

**The Late Civil War Forerunners and
Provisional Issues of East China:**

Philatelic Footprints on the Road to the Liberation of Shanghai

Hugh Lawrence

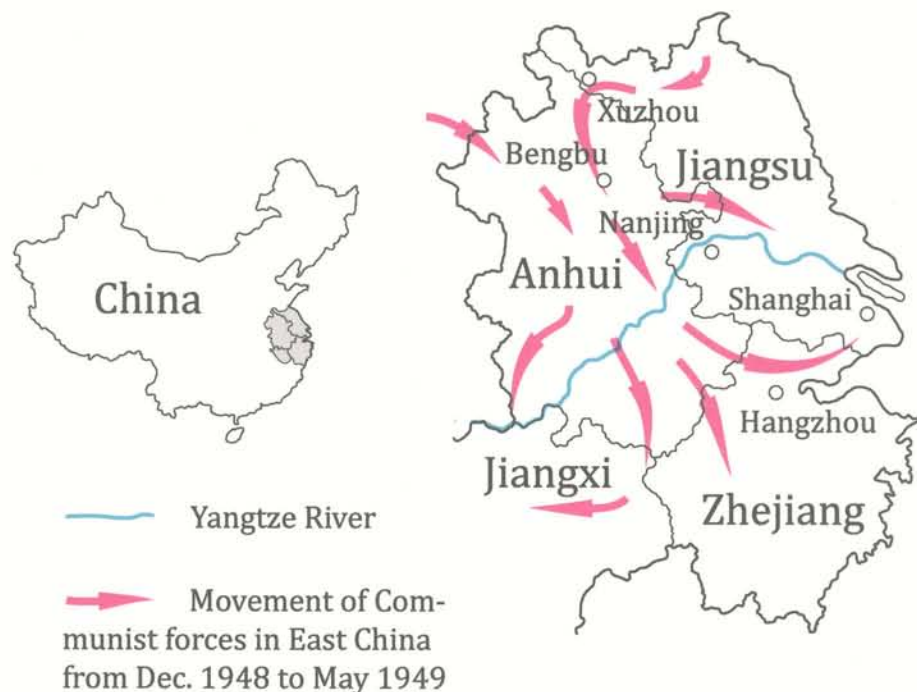
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The Late Civil War Forerunners and Provisional Issues of East China:

Philatelic Footprints on the Road to the Liberation of Shanghai

The defeat of the Nationalists in the Battle of Huaihai in November and December, 1948 marked the end of Nationalist hopes for victory in the Chinese civil war. The battle centered around the town of Xuzhou in northern Jiangsu Province and involved more than 600,000 Nationalist troops and a similar number of Communist forces. Nationalist losses of men and materiel in the fighting sapped strength and resolve, and left the Nationalists unable to resist effectively as they retreated southward, the Communists in pursuit. On January 16, the Communists liberated Bengbu, in central Anhui Province; by mid-April, Communist forces crossed the Yangtze. Nanjing, the Nationalist capital, was liberated on April 23; Hangzhou on May 3; and, on May 27, Shanghai.

The Communists were sensitive to the idea that the establishment and maintenance of a postal system were considered indicia of governmental legitimacy. As they advanced southward from Xuzhou toward Shanghai, they issued a number of forerunner chops and labels, overprinted and surcharged stamps, and, in several cases, newly designed stamps. This material – the subject matter of this exhibit – comprises a group which is distinct not only from the Communist stamps produced in Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces during the several preceding years, but also from the centrally prepared stamps which became widely available in the summer and fall.



The first 2¾ frames of this exhibit trace the movement of Communist forces through Anhui, south Jiangsu, northeast Jiangxi and north Zhejiang Provinces. The next 1¼ frames reflect the expansion of Communist control in central Jiangsu Province. The final frame – the epilogue – shows a number of provisional issues which appeared shortly after the liberation of Shanghai. All of the items are provisional in nature: most were locally produced to meet local needs, few were used outside the area where they were issued, and few were used for more than a couple of months or, in some cases, weeks.

More significant items are bordered in **dark red**. References to “number known” are based on reviews of more than 1000 auction catalogs of specialized East Asian material and other relevant literature, as well as the exhibitor’s experience in 30+ years of collecting this material.

West Anhui
February, 1949

Among the earliest stamps issued by Communist authorities in Anhui Province following their victory in the Battle of Huaihai were local issues released in towns such as Liuan, Sujiafou, Huoshan, Tongcheng and Shucheng in the western part of the province. Unlike the cities on major transportation routes that had remained under Nationalist control since the defeat of the Japanese in 1945, these towns were in the more mountainous border areas and had been liberated (and often re-liberated) at various times over the preceding two to three years. The surcharged stamps issued in these towns during the late winter and early spring of 1949 were denominated in the "circulating currency" issued by the West Anhui General Office of Industry and Commerce. This circulating currency is the currency referred to as "silver yuan" on the Sujiafou surcharge shown below.

Sujiafou Surcharge on Central Trust (Chongqing), Zhonghua (Chongqing)
 and Dadong (Chongqing) Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues

1949 (Feb.)

"West Anhui Liberated Area:
 Silver Yuan - For temporary use as 5¢
 West Anhui Liberated Area"



5¢ on 10¢ on 25¢*



5¢ on 10¢ on \$1



5¢ on 10¢ on \$20



5¢ on 10¢ on \$70

Liuan Surcharge on Dadong Plum Blossom and Central Trust (Chongqing)
 Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues

1949 (Feb. 25)

"Change for use as 5¢: West Anhui Liberated Area"



5¢ on ½¢ on \$500



5¢ on 4¢ on \$1



5¢ on 10¢ on 25¢

* Provenance:
 Furusho

West Anhui
February, 1949

Tongcheng Surcharge on Dadong (Chongqing)
Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issue

Dispatch:
 Tongcheng (February 15, 1949)

Arrival:
 Anqing (February 17, 1949)

This envelope shows a very early usage of the Tongcheng provisional paying the 5¢ ordinary mail rate. The rapid delivery of the letter to Anqing, still under Nationalist control, evidences the porosity of the Nationalist/Communist battle lines in south-west Anhui Province at this time.

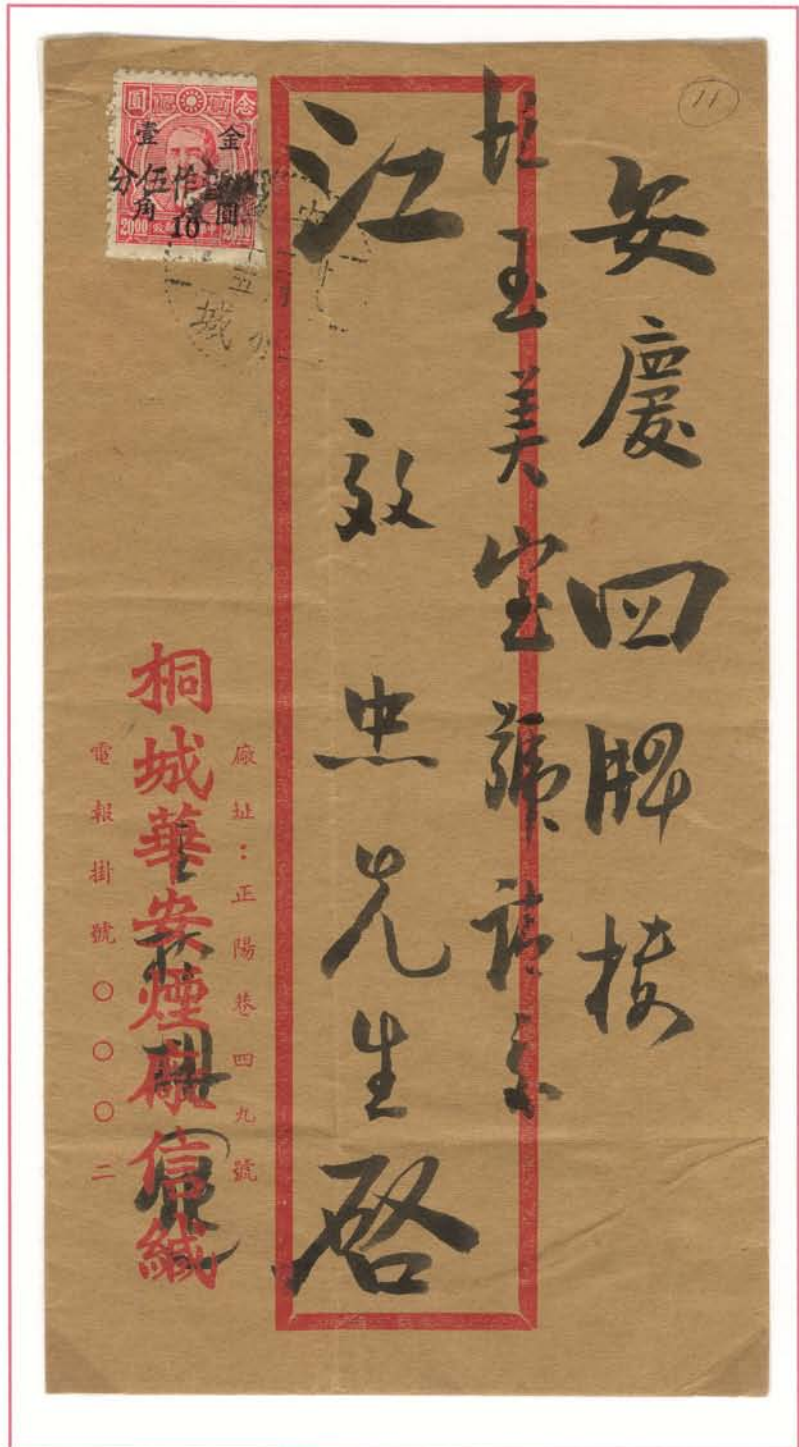
“For temporary use as 5¢”



5¢ on 10¢ on \$20*



* Provenance:
 Padget
 Furusho



West Anhui
February - April, 1949

Given the remoteness of some smaller towns, Communist local issues continued to be released and used through March and April, 1949. These later stamps were issued in towns such as Shouxian and Zhengyuanguan, both southwest of Bengbu in west central Anhui, and Susong in the far southwest corner of the province. As with earlier provisional issues, all of these later stamps were denominated in West Anhui General Office of Industry and Commerce circulating currency.

1949 (Feb.)

"For temporary use as 5¢"

"5¢"

Huoshan Surcharge
 on Central Trust
 (Chongqing)
 Sun Zhongshan
 Portrait Issue



5¢ on 10¢ on \$1



5¢ on 10¢ on \$20*

Shucheng Surcharge
 on Dadong
 (Chongqing)
 Sun Zhongshan
 Portrait Issue

1949 (March)

"Chinese Post: Change for
 use as 5¢: Central China
 West Anhui Area"

"Postage Stamp: Change for
 use as 5¢: Central China
 West Anhui Area"

Shouxian Surcharge
 on Yinghua
 Transportation
 Revenue Issue



5¢ on \$1000



5¢ on \$3000

Zhengyuanguan
 Surcharge on Dadong
 Transportation
 Revenue Issue

1949 (April)



"People's Post: For
 temporary use as 5¢"



5¢ on \$10 on \$2*

Susong Surcharge
 on Zhonghua
 (Chongqing)
 Sun Zhongshan
 Portrait Issue

* Provenance:
 Furusho

Central Anhui
March, 1949

Fengtai, although also a town of modest size, was located closer to the major rail lines that linked Xuzhou in north Jiangsu with Bengbu and Hefei in central Anhui. It had been liberated on January 12, 1949 and, on March 15, its post office issued the following set of non-denominated stamps:

“Postage Paid: Fengtai”



ordinary mail (平信)



express mail (快信)



single registered (單掛)



double registered (雙掛)



inverted overprint

Dispatch:

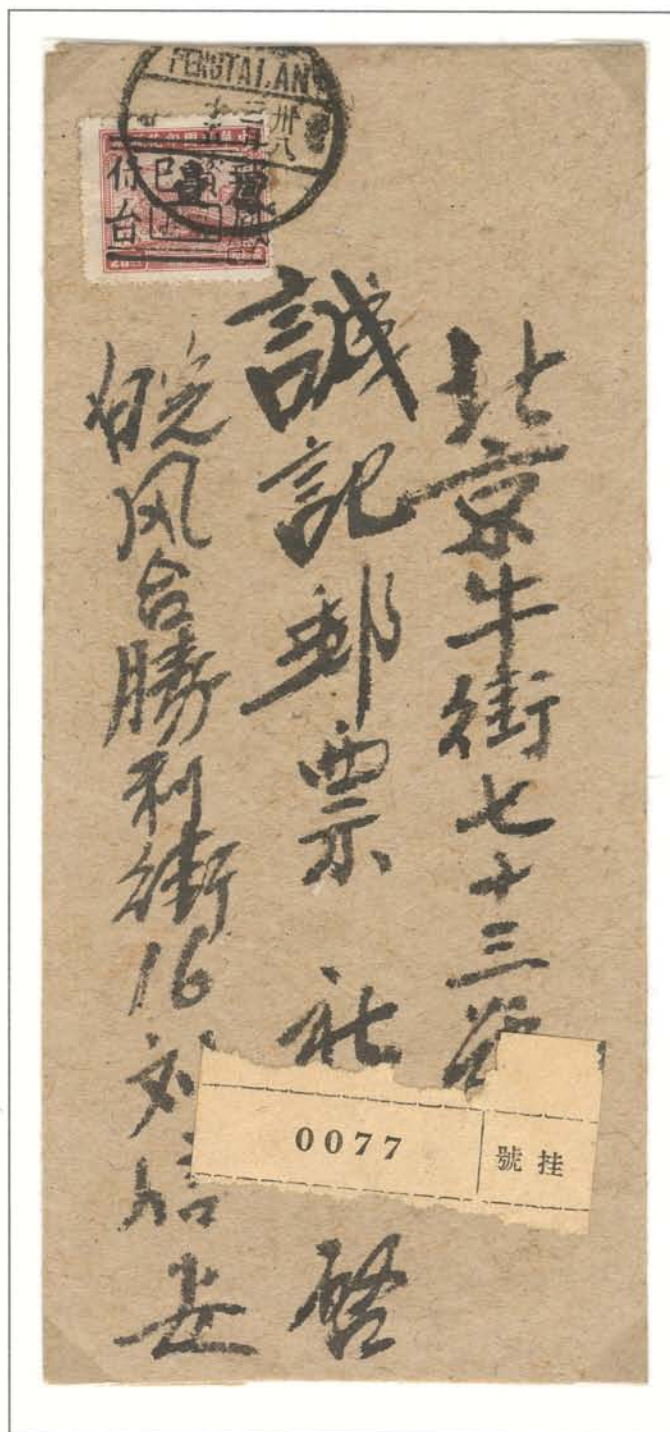
Fengtai (March 15, 1949)

Arrival:

Beiping (March 27, 1949)

(March 28, 1949)

The double registry franking on this cover (a first day cover) corresponded to a then applicable rate of \$8 People's Currency (Renminbi) (\$2 ordinary mail postage plus registry and AR fees of \$3 each).



Central Anhui March, 1949

Transitional Usage in Anhui Province

Dispatch:
Hefei (March 8, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (March 26, 1949)

Supplies of stamps brought in from Shandong Province, rather than local surcharges, were used to meet short-term needs for postage that arose in Bengbu and Hefei, both somewhat larger cities, between their liberation on January 20 and 21, respectively, and mid-March when the Jianghuai Post and Telegraph Administration began to issue its own stamps.

This cover shows use of Shandong stamps (six copies of the \$50 Qingzhou second print Mao Zedong portrait issue) to pay the then current \$300 special delivery rate (ordinary mail postage of \$200 plus a special delivery fee of \$100). These stamps, as well as most other Shandong stamps issued at or before this time, were denominated in North Sea (Beihai) Currency (convertible to People's Currency at a rate of \$100 North Sea Currency to \$1 People's Currency).



Central Anhui March - April, 1949

As Communist control was consolidated in the more northerly portions of central Anhui Province, one of the few sets of newly designed provisional stamps was issued by the Jianghuai Post and Telegraph Administration located in Hefei. The \$2 stamp shown below was issued in mid-March to commemorate the liberation of the Jianghuai area. The \$3, \$5 and \$10 stamps, issued in mid-April, provided for increased postal rates which had just come into effect and picture Mao Zedong, Zhu De (Commander in Chief of the People's Liberation Army), and methods of postal transport, respectively.

