

NOTE

ON THE

POSTAGE STAMPS OF CHINA,

1878-1905,

WITH DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE AND PLATES OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES.

BY

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THERE is a popular feeling that stamp collecting is a pastime without any special object other than to amass the greatest number of labels in albums, for one's own delight and the envy of one's friends. I am quite of the same opinion as to "stamp collecting"; but I maintain that a "philatelist" is not a stamp collector in the ordinary sense. A philatelist is a researcher in the thousand-and-one little details of a stamp that make this fascinating hobby a pleasure and at the same time a source of learning. Philately is therefore to be considered a useful branch of science, which at the same time entertains the student and adds to our knowledge in other branches of learning.

Having been an enthusiastic philatelist for over 30 years, and a specialist of this interesting Empire, I thought of compiling, for my own benefit and also for that of my brothers in philately, the result of my observations and the information I have gathered on the postage stamps of China. Although I had before me the archives of and data from the Statistical Department of the Chinese Imperial Customs, kindly placed at my disposal for reference, I am sorry to confess that I could glean only most meagre information, compared with what I really needed to make my work absolutely complete. However, I am pleased to place on record all the information I have been able to gather, hoping it will serve as a basis for future investigation in this most fascinating hobby. Before I proceed, I may state that, not having a single duplicate to dispose of, I have no intention, in compiling this Note, to boom the stamps of this country.

Although China stands as one of the Benjamins in the postal brotherhood as a postage stamp issuing country, from most ancient records it is known there existed a vast, important, and well-organised postal system in China as far back as a century before our Christian era; but that I may not appear as a plagiarist, I would refer the reader to the very explicit and complete Postal Report for the year 1904 (published in 1905 by the Customs Statistical Department), compiled by Mr. T. PIRY, the able Postal Secretary, which gives as complete data as it is possible to condense in such a Report, and all important information on the history and working of the official couriers, besides historical notes and a wealth of detailed information on the present Postal Service of China from its infancy, when it was worked as part of the Customs Revenue Department, so very ably formed and directed by Sir ROBERT HART, our distinguished Chief.

The earliest record obtainable of stamps being issued in China is a notification in the local newspapers which reads as follows:—

"CUSTOMS NOTIFICATION.

" *Winter Service.*

"Postage Stamps and copies of Postal Tariff may be obtained on application at the Customs Postal Department.

" (Signed) J. H. HART.

"Shanghai, 16th December 1878."

This winter service was organised by the Tientsin Customs Commissioner, Mr. DETRING, in 1876, so as to maintain, with an overland courier service *via* Chinkiang, the postal communications with the outer world necessarily interrupted by the port of Tientsin being ice-blocked.

Mr. DETRING sent to Shanghai one of his Writers, a Mr. WU KUAN, who, under the control of the Shanghai Commissioner, supervised the overland courier service to the North. This Department, which was called the Shu Hsin Kuan, or Post Office, was opened on the 24th July 1878, and started with a staff of 17 men.

The first set of three stamps, 1, 3, and 5 candarins, were engraved on copper by a Native artisan and printed at the Customs Statistical Department at Shanghai, and were all, as appears from the records obtainable, forwarded to Tientsin in August 1878. Anyhow, the first stamps for the Shanghai Office were received from Tientsin on the 23rd November 1878, in the following quantities:—

5 candarins:	1,000 sheets =	25,000 stamps.
3 "	1,000 " =	25,000 "
1 candarin:	1,000 " =	25,000 "

This Department grew in importance, and, as may be seen by glancing at the accompanying Catalogue, its development may be judged when hundreds of thousands of stamps of this first set were undoubtedly used for franking mail matter, as stamp collecting was then in its infancy.

Daily the utility of this Department became more apparent, and in 1885 a similarly-designed stamp, but of a smaller size, was issued, extending its usefulness to the Treaty ports.

To honour Her Majesty the Empress Dowager's 60th birthday a set of nine new stamps was issued in 1894. The appropriate meaning of the designs of these stamps, made by the late Mr. DE VILLARD, of the Customs Statistical Department, are—

