

**THE  
GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA ..  
1886-1917  
by  
Jerry H. Miller**

# EVOLUTION OF THE GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA ... 1886-1917



The Treaties of Nanking (1842), Tientsin (1858) and Peking (1860) between China and Great Britain established so-called 'treaty ports' which permitted 'foreigners' to reside and where they were permitted to conduct commerce.

To facilitate communications between the foreign residents and their home countries, foreign post offices were established. Since China was not a member of the Universal Postal Union until 1914, mail sent overseas could only be done through foreign post offices, which were UPU members.

Establishment of German postal facilities in China first took place after the 'North German Lloyd' shipping line established regular ship service between Germany, the Far East, and Australia. With the arrival of the first ship, a German post office official arrived and subsequently established a postal agency in the German Consulate at Shanghai on 16 August 1886, Germany's first postal facility in China.

The German postal agency at Shanghai quickly grew into a full post office and later became the postal administrative headquarters for the expansion of German post offices to other Chinese cities until 16 March 1917, when diplomatic relations between China & Germany were severed because of World War I.

# EVOLUTION OF THE GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA ... 1886-1917

## EXHIBIT

Through postal history & postmarks, this exhibit shows the development or evolution of the German Post Offices in China 1886-1917, including early 'Kiautschou Territory' (leasehold) mail until 1900, excluding, except for a few inter-related examples, military mail of the Boxer Revolt Period (1900-1901).

## TEXT COLOR-CODING

**BLACK:** General historical, geographical & postal rate/route/markings information.

**BLUE:** Important annotative information & chapter title starts

Blue-matted examples indicate particular importance & scarcity.

**MAROON:** Postal Rate Information

## EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

- \* Introduction & Background
- \*\* Exhibit Overview
  
- I. Pre-1900 German Presence in China
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  - D. Other (Inland) Locations
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- II. Post-1900 German Presence in China
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  - A. Mail to German Naval Ships in Chinese Waters
  - B. Coastal & Other Sea-Post Mail
  - C. Yangtze River Mail
  - D. Legation & Consular Mail
  - E. Advertising Mail
  
- IV. End of German Presence in China
  - A. World War I Mail
  - B. "Via America" Mail
  - C. Closure of German Post Offices
  - D. Internee & Prisoner-of-War Related Mail
  
- V. Epilogue

EARLY MAIL FROM GERMANY TO CHINA  
VIA BRITISH POST OFFICE



Ex N. Bennett

1 NOVEMBER 1880

Cover, postmarked at Flensburg, sent to..

*"Helmsman P.H. Briner, of the Ship 'Carl Wilhelm' (commanded by Captain Bertelsen)... to be held upon receipt by Mr. Petersen at the shipping company office at Amoy (China)"*

Route: By rail from Flensburg to Brindisi, Italy,  
by ship with the following 'P&O' vessels:

'Ceylon':

Ex Brindisi	8 November
Ex Alexandria	11 November

'Australia':

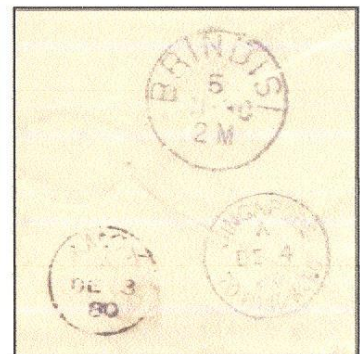
Ex Suez	12 November
Ex Aden	16-17 November
Arr. Galle	25 November

'Mirzapore':

Ex Galle	26 November
Ex Penang	1 December
Ex Singapore	4 December
Arr. Hong Kong	10 December

Coastal Vessel:

Ex Hong Kong	11 December
Arr. Amoy	13 December



Reverse

30 Pfennig ..

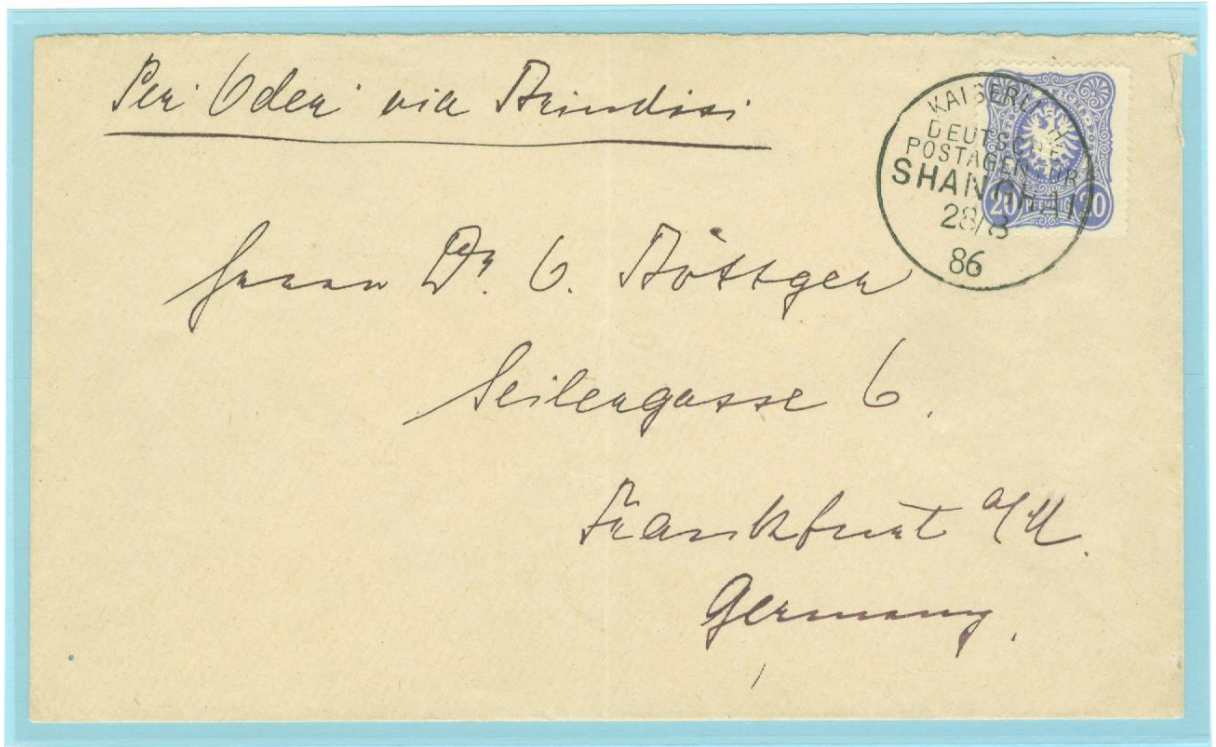
Letter-rate to China for mail weighing up to 15 grams.

**A GERMAN POSTAL AGENCY IN CHINA WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE  
 GERMAN CONSULATE AT SHANGHAI ON 16 AUGUST 1886  
 WITH FIRST DAY OF EFFECTIVE OPERATION ON 28 AUGUST**  
 to facilitate communications overseas in support of German  
 commercial activities & investment in China.



USAGE: 28 August 1886 –  
 June 1894

**EARLIEST KNOWN POSTMARK USE**



Cert. Steuer

**28 AUGUST 1886**

**Commercial cover (Carlowitz & Co.), postmarked at Shanghai,  
 endorsed "Per Oder Via Brindisi", sent to Frankfurt/Main, Germany,  
 37-day transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
 (reverse)**

**"Frankfurt a. Main, 4 October 1886, 4-5 AM"**

**20 Pfennig ...**

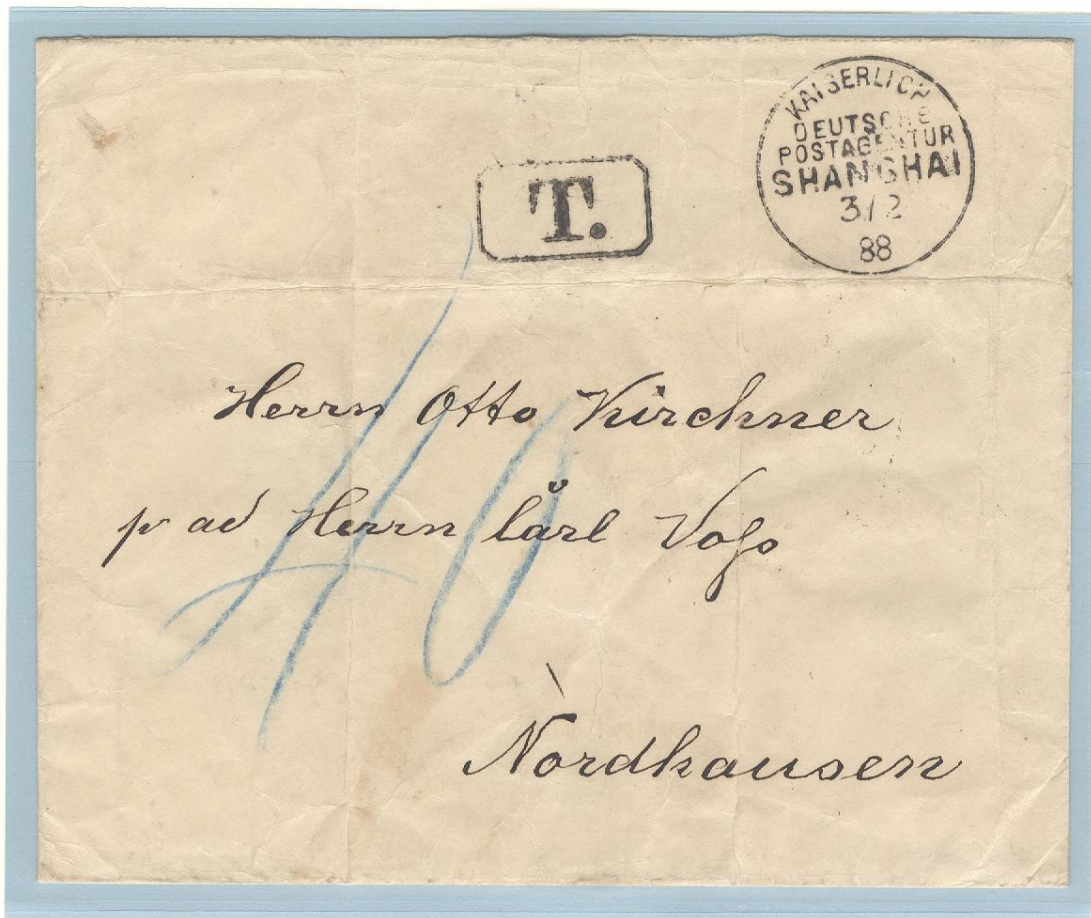
**Single-weight (15 grams) international letter-rate**

**One of three known covers with first-day postmark use.**

EARLY GERMAN CONSULAR POSTAGE-DUE MAIL



Reverse Side



3 FEBRUARY 1888:

Early consular postage due mail from the 'Imperial German Consulate-General' at Shanghai to Nordhausen, Germany, with postage due collected from the recipient. 37-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Nordhausen, 3 March 1888, 1-8 AM"

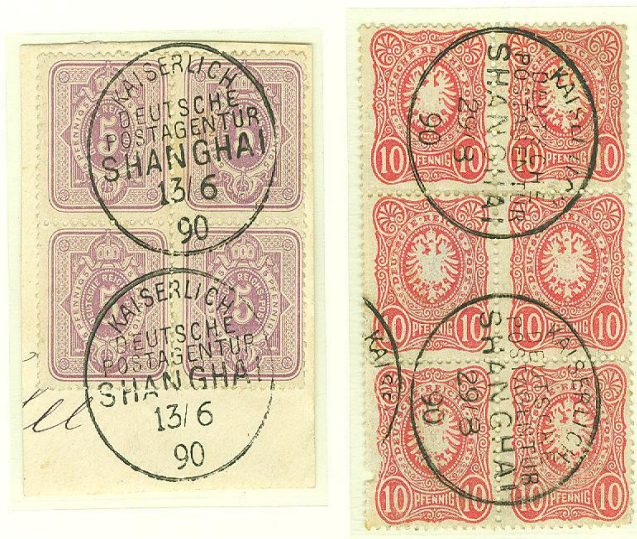
40 Pfennig Postage Due...  
20 Pfennig .. UPU International Single-Weight (15 grams)  
Letter-Rate + 20 Pfennig penalty.

# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Shanghai Postal Agency  
1886-1896  
"Pfennig Series" Forerunners

Postage stamps and postal stationery of the German Reich 'Pfennig' Series were the first to be sent by the German Reichspost to China.

**OF THE STANDARD GERMAN 'PFENNIG' SERIES OF 1880, ONLY THE 5, 10, 20 & 50 PFENNIG VALUES WERE OFFICIALLY SOLD AT THE SHANGHAI POSTAL AGENCY.**



(b) Exp. Steuer



(c)



(b) Exp Steuer



Usage beyond the validity period: July, 1891



(b) Exp Jaeschke-Lantelme



(d) Gray Olive Green  
Exp Steuer

PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Shanghai Postal Agency  
1886-1896  
'Pfennig Series'

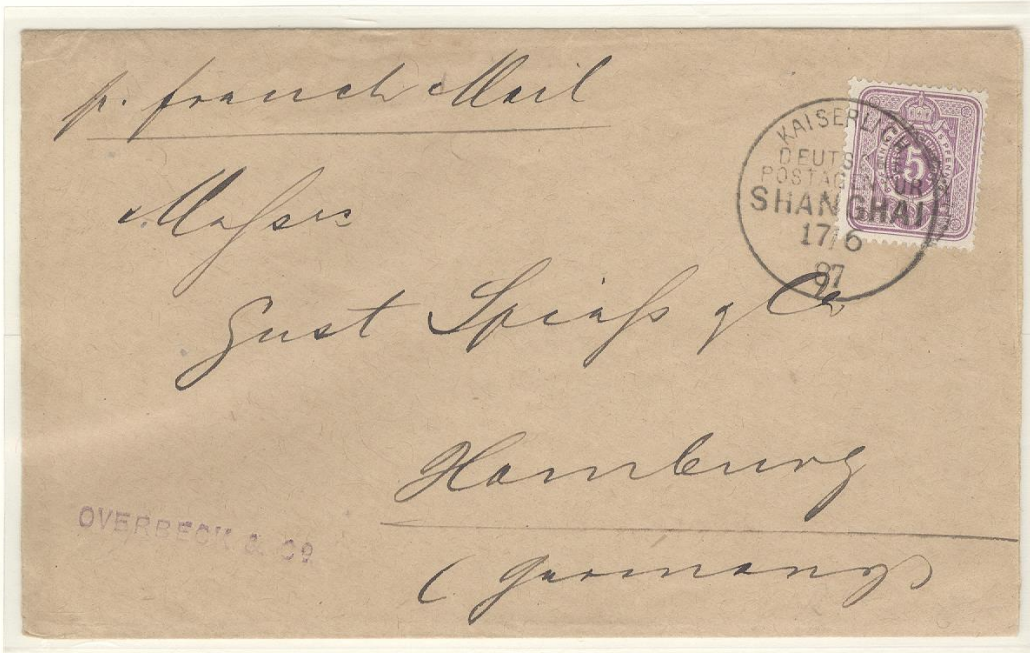
COMMERCIAL PRINTED-MATTER MAIL

15 JUNE 1887

Printed-matter  
mail routed via  
'French Mail' from  
Shanghai to  
Hamburg,  
Germany.

5 Pfennig...  
International  
printed-matter  
rate for mail up to  
50 grams.

Exp. Jaeschke-Lantelmo



CONSULAR REGISTERED MAIL WITH RETURN-RECEIPT



Reverse

6 APRIL 1888

Mail from the  
'Austro-  
Hungarian  
Consulate-  
General' at  
Shanghai to  
Hamburg,  
Germany.  
38-day  
transit time.

2x 50 Pfg =  
100Pfg...  
45 gm. letter  
= 60 Pfg  
+ Reg. 20 Pfg  
+ Retn.-Rec.  
20 Pfg.



# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Shanghai Postal Agency  
1886-1896  
'Pfennig Series'

CONSULAR MAIL TO SWEDEN

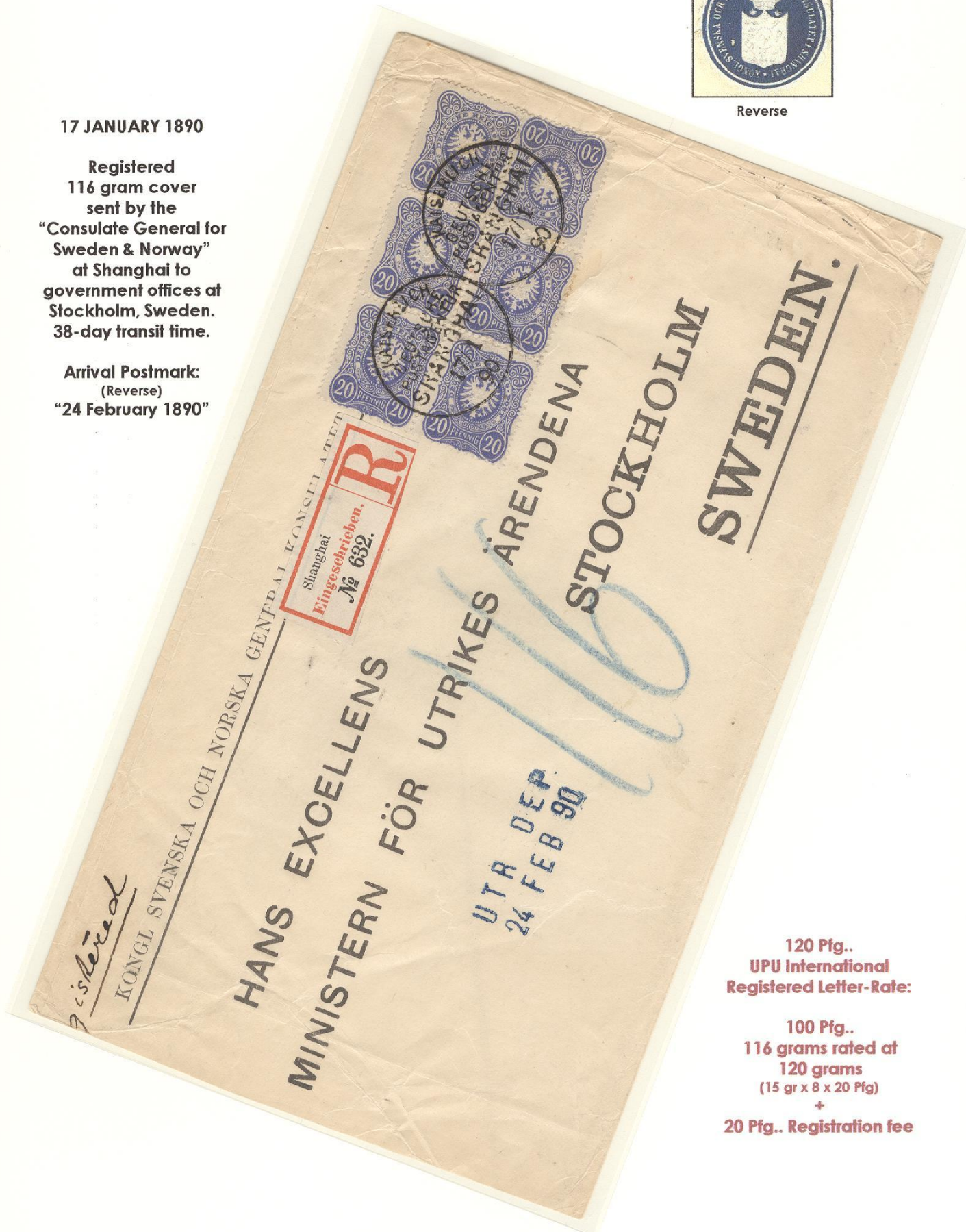


Reverse

17 JANUARY 1890

Registered  
116 gram cover  
sent by the  
"Consulate General for  
Sweden & Norway"  
at Shanghai to  
government offices at  
Stockholm, Sweden.  
38-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"24 February 1890"



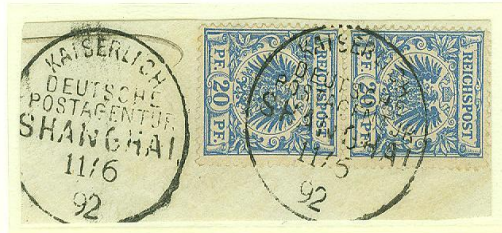
120 Pfg..  
UPU International  
Registered Letter-Rate:

100 Pfg..  
116 grams rated at  
120 grams  
(15 gr x 8 x 20 Pfg)

+  
20 Pfg.. Registration fee

POSTAGE STAMPS & STATIONERY OF THE GERMAN REICHSPOST 'CROWN & EAGLE SERIES' WERE THE SECOND FORERUNNER STAMPS SENT FROM GERMANY FOR USE IN CHINA.

Of the standard 'Crown & Eagle' Series, the 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 & 50 Pfennig values were officially sold at the Shanghai Postal Agency. The Reichspost RM 2.00 Internal-Service Value was also utilized at the postal agency for parcels and other heavy mail; the latter were not distributed but affixed only by the agency postal clerks.



Double-Weight Letter-Rate  
Exp. Bothe



High-Value Parcel Clip: RM 10.40  
Exp. Bothe



Parcel Card Clip: RM 4.85  
Exp. Steuer



Red-Brown/Yellow-Green  
Exp. Dr. Bohne



Lilac Brown

THREE-COLOR COMMERCIAL MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
VIA JAPAN & CANADA



2 NOVEMBER 1892

Three-color franked fourth-weight-level commercial mail,  
postmarked at the German Postal Agency at Shanghai,  
routed via Japan & Canada to New York "Wall Street".

**Routing:**

(Front & Reverse)

- \* 2 November 1892: German Postal Agency Shanghai
- \* 5 November 1892: Imperial Japanese Post Office  
at Shanghai, China
- \* 9 November 1892: Imperial Japanese Post Office  
at Yokohama, Japan
- \* "Via Vancouver" Endorsement: by rail to New York
- \* 30 November 1892: Arrival New York (Reverse)

80 Pfennig...

Fourth-weight level (45-60 grams) UPU International Letter-Rate

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL PRINTED-MATTER MAIL



3 APRIL 1891

Newspaper wrapper sent from Shanghai to an Editorial Office at Berlin, Germany.



Exp. Bolhe

17 JUNE 1892

Printed-matter circular sent from Shanghai to Paris, France.

5 Pfennig:

International Printed-matter rate for mail up to 50 grams in weight.

# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Shanghai Postal Agency  
Inland Locations .. PEKING  
'Crown & Eagle Series'

## DOUBLE-FRANKED MAIL TO GERMANY

China origin mail destined for overseas had to be processed by a foreign post office, since China first became a UPU member in March, 1914.

**MAIL SENT FROM AN INLAND CHINA LOCATION, WHERE NO FOREIGN POST OFFICE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, REQUIRED THE SENDER TO PAY THE INLAND CHINESE RATE FROM THAT LOCATION TO SHANGHAI, WHERE A FOREIGN POST OFFICE EXISTED, FOR FORWARDING OVERSEAS.**

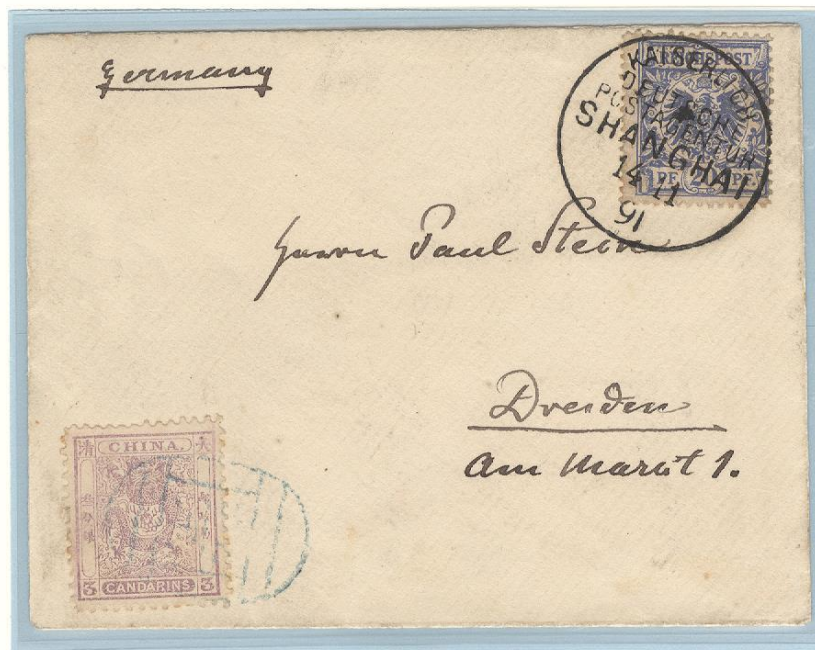
Between 1886-1897, mail franked with Chinese-Local, Chinese-Customs or Chinese government-issued postage as well as stamps of the applicable foreign post office was routed through Chinese-Customs to a foreign post office.



Cert. Steuer

3 JULY 1896

Double-franked clip-example for a double-weight letter



Cert. Steuer

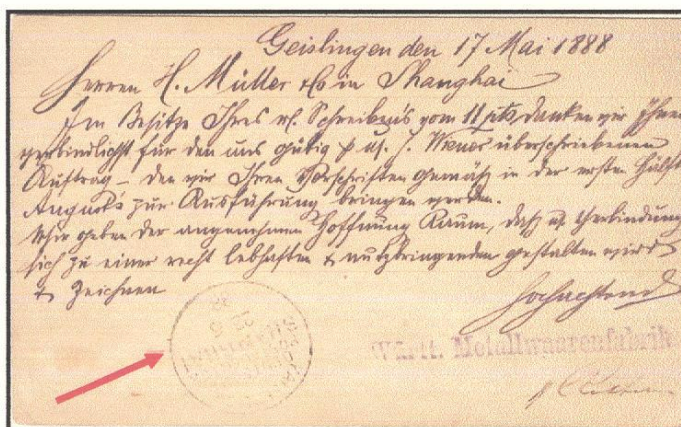
14 NOVEMBER 1891

Double-franked single-weight "Lady's" cover postmarked at Peking with transit through the Chinese Customs at Peking, Tientsin & Shanghai for forwarding to Dresden, Germany, by the German Post Office at Shanghai.

6 November:	Letter mailed at Peking
9 & 11 November:	Transit through the Peking, Tientsin & Shanghai Customs (Postmarks/Reverse Side)
14 November:	German Postal-Agency postmark at Shanghai
21 December:	Arrival postmark (Reverse side) at Dresden, Germany

**3 Candarins covering the domestic letter-rate from Peking to Shanghai with 20 Pfennig covering the single-weight (15 grams) international letter-rate from Shanghai to Germany.**

IN-BOUND COMMERCIAL MAIL FROM THE STATE OF WÜRTTEMBERG



Reverse Side

17 MAY 1888:

Early inbound commercial mail sent from a manufacturer in the State of  
Württemberg, Germany, to a sales representative at Shanghai.  
37-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

“Imperial German Postal Agency Shanghai,  
23 June (18) 88”

10 Pfennig ..  
UPU International Postcard-Rate

PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Shanghai Postal Agency  
1886-1896  
'Crown & Eagle Series'

IN JUNE, 1894, THE HERETOFORE "SHANGHAI AGENCY" POSTMARK WAS REPLACED WITH A SMALLER (25mm) DATER DIAL INDICATING "SHANGHAI" WITH DATE.



USAGE: June, 1894 -  
5 December 1898

NEWSPAPER WRAPPER

29 JUNE 1894

Wrapper,  
postmarked at Shanghai,  
sent to Steffin, Germany



Exp  
Hoffman-Gieseke & Steuer  
Stamp Shade 'b'

10 Pfennig..  
(with attached sheet selvage)

Double-weight (50-100 grams) UPU  
International Printed-Matter Rate

Earliest known postmark usage date.

**PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**

**Shanghai Postal Agency  
1886-1896  
'RM 2.00 Internal Service Value'**

**PARCEL POST FORM CARD COVERING THREE INSURED PARCELS**

**W\*616 W\*617 W\*618** Shanghai

**Abschnitt zur Post-Packetadresse**  
Coupon du bulletin d'expédition.  
Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

Post-Entnahmestempel.  
Timbre du bureau d'origine.

**SHANGHAI**  
16 6  
96

Name und Wohnung (Wohnort, Straße und Hausnummer) des Absenders:  
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

**HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.**  
No. 8. BÖRSENBRÜCKE.  
**HAMBURG.**

(Bestimmungsort) in  
(Lieu de destination) à  
Wohnung  
(Straße und Hausnummer)

Postgewicht 2,836 kg  
Poids 2,880  
2,879

Post-Beitragmerk:  
Acheminement:

**Bulletin d'expédition.**  
Anbei Ci-joint *Three parcels*  
Anzahl der Zoll-Inhaltserklärungen  
Nombre de déclarations en douane  
*each RM 7000 = RM 21000*

**SHANGHAI**  
16 6  
96

**SHANGHAI**  
16 6  
96

**HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.**  
SHANGHAI

A. 20.

**16 JUNE 1896**

**Parcel post card for three insured (RM 21,000.00)  
2.8 Kg parcels (gold) sent to the German branch of the  
'Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation'  
at Hamburg.  
48-day transit time.**

**Bank Delivery Mark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hamburg, 3 August 1896"**

**2400 Pfennig...  
(Block of 10 + 2 multiple franking of RM 2.00 service stamp)  
800 Pfg covered the parcel post &  
insurance rates for each 2.8 kg parcel..  
320 Pfg = 5-kg flat rate +  
480 Pfg = 16 Pfg for each  
RM 240 Insured = 30x 0.16 for RM 21,000.00 value.**

**One of two known high-value multiple franking  
insured parcel post cards.**



Reverse Side

ex S. Wiesenthal



PARCEL POST FORM CARD



20 MAY 1897

Parcel post form card (2-Kg parcel to a chair factory), postmarked at Shanghai, sent to Berlin, Germany. 41-day transit time.

Transit Postmark:

“Chiasso, Switzerland, 23 June 1897”

Arrival Postmark:

“Berlin P.A. 3, 30 June 1897, 8-9 AM”

Delivery Postmark:

“Berlin Post Office 20, 1 July 1897, 9-1/2 – 10-1/2 AM”

**400 Pfennig...**  
(8x 50-Pfg multiple franking)  
**400 Pfg covered the flat rate for a 2-Kg parcel with a Customs fee (cash payment) upon delivery (red cachet handstamp).**



Reverse Side

PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Shanghai Post Office  
1897-1917  
'Crown & Eagle Series'

2 JULY 1897

Registered cover from the  
"Consulate General for  
Sweden & Norway",  
postmarked at Shanghai,  
sent to Christiania, Norway.  
38-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Christiana, 9 August 1897"



80 Pfennig...  
(4x 20 Pfg)

60 Pfg... Third-weight level  
(45 grams)

UPU International  
Letter-Rate +

20 Pfg... Registration fee

# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Tientsin Postal Agency  
1893 – 1900  
'Crown & Eagle' Series

Established in October, 1889, as a postal station  
in the German Consulate,  
**THE POSTAL STATION AT TIENTSIN BECAME A  
POSTAL AGENCY IN 1893**  
and a full post office in 1900.



USAGE:  
1 April 1893 –  
November 1899



Cert Steuer

1 SEPTEMBER 1897

Commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin,  
sent to a bank at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.  
34-day transit time.

#### Transit Postmarks:

(Front & Reverse)

- "Shanghai, (Japanese Post Office), 16 September 1897"
- "Yokohama, Japan, September 1897"
- "San Francisco, California, Paid-All, 29 September 1897"

#### Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Received Philadelphia, 5 October 1 PM"

40 Pfennig...

40 Pfg.. Double-weight (15-30 grams) international letter-rate.

PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Tientsin Postal Agency  
1893 – 1900  
'Crown & Eagle' Series

GERMANY & AUSTRIA BOUND MAIL

PRINTED-MATTER MAIL  
TO AUSTRIA

5 JANUARY 1895

Chinese-language  
newspaper  
printed-matter,  
postmarked  
at Tientsin, sent to  
Bregenz, Austria.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Bregenz,  
22 February 1895"

5 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Printed-Matter Rate for  
mail up to 50 grams.



SINGLE-WEIGHT  
LETTER TO  
WÜRTTEMBERG,  
GERMANY

11 APRIL 1896

Cover postmarked  
at Tientsin, sent to  
Stuttgart, Germany.  
43-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Stuttgart,  
24 May (1896)"

20 Pfennig...  
UPU International  
Single-weight  
(15 grams)  
Letter-Rate.

PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Tientsin Postal Agency  
1893 - 1900  
'Crown & Eagle' Series

EUROPE-BOUND COMMERCIAL MAIL

SINGLE-WEIGHT COVER TO ENGLAND

-- APRIL 1894

Commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin, sent to London.

Arrival Postmark: (Reverse) "London, May 19, 1894"

20 Pfennig.. UPU International Single-Weight Letter-Rate.



DOUBLE-WEIGHT COVER TO HOLLAND

3 NOVEMBER 1894

Commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin, sent to Venlo, Netherlands. 40-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks: (Front & Reverse)

French Packet Boat Postmark: "Line No. 7, 10 November 1894" "Venlo, 14 December 1894"

40 Pfennig... UPU International Double-Weight (15-30 grams) Letter-Rate.



# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Tientsin Postal Agency  
1893 – 1900  
'Crown & Eagle' Series

## REGISTERED MAIL

### COMMERCIAL SAMPLES

1 JUNE 1895

Register commercial  
(Drosste & Walter Company)  
sample mail-tag,  
postmarked  
at Tientsin, sent to  
Kobe, Japan.

30 Pfennig...  
10 Pfg: Samples  
weighing  
between 20-250 grams +  
20 Pfg: Registry fee



### PRINTED MATTER

23 NOVEMBER 1898

View-card,  
endorsed  
"Drucksache",  
postmarked at  
Tientsin, sent to  
Frankfurt/Main,  
Germany,

Arrival Postmark:  
(Front)  
"Frankfurt/Main,  
31 December  
1898"

25 Pfennig...  
5 Pfg:  
UPU International  
Printed-Matter Rate  
+  
20 Pfg: Registry Fee



**PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**

**Kiautschou Territory  
1898-1914  
German Protectorate**

**ON 6 MARCH 1898, A 99-YEAR LEASEHOLD AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE IMPERIAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT COVERING THE KIAUTSCHOU BAY TERRITORY IN NORTHERN CHINA,**

**which subsequently became the home port facility of the German Far East Cruiser Squadron, responsible for protecting the Far East and Pacific German Colonies, Territories and Settlements.**

**MAP OF KIAUTSCHOU BAY TERRITORY**



**EARLY  
KIAUTSCHOU-RELATED  
NAVAL MAIL  
MSP 38 = HMS GEFION  
(Light Cruiser)**

**8 FEBRUARY 1898**

**Special Naval Postal Card postmarked on board HMS Gefion .. on route (mailed between Aden & Columbo, Ceylon) to Kiautschou Naval Base, sent to Coburg, Germany.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
"Coburg,  
28 February 1898"**

**10 Pfennig...  
Special Naval Postal Card sold on-board for 5 Pfennig with German Naval Command subsidizing 5 Pfg.**



**PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**

**Kiautschou Territory  
1898-1914  
German Protectorate**

**ON 27 APRIL 1898, KAISER WILHELM OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED THE KIAUTSCHOU TERRITORY AS A 'GERMAN PROTECTORATE' ADMINISTERED BY THE IMPERIAL GERMAN NAVY AND NOT THE GERMAN COLONIAL OFFICE, thereby completing the occupation of the territory started on 26 January 1898 along with earlier expansion of naval ships assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cruiser Squadrons stationed at Kiautschou Bay.**

**EARLY  
KIAUTSCHOU-RELATED  
NAVAL MAIL**

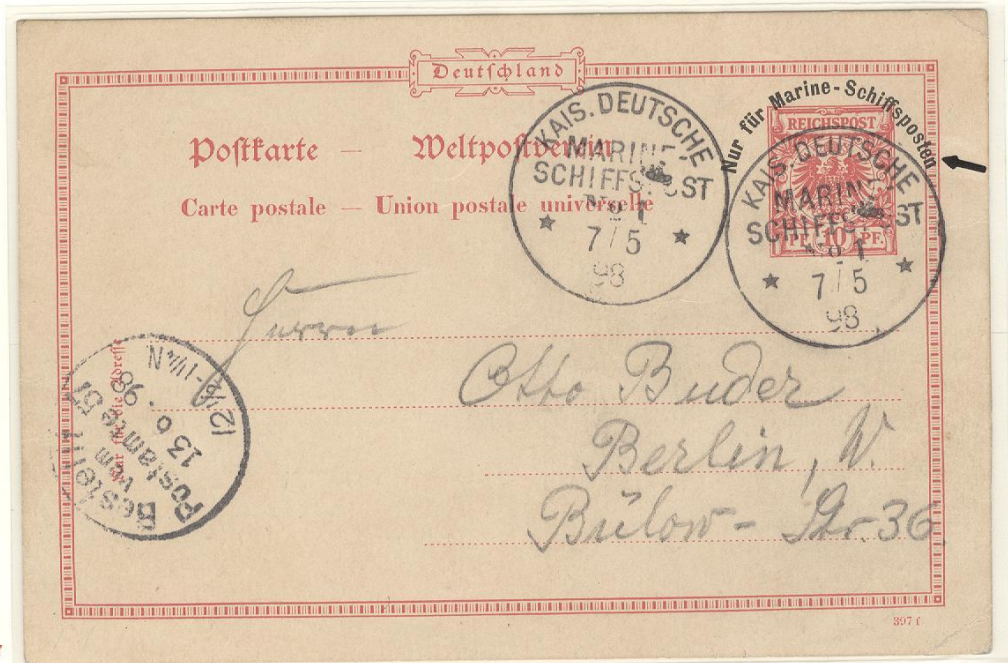
**MSP 1 = 'HMS KAISER'**  
(Heavy Cruiser)

**7 MAY 1898**

Special Naval Personnel  
Postal Card, postmarked on  
board 'HMS Kaiser' ..  
key vessel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Far East  
Cruiser Squadron ..,  
sent to Berlin, Germany.  
37-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Bestellt vom Postamte 57  
(Berlin),  
13 June 1898"

**10 Pfennig...**  
Special Naval Personnel  
Postal Card sold on-board for  
5 Pfg with Naval Command  
subsidy of 5 Pfg.



**KIAUTSCHOU-RELATED  
NAVAL MAIL**

**MSP 4 = 'HMS IRENE'**  
(Light Cruiser)

**18 OCTOBER 1899**

**"Gruss Aus Kiautschou"**  
Postcard, postmarked on-board  
'HMS Irene', ship of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Far  
East Cruiser Squadron,  
sent to Rosslau, Germany.  
36-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Rosslau,  
23 November 1899"

**5 Pfennig...**  
German postcard-rate valid for  
naval personnel mail.



Front



# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Kiautschou Territory  
1898-1914  
'Naval Field-Post' Postmark

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF GERMAN NAVAL SHIPS AT "TSINTANFORT" ON KIAUTSCHOU BAY ON 26 JANUARY 1898, USE OF A 'GERMAN NAVAL FIELDPOST' POSTMARK COMMENCED BEING USED AT THE FIRST GERMAN POST OFFICE IN THE TERRITORY.



USAGE: 26 January 1898 –  
12 March 1898



26 January 1898



Exp. Dr. Steuer

## OPENING OF THE FIRST POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER USAGE

26 JANUARY 1898

Cover on ship's stationery postmarked at *Tsintanfort*, Kiautschou, sent on the day of opening of the German Naval Post Office to Bremerhaven, Germany.

Cover sent by the ship's medical doctor aboard the North German Lloyd transport steamer '*Darmstadt*' (MSP 24), which also transported the equipment & supplies for the first post office during its stay at Kiautschou from 26 – 31 January 1898.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Bremerhaven, 14 March 1898"

40 Pfennig...

Double-weight (30 grams) UPU International Letter-Rate.

ONCE THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GERMANY AND CHINA WAS SIGNED ON 6 MARCH 1898, USE OF "MARINE FELDPPOST" (Naval Field-Post) WAS NO LONGER NEEDED AND THE WORDS WERE EXCISED FROM THE FIRST POSTMARK.



USAGE:  
12 March 1898 –  
16 May 1898

15 APRIL 1898

Decorative  
'Mandarin' Cover,  
postmarked at  
Tsintanfort, sent to  
Ratibor, Silesia,  
Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Ratibor,  
22 May 1898"

10 Pfennig...  
Special reduced  
non-officer-mail  
letter rate  
(15-60 grams)  
for mail sent to  
Germany.  
(Valid until 30 April 1899).



Reverse

**PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**

**Kiautschou Territory  
1898-1914**



USAGE:  
16 May 1898 –  
Early May 1899

The heretofore town location "Tsintanfort" was incorrectly replicated on the postmark as a result of an printing error of the town names in an official catalog at the German telegraph office.

**ON 30 MARCH 1898, THE NAVAL POSTAL AUTHORITIES AUTHORIZED  
A CORRECTION OF THE SPELLING ON A NEW POSTMARK..  
"TSINTAU .. CHINA"**

**"MANDARIN"  
DECORATIVE COVER  
MAIL TO GERMANY**

**3 JUNE 1898**

Cover, sent by a sailor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Naval Artillery stationed at Tsintau to Berlin, Germany.  
38-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

"Bestellt vom (Berlin)  
Postamte 17,  
11 July 1898"

**10 Pfennig..  
(48° 'China Overprint)  
German-domestic  
single-weight  
letter-rate.**

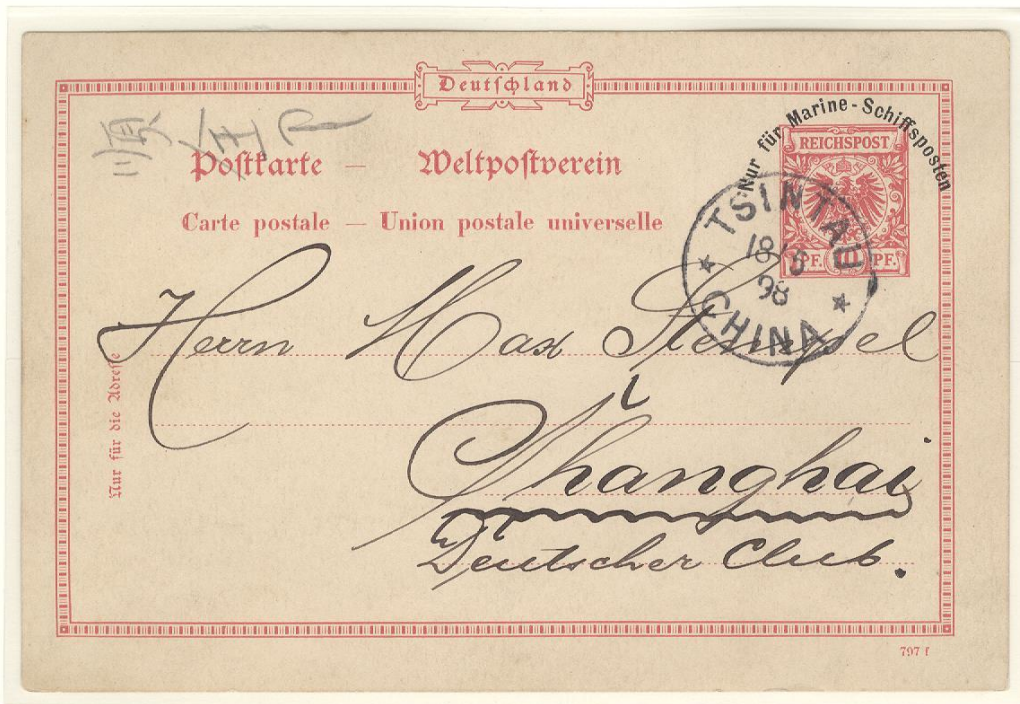


**NAVAL  
POSTAL STATIONERY  
CARD USAGE..  
TSINTAU-SHANGHAI**

**18 MAY 1898**

Naval postal stationery card, postmarked at Tsintau, sent to "Max Stempel" at the "German Club" at Shanghai.