1949 (March - April)



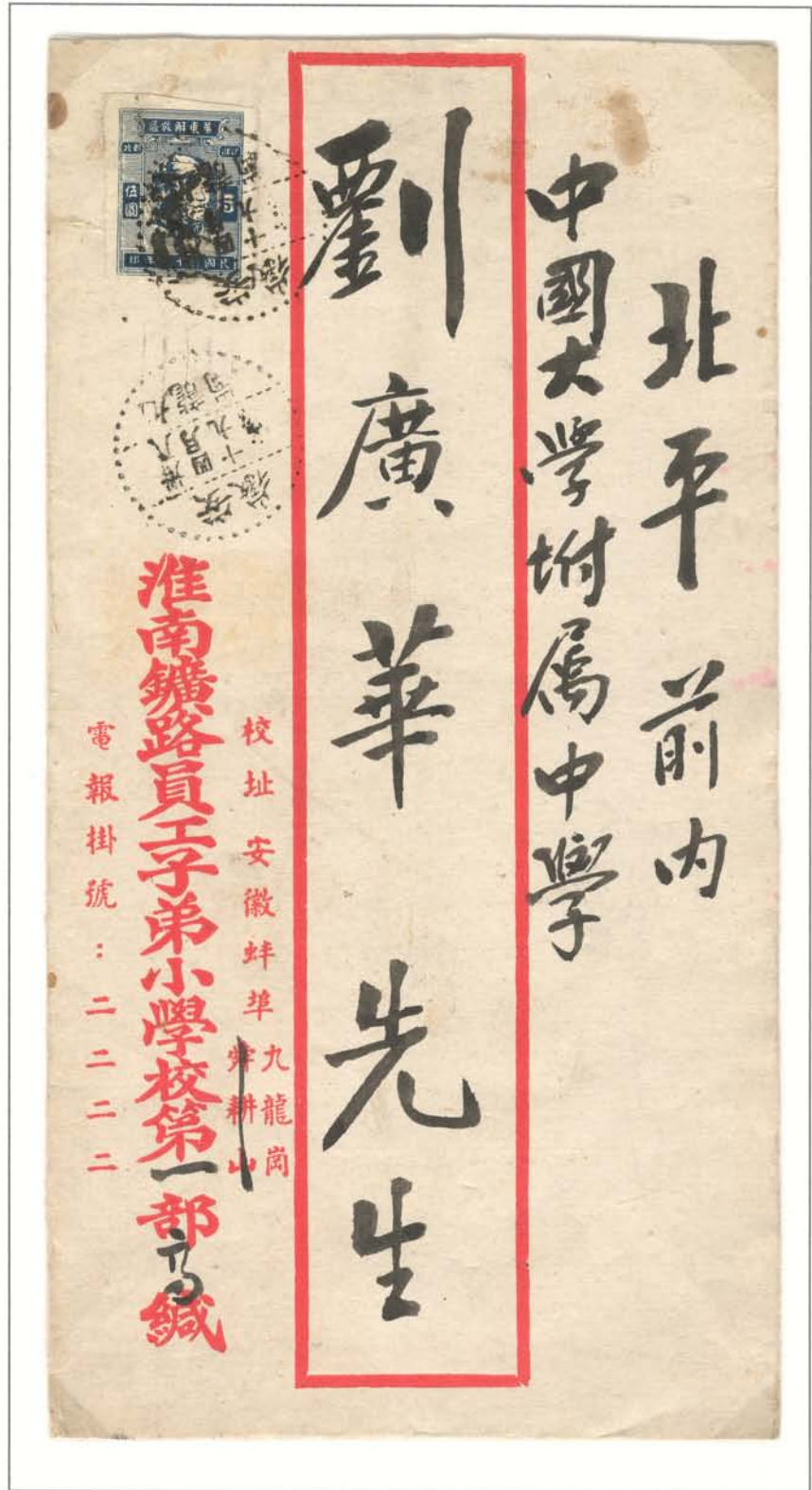
The above stamps, all of which were denominated in People's currency, were issued in sheets of 100. Because, however, there were no printing presses available that were large enough to accommodate full sheets of paper, the lithographic plates used consisted of either a 50-stamp pane (\$2, \$3, and \$5), or two 25-stamp panes (\$10), each of which was printed twice, tête-bêche.

Central Anhui
April, 1949

Dispatch:
 Jiulonggang (April 19, 1949)

Arrival:
 Beiping (April 28, 1949)

The franking on this cover paid the \$5 rate for ordinary mail in effect in northern Anhui Province in mid-April, 1949. Although information on the specific date of issuance of any of the Jianghuai stamps is limited, this cover reflects what can only be a very early usage.



Central Anhui
May, 1949

Dispatch:
Fengtai (May 5, 1949)

Arrival:
Beiping (May 12, 1949)

This \$13 franking covered the rate for registered letters (\$5 ordinary postage plus registry fees of \$8) then in effect in northern Anhui Province.

The "An" in "Fengtai An" in the dispatch chop indicates that the "Fengtai" from which the cover was sent was located in Anhui Province. Romanized abbreviations such as this were sometimes used in cancels not written solely in Chinese characters to distinguish a given town from towns in other provinces with names that had the same transliteration.



Provenance: Hock

Southwest Jiangu

April, 1949

Transitional Usage in Nanjing

Dispatch:
Nanjing (April 29, 1949)

Arrival:
Kaifeng (May 13, 1949)

On April 21, Communist forces crossed the Yangtze both east and west of Nanjing. The city was liberated two days later. During the period immediately following liberation, existing stocks of Nationalist Gold Yuan stamps were used to meet short-term needs for postage. Use of these stamps was discontinued at the beginning of May following delivery of stamps issued by Communist authorities.

The \$1500 Gold Yuan franking on this cover paid the Nationalist rate for ordinary mail which had been in effect when Nanjing was liberated.



Southwest Jiangsu
May, 1949

Although centrally prepared stamps printed in Tianjin were quickly made available in Nanjing following its liberation on April 23, the Nanjing post office found itself without \$1 stamps for printed matter and \$3 stamps for local mail. The two value set shown below was issued to satisfy this need. It was withdrawn from sale on May 7 when centrally prepared stamps in these lower denominations were received from Taizhou.

Nanjing Surcharge on Central Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues

1949 (May 4)

"East China Post: [Nan]jing: For temporary use as \$x"



\$1 on \$10:
 perf. 12½



imperf. between



perf. 13



\$3 on \$20:
 perf. 12½



perf. 13



perf. 14



(華) replacing (郵)



inverted surch.



(華) replacing (郵)

Southwest Jiangu
May, 1949

**Nanjing Surcharge on Central Print
Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issue**

Dispatch:
Nanjing (May 5, 1949)

Arrival:
Wuxi (no marking)

The five copies of the \$1 surcharge pay the \$5 (People's Currency) ordinary mail rate on this second day of use cover.

The rapid withdrawal from sale of supplies of the Nanjing surcharges was brought about not only because of the receipt of centrally printed stamps in the necessary denominations but also because of the discovery of the (華) for (郵) character error in two positions on each sheet of both values. Mint copies of the stamps are common because the stamps (other than the error stamps) were later sold at the philatelic window of the Shanghai post office. In-period uses on cover, however, are rare, this cover being one of only two known to the exhibitor.



South Jiangsu
May, 1949

The Sunan (South Jiangsu) District covered the portion of Jiangsu Province lying south of the Yangtze and west of the rail line connecting Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou. On May 1, the Sunan Post and Telegraph Administration, established at Wuxi just after it was liberated on April 24, issued the following set of People's Currency-denominated stamps by surcharging postage and remittance stamps issued in early 1946 by the Suwan Border Area Postal Administration:

1949 (May 1) Sunan Surcharge on Suwan Locomotive Issue and Suwan Remittance Stamps

"Change for use as People's Currency - \$x:
 Central China Liberated Area"



\$1 on 50¢



\$2 on 50¢



\$4 on 50¢



\$8 on \$1



\$8 on \$2



\$10 on \$1



South Jiangsu
May - July, 1949

Sunan Surchage on Suwan Locomotive
Issue and Suwan Remittance Stamps



June 8, 1949



Wuxi to Shanghai
arriving June 11, 1949



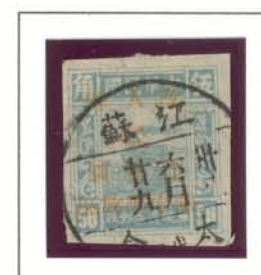
Zhenjiang
June 17, 1949



Taicang
May 22, 1949



Wujin
June 25, 1949



Taicang
June 29, 1949



Wuxi
May 16, 1949



Baoshan
July 19, 1949

South Jiangu
May - June, 1949



June 10 cover from Zhenjiang to Kalamazoo, Michigan (July 11), forwarded to Delton, Michigan, with six copies of the \$10 on \$1 surcharge paying the \$60 international surface mail rate.



\$5 ordinary mail rate cover sent from Songjiang on May 24 and received in Hangzhou on May 28, franked with one \$1 on 50¢ and one \$4 on 50¢ surcharge.

South Jiangsu
June, 1949

Sunan Surcharge on Suwan Locomotive Issue

Dispatch:
Jiangyin (June 17, 1949)

Arrival:
Yixian (June 20, 1949)

Given the date of dispatch, it seems likely that the \$6 franking on this cover was an underpayment of the \$30 ordinary mail rate which had come into effect in early June.

The \$2 surcharges are found with both a large and a small character (貳). The strip of three on this cover shows the large character variety at positions 1 and 3, the small at position 2.



Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

Wuhu was liberated on April 22, the day after Communist forces first crossed the Yangtze. The first stamps released in the city following its liberation, the People's Currency set shown below, were prepared using a rubber chop to overprint existing stocks of Chinese National Currency revenue stamps that had been surcharged for use as Nationalist Gold Yuan postage stamps. The overprints merely changed the currency in which the stamps were denominated, not the denominations themselves.

1949 (May 4)

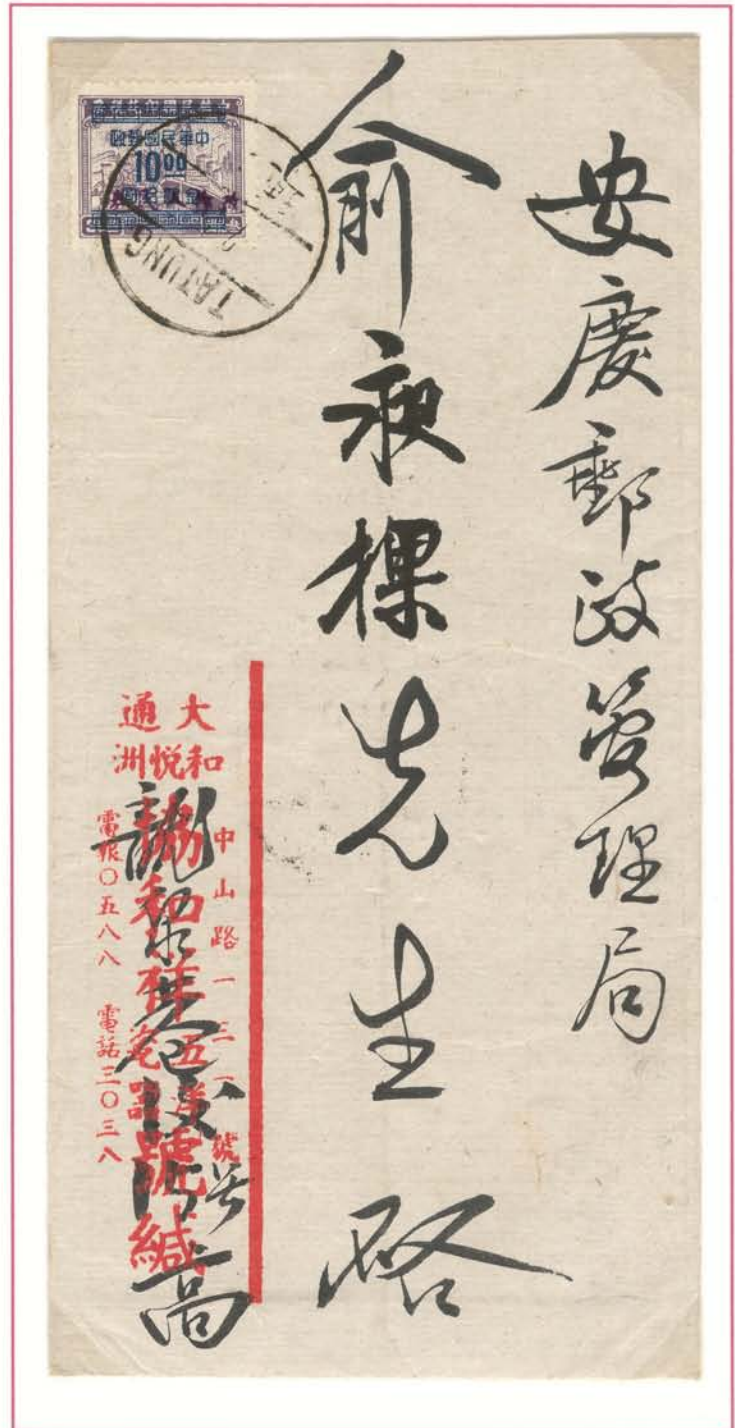
"Change for use as People's Currency"



Dispatch:
 Datong (May 20, 1949)

Arrival:
 Huaining (May 22, 1949)

The \$10 franking on this cover paid the ordinary mail rate then applicable in southeast Anhui. This cover is one of only two known to the exhibitor that are franked with stamps of this issue.



Provenance: Mizuhara

Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

The hand overprinted stamps issued on May 4 were withdrawn from sale following the release of the set shown below that was surcharged by machine on Chinese National Currency revenue stamps with Gold Yuan postal surcharges. The \$5 and \$10 values, as well as some of the \$20 values, were prepared using stamps printed by the Central Engraving and Printing Works; the remaining \$20 values were prepared using stamps printed by the Dadong Book Company.

1949 (May 7)

"People's Currency: Change for use as \$x"



\$5 on 50¢ on \$20:
 blue surch.



\$10 on 50¢ on \$20



\$20 on 50¢ on \$20



\$20 on 50¢ on \$20:
 Dadong



\$5 on 50¢ on \$20:
 misplaced surch.



\$5 on 50¢ on \$20:
 green surch.



\$10 on 50¢ on \$20:
 inverted surch.



\$20 on 50¢ on \$20:
 misplaced surch.



\$5 on 50¢ on \$20:
 misplaced surch.



\$20 on 50¢ on \$20:
 inverted surch.

Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

The Central and Dadong print revenue stamps can be distinguished by color and by small design elements, including the omission or inclusion of a line beneath the buoy at the lower right of the vignette. In addition, there are two basic types of each company's stamps, as well as two types of Gold Yuan surcharges. The two types of Central print revenue stamps differ in the form of the character (貳) at the lower right, one having a long and the other a short diagonal stroke; the two types of Dadong print revenue stamps differ in having two dots or one dot at the upper right of the character (國) in the text at the top of the stamp; and the small original surcharge differs from the large in overall size as well as in the length of the central stroke in the character (中) at the right of the top line of the surcharge.



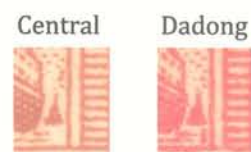
Central: Type A - small



Type A - large



Type A - large (green)



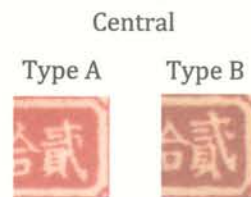
Central: Type A - small



Type A - large



Type B - large



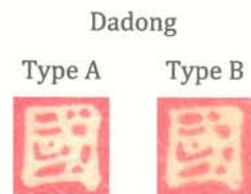
Central: Type A - small



Type A - large



Type B - small



Dadong: Type A - small
 (perf 12½) - inverted



Type B - small
 (perf. 13½)



Type B - small
 (perf. 14½)



Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

The three different face values of the Wuhu machine surcharges were prepared using a single surcharge plate with only the character indicating the denomination being changed, first from five (伍) to ten (拾) and then from ten (拾) to twenty (念). The use of a single plate can be established by the recurrence of certain surcharge varieties on each value of the set at identical positions on the sheet.



\$5 on 50¢ on \$20



\$10 on 50¢ on \$20

Upper line at bottom of surcharge broken at left at position 85
 (top center of \$5 block, upper left of \$10 block).



\$5 on 50¢ on \$20



\$20 on 50¢ on \$20

Lower line at bottom of surcharge extremely thin at position 99 (lower left of each block);
 both lines at bottom of surcharge connected at right at position 100 (lower right of each block).

Southeast Anhui
June - August, 1949

Wuhu Surcharge on Central and Dadong Print Revenue Issues

Dispatch:
Shendu (June 8, 1949)

Arrival:
Shengzhe (June 12, 1949)

An unusual use of a Central \$5 surcharge in green, together with a Central \$10 surcharge, to pay what appears to be a localized ordinary mail rate in effect in south Anhui.



Dispatch:
Wuhu (August 6, 1949)

Arrival:
Tianjin (August 14, 1949)

Two Central \$5 surcharges in blue and two Dadong \$20 surcharges paying a \$50 printed matter rate in effect in August.