- 1 *Candarin* (geranium red).—Centre, archaic form of the character *shou* (壽, "longevity"), surrounded by symbol of *wu fu* (五福, "five happinesses"), with peony above (a floral emblem of illustriousness).
- 2 *Candarins* (olive green).—Dragon centre; hydrangea (綉球葉) leaves and fruit of passiflora (西反蓮花) above (a favourite ornamentation on auspicious occasions).
- 3 *Candarins* (yellow).—Dragon centre; *p'an-t'ao* (蟠桃), or flat peach, above (this fruit being an emblem of longevity, as it is said to flower and bear fruit for 3,000 years); *pa kua* (八卦), or "eight diagrams," at corners.
- 4 *Candarins* (rose).—Dragon centre, with peony on top.
- 5 *Candarins* (deep chrome yellow).—Carp in centre (this fish in epistolary language being styled the "messenger fish"), surmounted by *jui-chih* (瑞芝) plant (emblematic of long life); the *wan-nien-ch'ing* (萬年青), or Chinese immortelle (*rhodou*), beneath.
- 6 *Candarins* (carmine brown).—Dragon centre, with the Chinese immortelle above; *pa kua* (八卦) at the corners.
- 9 *Candarins* (grey green).—Centre, same as 1 candarin; rampant dragon on each side, with seal form of characters for "Chinese Postal Service" above.
- 12 *Candarins* (orange).—Centre, "Chinese Postal Service" in seal characters; rampant dragon on either side, and peony above.
- 24 *Candarins* (carmine red).—Centre, a junk, with the *p'an-t'ao* (蟠桃) above.

These were executed and lithographed the first lot in Japan and the remaining issues at Shanghai, and were in use up to the 20th March 1896, when the Chinese Imperial Post Office was officially recognised by Imperial Edict, the postal currency being then changed from taels to dollars, the silver coins actually in use in this Empire.

A new set of 12 stamps was thereupon ordered from designs made at the Customs Statistical Department, and the execution given to a Japanese printing firm in Tokio, but the stamps were not ready for issue till a year later.

In the meanwhile recourse was had to surcharging, and the 1885 and 1894 stamps were made to serve for this purpose. The urgency of the necessity required a large quantity of stamps to be so surcharged, and the work was given to different printing establishments in Shanghai; hence the multiplicity of varieties of types and the errors to be found in this issue, as will be seen in the Catalogue. All that is known is that the surcharges on the Revenue stamp (fig. LXIII) were printed between February and April 1897, partly (about a half) by the Statistical Department and partly by one (Foreign) commercial printing establishment; of the surcharges on the Jubilee stamps (figs. VII to XV), the principal portion was printed by the Statistical Department between December 1896 and February 1897, and the remainder by two (Chinese) commercial printing establishments between February and July 1897.

The Japanese issue not being found perfect in workmanship, a new set was ordered in 1898 from the well-known stamp printers, Messrs. WATERLOW & SONS, of London. The designs for this set were of exactly the same pattern as for its predecessor, but the finish and workmanship were much superior. All the impressions were made on paper supplied by the Statistical Department specially watermarked with a Chinese geomancy sign, known as the *yin-yang* (陰陽), representing the male and female principles in nature, a sign popular in this Empire and supposed to ward off evil spirits and bring good fortune. This watermarked paper had been in use since the 1885 issue.

On the 26th May 1899 all the stock of watermarked paper, consisting of some 110 reams, was forwarded to Messrs. WATERLOW & SONS, with instructions that after using the same they were to print the stamps on unwatermarked paper. The printers, however, unfortunately did not take the precaution to inform the authorities for which values they used the watermarked paper, and therefore no accurate data are obtainable at time of writing on this important point for philatelists.

The postal authorities, having exhausted the remaining stock of stamps on watermarked paper, are at present continuing the issues on unwatermarked paper.

As to perforations, no hard and fast rule was followed, and any of the three perforating machines then working in the Statistical Department was used to perforate the earlier issues which were printed by the Department.

Before the National Post was recognised by Imperial Edict, and while it was worked by Customs employés, the ports had special Service seals in use for franking the official mails of the Customs or its employés. The seals all differed one from the other, some larger or smaller, some round, and most oblong; but all bore the same inscription, such as "Shanghai Customs—Mail Matter." I have seen three different seals of Tientsin, Shanghai, Foochow, and Hankow; two of Newchwang, Chefoo, Ningpo, Wenchow, Canton, Wulu, and Soochow; one each of Inspectorate General, Amoy, Swatow, Kowloon, Pakhoi, Lappa, Tamsui, Anping, Kiungehow, Kiukiang, Chungking, Ichang, Shasi, Chinkiang, and for the Korean ports, Seoul and Jenchuan.

Before the issue of regular stamps by the Korean Government, Chinese stamps were used; hence specimens of the 1885 issue are to be found with Korean ports cancelling stamps on them.

Rather than quote misleading figures, I have summarised, when exact data could not be found, the total number of stamps issued of one denomination, without distinction of varieties in colours, misprints, and errors of all sorts.

As in the Catalogue, as far as possible, I give other particulars, I deem it not necessary to repeat them in these brief introductory remarks. I therefore will close, hoping that this little Note, incomplete, I frankly confess, as it is, will be the forerunner of more fully detailed particulars, so necessary and interesting to the serious investigator in philately.

It rests with me to thank my several friends who have kindly aided me in lending specimens from their collections and giving me data to compile this work. But specially I must tender my most sincere gratitude to Mr. H. B. MORSE, the present Statistical Secretary of the Inspectorate General of Customs, who has not only placed at my disposal all available data, but who also, in moments of discouragement, kindly urged and encouraged me to finish the task thus begun, when, I frankly acknowledge, I was on the point of giving up the idea, on account of the apparently insurmountable obstacles.

