

April 1st, 1937 (Showa 12)

Because of the decline of Yen exchange rate, 1 UPU Gold Franc was raised from 40 Sen to 1 Yen 10 Sen. So UPU tariff can be multiplied by 2.75, however it was thought too much to multiply the former rate more than two.

Thus, printed matter and letter rate was doubled, and regarding postcard rate it was only increased from 6 Sen to 10 Sen.

There were already landscape issues for these three denominations in non-UPU colors. So it was decided to issue three new stamps on the same day of the introduction of the new rate by using the same printing plates and papers, with only ink changed to each UPU colors.

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.

Classification	Sen
Printed matter	4
Postcard	10
Letter	20

MIHON Specimens



Horizontal 10 mm width "MIHON" handstamp ovpt produced in 1937

UPU Specimen Bechuanaland Protectorate



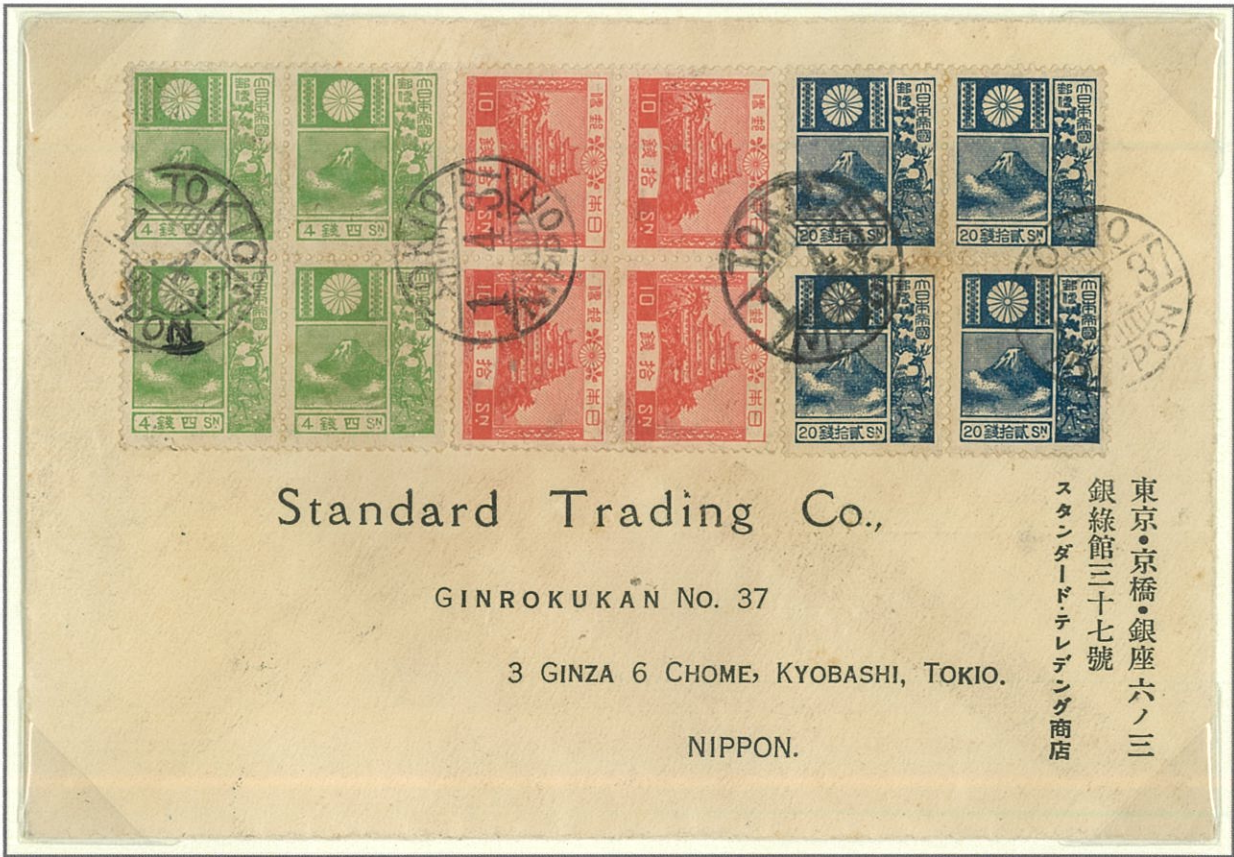
See P.81-82 for information on UPU Specimen Bechuanaland Protectorate

MIHON Specimen for White Paper



Horizontal 10 mm width "MIHON" handstamp ovpt produced in 1937
It was not supposed to be issued before, however, only 20 Sen was found in 2018.

All Three Denomination Stamps Franking
The First Day Usage



Blocks of four of all three denomination tied by roman letter c.d.s.
TOKIO / NIPPON, 1 4 37

It was produced only for a short period on granite paper in early 1937, followed by products printed on white papers, which appeared in May, 1937. It was also produced for a short period on white paper between April and July 1937.

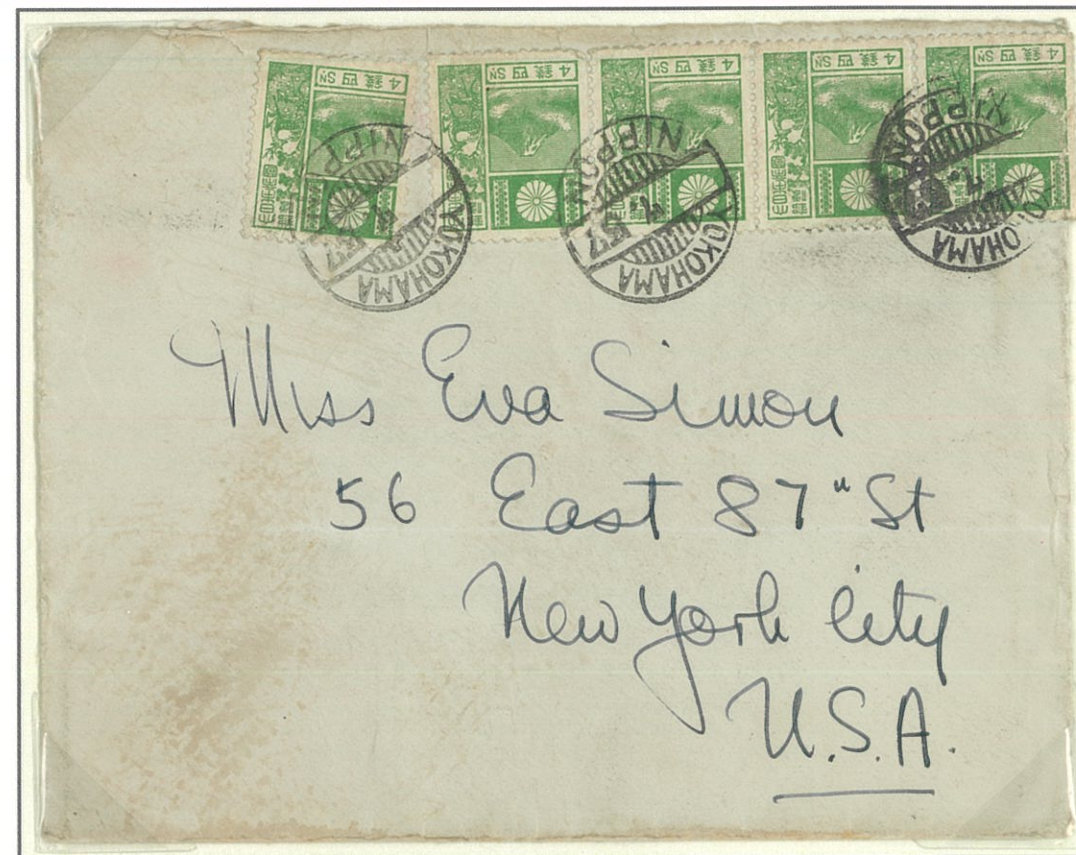
Mixed Franking of Granite Paper and White Paper

