

REPUBLIC OF CHINA EXPRESS STAMPS AND MAIL SLIPS: 1912-1929

This is a display division exhibit of the stamps (largest in the world at the time), their demonetization, and their cheaper replacements. In late 1912 the Republic of China (ROC) issued its first domestic express stamp, following the example of the Imperial Post which issued seven between 1905 and 1912. Like the Imperial stamps it was in green with black numbers. Express service was available between most First and some Second Class post offices. The express service required a fee of 10¢, which included 2¢ for postage (up to 30 g.), 5¢ for registration, and 3¢ for express service. An optional 5¢ paid the equivalent of Acknowledgement of Receipt (AR), or what the Chinese call "double registered."

Each stamp has five sections: the first a stub retained at the originating post office; the second retained by the receiving post office; the third (a receipt) returned to the originating office, the fourth used to glue the second and third to the cover; and the fifth a sender's receipt.



The second ROC domestic express stamp was issued in February 1914, but with green numbers.



Express stamps were discontinued Feb. 1, 1916. Regular stamps were used to show payment of postage and the express fee. Express mail could be posted anywhere and would receive express delivery if available at the addressee's post office. The express stamps were demonetized by locally overprinting "A," "B," "C," and "D" on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th sections, turning them into express mail slips. Next, stamp-like slips were printed with the letters appearing at the top. City names were sometimes overprinted in black. Finally, less expensive slips were printed on cheap paper, first in a rectangular format and then in a somewhat square format.

RATE TABLE			
Date	Surface*	Express Fee	Total
2/1/16	.03	.10	.13
11/1/22	.04	.16	.20
1/1/23	.03	.10	.13
11/1/25	.04	.10	.14
2/1/29	.04	.12	.16

* per 20 g.

Character For Express 快

Plan of Organization

Stamps & demonetization	1-3
Stamp-like express slip	4
Rectangular express slips	5-6
Square express slips	7-12

Express Stamps of 1912 and 1914



1912 Issue part (C) used Oct. 17, 1913 at Soochow (Wuhsien) City, Kiangsü Province.



1914 Issue parts (B) and (C) used Dec. 1, 1915 at Hailun, Heilungkiang Province, to Harbin, Kirin Province, received Dec. 4.



1916 Demonetized part (D) used Feb. 18, 1916 at Peking S.O. 5 with Hung Hsien, "Great Constitutional Era," overprint. President Yuan Shih-kai attempted to become Emperor Dec. 11, 1915, but gave up his attempt March 23, 1916.



1912 Issue used Mar. 15, 1913 Shanghai to Peking. Forth part affixed to hold parts (B) and (C). Red chops are personal chop.



1914 Issue used July 18, 1915 Tientsin to Peking, received July 19. Forth part tied with "Received in Good Order" chop. Red chops are personal chops.

Express Stamps Demonetized in 1916 — for use as Express Slips

Second from bottom is Moukden (Shenyang), Liaoning Province. Cities of others are unknown. No used examples have survived.