J. MENCARINI.

SHANGHAI, 31st *March* 1906.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.

ISSUE OF 1878.

August 1878. Large rectangular frame. Arms: a dragon in central frame; "China" above; value below. Chinese inscription: at top, "Ta Ching" (China); to the right, "Yu Chéng Chü" (Post Office); to the left, denoting value. Typographed at Shanghai, on white wove paper, in blocks of 20 stamps. Perforation, 12½. Value in candarins (1 tael = 10 mace = 100 candarins = 1,000 cash). (See figs. I to III.)

(A.) On thin paper:—

1.	1 candarin; green.	}	
1a.	" yellow green.	}	Stamps issued, 89,011.
2.	3 candarins; red.	}	
2a.	" vermilion.	}	288,828.
3.	5 candarins; yellow.	}	
3a.	" orange.	}	137,865.
3b.	" pale orange.	}	

(B.) 3rd March 1883. On thicker paper:—

4.	1 candarin; green.	}	
4a.	" deep green.	}	Stamps issued, 117,475.
5.	3 candarins; red.	}	
5a.	" brown red.	}	269,940.
5b.	" vermilion.	}	
6.	5 candarins; yellow.	}	101,745.

(C.) Imperforated to show the contents of the envelopes, on which a fac-simile of a specimen was printed; some, though erroneously, have been cancelled by Post Offices:—

4b.	1 candarin; green.
5b.	3 candarins; red.
6a.	5 " yellow.

ISSUE OF 1885.

25th November 1885. Similar to preceding issue, but smaller; rectangular. Perforation, 12. Typographed at Shanghai, on white wove paper, in blocks of 20 stamps. Watermark (fig. LXXXI): a sign in Chinese geomancy, called *yin-yang*, representing the male and female principles in nature. (See figs. IV to VI.)

(A.) On white wove paper:—

7.	1 candarin; green.	}	
7a.	" pale green.	}	Stamps issued, 508,667.
8.	3 candarins; mauve.	}	
8a.	" pale mauve.	}	850,711.
8b.	" deep mauve.	}	

9.	5 candarins; bistre.	}	Stamps issued, 348,161.
9a.	" bistre brown.		
9b.	" olive yellow.		

(B.) On yellowish tinted wove paper:—

10.	1 candarin; deep green.	}	Included in Nos. 7 and 7a issue.
10a.	" pale green.		

(C.) Imperforated. No cancelled specimens of these stamps are known; those existing may have been proofs:—

7b.	1 candarin; green.
8c.	3 candarins; mauve.
9c.	5 " bistre.

ISSUE OF 1894.

16th November 1894. Printed in honour of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager's 60th birthday. Lithographed, the first issues in Japan and later issues at Shanghai, on white wove paper, the 1 candarin to 6 candarins in blocks of 20 stamps, the three highest values in blocks of 25 stamps. Perforation, 12. No record being accessible to distinguish the Japanese from the Shanghai imprint, the issues of each cannot be given; the only record available shows that a local printer, named YIH TZE-YÜN, printed 8,542 sheets for the Statistical Department in November 1894. (*See* figs. VII to XV, and descriptive notes of designs on these stamps, page lxi.)

(A.) Watermarked (fig. LXXXI):—

11.	1 candarin; geranium red.	}	Stamps issued, 100,077.
11a.	" orange vermilion.		
11b.	" pale vermilion.		
12.	2 candarins; olive green.	}	" 78,404.
12a.	" green.		
12b.	" yellow green.		
12c.	" deep green.	}	" 188,494.
13.	3 candarins; yellow.		
13a.	" light yellow.		
13b.	" orange yellow.	}	" 44,689.
13c.	" ochre.		
14.	4 candarins; rose.		
14a.	" pale rose.	}	" 32,779.
14b.	" deep rose.		
15.	5 candarins; deep chrome yellow.		
15a.	" orange yellow.	}	" 54,247.
15b.	" orange.		
15c.	" yellow.		
16.	6 candarins; carmine brown.	}	" 54,247.
16a.	" brown.		
16b.	" pale brown.		
16c.	" deep brown.	}	

17.	9 candarins; grey green.	}	Stamps issued, 56,182.
17a.	" green.		
17b.	" emerald.		
18.	12 candarins; orange.	}	" 33,509.
18a.	" pale orange.		
19.	24 candarins; carmine red.	}	" 34,035.
19a.	" rose carmine.		
19b.	" rose.		
19c.	" carmine.		

Varieties.

(B.) *Tête-bêche* (bottom left-hand stamp of plate):—

20.	9 candarins; green.	}	Stamps issued, 2,341.
20a.	" emerald.		

