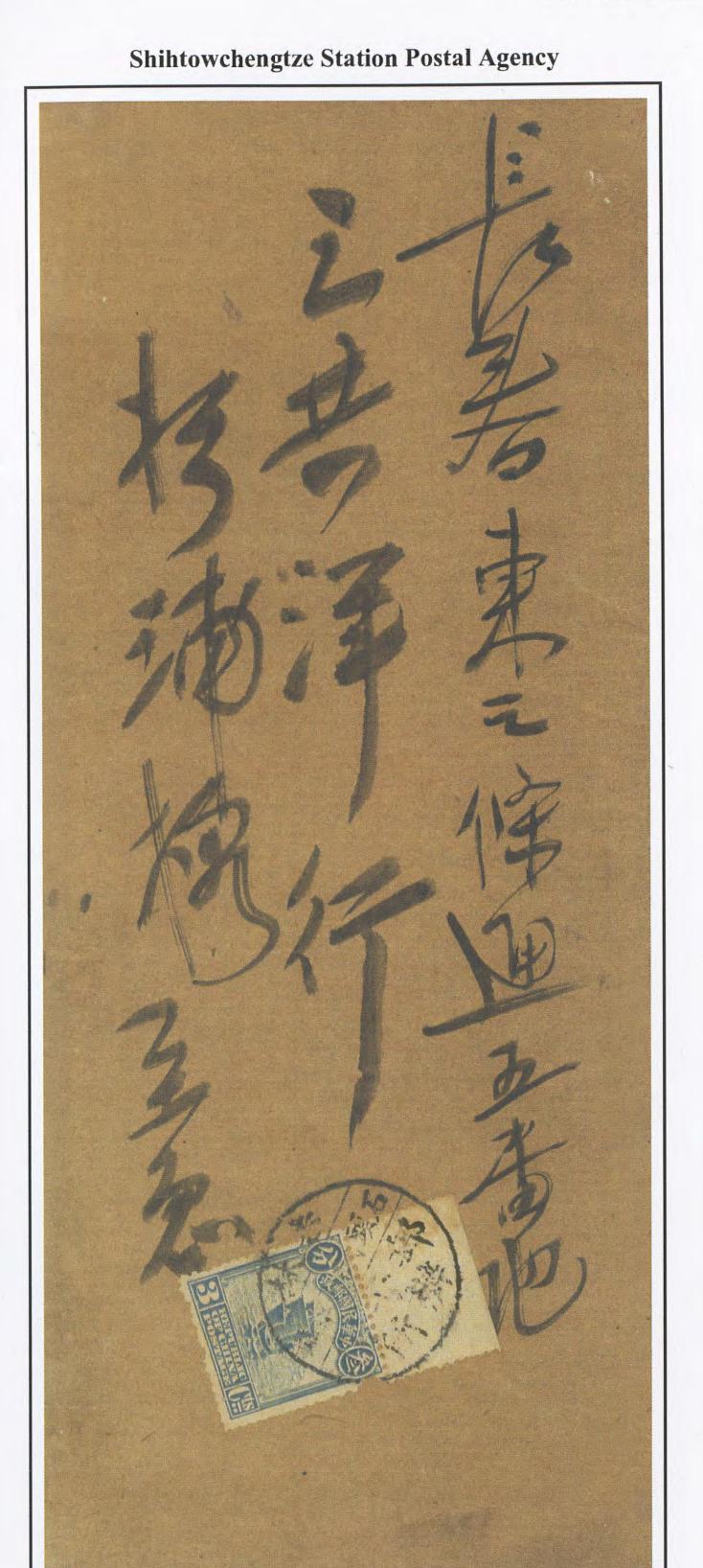


# **Erhchentientze Postal Agency**



Erhchentientze to Harbin Date unknown





Shihtowchengtze to Changchun Feb 1923
Backstamped Changchun arrival (day indistinct).





Piaohokowtze to Kirin Date unknown

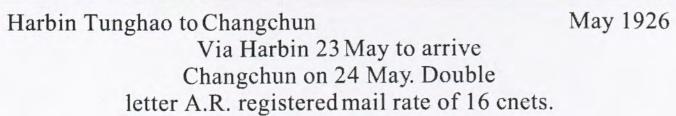




Unlike cancels for postal agencies which were centrally made, cancels for letter counters were made by the provincial head offices for distribution. hence although wordings to describe the kind of service might be the same, size, font and format might be somewhat different.



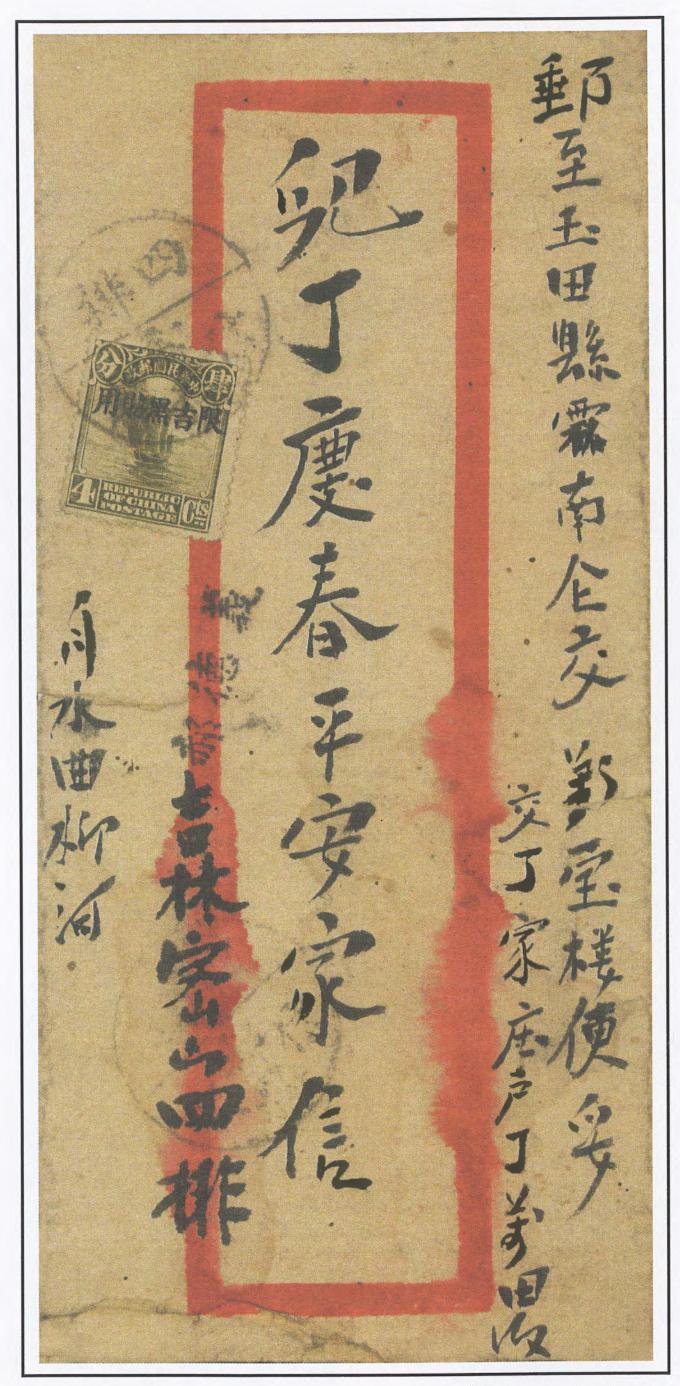








# **Szepai Letter Counter**



Szepai to Linnatsang

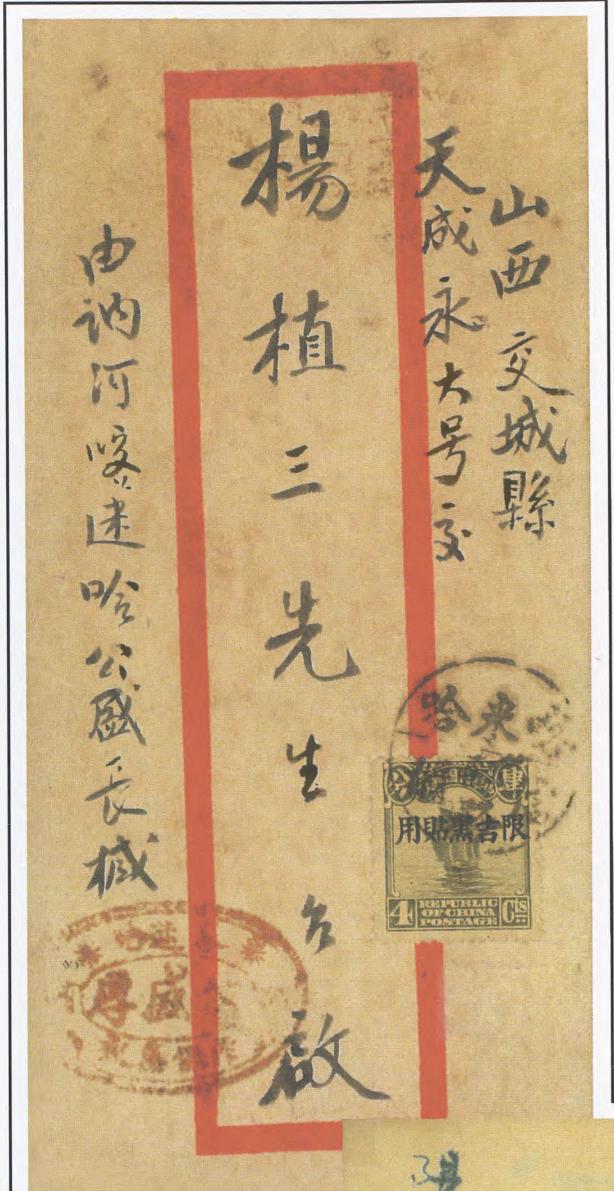
Oct 1931

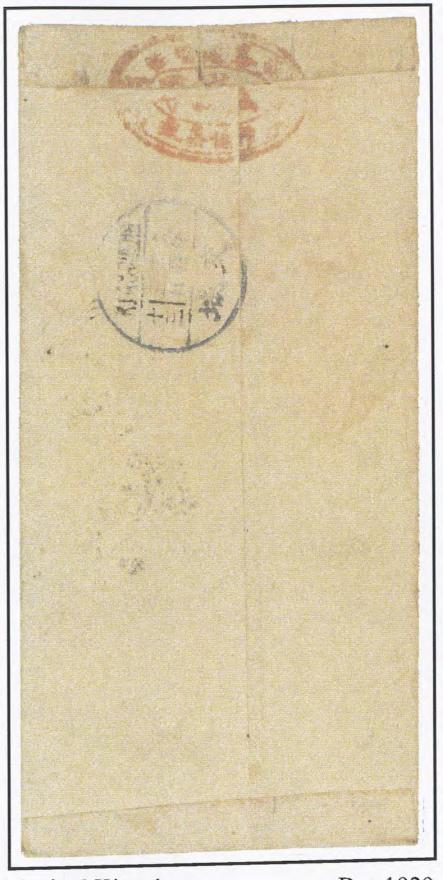


Via Sukochwang on 3 Oct 1931 to arrive Linnatsang on 4 Oct 1931.



# **Kamiha Letter Counter**

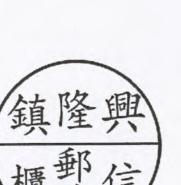




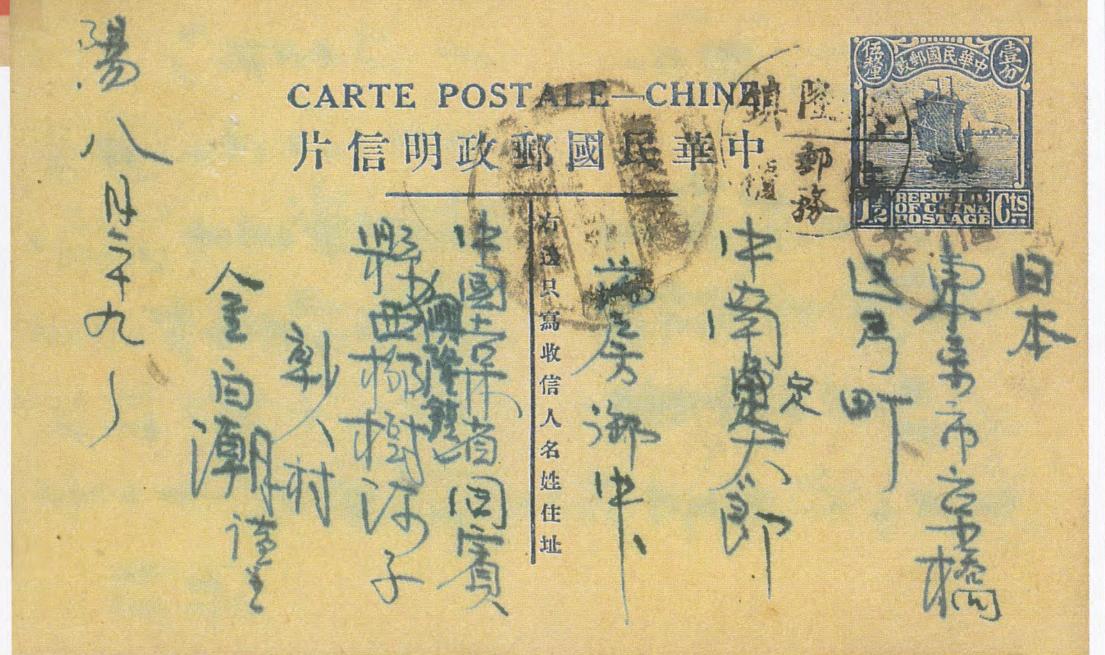


Arrival Kiaocheng Dec 1929 on 3 Dec 1929 (backstamped).

**Hinglungchen Letter Counter** 



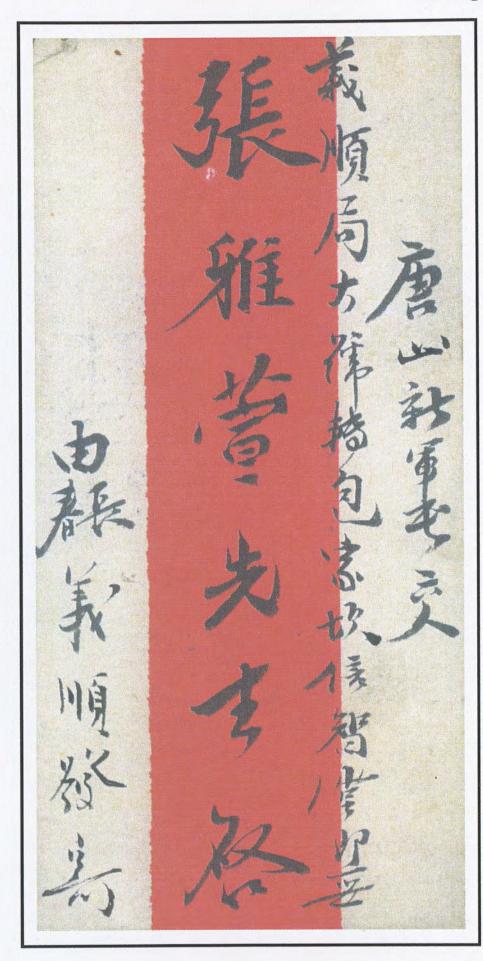
Kamiha to Kiaocheng



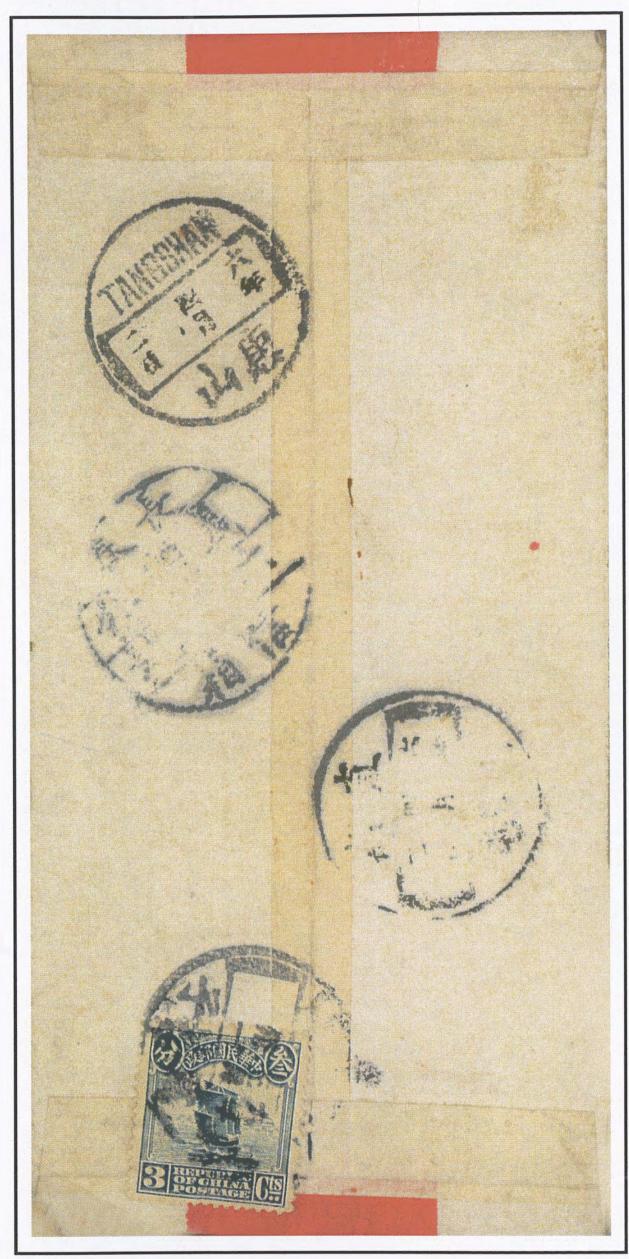
Hinglungchen via Kirin to Tokyo

For the lower level Letter Box establishments, cancels were even more diverse and could look very different. Some of these even went to the extent of including the name of the shop in the cancel.