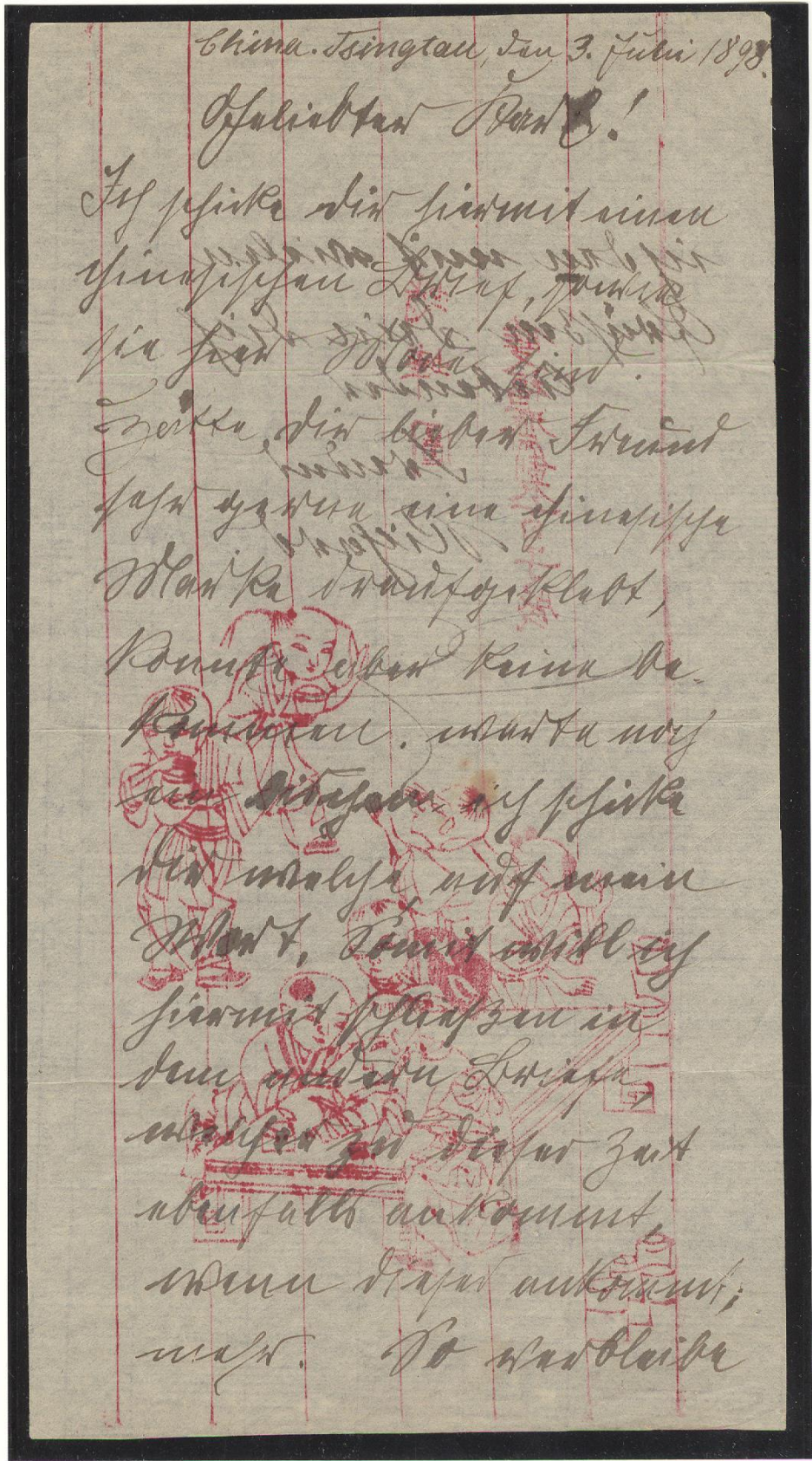
**10 Pfennig...  
Special Naval  
Personnel Postal Card  
sold on-board at  
5 Pfg with Naval  
Command subsidy  
5 Pfg.**



**Third-Day Usage of  
'Tsintau' Postmark.**

'MANDARIN' LETTER STATIONERY

Because of their attractiveness, German military personnel stationed in China often purchased locally-produced decorative "Mandarin" Envelopes & illustrated rice-paper letter stationery for their mail home.



Example of illustrated rice-paper letter stationery where the ILLUSTRATIONS ON ONE-SIDE REPLICATED EXACTLY THE SAME ON THE OTHER SIDE.

# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Kiautschou Territory

1898-1914

Postmark Evolution

The heretofore postmark designation "Tsintau .. China"  
was again corrected in May 1899  
NOW INDICATING "KIAUTSCHOU",  
ELIMINATING THE WORD "CHINA" FROM A NEW POSTMARK.

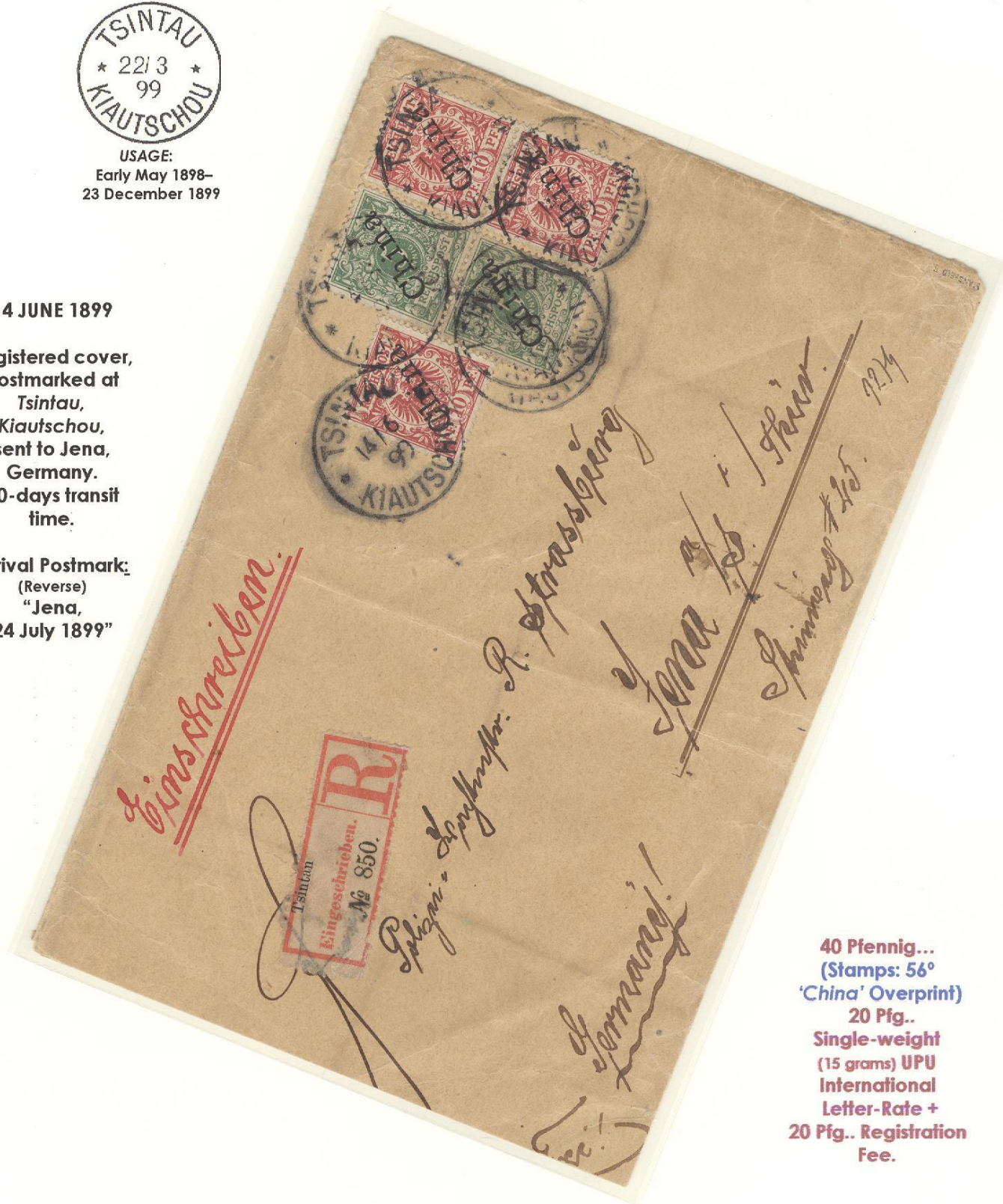


USAGE:  
Early May 1898–  
23 December 1899

14 JUNE 1899

Registered cover,  
postmarked at  
Tsintau,  
Kiautschou,  
sent to Jena,  
Germany.  
40-days transit  
time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Jena,  
24 July 1899"



40 Pfennig...  
(Stamps: 56°  
'China' Overprint)  
20 Pfg..  
Single-weight  
(15 grams) UPU  
International  
Letter-Rate +  
20 Pfg.. Registration  
Fee.

Having need for a reserve or second postmark type in May 1899, the  
POSTAL AUTHORITIES OBTAINED ANOTHER HAND-POSTMARKER  
"TSINTAU, KIAUTSCHOU" NOW HAVING THE DESIGNATION 'a'.



USAGE:  
Early May 1898-  
5 January 1900



14 DECEMBER 1899

Registered cover, postmarked at Tsintau,  
sent to London, England.  
37-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Front & Reverse)  
"London,  
20 January 1900"

45 Pfennig...

(Stamps: 48° 'China' Overprint)

20 Pfg.. UPU International Single-Weight (15 grams) Letter-Rate +  
20 Pfg.. Registration fee +  
5 Pfg.. Convenience over-franking.

**PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**

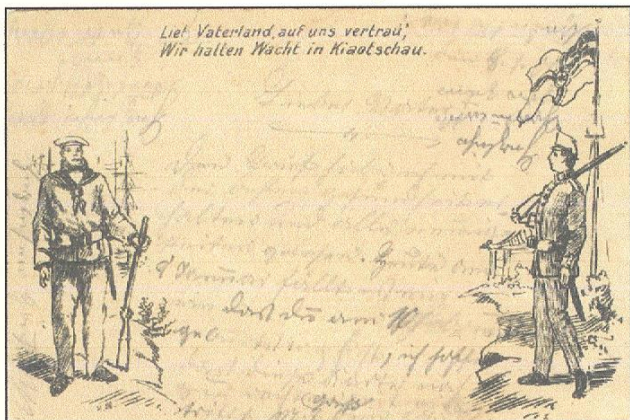
**Kiautschou Territory  
1898-1914**

To correct the spelling of the main town,  
**THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES OBTAINED ANOTHER NEW POSTMARK NOW  
 INDICATING "TSINGTAU, KIAUTSCHOU"**  
 having a 'star' on each dater-dial side.



**USAGE:**  
 19 December 1899–  
 13 November 1905

**"Trust us Fatherland .. We shall keep watch in Kiautschou"**



Reverse

**12 JANUARY 1900**  
 Postcard postmarked at Tsingtau,  
 sent to a small town near Halle, Germany.

**5 Pfennig..**  
 Postcard colonial concession-rate for mail  
 sent to Germany



**4 OCTOBER 1900**

**Newspaper  
 wrapper**  
 (with Boxer War news),  
 postmarked at  
 Tsingtau, sent to  
 Colmar,  
 Alsace Province,  
 Germany.

**3 Pfennig...**  
 (Stamp: 56° 'China'  
 Overprint)  
**Colonial printed-  
 matter rate up to  
 50 grams sent to  
 Germany**

**PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**

**Kiautschou Territory  
1898-1914**

THE HERETOFORE 'DOUBLE-STAR-IN-DIAL' POSTMARK WAS SUPPLEMENTED WITH ANOTHER INDICATING "TSINGTAU, KIAUTSCHOU \*a", having usage over fourteen years.



USAGE:  
5 January 1900–  
6 November 1914

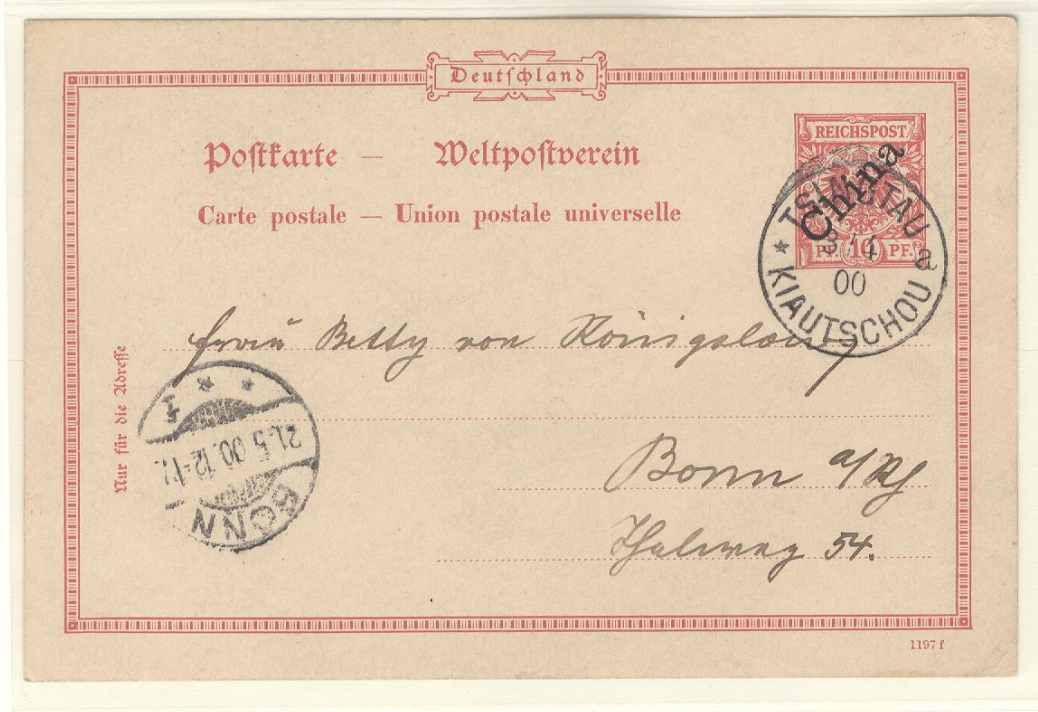
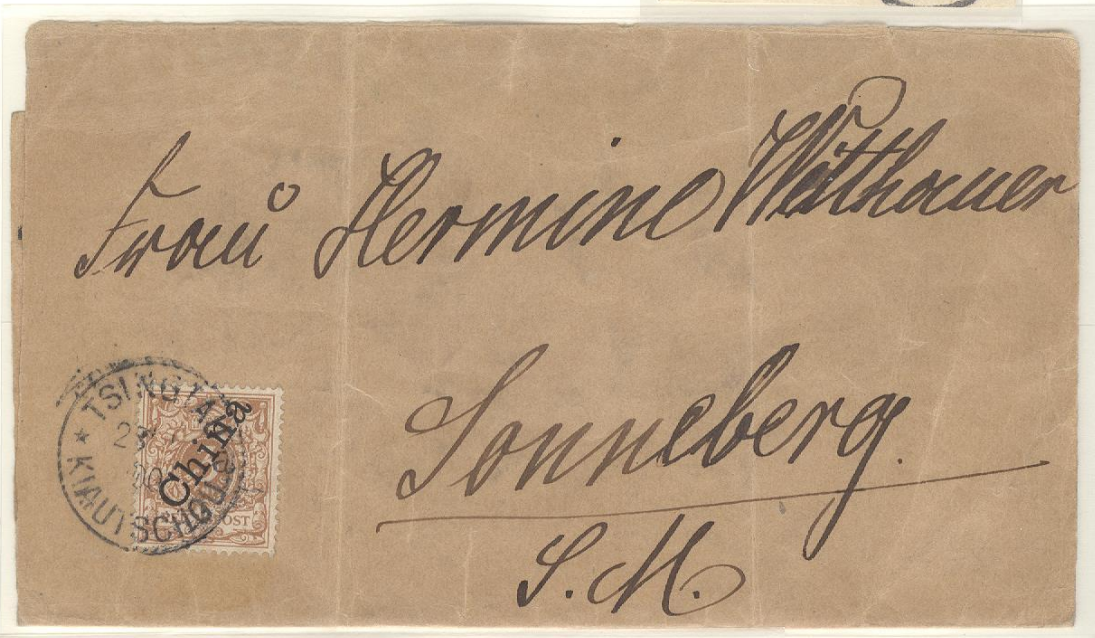
Signed:  
Engel &  
Brandes



**23 JANUARY 1900**

Newspaper wrapper, postmarked at Tsingtau, sent to Sonnenberg, Province Silesia, Germany.

**Franking:  
3 Pfennig...**  
(Stamp: 56° 'China' Overprint)  
**Colonial printed-matter rate for mail up to 50 grams sent to Germany.**



**3 APRIL 1900**

UPU Postal Card, postmarked at Tsingtau, sent to Bonn, Germany. 48-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Bonn,  
21 May 1900"

**Franking:  
10 Pfennig..**  
(48° 'China' Overprint)  
**UPU International Postcard-Rate.**



# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Sea-Post  
1886-1913  
East Asiatic Main Line  
'Pfennig Series' Usage

With the opening of a postal agency at Shanghai, regular sea-post mail was introduced in August, 1886, with a total of seven different 'a' thru 'e' identifiers in postmarks used, albeit transferred in use between a large number of vessels.

UNTIL 1899, THE 'FAR-EAST MAIN LINE' ONLY SAILED TO & FROM SHANGHAI. MAIL ORIGINATING ALONG THE ROUTE HAD TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH A WRITTEN INDICATION OF THE PORT NAME ON THE MAIL.

EAST ASIATIC  
MAIN LINE  
VESSEL 'b'  
(NGL Prussia')

23 APRIL 1889

Commercial cover,  
originating at Hong  
Kong, sent to  
Magdeburg,  
Germany

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Magdeburg,  
13 May 1889"

20 Pfennig...  
International Single-  
Weight (15 grams)  
Letter-rate.

Exp Bothe BPP



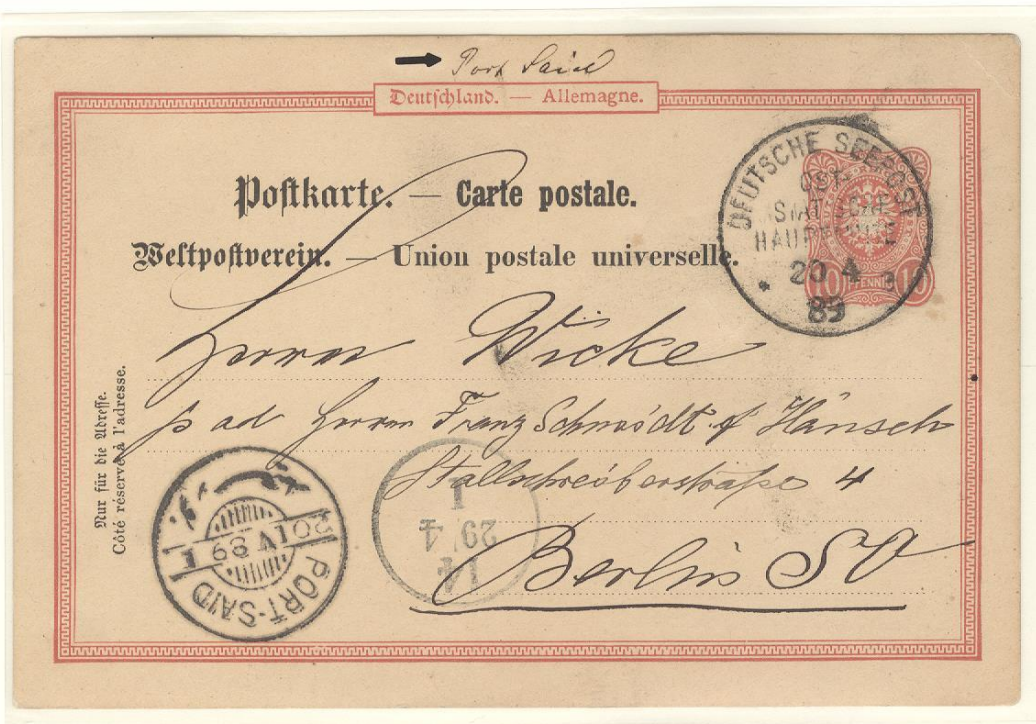
EAST ASIATIC  
MAIN LINE  
VESSEL 'e'  
(NGL Neckar)

20 APRIL 1889

UPU Postal Stationery  
Card, originating at Port  
Said (Egypt), sent to Berlin,  
Germany.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(Front & Reverse)  
"Port Said,  
20 April 1889"  
"Berlin,  
29 April (1889)"

10 Pfennig...  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate



# PRE-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Sea-Post  
1886-1913

East Asiatic Main Line  
'Crown & Eagle Series' Usage

MAIL DEPOSITED ON-BOARD SHIP WHILE AT SHANGHAI  
DID NOT HAVE TO BE PORT-ENDORSED.

VESSEL 'b'  
(NGL 'Sachsen')

29 NOVEMBER 1895

Mourning cover  
sent to England



M. Rohde, Shanghai.

*Johann Emil Neubert  
Adr Johann Franz Tiemann  
Hamburg  
Grimm A 7.*



VESSEL 'd'  
(NGL 'Bayern')

22 JUNE 1892

Commercial cover sent  
to Hamburg.

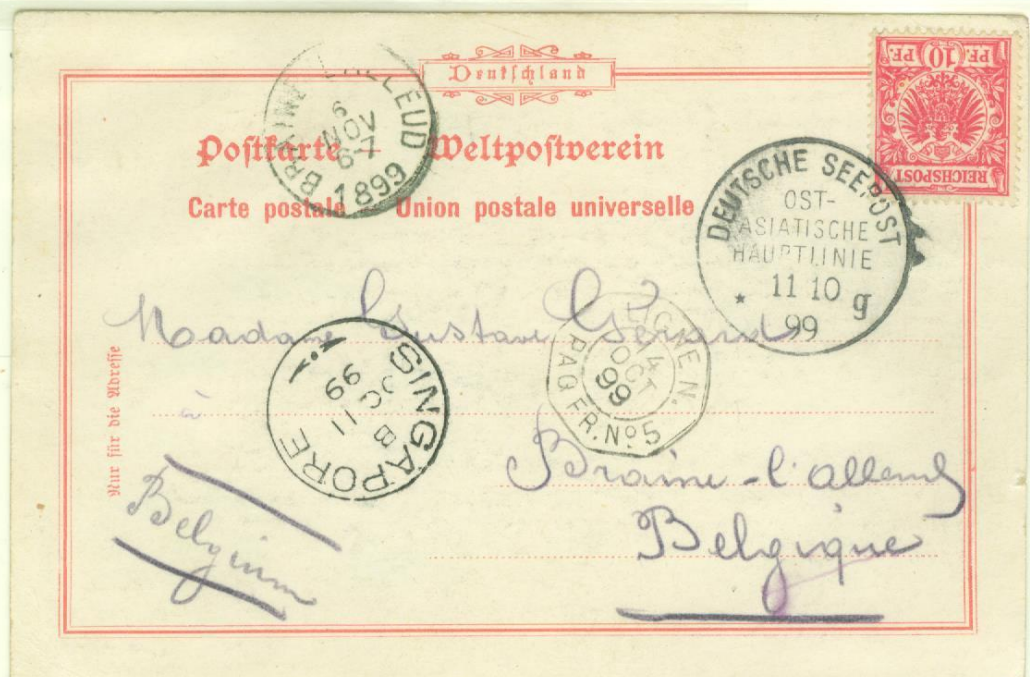
20 Pfennig...  
Single-weight  
(15 grams) international  
letter-rate.

VESSEL 'g'  
(NGL 'Neckar')

11 OCTOBER 1899

UPU postal card  
written  
(6 September) at  
Columbo, Ceylon,  
mailed and  
postmarked on  
westbound NGL  
vessel, transferred at  
Singapore to a  
French packet ship,  
with final destination  
Belgium.

10 Pfennig...  
International  
postcard-rate.



## II. POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA

Coastal & Inland Post Offices

AMOY  
1902-1917



USAGE: 12 June 1902 –  
Early 1913

Located on two islands, southeast China, Fujian Province,  
in the Taiwan Strait,  
'AMOY' WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SEAPORTS THROUGH WHICH  
EUROPEANS TRADED WITH CHINA IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. IT WAS  
OPENED AS 'TREATY PORT' BY THE TREATY OF NANKING IN 1842,  
with English (1844) & French (1902) Post Offices open  
there prior to a German Post Office.

### HAND-WRITTEN YEAR DATE USAGE

12 JUNE 1902

Because of lack of available  
type, the year date did not  
appear on postmarks applied  
between 12-17 June 1902,  
resulting in the year date  
to be inserted by hand.



Signed Dr. Kr.



First Day of Usage



PRINTED MATTER TO  
GERMANY

20 APRIL 1904

Cover, postmarked at  
Amoy, China, sent to  
Hamburg, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hamburg,  
5 May 1904"

10 Pfennig...  
Double-weight UPU  
(100 grams) International  
Printed-Matter Rate.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**AMOY**  
1902-1917



**INTERNATIONAL POSTCARD-RATED MAIL**

**'VIA SIBERIA'**  
ROUTED MAIL TO  
DENMARK

**5 DECEMBER 1909**

Viewcard,  
postmarked at  
Amoy, routed  
"Via Siberia"  
to Copenhagen,  
Denmark.



**MAIL TO GERMANY**

**1 NOVEMBER 1905**

Photo-card,  
postmarked at  
Amoy, sent to  
Bremen, Germany.  
34-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Bremen,  
5 December 1905"

**4 Cents ..**  
**UPU International Postcard-Rate**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

AMOY  
1902-1917

OFFICIAL NAVAL MAIL



FREE-FRANK OFFICIAL MAIL

13 DECEMBER 1909

Sealed cover, postmarked at  
Amoy, sent to the wharf at  
Tsingtau, Kiautschou.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

"Tsingtau, Kiautschou c,  
21 December 1909, 5-6 AM"

Blue Seal:

"Imperial Navy .. Headquarters of  
the Cruiser Squadron"



Reverse

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**AMOI**  
1913-1917



USAGE: 3 March 1913 –  
16 March 1917

IN MARCH, 1913, THE SPELLING OF  
"AMOY" WAS ALTERED TO "AMOI".



9 June 1914  
Exp. Bothe

**MAIL TO THE  
UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA**

**3 MARCH 1913**

**Viewcard,  
postmarked at Amoi,  
sent to  
Rochester, New York.**

**4 Cents ..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate.**

**Earliest Known  
Postmark Usage.**



**Postkarte**



Familie W. Gronau  
Bremerhaven  
Schluisenstr. 7  
Germany.

**WARTIME MAIL TO  
GERMANY**

**13 OCTOBER 1914**

**Postal stationery  
card postmarked at  
Amoi, China, sent to  
Bremerhaven,  
Germany, possibly by  
neutral-flag vessel.**

**2 Cents...  
Colonial concession  
postcard-rate for mail  
sent to Germany.**

Exp Mansfeld



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

CANTON  
1902-1917

'CANTON', an important commercial & port city, located in southern Guangdong Province, on the Zhu River in the Xi Delta, about 80 miles from the sea.  
**WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SEAPORTS THROUGH WHICH EUROPEANS TRADED WITH CHINA IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.**

**IT BECAME A 'TREATY PORT' BY THE TREATY OF NANKING IN 1842,**  
with British (1844) & French (1901) Post Offices established prior to  
a German Post Office in June, 1902.

FORERUNNER MAIL .. CANTON-GERMANY



13 JANUARY 1902  
(French Post Office)

Registered cover, postmarked at Canton,  
sent to Munich, Bavaria, Germany.

Since the German Post Office at Canton first opened in June, 1902,  
this mail was sent through French Post Office.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

"...Hong Kong, 14 January 1902.."  
"Munich, 15 February 1902.."

**75 Centimes...**

(French Indo-China Stamp franking)

**UPU International Registered Single-Weight  
(15 grams) Letter-Rate.**

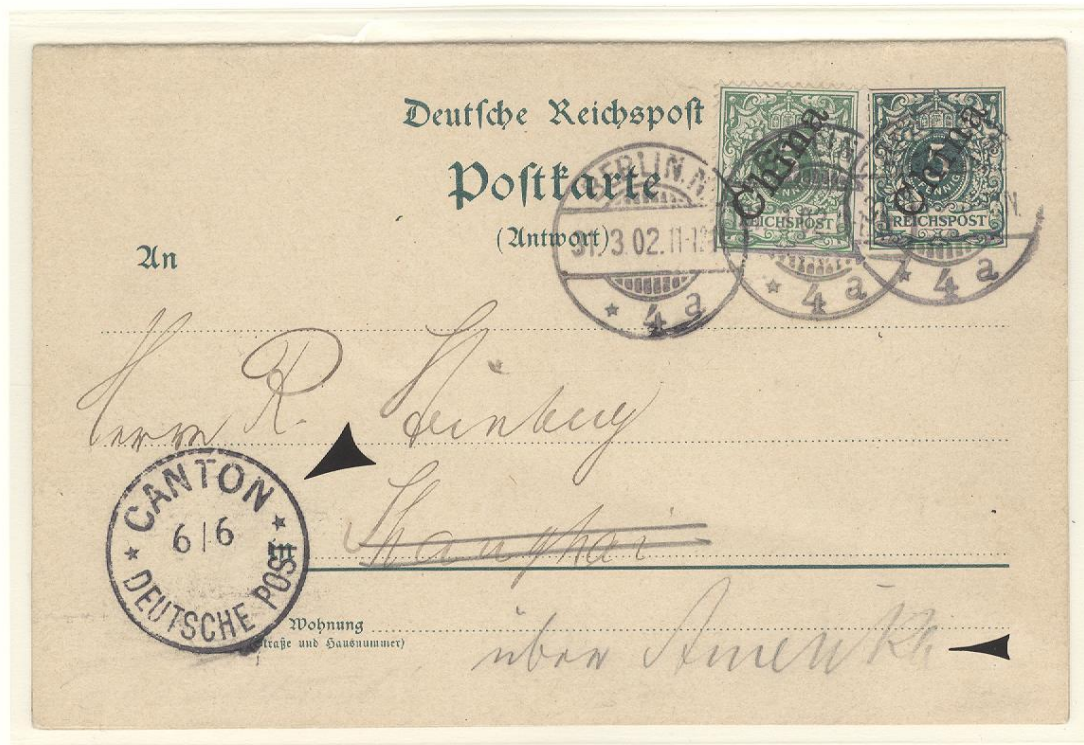
**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**CANTON**  
1902-1917



Early operation of the German Post Office at Canton lacked adequate postmark-type resulting in **INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL NOT HAVING A YEAR DATE IN POSTMARKS BETWEEN 2-14 JUNE 1902.** Outgoing mail had hand-written year dates inserted on the mail's postmark while incoming mail had no such insertion.

**REPLY POSTAL STATIONERY MAIL HAVING 'CANTON' RECEIVING POSTMARK WITHOUT YEAR DATE**



**STATIONERY REPLY-CARD MAIL**  
**SHANGHAI-BERLIN-CANTON**

**14 FEBRUARY/31 MARCH 1902**  
**ARRIVAL: 6 JUNE (1902)**

Postal stationery card outgoing mail, postmarked at Shanghai, sent to Berlin, Germany, with reply returned to Shanghai & re-directed to 'Canton' routed "Via America".



**10 Pfennig...**  
**UPU International Postcard Rate.**

Origin-Mail Postal Stationery Card



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

CANTON  
1902-1917



USAGE:  
2 June 1902 -  
mid-1913



REGISTERED MAIL TO GERMANY

25 JUNE 1912

Registered cover, postmarked at Canton,  
sent to Düsseldorf, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)  
"Düsseldorf,  
14 July 1912"

14 Cents...

4 Cents .. Single-weight (20 grams)  
colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany +  
10 Cents .. Registration fee

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

CANTON  
1902-1917

PRINTED-MATTER MAIL  
TO BELGIUM

13 MAY 1908

Viewcard,  
postmarked at  
Canton, sent to  
Brussels, Belgium,  
routed by sea  
via Hong Kong.

2 Cents ..  
UPU International  
Printed-Matter Rate  
valid for view-cards  
having less than 10  
written words.

(Validity: 1 Oct. 1905 -  
1 July 1908)



MISSIONARY  
MAIL TO  
GERMANY

7 APRIL 1913

Cover,  
postmarked at  
Canton, sent to  
Hayn, Germany.

4 Cents...  
Colonial  
single-weight  
letter-rate for  
mail sent to  
Germany.

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

KANTON  
1913-1917



USAGE:  
21 May 1913 -  
16 March 1917



IN MAY, 1913, THE SPELLING OF "CANTON" WAS  
ALTERED TO THE GERMAN ... "KANTON".

Abfender: *Riederichsen & Co.*

**Posteinlieferungsschein**

über ein gewöhnliche... Paket...

an *H. Riederichsen & Co.*

in *Hamburg*

Aufgabennummer: *327*

Der obere Teil des Scheines ist vom Absender  
auszufüllen.  
(5. 10) C 62h

*0,5 Kg. via München Porto  
B1.40 + 5 ct*

RECEIPT FOR A CHINA-GERMANY-BOUND PARCEL

12 JUNE 1914

Franked parcel-post receipt, postmarked at Kanton,  
for a one-half kilo parcel sent to Hamburg  
routed "Via Munich" (Brindisi-Austria-Munich-Hamburg).

5 Cents...

Service fee for a package delivery receipt.

(Validity: Effective 1 June 1910)

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

KANTON  
1913-1917

DECORATIVE  
COVER  
TO GERMANY

17 JUNE 1914

Rice-paper  
cover,  
postmarked at  
Kanton, sent to  
Straubing,  
Bavaria,  
Germany.

Exp. Steuer



Reverse



NON-CENSORED  
(1914)  
WAR DATE MAIL  
TO GERMANY

3 NOVEMBER 1914

Cover,  
postmarked at  
Kanton, sent to  
Breslau,  
Silesia Province,  
Germany.

4 Cents...

Colonial concession single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate for mail sent to Germany.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**KANTON**  
1913-1917

**CENSORED WAR DATE MAIL TO GERMANY**

**BRITISH  
INTERCEPTED &  
CENSORED  
(1915)  
MAIL**

**29 JULY 1915**

Cover,  
postmarked at  
Kanton, sent to  
München-  
Gladbach,  
Germany,  
intercepted,  
censored,  
re-sealed &  
released by  
the British.

**10 Cents..  
UPU  
International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams)  
Letter-Rate.**



**GERMAN-  
CENSORED  
(1916)  
MAIL**

**29 APRIL 1916**

Postal stationery  
card  
postmarked at  
Kanton, China,  
sent to Berlin-  
Steglitz, with mail  
successfully  
avoiding British  
naval blockade,  
German-  
censorship at  
Emmerich,  
Germany.

**4 Cents..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**KANTON**  
1913-1917

**OUT-BOUND  
BUSINESS-REPLY  
MAIL TO  
GERMANY**  
(‘Canton’)

**13 JANUARY  
1905**

Cover,  
franked & self-  
addressed in  
Germany,  
postmarked at  
Canton,  
returned to  
Leipzig,

**20 Pfennig..  
UPU  
International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams)  
Letter-Rate.**



**IN-BOUND MAIL  
FROM BAVARIA**  
(‘Canton’)

**4 JULY 1914**

Postal stationery  
card,  
postmarked at  
Munich, sent to  
“Canton” with  
arrival mark  
“Kanton”  
(26 July 1914).

Route:  
“Via Siberia”

22-day transit  
time.

**5 Pfennig.  
Colonial  
concession  
Postcard-Rate.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**FUTSCHAU**  
1900-1917



USAGE:  
16 June 1900 –  
16 March 1917

Seaport located on the Min River in southeastern China, halfway between Hong Kong and Shanghai, 'Futschau' (Foochow or Fuchau) is capital of today's Fujian Province and was **ONE OF THE FIRST FIVE TREATY PORTS OPENED TO TRADE BY THE TREATY OF NANKING IN 1842.**



Exp/Cert BPB



**FORERUNNER TO THE 'FUTSCHAU PROVISIONAL'**

**6 FEBRUARY 1901**

Large multiple (block of twenty) clip probably from a piece of heavy commercial mail, postmarked at Futschau.

**Largest known multiple of the 5-Pfennig 'Crown & Eagle' 56° China-Overprint Issue value.**

**Very high usage & depletion of the 5-Pfennig value between 1900-1901 at Futschau resulted in the need for a 5 Pfennig provisional.**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

FUTSCHAU  
1900-1917

FUTSCHAU PROVISIONAL ISSUES

Soon after the opening of the Futschau Post Office Branch, the 5-Pfennig stamps of the 'Crown & Eagle' China-Overprint Issue was soon exhausted, requiring the postmaster to obtain a wooden hand-stamp for hand-overprinting the 10-Pfennig value stamps still available.

**THE FIRST ISSUE HAD "CHINA" AT 45° (2600 stamps total) WHILE THE SECOND ISSUE HAD "CHINA" AT 56° (1400 stamps total), BOTH OVERPRINTED "5 PF".**

Validity Period: 7 July 1900 – 31 March 1902

FIRST  
PROVISIONAL  
ISSUE ..  
'CHINA' AT 45°



Exp Richter



Cert BPB

9 JANUARY 1901

Registered single-weight cover, postmarked Futschau,  
sent to Shanghai,  
back-stamped "Shanghai, 12 April 1901".

30 Pfennig..

10 Pfennig .. Single-weight (20 grams) letter rate for mail sent  
between German Post Offices in China +  
20 Pfennig .. Registration fee

SECOND  
PROVISIONAL  
ISSUE ..  
'CHINA' AT 56°



Exp Bothe



REGISTERED MAIL BETWEEN  
GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA



15 MARCH 1905

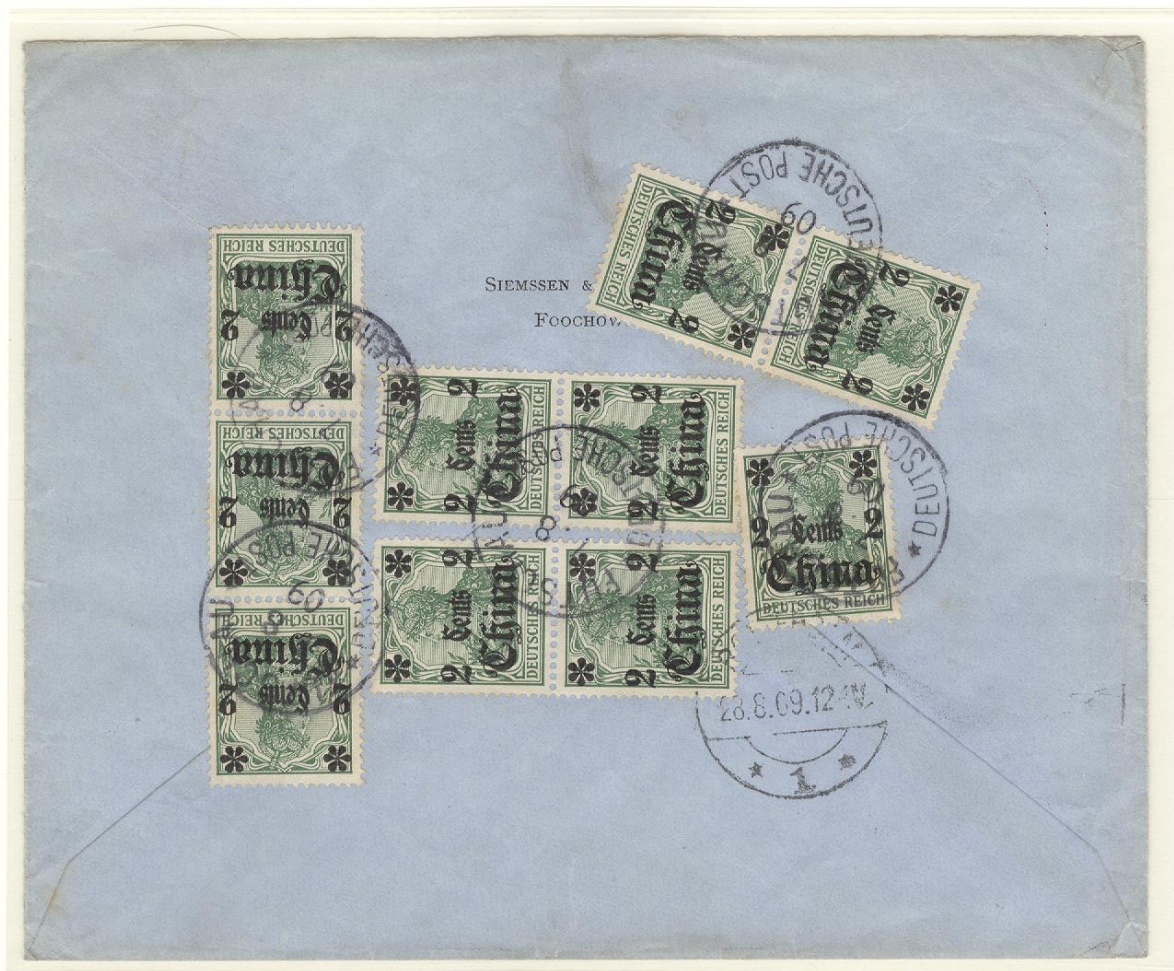
Registered cover, postmarked at Futschau, sent  
to Tongku, city in northeastern China & railhead  
for the Tientsin-Schanhaikuan Railway.