(C.) Imperforated either horizontally or vertically:—

- 11c. 1 candarin; red.
17c. 9 candarins; green.

(D.) The same set unwatermarked; thicker paper. Cancelled specimens are unknown, but, as whole sheets have been seen, it is surmised that when it was found necessary in 1897 to reprint from the stones, for surcharging purposes, thicker and unwatermarked paper was used:—

21. 1 candarin; brick red.
22. 3 candarins; gold yellow.
23. 4 " pale rose.
24. 5 " orange yellow.
25. 6 " red brown.
*26. 9 " emerald.
27. 12 " orange.
28. 24 " carmine.

(E.) 1st January 1897. Retouched plate (fig. XVI); watermarked as regular issue. No specimen is known unsurcharged of this stamp:—

29.	2 candarins; yellow green.	Stamps issued, 202,739.
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ISSUE OF 1897.

16th August 1897. Rectangular frame. Inscribed "Imperial Chinese Post." Lithographed in Japan, from designs proposed by the Customs Statistical Department in Shanghai, on white wove paper, in blocks of 20 stamps. Value in cents (100 cents = \$1). Perforation, 11 to 12. (See figs. XVII to XXVIII.):—

30.	½ cent; brown purple.	}	Stamps issued, 481,200.
30a.	" lilac rose.		
30b.	" claret.		
30c.	" dark brown.		

* The plate was evidently retouched, as on reprinting for surcharging purposes the *tête-bêche* stamp was correctly placed on the sheets.

31.	1 cent; yellow.	}	Stamps issued, 433,200.
31a.	„ gold yellow.		
32.	2 cents; deep orange.		1,248,000.
33.	4 cents; brown.	}	„ 912,000.
33a.	„ light brown.		
33b.	„ dark brown.		
33c.	„ red brown.		
33d.	„ bistre brown.		
34.	5 cents; rose.	}	„ 360,000.
34a.	„ pale rose.		
34b.	„ deep rose.		
35.	10 cents; green.	}	„ 360,000.
35a.	„ deep green.		
36.	20 cents; brown lake.	}	„ 168,000.
36a.	„ lilac.		
37.	30 cents; carmine.		168,000.
38.	50 cents; yellow green.	}	„ 360,000.
38a.	„ green.		
38b.	„ deep green.		
39.	1 dollar; carmine and rose.		51,600.
40.	2 dollars; orange and yellow.	}	„ 12,930.
40a.	„ pale orange and pale yellow.		
41.	5 dollars; yellow green and rose.		7,200.

ISSUE OF 1898.

28th January 1898. Rectangular frame. Printed in London, on white wove paper, the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent to 50 cents values in blocks of 20 stamps, the 1 dollar to 5 dollars in blocks of 48 stamps, from copperplates impressed by steel dies, by Messrs. WATERLOW & SONS, from the same designs as the preceding issue, but with inscription "Chinese Imperial Post." The groundwork has a geometrical or lacework background, and the stamps have a much better finish. Values in cents. Issued concurrently with preceding issue. Perforation, 14 to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$. (*See* figs. XXIX to XL.)

(d.) Watermarked (fig. LXXXI):—

- 42. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent; seal brown.
- 42a. „ light brown.
- 42b. „ dark brown.
- 42c. „ red brown.
- 43. 1 cent; orange yellow.
- 43a. „ orange.
- 43b. „ dark ochre buff.
- 43c. „ light ochre buff.
- 44. 2 cents; cardinal red.
- 44a. „ scarlet.
- 44b. „ orange red.
- 44c. „ red.
- 44d. „ pale red.
- 44e. „ pale orange.

45. 4 cents; red brown.
 45*a*. „ yellow brown.
 46. 5 cents; salmon.
 46*a*. „ dark salmon.
 46*b*. „ red.
 46*c*. „ pale red.
 46*d*. „ dark red.
 46*e*. „ orange.
 46*f*. „ red orange.
 47. 10 cents; deep green.
 47*a*. „ light green.
 48. 20 cents; light red brown.
 48*a*. „ brown lake.
 48*b*. „ claret.
 49. 30 cents; rose.
 49*a*. „ rose red.
 50. 50 cents; light green.
 50*a*. „ green.
 51. 1 dollar; red and pale rose.
 51*a*. „ carmine and salmon.
 52. 2 dollars; yellow and red.
 52*a*. „ yellow and carmine.
 52*b*. „ yellow and salmon.
 53. 5 dollars; green and pale rose.
 53*a*. „ green and salmon.

N.B.—Most of the above (Nos. 42 to 53*a*) are known to have, by error, been issued imperforated either horizontally or vertically. The higher denominations are used chiefly for Postal Money Orders, stamps to the value remitted being affixed to each Order.

