

Pre-GKE Production

Very few stamps were sold in the first half a year as the stock of the former stamps was enough at post offices.

MIHON Specimens



Horizontal 10.5 mm width "MIHON" machine ovpt produced in 1922

UPU Specimen in MAURITANIE and MADAGASCAR



All specimen stamps received by UPU were affixed to large album pages with 49 printed rectangles in seven rows each of seven spaces. The strips of three received were preserved intact and placed across two or more printed spaces after 1912.

The upper example is a UPU Specimen in Mauritania, and they were cancelled in magenta ink with a three-line handstamp inscribed "SPECIMEN / COLLECTION / MAURITANIE" measuring 30*14 mm overall in Mauritania.

The lower example shows a UPU Specimen in Madagascar, and cancelled in magenta ink with a triple-circle 42 mm diameter handstamp inscribed "POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES" around the top, "MADAGASCAR" around the base and "COLLECTION / DE / BERNE" across the center.

The Earliest Post Card Usage

Only Three First Month Usages Recorded for all the 1922 issue.

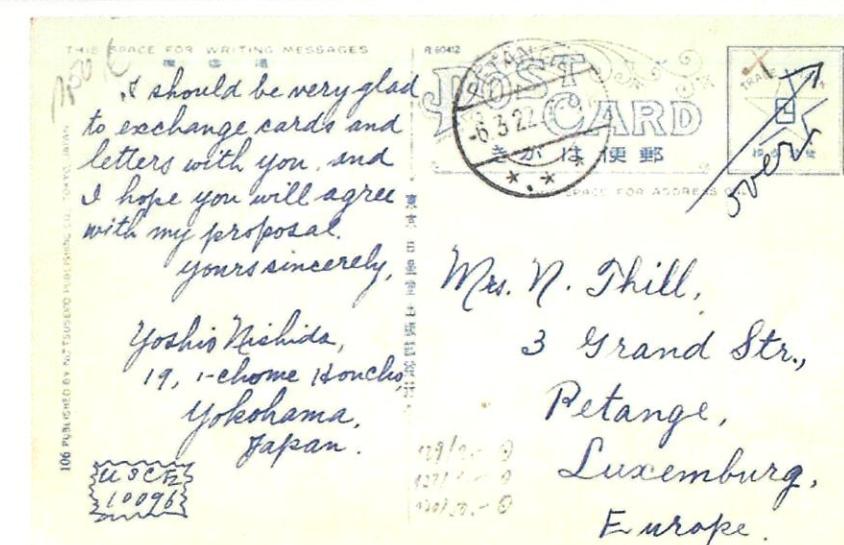
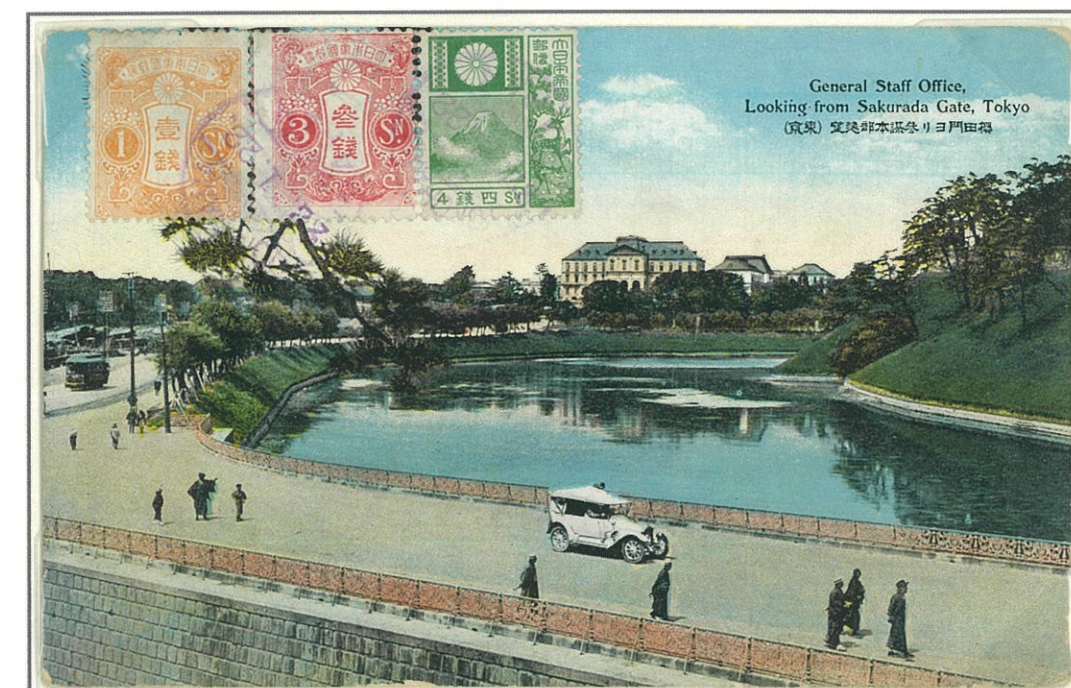


Photo of the front (80%)

Franked with 1914 1, 3 Sen, tied by roman letter c.d.s. in purple
YOKOHAMA to Luxemburg, 22.1.22
Arrival datestamp of PETANGE / Luxembourg -6 3 22 . 7-8 M

According to "The Philatelic Studies vol.47" (JPS foundation), only two first month usages are recorded for all three denomination stamps of the 1922 issue frankings. The earliest date reported is Jan. 10th, which uprates postal card and the second earliest one is 27th of January which are on post card. The above postcard was newly found and it became the earliest post card usage of all the 1922 issue.