1929 issue DIE II ↓ white paper ↓ granite paper



Granite paper & white paper mixed franked with three 1929 issue DIE II OKAYAMA to Czechoslovakia, 12.7.25 (1937) 20 Sen surface letter correctly paid.

20 Sen Rate, Single Weight Letter, Granite Paper



Granite paper, a horizontal strip of four and a single franking, tied by roman letter c.d.s. without date indication

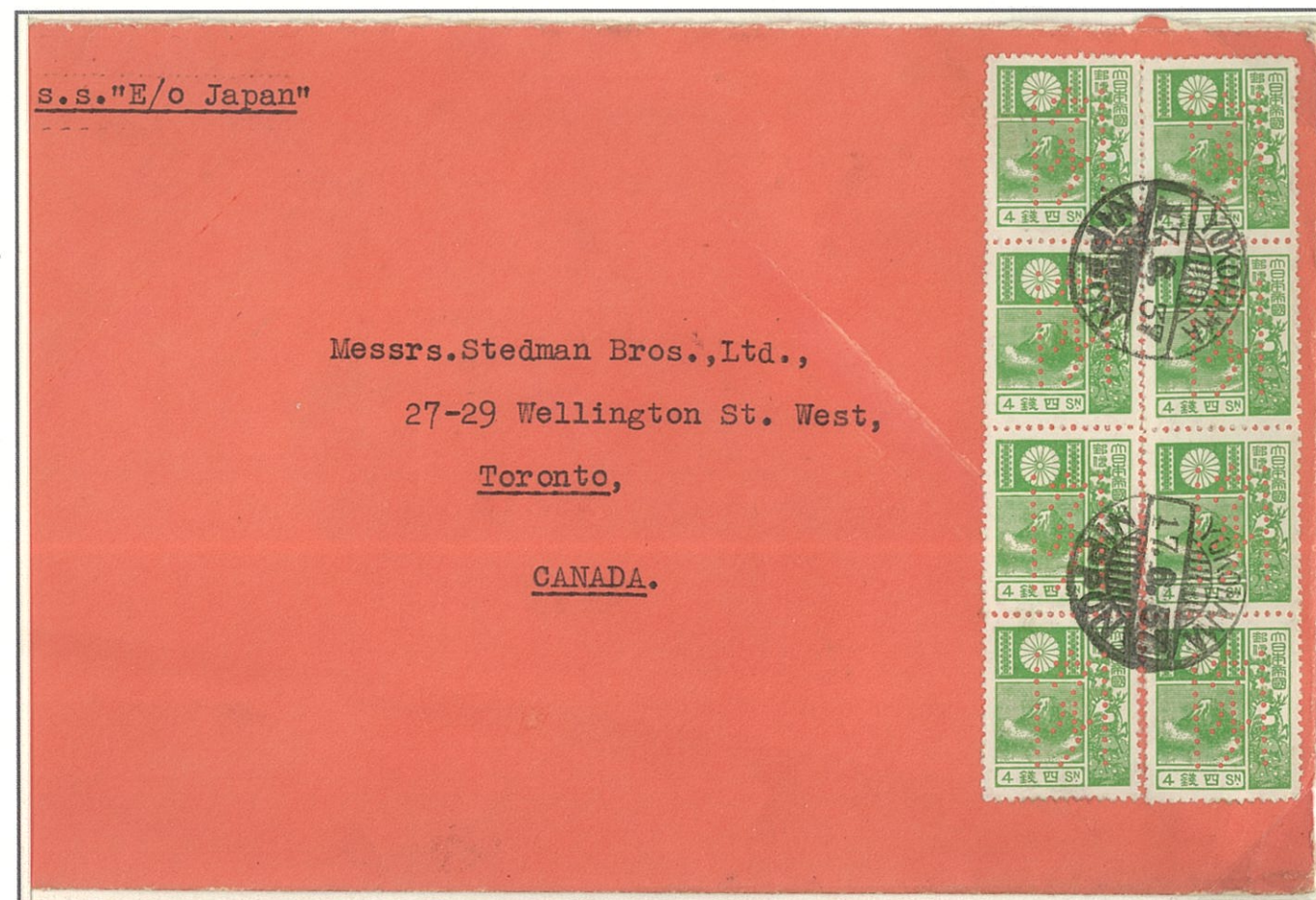
YOKOHAMA to NY, - 7 37

32 Sen Rate, Double Weight Letter

White paper, two vertical strips of four perfin stamps, tied by roman letter c.d.s.