On the 26th May 1899 the stock of watermarked paper, 110 reams, enough to print about 13 million stamps, was forwarded to Messrs. WATERLOW & SONS to print on without regard to the stamps fitting the watermark, after the exhaustion of which paper the stamps were to be printed on plain paper.

(B.) Unwatermarked * :—

54. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent; brown.
 55. 1 „ ochre.

* These stamps were printed from the same dies as, and were similarly perforated and issued simultaneously with, the watermarked issue, from 1902, as stocks of the earlier imprints were exhausted at the Customs Statistical Department. No record having been kept of the issue of the watermarked or unwatermarked stamps separately, only the total issued, irrespective of watermark, from 1898 to 31st December 1905, is given below :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ cent	20,732,000	30 cents	635,000
1 „	56,891,000	50 „	505,000
2 cents	40,635,000	1 dollar	378,064
4 „	4,956,000	2 dollars	410,512
5 „	5,478,000	5 „	792,128
10 „	7,071,000		
20 „	1,478,000	TOTAL STAMPS ISSUED . . .	139,961,704

- 56. 2 cents; scarlet.
- 57. 4 " yellow brown.
- 58. 5 cents; salmon.
- 58*a*. " orange yellow.
- 58*b*. " red orange.
- 59. 10 cents; deep green.
- 59*a*. " yellow green.
- 60. 20 cents; brown.
- 61. 30 " rose.
- 62. 50 " green.
- 63. 1 dollar; carmine and salmon.
- 64. 2 dollars; yellow and red.
- 65. 5 " green and salmon.

(*C*.) 10th July 1905. Unwatermarked:—

- 66. 5 cents; mauve violet.

PROVISIONAL ISSUES.

18th December 1896. By Imperial Edict the Imperial Chinese Post Office was recognised, and the Post Office currency was thereupon changed from candarins (taels) to cents (dollars). Whilst regular stamps were being prepared, provisionals were issued, by surcharging in black, with ordinary printing types, the 1885 and 1894 stamps in stock.

Reprints on various thicknesses of paper, and necessarily different in shades of colour, were later on made from the original 1894 blocks, for surcharging purposes, as in many denominations the stocks soon became exhausted. These surcharges were done by several printing offices; hence difference in type of surcharge. As no records were kept of these different surcharges, only totals of each denomination are given below, irrespective of type of surcharges.

(*A*.) Small type; surcharged 17 to 17½ mm. high (*see* figs. XLI to I):—

- 67. ½ cent (fig. XLI). On stamp No. 13: 3 candarins; yellow.
- 67*a*. " " " " 13*b*: " orange yellow.
- 67*b*. " " " " 13*c*: " ochre.
- 68. 1 cent (fig. XLII). On stamp No. 11*a*: 1 candarin; orange vermilion.
- 69. 2 cents (fig. XLIII). On stamp No. 12*a*: 2 candarins; green.
- 69*a*. " " " " 12*c*: " deep green.
- 70. 4 cents (fig. XLIV). On stamp No. 14: 4 candarins; rose.
- 70*a*. " " " " 14*a*: " pale rose.
- 71. 5 cents (fig. XLV). On stamp No. 15*b*: 5 candarins; orange.
- 71*a*. " " " " 15*c*: " yellow.
- 72. 8 cents (fig. XLVI). On stamp No. 16*a*: 6 candarins; brown.
- 72*a*. " " " " 16*b*: " pale brown.
- 72*b*. " " " " 16*c*: " deep brown.
- 73. 10 cents (fig. XLVII). On stamp No. 16*a*: 6 candarins; brown.
- 73*a*. " " " " 16*b*: " pale brown.

74. 10 cents (fig. XLVIII). On stamp No. 17*a*: 9 candarins; green.
 75. " (fig. XLIX). On stamp No. 18: 12 candarins; orange.
 76. 30 cents (fig. L). On stamp No. 19*a*: 24 candarins; rose carmine.
 76*a*. " " " " 19*c*: " carmine.

Varieties.

(A*a*.) Error: lower figure and fractional bar of " $\frac{1}{2}$ " (stamp No. 67*a*) omitted:—

77. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent (fig. XLI). On stamp No. 13*b*: 3 candarins; orange yellow.

(A*b*.) Surcharge inverted:—

78. 1 cent (fig. XLIII). On stamp No. 11*a*: 1 candarin; orange vermilion.

(A*c*.) Double surcharge:—

79. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent (fig. XLI). On stamp No. 13*b*: 3 candarins; orange yellow.
 80. 2 cents (fig. XLIII). On stamp No. 12*a*: 2 candarins; green.
 81. 4 " (fig. XLIV). On stamp No. 14: 4 candarins; rose.
 82. 10 " (fig. XLVIII). On stamp No. 17*a*: 9 candarins; green.