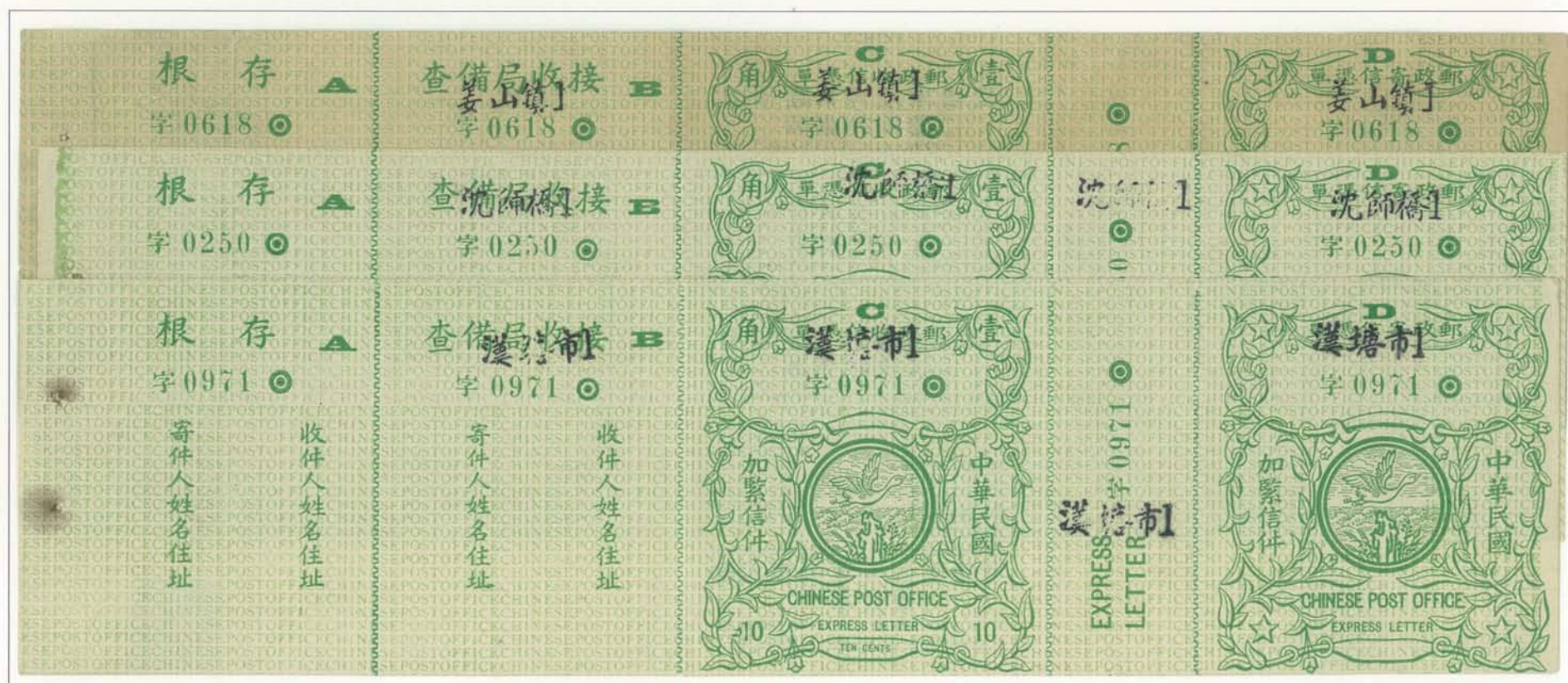


Express Mail Slip — 1916 Design

The 1916 Express Slip parts have letters "A" through "D" with: (A), retained in the originating post office book; (B), retained by receiving post office for its record; (C), returned to originating office for the sender if the AR fee was paid; and (D), originating post office's receipt for sender. Unlettered 4th part was used to glue (B) and (C) to the cover. A form for delivery information is on the reverse of part (C).

The range of known dates of use is Mar. 9, 1916 to Aug. 27, 1918. Dates are from part (D) sender's receipts because no slips on cover have survived. At right is the Aug. 27, 1918 part (D) sender's receipt overprinted and cancelled Yochow (Yoyang) City, Hunan Province.

Below are examples with overprints of Kiangshanchen, Honan Province, Shenshihchiao, Chekiang Province, and Hantangshih, Chekiang Province.



Rectangular Express Mail Slips — used June 1916 to July 1920 (found in various colors and styles of numerals)



Senders Receipt Soochow June 10, 1916

Jan. 5, 1920 Wuchang, Hupeh Province, 13¢ (3¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, received Jan. 9.

