

LEGATION GUARDS - PEIPING  
Inbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Peiping  
15 October 1933

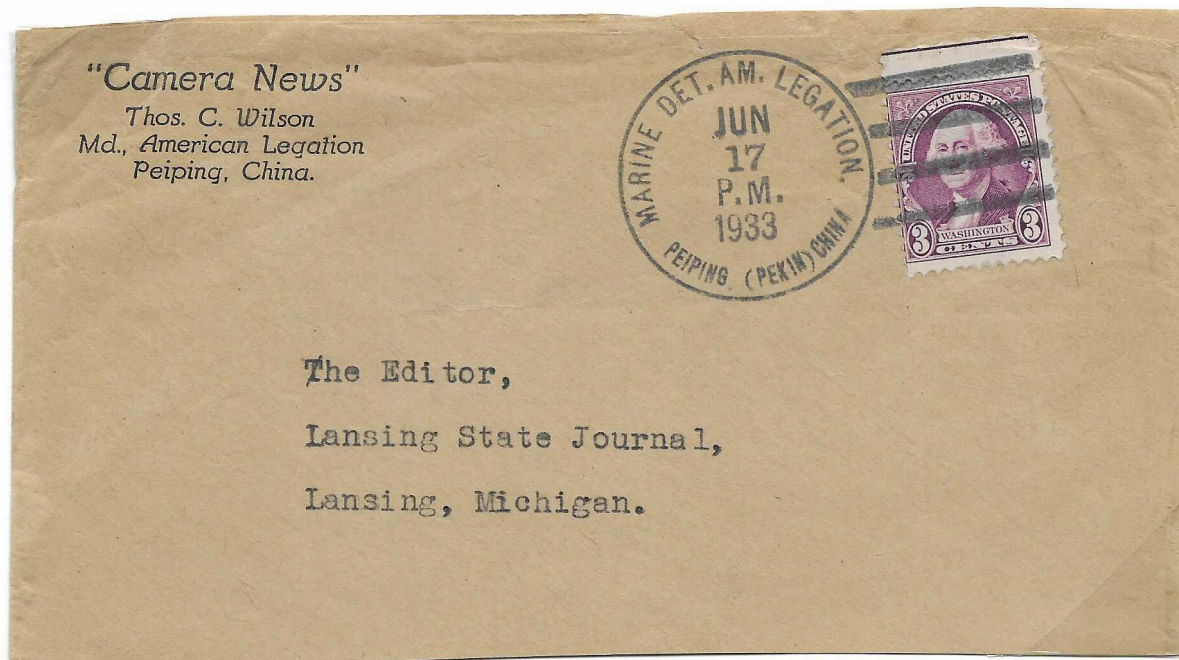


Metered business envelope addressed to a Corporal in the Marine Barracks at Pearl Harbor. Forwarded in manuscript to "M.D.A.L.G. (Marine Detachment American Legation Guard), Peiping, China" and endorsed with 3-line rubber stamp "Change of Address/due to/Official Orders." Postage due of 10 Chinese cents was applied in Peiping but subsequently cancelled when the letter was refused. Subsequently returned to sender in Los Angeles.



LEGATION GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
17 June 1933  
5 February 1934



The initial postmark of the branch post office in the American Legation showed both the new (Peiping) and old (Pekin) names for the city. This marking is recorded as used for nearly four years from 2 February 1932 to 6 January 1936.



**LEGATION GUARDS - PEKING**  
**United States P. O.**

Examples of commercial  
 (from the Post Exchange  
 at the Legation) and  
 official mail sent from the  
 Naval Radio Station at the  
 American Legation.

Peiping  
 26 August 1935  
 6 December 1935

**POST EXCHANGE**  
**MARINE DETACHMENT**  
 AMERICAN LEGATION  
 PEIPING, CHINA.  
 VIA POSTMASTER SEATTLE, WASH.

**NAVY DEPARTMENT**  
**U. S. NAVAL RADIO STATION**  
 PEIPING, CHINA  
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

6598

BUREAU OF ENGINEERING,  
 NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.  
 U.S.A.





LEGATION GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
22 February 1933  
19 October 1934

Registered Mail

Earliest and latest recorded use of this marking



The Legation post office was also equipped to handle registered letters. For this purpose, a special double-ring postmark was used, inscribed with the same wording as the cds for ordinary letters, with the addition of "Registered" at the bottom. The postage was cancelled with some type of killer, being a "bulls eye" of four concentric circles in one case and a large "Cancelled" in the other. Only three registered covers are recorded with this postmark, those shown above being the extreme dates.



LEGATION GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.  
Registry Postmark

Peiping  
2 March 1936  
12 June 1936  
2 March 1937

Earliest and latest recorded use of this marking



73  
0A



Army and Navy Register

Eleventh Street N. W.,

Washington, D. C.