(A*d*.) 10th February to 17th March 1897. Issue of 1885 surcharged as above:—

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 83. 1 cent (fig. XLII). On stamp No. 7: 1 candarin; green. | } | Issue, |
| 83 <i>a</i> . " " " " 7 <i>a</i> : " pale green. | } | 38,000. |
| 84. 2 cents (fig. XLIII). On stamp No. 8: 3 candarins; mauve. | } | Issue, |
| 84 <i>a</i> . " " " " 8 <i>b</i> : " deep mauve. | } | 42,000. |
| 85. 5 cents (fig. XLV). On stamp No. 9: 5 candarins; bistre. | } | Issue, |
| 85 <i>a</i> . " " " " 9 <i>b</i> : " olive yellow. | } | 56,840 |

(B.) Large type; surcharged 17 to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high (see figs. LI to LIX):—

86. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent (fig. LI). On stamp No. 13: 3 candarins; yellow.
 86*a*. " " " " 13*b*: " orange yellow.
 87. 1 cent (fig. LII). On stamp No. 11*a*: 1 candarin; orange vermilion.
 87*a*. " " " " 11*b*: " pale vermilion.
 88. 2 cents (fig. LIII). On stamp No. 12*a*: 2 candarins; green.
 88*a*. " " " " 12*b*: " yellow green.
 88*b*. " " " " 12*c*: " deep green.
 89. 4 cents (fig. LIV). On stamp No. 14: 4 candarins; rose.
 89*a*. " " " " 14*a*: " pale rose.
 90. 5 cents (fig. LV). On stamp No. 15*b*: 5 candarins; orange.
 90*a*. " " " " 15*c*: " yellow.
 91. 8 cents (fig. LVI). On stamp No. 16*a*: 6 candarins; brown.
 91*a*. " " " " 16*b*: " pale brown.
 92. 10 cents (fig. LVII). On stamp No. 17*a*: 9 candarins; green.
 92*a*. " " " " 17*b*: " emerald.
 93. " (fig. LVIII). On stamp No. 18: 12 candarins; orange.
 94. 30 cents (fig. LIX). On stamp No. 19*c*: 24 candarins; carmine.

Varieties.

(Ba.) Misprint: second stamp in first column to right, "t" in "cent" omitted:—

95. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent (fig. LI). On stamp No. 13: 3 candarins; yellow.
 95a. " " " " 13b: " orange yellow.

(Bb.) Surcharge 16 to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high; figure of value closer to Chinese characters:—

96. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent (fig. LI). On stamp No. 13: 3 candarins; yellow.
 96a. " " " " 13b: " orange yellow.
 97. 1 cent (fig. LII). On stamp No. 11: 1 candarin; geranium red.
 97a. " " " " 11a: " orange vermilion.
 97b. " " " " 11b: " pale vermilion.
 98. 2 cents (fig. LIII). On stamp No. 12a: 2 candarins; green.
 98a. " " " " 12b: " yellow green.
 98b. " " " " 12c: " deep green.
 99. 4 cents (fig. LIV). On stamp No. 14: 4 candarins; rose.
 99a. " " " " 14a: " pale rose.
 100. 5 cents (fig. LV). On stamp No. 15: 5 candarins; deep chrome yellow.
 100a. " " " " 15a: " orange yellow.
 100b. " " " " 15b: " orange.
 100c. " " " " 15c: " yellow.
 101. 8 cents (fig. LVI). On stamp No. 16: 6 candarins; carmine brown.
 101a. " " " " 16a: " brown.
 102. 10 cents (fig. LVII). On stamp No. 17a: 9 candarins; green.
 102a. " " " " 17b: " emerald.
 103. " (fig. LVIII). On stamp No. 18: 12 candarins; orange.
 103a. " " " " 18a: " pale orange.
 104. 30 cents (fig. LIX). On stamp No. 19c: 24 candarins; carmine.

(Bc.) Surcharge inverted:—

105. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent (fig. LI). On stamp No. 13: 3 candarins; yellow.
 106. 2 cents (fig. LIII). On stamp No. 12a: 2 candarins; green.
 107. 4 " (fig. LIV). On stamp No. 14: 4 candarins; rose.
 108. 10 " (fig. LVII). On stamp No. 17a: 9 candarins; green.

(Bd.) Issue of 1885 surcharged as above. This set is known as the Pakhoi set, but so far as can be gathered from official records not a single stamp was sent to that port. No cancelled specimens have been seen, and it is surmised that the balance in stock after surcharging was erroneously printed with this type. Surcharge 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high:—

109. 1 cent (fig. LX). On stamp No. 7: 1 candarin; green. Issue, 109.
 110. 2 cents (fig. LXI). On stamp No. 8: 3 candarins; mauve. " 54.
 111. 5 " (fig. LXII). On stamp No. 9b: 5 candarins; olive yellow. " 159.

