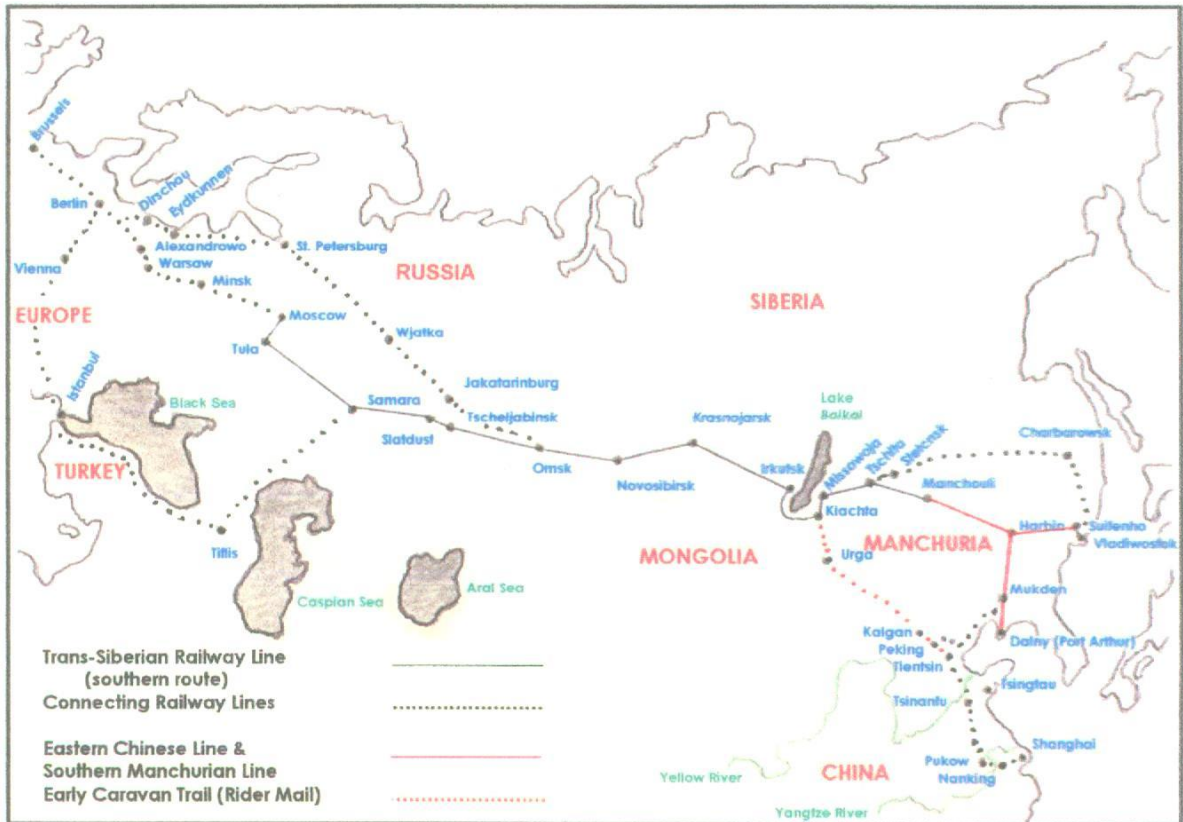


THE EVOLUTION OF '*via Siberia*' MAIL .. 1897-1945



BACKGROUND

In an effort to connect Eastern & Western Russia, develop the vast territory of Siberia, improve and shorten the transmission time for mail and commerce as well as eventually connect with China, Russian Czar Alexander III authorized the building of a '*Trans-Siberian*' railway on 17 March 1891.

Construction started at both the European and Asiatic ends and was completed in several phases over the period 1891-1916, completing a track length of approx. 9,259 km (5,723 miles) spanning seven time zones!

A major benefit of the completed railway network was the possibility of moving mail from China and the Far East to Europe about twenty days faster than using standard sea routes and improved mail movement to the West Coast of the United States, northern Africa as well as Latin America.

During the period of 1903-1945, the '*via Siberia*' mail route was influenced by a historic events including wars, revolutions and expansion of Pacific sea routes. Airmail saw the decline of long-distance mail movement by train '*via Siberia*', albeit such continued to be of importance well into the 1940s.

THE EVOLUTION OF '*via Siberia*' MAIL .. 1897-1945

EXHIBIT PURPOSE

This postal history exhibit describes & shows the evolution of mail endorsed or routed '*via Siberia*' from the trial & early mail period, through periods of war & revolution as well as the expansion of mail services upon connection of the trans-Siberian railway network with the southern Manchurian and eastern Chinese rail lines, thereby enabling movement of Far East, German Pacific Colony and other mail to/from Europe as well as North Africa & North America.

TEXT COLOR-CODING

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

BLUE: Chapter-Start-Page Heading & important annotative information.

Blue-matted examples indicate particular importance & scarcity.

MAROON: Postal Rate Information

EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

- I. Map & Background,
Exhibit Overview
- II. 1897-1903
Trial & Early Mail
- III. 1904-1905, 1906
Russo-Japanese War & Resumption of Mail Services
- IV. 1907-1913
Expansion of Mail Services
- V. 1914-1918
World War I & Effects
- VI. 1917-1920
Russian Revolution & Civil War Period
- VII. 1921-1922, 1923-1931
Resumption & Expansion of Mail Services
- VIII. 1931-1939
Hostilities & War in Manchuria & China
- IX. 1939-1945
World War II & Effects
- X. Epilogue

II. TRIAL & EARLY MAIL

1899-1903

First Trial Mail

1897

THE FIRST TRIAL MAIL USING THE RUSSIAN TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY
TOOK PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER 1896 – FEBRUARY 1897,
where commercial mail endorsed "*Via Siberia*" was sent
through the German Post Office at Tientsin, China, to Germany,
effectively taking three weeks longer than
for mail sent by the sea route.



Cert. Steuer, ex Zistl

27 JANUARY 1897

Commercial mail sent from Tientsin, China,
to Hamburg, Germany.

Route:

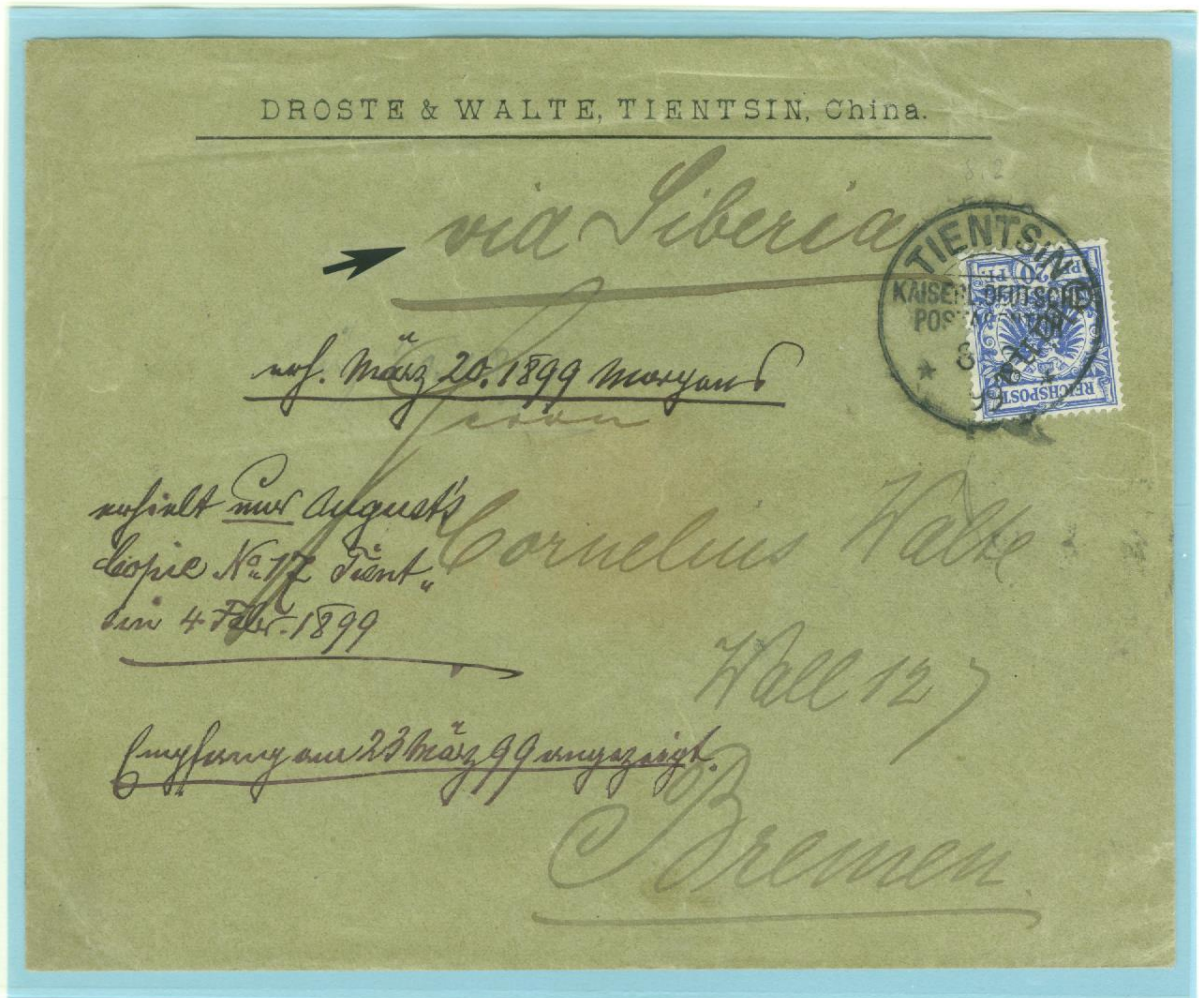
Rider mail over the heretofore caravan route Tientsin-Peking-
Kalgan-Urga-Kiachta (*Kyakhta*) to/and across frozen Lake Baikal
(tracks laid prior to introduction of an ice-breaking ferry in 1900).

40 Pfennig...

UPU International Double-Weight (30 grams)

Letter-Rate.

Despite earlier attempts, the **FIRST EFFECTIVE MAIL TRIAL TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY, 1899**, when commercial mail sent through the German Post Office at Tientsin, China, to Bremen, Germany, effectively took forty days transit time equaling the transit time for mail sent by the sea route.



8 FEBRUARY 1899

Cert. Steuer

Commercial single-weight mail sent from Tientsin, China,
to Bremen, Germany. 40-day transit time.

Route:

Rider mail over the heretofore caravan route Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-Urga-Kiachta (Kyakhta) to/and across frozen Lake Baikal (tracks laid prior to introduction of an ice-breaking ferry in 1900).

Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Bremen,

20 March 1899, 7-8 AM"

(Haller Machine Postmark)

20 Pfennig...

UPU International

Single-Weight (15 grams) Letter-Rate.

TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903

Russian Post Office in China
Mail to Europe 1901

DESTRUCTION OF A LARGE PART OF THE NORTHERN CHINESE RAILWAY,
 connecting to the partially completed eastern Chinese rail line,
DURING THE BOXER REVOLT (1900-1901) NECESSITATED MAIL MOVEMENT BY SEA
OR BY RIDER MAIL OVER THE EARLIER CARAVAN ROUTE
 to Kiachta in Manchuria with subsequent movement to Myssowaja station
 location on the Trans-Siberian Railway Route, crossing Lake Baikal by ferry.

SEA-MAIL VIA BRINDISI
 (Suez Canal to Italy)

1 MARCH 1901
 (Gregorian Calendar)

View-card, postmarked
 Shanghai, Russian Post
 Office, sent to Chaux de
 Fonds, Switzerland,
 with route endorsement
 "Via Brindisi".
 32-day transit time!

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
 "Hong Kong,
 5 March 1901"

"Chaux de Fonds,
 2 April 1901"

5 Kopeck:
Russian Post Office
International
Postcard-Rate,



RIDER MAIL OVER
CARAVAN ROUTE TO
TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL
CONNECTION

21 MARCH 1901
 (Gregorian Calendar)

Commercial mail,
 postmarked Tientsin,
 Russian Post Office, sent
 to Bordeaux, France, with
 route endorsement
 "Par la Russie".

Route:
 Rider mail over the
 heretofore caravan route
 Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-
 Urga-Kiachta-Myssowaja
 and across frozen Lake
 Baikal (introduction of
 an ice breaking ferry
 took place in 1900).

10 Kopeck:
UPU Single-Weight
 (15 grams)
International
Letter-Rate.



COMPLETION OF THE RUSSIAN-FINANCED EASTERN CHINESE RAIL LINE AND REPAIRS TO THE NORTHERN CHINESE LINE FROM THE BOXER REVOLT WAR DAMAGE CONTINUED UNTIL ABOUT 15 FEBRUARY 1902, RESULTING IN RUSSIAN WESTBOUND MAIL FROM CHINA TO MOVE OVER THE EARLIER CARAVAN ROUTE
to Kiachta in Siberia with subsequent movement to Myssowaja Station location on the trans-Siberian railway route for crossing Lake Baikal by ferry.

TIENTSIN-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY



29 JANUARY 1902 = 11 FEBRUARY 1902

(Julian Calendar)

(Gregorian Calendar)

View-card, postmarked Tientsin, Russian Post Office,
sent to Kolberg, Germany,
via the Caravan Route in winter to the railhead and by rail to destination.
33-day transit time to Germany.

Transit Postmarks:

Arrival Postmark:

"Troitskosavsk,
15 February 1902"
(Julian Calendar)
= 28 February 1902
(Gregorian Calendar)

"Moscow
1 March 1902"
(Julian Calendar)
= 14 March 1902
(Gregorian Calendar)

"Kolberg,
16 March 1902"

5 Kopeck:
Russian Post Office
International
Postcard-Rate,

Route:

Caravan rider mail over the heretofore caravan route
Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-Urga-Kiachta-Myssowaja Station
and across frozen Lake Baikal
(initially.. by rail tracks laid over the ice/1900.. an ice breaking ferry).

TRIAL & EARLY MAIL

1899-1903

Russian Post Office in China..

Re-Opening Chinese Rail Routes
to Siberia 1902-1903

BY 15 FEBRUARY 1902, REPAIRS FROM THE BOXER REVOLT TO THE NORTHERN CHINESE RAILWAY HAD BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE IN CHINA AGAIN ROUTING MAIL ON THE NORTH SECTION OF THE EASTERN CHINESE RAILWAY TO MANCHURIA WITH THE TRANS-SIBERIAN LINE AS LONG AS SUCH MAIL WAS ENDORSED "VIA SIBERIA" OR SIMILAR.

SOLDIER'S MAIL
THROUGH THE
RUSSIAN POST OFFICE
IN CHINA TO GERMANY

21 DECEMBER 1902
(Julian Calendar)
= 4 JANUARY 1903
(Gregorian Calendar)

View-card postmarked at
the Russian Post Office at
Peking, China, sent to Gera,
Germany, with route
endorsement
"über Russland"
("Via Russia").
26-day transit time.

Route:
Peking-Mukden-Harbin-
Manchoulikiachta-Irkutsk-
Omsk-Moscow-Berlin-Gera

Arrival Postmark:
"Gera,
30 January 1903"



RUSSIAN POST OFFICE
SPECIAL ROUTE
ENDORSEMENT TO GERMANY

10 AUGUST 1903
(Julian Calendar)
= 23 AUGUST 1903
(Gregorian Calendar)

View-Card written
(22 July 1903) and postmarked
at Tientsin, Russian Post
Office, sent to Obermoden,
Alsace, Germany, with
route cachet marking
"Via Siberia" .. "Germany".
21-day transit time.

Route:
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-
Manchoulikiachta-Irkutsk-
Omsk-Moscow-Berlin-Gera

Arrival Postmark:
"Obermoden,
13 September 1903"



5 Kopeck..

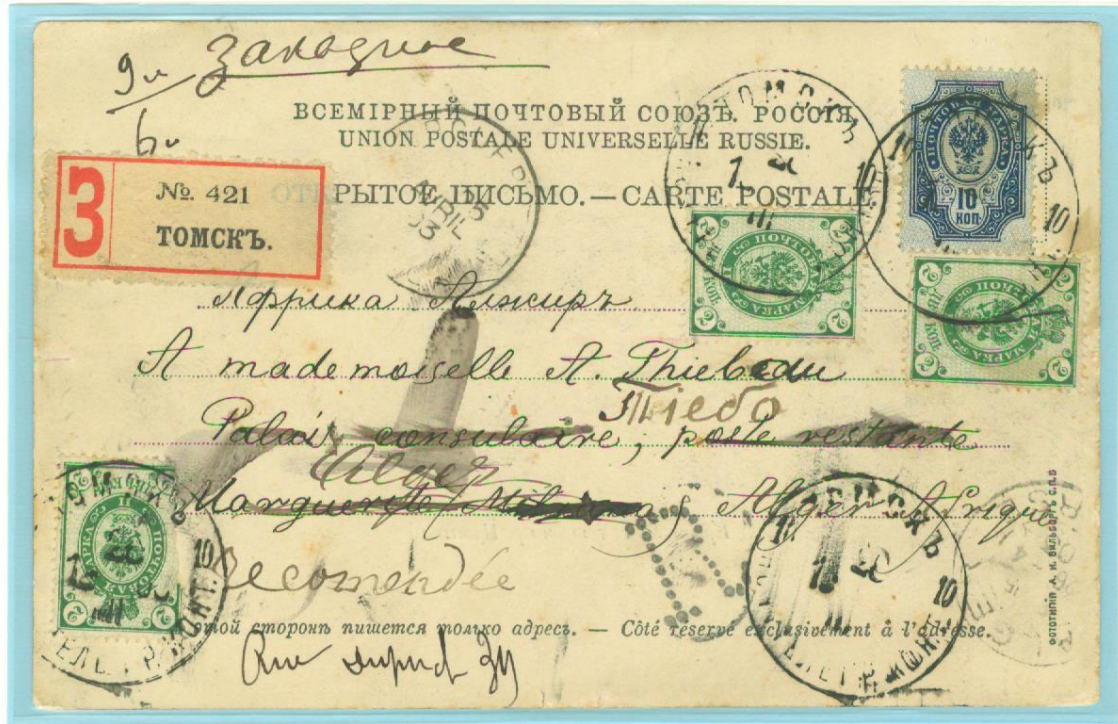
Russian Post Office international Postcard-Rate

TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903

Russian Post Office in Tomsk..
Siberian Mail to North Africa
1903

**THE CITY OF TOMSK IS CONNECTED TO THE MAIN LINE OF THE
TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY IN ASIAN-RUSSIA.**

**Overseas-bound mail from there traveled by rail to
Moscow for forwarding beyond.**



**REGISTERED MAIL TO ALGERIA VIA THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE
TO MOSCOW AND BY RAIL TO GERMANY-FRANCE AND BY SEA TO ALGERIA**

26 MARCH 1903

(Julian Calendar)

7 APRIL 1903

(Gregorian Calendar)

**Registered view-card mail through the Russian Post Office at
Tomsk, Siberia, Russia, to Algiers, Algeria,**

18-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:

**"Algiers,
25 April 1903"**

16 Kopeck

**5 Kopeck.. UPU International
Postcard-Rate +
10 Kopeck.. Registration fee +
1 Kopeck.. Convenience
Over-Franking**

TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903

Russian Post Office in China
Mail to France
1903

Even before official opening of the completed eastern Chinese railway of the trans-Siberian network,
WEST-BOUND MAIL THROUGH THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE MOVED OVER THE NOW FULLY REPAIRED NORTHERN CHINESE RAILWAY TO THE EASTERN CHINESE LINE, OR BY SEA FROM SHANGHAI TO DALNY AND THEN BY RAIL BEYOND.

MAIL FROM PEKING
USING THE LAND ROUTE

14 APRIL 1903
 (Gregorian Calendar)

Letter through the Russian Post Office at Peking to Paris, France, with route endorsement
 "... *Transsiberienne*"

26-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
 "Paris,
 10 May 1901"

10 Kopeck..
UPU Single-Weight
 (15 grams)
International
Letter-Rate.



MAIL FROM SHANGHAI
USING SEA ROUTE TO
DALNY AND RAIL
BEYOND

16 MAY 1903
 (Gregorian Calendar)

View-card, postmarked Shanghai, Russian Post Office, sent to Paris, France, with route endorsement
 "*Par Transsiberien*".

25-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
 "Paris,
 10 June 1901"

5 Kopeck:
UPU International
Postcard-Rate



TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903

French Post Office in China
Transit Mail to Europe
1903

FRENCH & RUSSIAN POST OFFICES' CONCLUDED AGREEMENT, effective 1 January 1902, ENABLED MOVEMENT OF FRENCH POST OFFICE MAIL, without having to affix both French, Russian or Chinese postage, OVER THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE.

TRANSIT MAIL FROM KOREA THROUGH THE SHANGHAI FRENCH POST OFFICE ROUTED SHANGHAI-DALNY AND RAIL BEYOND TO GERMANY

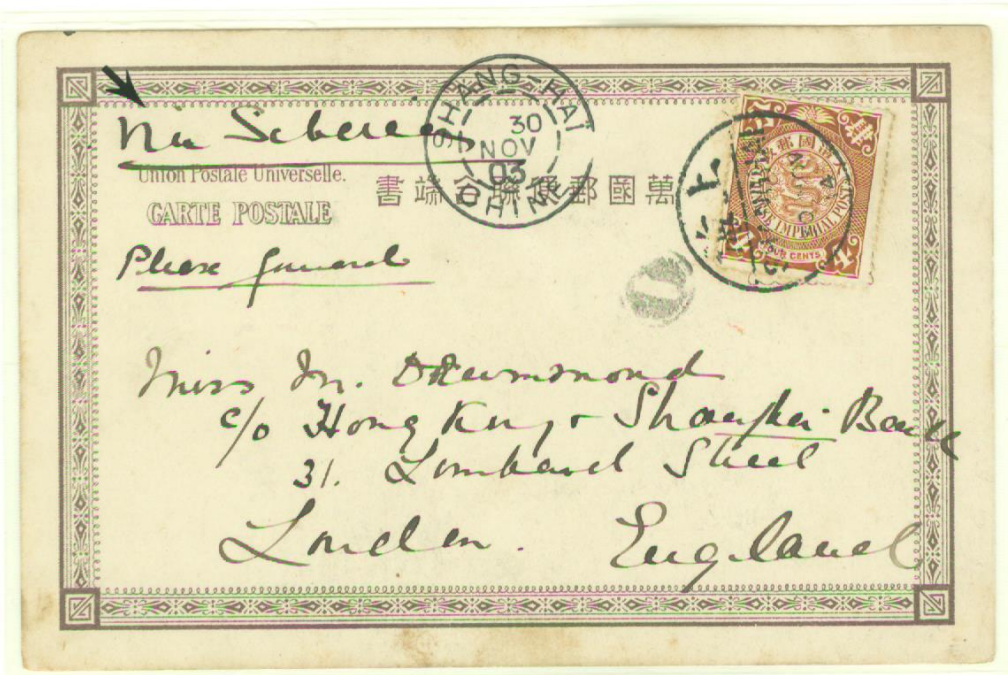
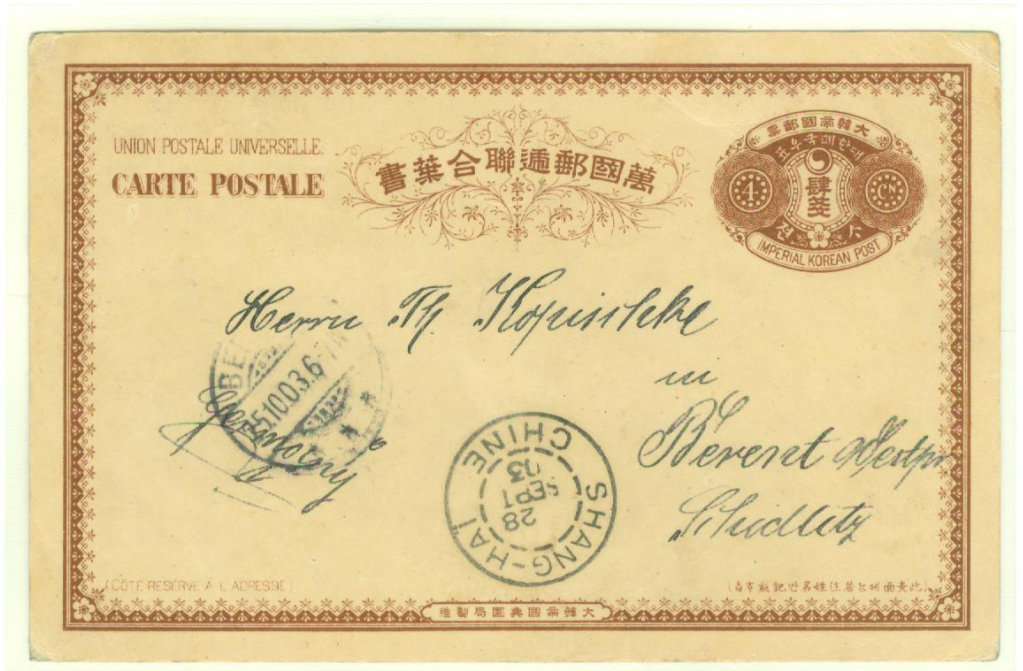
20 SEPTEMBER 1903

Korean postal stationery card mailed at Inchon by a German sailor aboard HMS Prince Bismarck, heavy cruiser and flag ship of the German East Asia Cruiser Squadron on its third Korea voyage (20-22 September 1903). 35-day transit time.

Transit Postmark:
(French Post Office)
"Shanghai, China,
28 September 1903"

Arrival Postmark:
"Berent,
25 October 1903"

4 Cents..
UPU International
Postcard-Rate.



TRANSIT MAIL THROUGH THE SHANGHAI CHINESE POST OFFICE TO ENGLAND ROUTED SHANGHAI-DALNY AND RAIL BEYOND

30 NOVEMBER 1903

Chinese mail routed through the French Post Office (China was not yet a member of the UPU) to London, England, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Transit Postmark:
"Shanghai,
30 November 1903"

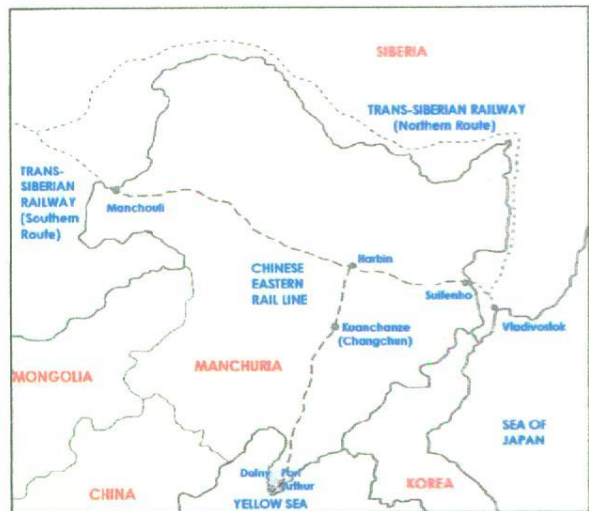
4 Cents:
UPU
International
Postcard-Rate.

**TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903**

**Opening of the
"Chinese Eastern Railway"
1903**

THE 1898 RUSSIAN-CHINESE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA JUSTIFIED THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO FINANCE & BUILD THE "CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY LINE"

(officially opened in June 1903)
in order to connect the trans-Siberian, southern Manchurian and eastern Chinese rail lines with the Russian City/Port at Vladivostok and, more southern, Chinese City/Ports of Dalny & Port Arthur, thereby **ESTABLISHING A 'TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK'.**



**CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO EARLY PASSENGER TRAFFIC USING
THE NEW TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE FROM THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA
(DALNY & PORT ARTHUR TERMINALS)**

16 MAY 1903

Over-franked mail sent by a German located at Tsingtau, Kiautschou
(German Protectorate Lease Territory),
to a friend at Honolulu, Hawaii indicating....

"I can today advise that I will be returning home next week. In order to visit you, I wanted to return by way of America. However, because of the disproportionate cost, I decided at the last moment to take the train from Port Arthur through Russia..."

TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903

Russian Post Office in China
Double-Franking Mail to Germany
1903

Since China was not a member of the UPU until March 1914,
**EARLY FOREIGN-BOUND MAIL FROM CHINA HAD TO BE SENT THROUGH A
 FOREIGN POST OFFICE WITH BOTH CHINESE FRANKING
 AND THAT OF THE FOREIGN POST OFFICE.**



**CHINESE COMMERCIAL MAIL TO GERMANY FROM TIENTSIN
 USING RAIL ROUTE ... NEWCHWANG-HARBIN-IRKUTSK-
 MOSCOW-BERLIN-OSNABRÜCK, GERMANY**

25 APRIL 1903

**Commercial cover, postmarked by the Chinese Post Office at
 Tientsin, China, Russian Post Office postmark at Yingkou
 (Newchwang) on 1 May 1903 (Gregorian Calendar),
 sent to Osnabrück, Germany, with
 cachet route mark & hand endorsement
 "Via Siberia Germany"**

22-day transit time.

Transit Postmark: (Reverse) **Arrival Postmark:**
 "Newchwang, 27 April 1903" "Osnabrück,
 17 May 1903"

**30 Kopeck (Russian) & 30 Cents (Chinese)
 triple-weight (1.5 ounces/ 34 grams)
 international letter-rate.**



Reverse

**TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903**

**Russian Post Office in China
Registered Mail to Germany
1903**

**NON-FINALIZED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GERMAN & RUSSIAN
POST OFFICES NECESSITATED FAR EAST ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY
TO BE SENT THROUGH THE RUSSIAN OR FRENCH POST OFFICES
or by the sea through a German Post Office in China.**



Exp Eisold BPP

**GERMANY-BOUND REGISTERED MAIL FROM SHANGHAI
USING SEA ROUTE TO DALNY AND RAIL BEYOND**

14 AUGUST 1903
(Gregorian Calendar)

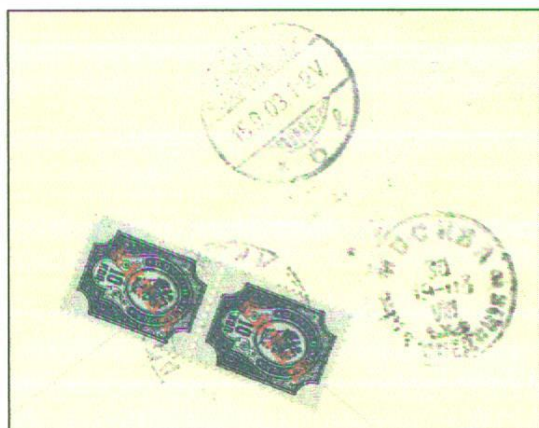
**Registered commercial mail through the Russian Post Office at
Shanghai, China, to Düsseldorf, Germany,
addressed to renowned German manufacturer of photo
projection equipment, Eduard Liesegang.**

32-day transit time.

Transit Postmark: (Reverse)
"Moscow,
12 September 1903"
(Gregorian Calendar)

Arrival Postmark:
"Düsseldorf *6 I,
15 September 1903"

20 Kopeck:
10 Kopeck.. UPU Single-Weight (20 grams)
International Letter-Rate.
10 Kopeck.. Registration fee



Reverse

**TRIAL & EARLY MAIL
1899-1903**

**Trans-Siberian Route Open for German
Post Office Mail from/to China
October 1903**

**AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GERMAN & RUSSIAN POST OFFICES
TOOK EFFECT ON 1 OCTOBER 1903,
permitting acceptance of German Post Office Mail from/to Europe
or beyond routed over the Trans-Siberian Network.**



**EARLY KIAUTSCHOU GERMAN POST OFFICE MAIL TO EUROPE
VIA THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK**

5 NOVEMBER 1903

View-card, postmarked at Tsingtao, Kiautschou Territory,
non-route endorsed, sent over the new Trans-Siberian Route, as evidenced by the
Moscow Transit Postmark, sent to Budapest, Hungary.
24-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:

"Moscow,
13 November 1903
(Julian Calendar)
= 26 November 1903"
(Gregorian Calendar)

"Budapest,
29 November 1903"

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT IN GERMANY IN EARLY 1903 OF THE FUTURE
OPENING OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE FOR GERMAN MAIL
TO THE FAR EAST**

resulted in some early non-valid mail being endorsed for that route
with such subsequently being re-directed by sea.



RE-ROUTED MAIL TO TSINGTAU, CHINA, USING SEA ROUTE
SINCE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE STILL CLOSED TO GERMAN POST OFFICE MAIL

17 JANUARY 1903

Postal stationery reply-card, postmarked at Wilhelmshaven,
route endorsed "via St. Petersburg - Port Arthur", sent to
Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China,

Since the Trans-Siberian Network Route was not yet open to German-origin mail,
the route endorsement was altered by the German Post Office to

"Bp XI route closed... (route) via Bp 21" =

(by rail) Wilhelmshaven-Leipzig-Hof-Munich-Naples

(by sea) Naples-Tsingtau

41-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,
27 February 1903"

10+10 Pfennig:
UPU International Postcard-Rate.

**III. RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
1904-1905**

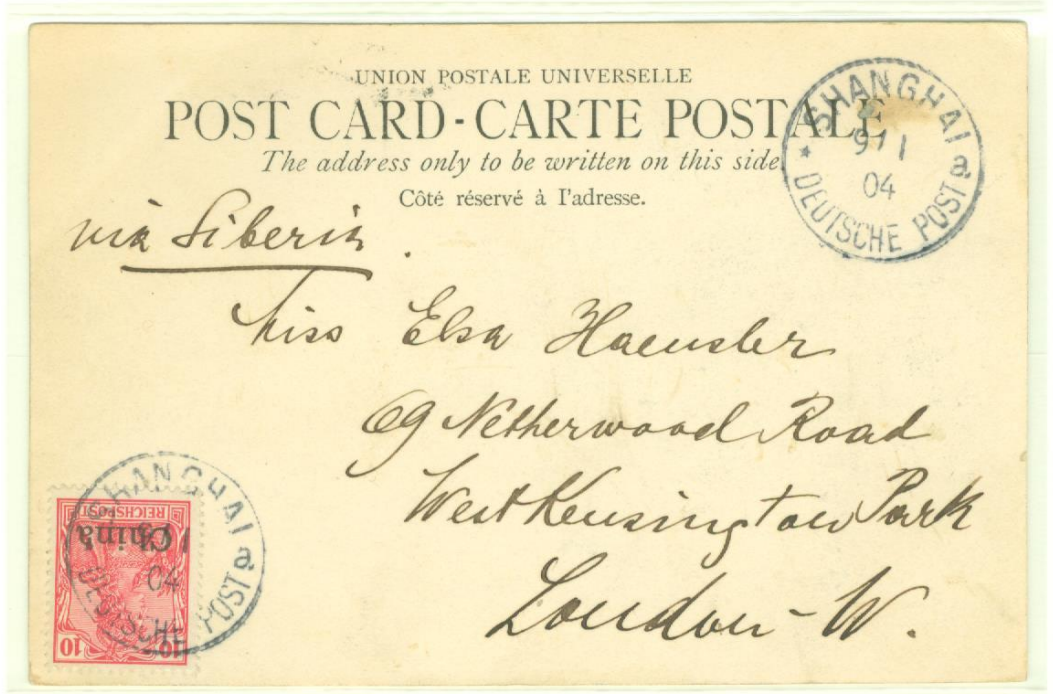
**Europe-Bound 'via Siberia' Mail
Prior to Outbreak of War
on 10 February 1904**

**GERMAN-POST-OFFICE MAIL WAS POSSIBLE ONLY FOUR MONTHS
PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN
RUSSIA AND JAPAN ON 10 FEBRUARY 1904,
resulting in closure of all mail movement over the Trans-Siberian
Network in Manchuria and China until late 1905.**

**GERMAN POST
OFFICE IN CHINA
MAIL TO ENGLAND**

9 JANUARY 1904

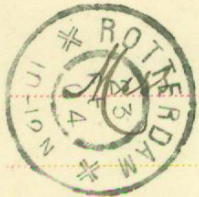
Viewcard,
postmarked at the
Shanghai German
Post Office, sent
to London, England,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia".



via Siberia!

Postkarte - Carte postale

• • Weltpostverein — Union postale universelle • •
Levelező-Lap — Correspondenzkarte — Dopisnice
Karta korespondencyjna — Korespondenčni listek
Briefkaart - Cartolina postale - Post card - Brefkort
Открытое-письмо - TARJETA POSTAL - Довідна Карта



Frieda Lambooy

41 Ocktervelbte.

Rotterdam

HOLLAND.

**GERMAN POST
OFFICE IN CHINA
MAIL TO HOLLAND**

29 JANUARY 1904

Viewcard,
postmarked at the
Shanghai German
Post Office, sent to
Rotterdam, Holland,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia".
25-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:

"Rotterdam,
23 February 1904"

**RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
1904-1905**

**Switzerland-Bound 'via Siberia' Mail
Prior to Outbreak of War
on 10 February 1904**

**REGISTERED GERMAN POST
OFFICE IN CHINA MAIL TO
SWITZERLAND
PRIOR TO
RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR**



14 JANUARY 1904

**Registered cover, postmarked at
the Shanghai German Post Office,
sent to Chur, Switzerland,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia".**

27-day transit time.

Exp Bothe BPP

**Arrival Postmark:
"Chur,
10 February 1904"**

**60 Pfennig:
40 Pfg.. Double-Weight
(15- 30 grams)
UPU international
Letter-Rate
20 Pfg.. Registration fee**

**RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
1904-1905**

**German Offices in China
Mail Routed "Via Suez"**

**BETWEEN '9 FEBRUARY 1904 - LATE SUMMER 1905', FOREIGN-
POST-OFFICES'-IN-CHINA MAIL WAS SENT BY SEA WITH
ROUTE ENDORSEMENT "VIA SUEZ",
since the trans-Siberian rail route was closed as a result of the
Russo-Japanese War.**



**REGISTERED GERMAN-POST-OFFICE IN CHINA
MAIL SENT TO GERMANY DURING THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR**

13 APRIL 1905

Registered bank mail, postmarked at the Tientsin German Post Office,
sent to a military district office at Schöneberg, Germany, with route indication
"Via Suez".

39-day transit time.

Service Postmark:
(reverse)
"Schöneberg,
22 May 1905"

60 Pfennig:
40 Pfg.. Double-Weight (15-30 grams)
UPU international Letter-Rate
20 Pfg.. Registration fee

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

1904-1905

Resumption of Mail Service

Caravan Route .. 1905

Since hostilities officially ended with the Russo-Japanese Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire) signed on 5 September 1905, **MAIL SERVICE RESUMPTION EAST & WESTBOUND RESARTED EARLIER, ALBEIT OVER THE EARLIER RIDER/CARAVAN ROUTE TO REACH THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK AT MYSSOWAJA,** since the eastern Chinese portion of the rail network was war damaged.

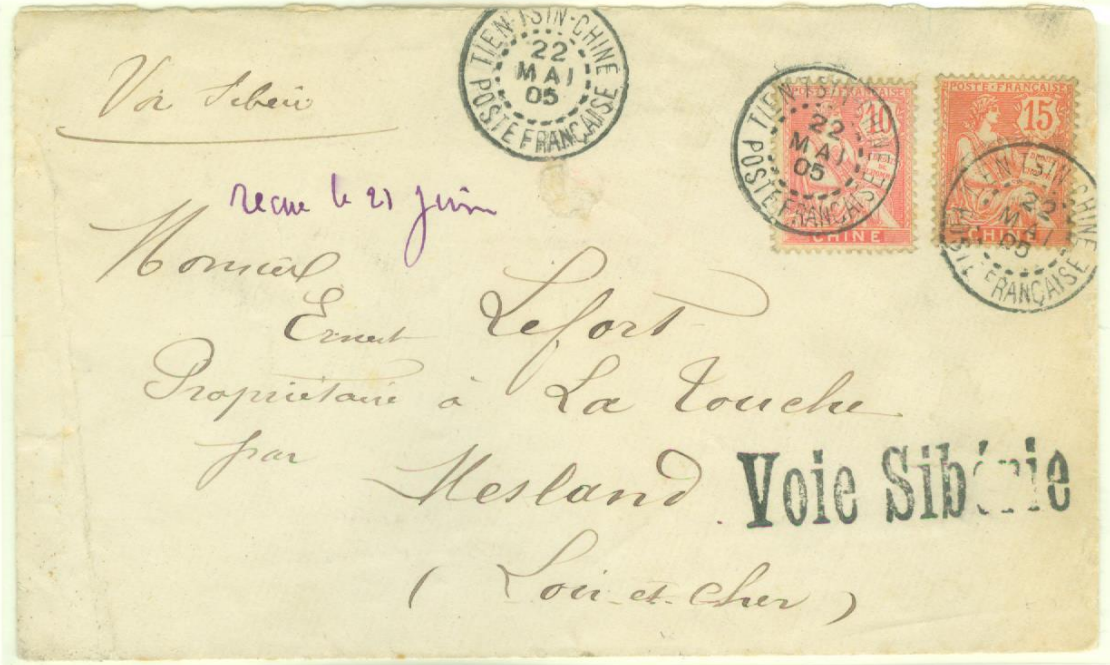
**FRENCH POST
OFFICE MAIL TO
FRANCE**

22 MAY 1905

Cove, postmarked at Tientsin, with route endorsement "**Voie Sibérie**" sent to France.

30-day transit time. (Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-Urga-Myssowaja-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-France)

**25 Centimes..
Single-Weight
UPU International
Letter-Rate**



**GERMAN
KIAUTSCHOU MAIL
TO GERMANY**

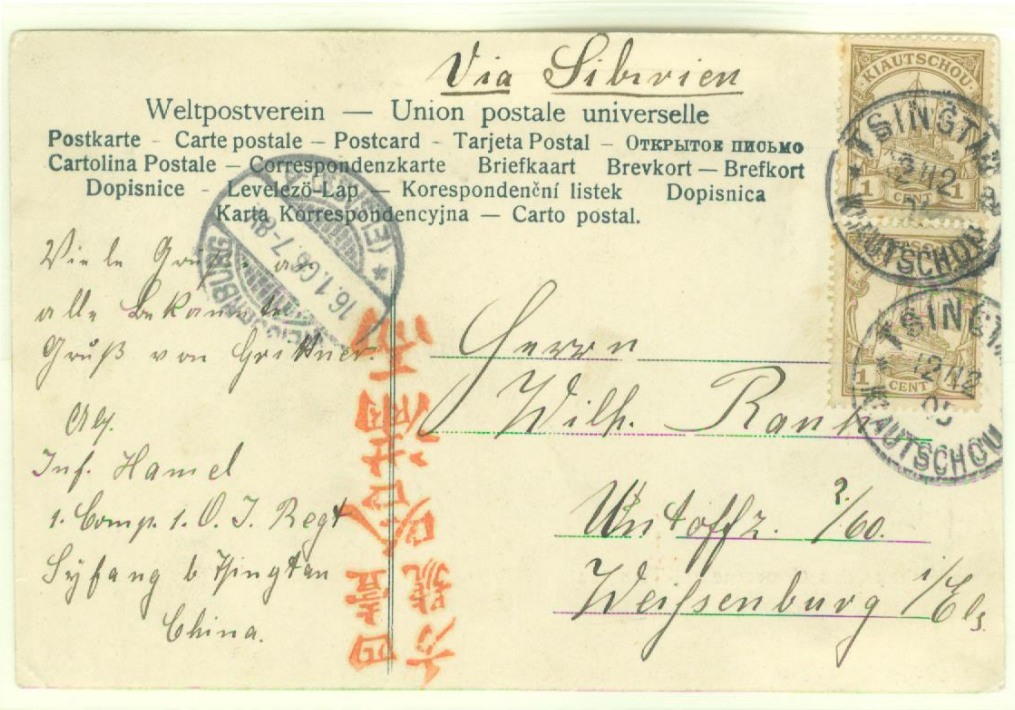
12 DECEMBER 1905

View-card, postmarked Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China, with route endorsement "**Via Siberia**" sent to Weissenburg, Province Alsace, Germany.

35-day transit time (Kiautschou-Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-Urga-Myssowaja-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Weissenburg)

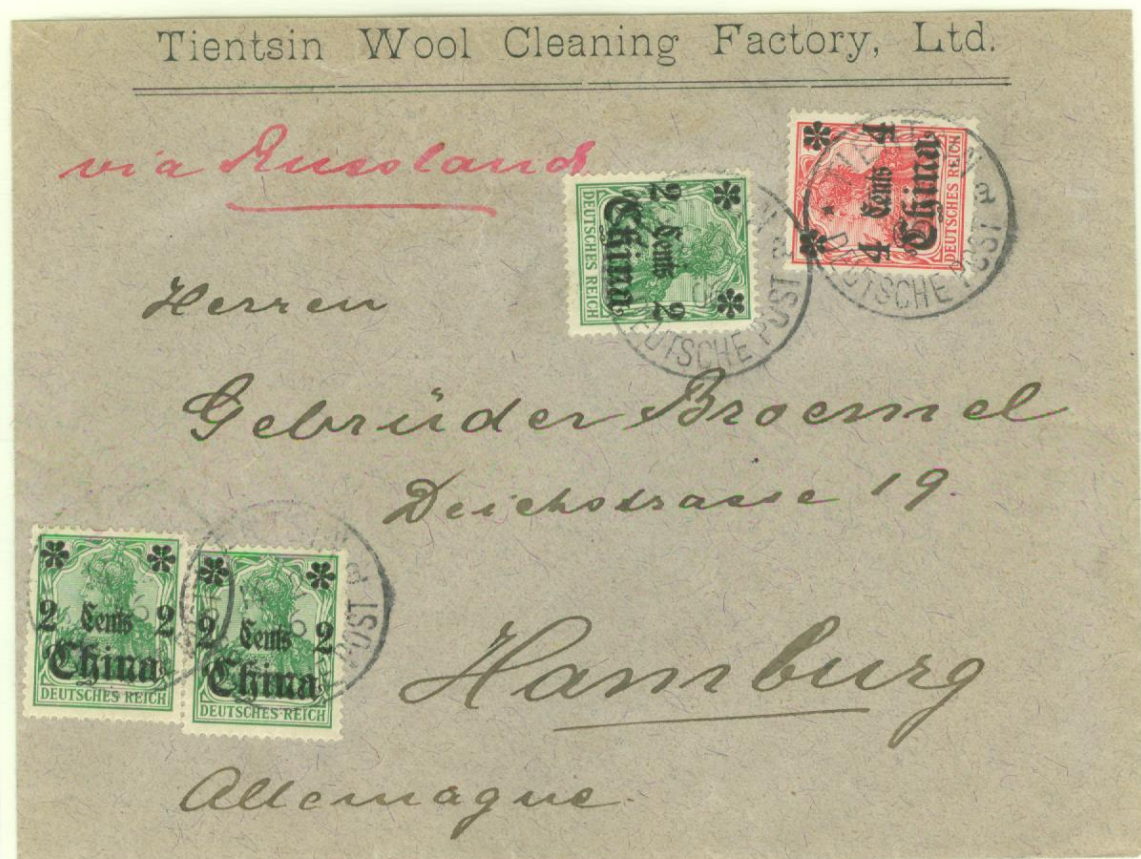
Arrival Postmark: "Weissenburg (Els), 16 January 1906"

**2 Cents ...
Postcard-rate for mail
from a German colony
to Germany**



**Chinese Handstamp (red) = Address of Sender..
"Hamel, No. 1, Sijfang"**

Despite the resumption of mail services,
WINTER WEATHER-RELATED DELAYS,
and continued non-operational track network in Eastern China,
OFTEN RESULTED IN MAIL TAKING AS LONG AS SEA-ROUTED MAIL.



14 FEBRUARY 1906

Commercial cover , postmarked at the German Post Office at Tientsin, China,
with route endorsement "*via Russland*" sent to Hamburg, Germany.

42-day (weather-related delay) transit time
(Tientsin-Peking-Kalgan-Urga-Myssowaja-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg)

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)

"Hamburg,
28 March 1906"

10 Cents:
Single-Weight (15 grams) UPU International Letter-Rate

**RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
1904-1905**

**Resumption of Mail Service
Russian Post Office in China
1906-1907**

On 12 February 1907, **THE ROUTE ON THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA (Dalny/Port Arthur/Harbin) AND IN SOUTHERN MANCHURIA REOPENED**, now again enabling full use of the southern Manchurian and connecting trans-Siberian rail network.

**1906
CHINA TO GERMANY
MAIL**

26 OCTOBER 1906
(Gregorian Calendar)

Postal stationery card
postmarked Tschifu
(Chefoo),
Russian Post Office, to
Suhl, Gernay.

29-day Transit time
(Tschifu-by sea to Dalny-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Suhl)

Arrival Postmark:
"Suhl,
24 November 1906"

**4 Kopeck..
International
postcard-rate**



**1907
CHINA TO GERMANY
MAIL**

12 MAY 1907
(Gregorian Calendar)

View-card postmarked
Tientsin, China, without route
endorsement "Via Siberia"
to Stuttgart, Germany.

22-day transit time
(Tientsin-Peking-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Stuttgart)

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Peking,
13 May 1907"

Arrival Postmark:
"Stuttgart, 3 June 1907"

**4 Kopeck:
International postcard-rate
+ 2 Kopeck over-franking**



**IV. EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Tri-Weekly Express Train Service
1907**

**By June 1907, EXPRESS TRAIN SERVICE (three times weekly),
EXPEDITED HANDLING OF MAIL ALONG WITH PROMOTION OF ROUTE MAIL SERVICE
between Europe/European Russia-Eastern Russia/Far East.**

**CHINA TO SWEDEN MAIL
(German Post Office)**

30 MARCH 1907

View card, postmarked at Shanghai, China, to Stockholm, Sweden, with route endorsement "via Siberia".

26-day Transit time
(Shanghai..by sea..Dalny..by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Kiel..by sea..Stockholm)

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



**CHINA TO GERMANY MAIL
(Kiautschou .. Geman Colony)**

11 JUNE 1907

View card, postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China, sent to Uslar, Germany, with route endorsement "via Tschifu - Siberia".

23-day Transit time
(Tsingtau-Tschifu-by sea to Dalny-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Uslar)

**(Reverse)
2 Cents..
Postcard Concession Rate for
German Colony to Germany.**

**CHINA TO ENGLAND MAIL
(British Post Office)**

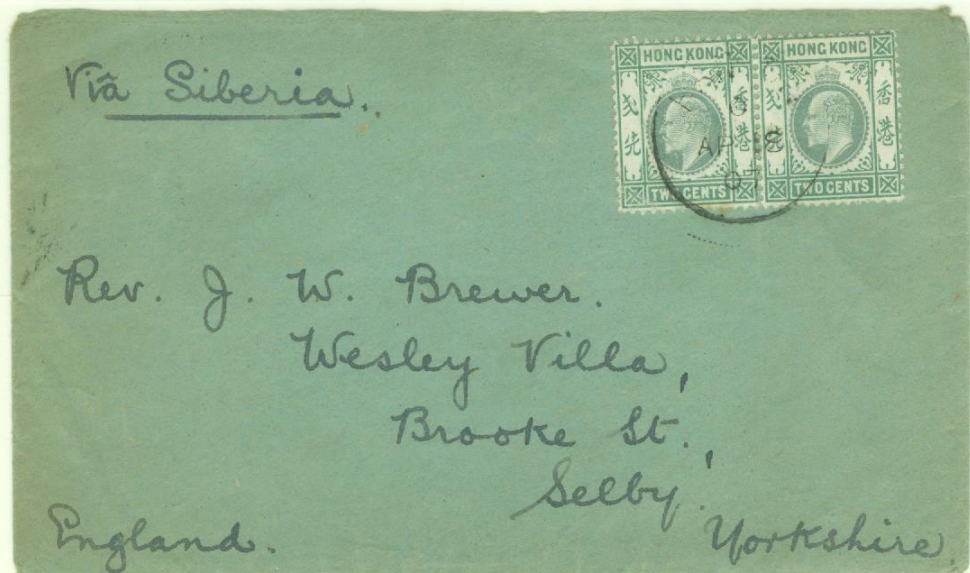
18 APRIL 1907

Missionary mail postmarked at Hankow, China, with endorsement "Via Siberia" to Selby, Yorkshire, England.

29-day transit time:
(Hankow..by sea to Dalny- Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg- by sea to England)

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Peking, 22 April 1907"
"Selby, 17 May 1907"

**4 Cents..
(Hong Kong Postage)
UPU International Letter-Rate**



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES

1907-1913

Registered Mail Service

1907

Along with standard mail service,
REGISTERED MAIL WAS POSSIBLE USING THE STANDARD SEALED MAIL
BAGS WITH THE EXPRESS TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAIN SERVICE.

KIAUTCHOU-CHINA
TO GERMANY MAIL
(German Post Office)

11 JUNE 1907

Cover, postmarked at
Tsingtau, Kiautschou,
China, sent to Deutsch-
Eylau, Germany,
with route endorsement
"via Siberia".

23-day Transit time
(Kiautschou..by sea...
Dalny..by train...-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-
Deutsch-Eylau)

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Deutsch-Eylau,
4 August 1907"

18 Cents..
8 Cents..up to 250 grams
+
10 Cents.. Registry Fee/
concession letter-rate for
German Colony mail sent
to Germany



DUTCH ENGINEERING WORKS
NEDERLANDSCHE FABRIEK
VAN WERKTUIGEN EN SPOORWEG-MATERIEEL
SHANGHAI

registered.

Via Siberia



Nederlandsche Fabriek van
Werktuigen en Spoorwegmat

Amsterdam.
(Holland)

CHINA TO
HOLLAND MAIL
(German Post Office)

24 OCTOBER
1907

Commercial mail,
postmarked
Tientsin, China, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia" sent
to Amsterdam,
Holland.

22-day transit time
(Tientsin-Peking-
Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Amsterdam)

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Amsterdam,
14 November
1907"

20 Cents...
10 Cents.. UPU
Single-Weight
International
Letter-Rate +
10 Cents..
Registry Fee



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Registered Mail Service
1908

CHINA TO ITALY MAIL
(German Post Office)

20 DECEMBER 1907

Single-weight letter
postmarked at
Shanghai, China, sent to
Rome, Italy, with route
endorsement
"via Siberia".

26-day Transit time
(Shanghai.. by sea to Dalny..
by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Hof-Munich-
Rome)

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Roma,
15 January 1908"

20 Cents...
10 Cents..
UPU International
Single-Weight
Letter-Rate
+10 Cents.. Registry fee



CHINA TO
GERMANY MAIL
(German Post Office)

5 JUNE 1908

Triple-weight
commercial mail
postmarked
Shanghai, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia" sent
to Stuttgart,
Germany

23-day transit time
(Shanghai .. by
sea to Dalny.. by
train.. Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Stuttgart)

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Stuttgart,
27 June 1908"

32 Cents...
22 Cents..
Concession
Letter-Rate to
250 grams +
10 Cents..
Registry fee



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**German Concession-Rate Mail
1908**

EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 1908, THE GERMAN POST OFFICE REDUCED ITS RATE FOR MAIL EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE GERMAN POST OFFICE IN CHINA WITH GERMANY PROPER RESULTING IN A 'CONCESSION RATE' for such mail which now was significantly less than the standard UPU international mail rates with the difference subsidized by the German Post Office.

**NON-CONCESSION-RATED
CHINA TO GERMANY
MAIL**
(German Post Office)

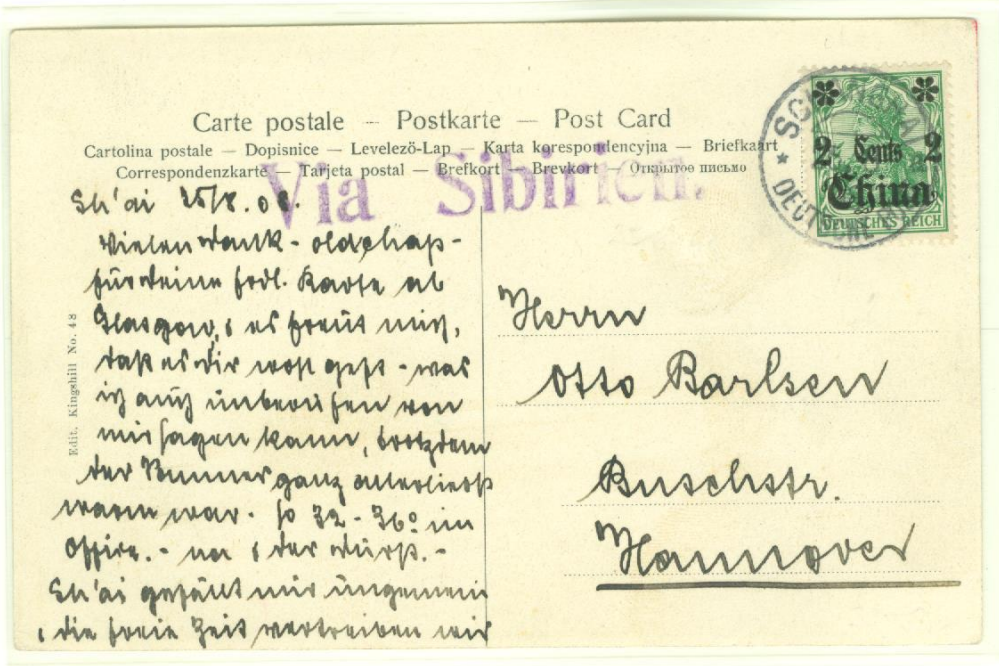
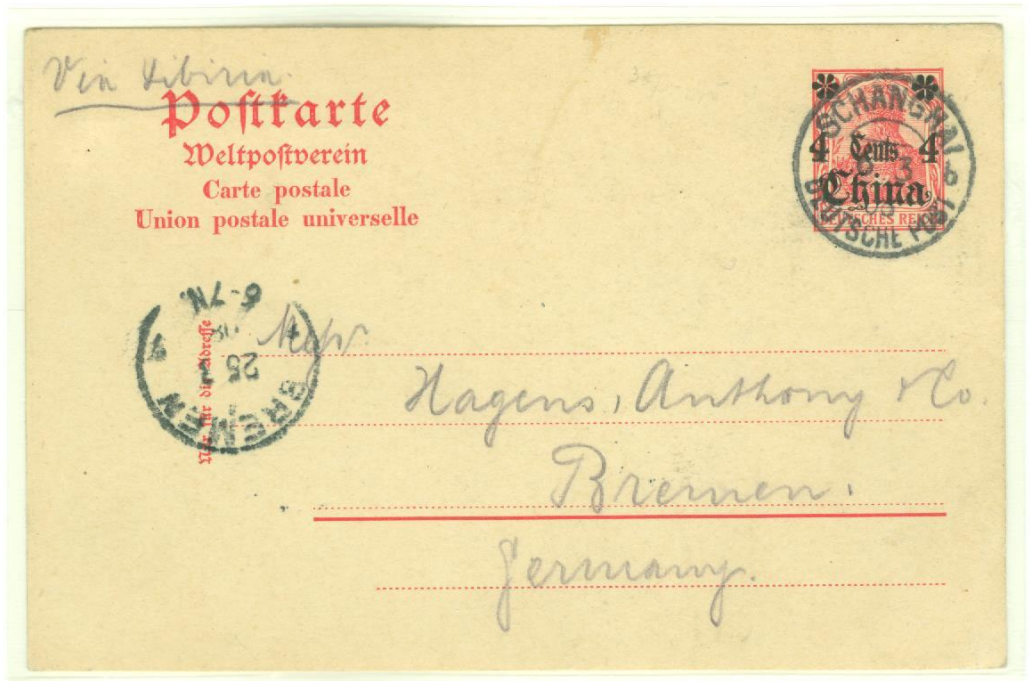
6 MARCH 1908

Postal card, postmarked at Shanghai, China, sent to Bremen, Germany, with route endorsement "via Siberia".