Southeast Anhui
June, 1949

Wuhu Surcharge on Central Print Revenue Issue

Dispatch: Wuhu (June 9, 1949)
Arrival: Berkeley, California (no marking)



The international surface mail rate increased from People's Currency \$10 to the \$60 rate reflected on this cover in early June, 1949. Although use of these stamps on international mail was in technical violation of Universal Postal Union rules because the resurcharged denomination in People's Currency is not written in Arabic numerals, Chinese postal authorities occasionally permitted such use as long as the franking was in the correct amount.

Southeast Anhui May, 1949

Once Communist forces crossed the Yangtze, the pace of their advance toward the coast and the cities of Hangzhou and Shanghai quickened. In Huizhou County in southeast Anhui Province, and in adjoining Shangrao County in northeast Jiangxi Province, both liberated by early May, the newly established Communist postal administrations initially did not issue or overprint stamps but rather used carved wooden chops and, to a lesser extent, hand-printed labels as temporary substitutes for postage stamps. Similar "postage paid" or "domestic postage paid" chops and labels had long been used by Nationalist post offices, and such use became more frequent as inflation accelerated in the areas still under Nationalist control. The use of such chops and labels in Communist areas, however, was quite unusual, the large majority of all such uses being in certain of the towns in these two counties.

In Tunxi, the largest town in Huizhou County and also the county seat, chops as well as labels were used beginning on May 3, 1949, four days after the city was liberated, and continuing through early June. Chops, which were applied directly to envelopes to evidence payment of postage, were used only at the main post office and at larger branch post offices where adequate controls to prevent theft and misuse could be established. Labels were prepared by printing grids of 25 rectangles on the reverse of postal forms, stamping the appropriate chop in each rectangle and then numbering each label sequentially. Such labels, one of which is shown below, could be tracked and accounted for and were distributed to postal sub-agencies for sale in the smaller towns and villages they served.



reverse

Although the Tunxi chops and labels were not denominated, there were separate chops and labels for ordinary mail (平信), registered mail (掛號) and special delivery registered mail (快信) differing only in the characters designating class of service. Postal rates in Tunxi and elsewhere in Huizhou County in early May were ordinary mail - 5¢, ordinary express - 10¢, registry - 13¢, special delivery registered - 17¢, and double registry - 21¢, in each case calculated in Nationalist Silver Yuan. As People's Currency became more widely available later in the month, rates were adjusted to ordinary mail - \$10, registry - \$25, and special delivery registered - \$35, in each case calculated in People's Currency.

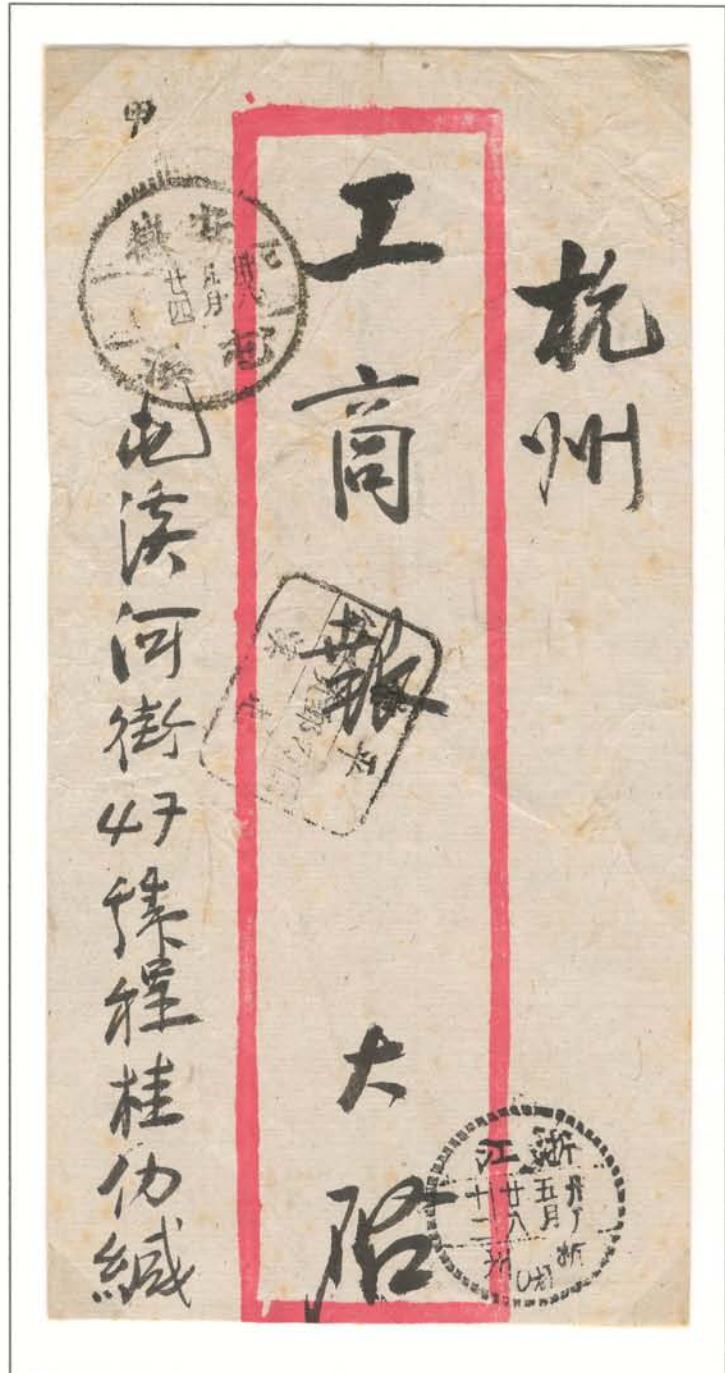
Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

Tunxi "Domestic Postage Paid" Chop

Dispatch:
Tunxi (May 24, 1949)

Arrival:
Hangzhou (May 28, 1949)

The Tunxi "Domestic Postage Paid" chop stamped on this envelope evidenced payment of the then current \$10 (People's Currency) rate for ordinary mail (平信).



Provenance: Furusho

Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

Tunxi "Domestic Postage Paid" Chop

Dispatch:
 Tunxi (May 25, 1949)

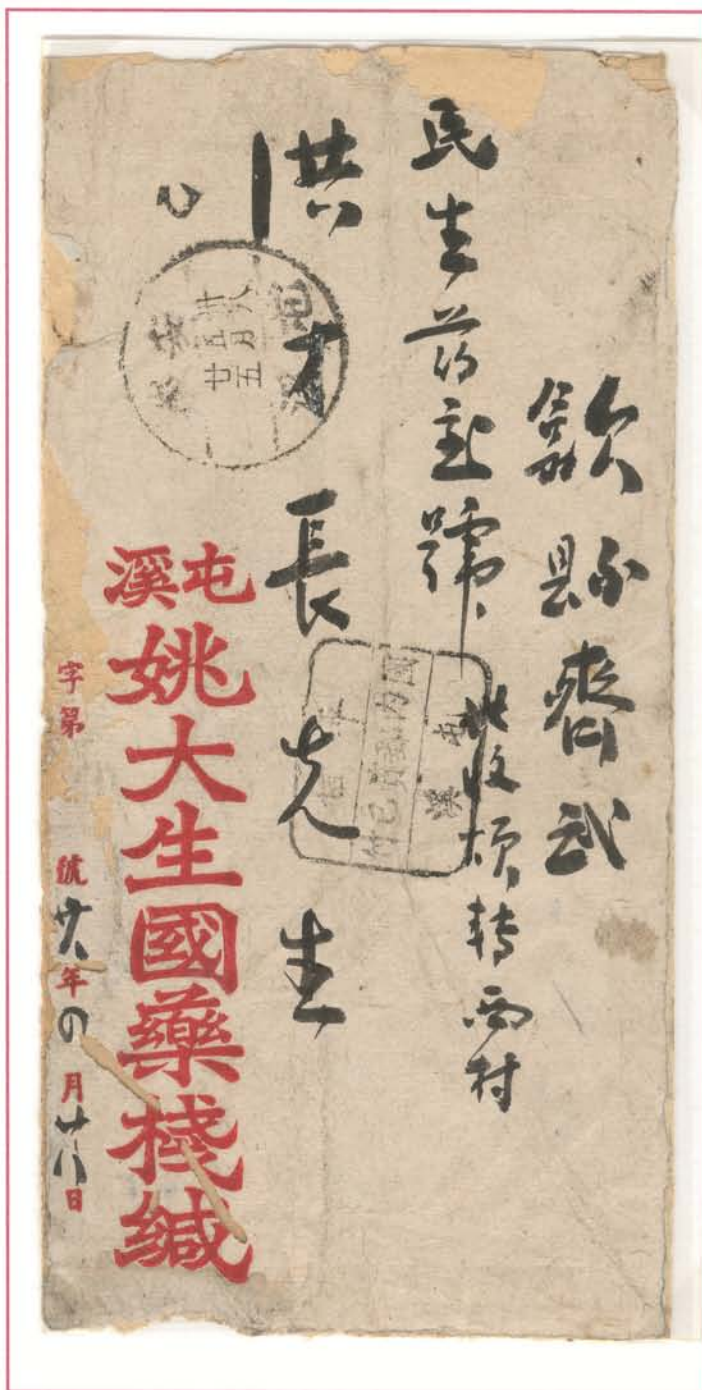
Arrival:
 Qiwu (Shexian) (no marking)

Return:
 Qiwu (July 3, 1949)

Arrival:
 Tunxi (no marking)

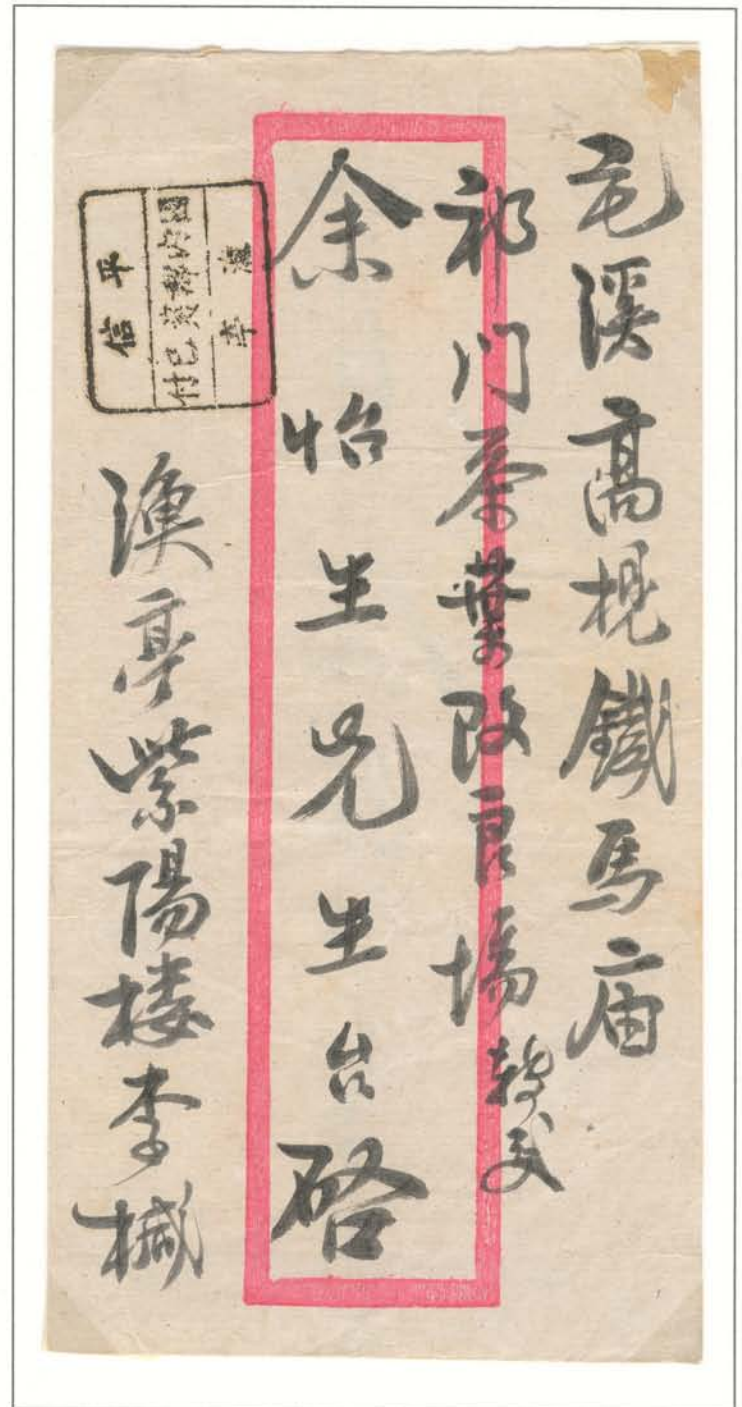
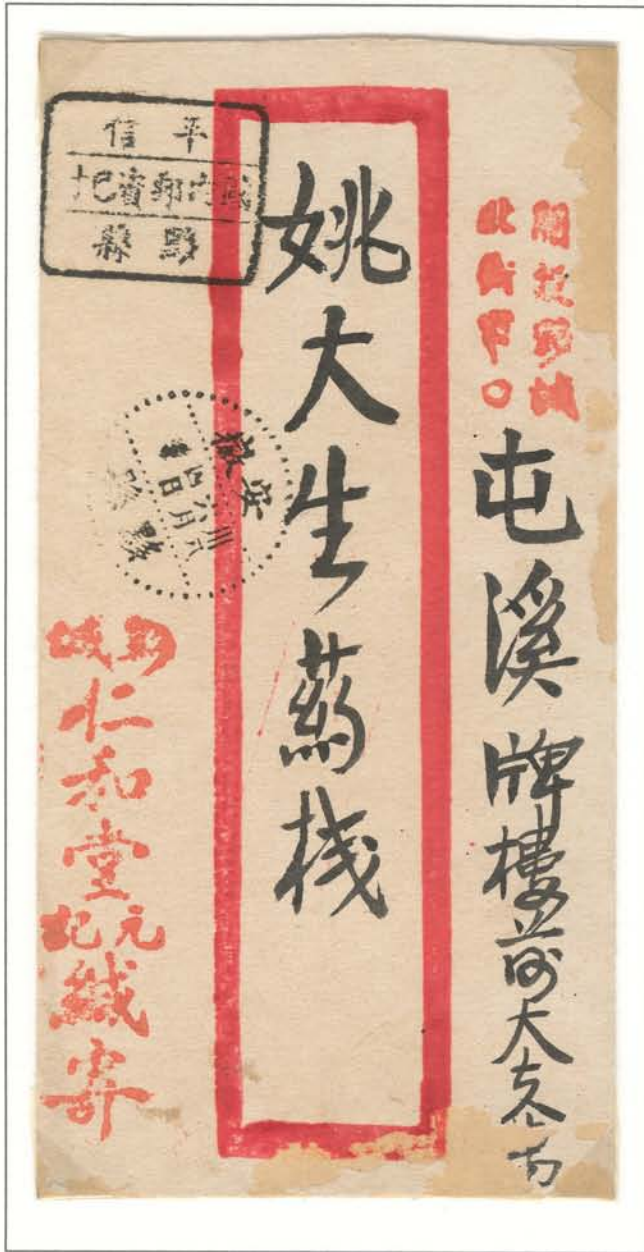
The Tunxi "Domestic Postage Paid" chop stamped on this envelope also evidenced payment of the \$10 rate for ordinary mail (平信).

Whether because of wartime conditions, frugality or otherwise, the envelope was reused by turning it inside out. The block of 6 of the \$5 value of the Tianjin print Mail Transport issue affixed to what had been the inside of the envelope paid the \$30 (People's Currency) rate for ordinary mail which came into effect in early June.



return use

Yixian and Yuting "Domestic Postage Paid" Chops



The Yixian cover on the left and the Yuting cover to the right were mailed to Tunxi on June 4 and May 25, respectively, the chop on each paying the then current ordinary mail rate. Yixian and Yuting were each liberated in late April. As in Tunxi, separate chops for each of ordinary mail, registered mail and special delivery registered mail were prepared and used in both towns. The Yixian chops were used from early May through early June, with at least one use as late as June 14. The Yuting chops were first used on May 8 and continued in use for about three weeks.

