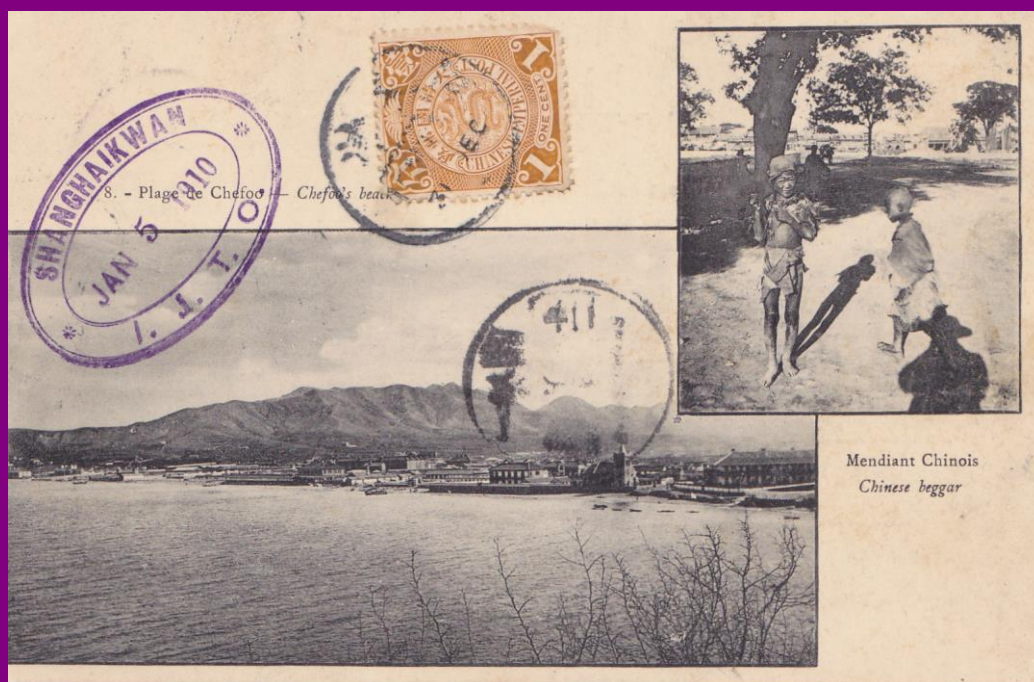


# 欧亚邮件取道西伯利亚 南满铁路及其邮戳简介



## CHINA—EUROPE MAIL VIA SIBERIA BRIEF HISTORY OF SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY & ITS POSTMARKS



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.

MAR 10 1908

PEKING IJPO to TIENTSIN

Oval datestamp

The earliest English language datestamp used on the South Manchurian Railway was the double oval type with SHANHAIKWAN at top, I. J. P. O. below and month/day/year in the centre.

Perhaps the Imperial Japanese Post Office chose Shanhaikwan as the mail exchange station between China and Japan in the initial stages when South Manchurian Railway began to operate in early 1908 after a complete change in gauge width.



Picture post card franked vertical pair of Japanese 1/2s canceled Peking IJ.P.O. cds. 8.9.08, the card was addressed to Tientsin but transited Shanhaikwan IJPA and receiving Shanhaikwan I.J.T.O. MAR.10 1908 datestamp.

It is inconceivable for mail from Peking to Tientsin transit via Shanhaikwan, perhaps the Imperial Japanese Post Office carried out mail censorship routines there so that all mail items carried on the South Manchurian Railway converged there for such unofficial censorship ?



# The South Manchurian Railway

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.

NOV 3 1909

SPAIN to PEKING

Oval datestamp

redirected to SHANHAIKWAN

The true function of Shanhaikwan as an exchange station is illustrated by the following picture post card from Spain to Peking, later redirected to Shanhaikwan. The 5 cents Spanish stamp was canceled indistinct Barcelona cds. with Peking Chine arrival cds. 16 SEPT 09, subsequently redirected via French Post Office Tientsin to Shanhaikwan with double oval I.J.T.O. NOV. 3 1909 datestamp, the exceptionally long transit time of 46 days reflected inefficiency of exchange routines.



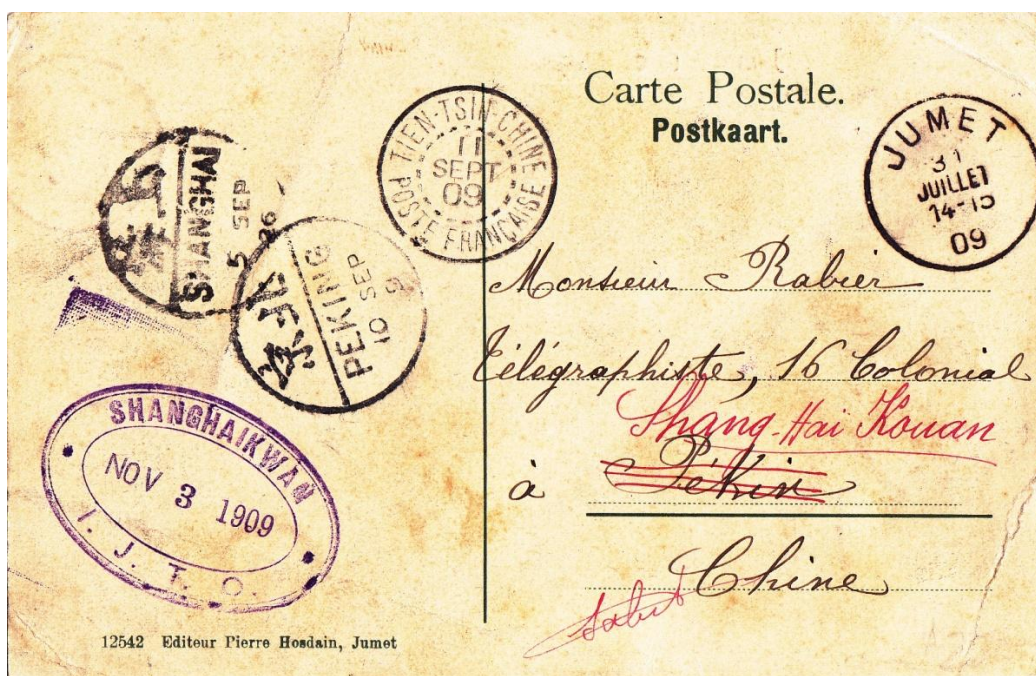


# *The South Manchurian Railway*

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.  
Oval datestamp

NOV 3 1909

FRANCE to PEKING  
redirected to SHANHAIKWAN



Picture post card of Jumet, franked French 5c stamp canceled Jumet cds of July 31, 1909, addressed to Peking and transit via Shanghai (5 SEP), French P.O. Tientsin (11 SEPT) arriving Peking (10 SEP), redirected by French Military P.O. in Peking on 11-9 09 to Shanhaikwan with double oval I.J.T.O. NOV 3 1909 datestamp.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.  
Oval datestamp

NOV. 4 1909

PANAMA to PEKING



Picture post card from Panama, franked two Panamanian stamps on picture side canceled indistinct cds. with Peking I.J.P.O. arrival cds 6.10.09, again the card was redirected to Shanhaikwan with double oval NOV. 4 1909 datestamp. The censorship function of Shanhaikwan IJTO is apparently illustrated by this example.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.

