

Exhibit Name

The Early Postage Meter Stamps of Mainland China

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SYNOPSIS

The Early Postage Meter Stamps of Mainland China

The development of postage meter use in China can be separated into three periods:

- 1) a long and cautious time of testing and experimentation which lasted from 1926 to 1948,
- 2) the 'classic' period from 1948 to the 1970s in which 48 imported machines were used in several large post offices, and
- 3) the modern period from the late 1970s to the present in which meter use expanded into thousands of post offices and businesses throughout the country.

This exhibit documents the test/experimental and classic periods.

As may be expected in an area as little explored as Chinese metered mail, locating examples from before the modern period is difficult. No dealers stock meter stamps *per se*. Most examples in the exhibit were found in the postal history sections of auctions and in dealers' stock priced according to the rarity and usage of accompanying adhesive stamps on the covers. The essays and loose meter tapes were obtained from several of the very few meter stamp collections formed while the stamps were current. It is safe to say that even the most frequently found stamp types are rare compared to the relative abundance of traditional adhesive stamps, and a

significant number are known by a single example. Of course what is unique today may be 'one of several known tomorrow, but presently this material is difficult to find.

Rarity, of course, does not equal importance. The exhibit contains many covers of historical significance. One with foremost impact is the essay found immediately after the title page. It is the single earliest Chinese meter impression known and predates by two years what was once considered to be the first Chinese meter essay.

The Francotyp essay shown further along is also unique. Equally important is the cover franked by the first meter actually placed into use in China. Only three covers and a handful of cut-outs are known to exist today, all 2¢ denominations except the 5¢ example in the exhibit. Several other 'earliest known' and unique items are also present.

The most useful references are "*The Postage Meter and Postpaid Machine Stamps of China*" by the exhibitor, published by the China Stamp Society in 2000, and "*The Early Postage Meters of Mainland China*" by the exhibitor, published in "The Congress Book 1997" by the American Philatelic Congress in June 1997. An earlier reference is "*The Postage Meters of China*" by H.G. Morgan,

published in "The China Clipper", Vol.

XX, no. 2, January 1956

Meter Stamp Society

The Early Postage Meter Stamps of Mainland China

Before the 1970s only 48 postage meters were in use in all of China. By comparison, during the 1960s, several hundred thousand meters were being used in the United States.

Despite this miniscule number, a surprising variety of different meter stamp designs were needed because of changes in governments, currencies and inflation. Some designs were used for months by several machines while others existed for days only on a single meter.

This exhibit examines the seven basic designs and variations used on these 48 classic postage meters. It also shows the unadopted essays that preceded them.

This is a unique presentation of a previously unexplored area of Chinese postal development.

Early unadopted essays, 1926 – 1935

Frank with frame modeled on the Martyrs issue adhesive stamps of 1932/34. 1936



Universal Postal Frankers large frank with faux-perforation frame. 1948



Pitney Bowes flying goose frank. 1948



Hasler flying goose frank. 1949



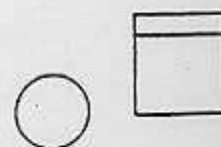
Pitney Bowes straight-line frank. 1957



Pitney Bowes small frank. 1957



Hasler straight-line frank. 1961



Early Unadopted Essays

The first attempt to design a postage meter stamp for China was made by **Universal Postal Frankers** of England on their "Midget-5" machine.



This strip, dated 6 May 1926, is the earliest Chinese postage meter artifact recorded.

Early Unadopted Essays

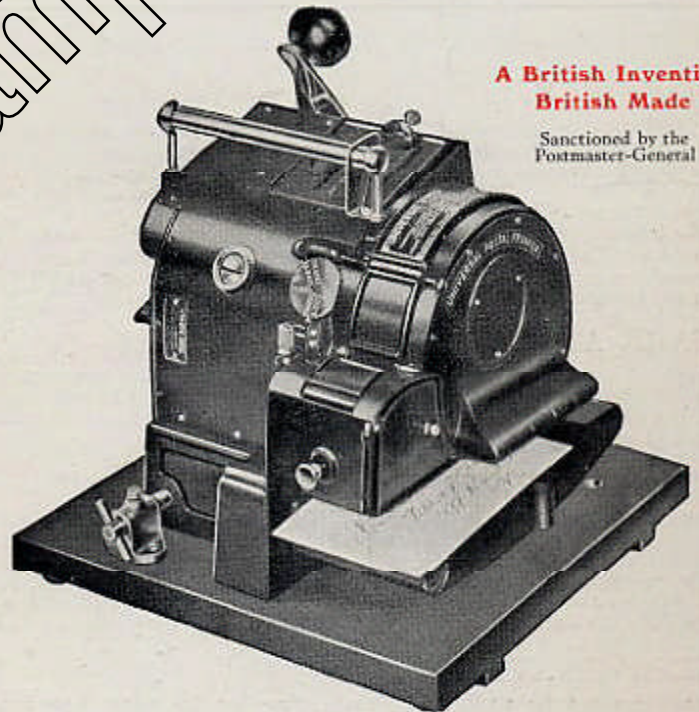


The same
Universal
machine was
tested again
in 1929.

Flier for the
Universal
Midget

THE Universal Midget POSTAL FRANKER

For LETTERS, PARCELS, TELEGRAMS, etc.
ABOLISHES ADHESIVE STAMPS



**A British Invention
British Made**

Sanctioned by the
Postmaster-General

Printing TWO, THREE or FIVE different values, any of which
may be repeated or combined,
in one self-contained machine and registered on one meter

Early Unadopted Essays

In 1928 Universal created a second design for their "Midget-3" model.



All three denominations of the Midget-3

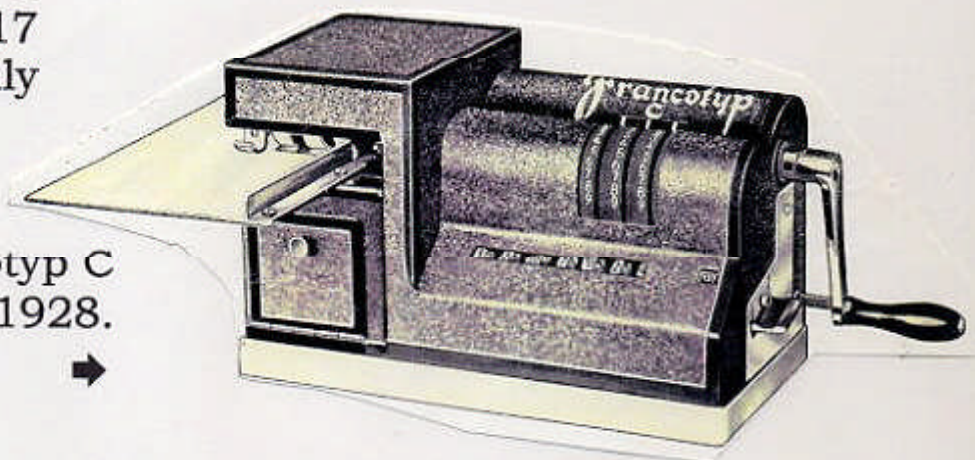
Early Unadopted Essays

Francotyp of Germany created a design for the China market in 1930. It did not succeed in fielding a machine in China.



Francotyp Model C
unadopted essay, 17
May 1930. The only
known example.

Illustration of a Francotyp C
machine from a flier, 1928.



Early Unadopted Essays

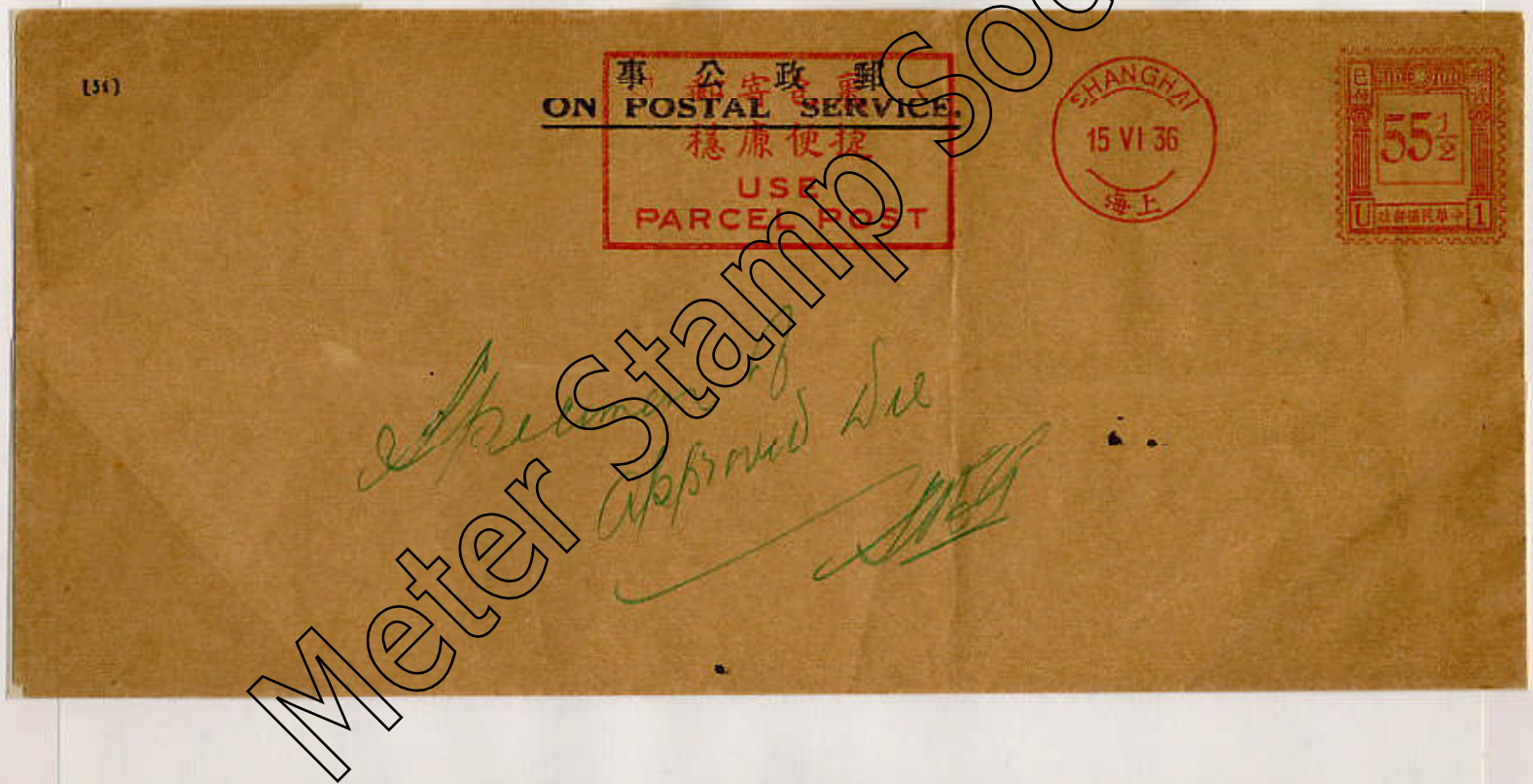
In 1935, Universal shipped a single Multi-Value machine to Shanghai for evaluation.



One of three surviving impressions from the first Multi-Value test, 8 Oct. 1935.

Martyrs issue frame design

The first meter stamp actually used was modeled on the Martyrs issue adhesives of 1932/34. One meter was used in the Shanghai main post office in June and July 1936.



Proof from First Day of Use,
annotated "Specimen of Approved Die"

Martyrs issue frame design



All five known postally used examples of the first issued meter stamp are 2¢ except for this 5¢ cover.

Martyrs issue frame design

The same machine used in the live test in 1336 was re-tested after World War 2 with a larger stamp design.



Essay with dollar sign below value



Proof of stamp as used with boxed 100 yuan suffix

Martyrs issue frame design

One of two known postally used examples with boxed 1000 yuan suffix.

10-214 57

中華郵政交寄國內包裹詳情單 (第一聯)

收件人姓名: 太和春

詳細住址: 安徽歙縣

包裹清單號數: 25187

包裝清單號數: _____

運費號數: _____

連收重量: 9.00

每公斤=\$1.10 \$

包裝郵費 (每包另加\$) \$

本寄件人聲明包內裝有(甲)銀錢、(乙)能自然燃燒、或(丙)現行法令禁止之物品。如此無法投遞，請即(一)退還寄件人，(二)交與當地政府處理。此項聲明，應於包裹封套背面註明。

寄件人姓名: 唐拾義

郵寄

注意：每封套背面必須正貼及字貼，請勿顛倒或橫貼。

24 VI 37

*070

Parcel post receipt, 24 June 1948

BA7
(better than one
in catalog)

[20-63-]

由寄件人填寫 由郵局填寫

收件人性名: **胡金瓊**
 詳細住址: **安徽歙縣相村**

小包郵件號數: **2144**
 清單號數: **2144**
 總投局號數: **150**
 總投重量: **150** 公分

包內裝有物品	價值	備註
照相軟片		
兩卷水管		

本寄件人(一)包內裝有()爆裂(二)含有危險
 品(三)含有()品 如上的小包郵件函
 法投此()區()件又()改寄
 或() (此處請寄件人詳細說明)

寄件人姓名: **方植之**
 地址: **中成巷路四九-弄三三**
吳永樂廠

小包郵件郵費
 每百公分: **0.8**
 掛號郵費: **0.5**
 快捷掛號
 收件回執費: **0.5**
 共計: **2.0**

上海 華郵政 小包郵件詳情單 第一聯

注意: 每封封票必須正貼及平貼, 請勿顛倒或貼歪。

11 X 37 *020

小包郵件郵費, 掛號費或快捷掛號費, 收件回執費等, 應用郵票黏貼此處。

Universal, large frank

In 1947 thirty-six **Universal Postal Frankers** "Multi-Value" meters were delivered to China. The first essay design has a flying goose at top center.



These two covers are the only known examples of the essay.

Universal, large frank

The earliest issued version of the Universal "Flying Goose" has both a meter number and post office identification. It was used in two post offices, Shanghai No. 4 and Nanking No. 6, from 1 July to 23 Aug. 1948.



Shanghai to USA, 5 August 1948, paying the international airmail rate of Chinese National Currency \$550,000 in effect 1-21 August 1948.