19-day Transit time (Shanghai.. by sea..-Dalny.. by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Bremen)

Arrival Postmark:
"Bremen,
25 March 1908"

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



**CONCESSION-RATED
CHINA TO GERMANY
MAIL**
(German Post Office)

25 AUGUST 1908

View card, postmarked Shanghai, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Hanover, Germany.

Route:
Shanghai.. by sea..-Dalny.. by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hanover

**2 Cents...
German concession-rate
valid for German Post
Office in China Mail to
Germany
(1 July 1908-
9. September 1915)**

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**German Legation Guard Mail
1908**

**GERMAN LEGATION GUARDS AT PEKING,
using the German Post Office,
ROUTE-ENDORSED THEIR MAIL "via Siberia".**

**REGISTERED
CHINA TO GERMANY
MAIL**
(German Post Office)

3 NOVEMBER 1908

Registered postal card,
postmarked at
Peking, China, sent to
the Imperial Ministry of
War, Berlin, Germany,
with route endorsement
"via Siberia".

19-day Transit time
(Peking-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin)

Arrival Postmark:
"Berlin,
22 November 1908"

**12 Cents..
2 Cents.. Concession
postcard-rate
+10 Cents..
registry fee.**



**CHINA TO GERMANY
VIEW CARD MAIL**
(German Post Office)

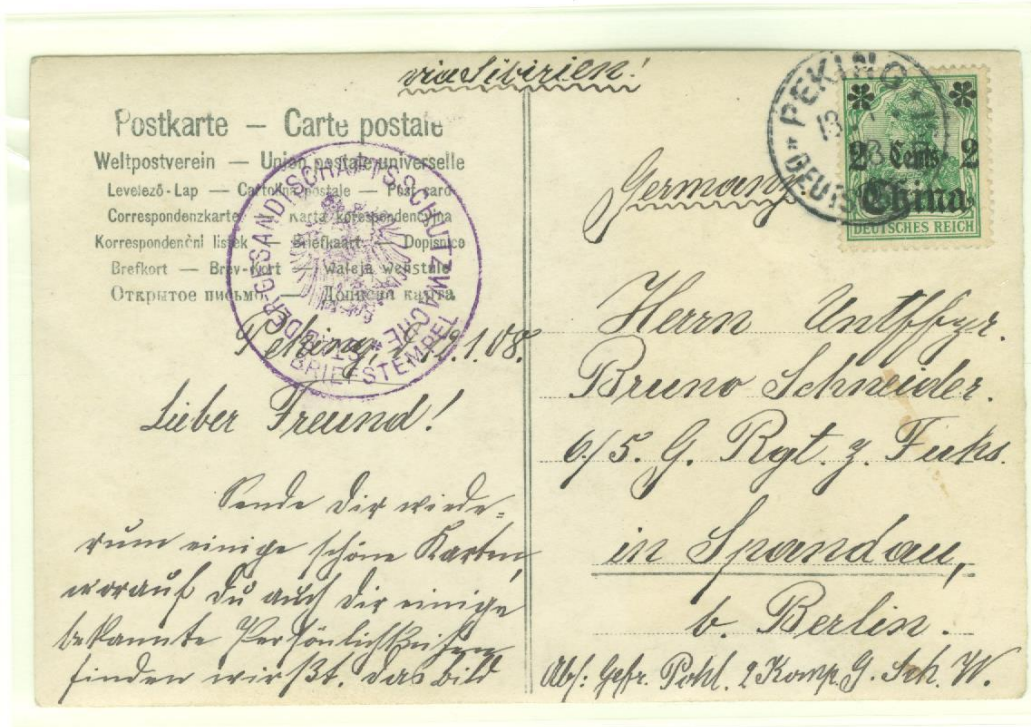
13 JANUARY 1908

View card mail,
postmarked Peking,
China, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Spandau/Berlin,
Germany.

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

Military Unit Cachet
Handstamp:
"Legation Guard
Staff ..Validated Mail"

**2 Cents...
Concession-rate for
German Post Office in
China Postcard Mail
to Germany**



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Chinese Post Office Mail
1908**

**THE CHINESE POST OFFICE FIRST BECAME A MEMBER OF THE UPU IN SEPTEMBER 1914
REQUIRING ANY OVERSEAS-BOUND MAIL BEFORE THAT DATE TO BE ROUTED THROUGH A
FOREIGN POST OFFICE IN CHINA.**

Agreements with foreign post offices in China were eventually concluded eliminating any double-franking requirements.

CHINA TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MAIL
(Japanese Post Office)

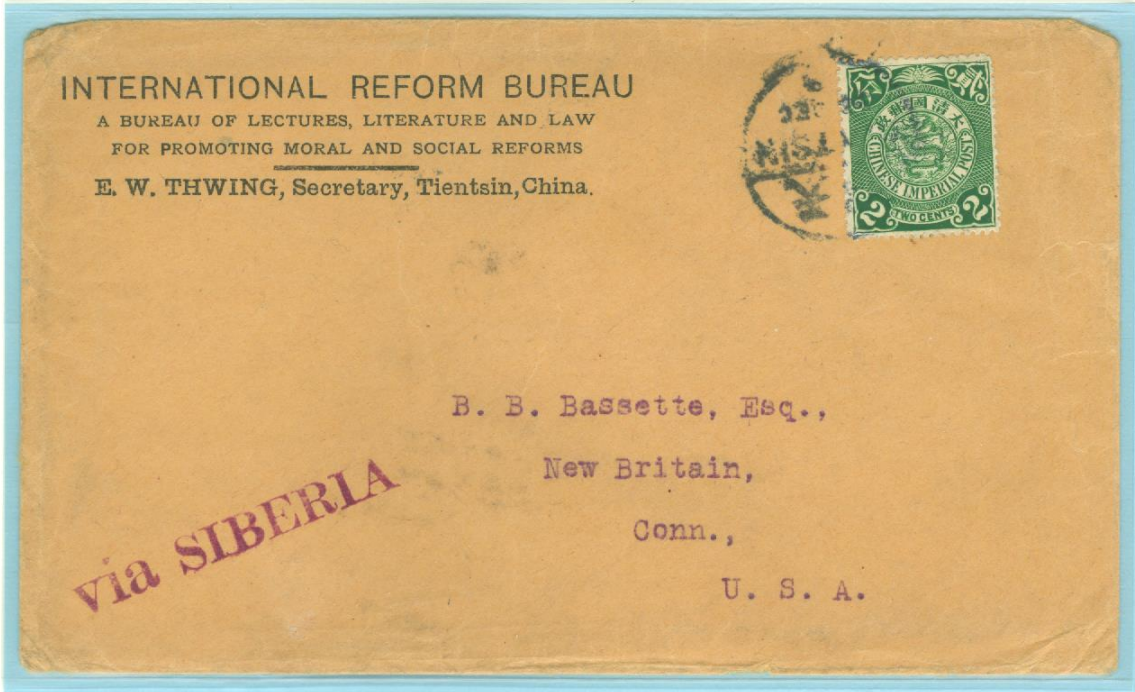
26 DECEMBER 1908

Printed-matter mail, postmarked at Tientsin, with route endorsement "via Siberia", sent to New Britain, Connecticut.

Transit Postmark: (Reverse) "Mukden, IJPO, 28 December 1908"

Route:
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-USA

2 Cents...
Printed Matter rate up to two ounces



CHINA TO SWITZERLAND
(French Post Office)

12 DECEMBER 1908

View-card, postmarked at Hankow, route endorsement "via Siberia", sent to Bern, Switzerland.

Transit Postmark: "Peking, 16 December 1908"

Route:
Hankow-Peking--Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Basel-Zurich-Bern

4 Cents...
UPU International Postcard-Rate



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Chinese Post Office Mail
1910-1911**

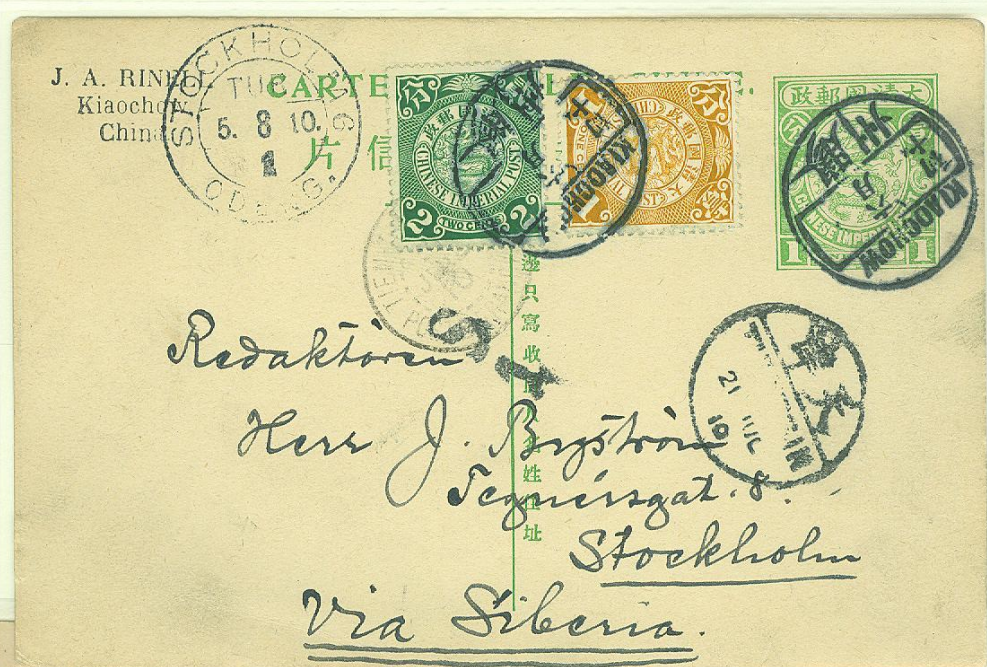
CHINA TO SWEDEN MAIL
(Chinese & French Post Offices)

16 July 1910

Up-rated postal stationery card, postmarked at Kiaochow, China, sent to Stockholm, Sweden, through French Post Office, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
"Tientsin, 21 July 1910"
"Stockholm, 5 August 1910"

20-day transit time
(Kiaochow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg-by sea..Sweden)



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
POSTCARD

(Italy - Via Siberia)

Amoy 29. 11. 910
Affettuosi saluti e buone feste.

gentile
Signorina Maria Bosini

Via Vergini N. 7

Naples



CHINA TO ITALY MAIL

29 November 1910

'Christmas Greetings' mail, postmarked at Amoy, China, sent to Naples, Italy, with route endorsement "Italy Via Siberia".

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
"Shanghai, 5 December 1910"
"Naples, 28 December 1910"

29-day transit time
(Amoy/Shanghai.. by sea..-Dalny.. by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Naples)

CHINA TO ENGLAND MAIL

27 December 1910

'New Year's Greetings' mail, postmarked Tientsin, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Boston, Lincolnshire, England.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)

"Boston, 12 January 1911"

16-day transit time
(Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-England)

Franking:
4 Cents..

UPU International Postcard-Rate.



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

French Post Office in China Mail
1908-09

**OPENING OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK ALSO ENABLED
FRENCH POST OFFICE EXPANSION ALONG THE COAST,
In support of commerce and shorter mail movement to France.**

CHINA TO SPAIN MAIL
(French Post Office)

15 JUNE 1908

View card,
postmarked at
Chefoo, China, sent to
San Sebastian, Spain,
with route endorsement
"Via Transiberia".

Route:
(Chefoo..by sea..-
Dalny.. by train..-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Paris-San
Sebastian)

4 Cents..
UPU International
Postcard-Rate.



CHINA TO SWITZERLAND MAIL
(French Post Office)

12 NOVEMBER
1909

Commercial cover,
postmarked Canton,
China, with route
endorsement
"Via Dalny & Siberia"
Sent to
Affoltern/Zurich,
Switzerland.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Affoltern,
4 December 1909"

22-day transit time:
(Canton/Shanghai..
by sea..-Dalny.. by
train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Basel-Zurich)

25 Centimes...
(Indo China Stamps/
5 & 15 Cent. values
with printing error
"CanPon")
UPU International
Single-Weight
Letter-Rate.



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Russian Post Office in China Mail
'Westbound' Mail to Europe**

**ALL 'WESTBOUND' MAIL SENT THROUGH THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE
IN CHINA WAS ROUTED 'Via Siberia' WITH OR WITHOUT NEED
FOR ROUTE-ENDORSEMENT INDICATION.**

**MAIL FROM TIENTSIN
TO GERMANY**

17 APRIL 1908
(Julian)
30 APRIL 1908
(Gregorian)

Reply postal stationery
card, postmarked at
Tientsin, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Berlin, Germany.

Arrival Postmark:
"Wilmersdorf
bei Berlin,
18 May 1908"

18-day transit time:
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin

**4 Kopeck..
UPU international
postcard-rate.**



**REGISTERED MAIL FROM
PEKING TO GERMANY**

6 SEPTEMBER 1910
(Gregorian)

Registered postal
stationery, postmarked
at Peking,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Giengen,
Württemberg, Germany.

Route:
Peking-Tientsin-Mukden--
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Leipzig-Stuttgart-
Giengen

**26 Kopeck..
Either**

**10 Kop. Single-weight
(15 grams) letter-rate +
10 Kop...Registry fee +
6 Kop. Over-franking**

Or

**4 Kop.. Under-franking
double-weight (30 grams)
letter-rate**



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES 1907-1913

Russian Post Office Mail
Printed-Matter Mail to Europe

MAIL TO PRAG
(Austro-Hungary)

11 SEPTEMBER 1908

Printed-matter/newspaper wrapper mail postmarked at Hankow, China, sent to Prag (Austro-Hungary) with no route endorsement necessary.

Route:
Hankow-Peking-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Dresden-Prag



2 Kopeck..
UPU international
Printed-Matter Rate
for mail up to 50
grams.

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Russian Post Office in China Mail
'Westbound' Mail to
Finland (Russia)**

**MAIL TO FINLAND
FROM SHANGHAI**

10 DECEMBER 1909

View-card,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route
endorsement
"via Siberia" sent
to Nystad, Finland
(Russia).

Arrival Postmark:
"Nystad,
28 December
1909"

18-day transit time:
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin

**3 Kopeck.
Russian inland
postcard-rate.**



**MAIL TO FINLAND
FROM HANKOW**

24 DECEMBER 1912

'Christmas
Greetings' Card,
postmarked at
Hankow, China,
to Helsinki, Finland
(Russia).

Arrival Postmark:
"Helsinki,
8 January 1913"

15-day transit time:
Hankow-Peking-
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Omsk-
St. Petersburg-
Helsinki

**3 Kopeck.
Russian inland
postcard-rate**



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Japan-Origin Mail
1908-10**

JAPAN-ORIGIN MAIL FOR EUROPE WAS USUALLY ROUTED THROUGH THE JAPANESE PORT OF TSURUGA FOR SEA TRANSPORT TO VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA, WHERE IT THEN TRAVELLED BY TRAIN TO EUROPE via the Trans-Siberian railway network southern route.

**JAPAN TO
SWITZERLAND MAIL**
(Japan Post Office)

26 JULY 1908

'Imperial Hotel' Cover,
postmarked at
Tokyo, Japan, sent to
Bern, Switzerland, with
route endorsement
"via Siberia".

21-day Transit time
(Tokyo-Tsuruga.. by
sea... Vladivostok.. by
train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Bern)

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Bern,
16 August 1908 "

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



**JAPAN-ORIGIN MAIL
TO GERMANY**
(Japan Post Office)

22 JUNE 1910

Commercial postal card,
postmarked at Kyoto,
Japan, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia" sent to
Beuel/Bonn, Germany.

Transit Postmark:
"Tsuruga, Japan,
22 August 1910"

Route:
Kyoto-Tsuruga..by sea..-
Vladivostok.. by train..-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Bonn

4 Sen...
UPU International
Postcard Rate



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Japan Post Office in China
Mail to Europe
1910

MAIL TO GERMANY
(Japan Post Office)

15 SEPTEMBER 1910

Cover through Japanese
Post Office at Tientsin,
China,
sent to Giengen,
Württemberg, Germany,
with route endorsement
"via Siberia".



Transit Postmark:
"Changchun, IJPO,
17 September 1910"

Route:
Tienstin-Mukden-
Changchun-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-
Stuttgart-Giengen

11 Sen...
10 Sen.. Single-weight
(20 grams)
UPU International
Letter-Rate with
1 Sen over-franking

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**German Post Office in China Mail
Coastal Offices 1908-10**

**OPENING OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE WITH ITS CONNECTION TO
MOSCOW-BERLIN ENABLED MAIL TO MOVE TO WESTERN EUROPE MUCH MORE
EXPEDITIOUSLY THAN BY USING THE SEA ROUTE**
enabling the German Post Office to extend its post office locations in support of
commerce expansion along the coast and inland.

**CHINA TO GERMANY
MAIL**
(German Post Office)

18 DECEMBER 1908

Cover,
postmarked at
Canton, China, sent to
Augsburg, Germany, with
route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Route:
Canton/Shanghai..by
sea..-Dalny..by train..-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Augsburg

4 Cents..
German concession rate for
letter-mail sent to Germany.



CHINA TO GERMANY REGISTERED MAIL
(German Post Office)

12 NOVEMBER 1909

Commercial mail, postmarked at
Hankau, China, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia" sent to Hamburg, Germany

24-day transit time
(Hankau/Shanghai.. by sea to Dalny.. by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg)

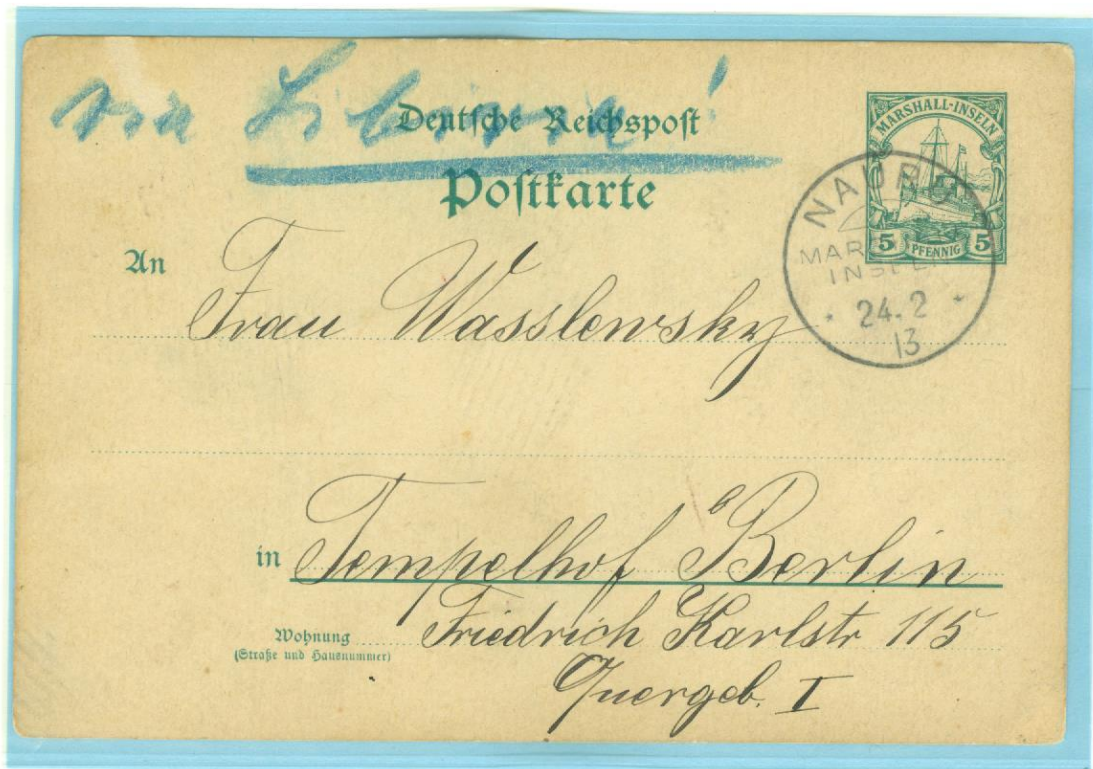
Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Hamburg, 24 June 1910"

14 Cents....
4 Cents .. Single weight (20 grams) letter concession-rate +
10 Cents .. Registry fee

**EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 1909, MAIL FROM THE GERMAN PACIFIC COLONIES
HAD ACCESS TO THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK,**

based on agreement between the German & Russian Post Offices.

Such mail moved by steamer to Hong Kong or Shanghai and subsequently by coastal vessel to Dalny on the Liaotung Peninsula/China, with access to the Eastern Chinese Railway of the trans-Siberian rail network.



GERMAN MARSHALL ISLAND MAIL (NAURU) TO GERMANY
(German Post Office)

24 FEBRUARY 1913

Postal stationery card, postmarked on the Island of Nauru,
manuscript route endorsed "*via Siberia*", sent to Berlin, Germany

Sender:

**"Martha Brauns", wife of the German engineer
in charge of the German government telegraph station on Nauru.**

**Estimated 34-day transit time
(Nauru-Hong Kong-Dalny-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin)**

5 Pfennig...

**Postcard concession-rate for
German colony mail sent to Germany**

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**German 'Shantung' Railway
'Pukow-Tientsin' Railway**

The 1904 completed German-built *Shantung Railway* connected Tsingtao-with Tsinanfu. A British-German Consortium built the *Tientsin-Pukow Railway* between 1909-1912 connecting southern China at Hankow to northern China at Tientsin along with connection to the Shantung Railway.

BOTH RAIL LINES EXPEDITED THE MAIL MOVEMENT TO THE CHINESE NORTHERN AND EASTERN RAILWAYS, THE LATTER BEING PART OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK.

**CHINESE TIENSIN-
PUKOW RAILWAY
FORERUNNER
MAIL**

(Chinese & French
Post Offices)

7 FEBRUARY 1909

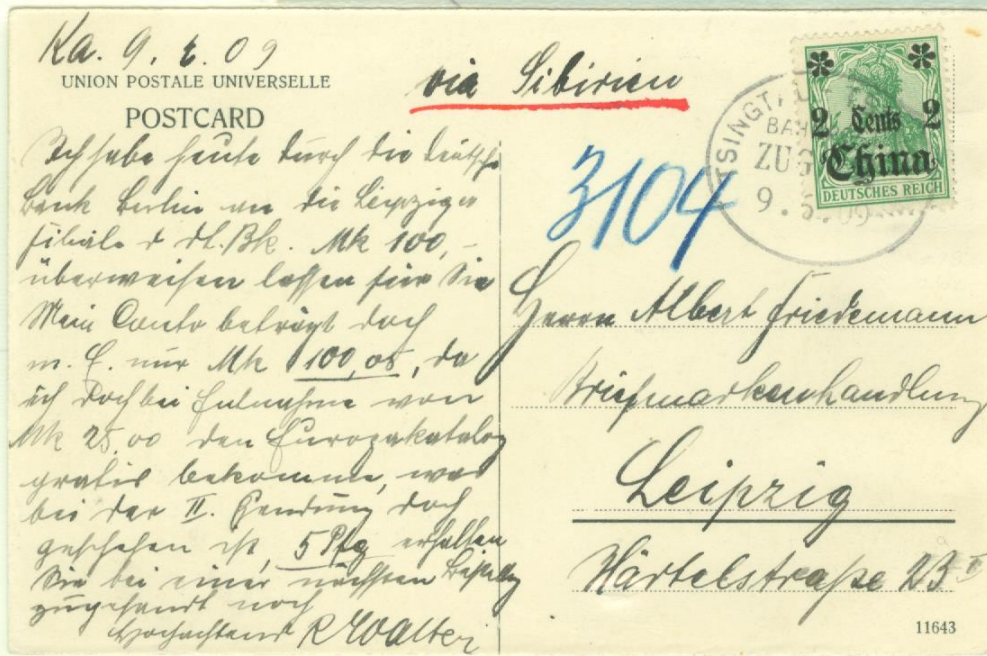
Commercial cover,
postmarked at
Tsangochow, China,
sent to Berlin with
route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Transit Postmark:
"Tien-tsin, French Post
Office China,
7 February 1909"

Arrival Postmark:
"Berlin,
21 February 1909"

14-day Transit Time:
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin

10 Cents..
UPU International
Single-Weight
Letter-Rate



**SHANTUNG RAILWAY
T.P.O. MAIL
(German Post Office)**

9 JUNE 1909

View-card mail sent by German
Provincial Administrator
"Walter" at Kaumi, Kiautschou,
postmarked "Tsingtau-Tsinanfu
Train 2" to Leipzig, Germany,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Route:
Tsingtau-Tsinanfu T.P.O.-
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Leipzig

2 Cents....
German concession postcard-
rate for mail to Germany

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**German Post Office in China Mail
German Transit Mail 1909**

MAIL SACKS FOR NON-GERMAN DESTINATION IN-TRANSIT MAIL WERE ALSO HANDLED BY THE RUSSIAN & GERMAN POST OFFICES

**CHINA TO HOLLAND
MAIL**
(German Post Office)

17 SEPTEMBER 1909

View card,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China, to
Amsterdam, Holland,
with route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
"Amsterdam,
3 October 1909"

16-day Transit Time
(Shanghai.. by sea to
Dalny.. by train..-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Amsterdam)

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



**CHINA TO DENMARK
MAIL**
(German Post Office)

12 NOVEMBER 1909

Re-directed cover,
postmarked at Peking,
China, for Hellerup,
Denmark, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Hellerup,
7 June 1909"

14-day Transit Time
(Peking-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Denmark)

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

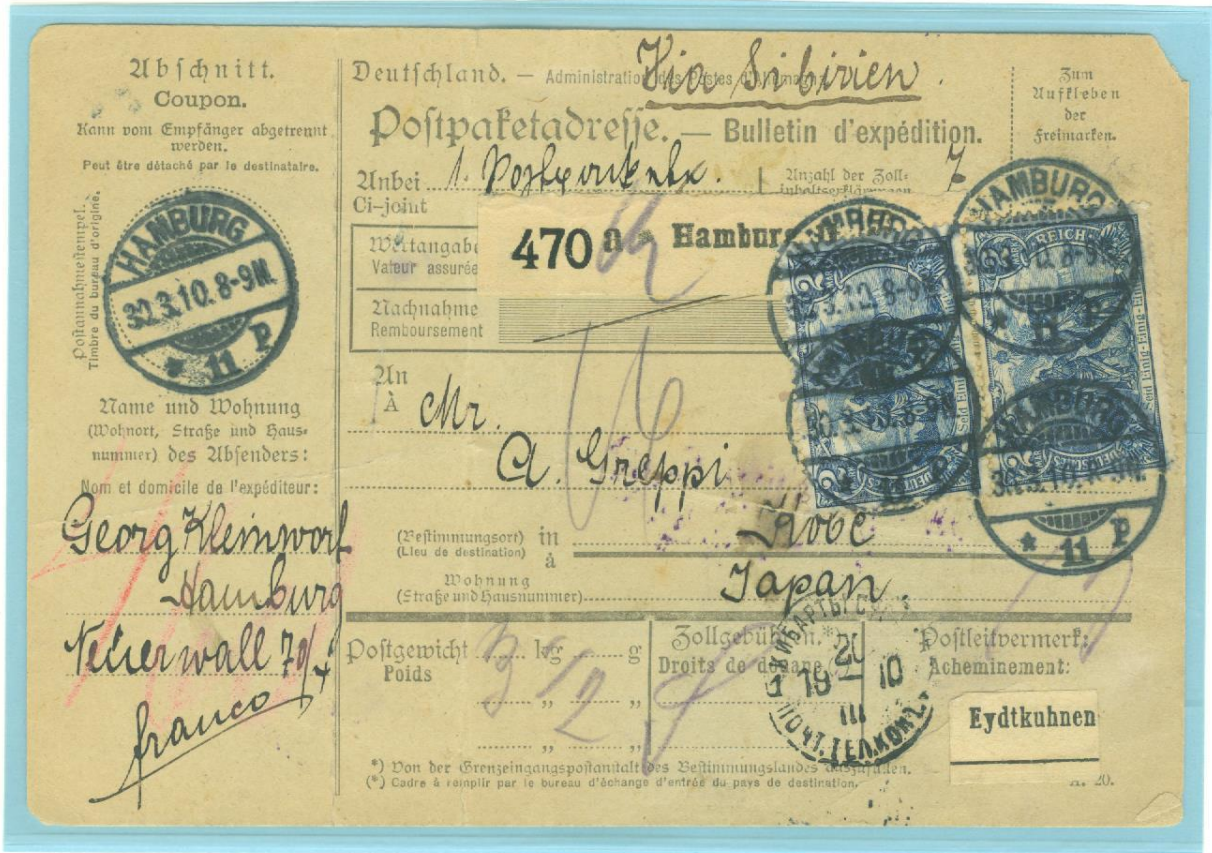


A 1910 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN & GERMAN POST OFFICES NOW PERMITTED GERMAN PARCEL POST TO BE SENT BY WAY OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK.

(up to 5 kg and 2800 Marks in value to Shanghai/otherwise 800 Marks)

German-origin/transit parcel post did not move over the standard route of Berlin-Alexandrowo-Moscow-Harbin.... but rather the more northerly European rail route...

Berlin-Eydtkuhnen (Prussian-Russian border)-St. Petersburg-Omsk-Harbin...



PARCEL POST TO JAPAN
(German Post Office)

30 MARCH 1910

Early 'via Siberia' parcel post card (3½ Kg parcel),
postmarked at Hamburg, Germany,
manuscript route endorsed "via Siberia", sent to Kobe, Japan

Border Crossing Marks:

German: "Eydtkuhnen, 1 April 1910"

Russian: "Eydtkuhnen, 20 March (Julian Calendar)
= 2 April" (Gregorian Calendar)

Transit Route:

Hamburg-Berlin-Eydtkuhnen-St. Petersburg-Omsk-
Irkutsk-Harbin-Vladivostok-Tsuruga-Kobe



Reverse Side Franking

RM 4.60 ...

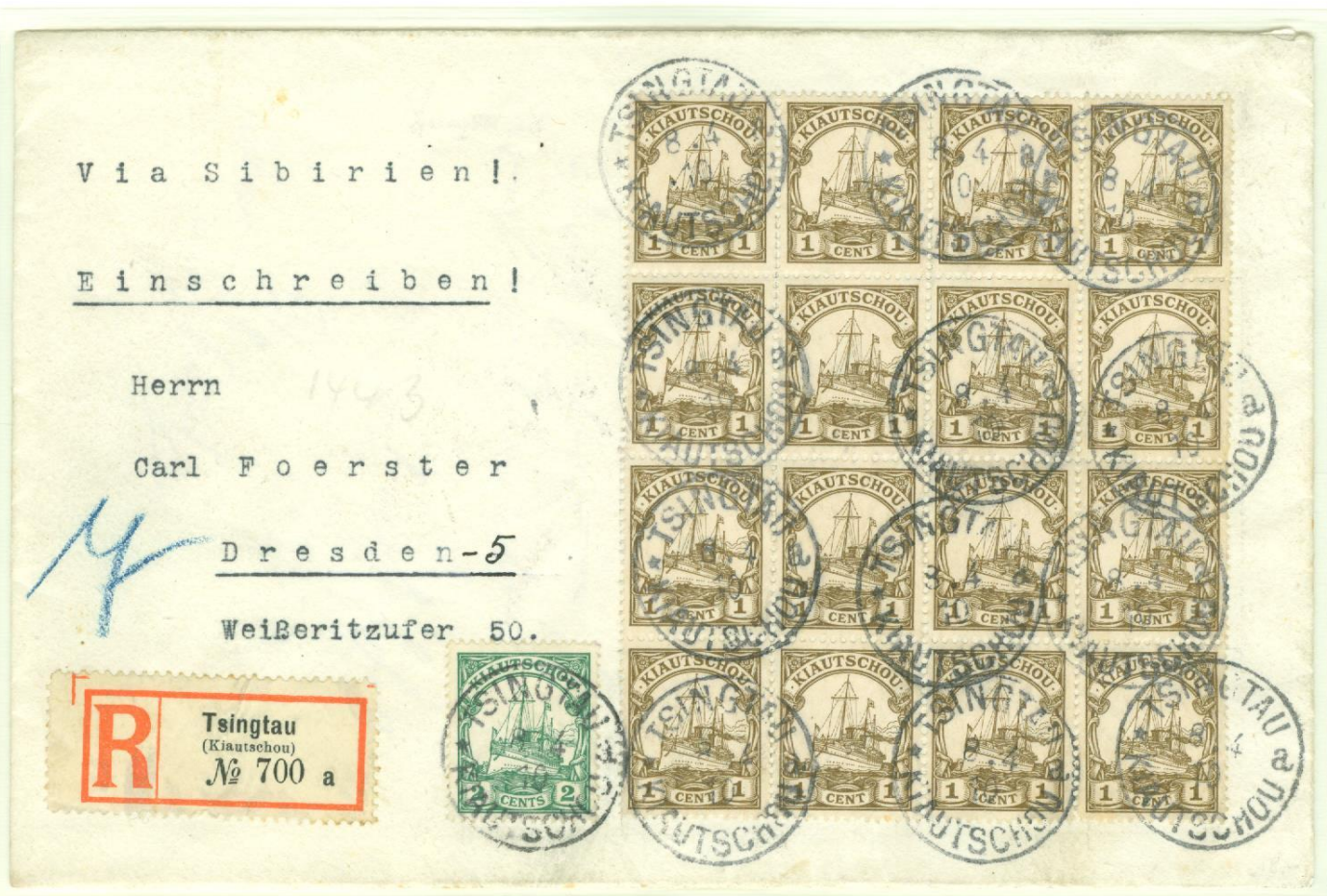
German flat-rate parcel post charge for international parcels up to 5 Kg in weight.

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

German Post Office in Kiautschou
German Marine's Mail
1910

Upon the murder of two German missionaries in Shantung Province in November 1897 and subsequent occupation of the City of Tsingtao by German marines in 1898, China & Germany signed a 99-year lease of the Kiautschou Bay area in the north-eastern part of the province in March 1898.

THE GERMAN FAR-EAST CRUISER SQUADRON WITH ITS CONTINGENT OF MARINES SUBSEQUENTLY HAD THEIR OVERSEAS HOME PORT/BASE AT TSINGTAU/KIAUTSCHOU BETWEEN 1898-1914.



CHINA TO GERMANY REGISTERED MAIL
(German Post Office)

8 APRIL 1910

Registered German marine's mail
(2nd Unit/3rd Marine Battalion),
postmarked at Tsingtao, Kiautschou,
China, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia" sent to
Dresden, Germany

Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)
"Dresden, 22 April 1910"

14-day transit time:

Tsingtao/Kiautschou..by sea to Dalny.. by train..-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Dresden

18 Cents....
8 Cents .. double-weight (up to 250 grams)
German concession letter-rate +
10 Cents .. registry fee

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Philippine Islands-Origin Mail
1910...**

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS-ORIGIN MAIL TO EUROPE HAD A SURCHARGE OF TWO CENTAVOS FOR POSTAL CARDS ENDORSED 'Via Siberia' VERSUS MAIL TO AMERICA AT FOUR CENTAVOS, WHILE LETTER MAIL HAD THE UPU INTERNATIONAL RATE.

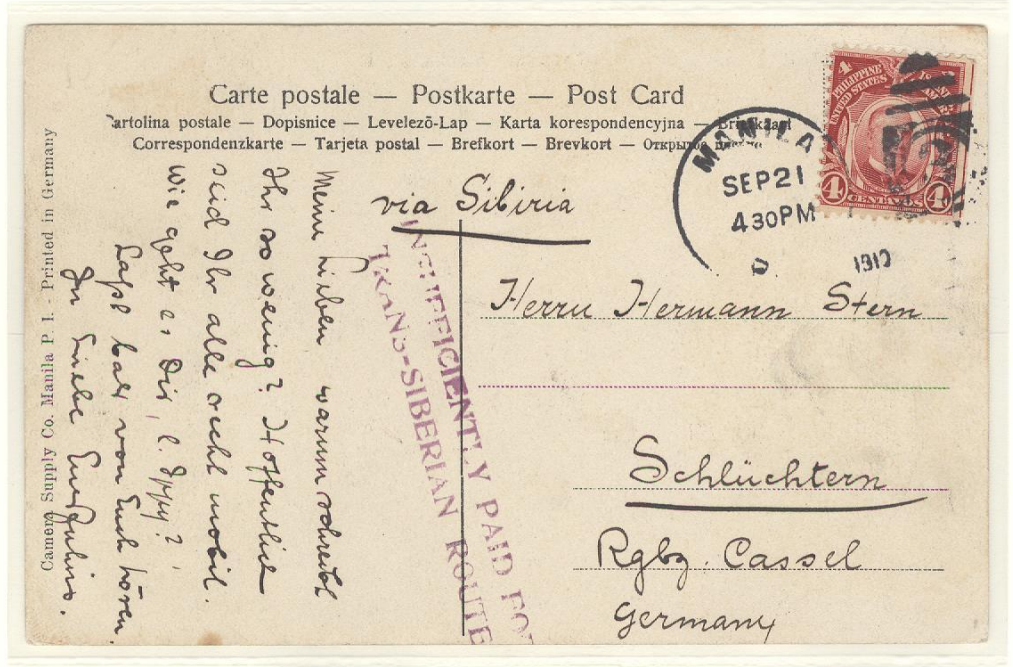
**INSUFFICIENTLY
FRANKED POSTCARD
MAIL TO GERMANY**

21 SEPTEMBER 1910

**Viewcard
postmarked at
Manila, Philippines,
with route
endorsement
"via Siberia".**

**Cachet Handstamp:
"Insufficiently paid for
Trans-Siberian Route"**

**4 Centavos..
2 Centavos under-
franked for routing
"Via Siberia" for rate
of 6 Centavos.**



SHIP'S CAPTAIN MAIL TO GERMANY

12 APRIL 1912



**"S.S. Vandalia"
Cover,
postmarked at
Manila, Philippines,
with endorsement
"Via Siberia",
sent to Altona,
Germany.**

**"S.S. Vandalia" was
sunk by torpedo
in 1918.**

**Route:
Manila.. by sea..-
Vladivostok.. by
train..-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Altona.**

**20 Centavos...
Double-weight
UPU International
Letter-Rate.**

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Chinese Post Office Mail
1910-1911**

CHINA TO SWEDEN MAIL
(Chinese & French Post Offices)

16 JULY 1910

Uprated postal stationery card, postmarked at Kiaochow, China, sent to Stockholm, Sweden, through French Post Office, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
"Tientsin, 21 July 1910"
"Stockholm, 5 August 1910"

20-day transit time
(Kiaochow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-Sf. Petersburg-by sea..Sweden)



CHINA TO ITALY MAIL

29 NOVEMBER 1910

'Christmas Greetings' mail, postmarked at Amoy, China, sent to Naples, Italy, with route endorsement "Italy Via Siberia".

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
"Shanghai, 5 December 1910"
"Naples, 28 December 1910"

29-day transit time
(Amoy/Shanghai.. by sea..Dalny.. by train..Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Naples)



CHINA TO ENGLAND MAIL

27 DECEMBER 1910

'New Year's Greetings' mail, postmarked Tientsin, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Boston, Lincolnshire, England.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Boston, 12 January 1911"

16-day transit time
(Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-England)

4 Cents..
UPU International
Postcard-Rate.



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**North African & European Mail
to China ... 1910-1911**

**CHINA-BOUND MAIL FROM NORTH AFRICA & EUROPE WERE ROUTED
'VIA SIBERIA' AS THE SHORTEST & FASTEST ROUTE TO THE FAR EAST.**

**MAIL FROM EGYPT
TO SHANGHAI**
(Egyptian Post Office)

1 JULY 1910

View card,
postmarked at
Cairo, Egypt, sent to
Shanghai, China, with
route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(British Post Office)
"Shanghai BPO,
29 July 1910"

28-day Transit Time
Probable route:
Port-Tajeio (Egypt)- by
sea to Brindisi-by rail
to Berlin-Moscow-
Irkutsk-Harbin-
Mukden-Dalny-
by sea to Shanghai

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



**RE-DIRECTED MAIL
GERMANY-CHINA**
(German Post Office)

25 DECEMBER 1911

Re-directed mourning cover,
postmarked at Stuttgart,
Germany, for
"Mrs. Max Müller,
German Consul's wife",
at Shanghai, then
re-directed to Hankau, China,
with cachet route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Hankau, 15 January 1912"

21-day Transit Time
Probable route:
Stuttgart-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-
Harbin-Mukden-Dalny-by sea to
Shanghai-Hankau

**10 Pfennig..
Concession-rate for
single-weight
(20 grams) letter-mail from
Germany to a German Post
Office in China**



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Eastern United States-Bound Mail
1910

BECAUSE OF TRANSIT TIME SAVINGS, MAIL TO THE EASTERN UNITED STATES COULD ALSO
BE ROUTED "VIA SIBERIA"

traveling between 20-25 days total from China until arrival in the United States,
including 7-days by sea from Hamburg to the U.S.A., rather than via Yokohama-
Seattle (or San Francisco) by sea and overland by train to destination.

GERMAN P.O IN CHINA
MAIL TO PENNSYLVANIA

20 JANUARY 1910

"Peking Club" cover,
postmarked at Peking,
China, sent to Bryn
Mawr, Pennsylvania,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Route:
Peking-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-Philadelphia-
Bryn Mawr

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



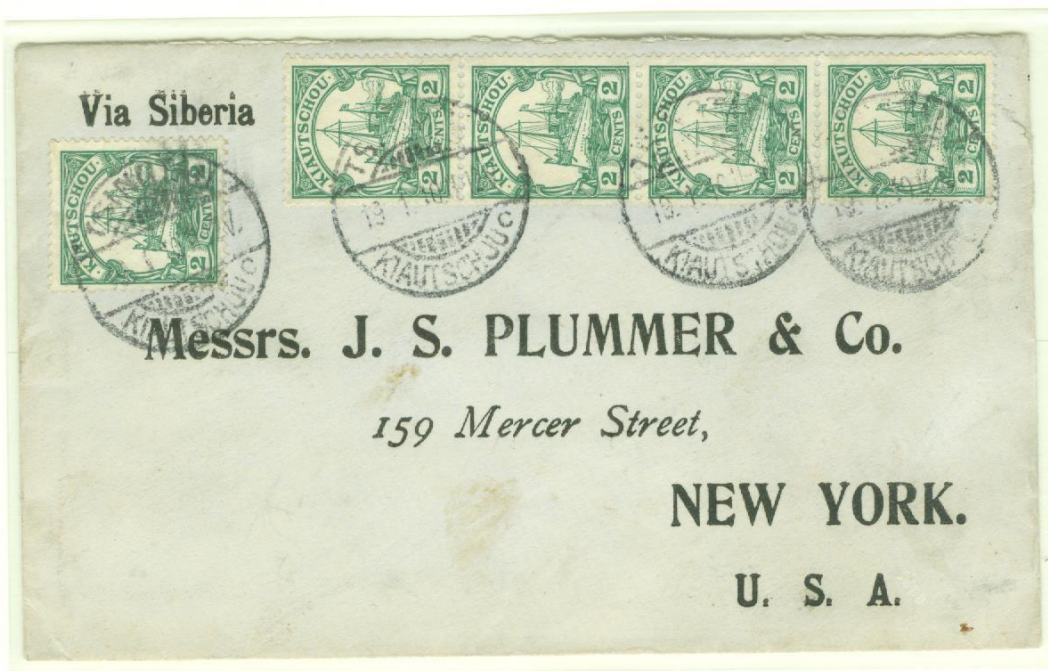
GERMAN P.O. IN
TERRITORY OF
KIAUTSCHOU MAIL TO
NEW YORK

19 JANUARY 1910

Commercial cover,
postmarked Tsingtao,
Kiautschou, China, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to New York City.

Route:
Tsingtao .. by
sea..Dalny.. by train..-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hamburg-
New York

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



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Eastern United States-Bound Mail
1912-1913



CHINESE P.O. MAIL TO PENNSYLVANIA
(Chinese/Japanese Post Offices)

7 SEPTEMBER 1912

Cover, postmarked at Peking, China, sent to Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Mouken,
9 September, 1912"

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Bryn Mawr,
29 September 1912"

22-day transit time:
Peking-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow
Berlin-Hamburg-Philadelphia-Bryn Mawr

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



BRITISH P.O. MAIL TO PENNSYLVANIA
(Hong Kong Postage)

10 FEBRUARY 1913

"Shanghai Club" Cover,
postmarked Shanghai,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-Tientsin-
Muken-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-
New York

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

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Midwestern United States-Bound Mail
1911-1912

MAIL TO THE MIDWESTERN UNITED STATES WAS ALSO ROUTED "VIA SIBERIA"
rather than via Yokohama-Seattle or San Francisco by sea
with train overland to destination.

USA-BOUND MAIL
TO
OHIO
(German Post Office)

3 JULY 1911

Single-weight cover,
postmarked at Peking,
China, sent to
Gettysburg, Ohio,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Gettysburg Received,
27 July 1911"

24-day transit time
Route:
Peking-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-Philadelphia-
Ohio



USA-BOUND MAIL
TO
MINNESOTA
(Chinese & French
Post Offices)

20 MARCH 1912

Official wax-sealed
American Consular
cover, postmarked at
Tientsin, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to
Minneapolis,
Minnesota.

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Tien-Tsin-Chine,
21 March 1912"

Route:
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin- Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-New York

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE
Tientsin, China.

Burt McGann, Esq.,
321 North Newton st.,

Via Siberia

Minneapolis,

Minnesota,

United States of America.

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

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Outbreak of Plague in Manchuria
1911

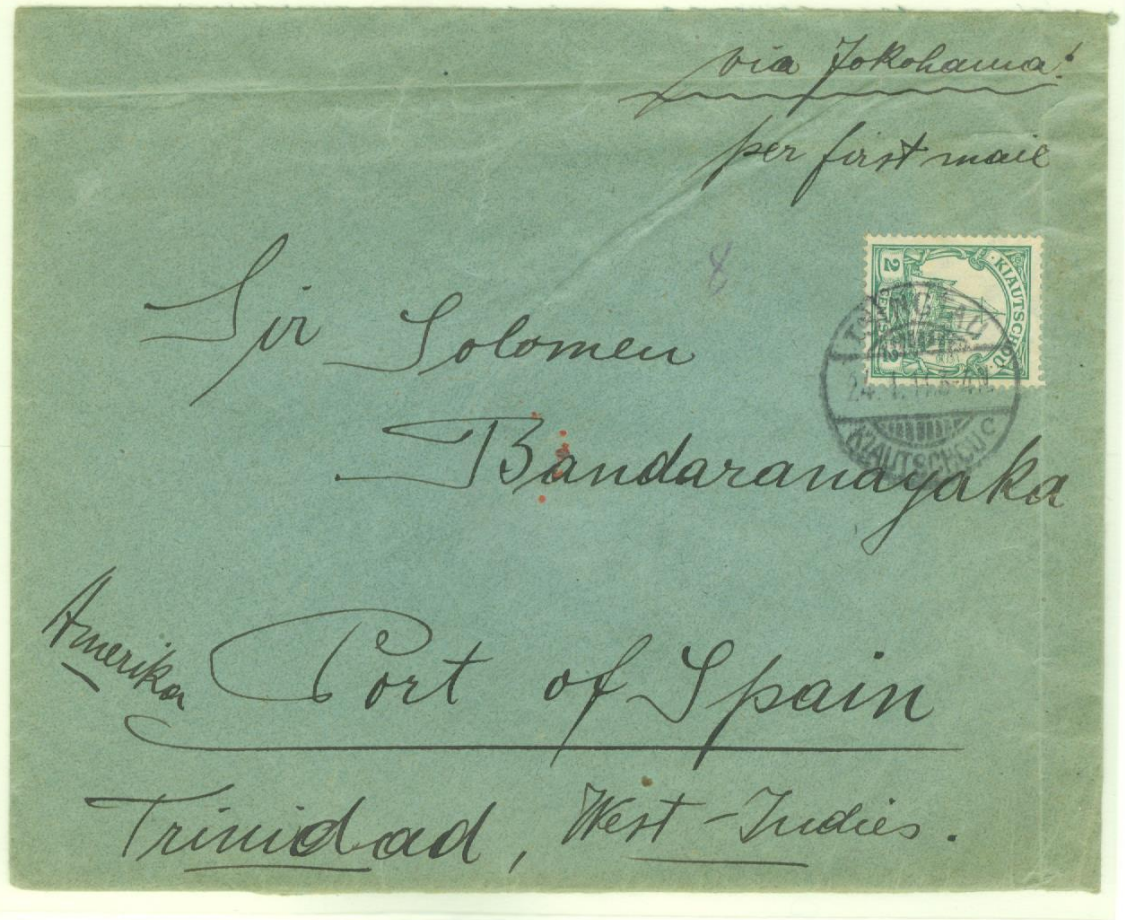
BETWEEN JANUARY-MARCH OF 1911, OPERATION OF THE MANCHURIAN RAILWAY,
(south of Harbin)
& THE CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY TO DALNY,
WAS HALTED BECAUSE OF AN OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE IN MANCHURIA.

24 JANUARY
1911

(German Post Office
Kiautschou)

Printed-matter,
postmarked at Tsingtau,
Kiautschou, routed
'via
Yokohama &
America',
sent to Port of
Spain,
Trinidad.

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



ANDREWS, VON FISCHERZ & GEORGE, Ltd.
1, Foochow Road
SHANGHAI.

Via Siberia.

Titl. Zentral-Bureau der
Glasfabriken und Raffinerien
Josef Inwald Act. Ges.,

Vienna.
VI. Mariahilferstrasse 103.



17 FEBRUARY 1911
(German Post Office in
China)

Commercial-mail,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
route-endorsed
'via Siberia',
with diversion route
most probably
Shanghai-
Yokohama-San
Francisco-New
York-Hamburg-
Vienna,
sent to Vienna,
Austria

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



**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Revolution in China
Establishment of a Republic
1911**

**LATE 1911 & EARLY 1912, INNER-CHINA RAIL INTERRUPTIONS TOOK PLACE
AS A RESULT OF REVOLUTION IN CHINA,**

commencing on 10 October with establishment of the Chinese Republic in December 1911.

**EUROPE-BOUND MAIL WAS TEMPORARILY ROUTED FROM SHANGHAI BY SEA TO JAPAN, THEN
VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA, FROM WHERE MAIL MOVED OVER THE
NORTHERN TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY ROUTE WESTWARD.**

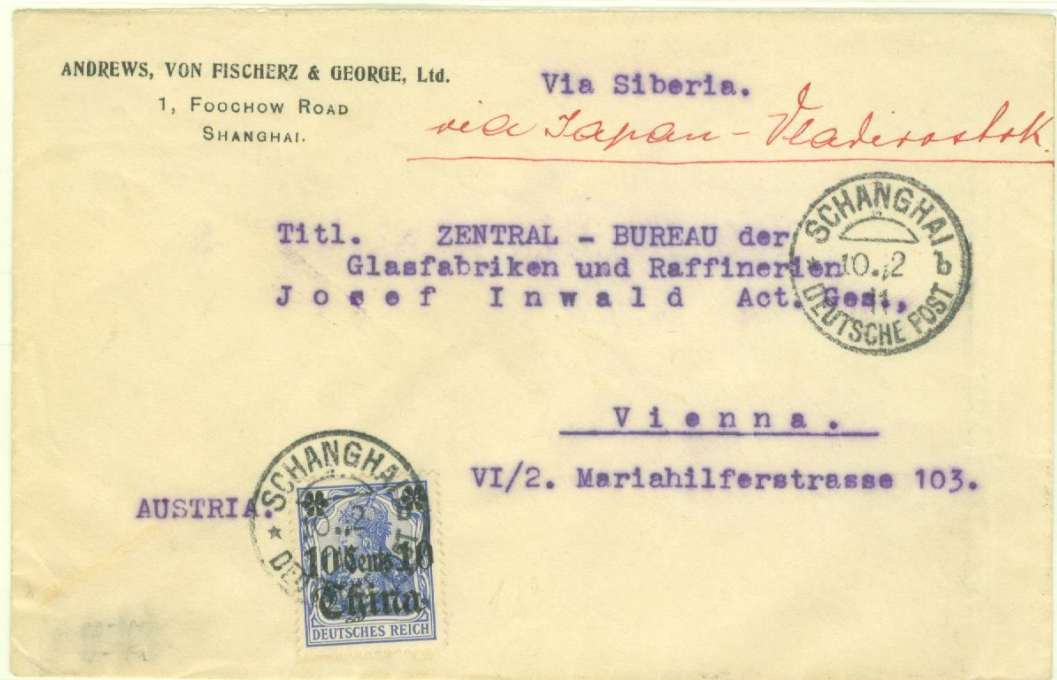
During this revolutionary period, the Provisional Government abolished 'pigtails', adopted the Western Calendar, and Sun Yat-Sen, became leader of the of the Kuomintang (Nationalist) Party, and, later, in 1921, was elected China's president.

10 DECEMBER 1911
(German Post Office)

Commercial mail,
postmarked at Shanghai,
route-endorsed
"via Japan-
Vladivostok",
sent to Vienna, Austria.

Route:
Shanghai.. by sea..-
Japan-Vladivostok,
Russia, by train..-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Vienna.

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



27 DECEMBER 1911
(German Post Office)

Commercial mail
postmarked at
Shanghai, route
endorsed
"Via Siberia",
sent to Bremen,
Germany.

Route:
Shanghai.. by sea..-
Japan-Vladivostok,
Russia, by train..-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Bremen

4 Cents....
Single-weight
concession-rate for
letter-mail from a
German Post Office
in China to Germany.

Via SIBIRIEN

Justen Emil Ipsen
Vladivostok
Bremen



Germany.

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Russian P.O. Vladivostok &
Trans-Siberian T.P.O. Mail**



**'WESTBOUND' MAIL FROM VLADIVOSTOK
ROUTED WITH THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY,
mailed on-board or at the post office,
WAS CACHET ROUTE-ENDORSED
"BY SIBERIAN EXPRESS"
in German & Russian by the
Russian Post Office.**

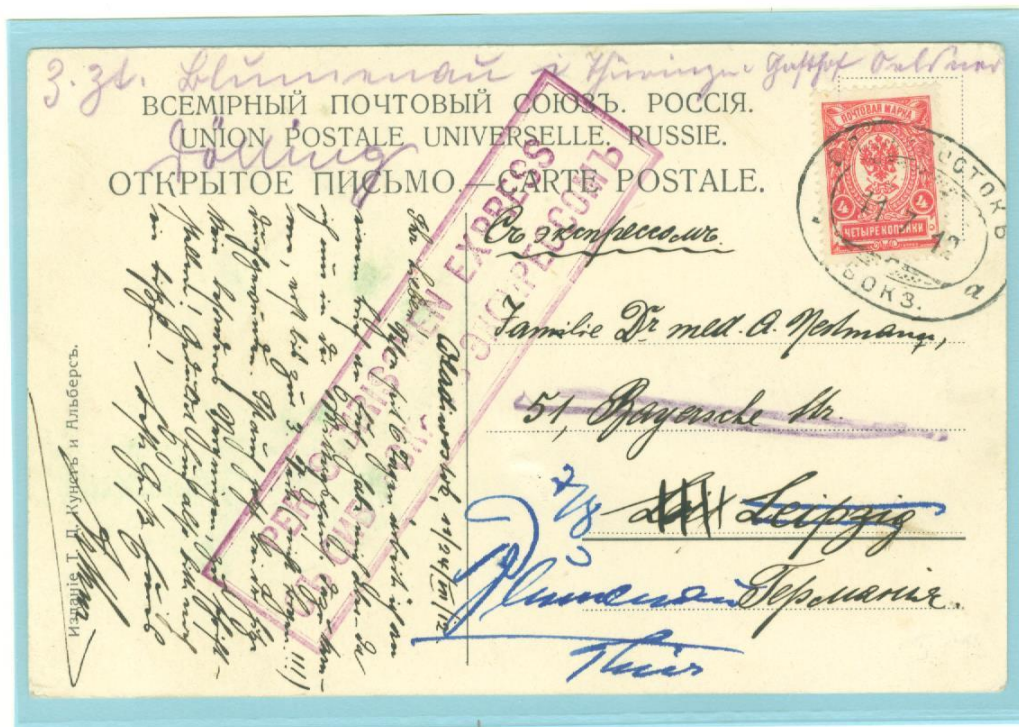
**VLADIVOSTOK-
ORIGIN MAIL TO
ENGLAND**

25 AUGUST 1911

English sailor's mail
written on-board the
"SS Den of Ogil",
mailed at
Vladivostok, Russia,
for Redcar,
Yorkshire, England.

**Route:
Vladivostok-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hamburg-
England**

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



**TRANS-SIBERIAN
EXPRESS T.P.O. MAIL**

11 JULY 1912

Art-Card,
postmarked aboard
'Train 3', sent to
Leipzig/re-directed to
Blumenau, Germany.

**Route:
Vladivostok T.P.O.-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Leipzig-Blumenau**

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

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**North African & European Mail
to China ... 1910-1911**

**CHINA-BOUND MAIL FROM NORTH AFRICA & EUROPE WERE ROUTED
'VIA SIBERIA' AS THE SHORTEST & FASTEST ROUTE TO THE FAR EAST.**

**MAIL FROM EGYPT
TO SHANGHAI**
(Egyptian Post Office)

1 JULY 1910

View card,
postmarked at
Cairo, Egypt, sent to
Shanghai, China, with
route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(British Post Office)
"Shanghai BPO,
29 July 1910"

28-day Transit Time
Probable route:
Port-Tajeio (Egypt)- by
sea to Brindisi-by rail
to Berlin-Moscow-
Irkutsk-Harbin-
Mukden-Dalny-
by sea to Shanghai

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



**RE-DIRECTED MAIL
GERMANY-CHINA**
(German Post Office)

25 DECEMBER 1911

Re-directed mourning cover,
postmarked at Stuttgart,
Germany, for
"Mrs. Max Müller,
German Consul's wife",
at Shanghai, then
re-directed to Hankau, China,
with cachet route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Hankau, 15 January 1912"

21-day Transit Time
Probable route:
Stuttgart-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-
Harbin-Mukden-Dalny-by sea to
Shanghai-Hankau

**10 Pfennig..
Concession-rate for
single-weight
(20 grams) letter-mail from
Germany to a German Post
Office in China**



EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES

1907-1913

Commercial Mail to Germany

1912-1913

THE REDUCED 'CONCESSION RATE FOR MAIL SENT FROM A GERMAN POST OFFICE IN CHINA TO GERMANY' AS WELL AS A MUCH SHORTER TRANSIT TIME (Approx. 15 Days) TO EUROPE. EXPANSION OF MAIL FROM/TO CHINA FROM GERMANY INCREASED.