NOV. 4 1909

PANANMA to PEKING

Oval datestamp



Another similar picture post card from Panama was also addressed to Peking and arrived there on the same date 6.10.09 and forwarded to Shanhaikwan, receiving double oval NOV. 4 1909 IJTO datestamp.



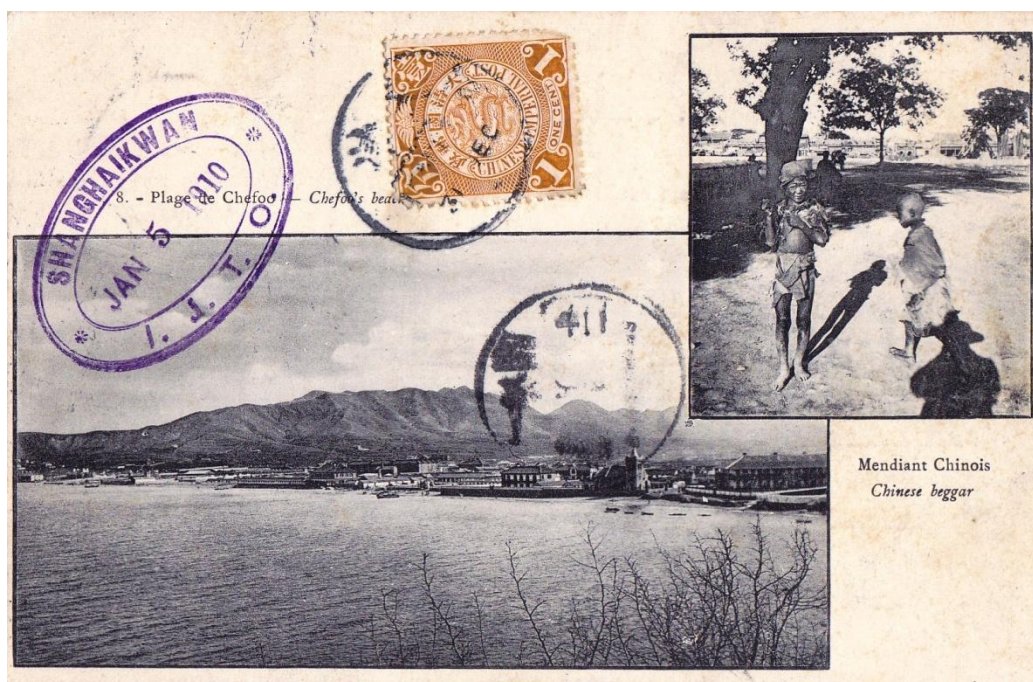
# *The South Manchurian Railway*

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.

JAN. 5 1910

TIENTSIN to SHANHAIKWAN

Oval datestamp



This picture post card proved beyond doubt that the transit time from Tientsin to Shanhaikwan was only 5 days, after arriving there receiving double oval Shanhaikwan IJTO JAN. 5 1910 datestamp, the card was delivered to addressee by Imperial Chinese Post Office with lunar year cds.



# The South Manchurian Railway

SHANHAIKWAN I.J.T.O.  
Oval datestamp

JAN. 5 1910

GERMANY to PEKING  
redirected to SHANHAIKWAN



An inward picture post card from Germany to Peking (lunar year arrival cds. corresponding to December 18, 1910) was redirected to the Imperial Chinese Post Office Shanhaikwan arriving there the ensuing day. For reasons unknown this card received Dhanhaikwan IJTO JAN. 5 1910 datestamp on both sides.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

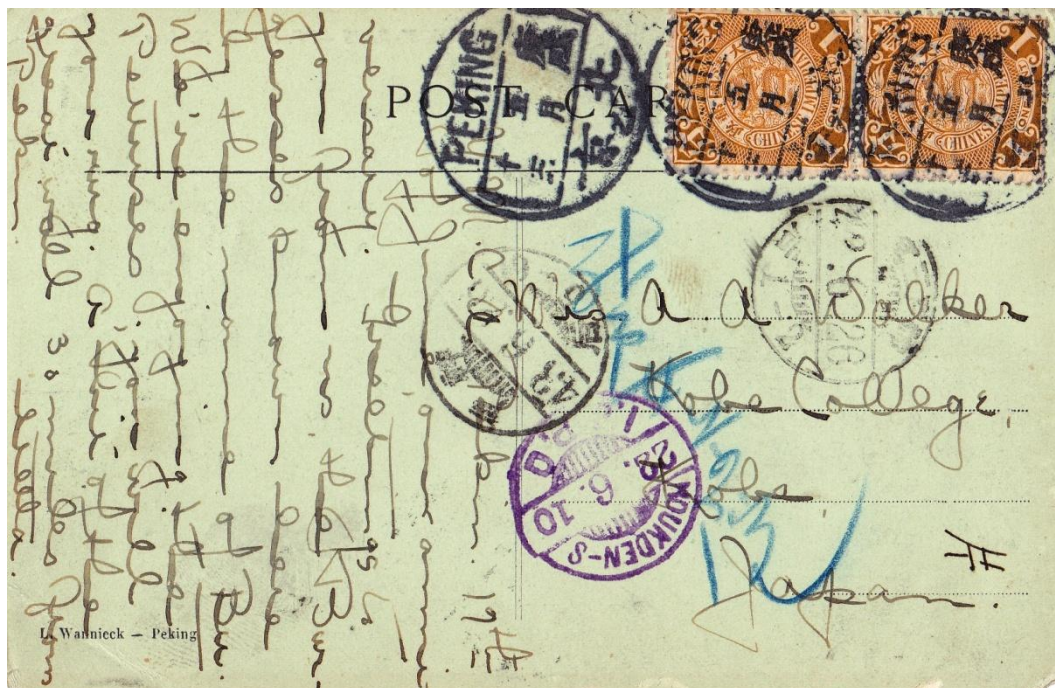
MOUKDEN-S I.J.P.O.

28.6.10

PEKING to KOBE, JAPAN

Circular “comb” datestamp

The choice of Shanhaikwan I.J.T.O. as mail exchange station was unrealistic because mail items off loaded by the first train could only be picked up by the second train one or two days later. In mid-1910 the Imperial Japanese Post Office decided to set up exchange stations at Moukden and Changchun, when the suffix “s” was added to the respective postmarks of these two post offices to indicate “station” as opposed to “H” for head office.



Picture post card to Kobe Japan, franked Chinese Imperial Post 1c stamps x 2 canceled Peking lunar year cds (corresponding to June 19, 1910) with Moukden-s IJPO transit cds. 28.6.10 and two Japanese transit or arrival cds'.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

MOUKDEN-S I.J.P.O.

16.3.11

CHANGLI to U.S.A.

Circular “comb” datestamp



A small western style cover to Boston U. S. A. was franked with Chinese Imperial Post 10c canceled CHANGLI post office lunar year cds. (corresponding to March 14, 1911). It transited Fengtien the ensuing day and was handled by Moukden-s IJPO with 16.3.11 cds.

