

China's 1912 Definitives

The 1912 definitives were issued following the Revolution of 1911, which ended the Ching Dynasty (1644-1911). Caught unprepared, and careful not to align itself with the Dynasty or the Revolutionary Forces, the Directorate General of Posts (DGP) instructed the Customs Statistical Department at Shanghai (CSD) to overprint some values of the Waterlow and Sons Chinese Imperial Post issue of 1900 (CIP) with characters meaning "Provisional Neutrality" in black or red. What followed was a rapid proliferation of overprinted stamps with a dazzling array of basic stamp and overprint varieties. This exhibit is of the issued stamps. The presentation is chronological:

- ◆ Foochow Provisional Neutrality (few delivered to post offices)
- ◆ Republic of China Overprinted Provisional Neutrality (some sold; few used)
- ◆ Statistical Department Overprint
- ◆ Commercial Press Overprint
- ◆ Waterlow Overprint

Rates From August 10, 1911 to November 30, 1920

Date	Domestic			Domestic Service Fees				International			International Service Fees			
	Local	Letter	Single	Reg.	A.R.	Exp.	Reg. Exp.	Letter		Single	UPU Countries			
	Each 20g.	20g.	Postcard					First 20g.	Succ. 20g.	Postcard	Reg.	A.R.	Exp.	Reg. Exp.
8/10/11	.01	.03	.01	.05	.05	(1)	(2)	.10	.06	.04	.10	.10	(1)	(1)
9/1/14	.01	.03	.01	.05	.05	(1)	(2)	.10	.06	.04	.10	.10	.12	.22

(1) Service not available (2) Would have used the special 10¢ Express stamp

Chinese cancels typically number the year from the founding of the Republic in 1912. The year 1912 is denoted with the character *yi* for "one" or *yüan* for "first year." To convert to the Gregorian calendar it is necessary to add eleven where the Arabic numeral "1" was used for the year.

Significant Items have thicker outline borders.

Character *yüan* 元

FOOCHOW PROVISIONAL NEUTRALITY

When the stamps were issued January 30, the new government objected to the wording and they were immediately withdrawn. A few shipped to Foochow City were sold during the first eleven days of February, hence the name. Philatelic covers exist. They were overprinted in sheets of 48 (8 x 6), except the 3¢ which was 25 (5 x 5).



* certificates on reverse

REPUBLIC OF CHINA OVERPRINTED PROVISIONAL NEUTRALITY

Given the criticism of the Foochow Provisional Neutrality, the CSD was asked to overprint the Chinese Imperial Post of 1900 using four #5 Sung type characters vertically meaning "Republic of China." Instead it chose to add the four characters vertically to its supply of Foochow Provisional Neutrality stamps in a cruciform pattern. Overprinting sheets were of 20 (4 x 5) for the 1¢ and 50¢, 25 (5 x 5) for the 3¢, 7¢, and 16¢, and 48 (8 x 6) for the dollar values.

Officially issued March 12, some were sold for a few days beginning March 20 in Hankow, Nanking and Changsha. The new government of the Republic objected to any continued use of the phrase "provisional neutrality" and the stamps were quickly withdrawn. Post office records reflect sales of:

	1¢	3¢	7¢	16¢	50¢	\$1	\$2	\$5
Hankow	1,169	2,318	492	125	87	60	32	20
Nanking	1,050	500	-	75	-	96	61	32
Changsha	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,339	2,818	492	200	87	156	93	52



First Overprint
Shifted Upward

* certificates on reverse

REPUBLIC OF CHINA OVERPRINTED PROVISIONAL NEUTRALITY

Some were sold for a few days beginning March 20.



Nanking City March 22



Nanking City March 22



Nanking City March 22



元 Yüan (first year) Cancel



Hankow
March 23



Nanking March 22

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST

Chinese Imperial Post stamps of 1900 were overprinted by the CSD using four #5 Sung type characters meaning "Republic of China" in red or black. Overprinting sheets were of 240 in 12 panes of 20 (4 x 5), except the 3¢, 7¢ and 16¢ which were of 200 in 8 panes of 25 (5 x 5) and the \$1, \$2 and \$5 which were of 48 (8x 6).