40 Pfennig ..  
20 Pfg.. Double-weight (16-250 grams) letter-rate  
for mail sent between German Post Offices in China +  
20 Pfg.. Registration fee

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

FUTSCHAU  
1900-1917

REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO HOLLAND

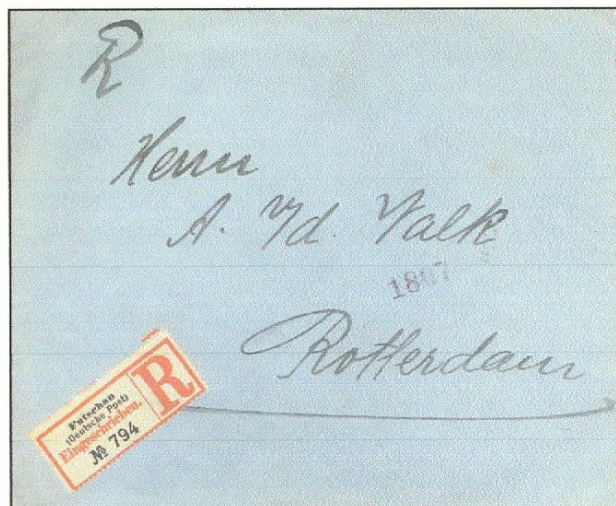


7 AUGUST 1909

Registered commercial cover,  
postmarked at Futschau,  
sent to Rotterdam, Holland.  
21-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Rotterdam,  
28 August 1909"

20 Cents ..  
10 Cents .. UPU International  
Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate +  
10 Cents .. Registration fee



Front

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

FUTSCHAU  
1900-1917

COMMERCIAL MAIL TO GERMANY

PRINTED-MATTER  
'MARKET REPORT'

12 OCTOBER 1912

Wrapper, postmarked at  
Futschau, sent to Bonn,  
Germany, with routing  
"Via Suez"

1 Cent ..  
Colonial Rate for printed-  
matter mail up to 50  
grams sent to  
Germany

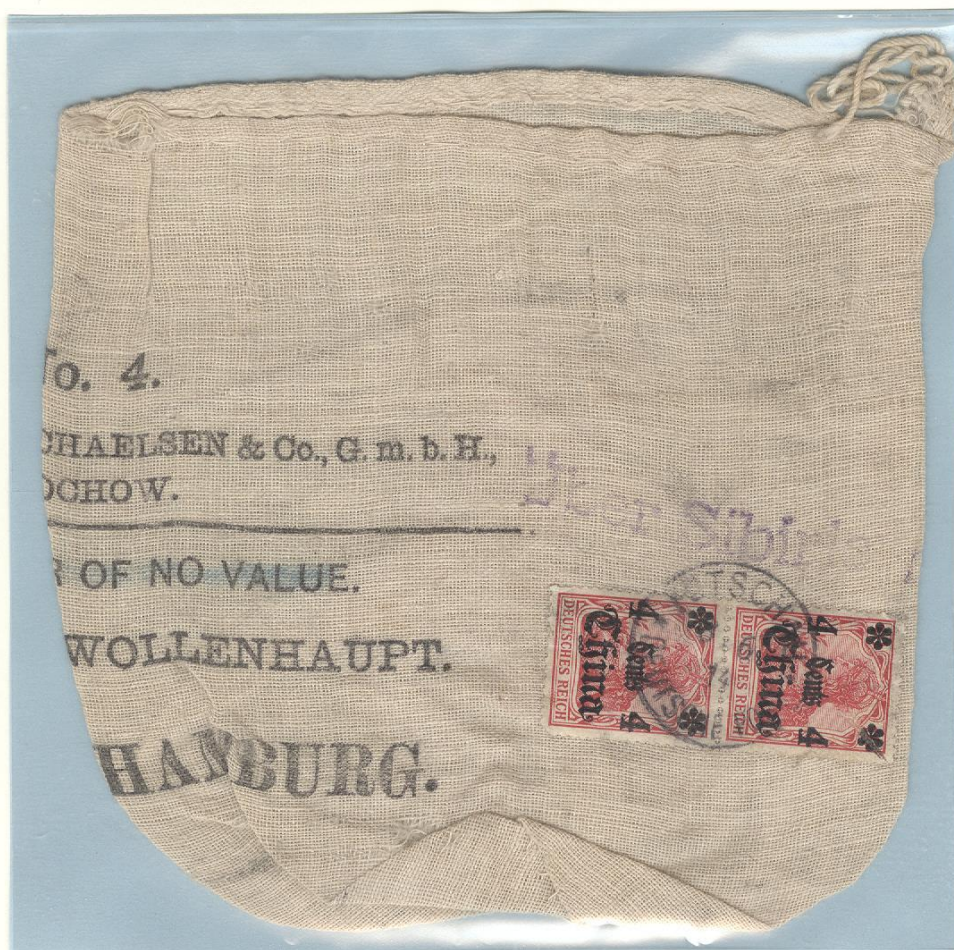


SAMPLE-GOODS  
POUCH

8 JUNE 1914

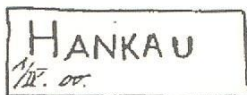
Tea-sample mail-pouch,  
postmarked at Futschau,  
sent to Hamburg,  
Germany with routing  
"Via Siberia".

8 Cents ..  
Colonial sample-goods  
rate for mail  
weighing up to  
350 grams sent to  
Germany.



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

HANKAU  
1900-1917



USAGE:  
1-30 April 1900

'Hankau', a major trading center & port, is located along the Yangtze River approximately 585 miles (941 km) upstream from Shanghai in eastern central China.  
**GERMANY ESTABLISHED A CONSULATE (1895) & A POST OFFICE (April 1900) AT HANKAU. ITS FIRST POSTMARK WAS PROVISIONAL & HORIZONTAL (40X15mm) USED ONLY DURING APRIL, 1900.**



18 APRIL 1900

Exp Bothe & Steuer

Partial front of an oversized commercial cover weighing 22 grams, postmarked at Hankau, sent to Belgium.

Hand-endorsed postmark date entered adjacent to postage.

Transit Postmark:  
"Shanghai,  
23 April 1900"

75 Pfg..

40 Pfg.. UPU International Double-Weight Letter-Rate +  
20 Pfg.. Registration fee + 15 Pfg.. Convenience over-franking

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**HANKAU**  
1900-1917

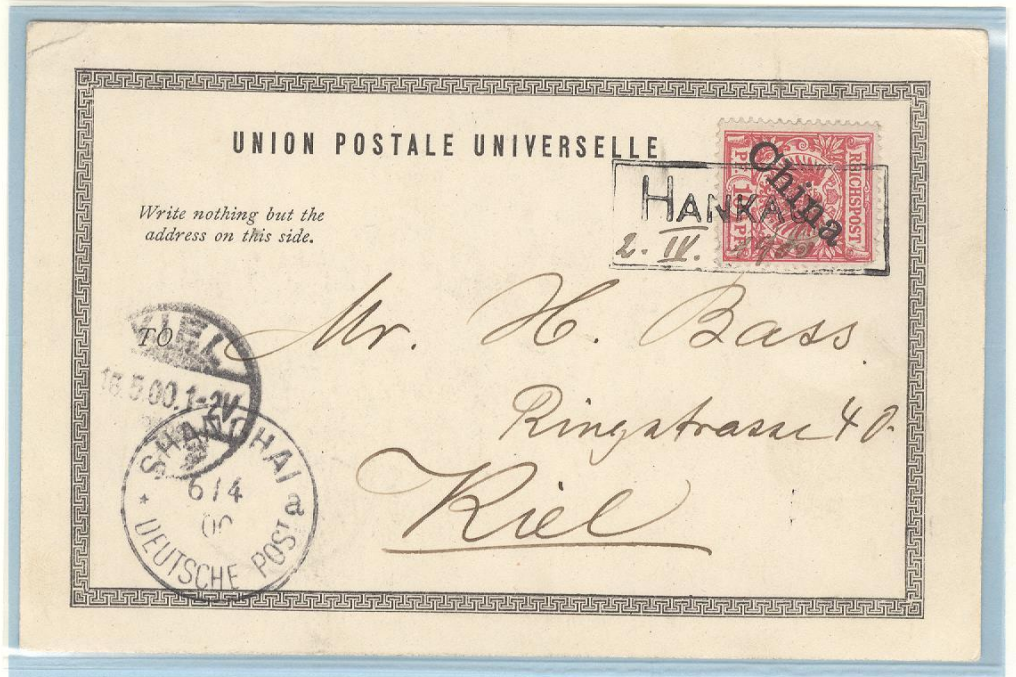
**2 APRIL 1900**  
(Date Endorsed)

**View-card,**  
**postmarked on**  
**second date of**  
**usage,**  
**at Hankau, sent to**  
**Kiel, Germany.**  
**44-day transit time.**

**Transit Postmark:**  
"Shanghai,  
6 April 1900"

**Arrival Postmark:**  
"Kiel,  
16 May 1900"

Cert: Lantelme



**28 APRIL 1900**  
(No Date Endorsement)

**View-card,**  
**postmarked**  
**at Hankau, sent to**  
**Graz, Austria.**  
**39-day transit time.**

**Transit Postmark:**  
"French Packet Boat,  
3 May 1900"

**Arrival Postmark:**  
"Graz,  
6 June (1900)"

Exp Bothe & Mansfeld

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**HANKAU**  
1900-1917



USAGE:  
25 April 1900 –  
16 March 1917



(a)



(d)

"China" Overprint  
at 56°



(b)



(b)

**7 MAY 1900**



(c)

Early-date cover,  
postmarked during the  
second month's  
operation of the  
German Post Office at  
Hankau,  
originally sent to  
Königsberg, Prussia,  
with re-direction to  
Mittelhufen.

Transit & Arrival  
Postmarks:

(Reverse)  
"Königsberg, 19 June  
1900:  
"Mittelhufen, 20 June  
1900"

**21 Pfennig:**  
UPU International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams) Letter-Rate +  
1 Pfennig convenience  
over-franking.

(2x 3 Pf = 56° China, 5 + 10 Pf = 45° China)  
Exp Killian BPP

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**HANKAU**  
1900-1917

**INLAND CHINA MAIL THROUGH  
THE GERMAN POST OFFICE AT HANKAU**

**HANKAU TO  
SHANGHAI  
REPLY-CARD MAIL**

**26 MAY 1900**

Early use of postal stationery reply card, postmarked at Hankau, sent to Shanghai.

**5 Pfennig ..  
Reply card  
postcard-rate for  
mail sent  
between German  
Post Offices in  
China.**



**SHANGHAI TO  
HANKAU MAIL**

**18 JANUARY 1901**

View-card, postmarked at Shanghai, China, sent to Hankau.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Hankau,  
23 January 1901"

**5 Pfennig...  
Postcard-rate for mail  
between German  
Post Offices in China.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**HANKAU**  
1900-1917

**SECOND 'CHINA' OVERPRINT ISSUE**



Plate Flaw:  
"OST" of Reichspost  
shortened at bottom



**CHINA TO JAPAN**  
**COMMERCIAL REGISTERED MAIL**

**25 AUGUST 1903**

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Hankau, sent to Yokohama, Japan, attached with Japanese routing attachments.

**40 Pfennig:**  
**20 Pfg.. UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate + 20 Pfg.. Registration fee**



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**HANKAU**  
1900-1917

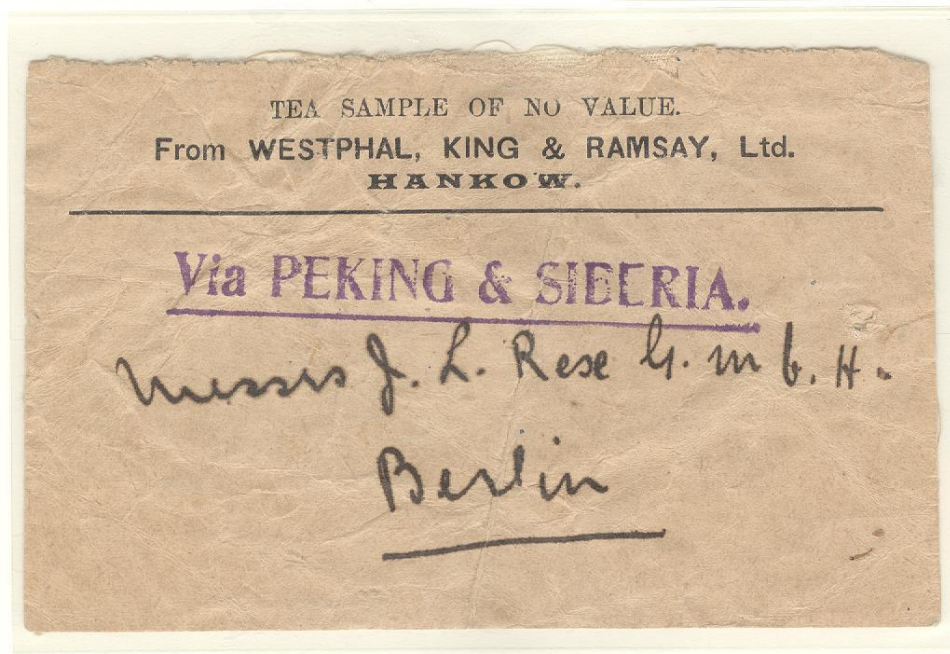
ON 1 OCTOBER 1905, A  
MONETARY CHANGE TOOK  
PLACE IN CHINA RESULTING IN  
THE USE OF MEXICAN DOLLARS  
WITH CONVERSION OF POSTAGE  
AT GERMAN POST OFFICES IN  
CHINA FROM PFENNIG/MARKS  
TO DOLLARS/CENTS.

6 FEBRUARY 1909

Block of twelve on large  
cover clip.

Largest known entity for the  
'40 Cents' Value

Exp Steuer



**COMMERCIAL TEA-SAMPLE MAIL**

8 JUNE 1911

Commercial tea-sample in a dedicated linen-pouch,  
postmarked at Hankau, sent  
"Via Peking & Siberia" to Berlin, Germany.

8 Cents...  
UPU International Quadruple (200 grams)  
Sample-Goods Rate.  
(2 Cents @ 50 grams)



Reverse

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

HANKAU  
1900-1917

FOREIGN-BOUND COMMERCIAL MAIL  
ROUTED "VIA SIBERIA"

COMMERCIAL  
MAIL TO HOLLAND

6 MARCH 1908

'Three-Color'  
Cover,  
postmarked at  
Hankau, sent to  
Rotterdam.

10 Cents ..  
UPU Single-weight  
Letter-Rate  
(20 grams).



BANK MAIL TO THE  
UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA

9 SEPTEMBER 1909

'Three-Color'  
Cover, postmarked  
at Hankau, sent to  
New York.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Hankau,  
23 January 1901"

16 Cents..  
UPU International  
Double-Weight  
Letter-Rate  
(20-40 grams)

PARCEL POST FORM CARD COVERING THREE PARCELS



Overprint Plate  
Flaw:  
First stamp has  
left  
star-petal  
standing at 90°.  
  
(Sheet Positions  
8, 11 & 12 only)

24 OCTOBER 1911

Parcel post form card for  
(3) 9-Kilo parcels shipped  
from Hankau to Göppingen,  
Württemberg, Germany.  
50-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
"Bremen,  
11 December 1911"  
"Göppingen,  
13 December 1911"

\$7.95..  
\$2.65/per parcel, duty paid,  
routed 'via Bremen'.



Front

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

HANKAU  
1900-1917

POSTAL STATIONERY CARD USAGE

PFENNIG  
DENOMINATED  
STATIONERY CARD  
USAGE AFTER  
DOLLAR/CENTS  
MONETARY  
CONVERSION

1 DECEMBER 1905

UPU international  
postal card,  
postmarked at  
Hankau, sent to  
Erfurt, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Erfurt,  
10 January 1906"

10 Pfennig ..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate.



UPDATED LOCAL-USE  
CARD SENT TO  
GERMANY

12 OCTOBER 1906

Cents-denominated  
postal stationery  
card, postmarked at  
Hankau, sent to  
Baden-Baden,  
Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Baden-Baden,  
16 November 1906"

4 Cents...  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**HANKAU**  
1900-1917

**INBOUND MAIL TO HANKAU**

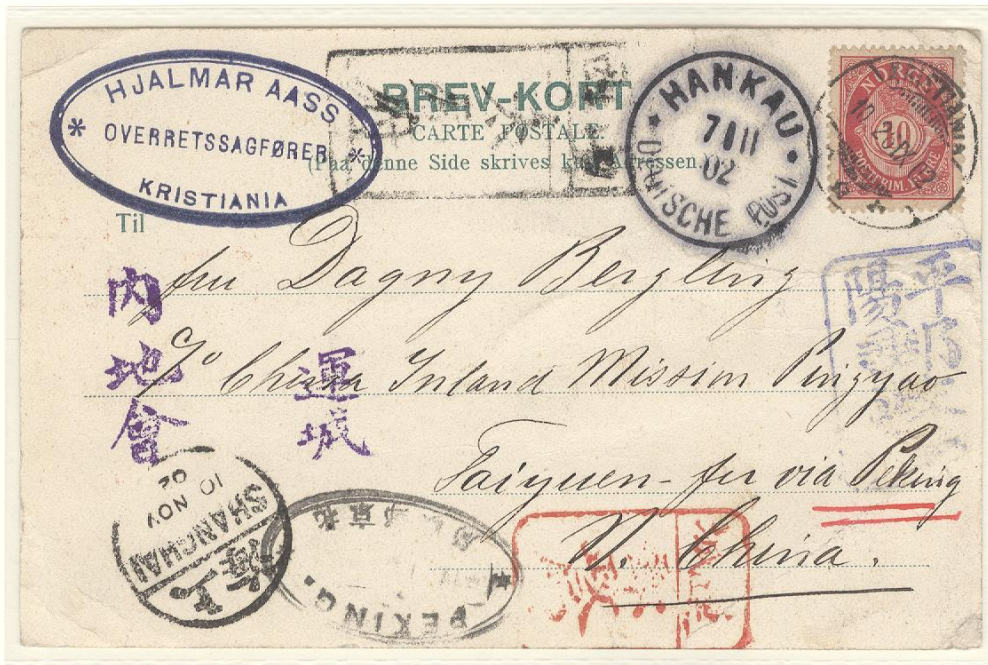
**ADVERTISING  
MAIL FROM  
GERMANY**  
(Through British Post  
Office at Hankau)

**31 JULY 1893**

Early advertising  
mail prior to  
opening of the  
German Post  
Office,  
postmarked at  
Düren (Rhineland),  
Germany, sent to  
Hankau.

Postage Stamp  
Perfin: "CS & S"

**5 Pfennig ..**  
**UPU International**  
**Printed-Matter**  
**Rate for mail up**  
**to 50 grams.**



**MISSIONARY MAIL  
FROM NORWAY  
TRANSITING HANKAU**  
(Through German Post  
Office at Hankau)

**26 SEPTEMBER 1902**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Kristiania (Oslo),  
Norway, sent to an  
inland mission.

Transit Postmarks:  
"Hankau,  
7 November 1902"  
"Shanghai,  
10 November 1902"  
"Peking,  
-- November 1902"

**10 Ore...**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**ITSCHANG**  
1903-1908

Located along the Yangtze River,  
approximately 1000 kilometers west of Shanghai,  
**'ITSCHANG' WAS THE SEAT OF A GERMAN CONSULATE WITH POST OFFICE**  
**BETWEEN 1903-1908, ALBEIT WAS CLOSED ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1908**  
**AS A RESULT OF PERSONNEL STAFFING DIFFICULTIES.**



USAGE:  
21 February 1903 –  
1 September 1908

**OPENING DAY OF POST OFFICE & FIRST DAY OF POSTMARK USAGE**



**21 FEBRUARY 1903**

Postal stationery card, postmarked at Itschang  
on first day of post office operation,  
sent to "Naval Pay Clerk Apprentice Kilian", known to be  
aboard Yangtze River Gunboat 'HMS Vorwärts',  
at the river town of 'Pin-Schan-Pan'.

**5 Pfg.**  
**Inner-China postcard-rate for mail sent**  
**between German post offices.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**ITSCHANG**  
1903-1908

**CONSULAR COMMERCIAL MAIL**  
WITH MIXED PFENNIG & CENTS DENOMINATED POSTAGE



Exp Steuer & Dr. Lantelme

**10 NOVEMBER 1905**

Consular mail, commercial cover,  
postmarked at Itschang,  
sent to a sales agency office at  
Hankau, China,  
down-river on the Yangtze River.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hankau,  
German Post Office,  
13 November 1905"

**8 Cents..**

(Mixed franking of Pfennig & Cents  
denominated postage)

**Double-weight (40 grams) letter-rate for mail  
sent between German Post Offices in China.**



Reverse

MONEY ORDER TRANSFER RECEIPT



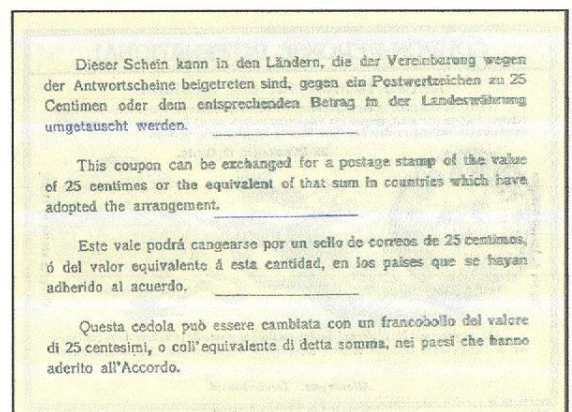
WAR-DATE INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON



9 JUNE 1916

**Hankau-validated  
UPU International Reply Coupon  
for 25 Pfennig = 12 Cents,  
or the equivalent of  
postage stamps of any UPU country for a  
single-weight international letter.**

**Only known international reply coupon with a  
German Post Office in Hankau validation.**



Reverse



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**ITSCHANG**  
1903-1908

**UPU REPLY POSTAL STATIONERY-CARD SET USAGE**

**OUT-BOUND  
MAIL TO BERLIN**

**5 APRIL 1903**

Outbound card  
postmarked at  
Itschang, sent to  
"Senior Postal  
Counsel Zappa" at  
Berlin, Germany.  
55-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Berlin,  
30 May 1903"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate.**



Exp Bothe & AG Berlin

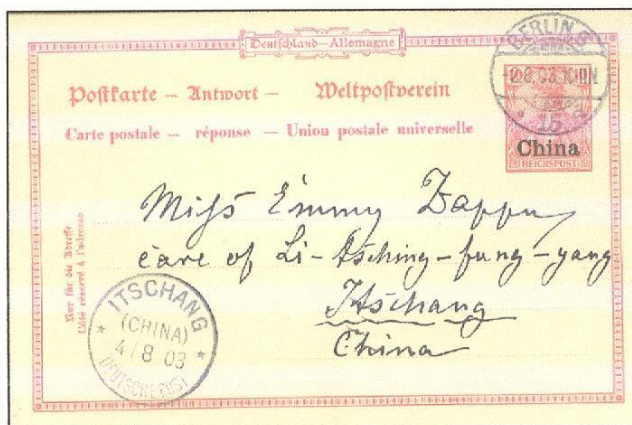
**REPLY CARD FROM BERLIN**

**2 JUNE 1903**

Reply from "Senior Postal  
Counsel Zappa" to his  
daughter at Itschang, China.  
63-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Itschang,  
German Post Office,  
4 August 1903"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**



Reverse

Exp. Bothe & AG Berlin

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**ITSCHANG**  
1903-1908

INNER-CHINA MAIL  
SENT TO  
"PAYMASTER APPRENTICE KILIAN" ABOARD  
GERMAN YANGTZE RIVER GUNBOAT 'HMS VORWÄRTS'

SHANGHAI-HANKAU-  
ITSCHANG  
MAIL PRIOR TO  
OPENING OF GERMAN  
POST OFFICE AT  
ITSCHANG  
(German & Chinese  
Post Offices)

19 DECEMBER 1902

Shanghai-origin view-  
card, sent through the  
German Post Office  
Shanghai-Hankau,  
then Chinese Post  
Office Hankau-  
Itschang.

Transit & Arrival  
Markings:  
"Hankau

23 December 1902"  
"Ichang,  
23 December.."

5 Pfennig ..  
Postcard-rate for  
inner-China mail sent  
through the German  
Post Office.



TSINGTAU-HANKAU-  
ITSCHANG MAIL

23 FEBRUARY 1903

Postal stationery  
card, postmarked at  
Tsingtau,  
Kiautschou,  
sent to Itschang  
via Hankau.

Transit & Arrival  
Postmarks:  
"Hankau,  
7 March 1903"  
"Itschang,  
11 March 1903"

10 Pfennig...  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**NANKING**  
1903-1917

Located along the Yangtze River about 250 kilometers northwest from Shanghai, 'Nanking' was the former capital of South China.

**A GERMAN POST OFFICE AT NANKING WAS ESTABLISHED ON 1 JANUARY 1903 WITH TEMPORARY CLOSURE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER, 1906, AND FEBRUARY, 1907, AS A RESULT OF CIVIL UNREST.**



USAGE:  
1 January 1903 –  
16 March 1917

**REGISTERED MAIL BETWEEN GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA**



Exp Mansfeld

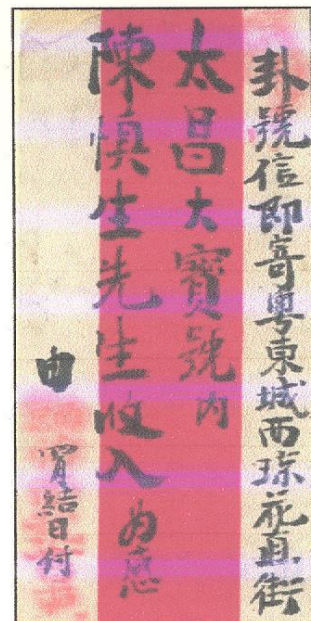
**NANKING-CANTON REGISTERED MAIL**

**29 MAY 1903**

Registered Chinese 'Red Band' Cover,  
postmarked at Nanking,  
sent to Canton, China.

**30 Pfennig..**

**10 Pfennig.. Single-weight (20 grams) inland  
letter-rate between German Post Offices in China +  
20 Pfennig.. Registration fee**



Front

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**NANKING**  
1903-1917

**FOREIGN-BOUND POSTCARD USAGE**

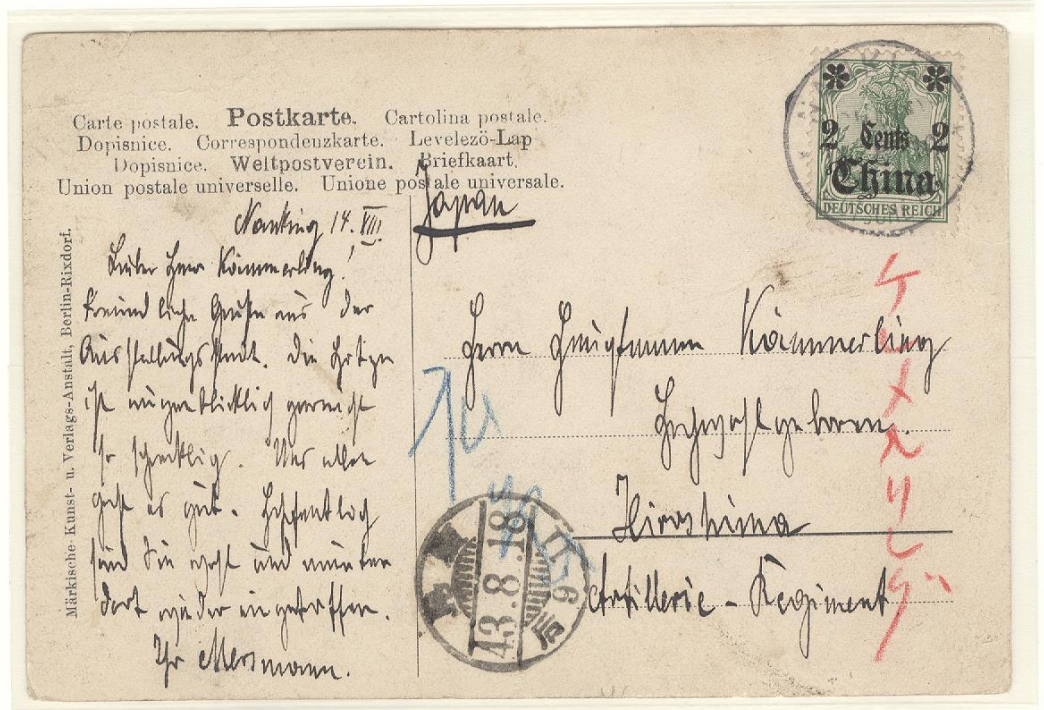
**SHORT-PAID  
NANKING TO  
JAPAN  
VIEW-CARD MAIL**

**14 AUGUST 1910**

**View-card,  
postmarked at  
Nanking, sent to  
Hiroshima, Japan.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
"Hiroshima,  
18 August (1910)"**

**2 Cents ..  
Short-paid by  
2 Cents, UPU  
International  
Postcard-Rate,  
with 10 Sen  
collected from  
recipient.**

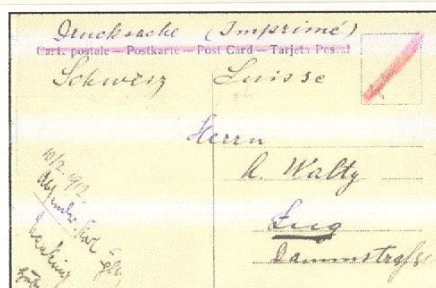


**PRINTED-MATTER RATE  
FOR CHINA-  
SWITZERLAND MAIL**

**13 FEBRUARY 1912**

**View-card,  
postmarked Nanking,  
sent to  
Zug, Switzerland.**

**2 Cents...  
UPU International  
Printed-Matter Rate for  
view-cards  
having less than  
10 words of text.**



Reverse

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

NANKING  
1903-1917

COMMERCIAL MAIL NANKING TO GERMANY



2 JANUARY 1912

Commercial cover,  
postmarked at Nanking,  
sent to  
Hamburg, Germany.

4 Cents ..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
colonial letter-rate  
for mail sent to Germany.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

Located on an extensive plain in northeast China,  
'PEKING' (Peiping/Beijing)  
was the seat of government of China, location of the 'Forbidden City', in  
which the empress resided, & location of foreign legations.

**A GERMAN MILITARY POST OFFICE AT PEKING OPENED ON 11 SEPTEMBER  
1900, INITIALLY USING A PROVISIONAL HAND-CARVED  
HANDSTAMP/POSTMARK,  
DURING THE BOXER REVOLT PERIOD.**



USAGE:  
11 September -  
13 November 1900



**PROVISIONAL POSTMARK CARVED FROM SOFT-WOOD**

**NOVEMBER 1901**

Decorative "Mandarin" Cover, postmarked with  
'Peking' Provisional Postmark,  
sent to Genoa, Italy.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Genova,  
3 January 1901"

**20 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International Single-Weight**  
**(20 grams) Letter-Rate**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917



USAGE:  
14 November 1900 –  
15 March 1917



**5 JULY 1901**

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Peking,  
sent to  
Frankfurt/Main, Germany.  
44-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Frankfurt (Main) Sachsenhausen,  
17 August 1901"

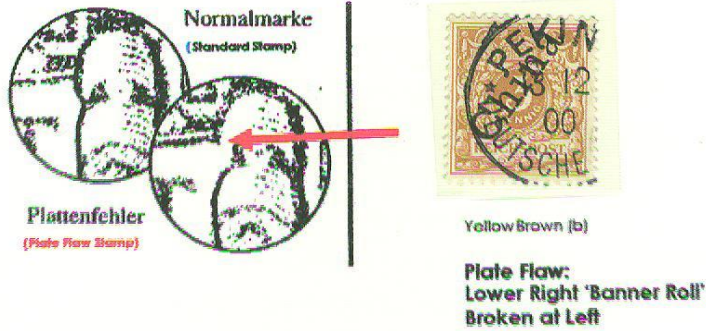
**80 Pfennig...**  
**60 Pfg.. UPU International**  
**Third-Weight (60 grams) Level**  
**Letter Rate**  
**+**  
**20 Pfg..**  
**Registration fee**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

**FIRST REGULAR STAMP ISSUE 1898**

**GERMAN 'CROWN & EAGLE' SERIES**  
with "China"  
Overprint at 56° Angle





SECOND REGULAR STAMP ISSUE 1901

REICHSPOST 'GERMANIA' SERIES  
with "China" Overprint  
on Un-watermarked Paper



Carmine Red (b)

Dark Lilac Red (c)  
Exp. Dr. Steuer

Type I



Type II



Cert Steuer

Only Known Used Pair

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

Since China did not become a member of the UPU  
until 1 September 1914,  
**ALL INTERNATIONAL MAIL HAD TO BE ROUTED THROUGH A  
FOREIGN POST OFFICE IN CHINA**  
**INITIALLY RESULTING IN DOUBLE FRANKING OF MAIL,**  
later agreements between the Chinese Post Office  
and various foreign post offices in China  
eliminated such practice.

**DOUBLE FRANKING**  
**CHINESE – GERMAN POST OFFICES**



**CHINA-ENGLAND MAIL**  
**THROUGH CHINESE & GERMAN POST OFFICES**

**13 JUNE 1901**

View-card, postmarked at the Chinese Post Office at Paotingfou,  
with transfer to/handling by the German Post Office at Peking, where  
International postage was affixed, sent to London, England.

**5 Candarin..**  
**Chinese Postage for China +**  
**10 Pfennig.. German Post Office postage for**  
**UPU International Postcard-Rate.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

**GERMAN & RUSSIAN POST OFFICES**

**GERMAN LEGATION  
MAIL PEKING-ODESSA**

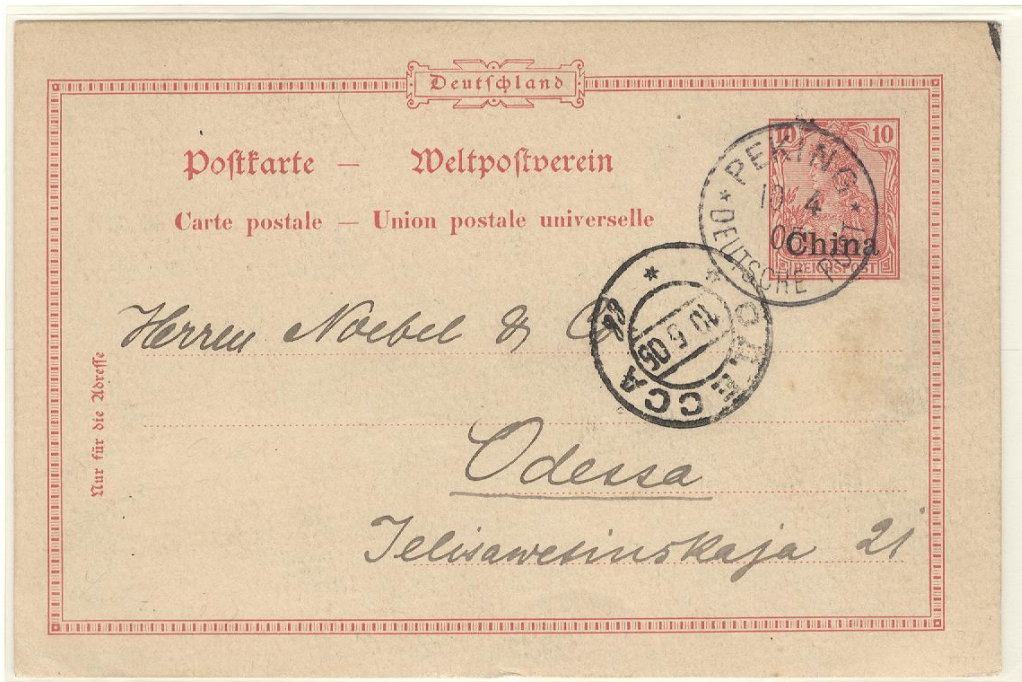
10 APRIL 1905

Official German  
Legation Mail,  
postmarked at Peking,  
sent to a business in  
Odessa, Russia.  
43-day transit time  
by sea.

Transit Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Victoria, Hong Kong,  
21 April 1905"

Arrival Postmark:  
"Odessa,  
10 May 1905"  
Julian Calendar/  
23 May 1905  
Gregorian Calendar.

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate



**GERMAN-FRANKED  
MAIL THROUGH THE  
RUSSIAN POST  
OFFICE AT PEKING**

6 MAY 1907  
(Julian Calendar)

View-card,  
German-franking,  
postmarked at the  
Russian Post Office  
at Peking, sent to  
Vienna, Austria.

5 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Printed-Matter  
Rate for postcards  
having less than  
ten words of text.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

**'REICHSMARK/PFENNIG' MONETARY USAGE**  
PRIOR TO 1 OCTOBER 1905

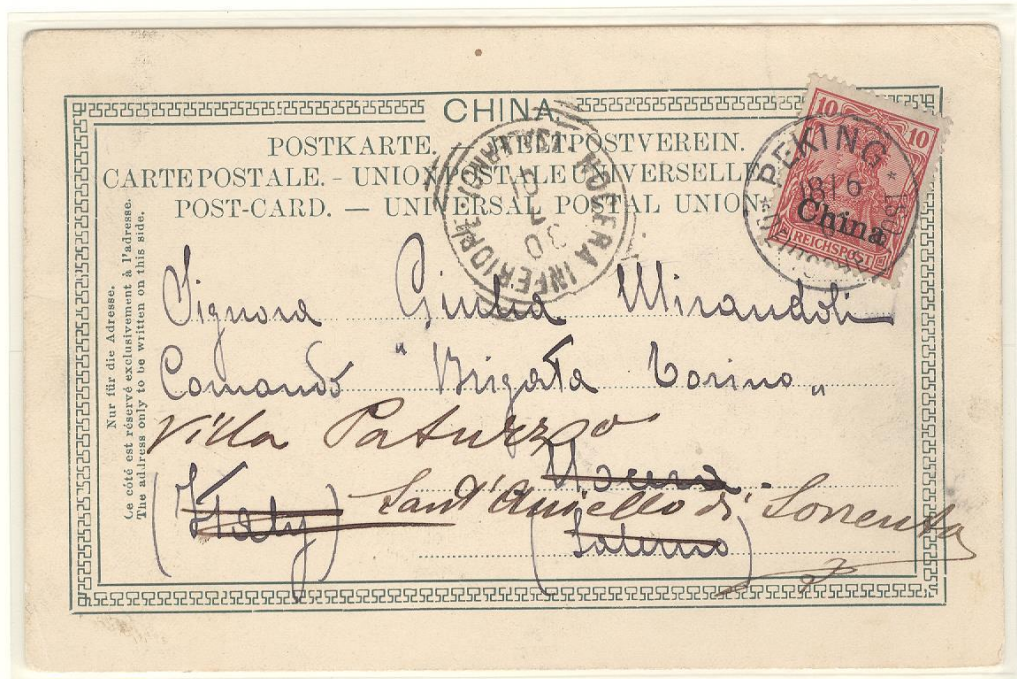
**INTERNATIONAL  
POSTCARD-RATE**

16 JUNE 1903

View-card,  
postmarked at Peking,  
sent to Salerno,  
Sicily, Italy,  
re-directed upon  
arrival.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Nocera,  
30 July 1903"

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate



**CHINA-GERMANY  
COLONIAL  
LETTER-RATE**

8 NOVEMBER 1904

Mourning cover,  
postmarked  
at Peking,  
sent to  
Dillingen, Bavaria,  
Germany

10 Pfennig..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
colonial letter-rate for  
mail sent to  
Germany.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

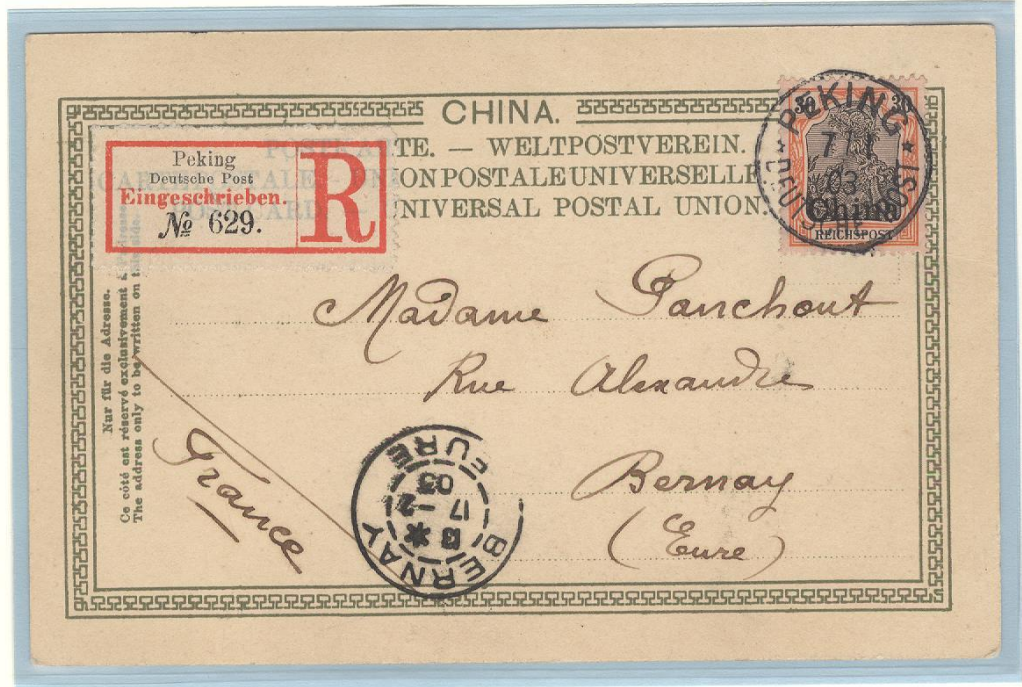
**REGISTERED POSTCARD  
TO FRANCE**

7 January 1903

View-card, registered  
& postmarked at  
Peking, sent to  
Bernay, France.  
41-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Bernay,  
17 February 1903"

**30 Pfennig:**  
**10 Pfg.. UPU**  
**International**  
**Postcard-Rate +**  
**20 Pfg..**  
**Registration fee**



**REGISTERED  
EXPRESS MAIL TO  
GERMANY**

4 FEBRUARY 1903

Registered cover  
with express  
delivery,  
postmarked at  
Peking, sent to  
Berlin, Germany.  
38-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"(Berlin)  
14 March 1903.."