Universal, large frank



Nanking to USA, 19 August 1948

Universal, large frank



Nanking to USA, 30 July 1948, paying the international airmail rate of Chinese National Currency \$170,000 in effect from 19 May to 1 August 1948.

One of two examples known with a slogan, which reads "*Fast, fast, fast, Airmail is the fastest*".

NOTE: The date on this meter (30 VII 37) shows the number of years since the birth of the Chinese Republic in 1911. This eleven year difference from Western year dates is frequently found on meter stamps.

Universal, large frank



Unique proof from meter U23, Kweiyang 1.
No postally used examples are known.

Universal, large frank

A succeeding Universal essay moved the goose to the upper right. From here forward only design details remained to be approved.



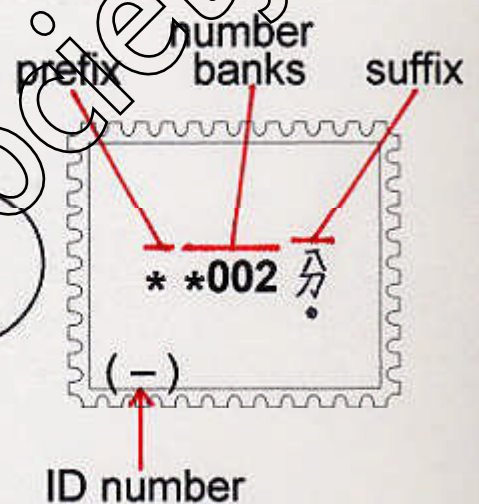
Essay with manufacturer's meter number "U36".



Proof with manufacturer's meter number "U28" and post office ID number (blocked).

Universal, large frank

To understand succeeding design changes, please look at the **denomination field** of the Universal Multi-Value.



- The four number banks in the middle are on wheels rotated to set the postage amount. The leftmost bank shows an asterisk when in the zero position.
- The **prefix** and **suffix** are immovable and are changed only by altering the print head.
- Four prefixes were used: \$ * ★ ☆
- Fourteen different suffixes were used: from double zero to quad zero plus various Chinese characters up to the characters for 10,000 yuan (dollars).

Universal, large frank

Large Fen suffix 分

Between August and November 1948, the meter at Shanghai No. 4 was altered in two ways to reflect the change from Chinese National to the new Gold currency:

- the Dollar Sign prefix was changed to an asterisk
- the Double Zero suffix was replaced by the Large Fen character.



Matched pair of covers SHANGHAI No. 4 to Belgium and USA in December, 1948. This meter known used with Large Fen suffix one month only.

Universal, large frank

Formal Yuan suffix 圓

Gold currency succumbed to inflation quickly. By the close of 1948 the suffix on the few meters then in use were changed from the Large Fen (cent) to the Yuan (dollar).



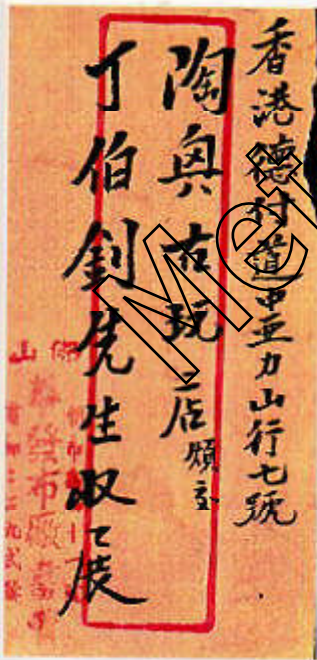
Kweiyang No. 1 to Tsuni, Kweichow, 20 March, 1949.
50 Gold Yuan paid the domestic letter rate in effect from
11 March to 1 April, 1949.

Universal, large frank

Formal Yuan suffix 圓

This is the lone recorded example of the Canton No. 3 design with Formal Yuan suffix.

Cancelled Nan Hai, 3 Jan. (1950), this Communist Ren Min Bi currency usage ignored the formal Yuan suffix.



Universal, large frank

Formal Yuan suffix 圓

No post office ID number.



Nanking to USA, 29 March, 1949.

3100 Gold Yuan paid the basic international airmail rate in effect from 16 March to 1 April 1949.

This is one of two known examples of a Universal large frank stamp without an identification number.

Universal, large frank

Formal Yuan suffix 圓

In 1940 China imported a special Universal model called the *Teltax*. It was designed for franking telegrams but was used to frank domestic parcels during 1947. It was tested again in 1949 with the Formal Yuan suffix.



1949 test proof.

The *Teltax* stamp has angular value figures, and the town mark circle is lower.

Universal, large frank

Double Zero suffix

This was used with Gold currency stamps as well as the preceding Chinese National currency.

As inflation of the Gold currency gathered speed, meter stamps continued to be modified. The meters at Canton Nos. 1 and 2 began using the double zero suffix in early April 1949.



Canton No. 1, 2 April, 1949

Canton No. 1,
known 2 to 26
April, 1949 in
this state



Canton No. 2

One of two examples known in this state.

Universal, large frank

Triple Zero suffix

Inflation added a zero to the Canton No. 1
suffix in late April 1949.



Canton No. 1 is the only meter
known to have used the Triple Zero
suffix.

Two examples are known, 25 and
29 April 1949.

Universal, large frank

Quad Zero suffix

Canton No. 2 skipped the triple zeros and went to a Quad Zero suffix probably in late April 1949. Although obviously meant for Gold currency, all known examples are dated 10 May to 13 June 1949 in the early Silver currency period.



Canton No. 2 to USA, 11 May 1949, \$6,600,000

The rate for international airmail was 66 Silver cents on 11 May. For this mailing, the Gold era denomination was ignored and Silver currency was assumed.

Universal, large frank

Quad Zero suffix

During the difficult times in mid-1949 some postal clerks used meters to produce provisional stamps sold over the counter.



Tete-beche pair, bought in Canton and used on a 13 June 1949 mailing from Tai Shan, approximately 50 kilometers from Canton.

Universal, large frank

Double Zero over Formal Yuan suffix 00/圓

Several meters were adapted to Gold currency inflation by adding a couple zeros to the Yuan suffix.



SHANGHAI No. 4 to United Nations IRO Evacuation Camp in the Philippines, 11 April 1949. Franked with \$8000 in adhesives and a \$15,300 meter stamp paying the \$23,300 registered air mail rate in effect for five days from 11 to 16 April 1949.



Universal, large frank

Double Zero over Formal Yuan suffix 00/圓

Franked with a mix of six *provisional* and one regular meter stamp, this 41,000 Yuan-franked cover was mailed from Swatow to Hong Kong on 12 December 1949.

Communist forces in Swatow continued to use Nationalist inscribed meter stamps for months after they gained control.



Universal, large frank

Double Zero over Formal Yuan suffix 00/圓

This 25 January 1950 PRC mailing to the USA
retained the Republican inscription.



SWATOW to USA,
25 January 1950.

Franked with 500 Yuan meter
stamp plus 1300 Yuan in
adhesives paying the 1800
Yuan basic PRC international
airmail rate in effect 15 January
to 10 February 1950.



Universal, large frank

1000 Yuan suffix 仟/圓



Canton No. 3 used the suffix characters for 1000 Yuan at some point. Two examples are known, both loose tapes without town mark.

Universal, large frank

10,000 Yuan suffix 萬/圓

The final adaptation to Gold currency inflation was the use of a suffix indicating 10,000 Yuan.



Amoy No. 1



Chungking No. 1

Universal, large frank

10,000 Yuan suffix 萬/圓

Technically used in the early Silver currency period, this cover with the 10,000 (Gold) Yuan suffix was used only a few days before the fall of Shanghai to Communist forces.



SHANGHAI No. 4 registered local cover, 4 May 1949.

Universal, large frank

Silver Currency

The Silver Yuan replaced the worthless Gold currency on 27 April 1949. The change was accommodated in Changsha by imposing the characters for Silver and Fen provisionally above and below the large (gold) yuan suffix.



Changsha to USA, 3 May 1949.
One of two known covers.

Universal, large frank

Dot below Large Fen suffix 分

Several locations used the Large Fen suffix with a dot added below to indicate the newer currency.



Amoy No. 1



Kweiyang Nos. 1 and 2 used numeric month instead of lettered month in the date.



Kunming No. 2

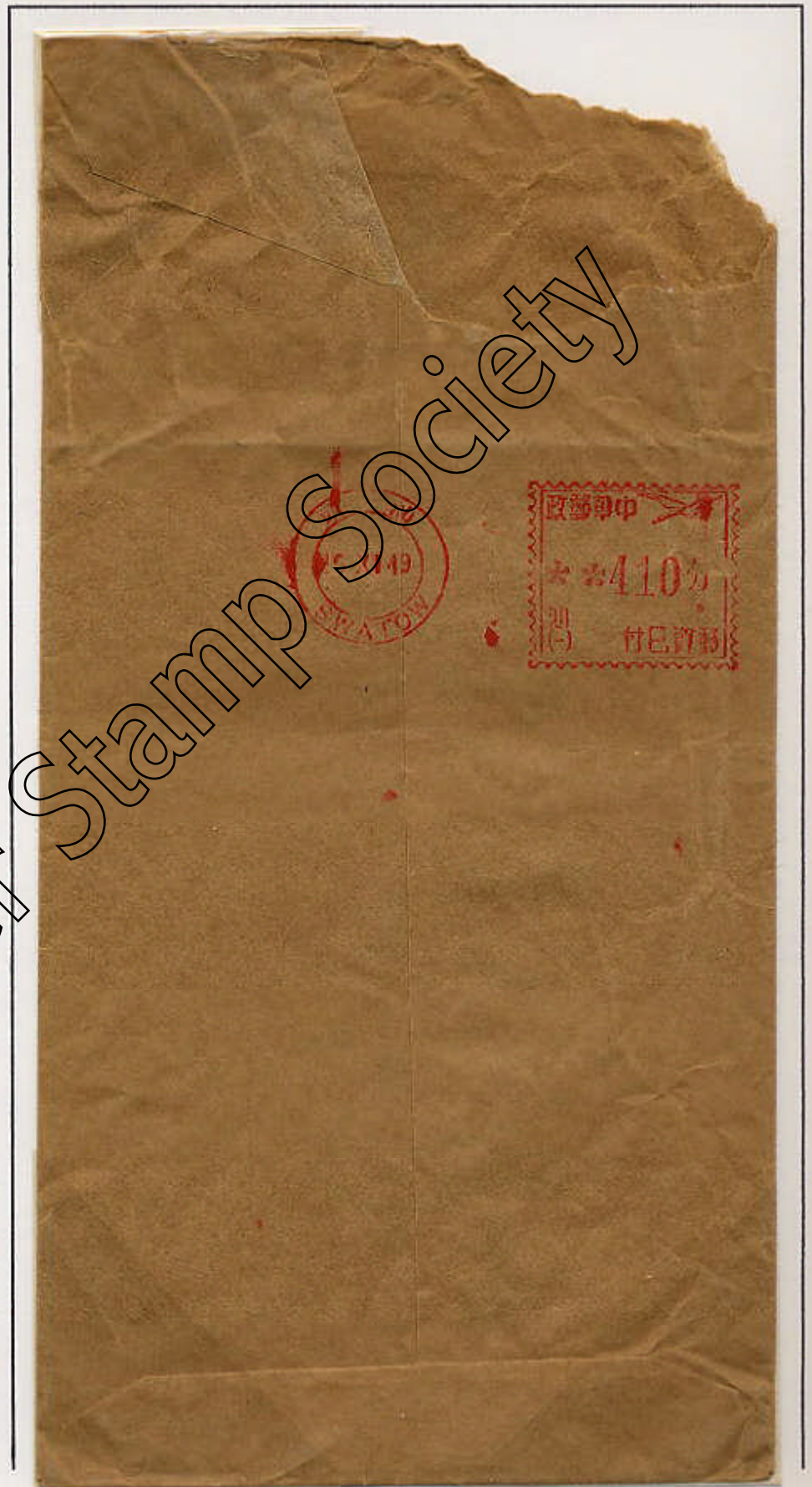
Double registered domestic cover, Kunming to Canton, 28 June 1949

Universal, large frank

Dot below Large Fen suffix 分

The meter at Swatow was used after takeover by Communist forces without regard to the currency indicator.

This cover was mailed from Swatow to Hong Kong on 16 November 1949, after Ren Min Bi currency had become effective.



Universal, large frank

Dot below Large Fen suffix 分



In Kweiyang meter stamps were sold over the counter during a shortage of traditional adhesives.

This block is currently the only known multiple.

Canton No. 1 was the only machine to use the Large Fen suffix without dot below for Silver currency.

Known 11 June to
2 July 1949



Universal, large frank

Small Fen suffix 分

A small version of the Fen suffix was used for Silver currency at Canton Nos. 3 and 4.



Registered cover to Hong Kong franked with tete-beche pair of 10¢ provisional silver currency stamps, Canton No. 3, cancelled HOI HAO, 27 June, 1949.

◀ Canton No. 4, tete-beche pair of 2 fen provisional stamps, cancelled in San He, 23 July, 1949.

Universal, large frank

Small Li suffix 厘

At Canton No. 3 the Fen character was replaced by a small Li.



Canton to USA, 12 August, 1949, mailed from Xin Chang, franked with 2.5 fen provisional meter stamp plus 40 fen in regular stamps.

It appears the Li suffix was ignored and the meter stamp was treated as 25 fen. This is still a ten fen overpayment of the prevailing 65 fen international airmail rate.

Universal, large frank

Large Li suffix 厘

Later in the Silver period Canton No. 4 changed from the Fen to a large Li character (1/10 cent).



Date appears to be September, 1949. Franking is with Silver Yuan and Unit Rate stamps plus the provisional meter stamp.

Seven examples of the Large Li suffix are recorded.

Universal, large frank

As the Republican government lost control, regional postal services sprang up. The East China area had meter stamps inscribed **East China Postal Administration**.