Southeast Anhui
June, 1949

Shexian "Domestic Postage Paid" Chop

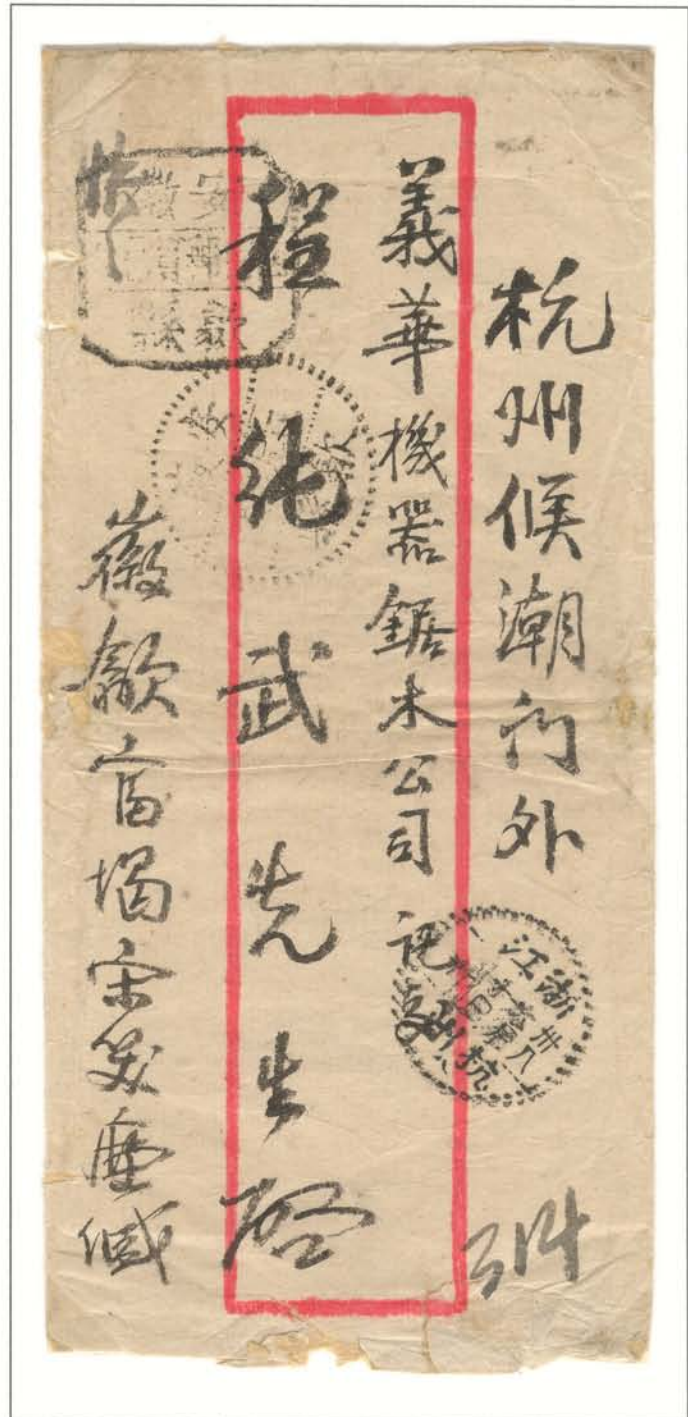
Dispatch:
Shexian (June 7, 1949)

Arrival:
Hangzhou (June 10, 1949)

This Shexian "Domestic Postage Paid" chop evidenced payment of the then current special delivery registered mail rate, most likely \$120 (People's Currency) rather than \$35 given the June usage.

Shexian chops do not contain any indication of class of service, the top and bottom lines of the chop merely reading "Anhui" and "Shexian", respectively. Matters regarding the type of service are noted elsewhere on the envelope - in this case "special delivery registered mail" is indicated by the character (快) written beneath the chop.

Shexian was liberated on April 28. The Shexian chops were in use from the beginning of May until early June.



Southeast Anhui
June, 1949

Wanan "Postage Paid" Chop

Dispatch:
Wanan (June 12, 1949)

Arrival:
Tunxi (no marking)

The square four character chops used in Wanan translate as "Postage Paid" rather than "Domestic Postage Paid", although the difference in terminology had no practical significance because the chops were never intended to be used on international mail. As with the chops used in Shexian, the Wanan chops did not distinguish between classes of service, the chop on this envelope indicating payment of what had by then become a \$30 (People's Currency) rate for ordinary mail.

Wanan was liberated on April 28, and the Wanan chops were in use from May 5 through mid-June.



Southeast Anhui
May, 1949

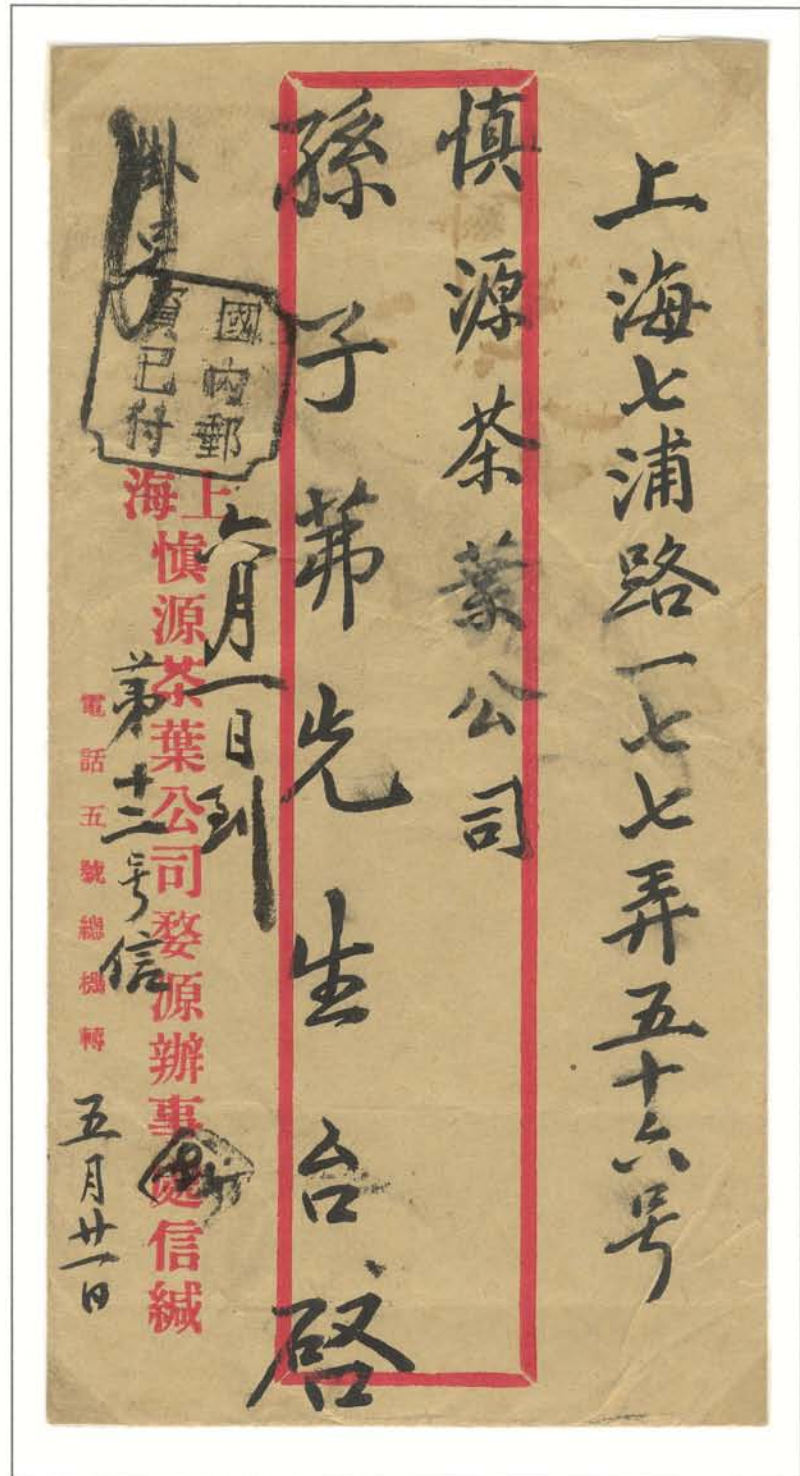
Wuyuan "Domestic Postage Paid" Chop

Dispatch:
 Wuyuan (May 21, 1949)

Arrival:
 Shanghai (June 1, 1949)

The chop on this envelope reflects payment of the \$25 (People's Currency) registered mail rate then in effect. The characters meaning registry (掛号) written at the upper left of the envelope, however, are the sole indication of rate as the chop itself reads only "Domestic Postage Paid".

Because of a mid-1949 boundary adjustment, Wuyuan is no longer included in Anhui Province but has been incorporated into Jiangxi Province. The annexation into Jiangxi of the part of Huizhou County lying below the dashed line on the accompanying map may have resulted because transport routes to the south and west of Wuyuan were more convenient than those to the north and east.



Northeast Jiangxi
May, 1949

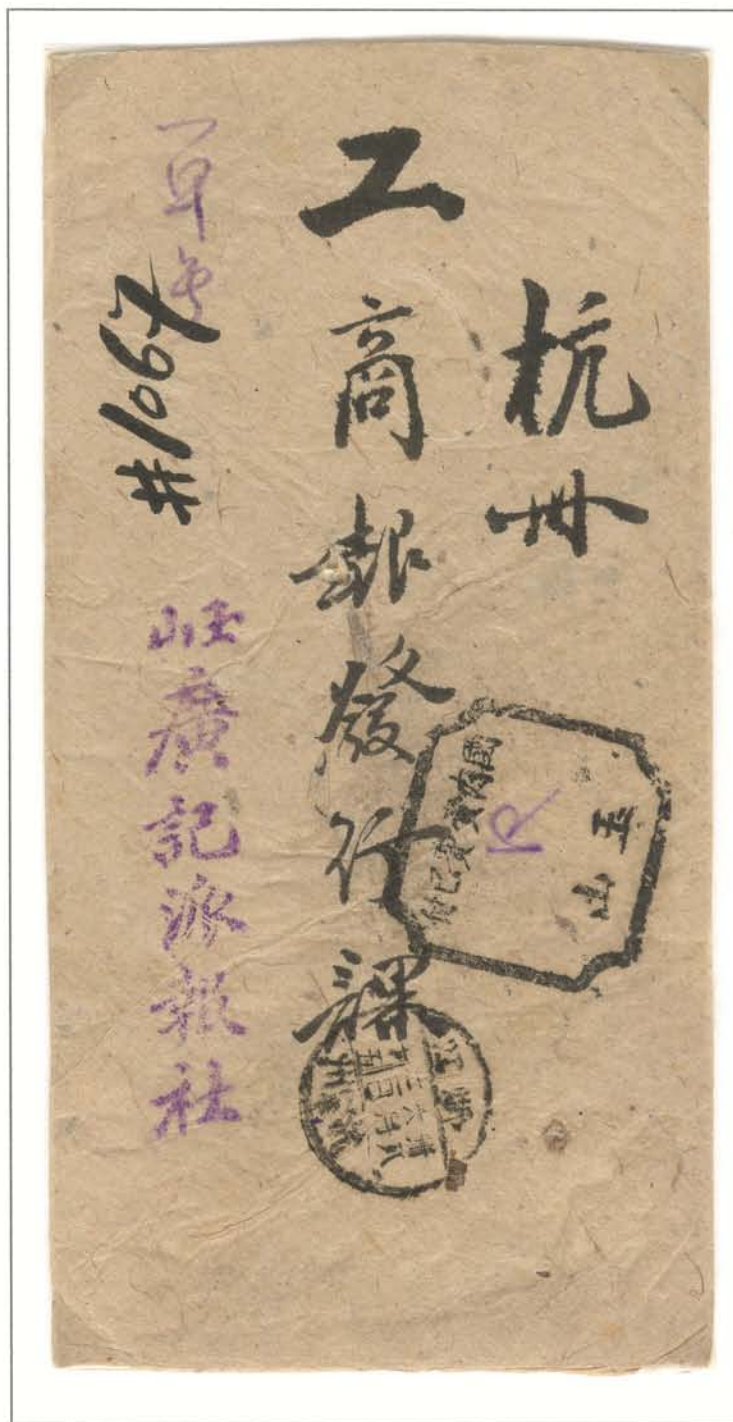
Yushan "Domestic Postage Paid" Chop

Dispatch:
Yushan (May 31, 1949)

Arrival:
Hangzhou (June 3, 1949)

This Yushan "Domestic Postage Paid" chop evidenced payment of a \$13 rate for registered mail (\$5 ordinary mail postage plus a registry fee of \$8), denominated in People's Currency. Yushan was liberated in early May.

The addition of a handwritten "R" to the chop to indicate registry is unusual and may have been peculiar to Yushan.



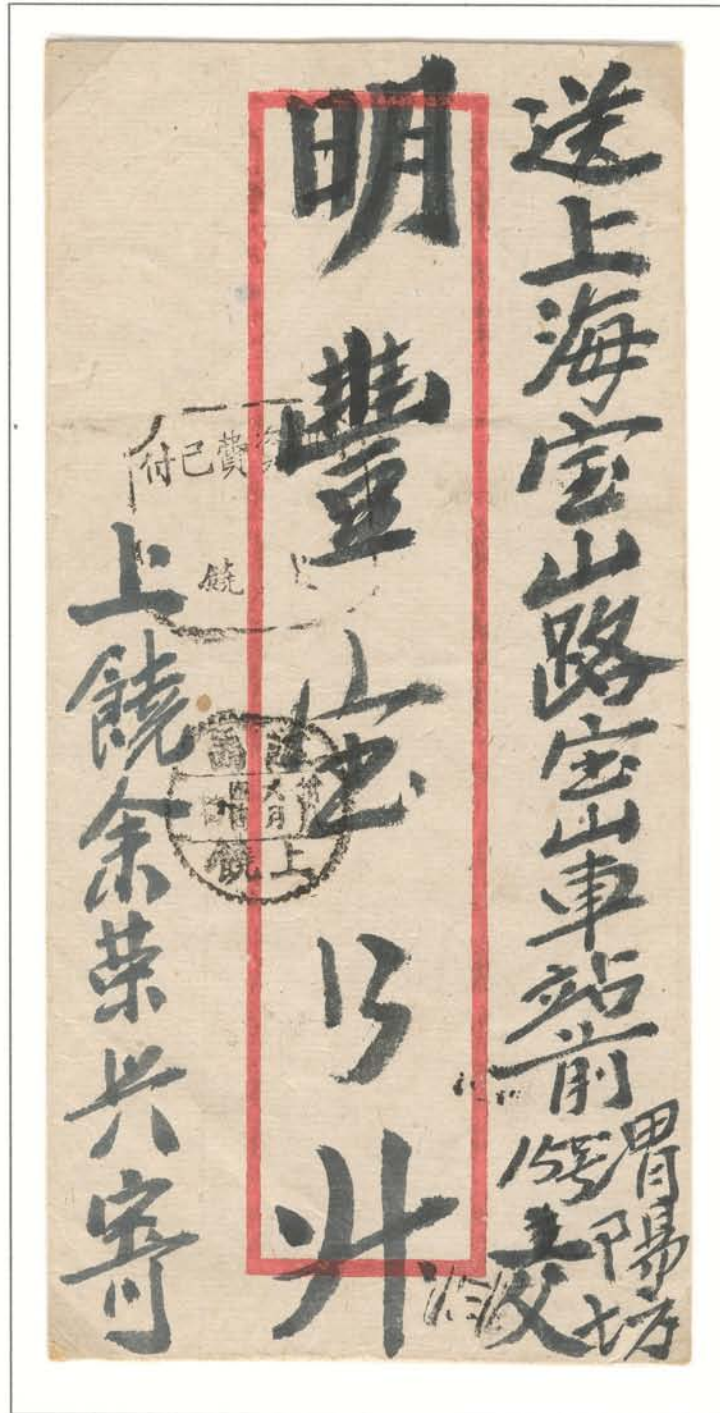
Shangrao "Domestic Postage Paid" Chop

Dispatch:
Shangrao (June 4, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (June 8, 1949)

This Shangrao "Domestic Postage Paid" chop reflects payment of the then current \$30 People's Currency ordinary mail rate.

Although this chop has long been classified as Nationalist, the fact that all uses referenced in the literature postdate the May 3 liberation of Shangrao by at least several weeks provides a strong basis for concluding that it is Communist rather than Nationalist.



Northeast Jiangxi
July, 1949

Guangfeng "Domestic Postage Paid" Label and Chop

Dispatch:

Guangfeng (July 5, 1949)

Arrival:

Shanghai (July 11, 1949)

The Guangfeng "Domestic Postage Paid" label and chop on this cover evidence payment of the \$30 People's Currency ordinary mail rate. The red chop in the center of the label is the postmaster's private chop and was used to validate the label.

This label and chop, too, have long been classified as Nationalist. All uses referenced in the literature, however, postdate the May 5 liberation of Guangfeng by at least a month.