**100 Pfennig..**  
**20 Pfg..**  
**Single-weight**  
**(15 grams) UPU**  
**International**  
**Letter-Rate +**  
**20 Pfg..**  
**Registration fee +**  
**60 Pfg..**  
**Express surcharge**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

**'MEXICAN DOLLAR/CENTS' MONETARY USAGE**  
AFTER 1 OCTOBER 1905  
**INTERNATIONAL POSTCARD USAGE**

**INTERNATIONAL  
POSTCARD-RATE TO  
GERMANY**

**29 FEBRUARY 1907**

View-card, postmarked at  
Peking, sent to Vieselbach,  
Germany.

**4 Cents..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**



**MULTIPLE FRANKING**

**12 NOVEMBER 1906**

View-card, postmarked  
at Peking, sent to  
Vieselbach, Germany.

**4 Cents..**  
**(4x 1 Cents)**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**

**INTERNATIONAL  
PRINTED-MATTER  
REDUCED RATE**

**7 NOVEMBER 1911**

View-card,  
postmarked at Peking,  
routed via Japan to  
Leominster,  
Massachusetts, U.S.A.

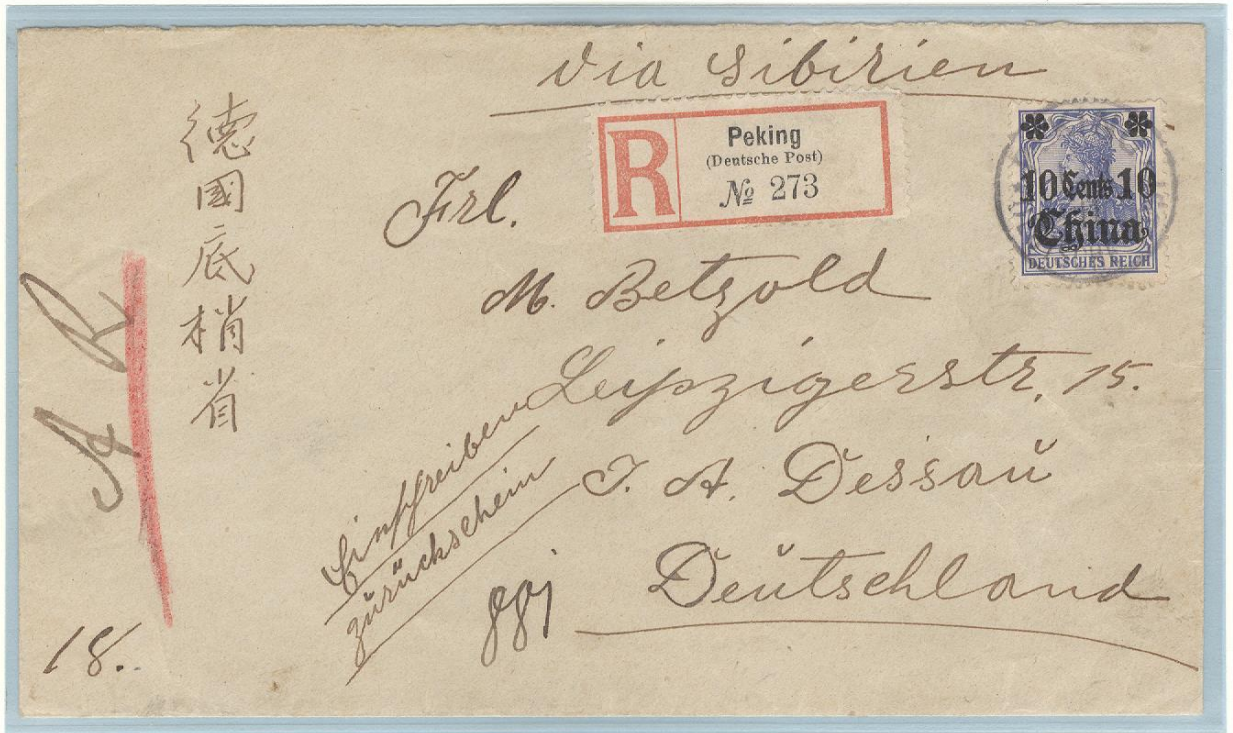
**2 Cents..**  
**UPU International**  
**Printed-Matter Rate**  
for postcards with less  
than ten words of text.



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

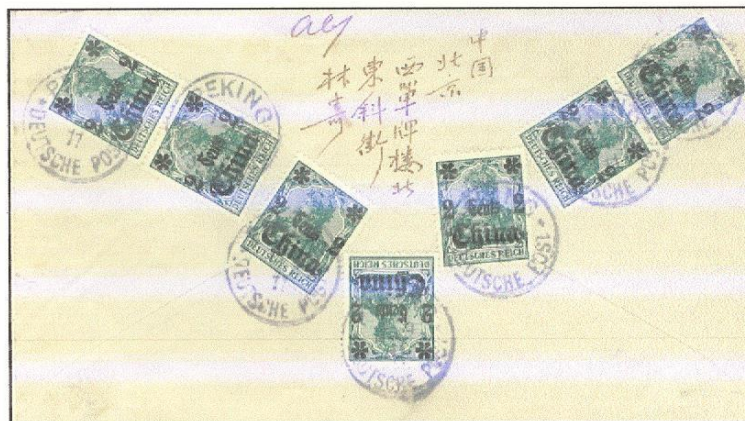
**REGISTERED RETURN-RECIPT MAIL**  
"Via Siberia" TO GERMANY



**PEKING-DESSAU MAIL**

**1 SEPTEMBER 1911**

Registered cover with paid return-receipt, postmarked at Peking, routed "Via Siberia" to Dessau, Germany.



Reverse

**'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTE:**  
Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Dessau

**24 Cents:**

**4 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams) colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany + 10 Cents.. Registration fee + 10 Cents.. Return- receipt fee**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

PEKING  
1900-1917

REGISTERED MAIL ('VIA SIBERIA & EUROPE') TO THE WEST COAST  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



15 MAY 1912

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Peking,  
routed  
"Via Siberia" to  
Vallecito, California  
(near Yosemite  
National Park),  
U.S.A.

Transit Postmark:  
"Hamburg-New York,  
30 May 1912"

29-day transit time.



Reverse

VIA SIBERIA & EUROPE ROUTE:  
Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Hamburg-New York-San Francisco-Vallecito

20 Cents:  
10 Cents..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams) UPU  
International  
Letter-Rate +  
10 Cents..  
Registration fee



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

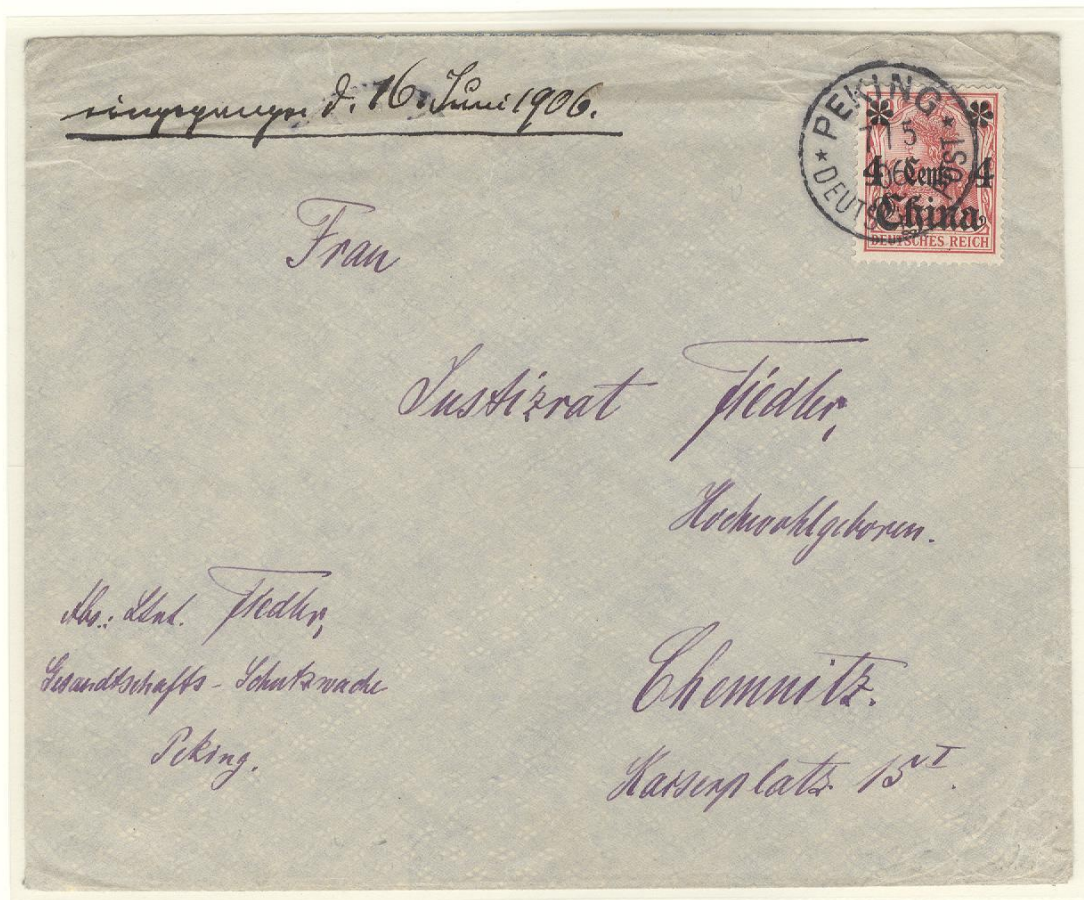
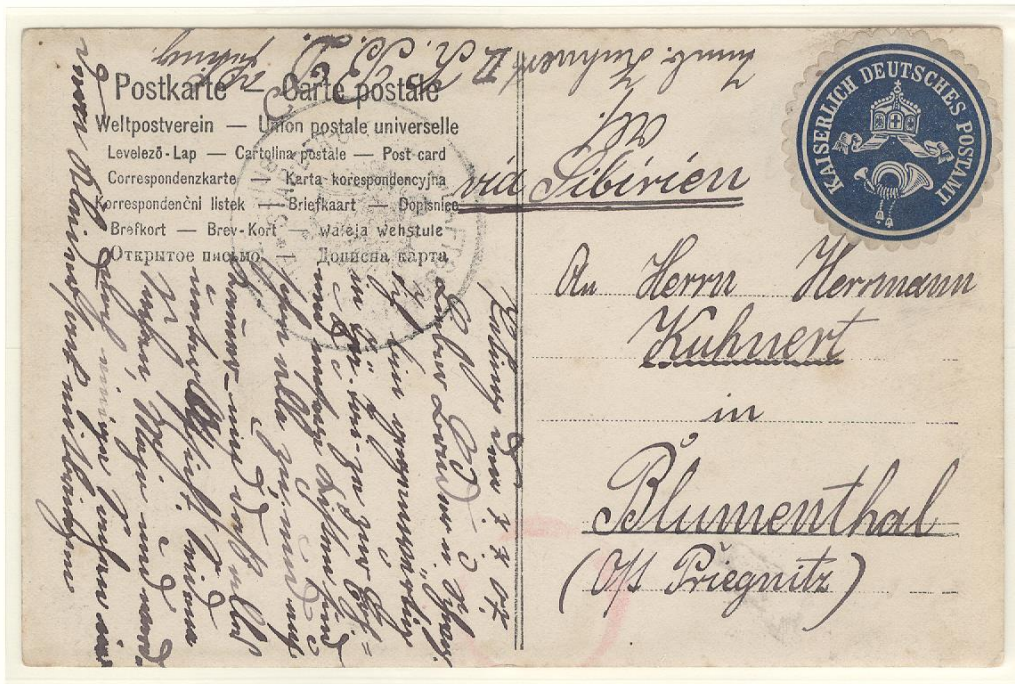
**GERMAN LEGATION MAIL TO GERMANY**

**LEGATION-GUARD  
POST OFFICE STAFF  
MAIL**

**7 JULY 1907**

**View-card of  
"Tja-tel-Tse",  
German Legation  
Guard's  
rest/recuperation  
site,  
unit cachet marking  
for validation of  
free-frank mailing,  
along with seal of  
the Imperial  
German**

**Free-frank for staff  
members of the  
legation post office**



**LEGATION  
MEDICAL  
DOCTOR'S  
MAIL**

**1 MAY 1906**

**Cover,  
postmarked at  
Peking, sent to  
Chemnitz,  
Germany.  
46-day transit  
time.**

**Arrival  
Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Chemnitz,  
16 June 1906"**

**4 Cents..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
colonial letter-  
rate for mail  
sent to  
Germany.**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

PEKING  
1900-1917

OTHER LEGATION MAIL  
TO/FROM PEKING

OUT-BOUND  
NETHERLANDS  
LEGATION MAIL TO  
HOLLAND

15 AUGUST 1903

View-Card, postmarked at  
the German Post Office at  
Peking, sent to  
Amsterdam, Holland.  
43-day transit time.

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate



IN-BOUND MAIL  
FROM ITALY TO THE  
UNITED STATES  
LEGATION GUARD

15 JUNE 1905

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Torino Italy, sent to  
"Mary Brewster"  
of the U.S. Guard  
at Peking.  
35-day transit time.

10 Centimes..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate.



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

**INNER-CHINA MAIL THROUGH THE GERMAN POST OFFICE**

**PEKING-TIENTSIN  
MAIL**

**15 JUNE 1904**

**View-card,  
postmarked at  
Peking, sent to a  
member of the  
German  
Occupation Forces  
at Tientsin.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
"Tientsin,  
15 June 1904"**

**5 Pfennig..  
Postcard-rate for  
mail sent between  
German Post Offices  
in China.**



**PEKING-HANKAU  
REGISTERED MAIL**

**31 JANUARY 1914**

**Cover, postmarked  
at Peking,  
sent to Hankau.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hankau,  
1 February 1914"**

**14 Cents...  
4 Cents..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
letter-rate for mail sent  
between German Post  
Offices in China +  
10 Cents..  
Registration fee**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**PEKING**  
1900-1917

**INNER CHINA MAIL THROUGH THE GERMAN POST OFFICE**

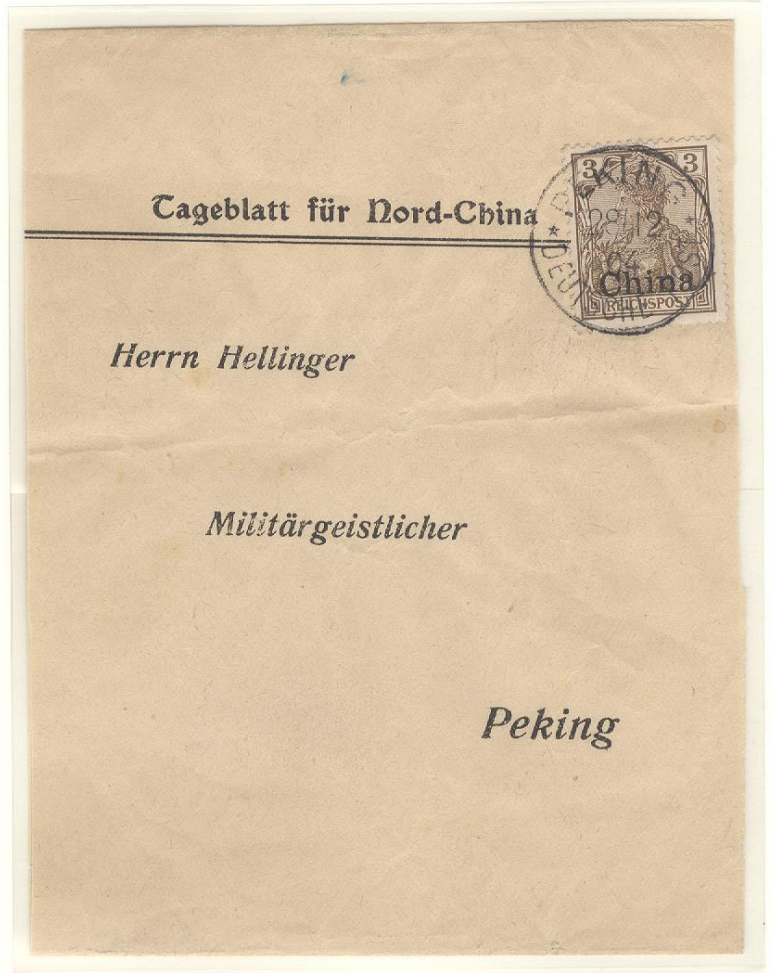
**NEWSPAPER WRAPPER**  
**LOCAL-PEKING MAIL**

**28 DECEMBER 1904**

Newspaper wrapper,  
"Daily News for North China",  
postmarked at Peking,  
sent to  
"Military Chaplain Hellinger"  
at Peking.

**3 Pfennig..**

**Printed-matter rate for mail up to 50**  
**grams sent between German**  
**Post Offices in China.**



**WAR-TIME MAIL**  
**PEKING-TIENTSIN**

**8 OCTOBER 1915**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Peking, sent to  
"Businessman  
Karl Wolf"  
at a department  
store on the  
"Rue au France"  
in Tientsin.

**2 Cents..**  
**Domestic**  
**postcard-rate**  
**for mail sent**  
**between German**  
**Post Offices.**

HOTEL MAIL..  
'GRAND HOTEL DES  
WAGONS LITS, LTD

*Grand-Hotel des Wagons-Lits, Ltd*  
*Peking*

HOTEL RESTAURANT  
MENU POSTCARD

*Menu*

2 NOVEMBER 1912

Postcard,  
postmarked at  
Peking, routed  
'Via Siberia',  
sent to  
Berlin-Tempelhof.

- 1 *Consommé julienne*
- 2 *Oeufs pochés écarlate*
- 3 *Côtelettes de mouton sauce soumise*
- 4 *Viande froide assortie*
- 5 *Poulets rôti*  
*Carottes et petits pois - Salade*
- 6 *Beignets aux pommes*
- 7 *Beurre et Fromage*
- 8 *Fruits*

GRAND HOTEL DES WAGONS-LITS, LTD.  
PEKING.

*Via Siberien.*



*Franz Grunwald*  
*H. Hildebrand*

*Bitburg.*

*Bez. Trier.*

*Deutschland.*

ADVERTISING  
COVER TO  
GERMANY

23 MARCH  
1912

Cover,  
postmarked at  
Peking, sent to  
Bitburg,  
Germany,  
routed  
"Via Siberia".

4 Cents...  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
colonial  
letter-rate for  
mail sent to  
Germany.


PROVISIONAL POST OFFICE RECEIPT  
FOR REGISTERED MAIL

*Guin*  
POST-~~AB~~LIEFERUNGS SCHEIN.

---

*Guin 4242*  
*O. Krülle*  
*Dresden*

Dass ich durch die Kaiserlich Deutsche  
Post eine ..... sendung aus  
.....  
erhalten habe, bescheinige ich durch  
Unterschrift.

 *Christmann*

10 JULY 1901

Postal-client provisional  
counter postal-receipt for a registered letter  
sent to Dresden, Germany

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

PEKING  
1900-1917

RECEIPTS FOR POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

**Post-Einlieferungsschein**

Gegenstand (Bei Postanweisungen auch Nr.)	<i>Kontokorrenting 34</i>
Wertangabe	<i>5.56 Florins</i>
Gewicht	_____
Empfänger	<i>Chavannes</i>
Bestimmungs-ort	<i>Leyde</i>

**Peking** den *4* Februar 190*2*

**Post-Annahme.**  
*Kohler*

C. 62

*\$5.56 c*  
*W. Kofler*

4 FEBRUARY 1902

Counter postal receipt for  
"Money Transfer No. 34"  
\$ 5.56 to Leyde, Netherlands.

AD

Abchnitt. Coupon.  
Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

PEKING  
7 7  
13  
DEUTSCHE POST

Postanweisungsbetrag.  
Montant du mandat.  
*10*

Name, Wohnort und Wohnung (Straße und Nr.) des Absenders  
Designation de l'expéditeur  
*E. Kofler*

*Peking*

Den *7* 6 19*13*  
Lc

7 JULY 1913

Recipient's receipt  
for a transfer of \$10  
from Peking.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**SHANGHAI**  
1896-1917

Shanghai was the largest port and commercial city in China.

The Imperial German Post Office located its first postal agency at Shanghai in 1886, **ELEVATING IT TO A FULL POST OFFICE IN 1896,** & having the 'German Postal Administration for China' located there in 1900.



Usage:  
1 December 1898 - 1905

**SHANGHAI-USA MAIL**  
'via Japan'

.. OCTOBER 1900

Cover, postmarked at Shanghai, routed 'via Japan' with the "SS Nippon Maru", overland to Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

Transit Postmarks:  
(Reverse)  
"Nagasaki, Japan,  
5 November 1900"  
"San Francisco,  
27 November 1900"



**SHANGHAI-GERMANY MAIL**

24 JULY 1902

HAPAG-Lloyd Stationery Cover, postmarked at Shanghai, sent to Gera, Germany. 35-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Gera,  
28 August 1902"



20 Pfennig..

UPU Single-Weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**SHANGHAI**  
1896-1917



German Reich Issue  
with Currency Change Overprint

Usage: 'a' Type  
April 1905 - 16 March 1917

**14 JANUARY 1907**

Up-rated postal  
stationery card,  
postmarked at  
Shanghai, sent to  
London, England, with  
route endorsement  
"Empress of China  
via Canada" ...  
19 Jan = Shanghai  
21 Jan = Nagasaki  
23 Jan = Kobe  
24 Jan = Yokohama  
4 Feb + Vancouver  
Overland train to  
St John,  
New Brunswick &  
"Empress of Britain"  
9 Feb = St. John  
16 Feb = Liverpool &  
by train to London.  
32-day transit time.

**4 Cents...**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**



Usage: 'b' Type  
April 1905 -  
16 March 1917

**1 NOVEMBER 1907**

Registered  
commercial cover,  
postmarked at  
Shanghai, sent to  
Brünn, Austria, with  
route endorsement  
"Via Siberia".  
20-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Brünn/Brno, 21  
November 1907"

**26 Cents..**  
**10+6 Cents .. UPU**  
**Double-Weight**  
**(20-40 grams)**  
**International**  
**Letter-Rate +**  
**10 Cents ..**  
**Registration fee**



Located along coast of the Yellow Sea and the rail line from Tongku to northeastern China, 'Schanhaikuan' had a short-lived German Post Office.

As a result of the severe winter conditions between December 1901, & February 1902, preventing ships to dock,  
**THE POST OFFICE WAS TRANSFERRED SOUTHWARD BY 20 KILOMETERS TO 'TSCHINGWANGTAU' AND ENTIRELY CLOSED IN OCTOBER, 1902.**



USAGE:  
1 September –  
30 November 1901



Exp Jaeschke-Lantelme



18 SEPTEMBER 1901

cover, postmarked at Schanhaikuan,  
with transit postmark "Tongku", sent by a military physician  
to Donaueschingen, Germany

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Donaueschingen,  
1 November 1901"

10 Pfennig..

Single-weight (20 grams) colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany by  
German military personnel of the occupation forces.

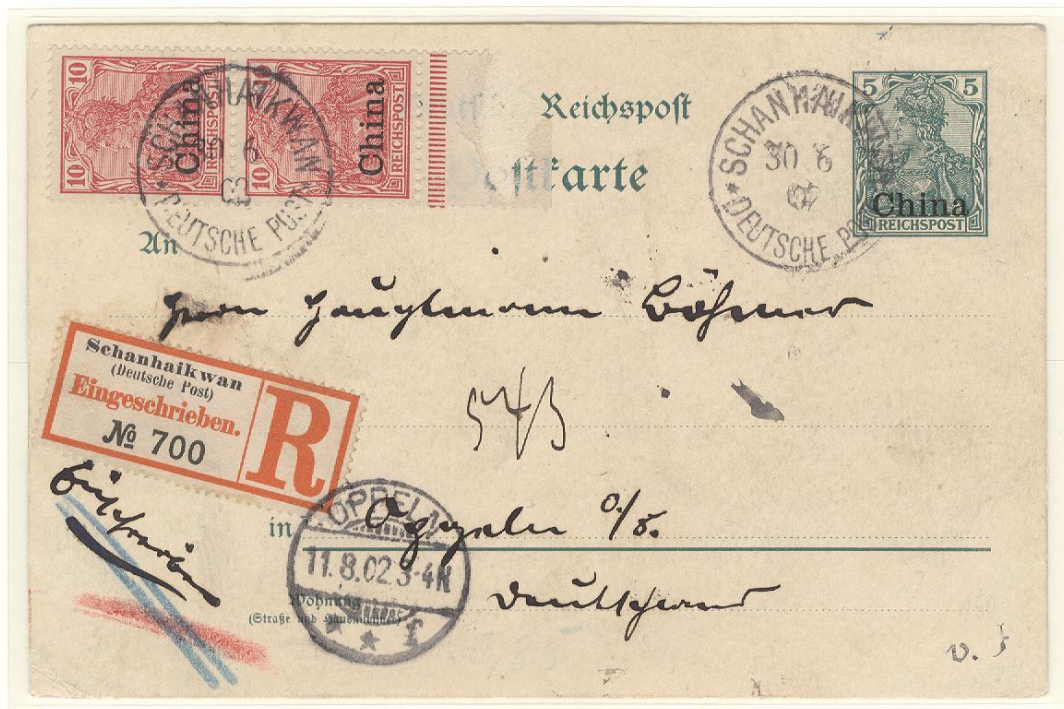
POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

SCHANHAIKWAN  
1901-1902

The heretofore locally-manufactured postmark hand-stamper was replaced in 1902 with one manufactured in Germany and now INDICATED THE TOWN NAME AS "SCHANHAIKWAN".



USAGE:  
1 March - 31 October 1902



REGISTERED POSTAL STATIONERY CARD TO GERMANY

30 JUNE 1902

Registered stationery card with full text, postmarked at Schanhaikwan,  
sent to Oppeln, Upper Silesia, Germany.  
42-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Oppeln,  
11 August 1902"

25 Pfennig..

5 Pfg.. Postcard colonial rate for mail sent to Germany by  
German military personnel of the occupation forces +  
20 Pfg.. Registration fee

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

SCHANHAIKWAN  
1901-1902

PRINTED-MATTER  
TO GERMANY

18 OCTOBER 1902

Newspaper wrapper,  
postmarked at Shanhaikwan,  
sent to Breslau, Germany.

3 Pfennig..  
Printed-matter rate for mail  
sent to Germany  
by military personnel of the  
occupation forces.



Postkarte.

*Mademoiselle*

*Sophie Stumpf*

*Montpellier / Hérault*  
*rue du cheval vert 12.*



POSTCARD  
TO FRANCE

1 MAY 1902

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Shanhaikwan,  
sent to  
Montpellier,  
France.  
42-day transit  
time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Montpellier,  
12 June 1902"

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate.



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**SWATAU**  
1904-1917

Located about 360 kilometers (about 216 miles) east of Canton in southern China, 'Swatau' (Swatow) was the primary **PORT OF EMBARKATION FOR CHINESE WORKERS CONTRACTED TO WORK IN GERMAN NEW GUINEA.**



USAGE: 17 May 1904 - 16 March 1917



**"PAJAMA-CLOTHING" POSTCARD MAIL**

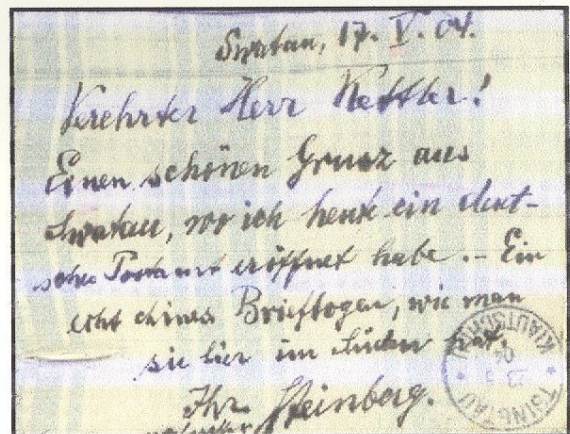
17 MAY 1904

Registered postcard, postmarked at Swatau, sent to "First Lieutenant Kettler" aboard the German Gunboat "HMS Seadler", stationed at Tsingtau, Kiautschou.

Opening day of post office, first day use of postmark & 'Registration Label No. 1'.  
Only known example.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,  
23 May 1904"

**30 Pfennig..**  
**10 Pfg.. UPU International Postcard-Rate +**  
**20 Pfg.. Registration fee.**



Reverse  
Translation:

"Dear Mr. Kettler:  
Kind regards from Swatau where I today opened the German Post Office. (This is) genuine Chinese-style stationery as is used here in the south.  
Yours truly,  
Steinberg"

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

SWATAU  
1904-1917

REGISTERED MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DURING DOLLAR/CENTS MONETARY PERIOD EFFECTIVE 1 OCTOBER 1905

9 OCTOBER 1908

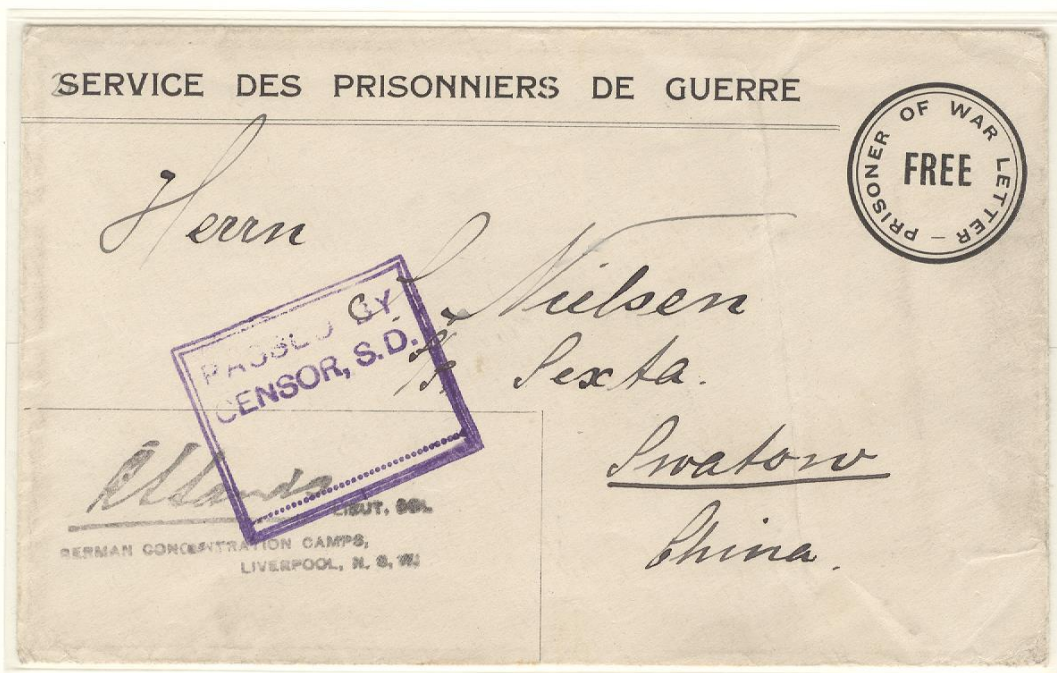
Registered cover,  
postmarked at  
Swatau, from an  
official of the  
'Imperial Chinese  
Customs',  
routed 'via Japan-  
Seattle' to  
Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin.  
34-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Milwaukee,  
12 November  
1908"

20 Cents..  
10 Cents..  
UPU International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams)  
Letter-Rate +  
10 Cents..  
Registration fee.



IN-BOUND (1916) FREE-FRANK GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL TO 'SWATOW'



OCTOBER 1916  
(British Post Office)

In-bound  
free-frank,  
censored,  
German P.O.W.  
mail sent from  
'Berima Camp'  
in Australia to a  
merchant  
seaman aboard  
'SS Pexfa'  
at Swatow.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Swatow,  
23 Oct. 1916"

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TIENTSIN**  
1900-1917

Located about 60 miles southeast of Peking along the Peiho River and about 30 miles from the Yellow Sea, 'Tientsin', in northern China, was a most important commercial city and railway junction.

Between April 1893, and May 1900, a German Postal Agency was located at Tientsin, and  
**IN JUNE 1900, THAT AGENCY BECAME A FULL POST OFFICE.**



Usage:  
15 October 1899 -  
16 March 1917



Exp. Mansfeld

**COMMERCIAL MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**19 SEPTEMBER 1900**

Commercial cover,  
postmarked at Tientsin, sent to San Francisco 'via Japan'.  
31-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"San Francisco,  
20 October 1900.."

**40 Pfennig..**  
(2x 20 Pfg. Gutter Pair)

**UPU International Double-weight (40 grams) Letter-Rate**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TIENTSIN**  
1900-1917

**FIRST REGULAR STAMP ISSUE 1898**

**GERMAN 'CROWN & EAGLE' SERIES**  
with "China"  
Overprint at 56° Angle



Ocher Brown (a)



Olive Brown (d)





**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TIENTSIN**  
1900-1917

**REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL**

**TIENTSIN-PEKING**  
**REGISTERED**  
**COMMERCIAL MAIL**

21 MAY 1901

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Tientsin,  
sent to the  
"Publication Office of  
the German  
Newspaper" at Peking.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Peking  
22 May 1901"  
"Fieldpost Station No.2  
6 June"

30 Pfennig:  
10 Pfg.. Inland China  
single-weight  
(20 grams) letter-rate  
between German Post  
Offices +  
20 Pfg.. Registration  
fee



Exp Dr. Lantelme

**TIENTSIN-U.S.A.**  
**REGISTERED**  
**BANK MAIL**

1 JUNE 1901

Registered  
cover from the  
"Bank of  
India/Australia"  
postmarked at  
Tientsin, sent to  
Philadelphia  
via Canada.  
40-day transit  
time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Philadelphia,  
11 July 1901"

60 Pfennig..  
40 Pfg..  
UPU Double-  
Weight  
(40 grams)  
international  
Letter-Rate +  
20 Pfg..  
Registration fee



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

SECOND REGULAR STAMP ISSUE 1901

REICHSPOST 'GERMANIA' SERIES  
with "China" Overprint  
on Un-watermarked Paper



Type II  
Dark Shade

Type II  
Light Shade



SECOND REGULAR STAMP ISSUE 1901

REICHSPOST 'GERMANIA' SERIES  
with "China" Overprint  
on Un-watermarked Paper



(a)

(b)  
Exp Steuer



4<sup>TH</sup> WEIGHT LEVEL (2 KILO)  
REGISTERED NEWSPAPER WRAPPER  
TO GERMANY



18 JANUARY 1905

Registered wrapper containing 19 newspapers,  
postmarked at Tientsin, sent to Osnabrück, Germany.

40 Pfennig...

Colonial printed-matter rate for mail sent to Germany

5 Pfg.. 500 Grams

5 Pfg.. 1000 Grams

5 Pfg.. 1500 Grams

5 Pfg.. 2000 Grams

+

20 Pfg.. Registration fee

Only known wrapper mail having the highest  
printed-matter rate level.

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO JAPAN  
WITH CACHET & POSTAL MARKINGS


**Post-Einlieferungsschein**

Gegenstand (bei Postanweisungen auch Nr.)	Brief 1794
Werthangabe	Einschreiben
Gewicht	1/4
Empfänger	Herrn H. Stross- & Co. Werth
Bestimmungs- ort	Yokohama

Tientsin den 10 August 1901

Post Annahme.  
Lamy

C. 62.



10 AUGUST 1901

Counter postal receipt for  
"Registered Letter 794"  
sent to Yokohama, Japan.

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

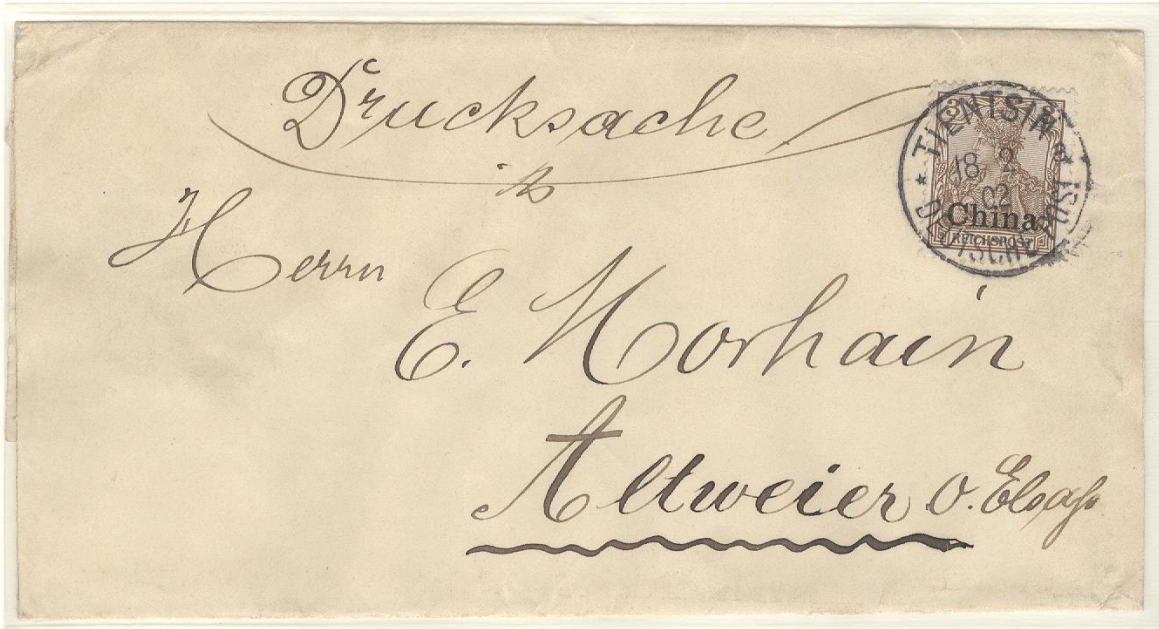
NON-COMMERCIAL PRINTED-MATTER  
MAIL TO GERMANY

NEWSPAPER  
WRAPPER  
MAIL

18 FEBRUARY  
1902

Wrapper  
enclosing  
printed-  
matter,  
postmarked  
at  
Tientsin, sent  
to Altweier  
(Alsace),  
Germany.

3 Pfennig..  
Printed-matter  
rate for up to  
50 grams  
valid for  
military  
occupation  
personnel  
mail to  
Germany.



VIEW-CARD  
MAIL

12 NOVEMBER 1904

View-card,  
postmarked at Tientsin,  
sent to Erfurt, Germany.

5 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Printed-Matter Rate  
for postcards having  
less than 10 words  
of text,

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

INTERNATIONAL MAIL

TIENTSIN-LONDON  
COMMERCIAL MAIL

11 FEBRUARY 1902

Commercial cover  
with provisional  
registration cachet,  
postmarked at  
Tientsin, sent to  
London, England.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"London  
24 March 1902"

40 Pfennig:  
20 Pfg. UPU  
International Letter-  
Rate + 20 Pfg.  
Registration fee



TIENTSIN-BELGIUM  
MAIL

3 MAY 1902

Registered view-card,  
postmarked at Tientsin,  
sent to Belgium.  
29-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Brussels Arrival,  
11 June 1902"

30 Pfennig:  
10 Pfg. UPU International  
Postcard-Rate +  
20 Pfg. Registration Fee



TIENTSIN-HONG KONG SHIP MAIL

23 SEPTEMBER 1904

Cover, postmarked at Tientsin, sent by  
"Military Veterinarian Schepeling",  
to his wife aboard  
NDL Steamer 'Princess Alice'  
at Hong Kong. 5-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hong Kong,  
3 October 1904"

20 Pfennig..  
UPU International Letter-Rate.



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

On 1 October 1905, a  
**MONETARY CHANGE TOOK PLACE IN CHINA**  
resulting in foreign currencies no longer in use except for Mexican Dollars/Cents.  
(Ratio: German Marks/Mexican Dollars = 2 to 1)

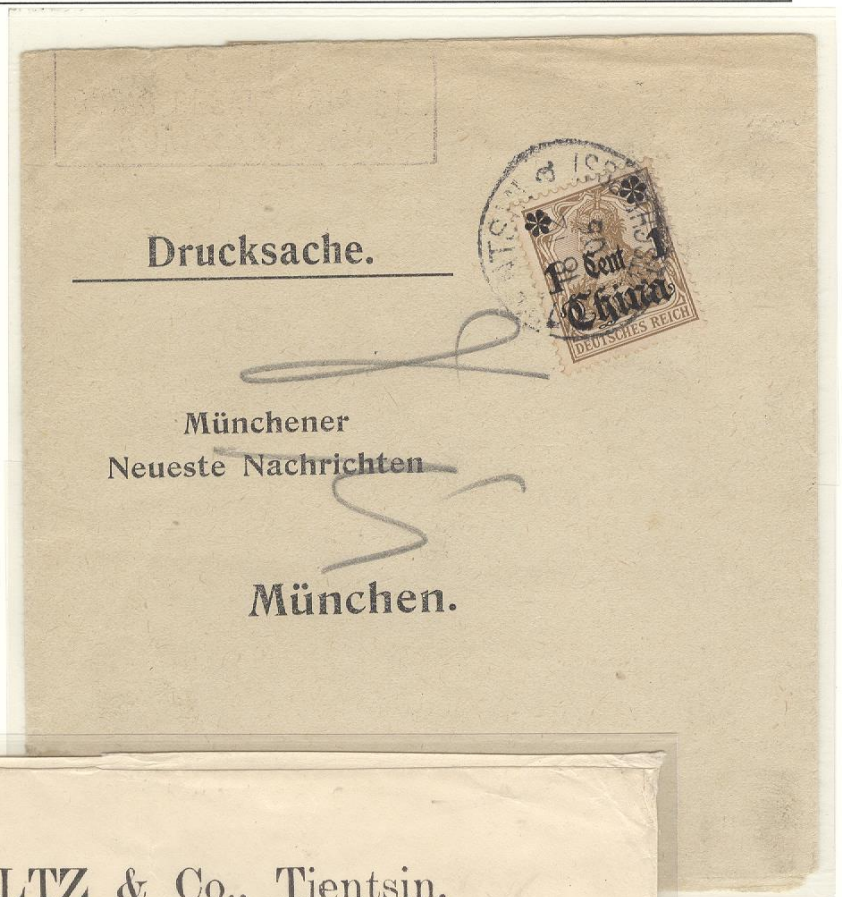
PRINTED-MATTER TO GERMANY

18 DECEMBER 1905

Newspaper wrapper,  
postmarked at Tientsin, sent to  
Munich, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Munich  
26 January 1906"

1 Cents:  
Printed-matter rate for mail up to  
50 grams for German  
Occupation Forces' related mail  
sent to Germany



H. M. SCHULTZ & Co., Tientsin.

Ueber Sibirien.