政郵東華

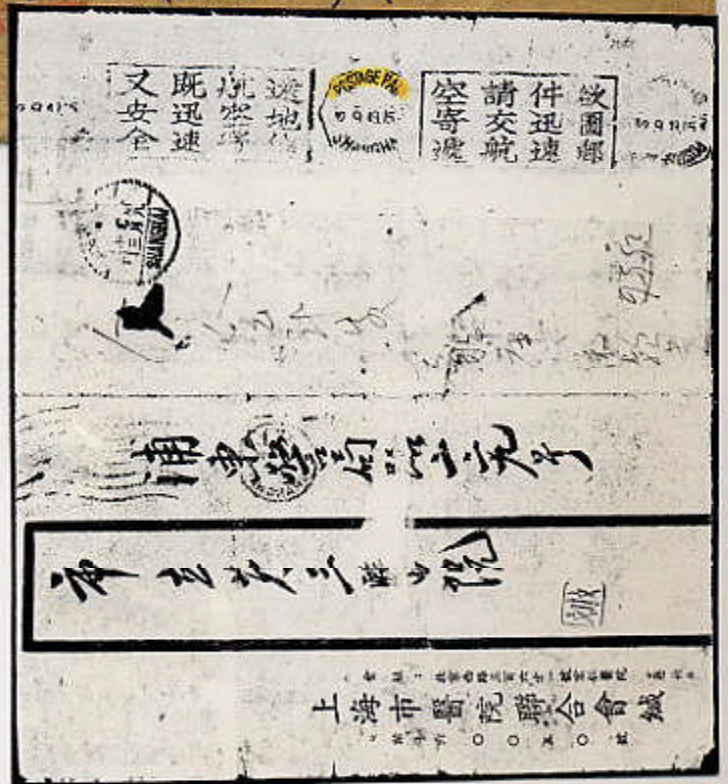
The earliest East China Universal stamp appeared in July 1949 and had an **Informal Yuan suffix** 元



SHANGHAI No. 4 local cover,
20 Sep. 1949

Known with this suffix from 12
July to 12 October 1949.

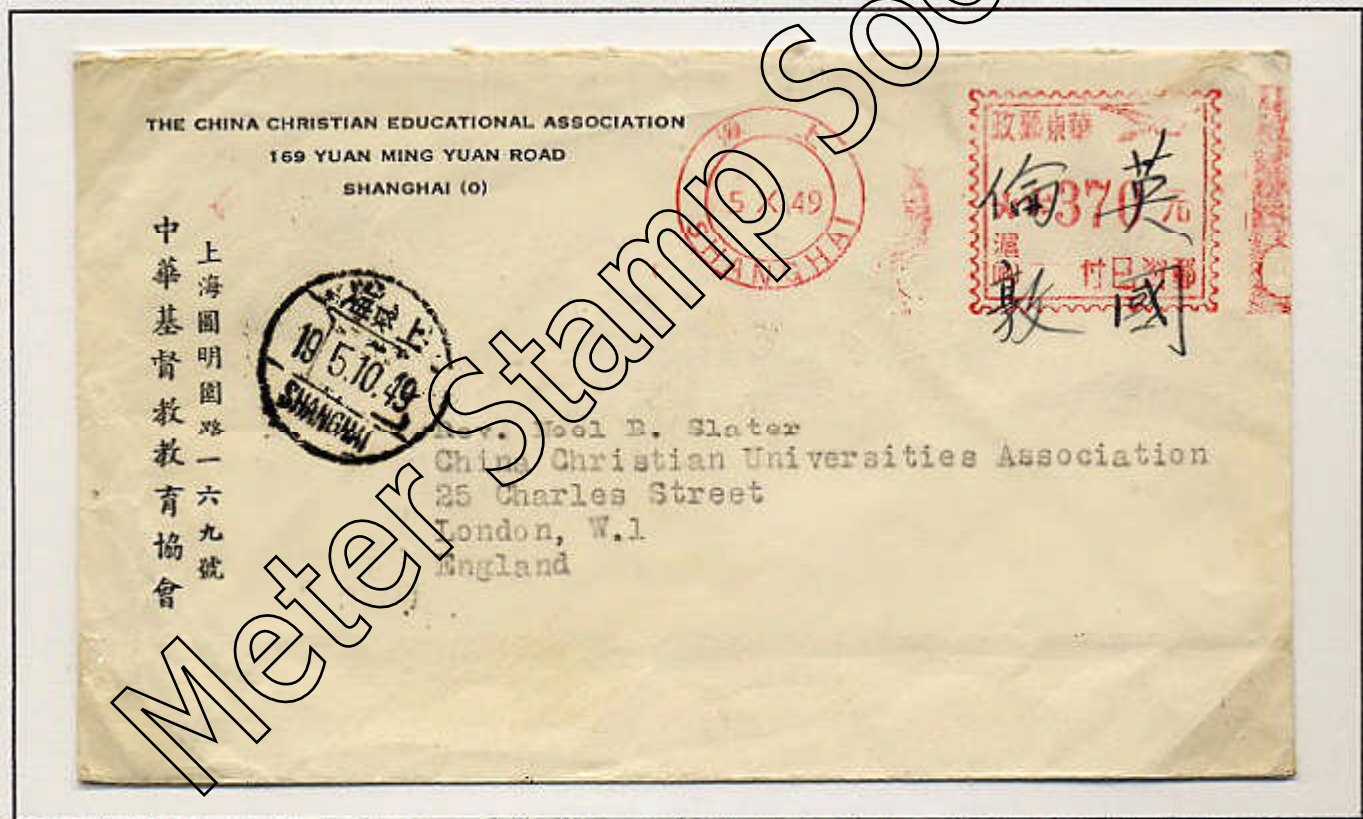
This is a turned cover.



Universal, large frank

East China Postal Administration

Informal Yuan suffix 元



SHANGHAI No. 4, international
surface rate to England,
5 October 1949

Universal, large frank

**East China Postal Administration,
Informal Yuan suffix 元**



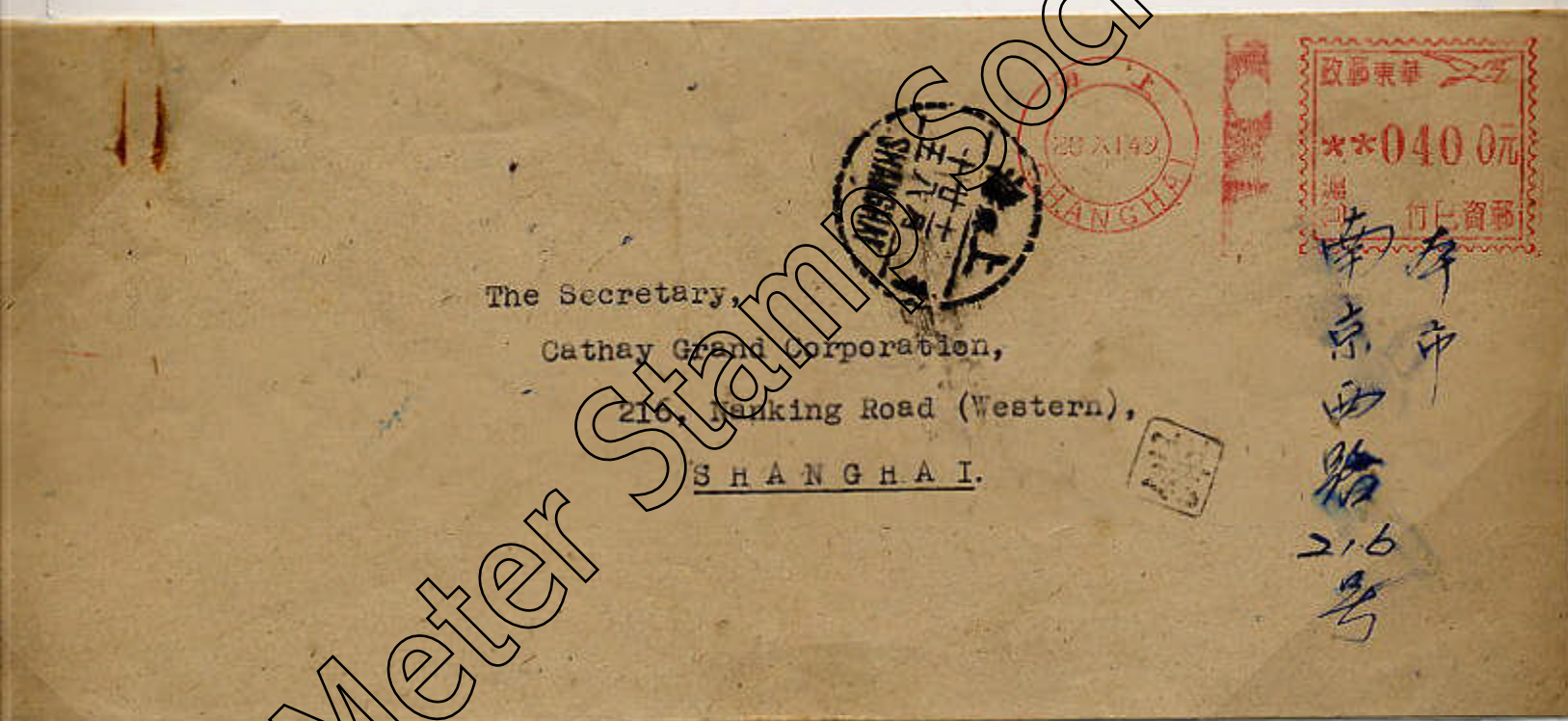
Nanking to
Hong Kong,
27 September
1949

Every East China metered item known to exist is from Shanghai except for this unique cover from Nanking.

Universal, large frank

**East China Postal Administration,
Zero plus Informal Yuan suffix 0元**

On 13 October a zero was added to the suffix
on the SHANGHAI No.4 design.



Shanghai local cover, 28 November 1949,
franked with the 400 Yuan local rate.

Shanghai No. 4 known with this suffix from 13 October to
3 December 1949.

Universal, large frank

East China Postal Administration,

Double Zero plus Informal Yuan suffix 00/元

Continued inflation forced another zero to the
SHANGHAI No. 4 suffix in January 1950.



Shanghai to England, 25 April 1950.

Franked with 28,500 Yuan, the international
airmail double-weight rate from 5 March to 15
July 1950.

Shanghai No. 4 known with this suffix from
30 January to 8 July, 1950.

Universal, large frank

East China Postal Administration,

Double Zero plus Informal Yuan suffix 00/元

The Shanghai No. 9 meter was unknown before this item was found. The town mark contains no English and uses a numeric month.



22 March 1950

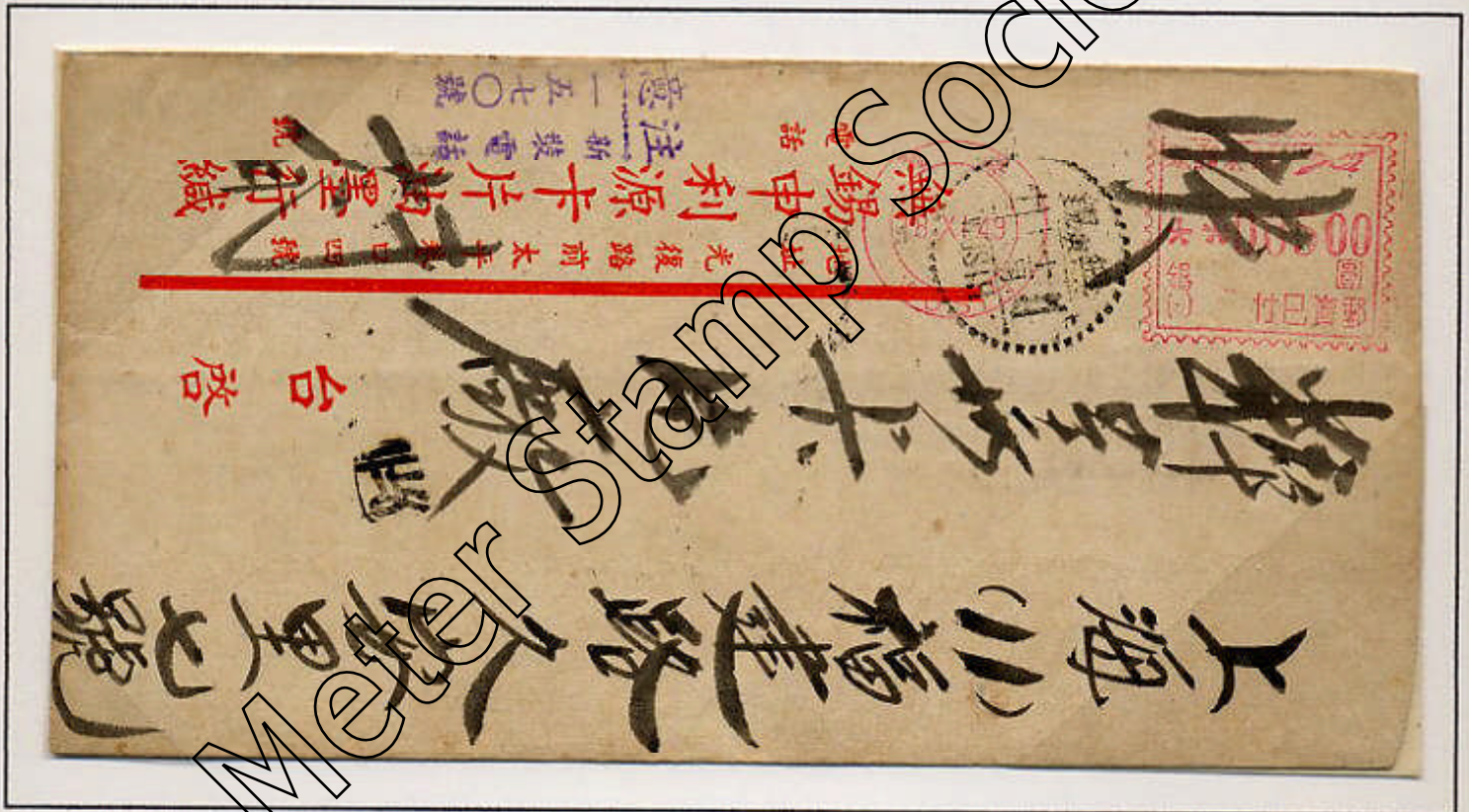
Presently the only recorded example of
Shanghai No. 9 with this suffix.

Universal, large frank

East China Postal Administration,

Double Zero plus Formal Yuan suffix 00/圓

The last East China Universal design had
suffix Double Zero over Formal Yuan.



WUSIH No. 1 to Shanghai, 18 November 1949

Currently the only example known of an East China meter
stamp with this suffix.