Mr. C. S. Knowlson,  
5649 Angora Terrace,  
32 Philadelphia, Pa.

Only example  
recorded of this  
registration  
marking

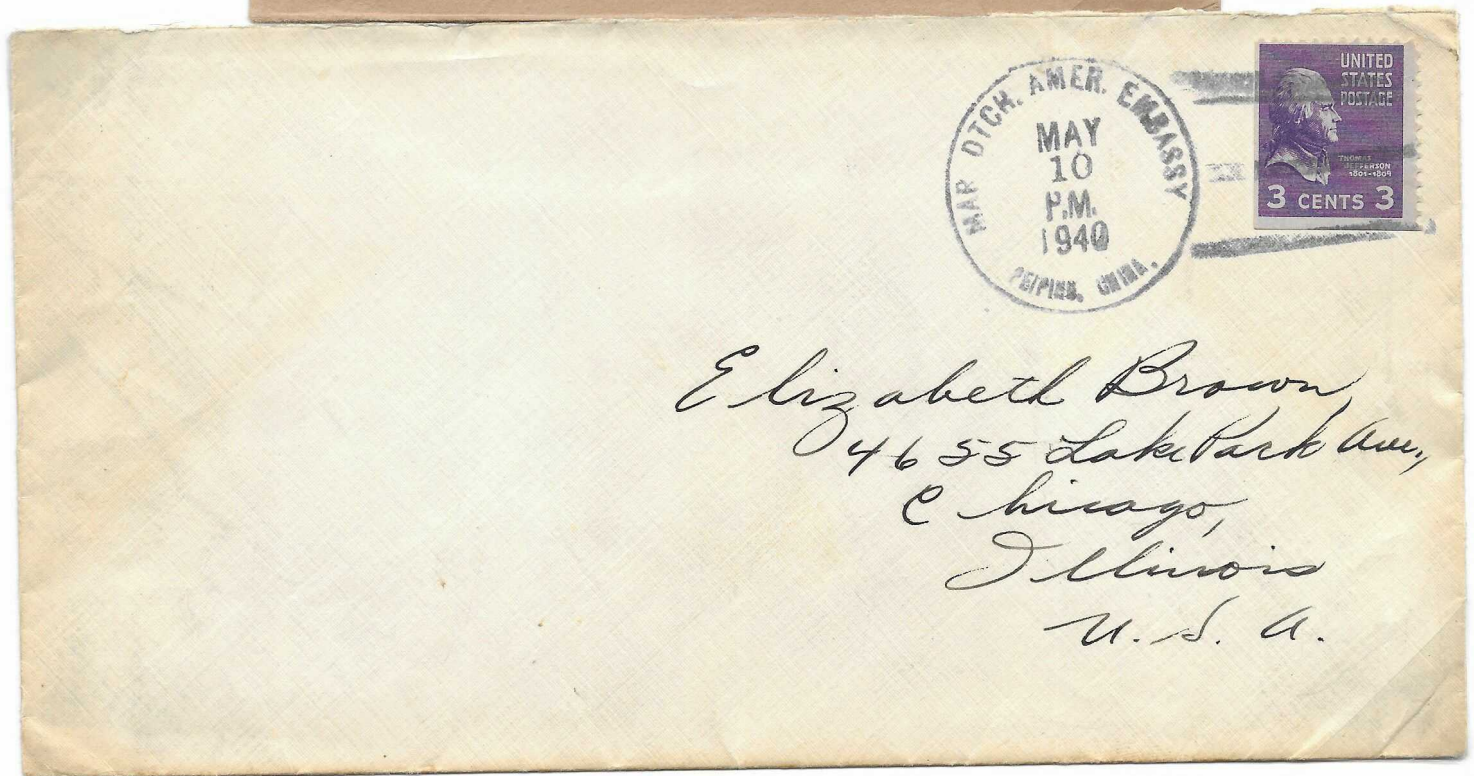
In early 1936, a decision was made that reference to the older "Pekin" designation was no longer required, so a second postmark which merely stated "Peiping, China" was introduced. It is a relatively elusive marking, being recorded as used for only a little over three months from 2 March to 12 June 1936. The companion registration marking has not been seen used on a registered letter, but the example above was struck (probably philatelically) on a postal card, being the only example known to exhibitor.



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
29 June 1936  
10 May 1940

Earliest and latest recorded use of this marking



In mid-1936, the status of the U.S. diplomatic facility in Peiping was upgraded from a Legation to an Embassy. In order to reflect this new status, a third postmark was introduced with appropriate wording. It is recorded as used for nearly four years, with the extreme dates being shown above.