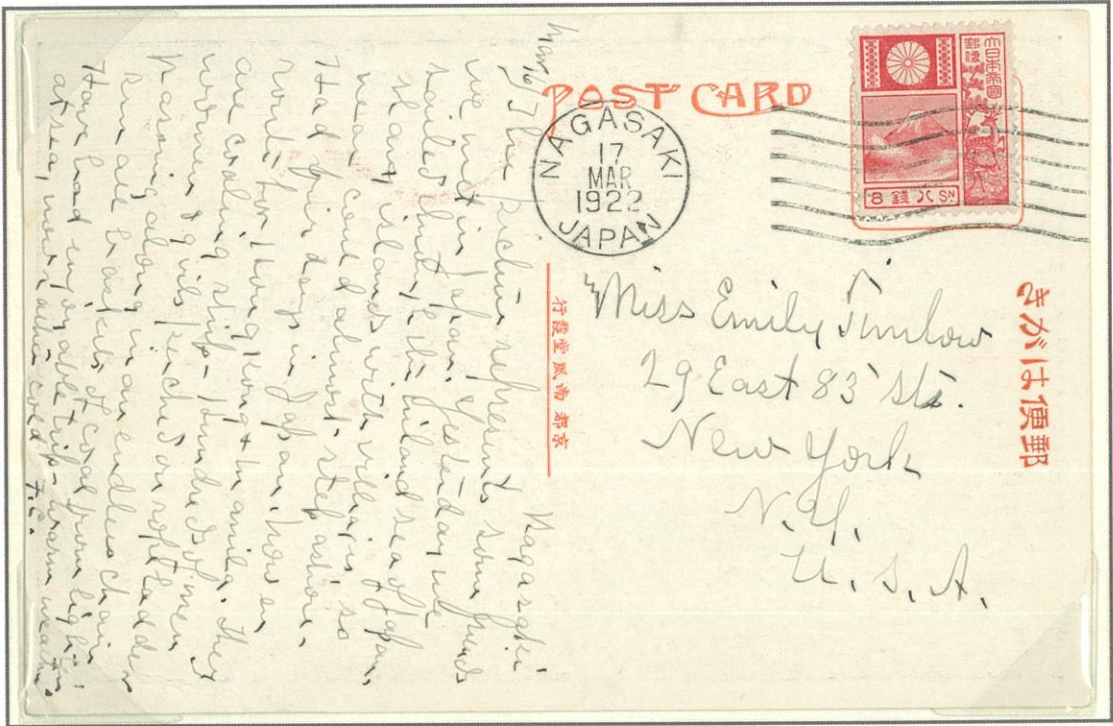
Pre-GKE Production

All three denomination stamps were issued respectively for surface printed matter, post card and letter rate.

The Earliest Usage of A Single Franking of 8 Sen

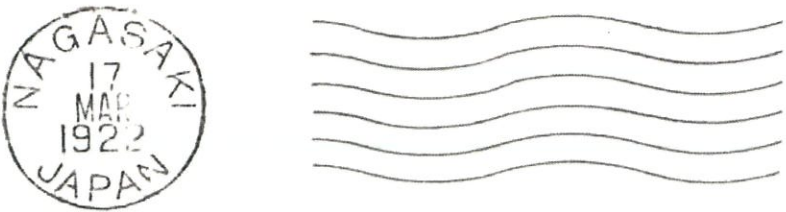
The VIIth congress of UPU, held in Madrid in 1920, decided that member countries (1) revised the surface rates in a range up to doubl prices, and (2) can change surface rates due to monetary upheaval in the future. Following the agreement of the congress, the Ministry of C&T decided to raise surface rates on Jan. 1st, 1922.

New Surface Rate	
Classification	Sen
Printed matter	4
Post card	8
Letter	20



Tied by r.l.m.c. NAGASAKI to New York / USA, 17 MAR 1922
8 Sen correctly paid for surface post card rate