Universal, large frank

Peoples Republic of China

The first Universal with a PRC inscription appeared with a 4-character inscription for **Peoples Postal Service**.

政郵民人

and had a Double Zero over Formal Yuan suffix 00/圓



Tienschui to Shanghai, 10 August 1950

Tienschui No. 1 was the only meter to have this arrangement.
Two examples known.

Universal, large frank

PRC

The only other PRC meter design with the 4-character country inscription (政郵民人) had suffix

Double Zero over Informal Yuan 00/元



Kweiyang No. 1 to Shanghai, 9 November 1951. 3200 Yuan paid the domestic letter rate for 60 - 80 grams.

Two examples known.

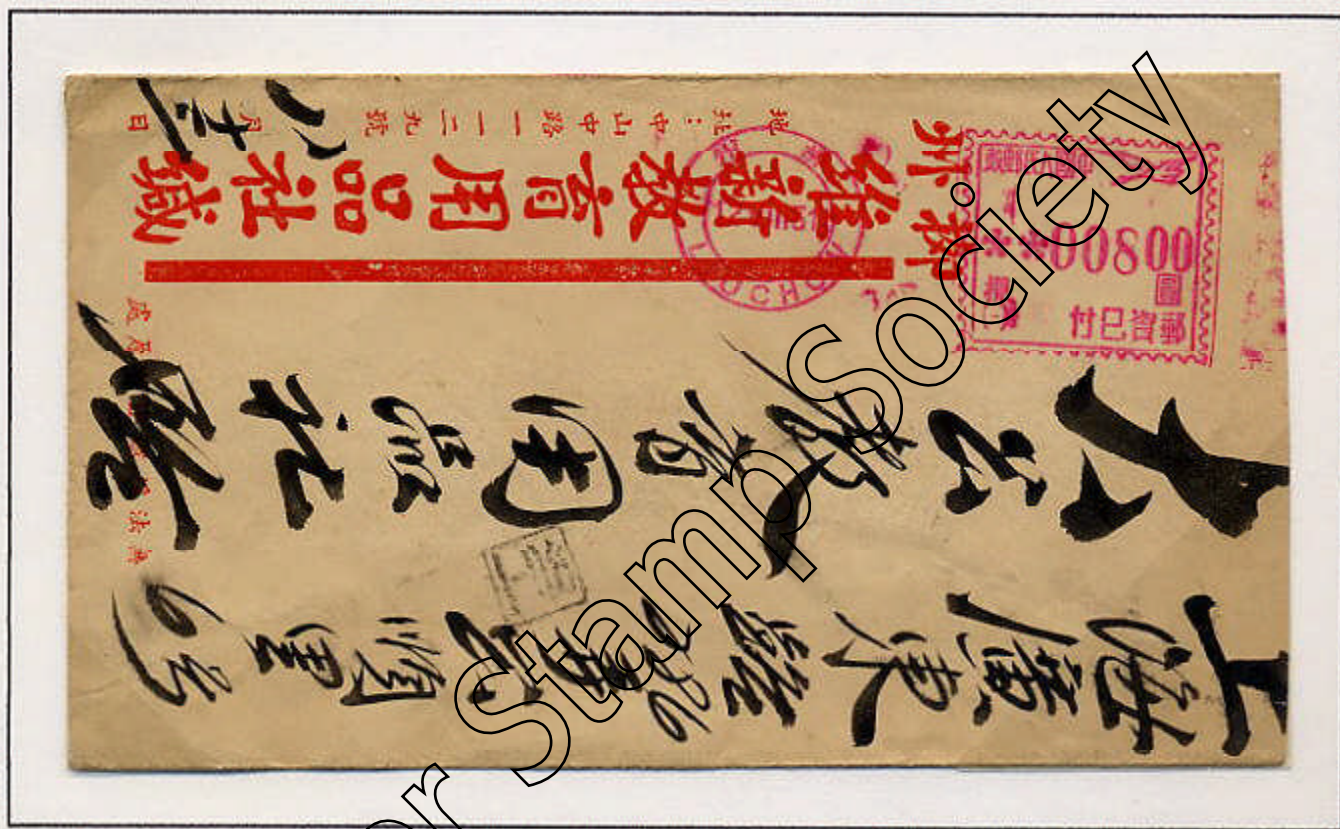
Universal, large frank

PRC

The 4-character inscription is quickly replaced by
Chinese Peoples Postal Service, 政郵民人國中

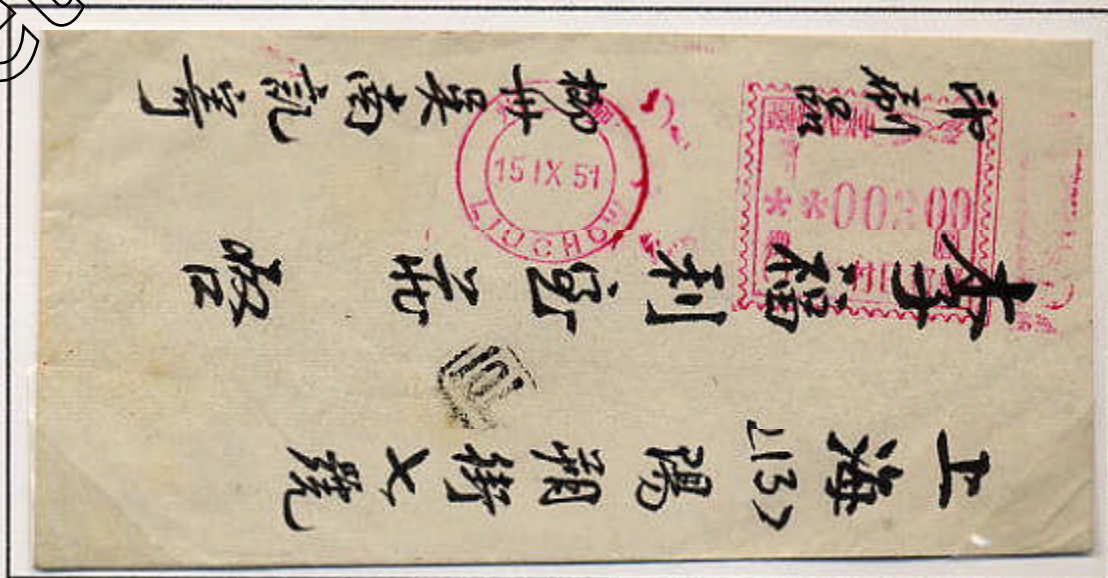
All PRC designs from here on have the 6-character inscription.

00/圓



Luichow No. 1 to Shanghai, 12 August 1951, 800 Yuan domestic letter rate

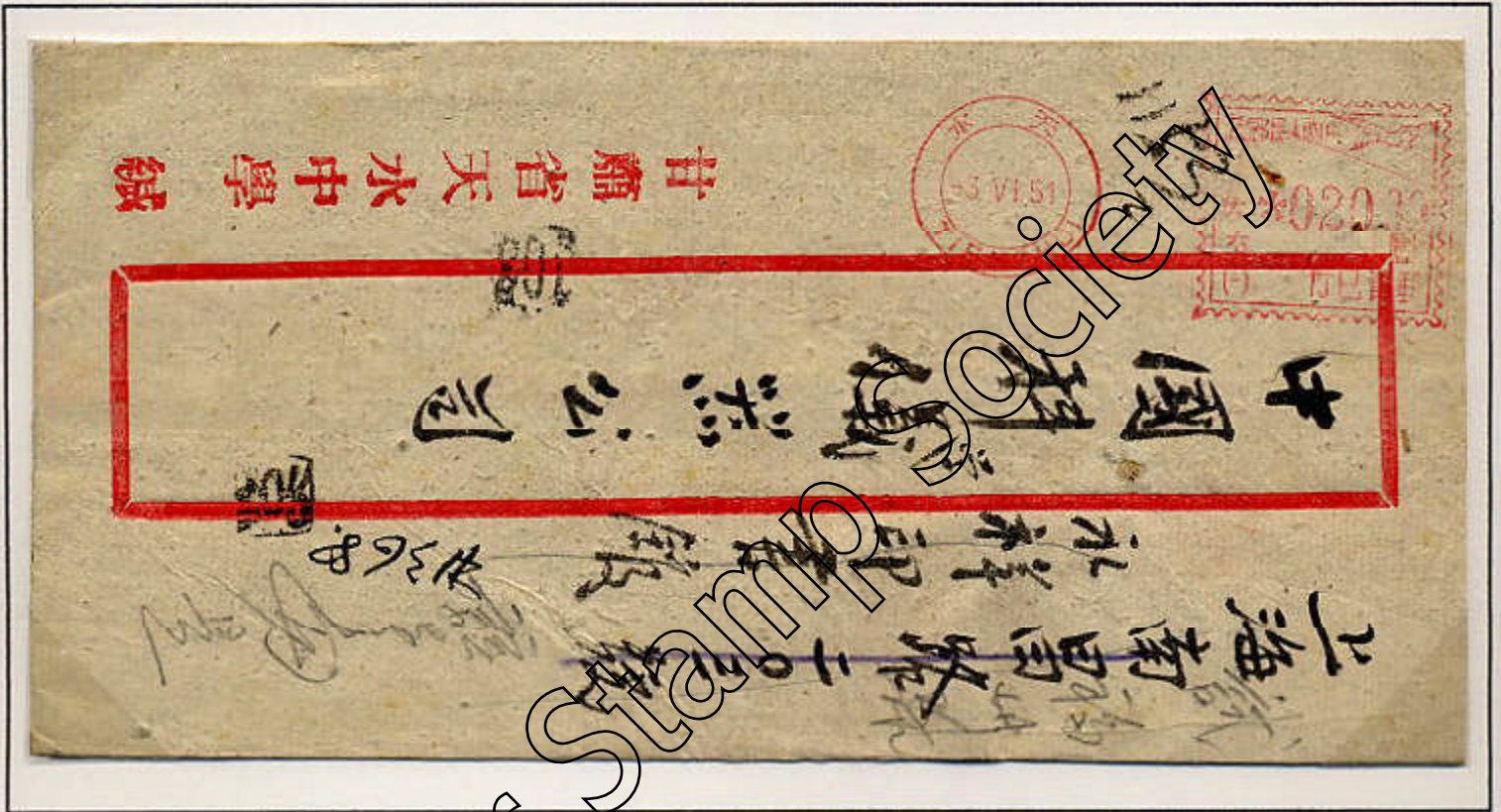
Luichow No. 1 to
Shanghai, 15
September 1951,
300 Yuan out-of-
town printed
matter rate.



Universal, large frank

PRC

Double Zero over Formal Yuan suffix 00/圓



Tienshai No. 1 to Shanghai, 3 June 1951.

Franked with 2000 yuan paying the registered letter rate.



Universal, large frank

PRC

An early casualty of the PRC administration was the flying goose emblem. By the end of 1950 it is banished from all PRC meter stamps.

This is the earliest known Universal stamp without the goose emblem.



Shanghai No. 4 to England, 20 July 1950,
franked with 14500 Yuan paying the international
airmail rate in effect 15 July to 16 August 1950.

Universal, large frank

PRC

The Shanghai No. 7 meter was unknown before these parcel post receipts were discovered in 1994.

Double Zero over Informal Yuan suffix 00/元

[4402] (10-01-54)
寄發日期

SHANGHAI 514.26

國內小包郵件詳情單 (第一類) 中國人民郵政

由寄件人填寫

收件人姓名: 吳雪金
詳細住址: 皖南黟縣橫岡

由郵局填寫

小包郵件號數: 1680
資例表號數:
海單號數:
接收局號數:
連皮重量: 200 公分
小包郵件郵費: 人民幣
保價費:
收件回執費: 2400
共計:

包內裝有何物	價值 (人民幣)	保價數目 (人民幣)	要否回執 (四項費另加)
藥品	8元	元	

本郵件人等須知內並不裝有(甲)爆炸、(乙)能自燃、(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品。如上開小包郵件無法投遞,請即(一)退還寄件人,(二)改寄或(三)妥當處理之。(此項郵件人等須知)

寄件人姓名: 華興製藥衛生材料廠
詳細住址: 上海北平路890號

注意: 每張郵票或包裹印紙必須正貼及牢貼,請勿顛倒或橫貼。

小包郵件郵費,保價費,收件回執費等,應用郵票或包裹印紙粘貼此處。

26 IV 51

中國人民郵政

寄件人姓名: 華興製藥衛生材料廠
及詳細住址: 上海北平路890號

貼郵票處 (請將郵票正貼)

收 給此據為憑

件號數: 85018
同號數:
重量: 200 公分
郵費: 人民幣
共計: 2400

26 April 1951 and 12 September 1953

[5-1402]
(4409)

李珍牙科

由寄件人填寫

交寄日期
12.8.28
20
20

收件人姓名: 吳記福店
詳細住址: 杭蘇公路之陽坑

包內裝有何物: 牙科材料
價值: 30100元
代收貨價: 42360元

由郵局填寫
包件號碼: 6183
責任號碼: 6183
單號: 6183
代收貨單號: 6183

中國人民郵政
國內小包
寄件人聲明

寄件人聲明
(一)本寄件人保證上開包件內並不裝有(甲)炸藥、(乙)能自燃燃燒、或(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品
(二)如上開包件無法投遞時,請即按下列方法處理

寄件人姓名: 中華牙科材料行
詳細住址: 上海南京路中法大藥房對面

連皮重量: 200 公分
包件郵費: 200 人民幣
保價費: 4100
代收貨價費: 4100
收件回執費: 4100
共計: 4100

注意: 每筒封條或包裹印紙必須正貼及牢貼,請勿顛倒或橫貼

包件郵費, 保價費, 代收貨價費, 收件回執費等, 應用郵票或包裹印紙貼足

郵局戳記: 28 52

郵票: 1041.00

Meter Stamp Society

Universal, large frank

PRC

The Hangchow No. 1 meter was also unknown before this parcel post receipt was found.

Double Zero over Informal Yuan suffix 00/元

[5--1402]
換領日期

今收到由.....局寄.....收
第.....號國內小包詳情單一紙持給此據為憑

收件人簽署蓋章.....

交寄日期.....

