

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Official mail sent by
 Army members from
 Tientsin to the U.S.
 through the Chinese
 post office in Tientsin.
 One from the Judge
 Advocate sent by
 ordinary mail; example
 from the Post Exchange
 sent by registered mail.

Tientsin
 11 January 1920
 14 November 1930



ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Tientsin
21 July 1932
24 July 1933

Mrs Jennie B. Robinson,
STATION HOSPITAL,
U.S. ARMY TROOPS IN CHINA,
TIENTSIN, CHINA.

R TIENTSIN
No. 14373



Clara Querean R.N.
The University of the state of New York,
State Education Department,
Albany New York.

John J. Cuddy

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY TROOPS IN CHINA
TIENTSIN, CHINA



Mr. John W. Matera,

School Street,

Thorndike, Massachusetts

U.S.A.



There was apparently sufficient need for health services among the troops that a hospital was operated on the Tientsin station. Examples of registered and ordinary letters sent through the Chinese postal service are shown.

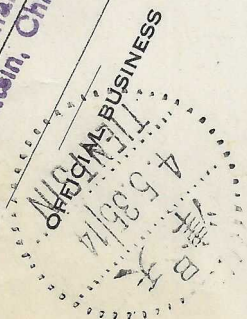
ARMY TROOPS - TIENSIN
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Tientsin
4 May 1935



The Army and Navy Register,
511 11th St., N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Hq. U. S. Army Troops in China.
Office of the Finance Officer,
Tientsin, China.



Official business cover sent from Tientsin. However, the official nature of the correspondence did not exempt the letter from Chinese postage, which was paid at the international rate of 25 Chinese cents.

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Tientsin
6 July 1937



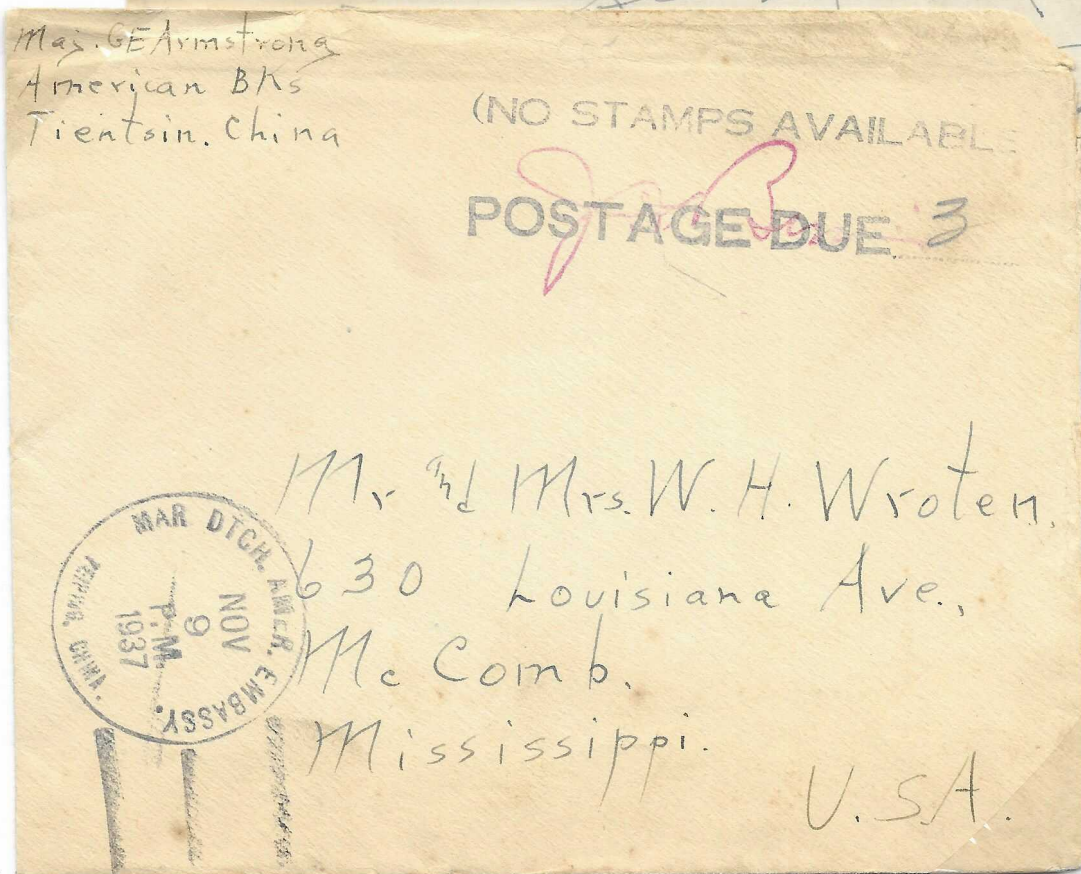
Official business cover sent from HQ in Tientsin to the Commanding General of U.S. troops in the Philippine Islands. Sent by airmail from Tientsin via Shanghai and Hong Kong to Manila, where it was backstamped for receipt 15 July. Postage paid was \$2.85 Chinese.