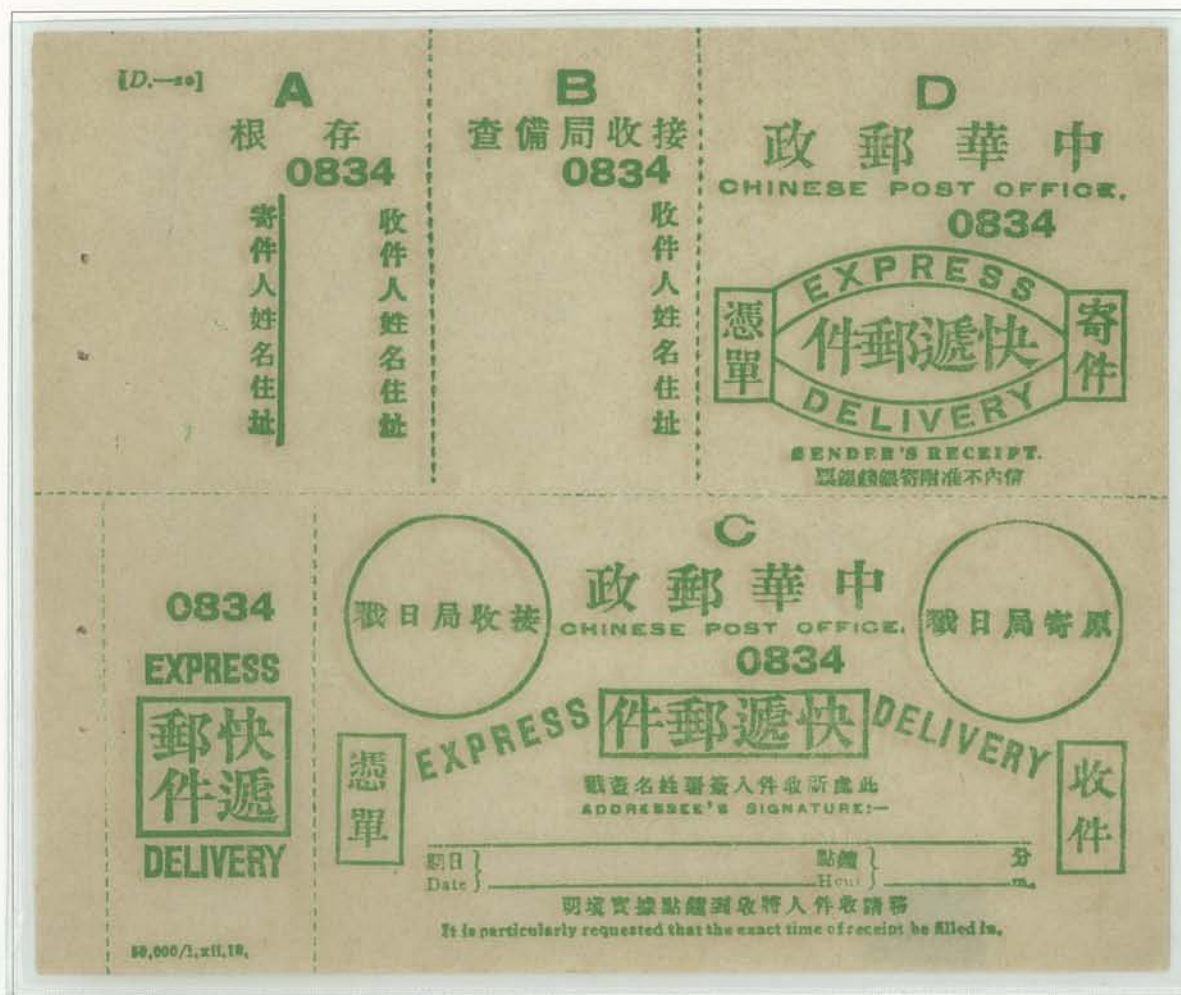
Rectangular Express Mail Slips — 1916 to 1920 (city overprints of Meihsi, Heilung Province and Ningpofu, Chekiang Province)



Senders Receipt Foochow Oct. 15, 1919

July 7, 1920 Tientsin, Hopeh Province, 16¢ (6¢ surface for over 20 g. + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, received July 8.

Square Express Mail Slip — 50,000 printed Dec. 1, 1919 (known used as late as 1922)

