

THE GERMANS IN THE PACIFIC POSTMARKS AND UNUSUAL ITEMS

This exhibit will show markings and various unusual philatelic items related to the German postal activities in areas located around the Pacific Basin -- the offices abroad in China and the former colonies of Kiautschou on the Asian mainland plus New Guinea, Samoa and the Caroline, Marshall and Mariana Island groups. The time period covered for the colonies extends from the inception of postal services in the late 19th Century to the abrupt ending in 1914 when British Imperial and Japanese occupation forces overcame local resistance as World War I began. In China, the offices remained open until that country declared war on Germany in 1917.

Activity in the various territories is shown chronologically in the exhibit, based on the date of opening of the first post office, i.e. China-1886, Samoa-1886, New Guinea-1888, Marshall Is.-1889, Kiautschou-1897, Mariana & Caroline Is.-1899. Within each territory, the postmarks are also presented chronologically, based on the date when service was initiated at each office. Unusual usages attributed to a single post office are presented in conjunction with that particular office; unusual items applicable to the colony as a whole appear after the markings of the individual post offices.



Official regulations indicated that stamp shortages be met by cash franking, but in February 1908 the postal agent at Kieta, New Guinea created 3 pf. provisionals to meet the demand for printed matter postcards by sailors of the survey vessel *Planet*. Thus, Michel #20 is considered the rarest stamp of the German colonies, with only 5 or 6 copies existing.

This exhibit contains examples of the markings of all of the 64 German civil post offices and 11 fieldpost offices (associated with the Boxer Uprising) located in the Pacific basin. The significant non-postmark items shown include: unissued Feldpost essays from the Boxer Uprising, cash payment covers from Samoa and Kiautschou; provisionally overprinted stamps from China, New Guinea, Kiautschou and the Carolines (typhoon bisect plus 1910 Ponape provisionals); a non-philatelic Marshall Islands atoll post cover; covers from the German postal despatch of the last Spanish mails from the Carolines and the Marianas; and World War I fieldpost and/or censored covers from Kiautschou, New Guinea and Samoa.

The German era in the Pacific lasted but three decades but was rich philatelically. Considering the difficulty of assembling such an exhibit, it should be borne in mind that practically all mail was generated by a tiny European population. The number of colonial inhabitants grew from 2,000 in 1904 to 6,500 in 1914, but was only the equivalent of a small market town in Germany. Of this latter total, 4,500 lived in Kiautschou and only 2,000 on all of the islands combined.

ARNOLD EBEL
Briefmarken-Auktionshaus

6000 Frankfurt-M.
Zeil 115, 30. Okt. 1968
Unser 49. Geschäftsjahr

Briefmarken- Prüfungs-Attest

KIETA-Provisorium Aufdruck "3" auf 5 Pf. grün,
klarer, voller Stempel "KIETA-8-2-o8" übergehend
auf einem grossen, weissen Briefstück. Signiert
von Friedemann, Kosack und Grobe. Von diesem
Provisorium sollen nur noch fünf Exemplare exi-
stieren. Diese Marke ist die grösste deutsche
Kolonial-Rarität. Deutsch-Neu-Guinea Michel
Nr. 20