Roman Letter Machine Cancellation

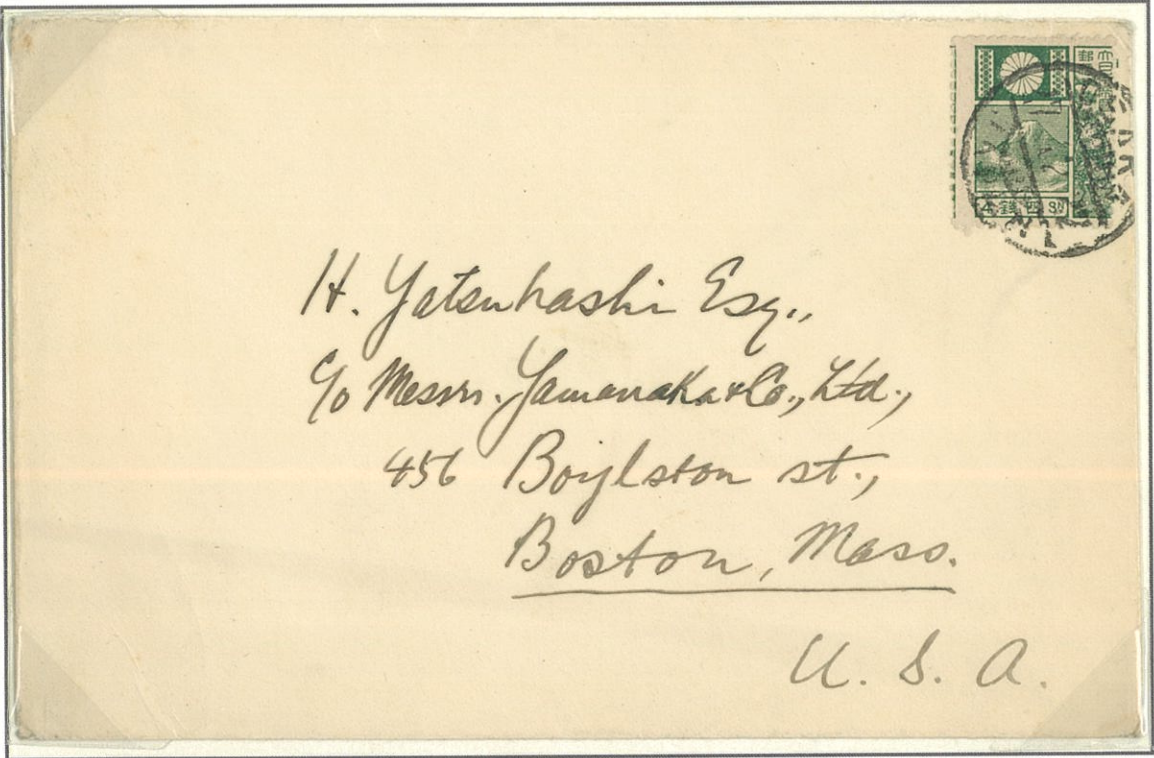


The Ministry of Communication announced the adoption of first machine cancellations for international mails on Dec. 2nd, 1920

Those machines were imported from Universal stamping machine company in the US, and the cancellation was consisted of wavy lines part and c.d.s. part.

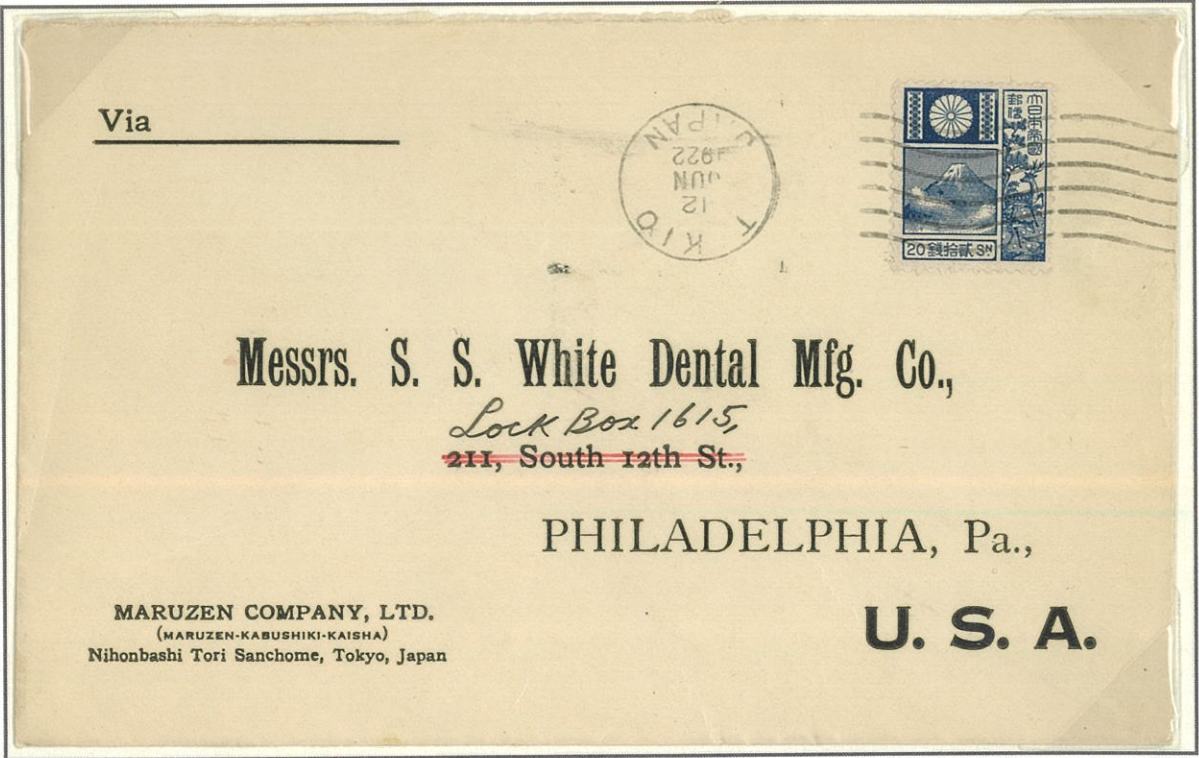
Only 4 post offices used this cancellation in 1921, so it is one of the most difficult cancellation found on the landscape issue.