由寄件人填寫		由郵局填寫	
收件人姓名	洪雅	包件號數	.....
及詳細住址	蘇州蘇州三陽坑	接收局號數	.....
包內裝有何物	.....	連皮重量	.....公分
價值	.....元	代收貨價	.....元
保費數目	.....元	是否掛號	.....
寄件人保證上開包件內裝不裝有(甲)爆裂, (乙)能自燃, 或(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品。		包件郵費	.....人民幣
(二) 上開包件無法投遞時, 請即按下列方法處理:		保價費	.....
寄件人姓名	洪雅	代收貨價	.....
及詳細住址	蘇州蘇州三陽坑	收件執費	.....
		按址投遞費	.....
		共計	.....

國內小包詳情單 (第一聯)

中國人民郵政

貼 郵 票 處

(請將 郵票正貼)

28 Feb 1953

*020

28 February 1953

Universal, large frank

PRC

Double Zero over Informal Yuan suffix

00
元

The Hengyang stamp on this document is unique

[D.-57a]

中華郵政交寄國內包裹詳情單
(第一聯)

收件人姓名: 周揚生

詳細住址: 江西奉新黃土橋油改代辦所轉塘

包裹號數: #12782

包裹內裝何物	價值	保價數目	代收貨價	其他
木履藤扇 2 把	元	角分	元	角分
風扇 1 把				

連皮重量: 3600 公分

包裹郵費 (每公斤=0.18元) 18.00
保價費 S
收包回執費 S

共計 12600

注意: 每封郵票必須正貼及平貼請勿顛倒或橫貼

包內郵費保價費收包回執費及代收貨費均用紅票黏貼此處

交寄日期: 1957.11.11

寄件人姓名: 高龍珠

詳細住址: 安徽宿縣縣城七區碼頭

包裹內裝有何物	價值 (人民幣)	保價數目 (人民幣)	代收貨價 (人民幣)	是否回執 (回執費另加)
布被面	5元	元	元	

寄件人姓名: 許劍平

詳細住址: 江蘇省無錫市南門場名新郵 37號

出郵局填寫

包件號數: 112

接收局號數: 5

連皮重量: 全分

包件郵費 (每公斤) 人民幣

保價費

代收貨價費

收件回執費

按址投遞費

共計: 26



The Wusih stamp on this document is one of three known

Universal, large frank

PRC

For Nanking No. 6 the flying goose was incompletely removed. A wing remains in the top right corner.

Double Zero over Informal Yuan suffix 00/元

第一聯收據 整付零寄郵件核算郵費單 第 96 號

寄件人姓名	件數	郵(人民幣)費	許可證第	號
陸新華	19	152.50		
郵件種類	45	112.50		
信件	59	85.50		
共計		350.50		

交寄日期: 1953年1月31日

郵局: 南京

郵費: 112000 元 (竹已買郵)

1951.8.500@50x3

Parcel post receipt, 31 January 1953



Portion of parcel post receipt with 50 Yuan in adhesives stamps added, 12 May 1953.

Universal, large frank

PRC

Double Zero over Formal Yuan 00/圓

Several post offices used this suffix in their meter stamps.

Swatow No. 1 to
Penang, Malaya,
6 August 1950



Universal, large frank

PRC

Double Zero over Formal Yuan

00
圓

One of the meters in Canton also used this suffix.

(K-1402)

投遞日期

今收到由 _____ 局寄交 _____ 收

第 _____ 號國內包裹詳情單一紙。

收件人簽單

寄日期 _____ 由郵局填寫

收件人姓名: _____ 包裹號數: 6113

詳細住址: _____ 接收局號數: _____

包內裝有何物	個數	價值 (人民幣)	代收貨價 (人民幣)	運費 (同執費另加)
鞋粉	20	元	元	元

連皮重量 31 公斤

包裹郵費 (每公斤) _____ 人民幣

保價費 . . . _____

代收貨價費 . . . _____

收件回執費 . . . _____

共計 20300

寄件人姓名: 周世欵

詳細住址: 廣州風安南大馬路三〇八

中國人民郵電

國內包裹詳情單

注意: 每箇郵票或已收印紙必須正貼及平貼, 請勿斜貼或橫貼

12 V 54

20300

包裹郵費, 保價費, 代收貨價費, 收件回執費等, 應用郵票或已收印紙黏貼此處。

Parcel post receipt, 12 May, 1954

This is the only known example

Universal, large frank

PRC

Double Zero over Formal Yuan 00/圓

Soochow No. 1 had Chinese only in the town mark.

5-1402

由寄件人填寫

由郵局填寫

交寄日期

收件人姓名: 沈光鏞

詳細住址: 蘇州府城隍廟前街

包內裝有何物	價值 (人民幣)	保費數目 (人民幣)	代收貨價 (人民幣)	是否同執 (同執費另加)
絲綢	5.00	0.50	0.00	

連皮重量: 2.50 公斤

包件郵費: 0.25 人民幣

保價費: . . .

代收貨價費: . . .

收件同執費: . . .

按址投遞費: . . .

寄件人姓名: 沈光鏞

詳細住址: 蘇州府城隍廟前街

共計: 0.25

貼 郵 票 處

(請將郵票正貼)

蘇州 12月15日

政郵民八國中

0.25 00

蘇州

付口資

中國人民郵電

國內小包詳情單 (第一聯)

Parcel post receipt, 12 December 1954

Universal, large frank

PRC

The Kunming No. 2 meter is the first to add a star in the upper right of the frank. ★

Double Zero over Formal Yuan 00/圓



Kunming to Shanghai, 19 March 1953, franked with 1600 Yuan paying the domestic double-weight airmail rate.

Universal, large frank

PRC

A lone machine, Tsainan No. 1, adopted the characters for 100 Yuan as the suffix.

百元

【5-1402】

由寄件人填寫

由郵局填寫

收件人姓名: 王月桂
 詳細住址: 皖南縣中村

包內裝有何物: 前... 159000 元

寄件人聲明: (一)本寄件人保證上開包件內並無裝有(甲)爆裂,(乙)能自燃腐爛,或(丙)能對寄件物品之物品。
 (二)如上開包件損壞或遺失,即按下列方法處理:
 係... 沒有... 到...

寄件人姓名: 王月明
 詳細住址: 皖南縣中村

包件號數: 1945
 查列表號數: _____
 清單號數: _____
 接收局號數: _____
 連皮重量: 30 公分
 包件郵費: _____ 人民幣
 保價費: _____
 代收貨價費: _____
 收件回執費: _____
 共計: 14700

注意: 每箇郵票或包裹印紙必須正貼及牢貼,請勿顛倒或橫貼。

郵票印紙: 14700 元

包件郵費,保價費,代收貨價費,收件回執費等,應用郵票或包裹印紙黏貼此處。

Parcel post receipt, 8 March 1953.

Presently the only known imprint of any meter stamp from Tsainan before the modern period

?



Wusih parcel post receipt fragment, 27 June 1951

This document is franked with adhesive issues totalling \$19,900. The meter stamp appears to have a double zero over Yuan suffix which would give it a franking value of \$50,000. But this adds up to \$69,900, and the document clearly indicates the postage was \$519,900.

Either there was another \$450,000 in adhesive stamps, or the meter stamp has a suffix of double zeros over the characters for 1000 Yuan.



Universal, large frank

PRC

A meter stamp design from Canton reverted to the dollar sign prefix and the double zero suffix.

\$ - 00

(5-1402)

投遞局日期

今收到由 _____ 局寄交 _____ 收

第 _____ 號國內包裹詳情單一紙。

收件人簽章 _____

由寄件人簽章 _____ 由郵局填寫

交寄日期	收件人姓名:	包裹號數:
	詳細住址:	接收局號數:
包內裝有何物	價	是否回執 (同執費另加)
元	元	元
寄件人姓名	保價費	代收貨價費
寄件人姓名	收件同執費	
詳細住址		

國內包裹詳情單 (第一號)

中國人民郵電

注意：每箇郵票或包裹印紙必須正貼及牢貼；請勿顛倒或橫貼。

包裹郵費，保價費，代收貨價費，收件同執費等，應用郵票或包裹印紙貼於此處。

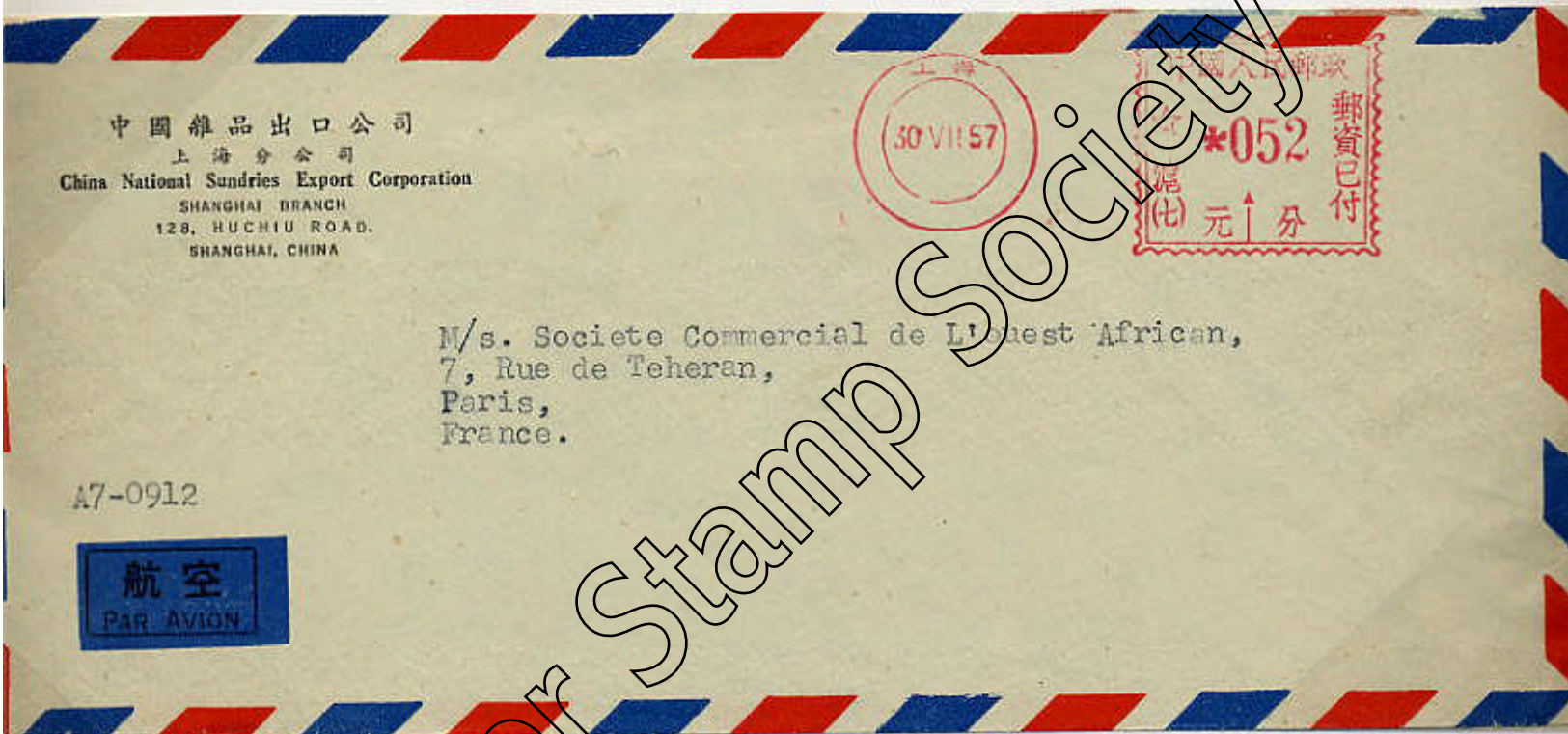
20300

This 3 August 1954 parcel post receipt is the only recorded example of a Canton meter stamp in this state.

Universal, large frank

PRC

Perhaps the currency reform of 1 Jan. 1955 prompted basic changes in the Universal stamp. The POSTAGE PAID characters are moved from the bottom to the right, a star is added at left, the characters for Yuan and Fen appear at the bottom, and the suffix disappears.



SHANGHAI No. 7 to France, 30 July 1957, franked with the 52 Fen basic international airmail rate.

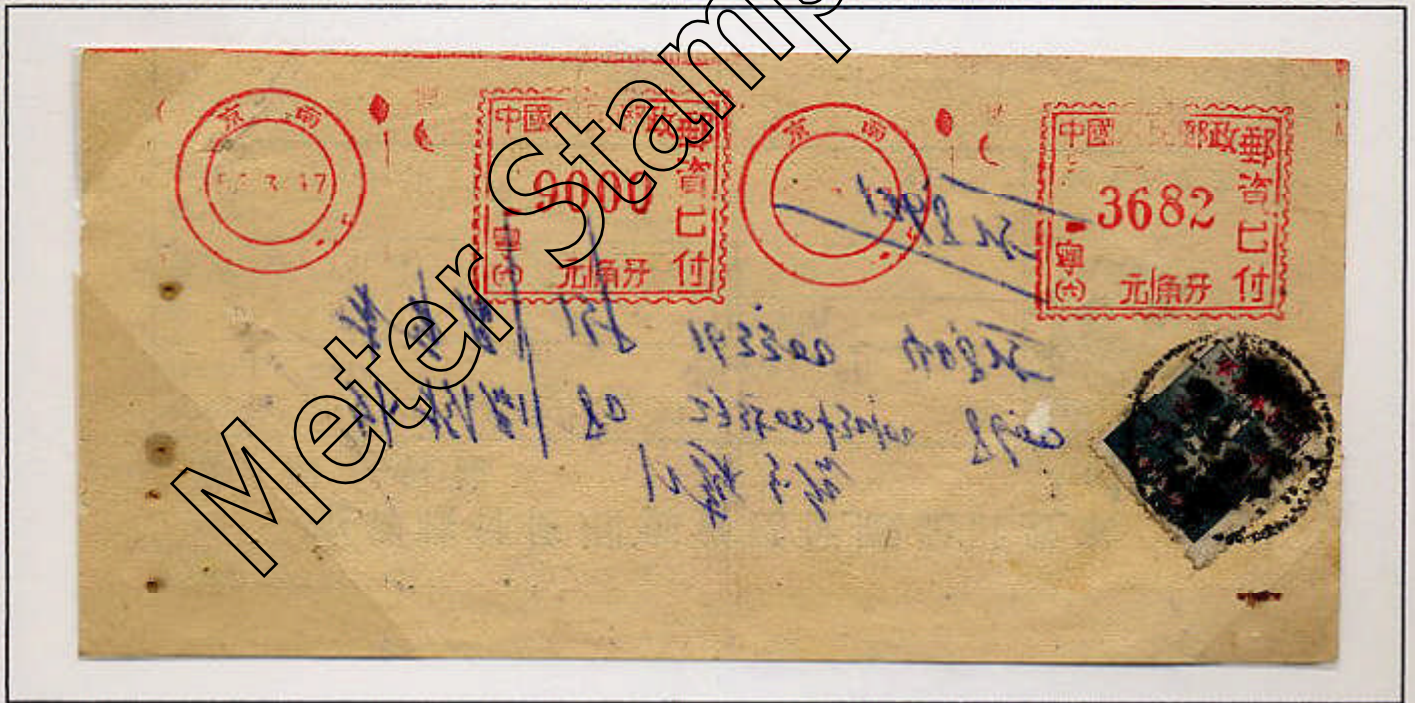


SHANGHAI No. 9 has Western rather than Roman month.