Southeast Anhui
May - June, 1949

Even after stocks of the stamps surcharged at Wuhu were received by the Tunxi Post Office on May 20, stamps were still not available for printed matter or to provide for the new postal rates which were soon to come into effect. Accordingly, \$1 and \$30 surcharges were prepared locally and issued at the end of May and in early June, respectively.

**Tunxi Surcharges on Central Trust (Chongqing) Print Sun Zhongshan
 Portrait and Central Print Revenue Issues**

1949 (May - June)

"South Anhui Post:
 People's Currency"



\$1 on \$1 on \$1

"People's Currency:
 Change for use as \$30"



\$30 on \$5 on \$500



Maanshan



Tunxi



inverted surch.
 July 4, 1949



Shidai (August 10, 1949)

Tunxi Surcharge on Central Trust (Chongqing) Print
Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issue

Surcharge varieties and errors



(皖) replacing (南) at upper left



(郵) omitted at upper left;
triple bars at lower right



(郵) replacing (券) at lower left



(券) shifted at upper left;
triple bars at upper left, lower left



bars sideways at upper right;
triple bars at lower right, lower left



(券) omitted at upper left

Tunxi Surcharge on Central Print Revenue Issue

Surcharge varieties and errors



Early state: (政) broken at position 19 (lower center stamp in block of 6);
late state: (政) omitted at position 19 (lower left stamp in block of 4).



inverted surch.



(券) and (人民) transposed at upper left



double surch.

Southeast Anhui
June, 1949

Tunxi Surcharge on Central Print Revenue Issue

Dispatch:
Guichi (June 10, 1949)

Transit:
Gaoling (July 6, 1949)

Arrival:
Lukou (no marking)

The \$30 franking paid the ordinary letter rate then in effect and represents a very early use of this issue. Most of the relatively few covers known with the inverted surcharge originated in Guichi.

This cover appears to have been delayed in Guichi pending the further advance of Communist troops to the west. Lukou (also known as Zhuzhou) was liberated on July 2.



inverted surcharge

Southeast Anhui
June, 1949

Tunxi Surcharge on Central Print Revenue Issue

Dispatch:
Guzhu (Yixian)
(June 28, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai
(July 21, 1949)

This cover, too, shows the \$30 ordinary letter rate in effect in southeast Anhui Province in June and July.

The transposition of the characters (券) and (人民) occurs only once on each sheet of 100 (at position 6), and covers franked with the error are scarce.



Provenance: Padget

(券) and (人民) transposed

North Zhejiang
May, 1949

Transitional Usage in
Zhejiang Province

Dispatch:
Shaoxing
(May 18, 1949)

Arrival:
Hangzhou
(May 20, 1949)

This cover, mailed 11 days after the liberation of Shaoxing, is franked with what might be either a Communist "Domestic Postage Paid" chop or a post-liberation use of a Nationalist "Domestic Postage Paid" chop. The relatively few recorded uses of this chop all post-date liberation by only one to two weeks which makes classification difficult.



North Zhejiang
May, 1949

On May 3, two weeks after crossing the Yangtze, Communist forces liberated Hangzhou. Twelve days later, the newly formed Zhejiang Postal Administration issued the following set of provisional issues. Although production of these stamps was discontinued on June 1 because of an increase in postal rates, the stamps remained on sale until July 1 and remained valid for use through October 1.

"East China Post - Hang[zhou]: For temporary use as \$x"

1949 (May 15)

Surcharge on Dadong Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues



\$1 on \$1 (wide)



\$1 on \$1 (narrow)



\$5 on \$100 (wide)



\$5 on \$100 (narrow)



\$10 on \$50 (wide)



\$10 on \$50 (narrow)



\$13 on \$10 (wide)



\$13 on \$10 (narrow)

Surcharge on Central Print
 Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issue



\$3 on \$20: perf. 12½



\$3 on \$20: perf. 13

Surcharge on Dadong Print Sun
 Zhongshan Portrait Issue (Litho.)



\$5 on \$100

Wide and narrow stamp types result from the need to moisten the paper on which engraved stamps are printed to facilitate transfer of ink from the plate to the paper, and the tendency of paper, as it dries, to shrink more along the grain than across the grain. The shrinkage is more pronounced on the Dadong print stamps, less so on the Central print stamps.

Surcharge varieties and errors



\$10 on \$50 (early state): (華) replacing (暫) at position 40 (lower right).



\$10 on \$50 (late state): character error corrected at position 40 (lower right) but top line of surcharge shifted to right at positions 19, 20 (upper left, upper right).



\$3 on \$20: 9½mm (rather than 9mm) spacing between (政) and (圓) at top left, top right (the wide spacing occurs only on the upper five rows of the plate used for the narrow type Central print stamps).



\$5 on \$100: 1½mm spacing (normal ½mm) between (暫作) and (伍圓) at position 174 (center left).

North Zhejiang
June, 1949

Hangzhou Surcharge on Dadong and Central
Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues



Both of these covers bear the \$30 (People's Currency) ordinary mail rate in effect in June and July. The cover on the left is franked with six copies of the \$5 on \$100 lithographed Dadong print and was mailed from Shaoxing on June 10, arriving in Hangzhou on June 14. The cover on the right is franked with ten copies of the \$3 on \$100 Central print, was sent from Puyuan (located to the northeast of Hangzhou) on June 24, and was received in Beiping on July 5.

North Zhejiang
June - July, 1949

Hangzhou Surcharge on Dadong and Central
Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues



The \$15 franking on the cover on the left (12 copies of the \$1 on \$1 Dadong print and one copy of the \$3 on \$20 Central print) paid the local mail rate (one-half of the ordinary mail rate) applicable to this July 14 letter mailed within Hangzhou. The envelope was reused, its original use being from Xuzhou, in north Jiangsu Province, to Hangzhou in September, 1947. The cover on the right, sent from Hangzhou on June 23 and received in Shanghai on June 26, is franked with three copies of the \$10 on \$50 Dadong print paying the then applicable ordinary mail rate. The characters (亭三) which are just visible near the bottom center of the Hangzhou cancel indicate that the cover was mailed from Postal Kiosk No. 3.

North Zhejiang
August, 1949

**Hangzhou Surcharge on Dadong and Central
Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues**

Dispatch:
Gangkou (August 13, 1949)

Transit:
Chunan (August 13, 1949)
Shanghai (August 16, 1949)

Arrival:
Beiping (August 20, 1949)

This \$70 franking covered the ordinary letter rate which came into effect throughout East China on August 1. Distribution of these stamps had become somewhat more wide-spread by August.



Central Jiangsu
April, 1948 - January, 1949

Because the Communists had maintained at least a presence in many of the more rural areas in northern and central Jiangsu Province following the defeat of the Japanese, post-Huaihai developments in these areas were more in the nature of an expansion and consolidation of existing areas of control than the advance of armies into new areas that took place to the west and south. The Central China Postal Administration, based in Taizhou, had responsibility for the Subei (North Jiangsu) and Suzhong (Central Jiangsu) Districts, the portions of the province lying north of the Yangtze and east of the Grand Canal. Its first stamps, the nine value set shown below, were prepared by surcharging stocks of postage and remittance stamps that had been issued in 1946 by the Suwan Border Area Postal Administration.

1948 (Apr. 30) - Subei Surcharges on Suwan Locomotive
 1949 (Jan. 12) Issues and Suwan Remittance Stamps

"Postage - \$x: Central China Liberated Area"



"Change for use as \$x: Central China Liberated Area"



Central Jiangsu
December, 1948

**Order by the Central China Post and
Telegraph Administration**

December 28, 1948

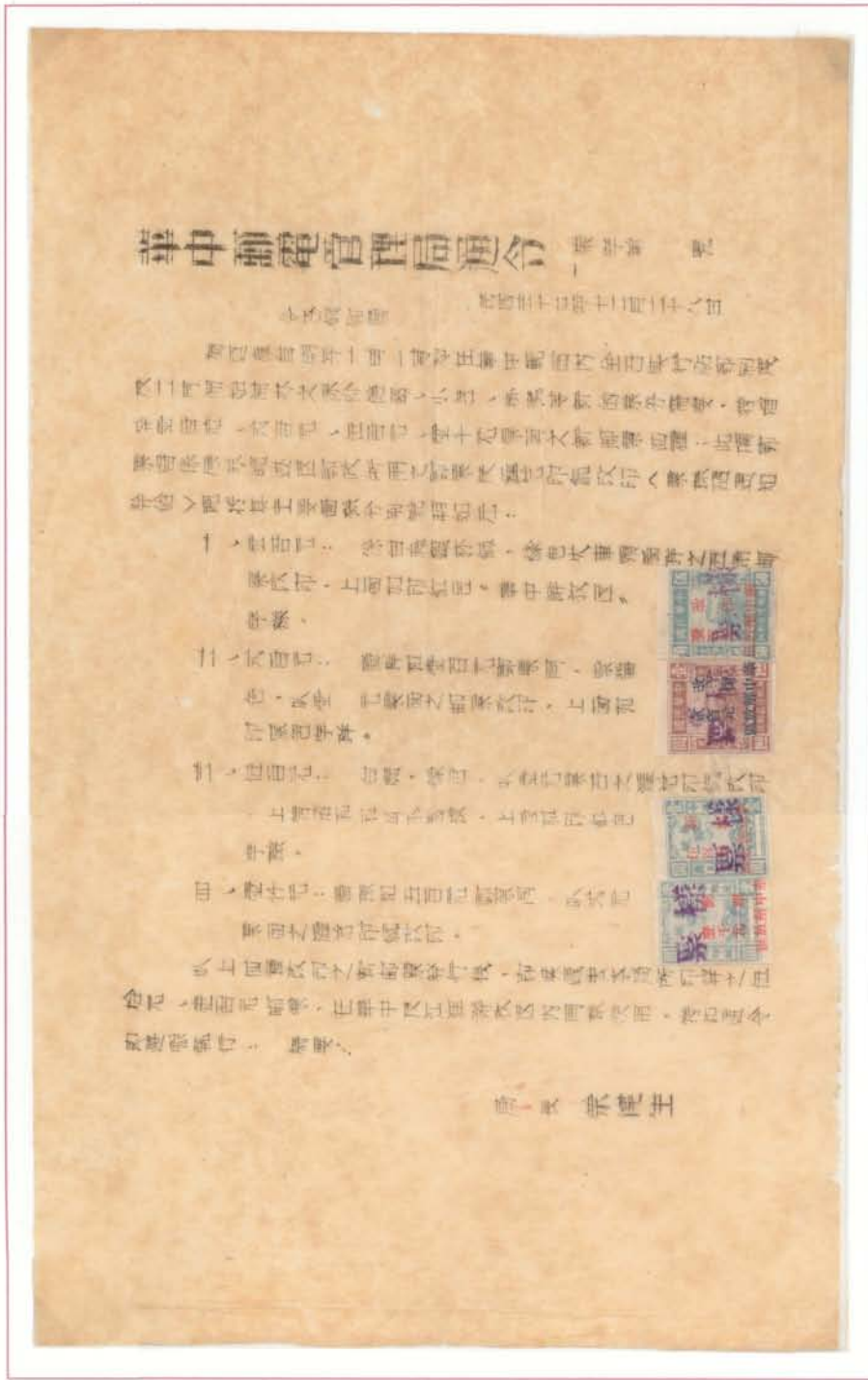
In order to promptly and completely implement a policy of using postage stamps throughout all of Central China commencing on January 1 of next year [1949] and, beginning in February, to provide for business needs such as insured letters, small parcels and registry, four postage stamps in the denominations of \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1000 are being prepared by overprinting postage and remittance stamps used by the former Suwan Border Area Postal Administration (specimens are being distributed with this notice). Distinguishing features are described to the left:

1. \$100: Overprinted "Central China Liberated Area" in red characters on the 50 cent blue on white newsprint locomotive design postage stamp.
2. \$200: Same design as the \$100 postage stamp but overprinted in black (sic) [blue] characters on the \$1 purplish brown postage stamp.
3. \$500: Overprinted in red characters on the \$1 blue on white paper airplane and landscape design remittance stamp.
4. \$1000: Same design as the \$500 postage stamp but overprinted on the \$2 remittance stamp.

It is very important to immediately comply with and carry out the order to use these four new overprinted postage stamps throughout the Central China (Huazhong) and Jianghuai Liberated Areas in the same manner as the \$50 and \$100 postage stamps previously issued by this office!

Postmaster: Rong Jiansheng

**Subei Surcharges on Suwan Locomotive Issues
and Suwan Remittance Stamps**



Order and specimen sheet distributed by the Central China Post and Telegraph Administration. The previously issued \$50 and \$100 stamps referred to in the order were the \$50 and \$20 and the \$50 on \$50 surcharges issued on April 30, 1948 and the \$100 on 75¢ surcharge issued on November 10, 1948. The remaining stamps in the set, the perforated and imperforate \$50 on \$10 surcharges, were issued on January 12, 1949.

Suwan Remittance Stamps



Surcharge and perforation errors



\$50 on \$10:
 (中) inverted



\$50 on \$10: imperf. between



\$500 on \$1:
 inverted surch.



\$50 on \$50: (放) and
 (區) transposed



\$50 on \$50:
 (解) replacing (郵)



\$50 on \$50: (解) and
 (放) transposed



\$1000 on \$2:
 (郵) sideways



\$1000 on \$2: (區) sideways at left



\$1000 on \$2:
 (票) replacing (郵)

Subei Surcharge on Suwan Locomotive Issues

Surcharge errors



\$100 on 50¢:
inverted surch.



\$100 on 50¢:
double surch.



\$100 on 50¢:
double surch.



\$100 on 50¢:
(解) sideways



\$100 on 75¢:
inverted surch.



\$100 on 50¢: diagonal surch.



\$100 on 75¢:
(解) replacing (放)



\$200 on \$1:
inverted surch.



\$100 on 50¢:
with and without
surcharge



\$200 on \$1:
double surch.

Subei Surcharges on Suwan Locomotive
 Issues and Suwan Remittance Stamps

Locally perforated issues



\$50 on \$20



\$50 on \$50



\$50 on \$20:
 misplaced perf.



