

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Return to Germany



On 4 September 1901 S.S. Crefeld left Taku with troops of the The German East Asia Expeditionary Corps bound for Bremerhaven, arriving on 29 October. It used an unofficial "postmark" from late August until late October. S.S. Bahia used a similar unofficial marking on its voyage, from 9 September to 26 October 1901.

S.S. Pisa's supply of 5 pf. stamps was exhausted on the outward journey so that between July and September 1902 prepayment of postage on postcards was noted with a small manuscript "5" in the bottom left corner and the ship's postmark struck at top left. Postage was applied when the mail was delivered to Tientsin on the outbound journey or to the Navy Post Office in Berlin on the inbound leg.

GERMAN OFFICES IN CHINA
Disaster Mail

K. D. Feld-Poststation No. 4
21 February 1901



Some of the mail sent by German troops engaged in suppressing the Boxer Uprising was sent back to the home country via the German post office in Shanghai. However, some of it was damaged in a fire started by exploding fireworks on 28 February 1901. Such mail that could be salvaged received a special cachet inscribed "Damaged by Accidental Fire in the Shanghai Post Office." It appears that the military mail that was subject to this hazard had been posted between 18 and 24 February. This particular cover originated at FPO 4 in Tongku.

**CHINA
Boxer Uprising**

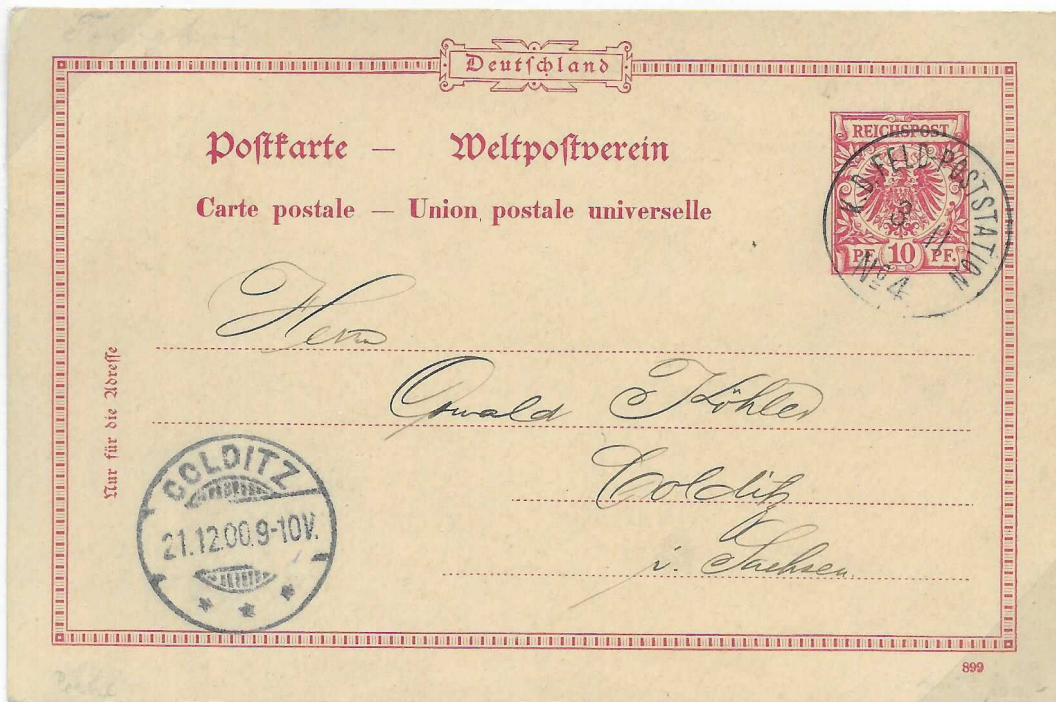
**Overprinted Numeral
& Eagle Postal Paper**



At the outbreak of the Boxer Uprising, German post offices abroad in China had stocks of the Numeral & Eagle adhesives and postal cards diagonally overprinted "China" as well as the 2 mark unoverprinted definitive. While German military personnel had a free franking privilege for normal letters and postcards, they were required to pay for special services, including overweight letters, parcel post, registered and value-declared mail, in addition to outgoing field telegrams. As a result, the Shanghai post office provided supplies of the available postal paper for use in the various fieldpost offices.

