### 其他邮集及邮趣

蒙古邮品



## COLLECTIONS & OTHER INTERESTS MONGOLIAN ITEMS

79 -- 蒙古邮品 --- MISC-C

### Kyakhta, Troitsksavsk & Kiachta

Pursuant to the Treaty of Kyakhta 1727, this town straddling the Russian (Siberian)/Mongolian border was designated as the Customs and check-point for Chinese and Russian Empires. A post office had been established there, probably on the joint effort of the rich Mongolian merchants and privately operated Min Chu of Chinese Mongolia. Several types of circular Russian language cancellations (the earliest being 1875) had been used including the one appearing hereinafter.

(1) Stampless entire from Chita 22 Feb. 1883, addressed "To the



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young children's teacher (a lady) of the Troitsksavsk Nicholas School at Troitsksavsk" with official handstamp of origin reading "Inspector of National Schools of the Transbaikal Region" with Russian language Kyakhta 27 Feb. 1883 arrival c.d.s. In the letter inside, the impression at the left translates as "M(inistry) of N(ational) E(ducation) / Inspector / of National (i.e. public) /

Schools / of the Transbaikal Region. / 20 February 1883 / No 256 / Chita". The letter itself asks the teacher to submit a report. The words "Received 3 March 1883" are written at the top.

This is the first phase of mail delivery in Mongolia when post office was set up in Kyakhta of Russia and operated by funds from Mongolian merchants and in co-operation with Chinese Min Chu.

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This item precedes the establishment of the official Russian Post Office at Troitsksavsk which situates a little distance to the north of Kyakhta as shown in the above map.

Two different spellings of Mongolian pronunciation of the same place into Russian and Chinese languages had produced two different further Romanized translations in English, i.e. Kyakhta and Kiachta the former in Russian and the latter in Chinese territory. The location of Kiachta is still uncertain, it is definitely not Kyakhta nor Maimaichen but somewhere in between these two.

The following is a picture post card to Kiachta from Peking and by this time, *the second phase had* already taken place when official Russian Post Office Troitsksavsk had been established to replace Kyakhta post office.

postal Sommerpalast bei Peking. Broncetempel.

(2) 1902 picture post card with message written 12/12/02, franked on front Chinese Imperial Post 2c, 1c x 2 canceled Peking oval datestamp DEC 13 1902, Russian 3k x 2 added and canceled Russian Post Office Chefoo c.d.s. (22 XII 1902) addressed to Kiachta Siberia and transit via Port Arthur 14 XII 1902 (Julian calendar, or 27 Dec.) with Troitsksavsk 24 XII 1902 (Julian calendar or 6 Jan. 1903) arrival backstamp.

This item has three special features: (1) the earliest known mail matter addressed to KIACHTA in Chinese Mongolia, (2) it had to cross the border to Troitsksavsk before returning to Chinese Kiachta and (3) its transit via Port Arthur indicated that it travelled along the partially completed network of Trans-Siberian Railway instead of pursuing route from Peking to Urga via Kalgan.

The inauguration of "Via Siberia" mail service undertaken by the Imperial Russian Post Office took place on October 1, 1903 when the Trans-Siberian Railway and the Chinese Eastern Railway were fully operational, carrying mail items from Europe, Russia, Sinkiang and Mongolia to China and vice versa but such free service was only extended to member countries of the Universal Postal Union and since China was not a member, Chinese mail items had to pay the prescribed Russian postage or alternatively handed over to French Post Office for onward free transmission by the Russian Post Office to Russia, Europe or beyond. Prior to the aforesaid inauguration date, the west bound Trans-Siberian Railway had already been completed and mail items from Mongolia can travel westwards to Russia or Europe as long as they paid the prescribed postage in Russian currency.