TIENTSIN-ORIGIN MAIL (German Post Office)

16 SEPTEMBER 1912

Cover, postmarked at Tientsin, China, sent to Berlin, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

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



利亞藥房 The Oriental Pharmacy S. J. Betines & Co. PEKING.

Via Siberia



Frau Margarethe Fischer.

München.

Deutschland.

Görresstr. 41/0.

PEKING-ORIGIN MAIL (German Post Office)

8 FEBRUARY 1913

Cover, postmarked at Peking, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Munich, Germany.

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

4 Cents..

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

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**1912 – Returned/Undeliverable Mail
Germany-Manchuria-China-Germany**



GERMAN-ORIGIN RE-DIRECTED/RETURNED/INSPECTED/RESEALED UNDELIVERABLE MAIL

19 DECEMBER 1912

Cover, postmarked at Zehlendorf, Germany, sent to "Carl Klatt - Custom House" at Harbin, Manchuria, with route endorsement "*Via Siberia*".

Upon arrival at Harbin and finding no "Carl Klatt", the cover was forwarded to Tientsin, China, and, again not finding the recipient, subsequently returned to Zehlendorf where opened & inspected for the sender's address, resealed with a hand-stamp applied indicating the sender could not be determined.

Transit/Arrival Postmarks:

(Reverse)

"Harbin, Russian Post Office, 30 December 1912"
(Gregorian Calendar)

"Tientsin, Chinese Post Office, 27 March 1913"
"Zehlendorf, (manuscript) 11 April (1913)"

Route:

Zehlendorf-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Zehlendorf

20 Pfennig....

Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate



Reverse

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

French Post Office in China
Registered Mail to Italy
1913



REGISTERED MAIL FROM PEKING TO ROME
(French Post Office)

9 APRIL 1913

Registered cover, postmarked at the French Post Office at Peking,
sent to Rome, Italy, with route endorsement
"via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Roma,
27 April 1913"
18-day transit time

Route:
Peking-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Leipzig-Munich-Rome

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

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES

1907-1913

über Sibirien

Frau Lucie Hien

Schw

Stadt



1259

Einschreiben.

**Oversize Registered Letter
German P.O. in China Mail to Germany**

ien. 3



ierundar

hwerin
Mecklenburg

dkrankent. aus.

TIENTSIN-ORIGIN OVERSIZED
(320 x 250mm)
REGISTERED LETTER MAIL
SENT TO GERMANY
(German Post Office)
3 OCTOBER 1913

Registered cover,
postmarked at the German
Post Office at Tientsin, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Schwerin, Germany.
12-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"15 October 1913,
Schwerin (Mecklb.)"

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

18 Cents...
8 Cents..
Double-weight
(260 grams) concession
letter-rate for mail sent to
Germany through a German
Post Office in China +
10 Cents.. registration fee
(Validity: 1 July 1913 -
8 September 1915)

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES

1907-1913

Commercial Mail .. China - USA

1912-1913

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE ENABLED AN EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL MAIL USAGE TO NORTH AMERICA FROM CHINA BECAUSE OF LESS TRANSIT TIME (Approx. 21-25 Days) WITH THE IMPROVED RAIL CONDITIONS AND EXPRESS TRAINS VERSUS THE SEA ROUTES.

**PEKING-ORIGIN
BANK-MAIL TO
WASHINGTON
D.C.**

(German Post Office)

29 MARCH 1912

Bank mail,
postmarked at Peking,
China, sent to
Washington D.C., with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
Washington D.C.,
April 20, 1912"

22-day Transit Time:
Peking-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hamburg-
Philadelphia

**10 Cents..
UPU Single-Weight
International
Letter-Rate.**



**TIENTSIN-ORIGIN
REGISTERED-
MAIL TO
CHICAGO
(German Post Office)**

**28 OCTOBER
1913**

Commercial mail,
postmarked at
Tientsin, China, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia",
sent to
"Montgomery
Ward & Co.",
Chicago.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Chicago, Illinois,
November 22,
1913"

25-Day Transit
Time:
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin- Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-U.S.A.



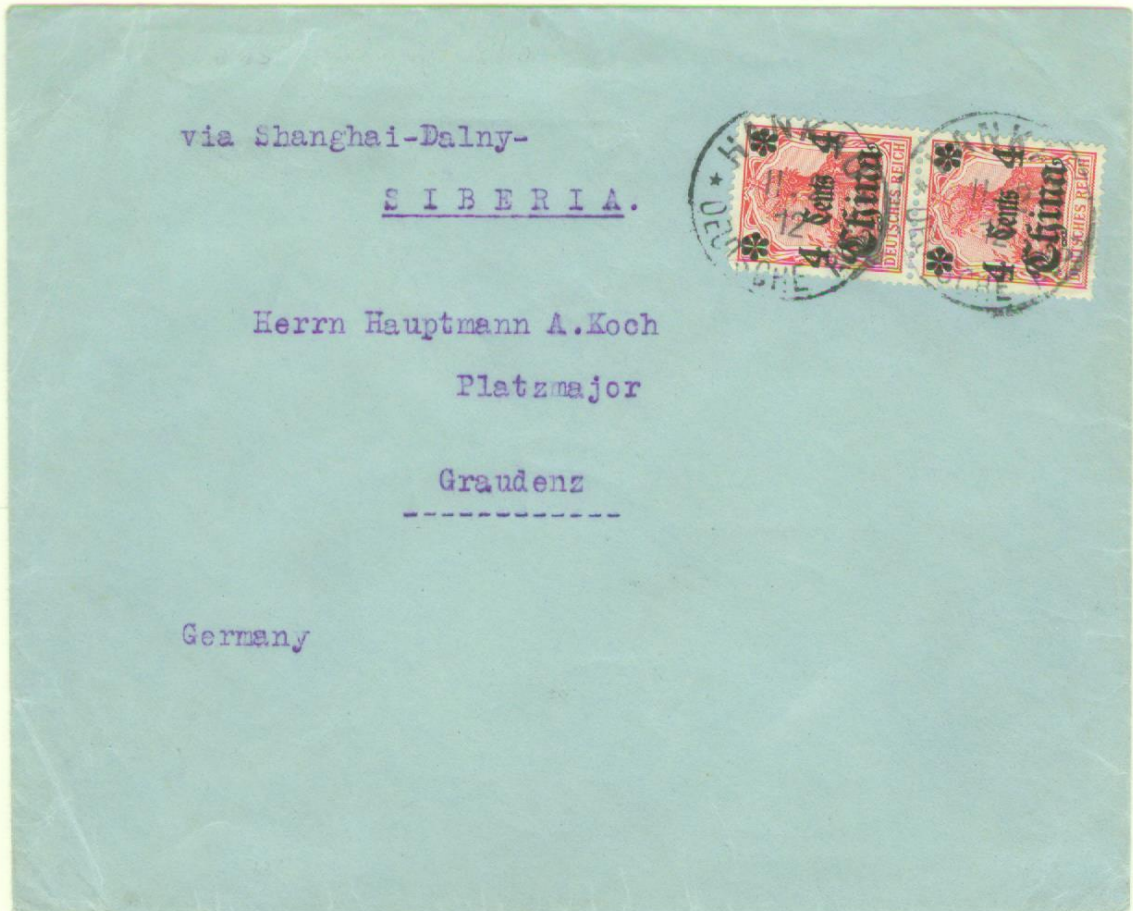
20 Cents...

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

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Central China Mail to Europe
Prior to Opening of the 'Pukow-Tientsin' Railway
1912

PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE 'PUKOW-TIENTSIN RAILWAY' ON 1 JANUARY 1913,
MAIL FROM HANKAU (Hankow) & SHANGHAI IN CENTRAL CHINA HAD TO BE ROUTED
BY COASTAL VESSEL FROM SHANGHAI TO DALNY ON THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA
connecting with the Chinese Eastern & South Manchurian Railways,
part of the trans-Siberian rail network.



COMMERCIAL MAIL SENT TO GERMANY
PRIOR TO OPENING OF THE 'PUKOW-TIENTSIN RAILWAY'
(German Post Office)

11 FEBRUARY 1912

Commercial cover written by "Carlowitz & Company",
postmarked at Hankau, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Shanghai-Dalny-Siberia",
sent to Graudenz, Germany.

Route:

Hankau-Shanghai- (by sea) -Dalny- (by rail) -Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Graudenz.

8 Cents....

Double-weight (20-250 grams) concession rate for
German Offices in China mail sent to Germany

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

**Mail from/to Central China-Europe
'Pukow-Tientsin' Railway
1913**

THE 'PUKOW-TIENTSIN RAIL LINE',
 built by a German-British Consortium between 1909-1912,
CONNECTED WITH THE CHINESE NORTHERN AND EASTERN RAILWAYS,
THE LATTER BEING PART OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK.
 With completion of the 1271m (4131 ft.) bridge across the Hoangho (Yellow) River,
 effective 1 January 1913, German Post Office mail bags from Shanghai and
 Hankau could move by express train to/from Europe over the
 Trans-Siberian Rail Network in as little as 15 days!

**MAIL FROM
GERMANY TO
HANKAU, CHINA**
 (German/Russian Post
Offices)

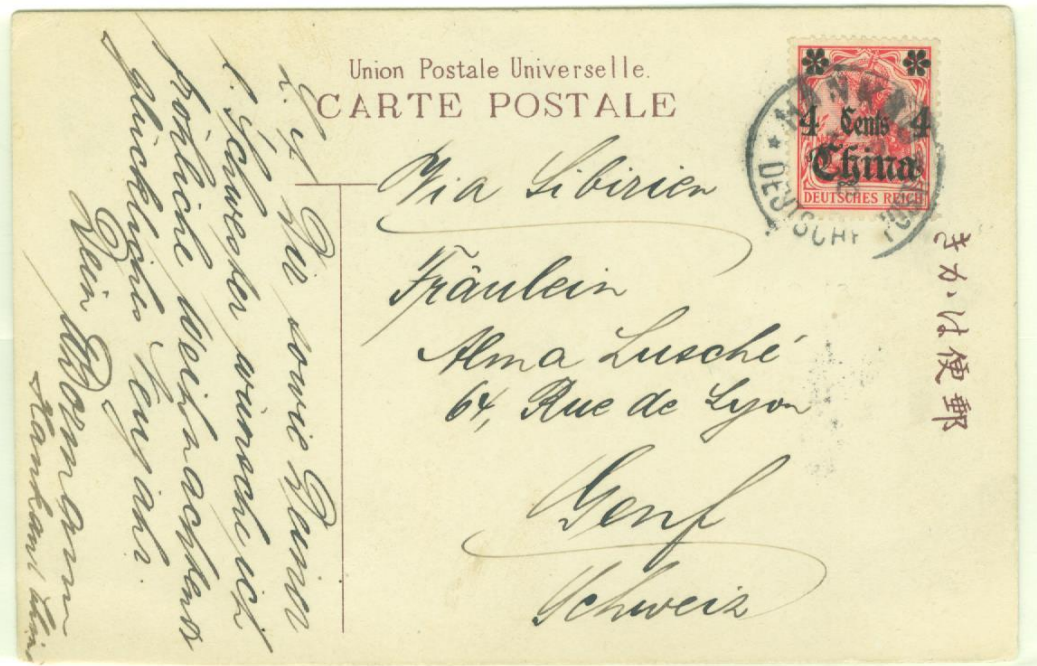
2 JUNE 1913

**Patriotic view-card,
postmarked
Satteldorf,**
 Germany, sent to a
 German Consulate
 employee at
 Hankau, with route
 endorsement
 "via Siberia".

**Arrival Postmark:
"Hankau, Russian
Post Office China,
8 June 1913
(Julian Calendar)
= 20 June"**

**18-day Transit Time:
Satteldorf-Stuttgart-
Berlin-Moscow-
Irkutsk-Harbin-
Mukden-Tientsin-
Hankau**

**5 Pfennig..
Concession
postcard-rate for
mail to a German
Post Office in China.**



**HANKAU-ORIGIN MAIL
TO SWITZERLAND**
 (German Post Office)

4 DECEMBER 1913

**View-card,
postmarked at Hankau,
China, sent to Geneva,
Switzerland, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia".**

**Route:
Hankau-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Suttgart-
Basle (Basel)-Geneva**

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

**EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913**

1913 ..

**German Embassy Medical Doctor
'Via Siberia' Correspondence
Japan-Germany**

**'ENROUTE TO TAKE-UP
POSITION' AT TOKYO
MAIL**

12 SEPTEMBER 1913
(German Ship P.O. Mail)

Cover, sent by German Embassy "Dr. Ohse", postmarked on-board a "Norddeutscher Lloyd" vessel of their "Far-East Main Line", with route endorsement "Via Siberia", sent to Berlin, Germany,

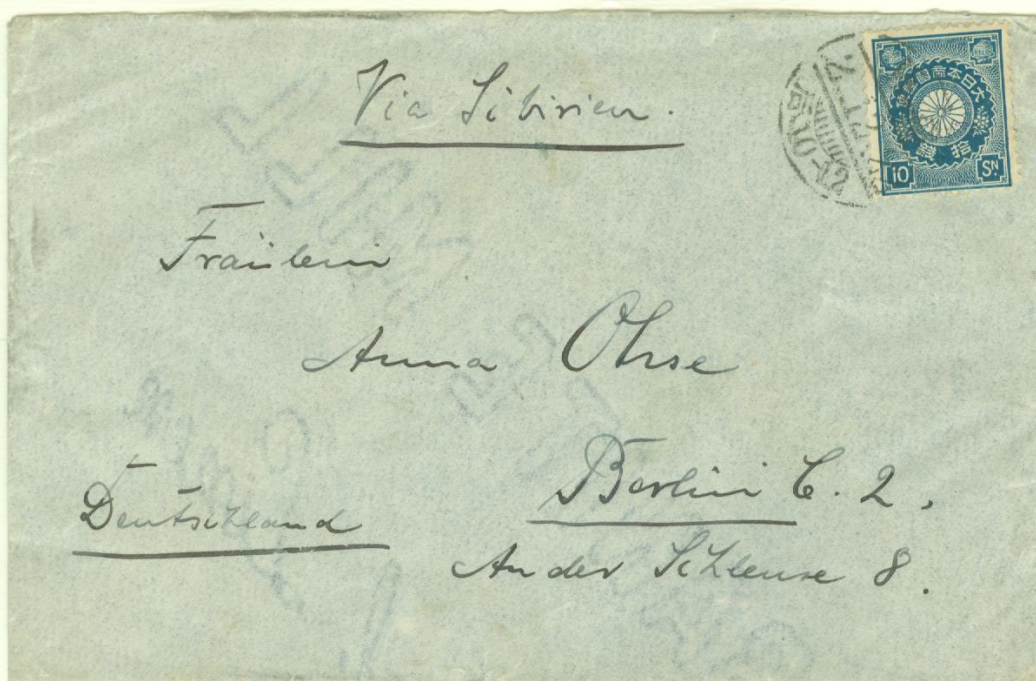
Transit & Arrival Marks:
"Kobe, Japan,
12. September 1913"
"(Berlin)

26/27 September 1913"
15-day transit time.

Route:

Kobe-Tsuruga- (by sea)
..Vladivostok (by rail) -
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin

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



**EMBASSY DOCTOR
MAIL AFTER ARRIVAL
IN TOKYO**
(Japan Post Office)

23 DECEMBER 1913

Cover, sent by German Embassy "Dr. Ohse" at Tokyo, Japan, to Berlin, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Route:

Tokyo-Tsuruga (by sea) -
Vladivostok (by rail) -
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin

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

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

Registered Mail
Japan to Germany
1913



2 DECEMBER
1913

Registered cover,
sent by German
Embassy "Dr.
Ohse",
postmarked at
Tokyo, Japan,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia",
to Berlin

Arrival Postmark:
"Berlin C2,
17 December
1913"

15-day transit
time.

Route..
Tokyo-Tsuruga..
(by sea) to
Vladivostok
(by rail) to Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin

50 Sen...
30 Sen..
Triple-weight
UPU International
Letter-Rate
+ 20 Sen..
Registration-fee

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1907-1913

German Post Office Control Mail
1912-1913

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

to be completed by the recipient post office and returned to Berlin.
Information requested: date of receipt, bag number and transit time.

GERMAN POST
OFFICE AT HANKAU

27 MARCH 1912

Manuscript
completed card
indicating:

"Bag 28 shipped on
4 March received
on 21 March.. 17
days transit time"

Route:

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

Free-frank post
office official mail



Postkarte

An

das Kaiserliche Bahnpostamt Nr. 18

Postsache.

Berlin O. 17.



GERMAN POST
OFFICE AT PEKING

16 MAY 1913

Pre-printed hand-
completed card
indicating:

"Bag 52 shipped on
1 May received on 16
May .. 15 days transit
time"

Route:

Berlin-Moscow-
Irkutsk-Harbin-
Mukden-Peking

Free-frank post office
official mail

V. WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1914 .. Pre-War Mail

UNTIL JULY 1914, MAIL ENDORSED 'Via Siberia' TRAVELLED THE HERETOFORE SOUTHERN 'TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK' ROUTE, since the northern 'All-Russian Territory' Route, i.e. Vladivostok-Amur River Line Route, would first be completed in 1916.

TIENTSIN-ORIGIN MAIL TO SWITZERLAND
 (German Post Office)

10 FEBRUARY 1914

Commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin, China, sent to Zürich, Switzerland, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark: "Zürich, 23 February 1914"

13-Day Transit Time:
 Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Basel-Zürich

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



TSINGTAU, KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY
 (German Post Office)

30 MARCH 1914

Viewcard, sent by "Garrison Base Manager Brandt", postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Stassfurt, Germany.

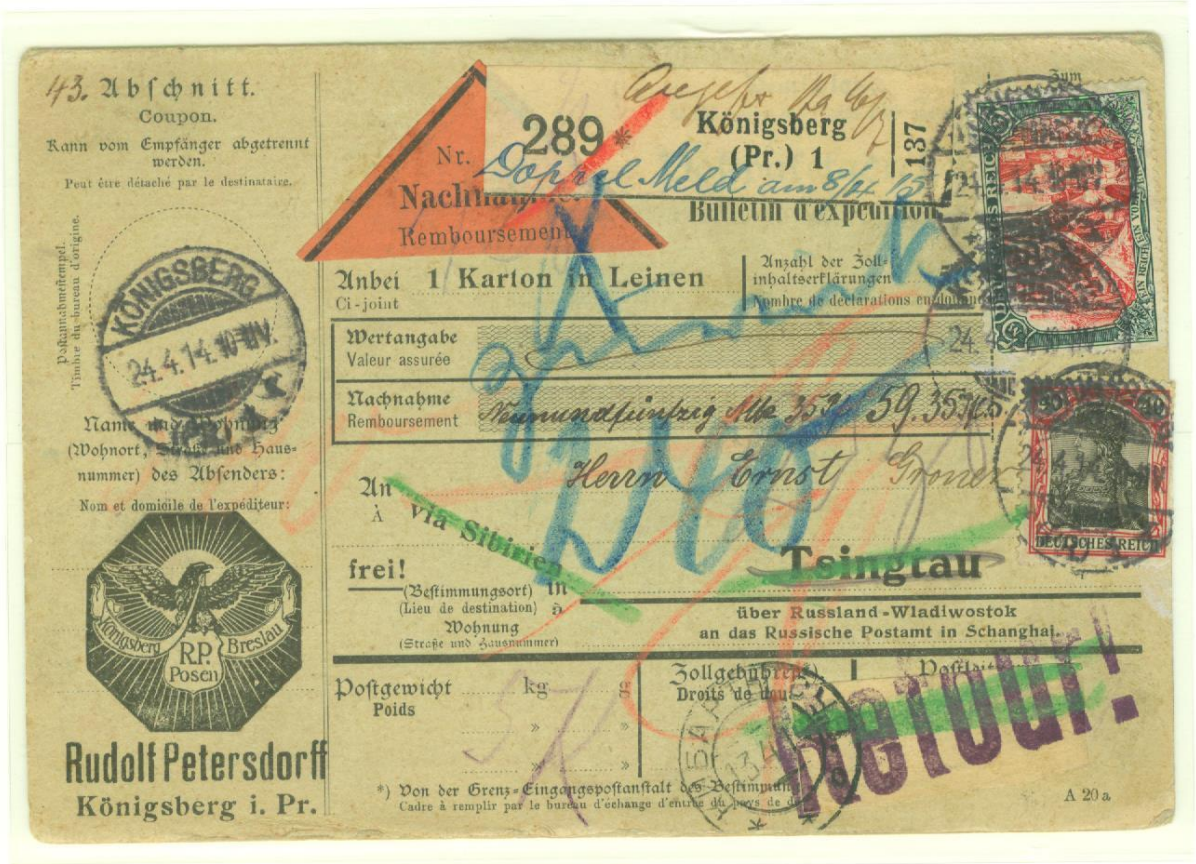
Route:
 Tsingtau-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Stassfurt

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

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1914 .. Pre-War Mail
Unclaimed Parcel Post with
Post-War Return to Germany**

**COMMERCIAL GERMAN – KIAUTSCHOU C.O.D. PARCEL POST
RETURNED 'VIA AMERICA' TO GERMANY IN 1920**



24 APRIL 1914

5-Kilo C.O.D. Parcel Post, postmarked at Königsberg, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China, endorsed "Double Fee on 8 April 1915", subsequently (1920) marked "Return", with Postage-Paid Return-Postmark at Königsberg on 28 July 1920.

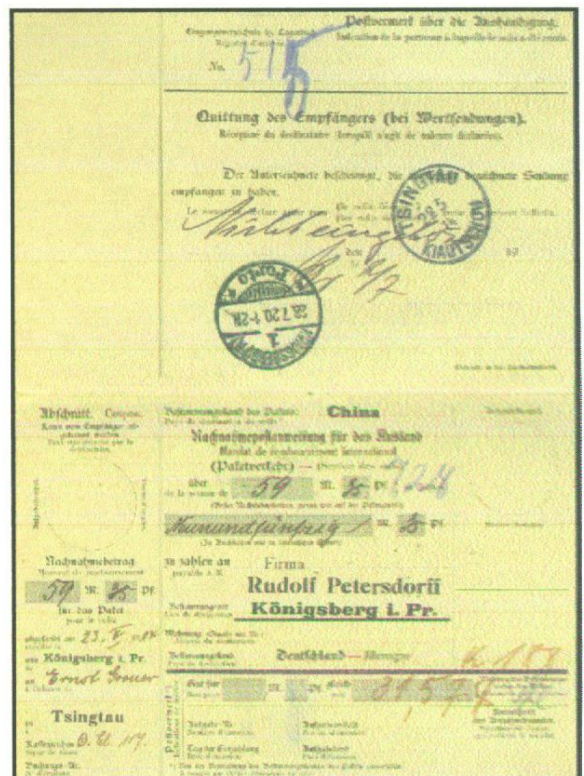
**Transit & Other Postmarks:
"(Russian Post Office Railway Transfer Point),
13 April 1914 (Julian Calendar) =
26 April 1914"**

**"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,
28 May 1914"**

**"Königsberg (Porto)
28 July 1920"**

**Eastbound Route:
Königsberg-Eyduhnen-Moscow-Irkutsk-Manchouli-Harbin-
Vladivostok (by sea to)-Shanghai-Tsingtau**

**RM 5.40...
RM 4.80 5-Kilo Parcel Post +
0.60 C.O.D. Fee
+
RM 2.00 Return Fee.**



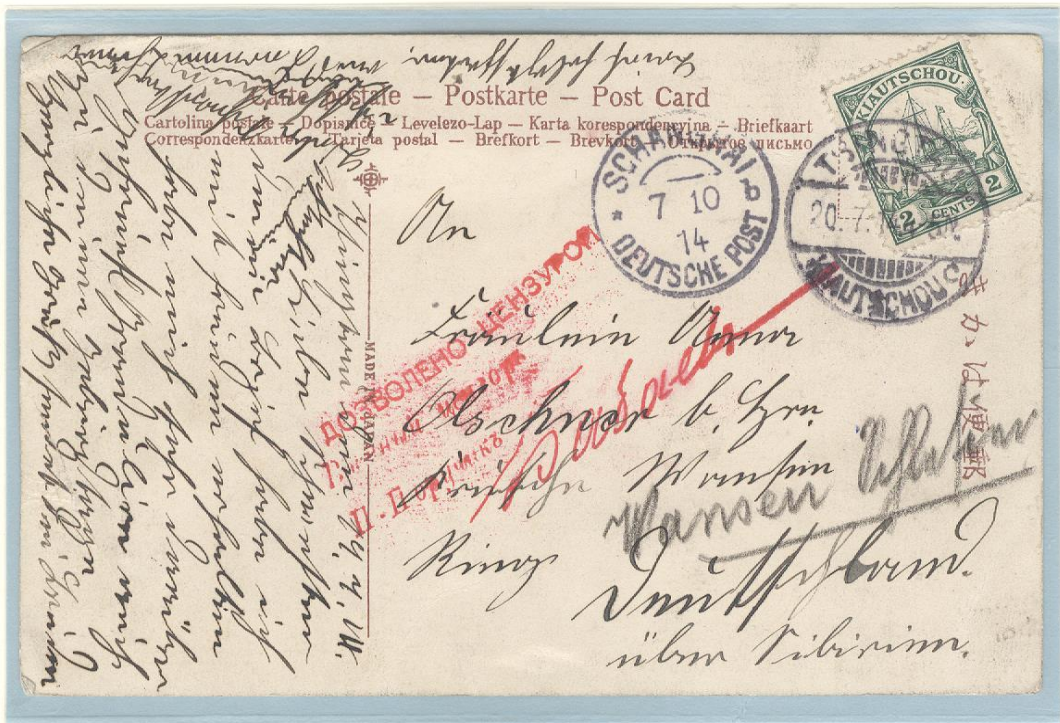
Reverse

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. П. Оручика.
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, Kiautschou, with route endorsement
 "über Siberien" = "Via Siberia",
 sent to Brieg, Germany, intercepted on 1 August, held, censored and
 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**

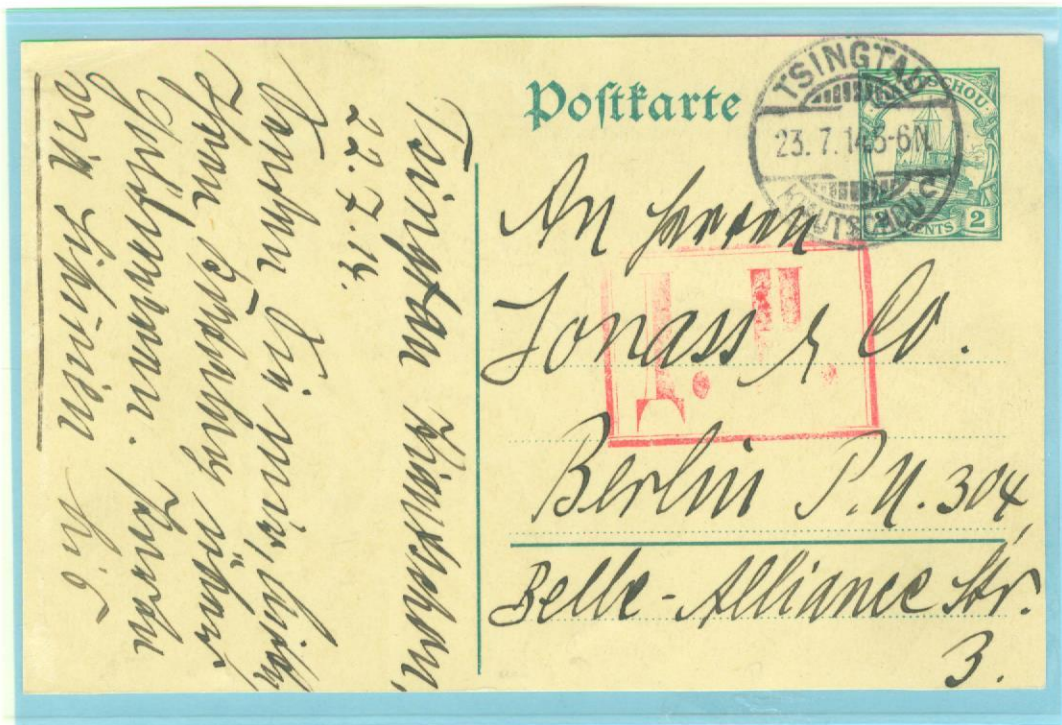
2 Cents...

Postcard rate for mail sent to Germany.

KIAUTSCHOU ORIGIN MAIL POSTMARKED 22- 23 JULY 1914,
ABOARD MOSCOW-BOUND 'TRAIN XI' WAS INTERCEPTED ABOUT 2
AUGUST, RE-ROUTED TO VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA, CENSORED, AND
FORWARDED 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.



"Permitted by the Censor"



KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN COMMERCIAL MAIL
TO GERMANY

23 JULY 1914

Postal stationery card, postmarked at Kiautschou, China, endorsed
"Via Siberia",
on route intercepted, censored at Vladivostok, Russia,
forwarded to Shanghai, & transferred to the American Post Office for routing to
Berlin, Germany, via the United States of America.

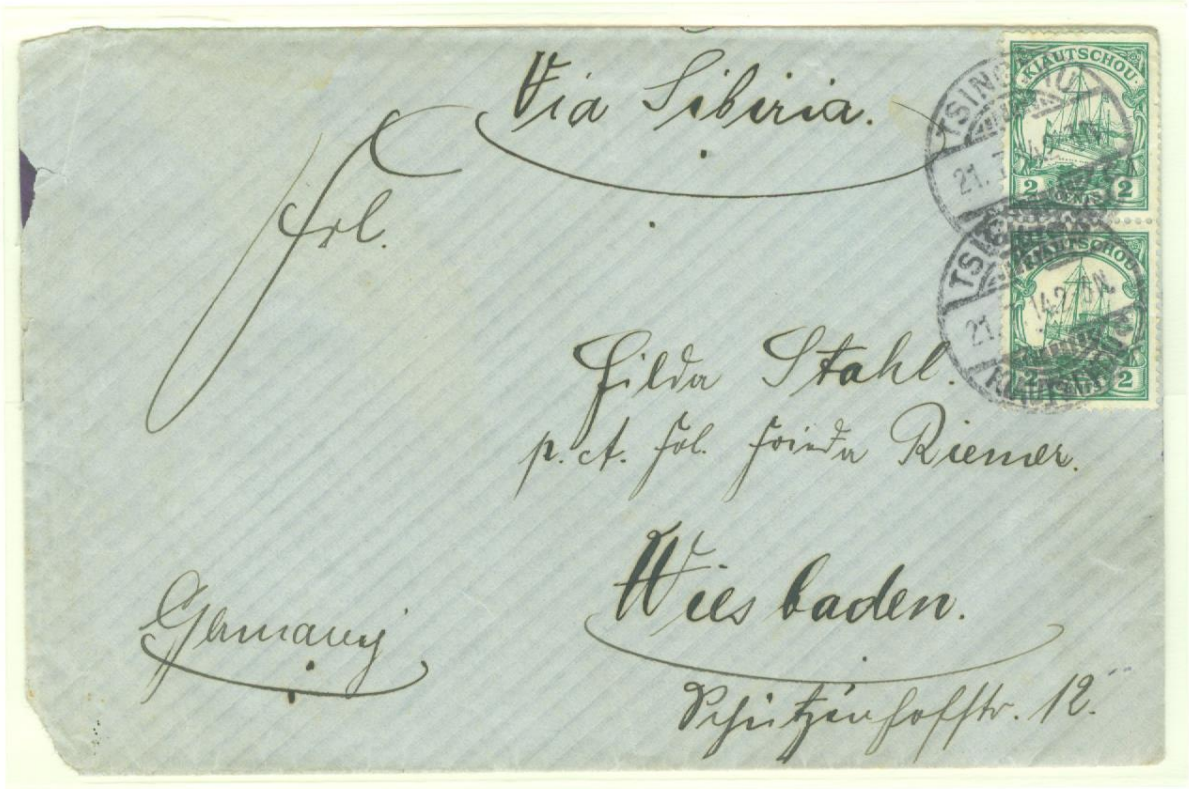
Route:

Kiautschou-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tinetsin-Changchun-Harbin ... intercepted

2 Cents...

Concession postal-card rate for mail sent to Germany.

VERY LITTLE IN-TRANSIT MAIL ABOARD 'TRAIN IX',
(leaving Tsingtau, Kiautschou, on 21 July 1914,
last train to Germany before outbreak of war)
INTERCEPTED AT MOSCOW ON 31 JULY, WAS NOT CENSORED...
re-directed to the German Post Office at Shanghai in October 1914
(Kiautschou was occupied by Japanese Forces), routed to America through the
American Post Office using the Pacific Mail Steamship Company ..
Shanghai-San Francisco- (overland) New York,
Hamburg-America Line to Germany.



TSINGTAU KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY
(German Post Office)

21 JULY 1914

Cover, postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou,
route endorsement "*Via Sibiria*", sent to
Wiesbaden, Germany, with mail-sack intercepted on 1 August, held, un-censored,
re-directed to Shanghai by the Russian authorities.

Arrival in Germany:
(Reverse)

Manuscript notation: "Received at the beginning of December"
(est. 8 December 1914)

Route:

Tsingtau-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow.....then:
Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Changchun-Tientsin-Peking-Pukow-Shanghai

4 Cents...
Concession-rate,
single-weight (20 grams) letter-mail sent to Germany.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1914 .. Kiautschou
Soldier's Mail**

**SOLDIER'S MAIL FROM KIAUTSCHOU WAS ONLY POSSIBLE
DURING AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1914,
PRIOR TO THE OCCUPATION BY JAPANESE FORCES,
SENT TO SHANGHAI FOR FORWARDING TO GERMANY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.**



Cert. Jäschke-Lantelme

KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN FIELDPOST MAIL TO GERMANY

31 AUGUST 1914

**Free-frank fieldpost stationery card,
postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China,
forwarded to Shanghai to the American Post Office
for routing to Berlin, Germany,
via the United States of America.**

Route:

Kiautschou-Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg-Halle

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1914 .. Eastbound Mail
Austro-Hungary to Japan
In-Transit & Censored

In-transit mail sent from 'Zagreb' (Croatia/Austro-Hungary) in July
with arrival at 'Vladivostok' after the outbreak of war between
Austria-Hungary & Russia on 6 August 1914
with Russian censorship and release for transit to Japan.



LATE PRE-WAR EUROPE-ORIGIN MAIL TO JAPAN
(Hungarian Post Office)

(?) July 1914

Cover postmarked at Zagreb, Croatia, Austro-Hungary, with route endorsement
"via Siberia",
sent to Kobe, Japan, with interception on/about 6 August, held,
censored (purple censor marking)
and released for transit to Japan by the Russian authorities

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Kobe, 28 August..."

Route:
Zagreb-Vienna-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Vladivostok.. (by sea) .. Tsuruga-Kobe

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

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

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 sea routes were blocked by the British along with any high-sea
inspections of any and all vessels.



Cert. Steuer

1914 REGISTERED CHINA-ORIGIN GERMANY-BOUND MAIL
(German Post Office)

27 AUGUST 1914

**Registered cover, postmarked at Shanghai, China, probably routed aboard
a German-flag vessel around the Cape of Africa
(Suez Canal closed to German-flag vessels). 57-day transit time.**

Arrival in Germany:
(Reverse)
"Bad Münster, 23 October 1914"

14 Cents...
**4 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams) Concession letter-rate for German Post Office
in China mail sent to Germany + 10 Cents... registration fee.**

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1914 .. Westbound Mail
China to Scandinavia**

**MAIL FROM CHINA TO SCANDINAVIA WAS POSSIBLE DURING WORLD WAR I,
SINCE THE DESTINATION COUNTRIES WERE NON-BELIGERENT, POLITICALLY NEUTRAL
WITH THE BRANCH RAIL LINE TO ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, BY SEA BEYOND.**

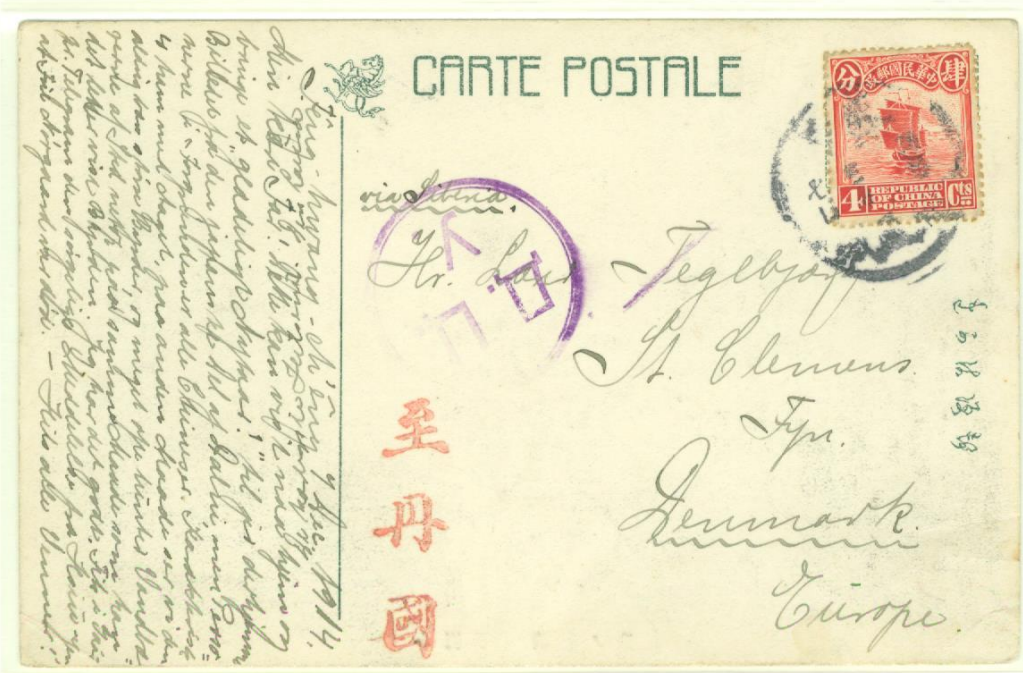
MAIL TO SWEDEN
(Chinese Post Office)

14 NOVEMBER 1914

View-card,
Russian-uncensored,
postmarked at
Ongcheng, China,
with route endorsement
"via Siberia"
sent to Stockholm, Sweden.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
"Tsinan,
18 November, 1914"
"Manchouli,
26 November 1914"
"Stockholm,
12 December 1914"

Route:
Ongcheng-Tsinan-Peking-
Mukden-Harbin-Manchouli-
Irkutsk-Omsk-Jakatarinburg-
Wjatka-St. Petersburg-
(coastal steamer to) Sweden.



MAIL TO DENMARK
(Chinese Post Office)

7 DECEMBER 1914

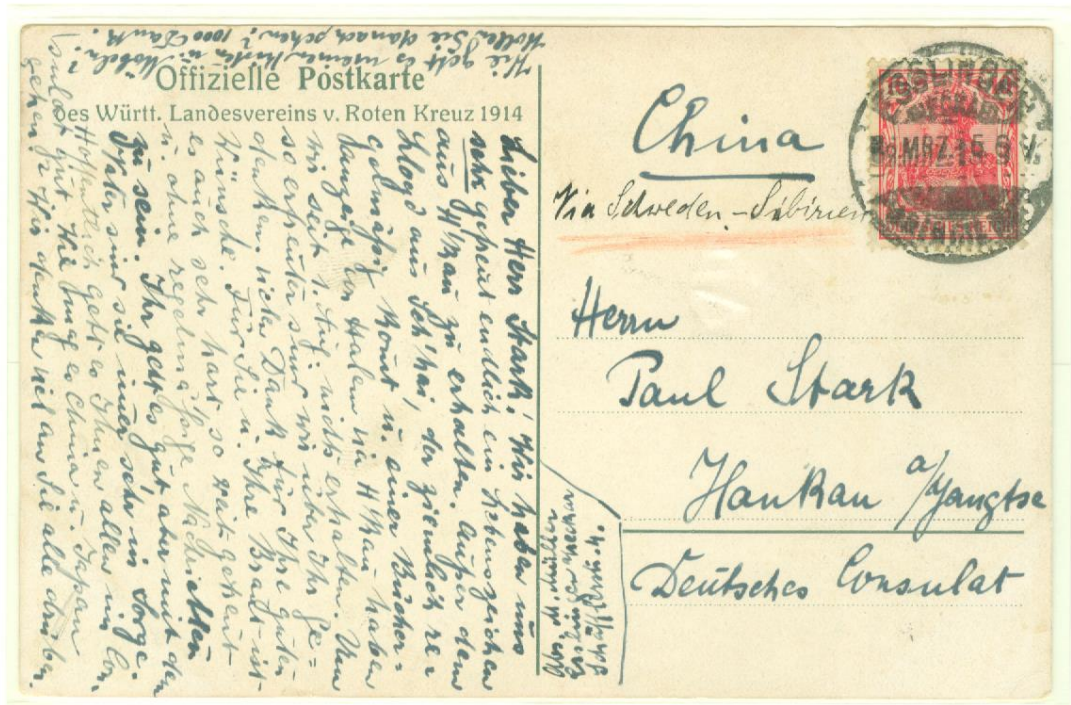
View-card,
Russian censored,
postmarked at
Feng-hwang-cheng,
China,
with route endorsement
"via Siberia" &
(in red)
"Denmark",
to the Island of Fyn,
Denmark.

Probable Route:
Feng-hwang-cheng-
Mukden-Harbin-
Manchouli-Irkutsk-Omsk-
Jakatarinburg-Wjatka-St.
Petersburg-
(coastal steamer to) Denmark.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1915 .. Germany-China Mail
via Sweden-Siberia**

THE GERMAN POST OFFICE (REICHSPOST) ATTEMPTED TO FIND AND USE VARIOUS ROUTES TO MOVE ITS MAIL TO & FROM CHINA, ONE OF WHICH WAS TO UTILIZE HAVING MAIL INSERTED INTO MAIL BAGS OF A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, SWEDEN.



GERMAN-ORIGIN DIPLOMAT-WIFE'S MAIL TO CHINA VIA SWEDEN-SIBERIA

22 MARCH 1915

**Patriotic view-card, postmarked at Esslingen, Württemberg, Germany,
with route endorsement**

"Via Sweden-Siberia"

sent to the German Consulate at Hankau, China.

**Sender is "Marga Müller", wife of a German diplomat,
who together with her husband spent years in China, asking..
"the status of her garden and furniture"!**

Route:

**Esslingen-Stuttgart-Berlin- by sea.. to Sweden & St. Petersburg.. by rail.. -Omsk-Irkutsk-
Harbin-Changchun-Tientsin-Pukow-Hankow**

10 Pfennig...

UPU International Postcard-Rate.

MAIL FROM JAPAN OR KOREA TO NEUTRAL SWITZERLAND WAS
POSSIBLE 'VIA SIBERIA' BY WAY OF
ST. PETERSBURG (RUSSIA) WITH SUBSEQUENT SHIP TRANSIT TO
SWEDEN-DENMARK FOR FORWARDING BY RAIL TO SWITZERLAND.

J. M. SANDERS, Oura, Kataoka, No. 7, Nagasaki, Japan.



VIA SIBERIA

Messieurs Lunstein & Co.
50 Rue du Marché
Berne.
Suisse.



CENSORED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO SWITZERLAND
(Japanese Post Office)

28 JUNE 1915

Commercial-letter, postmarked Nagasaki, Japan,
with route endorsement "*Via Siberia*",
Russian-censored (reverse & front markings) at Petrograd (St. Petersburg),
sent to Bern, Switzerland.
34-day transit time.

Arrival Marking:
(Reverse)
"Bern, 1 August 1915"

Probable War Route:
Nagasaki -Tsuruga (Japan)-Vladivostok (Russia)...
by rail to Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg...
by sea Sweden -Denmark & rail to Berlin-Basel-Zurich-Bern

10 Sen... Japanese Postage
UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate.

RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN KOREA ENDED WITH THE 1905 TREATY OF
PORTSMOUTH ENDING THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR AND RECOGNIZING
KOREA AS A JAPANESE AREA OF INFLUENCE UNTIL EVENTUAL
FORMAL ANNEXATION BY JAPAN IN 1910.



CATHOLIC-MISSION/KOREA-ORIGIN MAIL TO FRANCE
(Japanese Post Office)

4 SEPTEMBER 1915

Missionary cover, postmarked Taikou, Korea,
with route endorsement

"Via Siberia"

sent to Paris, France. 29-day transit time.

Transit Markings:

(Reverse)

"Yokohama, Japan, 5 September 1915"

"Paris, 3 October 1915"

Probable War Route:

Taikou-Fusan (Pusan, Korea)-Yokohama (Japan)-Vladivostok (Russia)-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg-
(by sea) to Sweden & France- (by rail) to Paris

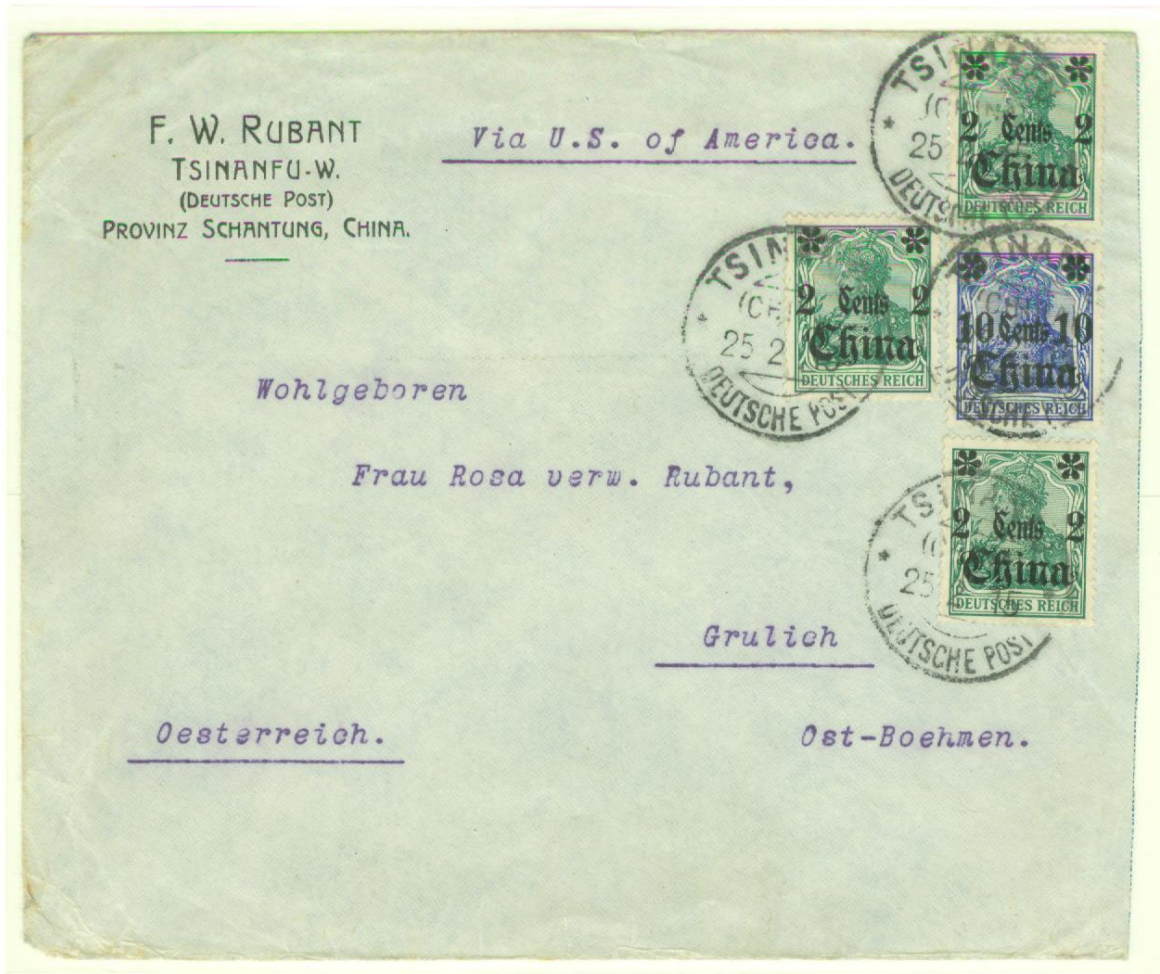
10 Sen... Japanese Postage
UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1915.. China-Germany Mail
'via United States of America'**

Along with (August 1914) non-use of the Trans-Siberian Rail Network, by 1915 a British naval blockade also prevented mail from reaching Germany by direct sea routes, including use of neutral-flag vessels, which were often boarded by the British Navy removing German-bound mail.

**THE GERMAN POST OFFICE (Reichspost) USED THE ONLY REMAINING ALTERNATIVE
BY SENDING MAIL 'Via America' THROUGH THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.**



**CHINA-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY
VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(German Post Office)**

25 FEBRUARY 1915

**Cover, postmarked at Tsinanfu, China,
with route endorsement
"Via U.S. of America"
to Grulich, East-Bohemia, Austria**

**Route:
Tsinanfu-Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Germany/Austria**

**16 Cents...
Double-weight (20-40 grams) letter concession-rate
for mail to Germany or Austria.**

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1915 .. Occupied Kiautschou
Civilian-Mail to Germany**

**BY NOVEMBER 1914, JAPANESE FORCES FULLY OCCUPIED GERMAN
KIAUTSCHOU WITH POWs MOVED TO CAMPS IN JAPAN.**

**CIVILIAN MAIL TO GERMANY WAS TOLERATED WITH MAIL FORWARDED
TO SHANGHAI FOR FORWARDING TO AMERICA & EUROPE
CONTINUING UNTIL FEBRUARY 1917,**

**when American relations with Germany declined with the sinking of
the SS Lusitania by a German submarine on 3 February 1917.**

GERMAN CIVILIAN WARTIME MAIL THROUGH THE JAPANESE POST OFFICE



4 NOVEMBER 1915
(Japanese Post Office)

**Family Photo-card, postmarked & Japanese-censored at Tsingtau,
Kiautschou, sent through the Japanese Post Office in China ,
'Via America', to Koblenz, Germany.**

**Probable War Route:
Kiautschou-Yokohama-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg-Koblenz**

**4 Japanese Sen..
UPU International Postcard-Rate.**

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1916.. China-Netherlands
British-Censored Mail
'via United States of America'

EUROPEAN-BOUND CENSORED COMMERCIAL MAIL THROUGH
THE AMERICAN POST OFFICE



18 NOVEMBER (1916)
(American Post Office)

British-censored commercial mail,
postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route
endorsement

*"via America" & "From New York per
Holland-America Line"*

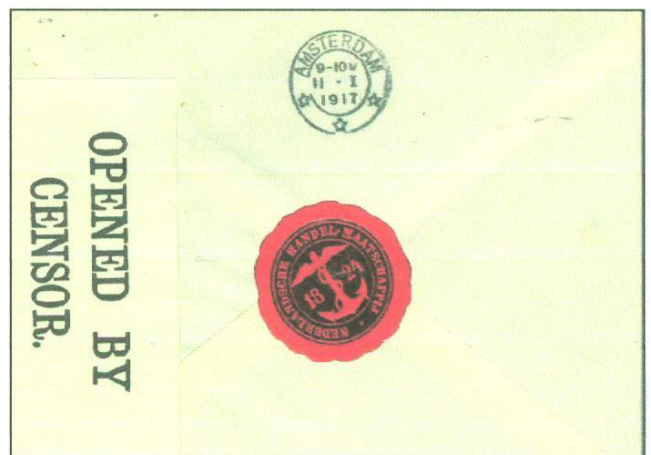
sent to (neutral) Amsterdam, Netherlands.
54-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)

"Amsterdam, 11 January 1917"

Route:

Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-
by sea to Amsterdam.



Reverse

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

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1915.. Germany-China Mail
'via United States of America'**

The United States of America remained a neutral country during World War I until March 1917 when relations between Germany & the United States were broken.

**CHINA-BOUND, OR ORIGIN MAIL, EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE GERMAN & AMERICAN
POST OFFICES USING 'THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY' SERVICE
BETWEEN SHANGHAI-SAN FRANCISCO-SHANGHAI CONTINUED
UNTIL SUCH SERVICE ENDED IN SEPTEMBER 1915**

Mail Route:

**Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Germany, or
Germany-New York-San Francisco-Shanghai**

In January 1916, 91 sacks of mail 'Via America' arrived at Shanghai from Germany through the U.S. Naval Ship 'Galveston' from Manila, which supposedly was the last mail delivery 'via America' of German-origin mail.



**CHINA-BOUND MAIL FROM GERMANY
VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

28 AUGUST 1915

Postal Stationery card, postmarked at Hanover, Germany,
with route endorsement

"Via New York" (red)

to the "Inspector General of Customs Statistical Office"
at Shanghai, China.

German censorship marking **in red.**

10 Cents...

UPU International Postcard-Rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1916.. Japan to Europe
Via 'Northern Trans-Siberian Rail Route'
Printed-Matter Mail**

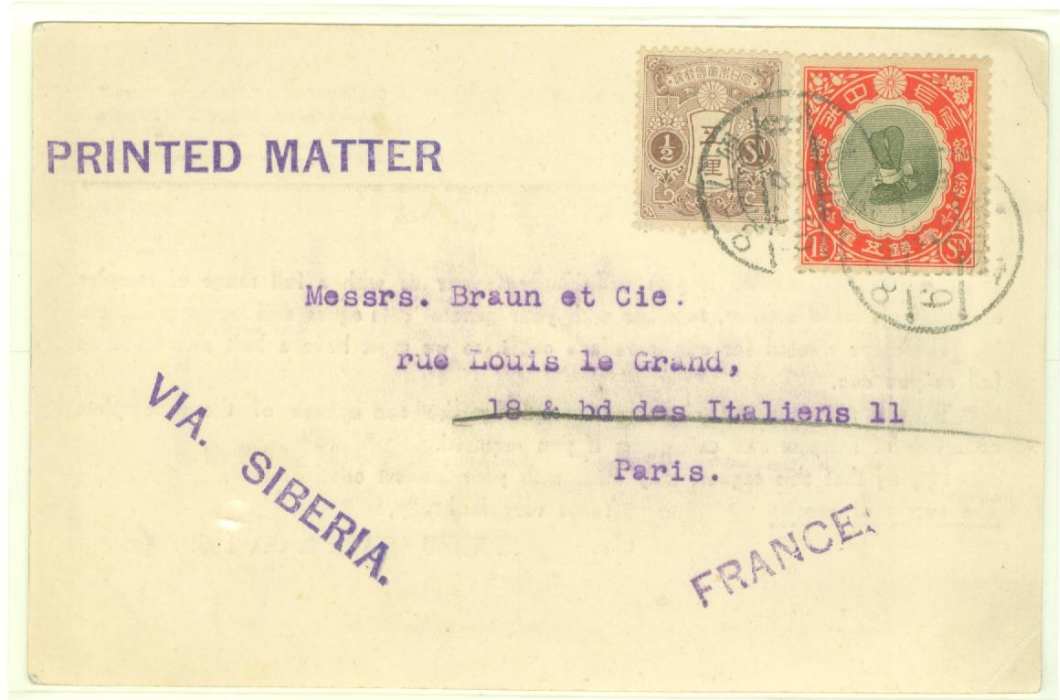
Until July 1914, mail endorsed "Via Siberia" traveled the heretofore 'Southern Trans-Siberian Rail Network Route'.
BY 1916, THE 'NORTHERN ALL-RUSSIAN-TERRITORY TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE' WAS OPERATIONAL ENABLING MAIL TO MOVE FROM VLADIVOSTOK-CHARBAROWSK-MISSOWOJA-IRKUTSK to MOSCOW or ST. PETERSBURG

**JAPAN-ORIGIN
MAIL TO FRANCE**
(Japan Post Office)

18 FEBRUARY 1916

Un-censored commercial postcard, postmarked at Tokyo, Japan, sent to Paris, France, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Probable Route:
Tokyo-Tsuruga.. by sea to Vladivostok-Missowoja-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg.. by sea to France.



**JAPAN-ORIGIN MAIL
TO SWITZERLAND**
(Japan Post Office)
29 OCTOBER 1916
(Japan Post Office)

Russian-censored view-card postmarked Hamamatsu, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Schlieren, Switzerland. 58-day transit time w/censorship.

Transit Mark:
"Petrograd,
7 November 1916"

Manuscript Mark:
"26 December 1916"

Route:
Hamamatsu-Tsuruga.. by sea to Vladivostok-Missowoja-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg.. by sea to France.. by rail to Switzerland

HOLLAND (NETHERLANDS) WAS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY DURING
WORLD WAR I WITH RUSSIAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES PERMITTING
FAR-EAST MAIL TO/FROM HOLLAND USING THE
TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK.



**RUSSIAN-CENSORED REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL
FROM PEKING TO THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS**
(Chinese Post Office)

31 MARCH 1916

**Censored & sealed registered
commercial mail ("Mines of Lincheng"), postmarked
at Peking, China, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to the Hague, Netherlands.
54-day transit time w/censorship.**

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Gravenhage, 24 May 1916"

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Manchouli, 2 April 1916"

Route:
Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg..
by sea to Holland

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

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1917 - 1920

1916 .. China - Switzerland
Commercial Mail.. French Censorship

REGISTERED FRENCH-CENSORED
TRIPLE-WEIGHT
COMMERCIAL MAIL
CHINA TO SWITZERLAND

1 NOVEMBER 1916
(French Post Office)

Registered commercial mail from the Shanghai-branch of "Jardine Matheson & Company", postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia", French military censorship upon arrival in France, sent to Lausanne, Switzerland.

41-day transit time.



Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Lausanne,
12 December
1916"

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Omsk-Moscow-
St. Petersburg-
(by sea) to
France- (by train)
to Lausanne.

32 Cents...
10+6+6 Cents..
Triple-weight
(40-60 grams)
letter-rate +
10 Cents..
Registration fee

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1916 .. China-U.S.A.
'Via Siberia'
At Sea Intercepted Mail

Although some "Via Siberia" endorsed-mail may have had to be routed by sea to reach its final destination, such mail could have been intercepted, confiscated or delayed by a German "raider ship" sailing the Baltic or North Atlantic.

