

Japan Definitives 1922-1937

Landscape Stamps for Surface Rates

Purpose of the Exhibit

This is a specialized research exhibit of Japan definitives 1922-1937, which are issued for UPU surface rates, and it shows a study of printing plates, which were unclear before, but became clear by the exhibitor's original study with deep analysis.

The improvement on stamp producing technology in Japan during the period is also tried to be shown through this exhibit as Japan had reached to its pre-WWII top quality level of producing stamps in mid 1930's, later period of this treatment.

The Original Study

Production report including date and quantity was normally recorded by printing company, however, **no report for this issue exist** either in private hand or in museum. Thus it's next to impossible to study this series deductively, and as a result of this, the number of study report on this issue was small for the last thirty years in Japan. The exhibitor started collecting this series with **gathering many covers and multiples to study inductively**, and wrote many study reports in Japan. Next three findings are important among them.

- (1) Key plate flaw of the root of left foot of the upper deer" on intermediate dies, shown at the 1st frame.
- (2) Find timings of switching inks by gathering many covers to check the shade and date of cancellations
- (3) Measuring the position of imprint and frame lines to show the difference of printing panes and period

Exhibit Plan

No essays, DIE proofs and proofs exist for this issue, except one original painting in the postal museum.

So the collection starts with the issued stamps, and the following page is an exhibit highlight showing temporary introduced line perf.11 of the 1922 issue 20 Sen. All the other leaves in the first frame are devoted to "A Study of Printing Plate of 4 Sen", which is based on the exhibitor's original study.

7 frames from the 2nd to 8th are classified into 5 according to the traditional classification like this table.

Frame	Series	Direction	DIE		Paper	Gum
2, 3	1922 issue	Vertical	I		A,B	A
4, 5	1925 issue	Horizontal		H-I,H-II	B	A/D
6, 7	1929 issue	Vertical	I, II		B	A/D
8	1937 issue	both mixed	II	H-I	B	D
	1937 issue	both mixed	II	H-I	C	D

*Paper A = Granite paper mainly with straws B = Granite paper mainly with pulp C = white paper
*Gum A = Arabic gum D = Dextrin gum

In those classifications, Specimens by the printers, UPU specimens are shown at first, then stamps are exhibited in the order of the face value. In each denomination stamps, blocks, strips and marginal stamps are shown to illustrate all the known differences of printing plates and panes, except 4 Sen as it was already shown at the first frame. Several key covers showing the timing of switching inks are also shown as well as errors are also shown.

This exhibit also shows varieties of usages, with detail analysis of internal/external postage, which were changed several times during the period, as well as combination covers with Chinese stamps.

Improvement from the Last Exhibit

It got 88 pts. at WSC ISRAEL 2018 FIP show and it is the cecond 8 frames exhibit this time. Following the juries' advice, it was tried to expand from 5 F to 8 F without dilution or duplication, and improved on its presentation. Thanks to getting 3 more frames to show materials, the exhbitor's original study on plates can also be shown at the 1st frame.

Can the exhibit be duplicated ?

Due to the density of special or single recorded key materials of each issue, it is not possible to gather a similar collection of this subject on a level with this exhibit.

Introduction & Prologue

The VIIth congress of UPU, held in Madrid in 1920, decided that member countries (1) revised the surface rates in a range up to doubl prices, and (2) can change surface rates due to monetary upheaval in the future.

Following the agreement of the congress, the Ministry of Communication decided to raise surface rates on Jan. 1st, 1922. However as the denomination stamps for the new surface rates was already on sale, but not in the UPU color : blue, red and green.

Thus it is unavoidable to introduce new design stamps for surface rates, which solution was also applied in France as the Pasteur issue, and landscape design, which was very poplular among British commonwealth, was introduced for the first time to Japanese definitives.

Mixed-Franking of the Landscape Stamps with the Former Tazawa Stamps



Mixed-franking of 7 stamps, including a set of all three 1922 issue
SHIBA TAKANAWA KITAMACHI - Tokio - NY - Buenos Aires / Argentina, 11 10 9 (1922)
60 Sen correctly paid for registered letter of the third weight step, 60 = 20 + 10*2 + 20

Exhibit Highlights

- are framed or indicated in red
- P. 3-4 1922 20 Sen, temporary introduced line perf. 11, only one recorded block of four
 - P. 83-84 1929 8 Sen, used block of ten, the largest multiple, only one recorded.
- Beside these two materials, large blocks issued in 1920's are always uncommon and some are unique recorded.

Literature & Rarity Statement

rarity statement in this collection are based on the literature unless otherwise stated.
Fujishika-Fukei (The exhibitor, Serializations in The Philatelist Magazine, 2017-2018, Stampedia, inc.)
Japan Definitives 1922-1937 (The exhitor, Contributed article in The Stampedia Philatelic Journal 2020, Stampedia, inc.)

Temporally Introduced Line Perforation 11

Comb perf. 13*13.5 was the only perf. which was normally used to perforate these landscape definitives, except temporally introduced line perf. 11 for 20 Sen stamp between 1924 and 1925.