The First Year Usage of 4 Sen



Tied by roman letter c.d.s. OSAKA to Boston / USA, 27 12 22
4 Sen correctly paid for surface printed matter rate

Early Usage of 20 Sen



Tied by r.l.m.c. TOKIO to Philatelphia / USA, 12 JUN 1922
20 Sen correctly paid for surface letter rate

Pre-GKE Production

Surface postcard rate was raised from 4 Sen to 8 Sen on Jan. 1st, 1922. 4 Sen was also used for the rate in several ways.

10 Sen Rate, Registered Letter Sheet



Uprating 1918-30
3 Sen letter sheet
with 1914 3 Sen

TAKATSU to Kanazawa,
12.9.3 (1923)
just after the G.K.E.

10 Sen correctly
paid for registered
letter sheet

8.5 Sen Rate, Registered Postcard



A vertical pair franked with 1914 5 Rin
HAMAMATSU MOTOME, Shizuoka to Iwata,
Shizuoka 12.11.5 (1923)
8.5 Sen correctly paid for registered postcard

24 Sen Rate, Internal Parcel



Franked with 20 Sen on Parcel Sending Form
Akasaka 11.8.10 (1922)
24 Sen correctly paid for parcel

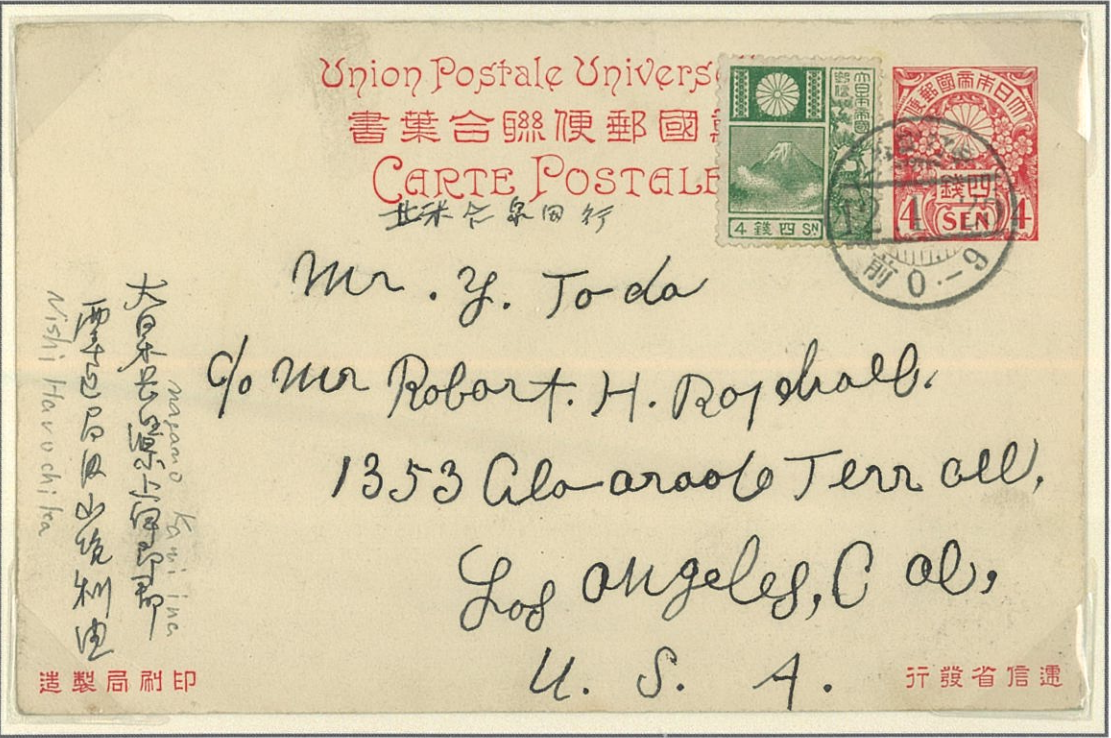


Roman letter cds in purple
YOKOHAMA 10 8 22

Underpaid Postcard



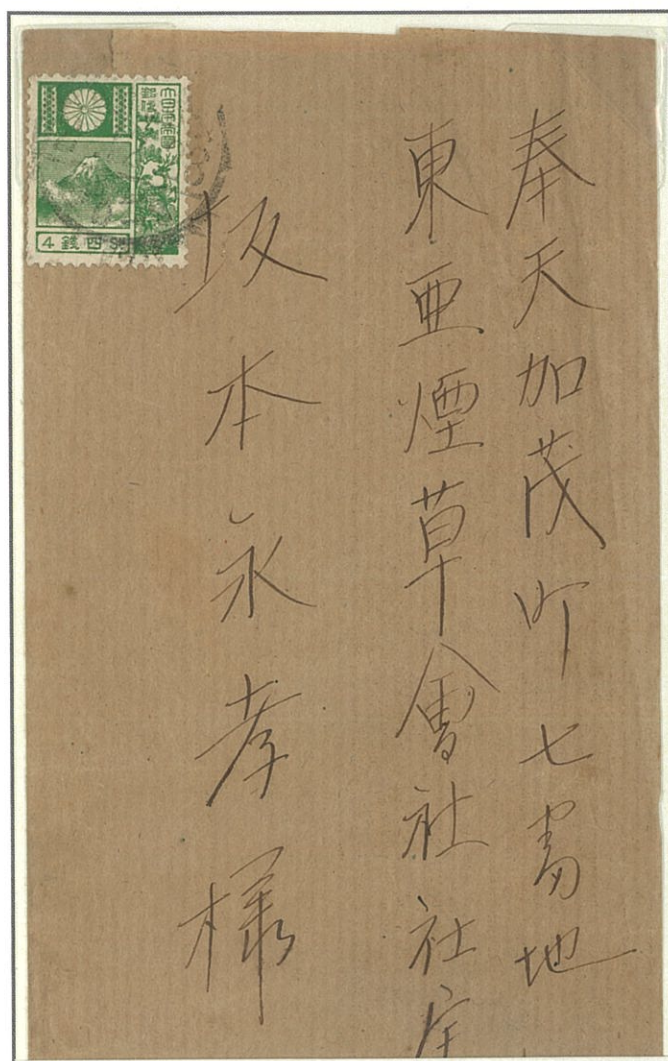
Tied by machine cancellation, ICHIOKA, Osaka to N.Y. 12.6.1 (1923)
4 Sen was underpaid for surface postcard by 4 Sen,
so red manuscript "T 30 cts." was written on the front.
30 Centimes was equal to 6 Cents in US, stamps of which
value were franked and the amount was charged to the recipient.



Uprating Postal Card

Uprating 4 Sen UPU postal card, tied by c.d.s.
NAGANO-NISHI-HARUCHIKA to Los
Angeles, 12.4.25 (1923)

4 Sen Rate, Special Letter Rate for The Land attached to the South Manchurian Railway



Single franking and tied by cds
ANDONG to Mukden, 2 12 28 (1927)
4 Sen correctly paid for special letter rate for the land attached to the Southern Manchurian Railway

12 copies franked with a 2 Sen, tied by roman letter c.d.s. of omitting "2" of "KOBE 2" in blue.
KOBE - Siberia - Paris, 15 10 27
50 Sen correctly paid for quintuple weight registered letter, 50 = 10 + 6 * 4 + 16



"2" was scraped from the original cds in 1927

Later Productions