The presence of the I.J.P.O. datestamp probably suggested that this item was subsequently carried by Japanese or French mail boats to U.S.A.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

MOUKDEN-S I.J.P.O.

4.2.11

CHENGTEHFU to U.S.A.

Circular “comb” datestamp



Another 1911 cover also originated from Chihli Province to Wisconsin U. S. A., franked on front Chinese Imperial Post 10c, canceled Chengtehfu lunar year cds. corresponding to March 23, 1911, it transited Peking (29 MAR.), Fengtien (indistinct cds) and Moukden-s IJPO 30.3.11 with further trip by mail boat to its destination.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

CHANGCHUN-S I.J.P.O.  
Circular “comb” datestamp

15.8.09

SEOUL (KOREA) to ENGLAND

Changchun-s exchange station was set up to handle mails carried or to be carried “Via Siberia” and as expected, this cds. is more common than the Moukden cds.



A 1909 cover from Seoul Korea, was franked Japanese 10 sn. canceled SEOUL COREA Japanese comb type cds. 9.8.09 with manuscript endorsement “Via Siberia” at upper left corner. It transited Changchun, receiving Changchun-s IJPO cds. 15.8.09 with Leeds arrival cds. AU 28 09 on reverse.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

CHANGCHUN-S I.J.P.O.

21.8.09

ENGLAND to DAIREN

Circular "comb" datestamp

Inward mail items to Japanese controlled Dairen in south Manchuria were also exchanged at Changchun when the following cover, franked 3 U.K. stamps totaling 2.5p were canceled Malvern cds AU 7 09. It was carried via Siberia when ultimately the Russian Post Office exchanged mail items with the Imperial Japanese Post Office at Changchun, thus receiving Changchun-s IJPO cds. of 21.8.09 and two days later on 23.8.09 it reached Dairen.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

CHANGCHUN-S I.J.P.O.

14.9.09

RUSSIA to SHANGHAI

Circular “comb” datestamp

Another “Via Siberia” picture post card from Russia to Shanghai clearly outlined the delivery details by a fine array of transit postmarks. It was first handed over to the Imperial Japanese Post Office Changchun by the Russian Post Office, thus receiving Changchun-s IJPO cds. 14.9.09 when the latter handed it over to the Shanghai IJPO on 17.9.09 which in turn delivered to the Russian Post Office Shanghai 17 9 09. When Russian Post Office passed on this item to the Imperial Chinese Post Office, it received the lunar year cds. of Shanghai but since the message was written in foreign language, the Shanghai Local Post made the final delivery on SEP 7 09.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

CHANGCHUN~S I.J.P.O.

20.10.10

SHANGHAI to GERMANY

Circular “comb” datestamp

Mail items from China to Europe “via Siberia” and handled by the Imperial Japanese Post Office were also exchanged at Changchun. The following picture post card originated from Tsingtau addressed to Heide Germany and carried by SHANGHAI-TIENTSIN mail boat of Deutsche Seepost 18.10.10 with additional framed PAQUEBOT handstamp. It reached Dairen 19.10.10 and was exchanged at Changchun from IJPO to Russian Post Office, thus receiving Changchun-s IJPO cds 20.10.10 after which the Russian Post Office delivered it via Siberia to Germany.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

CHANGCHUN-S I.J.P.O.

20.11.11

CHEFOO to DENMARK

Circular "comb" datestamp

A large size registered cover to Charlottenlund Danmark, was franked with Imperial Chinese Post 3c x 6 and 1c x 2 canceled Chefoo bilingual cds. 17 NOV. 11 and was then handled by CHEFOO IJPO 18.11.11 which delivered it as far as Changchun, receiving Changchun-s IJPO cds. 20.11.11 when subsequently it was exchanged with the Russian Post Office and the latter provided "via Siberia" mail service to its destination.



The total postage of 20 cents represented international letter rate of 10 cents and international registration fee 10 cents. A horizontal type English language registration handstamp was applied on cover front.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

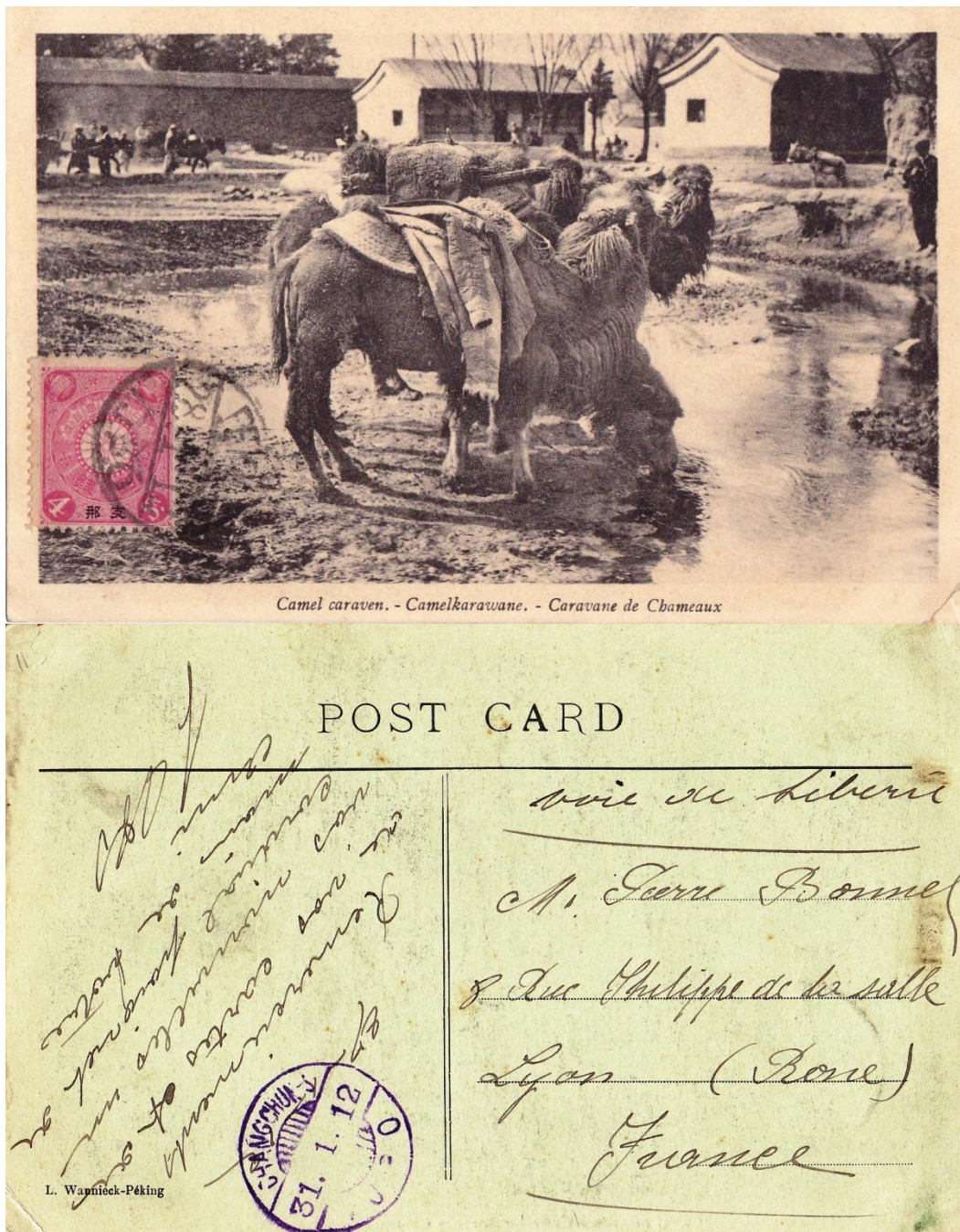
CHANGCHUN-S I.J.P.O.