\$100 on 50¢: (解) sideways at lower right



\$100 on 50¢:
 imperf between



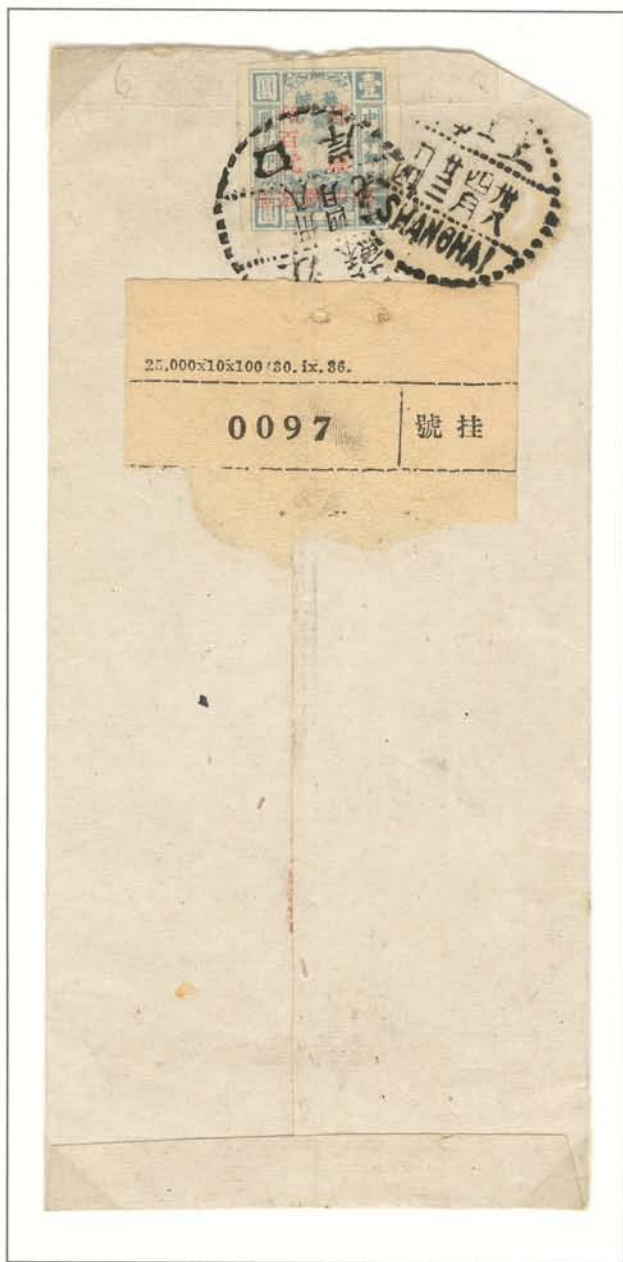
\$200 on \$1



\$500 on \$1

Central Jiangsu
April, 1949

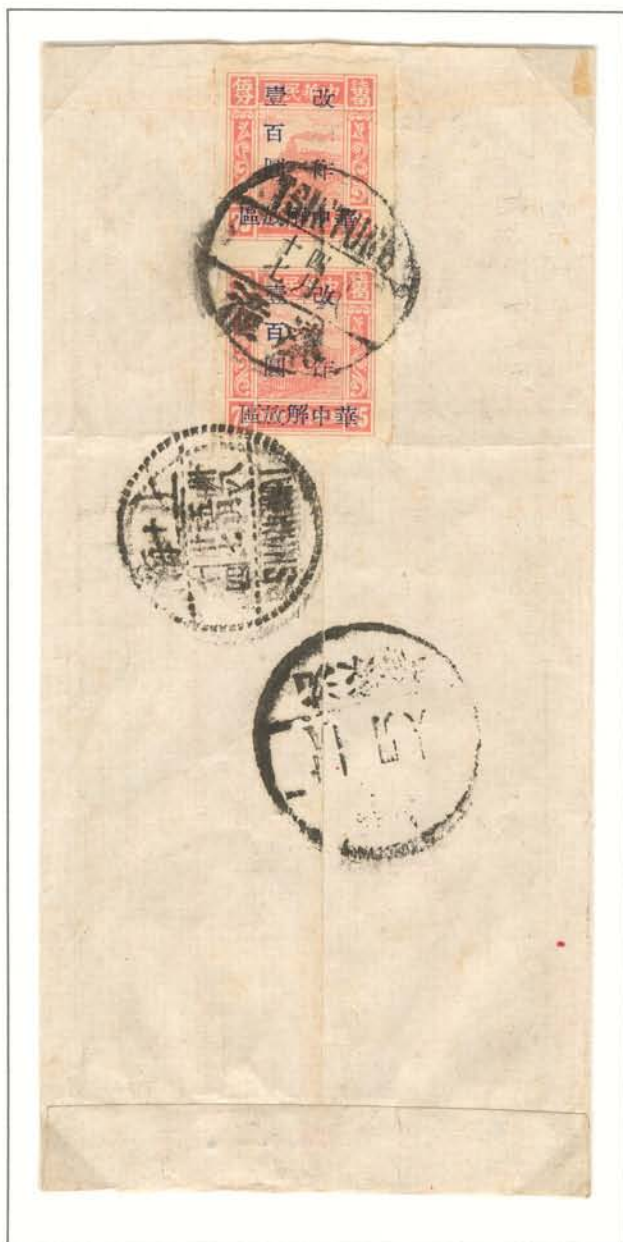
**Subei Surcharges on Suwan Train Issue
and Suwan Remittance Stamps**



The \$200 rate shown on the cover on the right, sent from Taixian on April 3 and received in Shanghai on April 7, paid the charge for ordinary mail which was in effect from early January until late April, 1949. The \$500 franking on the cover to the left, mailed from Kouan on April 17 and showing receipt in Shanghai on April 23, paid the corresponding registered mail rate (\$200 plus a registry fee of \$300). The Subei surcharges were denominated in Central China (Huazhong) Currency, convertible to People's Currency at a rate of \$100 Central China Currency to \$1 People's Currency. Taixian and Kouan are both located about 12 miles from Taizhou, Taixian to the east and Kouan to the south.

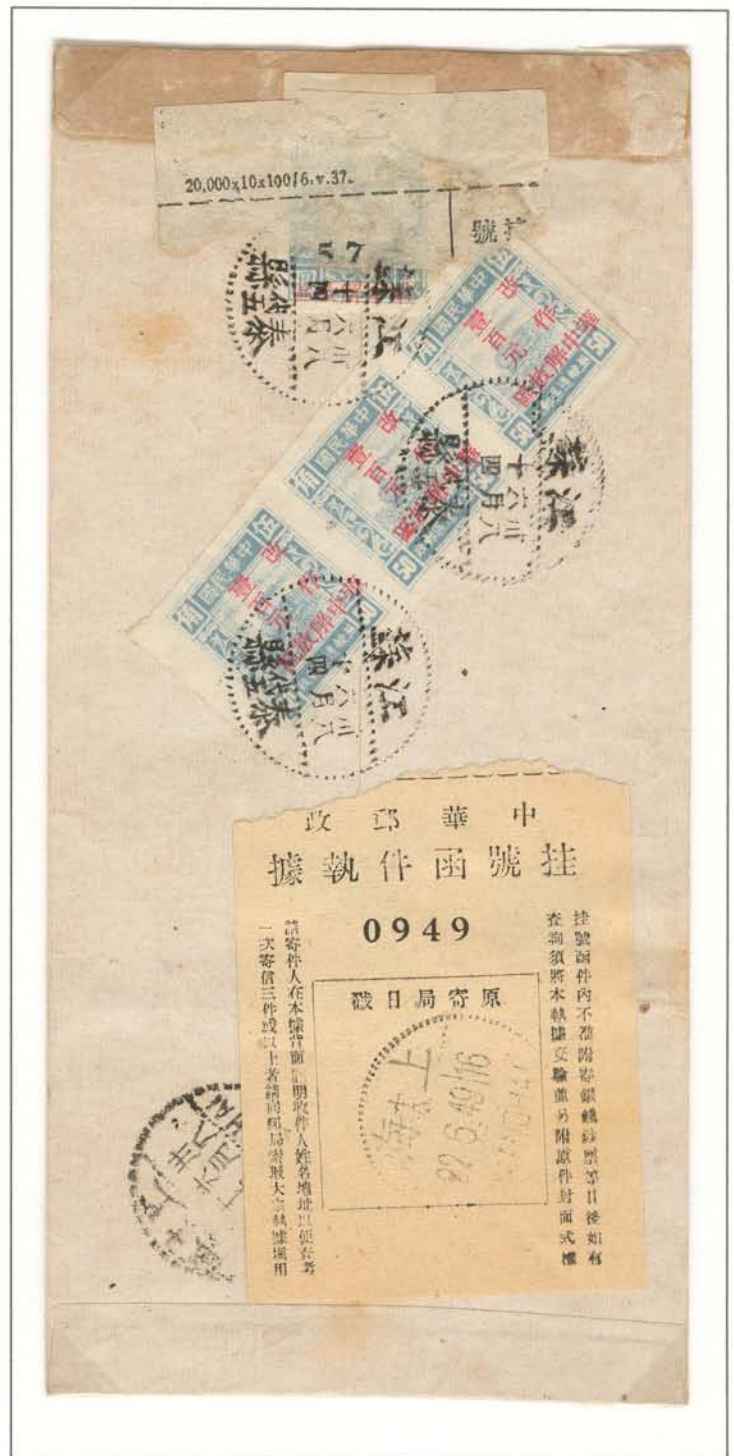
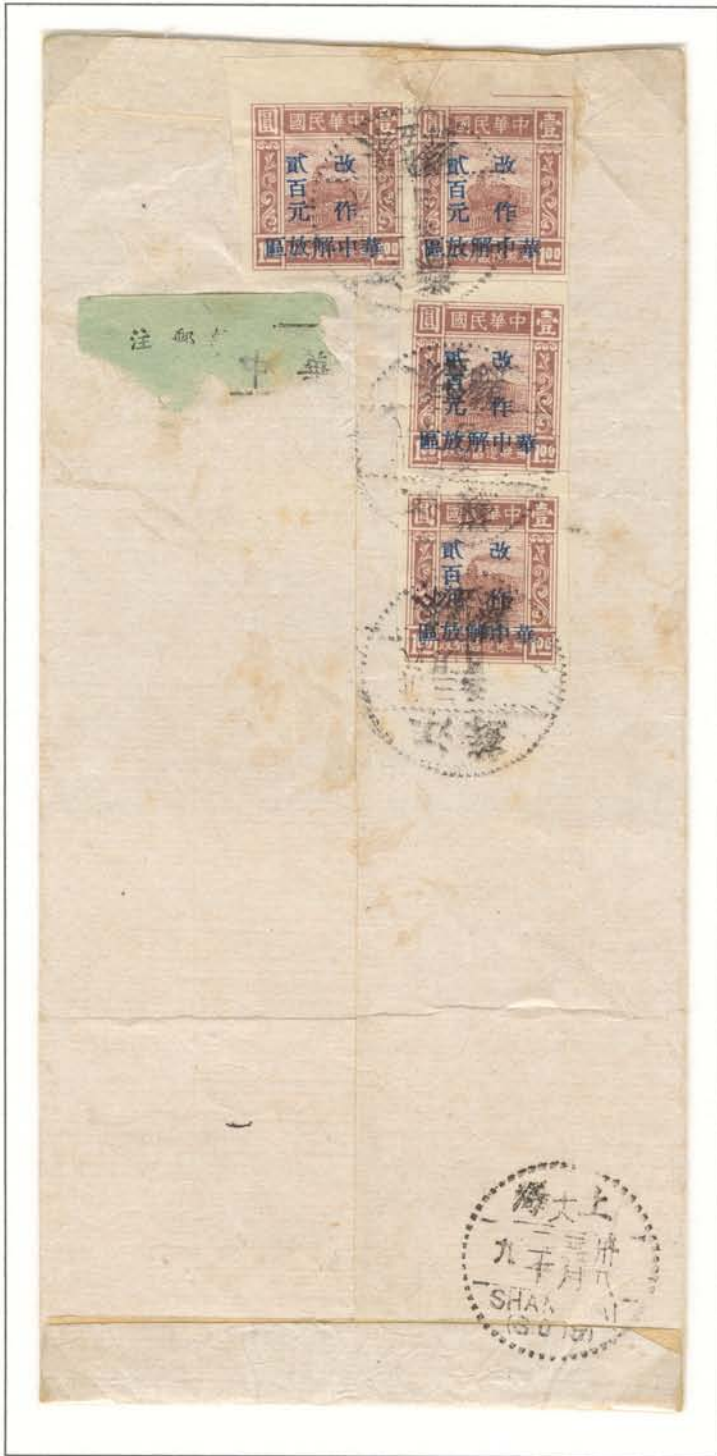
Central Jiangsu
March - April, 1949

Subei Surcharge on Suwan Locomotive Issues



Each of these covers reflects the \$200 ordinary mail rate which applied throughout Jiangsu Province until late April. The cover on the right was sent from Taixian on March 7 and received in Shanghai on March 14. Relatively stable conditions prevailed in central and south Jiangsu at this time and permitted prompt delivery of mail between Communist- and Nationalist-controlled areas. The cover on the left, mailed on April 17 from Qintong, seems to have been caught up in the final Communist movement towards Shanghai. It transited Shenjialun on April 18 but was not delivered to Shanghai until May 27, the day the city was liberated.

Central Jiangsu
March - June, 1949



Both of these covers were mailed from Taixian to Shanghai. The cover to the left bears the \$800 double registry rate (\$200 ordinary mail postage plus registry and AR fees of \$300 each) applicable when it was mailed on March 5. It was received on March 20. Ordinary mail rates and registry fees increased in late April to \$500 and \$800, respectively, as shown on the cover to the right, sent on June 14 and received on June 19 (the stamp mostly hidden by the registry slip remnant is the \$1000 on \$2 surcharge).

Central Jiangsu
May, 1949

Subei Surcharge on Suwan Locomotive Issue

Dispatch:
Yangzhou
(May 5, 1949)

Arrival:
Beiping
(May 17, 1949)

Ordinary mail rates at this time were based on increments of 20 grams. The \$1900 franking on this cover overpaid by \$100 the then current rate for registered letters weighing between 20 and 40 grams (two times ordinary mail postage of \$500 plus a registry fee of \$800).



Provenance: Hock

The equivalence of, and free convertibility between, Central China Currency and North Sea Currency (the currency in which the \$500 Qingzhou second print Mao Zedong portrait issue included in this franking is denominated) allowed for the combined use of stamps denominated in these currencies on the basis of stated face value.

Central Jiangsu
June, 1949

Subei Surcharges on Suwan Locomotive Issue and
Suwan Remittance Stamps

Dispatch: Qintong (June 14, 1949)
Arrival: Beiping (June 24, 1949)
(June 25, 1949)

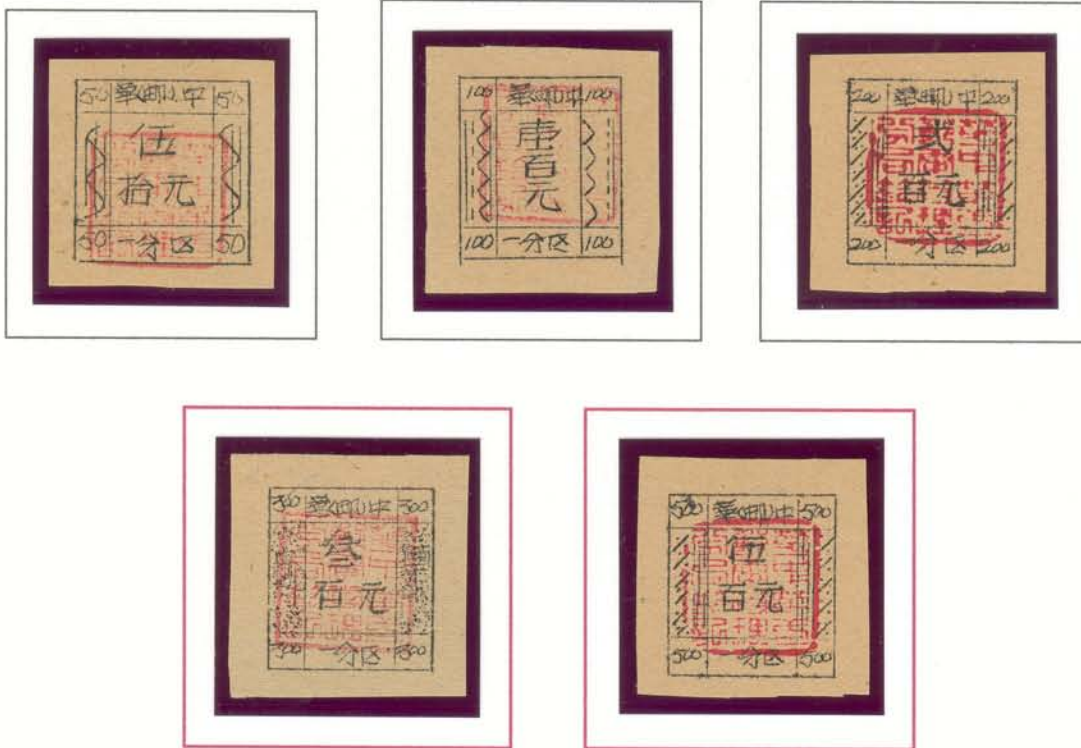


This cover bears the \$2100 Central China Currency (\$21 People's Currency) double registry rate (\$500 ordinary mail postage plus registry and AR fees of \$800 each) in effect in May and June. Use of stamps denominated in other than People's Currency lessened as time passed, but the Subei surcharges were not withdrawn from use until October 1, 1949.

Central Jiangsu December, 1948

While private use of the mails was not precluded, the primary focus of postal activities prior to late 1948 was official and military mail, much of which was delivered without payment of postage. In December, however, the Central China Post and Telegraph Administration decreed that, commencing January 1, 1949, postage would be required for all mail other than mail posted by military forces in the field. This created a problem for the First Subdistrict of this administration, based in Haian, which had run out of postage stamps the preceding month. In order to create a temporary stock of postage stamps, the First Subdistrict issued the five value set of stamps shown below:

1948 (Dec.)



About 400 sheets of these stamps were printed, although only one-third or so were sold during the two weeks they remained on sale. Because these stamps were intended only for interim use, unsold stamps were withdrawn when a stock of regularly issued stamps was received from Taizhou.

Central Jiangsu
December, 1948

These stamps were printed by mimeograph in sheets of 35, each sheet containing 13 copies of the \$50 value, six copies of the \$100 value, 12 copies of the \$200 value and two copies each of \$300 and \$500 values. The three central characters on each stamp designate denomination and can be arranged in a vertical line (\$50, \$100 and \$200), a horizontal line (\$50 only), a triangle (\$50, \$200, \$300 and \$500) and an inverted triangle (\$200 only). In addition, one copy of the \$200 on each sheet uses the formal (佰) rather than the informal character (百) for "hundred". The red chop on each stamp is the seal of the First Subdistrict.



formal (佰)
 replacing
 informal (百)



Reproduction of full sheet showing position of all exhibited stamps in color. Provenance of all mint stamps on this and previous page – Shen Zenghua.

undated First Subdistrict postmarks

Central Jiangsu
April - June, 1949

Beginning in late April, the Central China Post and Telegraph Administration, successor to the Central China Postal Administration, issued the following set of newly designed Mao Zedong portrait stamps denominated in Central China Currency. These stamps were printed in Nantong, provided for the new postal rates that were about to come into effect, and were the final set of provisional issues to be issued in a currency other than People's Currency.