4 Sen was also applied for a special letter rate for the Land attached to the South Manchurian Railway

8 Sen Rate, Quadruple Weight Printed Matter



Double franking tied by cds
NAGOYA-AKATSUKA to the US, 2 6 12 (1927)
8 Sen correctly paid for surface printed matter of the fourth weight step, 8 = 2*4

50 Sen Rate, Quintuple Weight Registered Letter



4 Sen Rate, Surface Letter from Manchuria to China

Combination franking with Chinese 4C.
MUKDEN to Harbin, China 7 1 13 (1932)
4 Sen correctly paid for special tariff for the land attached to the South Manchurian Railway

Chinese post reject Chinese stamp unfranked mails posted at the land attached to the South Manchurian Railway, thus Japan Mukden post office franked a Chinese 4 Cts. stamp, which was cancelled at China Mukden post office on the same day.

It was usual to attach Chinese stamps on the back of the envelope.

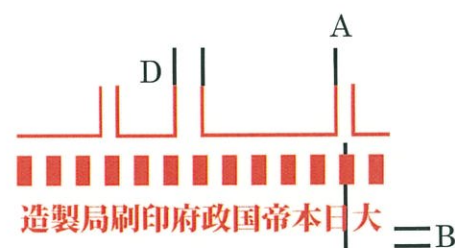
Printing Plate Varieties



Pos.85/96 (a)



Pos.85/96 (b)



sample	A	B	C	D
a,d	-0.2	3.5	1.5	2.8
b	0	3.7	1.5	2.6
c	-0.2	4.0	1.5	2.8

Width of each distance (mm)

D is the width of the central margin.
Each multiple came from different panes.

Pos.81/100 (c)



Narrow Right Margin



Pos.9/20

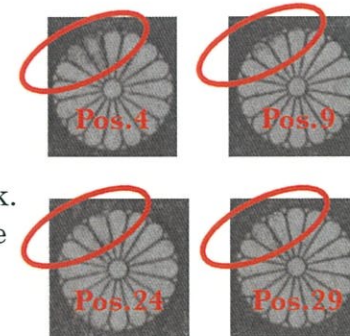
The shape of frame lines on the margin of pos.9 is as same as the left large block of 70 copies. So these two stamps are the same pane of the printing plate then.

As this plate didn't have any register mark, so a sheet had to be cut without any marks, which caused a sheet with such narrow margin.

Pos.1/70

Pos. 4, 9, 24 & 29
shows too many
ink around

Chrysanthemum mark.
These positions are
the 4th position of
the second die



Rough Perf.

Pos.85/96 (d)
Unlike other
multiples, hole
size of the perf.
of this copy is
not uniform,
and it could be
later production



Pre-GKE Production

These stamps were not on sale until the former same denomination stamps were sold out. Only two post offices, Nagasaki and Kyobashi, sold the 8 Sen stamps in March 1922 according to the exhibitor's study.