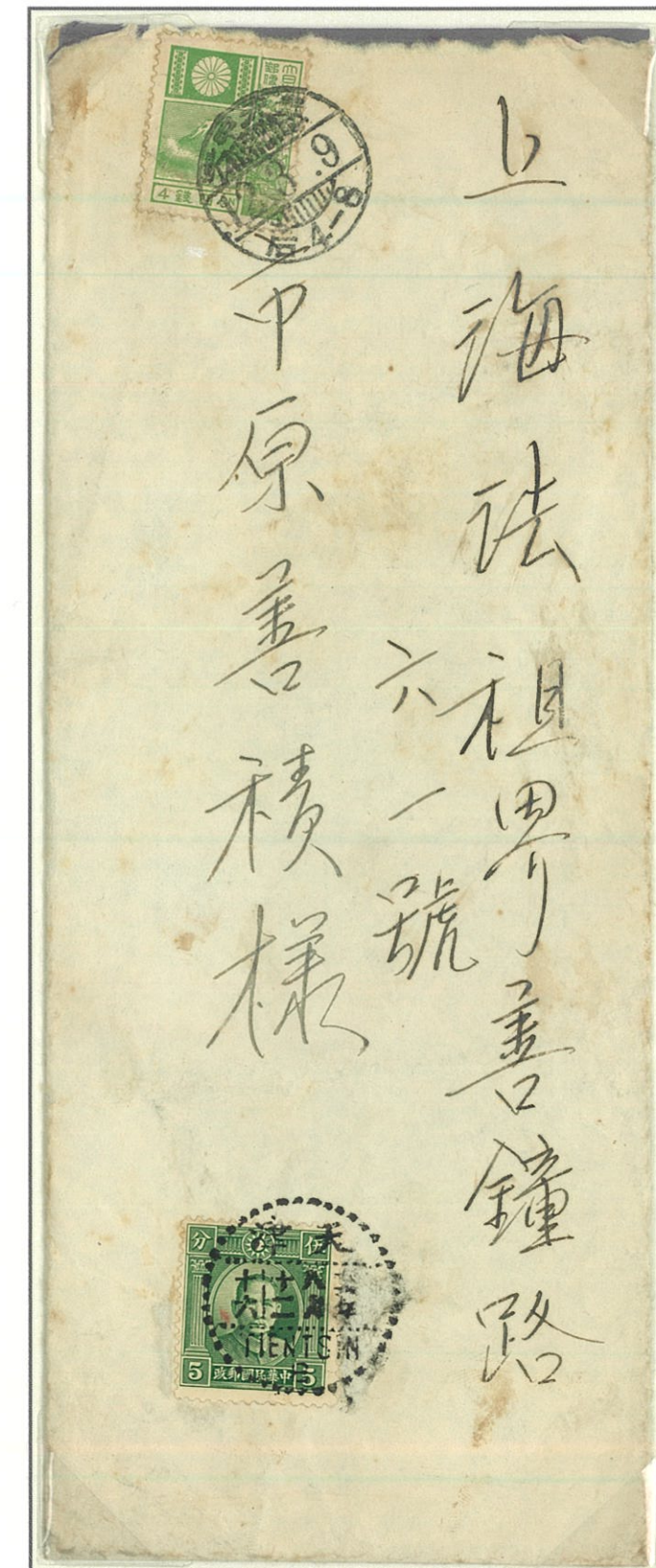
YOKOHAMA to Toronto / Canada, 17 6 37

32 Sen correctly paid for double weight surface letter, 20 for letter and 12 for additional fee for each 20g.



Perfin of J. Curnow & Co., Ltd

Usage in The Land attached to the South Manchurian Railway



White paper tied by cds Mukden CPO to Shanghai, 12.8.9 (1937)

4 Sen correctly paid for a letter to China, and China 5f was franked before it was handled over to China Post at Tianjin on 8/12

It was produced only for a short period in early 1937, followed by products printed on white papers.

A Part of Color Bar



Pos. 61/73 with a part of triple horizontal bars on the margin of pos.61

Red Blurred Examples

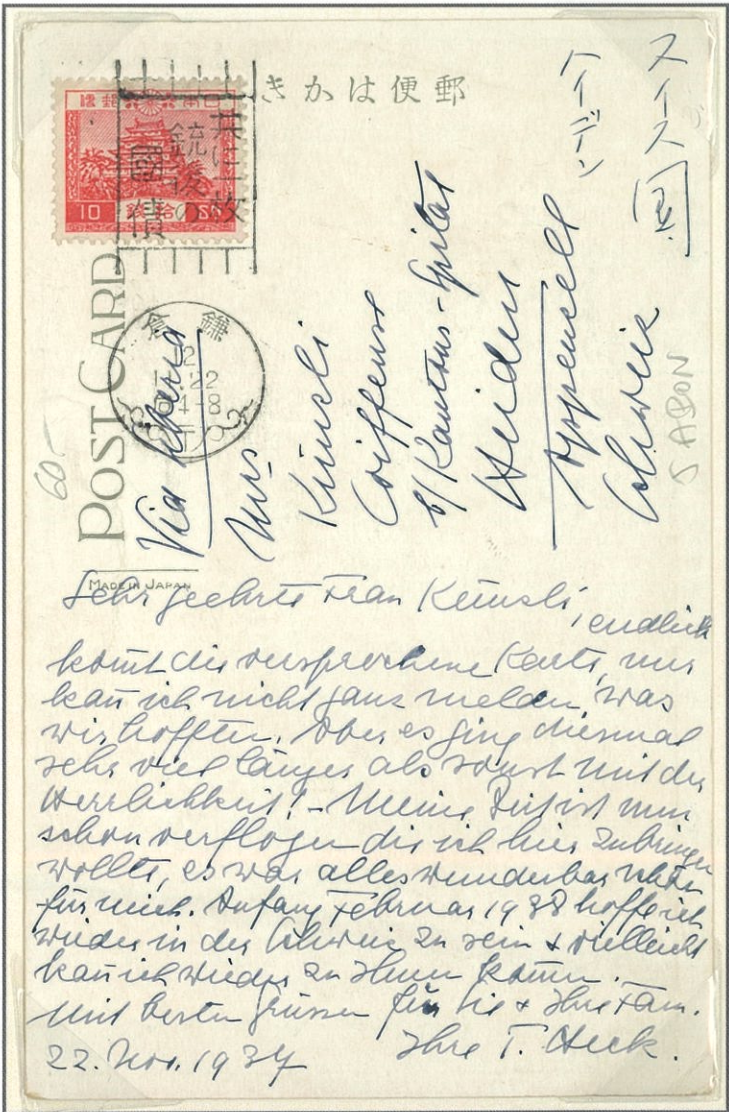


Some ink didn't have good combination with granite paper, and red ink blurred paper