- ist - sind echt. -



Arnold Ebel

ARNOLD EBEL
Auktionator und
Sachverständiger für Briefmarken

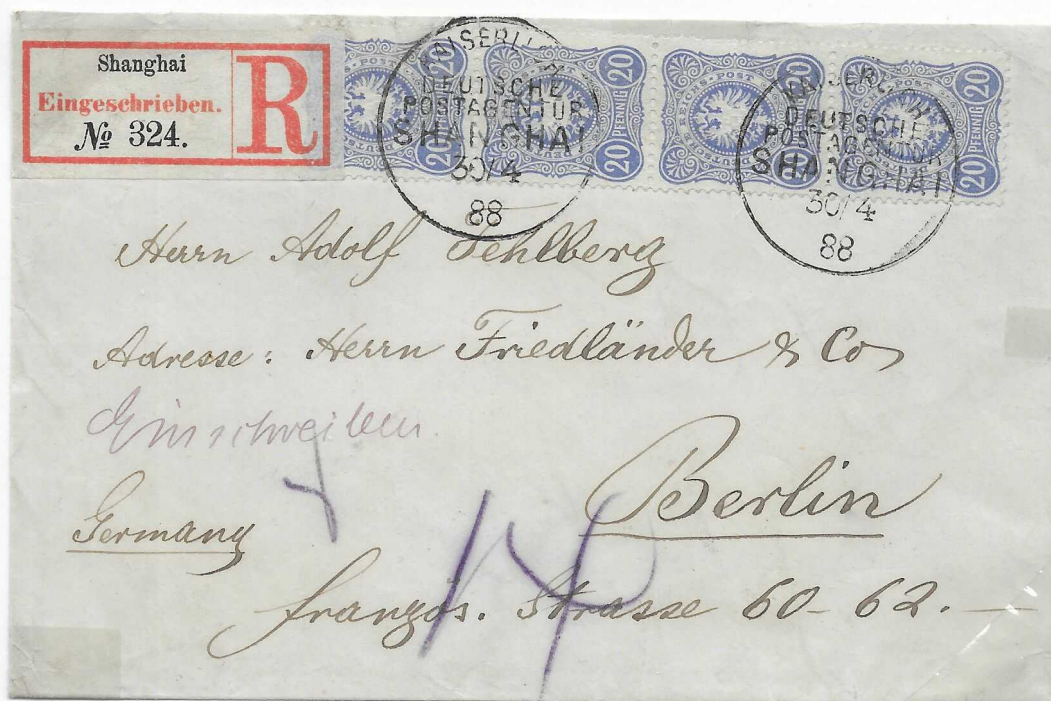
Die Prüfung erfolgt auf Grund langjähriger Erfahrung nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen.

CHINA

In the aftermath of the Opium War, starting in 1842 a number of treaty ports along the Chinese coast were opened to foreign commerce. In most of these, post offices were established by the concessionaires in order to provide reliable communications with the home countries. Germany was a relative latecomer in this activity, opening its first postal agency at Shanghai on 16 August 1886. The German offices continued in operation until 16 March 1917, when China broke off diplomatic relations with Germany during World War I.

Shanghai

The Earliest Recorded Cancellation used in German China



The post office in Shanghai opened on 16 August 1886 when its supply of stamps arrived on the S.S. *Oder*. The postal clerks cancelled the outgoing mail on 28 August 1886 in order to prepare the mail sacks for the ship's departure back to Germany the following day.

CHINA

Shanghai



Postmark used from June 1894 to December 1898

Messrs Carl Breiding & Sohn

Shanghai
Eingeschrieben
No 998. **R**

Soltaw 74.
Germany!



Deutsch-Asiatische Bank.

ENGLISH MAIL



Postmark used from 18 July 1898 to 1906.

The
Philadelphia Museum

233. South Fourth Street

Philadelphia

CHINA

Shanghai

Postmark used from
1 December 1898
to 1908

Schanghai

Postmark used from
April 1905 to
16 March 1917



Postmark used from May
1908 to 16 March 1917

The spelling of the name of the city was "Germanized" to Schanghai in 1905 and remained in that form until the post office was closed in 1917.