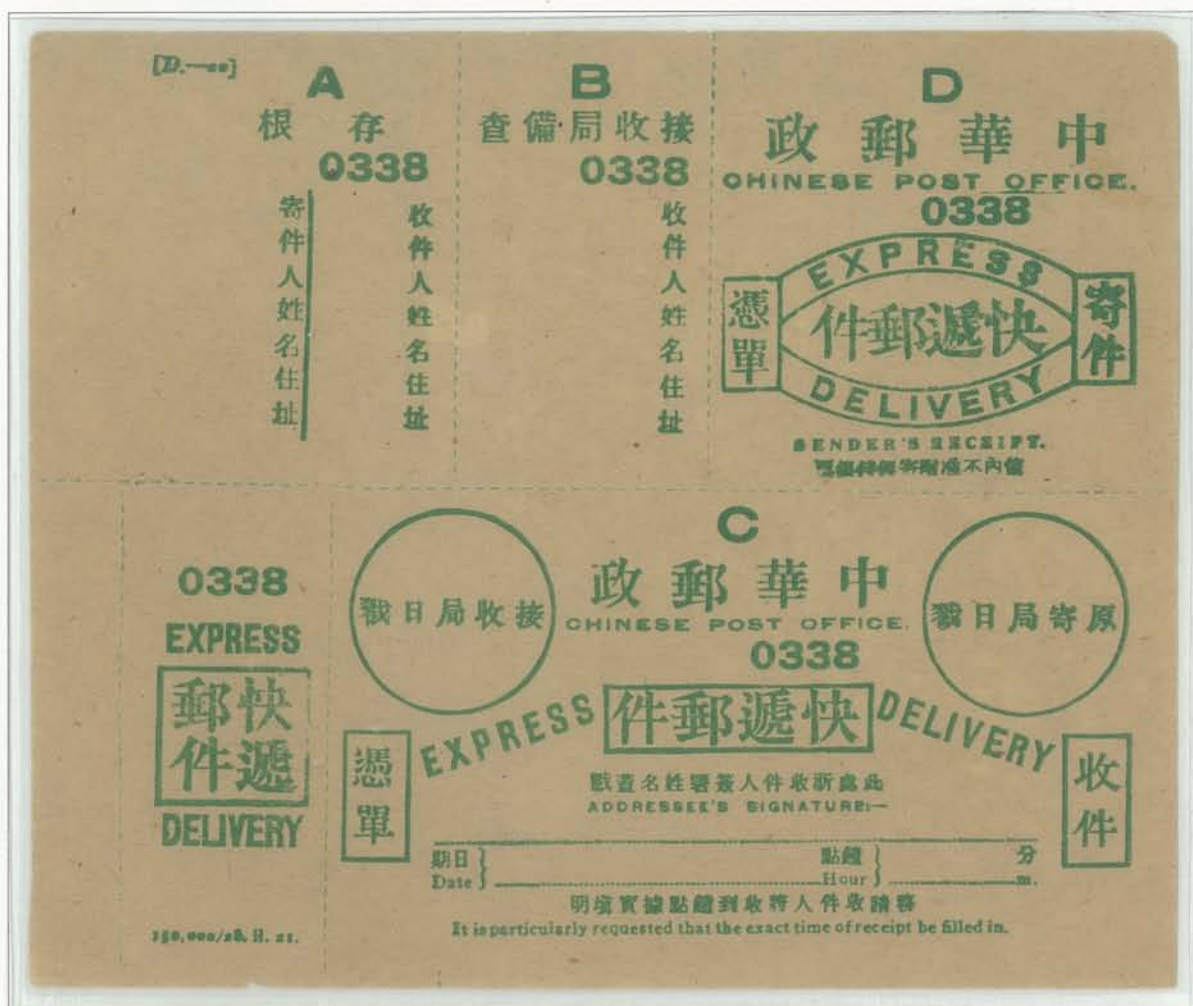


Nov. 6, 1920 Peking S.O. 12, Hopenh Province, 13¢ (3¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Liunchow, Anhwei Province, received Nov. 13.



Nov. 14, 1920 Tientsin, Hopenh Province, 16¢ (6¢ surface for over 20 g. + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, received Nov. 15. Red chops are personal chops.

Square Express Mail Slip — 150,000 printed Feb. 28, 1921 (known used from Nov. 18, 1921 to July 30, 1925)



July 30, 1925 Soochow, Hopeh Province, 13¢ (3¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Nanking, Kiangsu Province, received July 30.



Oct. 11, 1922 Peking, Hopeh Province, 10¢ express of printed matter to Tientsin, Hopeh, received Oct. 12.

Square Express Mail Slip—10,000 printed Feb. 26, 1924 (known used from Dec. 19, 1924 to June 26, 1929)

[D.—20] **A** 根存 **B** 查備局收接 **D** 政郵華中
 0156 0156 CHINESE POST OFFICE. 0156

寄件人姓名住址 收件人姓名住址 收件人姓名住址

憑單 EXPRESS 件郵遞快 寄件 DELIVERY

SENDER'S RECEIPT.
 票銀接銀寄附准不內信

C 政郵華中 CHINESE POST OFFICE. 0156
 截日局收接 截日局寄原

憑單 EXPRESS 件郵遞快 收件 DELIVERY

觀蓋名姓署簽人件收祈處此
 ADDRESSEE'S SIGNATURE—

期日) 點鐘) 分
 Date) Hour) m.

明填實據點鐘到收將人件收請務
 It is particularly requested that the exact time of receipt be filled in.

10,000/26. 11. 24.