This variety was found in 1950's, and 70 stamps has been found by now, and most of them are used single. Only several multiples more than a pair exist> A block of four and the largest strips are shown here.

The printing plate could be the same with the 1924-1925 impression, and line perf. one could be temporally issued between 1925 and 1927.

Unused
Only One Recorded



Ex-Yamada

The Largest Multiple
Only Two Blocks Recorded



Block of four
KOBE 2 / 12 7 26 / JAPAN
Roman letter c.d.s. in purple

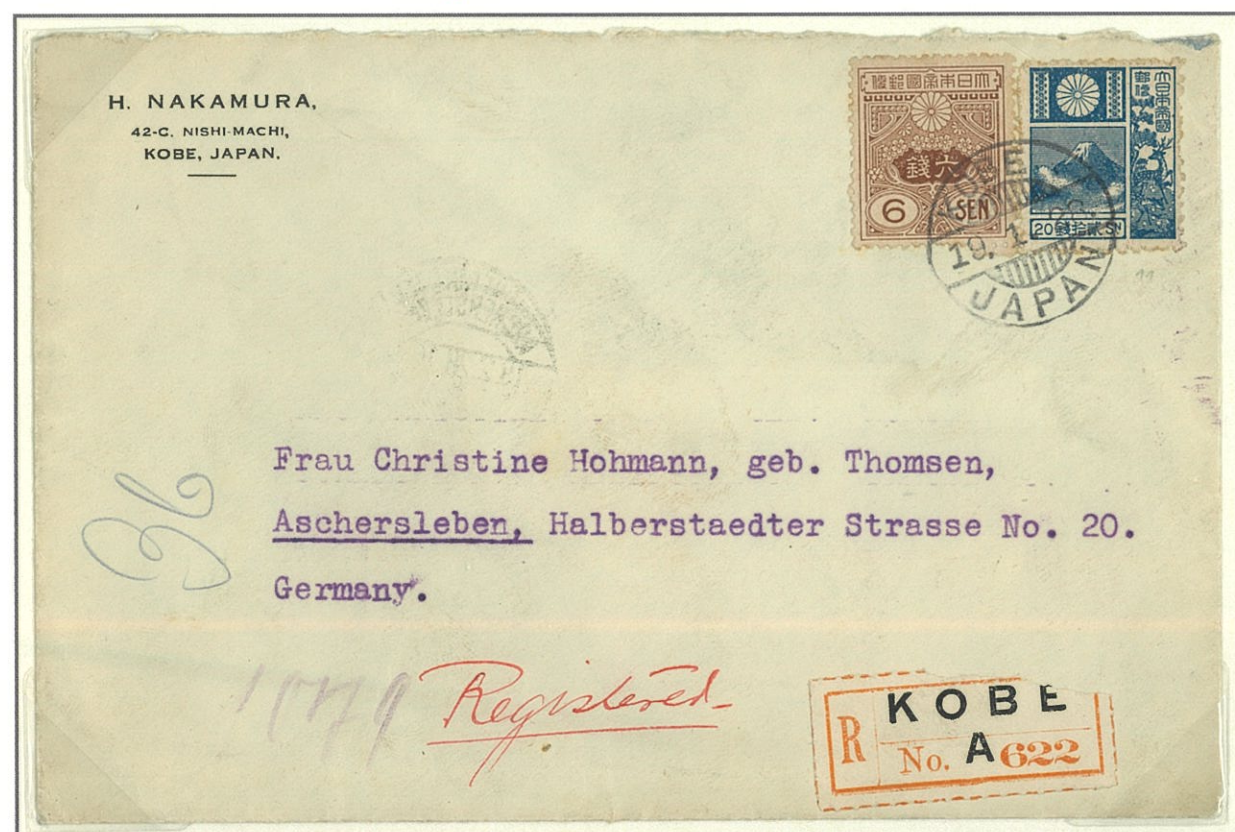
Ex-Hayashi

The Largest Vertical Strip
Only One Recorded



Ex-Sai

26 Sen Rate, Registered Letter
Only Three Covers Are Recorded



Franked with 1919 6 Sen, tied by roman letter c.d.s. of omitting "2" of "KOBE 2"
KOBE to Aschersleben / Germany, 19 1 28

26 Sen correctly paid for registered surface letter, 10 for letter and 16 for registration fee.

The Largest Franking Including Two Rejoined Strips of Five
The Largest Horizontal Strips



KOBE 2 / 3 7 25 / JAPAN

These twelve stamps were originally consisted of two horizontal strips of five and a vertical pair, however each strip was divided into a horizontal pair and a strip of three by someone who don't have philatelic knowledge, each of which was rejoined.

Perfined
Only One Recorded



H&S/BC
perfined by
Hong Kong Shanghai Bank

Pre-Great Kanto Earthquake Production

Jan. 1st, 1922

The die of 1922 issue was produced from the design, drawn by Sekko HIBATA, working at the postal museum. It had been stored at the printing bureau, however, was lost when the bureau was burn out at the Great Kanto Earthquake (hereinafter referred to as "G.K.E.") in 1923. The unique original drawing is in the possession of the postal museum of Japan now. So No essays, DIE proofs and proofs exist for this issue.