31.1.12

PEKING to FRANCE

Circular "comb" datestamp

It is still difficult to ascertain the latest usage dates of both the Mouken-s and Changchun-s datestamps and from the number of limited examples here, it would seem that their use ceased at the beginning of 1912 and subsequently replaced by the double oval "SOUTH MANCHURIA" datestamps. The following is a picture post card originating from Peking, with Peking IJPO cancelling Japanese stamp on card, addressed to Lyon France and exchanged at Changchun with Changchun-s IJPO cds. 31.1.12.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.2 CHANGCHUN-MUKDEN

15.9.11

RUSSIA to HONG KONG

Oval "comb" datestamp

Oval datestamps with specific route destination and words "South Manchuria" were brought into use by the South Manchurian Railway for foreign language mail carried on the line.

The No. 1 cancel was meant for the run from Mukden to Changchun i.e. going in the south direction, and therefore more often seen on mail outgoing from China and the No. 2 cancel for the run in reverse direction and more often seen on inward mail to China. These cancels were seen used between 1911 and 1916 as illustrated by the following 8 examples.



Picture post card to Hong Kong, franked with Russian 4k stamp canceled St. Petersburg cds. 22.8.11, it entered China and was carried on the South Manchurian Railway southwards, receiving IJPO2 Changchun-Mukden oval datestamp 15.9.11 with further transit via Shanghai IJPO 19.1.11



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.2 CHANGCHUN~MUKDEN

6.12.11

ENGLAND to DAIREN

Oval “comb” datestamp

Another inward picture post card from Antwerp to Dairen in south Manchuria, franked with two Belgian 5c stamps, canceled ANTWERPEN roller cancel 19 XI 1911 with message written in Japanese language but “Dairen Manchuria” in English. It was endorsed Via Siberia at top, exchanged from the Russian Post Office to the Imperial Japanese Post Office at Changchun, continued its journey on IJPO2-CHANGCHUN-MUKDEN section of the South Manchurian Railway on 6.12.11 reaching Dairen on 7.12.11.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.2 CHANGCHUN-MUKDEN

6.11.12

HARBIN to TSINANANFU

Oval "comb" datestamp

Foreign language mail items within China, carried on the Changchun-Mukden section of the South Manchurian Railway might receive the double oval railway datestamp as illustrated by this picture post card from Harbin, franked Russian 4k stamp, canceled Harbin Station cds. 23.10.12. It was addressed to Tsinanfu in Shantung Province and was exchanged at Changchun, thence carried on IJPO2 CHANGCHUN-MUKDEN section of the South Manchurian Railway with TSINAN 8 NOV. 12 arrival cds. on picture side.





# The South Manchurian Railway

I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN

5.28.13

Fengtien-Kaiping to LEIPZIG

Oval "comb" datestamp

This post card was dispatched on board the Fengtien-Kaiping branch of the South Manchurian Railway when Japanese language c.d.s. 2.5.27 canceled the three stamps on card, it was endorsed Via Siberia at top and addressed to Leipzig and transited the Changchun-Mukden section receiving oval datestamp 28.5.13



It would seem that the oval I.J.P.O.2 Mukden-Changchun transit datestamp would have been more Appropriate because this card was heading west, but perhaps the mail transit took place while the train was actually heading south when the I.J.P.O.1 datestamp had been used.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN

21.2.14

KOREA to SWITZERLAND

Oval "comb" datestamp

This rare post card originated from Japanese occupied Korea when Japanese type Keijo Chosen c.d.s. 20.2.14 canceled the Japanese stamps on the card.



It was addressed to Switzerland and endorsed "via Siberia" at the top with further annotation "Printed Matter" (since there was no message on both sides of the card) and transited the South Manchurian Railway, receiving I.J.P.O.1 Changchun-Mukden oval datestamp the ensuing day.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN

22.11.13

JAPAN to SCOTLAND

Oval "comb" datestamp

The IJPO1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN double oval datestamp was only applied on foreign language mail items to Europe via Siberia, handled by the Imperial Japanese Post Office, including mail items from Japan or Korea as illustrated by this cover from Japan with 10sn franking, canceled indistinct Japanese cds. It was delivered by mail boat and was subsequently carried on IJPO1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN section of the South Manchurian Railway to Changchun where it was delivered to the Russian Post Office, making use of latter's "Via Siberia" mail service to its destination in Edinburgh, England reaching there on DE 4 13.





# The South Manchurian Railway

I.J.P.O.2 CHANGCHUN-MUKDEN

26.1.14

ENGLAND to MUKDEN

Oval "comb" datestamp

A picture post card was franked GB 1 penny canceled Newcastle-on-Tyne cds. JA 13 14. It was written in English and was carried on IJPO2 CHANGCHUN-MUKDEN section of the South Manchurian Railway receiving double oval datestamp 26.1.14 with MUKDEN I.J.P.O. arrival cds. 26.1.14.



Endorsed "Via Siberia" at bottom, transit time from United Kingdom to Mukden only 13 days.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN

27/4/14

Vladivostok to Canton

Oval "comb" datestamp



A cover from Vladivostok to Canton, China 2 IV 14 was carried on the South Manchurian Railway receiving oval I.J.P.O. 1 Changchun-Mukden datestamp 27.4.14 with Canton I.J.P.O. arrival c.d.s. 2.5.14 and subsequently handed over to the Chinese Post Office Canton the same day.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