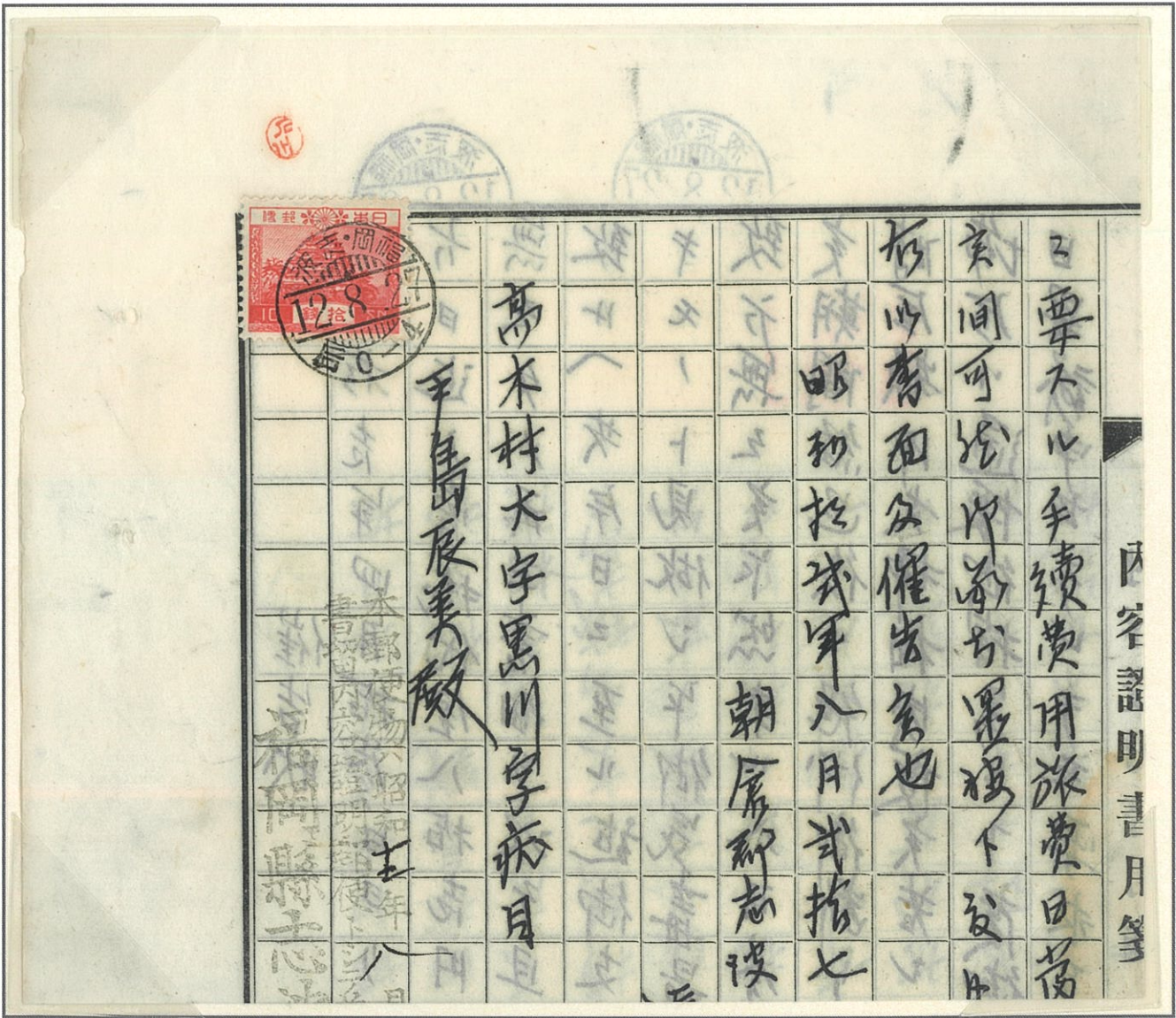
Pos. 87/100

10 Sen Rate, Surface Post Card



Tied by machine cancellation
KAMAKURA to Heiden / Switzerland, 12 11 22 (1937)
10 Sen correctly paid for surface post card

10 Sen Rate, Content Certified Mail Fee



Franked on a document to be certified and tied by c.d.s.
Fukuoka SHIBA 12 8 27 (1937)
Content certified fee 10 Sen between 1910.11.16 and 1942.3.31



KANAGAWA CHIGASAKI 12 4 23 (1937)



KOBE 29 1 38 roman letter c.d.s.



KOBE 14 4 24 (1939) roller cancellation

White paper took granite paper around March 1937, and the earliest usage of this stamp recorded is May 15th, 1937. It was produced between 1937 and late 1938.

Early Usage



Nihonbashi 12 6 7 (1937)

Color Bar Varieties

It is supposed that color bars were not engraved at printing plates at first like the left sheet.

Then color bars were added like the right sheet later on the same printing plates, having the same shape of frame lines.

Color bars in this period is usually triple bars, but other two examples are also found in this stamp, though little are known for these features.



4 mm height extra bar



7 mm height extra bar

Two Sheets Having The Same Frame Lines Shape with/without Triple Color Bars



1 Yen 78 Sen Rate, Registered Parcel to NY



17 copies franked with double 4 Sen, tied by roman letter c.d.s.

TOKIO / NIPPON to NY, 19 11 37

1 Yen 78 Sen correctly paid for registered parcel of the 7th weight step to the US, 1.68 for parcel of 720-840 Monme, and 10 for registration fee.

It was produced only for a short period in early 1937, followed by products printed on white papers.