Intermediate die containing 2 rows of 5 copies was produced from the die, and transferred 10 times into panes of 100 copies. Then ruled lines were transferred at four sides and imprint was also transferred at the margin of pos.95/96. It is thought that each printing plate had four panes.

The exhibitor's original study found that 8th copy of this intermediate die has a plate flaw at the root of left foot of the upper deer.

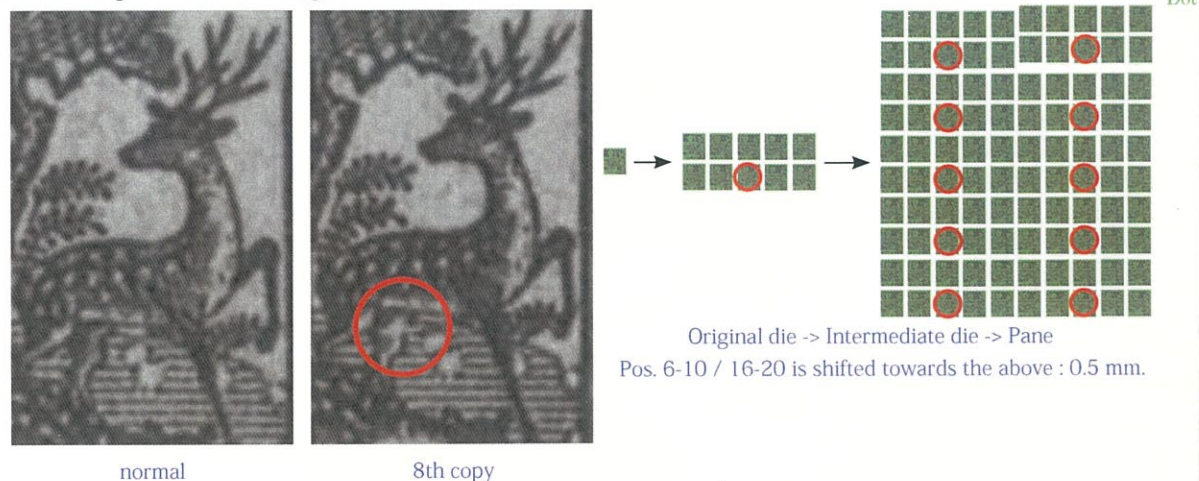
This type can be found at pos.13, 18, 33, 38, 53, 58, 73, 78, 93 & 98 in a sheet, which proves the existence of the intermediate die.

This is not only a key type of the Pre-GKE production of this stamp, but also important for the later productions as it can also be found in them, see p.11-12

Transferring the intermediate die was implemented carefully, however shifted transfer is found in the sheet shown in this pate. The upper-right corner block of ten is moved a little bit towards the upper-right : 0.5 mm.

There're no register mark to cut sheets properly and as a result of this, most of the sheets were cut a little bit diagonally with narrow margin or wide margin like the example shown here.

Gumming process came after the cutting process, which caused 8mm height no gumming area on the top of a sheet margin on the back.



Sheet of the First Impression
Only One Sheet Recorded

Post offices did not sell stamps of this issue until all the stocks of the former design were sold out, and limited number of post offices started to sell them before the G.K.E. by which the printing plate of the first impression was lost.

Because of this human decision, no sheet was believed to exist for the first impression until 2015 when the sheet of 4 Sen and 20 Sen was found in France at the same time, possibly exported before the G.K.E.