ONE SUCH "RAIDER" SHIP WAS THE "MÖVE" WHICH STOPPED SHIPS AT SEA CONFISCATING FRENCH, BRITISH AND OTHER COMBATANT COUNTRY MAIL FROM THOSE SHIPS.



SHANGHAI BANK MAIL, BRITISH CENSORED,
GERMAN-INTERCEPTED/DELAYED ON ROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

29 JULY 1916

Commercial bank mail, postmarked at the
French Post Office at Shanghai, with route endorsement
"Par Transsiberien" sent to New York City.

Cachet Hand-Stamp:
"Part of a Mail Captured by Germans and Delayed"

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Tientsin-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg..
by sea to the United States of America.

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

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1916 .. Kiautschou
Prisoner-of-War Mail to Germany

German capitulation of Kiautschou to Japanese Forces in October 1914, resulted in 4710 German Prisoners-of-War transferred to various camps located in Japan.

SINCE THE 'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTE FOR P.O.W. MAIL TO GERMANY WAS NOT POSSIBLE, MAIL WAS ROUTED BY SEA TO/THROUGH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GERMANY

JAPANESE & AMERICAN CENSORED GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL
JAPAN 'VIA AMERICA' TO GERMANY



8 DECEMBER 1916

**Free-frank, 'Oita' Japanese Camp censored cover (Censor: Utsumi),
postmarked at Kobe, Japan, via America, sent to Hamburg.**

Route:
Oita P.O.W. Camp-Kobe-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1917.. China-Netherlands Mail
'Via Siberia'
Russian-Censored**



**RUSSIAN-CENSORED REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL
FROM SHANGHAI TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS**
(Russian Post Office)

24 NOVEMBER 1917

Censored & sealed registered commercial mail, postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Amsterdam, Netherlands. 79-day transit time w/censorship.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Amsterdam, 14 March 1918"

Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg.. by sea to Holland



Reverse

35 Kopeck..
20 Kopeck. UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams)
Letter-Rate
+ 15 Kopeck. Registration fee

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1917.. China to Scandinavia
Russian-Censored Mail

MAIL FOR NEUTRAL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE WITH SUCH MAIL FORWARDED TO ST. PETERSBURG (NOT MOSCOW) FOR SEA MOVEMENT TO DESTINATION.

**PEKING-ORIGIN
 MAIL TO
 DENMARK**
 (Russian Post Office)

21 DECEMBER 1916
 (Julian Calendar)

Russian censored
 view-card,
 postmarked at
 Peking, with route
 endorsement
 "Via Siberia"
 sent to
 Copenhagen,
 Denmark.

Route:
 Peking-Mukden-
 Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-
 St. Petersburg..
 (by sea) to Denmark.

4 Kopeck..
UPU International
Postcard-Rate.



PEKING-ORIGIN MAIL TO SWEDEN
 (Chinese Post Office)



16 JANUARY 1917

Russian-censored re-directed
 cover, postmarked at Peking
 with route endorsement
 "Via Siberia"
 sent to Norrköping, Sweden.
 65-day transit time
 w/censorship.

Transit Mark:
 (Reverse)
 "Petrograd,
 23 February 1917"

Arrival Postmark:
 (Reverse)
 "22 March 1917"

Route:
 Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
 Omsk-St. Petersburg..
 (by sea) to Sweden.

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

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1917.. China to Neutral Sweden
Russian-Censored Mail

CHINA-ORIGIN MAIL TO SWEDEN
(Chinese Post Office)

11 DECEMBER
1917

Russian censored
cover,
postmarked at
Puchowfu, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia", sent
to a newspaper
editor in Eksjö,
Sweden.

Transit Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Peking,
12 December
1917"
"St Petersburg,
28 December
1917"

Route:
Peking-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Omsk-St.
Petersburg..
(by sea)
to Sweden.



11 APRIL 1917

Russian-censored
cover, postmarked at
Wanhohow, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Lindholmens,
Sweden.

Transit Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Hankow,
12 April 1917"
"St. Petersburg,
25 April 1917"

Route:
Peking-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-
St. Petersburg..
(by sea) to Sweden.

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

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1917 .. China-St. Petersburg, Russia
Censored Mail
Russian Post Office

RUSSIAN POST OFFICE FAR-EAST-ORIGIN-MAIL SENT TO WESTERN OR ASIAN-RUSSIA DESTINATIONS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE MOVED BY WAY OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK WITHOUT REQUIREMENT OF ROUTE ENDORSEMENT



RUSSIAN-CENSORED MAIL
FROM SHANGHAI TO ST. PETERSBURG
(Russian Post Office)

12 MAY 1917

Censored (red marking) viewcard, postmarked
at Shanghai, China, without route endorsement,
sent to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg

3 Kopeck...
Russian domestic postcard-rate.

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1915-1917..German Prisoner-of-War Mail
In-bound & Out-bound

With the occupation of Kiautschou by the Japanese in 1914, and the war on the European Eastern Front, large numbers of German prisoners-of-war were taken by the Japanese and Russian Forces respectively.

GERMAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR HELD BY THE JAPANESE WERE TRANSFERRED TO JAPAN, WHILE THE RUSSIANS HELD THEIRS IN SIBERIA.

GERMAN-ORIGIN MAIL SENT TO A P.O.W. IN JAPAN

30 JUNE 1915

Japanese-censored free-frank patriotic postcard, postmarked at Altenburg, Germany, with route endorsement "Prisoner-of War Mail Via Siberia" sent to Fukuoka, Japan. 26-day transit time.

Transit Postmark: "Tsuruga, Japan, 23 July 1915"

Arrival Manuscript Marking: "26 July 1915"

Route: Altenburg-Berlin-Copenhagen.. (by sea) to St. Petersburg- (by rail) to Omsk-Irkutsk-Harbin-Vladivostok- (by sea) to Tsuruga-Fukuoka



GERMAN P.O.W. MAIL FROM SIBERIA TO ARGENTINA

21 JANUARY 1917

Russian-censored free-frank German P.O.W. Card, postmarked at Chita, Siberia, Russia, with route endorsement "Russia-Siberia, Transbaikal Railway" sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina. 88-day transit time

Arrival Manuscript Marking: (Reverse) "19 April 1917"

Probable Route: Chita-Manchouli-Harbin-Vladivostok-(by sea) to USA-Argentina

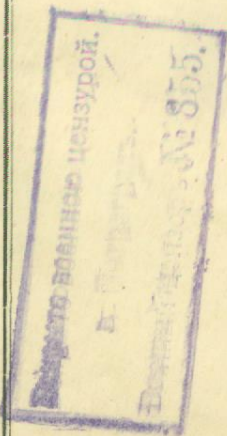


WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1916.. German Prisoner-of-War
Red Cross Mail

OFFICIAL GERMAN & AUSTRIAN P.O.W. ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION MAIL
TO THE RED CROSS STATION AT COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
WITH FORWARDING TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.



Croix Rouge

Please forward to

Gemeinsames Zentralnachweisbureau

Auskunftsstelle für Kriegsgefangene

Copenhagen

Denmark.

Wien

Via Sibirien.

I., Jasomirgottstrasse No. 6.

22 MARCH 1916
(Reverse)

Russian-censored
P.O.W. related
free-frank mail,
postmarked at
Tientsin, China,
sent to the Red
Cross Office at
Copenhagen for
forwarding to the
"Central Bureau
for P.O.W.
Information" at
Vienna, Austria,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia".

Probable Route:
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Omsk-St.
Petersburg-
(by sea) to
Copenhagen-
(by rail)
to Berlin-Leipzig-
Munich-Vienna.

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1916.. German Prisoner-of-War
Assistance Mail
("Via America" Route)

The German Community's welfare & support organization at Tientsin communicated information concerning a prisoner's name, physical-condition and location to newspapers in Germany and Austro-Hungary.

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, China,
routed "Via America",
to the "Wilhelmshavener Tageblatt"
("Wilhelmshaven Newspaper"),
with German-censorship at Emmerich.
126+ day transit time.**

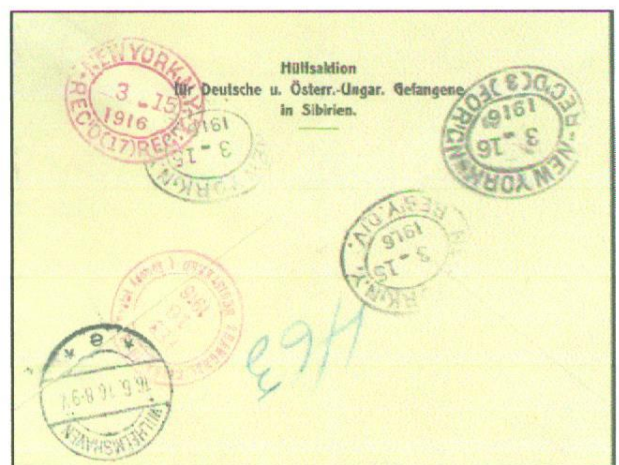
Transit & Arrival Postmarks:

**"Shanghai, US Postal Agency,
16 February 1916"**

"New York, Registry, 15 March 1916"

"New York, Foreign, 16 March 1916"

"Wilhelmshaven, 16 June 1916"



Reverse

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918

1917.. German Prisoner-of-War Mail
Money Transfer/Value Letter

In an effort of support for German & Austrian Prisoners-of-War in Siberia during World War I, GERMANS RESIDING IN NORTHERN CHINA ESTABLISHED AN ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION (most probably under the auspices of the International Red Cross) AT TIENTSIN, CHINA, WHICH SENT MONEY FOR SUPPORT TO PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN SIBERIA.



MONEY TRANSFER LETTER TO A P.O.W. IN WESTERN RUSSIA
 (Russian Post Office)

8 MARCH 1917
 (Julian Calendar)

Russian 500 Ruble money-transfer cover, postmarked at Tientsin, China, to a German or Austrian P.O.W. "Josef Hofer" interned at the Village of Talyshinskoe in Perm Province, via the Post Office in Talitskii Zavod. 16-day transit time

Transit Postmark:
 (Reverse)

"Changchun, Japanese Post Office,
 23 March 1917"

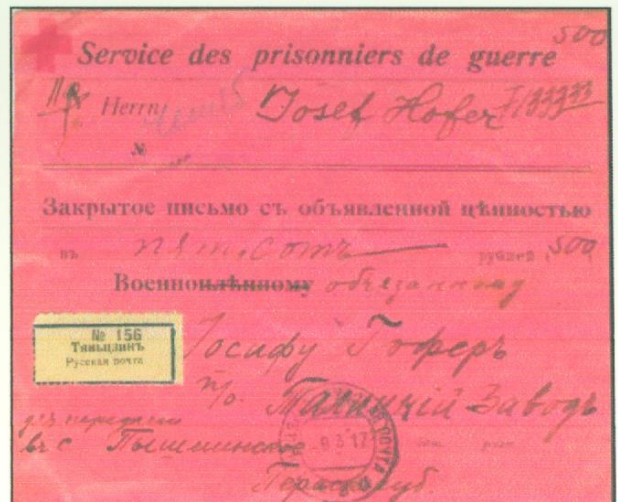
Arrival Postmark:
 (Reverse)

"Talitskii Zavod, Perm Province,
 24 March 1917"

Probable Route:

Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-Perm

60 Cents...
 10 Cents .. Letter Rate +
 10 Cents .. Registration fee +
 40 Cents .. Insurance /10 Cents each 112.5 Rubles



Front

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS
1914-1918**

**1917-1918.. Japan-Europe Mail
'Via Siberia'
Northern Rail Route**

Prior to 8 November 1917 and establishment of a 'Soviet Republic',
SWITZERLAND-BOUND MAIL WAS ROUTED THROUGH ST. PETERSBURG,
renamed 'Petrograd', for routing by sea to Western Europe.

Subsequent to an armistice between the Central Powers & Russia on
5 December 1917, **MAIL TO GERMANY WAS BRIEFLY POSSIBLE IN 1918**, prior to interruption of
rail connections through Siberia because of civil war,

**JAPAN-ORIGIN
COMMERCIAL MAIL TO
SWITZERLAND**

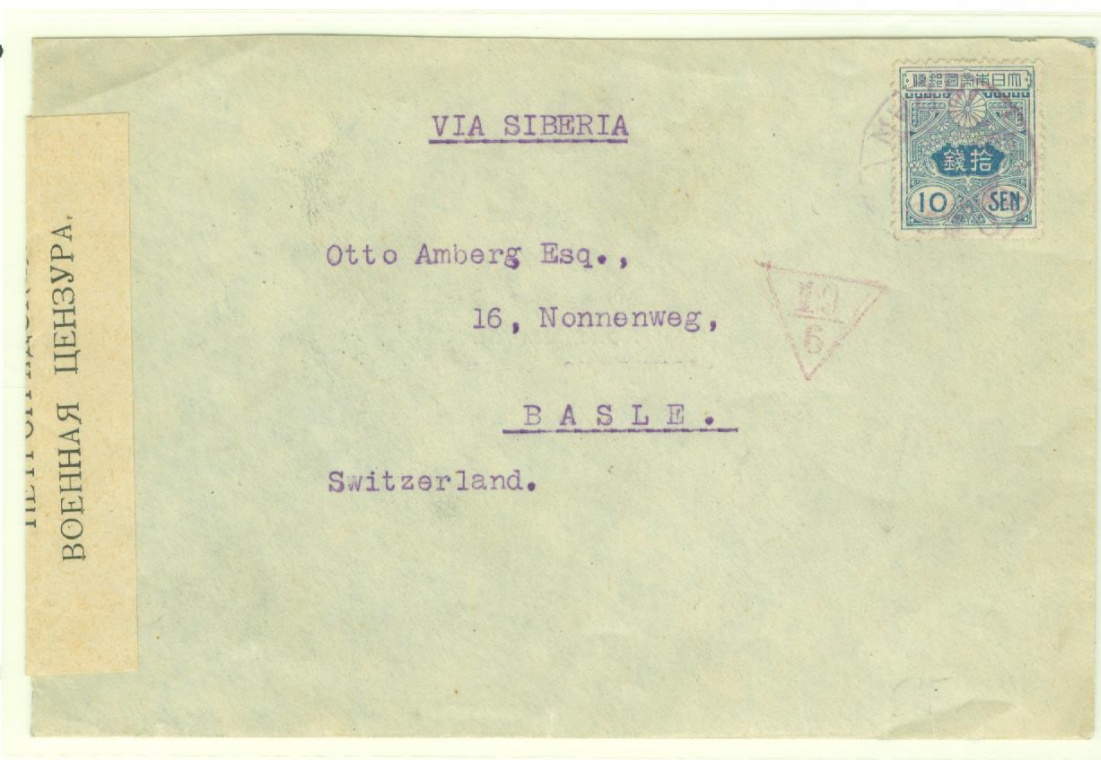
15 FEBRUARY 1917

Russian-censored & sealed
commercial mail,
postmarked
at Kobe, Japan, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Basle, Switzerland..
65-day transit time
w/censorship.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Petrograd, 4 March 1917"
"Basel, 20 April 1917"

Route:
Kobe-Tsuruga-Vladivostok,
Charbarowsk-Tschita-
Irkutsk-Omsk-Wjatka-
St Petersburg-(by sea) to
Western Europe-Switzerland

10 Sen...
UPU Single-Weight
International Letter-Rate.



**JAPAN-ORIGIN
COMMERCIAL MAIL
TO GERMANY**

9 JUNE 1918

Postal stationery card,
postmarked
at Kyoto, Japan, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Barmen, Germany.

Route:
Kyoto-Tsuruga-Vladivostok,
Charbarowsk-Tschita-
Irkutsk-Omsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Barmen

4 Sen...
UPU International
Postcard-Rate



On 8 November 1917, a "Soviet Republic" was proclaimed by V. Lenin & L. Trotsky culminating one day later in a civil war between the "reds" (supporters of Communist Ideology) and the "whites" (supporters of former Imperial Russia).

IMMEDIATELY UPON PROCLAMATION OF A "SOVIET REPUBLIC", SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND OTHER NATIONS BROKE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AFFECTING USE OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY SINCE HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE FACTIONS TOOK PLACE ALL ALONG ITS ROUTES.

The Russian Post Office in China now routed European-bound mail 'Via America'.



RUSSIAN POST OFFICE ..
 MAIL FROM SHANGHAI TO SWITZERLAND

3 SEPTEMBER 1918

Viewcard, postmarked
 at Shanghai, China, with route endorsement
 "Via America", French-censored, sent
 to Burgdorf, Switzerland.

Route:
 Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Le Harve-Basel-Zürich-Burgdorf

4 Kopeck...
 UPU International Postcard-Rate.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

1918 .. China-America
Mail 'Via Vladivostok'

CHINA POST OFFICE
REGISTERED MAIL..
TIENTSIN TO
INDIANAPOLIS

28 DECEMBER 1917

Commercial registered
cover,
Postmarked at Tientsin
(County), American-
censored, sent to
Indianapolis, Indiana.



EXAMINED BY

The National Press Association,
Indianapolis,
Indiana,
U. S. A.

65848

Tientsin S
R. N. No. 14662

TIENTSIN
九廿九年
十二月二十八日

14662

Transit Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Moukden,
29 December 1917"
"Moukden,
3 January 1918"
"Seattle,
26 January 1918"
"Indianapolis,
31 January 1918"

35-day transit time.

Route:
Tientsin-Mukden-
Vladivostok-Seattle-
Indianapolis

32 Cents:
22 Cents..
UPU International
Third-level Letter-Rate +
10 Cents..
Registration fee

(5 August 1910 -
1 January 1922)

**RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920**

1918 .. 'A.E.F. Siberia' Mail

In March 1918, during the Russian Civil War, 60-80,000 Czech prisoners-of-war revolted, deserted, and fought their way across Siberia to Vladivostok, occupying various cities along the trans-Siberian northern rail route and controlling a large part of the railway itself.

IN AUGUST 1918, PRESIDENT WILSON ORDERED AMERICAN TROOPS TO VLADIVOSTOK WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SECURING THE RAILWAY LINE AND SUBSEQUENT USE FOR EVACUATION OF THE CZECH REFUGEE-SOLDIERS TO TRIEST, ITALY, BETWEEN FEBRUARY-NOVEMBER 1920.

**'U.S. POSTAL AGENCY
IN SIBERIA'
MAIL FROM VLADIVOSTOK
TO SAN FRANCISCO**

21 OCTOBER 1918

AEF Censored free-frank soldier's mail, postmarked at "Vladivostok" without route endorsement, sent to San Francisco, California.

**Route:
Vladivostok-San Francisco**

**4th day of use of this postmark.
Large Rubber Handstamp.
Postmark Use:
18 October -
17 December 1918**



'U.S. POSTAL AGENCY IN SIBERIA' MAIL FROM VLADIVOSTOK TO OREGON

14 MAY 1919

AEF Censored free-frank soldier's 'YMCA' cover, postmarked at Vladivostok, without route endorsement, sent to Riddle, Oregon.

**Route:
Vladivostok-San Francisco-Oregon**

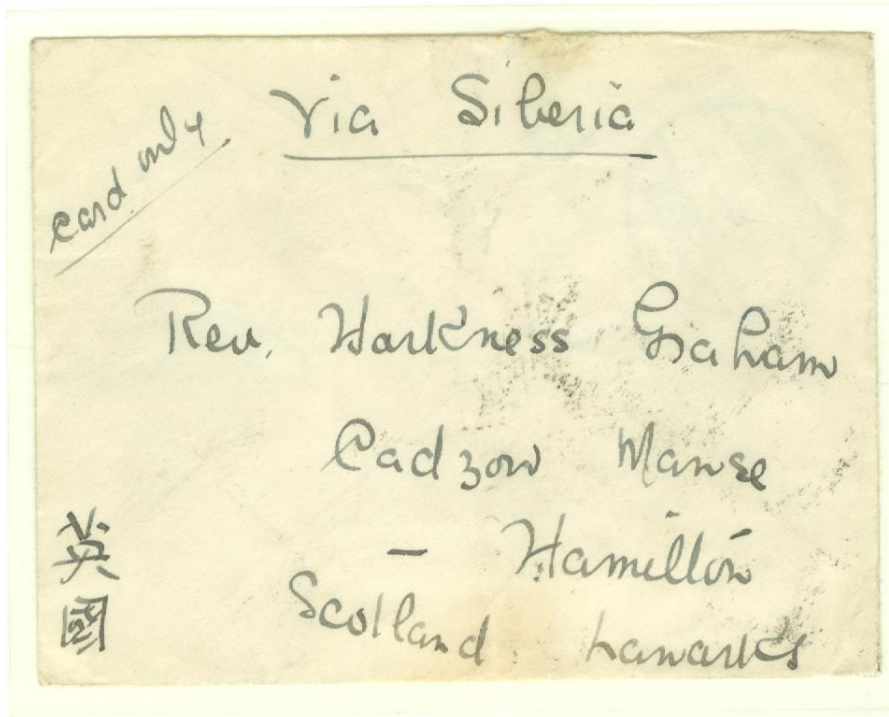
**Small Steel Handstamp.
Postmark Use:
20 October 1918 -
14 April 1920**



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

1918 .. China-Scotland
Missionary Mail

MAIL MOVEMENT WESTWARD WAS POSSIBLE BY LATE
DECEMBER 1918 OVER THE SOUTHERN RAIL NETWORK
CONNECTING THE CHINESE EASTERN & MANCHURIAN
RAIL LINES AT MANCHOULI WITH THE
TRANS-SIBERIAN LINE
BETWEEN IRKUTSK-OMSK-ST. PETERSBURG,



LATE 1918 CHINA-ORIGIN MAIL TO SCOTLAND 'VIA SIBERIA'
& BY SEA FROM ST. PETERSBURG

10 DECEMBER 1918
(Chinese Post Office)

Printed-Matter Card (in an open envelope)
missionary mail, postmarked at Shihu, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Hamilton, Scotland, United Kingdom

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Harbin, 11 December 1918"

Probable Route:
Shihu-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Manchouli-Irkutsk-
Omsk-St. Petersburg..(by sea) to Scotland

4 Cents..
(Open envelope) postcard-rate



Reverse

**RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920**

**1918-19 .. China-Switzerland
Mail 'Via Suez' or 'Via America'**

**AS A RESULT OF THE
CONFLICT IN RUSSIA
AND NON-OPERATION
OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN
ROUTE TO EUROPE,
MAIL WAS INITIALLY
ROUTED 'VIA SUEZ' BY
SEA AND LATER
BY THE FASTER
'VIA AMERICA' ROUTE.**

28 JUNE 1919
Commercial mail,
postmarked
at Harbin, endorsed
"Via America"
sent to St. Gallen,
Switzerland.

Route:
Harbin-Mukden-Peking-
Tientsin-Shanghai-
(by sea) to America with
forwarding to France-
Switzerland.



**REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL THROUGH
THE JAPANESE POST OFFICE IN CHINA TO SWITZERLAND**

18 FEBRUARY 1918

Registered commercial mail, postmarked
at the Japanese Post Office at Shanghai, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Suez"
sent to Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Yokohama-Singapore-Aden-Suez-
Marseilles-
(by train) to Neuchatel

25 Sen...
10 Sen.. Single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate +
15 Sen.. Registration fee

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

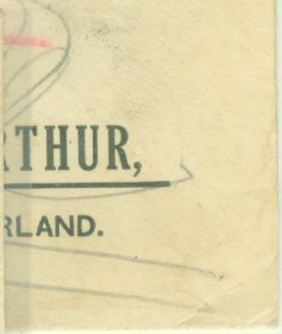
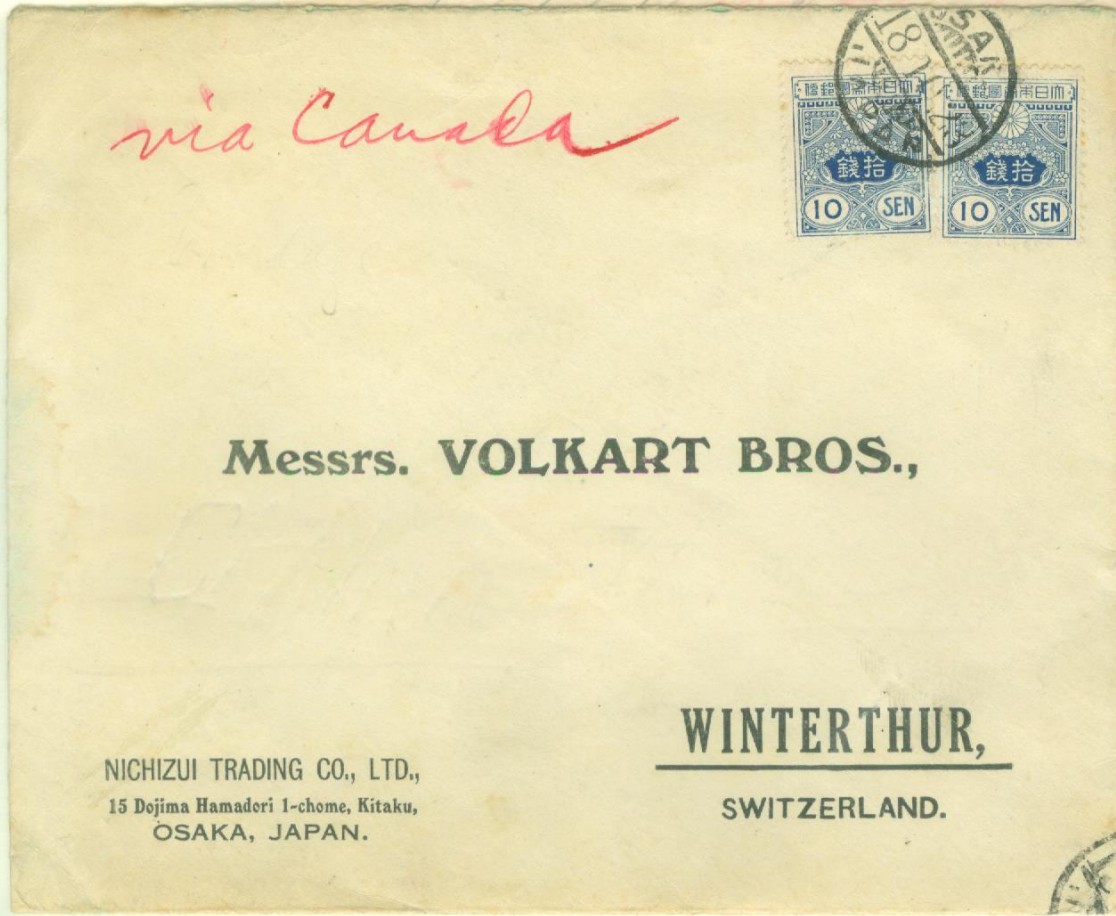
1918-19 Japan-Europe
'Via Canada'
'Via San Francisco'

Because of the turmoil in Russia and unusable heretofore faster 'Via Siberia' Route for mail to Europe, **JAPAN-ORIGIN MAIL NOW ALSO WAS ROUTED 'VIA NORTH AMERICA' THROUGH EITHER CANADA OR SAN FRANCISCO,** using whichever flag vessel met the post office schedule.

12 AUGUST
1919

Commercial mail, postmarked at Osaka, Japan, with route endorsement "Via San Francisco" sent to Winterthur, Switzerland.

40 Sen...
UPU International
Quadruple-
Weight
(to 80 grams)
Letter-Rate.



COMMERCIAL MAIL TO SWITZERLAND

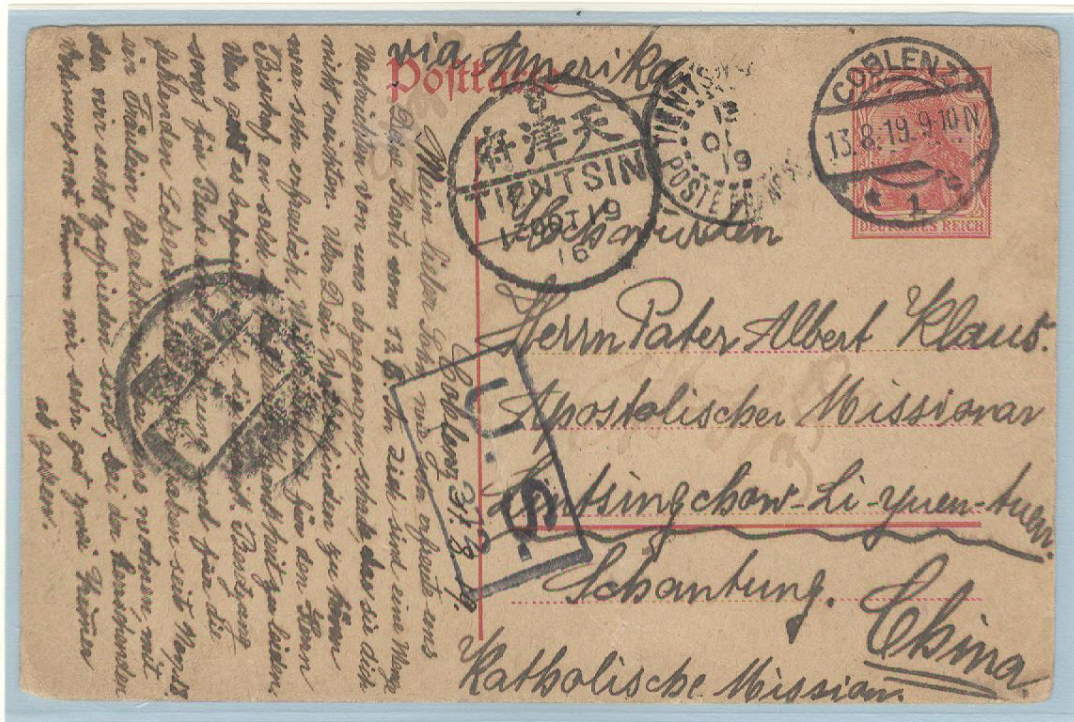
23 OCTOBER 1918

Commercial mail, postmarked at Osaka, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Canada" sent to Winterthur, Switzerland.

20 Sen...
UPU International
Double-Weight
(to 40 grams)
Letter-Rate.

Probable Route:
Osaka-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg-Munich-Basel-Zürich-Winterthur

WITH THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN EUROPE ON 11 NOVEMBER 1918 ALONG WITH THE SUBSEQUENT OCCUPATION OF THE RHINELAND BY ALLIED FORCES, COMMUNICATIONS IN 1919 BETWEEN GERMANY & "GERMAN" CHINA COULD ONCE AGAIN BEGIN, NOT 'VIA SIBERIA' (Russian Civil War) BUT INITIALLY THROUGH THE ALLIED OCCUPATION POST OFFICES, since German Post Offices in China no longer existed & China first ended its state of war with Germany on 15 September 1919.



EARLY POSTWAR CHINA-BOUND MISSIONARY MAIL FROM
THE ALLIED-OCCUPIED GERMAN RHINELAND

13 AUGUST 1919

Postal-card, postmarked & censored at (American occupied) Coblenz, Germany, with route endorsement "Via America" sent to a Catholic Missionary in Shantung Province, Northern China. 62-day transit time.

Transit Postmarks:

"Tientsin (Chinese Post Office),
12 October 1919"

"Tientsin (French Post Office),
13 October 1919"

Probable Route:

Coblenz-Hamburg- (by sea) to New York- (by rail) to San Francisco- (by sea) to Shanghai- (by rail) to Northern China.

10 Pfennig...

UPU International Postcard-Rate

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

1919 .. China-Sweden
'Via America' Mail
Postage Due

DESPITE A WORLD WAR I ARMISTICE TAKING EFFECT ON
11 NOVEMBER 1918, A PEACE TREATY HAD NOT BEEN SIGNED WITH GERMANY
OR THE AXIS COUNTRIES RESULTING IN CENSORSHIP OF MAIL STILL IN EFFECT
INCLUDING MAIL TO NEUTRAL SWEDEN WHEN SUCH INVOLVED ORGANIZATIONS
AFFILIATED WITH 'GERMAN ASSISTANCE'.



CHINA-SWEDEN POSTAGE DUE MAIL 'VIA AMERICA' AND CENSORED

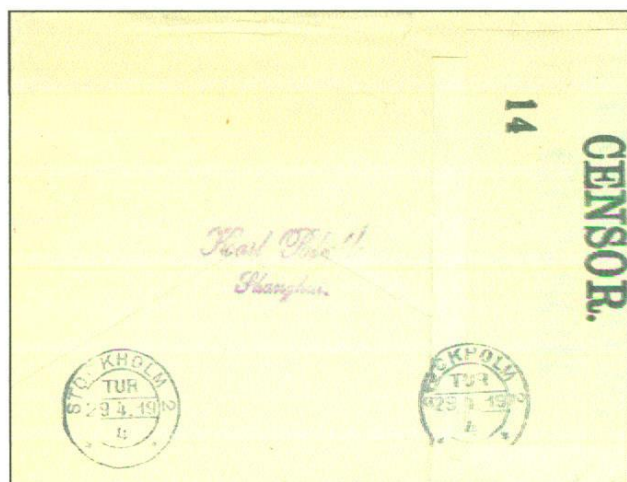
25 FEBRUARY 1919
(United States Post Office)

Single-weight short-paid mail, postmarked at
the United States Post Office at Shanghai, China,
with route endorsement
"Via America"
to the "German Assistance Association" at
Stockholm, Sweden.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Stockholm, 29 April 1919"
(Krag Postmarking Machine)

Probable Route:
Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Stockholm

5 Cents..
Short-paid 1 Cent .. UPU Single-Weight (20 grams)
International Letter-Rate resulting in postage due of
2 Cents =




Reverse

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

1919 .. Red Cross P.O.W.
'Via America' Mail to Austria

SINCE THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR RAGED IN WESTERN RUSSIA
(between the Soviet and Imperial Forces resulting in most of the
Siberian Railway Route unusable for mail transport to Europe),
GERMAN & AUSTRIAN PRISONER-OF WAR MAIL CONTINUED TO BE
ROUTED "VIA AMERICA" BY THE RED CROSS AFTER CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES DURING WORLD WAR I.

Absender: *H. Franz Wagner*
Отправитель: *г. Франц Вагнер*



Correspondance des prisonniers
de guerre
АВСТРО - ВЕНГРИЯ

Antwort — Réponse — Для отвѣта
War prisoners care CARTE POSTALE

Adresse: *Frau*
Ludovika Gugg
Wien, III.
Singlimgasse 15.

Адресъ: *Via America*

Portofrei
Безплатно

Verlag der österr. Ges. vom „Roten Kreuze“
Изданіе Австр. Общ. Краснаго Креста.

Nachdruck verboten
Перепечатка воспрещается

30 DECEMBER 1919

Free-frank Russian-censored
Red Cross
Correspondence Response Postal Card,
written by Austrian Prisoner-of-War in Siberia,
with route endorsement
"Via America",
sent to Vienna, Austria.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

1920 .. Shanghai-Vladivostok
Mail 'by Sea'

BECAUSE OF
CLOSURE OF
RUSSIAN POST
OFFICES IN
MANCHURIA
BETWEEN
1920-1921
AND PARTIAL
NONAVAILABILITY
OF RAIL ROUTES
CONNECTING TO
VLADIVOSTOK,
MAIL FROM
SHANGHAI TO
VLADIVOSTOK WAS
MOVED BY SEA TO
THE LATTER DURING
THOSE YEARS.



REGISTERED
COMMERCIAL MAIL
SHANGHAI TO
VLADIVOSTOK

9 APRIL 1920
(Russian Post Office)

Registered commercial
mail from the Shanghai-
branch of the
"Great Northern
Telegraph Company",
postmarked
by the Russian Post Office
at Shanghai, China,
sent to their
Vladivostok-Office.
35-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Vladivostok, 14 May 1920"

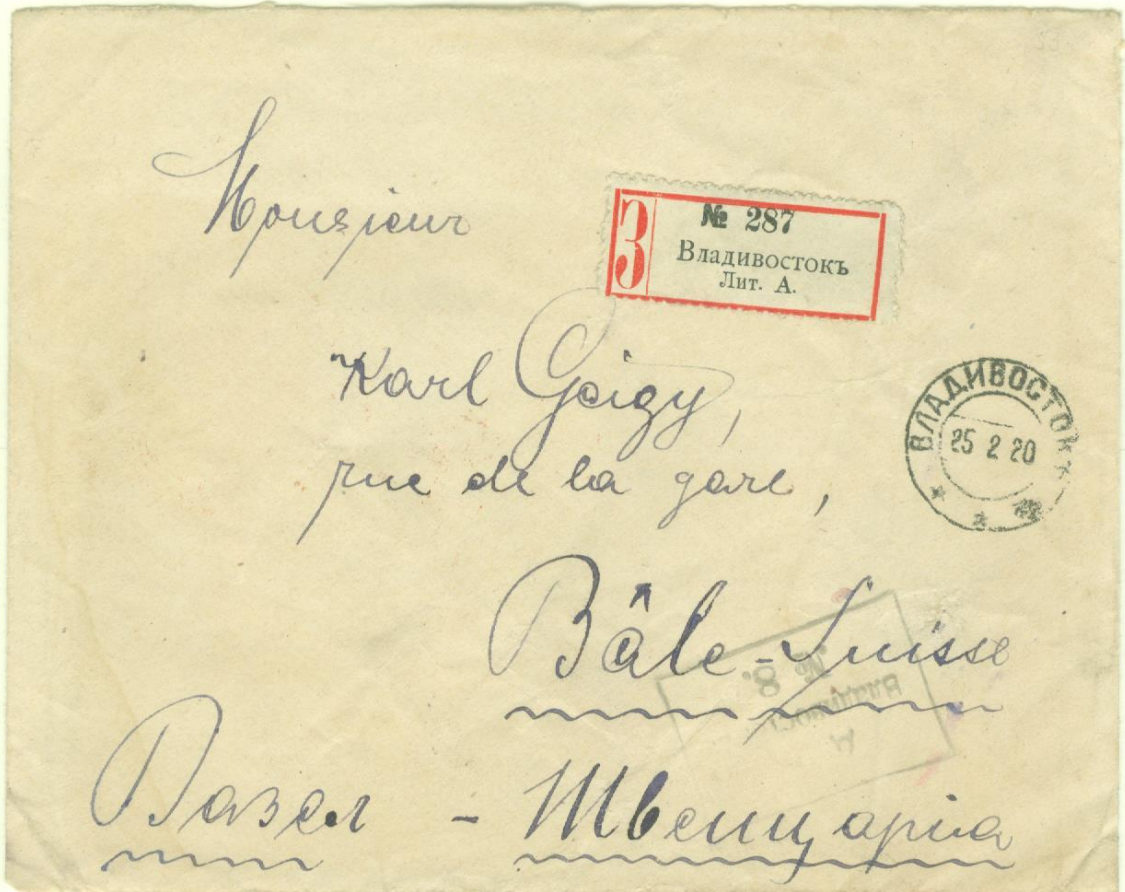
26 Cents...
10+6 Cents.. Double-weight
(20-40 grams) letter-rate +
10 Cents.. Registration fee

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD
1917 - 1920

1920 .. Vladivostok-Switzerland

Commercial Mail
Mail 'by Sea Route'

As a result of the Russian Civil War (1918-1920), the Second Russian-Polish War (1920/Peace Treaty of Riga, March 1921) as well as unsettled political conditions in Russia & Manchuria,
EFFECTIVE EUROPE-BOUND MAIL USE OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK COULD NOT TAKE PLACE DURING 1918-1922, BUT ROUTED BY SEA OR 'VIA AMERICA' TO EUROPE.



VLADIVOSTOK-ORIGIN RUSSIAN-CENSORED REGISTERED MAIL TO SWITZERLAND
ROUTED BY SEA BECAUSE OF NONAVAILABILITY OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE

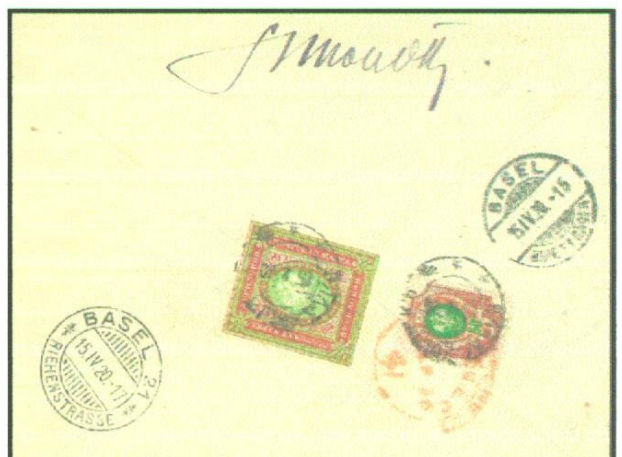
25 FEBRUARY 1920

Registered cover, Russian-censored, postmarked at Vladivostok, sent to "Karl Geigy" (Renowned Pharmacist) at Basel, Switzerland. 49-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Basel, 15 April 1920"

Route:
Vladivostok-London
(by sea)-Antwerp-Basel

4 Rubles...
2 Rubles... single-weight (20 grams)
international letter-rate +
2 Rubles.. Registration fee

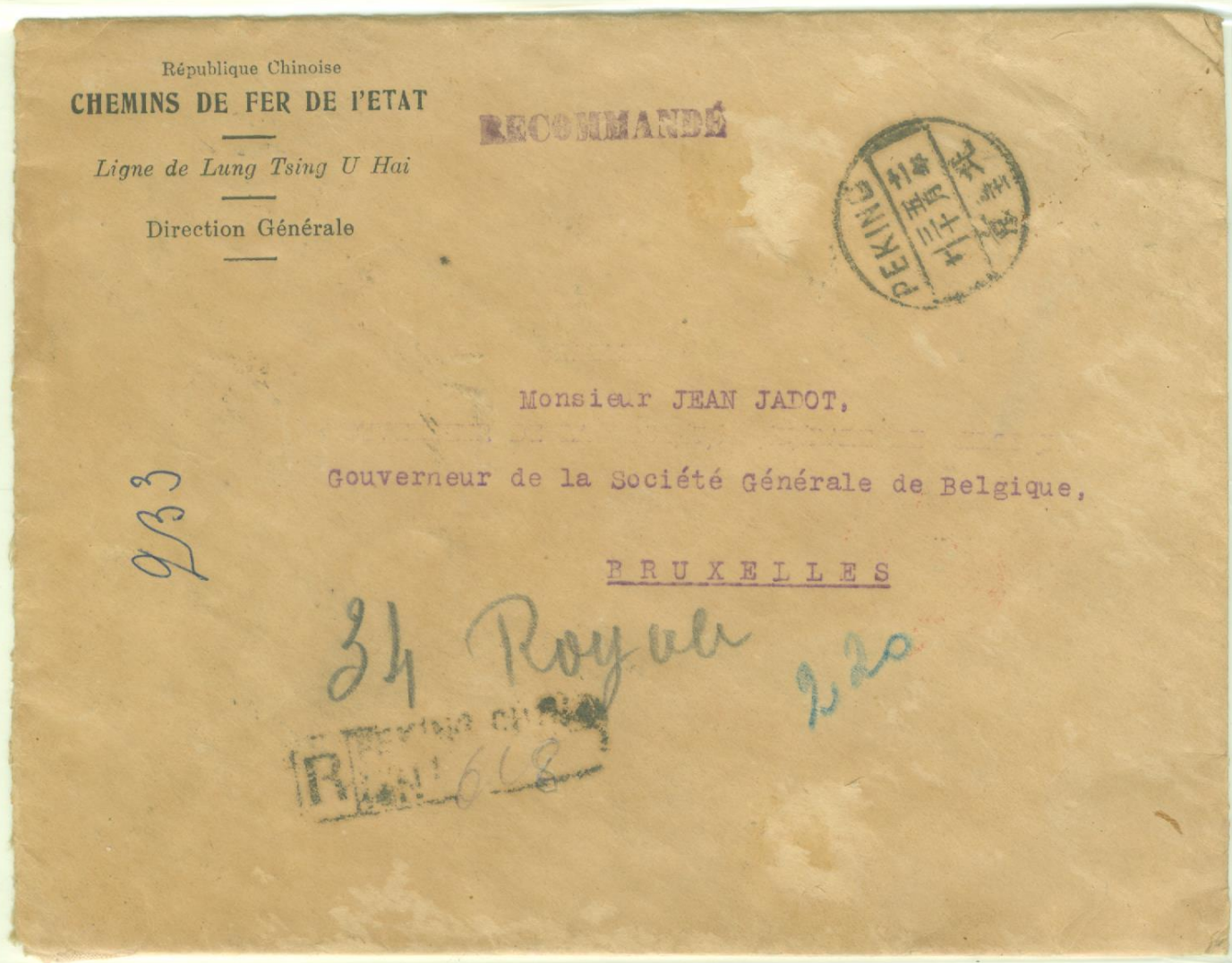


Reverse

VII. RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1921 - 1922

China - Belgium
Sea Route Diversion Mail
1922

Until a new Russian national government was established after the civil war,
**NORMAL RAIL SERVICES ON MOST OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK WOULD NOT
BE FULLY RESUMED DURING 1921-1922,**
requiring Chinese/Peking-origin mail to Western Europe to be routed by sea, either
(via Peking-Tientsin-Pukow Line) to Shanghai or
(via Chinese Eastern Railway Line) to Vladivostok

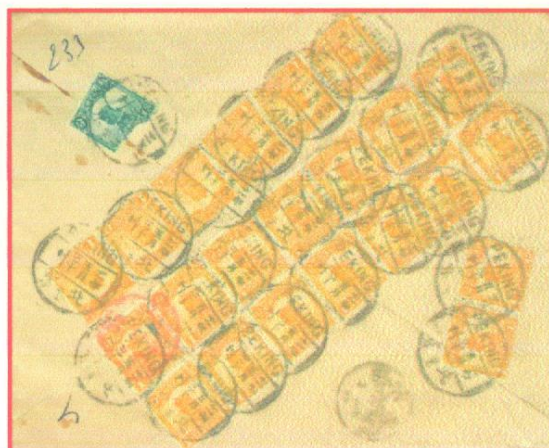


30 JUNE 1922
Registered commercial mail of the
Chinese Imperial Railways,
postmarked Peking, sent to Brussels, Belgian.

Transit Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Mukden, 3 July 1922"
"London, -- August 1922"

Routing:
Peking-Mukden-Vladivostok-(by sea) to London-
Antwerp-Brussels

25 Cents..
15 Cents International Letter Rate (7.5 ounces) +
10 Cents Registration fee



Reverse

**RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931**

**1923 .. China-Europe
Route Resumption**

On 30 December 1922, the 'Soviet Union of Socialist Republics' was established, a federation of Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia and the Transcaucasian Republic.

**BY 1923, OPERATION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY NETWORK RESTARTED IN FULL
ON BOTH THE NORTHERN & SOUTHERN ROUTES.**



**SHORT-PAID/POSTAGE-DUE MAIL FROM CHINA TO SWITZERLAND
(Chinese Post Office)**

14 AUGUST 1923

Short-paid cover, postmarked at Peking, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Geneva, Switzerland. 28-day transit time.

**Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
(Reverse)**

"Peking-Mukden (Railway Postmark)
15 August 1923"

"Harbin, 16 August 1923"

"Geneva, 10 September 1923"

Route:

**Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-
Munich-Basel-Geneva**

15 Cents...

**UPU International Double-Weight
(to 40 grams) Letter-Rate**

**short-paid 5 Chinese-Cents resulting in
40 Swiss Centimes postage due + penalty.
(Rate Validity: 1 Jan. 1923 - 30 Sept. 1925)**

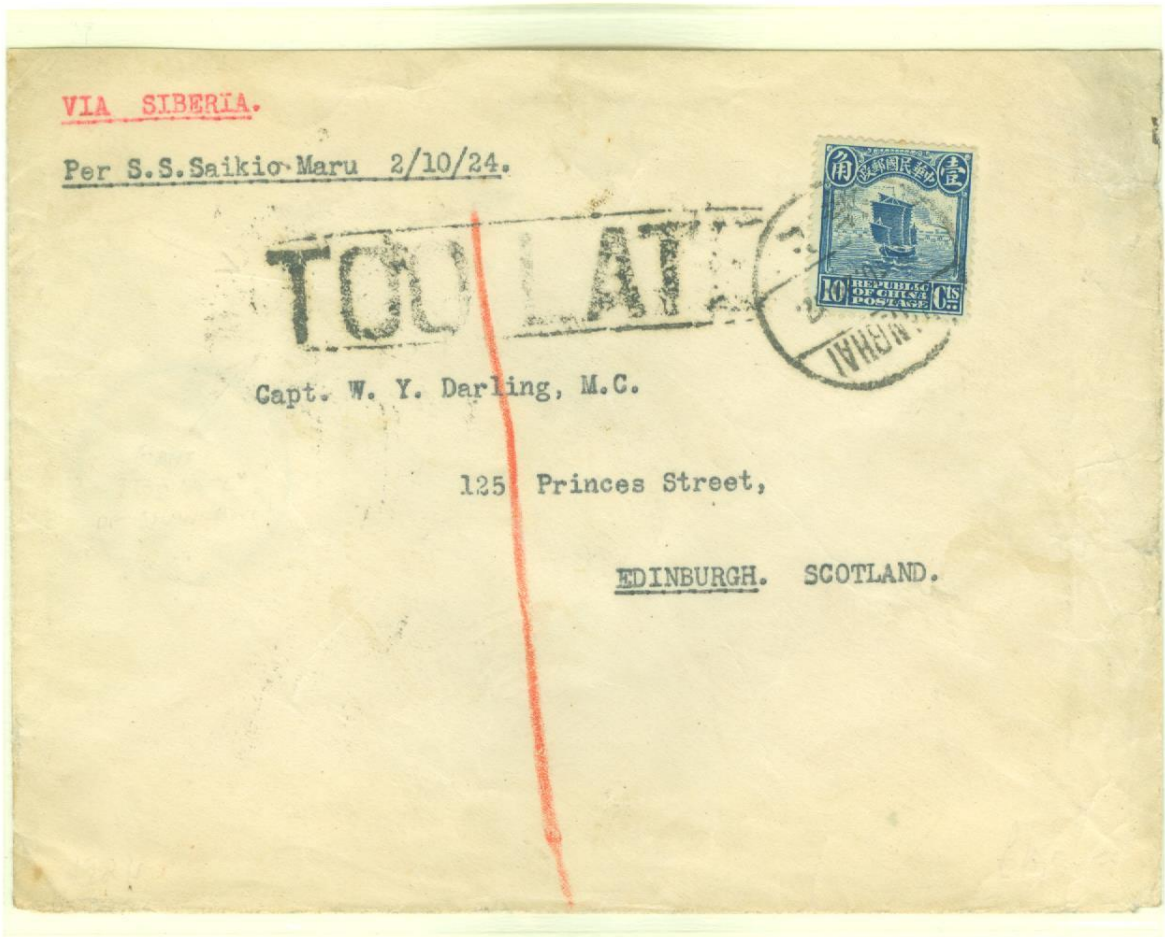


Reverse

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931

1924 .. Re-routed
'By Sea'
Endorsed Mail

'BY SEA' ENDORSED MAIL,
OR MAIL WITH INDICATION OF VESSEL NAME AND SAILING DATE,
WOULD BE OBSERVED BY THE POST OFFICE
UNLESS IT WAS RECEIVED 'TOO LATE' FOR SUCH ROUTING.



ROUTE-ENDORSED 'BY SEA' MAIL WITH 'TOO LATE' ARRIVAL AT POST OFFICE
WITH SUBSEQUENT RE-ROUTING 'VIA SIBERIA'

2 OCTOBER 1924

Cover, route endorsed
"Per S.S. Saikio Maru 2/10/24",
postmarked at Shanghai, China,
addressed to "Captain W.Y. Darling, M.C." at
Edinburgh, Scotland,
post-mailing cachet marking
'Too Late'
and new route endorsement
'Via Siberia'.

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-London-Edinburgh

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

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1924.. China-Germany
Commercial Mail

A TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND GERMANY WAS SIGNED ON 6 MAY 1921 ENABLING
A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS TO TAKE PLACE, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF MAIL.

SINGLE-WEIGHT
MAIL TO
GERMANY

6 MAY 1924

Commercial
cover,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Munich,
Germany.

Route:
Shanghai-
Pukow-Peking-
Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Munich

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

孔慈洋行 H. KUNZE & Co. via Siberia.
9, CANTON ROAD,
SHANGHAI.

Herren
Kranseder & Co
Trockenplattenfabrik
Lindwurmstr.

Muenchen.

Germany.

Registered.



Herren

Harbin

To: E. Calmann.

3361 Cuxhaven. 3186

Germany

via

Siberia.

Nordersteintorstrasse

30 AUGUST 1924

Registered cover,
postmarked at
Canton, China,
with route
endorsement
"Germany Via
Siberia"
to Cuxhaven,
Germany.

Route:
Canton-Pukow-
Peking-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-
Cuxhaven

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

**RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931**

**1925-1927..
Mail To/From Japan**

**MAIL FROM/TO JAPAN WOULD BE ROUTED OVER THE NORTHERN
BRANCH OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY NETWORK,
ENDING/COMMENCING AT VLADIVOSTOK AND
BY SEA TO/FROM JAPAN.**

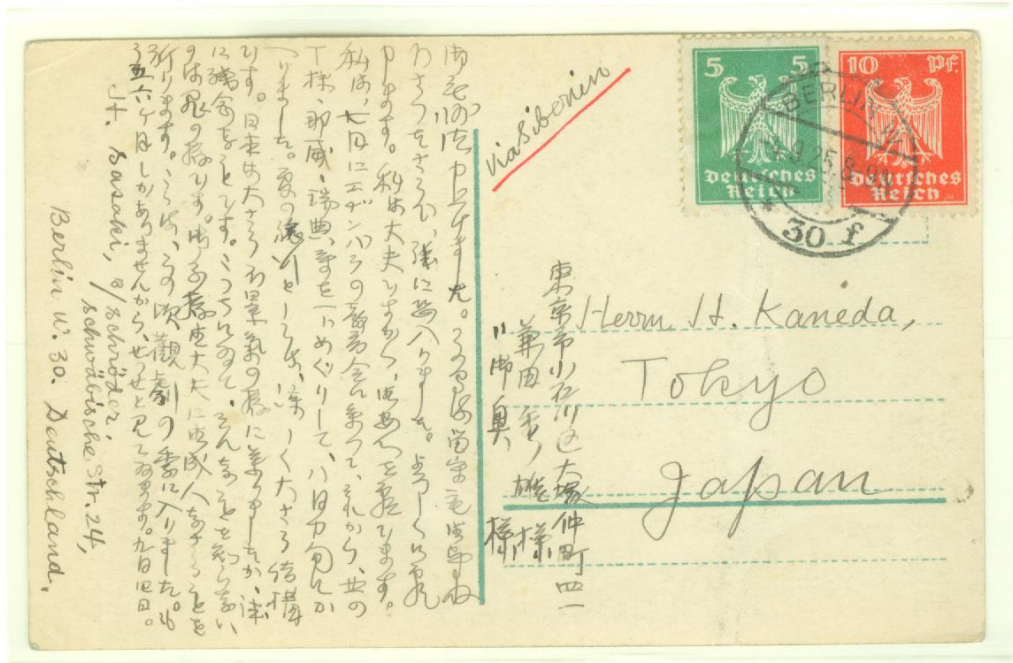
**EASTBOUND-MAIL..
GERMANY-JAPAN**

4 SEPTEMBER 1925

Viewcard, postmarked
at Berlin, Germany,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Tokyo, Japan.

Route:
Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-
Manchouli-Harbin-
Vladivostok-
(by sea) to Tsuruga-
Tokyo

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



WESTBOUND-MAIL.. JAPAN-ALBANIA

20 DECEMBER 1927

Registered cover,
postmarked at Nagoya
& Kobe, Japan, routed
"via Siberia"
sent to Durres-Durazzo,
Albania.
21-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Duess,
11 January 1928"

Route:
Nagoya-Kobe.. by sea
to Vladivostok-Harbin-
Manchouli-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Prag-
Vienna-Zagreb-Tirana-
Durres

**26 Sen..
10 Sen.. International
Single-Weight
(20 grams) Letter-Rate +
16 Sen.. Registration fee**

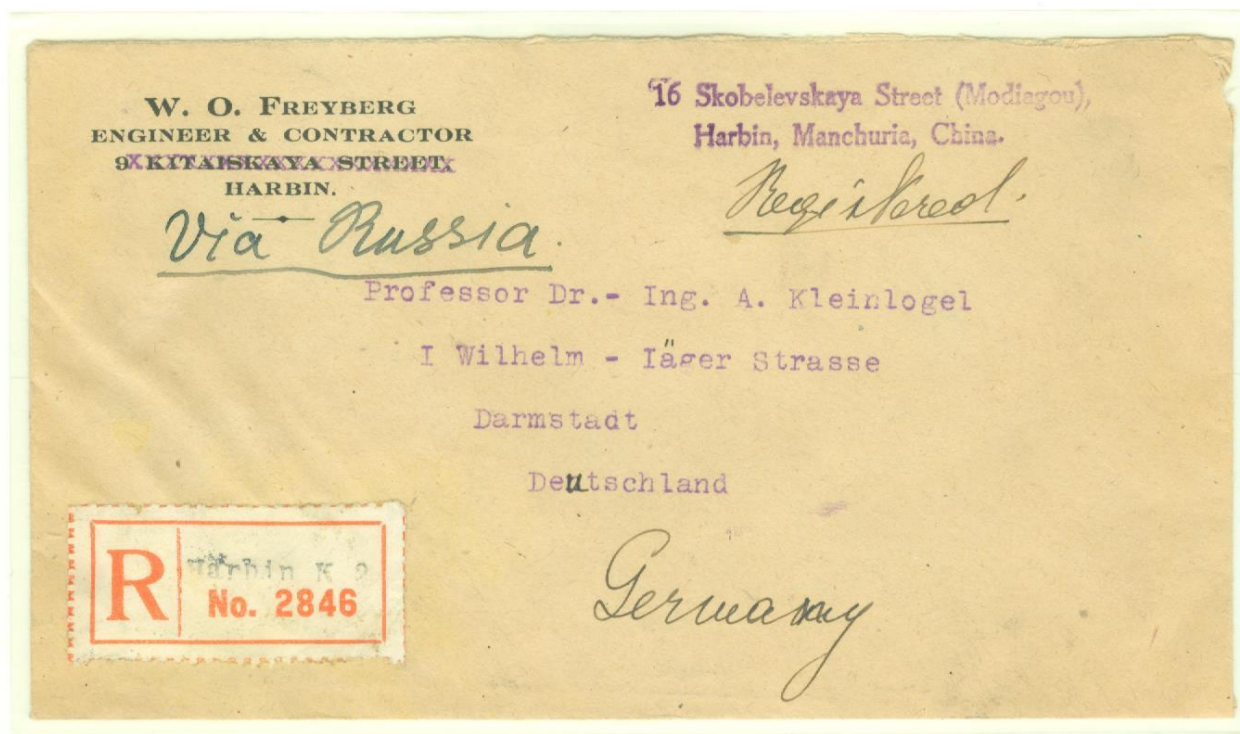


RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES 1923-1931

1925.. North Manchuria
Mail to Europe

Northern Manchuria was ceded to Russia in 1858-1860. Through heavy immigration, Southern Manchuria became more Chinese. Russian support for the Chinese against Japanese aggression in 1895 enabled Russia to receive permission from China to build the Chinese Eastern Railway. The Chinese 'Boxer Revolt' in 1900 resulted in Russian occupation of Manchuria to secure railway construction.