**CHINA
Boxer Uprising**

**Unoverprinted Numeral
& Eagle Postal Paper**



When heavy usage caused supplies of the overprinted stamps to run low, unoverprinted stamps were obtained from German ships in Chinese waters. Those supplied to the fieldpost offices were mostly the 5, 10 and 20 pf. denominations. Other values were then sent out from Germany for fieldpost use and, at least, to the German civil post offices in Peking and Tongku. The 2 and 25 pf. stamps were never sent out officially, but some of these were brought or sent privately.

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Unoverprinted Numeral
& Eagle Postal Paper



Unoverprinted German stamps and postal stationery used in China during this period were called "Petschili Provisionals," being named after the province where the Boxer Uprising took place. This material was valid for postage in both the fieldpost and civil offices abroad until 31 December 1902.

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Unoverprinted Numeral
& Eagle Postal Paper



A substantial variety of German postal stationery was used in the fieldpost offices, including imprinted envelopes, lettercards and wrappers for printed matter. Some of these were sent for by enterprising philatelists, but represent very unusual usages.

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Unoverprinted Germania
Postal Paper



To meet heavy postal needs, the German P.O. in Shanghai ordered supplies of eleven values of the new Germania definitives (3, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 80 pf., 1, 2 and 3 marks) as well as postal cards. In November 1900 these were distributed to the Base Fieldpost Office in Tientsin and the numbered fieldpost stations. Other values of this issue, privately brought or sent to China, were accepted as valid for postage although they are seldom seen.

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Unoverprinted Germania
Postal Paper



Unoverprinted Germania postal stationery was used in a variety of forms, including printed matter postal cards, cards with attached reply and even the "1900" commemorative cards. These were available for use in both the German fieldpost and civil offices.

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Petschili Provisional Usage

Certain of values of the Germania series were not sold at the postal counters in China, but were valid for postage, as indicated by the use of a 5 mark stamp on large registered envelope from Peking.

Empfänger!

Herrn v. Waldbrand

Frankfurt

Neuberg a. S. B.

Herrn v. Baden



German Field Post

Einschreiben!

Lohn

Fritz Hildebrand

Peking
Deutsche Post
Eingeschrieben.
№ 723. **R**

Weinheim u. S. G.

Großf. Baden



On-cover usages of the high-value Germanias are nearly all philatelic. These covers (sent by a member of the 1st East Asia Infantry Regiment) show that in June 1901 the Peking German civil post office was processing about 60 registered items a day.

Eingeschrieben.

Jovan

July

Hildebrand



(200)

Weinheim n. S. O.

Groß. Baden

On-cover usages of the high-value Germanias are nearly all philatelic. These covers (sent by a member of the 1st East Asia Infantry Regiment) show that in June 1901 the Peking German civil post office was processing about 60 registered items a day.

V. m.

ZERTIFIKAT

Herrn
Hans J. Samuelis
Buenos Aires

wird hiermit bescheinigt, daß
die unten abgebildete Marke (Los Nr.
748 unserer 11. Auktion) bei uns er-
steigert wurde.

Die Haftung für die Echtheit übernehme ich nach
den gesetzlichen Bestimmungen des BGB

Prüfungsbefund:

5 Mk. Reichspost Type I mit Entwertung
PEKING 22/6 01 auf E-Brief. Bisher ein-
zig bekanntes Stück der Aushilfsausgabe
dt. Post in China in dieser Wertstufe.
Die Marke und insbesondere die Entwer-
tung sind echt, die Marke ist zum Brief
gehörig.

Das/die Stück(e) wurde(n) mit meinem Signum
versehen.