1949 (April 29 - May 20)

First Print



proof



Specimens distributed with April 29, 1949 order

Second Print

1949 (June)



Central Jiangsu
April - May, 1949



reverse



printed front and back



damaged plate



folded



printed and offset on front



printed on both sides,
front double with one
inverted



reverse

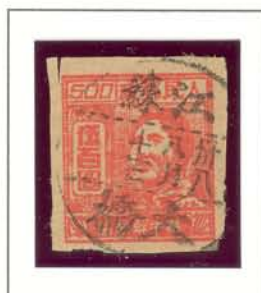
Central Jiangsu
June - August, 1949



Taizhou



Daqiao
 June 16, 1949



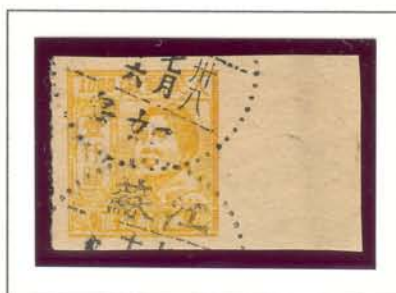
Daqiao
 August 13, 1949



June 12, 1949



Nantong
 July 16, 1949



Rugao
 July 16, 1949



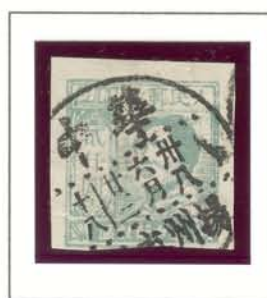
Longwokou



Qilinzhen



Nantong
 June 27, 1949



Yangzhou
 June 23, 1949



Huaian
 June 22, 1949



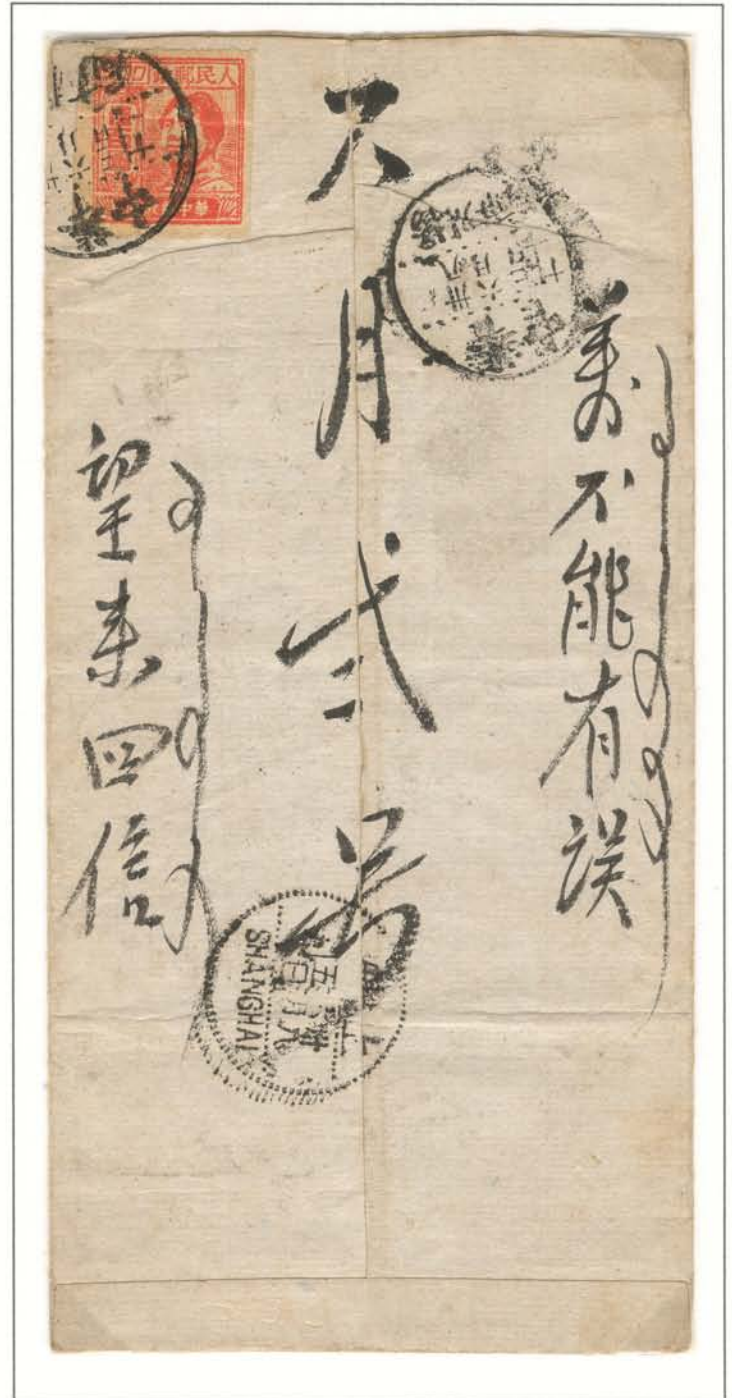
Haimen
 July, 1949



Anfeng
 July 11, 1949



August 10, 1949
 (second print)



The \$500 rate shown on the cover to the right, sent to Shanghai from Yangzhou on June 3 and received on June 5, paid the ordinary mail rate in effect from May through early June. The corresponding registry rate of \$1300 (a registry fee of \$800 in addition to ordinary mail postage) is shown on the cover to the left. It was sent from Qingjiangshi on May 14 and arrived in Beiping on May 21. The red chop on the registered cover recites that it was sent on official business of the 6th Subdistrict of the Central China Post and Telegraph Administration.

Central Jiangsu
July, 1949

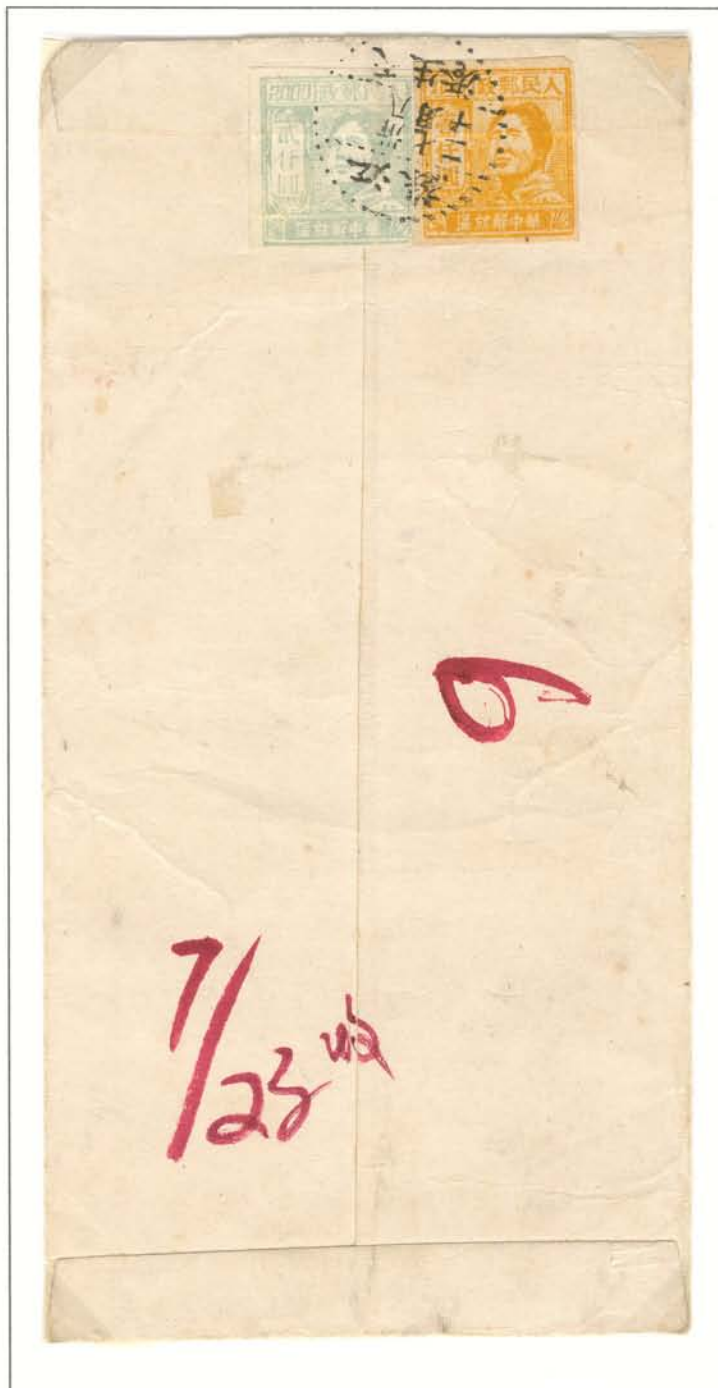
Nantong Mao Zedong Portrait Issue

Dispatch:
Tianshenggang
(July 20, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai
(July 23, 1949 manuscript
notation)

The rate for ordinary mail in Jiangsu Province increased to \$3000 in early June and remained there until the end of July.

The \$500, \$1000, \$2000 and \$5000 values of the Nantong Mao Zedong portrait issue were the only values of the set routinely used. The \$100 and \$200 values were effectively rendered obsolete by the early June rate increase.



Central Jiangsu
June, 1949

Nantong Mao Zedong
 Portrait Issue

Dispatch:
 Dongtai
 (June 15, 1949)

Transit:
 Taixian
 (June 21, 1949)

Arrival:
 Shanghai
 (June 23, 1949)

This \$12,000 Central China Currency franking reflects the special delivery registered mail rate in effect in Jiangsu Province in June and July (\$3000 ordinary mail charges plus a registry fee of \$6000 and a special delivery fee of \$3000). The People's Currency equivalent of this rate was \$120.



Shanghai

May, 1949

Transitional Usage in Shanghai

Dispatch:

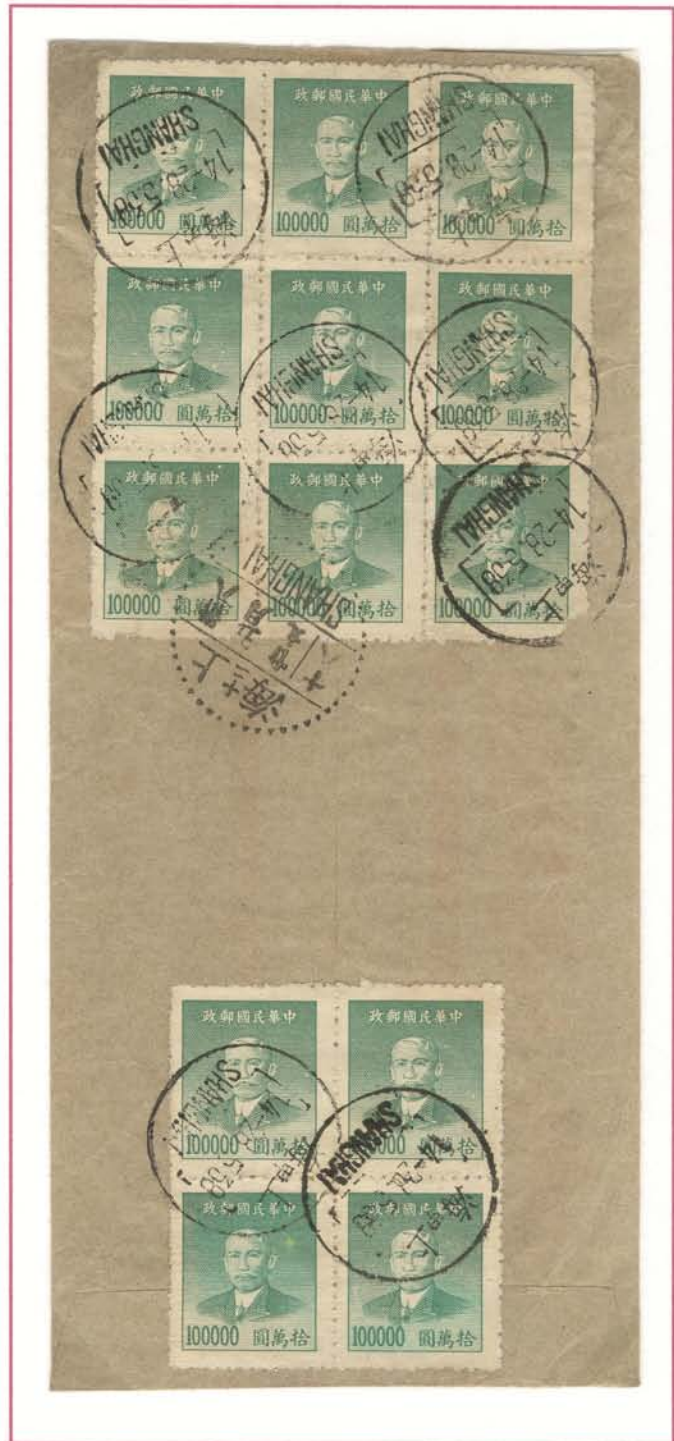
Shanghai (May 28, 1949)

Arrival:

Shanghai (May 29, 1949)

Advance units of the People's Liberation Army entered Shanghai in the early morning hours of May 25 and, by May 27, the city was under Communist control. By May 30, centrally prepared stamps, including a set commemorating the "Liberation of Nanjing and Shanghai" had been delivered and were in use. Accordingly, the window for transitional usages was very short.

The cover shown here is franked with 13 copies of the \$100,000 Dadong lithographed Sun Zhongshan portrait issue which overpaid by \$100,000 Gold Yuan the 4¢ Nationalist Silver Yuan rate then applicable to ordinary mail. The Gold Yuan:Silver Yuan conversion rate in Shanghai was GY\$1,000,000:SY\$1 when Silver Yuan was first introduced in late April, but, by May 24, had risen to GY\$30,000,000:SY\$1.



South Jiangsu
May, 1949

In late May, 1949, a three value set of provisional issues was prepared for use at Wuxi to supplement the lower denomination stamps that were then available. Although these stamps were never formally issued, a small number were sold at Minxing and Taicang in southern Jiangsu Province during a brief period in early June. While these stamps were originally intended for parcel post use, they were not restricted to that use.

**Wuxi Surcharges on Da Dong and Central
 Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues**

1949 (May 30)

"East China Post: For temporary use as \$x"



\$50 on \$1000



\$100 on \$5000



\$200 on \$20



\$200 on \$20:
 (貳) and (百)
 transposed



\$200 on \$20:
 (郵) replacing (政)



\$200 on \$20:
 (郵) replacing (貳)



\$200 on \$20:
 "500" replacing "200"



Taicang



Shanghai

Southeast Anhui
June, 1949

The third and final set of provisional stamps prepared by the Wuhu Post Office was issued to provide for the increase in postal rates which came into effect in southern Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces in early June, 1949. These stamps, as well as the revenue surcharges released on May 7, remained valid for use through October 1, 1949.

Wuhu Surcharges on Dadong Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues

1949 (June 1)

"East China: People's Currency - \$x"



\$30 on \$1000



\$30 on \$1000
(engraved)



\$50 on \$200



\$100 on \$5000



\$300 on \$10000



\$500 on \$200

Surcharge varieties



\$500 on \$200:
misplaced surch.



\$500 on \$200:
misplaced surch.

Southeast Anhui
June - August, 1949

Wuhu Surcharges on Dadong Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues



Wuhu



Wuhu
 August, 1949



Wuhu



Wuhu



Wuhu to Shanghai
 sent August 18, 1949



Wuhu
 July 19, 1949



1949



Wuhu



Wuhu

Southeast Anhui
July, 1949

**Wuhu Surcharges on Central Print Revenue and
Dadong Print Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues**

Dispatch:
Wuhu (July 5, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (July 7, 1949)

The \$120 franking shown here reflects the rate for special delivery registered letters (\$30 ordinary postage plus a registry fee of \$60 and a special delivery fee of \$30) that was in effect in southeastern Anhui Province during June and July, 1949.



Southeast Anhui
July, 1949

Wuhu Surcharge on Dadong Print
Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issue

Dispatch:
Wuhu (July 26, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (July 29, 1949)

Four copies of the engraved \$30 on \$1000 Dadong print make up the franking on this special delivery registered rate cover, a part of the same correspondence as the preceding cover and the cover which follows.



Southeast Anhui
August, 1949

**Wuhu Surcharges on Dadong Print Revenue and
Sun Zhongshan Portrait Issues**

Dispatch:
Wuhu (August 7, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (August 12, 1949)

The \$280 franking on this special delivery registered cover underpaid the applicable \$370 rate which came into effect on August 1. The slightly delayed arrival implies that it was sent by ordinary registered mail, the charge for which was \$270.