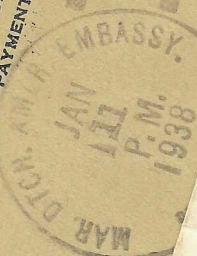


EMBASSY GUARDS - PEKING  
United States P. O.

Peiping  
11 January 1938  
25 July 1939

Examples of commercial  
(from the Naval Attache)  
and official mail sent  
from the Marine post  
office at the American  
Embassy.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



LIEUT. C. E. COFFIN, JR., U. S. NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY, PEIPING  
% POSTMASTER SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

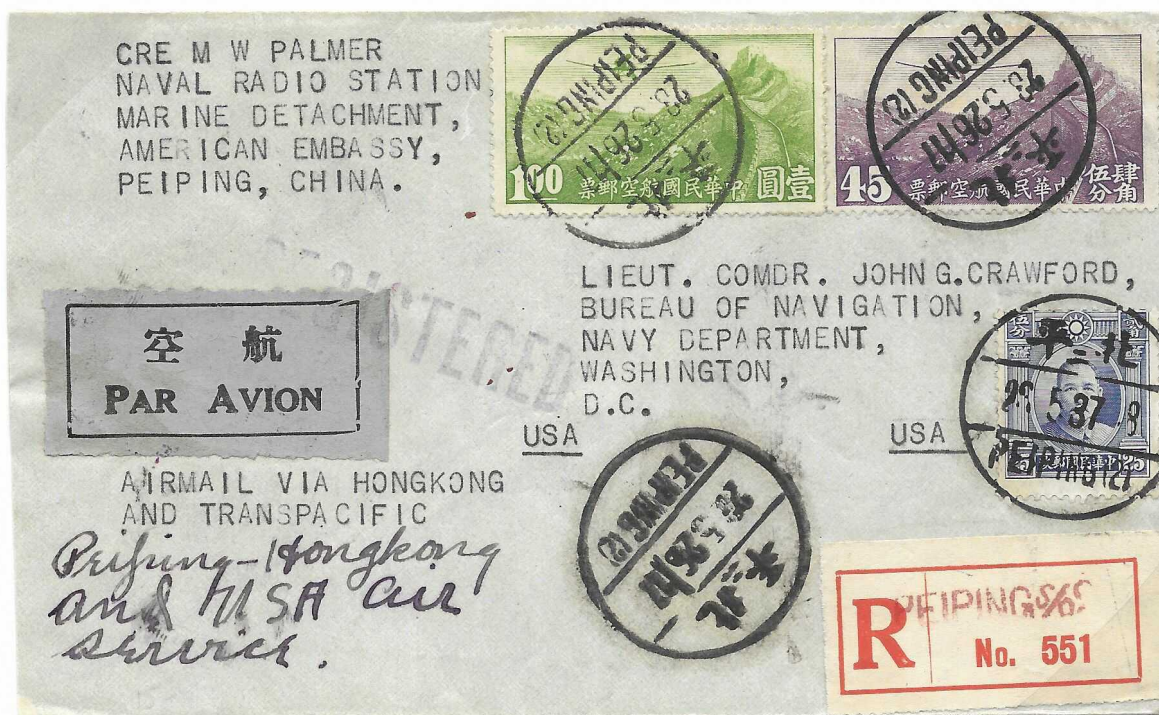


Lieutenant Kemp  
COLLEY, U.S. Navy  
U. S. S. TUTUILA (at Chungking, West China)  
UPPER YANGTZE PATROL  
% US Navy Purchasing Office  
Shanghai

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
Marine Detachment, American  
Embassy, Peiping, China  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Peiping  
23 May 1937



Even after the establishment of a U.S. post office to serve the Marine Guards, mail was still sent through the Chinese postal service. Above cover sent registered airmail by a Navy radioman assigned to the Marine Detachment to the Department of the Navy in Washington. Backstamped for receipt on 6 June, it must have flown on the new Pan Am Clipper route from Hong Kong to San Francisco (inaugurated in April 1937). Franked with \$1.70 in Chinese stamps (\$1.40 airmail plus registration fee).



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
21 November 1937



Only recorded example of this generic two-line marking being used to cancel postage. In this case, it was an unsealed (printed matter) envelope which did not require a dated cancellation.



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEKING  
United States P. O.

Peiping  
3 June 1940  
27 October 1941

Earliest recorded use of this marking

Lieut. C.E.Coffin, Jr., US Navy  
NAVY DEPARTMENT

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE  
PEIPING, CHINA.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Lieutenant Kemp TOLLEY, U.S. Navy  
U. S. Navy Purchasing Office  
Shanghai

From 1st Sgt. Frank Miller, USMC.  
Comp. "A", MD., American Embassy,  
Peiping, China.



FIDELIS

Sgt-Major Alexander, USMC.  
Marine Barracks, Navy Yard,  
Pearl Harbor, T.H.