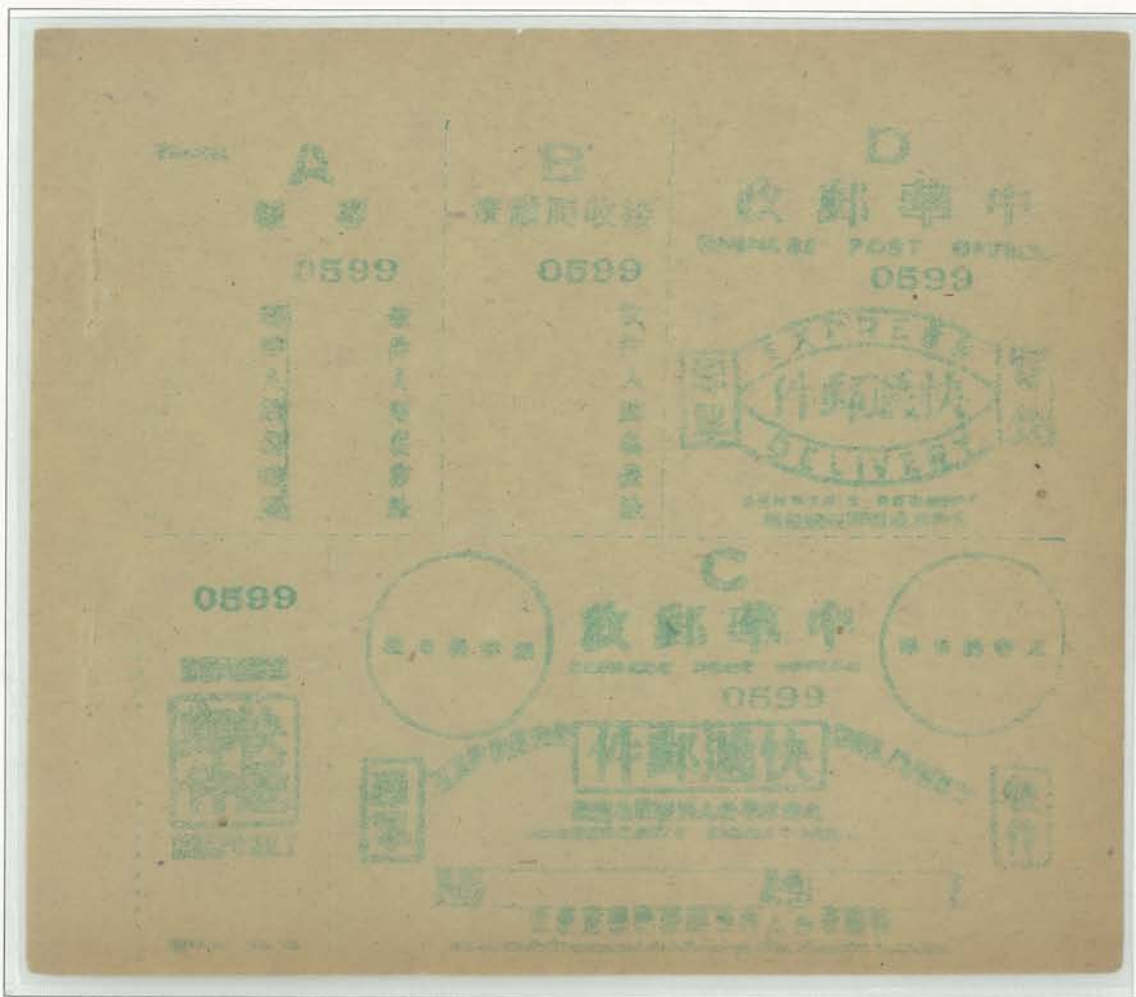


Jan. 5, 1925 Nanking, Kiangsu Province, 13¢ (3¢ surface + 10¢ express) (8¢ on front) to Shanghai, Kiangsu, received Jan. 8.



April 3, 1925 Taianfu, Shantung Province, 13¢ (4¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Tainan, Shantung, received April 4, returned to Taianfu, received April 5.