First Day Usage



TOKIO 1437



pos.87/99



pos.97/99

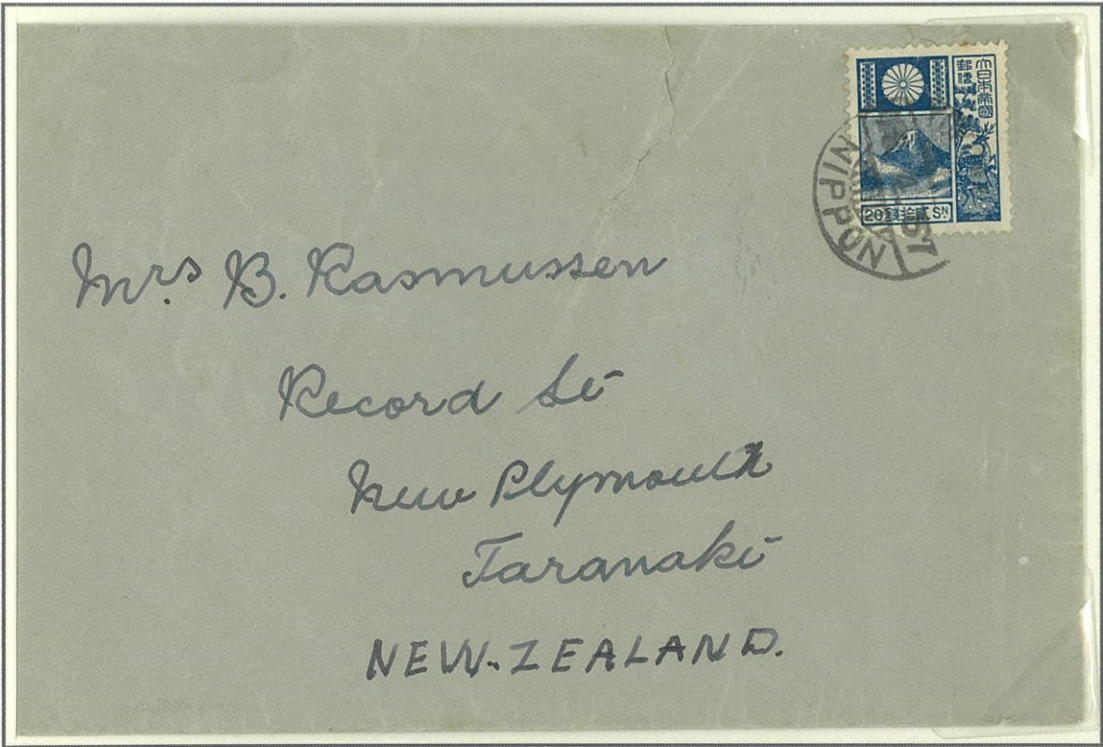


pos.59/70 with a part
of registered mark



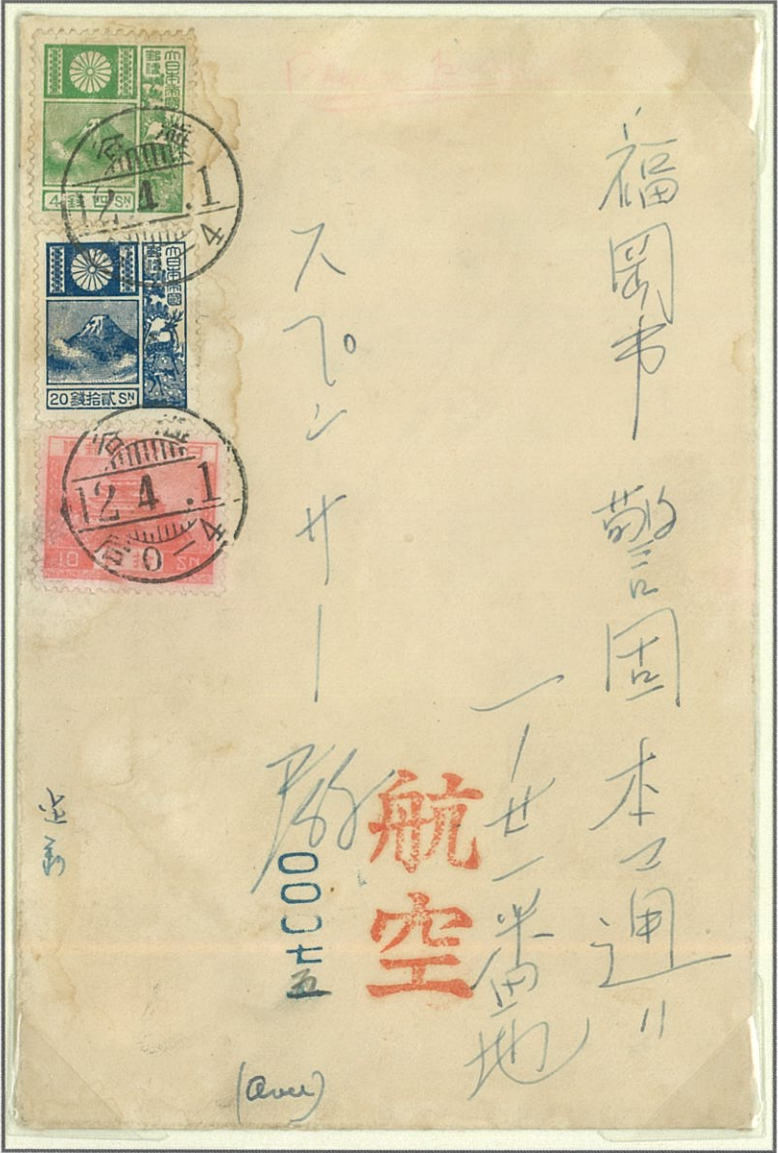
KOBE NIPPON 7537

Early Commercial Usage in April



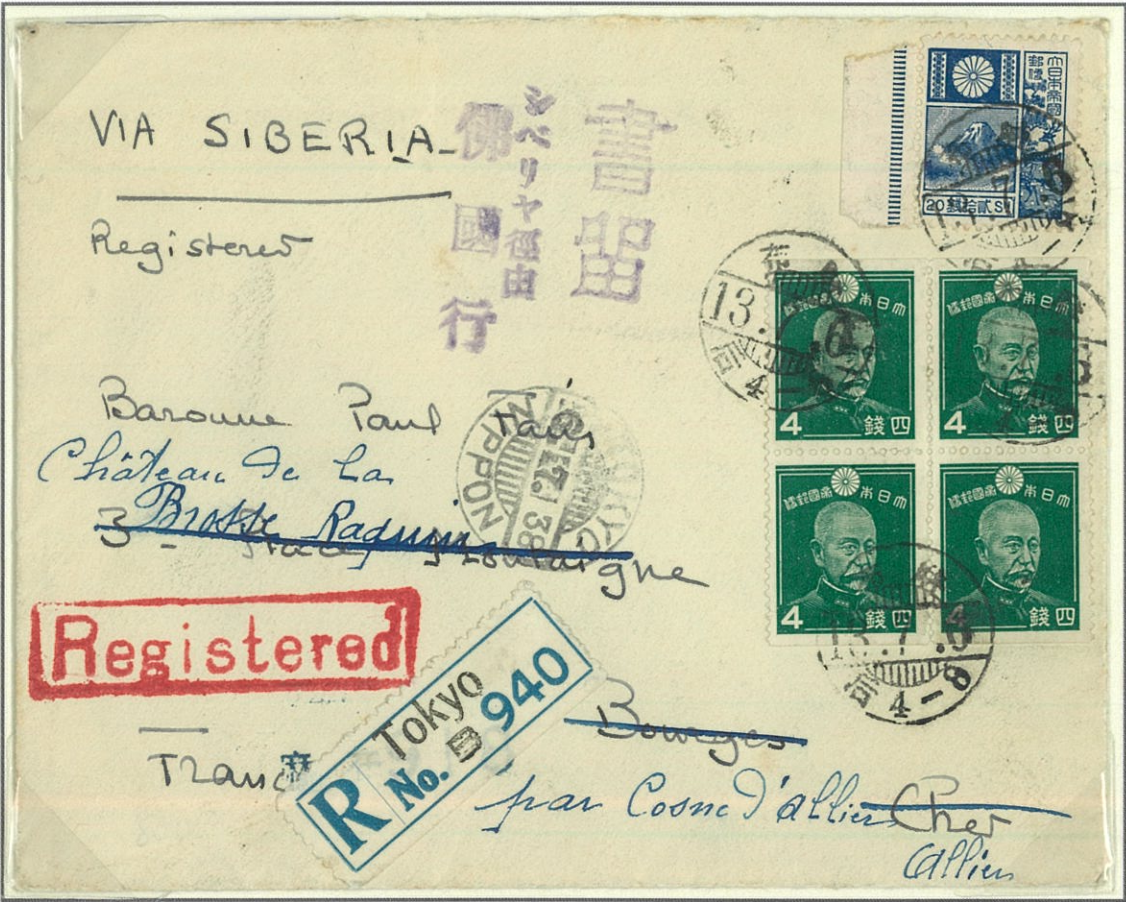
Single franking, tied by roman letter c.d.s.
YOKOHAMA / NIPPON to New Zealand, 18 4 37
20 Sen correctly paid for surface letter