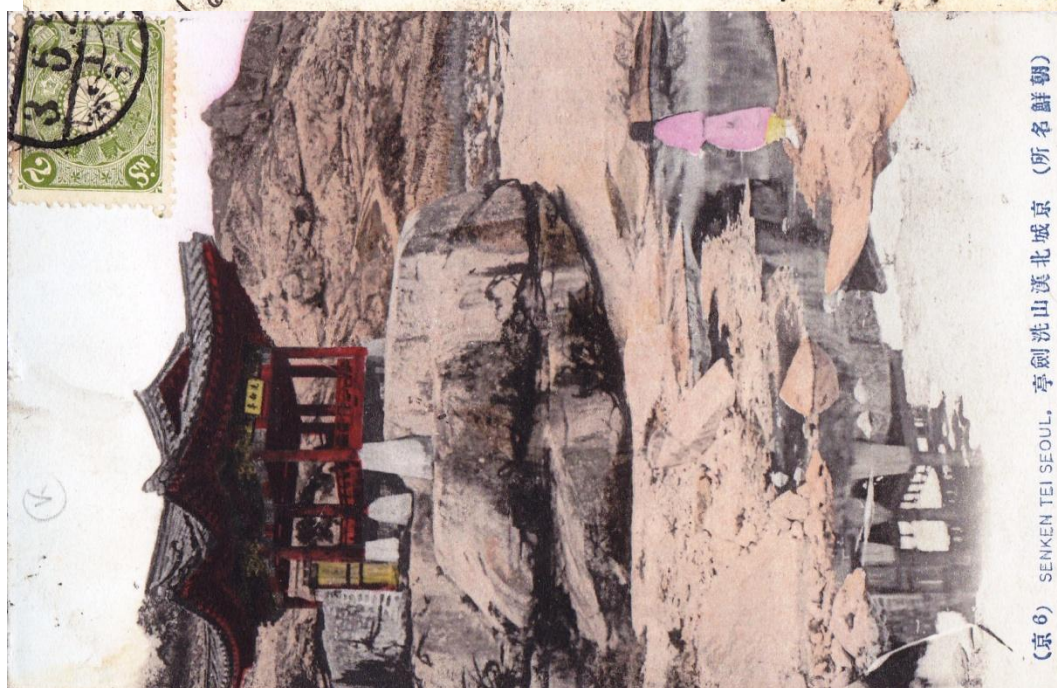
I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN~CHANGCHUN

27.5.14

## JAPAN to PARIS

Oval “comb” datestamp

An interesting “Printed Matter” item originating from Fusan in Korea was franked with Japanese 2sn canceled 3.5.2(?) cds. and endorsed “Printed Matter” and “Via Siberia” at top. It was addressed to Paris and was carried on IJPO1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN section of the South Manchurian Railway receiving double oval datestamp 27.5.14 with partial 11-6 14 arrival cds.



There was no message on this card other than forwarding and return addresses and is hence eligible for concessionary “printed matter” rate.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN

7.10.15

JAPAN to FRANCE

Oval 'comb' datestamp

Japanese picture post card franked on address side two Japanese 2sn stamps canceled indistinct Japanese cds. 4.10. (?), message written in French and addressed to France Via Siberia, carried on IJPO1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN section of the South Manchurian Railway receiving its double oval datestamp 7.10.15.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

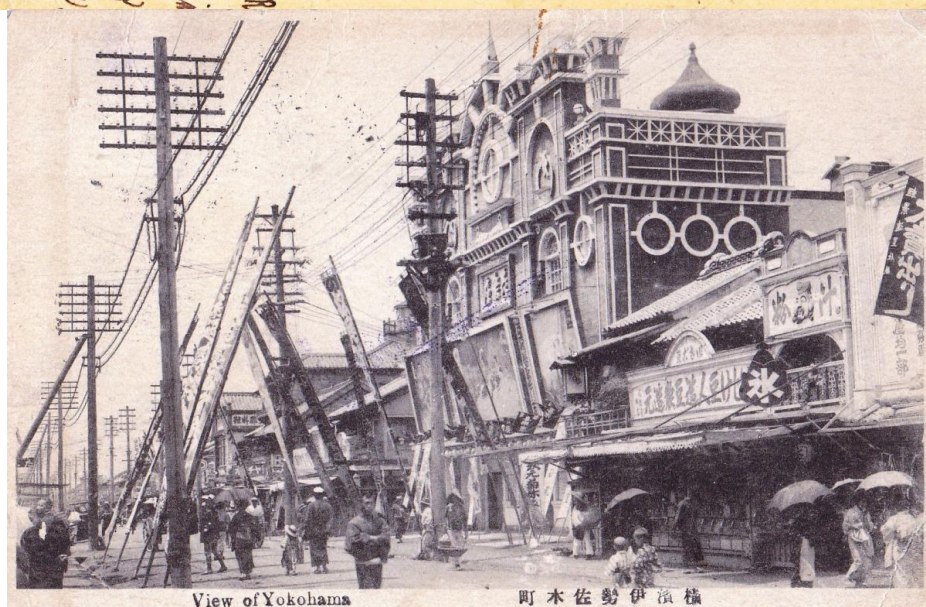
I.J.P.O.1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN

29.9.16

HANKOW to DENMARK

Oval "comb" datestamp

The latest usage of the South Manchurian Railway double oval cancel appeared on this picture post card from Hankow to Danmark, franked Japanese 4sn canceled Hankow IJPO cds. 26.6.16. It travelled a long way before being carried on IJPO1 MUKDEN-CHANGCHUN section of the South Manchurian Railway with further transit and censorship at Petrograd receiving transit and censorship handstamp.



The two internal revolutions in Russia in 1917 had caused complete disruption of the "Via Siberia" mail service and the volume of foreign language mail items carried on the South Manchurian Railway was negligible and for this reason the use of double oval railway datestamps had ceased.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

Japanese Language  
Comb type c.d.s.

Between Changchun & Dairen  
3.6.29

On board S.M.R. train  
to England

The writer of this card "C" had just changed trains at Changchun on his way to Shanghai via Dairen, he wrote a series of around 30 post cards back home to England on his journey from Moscow to Shanghai in June 1914, just before the outbreak of World War I.



He was looking forward to sea bathing at Dalny and indeed the weather would have been excellent in Dairen at this time of the year. The post card was probably bought on board the train and views of Chinese Northeast Provinces were the main subject, with Japanese language annotations.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

Japanese Language  
Comb type c.d.s.

Between Changchun & Dairen  
3.6.29

On board S.M.R. train  
to England

It is often a well formed concept that the oval cancellations used on the Changchun to Mukden section of the South Manchurian Railway are the only cancellations used on foreign language items but a foreign traveler unwittingly recorded Japanese language comb type cancellations used on another section of the South Manchurian Railway from Changchun to Dairen. He wrote three post cards in English to Leicester of England and the Japanese stamps were cancelled by circular T.P.O. datestamp with year in Emperor's reign. Upon arrival at Changchun, the Changchun I.J.P.O. handled foreign language items destined for Europe, probably in sealed mail bags.



The Japanese language inscription inside the cancellation means "Between Changchun & Dairen" and this indicated it was posted on board the train running along the main trunk line



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

Japanese Language  
Comb type c.d.s.

Between Changchun & Dairen  
3.6.29

On board S.M.R. train  
to England

The traveler wrote on the previous card that the cabin of the South Manchurian Railway was nicer and cleaner and he will arrive Mukden in one day's time. The stamps and cancellations are the same but the post card is different, being scenery cards of Chinese Northeast Provinces with annotations in Japanese language.