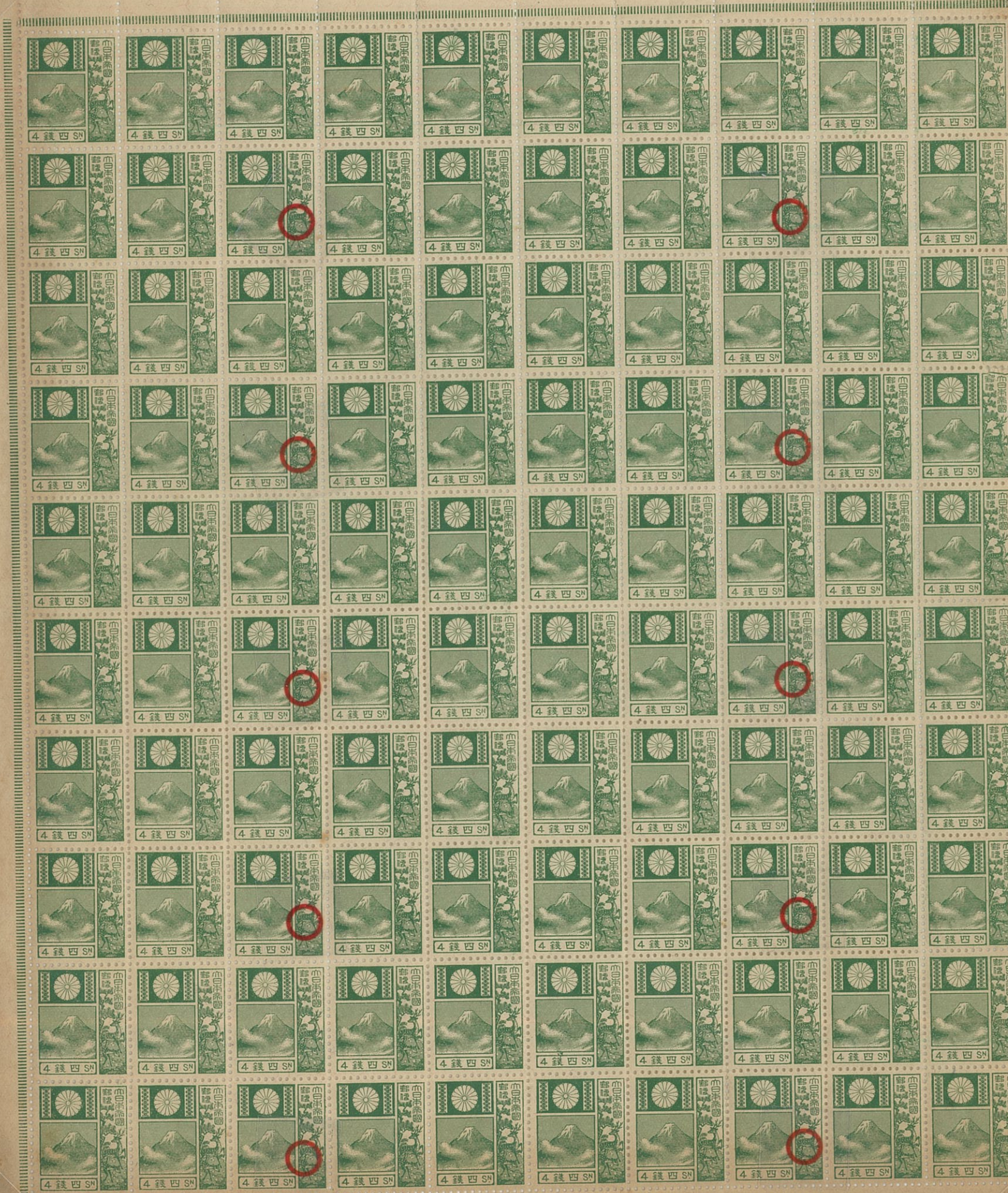
The exhibitor also checked main auction catalogues held in this 20 years if there're mint sheets of 1922 issue, however only two sheets were found for all the 1922 issue. Regarding the Pre-GKE production, no sheet was found.

Dot

wide

Dot

narrow



Pre-GKE Production

4 Sen was the least sold among all three denomination stamps before GKE and all the stocks were lost at G.K.E. in 1923.

- Printing Pane Varieties -



sample	A	B	C	D
a	0	3.0	1.8	-
b	-0.4	3.0	1.5	3.0
c	0.5	3.5	1.5	3.0
d	1.2	3.0	1.5	3.0
sheet	1.2	3.8	2.0	2.5

Width of each distance (mm)
sample.sheet is in the previous page
D is the width of the central margin.
Each multiple came from different panes.



Pos.86/100 (a) including 8th copy of the intermediate die at po. 98
also perfined "To-Oku carrier"

8th Copy of the Intermediate DIE Usage



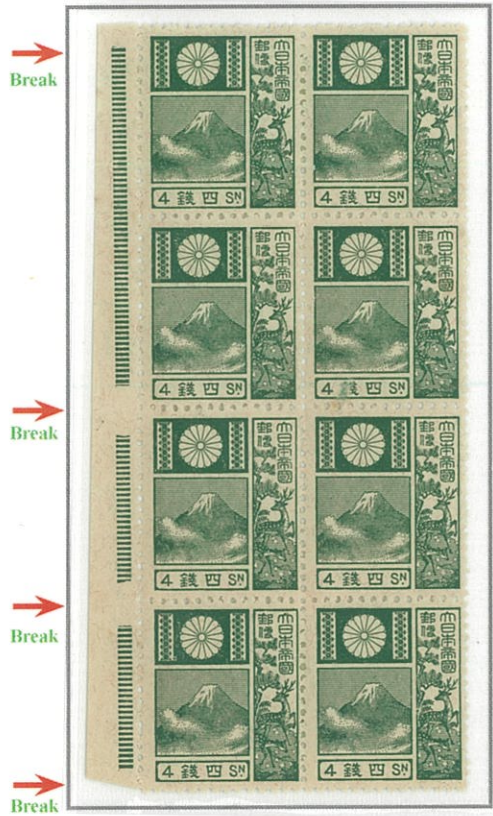
Unknwon Production

These two varieties have no typical feature showing production period.