THE 'CITY OF HARBIN' IS LOCATED AT THE
INTERSECTION POINT OF THE CHINESE & SOUTHERN MANCHURIAN RAILWAYS,
BOTH FINANCED AND BUILT BY RUSSIA AND PART OF THE
SOUTHERN TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK.

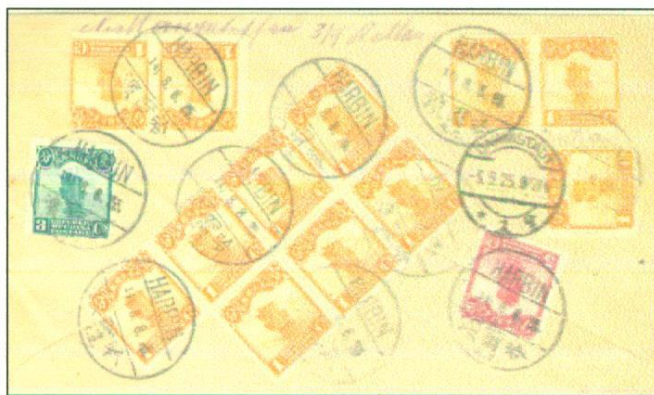


8 AUGUST 1925
(Chinese Post Office)

Registered commercial cover,
postmarked at Harbin, Manchuria, China, with
route endorsement
"Via Russia"
sent to Darmstadt, Germany.
26-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark;
(Reverse)
"Darmstadt, 3 September 1925"

Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-
Frankfurt-Darmstadt



Reverse

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

THE 'CITY OF MUKDEN', LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE
NORTHERN CHINESE & SOUTHERN MANCHURIAN RAILWAYS, WAS TRANSFER POINT TO
THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY NETWORK FOR MOST CHINESE & PACIFIC-ORIGIN MAIL
TO WESTERN RUSSIA, EUROPE & BEYOND.

The „RIN-TAI“ Stores Co.
MOUKDEN, (SOUTH MANCHURIA.)

Registered

VIA SIBERIA

Messrs. Josef Winter

Fabrikstrasse 2

Postschliessfach Nr. 5

RADEBERG IN SACHSEN

GERMANY



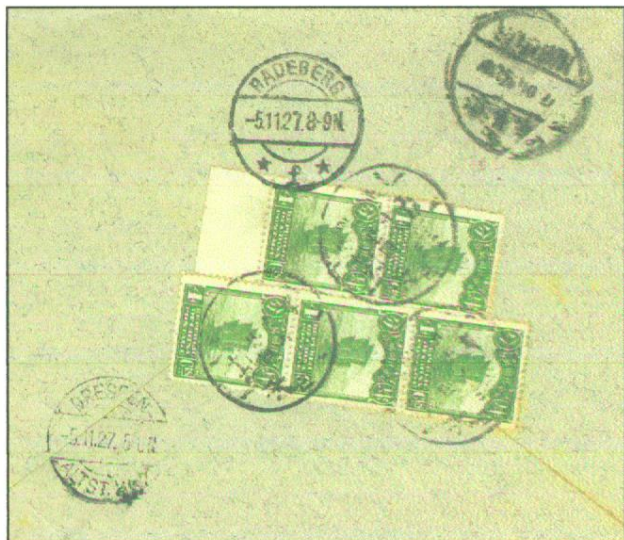
25 OCTOBER 1927
(Chinese Post Office)

Registered commercial cover,
postmarked at Mukden, Manchuria, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Radeberg, Saxony, Germany.
11-day transit time!

Transit & Arrival Postmarks;
(Reverse)
"Dresden, 5 November 1927"
"Radeberg, 5 November 1927"

Route:
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-
Dresden-Radeberg

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



Reverse

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1927.. North China
Hostilities

In July 1926, the Chinese Nationalist Party, "The Kuomintang", under General Chiang Kai-Shek, commenced an offensive in North China attempting to unify the country, moving northward in May 1927 toward Chili Province and the cities of Peking & Tientsin, with Japanese intervention in the adjacent Shantung Province, initially blocking General Chiang's advance.

DESPITE HOSTILITIES & PRECARIOUS POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES, MAIL APPARENTLY WAS NOT DELAYED NOR RAIL INTERRUPTION OVER THE TIENTSIN-PEKING-MUKDEN RAIL LINES, CONNECTING WITH THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK.



15 AUGUST 1927
(Chinese Post Office)

Registered commercial cover,
postmarked at Tientsin, China, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Prague, Czechoslovakia. 14-day transit time.

Arrival Manuscript Marking;
"19 August 1927"

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

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

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1928.. China-Germany
Printed-Matter Mail

6 OCTOBER 1928

Printed-matter
cover,
postmarked at
Shanghai,
China, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia",
sent to
Büdingen,
Hesse, Germany



Route:
Shanghai-
Pukow-Peking-
Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Büdingen

2 Cents...
International
printed-matter
weighing up to
50 grams

(Validity:
1 January 1923 -
30 June 1930)

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

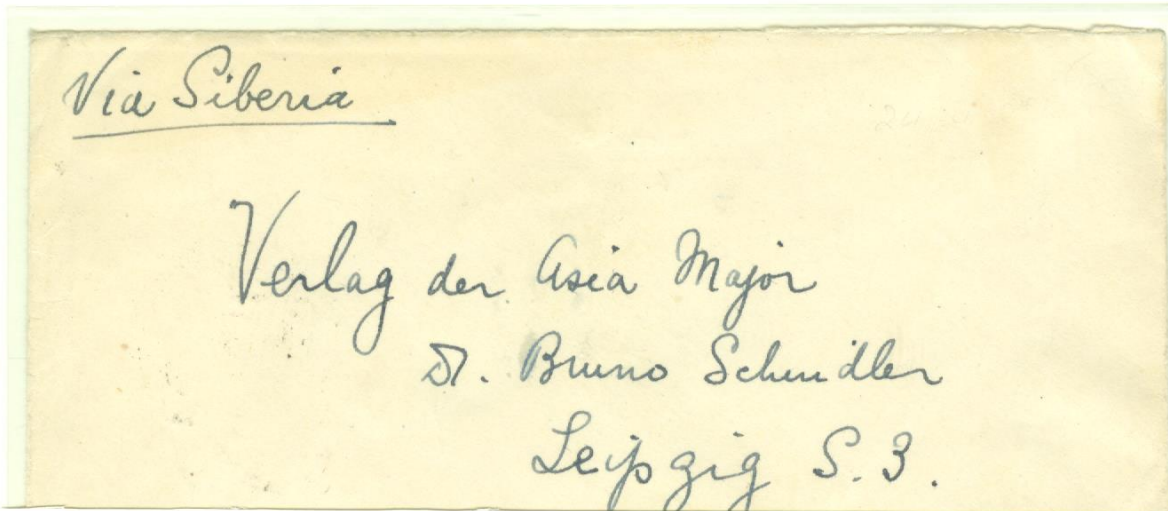
1929-30.. China-Germany
Commercial Mail

MAIL FROM
PEKING

24 APRIL 1929
(Chinese Post
Office)

Cover,
postmarked
at Peking,
China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to
Leipzig.

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



10 Cents... International
single-weight
(to 20 grams)
letter-rate.
(Validity:
1 January 1923 -30 June 1930)



Reverse

REGISTERED MAIL
FROM TIENSIN

6 NOVEMBER 1930

Cover, postmarked
at Tientsin, China,
with route
endorsement
"Registered
Via Siberia"
sent to Biesenthal,
Germany.
14-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Biesenthal,
20 November 1930"

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

30 Cents...
15 Cents.. Single-
weight international
letter-rate +
15 Cents
Registration fee.
(Validity:
1 July 1930 -
31 January 1931)

A. J. SEREBRENNIKOFF & CO.

∴ Russian Printing Shop ∴



А. И. СЕРЕБРЕННИКОВ И КО.

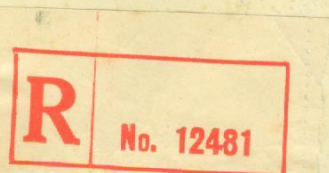
∴ Русская Типография ∴

館字印富連賽
24 Dickinson Road, Tientsin, Tel. 31222

Registered

Via Siberia

Messrs. Walter Birke
Buntpapier-Fabrik
Biesenthal b. B E R L I N



RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1928.. Japan-England
Advertising Mail



28 JULY 1928

Advertising/
printed-matter/
commercial mail,
postmarked at
Osaka, Japan, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to London,
England.

Probable Route:
Osaka-Tsuruga
Vladivostok
(Russia)-Harbin-
Manchouli-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-England

4 Sen...
International
printed-matter rate
for mail weighing up
to 50 grams.



Reverse

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1929.. Japan-Europe
Mail

SINGLE-WEIGHT
MAIL TO
ENGLAND

9 FEBRUARY 1929
(Japan Post Office)

Cover, postmarked
in Japan, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Epsom
College, Epsom,
England.

Route:
Japan- (by sea) to
Vladivostok-Harbin-
Manchouli-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-England

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



REGISTERED
COMMERCIAL MAIL
TO ITALY

23 AUGUST 1929

Registered commercial
cover, postmarked at
Kyoto, Japan, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Naples, Italy.
17-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival
Postmarks:
(Reverse)
"Venice,

8 September 1929"
"Naples-Rancom
Railway,
9 September 1929"

Probable Route:
Kyoto-Tsuruga-
Vladivostok-Harbin-
Manchouli-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Munich-
Naples

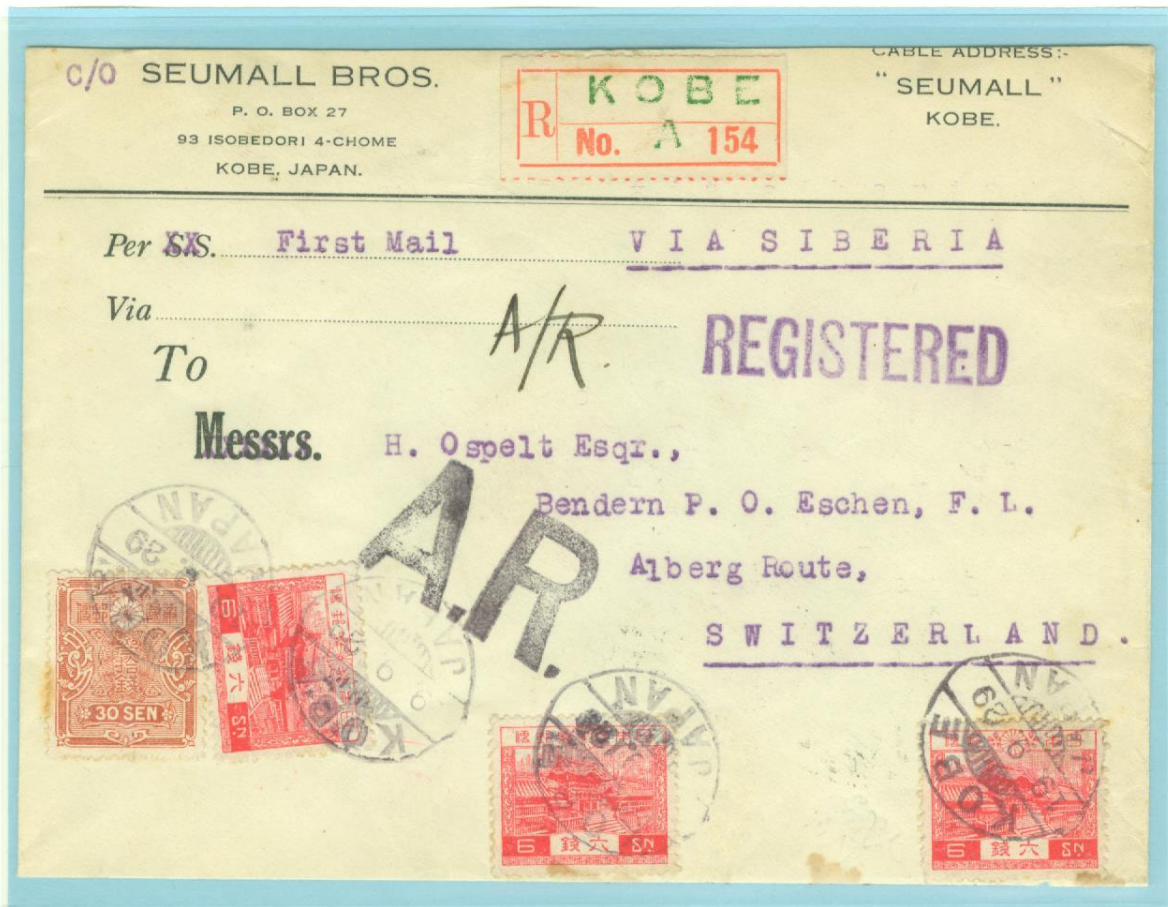
32 Sen...
10+6 Sen..
Double-weight
(to 40 grams)
letter-rate + 16 Sen
Registration fee.



RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931

1929 .. Japan-Liechtenstein
Mail

The Post Office of the Principality of Liechtenstein, a small territory located between Switzerland & Austria, was administered by the Swiss Post Office since 1921.



DOUBLE-WEIGHT REGISTERED RETURN-RECEIPT COMMERCIAL MAIL
FORM JAPAN TO LIECHTENSTEIN

19 SEPTEMBER 1929

Commercial cover, postmarked
at Kobe, Japan, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to BERN, Principality of Liechtenstein, using
the "Alberg (Mountain) Route, Switzerland". 18-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Eschen, 7 October 1929"

Probable Route:
Kobe.. by sea to Dalny- (by rail) to
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Basel-Zurich-Liechtenstein

48 Sen...
10 Sen + 6 Sen.. Double-weight letter (to 40 grams)
+ 16 Sen.. Registration fee
+ 16 Sen.. Return-receipt fee

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931

1929 .. Zeppelin Mail
"Via Siberia" to Japan

THE 'GRAF ZEPPELIN' ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT OF 1929
carried commercial mail to Tokyo with other-destination-mail
being forwarded by airmail from Tokyo.

Zeppelin Route:
Friedrichshafen-Berlin-Danzig-Königsberg-Irkutsk-Tokyo
(15 - 19 August 1929)



GRAP ZEPPELIN FLIGHT FROM GERMANY TO JAPAN 'VIA SIBERIA'
WITH AIRMAIL FORWARDING FROM TOKYO-SHANGHAI

15 AUGUST 1929

Cover, postmarked at Friedrichshafen, Germany, having route endorsement
"With Air Ship Graf Zeppelin to Tokyo"
& supplemental routing cachet marking
"Friedrichshafen (Bodensee) - Tokyo"
sent to Shanghai, China. 9-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Shanghai, 23 August 1929"

RM 4.00...
Zeppelin International Letter-Rate.

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1929.. China-England
Commercial Mail
'Via Japan and Siberia'

BECAUSE OF
INSTABILITY IN
NORTH CHINA AND
POTENTIAL MAIL
TRANSIT DELAYS,
MAIL FROM
SHANGHAI
(Central Coastal
China) WAS
ROUTED BY SEA TO
JAPAN AND RUSSIA
WITH MOVEMENT
OVER THE
NORTHERN BRANCH
OF THE TRANS-
SIBERIAN RAIL
NETWORK TO
EUROPE.



27 DECEMBER 1929
(Chinese Post Office)

Registered commercial
cover, postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Japan and Siberia"
sent to Manchester,
England.

Route:
Shanghai- (by sea) to Japan
& Vladivostok (Russia)-
Harbin-Manchouli-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-
England

31 Cents...
10+6 Cents.. Double-weight
(to 40 grams) international
letter-rate +
15 Cents.. Registration fee

(Validity: 1 October 1925 -
30 June 1930)

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1929.. Sinkiang-Sweden
'Hedin Expedition' Mail

SVEN HEDIN organized & led international **SINO-SWEDISH EXPEDITIONS THROUGH** Mongolia, the Gobi Desert and **SINKIANG PROVINCE OF CHINA** between 1927-1935, with archeologists, astronomers, botanists, geographers, geologists, meteorologists and zoologists from Sweden, Germany and China, resulting in findings which are still today being published and used in research.

THE EXPEDITION'S ASTRONOMER WAS 'NILS PETER AMBOLT',

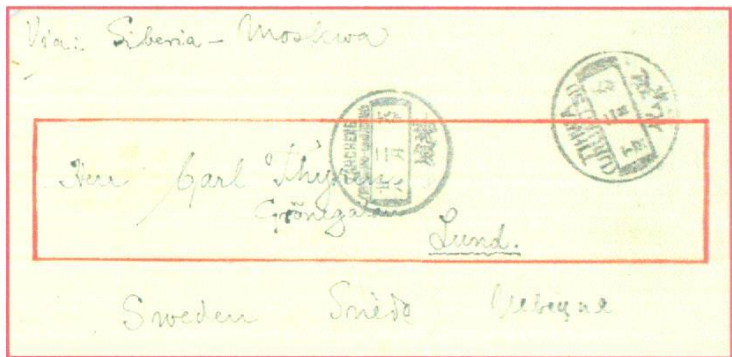


**SINKIANG INSPECTED & CENSORED
MAIL TO SWEDEN**

13 FEBRUARY 1929

'Nils Peter Ambolt' cover,
postmarked at
Tihwa (Wulumuchi/Urumchi), Sinkiang,
inspector-censored
(label attachment/**red chop**) at T'ach'eng
(Tahcheng/Dahcheng), Sinkiang
(border town with Russia),
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia - Moscow"
sent to Lund, Sweden.

Transit Postmark:
(front)
"Tahcheng,
28 February 1929"



Front

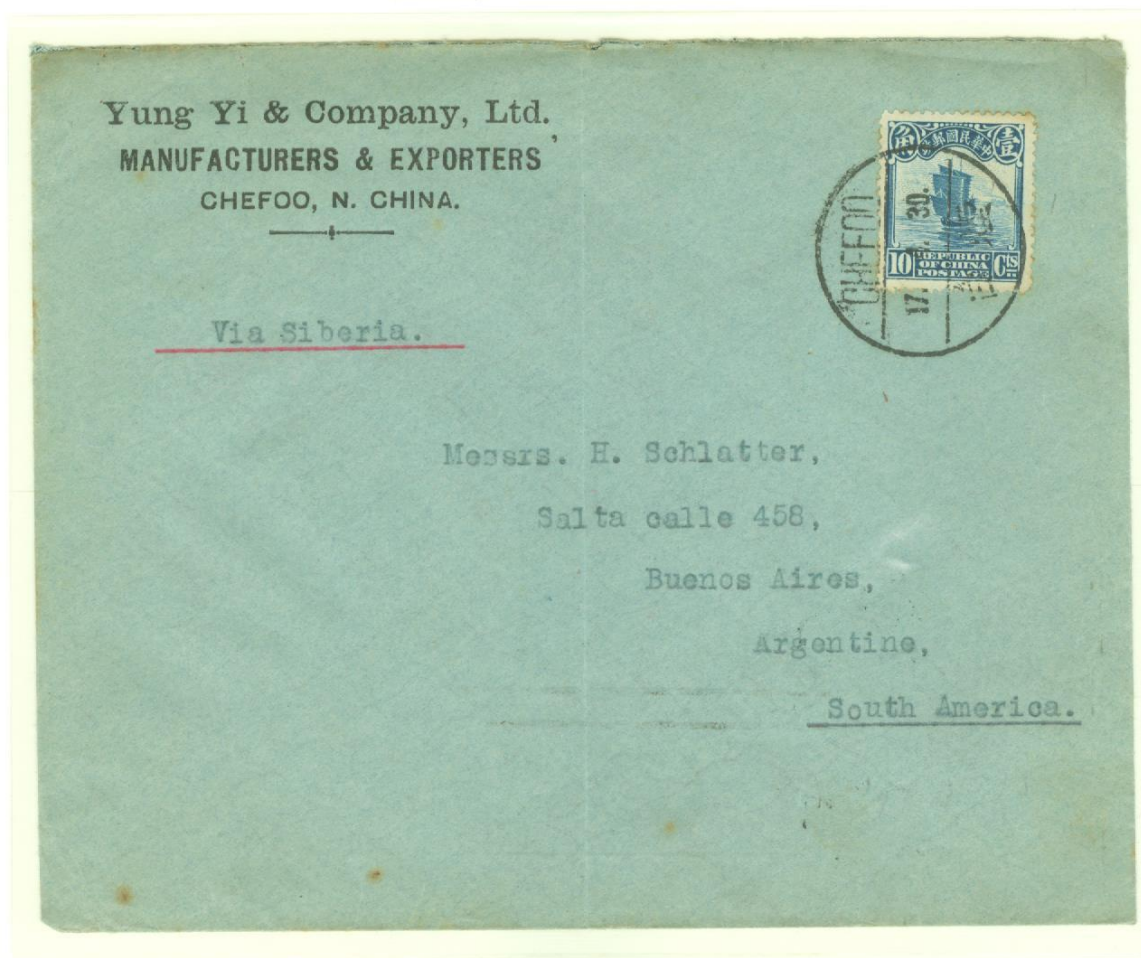
Probable Route:
(Caravan-route) ..
Tihwa-Tahcheng-Sarebryansk (Russia)-
(by rail) Omsk-Moscow-
St. Petersburg-(ship) Stockholm-Lund

10 Cents...
UPU International Single-Weight (1/2 ounce) Letter-Rate

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1930.. China-Argentina
Mail

CHINA TO SOUTH AMERICA 'VIA SIBERIA' & EUROPE MAIL



23 APRIL 1930
(Chinese Post Office)

Commercial cover,
postmarked at Chefoo, China, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina. 32-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark
(Reverse)
"Buenos Aires, 19 May 1930"

Probable Route:
Chefoo- (by sea) to Dalny-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-
(by sea) to Buenos Aires

10 Cents...
UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate
(Validity: 1 Jan 1923 - 30 June 1930)

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923-1931

1930.. North Manchuria
Mail to Southern Europe

IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE PURCHASE & RESALE ELSEWHERE OF POSTAGE STAMPS
SOLD IN MANCHURIA, WHERE THE CURRENCY WAS DEPRECIATED,
IN 1927
THE CHINA POST OFFICE OVERPRINTED THEIR REGULAR ISSUE OF 1923-1926
FOR USE IN THE PROVINCES OF KIRIN & HELLUNGKIANG.

用貼黑吉限



23 AUGUST 1930
(Chinese Post Office)

Registered commercial mail,
postmarked at Harbin, Manchuria, China, with route endorsement
"Via Russia"
sent to Athens, Greece. 21-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark
(Reverse)
"Athens, 13 September 1930"

Probable Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Vienna-Zagreb-Belgrade-Athens

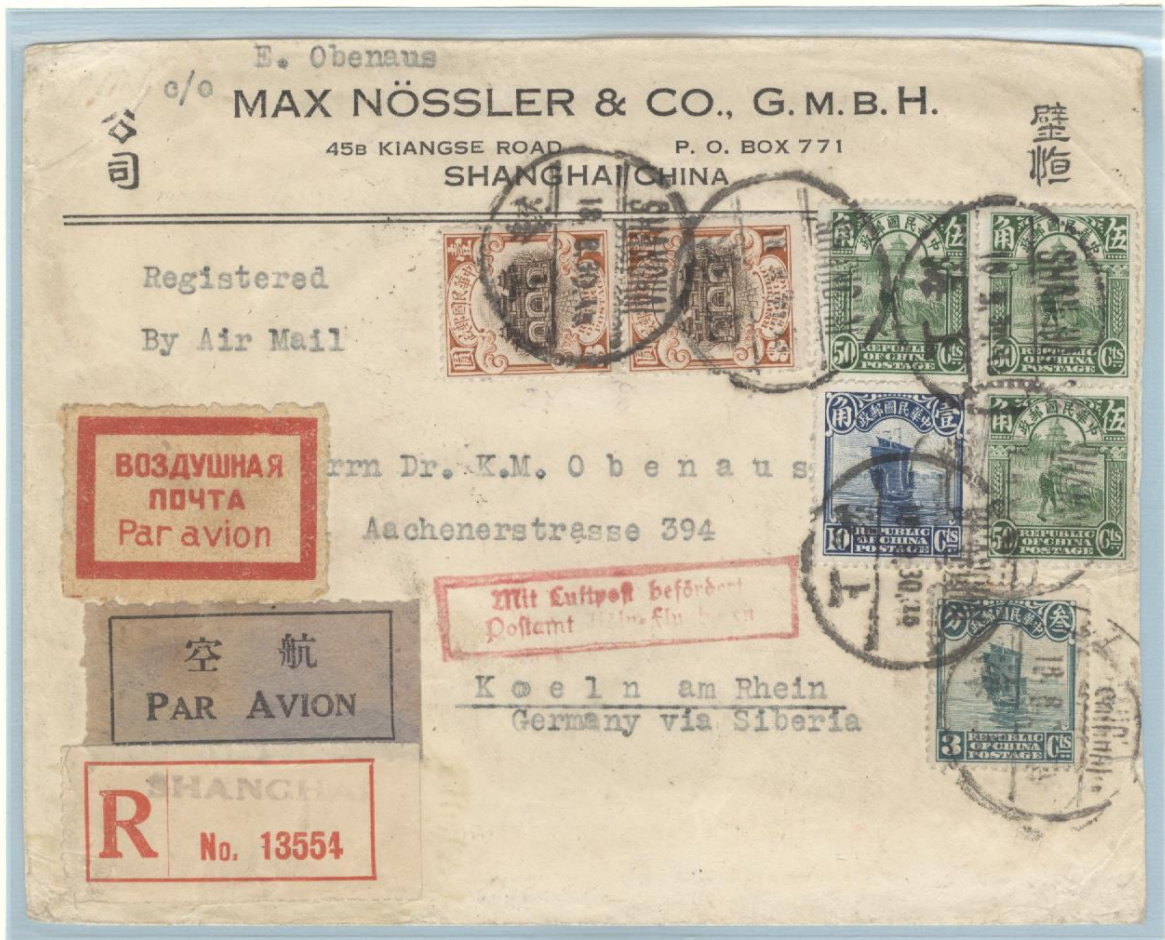
25 Cents...
15 Cents.. Single-weight (to 20 grams) letter-rate
+ 10 Cents registration fee.
(Validity: 1 July 1930 - 28 February 1931)

**RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931**

**1930 .. 'Via Siberia'
DERULUFT Airmail**

Airmail between Europe & the Soviet Union commenced soon after the conclusion of a peace treaty between Germany & the USSR in May 1921 along with establishment of **DERULUFT**, a joint Russian-German Airline, in November 1921. The first air service route was between Moscow and Königsberg, East Prussia, Germany, in May 1922.

BY 1930, A MORE EXTENSIVE AIR ROUTE OF 'BERLIN-DANZIG-KÖNIGSBERG-RIGA-SMOLENSK-MOSCOW-IRKUTSK' (Siberia) TOOK EFFECT.



18 AUGUST 1930

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Shanghai, China, with Chinese/French/German/Russian cachets "Par Avion", "Luffpost" (= Airmail) sent to Cologne, Germany, 18-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks
(Reverse)

"Harbin, 23 August 1930"
"Moscow, 3 & 5 September 1930"
"Cologne, 5 September 1930"

Route:

Rail: Shanghai-Pukow-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk
Air: Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Cologne

\$ 3.63 ...

15+9+9 Cents.. triple-weight letter (60 grams) +
15 Cents.. Registration fee +
45 Cents.. Air Surcharge (China/Zone 3) +
\$1.50.. Airmail Irkutsk-Moscow +
\$1.20.. Airmail Moscow-Germany

**CHINA-GERMANY COMMERCIAL MAIL BY RAILWAY
FROM SHANGHAI TO IRKUTSK
AND AIRMAIL FROM IRKUTSK TO GERMANY**



Reverse

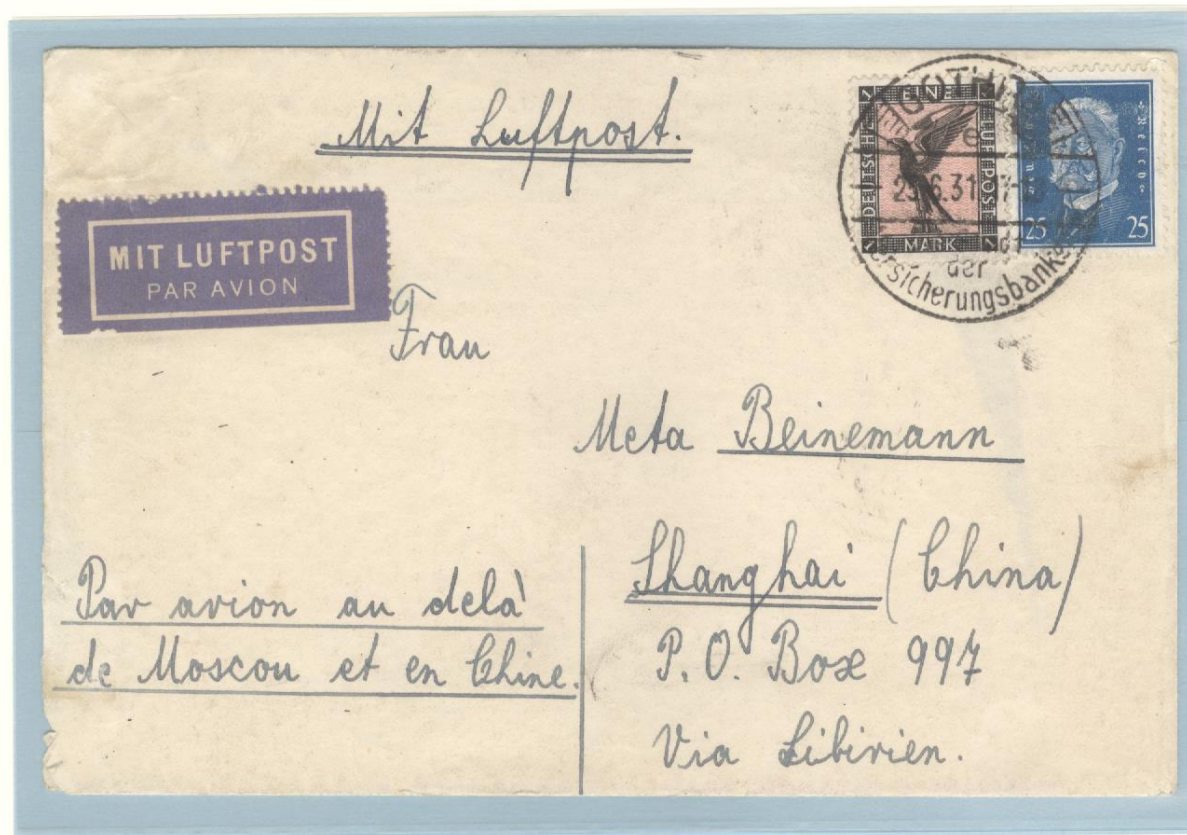
RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931

1931 .. 'Via Siberia'
DERULUFT & EURASIA Airmail

In February 1930, 'Eurasia Aviation Corporation' (China) was established with commencement of service in 1931 having three main routes, one of which was Shanghai to Manchouli (Manchuria).

Together with the earlier-established air carriers DERULUFT/DOBROLET & EURASIA, using the rail network, enabled movement of mail by 'air-land-air' from Shanghai to Berlin in less time than by rail alone.

BY 1931, EUROPEAN AIRMAIL COULD BE SENT FROM BERLIN TO IRKUTSK WITH DERULUFT-DOBROLET AIRLINES, THEN BY RAILWAY FROM IRKUTSK TO MANCHOULI (Manchuria), THEN AGAIN BY EURASIA AIRLINES FROM MANCHOULI-PEKING-SHANGHAI



This cover was on the third last flight on the Manchouli Route (5th flight from Berlin), since another plane on the same route was shot down on 2 July 1931, whereupon air traffic was interrupted. Occupation of Manchuria by Japanese Forces in September 1931 ended the air route Manchouli-Peking.

25 JUNE 1931

Airmail cover, postmarked at Gotha, Germany, with route-endorsement "Par avion au dela de Moscow et en Chine" & "Via Siberia" sent to Shanghai, China. 17-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:

(Reverse)

"Berlin, 26 June 1931"

"Manchouli, 7 July 1931"

"Shanghai, 11 July 1931"

RM 1.25..

25 Pfg.. UPU Single-Weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate +
1.00.. Single weight airmail surcharge

**RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931**

**1931 .. Rail & Airmail
to North America**

North American-Bound mail from Western Siberia
was routed
BY RAIL TO MOSCOW, AIRMAIL TO BERLIN WITH LUFTHANSA & SURFACE TO AMERICA.



**COMMERCIAL REGISTERED MAIL FROM WESTERN SIBERIA
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Sender was an American engineer working for Freyn Engineering Company of Chicago, contractor to build a steel plant at Kuznetsk. Wellman Engineering Company of Cleveland, the recipient, manufactured equipment for the plant.

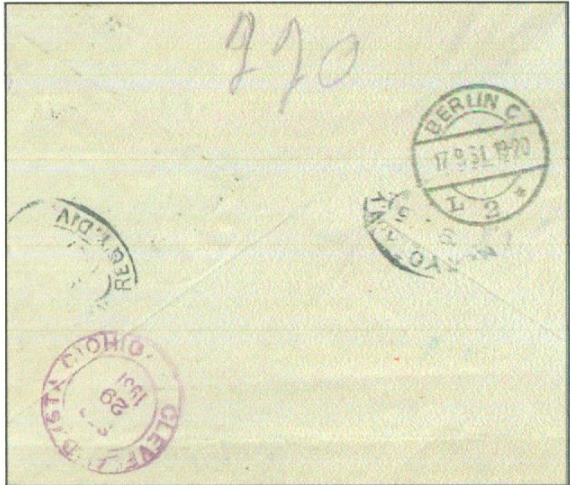
12 SEPTEMBER 1931

Registered commercial airmail, postmarked Kuznetsk, Siberia, sent to Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., 17-day transit time.

- Transit & Arrival Postmarks (Reverse)**
- "Kuznetsk, 12 September 1931"
 - "Berlin, 17 September 1931"
 - "New York, 25 September 1931"
 - "Cleveland, 29 September 1931"

Route:
 Rail.. Kuznetsk-Tomsk-Moscow
 Air.. Moscow-Berlin
 Surface.. Berlin-Hamburg-New York-Cleveland

**70 Kopecks..
Single-weight (20 grams) international registered airmail**



Reverse

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931

1931 .. Northern Rail Route
Japan-Austria

Despite political and border tensions between Russia & Japan involving Manchuria, mail sent from Japan to Europe continued to be moved by sea from Tsuruga, Japan, to Vladivostok, Russia, and then continued **OVER THE "NORTHERN" ALL-RUSSIA TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE TO MOSCOW-BERLIN AND BEYOND.**



JAPAN-AUSTRIA REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL

19 DECEMBER 1931
(Japanese Post Office)

Commercial registered cover, postmarked
Tokyo, Japan, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia",
sent to Vienna, Austria.

Route:
Tokyo-Tsuruga- (by-sea) to Vladivostok-
(by-rail) to Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Vienna

26 Sen..
10 Sen.. Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate
+
16 Sen.. Registration fee

RESUMPTION & EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES
1923 - 1931

1931 .. China-Germany Mail
Prior to 'Mukden Incident' &
Japanese Invasion of Manchuria

Under the pretense that the Chinese were sabotaging the railroad between Mukden & Port Arthur in Manchuria (the so-called "MUKDEN INCIDENT"), JAPANESE FORCES STATIONED IN KOREA INVADED MANCHURIA ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1931, CONSIDERED TO BE THE "UNOFFICIAL START" OF WORLD WAR II.



PRINTED-MATTER MAIL
TO GERMANY
JUST PRIOR
TO THE "MUKDEN INCIDENT"

10 AUGUST 1931
(Chinese Post Office)

Printed-matter wrapper,
postmarked at
Tientsin, China, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia",
sent to Holzminden, Germany.

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

4 Cents..
UPU International
Printed-Matter Rate
(up to 50 grams)

VIII. HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1932 Shanghai Invasion
Eyewitness Mail

In July 1931, the new Chinese Government supported a
**BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE GOODS AS A RESULT OF ANTI-CHINESE RIOTS IN
JAPANESE-OCCUPIED KOREA.**

That situation along with Japanese insinuation of Chinese sabotage to the rail line between Mukden (**THE 'MUKDEN INCIDENT'**) and Port Arthur on the Liaotung Peninsula, Japanese controlled territory, resulted in Japanese Forces (18 September 1931) entering and occupying the eastern Manchurian cities of Antung, Changsun (Hsiking), Kirin & Yinkow along with Harbin by 1932, resulting in interruption of operation on the eastern Chinese & southern Manchurian rail line sections of the trans-Siberian network.

ON 26 JANUARY 1932, HOSTILITIES ALSO COMMENCED AT SHANGHAI WITH BOMBARDMENT OF THE CITY AND LANDING OF JAPANESE FORCES.



6 FEBRUARY 1932

Up-rated postal stationery card, postmarked at Shanghai, China,
with route endorsement

"Via Siberia",

written by a German printer working in Shanghai, sent to his
brother & sister-in-law at Leipzig, Germany.

"Dear Brother Oscar & Friedel,
In the meantime, you have, no doubt, heard about the tumult
in Shanghai. The Japanese took revenge for the loss which they
had because of the boycott (of Japanese goods).
The battle is currently continuing. The Japanese are particularly out
for us at our company, The Commercial Press. It was in flames on the
first night from bombers. It is, however, our hope that everything is
fireproof and a lot can be rescued. Since the Commercial Press is
relatively capital strong, everything will be rebuilt.

I personally have to temporarily suffer. I have moved my apartment
to the consulate, and when everything is again clear, I shall go back
to my old apartment. Otherwise I have emerged well from the affair."

"All Russia" Northern Route:
Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) to Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Leipzig

15 Cents...
UPU International Postcard-Rate

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA

1931-1932 ..

1931-1939

Japan-Germany Commercial Mail

PRINTED MATTER
MAIL

13 DECEMBER 1931

Printed-matter
cover, postmarked
at Tokyo, Japan,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Górlitz, Germany

Route:
Tokyo-Vladivostok-
Tschita-Irkutsk-
Moscow-
Berlin-Górlitz

2 Sen..
International
printed-matter rate
for mail weighing up
to 50 grams.

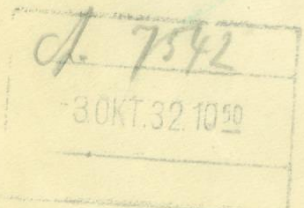


THE HISHIHIRA CO., LTD.
GENERAL IMPORTERS & EXPORTERS
P. O. BOX NO. 16
OSAKA, JAPAN

VIA SIBERIA

Messrs. Vereinigte Schmirgel-u. Maschinen-Fabriken
Hannover-Hainholz,

Germany.



REGISTERED.

REGISTERED MAIL

7 SEPTEMBER 1932

Registered cover,
postmarked at Osaka,
Japan, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Hanover-Hainholz,
26-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Hannover,
3 October 1932"

Route:
Tokyo-Vladivostok-
Tschita-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Hanover

26 Sen ...
10+6 Sen..
Double-weight
(20-40 grams)
international
letter-rate +
10 Sen.. Registry fee

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA 1931-1939

British Forces
'China Garrison'

The 'Boxer Protocol Peace Agreement' signed by China and twelve nations in September 1901 permitted the establishment of foreign garrisons in selected areas of China along with military post offices.

BRITISH MILITARY POST OFFICES WERE ESTABLISHED AT SHANGHAI IN JANUARY 1926 (UNTIL 1940) AND AT TIENTSIN (UNTIL NOVEMBER 1937).

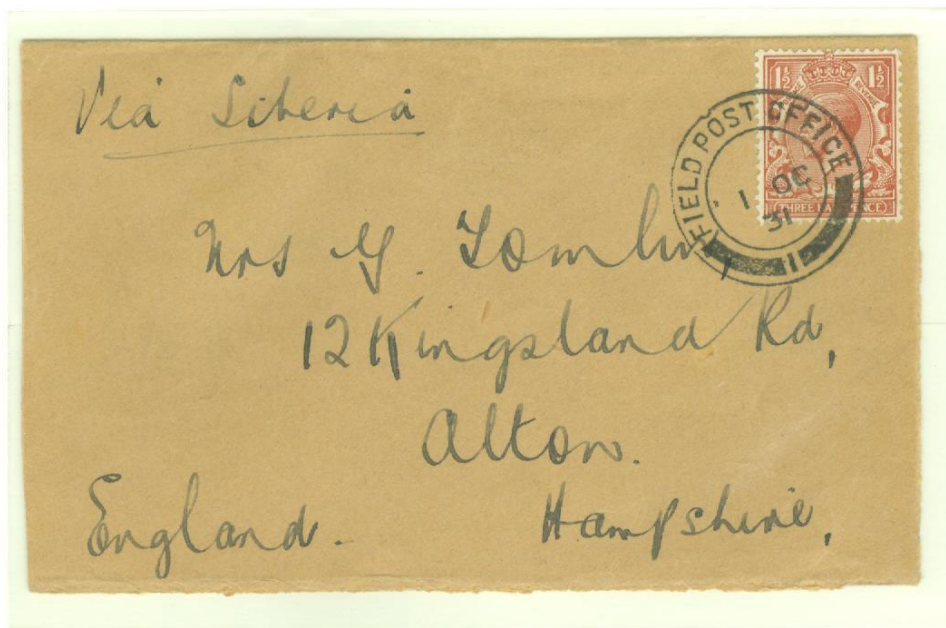
SOLDIER'S MAIL TO ENGLAND

30 JANUARY 1931

Cover, postmarked at "Field Post Office 1" with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Alton, Hampshire, England.

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-England

1½ Pence... Military concession single-weight (to 20 grams) letter-rate.



SAILOR'S MAIL TO ENGLAND

DECEMBER 1933

Cover, written by a sailor aboard a British naval vessel at Shanghai, un-postmarked & un-franked with route endorsement "Via Siberia", sent to Plymouth, Devon, England, with postage & penalty due.

Arrival Postmark:
"Received from H.M. Ships.. London, - January 1934"

Probable Route:
Shanghai-(by sea) Dalny-Vladivostok-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-London



3 Pence Postage Due:
1½ single-weight letter + 1½ penalty

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA 1931-1939

French Forces'
'China Garrison'

In addition to British Forces remaining in China after the Boxer Conflict, French Forces remained retaining their military post offices at both Shanghai & Tientsin as well as aboard their Yangtze River Fleet and at Shaameen Island, Canton.



INBOUND UNDER-FRANKED COVER FROM FRANCE SENT TO AN OFFICER
WITH THE FRENCH FAR EAST FORCES AT SHANGHAI

31 DECEMBER 1932

Inbound cover, postmarked at Saint-Pol-de-Leon,
France, with route endorsement

"Via Siberia"

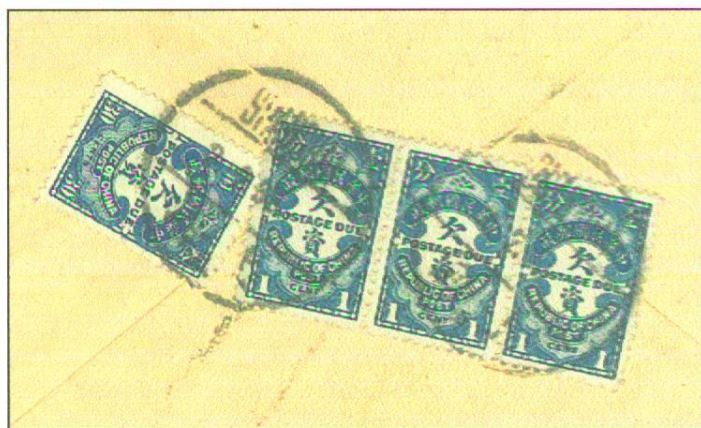
sent to Shanghai, China,
with short postage + penalty due.
33-days transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)

"Shanghai, 2 February 1932"

Probable Route:

France-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-
Peking-Pukow-Shanghai



Reverse

Fr. 0.50 postage ...
with 33 Cents postage + penalty due
(covering fr. 1.50 rate applicable)

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1932.. Suspended Mail Service
Eastern Manchuria

By 1932, Japanese Forces had occupied most of Eastern Manchuria and controlled the Chinese Eastern & Southern Manchurian Rail Line intersection at Harbin, part of the southern trans-Siberian rail network, with MAIL FLOW TO EASTERN MANCHURIA NOW INTERRUPTED, RE-DIRECTED, HELD AND/OR RETURNED TO SENDER.



27 DECEMBER 1932
(German Post Office)

Printed-matter wrapper, postmarked at Munich, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Yenki, Kirin Province, Eastern Manchuria,

"Service Suspended" to Yenki because of hostilities from the Japanese invasion and ongoing occupation of Manchuria. Mail also marked "Return to Sender" (probably at Harbin) and re-directed to the Chinese Post Office at Shanghai, first arriving there on 6 February 1933.

Probable Route: Munich-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-interruption and re-direction in 1933 to Shanghai

10 Pfennig...
Printed-matter rate for mail 50-100 grams in weight.

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1932-1934.. "Via America"
Mail Routing

Between 1932-1934, Japanese occupation of Manchuria resulted in a Chinese boycott of mail service to Manchuria causing an interruption of mail traffic to/from Europe over the Manchurian & Eastern Chinese Railways' portion of the Trans-Siberian-Far East Network.

TO BYPASS THE INTERRUPTION, THE GERMAN POST OFFICE ROUTED
FAR-EAST-BOUND MAIL "VIA AMERICA"



29 JULY 1933
(German Post Office)

Registered cover, postmarked at Wuppertal-Elberfeld, with route endorsement
"Via America"
sent to Shanghai, China. 31 day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
"Shanghai, 29 August 1933"

Route:
Wuppertal Elberfeld-Hamburg-New York-San Francisco-Shanghai

60 Pfennig...
25 Pfg.. Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate +
30 Pfg.. Registration fee +
5 Pfg.. Convenience franking

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1932.. Rise of "Manchukuo"

By 18 February 1932, "MANCHURIA" was occupied by Japanese forces, establishing the Japanese vassal-state of "MANCHUKUO" in March, having its capital at Changsun (renamed "Hsinking") with abdicated (1912) Chinese Emperor Henry Pu-Yi, as regent.

JAPANESE CONTROL OF MANCHUKUO WITH ITS MANCHURIAN RAILWAY BRANCH CONNECTING TO THE CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY RESULTED IN A CHINESE BOYCOTT OF MAIL TRANSIT BETWEEN 1932-1934 ... PREVENTING MAIL TO/FROM EUROPE & CHINA THROUGH MANCHUKUO, RESUMPTION AGAIN IN 1935.

25 MAY 1937

Commercial cover, postmarked at Harbin, Manchukuo, with route endorsement "Via America" sent to Basel (Basle), Switzerland

Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Frankfurt/Main-Basel

20 Fen...
Single-Weight
International
Letter-Rate

Postage stamp
illustrates Henry Pu-Yi



12 DECEMBER 1937

Registered cover, postmarked at Harbin, Manchukuo, with route endorsement "Via America" sent to Kazanlik, Bulgaria. 17-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
"Kazanlik, 29 December 1937"

Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Vienna-Bulgaria

36 Fen...
20 Fen.. Single-Weight
Letter-Rate +
16 Fen.. Registration fee



HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1932-1934 Manchuria ..
Chinese Mail Boycott

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION
OF MANCHURIA & ITS VASSAL-STATE 'MANCHUKUO',

boycotting mail to/through 'via the trans-Siberian rail network' ending in 1935... with bypassing
such boycott with Europe-bound mail only by courier mail to Manchukuo for forwarding with the
Manchurian Rail/Trans-Siberian Railways, or by ship 'via Suez' or 'via America'.



(6) JUNE 1934

Cert. Haveman

- Triple-weight cover, 15 Cents franking, postmarked at Shanghai, sent to the German Embassy at Peiping (8 June 1934) requesting mail be forwarded to Germany (manuscript note on cover front) attempting to bypass Chinese postal boycott;
- Mail, affixed with Japanese postage (10 Sen) for a single-weight cover, re-directed address applied, taken by courier and dropped in a Mukden mailbox, postmarked 1 December 1934;
- Mail found to be under-franked by the Japanese Post Office requiring 30 Centimes/Pfennig postage due;
- Because of damage, the cover was officially sealed at Kötzschenbroda, Germany, with delivery on 15 December 1934 per manuscript note on reverse of cover.

Route endorsement: "Germany via Siberia".
192 day transit time.

Route:
Shanghai-Peiping-Moukden (by courier)-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Kötzschenbroda

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1935.. Commercial Mail
Manchukuo-Germany

MAIL TO
'GERMAN BANK
FOR COLONIAL-
GERMAN
SETTLEMENTS'

3 May 1935

Cover,
postmarked
at Harbin,
Manchukuo,
with route
endorsement
*"Germany via
Siberia"*,
sent to Berlin,
Germany.

Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin

W. N. K O B
BERLIN No. 24
Elsasser-Strasse Nr. 90.
HARBIN (CHINA)
Samannaja No. 1.
P. O. Box 424.

Germany via Siberia.



Titl.

Kreditbank für Auslands & Kolonialdeutsche
in Liquidation,

Berlin W 9.
Schellingstrasse 2.

Germany - Via Siberia

德國行過哈爾濱

Herrn

Eugen R e i s

G.m.b.H.

Bruchsal / Baden
=====



CATHOLIC
MISSION
MAIL

DECEMBER, 1935

Cover,
postmarked at
Yenki,
Manchukuo,
with route
endorsement
*"Germany
Via Siberia"*
to Bruchsal,
Baden, Germany.

Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Stuttgart-Bruchsal

10 Fen ...
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate.

HOSTILITIES & WAR
IN
MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1933.. Japanese Control of the
"Liaotung Peninsula"

By 1933, Japanese Forces had control of Manchuria and controlled the trans-Siberian railway feeder lines .. Southern Manchurian & Chinese Eastern Railways .. to DALNY (DARIEN) ON THE CHINESE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA, WHERE A JAPANESE POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED.

MITSUBISHI SHOJI KAISHA, LTD.,
DAIREN.

REGISTERED

MESSRS. SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME

FRANÇAISE MITSUBISHI,

VIA SIBERIA

No. 70 Bis. Rue d'Amsterdam
144, Avenue des Champs-Élysées,



PARIS.

29 MARCH 1933
(Japanese Post Office)

Registered commercial mail, postmarked at the Japanese Post Office at Dairen, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Paris, France.

Transit Postmark:
"Hsinking,
31 March 1933"

Route:
Dairen-Hsinking
(Harbin)-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Paris

32 Sen...
10+6 Sen... Double-weight (40 grams) international letter-rate +
16 Sen.. Registration fee

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1932... Formosa & Korea..
Mail to Europe

The Sino-Japanese War of 1895 with resulting 'Peace Treaty of Shimonoseki' acknowledged the independence of Korea, albeit with Japan effectively controlling the government ending with full annexation in 1910. Under the same treaty, Formosa was ceded to Japan and remained occupied until its WWII defeat in 1945.

JAPANESE POSTAGE STAMPS & RATES WERE USED IN KOREA FROM 1905-1945 AND ON FORMOSA FROM 1895-1946.

FORMOSA TO
SWITZERLAND PRINTED-
MATTER

31 DECEMBER 1932

Printed-matter,
postmarked at Taihoku
(Taipei), Formosa, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Zürich, Switzerland.

Probable Route:
Taipei-Vladivostok-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Basel-
Zürich

2 Sen... Printed-matter rate
(to 50 grams).



COMMERCIAL
MAIL FROM
KOREA TO
GERMANY

28 MARCH
1932

Commercial
mail,
postmarked at
Keijo (Seoul),
Korea, with
route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Stuttgart,
Germany.

Route:
Seoul-
Vladivostok-
Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Stuttgart

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

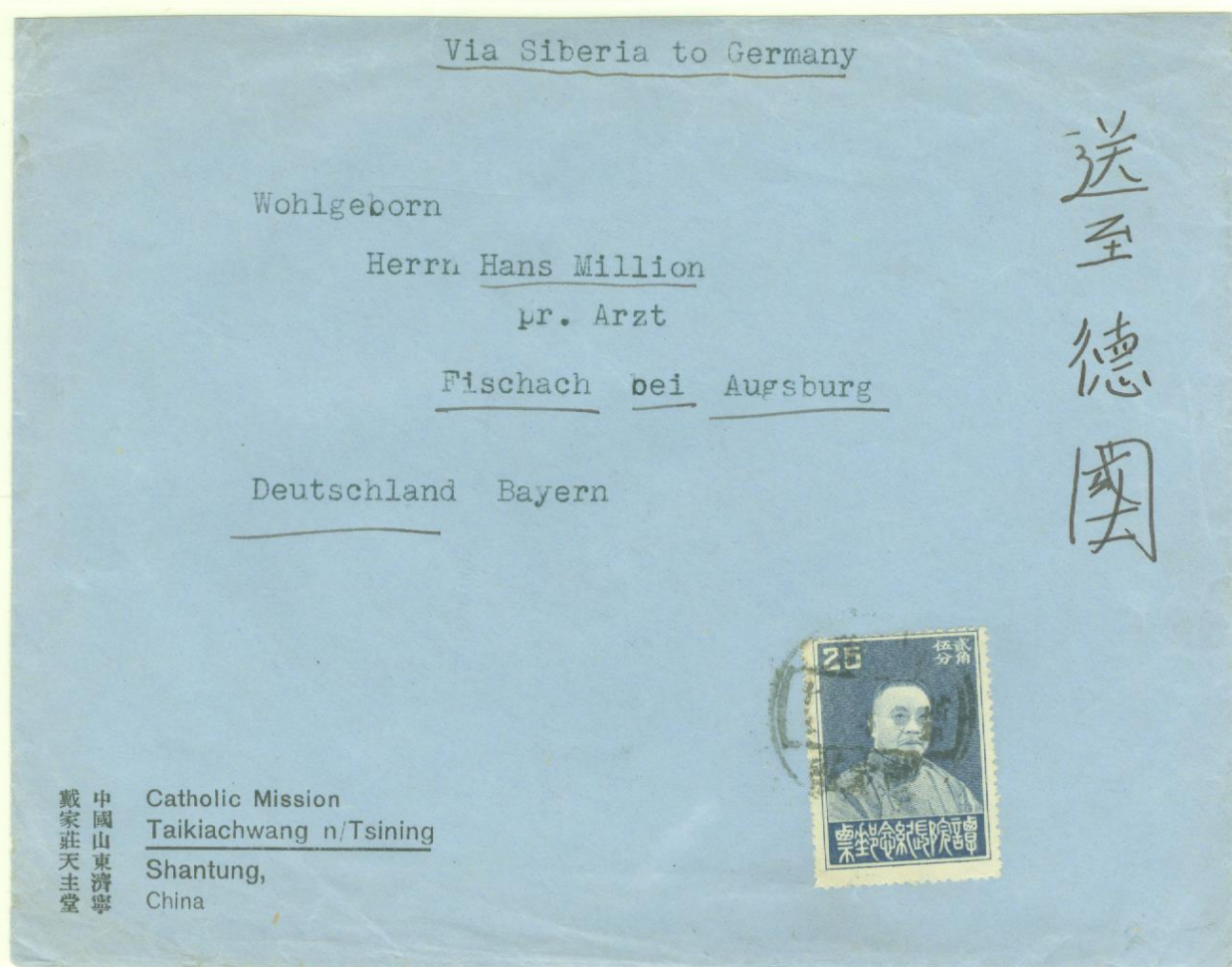


HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1933.. Missionary Mail
North China-Germany

NORTH CHINA WAS THE FIRST AREA OF CHINA TO BE UNITED BY THE
NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL CHANG KAI-SHEK
BETWEEN 1926-1936.

Shantung Province in North China
had many German-established missions, hospitals and schools.



SHANTUNG, NORTH CHINA, CATHOLIC MISSION
MAIL TO GERMANY

1933

Cover, postmarked at Taikiachwang/Tsining, China
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia to Germany"
sent to Fischach/Augsburg, Germany.

Probable Route:

Taikiachwang-Peking-Pukow-Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) Kiachta-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Augsburg-Fischach

25 Cents ...

Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate.
(Validity: 1 February 1931 - 31 January 1936)

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

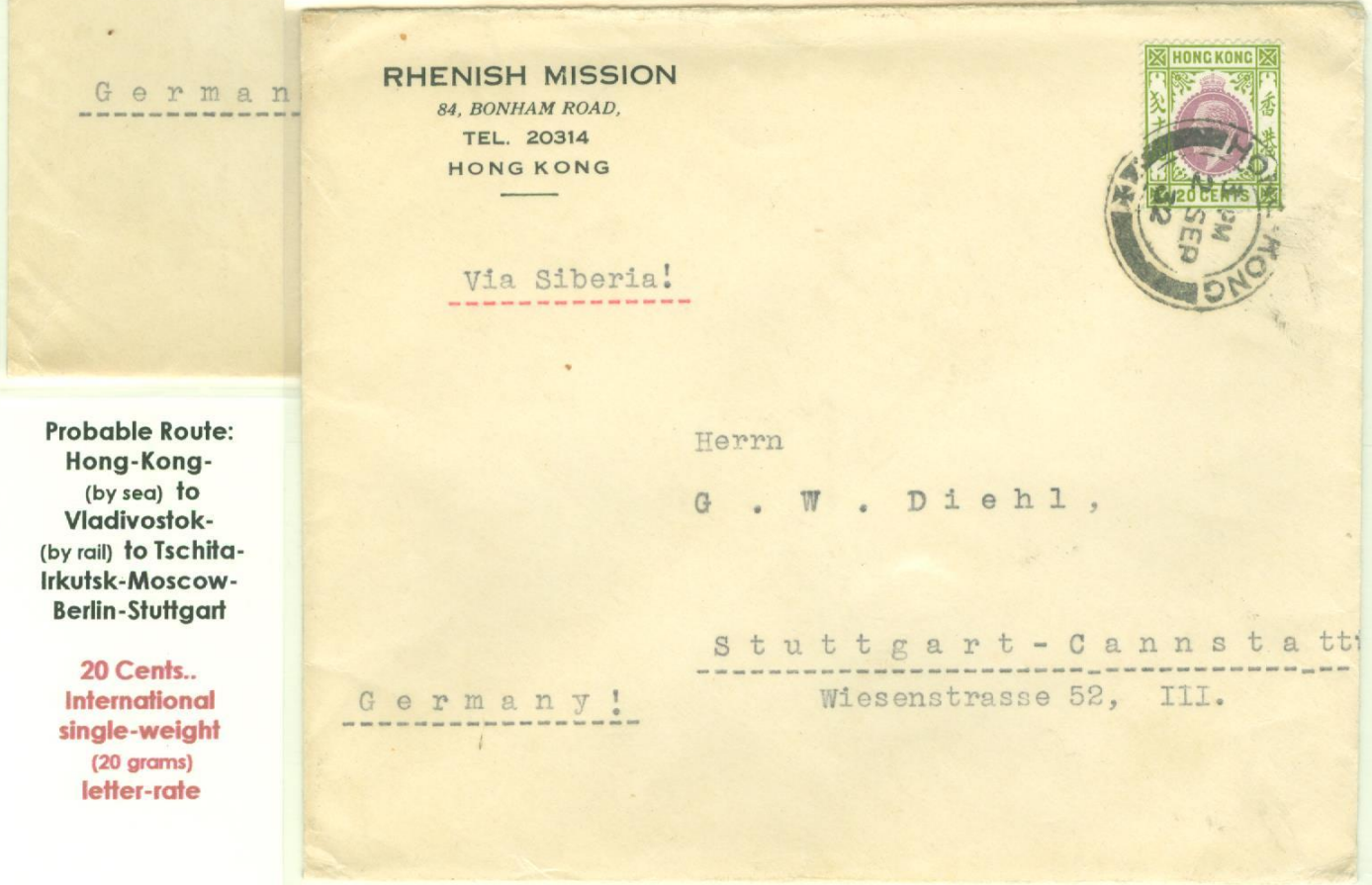
1931-1933 ..