BASLER VERSICHERUNGS-GESELLSCHAFT GEGEN FEUERSCHADEN



SCHWEIZ.

BASEL.

TIENTSIN –  
SWITZERLAND  
MAIL

2 MARCH 1909

Commercial  
cover,  
postmarked at  
Tientsin, routed  
'Via Siberia',  
sent to Basel,  
Switzerland.  
18-day transit  
time.

16 Cents..  
UPU  
International  
Double-Weight  
(40 grams)  
Letter-Rate.



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TIENTSIN**  
1900-1917

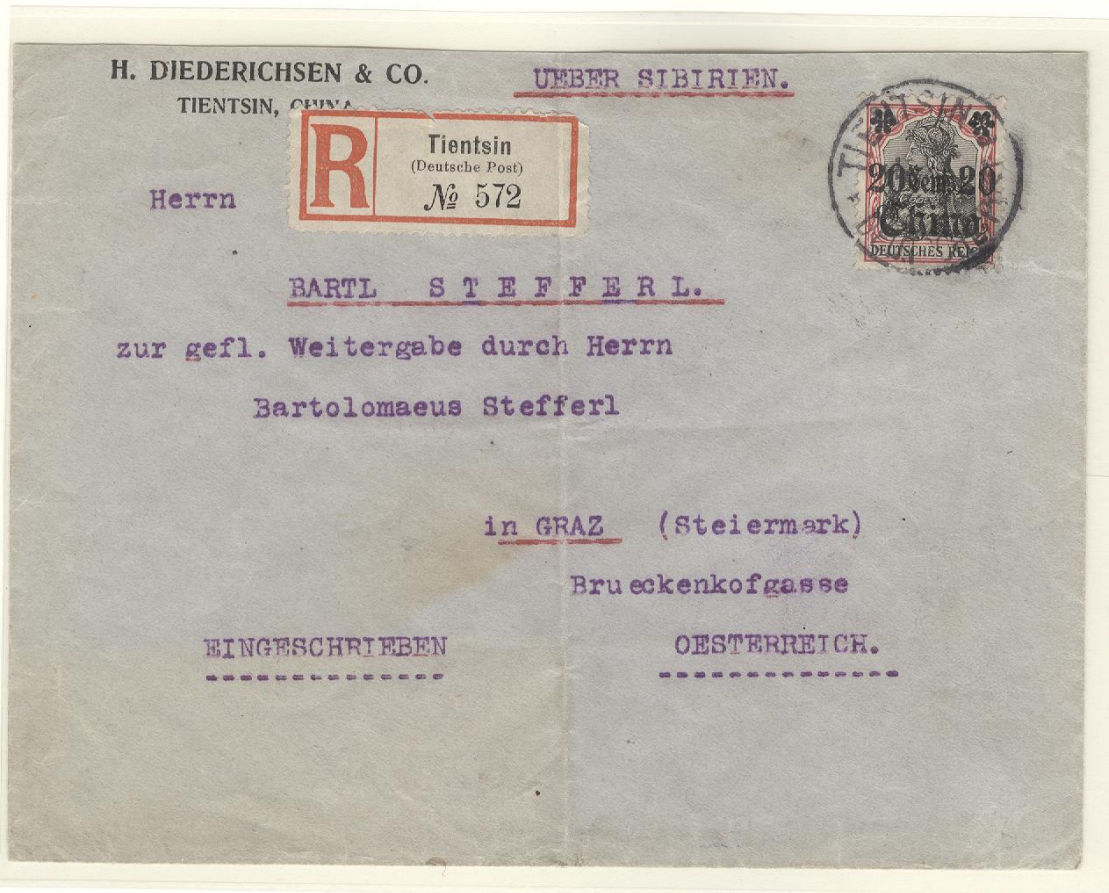
**TIENTSIN-KIAUTSCHOU**  
**MAIL**

**22 DECEMBER 1906**

**View-card,**  
**postmarked at Tientsin,**  
**sent to**  
**"Policeman Vogt" at**  
**Tsingtau, Kiautschou**  
**Protectorate Territory.**  
**8-day transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:**  
**"Tsingtau,**  
**30 December 1906"**

**2 Cents..**  
**Postcard-rate between**  
**German post offices**  
**in China.**



**REGISTERED**  
**COMMERCIAL**  
**MAIL TO AUSTRIA**

**1 SEPTEMBER**  
**1912**

**Registered**  
**commercial**  
**cover,**  
**postmarked at**  
**Tientsin,**  
**routed 'via**  
**Siberia', sent to**  
**Graz, Austria.**  
**33-day transit**  
**time.**

**Arrival Postmark:**  
**(Reverse)**  
**"Graz, 4 October**  
**1912"**

**40 Cents...**  
**International**  
**Single Weight**  
**(20 grams)**  
**Letter-Rate +**  
**10 Cents..**  
**Registration fee**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917



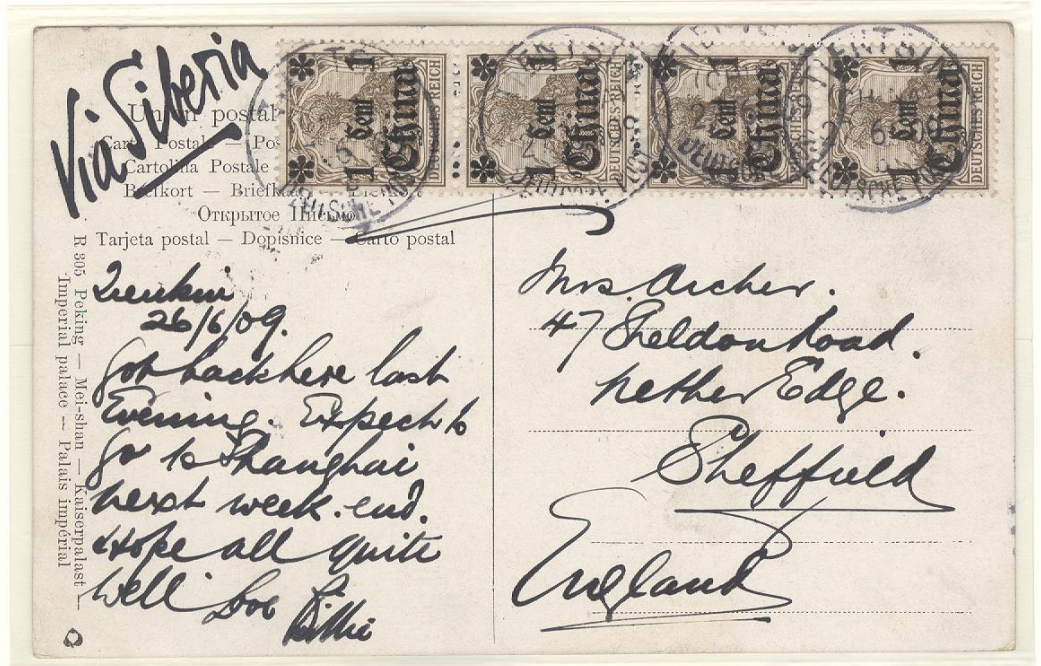
USAGE:  
September 1902 -  
16 March 1917

TIENTSIN-POSTMARKED MAIL TO ENGLAND

27 JUNE 1909

View-card,  
postmarked  
at Tientsin,  
Routed  
'via Siberia',  
sent to  
Sheffield,  
England.

4 Cents...  
UPU  
International  
Postcard-Rate



24 MARCH 1914

Commercial  
cover, postmarked  
at Tientsin,  
routed  
'via Siberia',  
sent to London,  
England.  
18-day transit time.

Manuscript Arrival  
Marking:  
"11 April 1914"

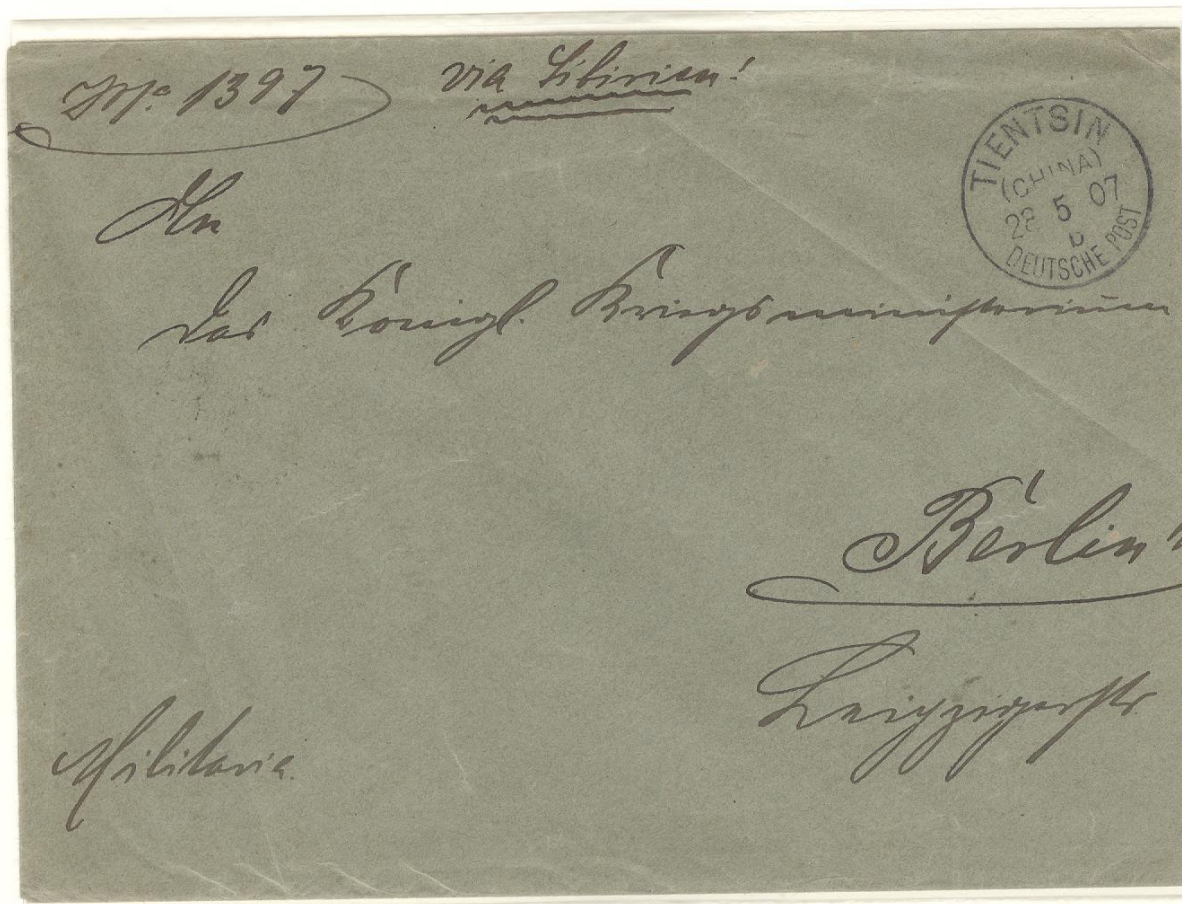
10 Cents...  
UPU International  
Single Weight  
(20 grams)  
Letter-Rate.



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTED  
OFFICIAL MILITARY MAIL

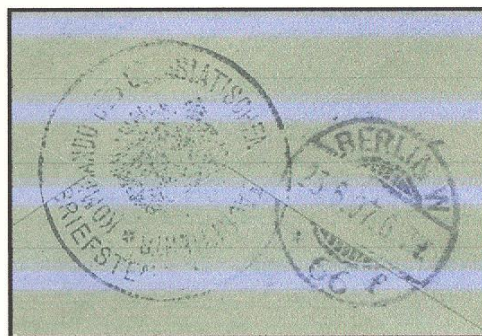


28 MAY 1907

Free-frank Official Army Headquarters Mail  
with validation seal on reverse,  
postmarked at Tientsin,  
sent to the 'Ministry of War' at Berlin,  
endorsed & routed 'Via Siberia'.  
26-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Berlin W66,  
23 June 1907"

Route:  
Tientsin-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTED MAIL TO CENTRAL EUROPE

MISSION-RELATED MAIL TO  
GERMANY

15 JULY 1911

Cover, postmarked at  
Tientsin, sent to a Lutheran  
Minister at Dobringk,  
Germany,  
routed 'Via Siberia'

**4 Cents:**  
**Single-weight**  
**(20 grams) colonial**  
**letter-rate for mail**  
**sent to Germany.**



BASLER VERSICHERUNGS GESELLSCHAFT GEGEN FEUERSCHADEN.

H. M. SCHULTZ & Co.  
TIENTSIN

Ueber Sibirien.



An die

**Basler Versicherungs-Gesellschaft**  
**gegen Feuerschaden**

**BASEL**

(Schweiz)

COMMERCIAL  
TIENTSIN-  
SWITZERLAND  
MAIL

11 MARCH  
1911

Commercial  
cover,  
postmarked  
at Tientsin,  
routed  
'Via Siberia',  
sent to Basel,  
Switzerland.  
19-day transit  
time.

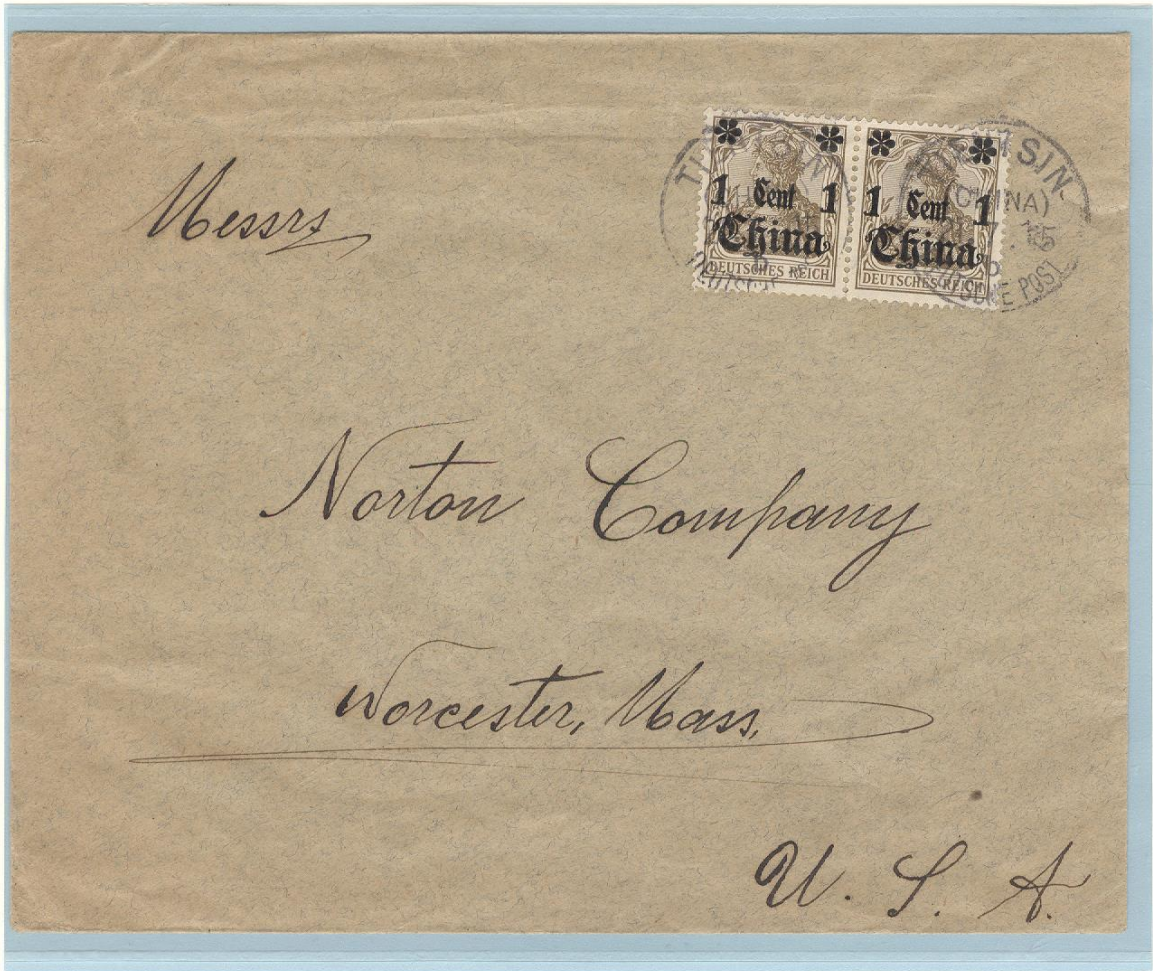
Arrival  
Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Basel,  
20 March  
1909"

**10 Cents..**  
**UPU**  
**International**  
**Single-Weight**  
**(20 grams)**  
**Letter-Rate.**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TIENTSIN  
1900-1917

WARTIME (1915) PRINTED-MATTER MAIL  
TO  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



USA-BOUND COMMERCIAL MAIL

21 JULY 1915

Commercial printed-matter cover, postmarked at Tientsin,  
to Worcester, Massachusetts.

2 Cents.  
UPU International  
Single-Weight  
(50 grams)  
Printed-Matter Rate.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TIENTSIN**  
1900-1917

**RECEIPTS FOR REGISTERED MAIL TO GERMANY  
& INLAND POSTAL MONEY ORDER**


**Post-Einlieferungsschein**

Gegenstand (bei Postanweisungen auch Nr.)	Brief 284
Werthangabe	Ein schreiben
Gewicht	
Empfänger	Gern
Bestimmungs-ort	W. Dingeldein Reichelsheim god

Tientsin, den 14 Juli 1904

Post-Annahme.

C. 62.



Abschnitt. Coupon.

Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

TIENTSIN  
(CHINA)  
11 7 13  
DEUTSCHE POST

Postanweisungsbetrag.  
Montant du mandat.

\$15.-

Name, Wohnort und Wohnung (Straße und Nr.) des Absenders  
Désignation de l'expéditeur

Kopand  
Tientsin

Den 11. 7. 1904  
Le

**11 JULY 1913**

**Recipient's receipt for  
an Inland-China  
(between German  
Post Offices)  
transfer of \$15  
from Tientsin.**

**14 JULY 1904**

**Counter postal receipt for  
"Registered Letter 284"  
sent to Reichelsheim, Germany.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TIENTSIN**  
1900-1917

**IN-BOUND EUROPEAN MAIL SENT TO TIENTSIN**

**1903-DATED GERMAN MAIL TO A MEMBER OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION FORCES IN CHINA**

**4 JANUARY 1903**

View-card, postmarked at Ruhla, Germany, sent to a soldier stationed at Tientsin.

**5 Pfennig:**  
Colonial postcard rate for mail sent to a German Post Office in China.



**1905-DATED MAIL FROM HOLLAND**

**24 JULY 1905**

View-card, postmarked at Rotterdam, Holland, sent to Tientsin. 41-day transit time.

**2-½ Cents..**  
UPU International Printed-Matter Rate for postcards having less than 10-words of text.

**1914-DATED MAIL FROM RIGA, LATVIA (RUSSIA)**

**23 FEBRUARY 1914**

View-card, postmarked at Riga, Latvia, sent to a German Marine stationed at Tientsin.

**(Reverse)**  
**4 Kopecks...**  
UPU International Postcard-Rate



112911

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**YANGTSUN .. TIENSIN**  
1901-1906

During the Boxer Revolt of 1900-1901, a German military outpost and field-post station (No. 3) were established at Yangtsun, which ceased operation on 30 April 1901, albeit German occupation forces remained there until April 1906.

**DURING THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1901 – APRIL 1906, ALL OCCUPATION FORCES' MAIL FROM YANGTSUN WAS ROUTED THROUGH THE GERMAN POST OFFICE AT TIENSIN**



**10 MAY 1901**

Free-frank view-card mailed at Yangtsun, postmarked at the Tientsin Field-post Office, sent to Posen, Germany, and re-directed upon arrival. 42-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Posen  
21 June 1901"

Free-franking  
privilege for military  
personnel until  
31 August 1901.



**14 MAY 1904**

View-card mailed at Yangtsun by a member of the German Occupation Forces in China, postmarked at Tientsin, sent to Chemnitz, Germany. 43-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Chemnitz,  
25 June 1904"

5 Pfennig..  
Postcard colonial-  
rate for mail sent to  
Germany.





**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TONGKU**  
1900-1906

Located north of the mouth of the Peiho River and the Yellow Sea, opposite the infamous Boxer Forts at Taku, 'Tongku' was strategically located at the junction of the Tientsin-Schanhaikwan rail line, resulting it becoming a German military outpost having a field-post office (No. 4) during the Boxer Revolt Period and during the succeeding occupation period.

**SINCE THE PORT AT 'TONGKU' WAS BLOCKED BY ICE IN THE WINTER, ITS GERMAN POST OFFICE, ESTABLISHED IN 1900, WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ONE AT 'TSCHINWANGTAU' ('CHIN WANG TAO') BETWEEN 1902-1906.**



Provisional wood-carved, undated,  
postmark hand-stamp  
used from circa  
8 September until 31 October 1900



Cert. BPS

**OCTOBER 1900**

**Cover, postmarked at Tongku, sent to  
Wiesbaden, Germany.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Wiesbaden,  
2 December 1900"**

**10 Pfennig..  
Single-weight (20 grams)  
colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TONGKU**  
1900-1906

**UPON CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES FROM THE BOXER REVOLT,  
A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHED FOR 'TONGKU' & 'TIENTSIN'  
BY THE ALLIED FORCES**



USAGE:  
1 November 1900 –  
20 April 1906



(III) Exp Steuer



**'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF TONGKU & TIENTSIN' MAIL**  
(Embossed on Reverse)

**1 FEBRUARY 1902**

Registered wax-sealed cover, postmarked at Tongku, sent to Krefeld, Germany,  
(by coastal vessel to Dalny ("via Dalien" & 'via Siberia' beyond). 39-day transit time.  
**Day of arrival of Kaiser Wilhelm in Peking.**

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Krefeld,  
12 March 1902"

**40 Pfennig...**  
**20 Pfg.. Double-weight (20-250 grams)**  
**colonial letter-rate for mail**  
**sent to Germany +**  
**20 Pfg.. Registration fee**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TONGKU**  
1900-1906



1 JULY 1901:  
Block of Twelve.. RM 6.00  
franking for a field telegram.  
Exp Steuer



MAIL SENT BY THE POSTMASTER AT TONGKU

13 NOVEMBER 1902

Registered cover, postmarked at Tongku, sent to  
Reichenbach, Saxony, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

"Wiesbaden, 2 December 1900"

40 Pfennig..

Double-weight (20 grams)

colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TONGKU  
1900-1906

INLAND CHINA  
MAIL..  
TOINGKU-  
SHANGHAI

8 DECEMBER 1901

Cover, postmarked  
at Tongku, sent to  
the Italian Consulate  
at Shanghai.  
9-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Shanghai,  
German Post Office,  
17 December 1901"

10 Pfennig..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
letter-rate for mail  
sent between  
German Post Offices  
in China.



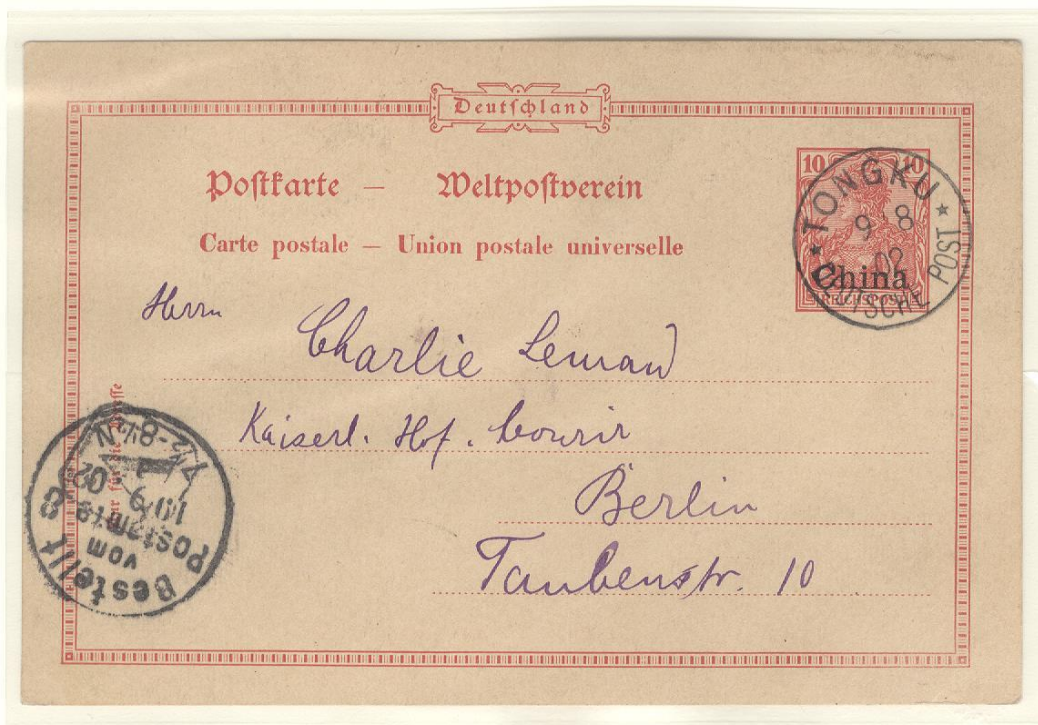
COMMERCIAL MAIL  
TO GERMANY

9 AUGUST 1902

UPU Postal  
Stationery Card,  
postmarked at  
Tongku, sent to the  
"Imperial Courier  
Charlie Leman" at  
Berlin, Germany.  
32-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"...(Berlin)  
10 September 1902"

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate.



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TONGKU CLOSURE**  
30 April 1906

Since 'Tongku' was blocked 3-4 months annually by ice in the winter and being less important in terms of naval and military needs, the German Post Office closed the Tongku Post Office on 30 April 1906.

**ANY MAIL RECEIVED AT THE TONGKU POST OFFICE BETWEEN 1 MAY 1906 UNTIL 8 NOVEMBER 1909 WAS CACHET MARKED "ETAPPE TANGKU" AND SENT TO THE GERMAN POST OFFICE AT TIENTSIN FOR PROCESSING.**

*"Etappe Tangku"* Mail Routed 'via Siberia'

**3 FEBRUARY 1908**

View-card, postmarked at Tientsin, routed "via Siberia" to Rixdorf-Berlin, Germany. 17-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark: "Rixdorf, 20 February 1908"

**2 Cents..**  
Postcard colonial-rate for mail sent to Germany.



**29 MARCH 1908**

Illustrated cover, postmarked at Tientsin, routed "via Siberia" to Hamburg, Germany. 17-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark: (Reverse) "Hamburg, 15 April 1908"

**4 Cents..**  
Single-weight (20 grams) colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHIFU**  
1900-1917

Located on the north coast of the Shantung Peninsula, 'Tschifu' was a sea-post port of call for the 'Shanghai-Tsingtau-Tschifu-Tientsin' route ship line.

**BETWEEN 1892-1900, 'TSCHIFU' HAD A GERMAN POSTAL BRANCH, ELEVATED TO A FULL POST OFFICE IN JUNE 1900.**



**USAGE:**  
1 January 1900 –  
16 March 1917



(III) Exp. Steuer

**TSCHIFU-JAPAN MAIL**

**23 OCTOBER 1900**

View-card,  
postmarked at Tschifu,  
sent to the Vice  
Consul at the German  
Consulate at  
Yokohama, Japan.

Transit Postmark:  
"Nagasaki,  
28 October 1900"

**10 Pfennig.. (45°)**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate.**



Postkarte — Weltpostverein.

**Deutschland.**

Carte postale — Union postale universelle.

*Herrn Hirsbrunp Lager*  
*Yokohama*  
*German Consulate General.*



Postkarte — Weltpostverein.

**Deutschland.**

Carte postale — Union postale universelle.

*Hochwulgeboren*  
*Frau Paula von Rosthorn*  
*p. adr. Herrn Landesgerichtspalte Nimmergalle*  
*Vienna Haag N.Oe.*  
*I. Stefansplatz, Werlbahn*  
*Zwickelhof.*

**TSCHIFU-AUSTRIA MAIL**

**6 MARCH 1901**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Tschifu, sent to  
Vienna, Austria,  
re-directed upon  
arrival to Haag,  
Austria.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Haag,  
1 May 1901"

**10 Pfennig.. (56°)**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TSCHIFU  
1900-1917

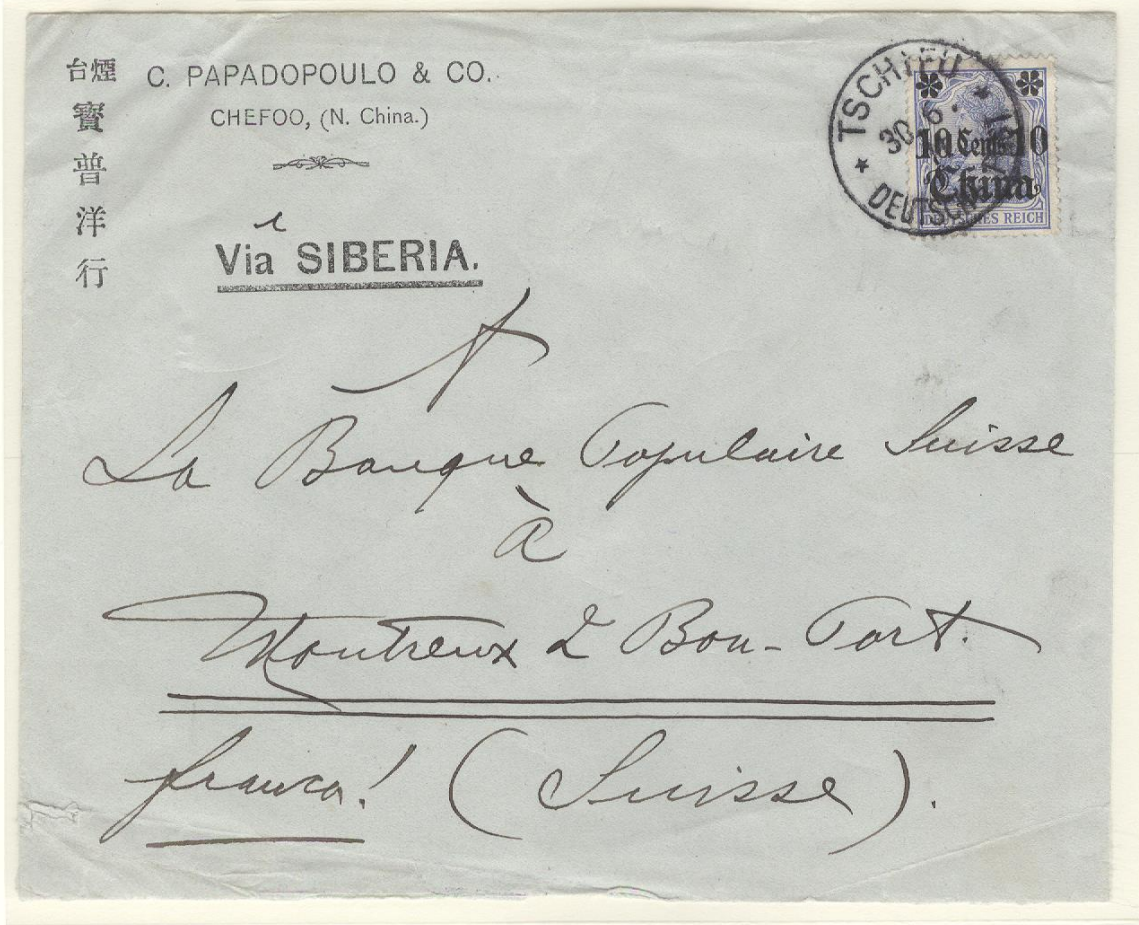
COMMERCIAL MAIL TO EUROPE

MAIL TO  
GERMANY

21 FEBRUARY  
1905

Commercial  
cover,  
postmarked at  
Tschifu  
(English: Chefoo),  
sent to an art  
dealer at  
Munich,  
Germany.  
44-day transit  
time via sea  
route.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Munich,  
5 April 1905"



MAIL TO  
SWITZERLAND

30 JUNE 1911

Commercial  
cover,  
postmarked  
at Tschifu,  
routed "Via  
Siberia" to  
Montreux,  
Switzerland.,  
19-day transit  
time.

Arrival  
Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Montreux,  
19 July 1911"

20 Pfennig or 10 Cents...

UPU International Single-weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHIFU**  
1900-1917

**MAIL TO AMERICA**

**8 JANUARY 1907**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Tschifu, sent to  
Kalamazoo,  
Michigan, U.S.A.

**4 Cents..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate.**



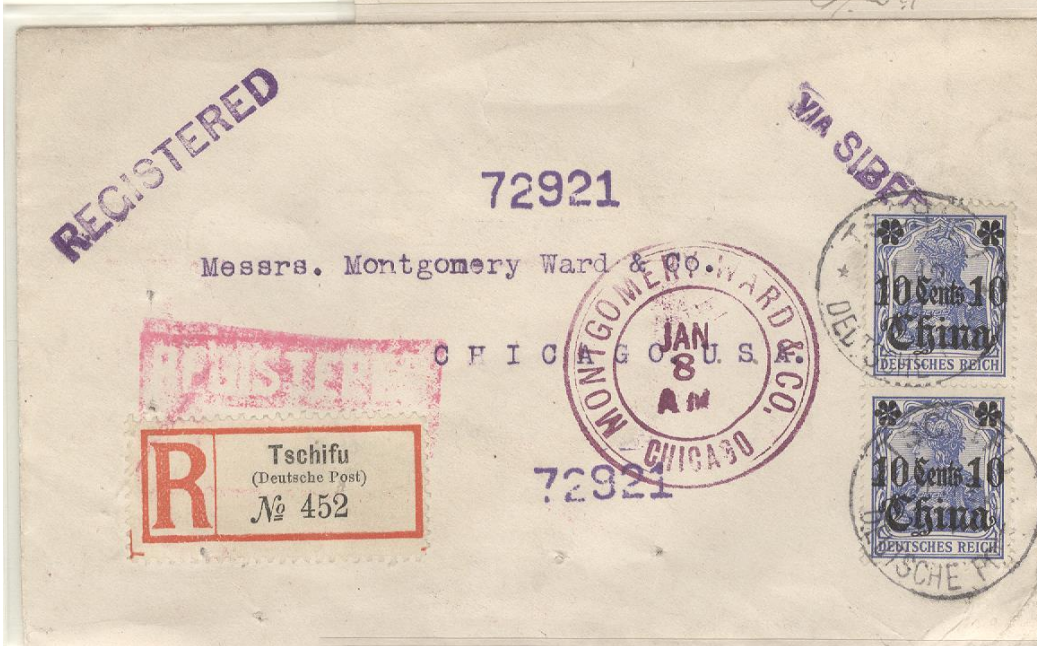
**COMMERCIAL MAIL TO AMERICA**

**12 DECEMBER 1911**

'Russo-Asian Bank' letter,  
postmarked at Tschifu, routed  
"Via Siberia" to Chicago.  
26-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Chicago, Illinois,  
6 January 1912"

**20 Cents...**  
**UPU International**  
**Single-Weight (20 grams)**  
**Letter-Rate. +**  
**registration fee**



**MAIL TO AUSTRIA**

**6 DECEMBER 1913**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Tschifu, routed  
"Via Siberia" to  
Vienna, Austria

**4 Cents..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate.**





**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHIFU**  
1900-1917

**THE GERMAN REICHSPPOST AT BERLIN MONITORED & CONTROLLED THE MAIL BAGS PREPARED AND SHIPPED TO THEIR POST OFFICES IN CHINA "VIA SIBERIA" IN FORM OF CONFIRMATION-OF-RECEIPT CARDS, which had to be completed and returned by frank-frank official post office mail to Berlin.**

The information requested: date of receipt, bag number and transit time.

**OFFICIAL POST OFFICE 'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTED CONTROL MAIL**



**BERLIN-TSCHIFU MAIL BAG CONTROL CARD RETURNED TO BERLIN**

**5 JUNE 1913**

**Pre-printed hand-completed card indicating:**

**"Bag 61 + 21 shipped on 22 & 23 May 1913 received on 4 June .. 13 & 12 days transit respectively"**

**Arrival Postmark:**  
(Reverse)

**"Berlin Train Post Office,  
20 June 1913"**

**Route:**

**Tschifu-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-  
Kiachta-Moscow-Berlin**

**Free-frank post office official mail**

Kaiserlich Deutsches Postamt. Tschifu den 5. 6 1913  
1/1  
Am 4. 6. sind ist del von der Bp. 18  
Berlin Zug 21 am 22. 5 und Bp. am 23. 5  
Alexandrowo 13. 13  
gefertigte Kartenschlufe No. 61 + 21 hier eingegangen.  
No Beförderungsdauer 13 + 12 Tage.  
Es fehlt noch der Kartenschluß vom  
Schulz

**REVERSE**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHINKIANG**  
1901-1917

'Tschinkiang' (today.. 'Quanzhou') is located along the mouth of the Yangtze River about 220 kilometers (approx.138 miles) northeast of Shanghai.

**A GERMAN POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED ON 28 OCTOBER 1901.**



USAGE:  
28 October 1901 -  
16 March 1917

**REGISTERED  
INNER-CHINA  
GERMAN MAIL**

**21 MARCH 1902**

Registered cover,  
postmarked at  
Tschinkiang, sent to  
German Post Office  
Official,  
"R. Steinberg", at  
Shanghai.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Shanghai,  
23 March 1902"

**30 Pfennig.. (56°):  
Single-weight  
(20 grams) Inner-  
China letter-rate  
(10 Pfg) +  
registration fee  
(20 Pfg).**



**CHINA-GERMANY  
MAIL**

**19 NOVEMBER 1902**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Tschinkiang,  
sent to the  
naval hospital at  
Wilhelmshaven,  
Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Wilhelmshaven,  
25 December  
1902"

**10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate**



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TSCHINKIANG  
1901-1917

INNER-CHINA MAIL SENT BETWEEN GERMAN POST OFFICES

23 NOVEMBER 1902

Reverse of cover, postmarked at Shanghai, sent to an officer aboard the German gun-boat "Seeadler" at 'Tschinkiang' (Yangtze River Port) from his wife.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Tschinkiang,  
25 November 1902"

10 Pfennig..  
Single-weight (15 grams)  
letter-rate for mail sent between  
German post offices in China.



Front



On 1 October 1905, a monetary change from Marks/Pfennigs to Mexican Dollars/Cents took effect in China resulting in German postage being overprinted in "Dollars" or "Cents".

REVALUED "CENTS" POSTAL STATIONERY USAGE TO GERMANY



CHINA-GERMANY  
MAIL

3 NOVEMBER 1910

'Cents' revalued  
postal stationery card,  
postmarked at  
Tschinkiang,  
sent to  
Wilhelmshaven,  
Germany.

Text:  
".. Kindest regards  
from the Yangtze.."

2 Cents..  
Colonial  
postcard-rate  
for mail sent to  
Germany.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHINGTSCHOUFU**  
1903-1905

Short-lived post office located along the Shantung Railway  
at "Marker 241 Kilometers",  
**'TSCHINGTSCHOUFU' BECAME A GERMAN POST OFFICE ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1903,**  
after having been a railway post office station effective 15 June 1903.



USAGE:  
1 November 1903 –  
31 December 1905



Early Usage .. 6 November 1903  
Exp. Mansfield

**25 MARCH 1904**

View-card,  
postmarked at  
Tschingstschoufu,  
sent to  
Cottbus, Germany.  
41-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Cottbus,  
5 May 1904"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate.**



**23 DECEMBER 1904**

UPU Postal stationery  
card, postmarked at  
Tschingstschoufu, sent  
to Saarburg, Province  
Lothringen, Germany.  
39-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Saarburg,  
31 January 1905"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHINWANGTAU**  
(CHIN WANG TAO)  
1901 - 1906

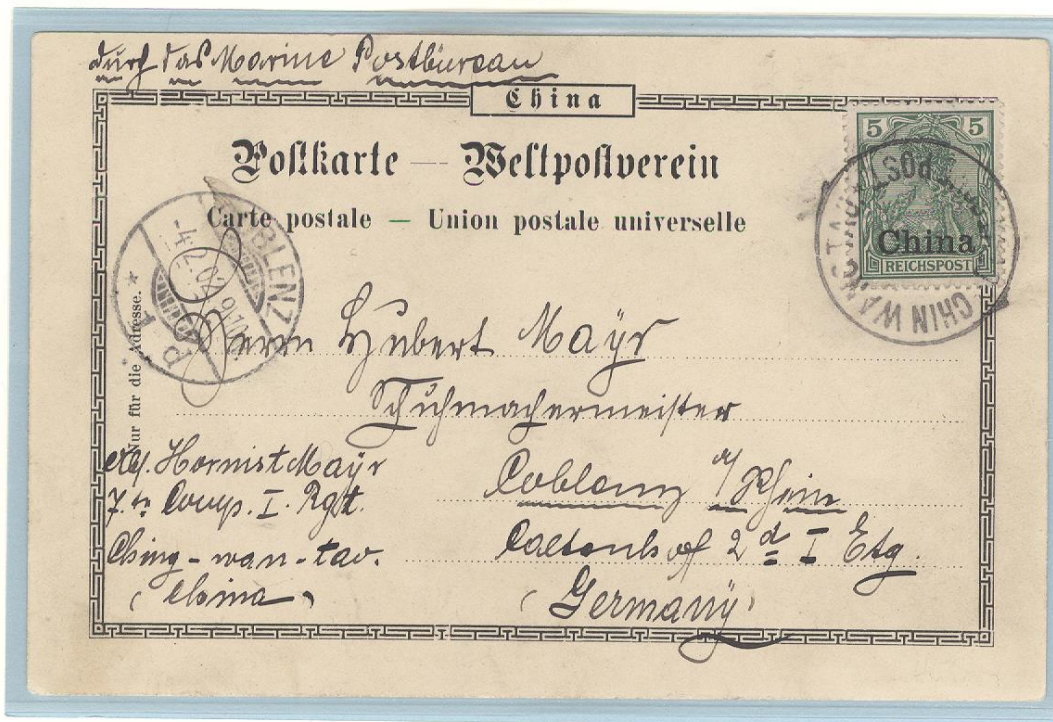
Located about twenty kilometers south of Schanhaikwan, a railway junction, on the coast, 'Tschingwangtau' & its harbor were mostly ice-free during the winter and, thus, an **IMPORTANT GERMAN-FORCES' POST-BOXER-WAR & OCCUPATION-PERIOD LOCATION HAVING AN OPERATIONAL GERMAN POST OFFICE BETWEEN 1901-1906.**



PROVISIONAL POSTMARK  
USAGE:  
1 December 1901–  
30 January 1902



Postmark example used on a package card clip



27 DECEMBER 1901

View-card, written by "Bugler Mayr" of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Company, German Occupation Force, **HAVING PROVISIONAL POSTMARK "CHIN WANG TAO"**, sent to Coblenz, Germany, by way of the Naval Post Office, Berlin. 39-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Coblenz,  
4 February 1902"

**5 Pfennig..**  
**Colonial postcard-rate for occupation forces' mail to Germany.**

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHINWANGTAU**  
1901-1906



USAGE:  
15 January 1902 -  
10 March 1906

**30 DECEMBER 1902**

Cover postmarked at  
Tschinwangtau,  
sent to Colditz, Germany.  
44-day transit time.