中 chung
華 hua
民 min
國 kuo



BASIC STAMP VARIETIES



Broken *yi* pos. 20
pane 8 plate IIa

Retouched *yi* pos.
12 pane 8 plate IIa

Retouched *yi* pos.
39/48 plate 2

Retouched *erh* (center stamp)
pos. 7/48 plate IIa



STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST

OVERPRINT VARIETIES



Red Overprint



Darker Brownish Red Overprint



Brownish Red Overprint



Min (3rd character) *Hua* (2nd character) Damaged



Damaged



Overprint Inverted



Overprint Inverted Only 10 known All Are Used



Overprint Inverted



Hua (2nd character) Omitted (left stamp)



Overprint Inverted



Overprint Inverted Few used known



Overprint Inverted and retouched *erh* pos. 7/48 plate IIa. Only 6 known

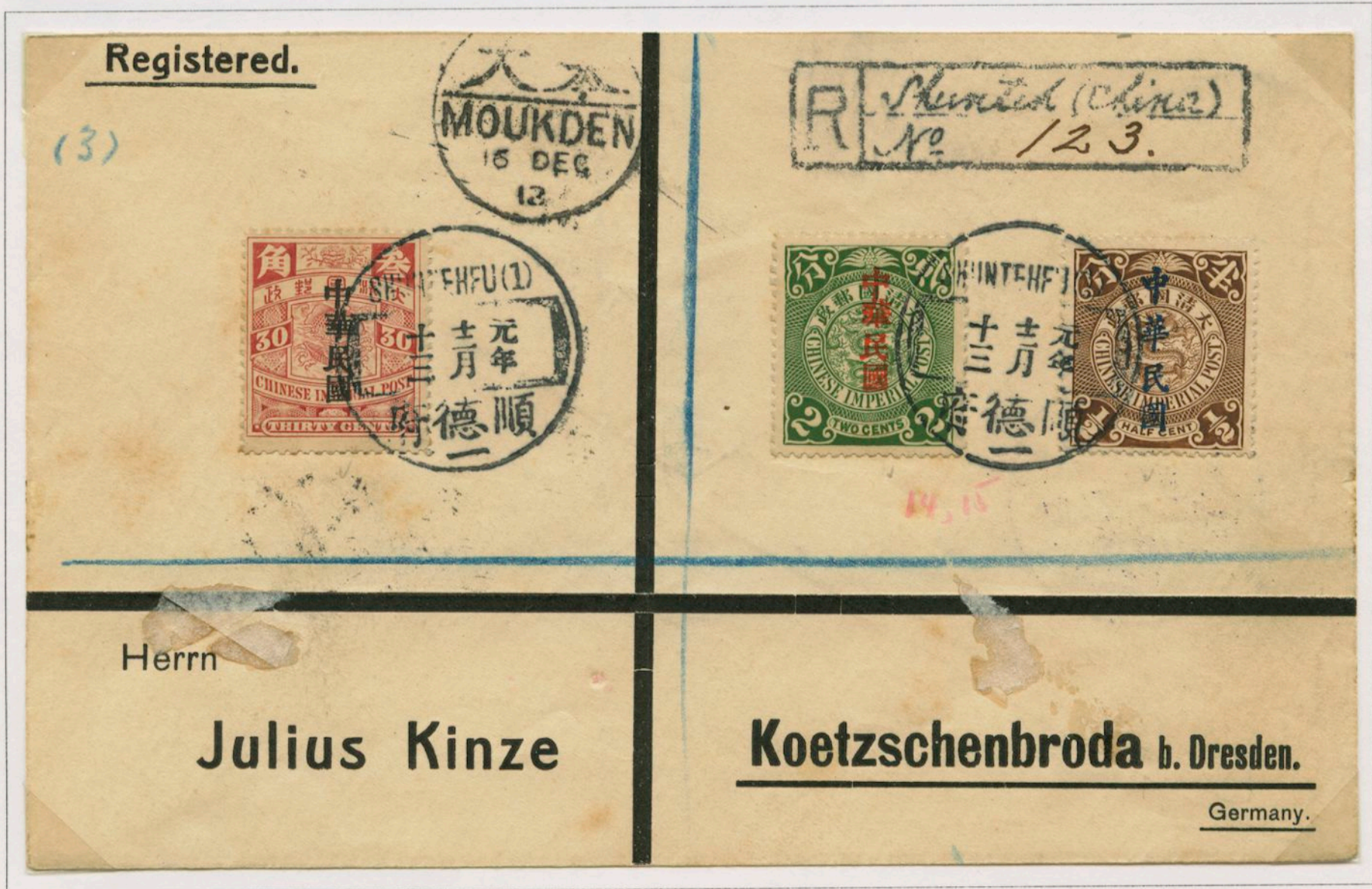


Overprints Shifted Horizontally



* certificate on reverse

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



Dec. 13, 1912 Shuntehfu, Chihli Province, 32½¢ registered (10¢ first 20g. + 6¢ each two additional 20g. + 10¢ registration) to Germany, via Moukden (Shenyang), Liaoning Province, Dec. 16, Peking, Hopeh Province, Dec. 16, rec'd. Dec. 28. Overpaid by ½¢.



3¢ added to former Imperial Postcard — Nov. 20, 1912 Taianfu, Shantung Province, 4¢ (postcard rate) to U.S.A., via Tientsin, Hopeh Province, Nov. 22 and Tientsin French Office in China Nov. 22.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



March 2, 1913 Tsinghwayuan, Hopeh Province, 38¢ registered (10¢ first 20g. + 6¢ each three additional 20g. + 10¢ registration) to U.S.A., via Peking, Hopeh, Mar. 10, rec'd. Apr. 10.