Early Usages in March of 1922



Franked with 1914 2 Sen and 1919 30 Sen, tied by c.d.s.

KYOBASHI - Tokio - Vladivostok / Russia 11 3 29 (1922)

40 Sen correctly paid for registered letter, 40 = 20 + 20

Mixed Franking with 1923 G.K.E. Provisional issue



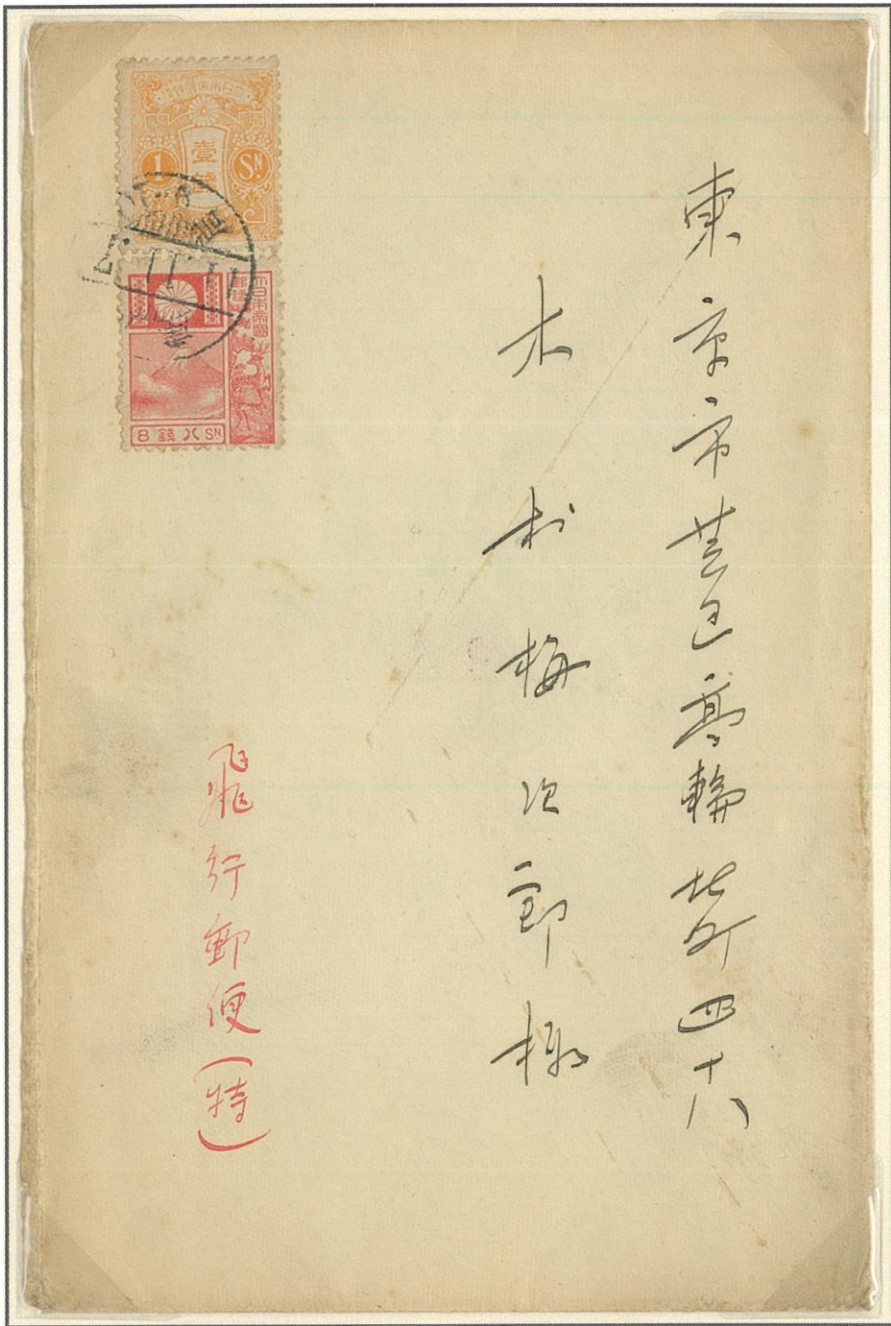
Double franked with a 4 Sen, and seven 1923 G.K.E. provisional stamps on the front and the back

IMAZU / Shiga - NY - Brazil 12.11.29 (1923)

40 Sen correctly paid for registered letter, 40 = 20 + 20

Mixed franking with provisional issue is uncommon for the pre-GKE impression, as the stock of which was lost in the G.K.E.

9 Sen Rate, Internal Triple Weight Letter
Only A Few Known



Franked with 1914 1.5 Sen, tied by c.d.s.

OSAKA to Tokyo, 11.11.7 (1922)

9 Sen correctly paid for internal triple weight letter

This letter was carried by airmail flight competition between Tokyo and Osaka, which was held by Japan Aeronautic Association (hereinafter referred to as JAA) between 3rd and 11th Nov. 1922 (Taisho 11).

It is recorded that 10,032 mails were transported through this competition, of which 641 were carried from Osaka to Tokyo on 7th Nov. through the fifth day flight.