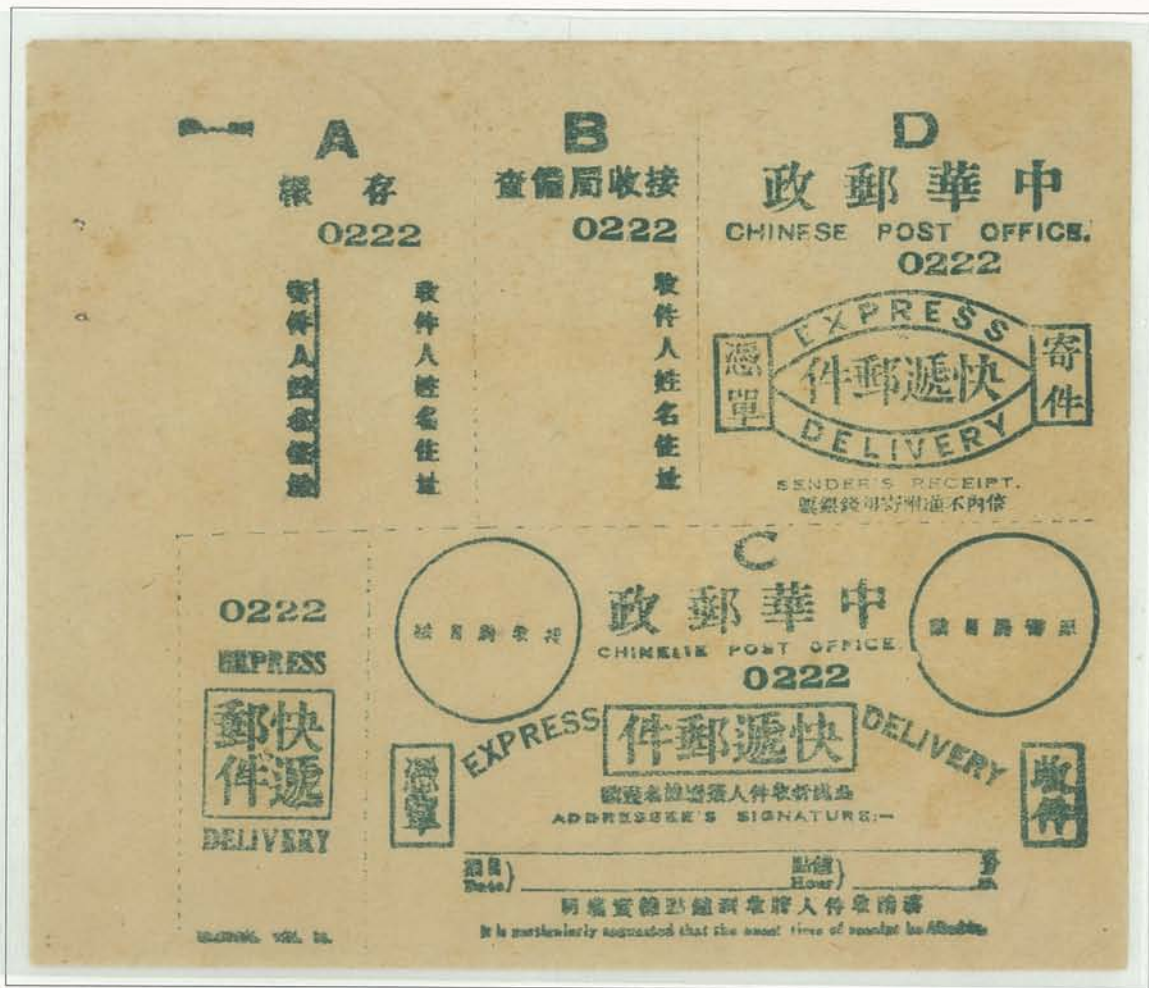
Square Express Mail Slip — 10,000 printed July 4, 1924? (known used from Aug. 10, 1925 to Mar. 3, 1928)



Mar. 3, 1928 Weihsien (Hwaih sien), Hopeh Province, 14¢ (4¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, Kiangsu Province. Red chops are personal chops.

April 7, 1927 Peking, Hopeh Province, 18¢ (8¢ surface for over 20 g. + 10¢ express) to Tientsin, Hopeh, rec'd. April 8.