Tsinan
April 20, 1912



Chungking
July 16, 1912



Shanghai Local Post
Nov. 25, 1912



元 Yüan (first
year) Cancel



Amoy
Apr. 22, 1912



BAT Co. Ld.
Perfin



HS&BC
Perfin



元 Yüan (first
year) Lunar
Cancel



Shanghai
Apr. 2, 1912

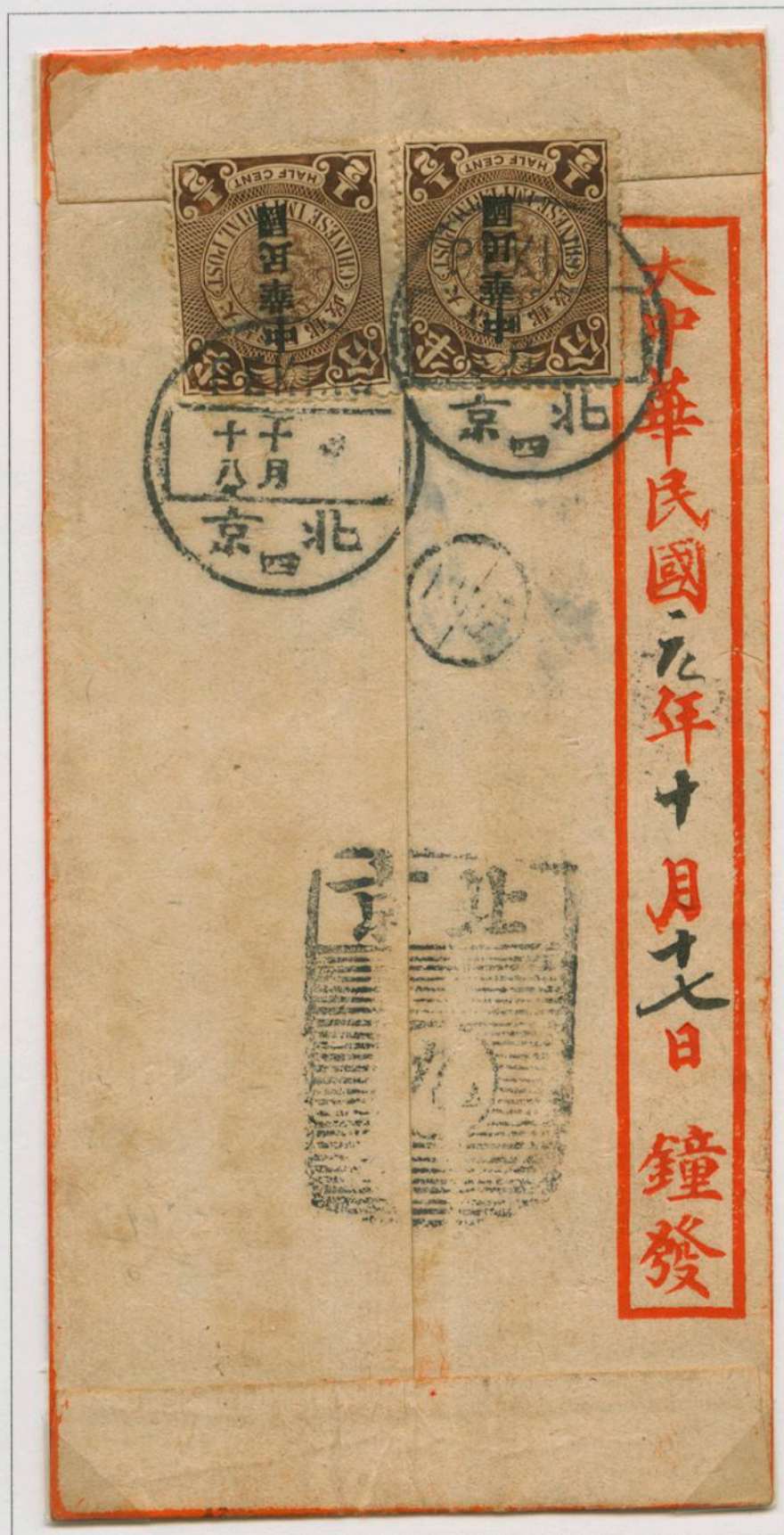