Missionary Mail to Germany

MISSIONARY MAIL
POSTMARKED
1931, 1932, 1933

2 July 1933

Covers,
postmarked at
Hong Kong with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Stuttgart,
Germany



Probable Route:
Hong-Kong-
(by sea) to
Vladivostok-
(by rail) to Tschita-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Stuttgart

20 Cents..
International
single-weight
(20 grams)
letter-rate

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1933/35 ..
Hong Kong to Europe

POSTAGE DUE MAIL
TO ENGLAND

2 JULY 1933

Unfranked,
postage due letter cover,
postmarked at Hong Kong
(reverse)
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Plymouth, Devon,
England

Probable Route:
Hong-Kong-
(by sea) to Vladivostok- (by
rail over the northern route) to
Tschita-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hamburg-London-
Plymouth

5 Pence Postage Due..
2½ Pence.. International
single-weight letter-rate +
2½ Penalty



COMMERCIAL
MAIL TO
SWEDEN

28 MAY 1935

Cover front,
postmarked at
Hong Kong
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to
Stockholm,
Sweden.

Probable
Route:
Hong Kong-
(by sea)
Vladivostok-
(by rail over
the northern
route) Tschita-
Irkutsk-Omsk-
St. Petersburg-
(by sea)
Sweden



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

**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939**

1933/36 ..
China-France Mail

STANDARD LETTER MAIL

14 JULY 1933
(China Post Office)

Single-weight cover
postmarked at Peiping, China
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Paris, France.
32-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Paris,
15 August 1933"

CNC 0.25..
Single-weight (20 grams)
International letter-rate.
(Validity:
February 1933 - 31 October 1934)



REGISTERED MAIL

4 NOVEMBER 1936

Cover, postmarked at
Tientsin, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia", sent to
Benon, France.
16-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"20 November 1936"

Probable Route:
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-
Paris-Benon

CNC 0.50...
CNC 0.25 international
single-weight (20 grams)
letter-rate +
CNC 0.25 Registration fee

(Validity: 1 February 1936 -
31 August 1939)



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1934.. Germany-U.S.A.
'Via America' Routed Mail

RESULTING FROM THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF MANCHUKUO & INTERRUPTION
OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE NETWORK BETWEEN 1932-1934,
GERMAN-ORIGIN USA-BOUND MAIL WAS ROUTED BY SEA FROM HAMBURG
THROUGH THE EAST COAST, U.S.A.



"TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS" ENDORSED-MAIL ROUTED 'VIA AMERICA'

14 MAY 1934

Advertising cover, postmarked
at Stuttgart, Germany,, with cachet endorsement
"Trans Siberian Express"
to Burlingame, California, and re-directed,
upon arrival, to Paxton, California.
15-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Burlingame 29 May 1934"

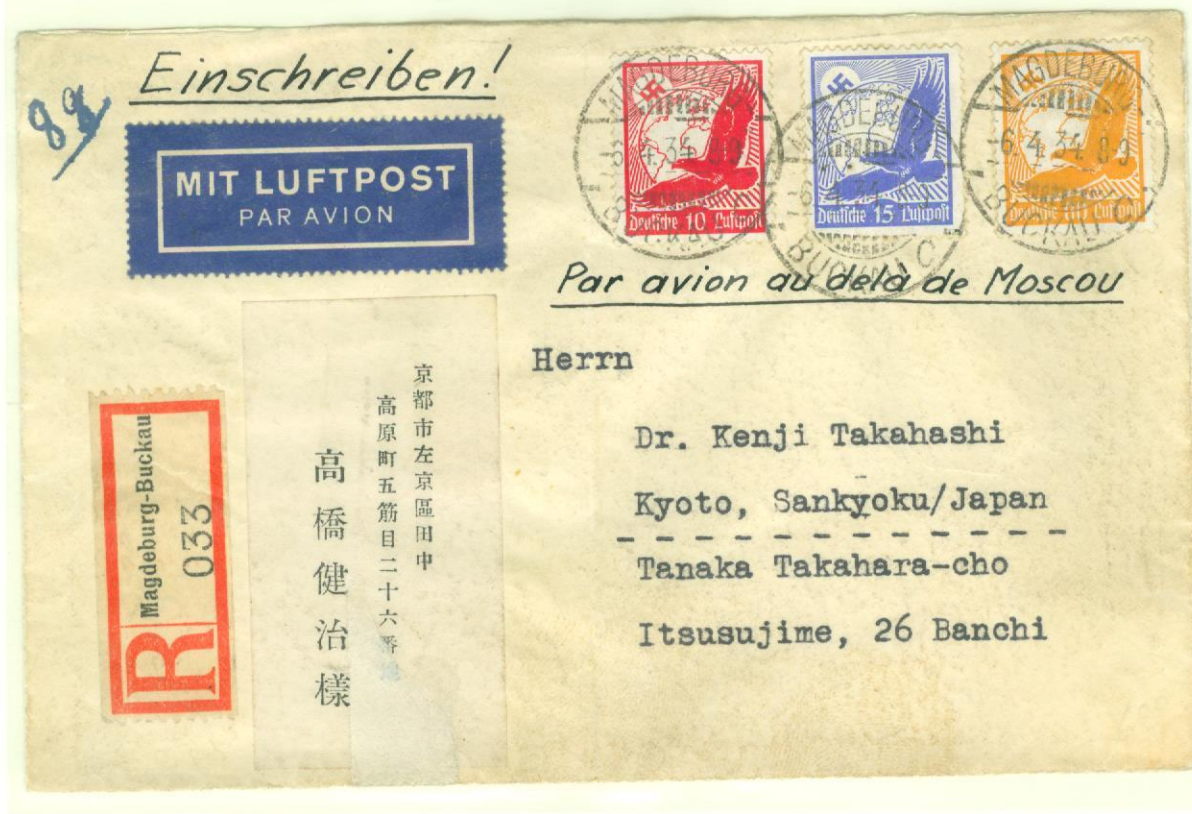
Route:
Stuttgart-Hamburg- (by sea) to New York (by rail) to Chicago-San Francisco-
Burlingame-Paxton

25 Pfennig ...
Single-weight (20 grams) International letter-rate

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1934.. Airmail 'Via Siberia'
Germany- Japan

Despite the trans-Siberian northern (all Russia) route availability for surface European mail to Japan,
FASTER AIRMAIL FLIGHTS,
similar to the 1929 Zeppelin flight,
FOLLOWED THE GOVERNMENT-APPROVED TRAIN ROUTE FOR SAFETY & NAVIGATION PURPOSES.



REGISTERED COMMERCIAL AIRMAIL GERMANY-JAPAN

6 APRIL 1934
(German Post Office)

Registered commercial airmail, postmarked
at Magdeburg-Buckau, Germany,, with endorsement
"Par avion au dela de Moscou"
sent to Kyoto, Japan.

Probable Route:
Magdeburg-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Vladivostok-
Tokyo-Kyoto

Mk 1.05 ...
25 Pfg.. Single-weight (20 grams)
International letter-rate +
50 Pfg.. Airmail Surcharge +
(up to 10 grams)
30 Pfg.. Registration fee

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1935.. Airmail 'Via Siberia'
Chad (Central Africa)
to China

REOPENING OF THE SOUTH MANCHURIAN & EASTERN CHINESE RAILWAYS IN 1935
 enabled surface European China-bound mail to again transit the full 'via Siberian' network, including surface mail to Manchouli to be forwarded by air with Eurasia Airways to southern China.



AIRMAIL FROM THE FRENCH COLONY OF CHAD TO SHANGHAI

5 AUGUST 1935

Lightweight "Air Afrique" postal stationery cover, postmarked at Fort Lamy, Chad, with endorsement

"Par Avion via Paris-Moscow-Siberia"

sent to Shanghai, China.

18-day transit time

Transit Postmarks:

(Reverse)

"Paris, 9 August 1935"

"Berlin, 9 August 1935"

Manuscript Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Shanghai, 23 August 1935"

Route:

Chad-(Air Afrique-Sabena)-Paris-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-
 (by rail) to Manchouli-Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai

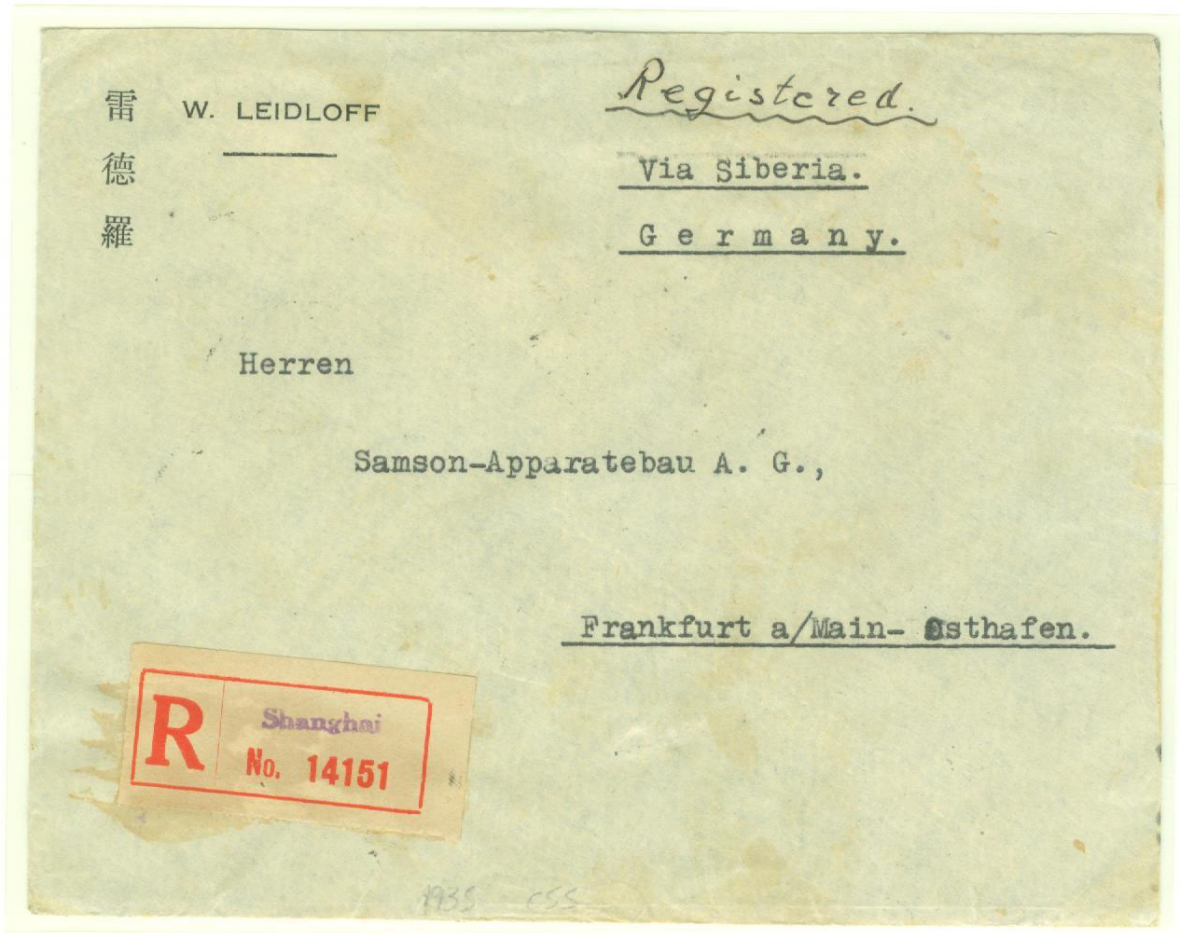


Reverse

Fr 5.00 ...

Single-weight (10 grams)

International letter-rate



SHANGHAI-ORIGIN REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO GERMANY

13 JULY 1935

Registered cover,
postmarked at Shanghai, China,
with route endorsement
"Registered Via Siberia Germany"
to Frankfurt/Main, Germany.
19-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Frankfurt (Main),
31 July 1935"

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Frankfurt/Main

CNC 0.40 ...
0.20.. Single-weight (20 grams)
International letter-rate +
0.20 Registration fee
(Validity: 1. June 1935 – 31 January 1936)



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1936..
China-Austria
Registered Mail



SHANGHAI-ORIGIN REGISTERED MAIL TO AUSTRIA

8 FEBRUARY 1936

Registered cover,
postmarked at Shanghai, China with endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Vienna, Austria.

Probable Route:
Shanghai-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Vienna

CNC 0.50 ...
0.25.. Single-weight (20 grams)
International letter-rate +
0.25 Registration fee
(Validity: 1. February 1936 – 1 September 1939)



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA

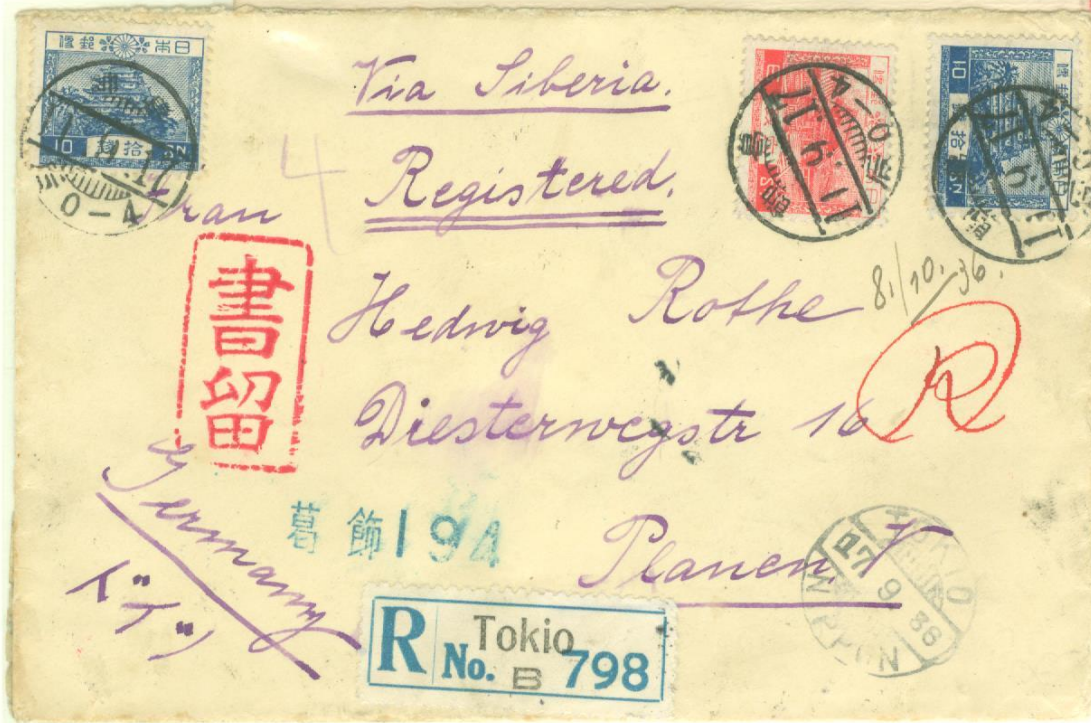
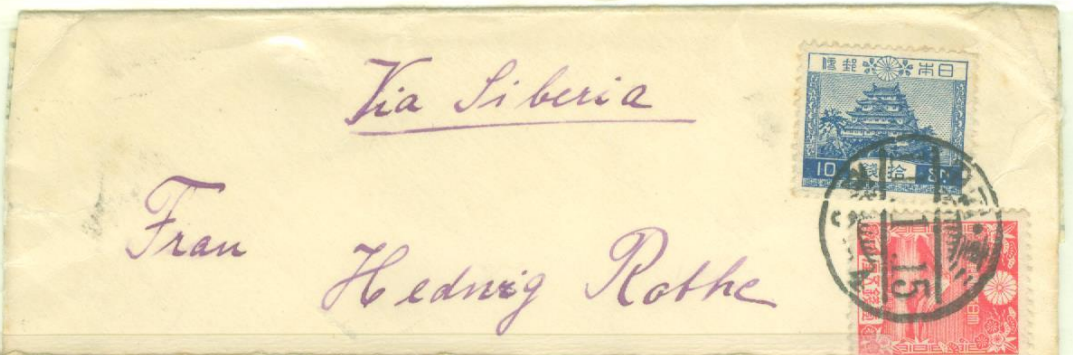
1936..

1931-1939

Japan-Germany
Customs Inspected Mail

15 JANUARY 1936

Double-weight cover, postmarked at Tokyo, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" with Customs inspection at Plauen, Germany.



17 SEPTEMBER 1936

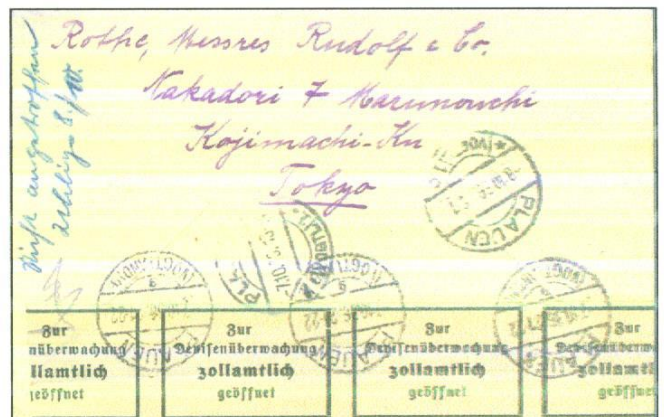
REGISTERED CUSTOMS-INSPECTED
JAPAN-GERMANY MAIL

Registered cover, postmarked at Tokyo, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Plauen, Germany, opened & inspected for possible currency-violation and officially sealed. 20-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Plauen, 7/8 October 1936"

Route:
Tokyo-Vladivostok-Tschita-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Leipzig-Plauen

26 Sen ...
10+6 Sen.. Double-weight (20-40 grams)
International letter-rate +
10 Sen.. Registration fee



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1935-36..

China-England Mail

PRINTED-MATTER

28 NOVEMBER 1935

Printed-matter cover,
postmarked at Changyea,
Shansi Province, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Bristol, England.

Probable Route:
Changyea, Shanghai-
Pukow-Peking-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hanburg-London-
Bristol

4 Cents..
Single-rate (50 grams)
international
printed-matter rate
(Validity:
1 June 1935 - 31 January 1936)



DOUBLE-WEIGHT
LETTER MAIL

24 OCTOBER 1936

Cover, postmarked at
Wuhu, China, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
to Radlett, England.
23-day transit time.

Transit Postmark;
(Reverse)
"Tientsin,
26 October 1936"

Arrival Marking:
(Front)
"16 November
1936"

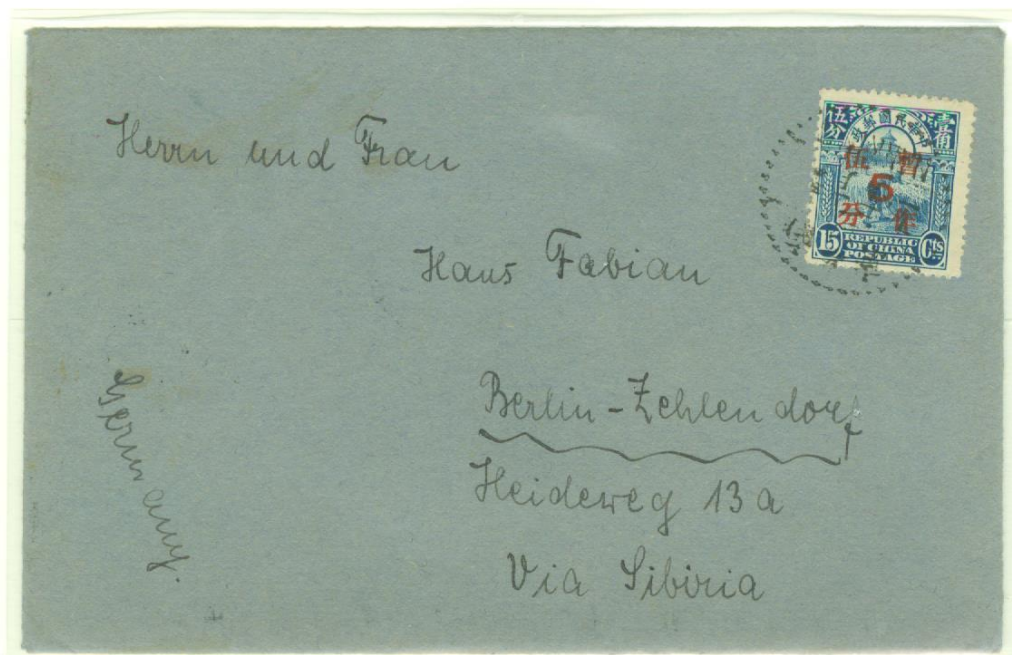
Probable Route:
Wuhu-Tientsin-
Peking-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hamburg-
England

40 Cents...
25+15 Cents ..
Double-weight
(to 40 grams)
international
letter-rate
(Validity: 1 Feb. 1936 -
31 August 1939)



Already in June, 1928, the Nationalist Government established the City of Nanking as its capital. Between 1928-1936, the National Government, fighting a civil war with the Communist Government, attempted to unify Chinese provinces under the "Nationalist Front" of General Chiang Kai-Shek.

'1936' WOULD BE THE LAST PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS FOR NANKING.



CHINESE 1936 CRHISTMAS CARD
NANKING TO GERMANY

30 NOVEMBER 1936

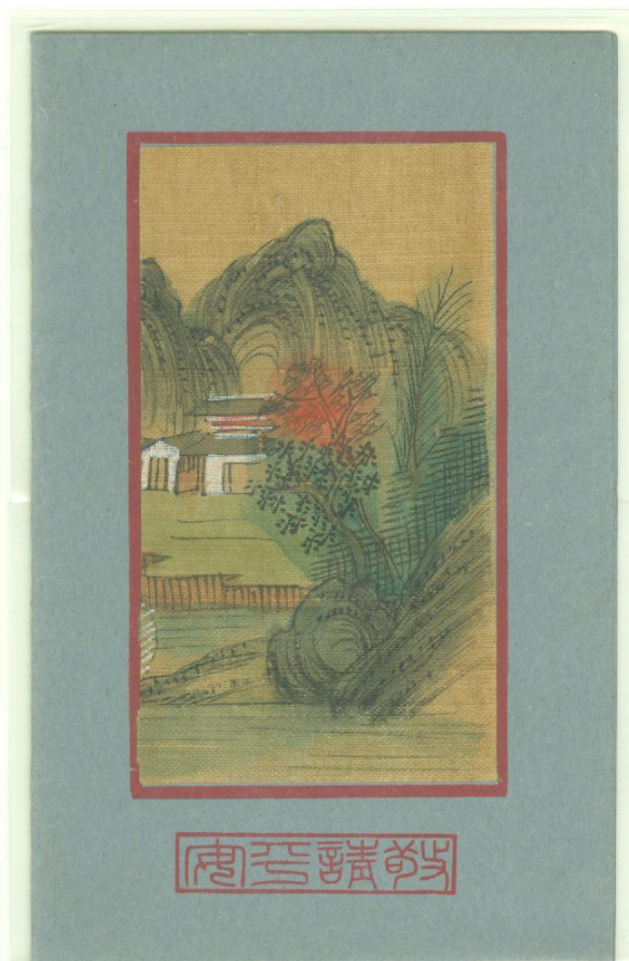
Printed-matter cover, postmarked at
Nanking, China, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Berlin-Zehlendorf, Germany.

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Tientsin,
1 December 1936"

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

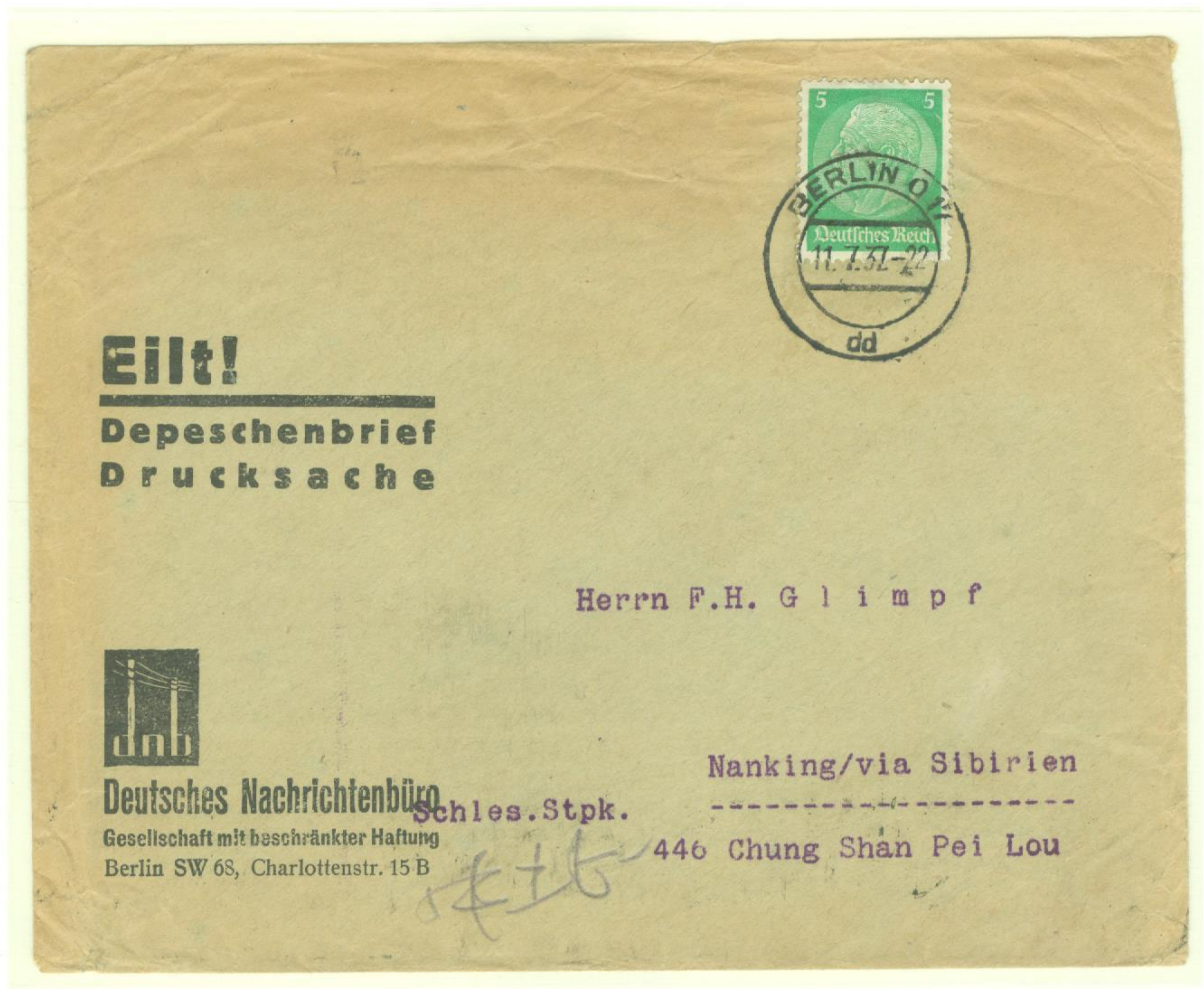
CNC 0.05 ...
International printed-matter rate for mail
weighing up to 50 grams.
(Validity: 1 Feb. 1936 - 31 August 1939)

"PEACETO YOU"
(Old Chinese Font)



HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1937.. In-Bound China-Mail
Prior to The Fall of Nanking



IN-BOUND ENDORSED "URGENT DESPATCH PRINTED-MATTER"
SENT PRIOR TO THE FALL OF NANKING

11 JULY 1937

Printed-matter cover. postmarked
at Berlin, Germany, with route endorsement
"Nanking/Via Siberia"
sent to Nanking, China.
18-day transit time.

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Tientsin,
27 July 1937"

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Nanking,
29 July 1937"

Probable Route:
Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-Tientsin-
Pukow-Shanghai-Nanking

5 Pfennig ...

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

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA 1931-1939

1937..

'Marco Polo Bridge Incident'
(Begin of Sino-Japanese War)

On 7 July 1937,
Japanese troops on
night maneuvers at
Lukouchiao, about 9
miles SW of Peking,
clashed with Chinese
troops, whereupon
Japan sent an
ultimatum to China,
which was ignored,
resulting in Japanese
occupation of
**PEKING (28 July) &
TIENSIN (29 July).**
On 11 August, a
Japanese naval
force landed at
SHANGHAI resulting
in fierce fighting.



28 OCTOBER 1937
(China Post Office)

Registered printed-
matter front,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to
Wusterhausen,
Germany.

"This cover was
mailed during the
on-going hostilities
at Shanghai
between
11 August –
8 November
whereupon the city
surrendered.

Probable Route:
Shanghai- (by ship) to Vladivostok- (by rail)
to Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Wusterhausen

35 CNC...
10 CNC.. Up to 100 grams printed-matter +
25 CNC.. Registration fee

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1938.. Europe-Japan Mail
'Via Siberia' Northern Route

MAIL TO FRENCH
AMBASSADOR IN
JAPAN

18 FEBRUARY 1938

Cover, postmarked
at Paris, France, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Tokyo, Japan.

Route:
Paris-Berlin-Moscow-
Irkutsk-Tschita-
Vladivostok-Tsuruga-
Tokyo

Fr 1.75...
Single-weight
(20 grams) international
letter-rate



Abfender: *E. Schlesicky*
Wohner, auch Zustelle, der Leitpostamt
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel od. Postschließfachnummer

*Das Rimarkad
wie oben
Höher aber at schleich Markt,
pame mit rillleicht spinnen
nach Kunde; Markt schon
ist d. Smarag. Schwanz,
Das Baumgut hat supports
von Schnee Baum,
alle hier lassen grünen,*

Postkarte
Via Sibirien

15 15
BAD EMS
26.5.38
Deutsches Reich

DR. C. KRAYER

山横 44 C Bluff
手濱 市 Nakaku
二四 中
四 區
C 區

シー、クライヤー様

Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel oder Postschließfachnummer

GERMANY-JAPAN
POSTAL STATIONERY
CARD MAIL

26 MAY 1938

Postal stationery
card, postmarked at
Bad Ems, Germany,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Yokohama,
Japan.

Route:
Bad Ems-Berlin-
Moscow-Irkutsk-
Tschita-Vladivostok-
Tsuruga or
Yokohama

15 Pfg...
International
postcard-rate

TRADE SAMPLE
PARCEL TO
ENGLAND

1938

Parcel clip,
postmarked
Kobe, Japan,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to
London,
England.

Route:
Kobe-Tsuruga-
Vladivostok-
Tschita-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Hamburg-
London

40 Sen...
(2x 20 Sen = New
Die = 18.5x22mm
postage stamps)

International
Commercial
Sample Rate
for mail up to
16 ounces in
weight.

Per

Via

SIBERIA

BONA-FIDE TRADE SAMPLES

5 Bayon Cards

NET WEIGHT

(16g)



Messrs. M. MAKOWER & Co.,

40, OLD CHANGE,

CHEAPSIDE,

LONDON, E. C. 4

"C/O The Officer of Customs and Excise,

Mount Pleasant Depot,

General Post Office,

LONDON E. C.

ENGLAND.

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1939.. Blockade of French
& British Concessions at Tientsin

In an effort to enforce their control of occupied China and the objective to have the existing small but important French & British garrisons at Tientsin, protecting their respective concessions there, evacuated,
ON 14 JUNE 1939, THE JAPANESE BLOCKADED THOSE CONCESSIONS.



FREE-FRANK FRENCH SOLDIER'S MAIL FROM THE
FRENCH FAR EAST MILITARY ARSENAL AT TIENSIN

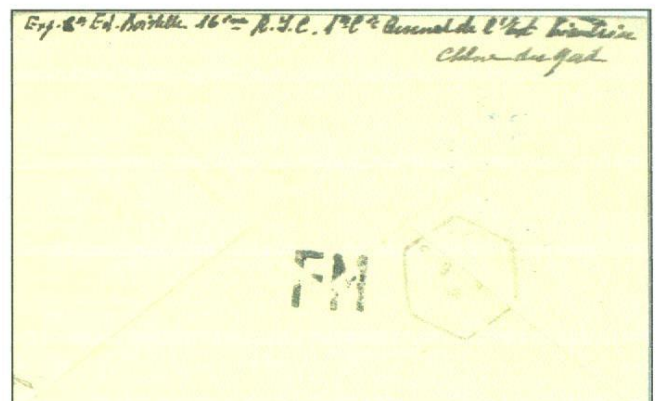
AUGUST 1938

Single-weight free-frank cover,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Dachstein, France.

Cachet Mark:
"Occupation Corps for China
Quartermaster"

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Dachstein,
9 September 1938"

Probable Route:
Tientsin-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Strasburg-Dachstein



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1939.. China-Germany Mail
Prior to Outbreak of WW II

GERMAN CUSTOMS
INSPECTED &
RESEALED
REGISTERED MAIL

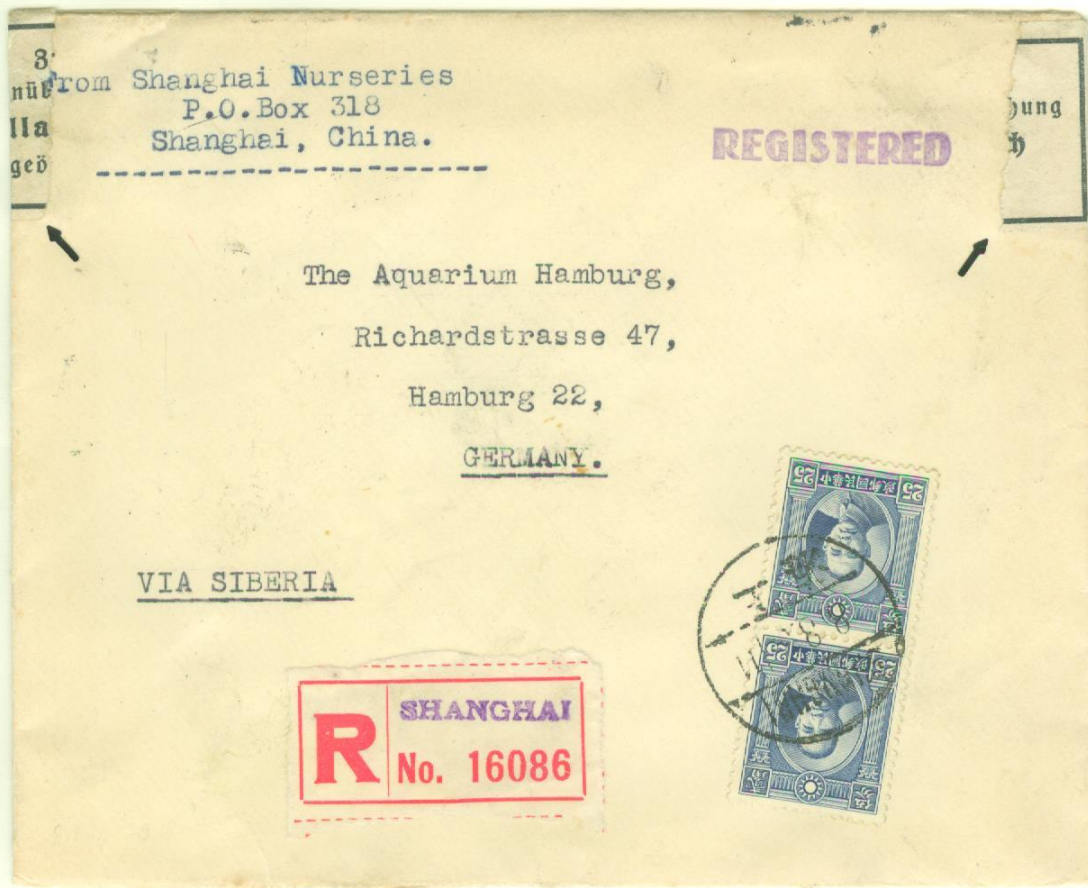
8 MARCH 1939

Cover, postmarked
Shanghai, China, with
route endorsement
"Via Siberia",
to Hamburg, Germany,
inspected & resealed.
17-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Hamburg,
25 March 1939"

Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Hamburg

CNC 0.50...
CNC 0.25.. Single-
weight (20 grams)
international letter-rate
+CNC 0.25.. Registry fee
(Validity:
1 February 1939 -
1 September 1939)



PRINTING MATTER
GERMANY

Via SIBERIA

Herrn
Max Morgenroth und Frau Gemahlin
i.H.Berger & Wirth, Farbenfabriken

LEIPZIG N 24.

Waldbaaurstr. 2



COMMERCIAL
PRINTED MATTER MAIL

3 JANUARY 1939

Cover, printed matter
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Leipzig,
Germany.

Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Leipzig

CNC 0.10...
International printed
matter rate up to
100 grams.
(Validity:
1 February 1936 -
1 September 1939)

**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939**

**1939-41.. Refugee Mail
to Shanghai**

The *Gleichschaltung* Law (so-called "political coordination" law = elimination of opponents) by the 'Third Reich' Government and the impact of societal regulations of the 'Nuremberg Laws of 1935', amended in 1938, people of Jewish faith attempted emigration. Palestine, as a destination, was closed by the British, while a number of countries were unwilling to accept refugees.
SHANGHAI REMAINED AS A FREE TRANSIT PORT AND DID NOT REQUIRE VISA ENTRY.

**THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES TO CHINA RESULTED IN ELEVATED MAIL TRAFFIC FROM EUROPE,
BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1939 – JUNE 1941 .. NOT REQUIRING SPECIFIC ROUTE ENDORSEMENT.**



18 APRIL 1941

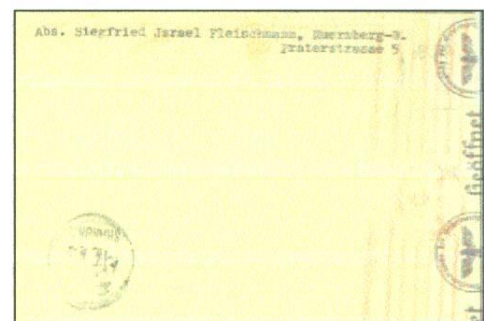
**Cover, postmarked at
Nuremberg, Germany, without route endorsement
sent to Shanghai, China**

**Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Shanghai,
.... 1941"**

**Probable Route:
Nuremberg-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-
Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai**

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

**CHINA-BOUND 'VIA SIBERIA' REFUGEE
GERMAN-CENSORED MAIL SENT BY
"SIEGFRIED 'ISRAEL' FLEISCHMANN"
TO REFUGEE "LILI DANZIGER" AT SHANGHAI**



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1939.. German Refugee
Early Mail to Shanghai

EARLY IN-BOUND REFUGEE MAIL WAS SENT TO THE SHANGHAI POST OFFICE AS 'GENERAL DELIVERY' UPON WHICH THE RECIPIENT PAID A STORAGE FEE UPON RECEIPT.

Upon the advent of the German Third Reich in 1933, the addressee, an attorney, was forced to give up his law practice, survived as a stamp dealer until 1938 when he was arrested, permitted in 1939 to emigrate with his wife to Shanghai, and again emigrated after WWII, under the German-immigration quota, to the United States, where he lived and died at Salt Lake City in 1982 at age of 81 years old.

RAILWAY-POSTED (VIOLATION) GENERAL DELIVERY ENDORSED MAIL SENT BY "EMMY LICHENHEIM" TO REFUGEE SON "DR. MAX LICHENHEIM" AT SHANGHAI

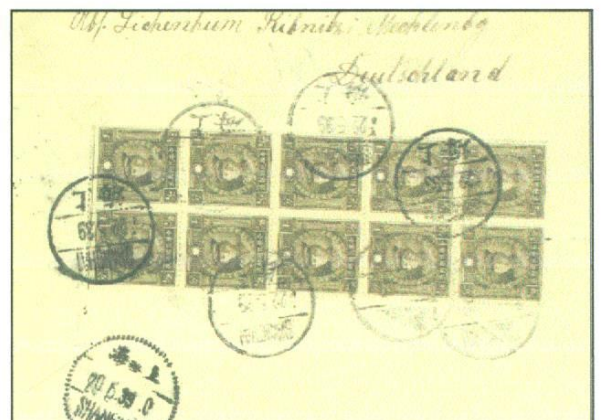


29 APRIL 1939

Un-inspected mail, lacking sender's "Sara" insert (violation), postmarked aboard "Train 285" from Stralsund-Rostock, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia", with acceptance from Shanghai general-delivery on 22 May 1939 .. with 5 Cents fee paid.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Shanghai,
20 May 1939"

Probable Route:
Rostock-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai



Reverse

25 Pfennig...

Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1939-41.. Refugee Mail
to Shanghai

HAVING NO VISA REQUIREMENTS, AN ESTIMATED TWENTY THOUSAND EUROPEAN JEWS
FOUND TEMPORARY HOMES AT SHANGHAI
with some starting businesses, schools, theaters, etc., until they could obtain
visas to America, Australia, etc., or continued residency

MUNICH-
SHANGHAI
"ISAAC"
CENSORED
MAIL
24 JANUARY
1941

Cover,
postmarked at
Munich,
Germany, with
route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to
Shanghai, China.

Route:
Munich-Berlin-
Moscow-Irkutsk-
Harbin-Mukden-
Tientsin-Pukow-
Shanghai



BERLIN-
SHANGHAI
"SARA"
CENSORED
MAIL

16 APRIL 1941

Cover,
postmarked at
Berlin,
Germany, with
route
endorsement
"via Siberia"
sent to
Shanghai,
China.

Route:
Berlin-
Moscow-
Irkutsk-
Harbin-
Mukden-
Tientsin-
Pukow-
Shanghai

25 Pfennig ...
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate.
(Validity: 1 January 1925 - April 1945)

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA
1931-1939

1937-41.. Jewish Refugee Mail
from Shanghai

SHANGHAI-
VIENNA
CENSORED
MAIL
12 FEBRUARY
1940

Cover,
postmarked
Shanghai, China,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Vienna,
Austria.

Route:
Shanghai-
Pukow-Tientsin-
Mukden-Harbin-
Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Vienna

CNC 0.50...
Single-weight
(20 grams)
international
letter-rate
(Validity:
1 Sept. 1939 -
31 Oct. 1941)



SHANGHAI-
FRANKFURT/
MAIN
CENSORED MAIL

16 APRIL 1941

Postcard,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route
indication
"Via Siberia"
sent to
Frankfurt/Main
Germany.

Route:
Shanghai-Pukow-
Tientsin-Mukden-
Harbin-Irkutsk-
Moscow-Berlin-
Frankfurt/Main

CNC 0.30...
International
postcard-rate
(Validity:
1 Sept. 1939 -
Oct. 31, 1941)

IX. WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

1939.. Eve of WWII
In-Transit 'Via Siberia' Mail

MAIL BAGS IN TRANSIT TO SOVIET-FRIENDLY NATIONS
ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1939
CONTINUED TO BE FORWARDED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE EUROPEAN
AND OTHER DESTINATIONS

PALESTINE-BOUND
MAIL FROM
MANCHUKUO

20 AUGUST 1939

View-card,
 postmarked at Harbin,
 Manchuria,
 with route
 endorsement
 "Via Siberia"
 sent to Tel Aviv,
 Palestine, British-
 censored,
 upon arrival.

Probable Route:
 Harbin-Irkutsk-
 Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-
 (by sea) to Tel Aviv

4 Fen..
UPU International
Postcard-Rate.



SWITZERLAND-BOUND
MAIL FROM CHINA

24 AUGUST 1939

View-card,
 postmarked at
 Shanghai, China, with
 route endorsement
 "Switzerland via
 Siberia"
 sent to Thun,
 Switzerland.
 29-day transit time.

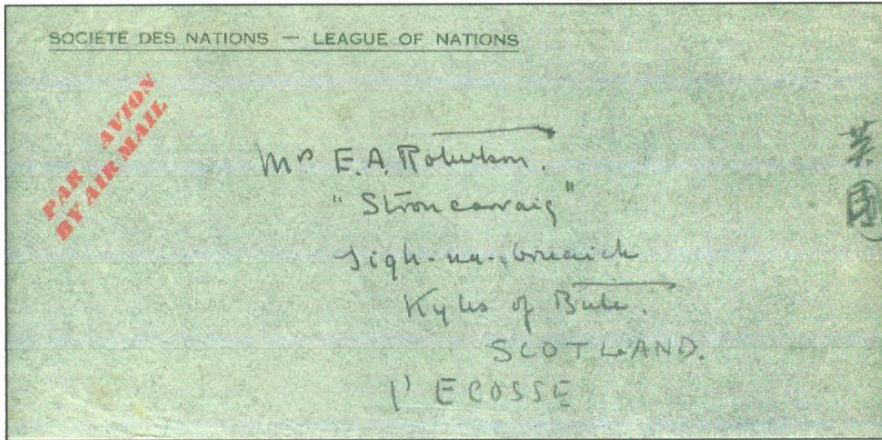
Manuscript Arrival
 Inscription:
 "22 September 1939"

Probable Route:
 Shanghai-Pukow-
 Tientsin-Mukden-
 Harbin-Irkutsk-
 Moscow-Berlin-Basel-
 Zürich-Thun



WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1931-1939

1939.. Eve of WWII Airmail
'Via Siberia'
China-Russia-England



Front



Reverse

'LEAGUE OF NATIONS'
MAIL
TO SCOTLAND

11 AUGUST 1939
 (China Post Office)

Cover, postmarked at
 Kuming (Yunnanfu),
 China, with
 endorsement
 "By Airmail"
 to Scotland.

Probable Route:
 (Hamiata Airlines)

Kunming-Chungking-
Alma-Ata- (by rail)
Moscow- (airmail)
Berlin-London-
Scotland

\$4.15 ...
25+15 Cents.. Double-
weight
 (40 grams)
International letter-rate
 +
\$3.75.. Airmail
Surcharge
 (0.75/5 grams)
 (Validity: 23 July 1932 -
 5 December 1939)

War in Europe
commenced on
1 September 1939
with this mail arriving in
England just prior.

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1 September 1939..
Outbreak of War in Europe
"Via Suez" Mail**

**On 23 August 1939, Germany & the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact
avoiding early potential conflict between themselves for what would
take place in September by German Forces.**

**On 1 September 1939, using a pretext of a German
border-post being attacked by Polish troops, German Forces
invaded Poland, resulting in Britain et al nations declaring war
on Germany on 3 September.**

**EFFECTIVE 2 SEPTEMBER 1939, MAIL TO EUROPE FROM CHINA 'VIA THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY
NETWORK' WAS INTERRUPTED, REQUIRING OTHER ROUTES TO BE
UTILIZED FOR EUROPEAN NON-BELLIGERENT-NATION MAIL,
SUCH AS INITIALLY BY SEA "VIA SUEZ".**



**EARLY-WORLD WAR II CHINA-ORIGIN MAIL ROUTED
TO SWITZERLAND "VIA SUEZ"**

2 SEPTEMBER 1939

**Commercial cover,
postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route-endorsement
"Via Suez"
sent to Zürich, Switzerland.**

**Probable Route:
Shanghai-Singapore-Aden-
Suez Canal-Naples- (by rail) Zurich**

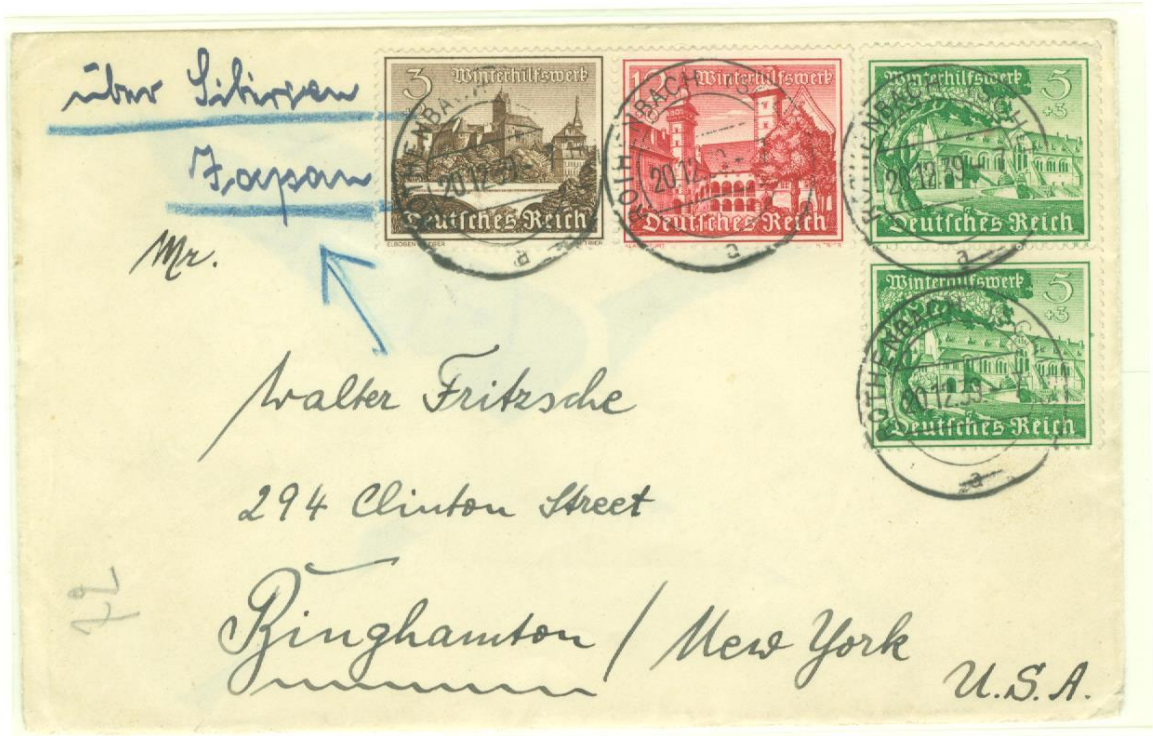
**CNC 0.50 ...
Single-weight international (20 grams) letter-rate.**

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

1939 .. Reopening of
'Via Siberia' Routed Mail

Upon conclusion of the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1939,
Relations between the two countries remained stable.

**UPON GERMAN OCCUPATION OF POLAND IN SEPTEMBER 1939, AXIS-COUNTRY
MAIL ROUTED 'VIA SIBERIA' WAS AGAIN POSSIBLE BY 'AUTUMN 1939' UNTIL
'22 JUNE 1941'.**



**LATE 1939 GERMAN-ORIGIN CENSORED MAIL TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
"VIA SIBERIA & JAPAN"**

20 DECEMBER 1939

**Cover, postmarked at Rothenbach (Waldenburg),
Province Silesia, with route endorsement
"Over Siberia" & Japan"
sent to Binghamton, New York.**

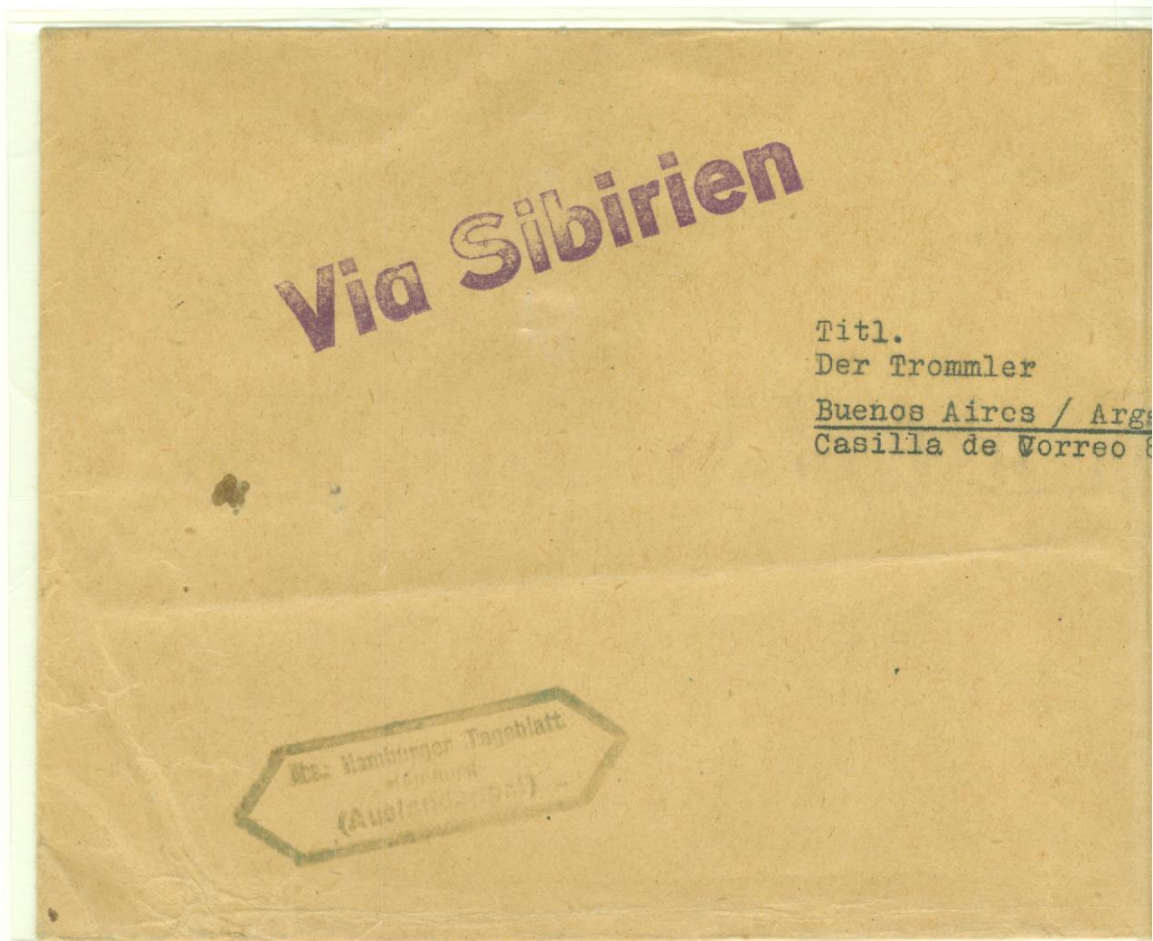
Probable Route:

**Rothenbach-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Tschita-Charborowsk-Vladivostok-
(by sea) to Japan & San Francisco- (overland) to New York-Binghamton**

25 Pfennig...
Single-weight international letter-rate.
(Validity: 1 January 1925 - April 1945)

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**AS A RESULT OF WAR CONDITIONS IN EUROPE AND THE
PREVAILING BLOCKADE OF GERMAN COMMERCIAL SHIPPING TO
SOUTH AMERICA, MAIL DESTINED FOR ARGENTINA HAD TO MOVE
'VIA SIBERIA' TO VLADIVOSTOK, THEN TO SAN FRANCISCO
(EITHER VIA JAPAN OR DIRECT), OVERLAND TO NEW YORK,
AND THEN BY SEA TO ARGENTINA.**



SPECIAL GERMAN REDUCED OVERSEAS-BOUND PRINTED-MATTER RATE

15 NOVEMBER 1940

**Special reduced German-rate for printed-matter,
postmarked at Hamburg, Germany, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia" &
"Drucksache zu ermäßigter Gebühr"
sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

1940.. Germany-Argentina
'Via Siberia'
Printed-Matter Mail

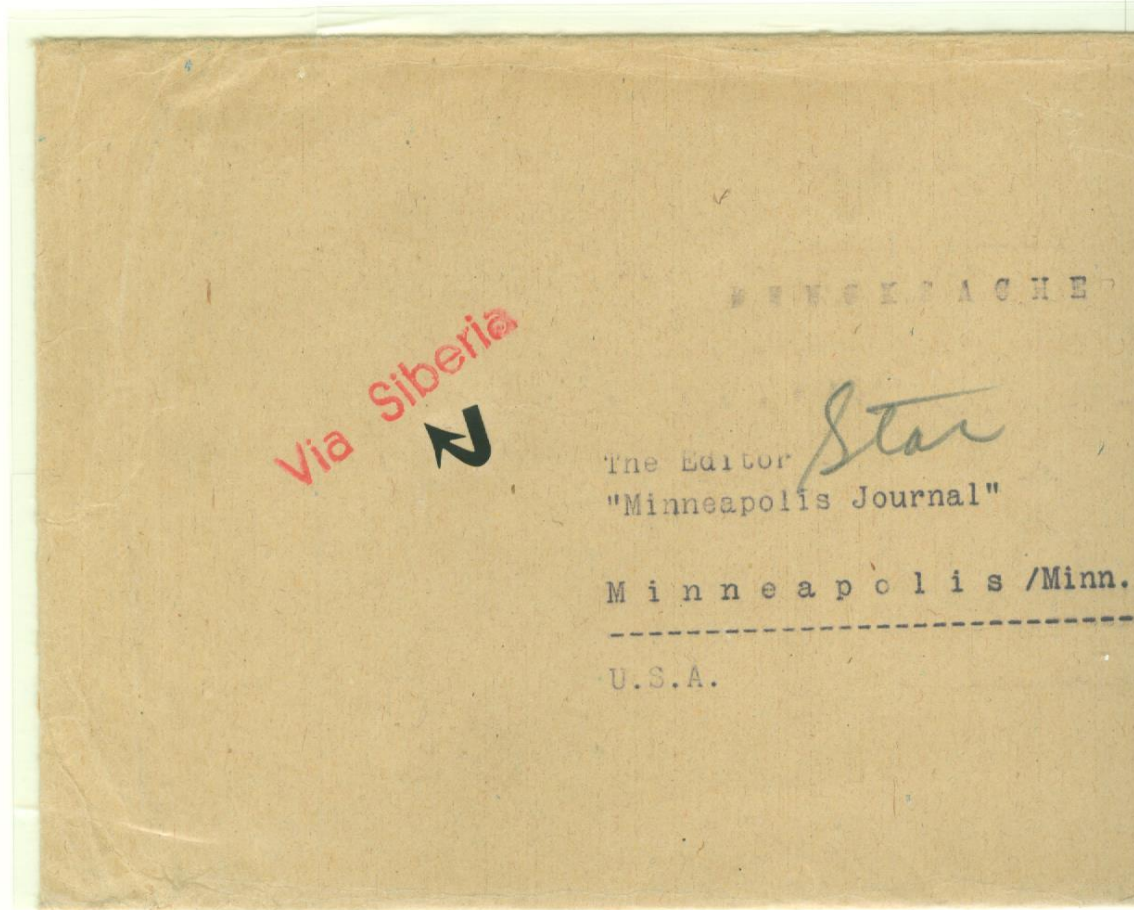


Probable Route:
Hamburg-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Tschita-Charborowsk-Vladivostok-
(by sea) to San Francisco (via Japan or direct) -
New York- (by sea) to Buenos Aires

5 Pfennig...
International-bound printed-matter
German-concession reduced-rate for mail weighing up to 100 grams

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**BECAUSE OF WAR CONDITIONS IN EUROPE, THE ONLY
SURFACE ROUTE AVAILABLE FOR PRINTED-MATTER TO BE
SENT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BETWEEN
AUTUMN 1939 – JUNE 1941 WAS 'VIA SIBERIA'**



PRINTED-MATTER .. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BOUND MAIL

11 JUNE 1940

**Newspaper/printed-matter,
postmarked at Munich, Germany, with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to the "Minneapolis Journal" at
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.**

1940.. Germany-U.S.A.
'Via Siberia'
Printed-Matter Mail



Probable Route:

Munich-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Tschita-Charborowsk-Vladivostok-
(by sea) to **San Francisco** (via Japan or direct) – (overland) to
Minneapolis

10 Pfennig...
International-bound printed-matter
at standard-rate for mail weighing up to 100 grams

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

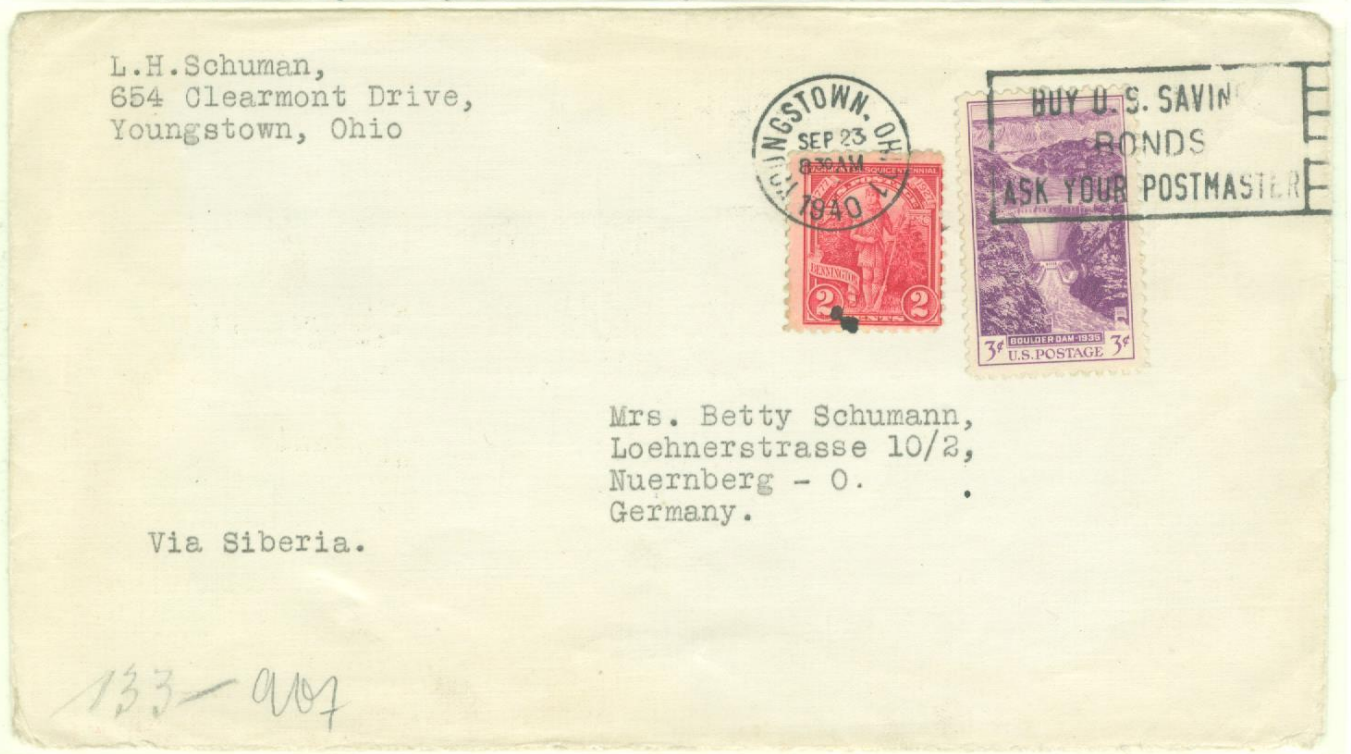
1940.. U.S.A.-Germany
'Via Siberia' Mail

WARTIME CENSORED U.S.A-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY



2 MARCH 1940

Chicago, Illinois, postmarked commercial cover,
route endorsement "*Japanese Steamer to Japan, Thence via Siberia*",
British-censored (Bermuda), German-censored (Frankfurt/Main) sent to Hamburg, Germany.