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Sent via Marine P.O. in Peiping

Peiping
22 September 1937
9 November 1937



Maj. G. E. Armstrong
American Bks
Tientsin, China



War between Japan and China broke out on 7 July 1937, and Japanese forces occupied both Peiping and Tientsin in that same month. At that point, it was considered safer to deliver the Army mail to the Marine P.O. in the American Embassy in Peiping, where it could be sent on to the U.S. by diplomatic pouch. In the following year, the Army garrison in Tientsin was withdrawn back to the United States.

ARMY TROOPS -CHINWANGTAO
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

One small detachment (consisting of Companies K and M of the 15th Infantry) was stationed at Chinwangtao near the Manchurian border. The long cover represents early registered mail from the 15th Infantry and was carried by military courier to Tientsin, where it was mailed through the civil P.O.

Tientsin
 13 August 1916

Chinwangtao
 9 July 1931



Small cover mailed to Denmark from Chinwangtao. The international letter rate of 25 cents Chinese was paid by an adhesive of that denomination.

ARMY TROOPS -CHINWANGTAO
Outbound & Inbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

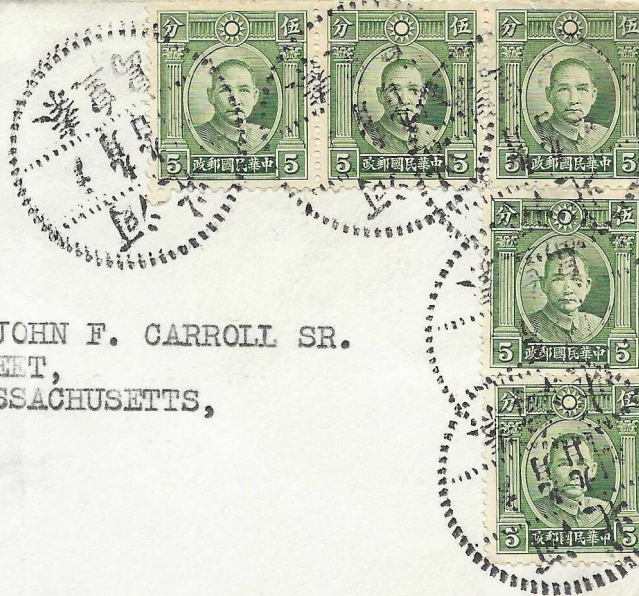
Chinwangtao
ca. 1935

Tientsin
29 June 1933

W. E. CARROLL, U. S. MARINES
PERMANENT DETACHMENT,
CAMP HOLCOMB,
CHINWANGTAO, CHINA.

MR. & MRS. JOHN F. CARROLL SR.
95 ADAMS STREET,
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS,
U. S. A.

VIA SIBERIA



Drukwerk
Post Card

CORRESPONDENCE

*to K. E. Goh
of Firma Fidelitas
No 10 Pous Pous - Plein
Batavia - E.
(para)
K. E. G.*

Batavia June 10 1933

Mr. J. S. Coney
American Barracks,
Tientsin, Hopeh.,
(North - China.)

