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Customs Post

1
1873 (21 June) envelope (flap opened out at top for display) from the Vapereau correspondence, hence probably emanating from Peking, to Paris (11.8) "Per French Packet" showing on reverse fairly legible "Custom House/Shanghai/Paid" oval d.s. and bearing on front Ceres 25c. pair and singles (2), cancelled "5104", showing "Shang-hai/Chine" c.d.s. (21.6) adjacent, fine and rare example of this early Customs Post marking. Ex Sir Percival David and James Riddell (*Robson Lowe*, 16 October 1974, lot 1252). Photo

HK\$ 80,000 - 100,000

Used between 1872-75, we record 19 covers with this Custom House Paid marking, which was the first such postal marking utilised by the Customs Post. The majority of these covers are addressed to either Mme. Louise Garnier, or Mr. or Mme. Vapereau in Paris. The covers from the Vapereau correspondence originate in Peking, though there are no origin markings except docketing in some cases.

Of the 19 covers we record with the Custom House Paid marking, seven covers were sent overseas through the French Post Office, eight covers were sent overseas through the British Post Office with Hong Kong adhesives, and two covers were sent overseas through the United States Postal Agency. In addition, there are two covers sent from Great Britain to Peking or Shanghai with the Custom House Paid marking applied on arrival in China.

Customs Mail Matter

2
Amoy : 1897 (10 Feb) envelope (tiny tear at top) to Peking (6.3) showing oval "Amoy Customs/Mail/Matter" h.s. in blue, "Customs/Amoy" origin c.d.s. in dark blue, and bilingual framed "Paid" h.s. in red, unusual combination of the Mail Matter and Paid markings. Photo

HK\$ 20,000 - 25,000



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3
Canton : 1897 (4 Aug.) envelope (opened out for display, age spotting) to Wuchow (26.8) showing oval “Canton Customs/Mail Matter” h.s. and “Canton” origin dollar chop, with “Imperial Post Office/Wuchow” oval d.s. on reverse, very fine. Photo

HK\$ 12,000 - 15,000

5
Kiungchow : 1897 (15 Mar.) envelope to Hong Kong (20.3) showing oval “Kiungchow Customs/Mail Matter” h.s., “Customs/Kiungchow” origin c.d.s., and bilingual framed “Paid” h.s., very fine and rare Mail Matter from this office. Ex Richard Canman (*Stanley Gibbons*, 19 October 1972, lot 32). Photo

HK\$ 40,000 - 50,000

4
Chefoo : 1896 (13 Mar.) Local Post 1/2c. stationery card to Shanghai (15.3) showing framed “Chefoo Customs/Mail Matter” d.s. in red, “Customs/Chefoo” origin and “Customs/Shanghai” transit (15.3) c.d.s. on reverse, and “Shanghai/Local Post/H” arrival c.d.s., very fine. Photo

HK\$ 4,000 - 5,000

6
Swatow : 1897 (7 Dec.) registered envelope to Hong Kong (8.12) showing oval “Swatow Customs/Mail Matter” h.s., “Swatow” origin dollar chop and unframed “R” h.s. in red, fine registered usage. Photo

HK\$ 10,000 - 12,000



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"To Pay" Markings

7
1891 (27 Mar.) Austria 2kr. stationery card from Wuerbenthal to Peking bearing 1kr. and 5kr., cancelled by "K.K. Post Ambulant/No.4" c.d.s. (28.3), with "Customs/Tientsin" c.d.s. (16.5) in violet and matching framed "To Pay" h.s. in sans-serif capital letters for mail sent to North China, outstanding usage and rare type of this marking for which we record six examples (one from Shanghai Local Post, two from Austria, two from Germany, and one from Great Britain) used between 1891-95, very fine. Photo

HK\$ 20,000 - 25,000

Imperial Post

8
1897 (23 Jan.) envelope to Shanghai (Feb. arrival d.s.) showing very fine strike of bilingual "Chinese-Imperial-Post-Office/Peking/Postage Paid" circular h.s. in blue, with "4" in pencil, and matching "I.G. of Customs/Peking" origin c.d.s., an excellent example of this provisional paid marking used in lieu of postage stamps during the transitional period between the Customs Post and opening of the Imperial Post. Signed Holcombe.

HK\$ 15,000 - 18,000



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