**10 Pfennig..**  
Single-weight letter colonial-rate  
for mail sent to Germany.



**POSTKARTE**

*Hochwohlgeboren*  
*Fraulein Marianne Goedecke*



*Als Lt. Nagel*  
*1. Ostas. Regt.*

*Leipzig*  
*Schenkendorfstr. 46*

**22 JANUARY 1902**

Officer's mail,  
postmarked at  
Tschinwangtau, sent to  
Leipzig, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Leipzig,  
1 March (1902)"

**5 Pfennig..**  
Postcard colonial-rate  
for mail to Germany

**28 JANUARY 1906**

Soldier's mail,  
postmarked at  
Tschinwangtau,  
sent to Iburg,  
Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Saarburg,  
31 January 1906"

**2 Cents. =**  
**5 Pfennig...**  
Postcard  
colonial-rate for  
mail to Germany



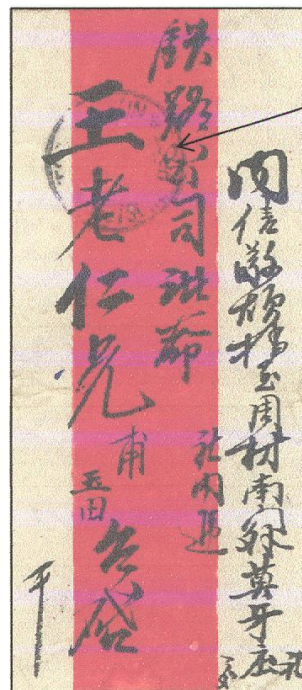
**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHOUTSUN**  
1903 - 1905

Located between the railway post office at 'Tschingtschoufu' and the city of 'Tsinanfu',  
**'TSCHOUTSUN' WAS A SHORT-LIVED RAILWAY POST OFFICE ALONG THE 'SCHANTUNG RAILWAY' IN NORTHERN CHINA.**  
Its first undated postmark was intended to be a supplementary postmark along with a dated one.



PROVISIONAL POSTMARK  
USAGE:  
15 November 1903-  
15 January 1904



Reverse

**23 NOVEMBER 1903**

Undated 'Tschoutsun' Provisional Postmark used as an arrival mark on an in-bound Chinese "Red Band" cover from Tsingtau, Kiautschou, sent to Tschoutsun.

10 Pfennig..  
Single-weight (15 grams) letter-rate sent between German post offices in China.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSCHOUTSUN**  
1903 - 1905



USAGE:  
13 January 1904--  
31 December 1905



**4 AUGUST 1904**

UPU Viewcard,  
postmarked at  
Tschoutsun, sent to  
Biebrich, Germany.  
44-day transit-time.

Chinese-language  
Violet Cachet Marking:  
"Germany"

Arrival Postmark:  
"Bieberich,  
22 September 1904"

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate



Exp Mansfeld

**15 FEBRUARY 1904**

Printed-matter for  
general delivery.

3 Pfennig..  
Printed-matter for mail  
up to 50 grams sent  
between German Post  
Offices in China.





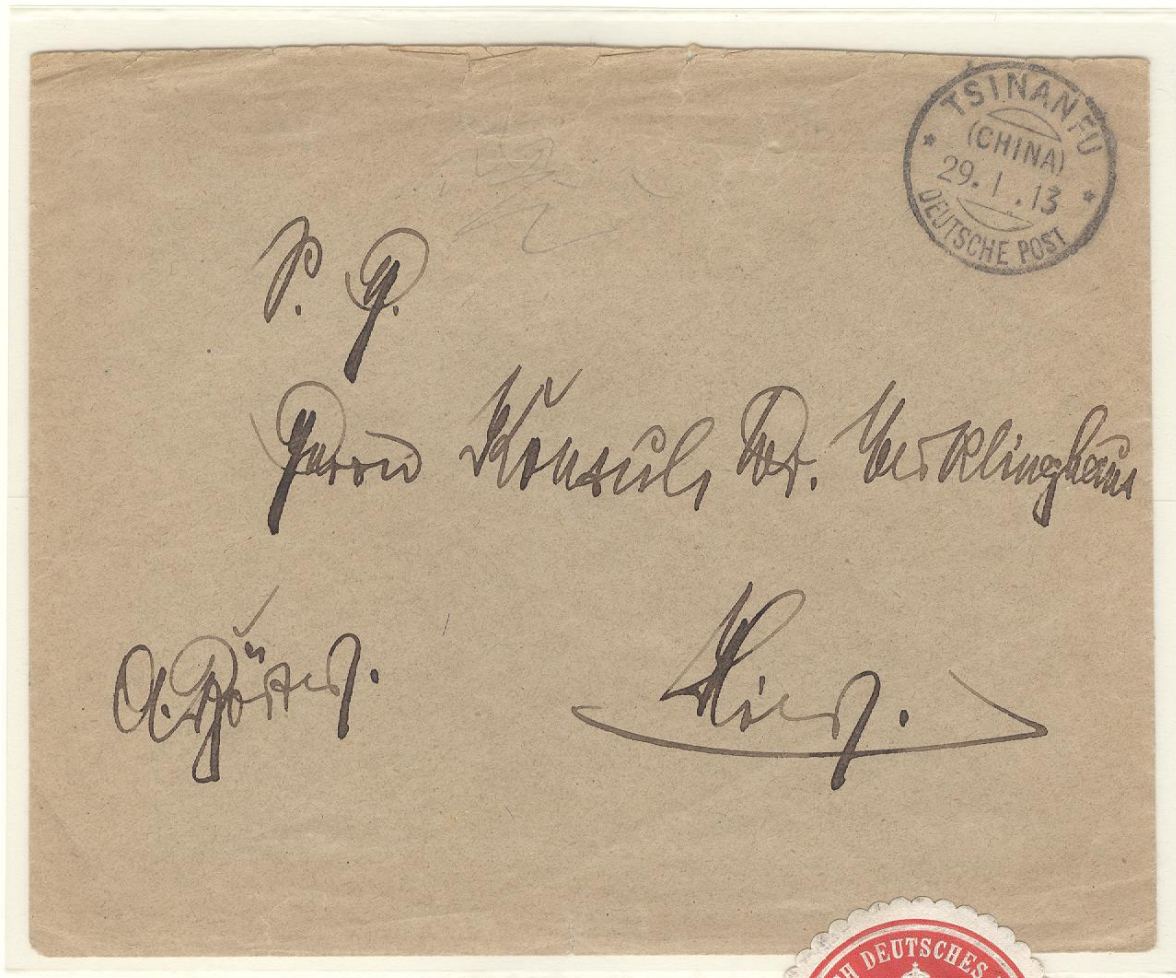
**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSINANFU**  
1904 - 1917

As capital of Schantung Province,  
**'TSINANFU' IS LOCATED AT AN IMPORTANT RAILWAY INTERSECTION**  
**JUNCTION OF THE GERMAN-BUILT 'SCHANTUNG' &**  
**'PUKOW-TIENTSIN' RAILWAYS IN NORTHERN CHINA,**  
which connect with the South Manchurian & Siberian Railway  
rail network.



USAGE:  
1 April 1904 -  
16 March 1917



**LOCAL POST OFFICE OFFICIAL MAIL**

**29 JANUARY 1913**

**Free-frank local post office official mail to**  
**"Consular Officer Dr. Mercklinghaus"**



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TSINANFU  
1904 - 1917

ON 1 OCTOBER 1905, A CURRENCY CHANGE TOOK PLACE IN CHINA  
FROM GERMAN MARKS/PFENNIG (GERMAN POST OFFICES) TO  
MEXICAN DOLLARS/CENTS COUNTRYWIDE,  
resulting in German postage being overprinted in "Dollars" or "Cents".

MIXED-CURRENCY-FRANKING REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL



1 DECEMBER 1905

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Tsinanfu,  
sent to Lübeck, Germany.  
40-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

"Lübeck, 10 January 1906"

4x 10 Pfg. + 1x 4 Cents =..  
10 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams)  
colonial letter-rate for mail to Germany.  
+  
10 Cents.. Registration fee

CONSTRUCTION OF THE (NORTH-SOUTH) TIENSIN-PUKOW RAILWAY,  
enabling access to Nanking and Shanghai in the south,  
WAS BY GERMAN COMPANIES FINANCED BY IMPERIAL CHINA,  
with the construction headquarters for the northern route  
located at Tsinanfu.



CHINESE IMPERIAL TIENSIN-PUKOW RAILWAY  
CONSTRUCTION OFFICE MAIL  
(Northern Branch)

21 JUNE 1909

Registered cover, postmarked at Tsinanfu, sent to Elberfeld, Germany.

14 Cents...  
4 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams)  
colonial-rate for mail to Germany  
+  
10 Cents.. Registration fee

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

TSINANFU  
1904 - 1917

COMMERCIAL & MISSIONARY MAIL TO EUROPE

MISSIONARY MAIL TO FRANCE

4 SEPTEMBER 1913

Missionary mail cover,  
postmarked at Tsinanfu,  
sent to a priest at  
Gagny, France.  
15-day transit time  
via Siberia.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Gagny,  
19 September 1913"

10 Cents ..  
UPU Single-Weight (20 grams)  
International Letter-Rate.



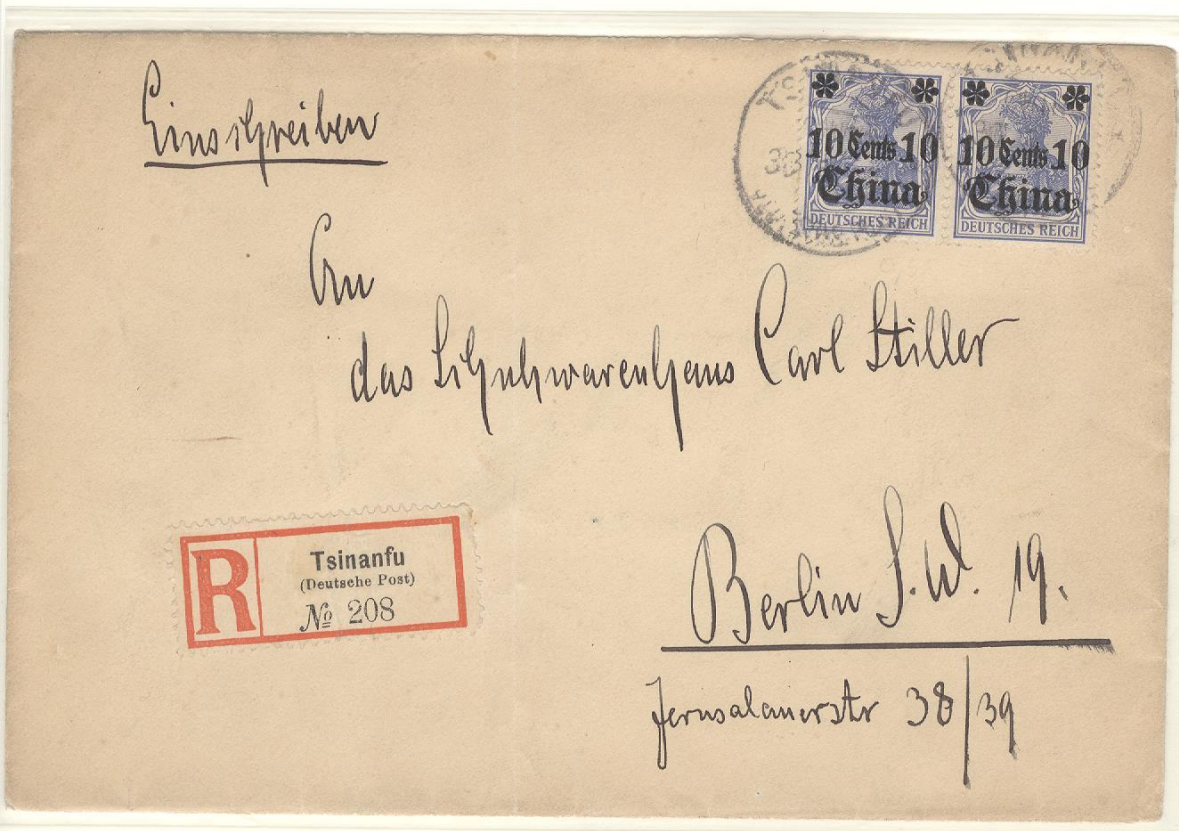
COMMERCIAL MAIL TO GERMANY

30 MAY 1911

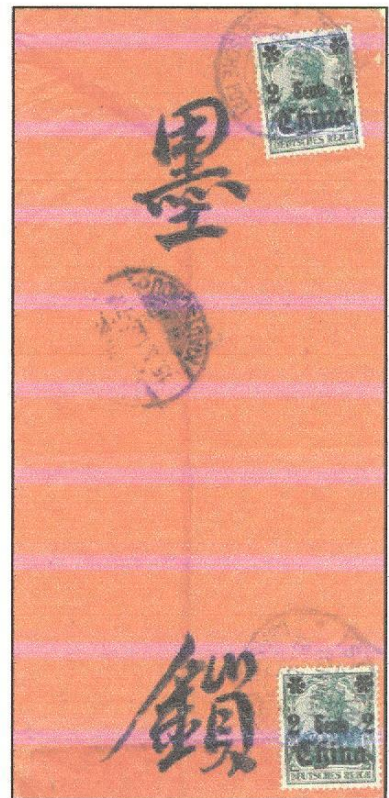
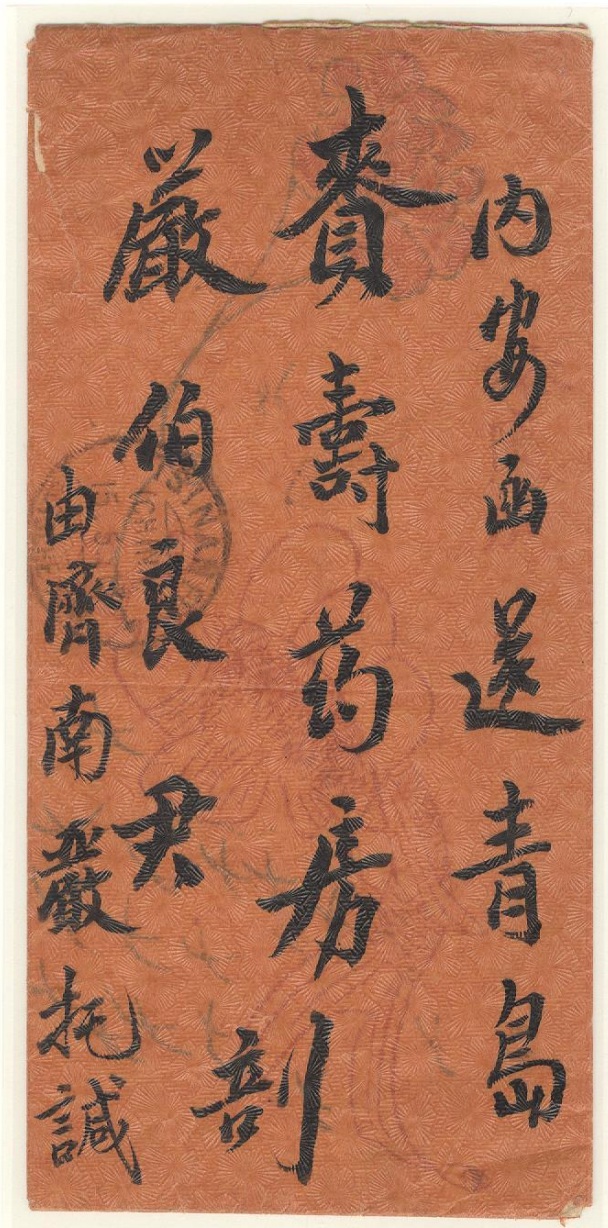
commercial  
registered  
cover,  
postmarked at  
Tsinanfu, sent  
to Berlin.  
16-day transit  
time  
via Siberia.

Arrival  
Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Berlin,  
15 June 1911"

20 Cents...  
10 Cents ..  
UPU Single-  
Weight  
(20 grams)  
International  
Letter-rate  
+  
10 Cents ..  
Registration  
fee



MAIL TO BETWEEN GERMAN-POST OFFICES IN CHINA  
& 'TSINGTAU' (KIAUTSCHOU) PROTECTORATE



15 MAY 1913

Chinese rice-paper cover, postmarked  
at Tsinanfu, sent to Tsingtau, Kiautschou,  
with same day arrival.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,  
15 May 1913, 6-7 PM"

4 Cents ..  
Single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate  
for mail sent between  
German post offices in China

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSINANFU**  
1904-1917

**THE GERMAN REICHSPOST AT BERLIN MONITORED & CONTROLLED THE MAIL BAGS PREPARED AND SHIPPED TO THEIR POST OFFICES IN CHINA 'VIA SIBERIA' IN FORM OF CONFIRMATION-OF-RECEIPT CARDS,**

which had to be completed and returned to Berlin Railway Post Office No. 18.

Information requested: Train & Bag Number and Departure & Arrival Dates.

**OFFICIAL POST OFFICE FREE-FRANK 'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTED CONTROL MAIL**



22 JUNE 1914

Pre-printed hand-completed card indicating:

"Train No. 21"

"Bag 65 from 1 June arrived on 14 June",

"Bag 66 from 3 June arrived on 18 June"

Etc.

Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Berlin Railway Post Office No. 18,

5 July 1914"

Route:

Tsinanfu-Tientsin-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin

Free-frank post office official mail

23 DECEMBER 1913

Kaiserliches Postamt		Tsinanfu, 22.6.14	
Zug 21			
Karobrief 65	1/6	14/6	
" 66	3/6		
" 67	4/6		
" 68	8/6		
Zug 7			
" 27	1/6	14/6	
" 28	4/6	14/6	
" 29	8/6	29/6	

Brief

Reverse

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**TSINANFU**  
1904 - 1917

**EVE OF THE  
OUTBREAK OF  
WAR  
MAIL TO  
GERMANY**

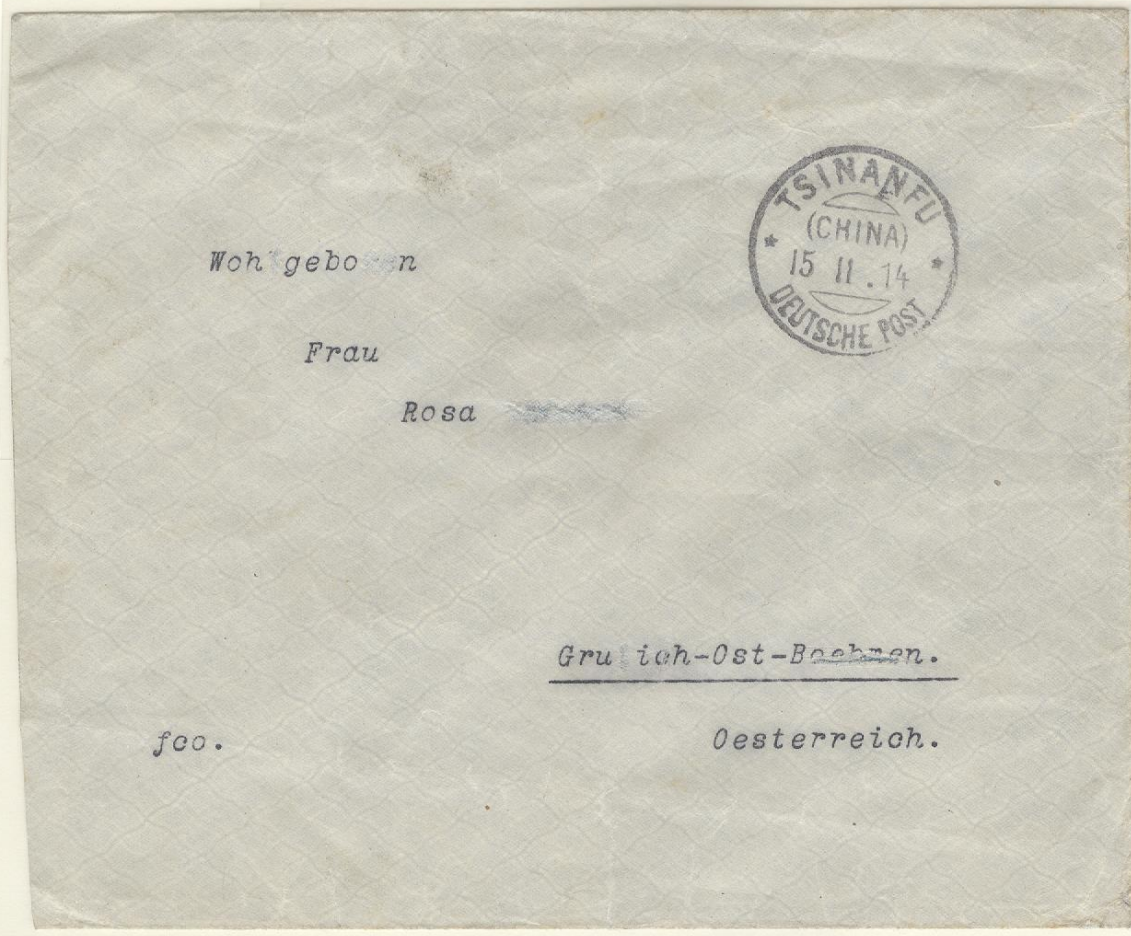
**24 JULY 1914**

**Business-related  
cover ,  
postmarked at  
Tsinanfu, sent to a  
book dealer at  
Leipzig, Germany**

**4 Cents ..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams)  
colonial letter-  
rate for mail sent  
to Germany.**



Reverse



**WARTIME MAIL  
TO AUSTRIA**

**15 NOVEMBER  
1914**

**Cover,  
postmarked at  
Tsinanfu, sent to  
Grulich,  
Austria**

**10 Cents..  
Double-weight  
(40 grams)  
concession  
letter-rate to  
Austria.**



Reverse

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

**WEHSIEN**  
1902-1914

LOCATED ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN 'TSINANFU' & 'TSINGTAU' ALONG THE  
'SCHANTUNG RAILWAY', 'WEHSIEN' WAS AN IMPORTANT  
REGIONAL TOWN IN NORTHERN CHINA.

Upon the outbreak of World War I, 'Wehsien' was early occupied  
by Japanese Forces in September 1914.



USAGE:

1 June 1902 - 1 September 1914

**EARLY PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION HAND-STAMP USAGE**



Hand-stamp (violet color)  
Registration Label..  
only known used on 23 July 1902.



Reverse

**23 JULY 1902**

Early registered inner-town Chinese "Mandarin" Cover,  
postmarked at Wehsien,  
with provisional registration hand-stamp.

**38 Pfennig...**  
**10 Pfg.. Single-weight (20 grams)**  
**letter-rate for mail sent between German Post Offices in China**  
**+ 20 Pfg.. Registration Fee**  
**+ 8 Pfg.. Over-franking**



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

WEIHSIEN  
1902-1914

SECOND REGULAR STAMP ISSUE 1901

REICHSPOST 'GERMANIA' SERIES  
with "China" Overprint  
on Un-watermarked Paper



(a)

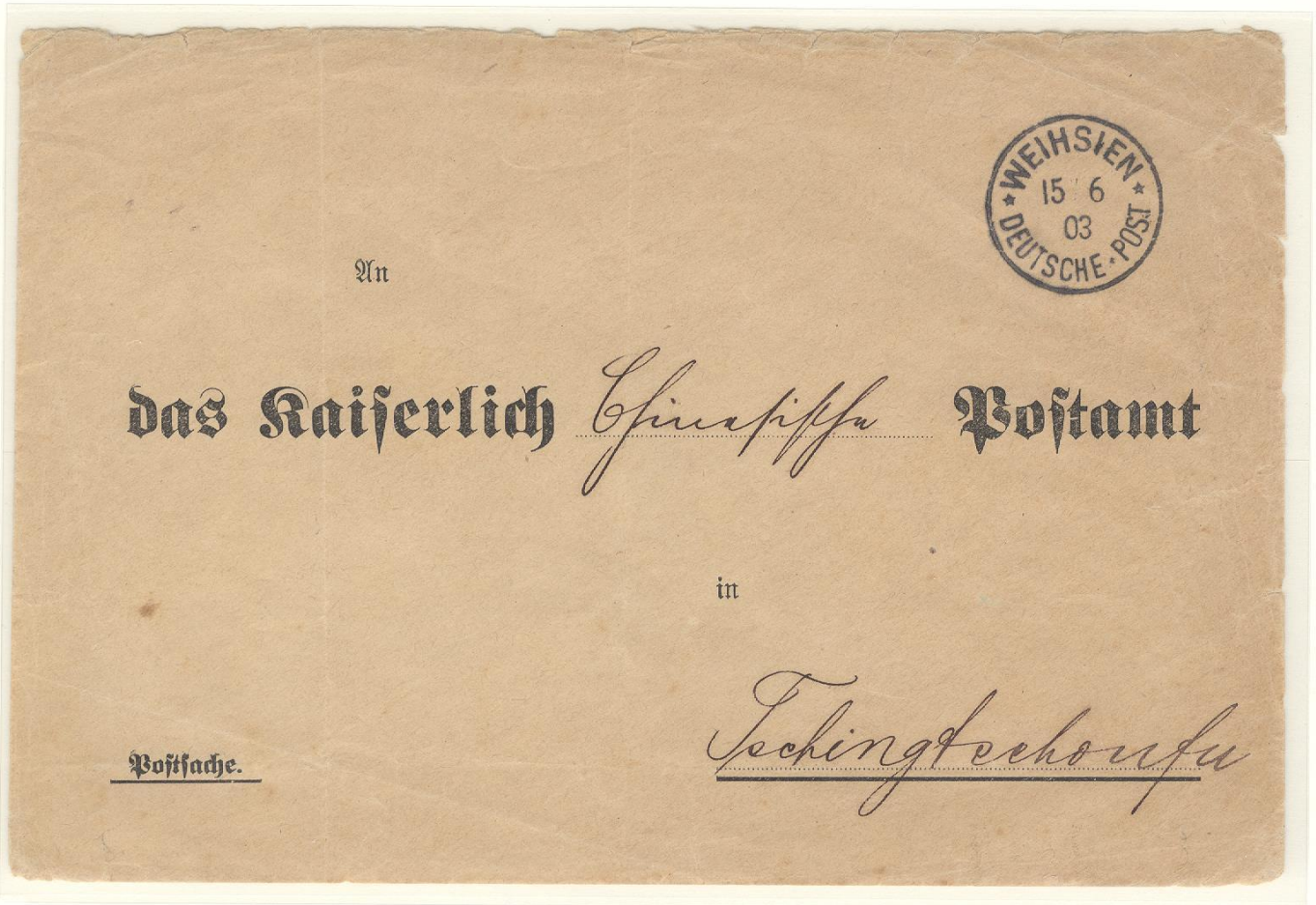
(b)  
Exp Steuer



POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

WEIHSIEN  
1902-1914

OFFICIAL INNER-CHINA GERMAN POST OFFICE MAIL



Reverse

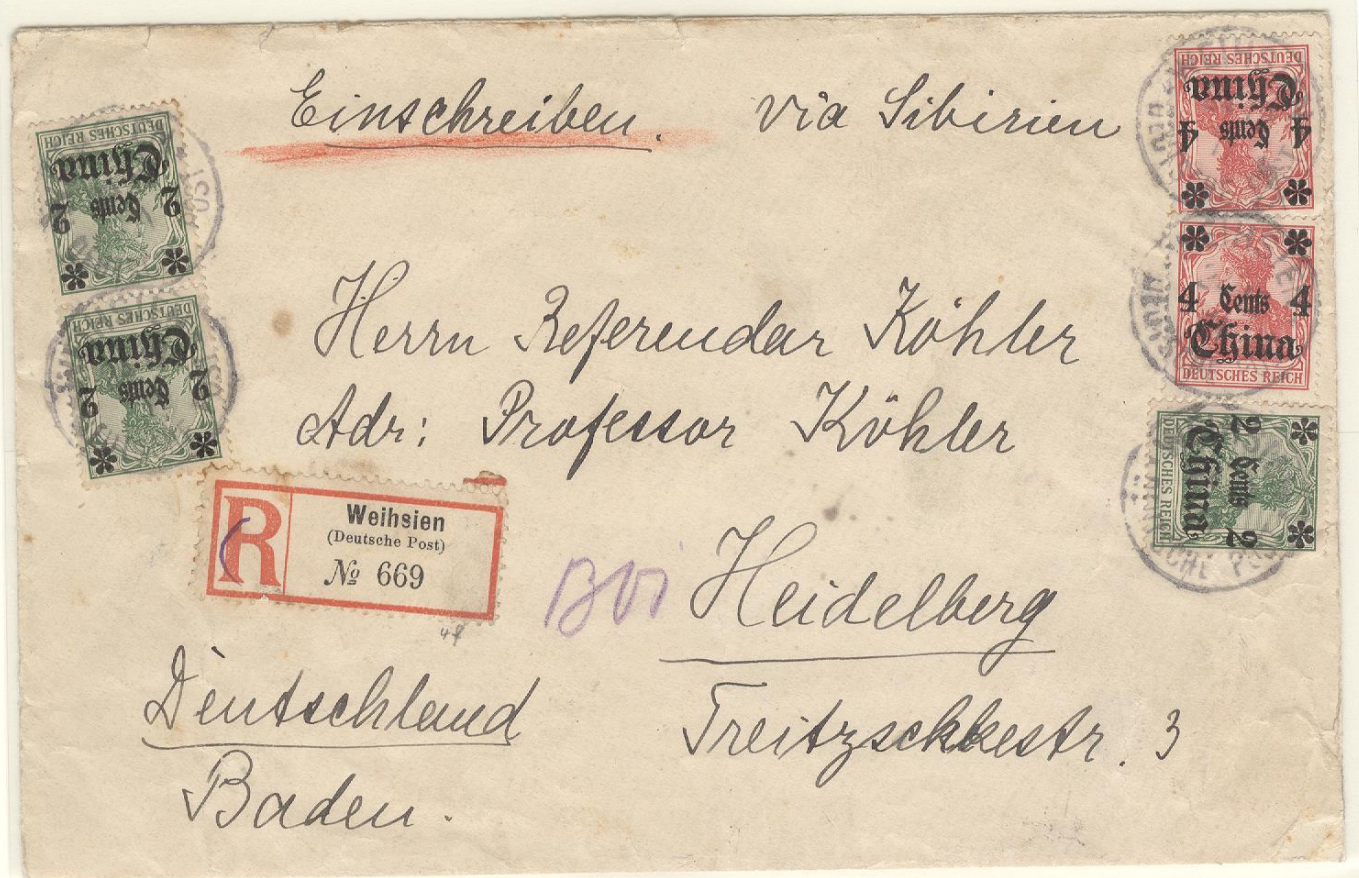
15 JUNE 1903

Free-frank official post office mail,  
postmarked Weih sien,  
sent to the  
Imperial Chinese Post Office at 'Tschingtschoufu',  
located along the 'Shantung Railway'  
at Marker '241 Kilometers' west of Tsingtau, Kiautschou.

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Coastal & Inland Post Offices

WEIHSIEN  
1902-1914

On 1 October 1905, a  
**MONETARY CHANGE FROM MARKS/PFENNIG TO MEXICAN  
DOLLARS/CENTS TOOK EFFECT IN CHINA**  
resulting in German postage being overprinted in "Dollars" or "Cents".



22 DECEMBER 1911

Registered cover, postmarked at Wehsien,  
sent 'Via Siberia' to Heidelberg, Germany.  
16-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

"Tsinanfu, 24 December 1911"  
"Heidelberg, 7 January 1912"

14 Cents..  
4 Cents.. single-weight (20 grams)  
colonial letter-rate for mail to Germany.  
+  
10 Cents.. Registration fee

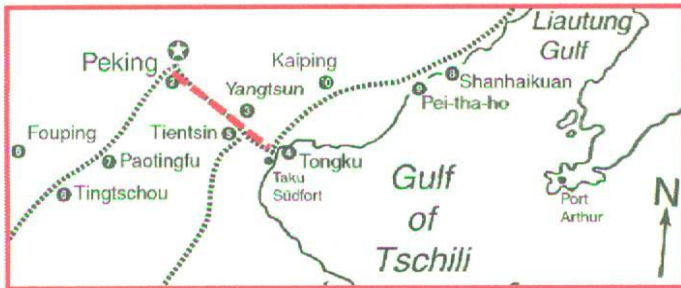
**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
*'Imperial German Railway' Post Office Mail*

**Peking-Taku Railway**  
 (Tschili Province)  
 1900-1901

During the Boxer Revolt hostilities (1900-1901), the railway line between Tongku/Taku-Tientsin-Peking was mostly destroyed or had limited use.

Because of its strategic military value, German Forces attempted to rebuild it as quickly as possible. By 15 September 1900, a portion of the line between Yangtsun-Tongku/Taku operated again, and by December 1900, most of the line to Peking became operational.

**A LOCALLY HARDCARVED WOODEN POSTMARK WAS PREPARED AND USED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1900 AND MARCH 1901, PRIMARILY AS A SECURITY MARK FOR NON-MILITARY FRANKED MAIL.**



USAGE: 17 October 1900 –  
 25 March 1901



**MARCH 1901**

Cover, philatelic-inspired, undated postmark,  
*"Imperial German Railway Mail .. Peking-Taku"*,  
 sent to Wiesbaden, Germany

Arrival Postmark:  
 "Wiesbaden, 18 April 1901"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**Single-weight (15 grams) concession**  
**letter-rate for non-military related-mail sent to Germany.**

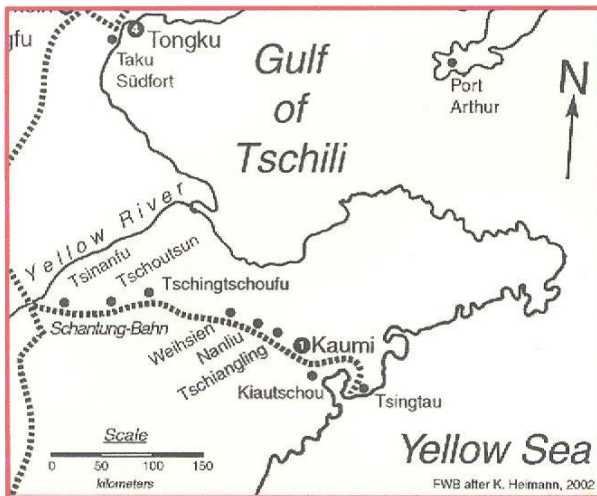
**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**Railway Post Offices & Mail**

**Shantung Railway**  
**(Shantung Province)**  
**1901-1902**  
**Tschiangling**

Considered strategically & commercially important, the German-financed and built "Shantung Railway" Line connected Tsingtau, Kiautschou, German Lease Territory, with the north-south Chinese railway line connecting with Tientsin & Peking.

**AS THE 'SHANTUNG RAILWAY' ("Schantung Bahn") WAS BEING COMPLETED, SHORT-LIVED GERMAN POSTAL STATIONS AND POST OFFICES OPENED ALONG THE ROUTE.**

**THE FIRST STAGE OF THE FUNCTIONAL "SCHANTUNG BAHN" WAS THE SECTION 'TSINGTAU-KAUMI', WHERE A TRAIN POSTMARK WAS APPLIED TO TRAIN MAIL ALONG WITH THE LOCAL POSTAL STATION SUPPLEMENTARY POSTMARK.**



USAGE:  
 14 December 1901 -  
 21 March 1902



USAGE  
 24 January -  
 1 June 1902

**24 JANUARY 1902**

Postal stationery card, mailed on-board "Train No. 2", 'Kaumi' (eastward direction route), with supplementary postmark 'Tschiangling' & train postmark 'Tsingtau-Kaumi' applied at 'Tschiangling', sent to recipient (general delivery) at 'Kaumi'.

Arrival Postmark:  
 "Kaumi,  
 26 January 1902"

**5 Pfennig..**  
**Postcard-rate for**  
**inner-China mail**  
**sent**  
**between German**  
**post offices.**



**First day usage of the 'Tschiangling' Postmark on train mail having the 'Tsingtau-Kaumi' Train Postmark.**

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Railway Post Offices & Mail

Shantung Railway  
(Shantung Province)  
1902  
Nanliu

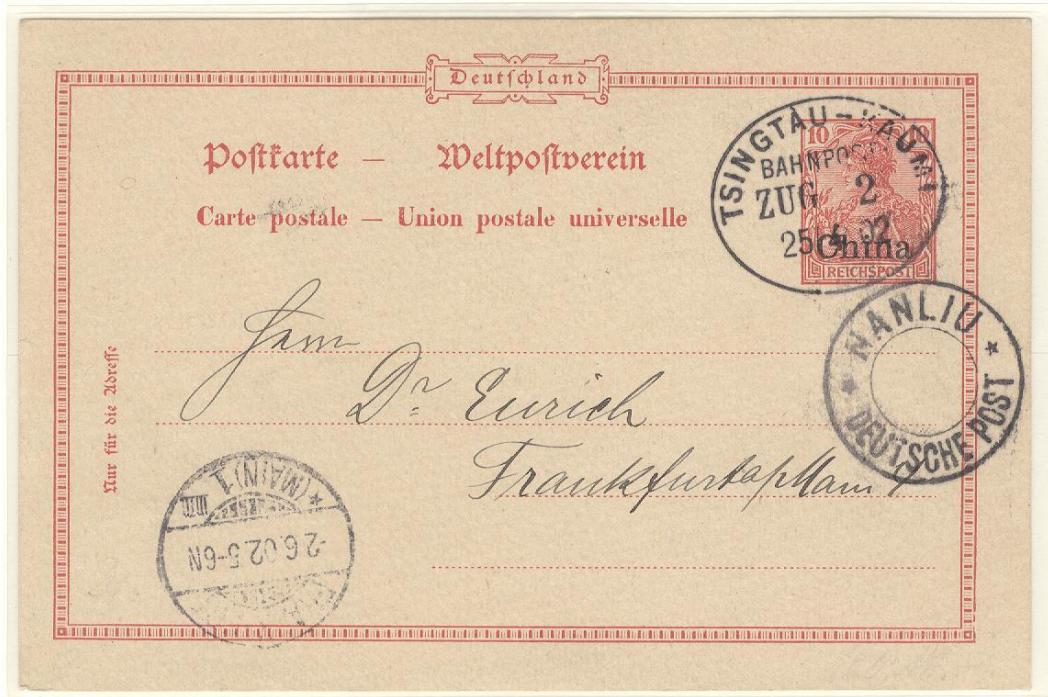
'NANLIU' WAS THE NEXT POSTAL STATION TO BE OPENED ON THE  
SHANTUNG RAILWAY LINE .. AFTER 'TSCHIANGLING' ..  
where a supplementary postmark was also applied to the train  
postmark for mail accepted at that railway postal station.



USAGE:  
21 March -  
1 June 1902



USAGE  
24 January -  
1 June 1902



Exp Steuer

25 APRIL 1902

Postal stationery card, mailed on-board "Train No. 2",  
'Kaumi' (eastward route direction), with supplementary  
postmark 'Nanliu' along with train postmark 'Tsingtau-Kaumi'  
applied at 'Nanliu', sent to Frankfurt, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Frankfurt,  
2 June 1902"

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International Postcard-Rate.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**Railway Post Offices & Mail**

**Shantung Railway**  
**(Shantung Province)**  
**1903**  
**Tschingtschoufu**

**'TSCHINGTSCHOUFU', THE SUBSEQUENT POSTAL STATION TO BE OPENED ON THE 'SHANTUNG RAILWAY LINE' AFTER 'NANLIU', where a supplementary postmark was applied with the train postmark at that postal station.**



USAGE:  
 15 June -  
 31 October 1903



USAGE  
 2 June 1902-  
 1 November 1904



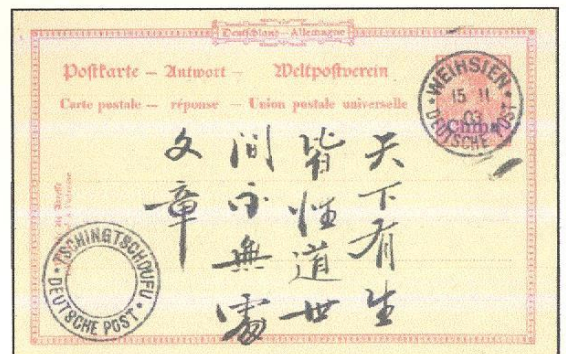
Ex Bothe

15 NOVEMBER 1903

UPU Postal Reply-Card Set, mailed on-board "Train No. 1" on the 'Weihsien' Route (eastward direction), with supplementary postmark 'Tschingtschoufu' & train postmark 'Tsingtau-Weihsien' applied at 'Tschingtschoufu', sent to 'Weihsien'.

Arrival Postmark:  
 "Weihsien,  
 "15 November 1903"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International Postcard used on**  
**Inner-China Mail (over-franked).**

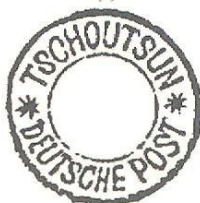


Attached Response Card ..  
 Weihsien to Tschingtschoufu

POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
Railway Post Offices & Mail

Shantung Railway  
(Shantung Province)  
1903-1904  
Tschoutsun

A SUBSEQUENT WESTERLY POSTAL STATION TO BE OPENED ON THE  
'SHANTUNG RAILWAY LINE', AFTER 'TSCHINGTSCHOUFU', WAS 'TSCHOOTSUN'  
where its supplementary postmark was applied to  
in-bound or out-bound mail.