Chengtu
Oct. 31, 1912

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST

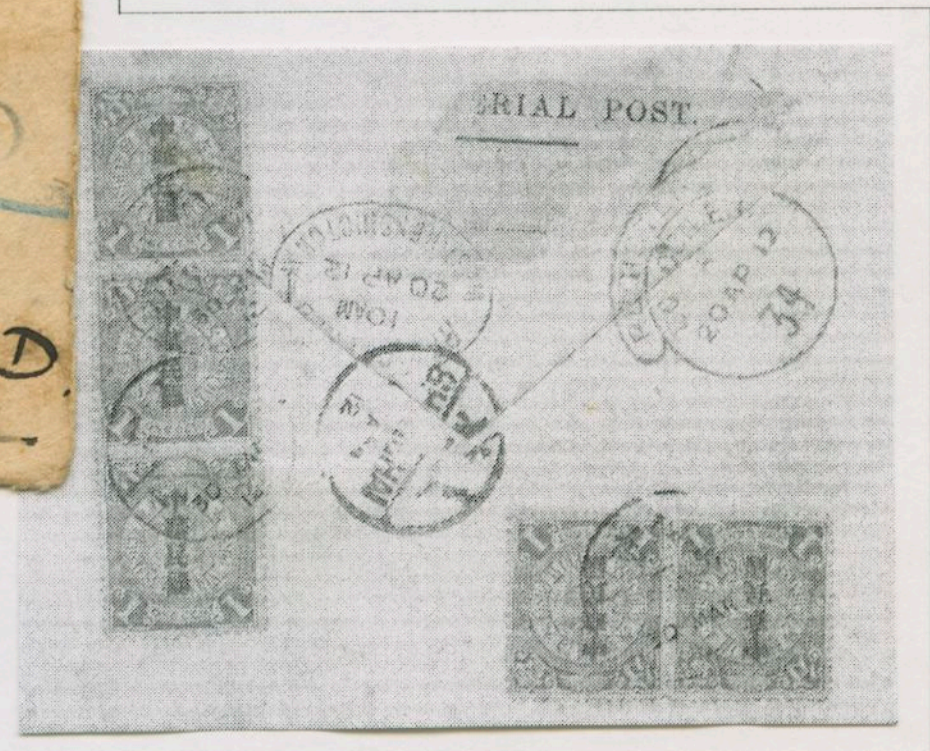


Nov. 8, 1912, Peking, Hopeh Province, 13¢ (3¢ surface + 5¢ registration + 5¢ AR) acknowledgement of receipt with registration to Tsihan, Shantung, rec'd. Oct. 10.