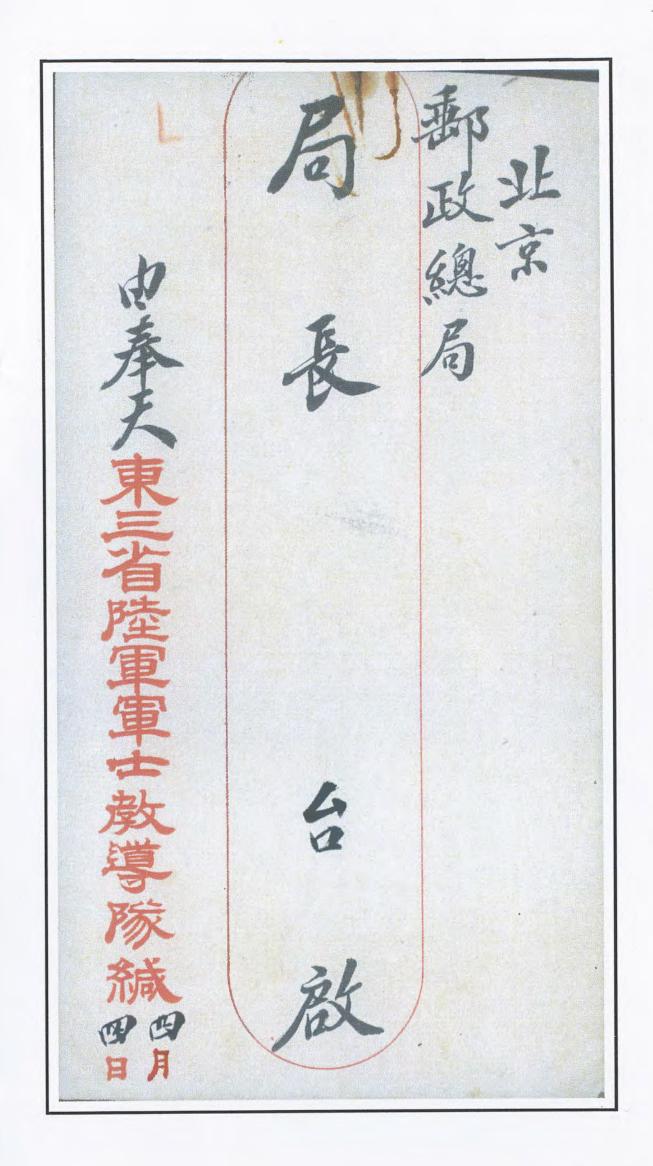




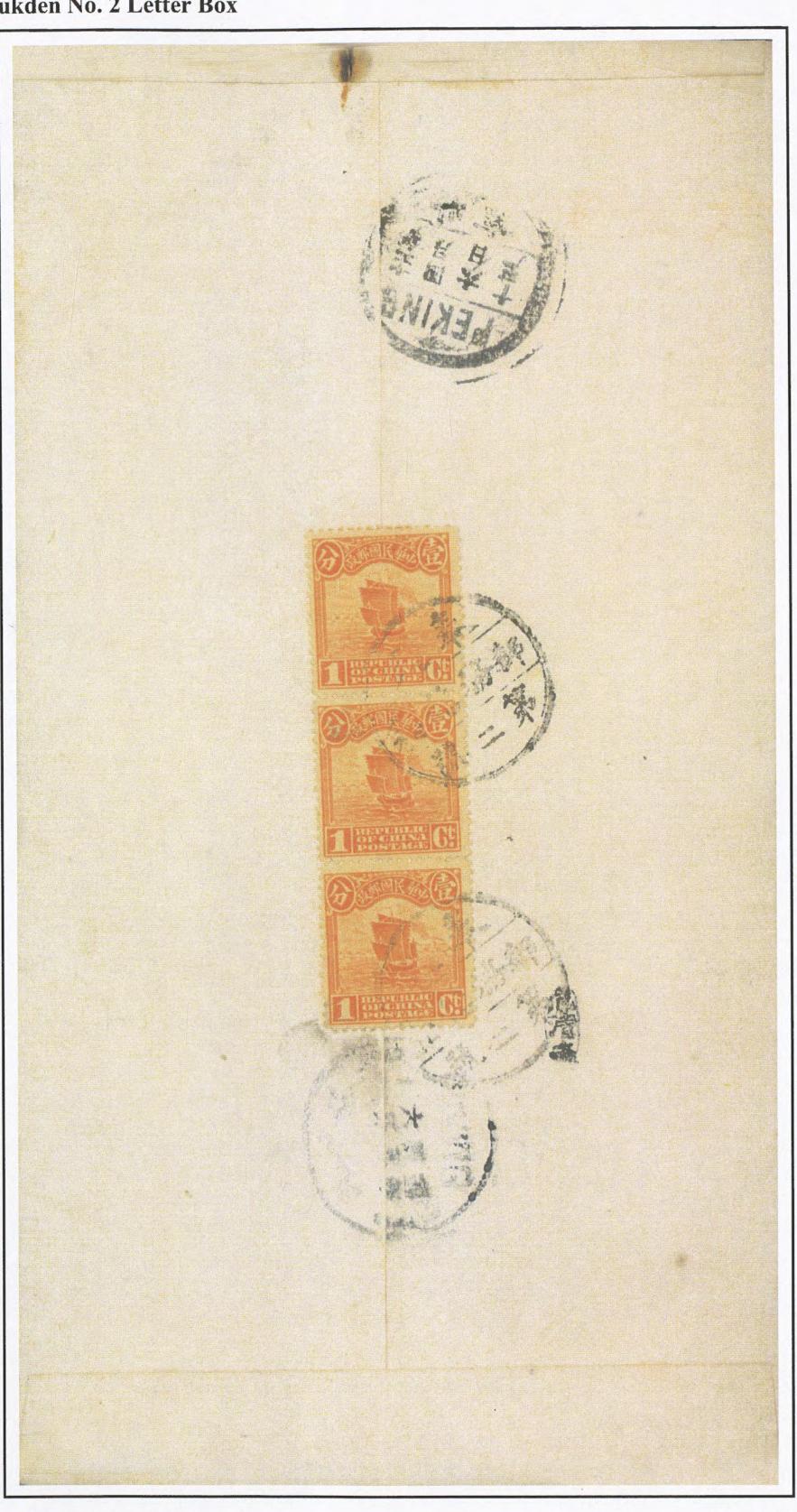


Kwanchengtze to Sinküntun Mar 1917
Mail from Letter Box was cancelled by Kwanchengtze P.O.
on 31 Mar and sent via Tangshan on 2 Apr to arrive
Sinküntun on 2 Apr.

# Moukden No. 2 Letter Box







Moukden to Peking

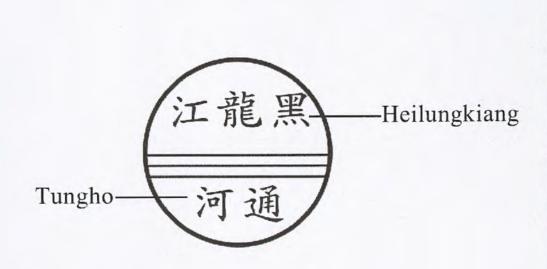
Sender had inscribed 4 Apr as date of posting on the front of the cover. Arrival Peking on 6 Apr 1923.

4Apr 1923

The cancel displayed on this page is even more weird for it has no information on whether it originated from a postal agency, letter counter or letter box, and the only information given were just the provincial and town names. Based on the fact that letter box cancels were the most non-conforming to standard, one could assume that this was probably a letter box cancel from Tungho, Heilungkiang.



Harbin to Tungho





These regular circular datestamps were either of the central box type or trisected. The all-Chinese types invariably had the provincial name at top and place name at bottom. The bilingual types were without provincial name, and the place name was shown with English at top and Chinese at bottom.

## **Liaoning Province**

When the Manchus took over reign of China in 1644 the country was divided into 18 provinces. The Northeast Provinces were considered the sacred cradle of the Manchus and were ruled by 3 generals of Shengking (盛京), Kirin (吉林) and Heilungkiang (黑龍江). In 1907 they were replaced by 3 governors of Fengtien, Kirin and Heilungkiang provinces. Although Shengking (盛京) had never been an official province, use of the name often stood in to imply Fengtien (奉天) province. In 1928, the name Fengtien was changed to Liaoning (遼寧).

## Sialowho Datestamp (Headed By 盛京) & Shatsientze Datestamp



Sialowho to Hwanghsien

Via Shatsientze 4 Dec and Chefoo 11 Dec
to arrive Hwanghsien on 13 Dec.



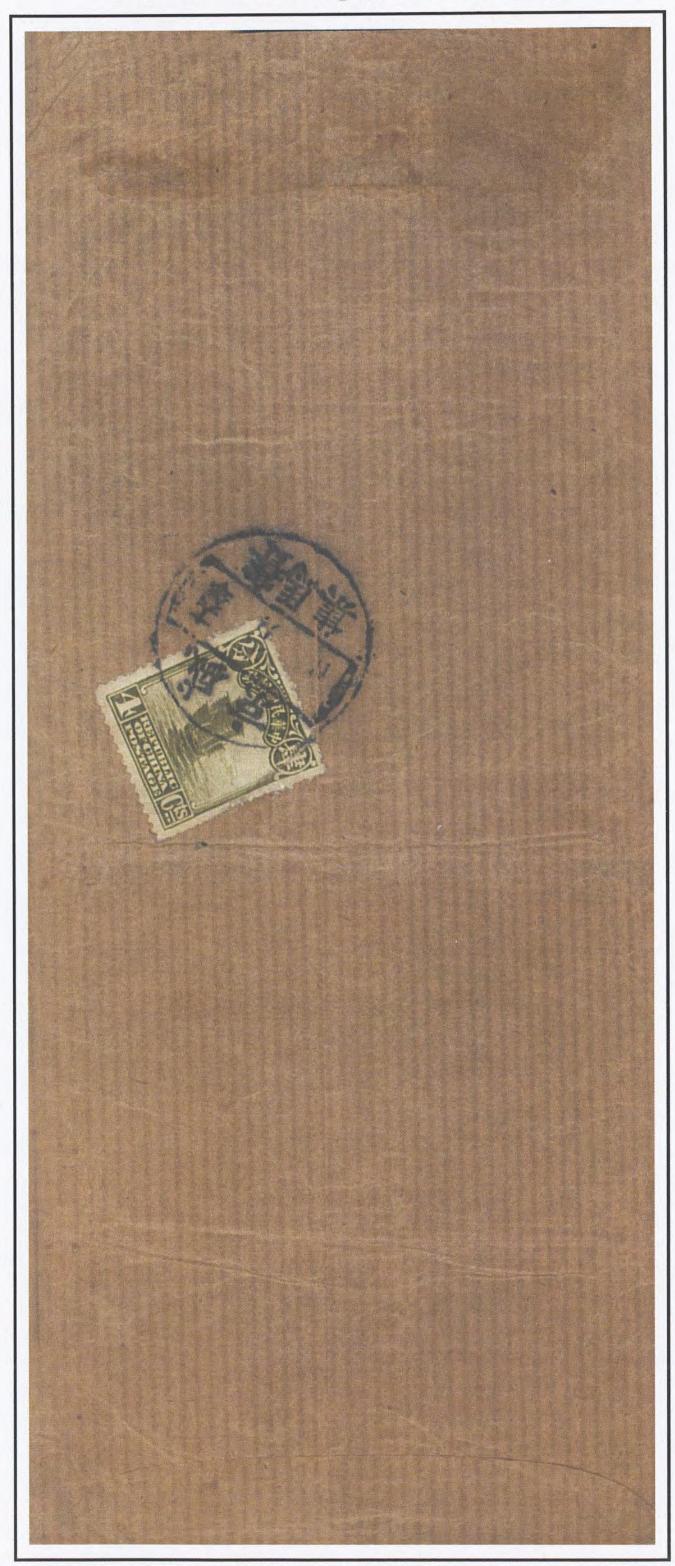




Sialowho

Saimatsih

Saimatsih Datestamp (Headed By 盛京)

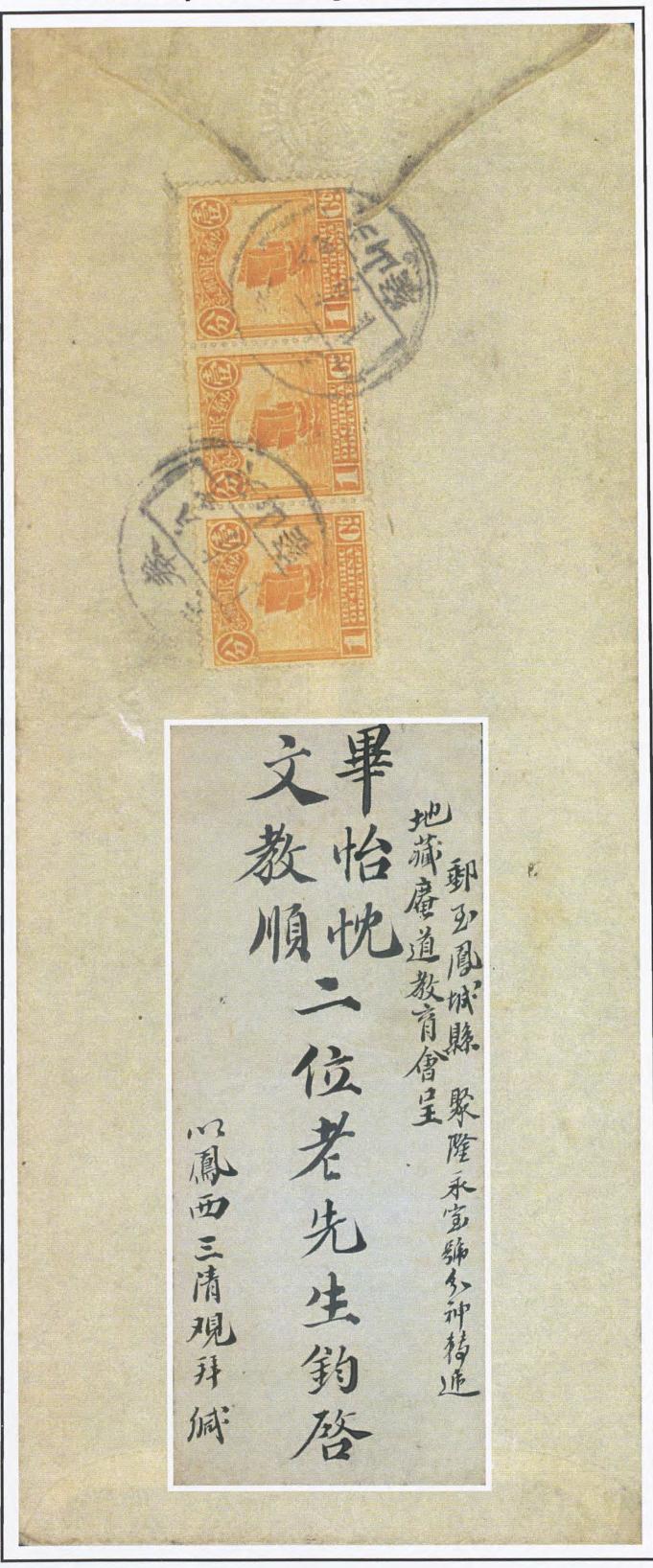


Saimatsih to Kwantien June 1927 Via Penki (date indistinct). No arrival marking.

# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual) Liaoning Province

Tsienshanyao Datestamp (Headed By 奉天)

Paolitun Datestamp (Headed By 奉天) & Changtu Datestamp



Tsienshanyao to Fenghwangcheng No arrival marking.

24 Oct 1919





Changtu to Paolitun
Arrival Paolitun on 14 Nov.

13 Nov 1924

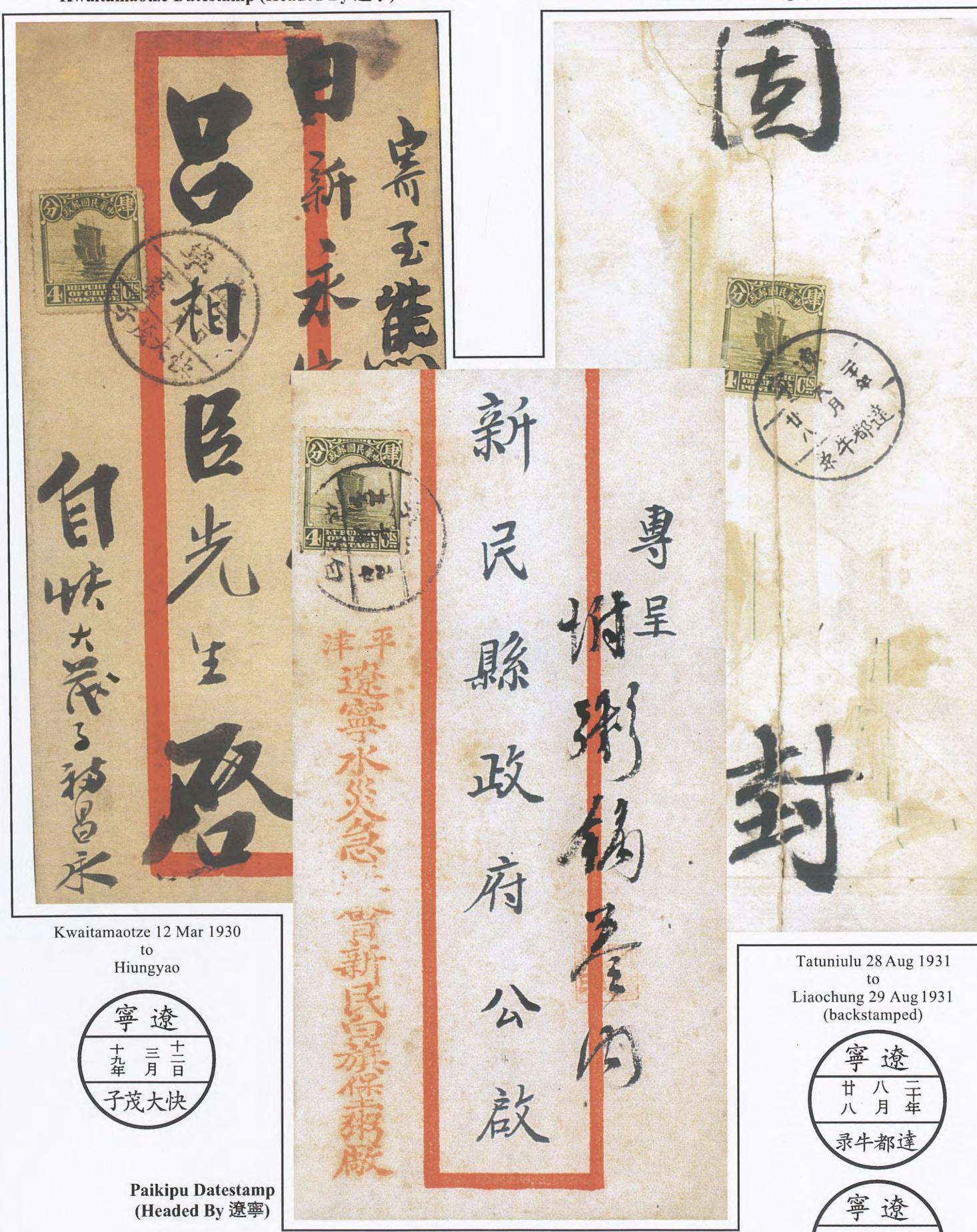




# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual) Liaoning Province

Kwaitamaotze Datestamp (Headed By 遼寧)

Tatuniulu Datestamp (Headed By 遼寧)



Paikipu to Sinmin

20 Oct 1930



**Liaoning Province** 

Paolitun Datestamp (Headed By 遼寧)



Paolitun to Changtu

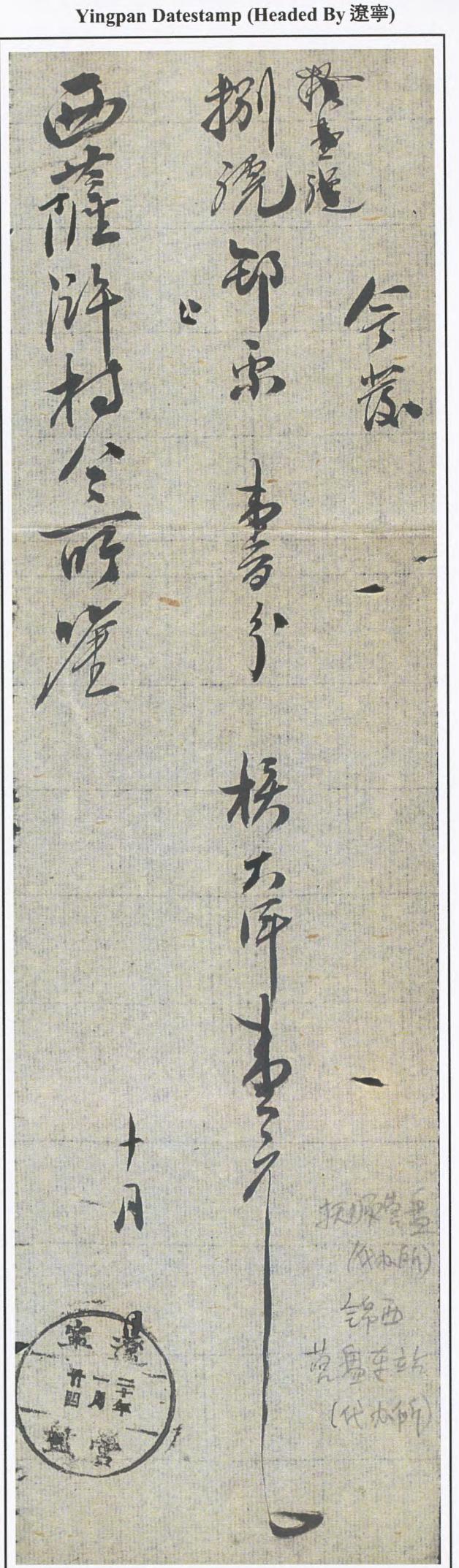
No arrival marking.

29 Jan 1931





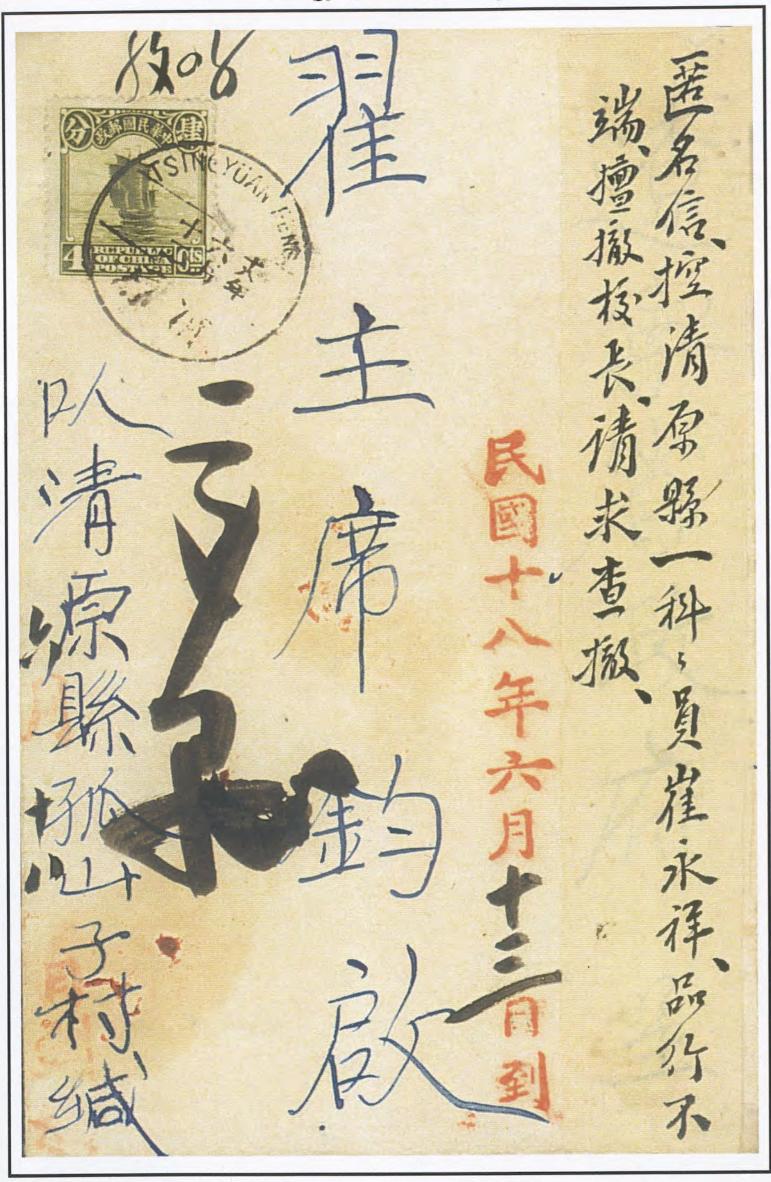
Yingpan local delivery 24 Jan 1931



# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual) Liaoning Province

Tsingyüan Datestamp

Sanyüanpu Datestamp (Headed By 遼寧)



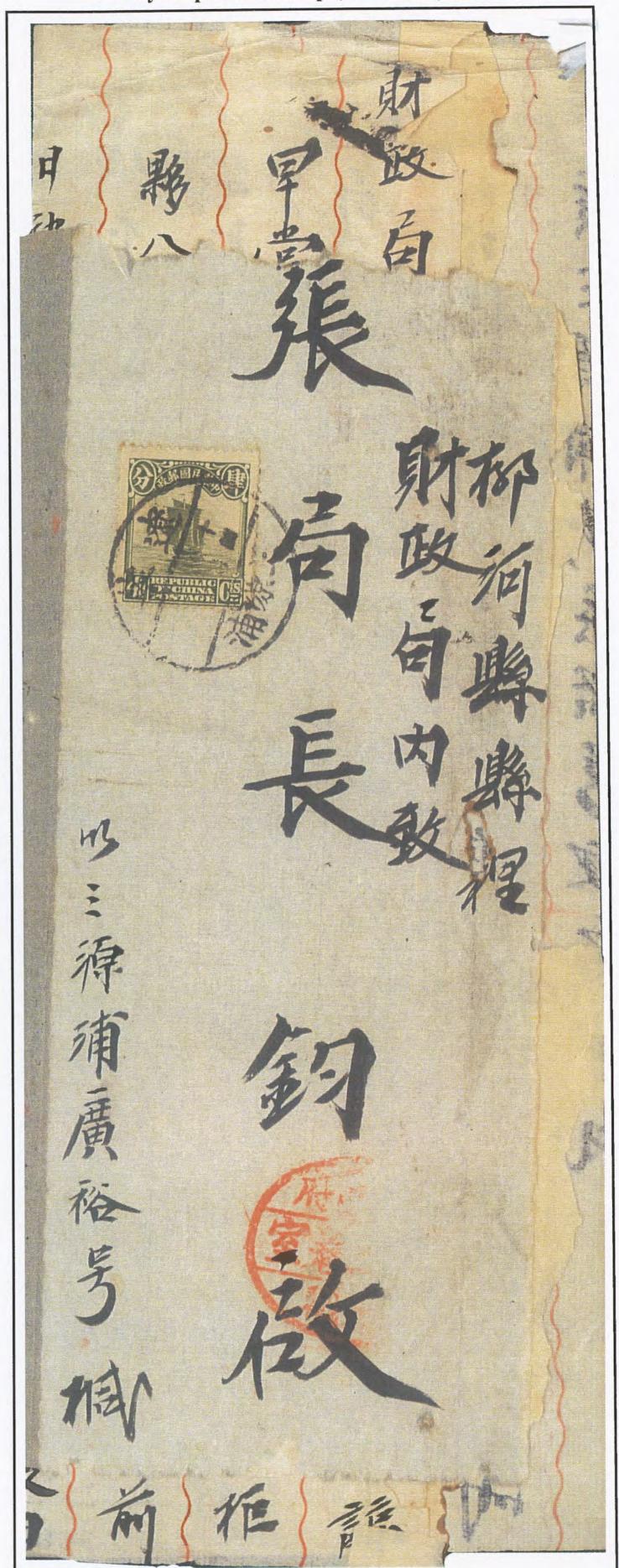
Tsingyüan to Shenyang
No arrival marking but addressee had
inscribed 13 June as arrival date.

12 June 1929



"FENG." here used as abbreviation for "FENGTIEN".

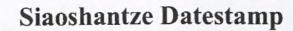




Sanyüanpu to Liuhohsien

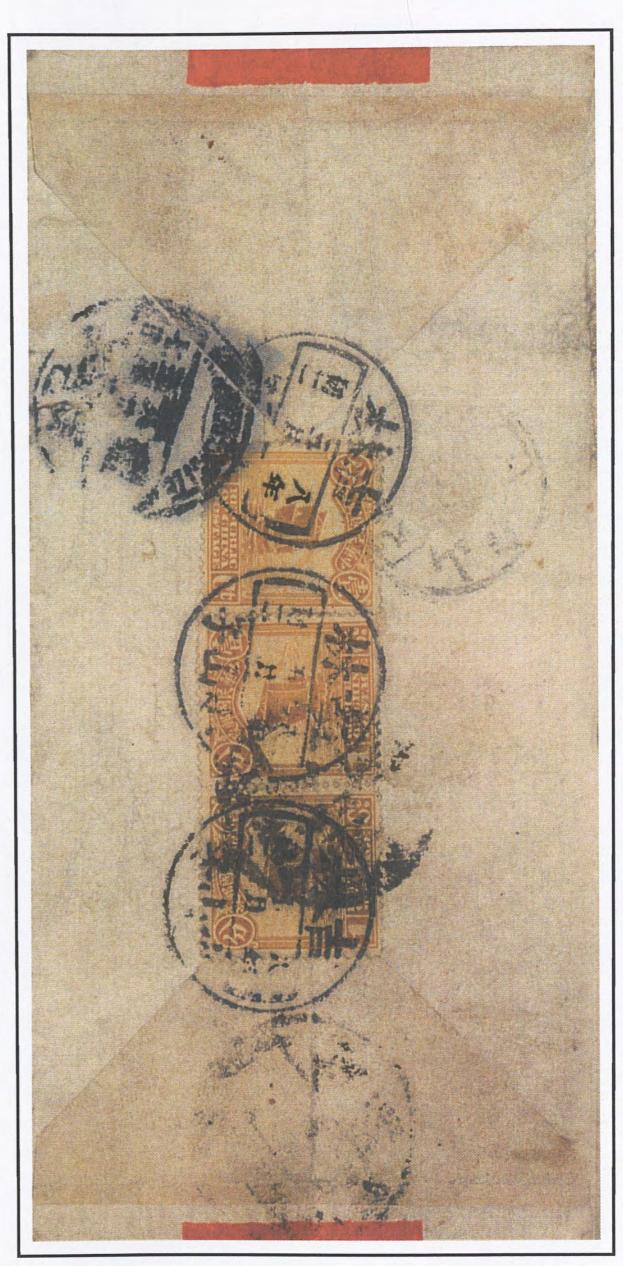
#### **Kirin Province**

Unlike Liaoning the provincial name of Kirin had always been the same. In the all-Chinese datestamps the top was therefore always headed "吉林" (Kirin), but in some very few examples the top might be headed "吉林省" (Kirin Province).