Universal, large frank

PRC

Nanking No. 6 is the only machine to include the character Jiao 角 (10 cent piece) between the Yuan (dollar) and Fen (cent) characters.



Parcel post receipt, 17 March 1956

Universal, large frank

PRC

After currency reform the Teltax (Shanghai No. 5) was used for letter mail instead of parcel post. Its new frank contained a solid star prefix.



Shanghai to Paris, 24 July 1959

Universal, large frank

PRC

A few Universals near the end of the classic period had inner boxes inserted around the value figures.

Canton No. 4 to Denmark, 28 July, 1959



中國人民郵政 內 裝 詳 情 單 一 聯	寄件人姓名 吳家厚	(一)本寄件人保證上開包件內並不裝有(甲)爆裂, (乙)能自然燃燒, 或(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品。 (二)如上述包件無法投遞時, 請即按下列方法處理:	保價費.....
	寄件人住址 昆明木司河付院		代收貨價費.....
貼 郵	58.7.20 昆明	收件回執費.....	共計 0.80
(請將郵票正貼)			

Kunming No. 6 parcel post receipt, 20 July 1958

Universal, large frank

PRC

Partial inner box

Swatow No. 1 to
Hong Kong, 24
February 1961.
Franked with the
48 Fen basic
international
airmail rate.



Universal, large frank

PRC

Since the 1955 currency reform all Universal stamps have country inscription (top six characters) reading left to right. The lone exception was the meter in Hengyang.

The cover below is the only known example.

領取包裹時 請注意 **本單背面 領取包裹通知單 應注意的幾點！**

(5-1402)

<p>寄往： 收件人姓名： 詳細地址： 姓名：</p>	<p>（此欄由郵局填寫）</p> <p>包裹號碼： 接收局號碼： 連皮重量： 包件郵費： 保價費： 代收買價費： 收件回執費： 處理費：</p>		
	<p>國內小包詳情單</p> <p>（寄件人填寫）</p> <p>第一聯</p>	<p>價目表</p> <p>（元）</p> <p>（元）</p> <p>（元）</p>	<p>（元）</p> <p>（元）</p> <p>（元）</p> <p>（元）</p> <p>（元）</p>

（一）寄件人保證上開包件內並不裝有（甲）現款，（乙）貴重物品，（丙）現行法令禁止寄遞物品。
（二）如上開包件無故損壞時，請按下列方法處理。

共計 03 元

包裹或快遞小包郵費、保價費、代收買價手續費、收件回執費等，均須在寄件時貼足。凡各郵票必須正貼及貼牢，不得倒貼或橫貼。

Parcel post receipt, 8 June 1960

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

Pitney Bowes entered the Chinese market in 1948 with eight machines: four in Shanghai, one each in Beijing, Hangchow and Nanking, and one still unknown.



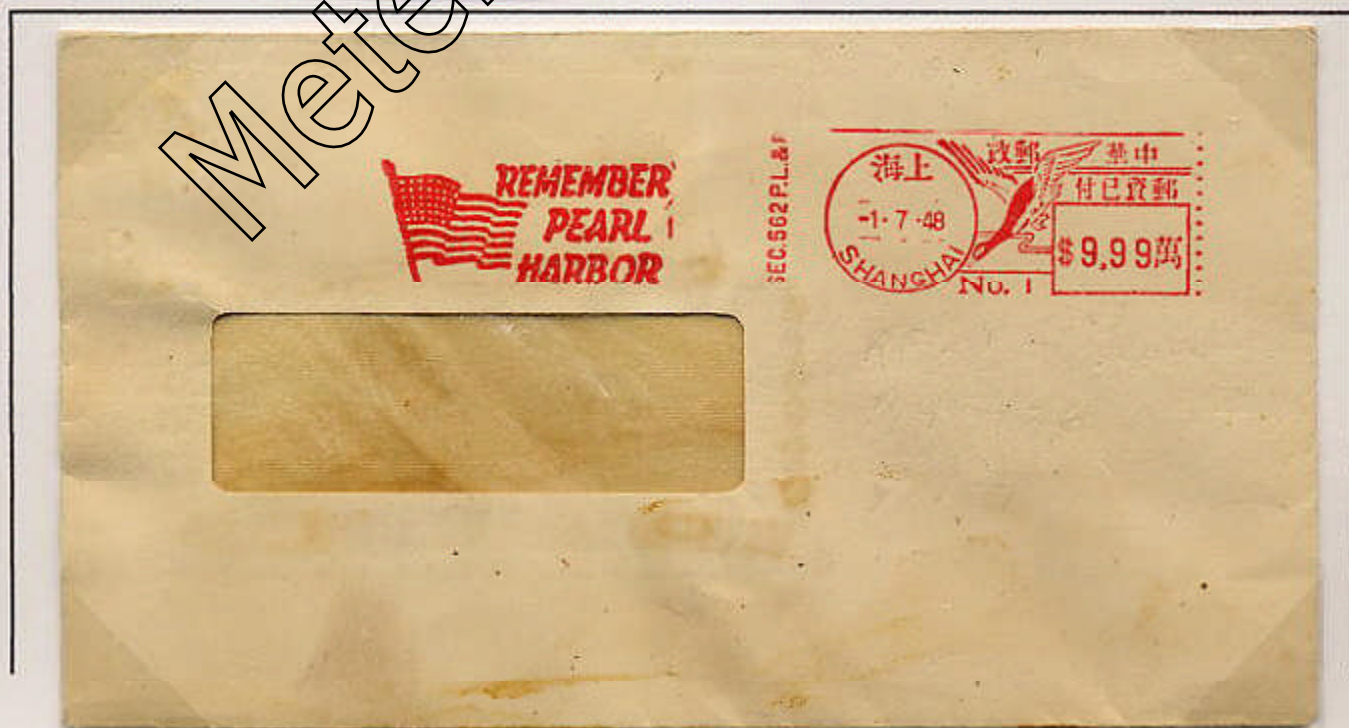
PITNEY-BOWES, Inc.
Walnut & Pacific Streets
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



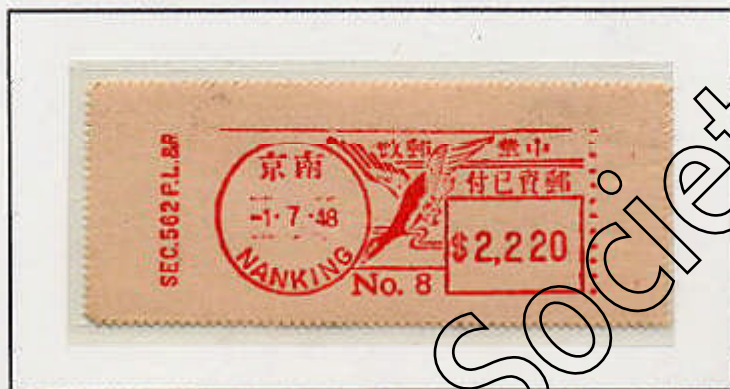
This essay of 1947 was an early alternative to the flying goose design.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

Progressive denomination wheel proofs from January 1948



Pitney Bowes, flying goose



Unique proof with town name NANKING



Frame proof

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

The earliest issued Pitney Bowes design had a dollar sign prefix and the characters for Gold Yuan as suffix.

金
圓



Shanghai No. 1, 31 March 1949

This fragment is one of two known examples of the earliest Pitney Bowes flying goose design, with dollar sign prefix and Gold Yuan suffix.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

From here forward all PB flying goose stamps have an asterisk prefix.

Suffix: characters for 100 Yuan 百/圓



SHANGHAI to Hong Kong, 20 April 1949.

Franked with 19,500 Gold Yuan. This is the correct rate for a double weight double-registered air express letter mailed between 17 and 28 April 1949.

Note the misspelled cancellation CHANGHAI.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

Suffix: characters for 100 Yuan 百/圓



NANKING No. 3, 1 Dec. 1953

This tape is special in two ways:

- It is the only known stamp from the machine,
- It was used with Republican inscriptions three years after establishment of the PRC.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

Suffix: characters for 10,000 Yuan

萬圓

Machines at Shanghai Nos. 2 and 8 had this suffix.



SHANGHAI No. 8, 24 May, 1949

Known in this state 4 to 24 May, 1949



SHANGHAI No. 2 to USA, 9 May, 1949

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

East China Postal Service

政郵東華

Pitney Doves stamps with this inscription are first used with the informal Yuan character as suffix.

元

司公限有業商安裕
JE ON COMMERCIAL CO., LTD.
SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING
388, KIANGSE ROAD
P. O. BOX NO. 1313 (C)
346 SHANGHAI
SHANGHAI

NO. 11212A BUILDING,
140 SZECHUEN ROAD (C)
SHANGHAI (U)

Messrs. Shanghai Telephone Co.,
232 Kiangse Road C.,
LOCAL.

Meter Stamp Society

Supplies Div.

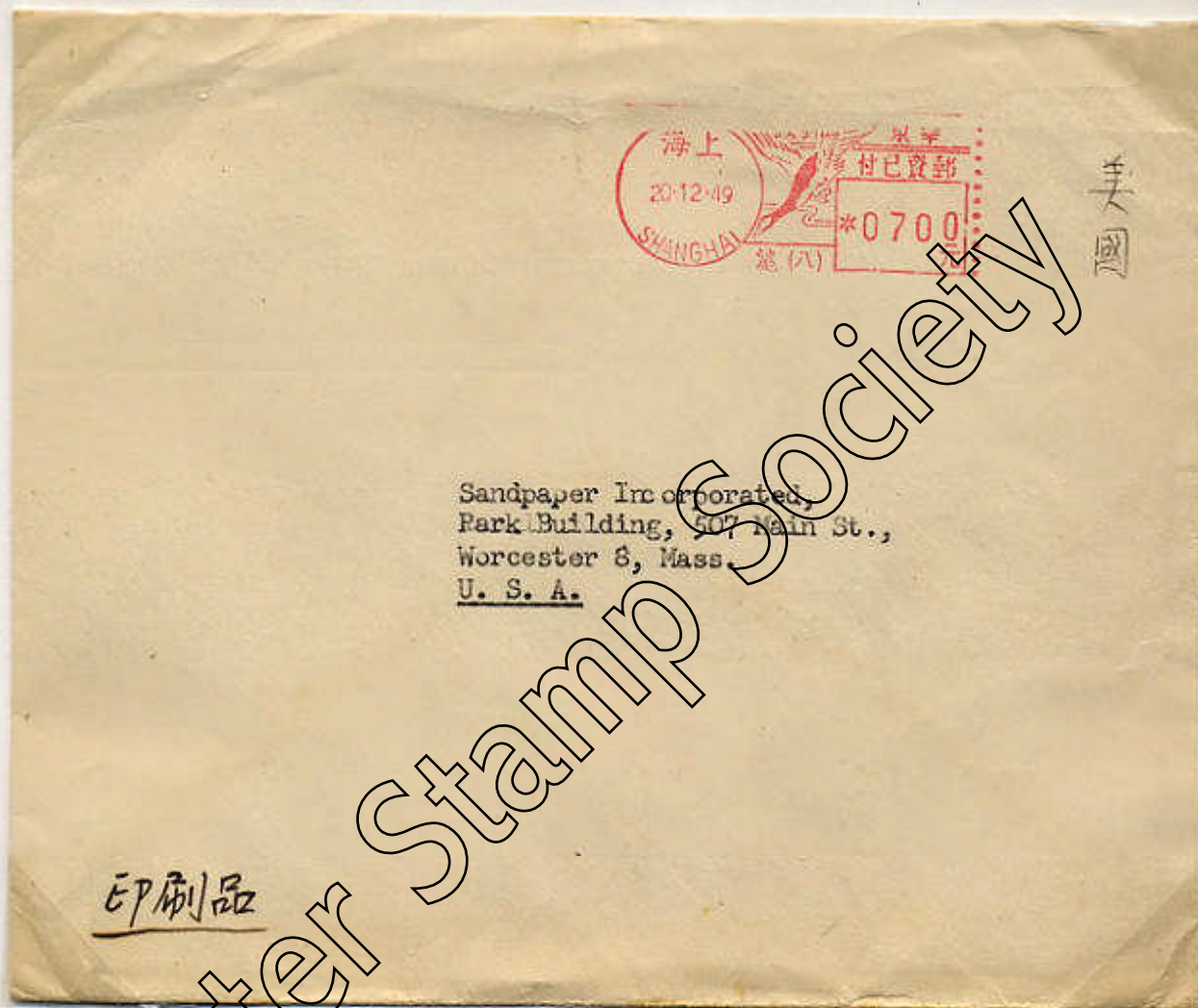


SHANGHAI No. 2, 23 June 1949,
franked with the 15 yuan (RMB) local rate.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

East China Postal Service

Inflation adds a zero to the Informal Yuan suffix 0/元



Shanghai No. 8 to USA, 20 December 1949.