Oct. 18, 1912, Peking, local (1¢ rated) The circle below stamps is a postman's chop. The black box below it is a Peking post office #9 "tombstone" cancel.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



March 30, 1912, Nanking, Kiangsu Province, 20¢ registered (10¢ surface + 10¢ registration) to England, via Shanghai, Kiangsu, April 4, rec'd April 20. Additional 5¢ on reverse.



Nov. 11, 1912 Peking, Hopeh Province, 4¢ (postcard rate) to England.

COMMERCIAL PRESS OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST

Because the CSD was unable to prepare sufficient quantities of the two frequently used values, Commercial Press, Ltd. of Shanghai was asked to overprint Chinese Imperial Post stamps of 1900 using #5 Sung type characters meaning "Republic of China" in black. It chose to use a larger type font for the *kuo* (bottom character). Overprinting sheets were of 240 in 12 panes of 20 (4 x 5). Issued in March. Used until May 1913.



BASIC STAMP VARIETIES



OVERPRINT VARIETIES



Broken yi pos. 20
pane 8 plate IIa

Retouched yi pos.
12 pane 8 plate IIa

Chung (1st character)
Shifted Right

Overprint
Inverted

Chung (1st character) Shifted
Left (right stamp)



Hankow
June 14



Apr. 8, 1913, Shanghai Local Post, local (1¢ rate)



元 Yuan (first
year) cancel



Shanghai Local
Post July 6, 1912



Tungtaihsien
Apr. 21, 1913

COMMERCIAL PRESS OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



Combination Statistical Department and Commercial Press Overprints —
 Aug. 19, 1912, Kian, Kiangsi Province, surface to Finland, via Kiukiang Aug. 20, Peking
 Aug. 23 and Siberia, rec'd Sept. 10, franked with Statistical 3¢ (x2) and Commercial 1¢ (x4).



Nov. 6, 1912, Shanghai, Kiangsu Province, 4¢ (postcard rate) to Germany.

WATERLOW OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST

Waterlow and Sons Co., of London was also asked to overprint their supply of Chinese Imperial Post stamps of 1900 using Regular-Writing style characters meaning "Republic of China" in red, black or blue. Overprinting sheets were of 240 in 12 panes of 20 (4 x 5), except the 3¢, 7¢ and 16¢ which were of 200 in 8 panes of 25 (5 x 5) and the \$1, \$2 and \$5 which were of 48 (8x 6).

They were officially issued in late 1912, but few were sold before 1913 and 1912 uses are scarce. This was in keeping with the Chinese practice of post offices using up older stamps before selling new ones.



BASIC STAMP VARIETIES



Retouch at lower right

Open first "L" in "Dollar"

Retouch A of yi pos. 39/48 plate 2

Retouch C of yi pos. 39/48 plate 2

Retouched *erh* pos. 7/48 plate IIa



WATERLOW OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



Jan. 28, 1912, Tsing Hua Yuan, 20¢ registered (10¢ surface + 10¢ registered) to U.S.A., via Moukden Jan. 30



May 12, 1912, Shanghai, Kiangsu, 4¢ (4¢ postcard rate) to Switzerland, via Siberia.

BASIC STAMP VARIETIES



Broken yi pos. 20
pane 8 plate IIa



Retouched yi pos. 12 pane
8 plate IIa (right stamp)

WATERLOW OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



Jan. 6, 1913, Shanghai, 26¢ registered (16¢ surface over 20 g. + 10¢ registered) to Germany, rec'd. June 22.



May 5, 1913, Swatow, 14¢ (4¢ postcard + 10¢ registered) to Germany, via Shanghai May 8, Moukden May 12.

OVERPRINT VARIETIES



2nd & 3rd damaged



3rd damaged



Shifted Left



2nd damaged

WATERLOW OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



Nov. 10, 1913, ?, Shantung Province, 8¢ registered (3¢ surface + 5¢ registration) to Tsihan, Shantung, with Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway P.O. dater at right. Black box with "139" is registration chop.