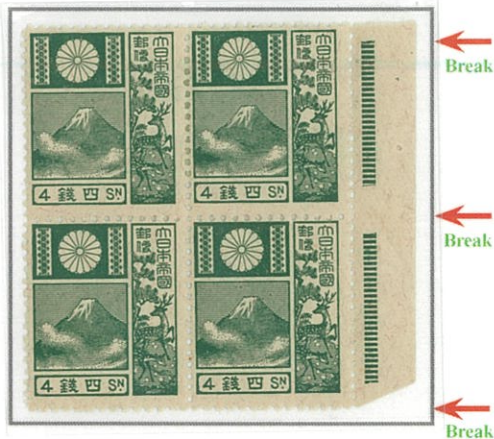
- Broken Ruled Lines -

There's usually no break in vertical ruled lines out of 100 copies of flat plate printings like the sheet shown on the previous page. There are, however, 4 Sen stamps with broken ruled lines

It is thought that split frame lines were gathered again to consist of another frame line, but little is known about it.



Pos.49/60



Printed with Another Piece of Paper On
Only One Such Example Known



This error stamp was a result of printing with another piece of paper on.
80 percent of the design was printed on the other piece of paper, and that part of the sheet remained white.

The 8th copy of the intermediate die uprating 1922 1.5 Sen postal card
TOKUSHIMA YAWATA, 12 2 7 (1923)
8.5 Sen correctly paid for registered postal card

A Study of Printing Plate of 4 Sen

1924-1925 Impression

As the printing bureau recovered from the disaster of G.K.E. in 1924, new printing plates without ruled lines were made and printed on granite paper B, which appeared on April 1924.

- Printing Pane Varieties -



Pos.85/96 (a)



Pos.85/96 (b)

Full Gum

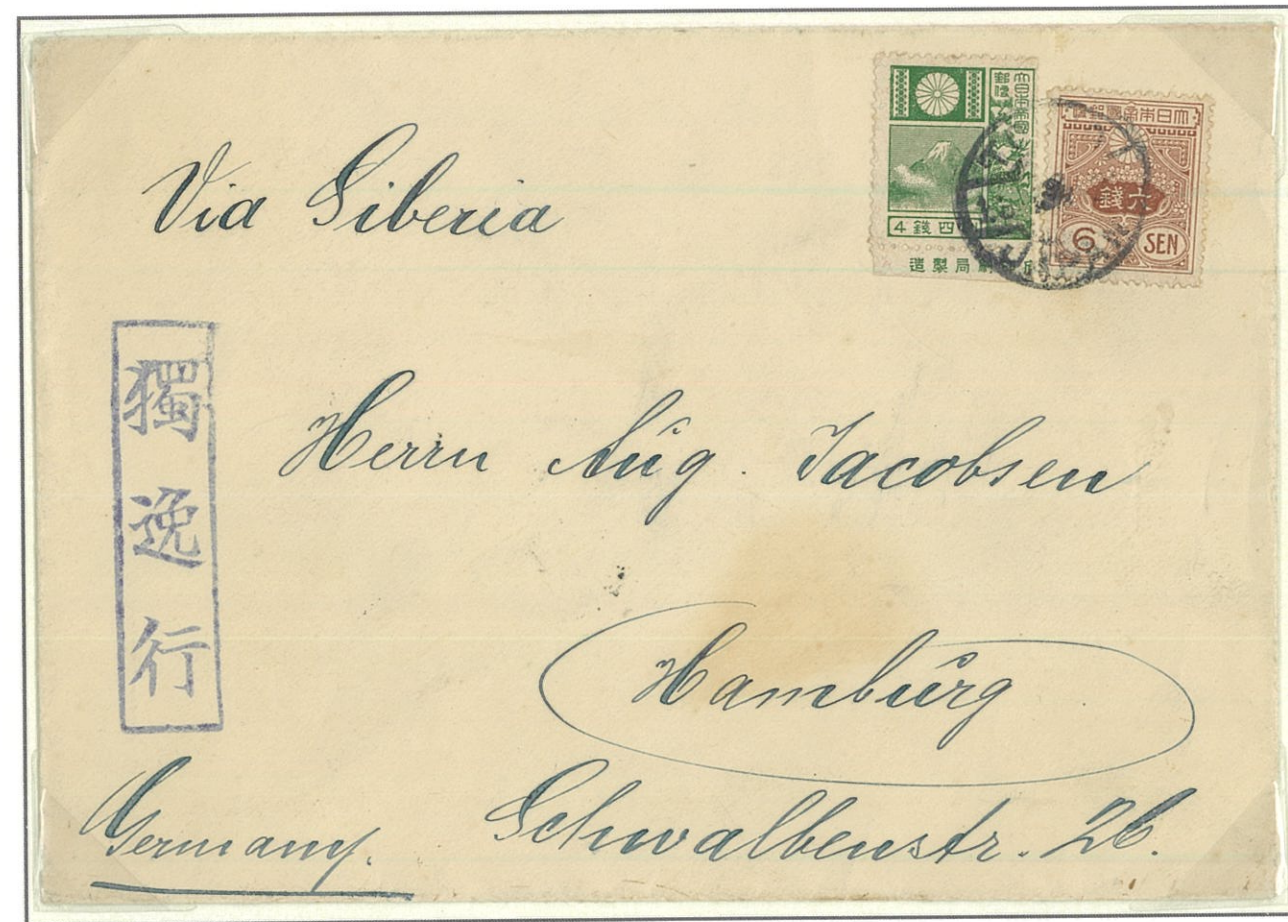


The Back (80%)

Granite paper B was gummed before printing process, and thus it was gummed fully to all the margin unlike granite paper A

Printed on Folded Paper
Only One Such Example Known1924-1925 impression
Pos.90/100

Imprinted Marginal Stamp on Cover



Pos.95 with a latter half of the imprint on the margin franked with 1919 6 sen
TOKYO - Siberia - Hamburg / Germany, 13 3 26 10 Sen letter rate



sample	A	B	C
a	1.0	3.1	3.0
b	1.0	2.9	3.4

Width of each distance (mm)
sample.sheet is in the previous page
C is the width of the central margin.
Each multiple came from different panes.