Briefmarkenhandlung und Deutschlandspezialist

H. C. Schwenn - Frankfurt am Main

19. Juli 1967

Datum

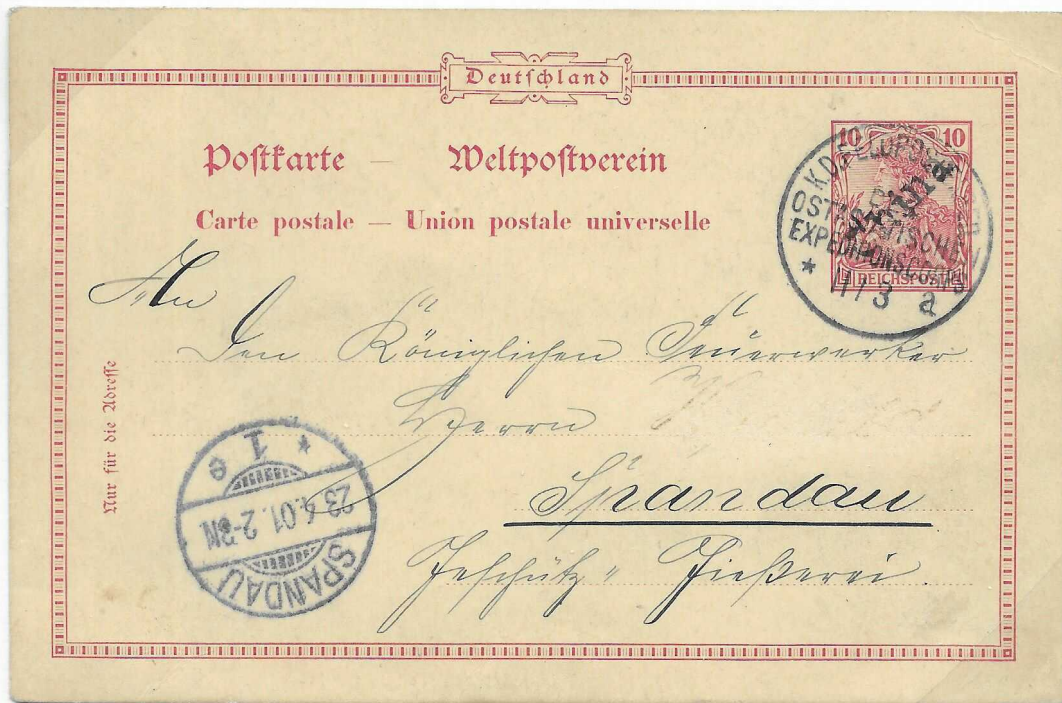




The decision to send field post offices to China created the possibility that valuable postage stamps could fall into the hands of the Boxers. As a result, in 1900 the Reichsdruckerei in Berlin prepared a series of trial overprints on mark value stamps, the theory being that if any of the stamps were captured by the insurgents, they could be demonetized. Because the early battlefield successes of the Allies made it unlikely that stamps would fall into Boxer hands, the idea of overprints was dropped. Only this one set of seven stamps, each different in denomination or in the size or color of the overprint, is in private hands.

**CHINA
Boxer Uprising**

Tientsin Postmaster Provisionals



Supplies of Numeral & Eagle "China" overprints were exhausted in the Tientsin post office in November (50 pf.) and December 1900. However, the Germania "China" overprints would not be available until February 1901, so unoverprinted Germanias were used to bridge the gap. However, the German post office in China accepted Chinese dollars at 2.50 marks per dollar while these traded at 2 marks on the open market. Thus, the purchase of unoverprinted stamps would have resulted in a windfall of 25% if shipped back to Germany. Therefore, the Tientsin postmaster ordered his new Germania stamps overprinted with a wooden handstamp reading "China."