USAGE:  
15 November 1903 -  
15 January 1904



1 JANUARY 1904

Postal stationery response card postmarked at  
'Tschingtschoufu',  
sent to 'Tschoutsun'.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Tschoutsun, German Post Office"  
(undated)

10 Pfennig..  
UPU International Postcard  
used on Inner-China Mail (overfranked).



**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
Railway Post Offices & Mail

Shantung Railway  
(Shantung Province)  
1902-1904  
Weihsien Station

**'WEIHSIEN' STATION WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY IN THE CENTER OF THE 'SHANTUNG RAILWAY LINE' BETWEEN 'TSINANFU' (WEST) & 'TSINGTAU' (EAST).**

Two train numbers were involved in the single-track line:  
"Train 1" & "Train 2".



USAGE  
2 June 1902-  
1 November 1904

**EAST-BOUND 'TRAIN 2' POSTMARKED COMMERCIAL MAIL**



**8 JANUARY 1903**

Postal card, postmarked aboard "Train 2" on the 'Tsingtau-Weihsien' Line Route, sent to a business (general delivery) in Tsingtau City.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,  
"8 January 1903"

**5 Pfennig..**  
Postcard-rate for mail sent Inner-China  
through the German Post Office.

**POST-1900 GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**Railway Post Offices & Mail**

**Shantung Railway**  
**(Shantung Province)**  
**1904-1914**  
**Tsinanfu**

**'TSINANFU', CAPITAL OF THE SHANTUNG (SCHANTUNG) PROVINCE, AN IMPORTANT RAILWAY JUNCTION AT THE END OF THE SHANTUNG RAILWAY & INTERSECTION WITH THE PUKOW-TIENTSIN RAILWAY, WITH AN ESTABLISHED GERMAN POST OFFICE.**

**On 1 October 1905, a monetary change from Marks/Pfennigs to Mexican Dollars/Cents took effect in China resulting in German postage being overprinted in "Dollars" or "Cents".**



USAGE:  
 1 November 1904 -  
 23 August 1914



27 February 1906



USAGE:  
 1 November 1904 -  
 23 August 1914



7 February 1906

Exp Bothe

**17 APRIL 1912**

Postal stationery card, postmarked on "Train 2" of the 'Tsingtau-Tsinanfu Rail Line', routed "Via Siberia" to Rastatt, Province Baden, Germany.

**2 Cents...**  
**German colonial postcard-rate for mail sent to Germany**  
 (1 July 1908 - 9 September 1915)



**III. MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**"Wilhelmshaven" Usage of 'China' Postage**

September-November 1901

Upon the return of the Light Cruiser "Irene" from China duty during the Boxer Revolt in September 1901,  
**IT TRANSFERRED ITS UNUSED INVENTORY OF 5, 10 & 20 PFENNIG VALUES OF "CHINA" OVERPRINT GERMANIA-SERIES POSTAGE STAMPS TO THE REICHSPOST AT WILHELMSHAVEN,**  
 which apparently distributed them for sale at the main post offices in the Cities of *Wilhelmshaven & Münster.*



"China" Overprint

30 OCTOBER 1901

View-card of Wilhelmshaven, postmarked at Wilhelmshaven (8-9 AM), sent to Hamm, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
 "Hamm (Westf.),  
 30 October 1901, 5-6 PM"

**5 Pfennig..**  
**Domestic postcard-rate.**

Only known "China" postal history example with "Wilhelmshaven" Postmark;  
 three examples known with "Münster" Postmark.

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Mail from German Ships in Chinese Waters**

**"Pisa" Provisional**  
**(June – October 1902)**

Chartered by the German Ministry of War to transport returning troops from China, the Steamer "Pisa" (Imperial German Naval Ship No. 2) during the period of 26 June- 4 October 1902 had no postage stamps to frank the mail mailed by the troops on-board, resulting in such mail being "Cash-Paid" & endorsed "Frei 5" covering the German domestic postcard-rate.

**UPON ARRIVAL IN GERMANY, THE MAIL WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NAVAL POST OFFICE AT BERLIN, WHICH AFFIXED POSTAGE, POSTMARKED SUCH WITH A "DIENSTMARKE" ("Dm" = "On Service") POSTMARK AND PLACED SUCH INTO THE GERMAN POSTAL SYSTEM FOR DELIVERY.**

**EARLIEST PROVISIONAL USAGE**

**7 JULY 1902**

View-card, postmarked on-board ship, sent to Schroda, (near Posen), Germany

Arrival Postmark: "Schroda, 16 July 1902"

**5 Pfennig.. Domestic postcard-rate.**



**LATEST PROVISIONAL USAGE**

**25 SEPTEMBER 1902**

View-card, postmarked on-board ship, sent to Gaustadt (near Bamberg), Germany.

Arrival Postmark: "Gaustadt, 6 October 1902"

**5 Pfennig.. Domestic postcard-rate.**



**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Mail to German Naval Ships in Chinese Waters**

**Printed-Matter Mail**  
**Sent From Shanghai**

**31 JANUARY 1901**

**"Der Ostasiatische Lloyd"**  
**Newspaper Cover,**  
**postmarked at Shanghai, sent to "HMS Schwalbe"**

**'HMS Schwalbe'..**  
**Light Cruiser in Chinese Waters**  
**30 July 1900 – 31 August 1901.**

**3 Pfennig..**  
**Colonial printed-Matter rate for mail up to 50 grams mailed between German land or sea post offices in China.**



**9 DECEMBER 1904**

**"Der Ostasiatische Lloyd"**  
**Newspaper**  
**Wrapper, containing**  
**550 grams of newspapers,**  
**postmarked at Shanghai,**  
**sent to homeward-bound**  
**"HMS Hertha",**

**'HMS Hertha'..**  
**Heavy Cruiser in Chinese Waters**  
**28 February 1901 – 24 October 1904 (prox.)**

**Arrival Postmark:**  
**"Tandjongpriok**  
**(Dutch East Indies),**  
**24 December 1904"**

**55 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International Printed-Matter Rate for mail up to 550 grams (5 Pfg = each 50 grams).**

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**German Seapost**

*Ost-Asiatische Linie*  
 (East Asiatic Line)

The German 'East-Asiatic Main Line' serviced routes to Germany using a variety of ships. After 1900, 'The East Asiatic Line' operated ...  
**EACH LINE HAVING DIFFERENT LETTER-INDICATORS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SHIP POSTMARKS DESIGNATING THE VESSEL APPLICABLE DURING A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD.**



**EAST ASIATIC MAIN LINE**

**28 JUNE 1902**  
 (Postmark 'f' =  
 "Prinzregent  
 Luitpold")

Cover, mailed &  
 postmarked aboard  
 ship, sent to Berlin-  
 Charlottenburg,  
 Germany.

Arrival Postmark:  
 (Reverse)  
 "Charlottenburg,  
 30 June 1902"

**20 Pfennig.. UPU**  
**International**  
**Single-Weight**  
 (15 grams)  
**Letter-Rate.**



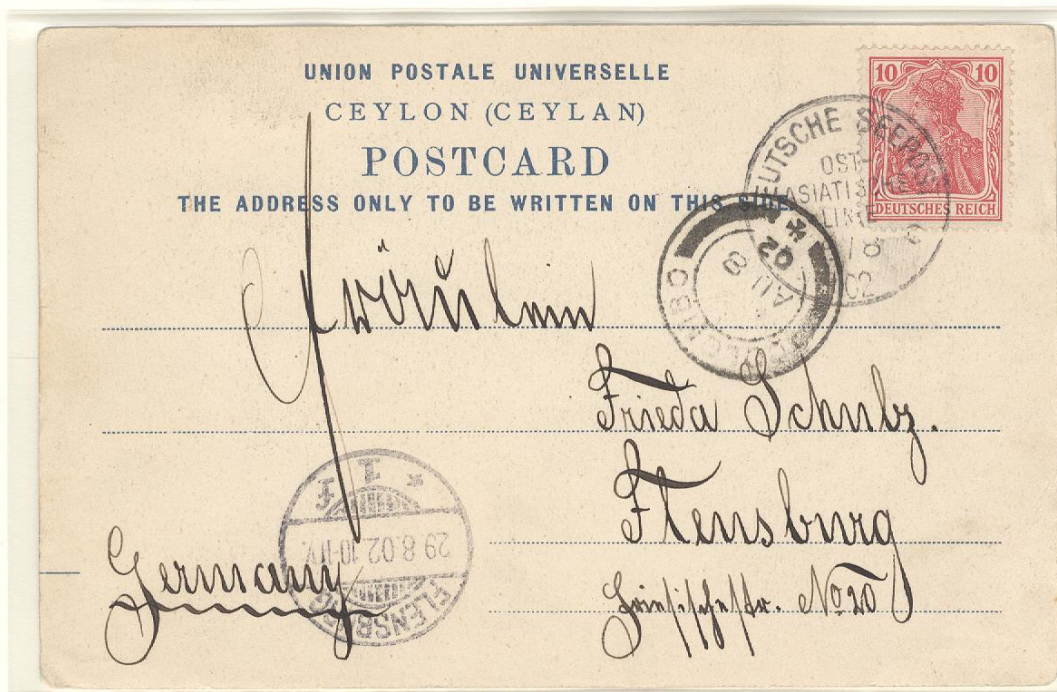
**EAST ASIATIC LINE**

**9 AUGUST 1902**  
 (Postmark 'c' =  
 "Princess Irene")

View-card of Ceylon,  
 postmarked & mailed  
 aboard ship, sent to  
 Flensburg, Germany.

Transit & Arrival  
 Postmarks:  
 "Columbo,  
 8 August 1902"  
 "Flensburg,  
 29 August 1902"

**10 Pfennig..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate**



**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Shanghai-Tientsin Seapost Mail**

**Coastal Seapost**

**COASTAL VESSEL 'SECRETARY OF STATE KRAETKE'**  
**May 1901 – February 1914**

**AN INCREASE IN MAIL VOLUME**, shortly before and during the military campaign of 1900-1901 in North China, **SUPPORTED THE NEED FOR AND INTRODUCTION OF SEA-POST MAIL**. Ships sailed between the coastal cities of Shanghai and Tientsin (Port at Tongku) by way of Tsingtau (Kiautschou), Tschifu and, occasionally, Tschinwangtao, & Schanhaikwan.

After cessation of the military campaign of 1900-1901, service was limited to Shanghai-Tsingtau-Tschifu-Tongku (Tientsin).



**USAGE:**  
**May 1901 – February 1914**



**23 September 1909**

'Via Siberia' routed letter sent by a naval lieutenant, based at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, to his father, "General Danzer" at Ulm, Württemberg, Germany.

**Franking:**  
**4 Cents ..**

**Single-weight (20 grams) concession letter-rate for mail sent to Germany.**

# MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914

# Coastal Seapost

## Shanghai-Tientsin Seapost Mail

COASTAL VESSEL 'SIKIANG'  
June 1901 – 13 August 1913

EACH COASTAL VESSEL HAVING A POST OFFICE  
RECEIVED A POSTMARKER HAVING A DEDICATED  
CODE.

The postmark code for the 'Sikiang' was 'c'.



USAGE:  
June 1901 – 13 August 1913



14 NOVEMBER 1906

So-called 'Mandarin' cover,  
mailed aboard the 'Sikiang',  
sent to Tsingtau, Kiautschou.  
2-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(reverse)

"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,  
16 November 1906"

"Tsingtau-Tapautau,  
Kiautschou,  
16 November 1906"

8 Cents ..  
Second-weight level  
(20-250 grams) colonial letter-  
rate for mail sent between  
German Post Offices in  
China.



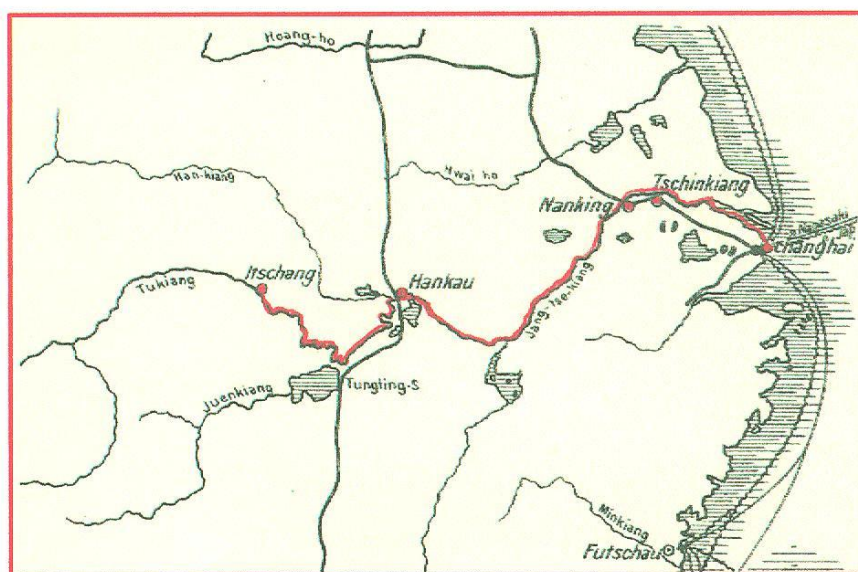
# MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914

## Yangtze River Line

# River Fleet Postmarks

Significant German commercial interests along the Yangtze River Valley motivated German investment to develop passenger & freight shipping on the river, China's largest, with river vessel service commencing in 1900 extending from Shanghai in the east to Itschang in the west.

**GERMAN POSTAL SERVICE WAS AVAILABLE ON EACH SHIP OF THE FIVE-VESSEL RIVER FLEET WITH POST OFFICES ALSO OPENING AT CITIES ALONG THE RIVER.**



THE YANGTZE RIVER FLEET CONSISTED OF FIVE VESSELS SERVICING MAIL BETWEEN 1903-1912 WITH EACH VESSEL HAVING ITS OWN DEDICATED POSTMARK.

VESSEL	POSTMARK	POSTMARK USAGE PERIOD
SUI-TAI	Un-coded	13 July 1903 - November 1906
MAI-DAH	"a"	19 October 1903 - 5 November 1912
SUI-AN	"b"	25 June 1903 - November 1906
MEI-SHUN	"c"	3 June 1903 - January 1912
MEI-LEE	"d"	29 September 1903 - November 1911



Un-coded 22 May 1906

'a' 16 December 1903

'c' 25 November 1903

'd' 5 May 1907

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Yangtze River Line**

**Registered Mail**

**REGISTERED MAIL WAS POSSIBLE**

on any one of the four Yangtze River Line vessels, where vessel post offices affixed a registration label from a selected German post office on the route, as applicable,  
**WITH SUCH MAIL FIRST BEING PROCESSED AT A GERMAN POST OFFICE ON THE ROUTE,**  
where a transit postmark would be applied.



**'MEI-LEE'**

29 September 1903 – November 1911



Ex Mizuhara

**9 MAY 1910**

Registered cover, postmarked aboard the **'MEI-LEE' Steamer**, processed at the German Post Office at Hankau (transit postmark applied), sent to Berlin-Charlottenburg. 20-day transit time ..using the **'Via Siberia'** Route.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:

**"Hankau, 12 May 1910"**

(Reverse)

**"Berlin-Charlottenburg,**

**29 May 1910"**

**14 Cents..**

**4 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams) colonial letter-rate to Germany +  
10 Cents.. Registration fee**

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Yangtze River Line**

**Europe-Bound Mail**



**MAIL TO BELGIUM**

**5 APRIL 1905**

View-card, postmarked aboard the 'MEI-LEE'

**Steamer,**

sent to Malderen, Belgium.

35-day transit time.

**Arrival Postmark:**

"Malderen, 10 May 1905"

**10 Pfennig..**

**UPU International Postcard-Rate**



**MAIL TO FRANCE**

**24 FEBRUARY 1906**

View-card, postmarked aboard the 'MEI-SHUN'

**Steamer,**

sent to Reims, France.

39-day transit time.

**Arrival Postmark:**

"Reims, 5 April 1906"

**4 Cents..**

**UPU International Postcard-Rate**

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Yangtze River Line**

**Un-coded Postmark**  
**(Steamer: 'Sui-Tai')**

**POSTMARKS**  
for the Yangtze River Fleet  
**CONSISTED OF (1) UN-CODED & (4) CODED VERSIONS,**  
one dedicated to each vessel.



USAGE: 13 July 1903 -  
November 1906



Exp. Steuer

--- MARCH 1905

Cover, postmarked aboard the 'SUI-TAI' Steamer,  
sent to Leipzig-Neuschönfeld, Germany.  
Approx. 20-day transit time ..using 'Via Siberia' Route.

Arrival & Delivery Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

"Leipzig-Neuschönfeld  
8 April 1905, 7-8 AM"  
"(Leipzig) L13,  
8 April (1905), 4-5 AM"

20 Pfennig..

UPU Single-Weight (15 grams) International Letter-Rate

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Yangtze River Line**

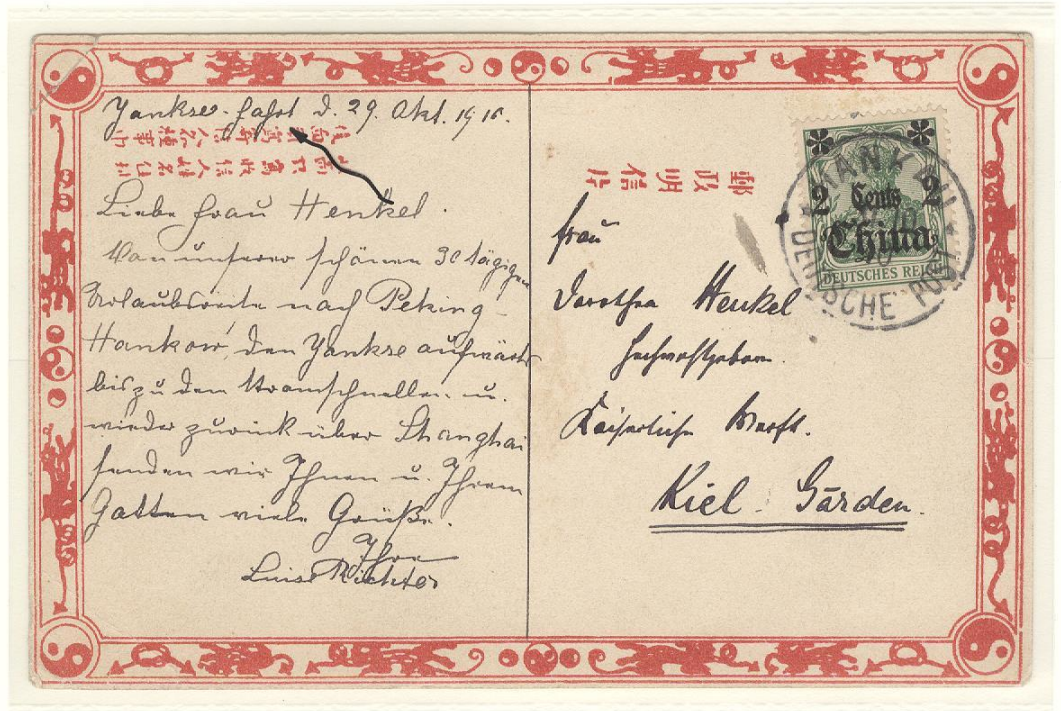
**Voyage Mail Sent Through**  
**Land Post Offices**

**'HANKAU'**  
**GERMAN POST**  
**OFFICE**

**29 OCTOBER 1910**

**Decorative China-**  
**origin view-card,**  
**written on-board,**  
**mailed at Hankau,**  
**sent to Kiel,**  
**Germany**

**2 Cents..**  
**Colonial rate for**  
**Postcards sent to**  
**Germany.**



**'ITSCHANG'**  
**GERMAN POST**  
**OFFICE**

**20 DECEMBER 1905**

**Decorative**  
**China-origin view-**  
**card, postmarked at**  
**Itschang**  
**(end-station for the**  
**Yangtze River Line),**  
**sent to "Vice Consul**  
**Müller" at Shanghai.**  
**9-day transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:**  
**"Shanghai,**  
**29 December 1905"**

**2 Cents..**  
**Postcard-rate for mail**  
**sent between**  
**German post offices**  
**in China.**



MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914  
Yangtze River

Mail to German  
Yangtze-River-Gunboat "Vorwärts"

POSTAL STATIONERY  
MAIL TO SHIP'S  
PAYMASTER

3 APRIL 1903

Commercial  
payment-  
acknowledgement  
mail, postmarked at  
Shanghai, sent to  
"Naval Paymaster  
Candidate Kilian"  
aboard 'HMS  
Vorwärts' on the  
Yangtze River.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Hankau,  
7 April 1903"

5 Pfennig..  
Postcard-rate for  
mail sent between  
German Post Offices  
in China.



Telegrammdienst des „Ostasiatischen Lloyds“

Redaktion und Expedition 24<sup>A</sup> Nanking Road, Shanghai.

Drucksache

S. M. Flusskanonenboot „Vorwärts“



PRINTED-  
MATTER MAIL  
TO GUNBOAT

13 JANUARY  
1906

Cover ...  
telegram-  
service of the  
East Asiatic  
Lloyd  
Newspaper,  
postmarked at  
Shanghai, sent  
to 'HMS  
Vorwärts' on  
the Yangtze  
River.

2 Cents..  
Printed-matter  
rate for mail up  
to 50 grams  
sent between  
German post  
offices in  
China.

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914  
Yangtze River**

**Mail From German  
Yangtze-River-Gunboat "Iltis"**

During the Post 'Boxer Revolt' Period, the German Navy had their **GUNBOAT 'ILTIS'** on regular coastal watch and Yangtze River cruise duty .

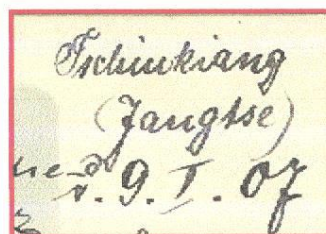


**MAIL FROM GERMAN GUNBOAT 'ILTIS' TO GERMANY  
(MSP 20)**

**9 JANUARY 1907**

Viewcard, posted on board ship during the 9<sup>th</sup> Yangtze River Cruise, off-loaded at 'Tschingkiang' during stopover between 11-15 January 1907, sent to Erfurt, Germany 37-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Erfurt,  
15 February 1907"



Reverse

**5 Pfennig..  
Colonial post-card rate for mail sent  
to Germany.**

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**

**German Legation Mail**

**DOCUMENTS SENT BETWEEN GERMAN CONSULATES OR LEGATION  
WITHIN CHINA WERE FREE-FRANK,  
Including registered mail, but only through German Post Offices.**

Einschreiben

Deutsche Post  
Peking  
Eingeschrieben  
№ 590

Kaiserlich Deutsches Gesandtschaftsamt

RSY

46.  
107  
175



Peking – Shanghai



Seal on Reverse



*Generalkonsulat*

*1911*

*Shanghai*

15 JANUARY 1902

Registered free-frank official German legation mail cover,  
postmarked at Peking,  
sent to the consulate at Shanghai.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Shanghai, Deutsche Post,  
22 January 1902"

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**German Consular Mail**

**Nanking - Berlin**

Although **OFFICIAL CONSULAR MAIL** between inner-China offices was free-frank when handled by the German Post Office, **INTERNATIONAL-BOUND MAIL HAD TO BE FRANKED.**



**23 FEBRUARY 1914**

**Postcard,  
acknowledgement-of-receipt for  
reference-numbered-mail,  
postmarked at Nanking,  
sent to the Foreign Office at  
Berlin.**

**2 Cents..  
Colonial postcard-rate valid  
for mail sent  
to Germany  
(1 July 1908 – 9 September 1915).**



**Reverse**

MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914  
German Consular Mail

Shanghai – Tsingtau (Kiautschou)



Seal on Reverse



16 NOVEMBER 1911

Consular mail cover,  
postmarked at Shanghai,  
sent to the 'Imperial German Courts' at  
Tsingtau, Kiautschou Territory.

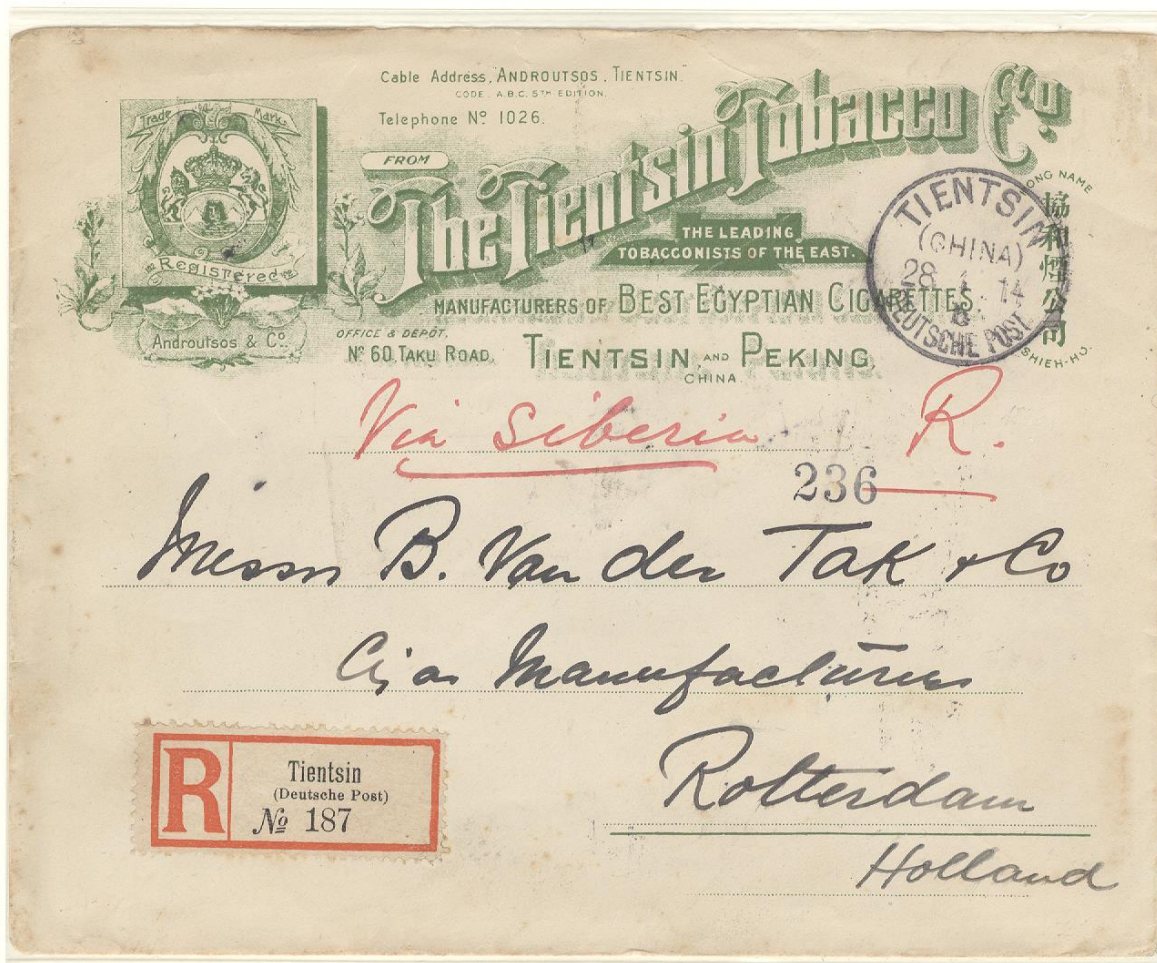
Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

"Tsingtau, Kiautschau,  
21 November 1911"

8 Cents..  
Double-weight  
(20-250 grams)  
letter-rate for mail sent between  
German post offices in China

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Advertising Covers**

**International Registered**  
**Commercial Mail**



**'THE TIENSIN TOBACCO COMPANY'**

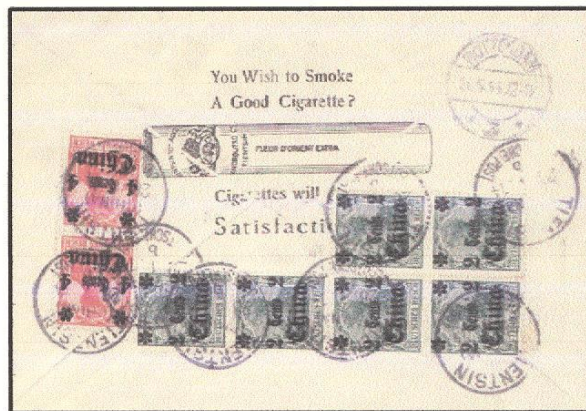
**28 APRIL 1914**

**Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin,  
routed "Via Siberia" to Rotterdam, Holland.  
13-day transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Rotterdam,  
11 May 1914"**

**20 Cents..**

**10 Cents.. UPU Single-Weight (20 grams)  
International Letter-Rate + 10 Cents.. Registration fee**



**Reverse**

**MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914**  
**Advertising Covers**

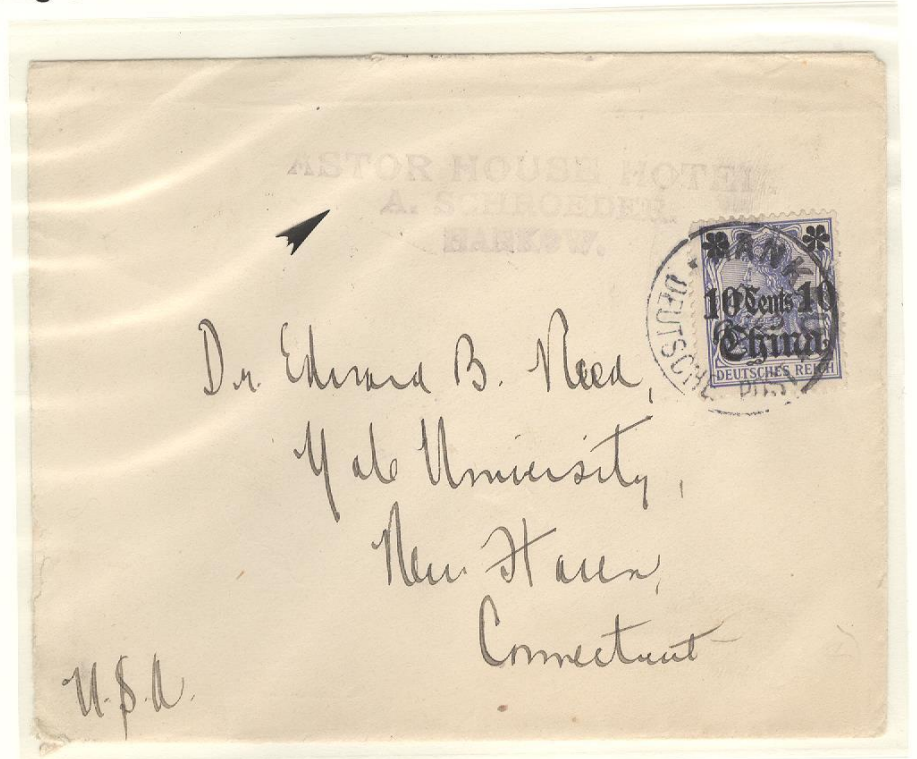
**Hotel Mail**

**'ASTOR HOUSE' HOTEL**  
**HANKAU**  
 to  
**UNITED STATES OF**  
**AMERICA**

**5 MAY 1907**

**"S.S. Loong Wo" postal**  
**stationery, hotel**  
**endorsed, postmarked at**  
**Hankau, sent to**  
**New Haven, Connecticut.**

**10 cents..**  
**UPU International**  
**Single-Weight**  
**(20 grams) Letter-Rate.**



**'ASTOR HOUSE'**  
**HOTEL**  
**SHANGHAI**  
 to  
**GERMANY**

**18 FEBRUARY 1910**

**Hotel advertising**  
**cover,**  
**postmarked at**  
**Shanghai,**  
**routed**  
**"Via Siberia"**  
**to Frankfurt/Main,**  
**Germany**

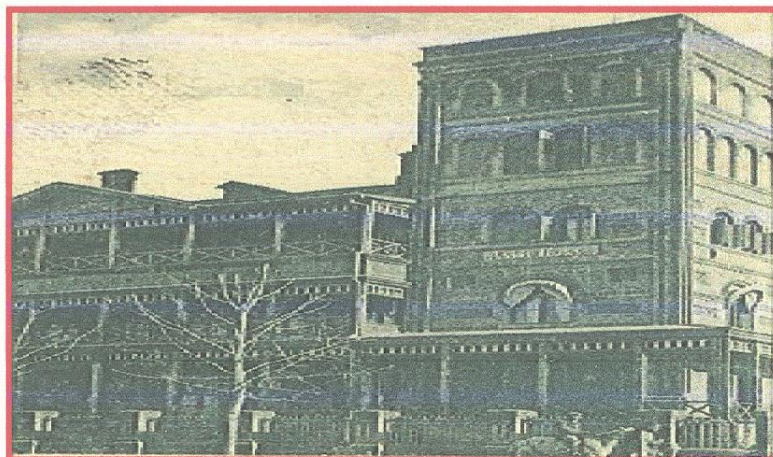
**4 Cents..**  
**Single-Weight**  
**(20 grams)**  
**colonial letter-rate**  
**for mail to Germany**



**Reverse**

MAIL ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1901-1914  
Advertising Covers

Hotel Mail



'ASTOR HOUSE' HOTEL .. TIENTSIN to SWITZERLAND

12 JUNE 1909

Registered (hotel advertising) cover, postmarked at Tientsin,  
routed "Via Siberia" to Aarau, Switzerland.  
16-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Aarau,  
28 June 1909"

20 Cents..

10 Cents.. Single-Weight (20 grams)

UPU International letter-rate + 10 Cents.. Registration fee

**IV. END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

1914 .. Kiautschou  
 In-Transit Censored Mail

**A STATE OF WAR TOOK EFFECT ON 1 AUGUST 1914 BETWEEN RUSSIA & GERMANY RESULTING IN CESSATION OF ALL MAIL MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, including mail transit over the trans-Siberian rail network.**

**KIAUTSCHOU ORIGIN MAIL POSTMARKED "15-21 JULY 1914", ABOARD MOSCOW-BOUND 'TRAIN IX', WAS INTERCEPTED ABOUT 1-2 AUGUST, CENSORED, AND RE-DIRECTED TO THE 'GERMAN POST OFFICE AT SHANGHAI' WITH SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER TO THE AMERICAN POST OFFICE FOR FORWARDING TO GERMANY 'VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'.**

ДОЗВОЛЕНО ЦЕНЗУРОМ  
 Военный цензор  
 Н. Поруцкий.  
*Babajew*

**"Permitted by the Censor of the Military Censorship Office ... Signed: 1st Lieutenant Babajew"**



**TSINGTAU (KIAUTSCHOU) ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY**  
 (German Post Office)

**20 JULY 1914**

View-card, postmarked at Tsingtau, with route endorsement  
**"über Siberien" = "Via Siberia"**  
 to Brieg, Germany, intercepted on 1-2 August, held, censored &  
 re-directed to Shanghai by the Russian authorities.

Shanghai Arrival:  
**"7 October 1914"**

Arrival in Germany:  
 Approx. 8 December 1914

Route:  
 Tsingtau-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow....  
 Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Changchun-Tientsin-Peking-Pukow-Shanghai

**2 Cents...**  
**Colonial postcard-rate for mail sent to Germany.**

IN-TRANSIT MAIL SENT FROM TIENSIN, CHINA, ON 29 JULY 1914, aboard 'Train XII', was scheduled to arrive at Moscow on 7 August but INTERCEPTED SOMEWHERE ON ROUTE ON/ABOUT 1 AUGUST, HELD, CENSORED BY RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES & EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO THE POST OFFICE OF ORIGIN, whereupon it was routed to America through the American Post Office at Shanghai (routing.. Pacific Mail Steamship Company .. Shanghai-San Francisco - overland to New York - Hamburg-America Line to Germany.



"Permitted by the Censor"



TIENSIN-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY

27 JULY 1914

Cover, postmarked at Tientsin, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Berlin, Germany, with interception on 1 August, held, censored and returned to Tientsin by the Russian authorities, forwarded to Shanghai where "Marinebrief" = "Naval Mail" cachet hand-stamp was applied before routing through the American Post Office to America & Germany.

Route:

Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk ... intercepted

4 Cents...

Single-weight (20 grams) colonial letter-rate for mail sent to Germany.



END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1914 .. Shanghai to Germany  
(by German-Flag Vessel)

With movement of mail over the trans-Siberian rail network no longer possible,  
THE GERMAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN CHINA AT SHANGHAI ATTEMPTED TO  
MOVE ITS GERMANY-BOUND MAIL BY GERMAN-FLAG VESSELS  
before establishment of British sea route blockades  
along with high-sea inspections of any & all vessels.



Cert. Steuer

1914 REGISTERED CHINA-ORIGIN GERMANY-BOUND MAIL

27 AUGUST 1914

Registered cover, postmarked at Shanghai, routed by sea aboard  
a German-flag vessel around the Cape of Africa  
(Suez Canal was closed for such vessels).  
57-day transit time.

Arrival in Germany:  
(Reverse)  
"Bad Münster, 23 October 1914"

14 Cents...  
4 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams) German colonial letter-rate  
for mail sent to Germany  
+ 10 Cents... registration fee.

MAIL SENT BETWEEN GERMAN POST OFFICES



6 DECEMBER 1914

Cover, postmarked at Tsinanfu, sent to the "German School at the Imperial German Legation" at Peking.

Single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate for domestic mail sent in China (between German Post Offices) .

Arrival Postmark: "Peking, 7 December 1914"

END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1915 .. China-Germany  
(by Neutral-Flag Vessel)

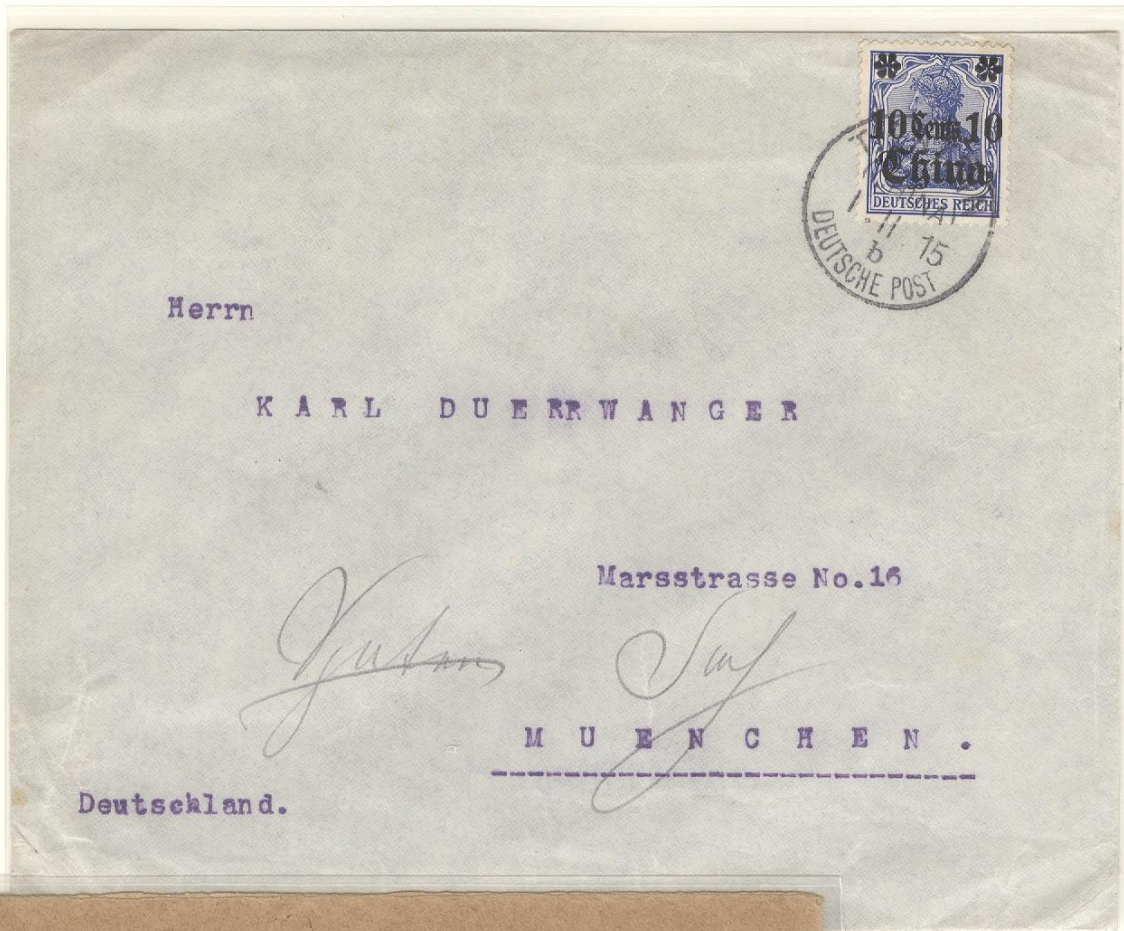
Prior to completion of a fully effective British blockade of sea-routes regarding German & allied-country mail from China to Europe,  
**EARLY WARTIME MAIL FROM CHINA WAS ROUTED BY NEUTRAL-FLAG VESSEL TO EUROPE.**

STANDARD  
LETTER MAIL

1 NOVEMBER  
1915

Cover,  
postmarked at  
Tientsin, sent to  
Munich,  
Germany.

10 Cents..  
UPU  
International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams)  
letter-rate to  
Germany,  
effective  
September 1915.



RECHTSANWALT DR BESSERT

TIENTSIN, Rue de France 39 Tel. Nr. 1461

律師  
貝薩德  
天津

**R** Tientsin  
(Deutsche Post)  
No 473

*F. H. H.*  
*Amtsgerichtsrat Ribbeck*

*Lauban.*



REGISTERED  
COMMERCIAL MAIL

16 FEBRUARY 1915

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Tientsin,  
sent to  
Lauban, Germany.  
53-day wartime  
transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Lauban, 10 April 1915"

14 Cents...  
4 Cents..  
Single-weight  
(20 grams) colonial  
letter-rate  
for mail sent to  
Germany, until  
September 1915.  
+ 10 Cents..  
Registration fee

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

**1915 .. China-Austria Hungary**  
**('Via America' Routed Mail)**

As long as the United States of America remained neutral during World War I,  
**EARLY WARTIME MAIL FROM CHINA TO AUSTRIA OR GERMANY WAS ROUTED 'VIA AMERICA'**  
by way of the American Post Office at Shanghai using the 'Pacific Mail Steamship Company' .. Shanghai-San Francisco, overland to New York, 'Hamburg-America Line' to Germany.