Internal Airmail Letter



All three denomination stamps tied by c.d.s.
SHIBUYA to Fukuoka, 12.4.1 (1937)
34 Sen overpaid by 15 Sen for internal airmail letter,
4 for letter, and 15 for air mail fee.

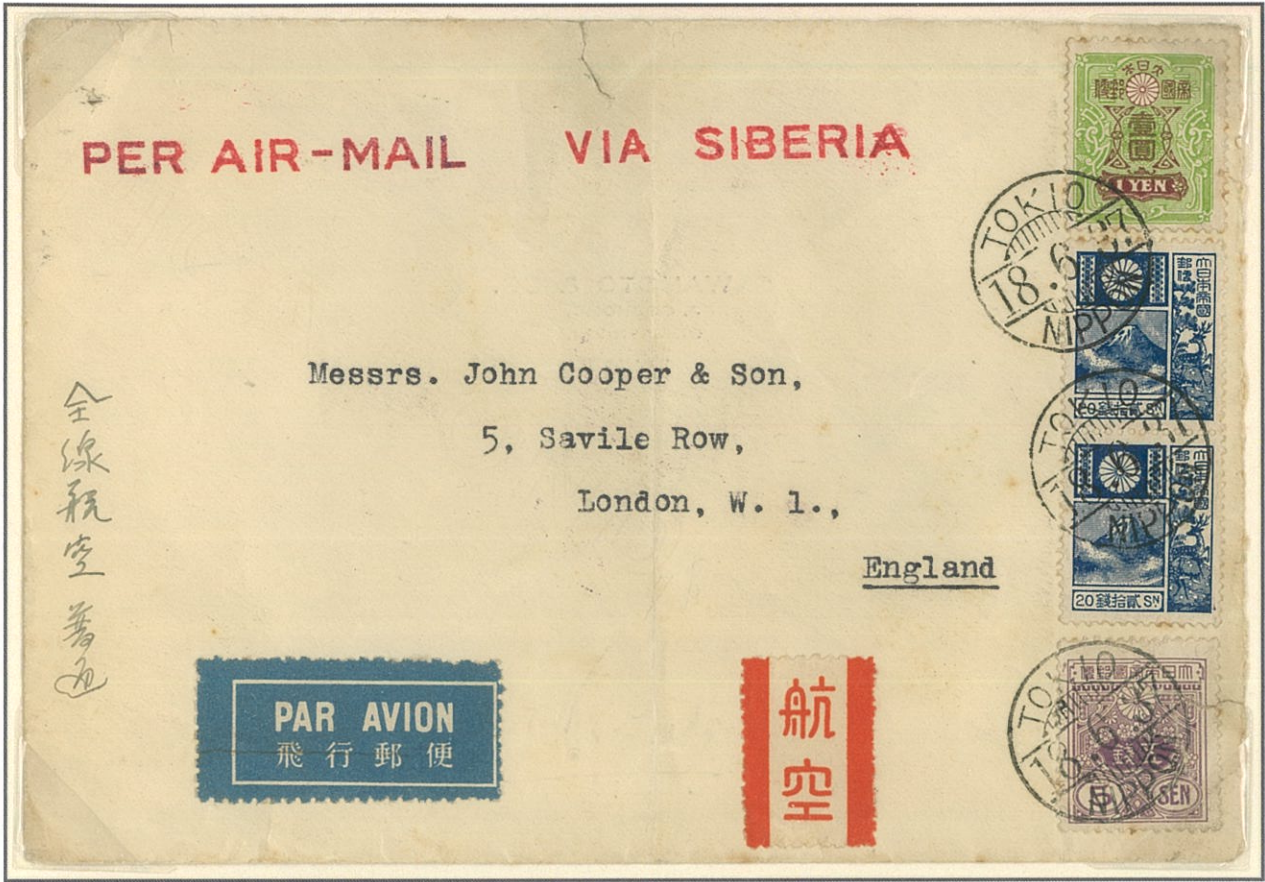
36 Sen Rate, Registered Letter to France



Left marginal copy franked with a block of 4 Sen, a part of a booklet pane
AZABU - Tokyo - Siberia - Bourges, 13 7 6 (1938)
then forwarded to Cosne d'allier
36 Sen correctly paid for registered letter, 36 = 20 + 16