Siaoshantze to Hwanghsien 2 May 1919
Via Kwanchengtze on 7 May.
Date in Hwanghsien arrival marking indistinct.

# **Kirin Province**

# **Lalincheng Datestamp**

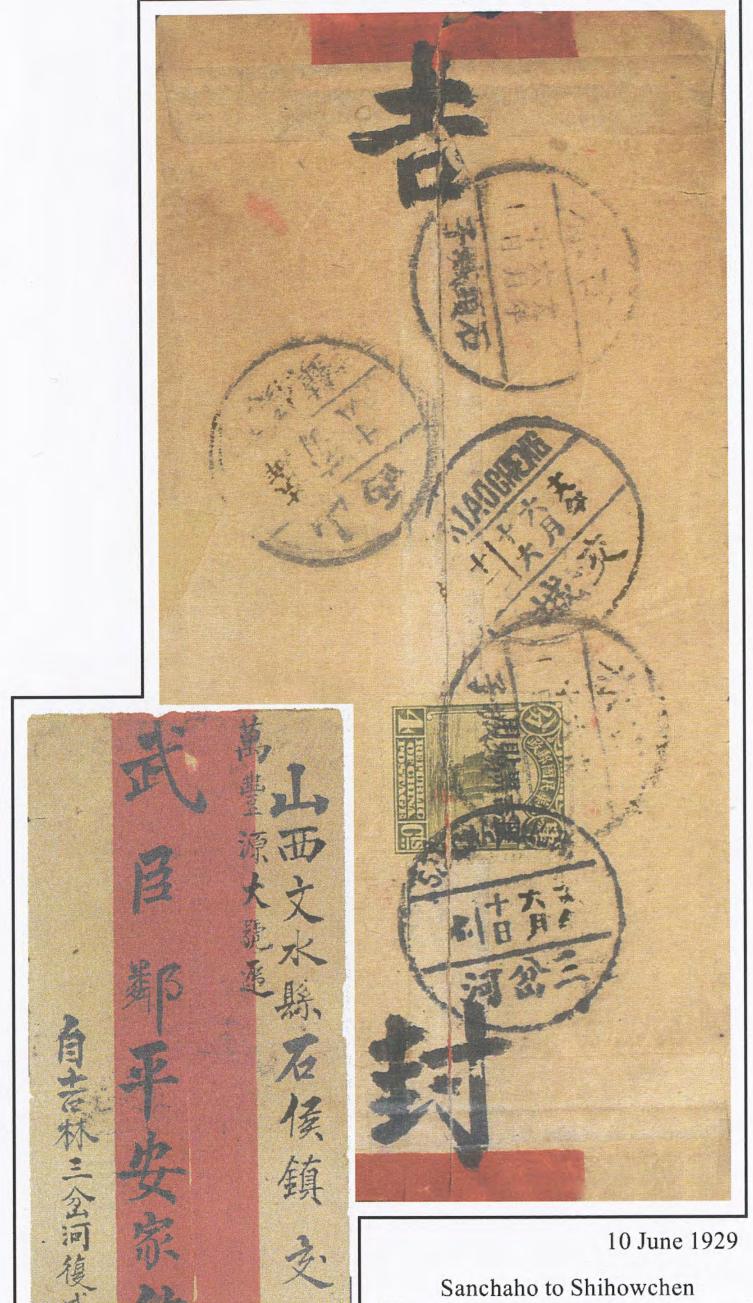


Lalincheng to Tsingyüan, Shansi
Arrival marking on reverse indistinct.

12 Oct 1928



# Sanchaho & Shihtowchengtze Datestamps



Sanchaho to Shihowchen
Via Shihtowchengtze on 10 June and
Kiaocheng 16 June to arrive
Shihowchen, Shansi on 18 June.



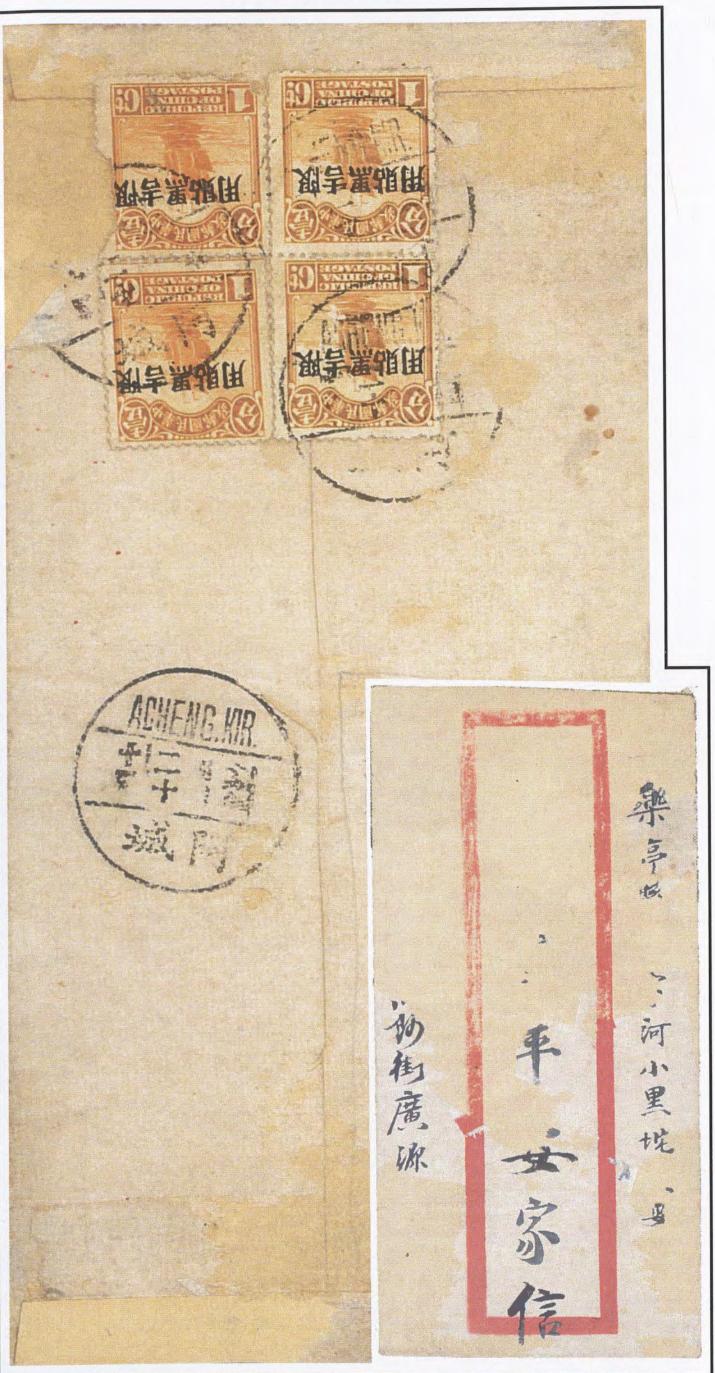


Shihtowchengtze

#### **Kirin Province**

In the Romanization of Chinese place names, some towns in different provinces were found to have a similar spelling even though the Chinese characters for the place might be different. To prevent confusion and for positive identificantion, an abbreviated spelling of the provincial name was added as a suffix to such town names. In Kirin's case, the abbreviation was "KIR".

#### **Acheng Datestamp**



Acheng to Loting, Hopeh No arrival marking.

20 Apr 1927



**Wuchang Datestamp** 



Wuchang to Harbin Date in arrival marking indistinct.

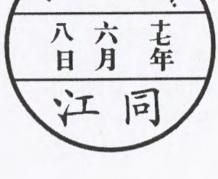
4 July 1928



#### **Kirin Province**

# **Tungkiang Datestamp**





Tungkiang to Tientsin

Tientsin arrival marking indistinct.

8 June 1928

# Changkiawan Datestamp



Changkiawan to Harbin

No arrival marking.



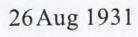
4 Oct 1928

# **Kirin Province**

# **Shihtowhotze Datestamp**



Shihtowhotze to Harbin
Harbin arrival 30 Aug (backstamped).







Sanchaho to Wenshui, Shansi No arrival marking.

6 Oct 1931





## **Kirin Province**

Inclusion of the character "省" (province) in the top heading in the all-Chinese datestamps were exceptional cases and in Kirin Province, only 3 places had been seen to have such datestamps.

# Yungtsengyüan Datestamp



Yungtsengyüan to Harbin
Arrival Harbin on 19 Sept.

15 Sept 1928

# **Hankiatien Datestamp**



Hankiatien to Tsingyüan, Shansi No arrival marking.

27 Dec 1930





# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual)

### **Heilungkiang Province**

Like Kirin, Heilungkiang did not have a name change, and its all-Chinese datestamps were headed "黑龍江" (Heilungkiang) except for one location that had the character "省" (province) also included in the top heading.

### **Tawuchingtze Datestamp**



Tawuchingtze to Harbin
9 Oct 1916
Transit place unclear but dated 10 Oct.
No Harbin arrival marking.



#### Fularki Datestamp



Fularki to Harbin 22 Mar 1917 No Harbin arrival marking.



# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual)

## **Heilungkiang Province**

## **Talaiting Datestamp**



Talaiting to Hwanghsien 2 Feb 1918
Transit and arrival markings indistinct.



# Laochengki Datestamp



Laochengki to Harbin 18 Sept 1930 Harbin arrival date indistinct.

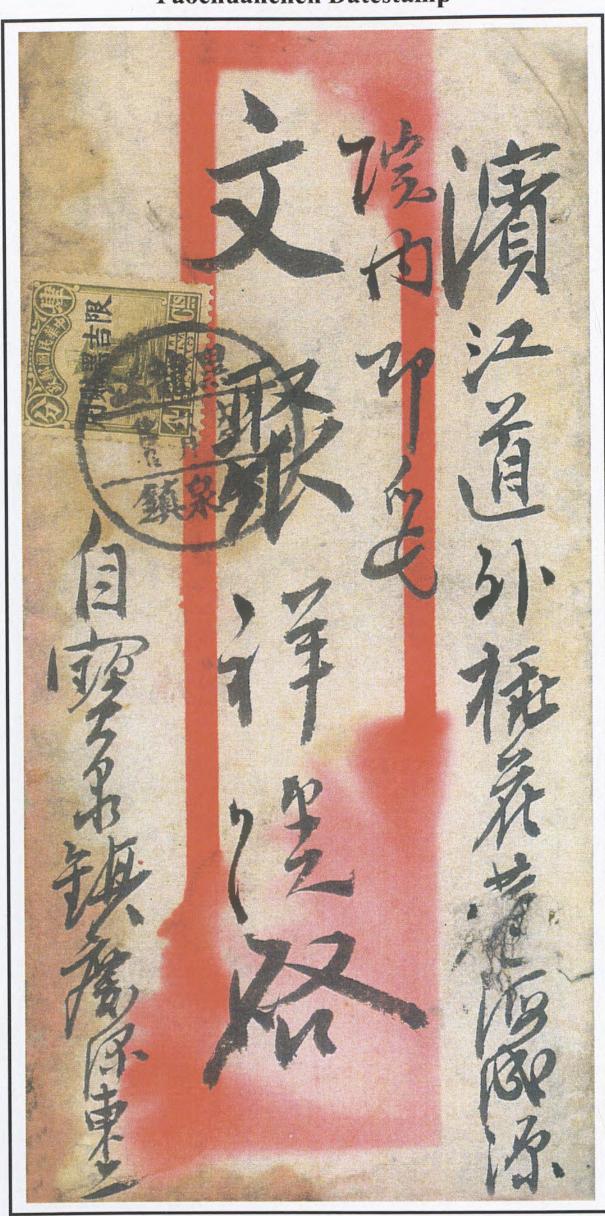


# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual)

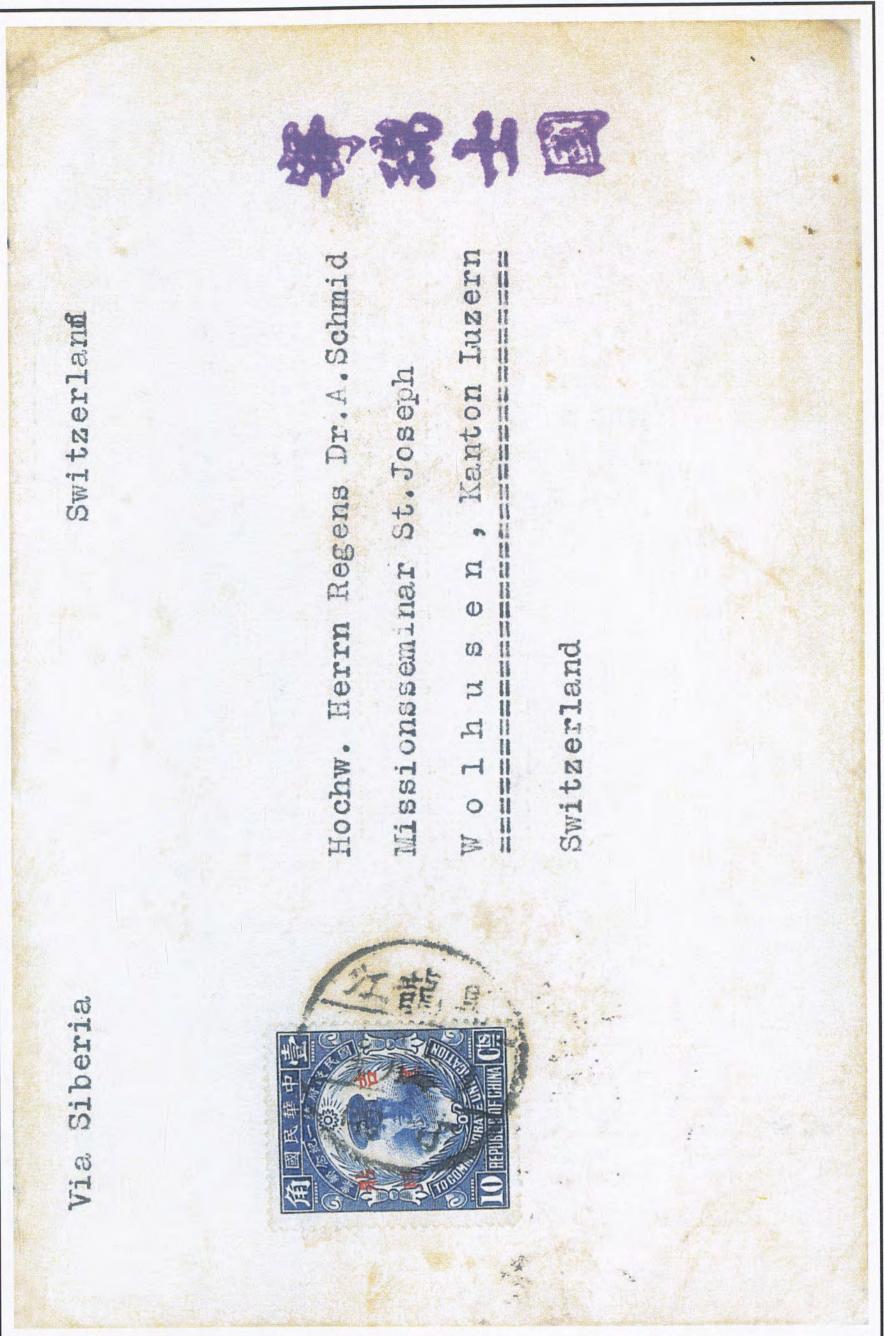
## **Heilungkiang Province**

### Paochüanchen Datestamp





Paochiianchen to Harbin 27 June 1927 Harbin arrival (backstamped) but date indistinct.



Kannan to Wolhusen, Switzerland
Via Tsitsihar 30 Aug and Manchouli 31 Aug to arrive Wolhusen on 13 Sept.