(C.) 13th February 1897. For some projected Revenue purpose a Revenue stamp was kept in stock at the Customs Statistical Department; these were utilised for postal purposes by a surcharge and were issued concurrently with previous-mentioned surcharges. Perforation, 16. No watermark. (See fig. LXIII.) Very few unsurcharged specimens bearing a Post

Office cancellation mark are known; probably those thus cancelled were unsurcharged specimens issued by error:—

112. 3 cents; red.
112*a*. „ red brown.

(C'a.) Black surcharge. On stamp No. 112: 3 cents; red:—

113. 1 cent (fig. LXIV).
114. 2 cents (fig. LXV).
115. „ (fig. LXVI).
116. 4 cents (fig. LXVII).
117. „ (fig. LXVIII).
118. 1 dollar (fig. LXIX).
* 119. „ (fig. LXX). Stamps issued, 40.
† 120. 5 dollars (fig. LXXI).

Varieties

(C'b.) Colour modified:—

- 113*a*. 1 cent (fig. LXIV). On stamp No. 112*a*: 3 cents; red brown.
114*a*. 2 cents (fig. LXV). „ „ „ „

(C'c.) Surcharge inverted:—

121. 2 cents (fig. LXXV). On stamp No. 112: 3 cents; red.
122. 5 dollars (fig. LXXI). „ „ „ „

(C'd.) Double surcharge:—

123. 2 cents (fig. LXXV). On stamp No. 112: 3 cents; red.

(C'e.) Inverted "s" in "cents":—

124. 2 cents (fig. LXXV). On stamp No. 112: 3 cents; red.

(C'f.) No period after "cents":—

125. 2 cents (fig. LXXV). On stamp No. 112: 3 cents; red.

(C'g.) Comma after "cents":—

126. 2 cents (fig. LXXV). On stamp No. 112: 3 cents; red.

(D.) October 1903. At Foochow, during a temporary exhaustion of stock of 1-cent stamps, the current 2-cent stamps (fig. XXXI) were made to serve the purpose, by being cut diagonally in half and cancelled by a rectangular frame bearing the inscription "Postage 1 Cent paid":—

127. 1 cent. Half of stamp No. 44*c*: 2 cents; red.

(E.) August 1904. Identically the same procedure was resorted to by the Chungking Office, but the cancellation was done by the regular Post Office cancellation stamp:—

128. 1 cent. Half of stamp No. 44*c*: 2 cents; red.

* One sheet, of 40 stamps, was printed erroneously with the small type.

† Although intended only for Money Orders, some postmarked specimens are known, showing that they have undoubtedly been used also for postage.

The total issues of surcharged stamps Nos. 67-82 and Nos. 86-126 were as follows:—

VALUE.	Surcharged on	Total Number issued.	Returned and destroyed.	Net Issue.
$\frac{1}{2}$ cent.....	3-candarin (figs. XLI, LI).....	440,728	136,681	304,047
1 cent.....	1-candarin	387,734 200,000	177,402	410,332
„	Revenue, 3 cents } (figs. XLII, LII, LX, LXIV).....			
2 cents.....	2-candarin	790,075 349,600	280,000	859,675
„	Revenue, 3 cents } (figs. XLIII, LIII, LXI, LXV, LXVI).....			
4 cents.....	4-candarin	344,505 50,000	157,238	237,267
„	Revenue, 3 cents } (figs. XLIV, LIV, LXVII, LXVIII).....			
5 cents.....	5-candarin (figs. XLV, LV, LXII).....	321,575	163,833	157,742
8 „	6-candarin (figs. XLVI, LVI).....	196,848	125,828	71,020
10 cents.....	6-candarin	20,000 132,813 62,926	64,431	151,308
„	9-candarin } (figs. XLVII, XLVIII, XLIX, LVII, LVIII).....			
„	12-candarin }			
30 cents.....	24-candarin (figs. L, LIX).....	50,366	24,040	26,326
1 dollar.....	Revenue, 3 cents (fig. LXX).....	20,485	13,236	7,249
5 dollars.....	„ „ (fig. LXXI).....	5,000	5,000

POSTAGE-DUE STAMPS.

16th March 1904. Pending the arrival of the regular postage-due stamps, the current denominations were surcharged in black, as fig. LXXII. No watermark:—

Provisionals.

129.	$\frac{1}{2}$ cent.	On stamp No. 54: $\frac{1}{2}$ cent; brown.	Stamps issued,	81,440.
130.	1 „	„ „ 55: 1 cent; ochre.	„	281,560.
131.	2 cents.	On stamp No. 56: 2 cents; scarlet.	„	177,200.
132.	4 „	„ „ 57: 4 cents; yellow brown.	„	155,360.
133.	5 „	„ „ 58 <i>b</i> : 5 cents; red orange.	„	115,680.
134.	10 „	„ „ 59: 10 cents; deep green.	„	139,680.