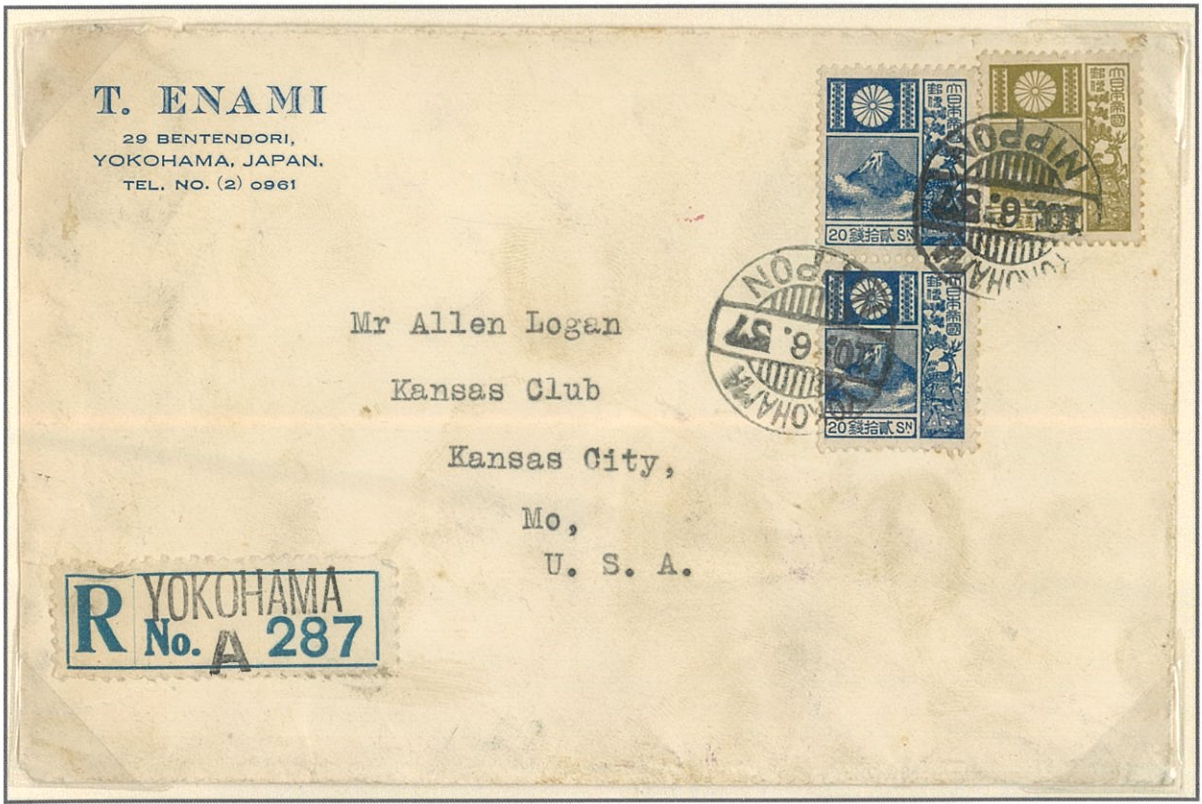
As 20 Sen denomination stamp was issued for surface letter rate, it was dispatched to ship post offices, though it was sold only for a short period.

Airmail Letter to England



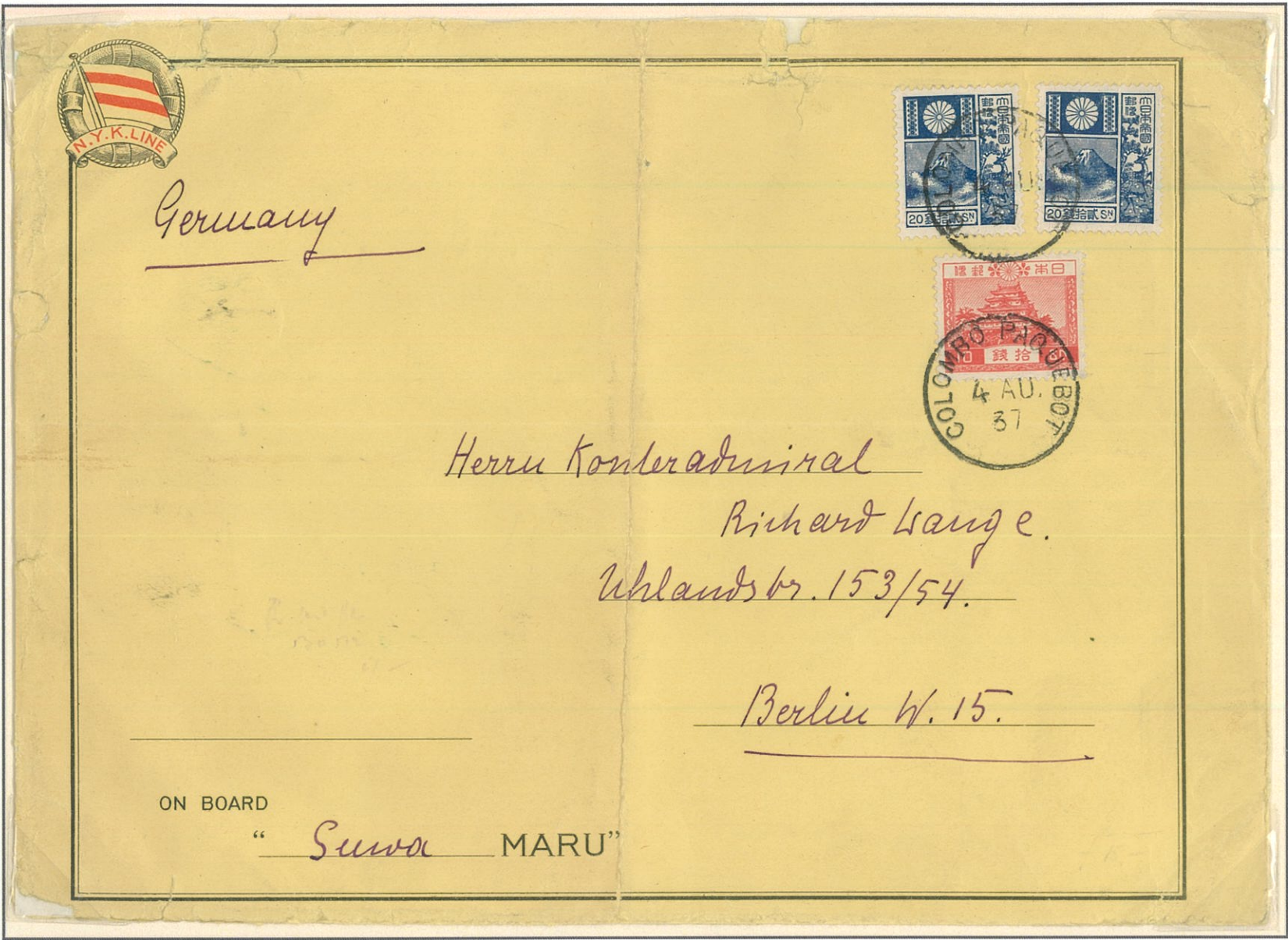
A vertical pair franked with 1 Yen and 5 Sen tied by roman letter c.d.s. TOKIO to LONDON, 18 6 37 (Showa 12)
1 Yen 45 Sen underpaid by 10 Sen for airmail letter to UK, including 35 Sen for air fee to Hsinking, and 1 Yen for air fee between Chita and London

48 Sen Rate, Registered Letter to USA



A vertical pair franked with 8 Sen, tied by roman letter c.d.s.
YOKOHAMA to US, 10 6 1937 (Showa 12)
48 Sen correctly paid for registered double weight surface letter, 20 for letter, 12 for additional fee, and 16 for registration fee.