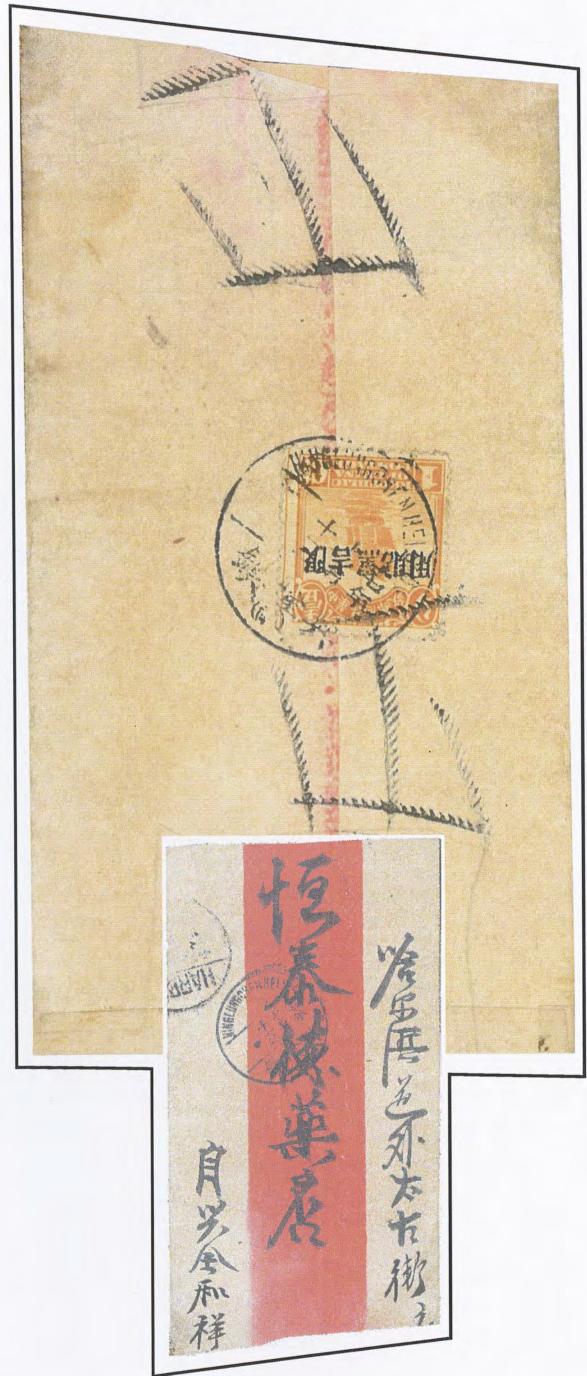




# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual) Heilungkiang Province

The abbreviation "HEI" for Heilungkiang was used in the bilingual daters. for those with place name in exact spelling to other(s) in a different province. A letter and a Chinese character representing compass direction might be also added for post offices in different districts of one same town.

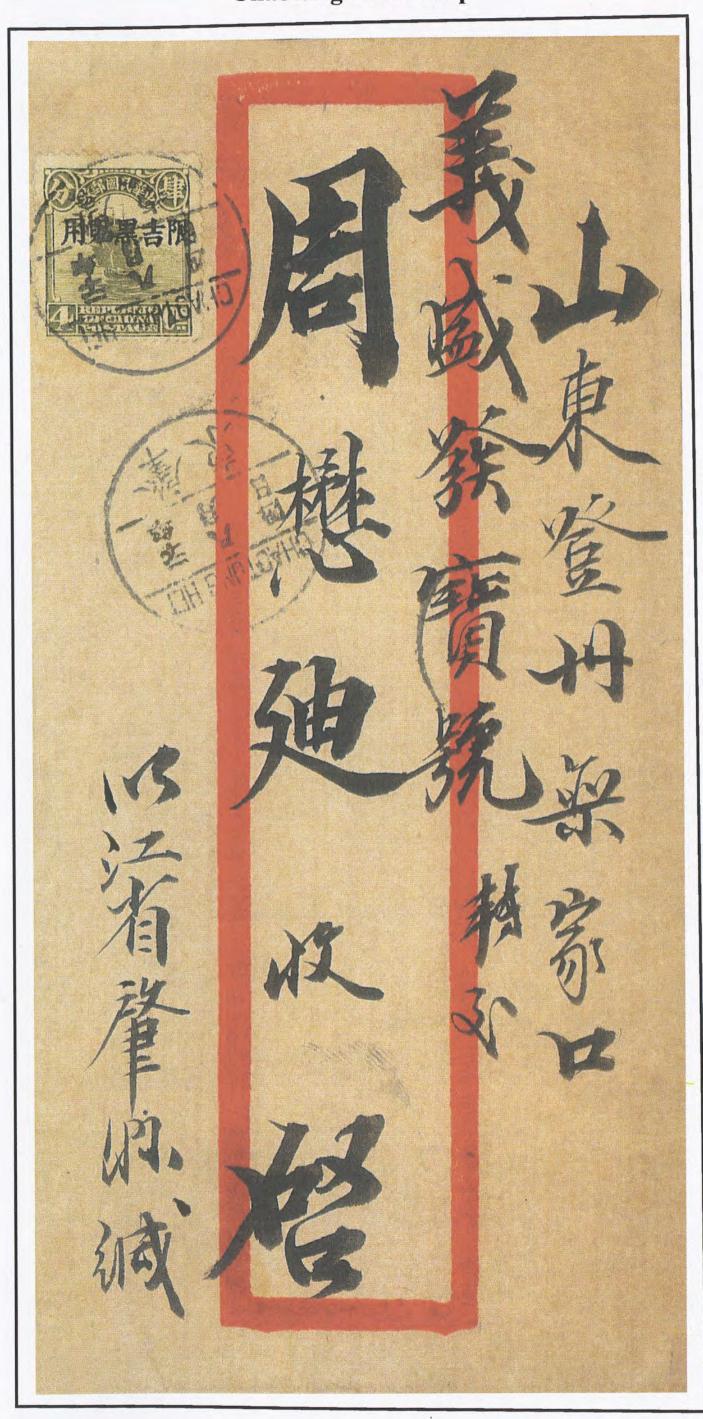
#### Hinglungchen (South) Datestamp



13 July 1928
Hinglungchen to Harbin
Backstamped Harbin marking indistinct.



#### **Chaotung Datestamp**



Chaotung to Tengchow, Shantung
Backstamped arrival marking indistinct.

4 Aug 1931



# 3.6 Regular Datestamps (All-Chinese Or Bilingual) Heilungkiang Province

The only place in Heilungkiang seen to have included the character "省" (province) in the top heading in the all-Chinese datestamp was the town of Mangnaichen.

## **Chulien Datestamp**



Chulien to Harbin
Harbin arrival date indistinct.

13 Dec 1929



# Mangnaichen Datestamp (With "省" Character)



Mangnaichen to Harbin 23 Mar 1930 Arrival Harbin on 28 Mar (backstamped).

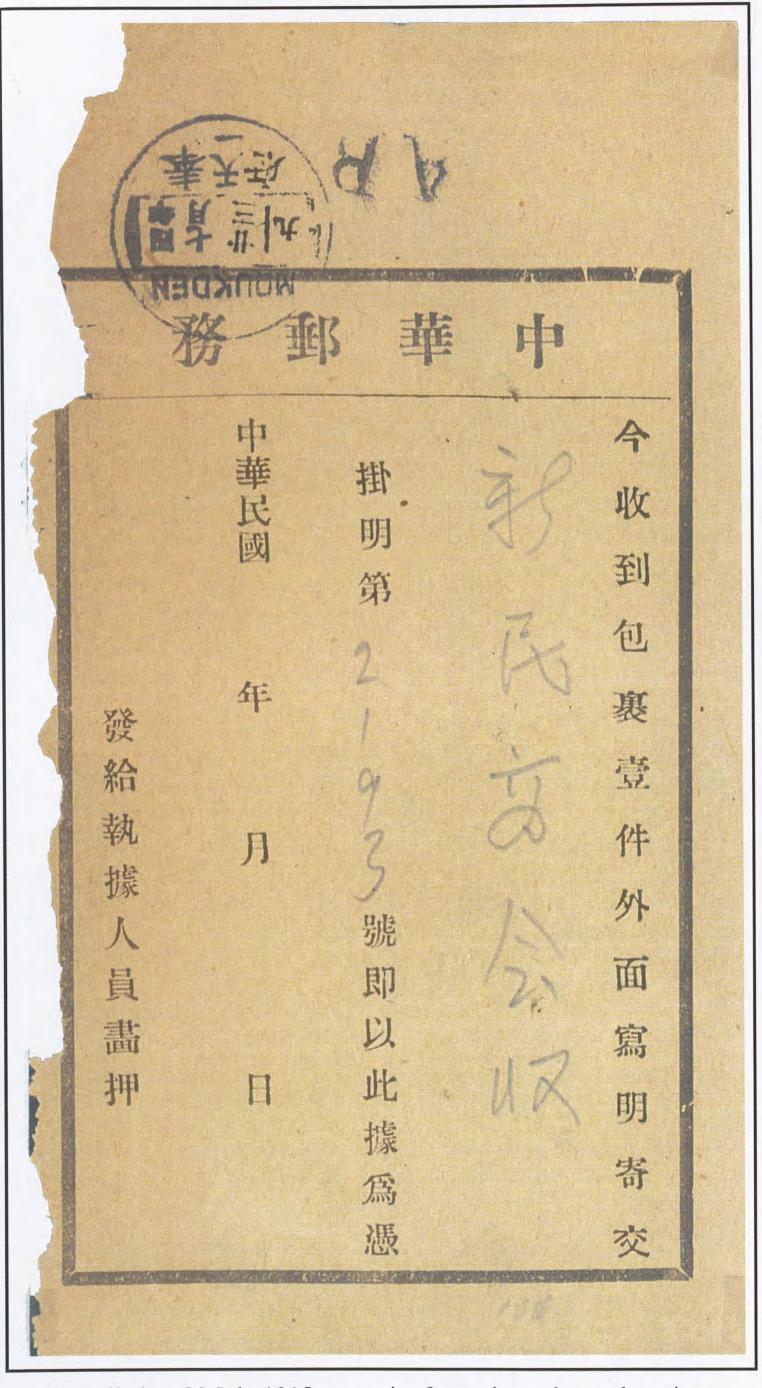


As mail volume and business progressively expanded, cancellations had to evolve in order to cope with the opening of more sub-offices, developing of special kinds of business, etc, and such evolutions were often effected through the addition of Chinese or Arabic numerals, or insertion of celestial stem and horary characters within datestamps for identification purposes. The evolution of cancellations was particularly prominent in the large exchange post offices such as Moukden, Kirin and Harbin.

#### Liaoning Province Central Box Type Bilingual Daters

#### **Addition Of Chinese Numeral To Denote Sub-Office**

Moukden No. 1 Sub-Office



Cancelled on 23 July 1915 on receipt for registered parcel posting.



#### Moukden No. 5 Sub-Office



Moukden to Hweichow

Registered mail sent via Tatung 18

June to arrive Hweichow on

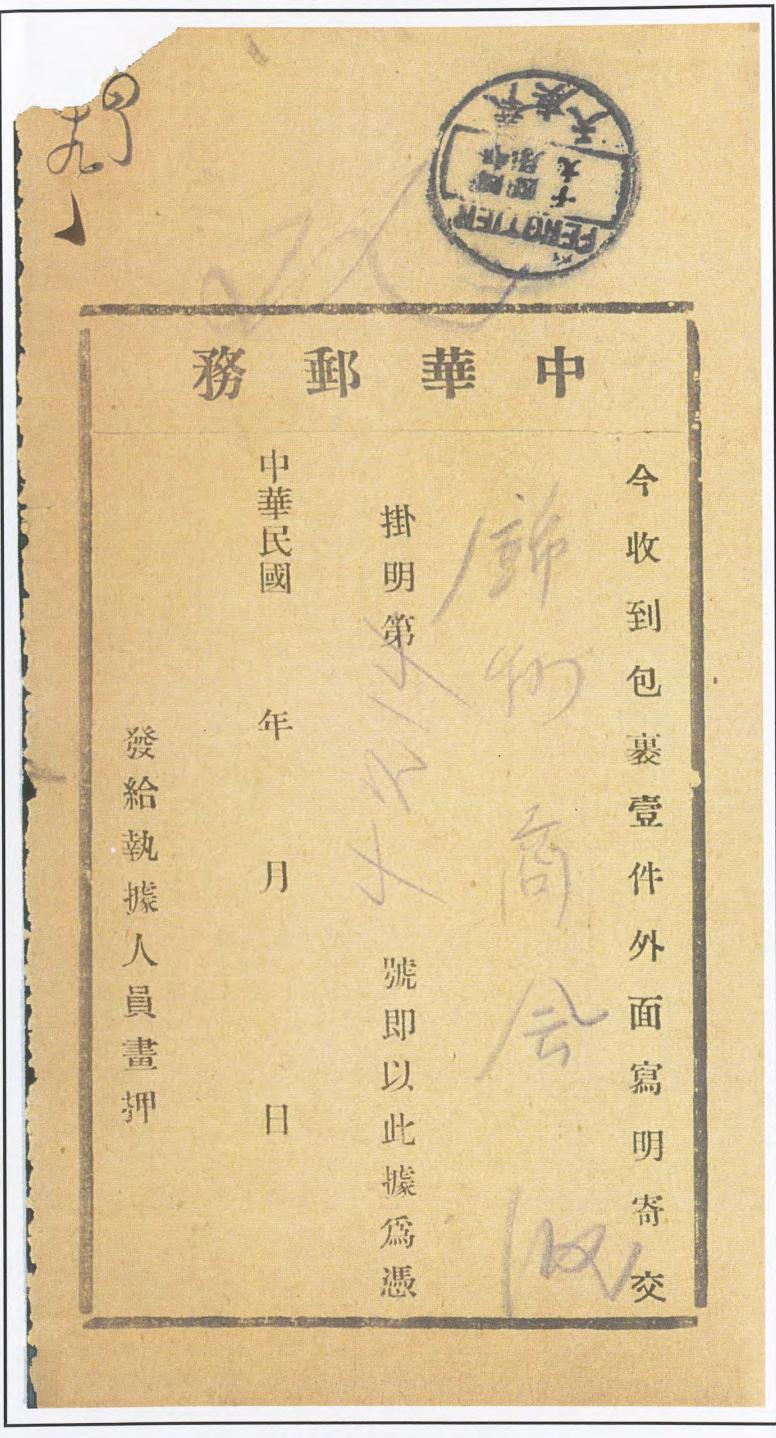
21 June. Additionally docketed
with registration cachet of the
Moukden No. 5 Sub-Office.



#### Liaoning Province Central Box Type Bilingual Daters

# Addition Of Celestial Stem Character To Denote Type Of Postal Business

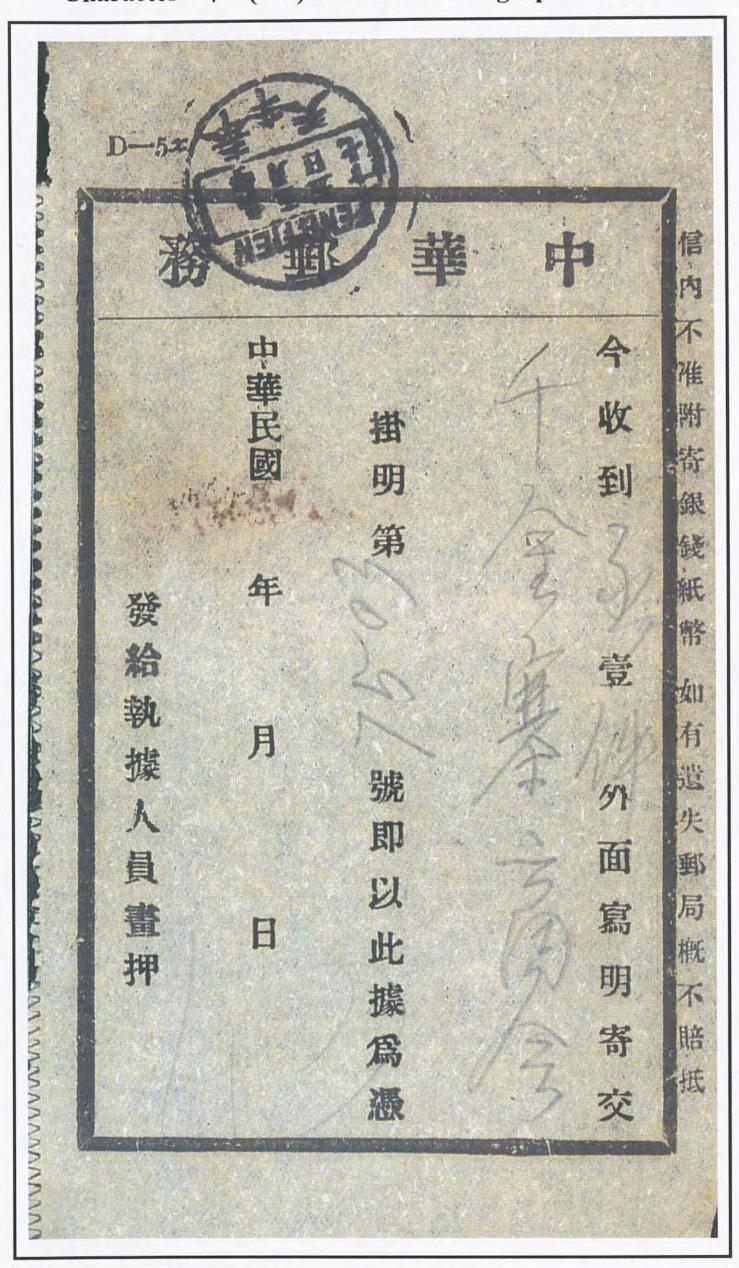
Character "庚" (Geng) For Mail & Parcel Office



Fengtien (Moukden) dated 19 Apr 1915. Cancelled on receipt for registered parcel posting.