International surface printed matter rate



A regretful case of hasty scissors

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

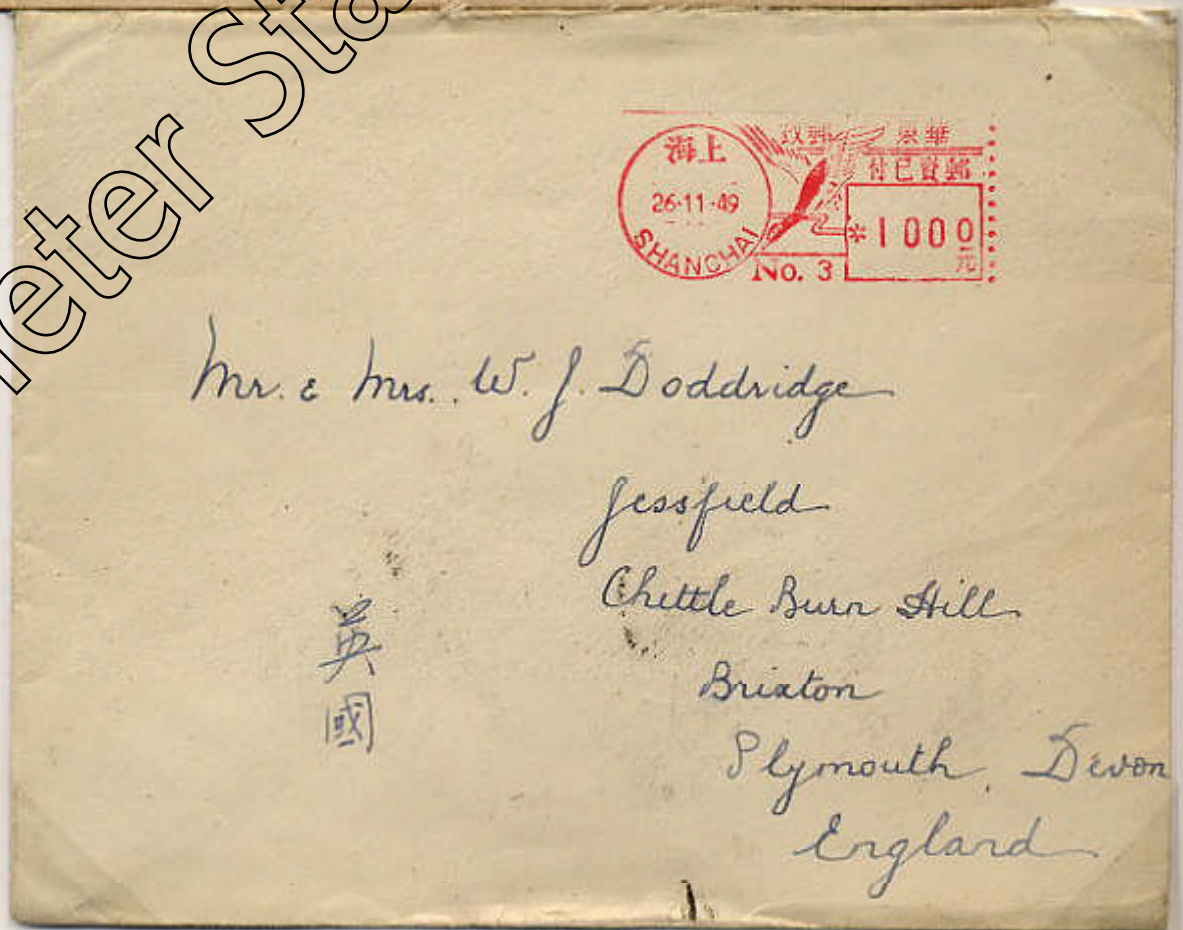
East China Postal Service

**Suffix: Inflation added a zero to the
Informal Yuan 0/元**



Above: Chinese meter number.

Shanghai No. 8 (八), 19 January 1950.



Right: Western meter number.

Shanghai No. 3, 26 November 1949.

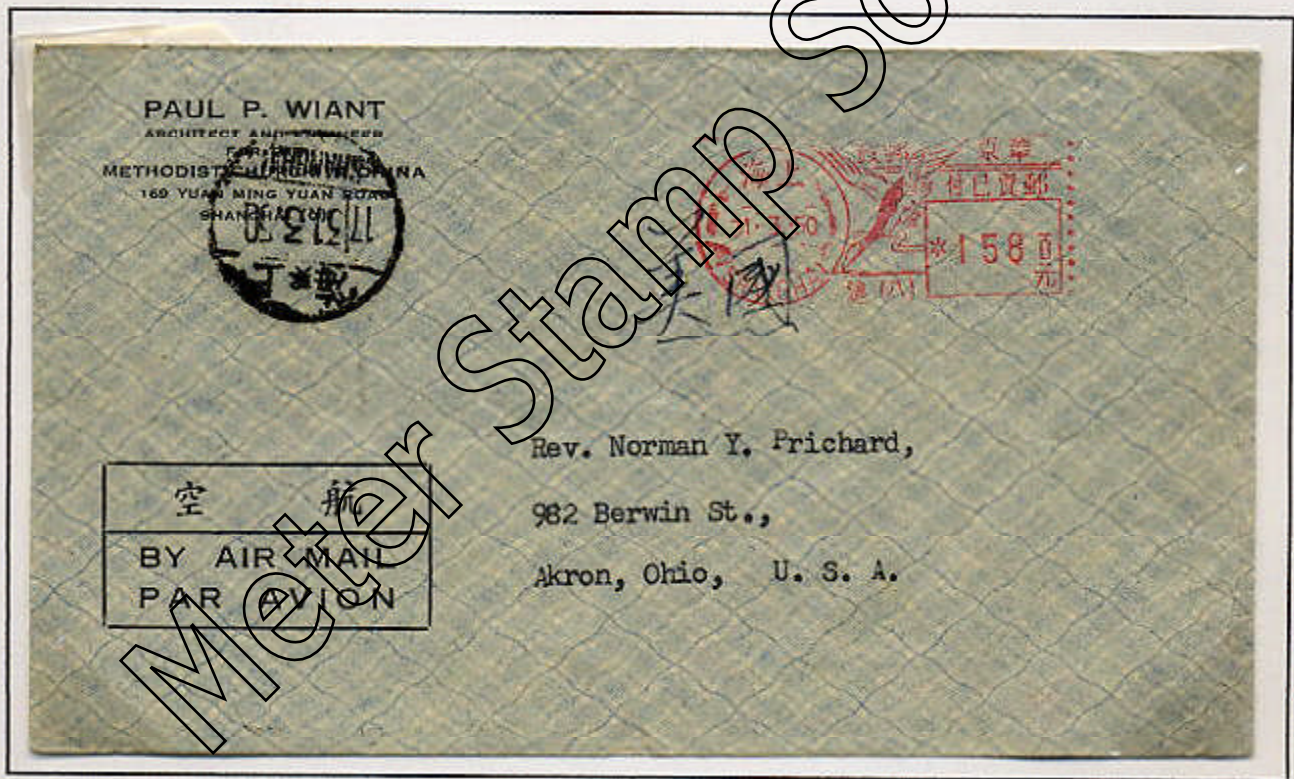
Pitney Bowes, flying goose

East China Postal Service

The final PB flying goose East China design has suffix character for 100 over informal Yuan.

百/元

Used by Shanghai No. 1 and No. 8.



Shanghai No. 8 airmail to USA, 31 March 1950

Franked with 15,800 Yuan paying the basic international airmail rate in effect 5 March to 14 July, 1950.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

East China Postal Service

Suffix: 百/元



Shanghai No. 1 to Kunming, 4 May 1950, franked with 5000 Yuan paying the registered express rate in force 11 March to 11 May 1950.

The express slip on the reverse is a Republican leftover.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

PRC

政郵民人國中

The first Pitney Bowes PRC design was inscribed with 6-characters for *Chinese Peoples Postal Service* and had 100 Yuan suffix 百/元 used with three meters: SHANGHAI Nos. 1, 2 and 8

SHANGHAI No. 1

to Soochow.
7 July, 1951,
800 Yuan domestic
letter rate.



to USA,
4 May, 1951,
13,000 Yuan
international
airmail rate

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

PRC

100 Yuan suffix

百元

SHANGHAI No. 8

parcel post receipt,
16 October, 1953

[5-1402]

今收到由 _____ 局寄 _____ 收

第 _____ 號國內小包詳情單一紙特給此據為憑

收件人簽署蓋章 _____

代收貨價 (A) 元

由寄件人填寫

交寄日期 _____ 由郵局填寫

收件人姓名 聯成百貨社

及詳細住址 安徽濉溪縣

包件號數: _____

包內裝有何物	價值 (A) 元	保價日期 (A) 元	保費 (A) 元	是否回執 (另加)
<u>帽子</u>	<u>803.00</u>		<u>82.1000</u>	

運交單費 _____ 元

包件郵費 (每公斤) _____ 元

保價費 _____

代收貨價 _____

收件回執費 _____

按址投遞費 _____

寄件人聲明

(一) 本寄件人保證上開包件內並不裝有(甲)爆裂、(乙)能自然燃燒、或(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品。

(二) 如上述包件無法投遞時，請即按下列方法處理：

寄件人姓名 濉溪製帽工業社

及詳細住址 濉溪縣二區

貼 郵 票 處

(請將 郵票正貼)

大 有 行

RELIANCE CHEMICAL SUPPLY CO.

61 PEKING RD., SHANGHAI, CHINA

P. O. BOX NO. 1940

上海 22-7-50

中國人民郵政 廿已發郵

*0.28 元

Messrs.

Smith Chemical & Color Co.

55 John Street

Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

U. S. A.

to USA,
22 July, 1950,
2800 yuan
international
surface rate

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

PRC

Suffix: 百/元

Shanghai No. 2 differs from the others. The machine number is left instead of right of the town name abbreviation.

(二) 泥



Shanghai to Soochow, 9 March 1952.
Franked with the 2000 Yuan registered
letter rate.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

PRC

Suffix: 百/元

Shanghai No. 3 differs from the others in that it has a Western meter number

交寄日期: 1952年5月3日

由寄件人填寫

人姓名: 程孔水
住址: 蘇州鎮南門外中卷脚

由郵局填寫

包件號數: 57676
裝箱表號數:
清單號數:
接收局號數:
庫皮重量: 1900 公分
包件郵費: 人民幣
(每百公分)
保價費:
代收貨價費:
收件回執費:
共計: 7200

包內裝有何物	價	代收貨價 (人民幣)	是否回執 (回執費另加)
皮鞋	12300	元	元

注意: 寄件人應在上開包件內並不裝有(甲)爆炸、(乙)能自燃、或(丙)現行法令禁止之物品。如有上述物品者, 請即按下列方法處理:

通知寄件人

姓名: 程孔水
詳細住址: 上海浙江中路574號

注意: 每箇郵票或包裹印紙必須正貼及牢貼, 請勿顛倒或橫貼。

小包郵費, 保價費, 代收貨價費, 收件回執費等, 應用郵票或包裹印紙黏貼此處

SHANGHAI No. 3 072百

Parcel post receipt, 3 May 1952.

Pitney Bowes, flying goose

PRC

Suffix: 百/元

The characters for **Chinese Peoples Postal Service** are reversed in the top panel on this stamp from Hangchow.

中國人民郵政

(5-1402)

日期		寄件人姓名		由郵局填寫	
收件人姓名		及詳細住址		包件號數: 4175	接收局號數:
包內裝有何物	代收費額 (人民幣)	元	元	連皮重量:	公分
寄件人聲明		代收費額 (人民幣)		包件郵費	人民幣
寄件人姓名		及詳細住址		(每公斤.....)	保價費.....
及詳細住址		共計:		代收貨價費.....	收件回執費.....
貼		郵		票	
(請將郵票正貼)		處		020	

中國人民郵政

內小包 (第一聯) 詳情單

寄件人聲明: (一)本件內裝有(甲)煙草, (乙)能自然燃燒, 或(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品。 (二)如上述開包件無法投遞時, 請即按下列方法處理:

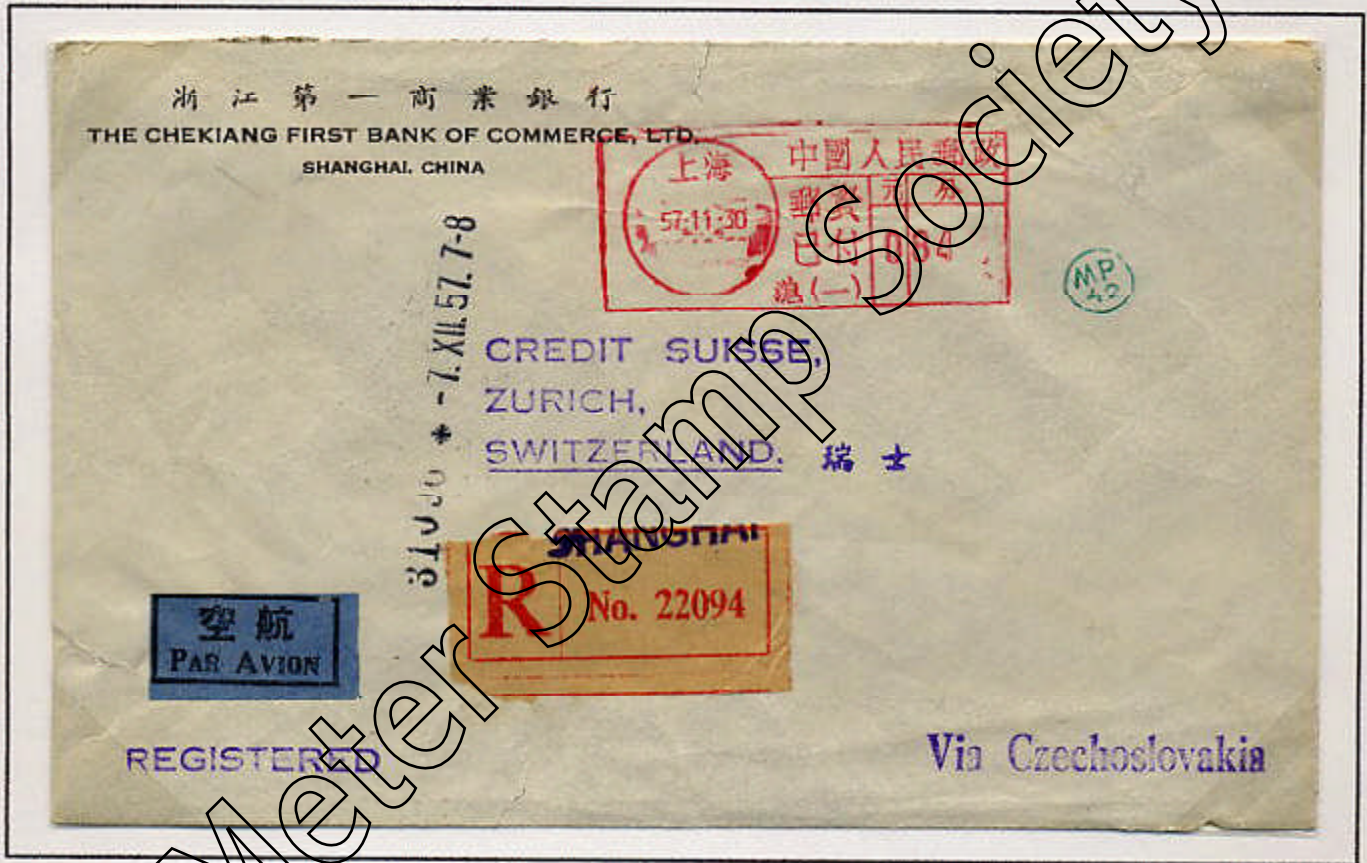
Chekiang Hangchow, parcel post receipt, 20 July 1954

One of two examples known of this stamp

Pitney Bowes, straight-line frank

PRC

The four Pitney Bowes meters in Shanghai were given new stamp designs in the mid-1950s, presumably in tandem with currency reform in 1955.