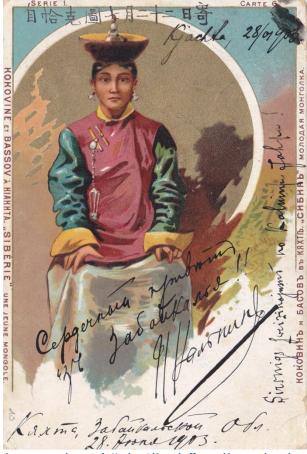
(3) 1902 XII red band cover franked on front Russian 7 Kopek stamp canceled Russian Post Office Urga c.d.s. with Troitsksavsk transit and St. Petersburg arrival backstamp 9.1.1903. *This is one of the rare covers not directed back to Peking or Tientsin of China but to Russia.* 

Elsewhere in China, various Russian Post Offices were busy soliciting mail delivery business to Russia, China and Europe via Siberia, charging postage in Russian currency. European countries objected to such arrangement and being a fellow member of the Universal Postal Union, Russian Post Office was duty bound to deliver their mail to Russia, China, Japan or other Asian countries free of charge with via Trans-Siberian Railway. The concerted efforts of England, France and Germany succeeded when from November 3 1903 mails for Europe franked with British, French and German stamps were accepted by the Russian Post Office and could be sent via Trans-Siberian Railway without further postage in terms of Russian stamps.

The Chinese and Russian folks living in Kiachta had to post their mail items across the border at the Russian town of Troitsuksavsk and pay postage in Russian currency as is the case of the following (4) 1903 post card which paid 5 kopeks rate for international post card to Eger. Three Russian stamps on top left were cancelled by datestamp of Russian Post Office Troitsukosavsk with Moscow transit datestamp 13 VII 1903 and an indistinct arrival datestamp above.

Pol всемірный понтовый союзъ. Рос UNION POST NIVERSELLE. RUSSIE 而 **元**OTKPHT ОЕ ПИ LITHOCR. ARTIST. E. I. MARCUS, ST PETERSI IT 1 月 rues 11 chine in raffe 朱 4 На этой стороню пишется только адресь. Côté réservé exclusivement

China had earlier signed a Postal Agreement with the French Post Office for free and reciprocal delivery of each others' mail items and for a very short period of time between November 1903 and February 1904, Chinese mail items for Russia and Europe could be delivered to the French Post Office which could in turn request further



delivery "via Siberia" by Russian Post Office free of charge, relying on their status as a member of the Universal Postal Union. This is the third phase of postal development.

Five months after the official inauguration of the "Via Siberia" mail service in February 1904, the Russo-Japanese War broke out on Chinese Northeastern Provinces which lasted around a year and Russia was defeated and pursuant to the Treaty of Washington signed in September 1905, a section of Chinese Eastern Railway from Kwanchengtze to Port Artuhur was ceded to Japan as war compensation, effectively severing communication between Peking and other Chinese cities on the one hand with Russia and European countries on the other hand because *mail items could not cross from Kwanchengtse to reach Mukden and connect Peking via the Peking/Mukden railway and this* 

*interruption of "Via Siberia" mail service is the fourth phase of postal development.* This situation persisted until mid-1907 when "Via Siberia" mail was able to resume even though the gauge alteration works to the South Manchurian Railway was partially completed at that time.

"Via Siberia" mail service resumed in early 1907 but there was no through mail traffic from Harbin to Mukden because Japan was busy altering the railway gauge between Kwanchengtze to Port Arthur to conform with the railway gauge of Tokyo—Fusan—Antung line. However an alternative route was available : *mails could travel all the way to Vladivostok and take a sea trip to Shanghai via Tsuruga of Japan as illustrated by the following post card and this is the fifth phase development.* 

repear Braduboc moter + оказии Открытое письмо Carte ng1 Всемірный Почтовый Собозт. Мѣсто для корресиондения Kh, 20.5.07 K. K. Mange og onde ere de Veje, det hellige Allssiske Port-uværen anvender. Tak for Korte Marian Itomare he Amoy, mydelist alibejde fog evaled of on senter Photo · Photo 13.7. 1906, det has Du ve fact? Svar paa det venter jeg paa undenn- og følgelig er det vel d via Wead pl. gaars Tabt. Ser Her er alt vil, Fuldskaget for og Maven raadnes. S.N piller ved fagen, is fik kun 2 allolo frat. Og Jordskaler hevde is sidste Un. Jo det er en rar Station! Y. H. fra John hanghai

(5)1907 picture post card franked with 10 kopeks and 4 kopeks stamps on card front cancelled Troitsksavsk datestamp 7 V 1907 (Julian calendar) with Vladivostok transit datestamp 15.5.07 and Russian Post Office Shanghai arrival c.d.s. 20 5 07.