Character "辛" (Xin) For Mail & Telegraph Office



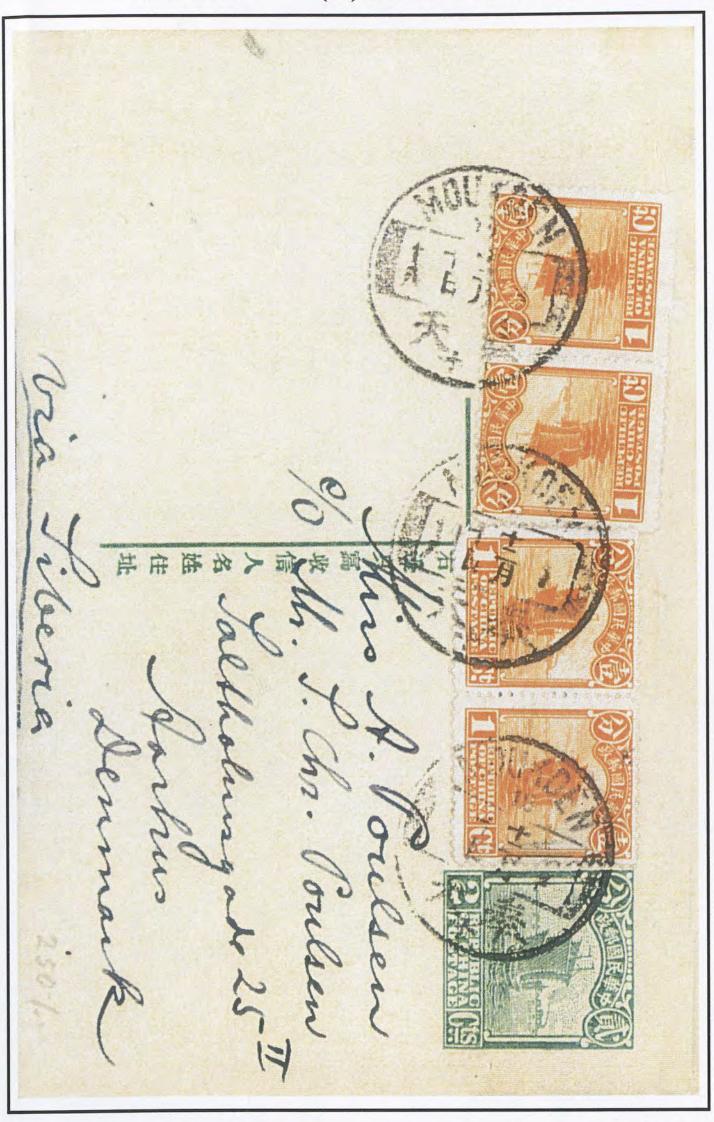
Fengtien (Moukden) dated 5 May 1920. Cancelled on receipt for registered mail.



### **Liaoning Province Central Box Type Bilingual Daters**

# **Addition Of Horary Character To Denote Sub-Office**

Character "子" (Zi) For 1st Sub-Office

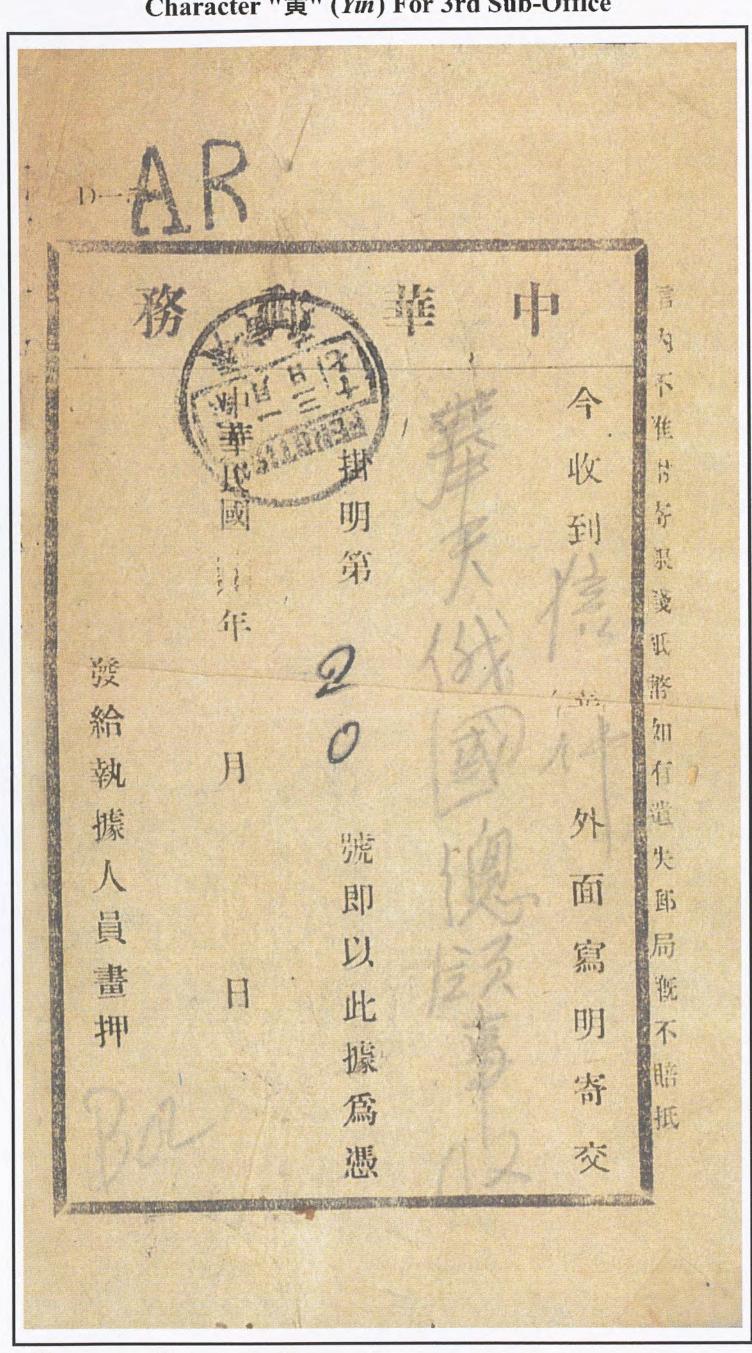


Moukden to Aarhus, Denmark No transit or arrival markings.

10 Dec 1924



Character "寅" (Yin) For 3rd Sub-Office



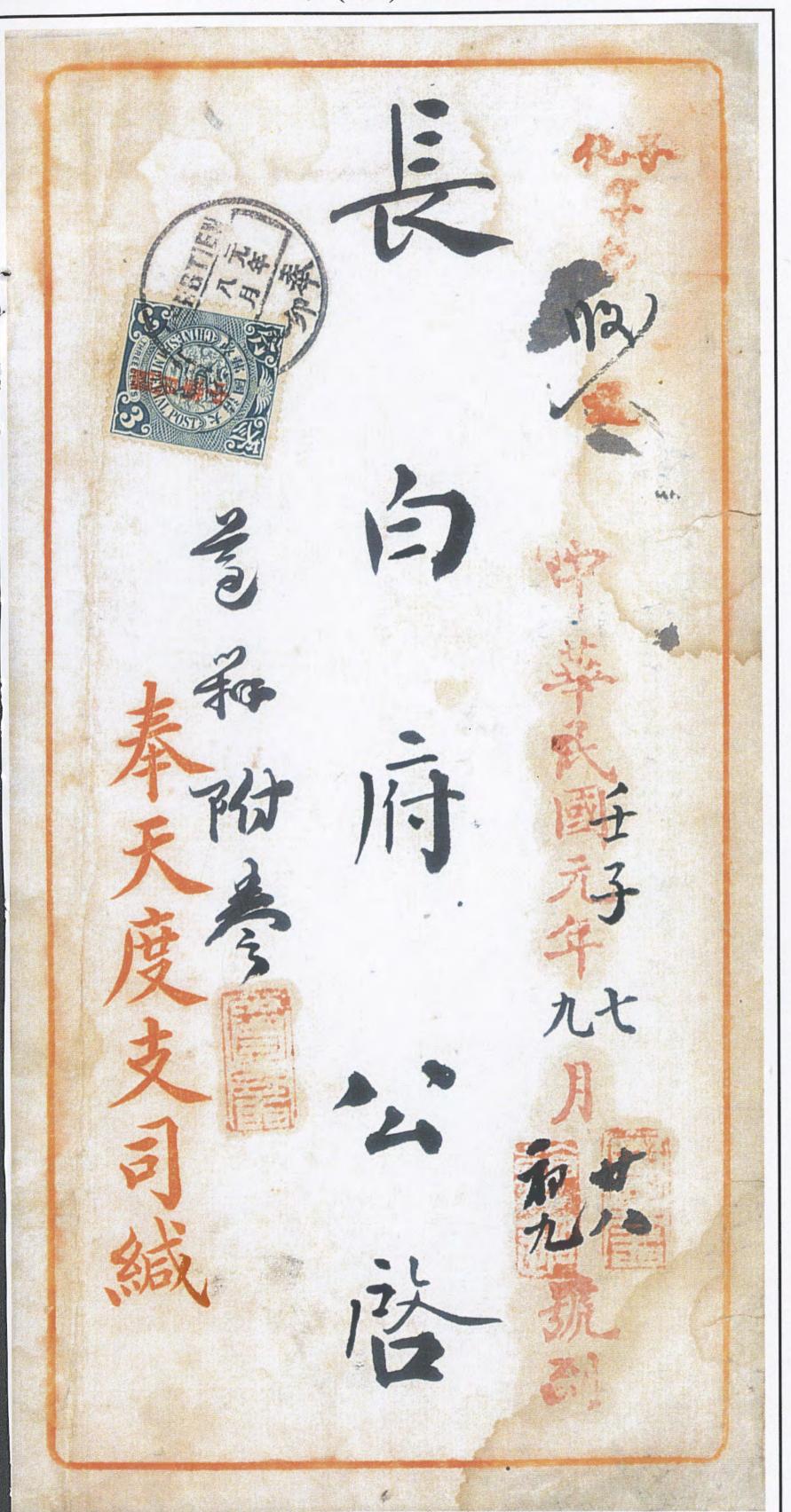
Fengtien (Moukden) dated 3 Jan 1922. Cancelled on receipt for A.R. registered mail.



### Liaoning Province Central Box Type & 3-Segment Type Bilingual Daters

**Additional Of Horary Character To Denote Sub-Office** 

Character "卯" (Mao) For 4th Sub-Office

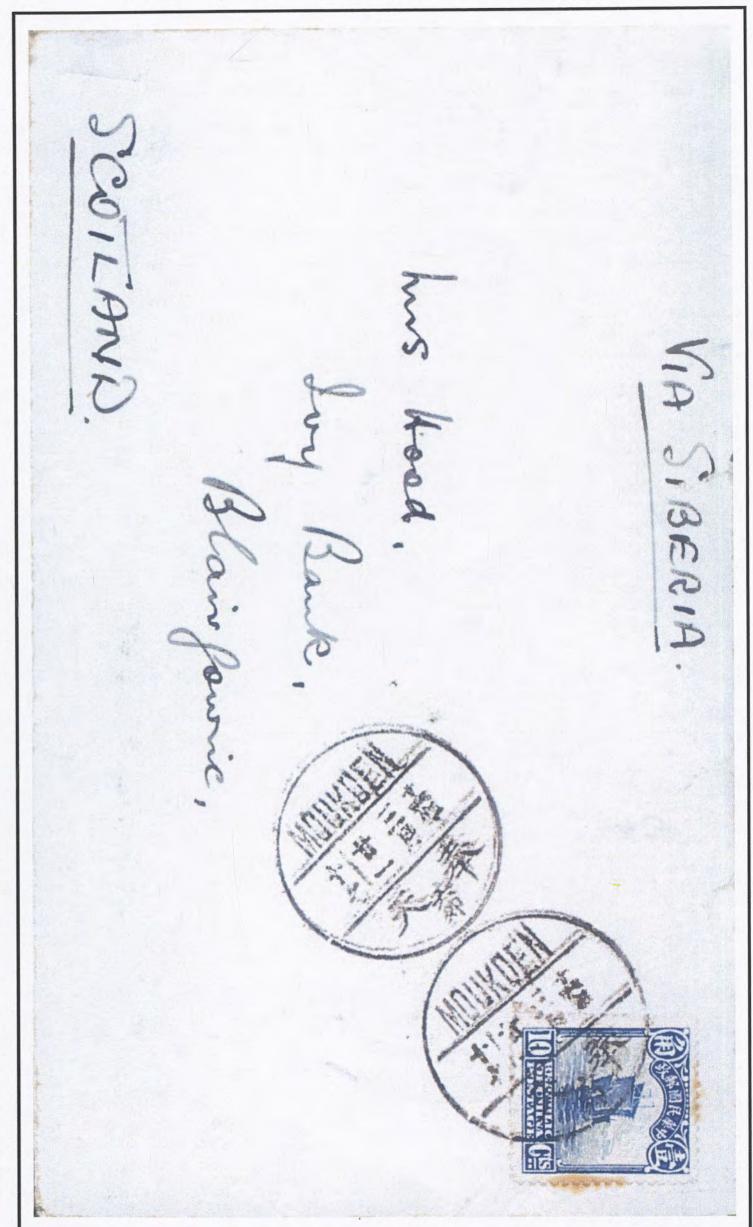


Fengtien (Moukden) to Changpai
Arrival Changpai 9 Sept (backstamped).

31 Aug 1912

With the later introduction of the 3-segment type daters, a Chinese numeral "六" (6) was added together with the horary character "リリ", thus increasing the number of combinations. But to date **only** the "六リリ" combination has been recorded.

The Only "六卯" Combination Seen To Date



Moukden to Blairgowrie, Scotland

21 Mar 1925

-"6 Mao"



# Liaoning Province 3-Segment Type Bilingual Daters

## **Addition Of Chinese Numeral To Denote Sub-Office**

#### Moukden No. 2 Sub-Office



Moukden to Burbank, U.S.A.