This is JAA's first trial flight mail project following four project between 1919 and 1921, and no optional fee was charged for airmail transportation.

Airmail (Special)

飛行郵便(特)

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.

Normal Corner without Outer Ruled Lines



Pos.9/20



Pos.89/100

Normal Central Margin Blocks



Pos.85/96 (a)



Pos.85/96 (b)

Wide Central Margin Blocks



Pos.85/96 (c)

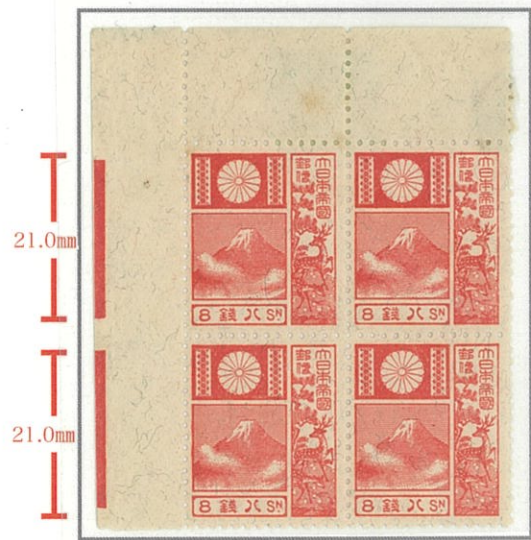


Pos.85/96 (d)

These two blocks of c & d have the wider space between left and right stamps than the other examples.

As shown in P.3-4, the second die could be transferred to printing panes with shifted, distance between pos.95 and pos.96 also varied.

Different Lengths of Outer Ruled Lines



Pos.1/12 with outer ruled lines



Pos.1

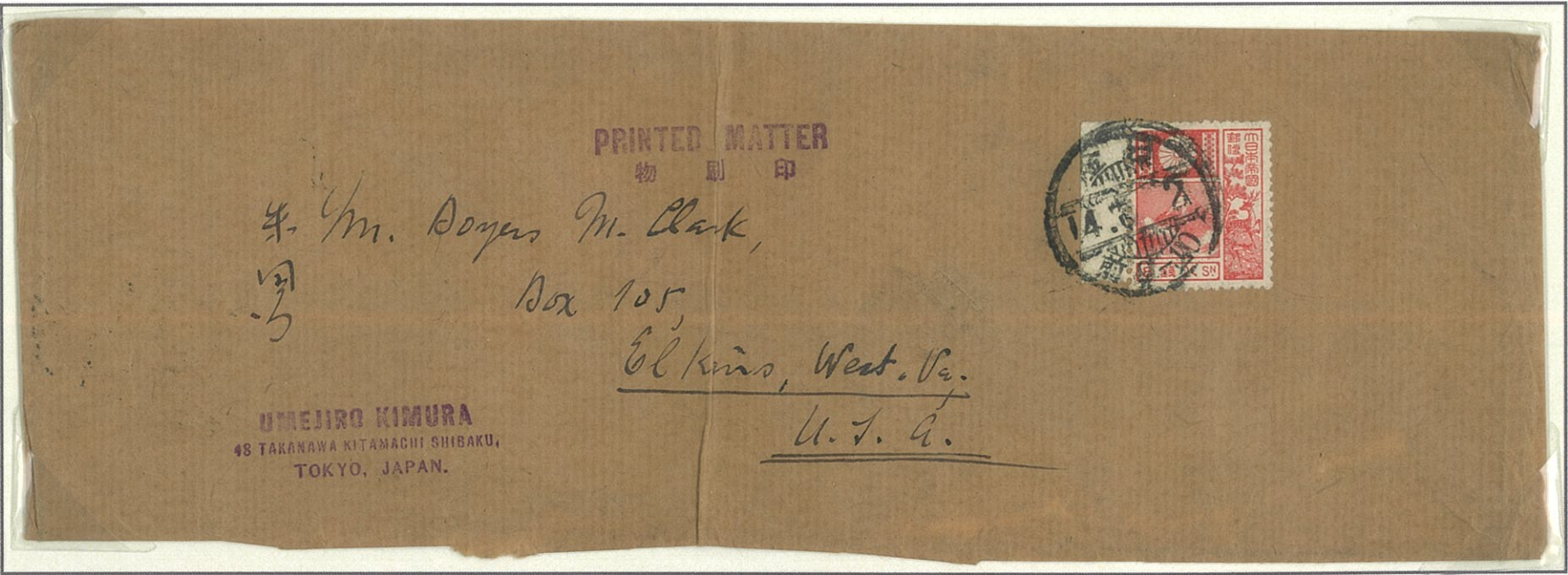


C is the width of the central margin.
Each multiple came from different panes.

sample	A	B	C
a	0.5	2.8	2.5
b	0	3.5	2.5
d	0	2.5	3.2
e	0.7	2.8	3.2

Width of each distance (mm)

8 Sen Rate, Double Weight Printed Wrapper



Left marginal stamp tied by c.d.s. SHIROKANE to West Virginia / the US, 14 5 2 (1925)
8 Sen correctly paid for double weight printed matter, 8 = 4*2

The Largest Used Multiple



Pos. 80/100 tied by cds
KOJIMACHI to Kudan, 14 10 23 (1925)
24 Sen correctly paid for a parcel of the
fourth weight step, 24 = 6*4

"Supporting ruled lines" were set on the outside of the printing plate of 400 copies, to prevent sheet papers from bending.