Paquebot Letter posted from N.Y.K. line, Suwa-Maru



Double franked with 10 Sen, tied by single ring paquebot c.d.s.
COLOMBO, British Ceylon to Berlin, 4 AU 37 (Showa 12)
50 Sen overpaid by 6 Sen for triple weight surface letter,
20 for surface letter of the weight up to 20g and 12 for additional fee per each 20g, multiplied by two

Martime postmarks were used at Suwa-maru sea post, when she navigated on the high seas.
This letter was, however, posted on the territorial seas of British Ceylon and as the post office was already closed, the sender had to gather up stamps of at least 44 Sen, and attached them to the envelope like this cover.



domestic comb cds



domestic roller cancellation



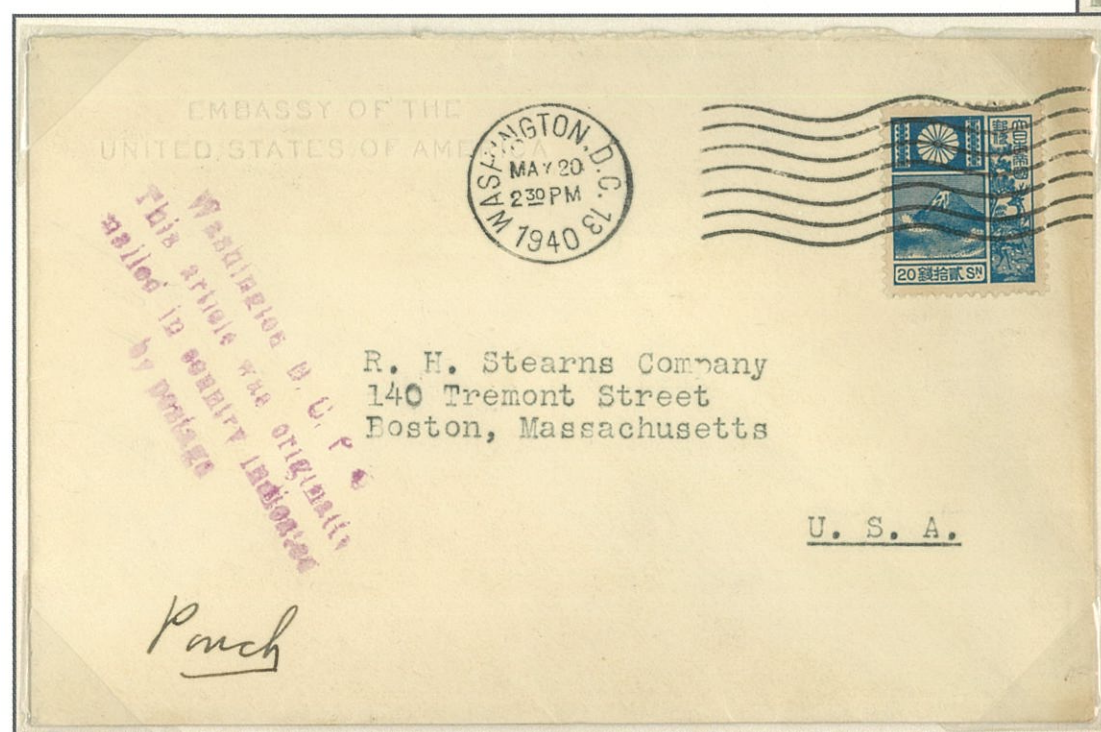
roman letter comb cds

White paper appeared at post office counter in May 1937. This stamp was produced between 1937 and late 1940.



pos.97/99

Diplomatic Pouched Mail



Tied by machine cancellation in the USA with purple pouch stamp beside.
Embassy of the US in Tokyo to Boston via Washington D.C. MAY 20 1940

12 Yen 20 Sen Rate, Airmail Letter to East Africa

61 copies franking tied by roman letter roller cancellation
KOBÉ - Hong Kong - (air) - Penang - (air) - Mombasa / East Africa, 11 12 37
It arrived with damage, which was repaired by the British post

12 Yen 20 Sen correctly paid for airmail letter of the sixth weight step to East Africa,
 $1220 = 20 + 12 \times 5 + 25 \times 6$ for Hong Kong-Penang + 165×6 for Penang-Mombasa



Postage Stamp Design Review Committee was set up in March of 1937 (Showa 12), members of which were consisted of eleven specialists of arts, crafts, archeology, landscapes and printings and eight from the ministry of Post & Telecommunications, and the committee aimed to select and review new postage stamp design. The committee choosed or judged design candidates for new stamps, which are later called as "Showa series" by the philatelists.

50 copies of "The Current Postage Stamps" were made as review document for the committee, in which 23 kinds of denomination stamps from 5 Rin to 10 Yen are included, of which the part for this exhibit's treatment is shown. The members of the committee understood what are depicted in current stamps

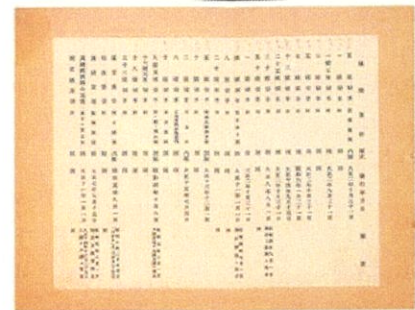
The Third Page of "The Current Postage Stamps"
50 Copies Were Made, Only Several of Which was Survived in the Original Format

Cover of the Document



White paper printed "The Current Postage Stamps" was attached on the yellow cover paper. (20%)

The Document Index



23 denomination stamps and 5 postal cards are listed in this index. (20%)



1929-1930 issue 20, 8, 4 Sen

1924 issue 10, 5 Yen

1925 issue 10, 6, 2 Sen

1929 airmail 33, 18, 16.5, 9.5 Sen