25 Sept 1928



Moukden No. 7 Sub-Office



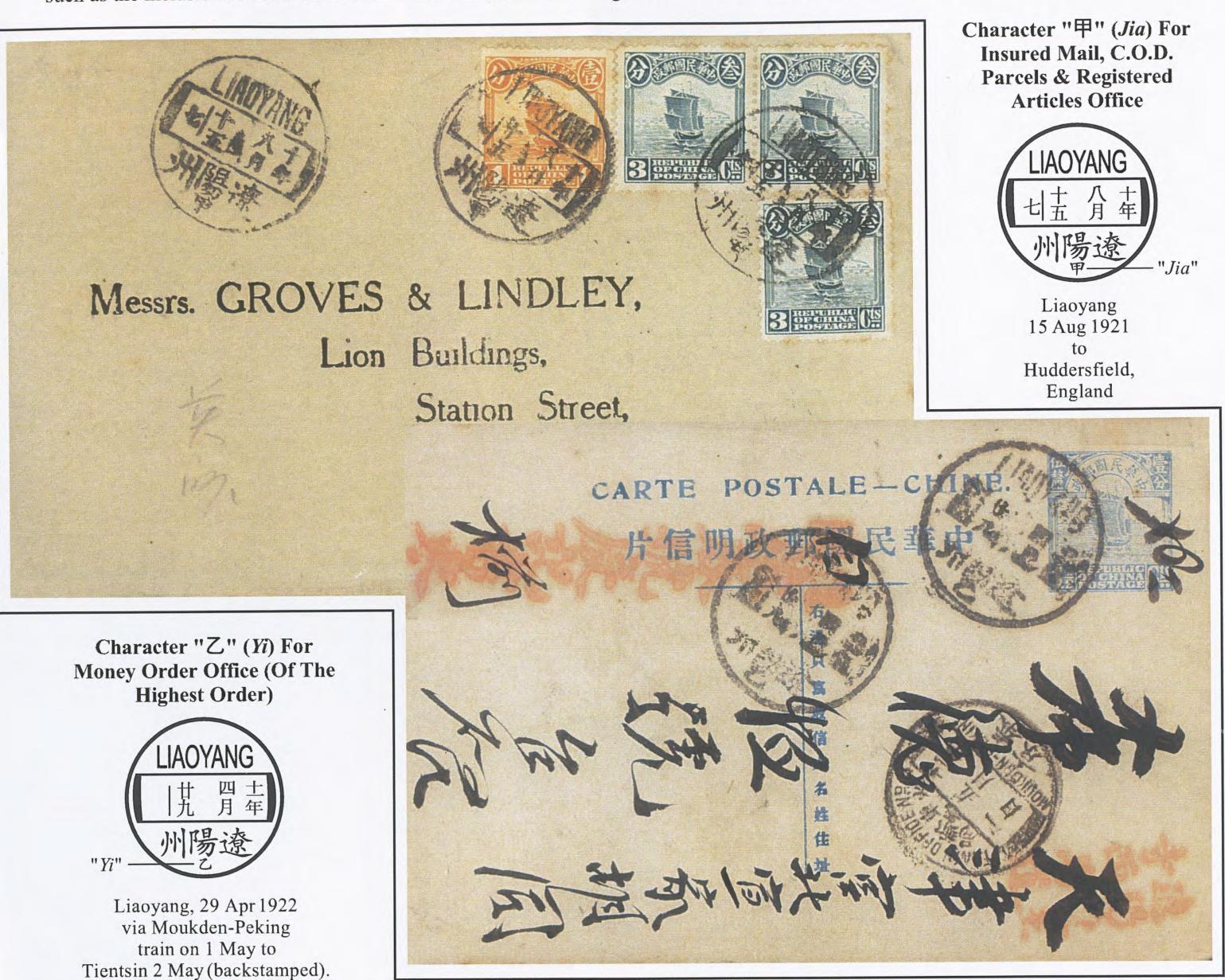
Moukden to Changkiakow (Kalgan)

5 Sept 1925



# 3.7 Changes In Datestamps According To Needs Liaoning Province

Apart from Moukden, other post offices in the province also showed similar features of evolution in the central box type cancels, such as the inclusion of celestial stem characters to denote the categorised services of the office.





Character "丙" (Bing) For Money Order Office (Of The Second Order)



Liaoyüan to Changtu

24 Jan 1923

## **Liaoning Province**

Beside the central box type cancels, the 3-segment bilingual datestamps of later period in these lower level offices within the province, also showed the inclusion of celestial stem or horary characters.

Antung Datestamp With Character "乙" (Yi)



Antung to Kwantien 9Apr 1929 Arrival Kwantien on 12Apr (backstamped).



Sinmin Datestamp With Character "子" (Zi)



Sinmin local delivery

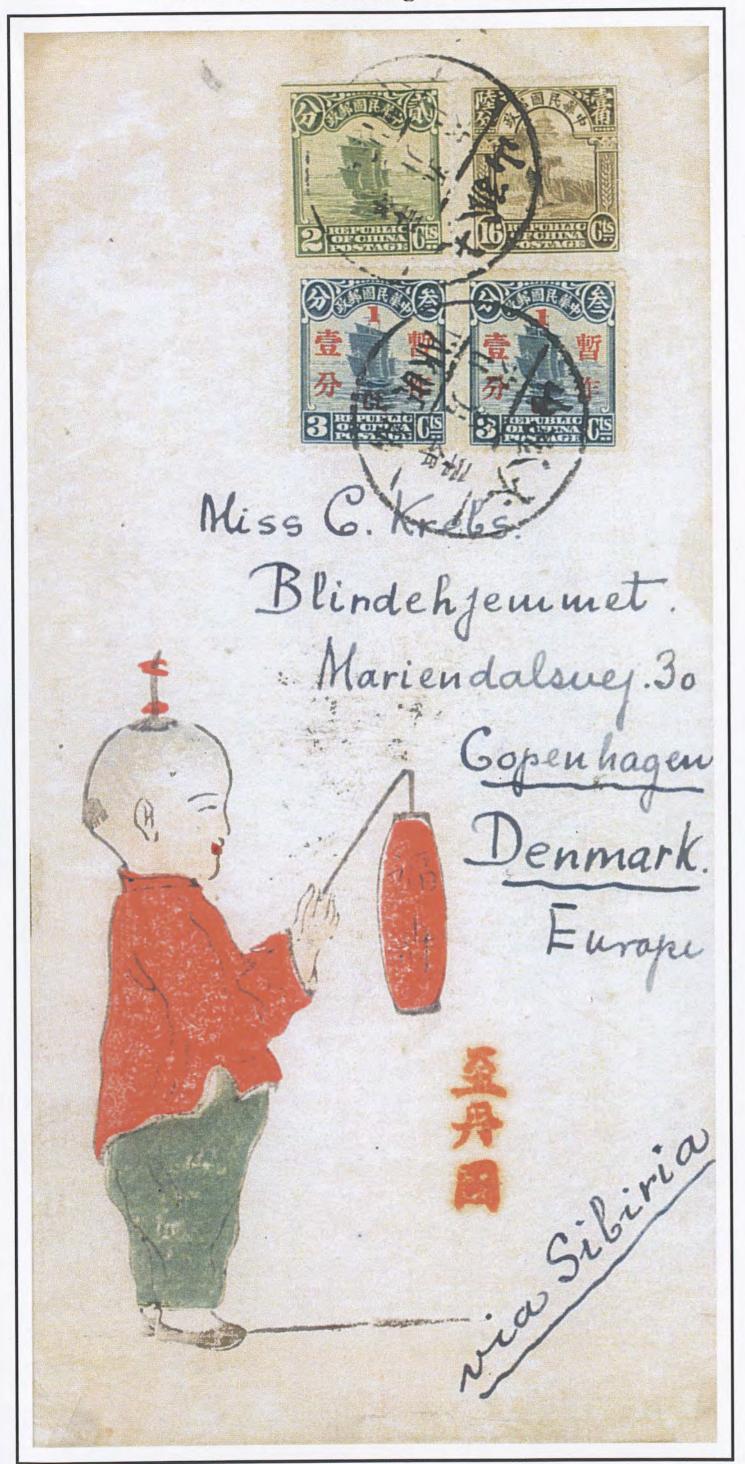
25 Feb 1929



#### **Liaoning Province**

In the late 1920's and early 1930's, a special type of 3-segment Chinese/English datestamp began to be used by larger post offices, Takushan and Siaopehho are two examples from Liaoning Province.

#### Takushan Chinese/English Datestamp

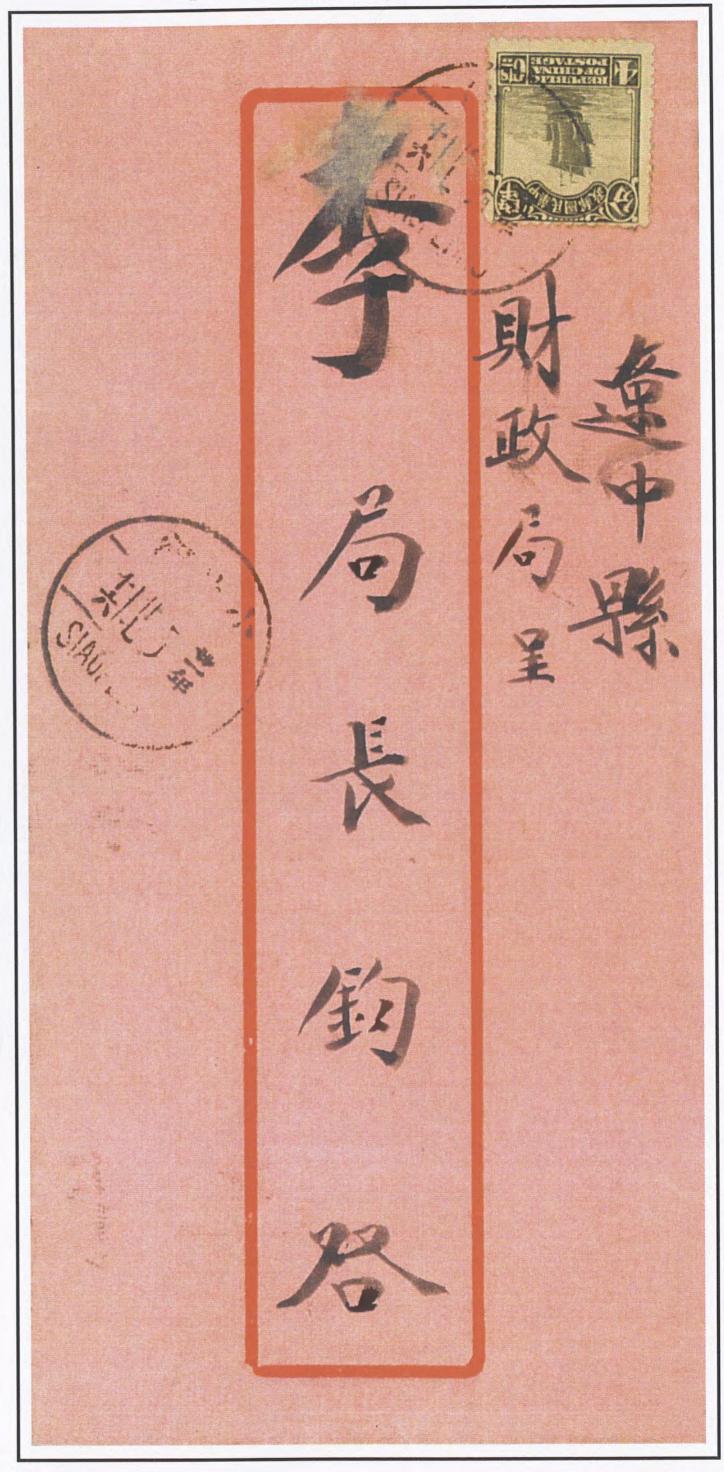


Takushan to Copenhagen Via Antung 9 May. No arrival marking.



6 May 1931

## Siaopehho Chinese/English Datestamp

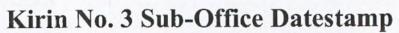


Siaopehho to Liaochung 27 Jan 1932 Arrival Liaochung 29 Jan (backstamped).



#### **Kirin Province**

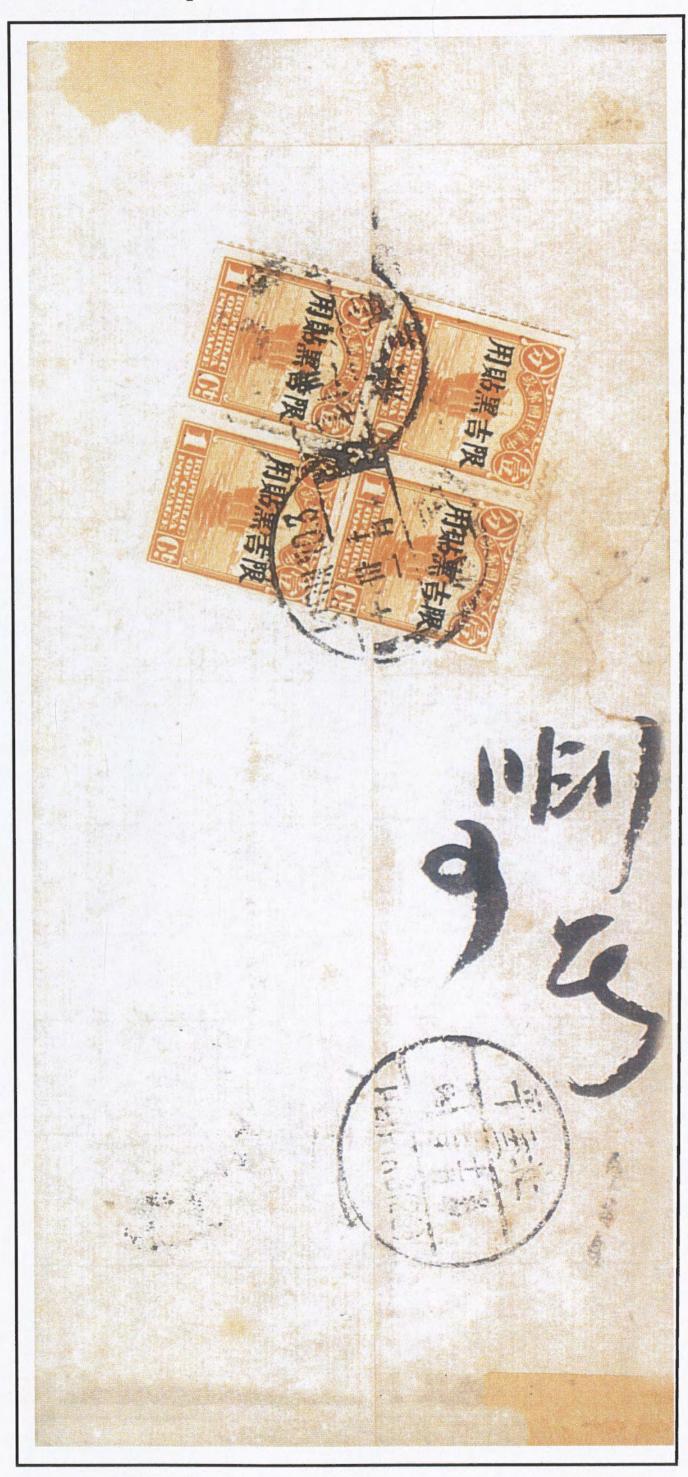
As in Liaoning province, similar evolution happened in Kirin province with inclusion of a Chinese numeral to denote sub-office. The city of Kirin went even a step further by not only adding a Chinese numeral in the lower section of the central box type bilingual datetamp but also English word and Arabic numeral in the upper section.







Use of "No.x" in the upper segment to denote a particular sub-office is very rarely seen.



Kirin to Peiping
Arrival Peiping on 3 Nov.

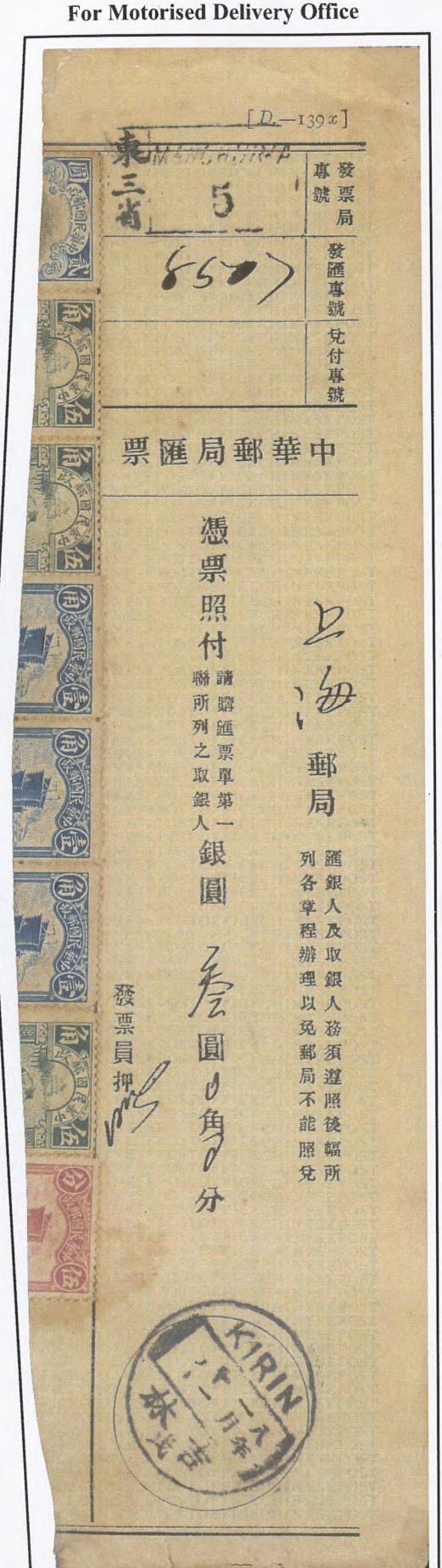
31 Oct 1923

#### **Kirin Province**

The inclusion of celestial stem characters were similarly found in Kirin datestamps of both the central box type and 3-segment type.