CHINA

Tientsin



Postmark used from
1 April 1893 to
October 1899

Postmark used from
15 October 1899 to
16 March 1917

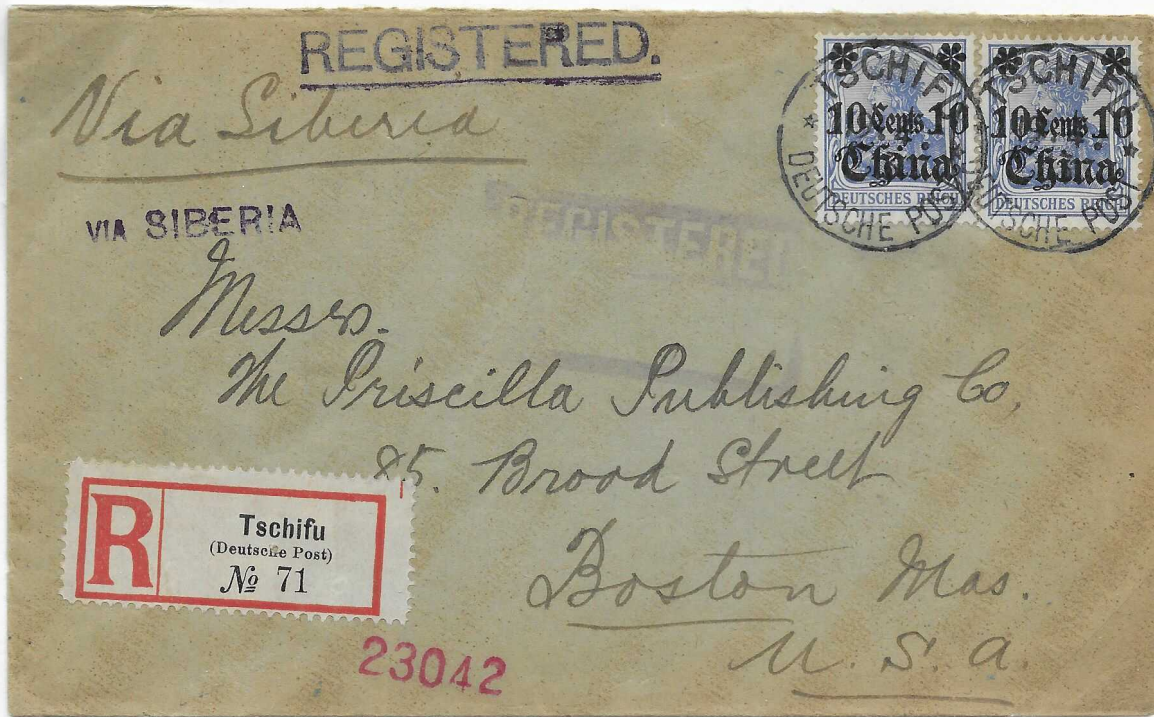


Postmark used from
September 1902 to
16 March 1917

The second German postmark used in China was put into service on 1 April 1893 at the postal agency in Tientsin.

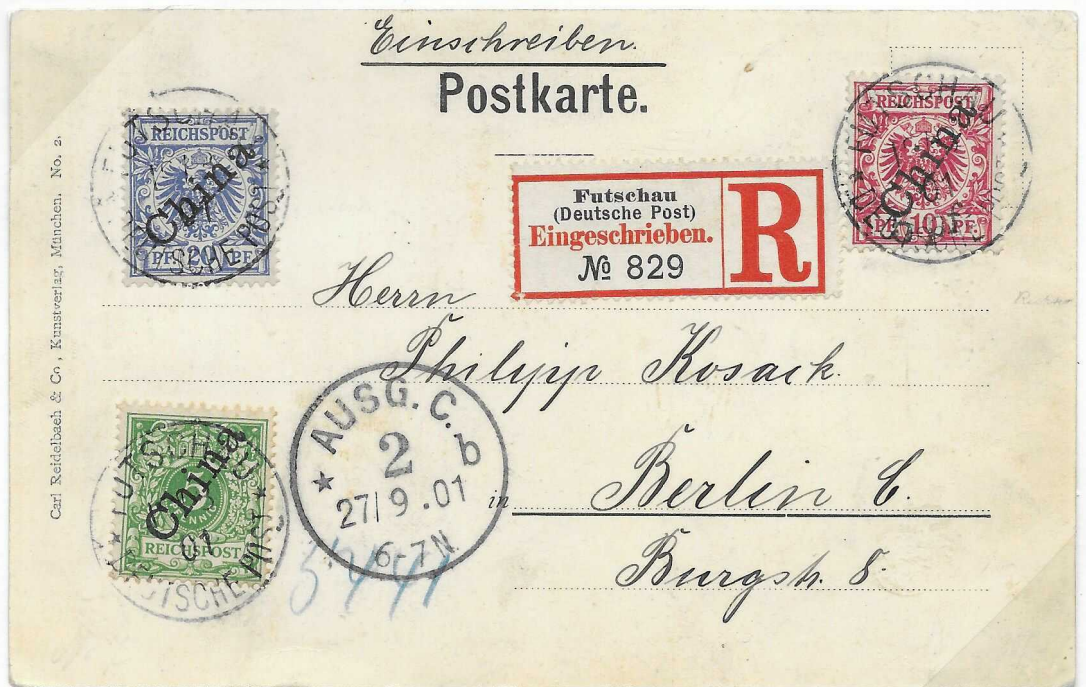
CHINA

Tschifu



Postmark used from
1 January 1900 to
16 March 1917

Futschau



Postmark used from
18 June 1900 to
16 March 1917

In connection with a shortage of 5 pfennig stamps at Foochow, 1,400 copies of the 10 pf. value were surcharged and placed on sale on 7 July 1900 and an additional 2,600 copies on 7 November.

CHINA

Hankau

Deutsche Reichspost
Postkarte



Provisional marking used
from 1 to 27 April 1900

An

Ther Hochgeboren



Frankfurt

in
Wohnung
(Straße und Hausnummer)

洋行

VANDER STEGEN & Co.—HANKOW, CHINA.