23 SEPTEMBER 1940

Youngstown, Ohio, postmarked cover, route endorsement "*Via Siberia*",
German-Censored (Frankfurt/Main), sent to Nuremberg, Germany.

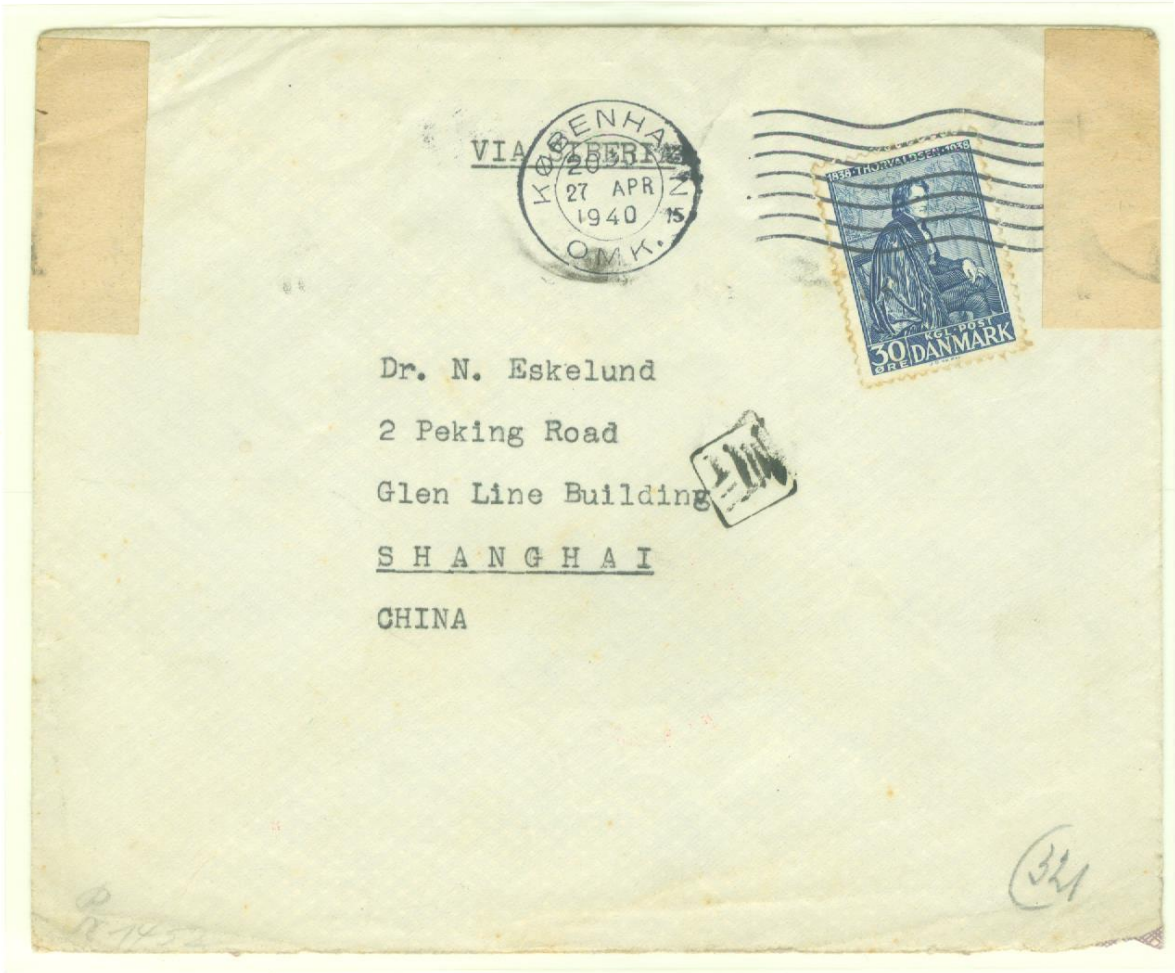
Probable Route:

Youngstown-San Francisco-(by sea) to Yokohama-Tsuruga-Vladivostok- (by rail) Charbarowsk-
Tschita-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin- Frankfurt-Nuremberg

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1940.. Denmark-China
'Via Siberia'
German Censored Mail**

**ON 9 APRIL 1940, GERMAN FORCES OCCUPIED DENMARK,
WHEREUPON ALL FOREIGN-BOUND MAIL
WAS HENCEFORTH CENSORED BY THE
'HIGH COMMAND OF THE GERMAN MILITARY'.**



**EARLY-OCCUPIED-DENMARK GERMAN-CENSORED
MAIL TO CHINA**

27 APRIL 1940

**Early German-Censored cover,
(soon after occupation by German Forces)
postmarked at Copenhagen, Denmark, with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Shanghai, China. 30-day transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Shanghai, May 27, 1940"**

**Probable Route:
Copenhagen-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-
Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai**



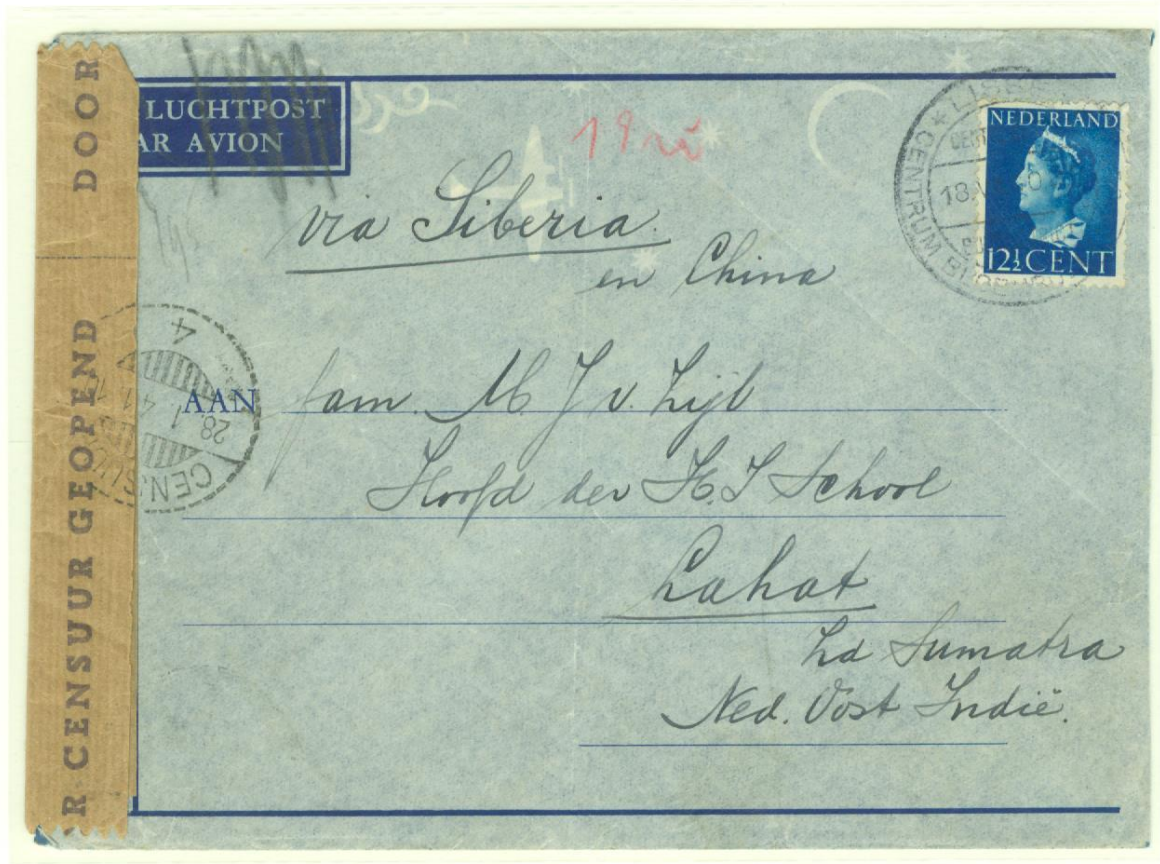
Reverse

**30 Ore...
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate**

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1940.. Netherlands-Dutch East Indies
'Via Siberia & China'
German & Dutch Censored Mail**

**ON 10 MAY 1940, ALL DUTCH MAIL SERVICES STOPPED UPON THE GERMAN
INVASION OF HOLLAND, AGAIN STARTING DOMESTICALLY ON 29 MAY,
WITH MAIL TO THE DUTCH EAST INDIES ONLY POSSIBLE BETWEEN
22 JUNE – 23 JULY 1940 FOR THE REMAINDER OF WORLD WAR II
(Dutch/German Postal Service Order H.304.bis)
BY WAY OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK & CHINA**



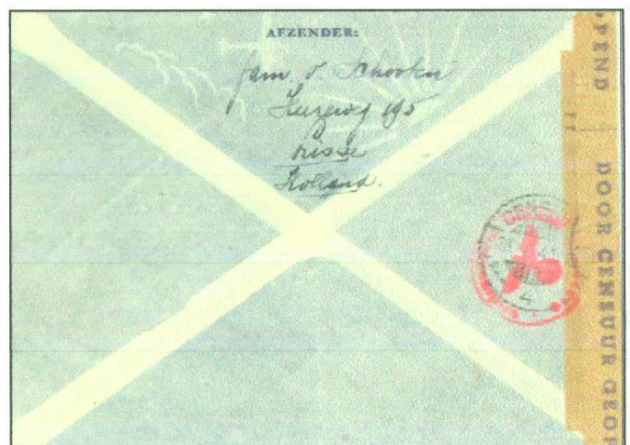
**OCCUPIED NETHERLANDS GERMAN-CENSORED
MAIL TO THE DUTCH EAST INDIES BY WAY OF SIBERIA & CHINA**

18 JULY 1940

Late-usage German-Censored Dutch-origin mail
(during 22 June- 23 July 1940 mail period)
postmarked at Lisse, Netherlands
("Flower Bulb Center"),
with route endorsement "Via Siberia & China"
sent to Lahat, Sumatra, Dutch East Indies, with Dutch-
Colonial censorship. 194(+)-day transit time.

Arrival Censor Postmark:
"Censor (Dutch East Indies),
28 January, 1941"

Probable Route:
Lisse-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-
Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai-(by sea) to Sumatra



Reverse

12½ Cent...
Single-weight (20 grams)
UPU International Surface-Mail Letter-Rate

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1940.. China-Austria
'Via Siberia'
Censored Registered Wartime Mail**



4 SEPTEMBER 1940

**SHORT-FRANKED REGISTERED & CENSORED
CHINA-AUSTRIA WARTIME MAIL**

Registered censored cover,
postmarked at Tehchow (Shandong), China,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Vienna (Austria), "Greater Germany".
22-day transit time.

Transit Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Tientsin,
5 September 1940"

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Vienna,
26 September 1940"

Probable Route:
Tehchow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-
Berlin-Munich-Vienna

CNC 0.50 Cents...
Short-franked 50% by postal-clerk who was not
aware of the rate increase on
1 September 1939!
**0.25.. Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate
+ 0.25 Registration fee.**
(Validity: 1 February 1936 -31 August 1939)

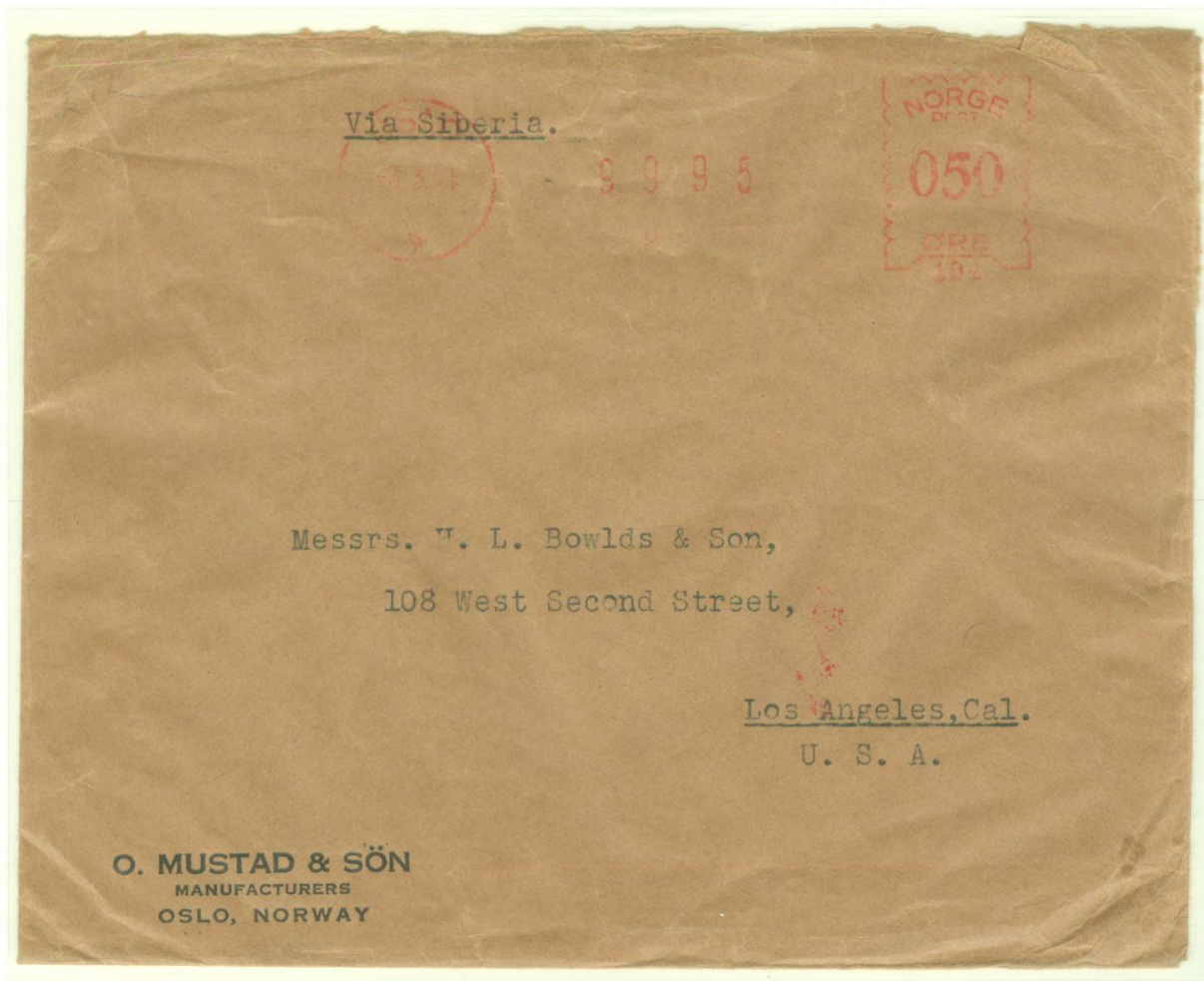


Reverse

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1940-1941.. Norway-U.S.A.
'Via Siberia & Japan'
German Censored Mail**

**ON 10 APRIL 1940, NORWEGIAN FORCES SURRENDERED
TO GERMAN OCCUPATION FORCES,
WHEREUPON ALL NORWEGIAN FOREIGN-BOUND MAIL WAS
HENCEFORTH CENSORED BY THE GERMAN MILITARY.**



**GERMAN-CENSORED NORWEGIAN COMMERCIAL MAIL
VIA SIBERIA & JAPAN
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

3 MARCH 1941

Commercial cover,
meter-postmarked at Oslo, Norway,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia",
sent to Los Angeles, California, USA,

Probable Route:
Oslo-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Vladivostok-
Tsuruga-Kobe-San Francisco

**50 Ore...
Single-weight (20 grams)
UPU International Surface-Mail Letter-Rate**



Reverse

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1940.. China-Moscow
'Via Alma Ata' Airmail
Bypassing 'Via Siberia' Route**

As a result of Japanese-occupation of northern China and its interference of mail from non-occupied southern China as well as to strengthen communications between 'free' China with Moscow & Europe, bypassing the still-operational 'via Siberia' route,
CHINA AGREED WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH THE 'SINO-SOVIET AVIATION CORPORATION' ENABLING AIR SERVICE FROM CHUNGKING & KUNMING TO ALMA ATA ('CHUNGKING-HAMI LINE') AND BEYOND TO MOSCOW & EUROPE.

Although the agreement was concluded in 1939, operation of the route by air first commenced on 8 April 1940 and ended on 3 July 1941.



17 DECEMBER 1940

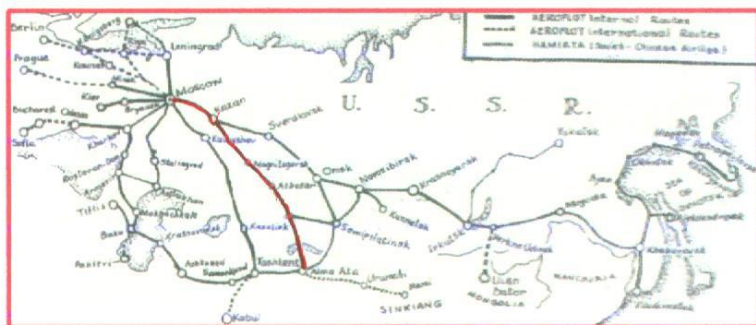
Single-weight registered, postmarked at Kunming, China, with route endorsement "Via Alma Ata", at Moscow-(secretly)-censored, sent to ("Lufthansa Office") in Moscow. 14-day transit time.

REGISTERED & AT MOSCOW-(SECRETLY)-CENSORED
CHINA-MOSCOW WARTIME MAIL

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Moscow, 31 December 1940"

Route:
Kunming-Hami-Urumchi-Alma Ata-Atbasar-Magnitagorsk-Kasan-Moscow

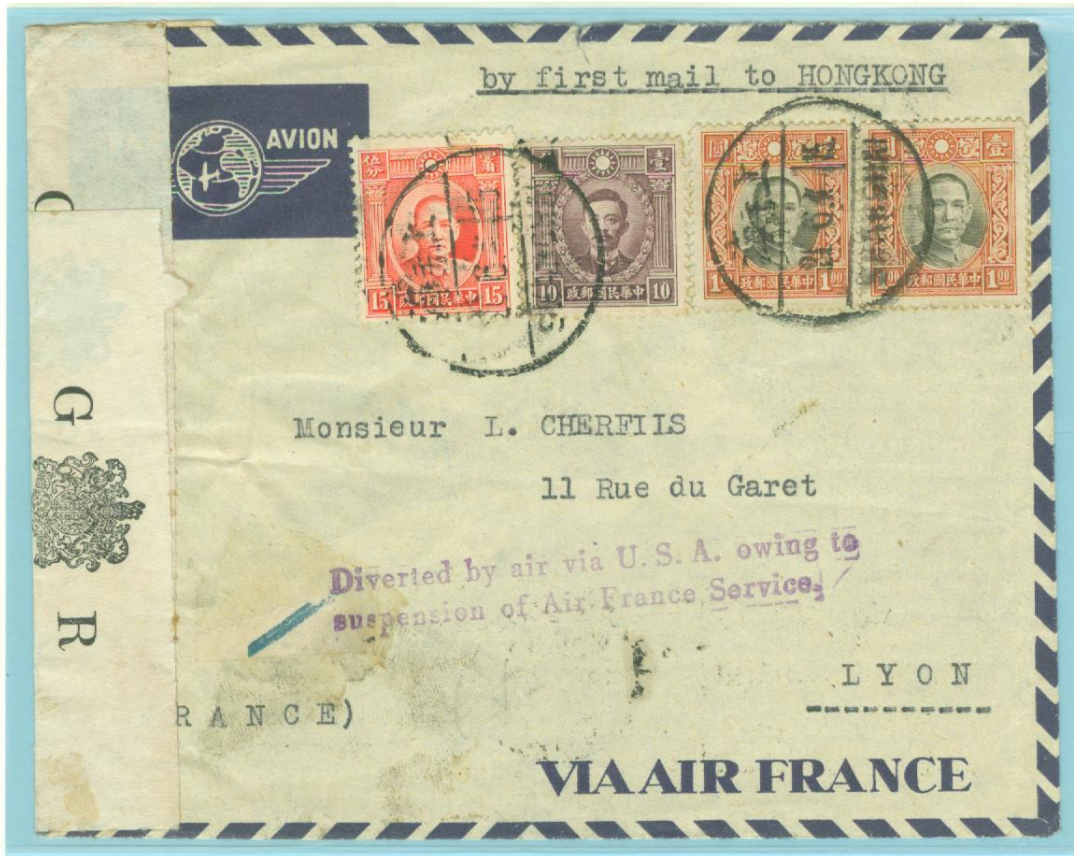
CNC \$ 2.15...
0.50.. Single-weight (20 grams)
international letter-rate +
1.15 European 'Russia' Airmail-Rate +
0.50 Registration fee.
(Validity: 1 June 1940 -22 March 1941)



WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

1940.. China – Occupied France
“Two Ocean” Airmail

BECAUSE OF THE SUSPENSION OF ‘AIR FRANCE’ FAR EAST SERVICE TO EUROPE IN JUNE 1940, FRANCE-BOUND MAIL WAS DIVERTED TO HONG KONG FOR “TWO OCEAN” AIRMAIL SERVICE CHINA-U.S.A.-PORTUGAL-FRANCE.



21 JUNE 1940

WARTIME COMMERCIAL MAIL CHINA-FRANCE

Cover, postmarked at Shanghai, China, route endorsement “By first mail to Hong Kong” & “Diverted by air via USA owing to suspension of Air France Service” sent to Lyon, France, with British censorship at Hong Kong. 98-day transit time.

Mail delay because of British censorship at Hong Kong, German occupation of Lyon commencing on 20 June 1940 and discontinuance of Far East ‘Air France’ Service.

Arrival Postmark:
 (Reverse)

“Lyon, Rhone, 27 September 1940”

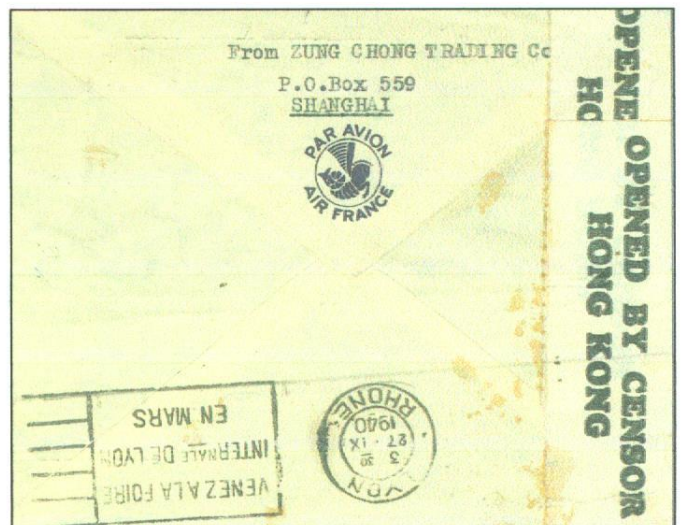
Probable Route:

Shanghai-Hong Kong-Manila-Guam-Midway Island-Honolulu-San Francisco-New York-Horta-Lisbon-Lyon

CNC 2.25...

0.25 Airmail surcharge for China only + 2.00 ‘Air France’ airmail (5 grams) letter-rate ..

(Validity: 1 September 1939 – 20 September 1940)



Reverse

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

**1941.. China-France "Via America"..
 Two Ocean Airmail**

BY 1941, OCCUPATION OF LYON BY GERMAN FORCES WAS COMPLETE, WITH FRENCH CENSORSHIP OF IN-BOUND FOREIGN MAIL IN EFFECT.



8 JANUARY 1941

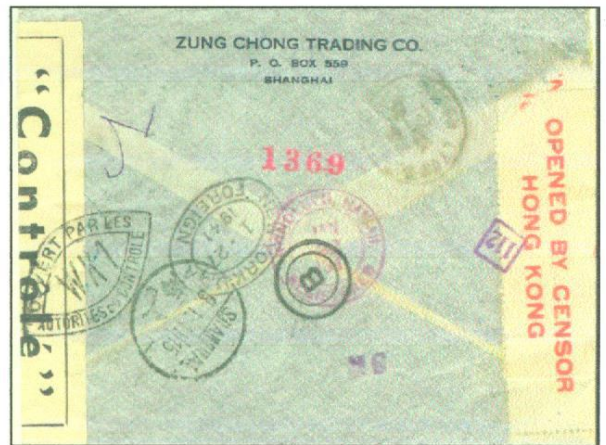
Registered cover,
 postmarked at Shanghai China, with route endorsement
"France via America"
 sent to Lyon, France,
 with British censorship at Hong Kong &
 French Censorship at Lyon.

Probable Route:
 Shanghai-Hong Kong-Manila-Guam-Midway Island-
 Honolulu-San Francisco-New York-Horta-Lisbon-Lyon

Transit Postmarks:
 (Reverse)
 "Honolulu, 22 January 1941"
 "New York, 27 January 1941"

Arrival Postmark:
 (Reverse)
 "Lyon, Rhone"

**WARTIME DOUBLE-CENSORED REGISTERED
 COMMERCIAL AIRMAIL CHINA-FRANCE**



Reverse

CNC 6.40...

**0.50.. International single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate +
 5.40 (5 grams) Air surcharge + 0.50.. Registration fee.**

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1940.. China-Austria
Airmail in China/'Via Siberia' Route**



CANTON-SHANGHAI AIRMAIL & RAILWAY TO AUSTRIA

17 OCTOBER 1940

Censored cover, postmarked at Canton, China, with route endorsement "Via Shanghai & Siberia" sent to Vienna, Austria.

Probable Route:

Canton- (by air) to Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) to Charborowsk-Tschita-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Vienna

CNC 0.76...

**0.50 International single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate +
0.25 Airmail surcharge for China only +
0.01 Convenience over-franking.**

(Validity: 1 September 1940 – 31 October 1941)



Reverse

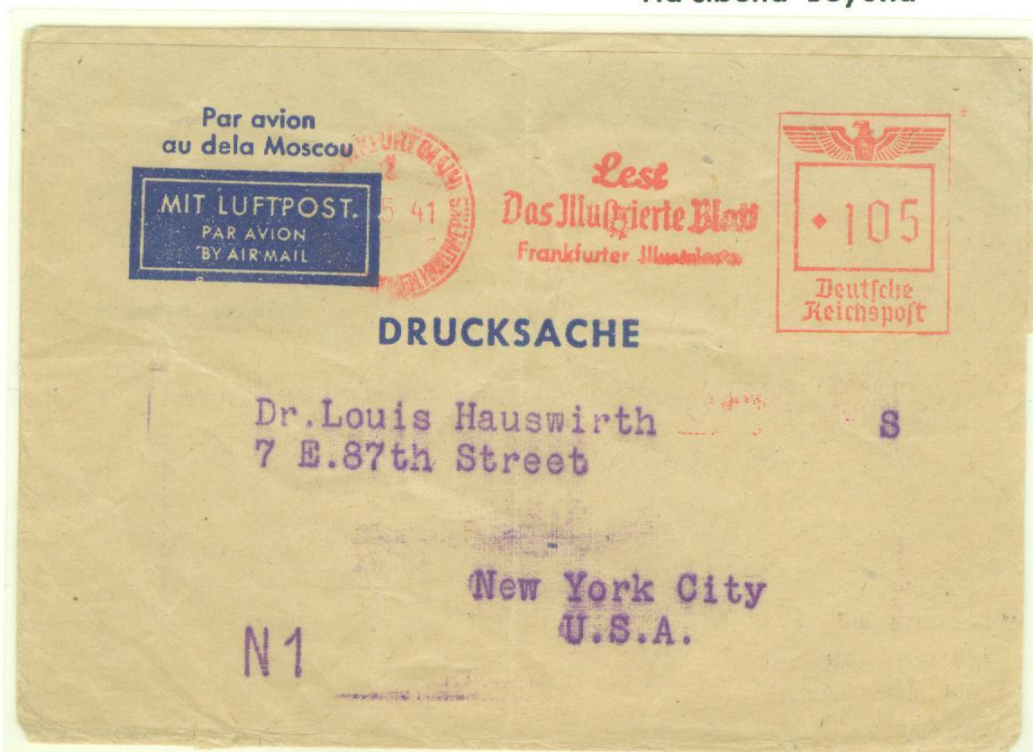
**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1941.. Germany-U.S.A.
Wartime Airmail to Moscow &
'Via Siberia' Beyond**

3 MAY 1941

Newspaper wrapper,
postmarked at
Frankfurt/Main,
Germany,
with route
endorsement
"Par avion au dela
Moscow",
sent to New York City.

105 Pfennig...
5 Pfg.. Printed-Matter
(100 grams) +
100 Pfg..
Europe-Airmail
Surcharge
(100 grams)



**27
FEBRUARY
1941**

Single-weight
re-
directed
"Sara"
cover,
post-
marked at
Berlin,
Germany,
censored,
resealed,
endorsed
"Via
Siberia -
Airmail to
Moscow"
sent to
Cambridge
Mass.

35 Pfg...
25 Pfg..
Foreign
letter-rate
+
10 Pfg..
Airmail
Europe-
Surcharge

Probable Route:

Berlin- (by air) **Moscow-** (by rail) **Irkutsk-Vladivostok-** (by ship) **Yokohama-**
San Francisco & (by rail) **Destination in U.S.A.**

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1941.. Germany-China & U.S.A.
Wartime Judaica/Ghetto Mail**

**AIRMAIL TO MOSCOW
& SURFACE TO
SHANGHAI GHETTO**

14 FEBRUARY 1941

Postal-stationery card,
postmarked at Berlin,
censored, route
endorsed
"Airmail to Moscow &
via Siberia"
sent to Shanghai.

Probable Route:
(Airmail) Berlin-Moscow-
(Rail) to Irkutsk-Harbin-
Mukden-Tientsin-
Pukow-Shanghai

25 Pfg:
15 Pfg UPU
International Postcard
Rate +
10 Pfg. Europe-Airmail
Surcharge to Moscow



**LITZMANNSTADT
GHETTO MAIL TO USA**

24 MARCH 1941

Registered postal-
stationery return card,
censored & validated
by the ghetto's
"Älteste der Juden in
Litzmannstadt",
postmarked
Litzmannstadt
(Lodz = Lodsch),
German-occupied
Poland, censored at
Königsberg, Germany,
sent general delivery
to the 'American
Express Company' in
New York City.
44-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival
Postmarks:
"San Pedro, California,
May 2, 1941"
"New York Registry
Office,
May 7, 1941"

Probable Route:
Litzmannstadt-Königsberg-Moscow-Irkutsk-Vladivostok-
Yokohama-San Pedro-New York City

45 Pfg...
15 Pfg International Postcard Rate + 30 Pfg. Registration Fee.

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

1941 ..
Wartime Europe/South America
'Via Siberia' Mail

AS LONG AS THE 'UNITED STATES OF AMERICA' REMAINED NEUTRAL PERMITTING TRANS-SHIPMENT OF MAIL, GERMANY-ORIGIN MAIL SENT TO NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA USING THE 'VIA SIBERIA-JAPAN-USA' ROUTE WAS POSSIBLE.

GERMANY-COLUMBIA BANK MAIL

15 MARCH 1941

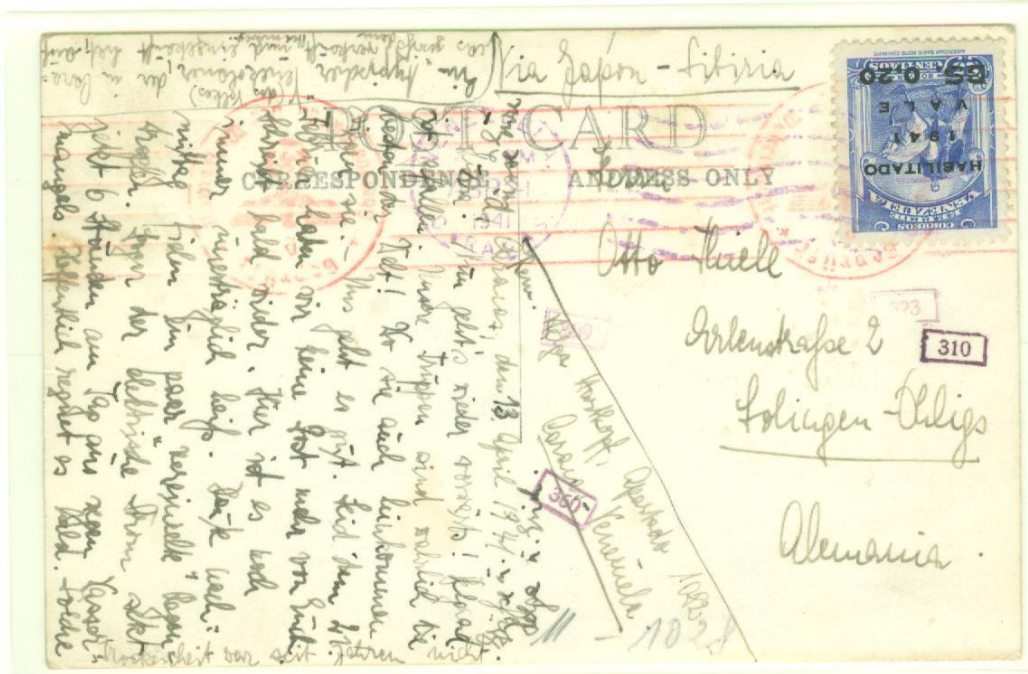
German-censored cover, postmarked at Hamburg, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia-Japan" sent to Bogota, Columbia. 72-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark: (Reverse) "Bogota, 26 May 1941"

Probable Route: Hamburg-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Tschita-Charborowsk-Vladivostok (by sea) to Japan-San Francisco-Panama Canal-Cartagena-Bogota

25 Pfennig... Single-weight international letter-rate.

(Validity: 1 January 1925 - April 1945)



VENEZUELA-GERMANY CIVILIAN MAIL

13 APRIL 1941

German-censored view-card, postmarked at Caracas, Venezuela, with route endorsement "Via Japan-Siberia" sent to Solingen-Ohligs, Germany.

Probable Route: Caracas-Panama Canal-San Francisco-Yokohama-Vladivostok (by rail) Charborowsk-Tschita-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Solingen

BS 0.20.. International postcard-rate.

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

1941 ..
Refused & Returned
German-China Mail

On 2 April 1940, a postal ordinance was issued regarding the content, the type of envelopes or postcards, indication of sender's address, etc., permitted for foreign-bound mail.
ANY MAIL NOT ADHERING TO REGULATIONS WAS CACHET STAMPED INDICATING THE VIOLATION AND RETURNED TO SENDER.

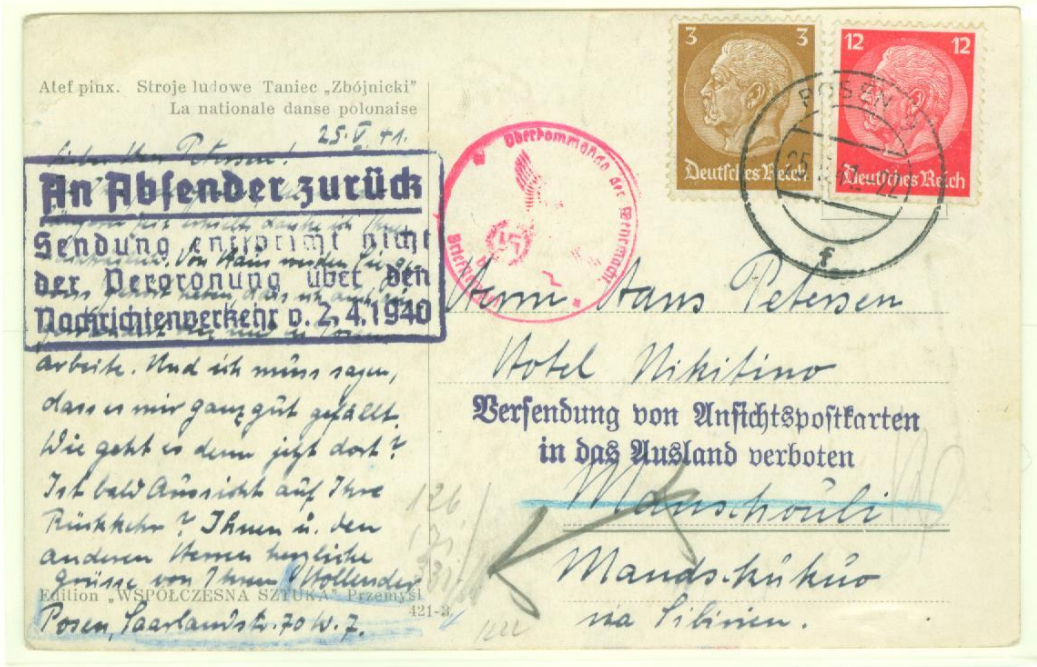
REFUSED POSTCARD

25 MAY 1941

German-censored viewcard, postmarked at Posen, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Manchouli, Manchukuo.

"The mailing of picture postcards to foreign destinations is not permitted."

15 Pfg.
International
postcard-rate



REFUSED COVER UNDER ORDINANCE OF 2. APRIL 1940

27 MAY 1941

Censored cover, postmarked at Wuppertal-Langerfeld, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Shanghai, China.

25 Pfg.
International
single-weight
(20 grams)
letter-rate.
 (Validity:
 1 January 1925 -
 April 1945)



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1941.. Germany-China
'Via Siberia'
Miss-routed
Triple-Censored Mail**



TRIPLE-CENSORED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO CHINA

2 MAY 1941

Commercial cover,
postmarked at Frankfurt/Main, Germany,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia"
sent to Shanghai, China,
incorrectly routed by sea, not 'Via Siberia'
resulting in triple censorship ..
Germany, France & Britain/Hong-Kong.
Transit time: 50 days.

Probable Route:
Frankfurt-Marseilles-Suez-Aden-Hanoi/Haiphong-
Hong-Kong-Shanghai

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



Reverse

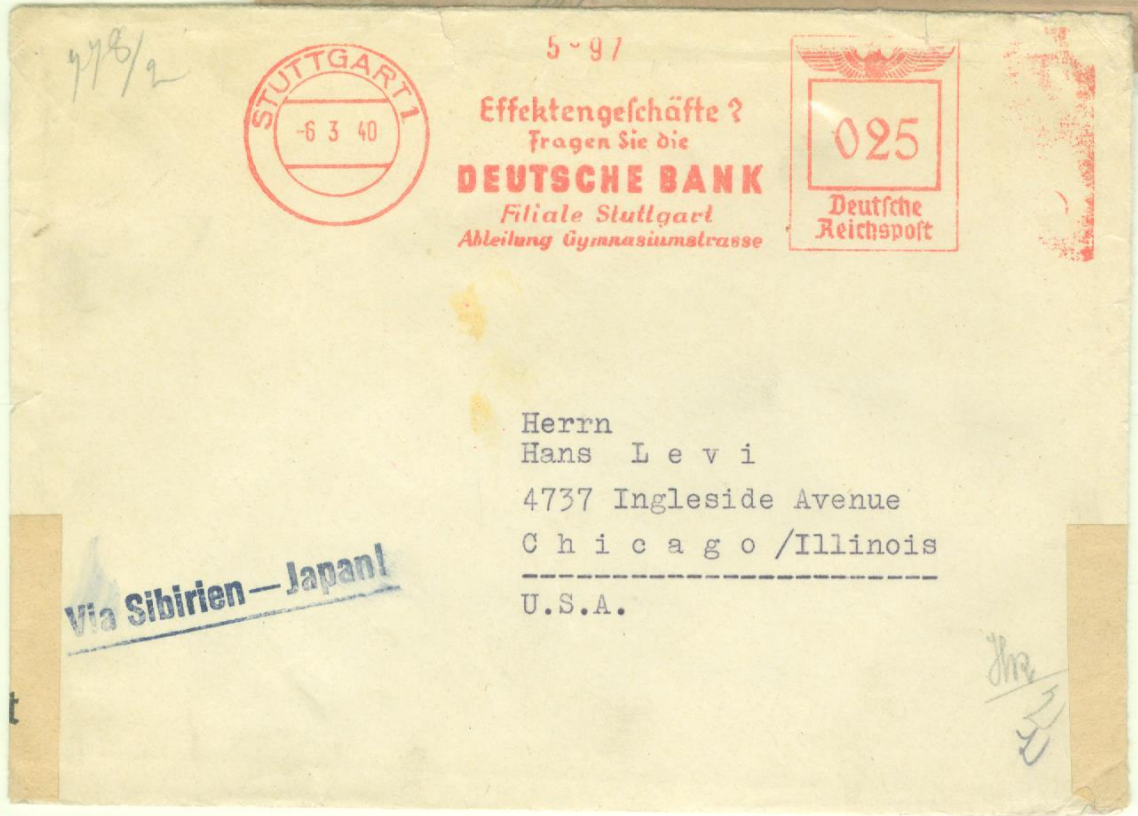
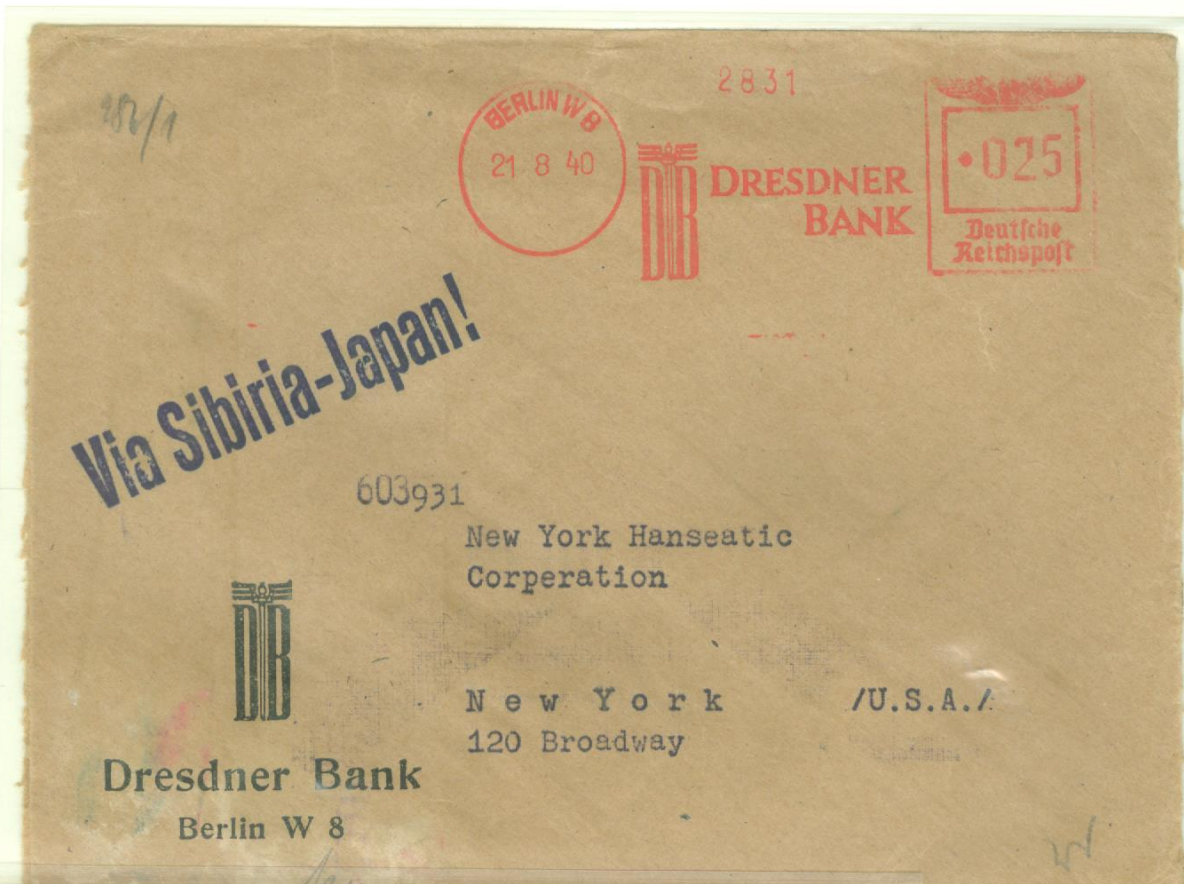
**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

1940 ..
Germany-USA Bank Mail

**BERLIN-
NEW YORK
BANK MAIL**

**21 AUGUST
1940**

Censored
cover,
postmarked
at Berlin,
with route
endorsement
"Via Siberia-
Japan"
sent to
New York
City.



**STUTTGART-
CHICAGO BANK
MAIL**

6 MARCH 1940

Censored cover,
postmarked at
Stuttgart,
with route
endorsement
"Via Japan-
Siberia",
sent to Chicago.

Probable Routes:
Stuttgart-Berlin-
Moscow-Irkutsk-
Tschita-
Charborowsk-
Vladivostok-
(by sea) to Japan-
San Francisco-
(overland) to
Chicago or
New York City.

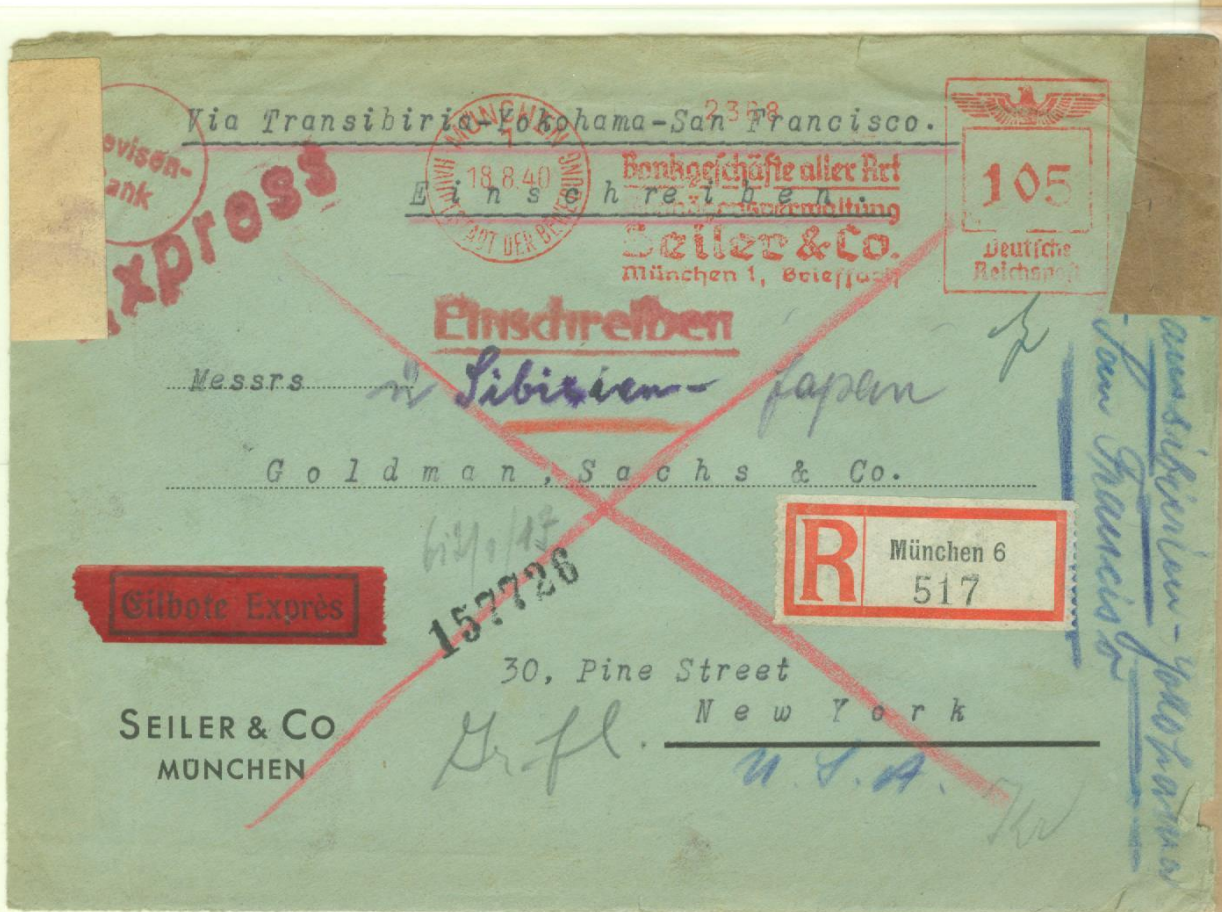
25 Pfennig...
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate.
(Validity: 1 January 1925 - April 1945)

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

With the beginning of WW II in September 1939, all British Commonwealth countries, including Canada, were at war with Germany, necessitating eastern mail movement through the United States to Europe.

**IN ORDER TO AVOID FOREIGN CENSORSHIP IN CANADA OR BRITAIN,
GERMAN BANKS & BUSINESSES ENDORSED THEIR MAIL..**

**"VIA SIBERIA-JAPAN" or
"VIA SIBERIA CALIFORNIA-SERVICE
NOT VIA CANADA"**



**GERMAN-CENSORED 'REGISTERED & EXPRESS' BANK MAIL TO
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

18 AUGUST 1940

Bank cover, postmarked at Munich, Germany,
with route endorsement..

"Via Siberia-Japan"
sent to New York City. 44-day transit time.

Probable Route:

Munich-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Tschita-Charborowsk-Vladivostok-(by sea)
Tsuruga or Yokohama-San Francisco- (overland) to New York.

105 Pfennig...

**25 Pfg.. Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate +
30 Pfg.. Registration fee + 50 Pfg Express Mail
(Validity: 1 January 1935 - April 1945)**

1939-1941..
Germany-USA Bank Mail
"Via Siberia-Japan" & "California-Service, Not Canada"

R Berlin 8
815 bn



DRESDNER
BANK

070
Deutsche
Reichspost

Herrn Nr 2110

Einschreiben!

*Otto Goese
c/o The Chase National Bank of the City of New-York*

Sibirien-Japan
California Dienst
nicht über Canada

46813



Dresdner Bank

Berlin W 8



*18 Pine Street
New-York, N.Y.
U.S.A.*

GERMAN-CENSORED 'REGISTERED' BANK MAIL
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

8 FEBRUARY 1941

Registered bank cover,
postmarked Berlin, Germany,
with route endorsement..

"Via Siberia-Japan
California Service Not via Canada"

sent to New York City.
55-day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
(Reverse)

"San Francisco, California
31 March 1941"

"New York Registry Division,
4 April 1941"

Probable Route:

Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Tschita-Charborowsk-
Vladivostok- (by sea) to San Francisco-
(overland) to New York.

70 Pfennig...

40 Pfg.. Double-weight (40 grams) international
letter-rate + 30 Pfg.. Registration fee
(Validity: 1 January 1935 - April 1945)

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

22 June 1941..
German Invasion of the Soviet Union

Despite having signed a non-aggression pact in August 1939, Germany initiated a surprise invasion of the Soviet Union from occupied Poland on 22 June 1941.

SUCH INVASION IMMEDIATELY CEASED ALL MAIL TRANSIT 'VIA SIBERIA' FROM/TO GERMANY AND MOST OF EUROPE.

COMMERCIAL MAIL PRIOR TO CESSATION OF 'via Siberia' SERVICE

10 MARCH 1941

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia", sent to Berlin, Germany. 19-day transit time.

CNC 1.00 ...
0.50.. Single-weight international (20 grams) letter-rate +
0.50.. Registration fee
(Validity: 20 Sept. 1940 - 31 Oct. 1941)



LATE GHETTO MAIL PRIOR TO CESSATION OF 'Via Siberia' SERVICE

30 MAY 1941

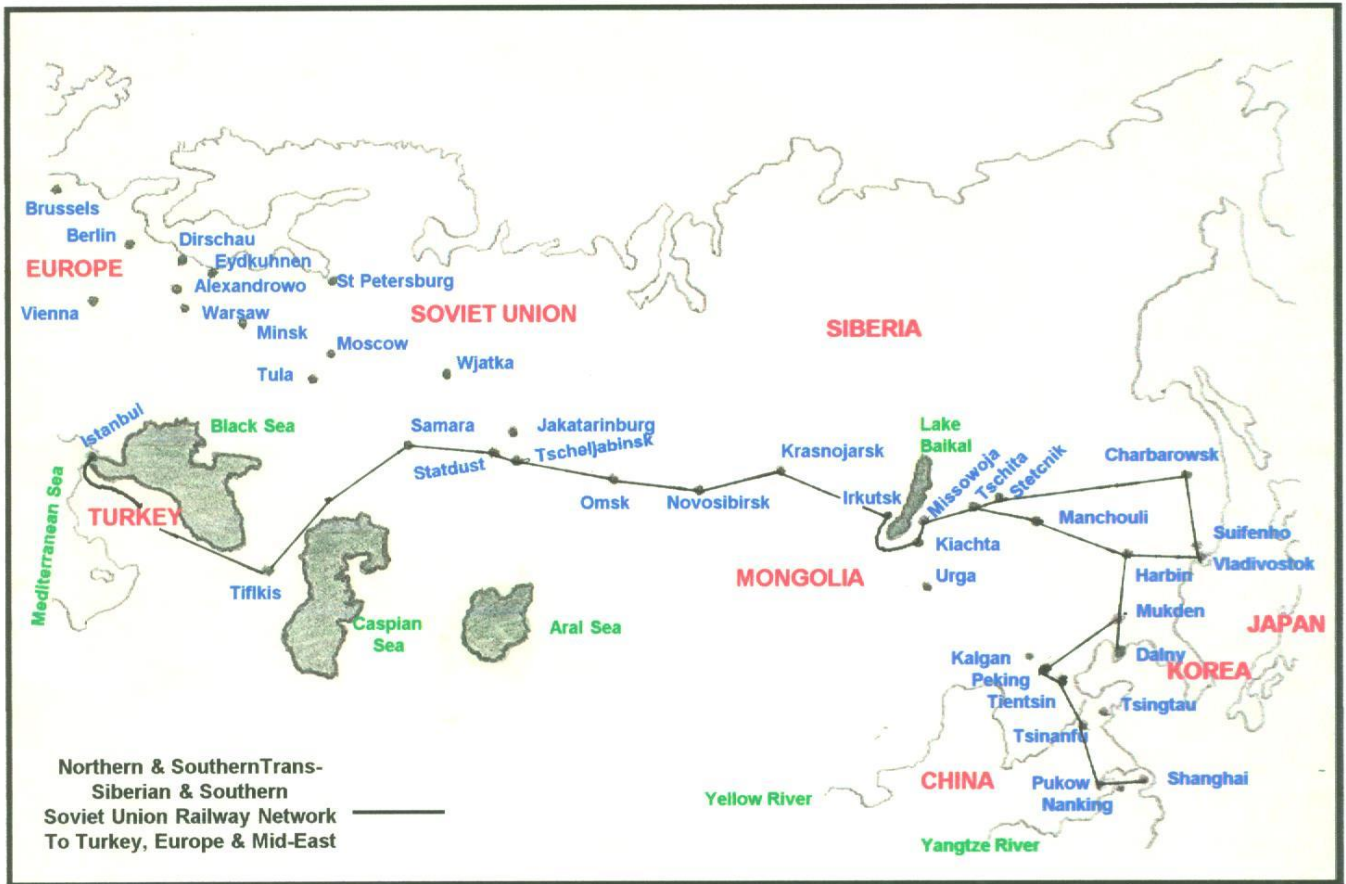
Reply postal-stationery card, postmarked at Oppeln, Germany, endorsed "China via Siberia", sent to Shanghai-Hongkew, China.