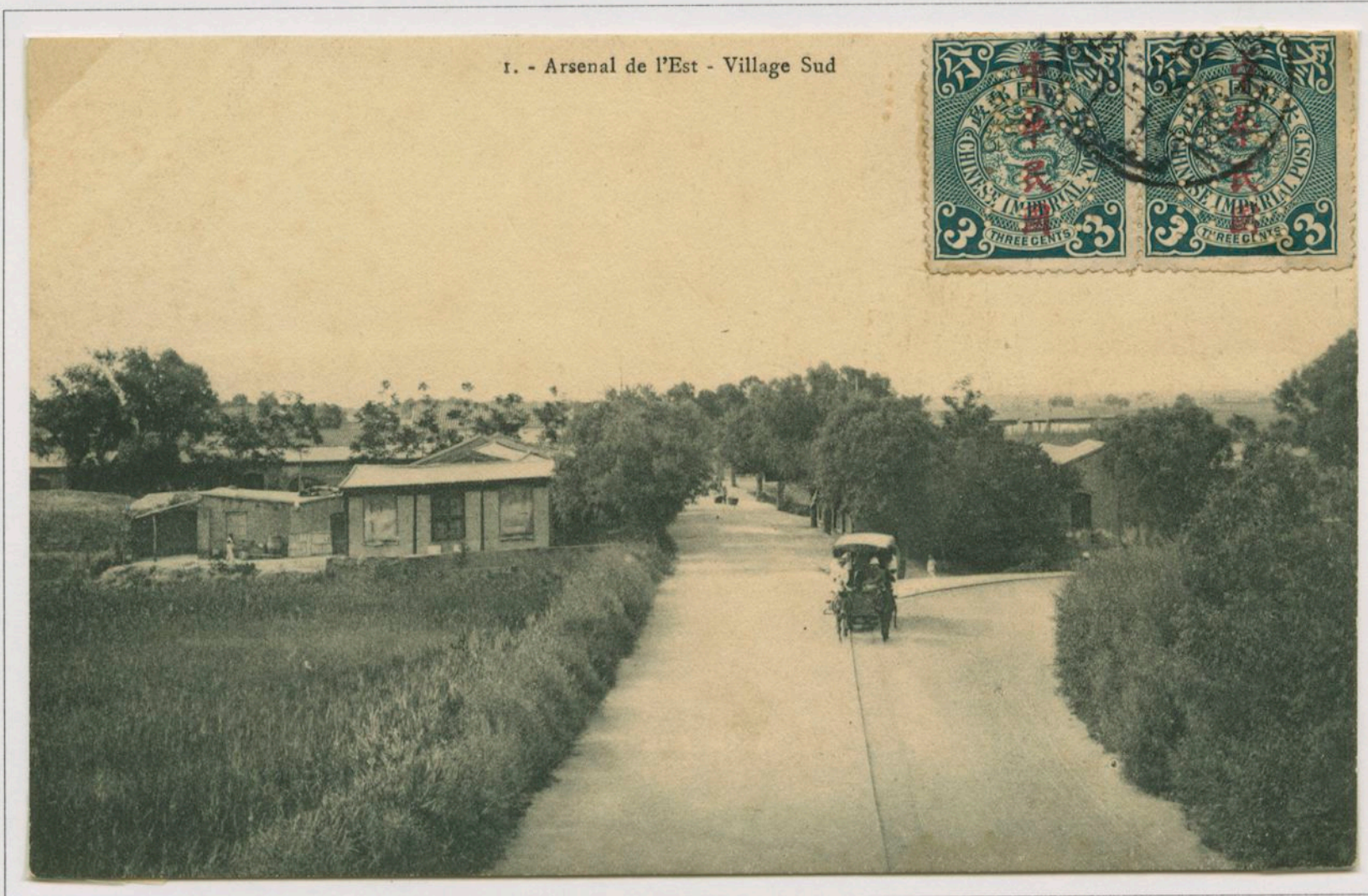


Yüan in Nov. 14
Lunar Cancel
on reverse



元 Nov. 14, 1912, Foochow, local (1¢ rate) Yüan (first year) character in dater at lower right.

WATERLOW OVERPRINTED CHINESE IMPERIAL POST



Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HSBC) Perfins—May 5, 1913 Canton to Tientsin



May 22, 1913, Shanghai, Kiangsu Province, 4¢ (postcard rate) to Germany, via Moukden May 26.



Shanghai Local Post
Aug. 26, 1912



Chengtu
Sept. 12, 1913



Hangchow
July 7, 1914



Shanghai
Jan. 25, 1913



Kiungchow
Oct. 7, 1914