長濟

Registered



Hankow No. 64



Messieurs Linn Laurent

Grenelle

Registered



Paris

International Banking Corporation

Postmark used from
27 April 1900 to
16 March 1917

86240

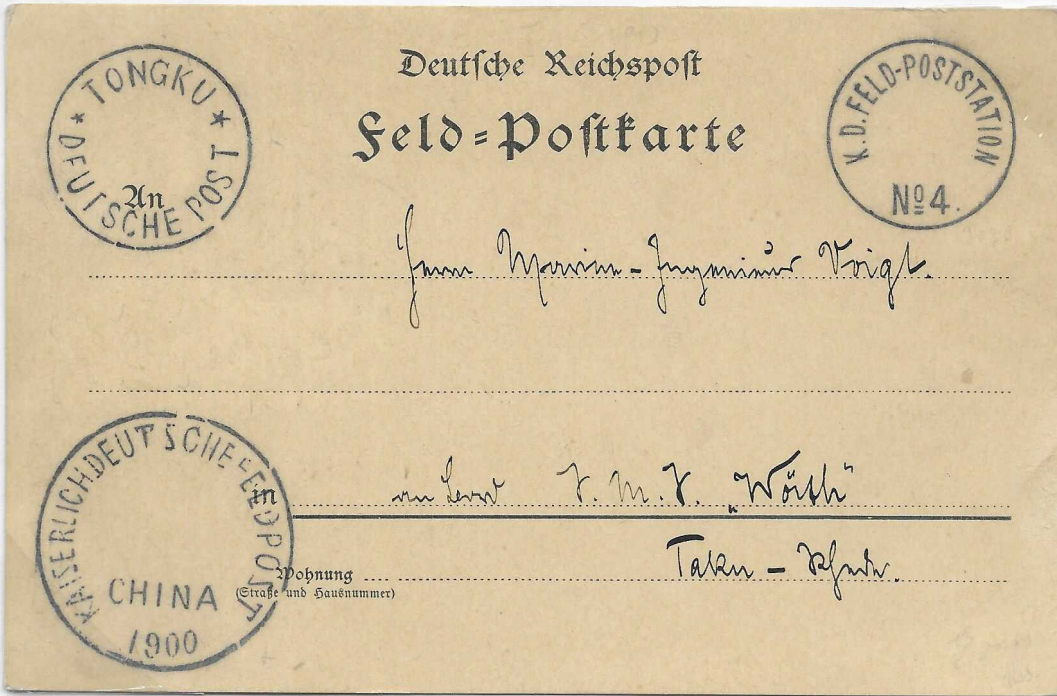


San Francisco

The post office at Hankow was opened on 1 April 1900 using a provisional cancellation for the first several weeks. (The version with a second line in Chinese was used only during the first few days -- the card shown above is dated 2 April in manuscript on reverse.)

CHINA

Tongku



Provisional marking used from 8 September to 31 October 1900

Postmark used from 1 November 1900 to 30 April 1906



When the post office at Tongku opened on 8 September 1900, the normal steel postmark was not available. Thus, a provisional marking was used for the first two months.

CHINA

Tschiangling



Provisional marking used from 14 December 1901 to 21 March 1902

Nanliu



Provisional marking used from 21 March to 1 June 1902

These stations were located along the Shantung Railway being constructed by the Germans. Their markings were used only in connection with mail that was actually postmarked on the trains with TPO markings.

CHINA

Chinwangtau



Provisional marking used from 1 December 1901 to 30 January 1902

Tschinwangtau



Postmark used from 15 January 1902 to 10 March 1906

The post office at Chinwangtau opened late in 1901, using a provisional marking at first, then a permanent cds.