West Anhui
June, 1949

The last of the East China provisional issues were released in late June and early July in Anhui Province in connection with the unification of postal rates throughout East China. In Anqing, the post office handsurcharged a stock of the original (thick paper) print of the \$2 Liberation of Jianghuai issue to create a two value set of stamps in higher denominations. While both values in this set were surcharged in green, a small number of the \$50 on \$2 value were surcharged in dark blue. These stamps were withdrawn from use in late August.

1949 (June 24)

Anqing Surcharges on First Hefei Print

"Change for use as \$x"



\$50 on \$2



\$50 on \$2:
tête-bêche pair



\$100 on \$2



\$50 on \$2:
inverted surch.



\$100 on \$2:
tête-bêche pair (upper
surcharge inverted)



\$50 on \$2:
dark blue surch.



\$100 on \$2:
inverted surch.



\$50 on \$2:
inverted dark blue surch.

West Anhui
July, 1949

Anqing Surcharge on First Hefei Print

Dispatch:
Huaining (July 4, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (July 8, 1949)

The \$120 franking on this special delivery registered mail cover includes two copies of the \$50 on \$2 value of the Anqing surcharge issue. This rate came into effect in west Anhui Province in late June, 1949.



Provenance: Mizuhara

West Anhui
July, 1949

Anqing Surcharge on First Hefei Print

Dispatch:
Huaining (July 2, 1949)

Arrival:
Shanghai (July 7, 1949)

A single copy of the \$100 on \$2 value of the Anqing surcharge issue makes up part of the franking on this special delivery registered mail cover. The \$120 rate remained in effect until August 1, 1949 when it was increased to \$370.

Anqing was then also known as Huaining; the city about 22 miles to the southwest of Anqing that is now known as Huaining was then known as Shipai.



Provenance: Mizuhara

Central Anhui
June - July, 1949

In Hefei, the post office reprinted the \$2, \$3 and \$5 stamps issued by the Jianghuai Post and Telegraph Administration on thinner paper in order to prepare the following set of stamps surcharged "Change for use as \$x". These stamps remained valid for use through August 31, 1950.

1949 (June - July)



\$30 on \$2: 7mm spacing
 (locally perforated)



\$30 on \$2: 7mm spacing (normal 8mm)
 between left and right lines of surcharge
 at upper left and lower left



\$30 on \$2: 8mm spacing
 (locally perforated)



\$90 on \$3



\$90 on \$3: (作) omitted at center



\$90 on \$3
 (locally perforated)



\$150 on \$5



\$90 on \$3: misplaced surch.



\$1000 on \$3

Central Anhui
June - July, 1949

As with the corresponding values of the original print, the stamps comprising the second Hefei print were prepared in sheets of 100, each sheet consisting of two 50-stamp panes arranged tête-bêche. The stamps in this set were regularly issued only in imperforate form, although some sheets of the \$30 on \$2 and the \$90 on \$3 values were perforated locally.

Hefei Surcharges on Second Hefei Print



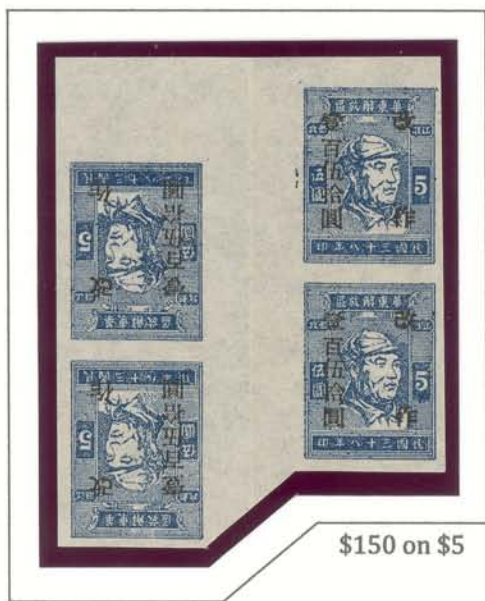
\$90 on \$3



\$30 on \$2



\$90 on \$3 (locally perforated)



\$150 on \$5

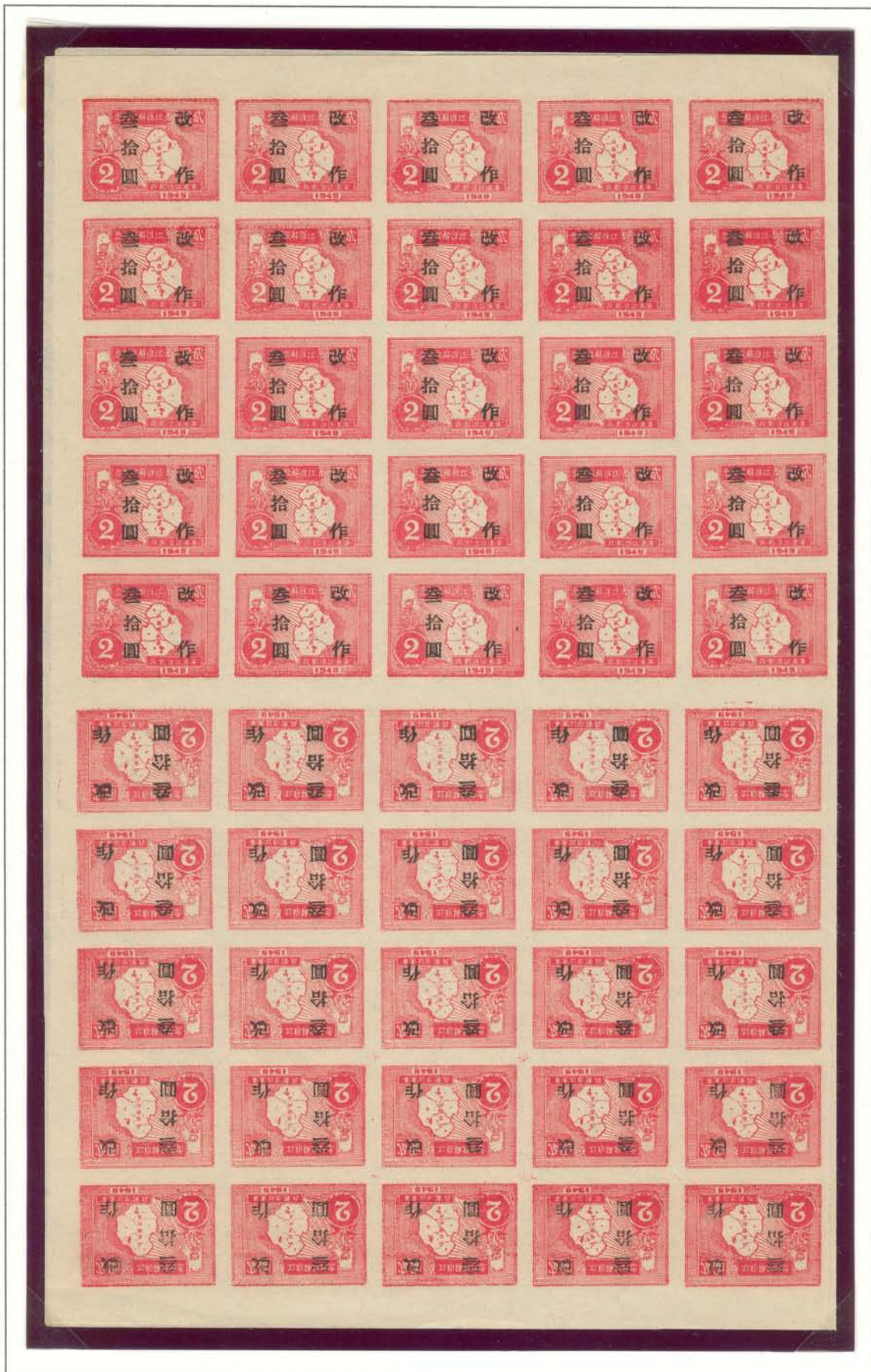


\$30 on \$2:
 7mm and 8mm spacing
 (locally perforated)



\$1000 on \$3

Central Anhui



\$30 on \$2: one-half of a full sheet of 100. The full sheet consists of two panes of 50 arranged tête-bêche; the 7mm spacing variety occurs on all stamps in the left-hand column of each pane.

Central Anhui
June, 1949

Hefei Surcharge on Second Hefei Print



Dispatch:
Bengbu (June 25, 1949)

Arrival:
Tianjin (June 28, 1949)

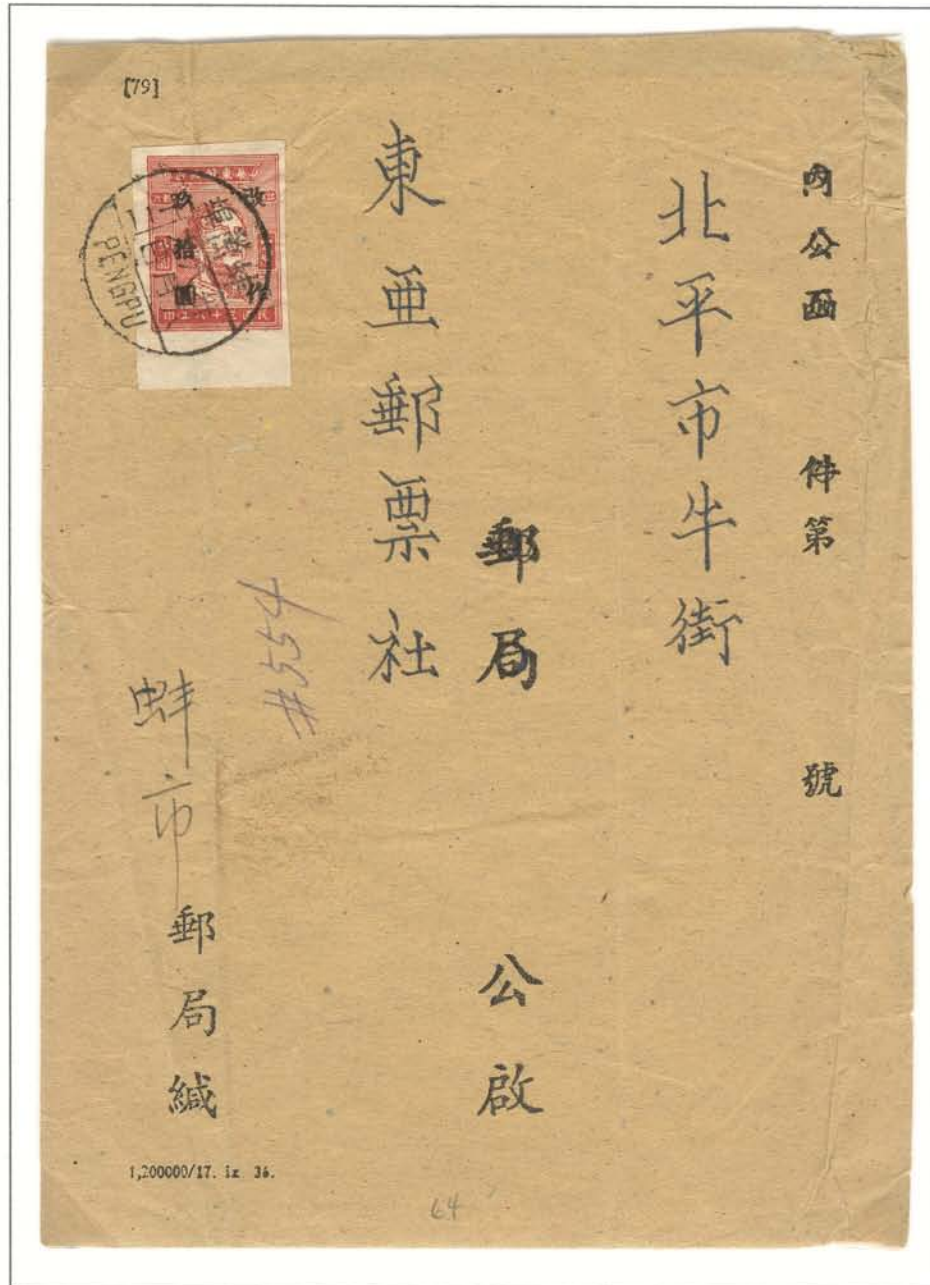
Although current catalogs indicate that the Hefei surcharge set was issued in early July, this \$120 special delivery registered mail franking evidences a late June release date, at least for the \$30 on \$2 value. Postal rates in East China were unified by increasing the rates in effect in Shandong and northern Anhui Provinces to match those that were already in effect in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and south-eastern Anhui Provinces.



Central Anhui
August, 1949

Hefei Surcharge on Second Hefei Print

Dispatch: Bengbu (August 9, 1949)
Arrival: Beiping (August 11, 1949)

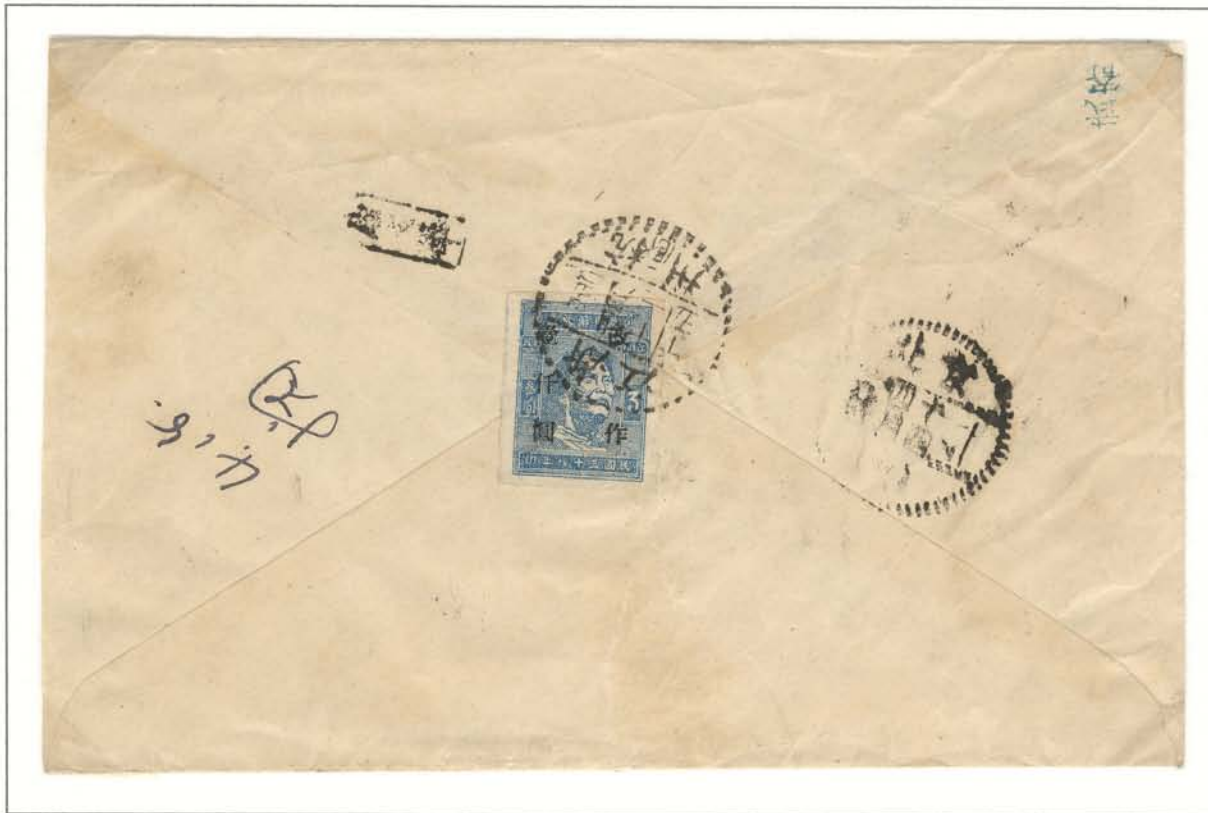


While this \$90 franking would have paid the registered mail rate in effect from late June until the end of July (\$30 ordinary mail postage plus a registry fee of \$60), the rate had already increased to \$270 (ordinary mail postage of \$70 plus a \$200 registry fee) by the time it was sent in early August. Despite wartime conditions, underpayments such as this seem to have been surprisingly infrequent.

Central Anhui
April, 1950

Hefei Surcharge on Second Hefei Print

Dispatch: Hangzhou (April 11, 1950)
Arrival: Beijing (April 14, 1950)



The \$1000 on \$3 Hefei surcharge had the highest face value of all the East China provisional issues and was originally intended for, although not restricted to, use on parcels. The stamp's brief moment in the sun occurred in spring, 1950 when the rate for ordinary mail rose to \$1000 from March 11 through May 10. The ordinary mail rate was thereafter reduced to \$800 (or 8¢ New People's Currency beginning on January 1, 1955) where it remained for the next 40 years.

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