Manuscript "Kh, 20.5.07 evidenced its origin from Kiachta of Chinese Mongolia.



"Via Siberia" mail service resumed in mid-1907 and with the gauge alteration works to the Port Arthur to Harbin section of the South Manchurian Railway completed and operational in 1909 mail volumes increased by leaps and bounds until the outbreak of the World War I in 1914 and this is the sixth phase of development which is soon ensued by the seventh phase when, after signing a Postal Agreement with Russia, the Chinese Post Office at Kiachta opened for business and mail senders were only required to pay postage in Chinese stamps when the Imperial Chinese

Post Office could then rely on the Postal Agreement to be entitled to free "Via Siberia" mail service so that their mail items could be sent to Europe or back to China without payment of additional Russian postage. It is believed that even though the official Chinese Kiachta Post Office situated in Chinese territory, the original post office at Kyakhta was still used as a base camp of mail operations but in 1913 insurgents in Mongolia led to the closing of the operation base at Kyakhta (extract of official record below) and the post office staff had to return to the Chinese Kiachta Post Office and this is the eighth phase of development and was soon ensued by the outbreak of World War I.

In the maintenance of the postal services in Outer Mongolia more than usual difficulty was experienced. At Kiachta the former Clerk-in-Charge was expelled by the Mongolians under the charge of espionage, while the Clerk sent to succeed him met with such opposition that he was forced to leave Mongolian territory. Further, the Outer Mongolian authorities insisted upon the surrender of the postal premises, and the Post Office had to be removed to new quarters in the Maimaicheng. World War I did not cause serious interruption to "Via Siberia" mail service from Russia eastwards but two Russian revolutions in 1917 brought irreparable damage to trans-Siberian Railway and

**DER** maples CPO uyapis Mononh. Via Shang ano angue Sopulaire Suisse

international mail items from Mongolia to Europe had to take an overland route to Shanghai via Peking for further delivery by sea mail and this is the ninth phase of development.

(6) 1918 registered cover from Kiachta, franked with six junk stamps with a total postage of 20 cents canceled Kiachta bisected bilingual c.d.s. 25 DEC 17 with English language registration handstamp below. It transited Urga January 2, Kalgan January 13, Peking February 2 and Shanghai February 5 finally arriving Montreux 1 V 18, total transit time taken was 126 days. Since World War I was still subsisting, it was censored at Milan, Italy the cover was opened for examination and resealed with censor tape, tied to cover with handstamp MILANO POSTA ESTERA The sender was fully aware that "via Siberia" mail service had suspended and his manuscript instruction on cover "Via front reads Shanghai"

knowing that bank cover would undergo lengthy censor procedures if it traveled through Russia and Germany, the two countries bitterly engaged in war.

Backed by Russian support, Mongolia broke away from China and formed its own constitutional monarchy on July 11, 1921 and from then onwards, covers to China had to be taxed as postage due items because Mongolia was not a member of the Universal Postal Union and this is tenth and final phase of postal delivery in Chinese Mongolia. Incoming mails from Mongolia to China were still carried by U.S.S.R. post office via Siberia until the service was suspended in 1932 when Japan occupied the Chinese Northeast Provinces and established the puppet government of Manchuokuo which severed the link from Harbin and Mukden to Peking.

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# 蒙古庫倫郵局 1910--1921 年 採用日戳之分類



#### STEPHEN YEN'S PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS 严氏邮学丛书



1-4 平裝及精裝



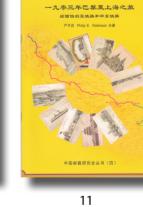


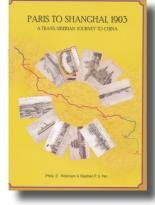
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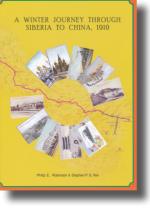


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邮戳研

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