CHINA
Boxer Uprising

Tientsin Postmaster Provisionals



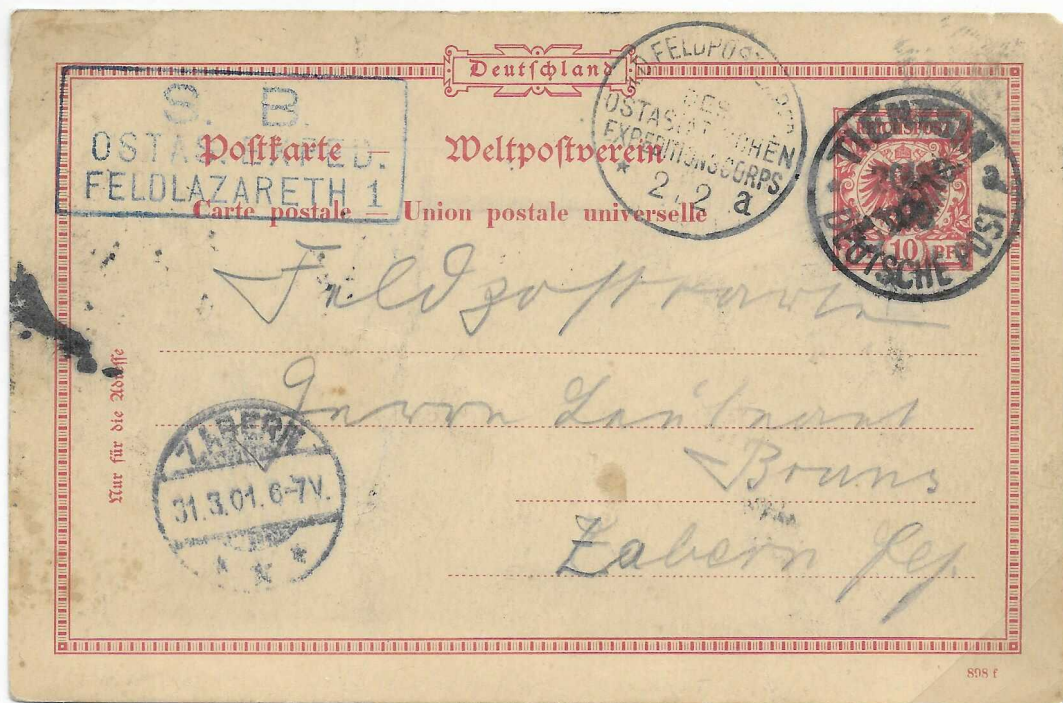
The quantities produced of the Tientsin overprints were: 10 pf., 4,000; 5 & 20 pf., 2,000 each; 3 pf., 1,000; 30, 50 and 80 pf., 300 each. These also remained valid for postage until 31 December 1902. On cover usage of the higher values is very scarce, with overfranking being the norm.

Reportedly the only example of a 5 pf. postal card with Provisional Overprint used in period.



Several other items that were overprinted by the Tientsin postmaster, presumably by favor, have not achieved catalogue status. These include the 5 pf. Germania card shown above (signed by Friedemann).

Reportedly the only example of a 10 pf. Eagle design postal card with Provisional Overprint.



Among the other items that were overprinted by the Tientsin postmaster, presumably by favor, that have not achieved catalogue status are the 10 pf. Eagle postal card shown above (Jakubek certificate).

BEFUND

Nr. B 1017/2001

für das in der Abbildung gezeigte Prüfobjekt

"Handstempel-Karte 10 Pfg. (Krone/Adler)

Den auf separatem Beiblatt - vorder- und rückseitig - durch Kontrollfotos dokumentierten Beleg kann ich wie folgt beurteilen:

- 1.) Sämtliche auf der Karte vorhandenen Stempelabdrucke stammen nach meinem Dafürhalten von den amtlich verwendeten Stempeln.
- 2.) Bei dem Beleg handelt es sich um eine sogenannte "Souvenirkarte". Die "Herstellung" des Stückes erforderte notwendige Verbindungen zu den entsprechenden Postbediensteten. Die unterschiedlichen Stempeldatierungen sind u.a. ein Kriterium dafür. In diesem Zusammenhang ist darauf hinzuweisen das der Handstempel "China" und der Tagesstempel von TIENTSIN auch auf der 2 Pf. REICHSPOST und auf chinesischen Postwertzeichen bekannt sind.
- 3.) Die "fetten" Abdrucke des Handstempel "China" und des Tagesstempel von TIENTSIN sind auf Marken der Aushilfsausgabe belegt.
- 4.) Nach meiner Kenntnis befand sich in den Prüfunterlagen von Georg Richter (Berlin) eine vergleichbare "Blanko-Karte" mit "fetten" Abdrucken vom Handstempel "China" und dem Datumsstempel TIENTSIN.
- 5.) Für mich besitzt das Stück durchaus eine philatelistische Bedeutung. Dies ist allerdings persönliche Ansichtssache.

Oelboehm, den 3. Januar 2001