Pos.91/92



Type VIII - IX - X

1925-1926 Impression

The printing bureau put frame lines again to printing plate, which were omitted at 1924-1925 impression, when the imprint indication was changed in 1925

- Printing Pane Varieties -



Pos.95/96 (a)



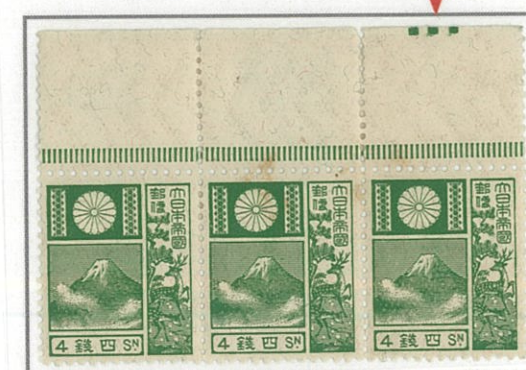
Pos.85/96 (b)

Block Showing The Intermediate DIE



Pos.6/20 with full gum on the margin including type- VIII at pos.18

Triple Vertical Bars



Pos.3/5 of the upper pane of 100 copies,
with triple vertical bar parts at pos.5 and
holes on the margin at pos.4 and pos.5.

"Supporting ruled lines" were supposed to be introduced during the period producing 1924-1925 impression to prevent sheet papers from bending.



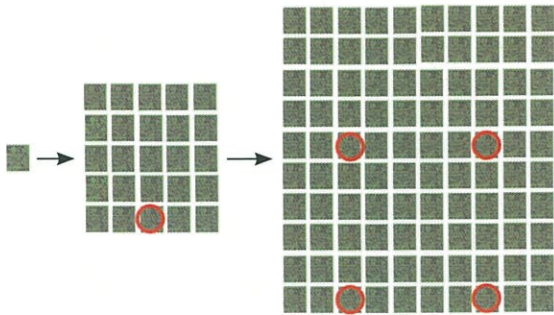
sample	A	B	C
a	0.5	4.2	1.5
b	1.0	4.2	1.0

Width of each distance (mm)
sample.sheet is in the previous page
Each multiple came from different panes.

A Study of Printing Plate of 4 Sen
1926-1929 Impression

Printing plate of 4 Sen denomination stamp was totally re-build in 1926, and three new features are recognized.

- (1) Introduction of new intermediate die :
Intermediate die of 10 copies were replaced by new intermediate die consist of 25 copies.
This new die includes key platee flaw, which were the 8th copy of the intermediate die used before. They can be found at pos.43, 48, 93 and 98 on the right sheet.



Original die -> Intermediate die -> Pane

- (2) Moving of the imprint
The imprint used to be placed on margin from pos.95/96, which were moved to pos.97/99.
- (3) Change of the register marks
They used to be on the two margins of pos.41/51 and 50/60, however they became on the three margins of pos. 21, 60 and 96 in this impression.

As there're still no register mark to cut sheets properly and as a result of this, most of the sheets were cut a little bit diagonally with narrow margin or wide margin like the example shown here.

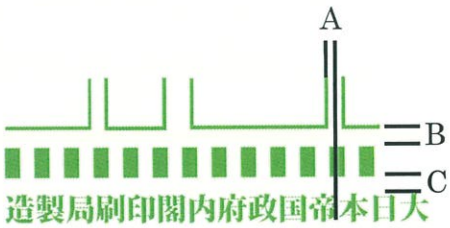
- Printing Pane Varieties -



Pos.97/100 (a)

