

Rates During The Post-War Chinese National Currency Era

SCOPE AND SIGNIFIGANCE:

The Chinese National Currency (CNC) era was the first, longest and most important of the post-war inflationary periods—late-1945 to Dec. 1948—followed by the Gold Yuan and Silver Yuan periods.

TREATMENT:

Auxiliary Services — In addition to ordinary mail, registered, registered AR, express, and registered-express covers are included, and, along with overweight items, are identified by **bold text** in the description. Not all such auxiliary services are shown for each rate period as that would be redundant. Other types of special covers are identified by **bold titles** immediately preceding the cover description.

Other Postal Rates — Printed Matter, Postcards, Samples, etc., are included in the applicable rate periods.

Special Rate Period Items — Include First Day of Rate, Last Day of Rate, and Grace Period Covers.

Special Rate Entitlements — These include: the Shanghai-Nanking Night Express Train, which transported mail overnight and delivered it immediately, at the ordinary surface rate; special surface and airmail services to Hong Kong and Macao at domestic rates; servicemen's military mail, sent by airmail, if available, at the surface rate; the Official Domestic Air Letter Sheet, usable at any time within one year of the date of issuance irrespective of rate increases; and the Formula International Air Letter Sheet, which passed at a reduced international airmail rate.

Covers of Special Interest — Include those mailed from the new Mobile Post Offices and Postal Kiosks, from Scarce (very small) Towns of Origin or to Scarce (very unusual) Destinations. This group also includes RPO, Postage Due, Temporary Post Office, Japanese Puppet Currency Conversion, Single Franking, covers inappropriately franked, such as airmail stamps on a surface item, and covers franked with large numbers of stamps.

Special Service Rates — In 1947 a new type of domestic insured mail called Value Declared Mail was introduced. Those included illustrate the decreasing insurance fee, increasing amount insurable, and optional airmail, AR, and express services. Another special service was the optional airmail return of the AR slip for an additional fee equal to the first increment of the airmail surcharge.

DIFFICULTY FACTOR:

The common appearance of many of these covers is deceptive. Philatelically significant covers, such as short rate periods, scarce usages and unusual frankings, abound in this exhibit. Great effort over the past 40 years has gone into acquiring the significant range and depth of rates and uses presented here. Provenance for some of the special items is shown where appropriate.

Short rate periods result from rapid rate changes—international surface and airmail surcharge rates contain 7 periods of 20 days or less—and domestic surface rate changes not coinciding with domestic airmail surcharge changes. The one day rates of April 5 (3 covers) and Nov. 18 (3 covers), 1948, are represented. Showing the airmail rate periods resulting from the confluence of the surface rate and the airmail surcharge is significantly more challenging than merely showing the surface rates and the airmail surcharges separately. Of both types of short rate periods, there are 21 periods of 20 days or less. They present a significant challenge for an exhibitor.

GYC stamps had replaced CNC stamps by December 1948. Although CNC stamps remained valid until January 31, 1949, January covers franked with any CNC stamps are scarce and those franked only with CNC stamps are rare. Shown are two of the four January 1949 covers known to the exhibitor that are franked only with CNC stamps. January covers are the subject of epilogues to each of the four areas.

PERSONAL RESEARCH:

The exhibitor has a companion traditional exhibit of CNC stamps. Important information regarding the stamps is also included in this exhibit. The exhibitor's article on this rate period appeared in Vol. 70, No. 6, Sep. 2006, of the *The China Clipper*, the journal of The China Stamp Society, Inc.

NOT INCLUDED:

Areas not using CNC (Taiwan Province, the North Eastern Provinces and the Communist Liberated Areas) are not included in this exhibit.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Postage Rates of China 1867-1980, by J. Lewis Blackburn and Pingwen Sieh; Republic of China: DGP, 1981.