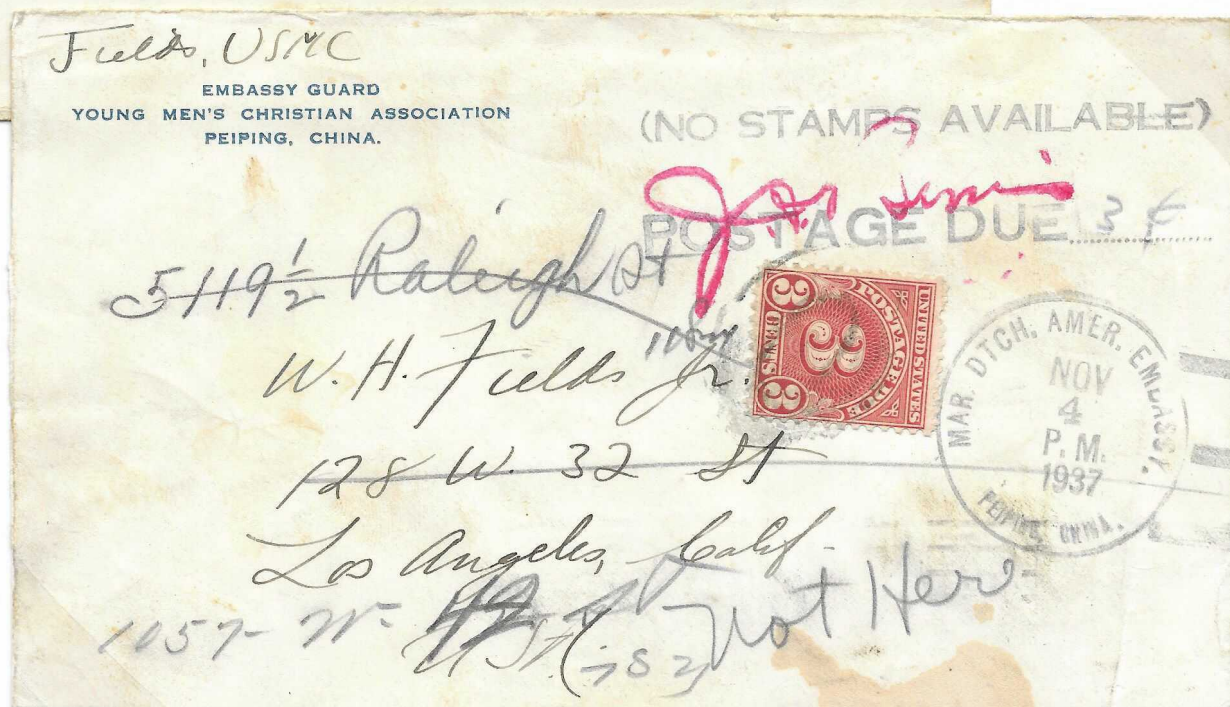
In June 1940, a new cds was introduced with "Peiping, China" in much larger letters. This postmark has been recorded as used from 3 June 1940 (above) until 15 November 1941.



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
22 September 1937  
22 November 1937

No Postage Available



On occasion, the Embassy post office ran short of stamps when demand was unusually heavy or a ship bringing new supplies was delayed in arrival. In those cases, a special marking was applied reading "No Stamps Available/Postage Due \_\_\_\_" and signed by an officer. Above examples show double and single-weight letters.



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
Inbound Mail

Peiping  
10 July 1937  
8 July 1940



Upper example is a well-traveled airmail special delivery cover postcard from Long Beach to San Diego. It was forwarded to the Marine Barracks at the Naval Station in Cavite, Philippines and then to the Marine Detachment at the American Legation (by then the Embassy) in Peiping. There it received markings "(Not in the American Legation Guard)" and "Not in 4th Marines," before being returned to sender. Lower inbound example from Great Britain arrived via the Chinese post office in Peiping.



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
23 October 1941

Official Mail



As before, official mail was handled by the Legation post office without charge, as shown per the above cover to the Washington HQ of the Marine Quartermaster.



EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
United States P.O.

Peiping  
19 February 1938

Registered Mail

Earliest Recorded Use of this Marking



The Embassy post office also handled registered letters. A special double-ring postmark was used, inscribed with the same wording as the cds for ordinary letters, with the addition of "Registered" at the bottom. Only two examples have been recorded, of which this is the earliest.

EMBASSY GUARDS - PEIPING  
U.S. Naval P.O.

U.S.S. Henderson  
12 May 1938



Posted on U.S.S. Henderson,  
perhaps while sender was on  
leave or on official business  
in Shanghai. On the reverse  
is a transit mark of Chicago  
dated 3 June.