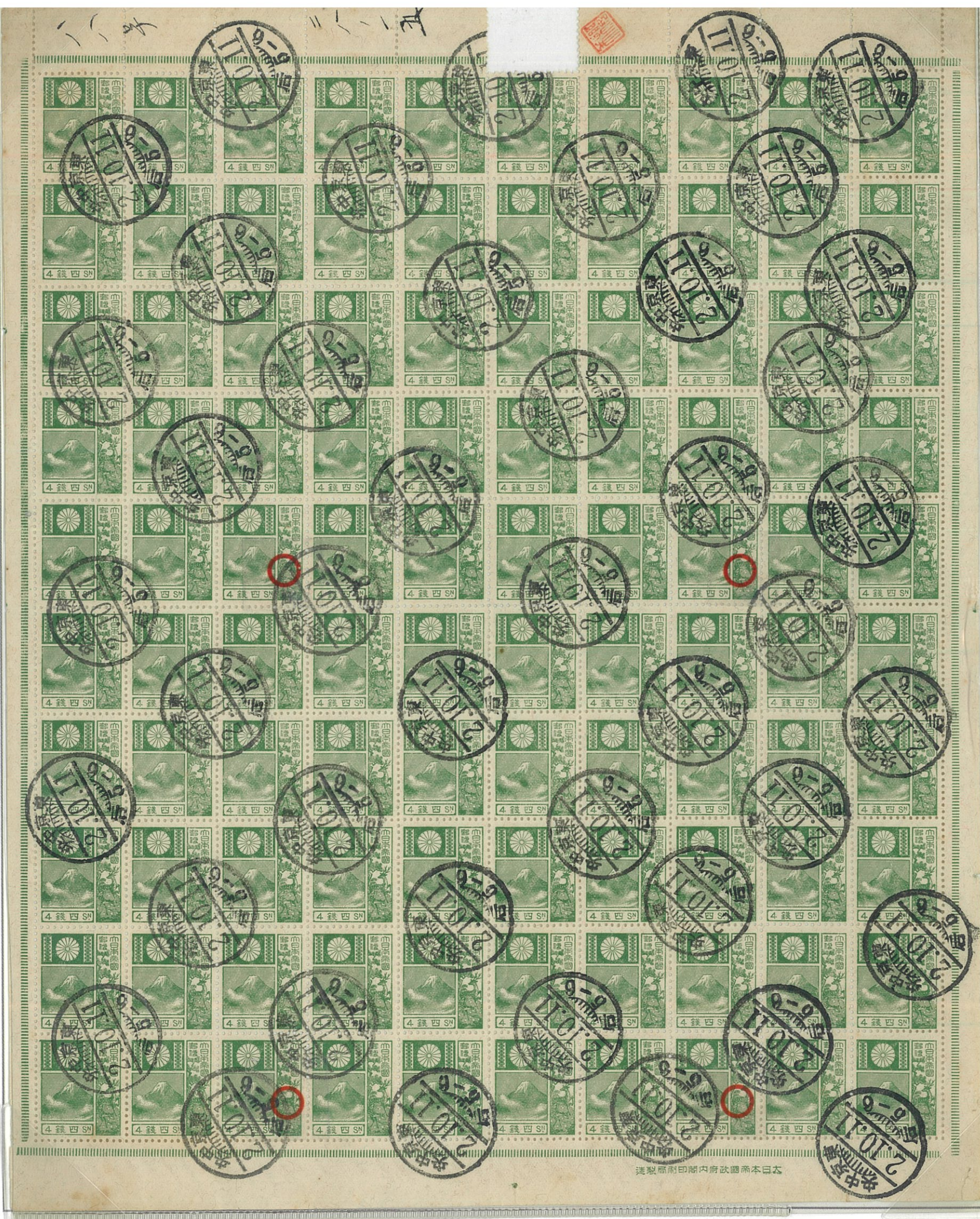


Pos.97/99 (b)



sample	A	B	C
a	0.5	3.8	0.8
b	1.0	2.8	0.8
sheet	-3.8	3.8	2.7

Width of each distance (mm)



A Study of Printing Plate of 4 Sen
Color Revised Issue, 1929-1930 Production

September 1st 1929 (Showa 4)

After introduction of 1925 declined UPU tariff and 1926 new issue, 1922 issue was still produced and sold as three denomination stamps of 4, 8, and 20 Sen were essential for both of internal and international mails.

However as they were produced in UPU colors, it also caused a confusion with newly introduced 1926 UPU colored issue. So it was decided that 4, 8, and 20 Sen stamps, which were no longer for UPU tariff, were produced in another inks in 1929.

It had been thought that the same printing plates were used to produce the newly issued stamps, and the only inks were changed, but it was denied by the exhibitor's study that registered mark must be introduced at least into 20 Sen denomination stamp in 1929.

As a result of register mark, every marginal stamps of 4 Sen orange have cut straight margins vertically and horizontally.

As the key plate flaw which can be found on the 23rd copy of the intermediate die on each pos.98, it is supposed that the same intermediate die was still used in this 1929-1930 production.

- Printing Pane Varieties -



pos. 97/99 (a)



pos. 97/99 (b)



pos.87/99 (c)



pos. 97/99 (d)



pos. 98 (e)

Each pos.98 has a plate flaw at the root of left foot of the upper deer.

Left Marginal Strip



KYOTO OMIYAGASHIRA 6 6 9 (1931)

Corner Ruled Lines Having Straight Edges

Unlike the former issue, every straight edges of the color revised issue have straight edges. It is supposed that registered mark for cutting was introduced then, although such marginal example has not been found yet.