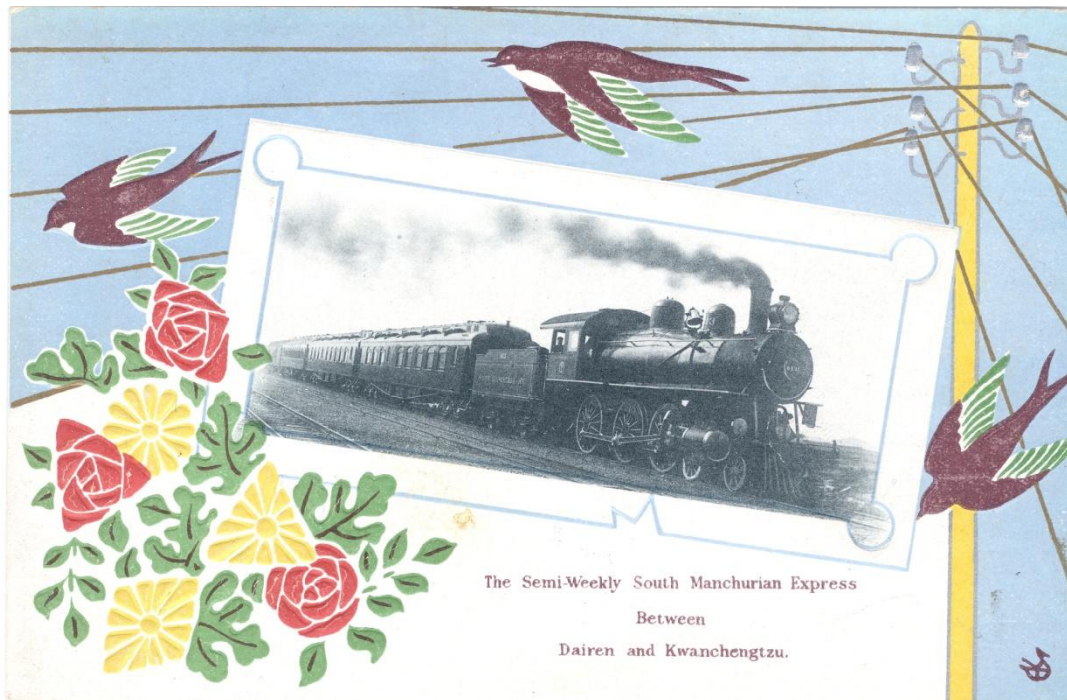


This card was addressed to a young boy back in England and the writer asked him if he can find the place (Hoshigaura) of Dairen on the map.

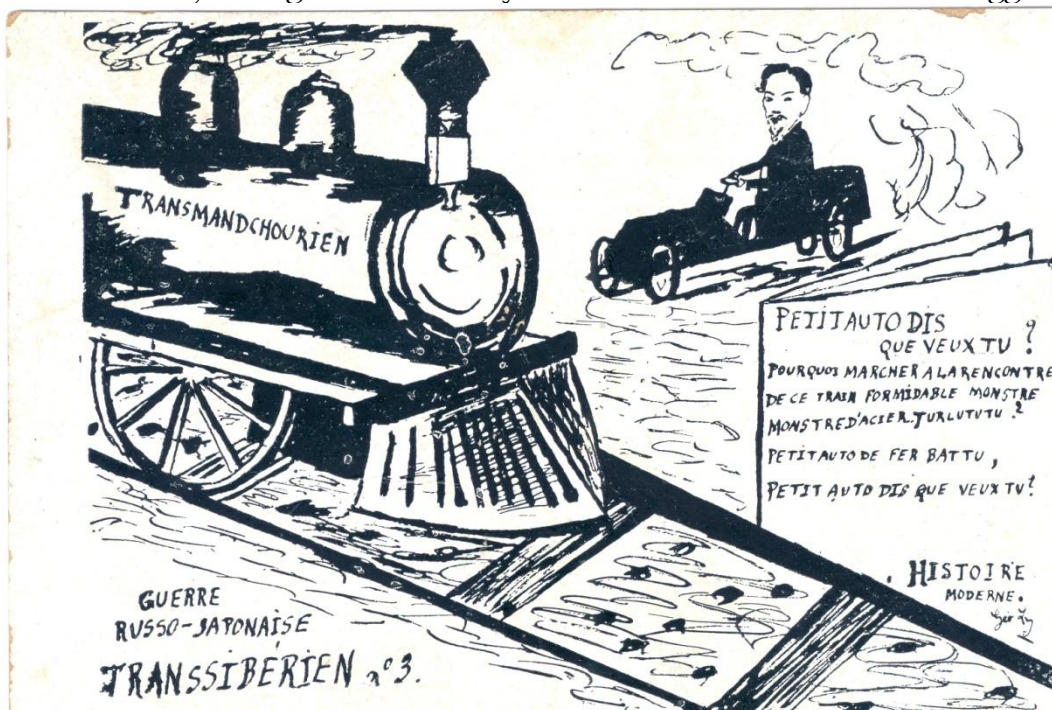


# *The South Manchurian Railway*

The commemorative post card below was produced by the Japanese Post Office to announce the “through train” from Kobe via Seoul to the Chinese Northeast Provinces. Swift and stream-lined swallows were chosen as comparison to the train steaming along the South Manchurian Railway.



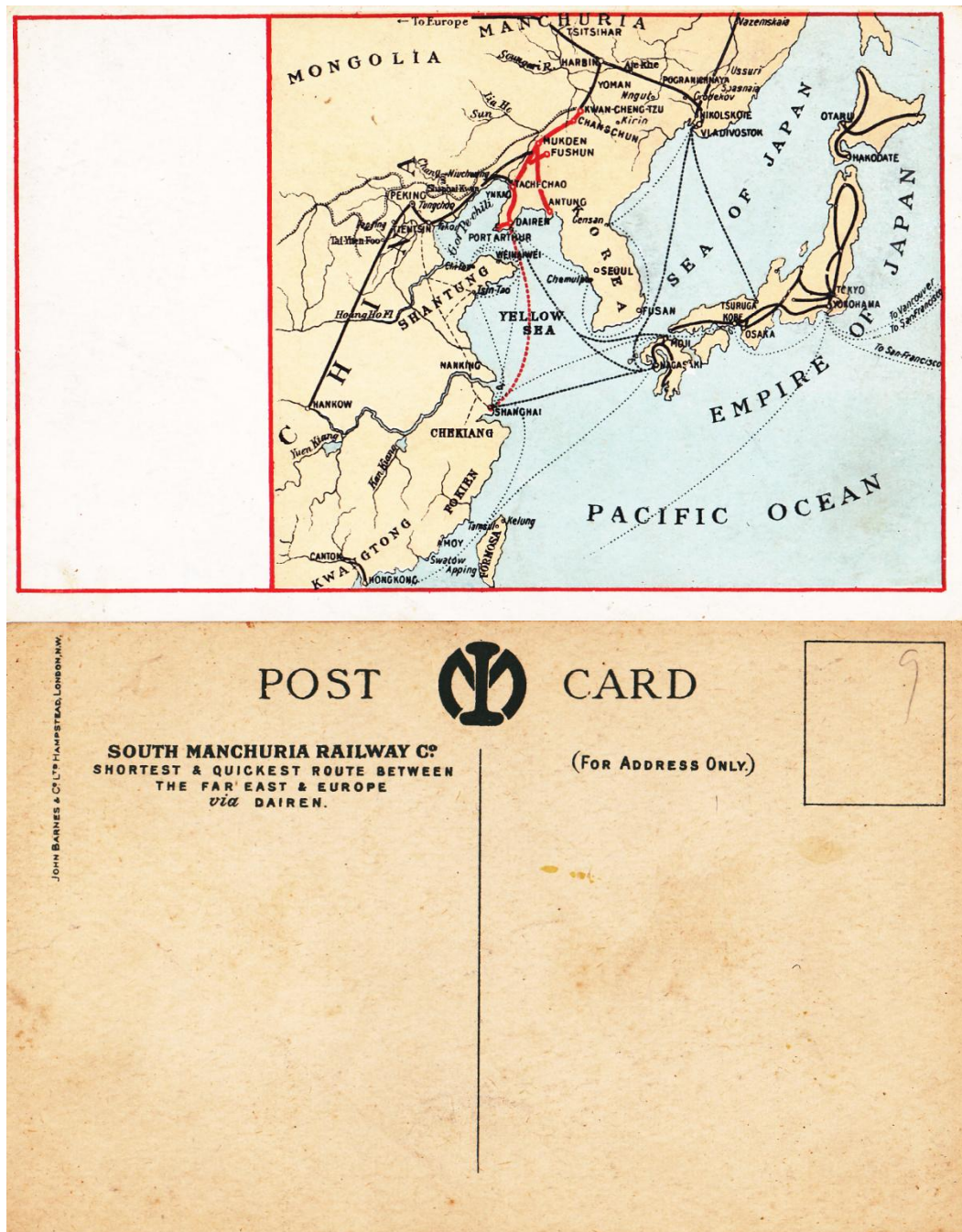
The French saw things in a different angle and status, they issued this satirical post card with a short verse in French, hinting that the railway line itself was a tool for territorial aggression.