8 Sen

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

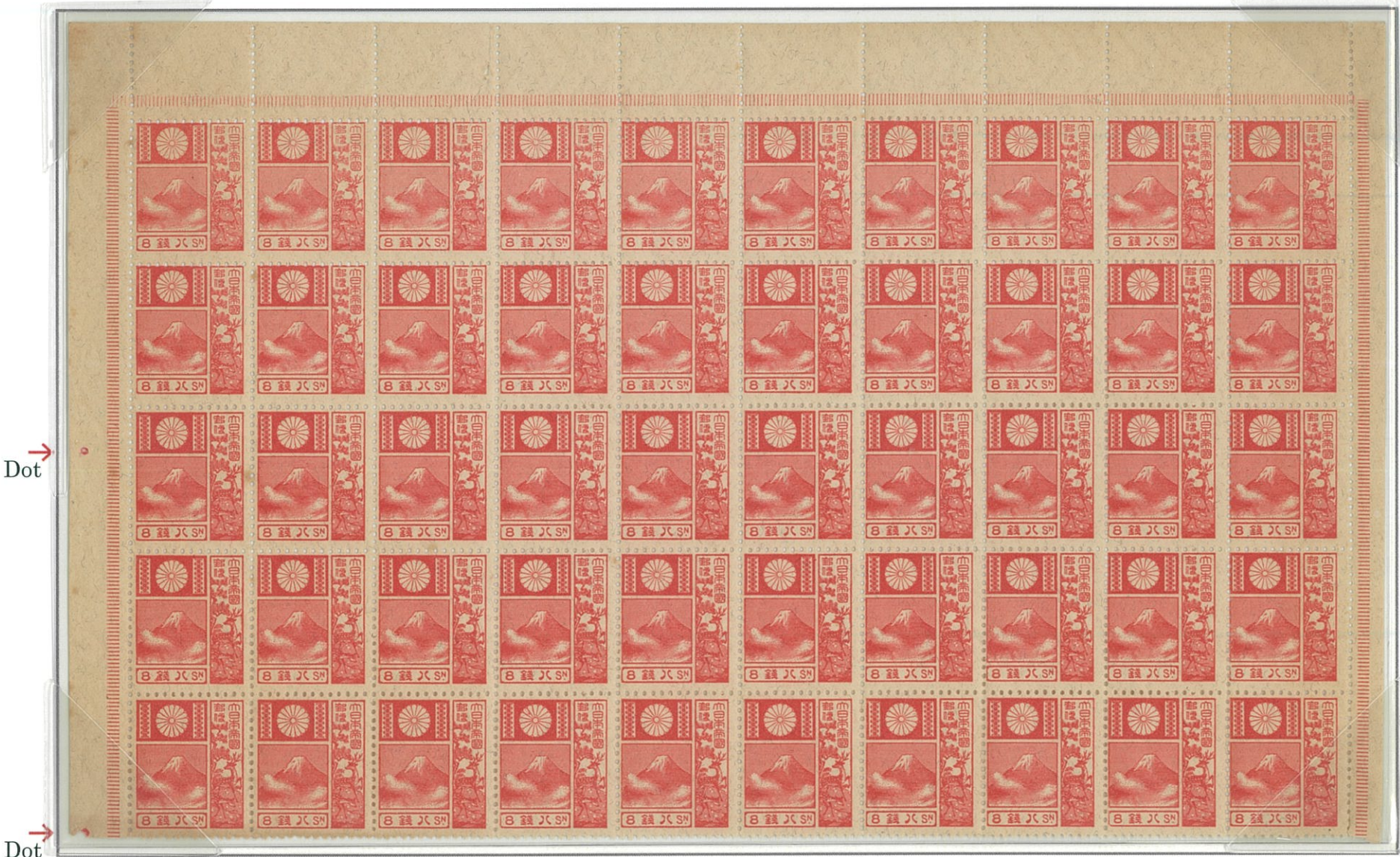
Outer Ruled Lines Under the Stamps



Pos.91 franked with a horizontal pair of 1914 1 Sen, tied by machine cancellation SEIGO-IN to Brno / Czecho-Slovakia, 4 5 27 (1929)

Outer ruled lines were introduced in 1924 as the printing plate then had no frame lines and was needed to prevent sheet papers from bending. As it was so useful, that it was placed to printing plates even after normal frame lines were put to printing plates again in 1925.

The Largest Multiple of This Impression



Pos.1/50 with two red dots as printer's marks on the margin of pos.21 and pos.41/51

- Printing Pane Varieties & Shade Varieties -



Pos.95/96 (a)



Pos.85/96 (b)



Pos.85/96 (c)



Pos.85/96 (d)



Pos.85/96 (e)



Pos.95/96 (f)



sample	A	B	C
a	1.5	3.5	1.7
b	1.5	3.2	1.7
c	1.0	3.5	1.5
d	0.2	3.8	1.0
e	0.3	3.5	1.5
f	3.0	3.2	1.0

Width of each distance (mm)