Character "戊" (Wu)
For Motorised Delivery Office

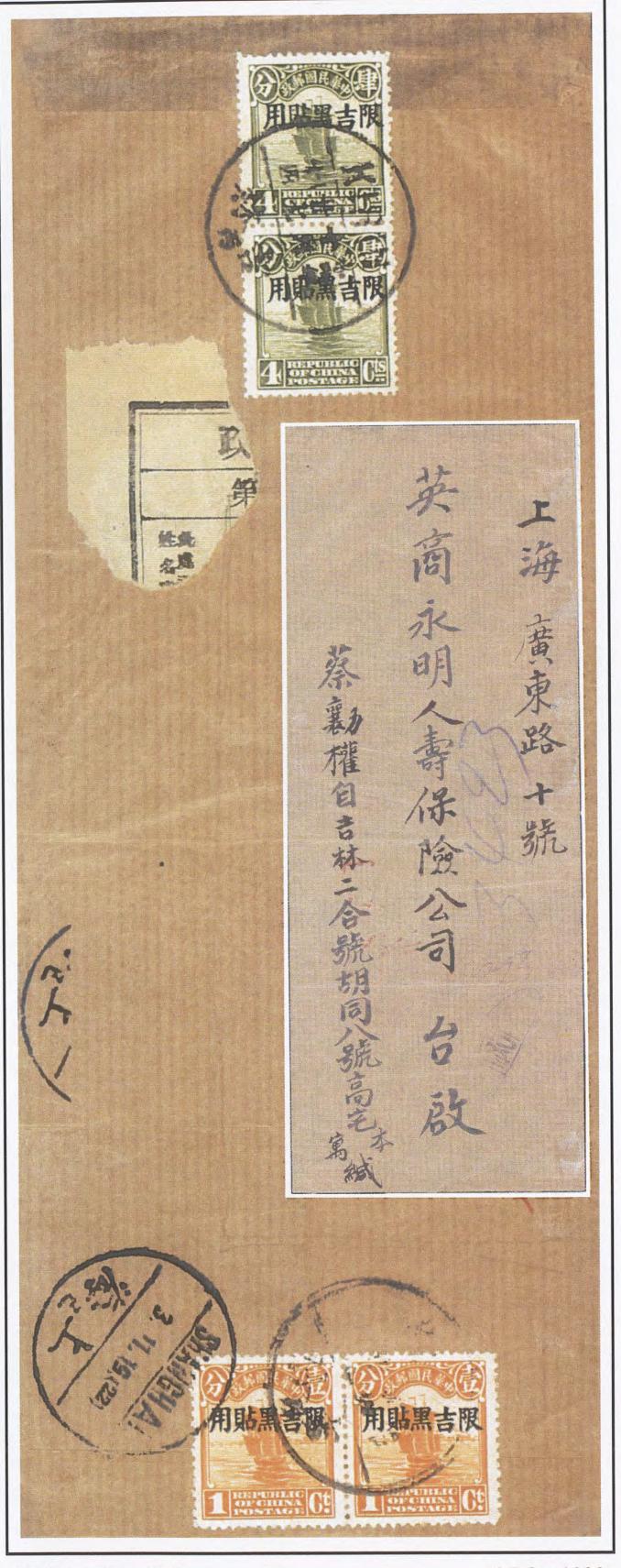
Character "丙" (Bing) For Money Order Office (Of The Second Order)



Kirin dated 11 Jan 1919







Kirin to Shanghai

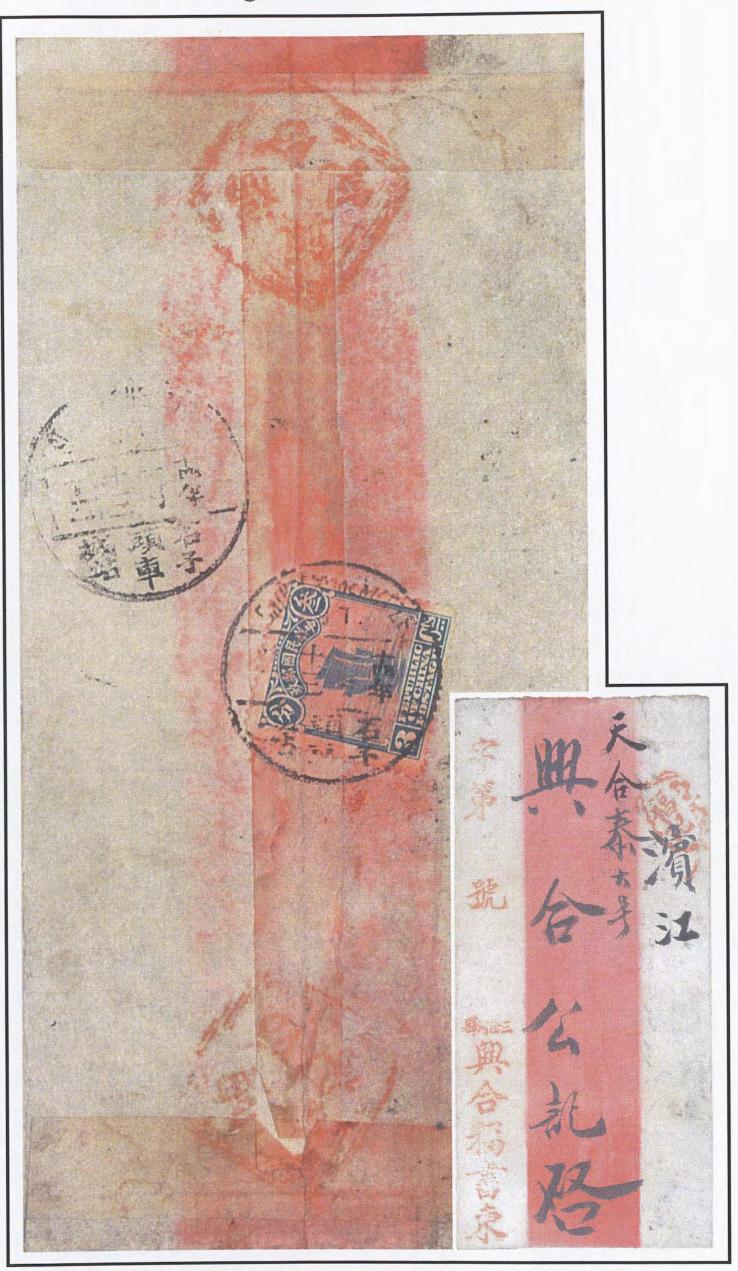
27 Oct 1930

Arrival Shanghai on 3 Nov.

#### **Kirin Province**

With widening of the railway network, post offices were set up at train stations and 2 examples of such station datestamps are here shown.

## **Shihtowchengtze Station Datestamp**



Shihtowchengtze to Pinkiang
No arrival marking.

13 Jan 1925



### **Maoerhshan Station Datestamp**



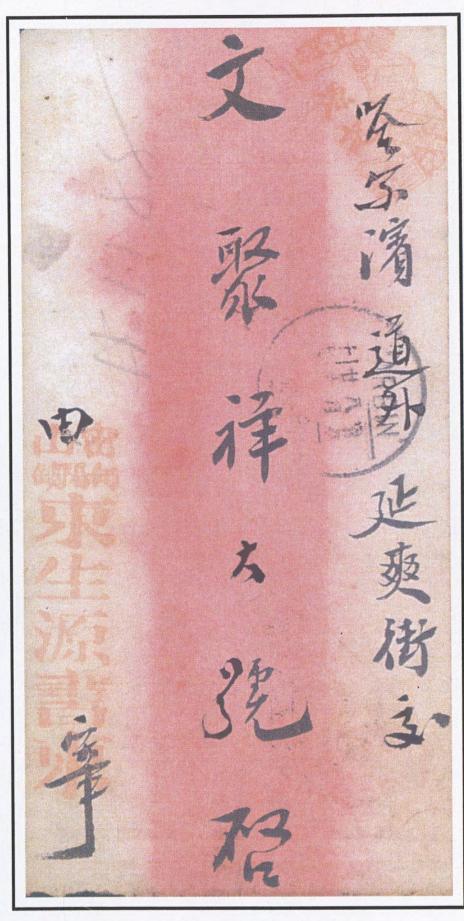
Maoerhshan to Kiaocheng 28 Feb 1931 Arrival Kiaocheng 8 Mar (backstamped).



## **Kirin Province**

Like in Liaoning, 3-segment Chinese/English datestamps appeared in the early 1920's and early 1930's.

# Pankiehhotze Chinese/English Datestamp



Arrival Harbin on 26 Aug.





Pankiehhotze to Harbin

24 Aug 1931

#### **Heilungkiang Province**

Just like in the other two provinces of the Northeast, Heilungkiang also adopted use of a celestial stem character to be included in datestamps to denote the category of postal business that an office could handle.

Harbin Datestamp With "戊" (Wu) Character



Harbin to Berlin Via Chefoo 19 Feb and Kiaochow 20 Feb, then to the Kiautschou German P.O. on 23 Feb for delivery to Berlin.

17 Feb 1913

Hailun Datestamp With "Z" (Yi) Character (Money Order Office Of The Highest Order)



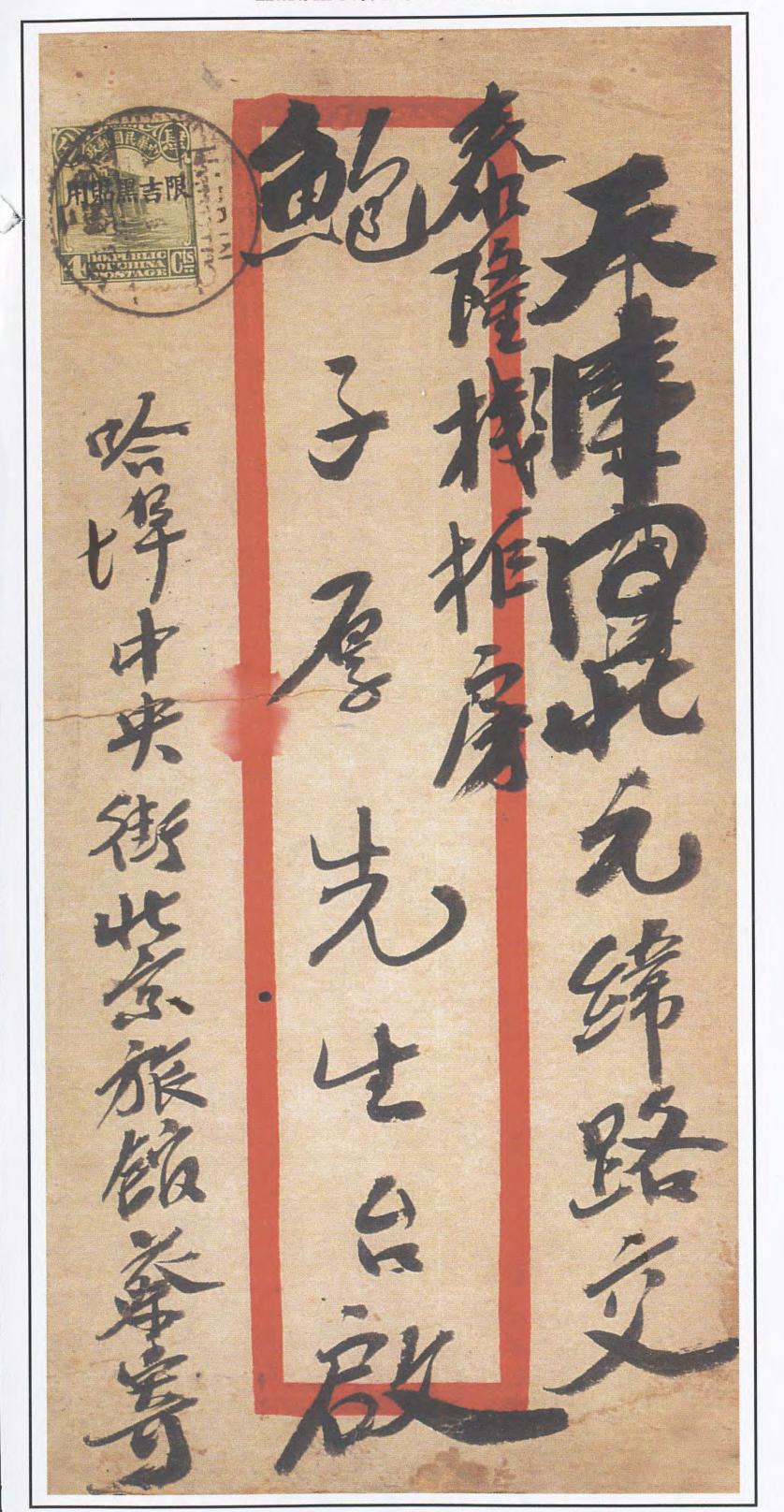
Hailung to Wenshui, Shansi Arrival Wenshui on 21 Jan. A.R. registered mail rate of 16 cents.



#### **Heilungkiang Province**

Addition of Chinese numerals also appeared in Harbin datestamps. Although Harbin was the busiest exchange post office in the Northeast Provinces, the evolution of bisected circular bilingual datestamps had taken much pressure off the evolution of regular datestamps.

#### Harbin No. 2 Sub-Office



Harbin to Tientsin
Arrival Tientsin on 8 June (backstamped).

6 June 1929

#### Harbin No. 1 Sub-Office



Harbin to Sinküntun, Hopeh
Arrival Sinkuntun on 4 Mar (backstamped).



# 3.7 Changes In Datestamps According To Needs Heilungkiang Province

Inclusion Of "2" For Harbin No. 2 Sub-Office

The inclusion of Arabic numeral "2" (sub-office) or an English alphabet "R" seems unique to Harbin without comparable examples found from Liaoning or Kirin. A Moukden datestamp with "U" however has been seen.



Harbin 15 Feb 1930 to Cincinnati

International registered mail rate of 25 cents. Arrival on 10 Mar (backstamped).



Harbin Datestamp With Inclusion Of "R"

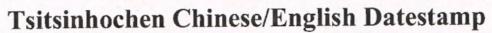




Lungchingtsun
23 Oct 1925
via
Harbin
28 Oct
to
North Blandford,
England

## **Heilungkiang Province**

To date Tsitsinhochen is the only post office in Heilungkiang province seen to have adopted use of the 3-segment Chinese/English datestamp in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

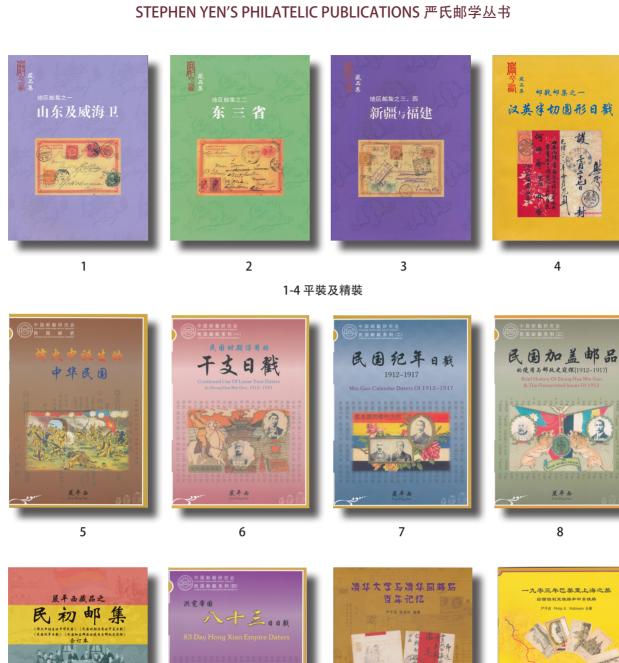




Tsitsinhochen to Harbin

24 Aug 1931







5-8合订本