# *The South Manchurian Railway*

A post card produced by the South Manchurian Railway Company with its official logo on address and text side, gives detailed mail routes by train and by sea.



It boasted by saying: “Shortest & quickest route between the Far East & Europe via Dairen”



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

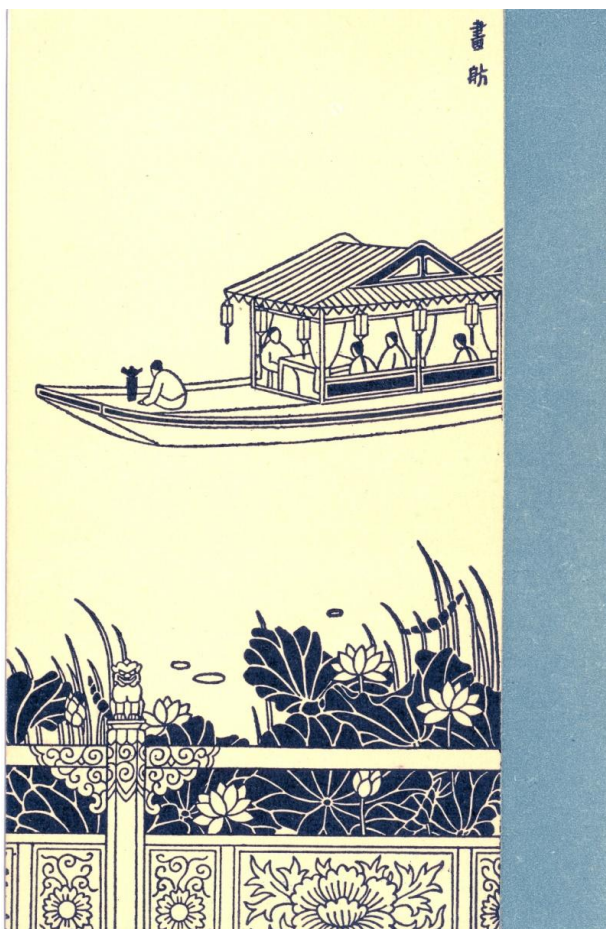
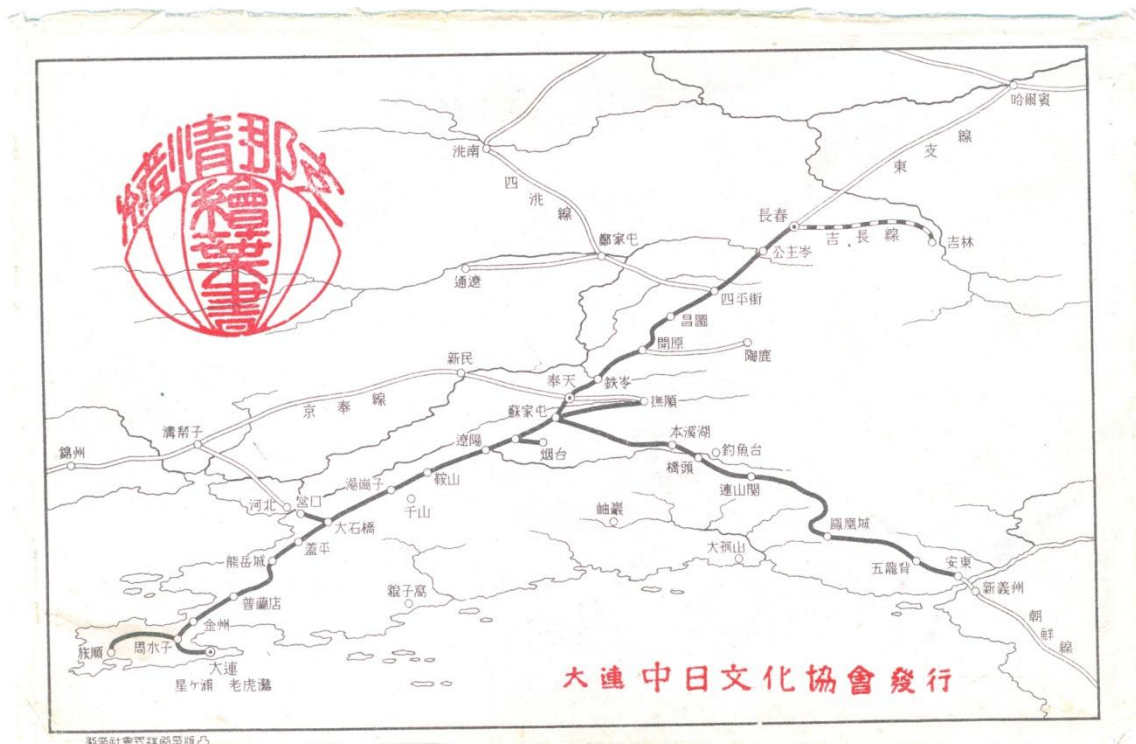
Picture post card written and sent On February 7 1913 whilst the sender was on board the South Manchurian train from ? to Port Arthur, the picture side showed the double bunker in the cabine with two sets of desks and chairs for the two passengers inside the cabin. Judging by this standard, there is no wonder that the traveler "C" wrote about the "nicer and cleaner" cabins on the South Manchurian Railway than the Chinese Eastern Railway.