10th November 1904. Small oblong stamp. No watermark. Perforation, 14. (See figs. LXXIII to LXXX.)—

135.	$\frac{1}{2}$ cent; light blue.	Stamps issued (to 31st December 1905),	120,000.
136.	1 „ „	„	228,000.
137.	2 cents; „	„	209,000.
138.	4 „ „	„	143,000.
139.	5 „ „	„	86,000.
140.	10 „ „	„	111,000.
141.	20 „ „	„	30,000.
142.	30 „ „	„	22,600.

POSTCARDS.

16th August 1897. Small oval design. Lithographed in Japan, in carmine, on thin straw-coloured card. Inscribed “Imperial Chinese Post.” (See fig. LXXXII.)—

143.	1 cent; carmine.	Postcards printed,	1,001,000.
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1st February 1898. Similar design to No. 143, but inscribed "Chinese Imperial Post," and lithographed by Messrs. WATERLOW & SONS, London, in carmine, on thick pale-yellow card. (See fig. LXXXIII.) :—

- 144. 1 cent; carmine.
- 145. 1 cent + 1 cent; carmine (reply card).

"OFFICIALLY SEALED" STAMP.

24th January 1905. Lithographed at Shanghai, on thin, white wove paper. No watermark. Perforation, 12. (See fig. LXXXIV.) :—

- 146. "Officially sealed"; green.
- 146a. " " " pale green.

EXPRESS DELIVERY STAMP.

11th November 1905. Lithographed, on wove paper, in dark green on light-green ground tint, multiple printed "Chinese Imperial Post." (See fig. LXXXV.) :—

- 147. 10 cents; dark green on light green.
-

CHINESE IMPERIAL POST.

ISSUES OF POSTAGE STAMPS, 1878-1905.

ISSUE OF 1878.

I.



II.



III.



ISSUE OF 1885.

IV.



V.



VI.



ISSUE OF 1894.

VII.



VIII.



IX.



X.



XI.



XII.



XIII.



XIV.



XV.



XVI.



ISSUE OF 1897.

XVII.



XVIII.



XIX.



XX.



XXI.



XXII.



XXIII.



XXIV.



XXV.



XXVI.



XXVII.



XXVIII.



ISSUE OF 1898.

XXIX.



XXX.



XXXI.



XXXII.



XXXIII.



XXXIV.



XXXV.



XXXVI.



XXXVII.



XXXVIII.



XXXIX.



XL.



XLI.

半洋暫
分銀作
 $\frac{1}{2}$
cent.

XLII.

壹洋暫
分銀作
1
cent.

XLIII.

貳洋暫
分銀作
2
cents.

XLIV.

肆洋暫
分銀作
4
cents.

XLV.

伍洋暫
分銀作
5
cents.

XLVI.

捌洋暫
分銀作
8
cents.

XLVII.

壹洋暫
角銀作
10
cents.

XLVIII.

壹洋暫
角銀作
10
cents.

XLIX.

壹洋暫
角銀作
10
cents.

L.

叁洋暫
角銀作
30
cents.

LI.

半洋暫
分銀作
 $\frac{1}{2}$
cent.

LII.

壹洋暫
分銀作
1
cent.

LIII.

貳洋暫
分銀作
2
cents.

LIV.

肆洋暫
分銀作
4
cents.

LV.

伍洋暫
分銀作
5
cents.

LVI.

捌洋暫
分銀作
8
cents.

LVII.

壹洋暫
角銀作
10
cents.

LVIII.

壹洋暫
角銀作
10
cents.

LIX.

叁洋暫
角銀作
30
cents.

LX.

壹洋暫
分銀作
1
cent.

LXI.

貳洋暫
分銀作
2
cents.

LXII.

伍洋暫
分銀作
5
cents.

LXIII.



LXIV.

政郵清大
分壹當
one cent.

LXV.

政郵清大
貳洋暫
分銀作
2 cents.

LXVI.

政郵清大
貳洋暫
分銀作
2 cents.

LXVII.

政郵清大
肆洋暫
分銀作
4 cents.

LXVIII.

政郵清大
肆洋暫
分銀作
4 cents.

LXIX.

政郵清大
當壹圓
1 dollar.

LXX.

政郵清大
當壹圓
1 dollar.

LXXI.

政郵清大
當伍圓
5 dollars.

POSTAGE DUE, 1904.

LXXIII.



LXXIV.



LXXV.



LXXVI.



LXXVII.



LXXVIII.



LXXIX.



LXXX.



LXXII.

POSTAGE DUE
資欠

LXXXI.

LXXXII.

LXXXIV.

郵政明信片

此面只寫收信人姓名住址
後面須寫寄信人各種事由

LXXXIII.

郵政明信片

此面只寫收信人姓名住址
後面須寫寄信人各種事由



LXXXV.

字 101

加緊信件

收信憑單



字 101

EXPRESS LETTER 101

字 101

發信收單