CHINA

Shanhaikuan



Provisional marking used from 1 September to 30 November 1901

Schanhaikuan

Postmark used from 1 March to 31 October 1902



Tschinkiang

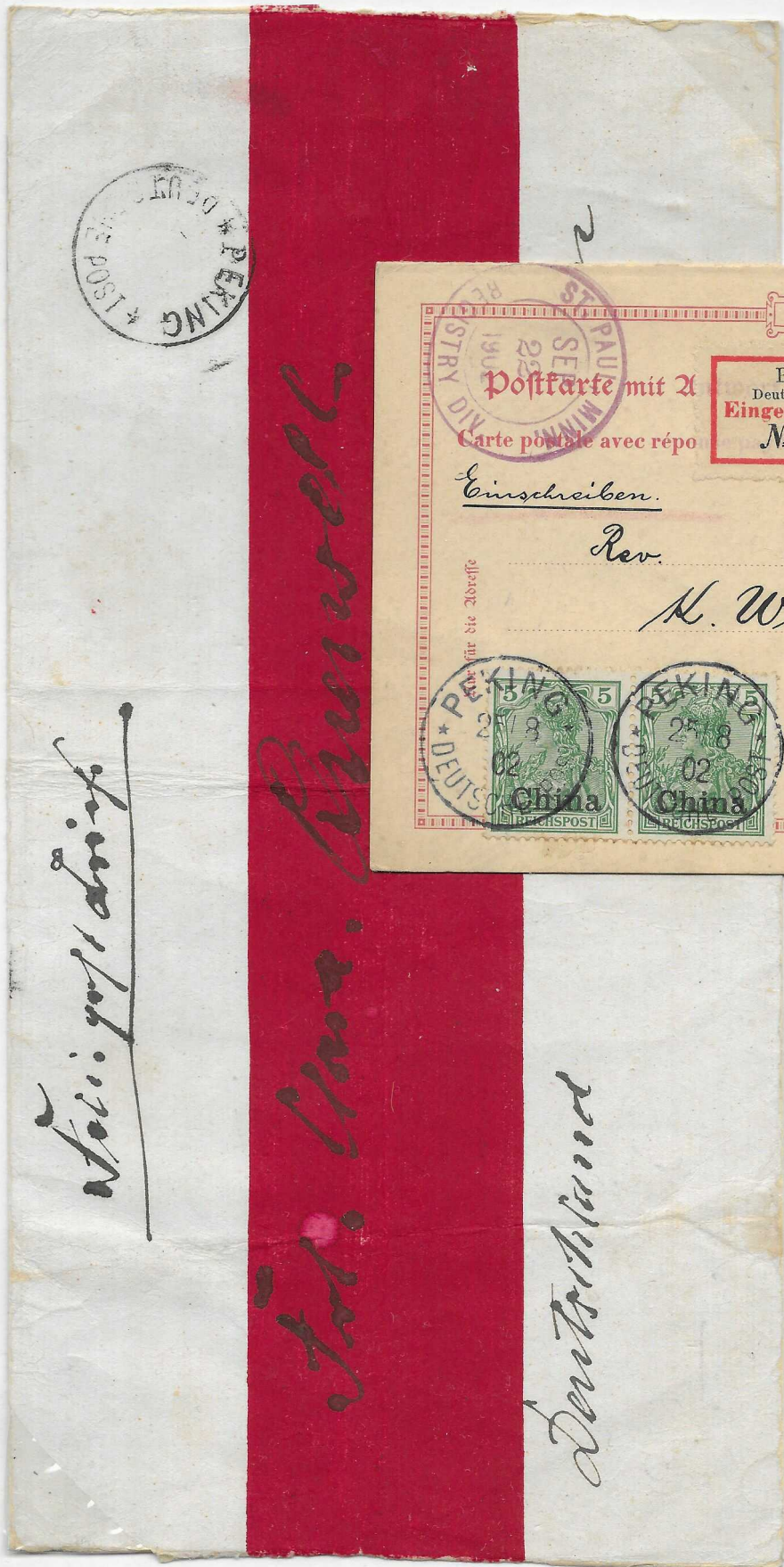
Postmark used from 28 October 1901 to 16 March 1917.



CHINA

Peking

Provisional marking
used from 11 September
to 13 November 1900



Postmark used from
14 November 1900
to 15 March 1917

When the post office
opened at Peking on
11 September 1900,
the normal steel
postmark was not
available. As a result,
a temporary marking
carved out of wood
was used for the first
two months.

CHINA

Nanking



Postmark used from
1 January 1903 to
16 March 1917

Itschang



Postmark used from
11 February 1903 to
1 September 1908

CHINA

Amoy



Postmark used from 12 June 1902 to mid-1913

Amoi

Postmark used from mid-1913 to 16 March 1917



As was the case elsewhere, the second postmark for Amoy changed the spelling of the city.

CHINA

Weih sien



Postmark used from
1 June 1902 to
1 September 1914

Diercking, Esquire

Canton



Postmark used from
2 June 1902 to
mid-1913

Kanton

Postmark used from
mid-1913 to
16 March 1917

As in the case in several other offices, a second postmark used at Canton had the name of the city "Germanized."

CHINA

Tschingtschoufu



Provisional marking used from 15 June to 31 October 1903

Postmark used from 1 November 1903 to 31 December 1905



Chingchowfu initially used its station mark in connection with the TPO of the Shantung Railway, but a regular postal facility subsequently operated there.