Pos.100



Pos.100

Same position with different shape of ruled lines



Pos.10

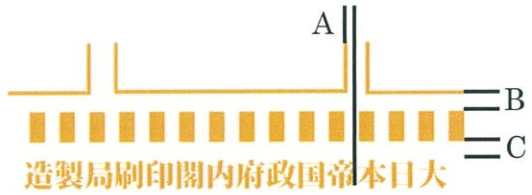
A Block Having Type 23 and Without Type 23



Type 17-18/22-23



no Type 23



Each multiple came from different panes.

sample	A	B	C
a	1.5	3.8	1.0
b	-1.5	3.8	1.0
c	0.5	3.0	1.8
d	-1.5	3.5	1.0
e	-1.8	3.8	1.0

Width of each distance (mm)

A Study of Printing Plate of 4 Sen

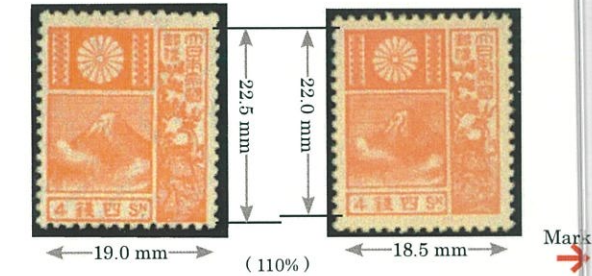
Printing Plate of DIE II

June 1930 - December 1931 (Showa 5 & 6)

The printing bureau started to shorten sizes of all the dies regardless of the printing method of rotary press or flat plate printing, in 1926 after the import of a rotary press.

The width and height of new die called "DIE II" was shortend 0.5 mm each in comparison with the former die called "DIE I". There are also some differences in designs and characters.

Difference between DIE I and DIE II



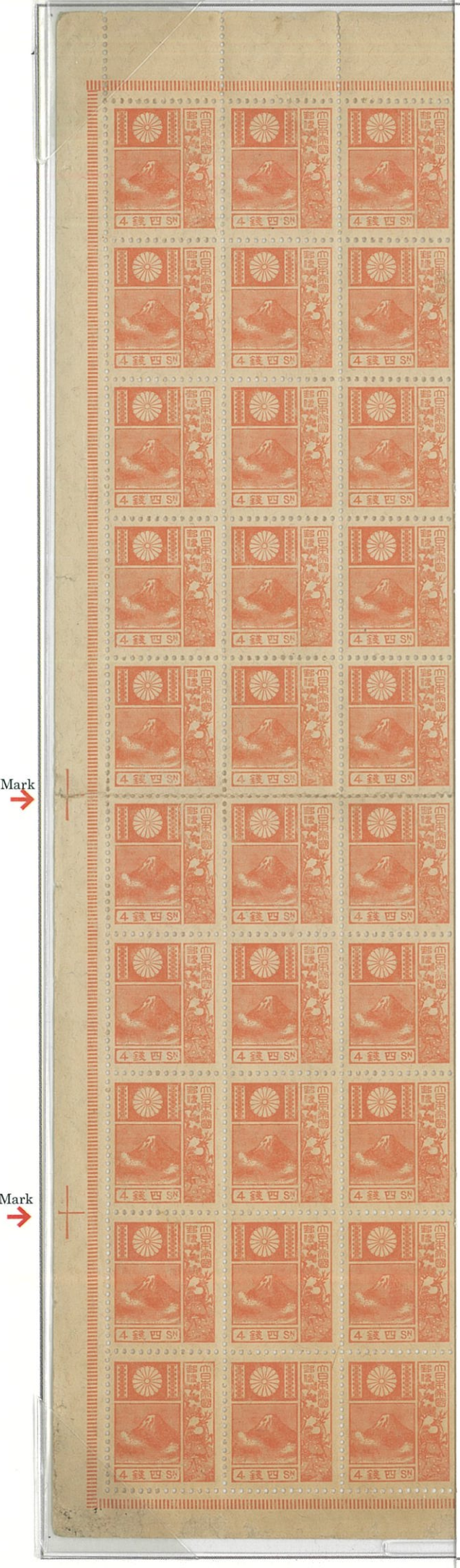
New dies for 4, 8, and 20 Sen was introduced between 1930 and 1931. Intermitate plate of 25 copies were transferred four times to make a pane of 100 copies. The printing plates were thought to be consisted of four panes of 100 stamps.

Registered mark, which was first introduced at the 1929-1930 issue, was also placed on printing plates of DIE II.

It was first placed on the two margins of pos.41/51 and 50/60, then another two margins of pos.20/30 and 71/81 were added to improve the quality.

Position varieties of imprint and ruled lines, which varied a lot in the former production can't see in any sheet with four register marks.

DIE II Early Production With Only Two Register Marks



DIE II Late Production With Four Register Marks

Printing Pane Varieties of Late Production



DIE II late production, pos.86/100 with register mark at pos. 90



DIE II late production, pos.86/100 with no register mark at pos. 90

These two blocks come form different panes and the lower right corner shapes are also different.

Color Revise in 1937

It was decided to issue new green 4 Sen stamp with the introduction of the new surface printed matter rate on Apr. 1st, 1937.

It was first produced by using the same printing plates and papers, with only ink changed, and the printing bureau decided to stop using granite papers soon after the issue of these stamps ; possibly March or April of 1937, they were produced only for a short period.

Same Position Having Same Feature of Frame Lines



1929 issue late production



1937 issue granite paper



1937 issue white paper