SHANGHAI No. 1 to Switzerland, 30 November 1957

84 Fen paid the registered airmail rate to Western Europe via Czechoslovakia.

Note the reversed date with year at left.

Pitney Bowes, straight-line frank

PRC

Meter Stamp Society

政
郵資
已付 157
滬(二)
20-8-60

BANK OF CHINA
49 CHUNG SHAN ROAD, S. 1.
SHANGHAI, CHINA



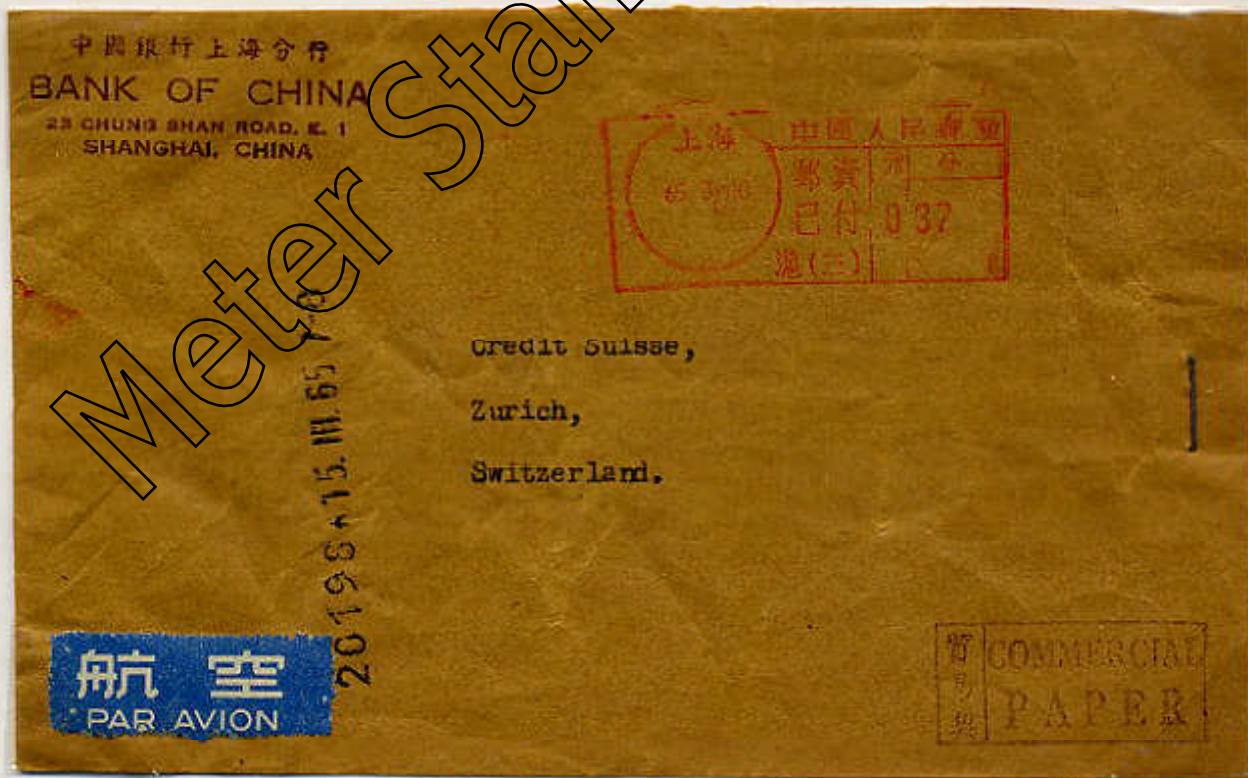
REGISTERED

Via Czechoslovakia

SHANGHAI No. 2
registered airmail to
Europe, 20 August
1960



Shanghai No. 3 to Canada, 6 June 1959.
Franked with the 52 fen international airmail rate.



Shanghai No. 3 to Switzerland, 10 March 1965, 37 fen,
reduced "commercial paper" international airmail rate

Pitney Bowes, straight-line frank

PRC

上海市藥材進出口公司
上海中環路18號
SHANGHAI MEDICINAL HERBS IMPORT AND
EXPORT CORPORATION
18 Dianchi Rd., Shanghai, China.

香港
上海
中國人民郵政
1912
甘雨街 10號

永大行

Shanghai No. 8, 9 December 1964, 8 fen local rate



Shanghai No. 8 to Switzerland, 1 August 1964, 52 fen international airmail rate

Pitney Bowes, faux perforations

PRC

The only Pitney Bowes meter in Beijing was used from 1957 to 1959 on foreign mail only.

北京
中國銀行總管理處營業部
BANK OF CHINA
HEAD OFFICE, BANKING DEPT
PEKING, CHINA

掛號
REGISTERED

航空
PAR AVION



阿姆斯特丹 阿姆斯特丹
Amsterdamsch Bank N.V.

Amsterdam
Holland



北京
中國銀行總管理處營業部
BANK OF CHINA
HEAD OFFICE, BANKING DEPT
PEKING, CHINA

掛號
REGISTERED

航空
PAR AVION



阿姆斯特丹 阿姆斯特丹銀行 7852


Amsterdamsche Bank
Amsterdam.



Two 1957 registered airmail covers to Amsterdam,
260 fen for 60 grams and 114 fen for 20 grams.

Hasler, flying goose

A single Swiss Hasler meter was delivered to China in 1948.



收件人姓名：汪英碩
 詳細住址：歙縣烟村

清單號數：
 接收局號數：

由寄件人填寫				由郵局填寫				
交寄次序	包內裝有何物	價值		報值數目	小包郵件數	遞交重量 (公分)	郵費	
		(金額) 元 角 分	(金額) 元 角 分				(金額) 元 角 分	(金額) 元 角 分
1					1	1900	500	
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

本寄件人聲明：(甲)小包郵件內並不裝有(甲)爆裂、(乙)能自然燃燒、或(丙)現行法令禁寄之物品。如上述小包郵件無法投遞，請即(一)退還寄件人、(二)改寄、或(三)變賣或拋棄之。(供遠處寄件人詳細說明)

寄件人姓名：
 詳細住址：
 注意：每筒郵票必須貼足及筆端請勿顛倒或損壞。

共計 500

政郵華中
 NO. 6
 \$0,000,050
 上海
 18.2.38
 SHANGHAI

Shanghai No. 6, parcel post receipt, 18 February 1949

This document is the only evidence in existence showing the Hasler meter was used before the PRC era.

Hasler, flying goose

PRC

During the PRC era the Hasler meter stamp design underwent several changes.

The first was no different from the Republican stamp except for the Chinese Peoples Postal Service inscription at top.

This tape is one of three examples known.



On 22 October 1951 the \$ prefix was changed to a Yen sign ¥, and the Western ID number was replaced by its Chinese equivalent.

This tape is one of five examples known.



Sometime between 1951 and 1957 the simulated perforation border was removed, and denomination symbols were added at upper right: yuan (\$) | jiao (10¢), fen (¢).

This tape is unique.



Hasler, straight-line frank

PRC

Two new Hasler meters were brought to China around 1961 and were installed in Shanghai as machines 10 (+) and 11 (±)



Shanghai No. 10, local Cultural Revolution cover with inscription at UL:
Communism is the central power to lead us in our basic theory of Marx and Lenin.



Shanghai No. 10, 14 November 1974, registered airmail to Ghana

Hasler, straight-line frank

PRC

SHANGHAI No. 10

Airmail covers to Kuwait and the Sudan, both returned to sender

中国五金矿产进出口公司上海市分公司
CHINA NATIONAL METALS AND MINERALS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION
SHANGHAI BRANCH
27 CHUNGSHAN ROAD (E. 1) SHANGHAI, CHINA

中國人民郵政
元角分
00082
郵資已付

30.IV.75

محمد رشيد
1975

M/S. Mohammed G. A. Ashkanani,
P. O. Box 21947, Safat,
Kuwait.

UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED BELOW	
NOT KNOWN	غير معروف
REFUSED	مرفوض
GONE AWAY	تزلزل
NOT CLAIMED	لم يأتوا
INCORRECTLY ADDRESSED	العنوان غير كافي
RECEIVED	لقد

VIA AIR MAIL

中国五金矿产进出口公司上海市分公司
CHINA NATIONAL METALS AND MINERALS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION
SHANGHAI BRANCH
27 CHUNGSHAN ROAD (E. 1) SHANGHAI, CHINA

中國人民郵政
元角分
00120
郵資已付

19.I.79

5044

17/11

Blue Nile Marketing Co.,
P.O. Box No. 2072,
Khartoum, Sudan.

UN

المستلمة

R SHANGHAI 0271

REGISTERED
VIA AIR MAIL

RETOUR

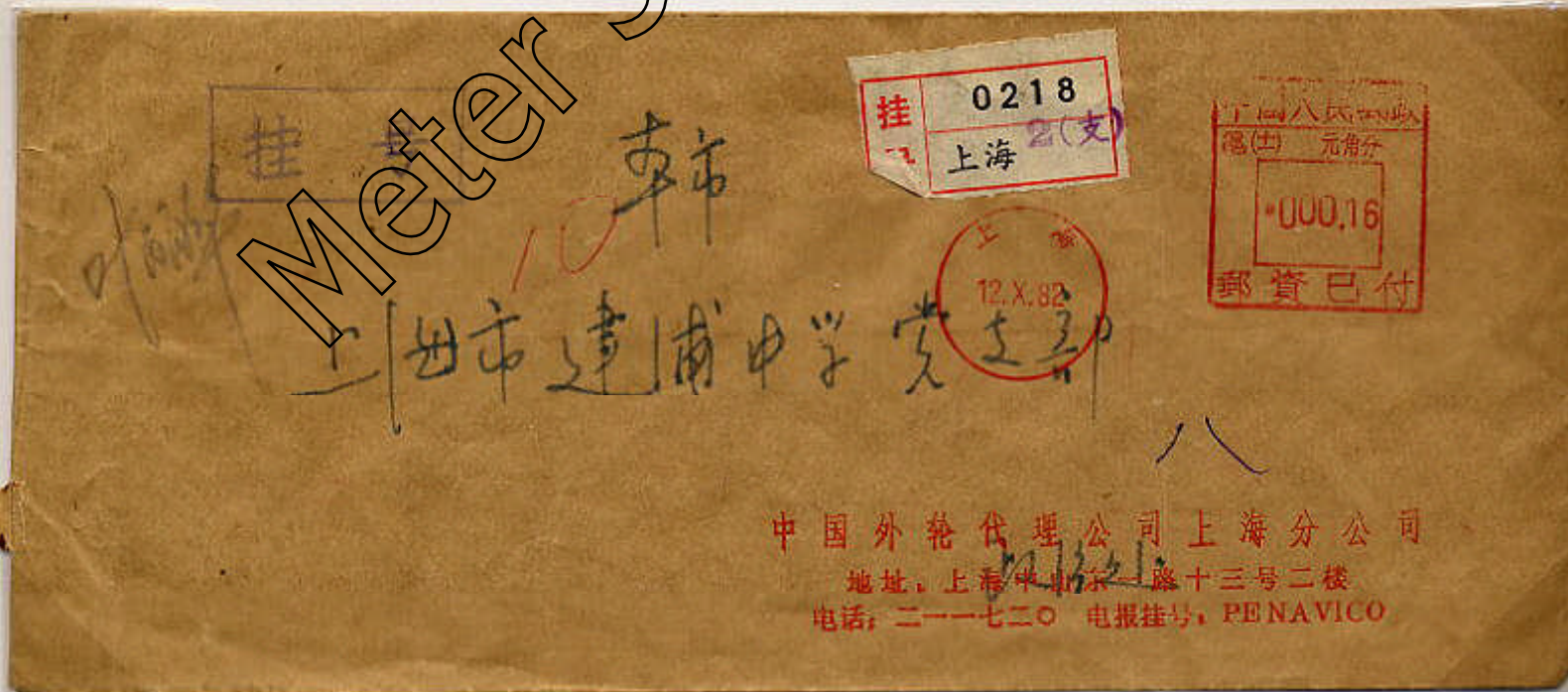
Hasler, straight-line frank

PRC

SHANGHAI No. 11



Airmail to Germany, 1961



Very late use, 12 October 1982, local registered cover

Hasler, straight-line frank

PRC

The final change that took place to one of the classic period meters occurred sometime between 1979 and April 1981. The Shanghai No. 10 Hasler die was reingraved. Both inner and outer frames were narrowed.

中国五金矿产进出口公司上海市分公司
CHINA NATIONAL METALS AND MINERALS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION
SHANGHAI BRANCH
27 CHUNGSHAN ROAD (E. 1) SHANGHAI, CHINA

Heinrich Paus
Casilla No.418
Cochabamba Bolivia.

VIA AIR MAIL



Shanghai to Bolivia, 3 April 1981

One of two covers known of the re-ingraved design.