**EARLY REGISTERED MAIL SENT FROM THE**  
**'ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR GERMAN & AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR'**

**22 MAY 1915**

**Registered cover, postmarked at Tientsin, sent to**  
**Bochdanec, Austria-Hungary**

**Transit & Arrival Postmarks:**  
**(Reverse)**

**"27 May 1915: United States Postal Agency Shanghai"**

**"25 June 1915: New York Registry Division Arrival"**

**Arrival Postmark at Destination Unreadable**

**20 Cents...**  
**10 Cents.. UPU Single-weight**  
**(20 grams) International Letter-Rate**  
**+ 10 Cents.. Registration fee**

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

**1915 .. Internee Mail**  
**"S90 Incident"**

Upon outbreak of war in August 1914, German Torpedo Boat "S90" was located at Tsingtau, Kiautschou. Upon attack and naval blockade of the Kiautschou Territory by Japanese Forces in the summer of 1914, "S90" successfully broke through the blockade by sinking the Japanese Cruiser "Takachino" successfully fleeing to Chinese territory, where Captain Brunner of the "S90" ran the ship aground and scuttled her.

The ship's officers and crew of fifty-five were subsequently interned by the Chinese at Nanking on the Yangtze River.

**MAIL SENT BY THE "S90" INTERNEES WAS POSTMARKED BY THE GERMAN POST OFFICE AT NANKING BUT WAS ROUTED THROUGH THE NETHERLANDS' INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.**



Exp. Willmann

**INTERNEE MAIL THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

**12 DECEMBER 1915**

**Free-frank Internee Mail, postmarked at Nanking, routed through the Netherlands' Red Cross, to Wilhelmshaven, Germany**

**Cachet Handstamp:**  
**"Service des Prisonniers de Guerre"**  
**("Service Mail for Prisoners-of-War")**

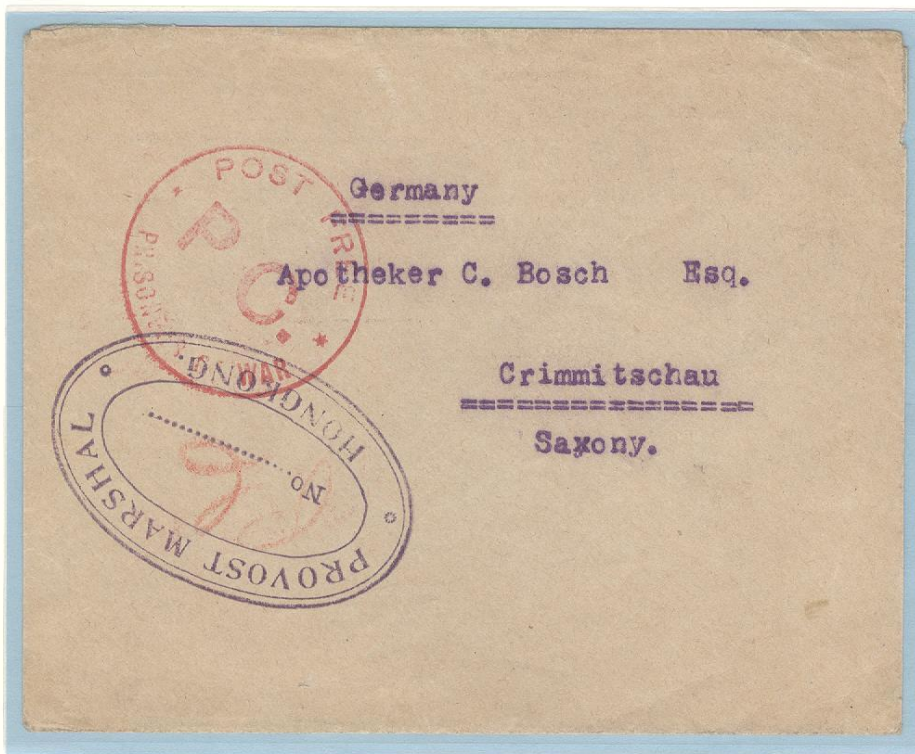
END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1915 .. Hong Kong-Germany  
(Prisoner-of-War Mail)

GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL  
'HUNGHOM' CAMP  
HONG KONG

Upon the capitulation of Kiautschou to Japanese Forces on 7 November 1914, seventy-six heavily-wounded German & Austrian prisoners-of-war, not transferred to camps in Japan, were transferred by ship to the British P.O.W. Camp at *Hunghom* in Hong Kong mid-February 1915, where they remained with interned Hong-Kong-Germans and German sailors from commercial vessels until all were moved to camps in Australia on 17 January 1916.

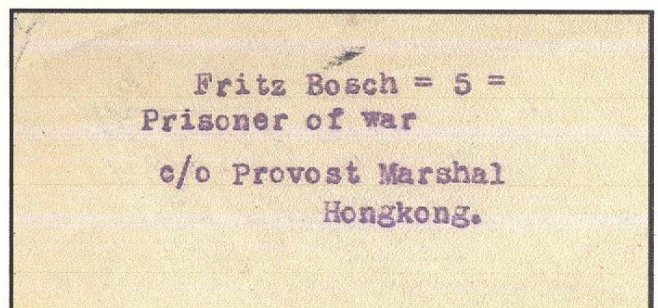
INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL TO/FROM THE HUNGHAM CAMP AT HONG KONG WAS  
CENSORED BY THE PROVOST MARCHAL'S OFFICE.



1915

Prisoner's cover, cachet-postmarked  
*"Post Free .. Prisoner of War"*  
and (purple-ink) censored  
*"Provost Marshal Hong Kong"*,  
sent to  
Crimmitschau, Saxony, Germany.

One of two known examples.



Reverse

Fritz Bosch:  
German-national & garden landscape technician interned at Hong Kong  
and transferred to an Australian camp in 1916.

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Communications**

1915 .. Telegraph Usage

Since undersea cables were owned by non-German companies, and the German wireless transmission stations in the Pacific were now Allied occupied or no longer functioning,  
**GERMANS RESIDING IN CHINA COULD STILL USE THE GERMAN POST OFFICE OR THE CHINESE-GOVERNMENT-OWNED TELEGRAPH FACILITIES TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER PARTS OF CHINA,**  
 since China remained neutral between 1914 - (early) 1917.

*H. J. A. 177/13*

電 報 局

**The Chinese Telegraph Administration.**

*28 照 收 費 報 Shanghai*

For Telegram No. 4 to Station Shanghai deposited for transmission this day at 4 h 0 m 12 m., has been paid.

CHARGES FOR \_\_\_\_\_ WORDS,

Local Telegraph \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cts \_\_\_\_\_  
 International Telegraph \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prepaid Reply \_\_\_\_\_ words **ACCOUNT** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postage \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Express \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cts \_\_\_\_\_

**PEKING**

*16/6* Total \$ 2.16  
 Telegraph Station \_\_\_\_\_ 1915

**INFORMATION FOR THE SENDER**

In case the Charges have been reckoned too low by mistake, the Sender is bound to pay up the correct amount. The administrations of Telegraphs accept no responsibility with regard to the eventual consequences of delay in the transmission and expeditions of telegrams. As a rule the charges for telegrams are calculated and collected in dollars, but in places where dollars are not in circulation, charges will be accepted either in cash or silver according to the rate.



**PAYMENT RECEIPT FOR A TELEGRAPH SENT FROM PEKING TO SHANGHAI**

**16 JUNE 1915**

Payment receipt for \$2.16 covering a 12-word transmission from the "PEKING" Telegraph Station to Shanghai

Validation Handstamp:  
 "The Chinese Republican Telegraph Administration"

END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1916 .. China-America

COMMERCIAL MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



14 AUGUST 1916

Registered cover, from "Melchers & Company",  
postmarked at Tientsin, sent to  
New York City.

10 Cents...

UPU Single-Weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate



**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

**1916 .. China-Germany**  
**(by Neutral-Flag Vessel)**

Once the British blockade of the sea routes for German shipping was established, British naval vessels stopped & boarded neutral-flag ships and to confiscate any German or allied country mail found aboard.  
**CONFISCATED MAIL WAS CENSORED, SEALED AND RELEASED FOR LATER DELIVERY.**

**BRITISH CONFISCATED. CENSORED & RELEASED MAIL**

**RE-DIRECTED MAIL**

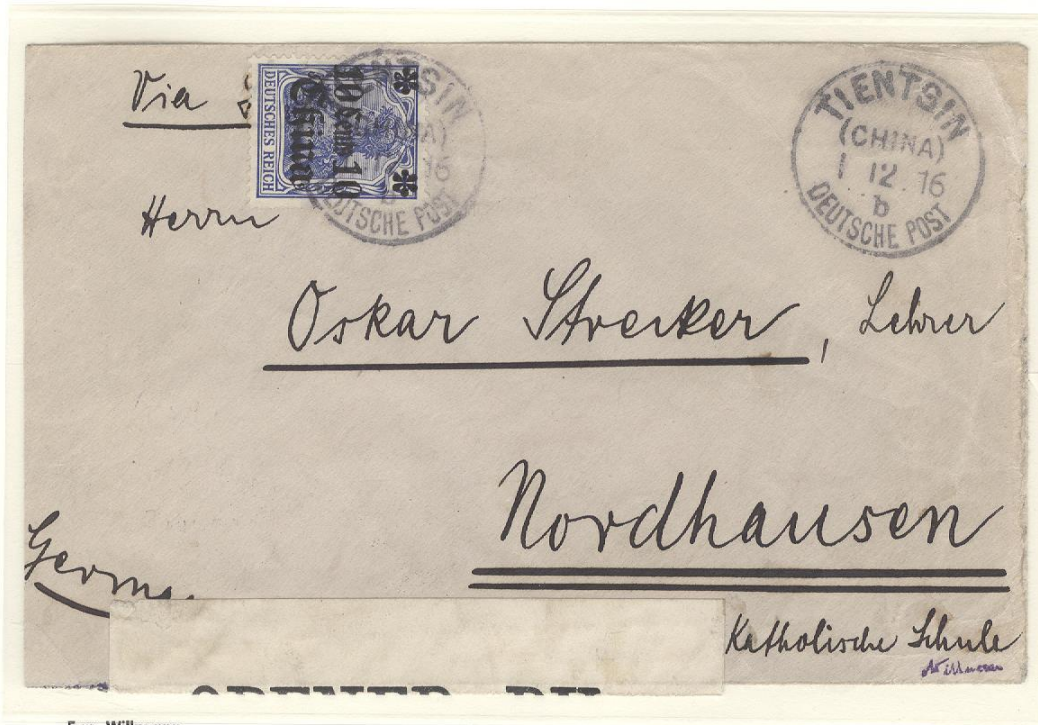
**20 APRIL 1916**

Cover, postmarked at Tientsin, sent to Hamburg and re-directed to Karwedel, Germany.

**10 Cents..**  
 (4 Cents franking on reverse)  
**UPU**  
**International Single-Weight Letter-Rate to Germany, effective September 1915.**



Exp. Bothe / Cert. Steuer



Exp. Willmann

**EDUCATOR'S MAIL**

**1 DECEMBER 1916**

Cover, postmarked at Tientsin, sent to Nordhausen, Germany.

**10 Cents...**  
**UPU International Single-Weight Letter-Rate to Germany, effective September 1915.**

TIENTSIN GERMAN POST OFFICE INVOICE FOR POSTAGE

219 ..... 1916.

Rechnung

für <sup>Herrn</sup> <sub>Exempla</sub> *H. u. K. Oesterung Detachement*

Gestundetes Porto im Monat *September* \$ *5.06*



*TORTEL*  
Betrag erhalten

Kaiserlich Deutsches Postamt.

No. .... 191  
*[Signature]*

Compradore

Pay (支) Imp. German Post office or order

the sum of

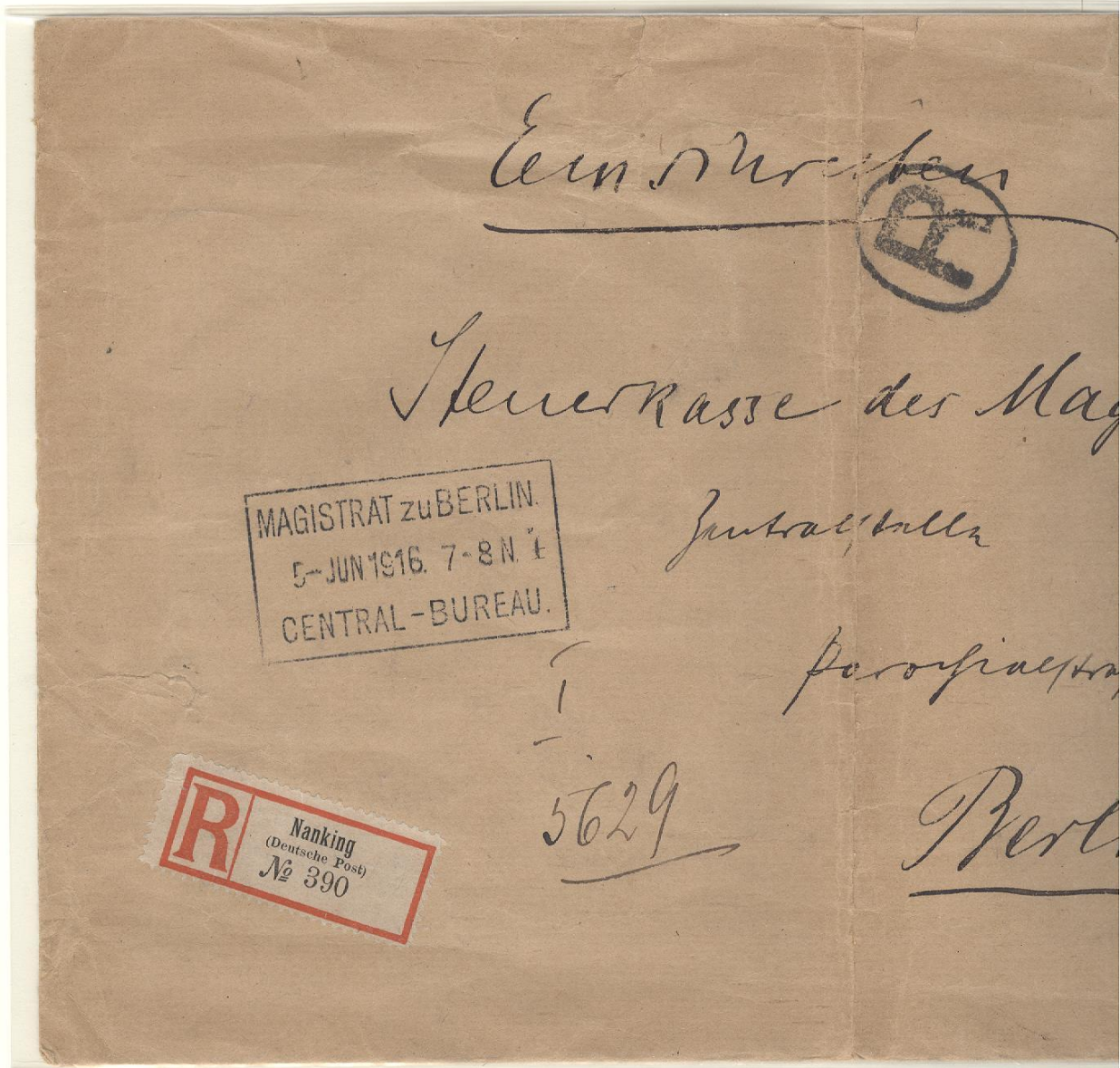


Anmerkung: Das Kontobuch liegt stets zur Einsicht aus.

3 OCTOBER 1916

END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

AMERICAN-CENSORED REGISTERED WARTIME MAIL  
NANKING-BERLIN



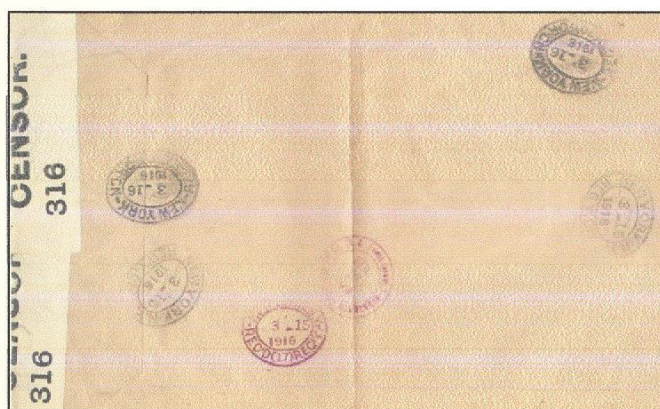
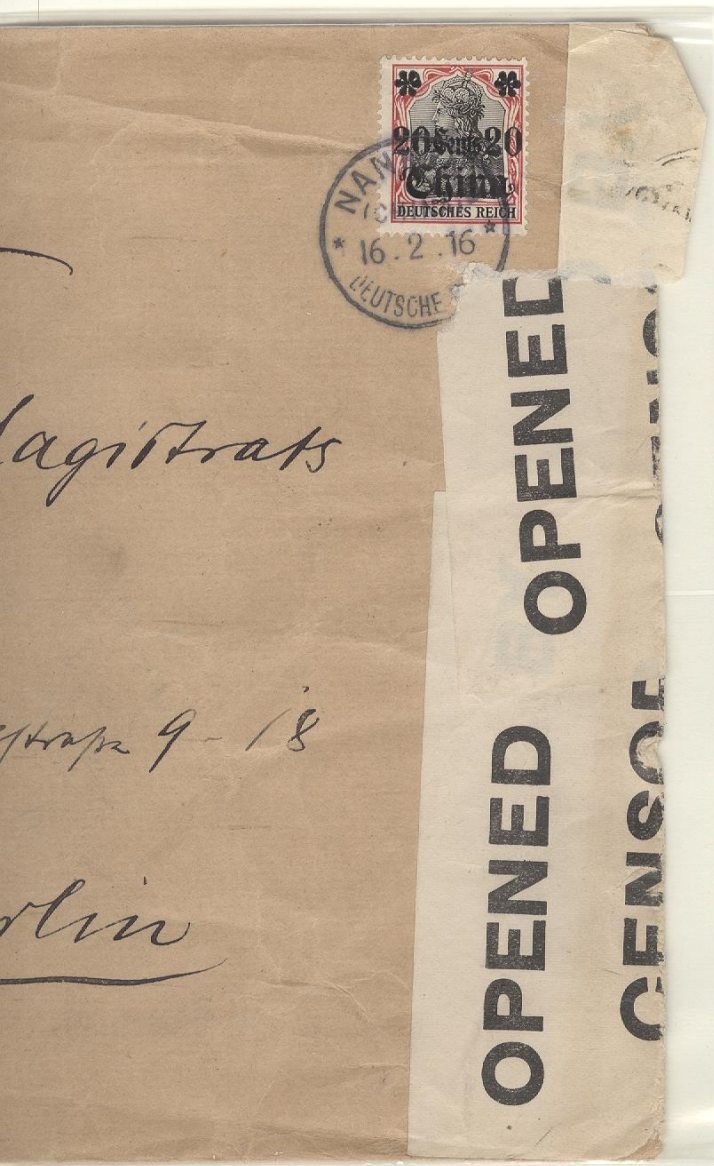
16 FEBRUARY 1916

Registered cover, postmarked at Nanking,  
censored & re-sealed in America,  
sent to the City Tax Office, Berlin.  
109-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

- "17 February 1916: American Post Office at Shanghai"
- "15 March 1916: New York City Registry Office"
- "16 March 1916: New York City Foreign Mail Office"
- "5 June 1916: Berlin Magistrate's Office"

1916 .. Nanking-Germany  
"Via America" Censored Mail



Reverse

20 Cents...  
10 Cents.. UPU Single-Weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate  
+ 10 Cents.. Registration fee

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

**1916 .. Tientsin**  
**P.O.W. Assistance Mail**

In support of German and Austro-Hungarian Prisoners-of-War in Siberia,  
**THE GERMAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH CHINA ESTABLISHED A WELFARE & SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**  
*("Hilfsaktion für Deutsche und Österreich/Ungarische Gefangene in Sibirien")*  
located at Tientsin, which **SENT WELFARE-ASSISTANCE**  
in form of money, mail, books, etc., to the prisoners  
**THROUGH THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE IN CHINA.**



**MONEY TRANSFER MAIL TO A PRISONER-OF-WAR IN SIBERIA**

**24 NOVEMBER 1916**

(7 December 1916 – Gregorian Calendar)

Cover reverse of a registered insured money letter (18 grams),  
postmarked at the Russian Post Office at Tientsin,  
Forwarded through the Japanese Post Office to the Russian rail transfer point  
sent to a prisoner-of-war at Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. 15-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:

"Tientsin, I.J.P.O., 8 December 1916"

"Krasnoyarsk, 9 December 1916"

(21 December 1916 = Gregorian Calendar)

**36 Cents..**

**10 Cents.. Single weight (20 grams) letter-rate**

**+ 10 cents. Registration fee**

**+10 Cents.. Insured/10 Cents for each 112.50 Rubles**

**+ 6 Cents.. Unexplained Franking**

Separately from a money transfer,  
**PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN SIBERIA WERE SENT AN ADVICE-CARD INDICATING  
 THAT A PAYMENT AMOUNT WAS BEING SENT TO THEM,**  
 whereupon he was to acknowledge receipt by returning the attached  
 reply-card directly to his relatives and not to the  
 Welfare & Assistance Organization at Tientsin.



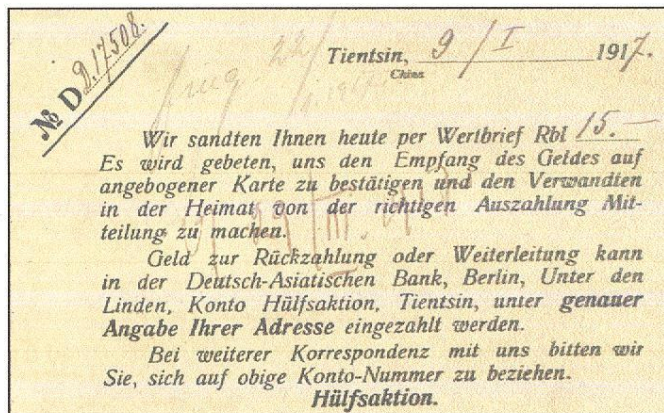
RUSSIAN-CENSORED MONEY TRANSFER ADVICE-CARD TO A PRISONER IN SIBERIA

9 JANUARY 1917

Advice portion of a reply-card set,  
 postmarked at the  
 Russian Post Office at Tientsin,  
 Russian-censored,  
 sent to a prisoner-of-war in a Siberian camp,  
 advising him of a  
 money transfer (Rubles 15.00) by value-letter  
 & requesting return of the  
 attached reply-card in confirmation of receipt.

3 Cents..

Postcard-rate for mail to Russia through the  
 Russian Post Office in China  
 (mail through the German Post Office was not possible)



Reverse

END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1916 .. Tientsin-Germany  
P.O.W. Assistance Mail  
("Via America" Route)

The German Community's welfare & support organization at Tientsin communicated information concerning a prisoner's name, physical-condition & location to newspapers in Germany and Austro-Hungary for publishing.  
**SUCH MAIL WAS ROUTED 'VIA AMERICA' AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REMAINED NEUTRAL.**



PRISONER-OF-WAR INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION IN GERMANY

10 FEBRUARY 1916

Registered free-frank mail,  
postmarked at Tientsin,  
routed 'Via America',  
sent to the "Wormser Zeitung"  
("City of Worms Newspaper"),  
with German-censorship at Emmerich.  
126-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

"Shanghai, US Postal Agency, 16 February 1916"  
"New York, 16 March 1916"  
"Worms, 16 June 1916"

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

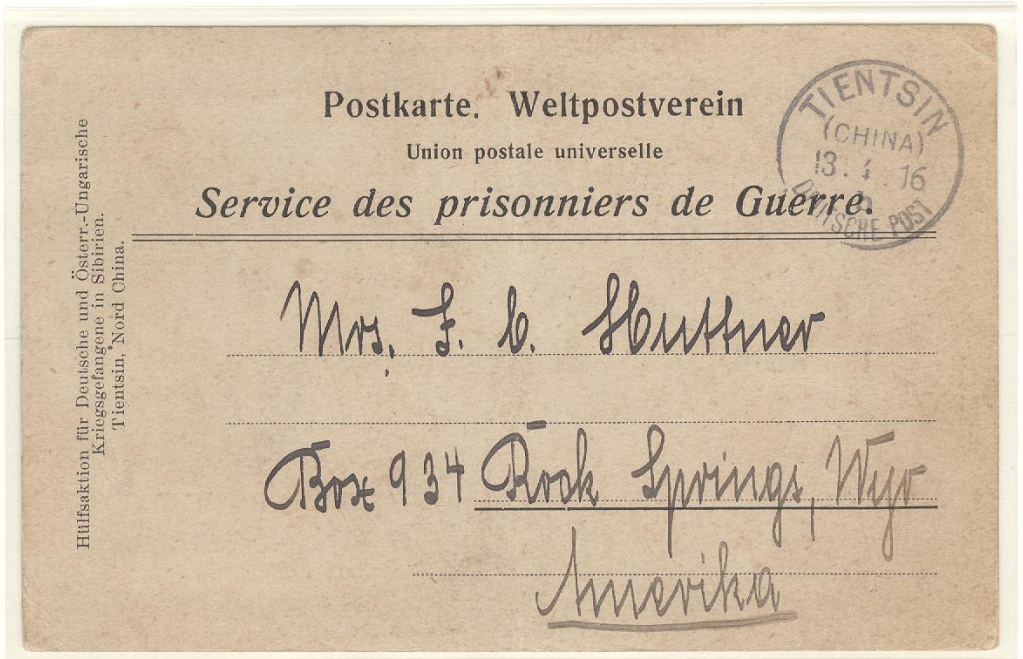
1916 .. Tientsin-Germany  
 P.O.W. Assistance Mail

**MAIL WAS SENT TO AMERICA**  
**AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REMAINED**  
**NEUTRAL .. UNTIL MARCH 1917.**

**DESTINATION 'UNITED STATES OF AMERICA' MAIL**

13 APRIL 1916

Free-frank, UPU  
 Acknowledgement-of-  
 Receipt-of-Mail  
 Postcard,  
 postmarked at  
 Tientsin,  
 sent to  
 Rock Springs,  
 Wyoming.



Hilfsaktion für Deutsche und Österr.-Ungarische  
 Kriegsgefangene in Sibirien.  
 Tientsin, Nord China.

AGENCE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.

Messrs.

**R** TIENTSIN  
 EINGESCHRIEBEN  
 NO. 332

Einschreiben

TIENTSIN  
 (CHINA)  
 12 16  
 DEUTSCHE POST

Knauth, Mackod & Kühne

39970

New York  
 15184  
 U. S. A.

2 DECEMBER  
 1916

Registered  
 (red marking)  
 free-frank  
 cover,  
 postmarked at  
 Tientsin,  
 sent to  
 New York City.  
 41-day transit  
 time.

Transit & Arrival  
 Postmarks:  
 (Reverse)  
 ...  
 "Shanghai,  
 US Postal  
 Agency,  
 15 December  
 1916"  
 "New York,  
 12 January  
 1917"



END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1917 .. Germany-China  
("Via Submarine" Mail)

In an effort to keep strategic commerce alive between Germany and the United States of America, on 8 November 1915 the 'German Ocean Navigation Company' (*Deutsche Ozean-Reederei*) was founded. Two submarines were built to carry cargo and mail: "*Deutschland*" & "*Bremen*".

The "*Deutschland*" had two successful voyages in 1916 with a third planned, but canceled because of the worsening political climate between Germany and the United States in early 1917.

**ANY MAIL TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES WAS RETURNED TO SENDER.**

The "*Bremen*" was lost at sea on 26 August 1916 on her maiden voyage.



3 JANUARY 1917

Cover, postmarked at Hamburg, Germany, endorsed "*Tauchbootbrief*" (submarine letter) along with routing mark "*Via San Francisco*" sent to Shanghai.

Because of cancellation of the third voyage of the "*Deutschland*", the mail was returned to the sender.

Return Cachet Marking & Postmark:  
"ZURÜCK

*Wegen Einstellung des Tauchbootbriefverkehrs zurück an Absender*"

"Bremen 1, T.B. D.O.R. 16 January 1917"

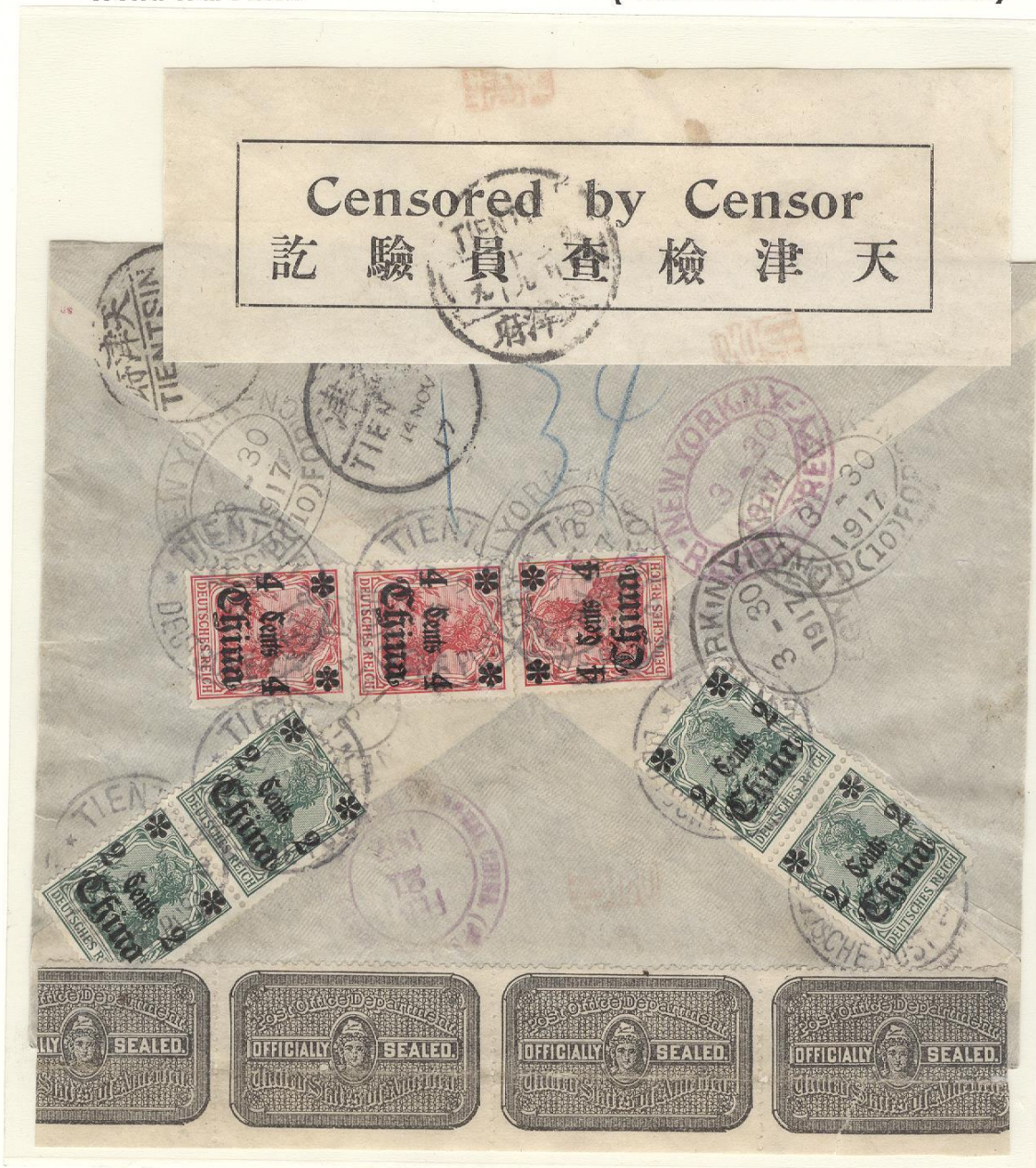
20 Pfennig..

UPU Single-Weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate.

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
World War I Mail

1917 .. China-Germany  
(‘Via America’ Returned Mail)

Upon cessation of diplomatic relations between the United States of America & Germany on 3 February 1917, mail services to/from Germany were suspended with any transit mail **INSPECTED, SEALED AND “RETURNED TO SENDER”**



17 FEBRUARY 1917

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin, routed “Via America”, sent to Berlin.

Upon arrival at New York, mail was inspected & returned to China (mail to Germany suspended), where, upon arrival at Tientsin/Chinese Post Office, China had already closed all German Post Offices with mail being opened, censored & resealed before being returned to the sender.

Transit & Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)

“21 February 1917, American Post Office at Shanghai”

“30 March 1917, New York Registry Office”

“14 November 1917, Tientsin” (Chinese Post Office)

“19 November 1917, Tientsin” (Chinese Post Office)

20 Cents...

10 Cents.. UPU Single-weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate + 10 Cents.. Registration fee



Front

Ex West

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

**1917 .. Sweden-China**  
**("Via Siberia" Neutral-Country Mail)**

Despite Sweden being neutral in World War I,  
 mail from/to China was Russian-censored &  
**DELAYED AS A RESULT OF THE RUSSIAN CIVIL CONDITIONS,**  
 where a "Soviet Republic" was proclaimed by V. Lenin & L. Trotsky  
 on 8 November 1917,  
**WITH SUBSEQUENT CIVIL HOSTILITIES.**



**1917-1918 RUSSIAN-CENSORED & DELAYED MAIL FROM SWEDEN TO CHINA**

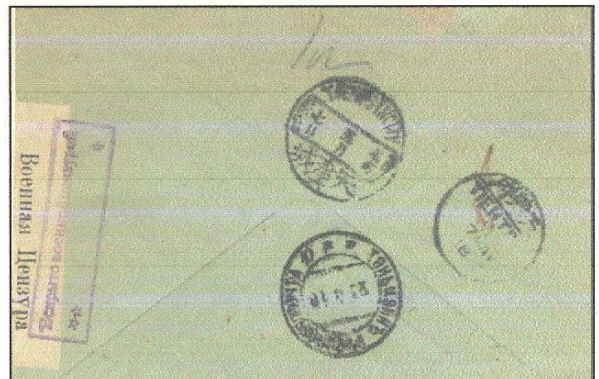
**11 JUNE 1917**

Registered cover, postmarked at Stockholm, Sweden,  
 routing St. Petersburg & "Via Siberia",  
 to Tientsin, by way of the  
 Russian & Chinese Post Offices in China.

**Origin, Transit & Arrival Postmarks:**  
 (Front & Reverse)

- "11 June 1917, Stockholm, Sweden"
- "23 April 1918, Tientsin" (Russian Post Office)
- "7 May 1918, Tientsin" (Chinese Post Office)

**35 Ore...**  
**20 Ore.. UPU Single-Weight (20 grams) International**  
**Letter-Rate**  
**+ 15 Ore.. Registration fee**



Reverse

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
**World War I Mail**

**16 March 1917**  
**(Closure of German Post Offices)**

On 14 March 1917, China broke diplomatic relations with Germany,  
**RESULTING IN ALL GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA**  
**HAVING TO CLOSE ON/BY 16 MARCH 1917.**  
 The German Post Office at Peking closed on 15 March 1917  
 while all others closed on 16 March 1917.



16 March 1917

Last Day Postmark



1917 RETURNED MAIL TO SENDER

26 JANUARY 1917

View-card, postmarked at Varel, Germany, sent to Tientsin.

Because of cessation of mail transit through the United States of America to China,  
 German-origin mail was cachet hand-stamped and returned to sender:

**“Zurück/Keine Verbindung”**  
 (“Return/No Connection”)

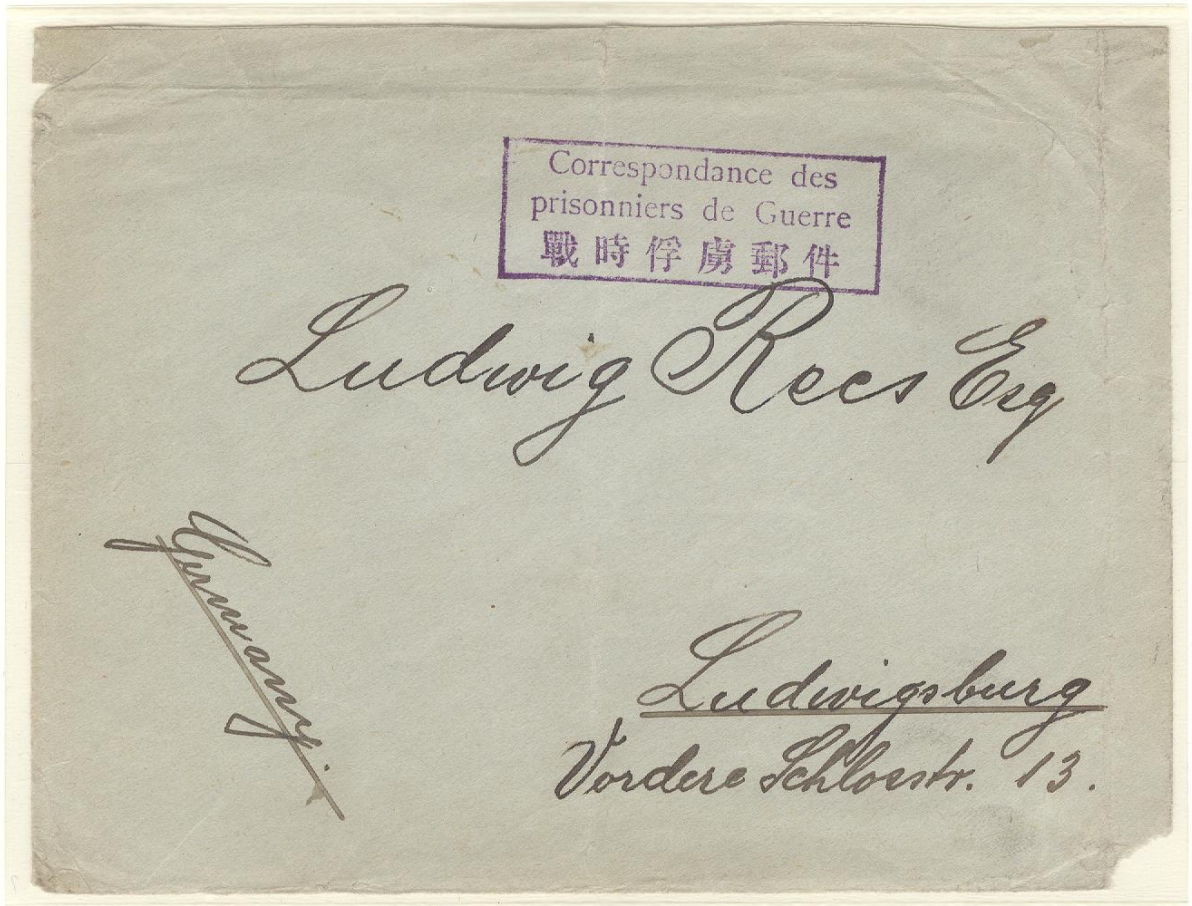
15 Pfennig...  
 10 Pfennig.. UPU International Postcard-Rate  
 + 5 Pfennig.. German Wartime Tax Surcharge

**END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA**  
World War I Mail

1917 .. China-Germany  
(Prisoner-of-War Mail)

Soon after the Chinese Government's closure of German Post Offices in China, a Chinese declaration of war against Germany & Austria-Hungary took effect on 14 August 1917, whereupon remaining military & naval personnel of those countries were interned. The alien population was not interned but was required to register with their local Chinese police, with travel restrictions.

**WITH GERMAN POST OFFICES CLOSED, ALL INTERNMENT-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY OR AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WAS SENT THROUGH THE CHINESE & NETHERLANDS RED CROSS POSTAL SERVICES.**



**'HAIDIEN INTERNMENT CAMP' (CHINA)**

Location of interned

German Marines & Guards from the Yangtze River Gunboats

1917

Free-frank interned prisoner's cover,  
cachet-postmarked and censor-sealed,  
sent to Ludwigsburg, Germany.

Front:

*"Correspondance des prisonniers de Guerre"*  
(Prisoner-of-War Mail)

Reverse/Censor Seal:

*"Internierungslager Haidien"*  
(Haidien Internment Camp)

Reverse Side Cachet Marking:

*"Netherlands Red Cross Information Office  
Princessegracht 27, The Hague"*



Reverse

Similar to German military & naval personnel internments, remaining marines and legation guards of Austria-Hungary were also interned.

ANY MAIL SENT BY THOSE AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY WAS CENSORED & FORWARDED THROUGH THE CHINESE & NETHERLANDS RED CROSS OFFICES.



AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL

1917

Free-frank interned prisoner's view-card mail,  
postmarked at Peking,  
cachet-marked (purple-ink), Chinese-censored,  
sent to Vienna, Austria.

Cachet Hand-Stamp Markings;  
"Correspondance des prisonniers de Guerre"  
(Prisoner-of-War Mail)

"Censored"

END OF GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA  
World War I Mail

1918 .. Tientsin  
P.O.W. Assistance Mail

Despite China now also being at war with Germany & Austria-Hungary,  
**THE GERMAN COMMUNITY'S WELFARE & SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
FOR PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN SIBERIA**  
(*"Hilfsaktion für Deutsche und Österreich/Ungarische Gefangene in Sibirien"*)  
**CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR BY SENDING READING MATERIAL  
TO SIBERIAN P.O.W. CAMPS THROUGH THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE IN CHINA.**



*Service des prisonniers de guerre.*

Военнопленному

*Herrn Fritz im Lager Irbit Perm*

*21/10*

*Irbit*

*Gom Perm*



*Margarethe Schell*

*4 Bücher*

*5 Zeitschriften*

*APR 10 1918*

27 MARCH 1918

Parcel-label indicating contents of (4) books & (5) newspapers  
postmarked at the Russian Post Office at Tientsin,  
sent to a prisoner-of-war at Irbit (Perm), Russia.

64 Cents.

Repatriation of Germans

With World War I having ended on 11 November 1918, Chinese authorities announced on 9 March 1919 that all German aliens in China were to proceed to Shanghai for repatriation to Germany.

On 11 March, German aliens boarded the first of three British-flag vessels for transport to Germany, where the first vessel arrived on 7 May 1919.

German prisoners-of-war in Japan were repatriated to Germany aboard three Japanese-flag vessels between 28 December 1919 & 1 January 1920.

THUS ENDED THE GERMAN PRESENCE IN CHINA.



GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR-IN-JAPAN MAIL TO HIS FAMILY AT SHANGHAI

15 NOVEMBER 1919

Free-frank prisoner-or-war postcard mail,  
Japanese-censored at "Camp Aonagahara", Japan,  
where 478 German prisoners were held,  
sent by a father to his small son residing at Shanghai, China.

Manuscript Endorsement:  
"Service des prisonniers de Guerre"  
(Prisoner-of-War Mail)

Repatriation of Germans from China to Germany took place earlier in the year,  
about which the sender in Japan may not have been aware,  
resulting in this mail possibly not having been received by the addressee.