Apart from the Changchun-Mukden section of the South Manchurian Railway where vast volumes of international mail items were exchanged, Japanese language comb type cancels had been used on other sections such as Changchun to Dairen or Changchun to Port Arthur even though the mail items might have been written in foreign language because such items would be sorted again either in Changchun or in Mukden, Dairen or Port Arthur.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*



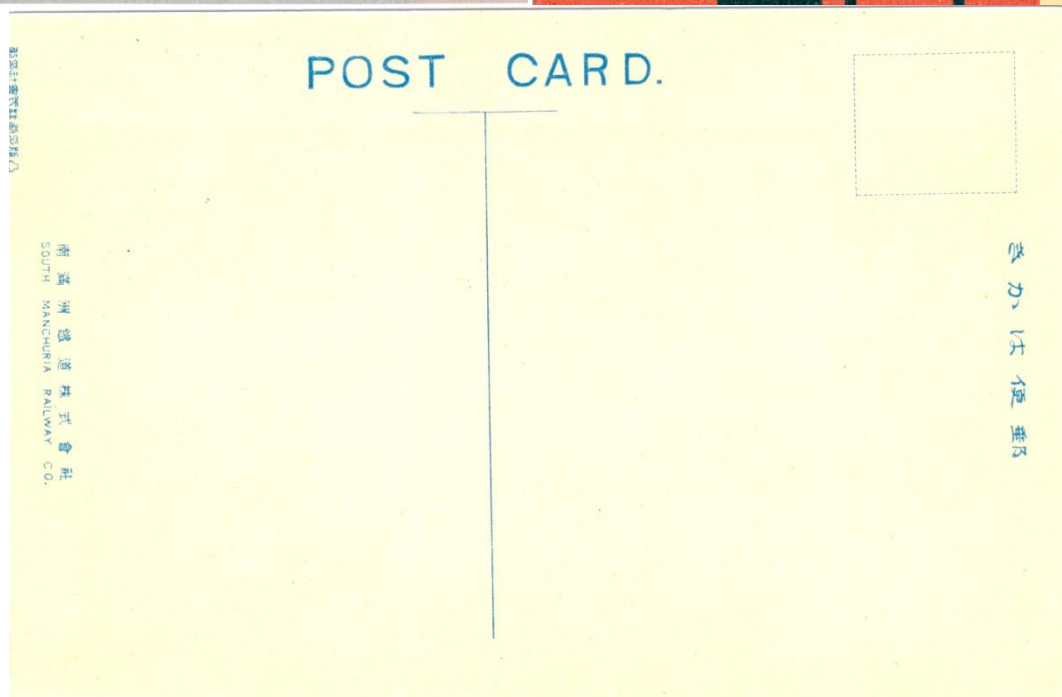
A set of three Chinese style post card entitled "Chinese Sentiment" was available to passengers on board the South Manchurian Railway.

The wrapper illustrated a line map of the South Manchurian Railway and its main branches annotated in Japanese language.

Other post cards were also available, with various scenes and famous structures in the Chinese Northeast Provinces.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*



Two other “Chinese Sentiment” post cards with the back side of the post card for address and text.



# *The South Manchurian Railway*

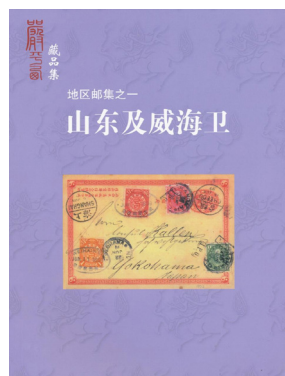
This is a post card showing the full view of the S.M.R. Company Office standing in the Mukden Castle.



It was addressed to Switzerland via Siberia but the issuing I.J.P.O. datestamp is illegible.

After Japan was defeated in the Second World War, it surrendered to the Allied Nations in 1945 when the Nationalist Chinese Government recovered the Chinese Northeast Provinces and the ownership of the South Manchurian Railway became vested with the Chinese Government.





1



2

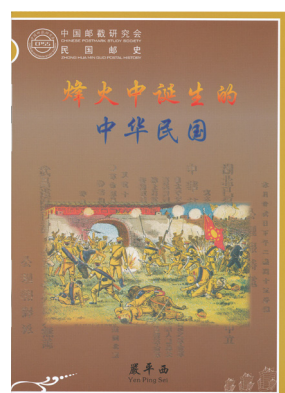


3

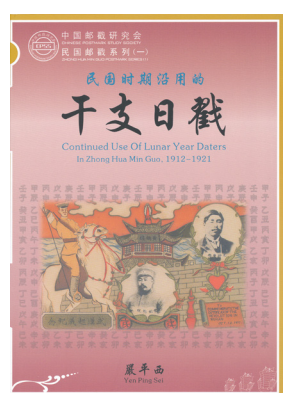


4

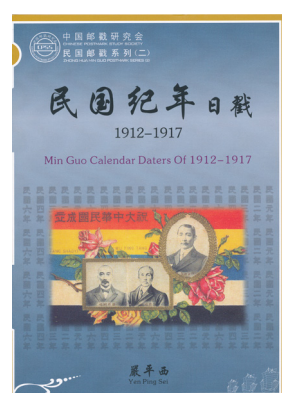
1-4 平装及精装



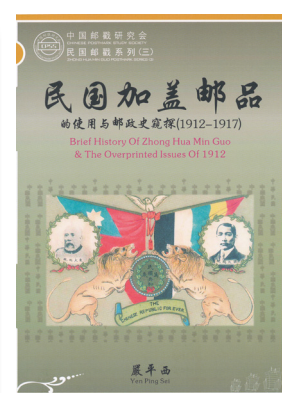
5



6



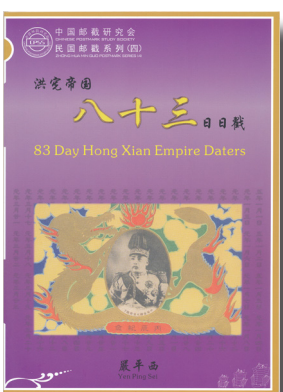
7



8



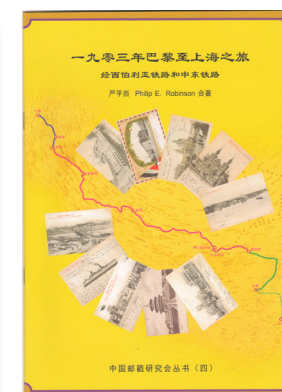
5-8合订本



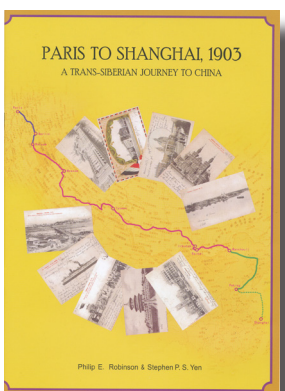
9



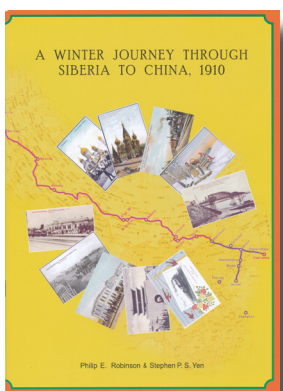
10



11



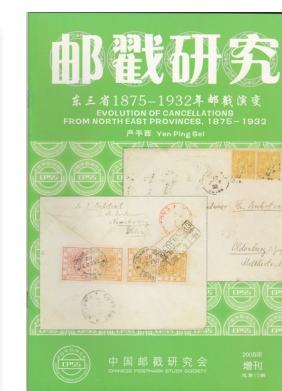
12



13



14



15