15 Pfennig.. International postcard-rate.

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS

1939-1945

TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK FOR MOVEMENT OF FAR EAST MAIL TO NON-BELLIGERENT EUROPE & TURKEY AFTER THE INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION ON 22 JUNE 1941



With the invasion of the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, all heretofore mail transit to/from the Far East through Moscow to Berlin & Western Europe ceased while war conditions prevailed along most of the eastern border of the Soviet Union.

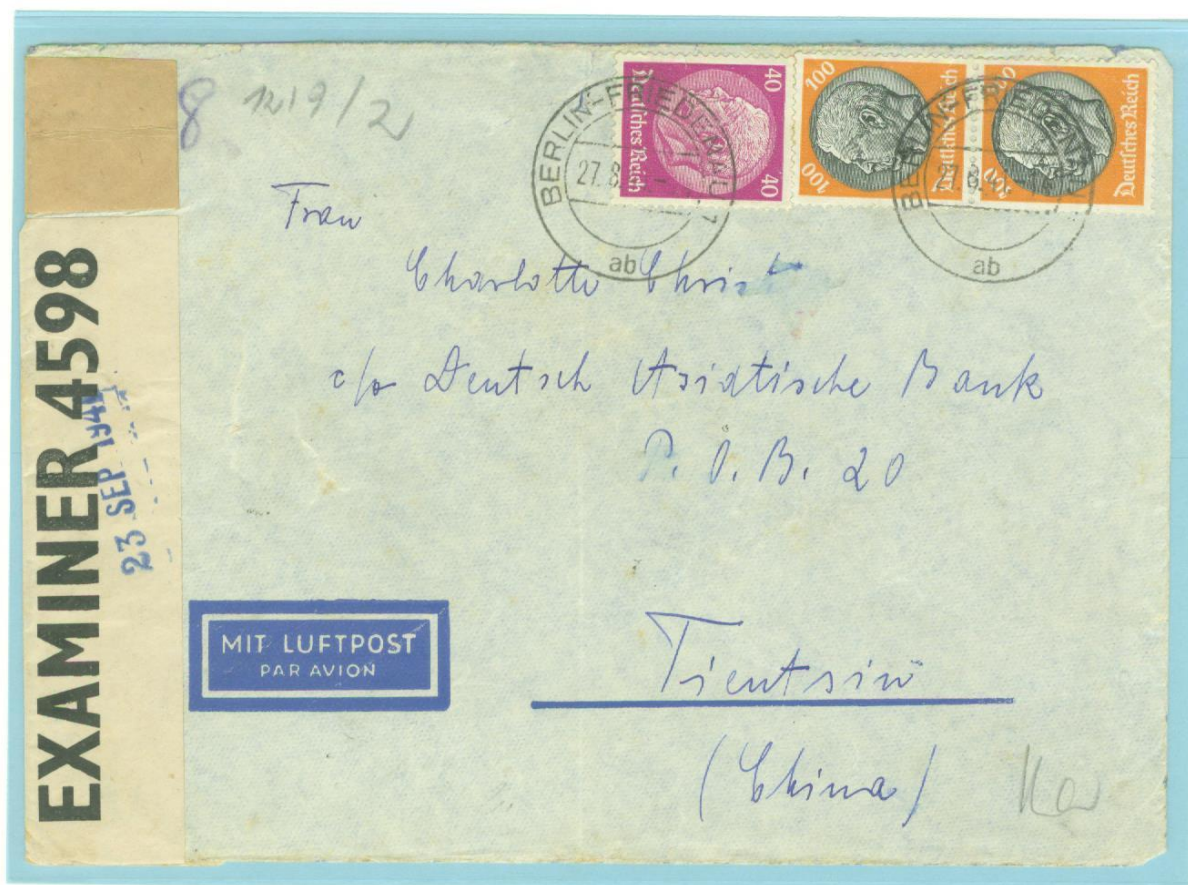
MOVEMENT OF MAIL TO NON-BELLIGERENT EUROPE & TURKEY WAS NOW ONLY POSSIBLE USING THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE TO SAMARA CONNECTING WITH THE SOUTHERN SOVIET UNION RAILWAY NETWORK TO TIFLIS & TURKEY..

"VIA SIBERIA-TIFLIS-ISTANBUL"

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1941.. Germany-China
'LATI' Airmail**

**UNABLE TO ROUTE MAIL 'VIA SIBERIA' TO CHINA BECAUSE OF
HOSTILITIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THE GERMAN POST OFFICE
FORWARDED AIRMAIL WITH ITALIAN 'LATI AIRLINES'
(Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane)
MOVING MAIL THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA TO CHINA
BETWEEN JUNE-DECEMBER 1941.**



**GERMANY-CHINA BANK MAIL SENT VIA SOUTH AMERICA THROUGH 'LATI' AIRLINES
WITH INTERRUPTION & BRITISH-CENSORSHIP AT BERMUDA**

27 AUGUST 1941

German & British censored cover,
postmarked at Berlin-Friedenau, Germany, sent to Tientsin, China, with
air surcharge for mail using 'LATI' Airlines, unsuccessfully attempting
to avoid British censorship at Bermuda but released for forwarding to China.

Probable Route:

**Berlin-Rome-Rio de Janeiro-Buenos Aires-Lima-Cristobal-Mexico City-New York-
Bermuda-New York-San Francisco- (by sea) to Japan & Shanghai- (rail) to Tientsin**

240 Pfennig...

**25 Pfg.. International single-weight (20 grams) letter-rate +
215 Pfg.. Airmail Surcharge (5 grams) for LATI-flown mail**

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1942.. Commercial Mail
Occupied China - Denmark
'Via Siberia..Turkey" Route**

Shanghai-origin (Japanese-Occupied) mail intended for German-occupied Denmark in Western Europe was possible until outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans, using the route **SHANGHAI (by sea) - VLADIVOSTOK - TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE TO SAMARA, CONNECTING THERE WITH OTHER RAIL LINES TO TIFLIS-ISTANBUL-BULGARIA-ROMANIA-AUSTRIA-GERMANY-DENMARK.**

**WAR-TIME MAIL
THRU CHINESE
POST OFFICE TO
DENMARK**

5 MAY 1942

Registered cover,
German censored,
postmarked at
Shanghai, China,
with route
endorsement
**"Via Siberia
Ankara"**
sent to
Copenhagen,
Denmark.
55-day transit time

Transit &
Arrival Postmarks:
(Front & Reverse)
"Istanbul,
29 June 1942"
"Copenhagen,
12 June 1942"



(Reverse)
\$2.00 ...
\$1.00.. Single-weight (20 grams) International letter +
\$1.00.. Registry fee (1 November 1941-1 November 1942)

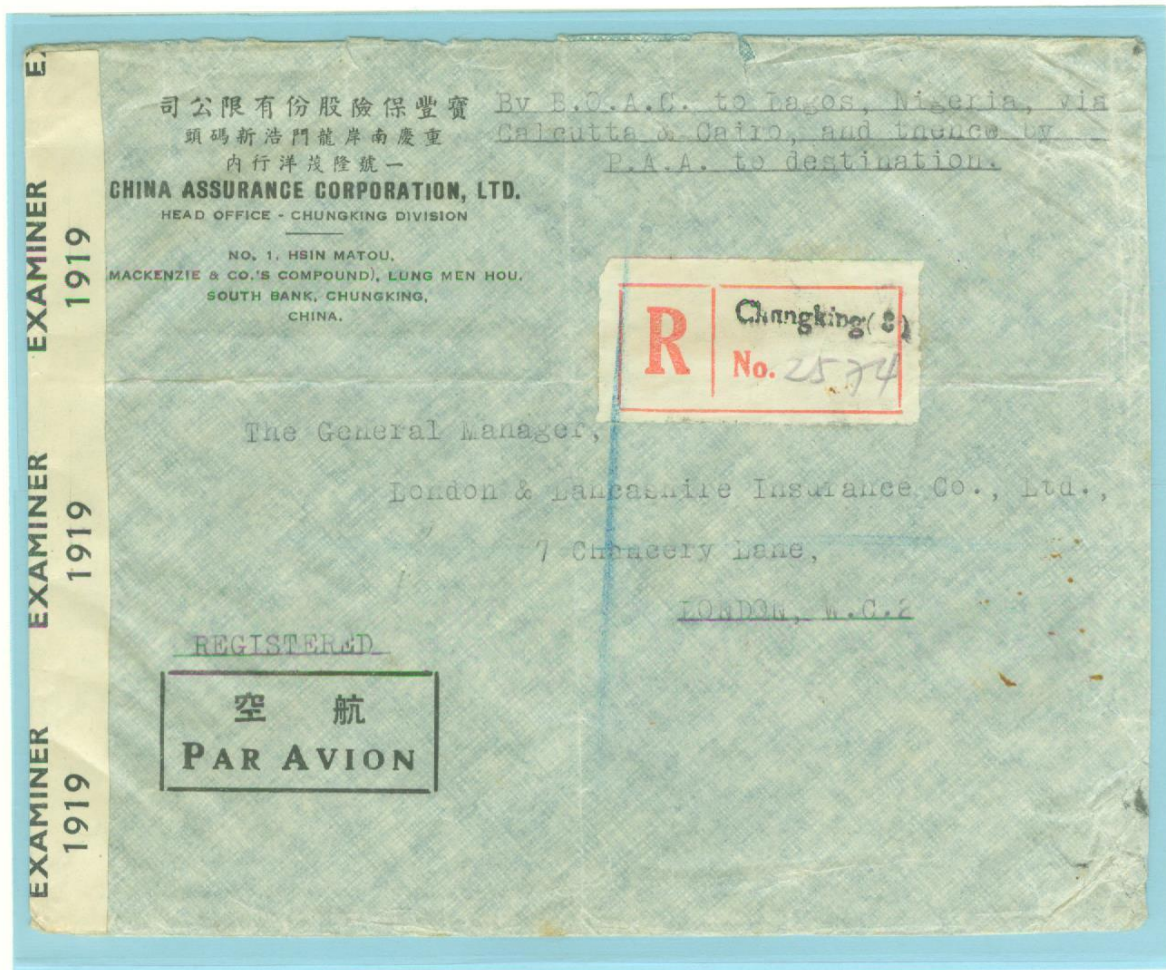
COURIER MAIL
**SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 1942**

Shanghai
Danish-
Consulate
courier -carried
& posted mail
in Denmark.

Upon arrival in Denmark, cover was affixed with domestic Danish postage ("On Government Service" Perfin), postmarked "12 October 1942" at Copenhagen

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1942-1943.. China-England
'Via Siberia' .. Wartime Alternative Airmail**



31 DECEMBER 1942

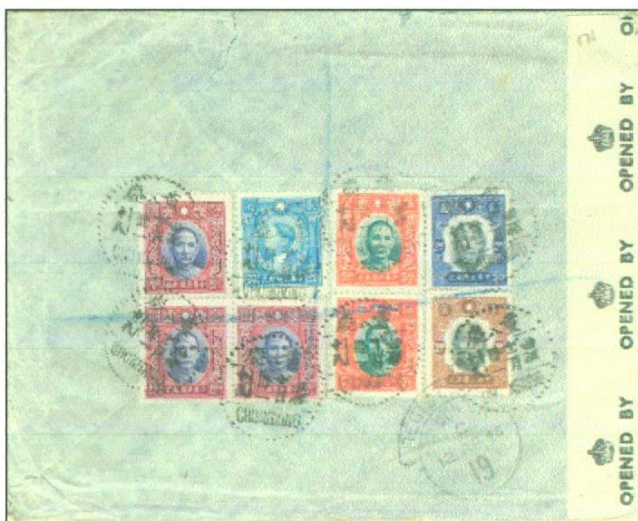
**'CHUNGKING-LONDON' REGISTERED COMMERCIAL
CENSORED MAIL**

Registered commercial cover,
postmarked at Chungking, China,
with route endorsement
*"By B.O.A.C. to Lagos, Nigeria, via Calcutta, Cairo
and thence by P.A.A. to destination"*,
sent to London, England, censorship upon arrival
at London. 109-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"London, 19 April 1943"

Air Route:
(NAL) Chungking-Calcutta-(BOAC) Cairo-Lagos-(PAA)
Bathurst-Natal-Belem-Port-of-Spain-San Juan-Miami-
New York-Horta-Lisbon- (BOAC) London

CNC \$73.20...
CNC \$ 1.50.. China/International Letter (30 grams)
(Postal clerk mistakenly omitted charge for 2nd weight level) +
Registration Fee.. CNC \$1.50 +
Air Surcharge Unified Rate (6x 5 grams) .. CNC 70.20
(Validity: 25 February 1942 - 29 May 1943)



Reverse

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

1942.. Missionary Mail
Manchukuo-Switzerland
"Via Siberia .. Turkey" Route

Mail intended for neutral Switzerland in Western Europe was possible
throughout most of the war years using the
**TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE TO SAMARA CONNECTING TO TIFLIS, TURKISH
RAILWAY TO ISTANBUL, OTHER RAIL LINES TO DESTINATION**



WAR-TIME REGISTERED MISSIONARY MAIL .. MANCHUKUO-SWITZERLAND

8 AUGUST 1942

Registered missionary mail, postmarked at Harbin, Manchukuo,
with route endorsement

"Via Siberia-Istanbul, La Suisse-Schweiz-Switzerland"

sent to Immensee, Switzerland.

53-day war-time transit time

Transit Postmark:
(Front)
"Istanbul,
24 September 1942"

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Immensee,
"30 September 1942"

Route:
Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich

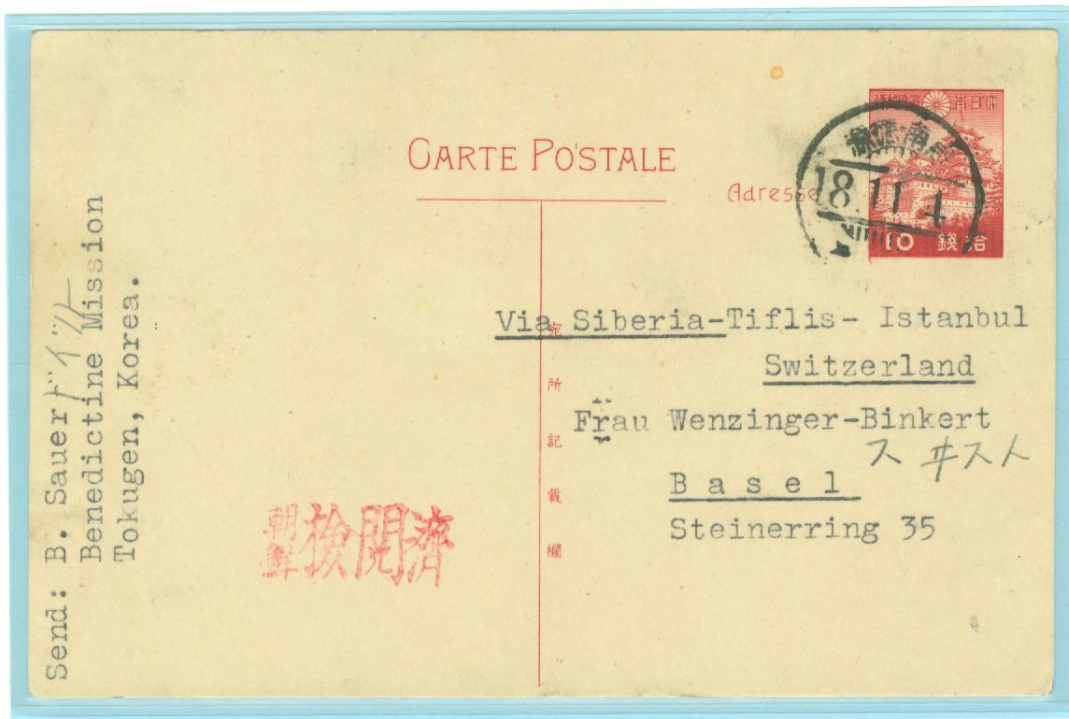
36 Fen...
24 Fen.. Double-rate (20-40 grams)
International letter +
12 Fen.. Registration fee

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1943.. Missionary Mail
Korea-Switzerland
'Via Siberia .. Turkey' Route**

Mail from Japanese-occupied Korea to non-belligerent countries of Europe remained possible over the Trans-Siberian Railway Network through Turkey as long as the Soviet Union and Japan were not at war.

**"BONIFAZIUS SAUER", A BENEDICTINE BISHOP, ARRIVED IN KOREA
IN 1909 TO ESTABLISH A MISSION,
DIED IN A NORTH KOREAN PRISON IN 1950.**



WAR-TIME MISSIONARY MAIL .. KOREA-SWITZERLAND

4 NOVEMBER 1943

Japanese postal stationery card,
written by 'Bonifazius Sauer',
postmarked at Tokungen, Korea,
with route endorsement
"Via Siberia-Tiflis-Istanbul-Switzerland",
sent to Basel (Basle), Switzerland.

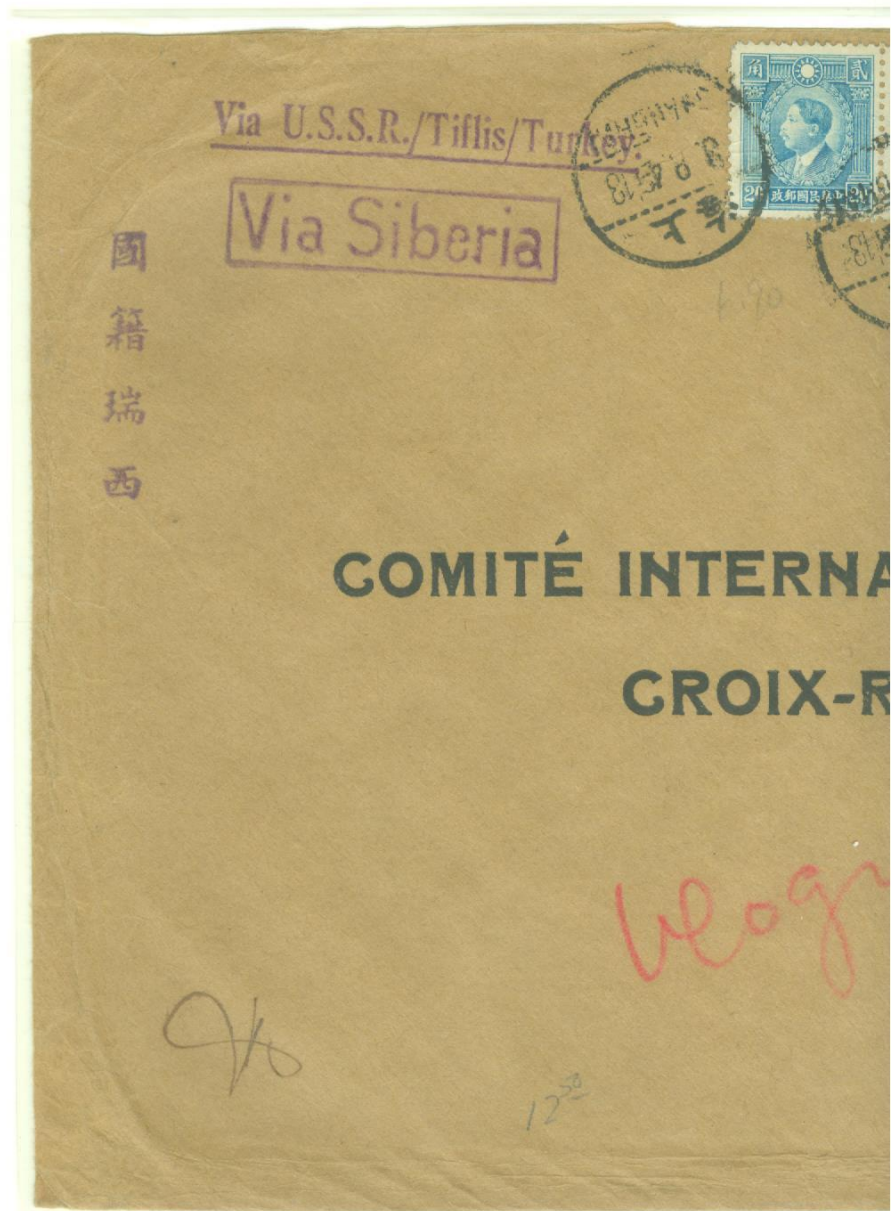
Route:
Korea-Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich-Basel

**10 Sen...
International postcard-rate**

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**THE INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS (IRC)
FACILITATED THE EXCHANGE
OF COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN INTERNEES,
PRISONERS-OF-WAR & OTHERS
IN OCCUPIED OR HOSTILE
NATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES THROUGH IRC
FIELD OFFICES VIA ITS
HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND.**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY
RED CROSS AFFILIATES HAD
SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION
FORMS WHICH THE PARTIES
INVOLVED COMPLETED AND
EXCHANGED.**

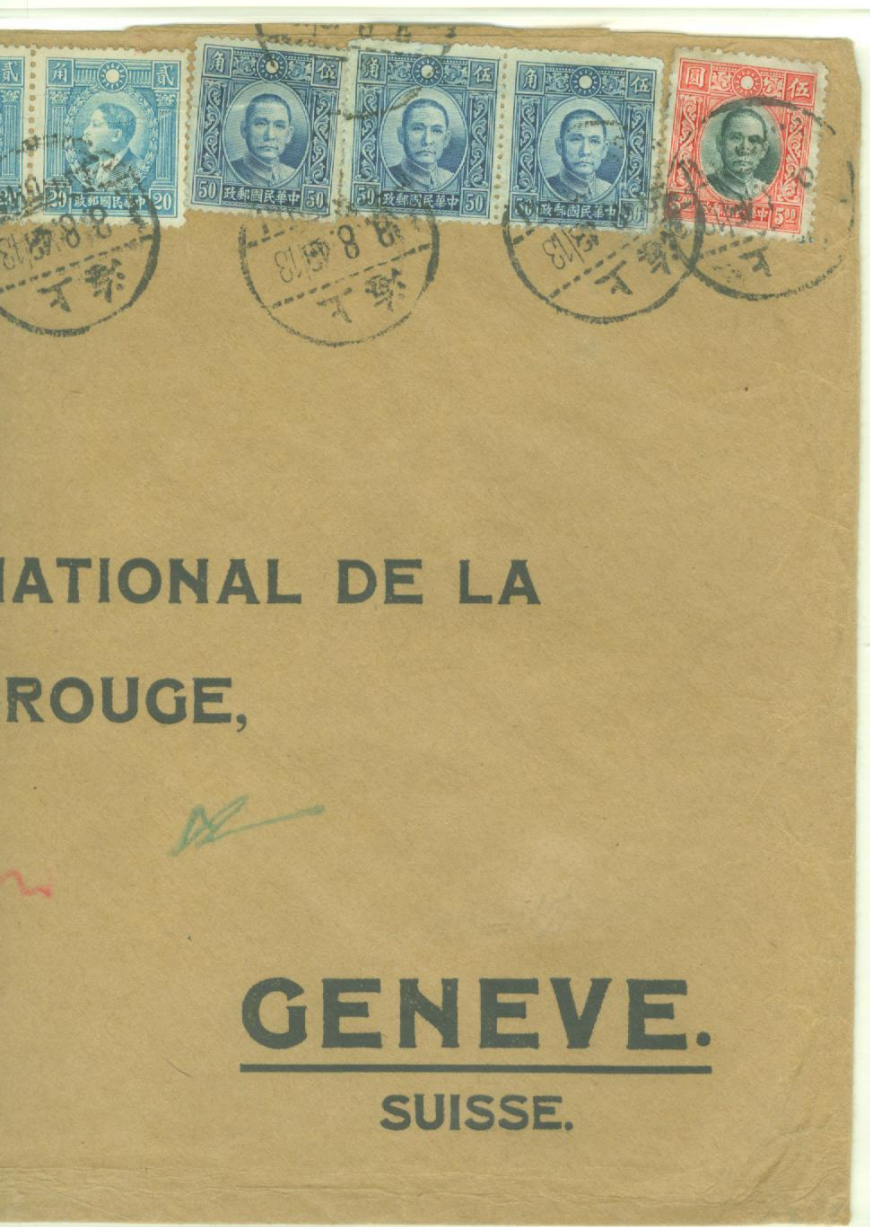


INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MAIL FROM CHINA TO SWITZERLAND

3 AUGUST 1943

**International Red Cross cover,
postmarked at Japanese-occupied Shanghai, China,
sent through the Chinese Post Office,
with cachet route endorsement ..
"Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey .. Via Siberia",
sent to IRC Headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.**

1943.. Red Cross Mail
Shanghai-Switzerland
"Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey" Route



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE,
97 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD,
SHANGHAI.

Reverse

Probable Route:
Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-
Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Geneva

CNC 6.90...
CNC 2.00 + 1.20 + 1.20 .. Triple-weight (40-60 grams)
international letter-rate +
CNC 2.50 War Tax
(Validity: 1 June 1943 – 1 May 1944)

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1943.. German Red Cross Mail
Germany-China-Germany
'Via Siberia .. Turkey' Route**



Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

13. NOV. 1943 *584537

ANTRAG

an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf*
— *Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz* —
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE

de la *Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Etranger*
à l'*Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève*
— *Comité International de la Croix-Rouge* —
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender .. *Henriette Müller, Burgsh. 35*
Expéditeur .. *Waldshut, Baden*

bittet, an
prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à

Verwandtschaftsgrad: .. *Mutter*

2. Empfänger .. *Serdinand Müller, 157 Seking Rd*
Destinataire .. *SHANGHAI*

folgendes zu übermitteln / *ce qui suit:*

(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!)
(25 mots au plus!)

*Brief September erhalten? - Seit Jenem Mailbrief nichts.
Schreibe auch Du regelmässig! Hier alles wohl. Eva erwartet
November zweites Kind. Herzlichst*

*Mutter Eva, Henry,
Söhne*

(Datum / date) **30. Okt. 1943.**

(Unterschrift / Signature)

3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig
Destinataire répond au verso



JAN. 1944

**WARTIME
GERMAN RED CROSS
REPLY-FORM TO
SHANGHAI & RETURN**

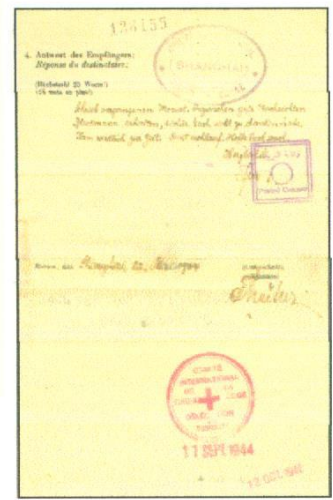
30 OCTOBER 1943

Red Cross Form, sent
from Waldshut, Germany,
to Shanghai, China with
reply.

Sequence of Events:

- Mail Date:
30 Oct. 1943
- German Red Cross,
Berlin: 13 Nov. 1943
- IRC Geneva:
19 Jan. 1944
- Red Cross Shanghai:
no date indicated
- Reply from Shanghai:
22 May 1944
- Turkish Red Cross:
11 Sept. 1944
- Censored in Turkey
- IRC Geneva:
12 Oct. 1945

Probable Route:
Waldshut-Berlin-Geneva-
Istanbul-Tiflis-Samara-
Irkutsk-Tschita-
Charborowsk-
Vladivostok- (by sea) to
Shanghai-return to
Geneva using
same route.



Reverse

WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945

件文語英八部内
CONTENTS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH
スイス籍國
SWISS NATIONALITY

VIA SIBERIA

轉亞利比西由

INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS (IRC)
FIELD OFFICES WERE OFTEN IN
REPRESENTED BY A SWISS
CITIZEN IN A BUSINESS-OFFICE
LOCATION IN THE
APPLICABLE COUNTRY, AS
WAS THE INSTANCE AT THE
'IRC OFFICE' IN THE BRITISH
CROWN COLONY OF HONG
KONG, JAPANESE OCCUPIED
BETWEEN
25 DECEMBER 1941 -
16 SEPTEMBER 1945

International Red Cross C

GENEVA

SWITZERLAND

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MAIL FROM HONG KONG TO SWITZERLAND

19 FEBRUARY 1944

Red Cross cover,
postmarked at Japanese-occupied Hong Kong,
with cachet route endorsement ..

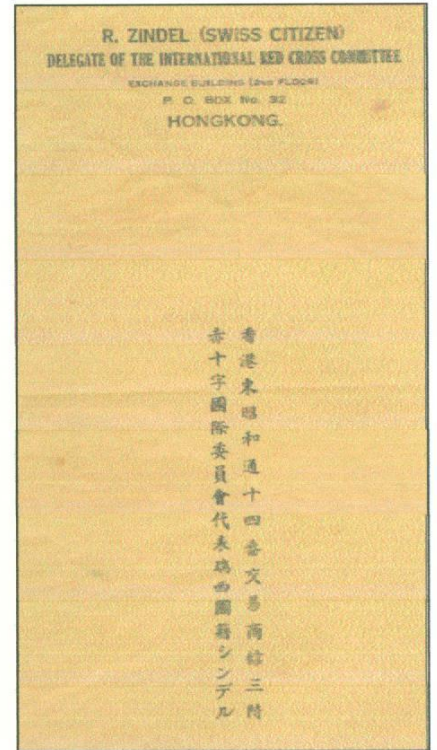
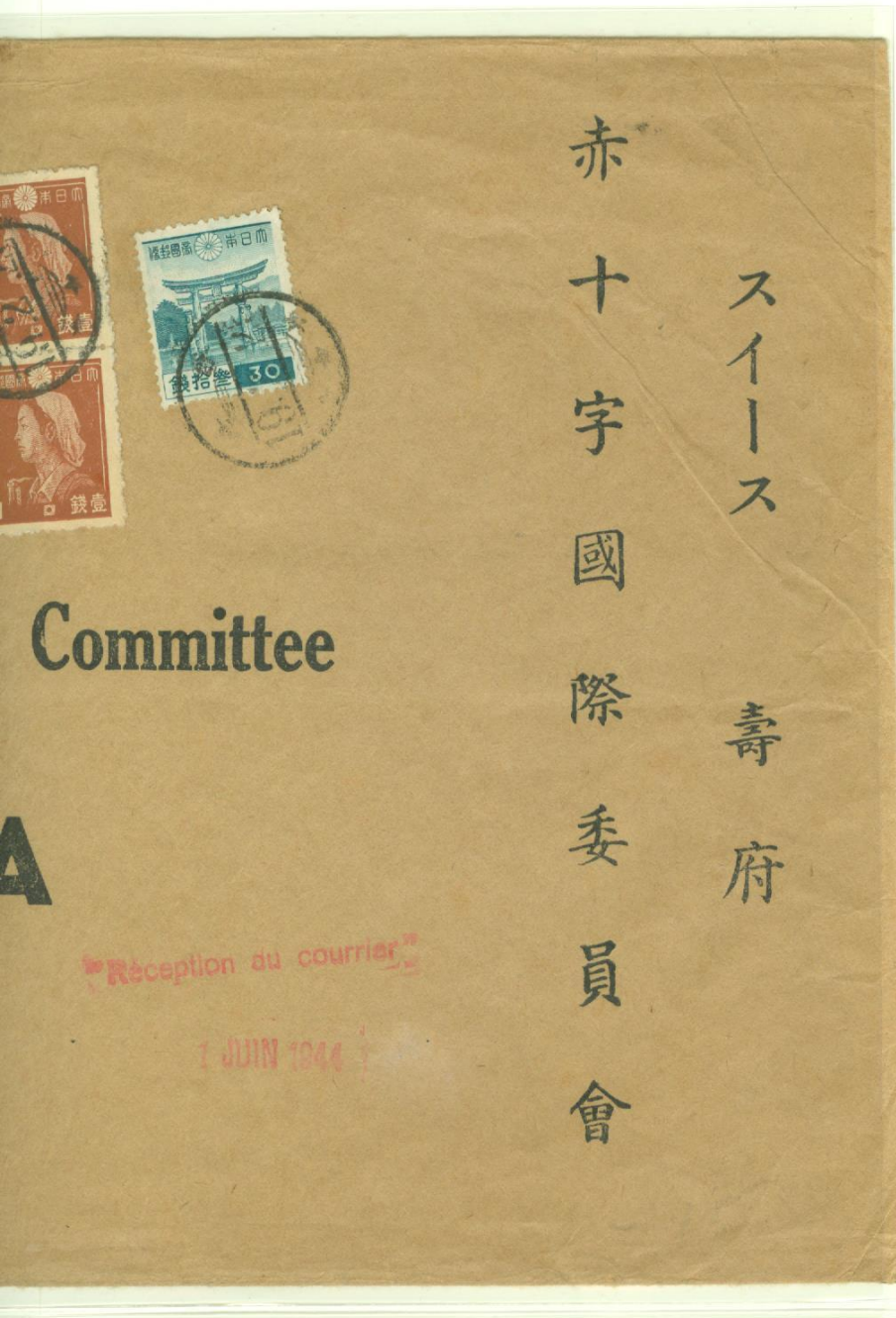
"Via Siberia",

sent to the IRC Headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.

Cachet Marking:
(in red)

"Courier received .. 1 June 1944"

1944.. Red Cross Mail
 Hong Kong-Switzerland
 "Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey" Route



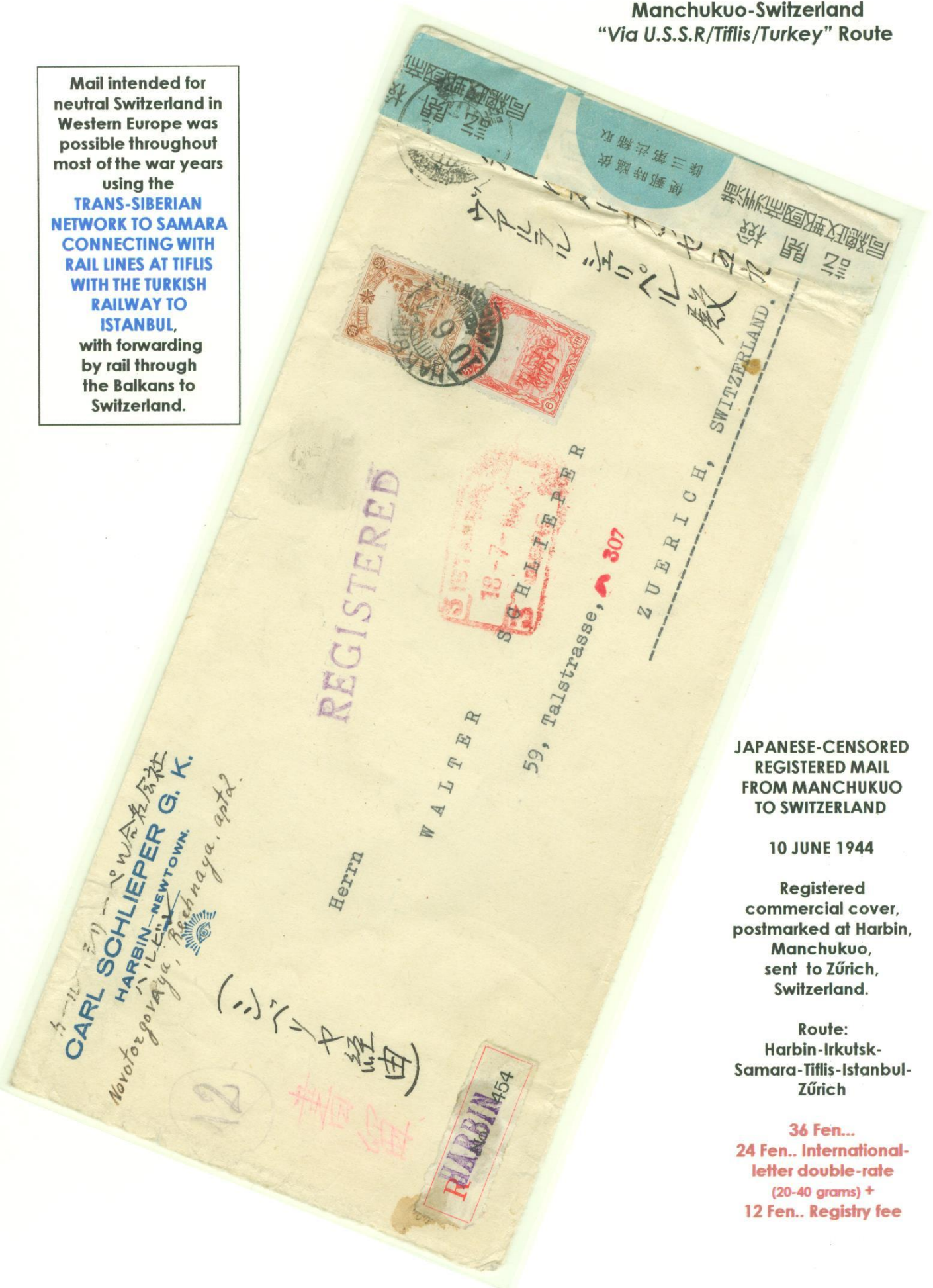
Reverse

Probable Route:
 Hong Kong- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-
 Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Geneva

32 Sen...
 20+12 Sen .. Double-weight (20-40 grams)
 international letter-rate

1944.. Commercial Mail
 Manchukuo-Switzerland
 "Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey" Route

Mail intended for neutral Switzerland in Western Europe was possible throughout most of the war years using the **TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK TO SAMARA CONNECTING WITH RAIL LINES AT TIFLIS WITH THE TURKISH RAILWAY TO ISTANBUL**, with forwarding by rail through the Balkans to Switzerland.



JAPANESE-CENSORED
 REGISTERED MAIL
 FROM MANCHUKUO
 TO SWITZERLAND

10 JUNE 1944

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Harbin, Manchukuo, sent to Zürich, Switzerland.

Route:
 Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich

36 Fen...
 24 Fen.. International-letter double-rate (20-40 grams) +
 12 Fen.. Registry fee

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1944.. Commercial Mail
Japan-Switzerland
'Via Siberia..Turkey' Route**



**WARTIME JAPANESE-CENSORED REGISTERED
COMMERCIAL MAIL ... JAPAN TO SWITZERLAND**

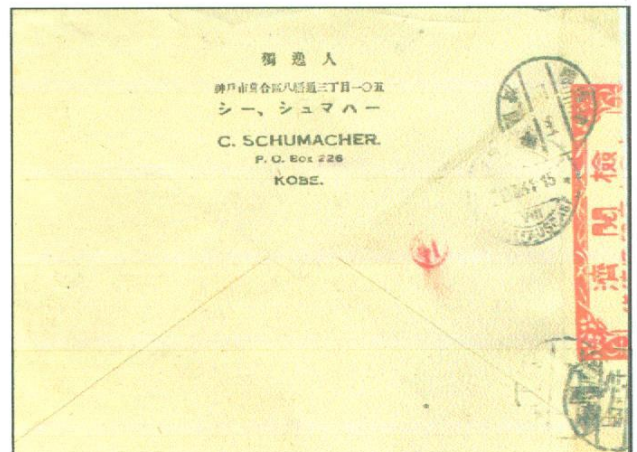
28 JUNE 1944

**Registered cover,
postmarked at Kobe, Japan,
sent to Zürich, Switzerland.
57-day wartime transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Zürich,
24 August 1944"**

**Route:
Kobe- (by sea) to Valdivostok-(by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-
Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich**

**62 Sen...
Double-weight (20-40 grams)
international letter-rate +
Registration fee**

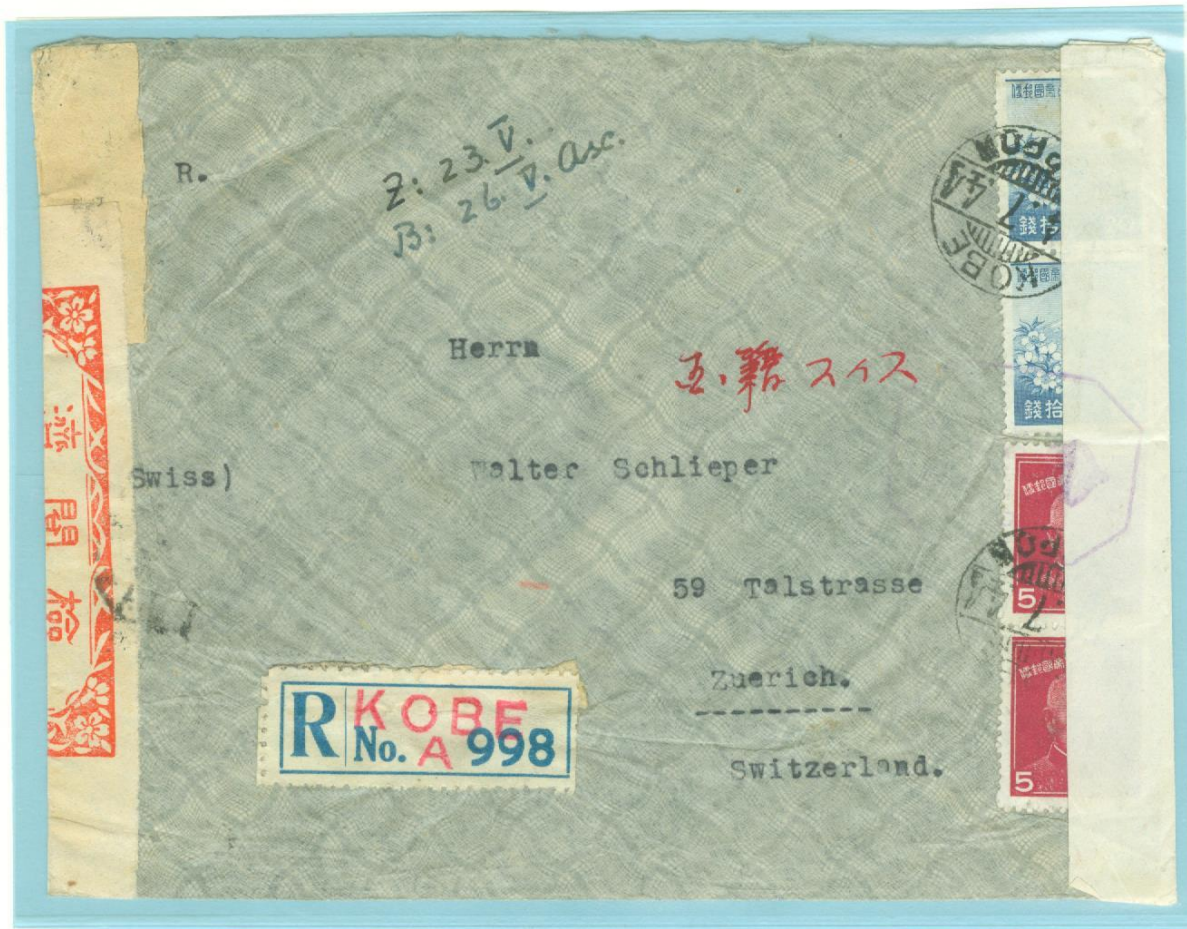


Reverse

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1944-45.. Double-Censored Mail
Japan-Switzerland
'Via Siberia .. Turkey-Palestine' Route**

As a result of the Soviet Military offensive in the Balkans in late 1944,
HERETOFORE MAIL OVER THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK ROUTE CONNECTING WITH
TURKEY TO 'DESTINATION SWITZERLAND' WAS NOW INTERRUPTED AND
DIVERTED TO PALESTINE, SUBJECT TO BRITISH CENSORSHIP, FOR FORWARDING.



4 JULY 1944

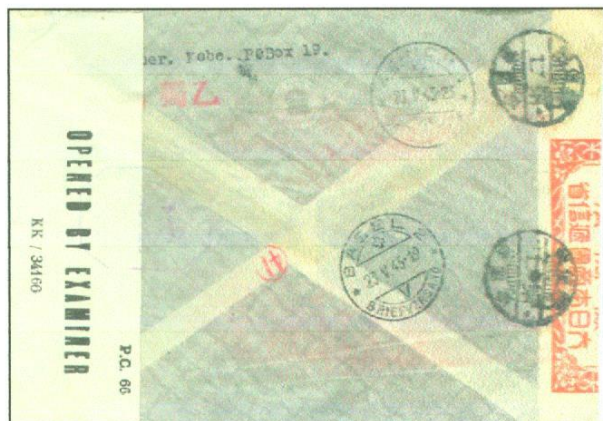
Registered mail, postmarked at Kobe, Japan, diverted to Palestine, with British censorship before being forwarded to Zürich, Switzerland, arriving there after V-E Day (May 8). 291-day wartime transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Zürich,
23 May 1945"

Probable Route:
Kobe- (by sea) to Valdivostok-(by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-
Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Palestine-(by sea) France-
Basel-Zürich

50 Sen...
Single-weight (20 grams)
international letter-rate + Registration fee

**WARTIME JAPANESE & BRITISH-CENSORED
REGISTERED MAIL FROM JAPAN TO SWITZERLAND**

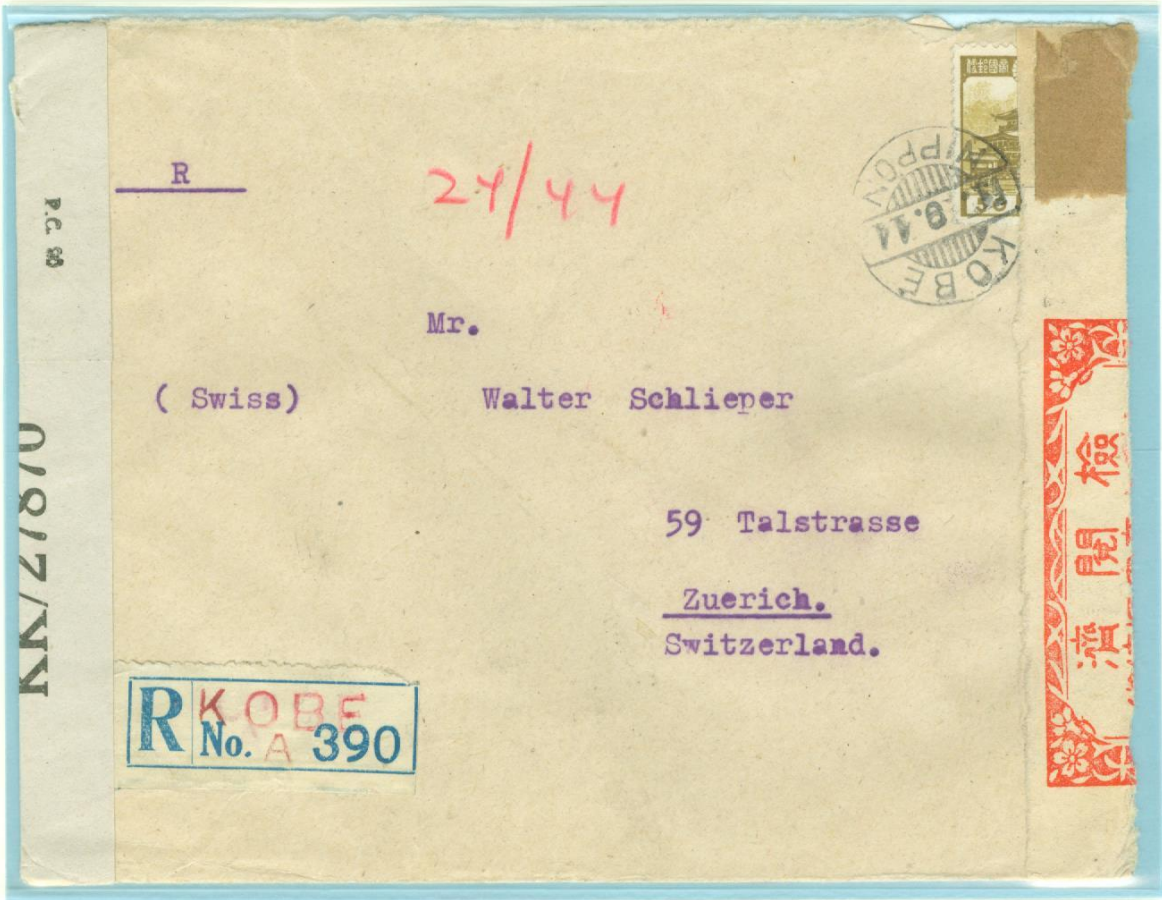


Reverse

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS
1939-1945**

**1944-46.. Postwar Delivered Mail
Japan-Switzerland
'Via Siberia .. Turkey-Palestine' Route**

As a result of the widespread military campaigns in Central, Southern & Eastern Europe in late 1944 until 'V-E Day' (May 8, 1945),
MAIL TO SWITZERLAND WAS INTERRUPTED FOR CENSORSHIP AT PALESTINE OR UNTIL POSTAL FACILITIES & ROUTES WERE RE-ESTABLISHED PERMITTING FORWARDING OF MAIL TO DESTINATION.



7 SEPTEMBER 1944

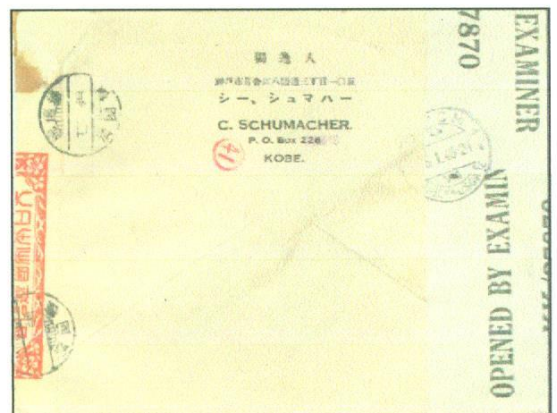
**WARTIME JAPANESE & BRITISH-CENSORED
POSTWAR-DELIVERED REGISTERED MAIL
FROM JAPAN TO SWITZERLAND**

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Kobe, Japan, diverted to Palestine from Istanbul, where British censorship took place before being forwarded to Zürich, Switzerland, first arriving there in 1946!
16-month transit time!

Arrival Postmark:
(Reverse)
"Zürich,
5 January 1946"

Probable Route:
Kobe- (by sea) to Vladivostok-(by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Palestine-(by sea) France-Basel-Zürich

**50 Sen...
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate +
Registration fee**



Reverse

X. EPILOGUE

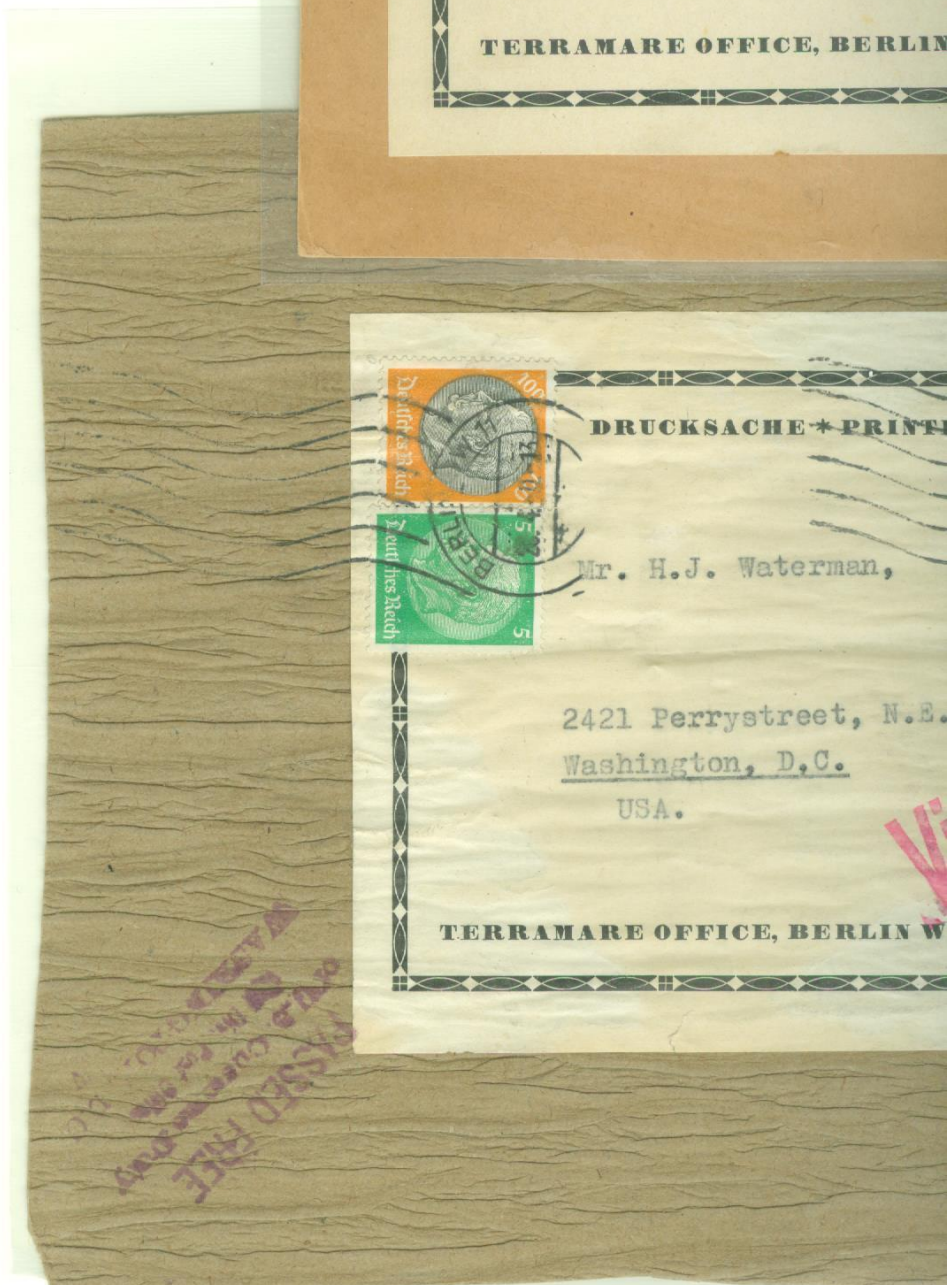
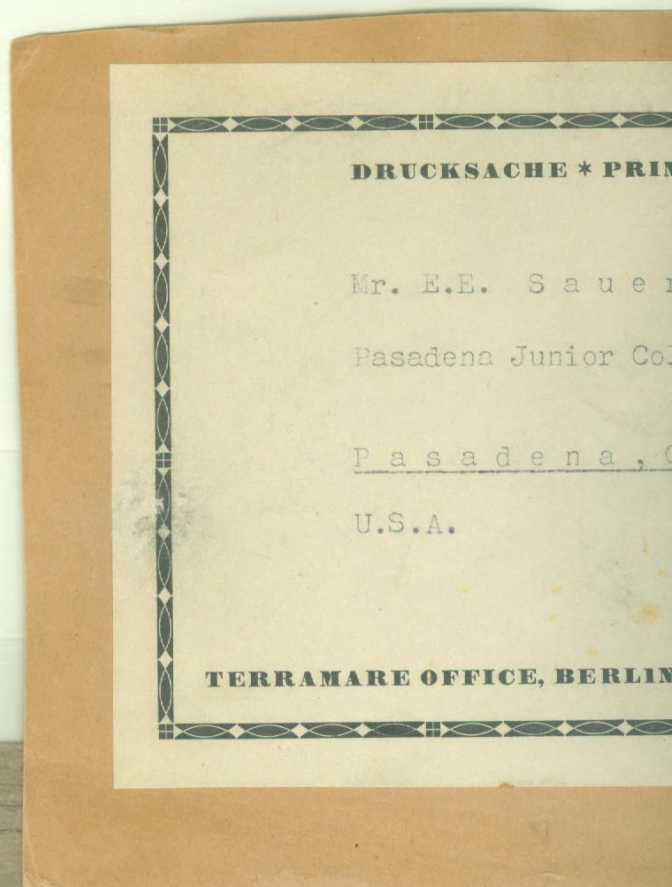
Japanese Forces in Manchuria surrendered on 22 August 1945, and the surrender of Japan on 2. September 1945 ended World War II.

THE END OF WORLD WAR II ENABLED THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK TO AGAIN BECOME OPERATIONAL, ALBEIT

"VIA SIBERIA"

AS A ROUTE ENDORSEMENT SAW ITS DEMISE.

COMMENCING IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD, MOST MAIL MOVEMENT EAST/WEST WAS HENCEFORTH BY AIR WHICH CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.



Demise of "Via Siberia" Mail
Route Endorsement

E * PRINTED MATTER



auer
nior College
na, Calif.

Via Sibiria

BERLIN W 8, KRONENSTRASSE 1

* PRINTED MATTER



man,

et, N.E.,

U.S.

Via Sibiria

BERLIN W 8, KRONENSTRASSE 1

Today's Trans-Siberian Rail Network, beginning in eastern Russia at the coastal port city of Vladivostok and ending in the west at Moscow, is highly electrified, handling primarily freight and container traffic to Europe from the Far East.

"Via Siberia"
Route Endorsements on 1940
Printed-Matter Mail from Germany
sent to Eastern & Western
United States of America.

No longer required after
World War II.