

# Rates During The Post-War Chinese National Currency Era

This is a study of the inflation-driven rates of Oct. 1945 to Dec. 1948 (by year's end Chinese National Currency (CNC) stamps had been replaced with the new Gold Yuan Currency stamps). It vividly illustrates the difficulties resulting from an inflation which was initially caused by a scarcity of commodities, later by the government printing too much paper currency, and finally by decreased faith that the Nationalists would defeat the Communists in the civil war. During this era the airmail surcharge for a 10g. letter to the USA rose from \$18 to \$42,000,000. The order of presentation is chronological within the following categories:

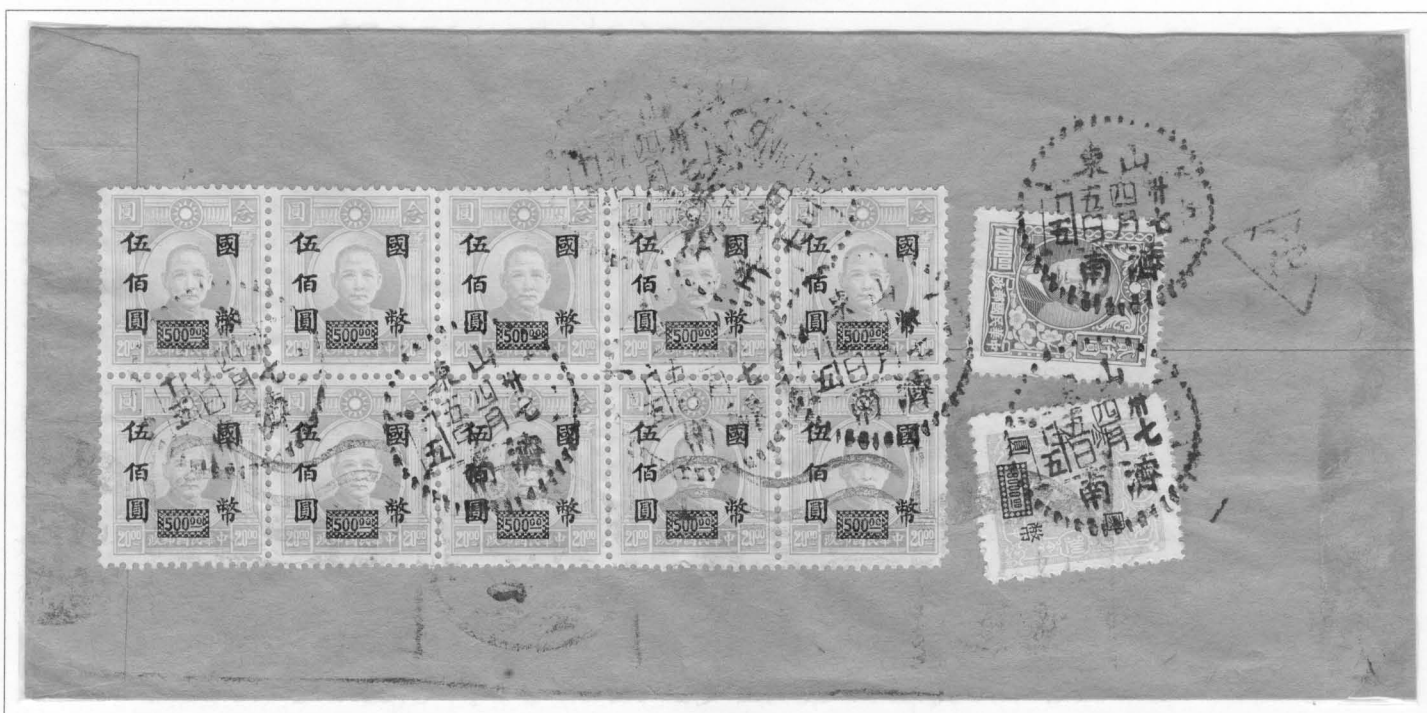
- Surface Rates — Domestic — Seven Rate Periods (DS1 to 7)
- International — Eighteen Rate Periods (IS1 to 18)
- Airmail Rates — Domestic — Twenty One Rate Periods (DA1 to 21)
- International — Before Dec. 1, 1947, Five Rate Periods (IA1 to 5); rates varied for each destination, route taken and carrier or carriers involved.
- Dec. 1, 1947 and thereafter, Thirteen Rate Periods (IA6 to 18); when a uniform worldwide airmail surcharge was introduced.

In China, auxiliary services are indicated by slips attached to the covers. Registered mail slips are in black ink on white paper. Registered express slips have green ink on white paper. Value declared mail slips have red ink on white paper. AR slips are on red or pink paper, and sometimes on green paper. Not all auxiliary services have been included for each rate period.

Rates are shown using interesting covers; e.g. Domestic Air Letter Sheets, First Day of Rate, Formula International Air Letter Sheets, Last Day of Rate, Mobile Post Office, Night Express Train, Postal Kiosk, Postage Due, Postcards, Printed Matter, RPO, Samples, Scarce (very small) Town of Origin, Scarce (very unusual) Destination, Value Declared (special domestic insured) Mail, etc. "Grace Period Covers" are those which were allowed to pass at a previous rate. As a matter of policy such covers were allowed to pass for a few days.

The "Percentage Increase" for surface rate periods compares the rates for the first 20g increment, and for airmail rate periods compares the sums of the first 20g surface rate increment and the first increment of the airmail surcharge. Many Chinese cancels number the year from the founding of the Republic in 1912; therefore it is necessary to add eleven to convert to the Gregorian calendar.

Special categories and significant items are identified with titles in bold immediately preceding or within the text of the cover description. All dollar amounts are expressed in CNC.



**One Day Domestic Airmail Rate** — Apr. 5, 1948, Chinan (formerly Chingchow), Shantung Province, \$10,000 (\$5,000 surface + \$5,000 airmail) to Peiping, received Apr. 7.