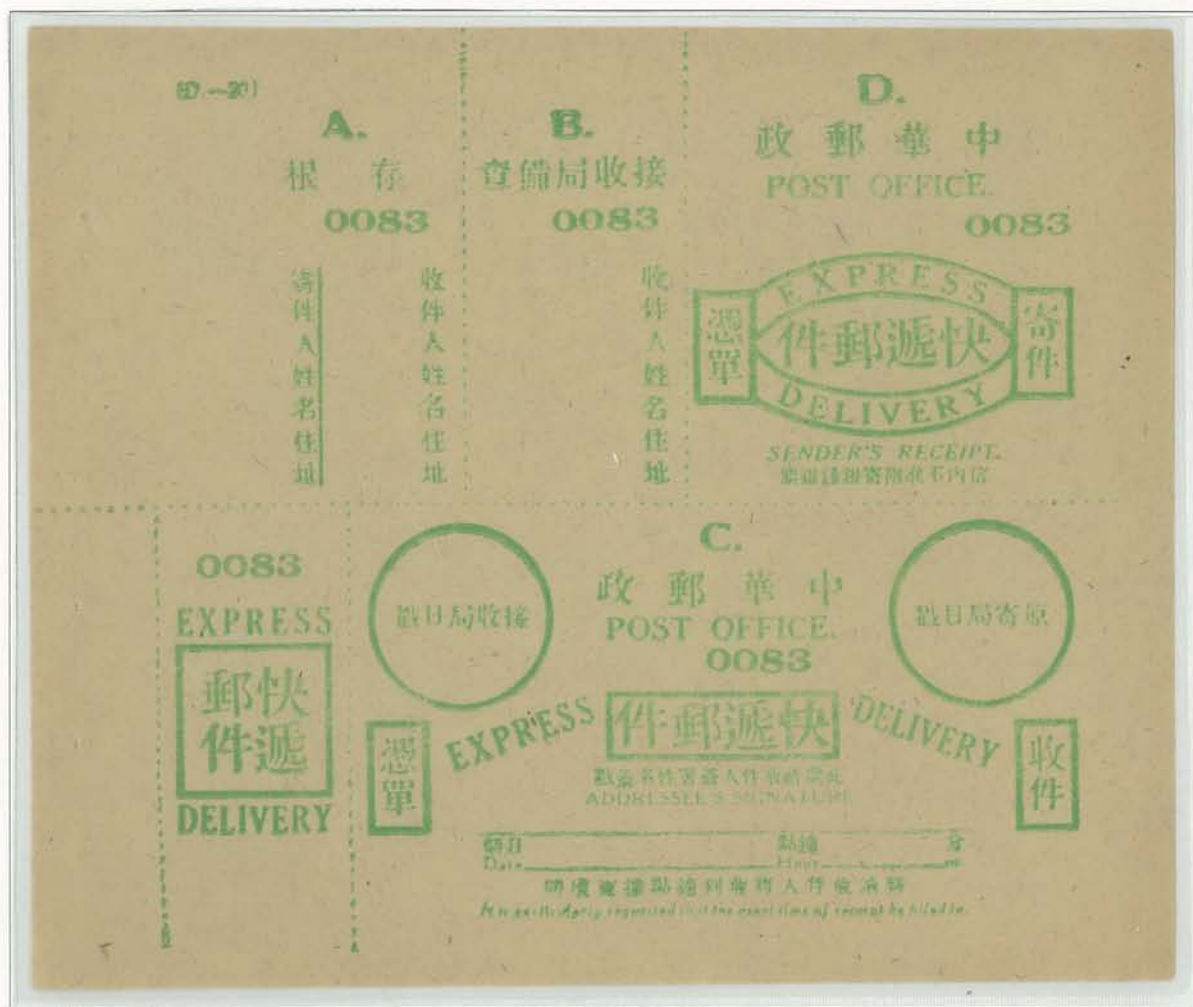
Square Express Mail Slip — 10,000 printed Aug. 4, 1925 (known used from June 22, 1926 to Jan. 7, 1928)



Mar. 24, 1927 Tsiana (Licheng), Shantung Province, 14¢ (4¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Peking, Hopeh Province. Red chops are personal chops.

June 22, 1926 Tenghsien, Shantung Province, 14¢ (4¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, Kiangsu Province, received June 24.

Square Express Mail Slip — date printed unknown (known used from April 3, 1927 to Sept. 6, 1929)



June 15, 1928 Weihsien (Hwaihshien), Hopoh Province, 14¢ (4¢ surface + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, Kiangsu Province, received June 20.



Oct. 15, 1928 Changshu Ku, Kiangsu Province, 22¢ (12¢ surface for over 40 g. + 10¢ express) to Shanghai, Kiangsu.