片寄中国天津

津天
29. 6. 33. (5)
TIENTSIN

U. S. Army
Chin Wang Tao.

Upper cover mailed by a member of the Permanent Detachment in Chinwangtao via the local post office, with postage of 25 cents Chinese being paid by appropriate adhesives. Below is a picture postcard mailed as printed matter from Batavia, Netherlands East Indies with postage of three Dutch Indies cents affixed on the picture side. Addressee was a member of the American Army in Tientsin who had been assigned to Chinwangtao; a previously unrecorded forwarding marking was applied.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE -- SHANGHAI

A second naval activity in China was the Navy Purchasing Office which provided food, fuel and other supplies for the gunboats and other U.S. warships making port-of-call stops in Shanghai. Although a purchasing agent was reportedly on duty as early as 1923, the first recorded use of a special postmark was 31 July 1928. This office closed on 17 August 1940.

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
22 August 1929

UNITED STATES NAVY
PURCHASING AND DISBURSING OFFICE
SHANGHAI, CHINA
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for private use to
avoid Payment of postage
\$300.00



COMMANDER IN CHIEF

U S ASIATIC FLEET

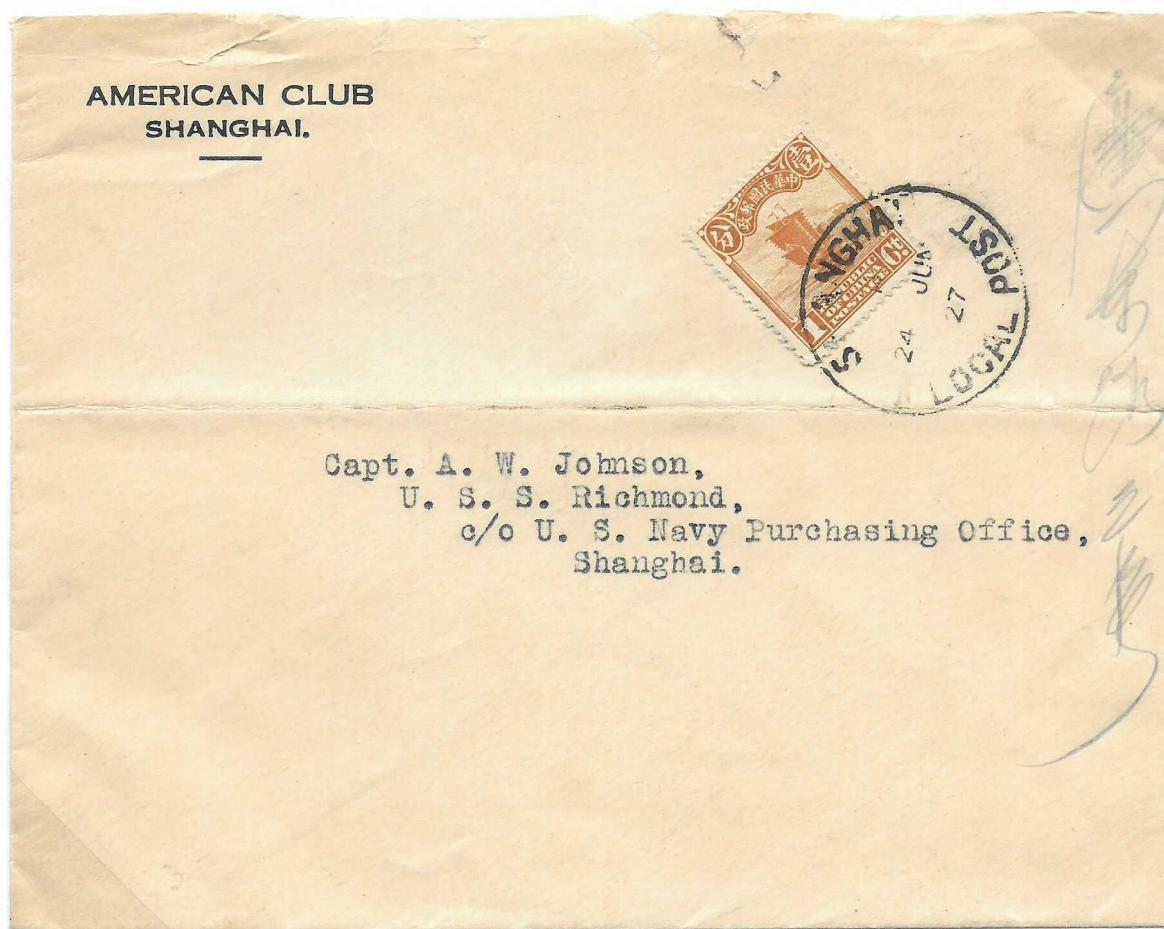
U S S PITTSBURGH

There were three distinctly different postmarks used on ordinary mail by the Purchasing Office, plus some minor variations of one of them, which are shown subsequently.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE
Inbound Mail through Chinese P.O.

Shanghai Local Post
24 June 1927

Only Example of Local Post Marking on
American Intervention Mail

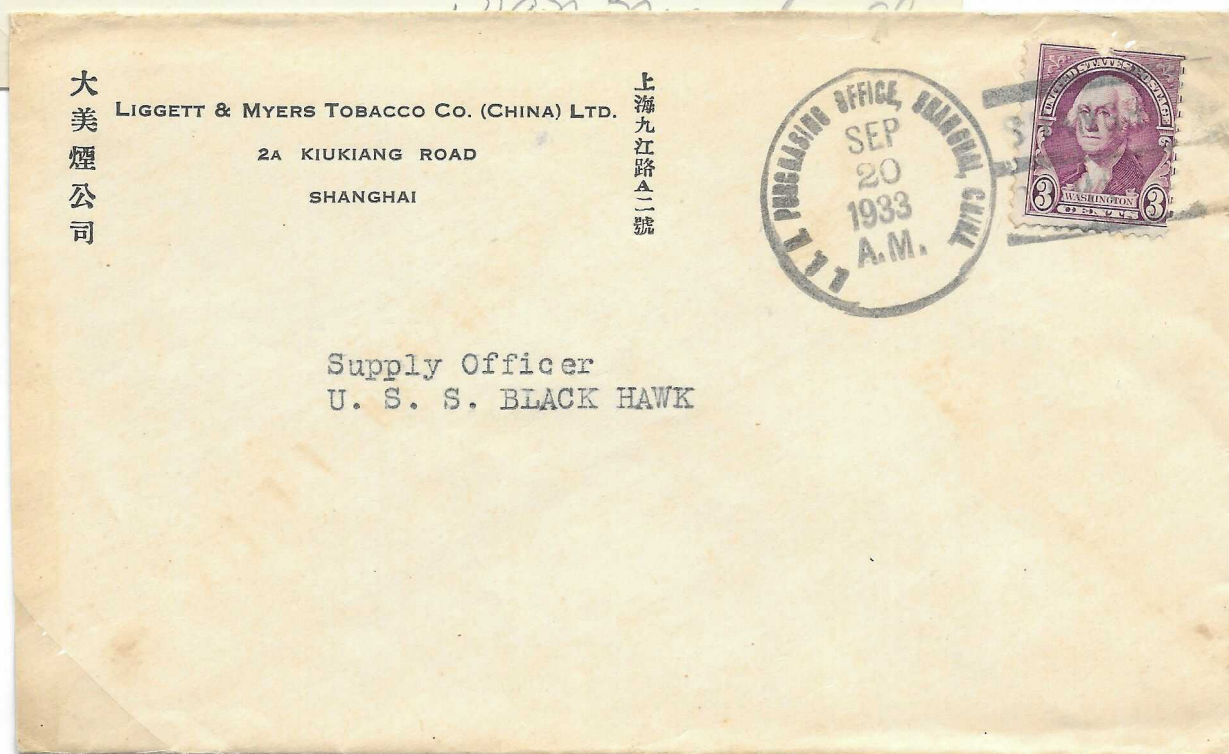


This letter sent within Shanghai from the American Club to the *U.S.S. Richmond* care of the Navy Purchasing Office. A fee of 1 Chinese cent was paid for local delivery.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
23 January 1931
20 September 1933

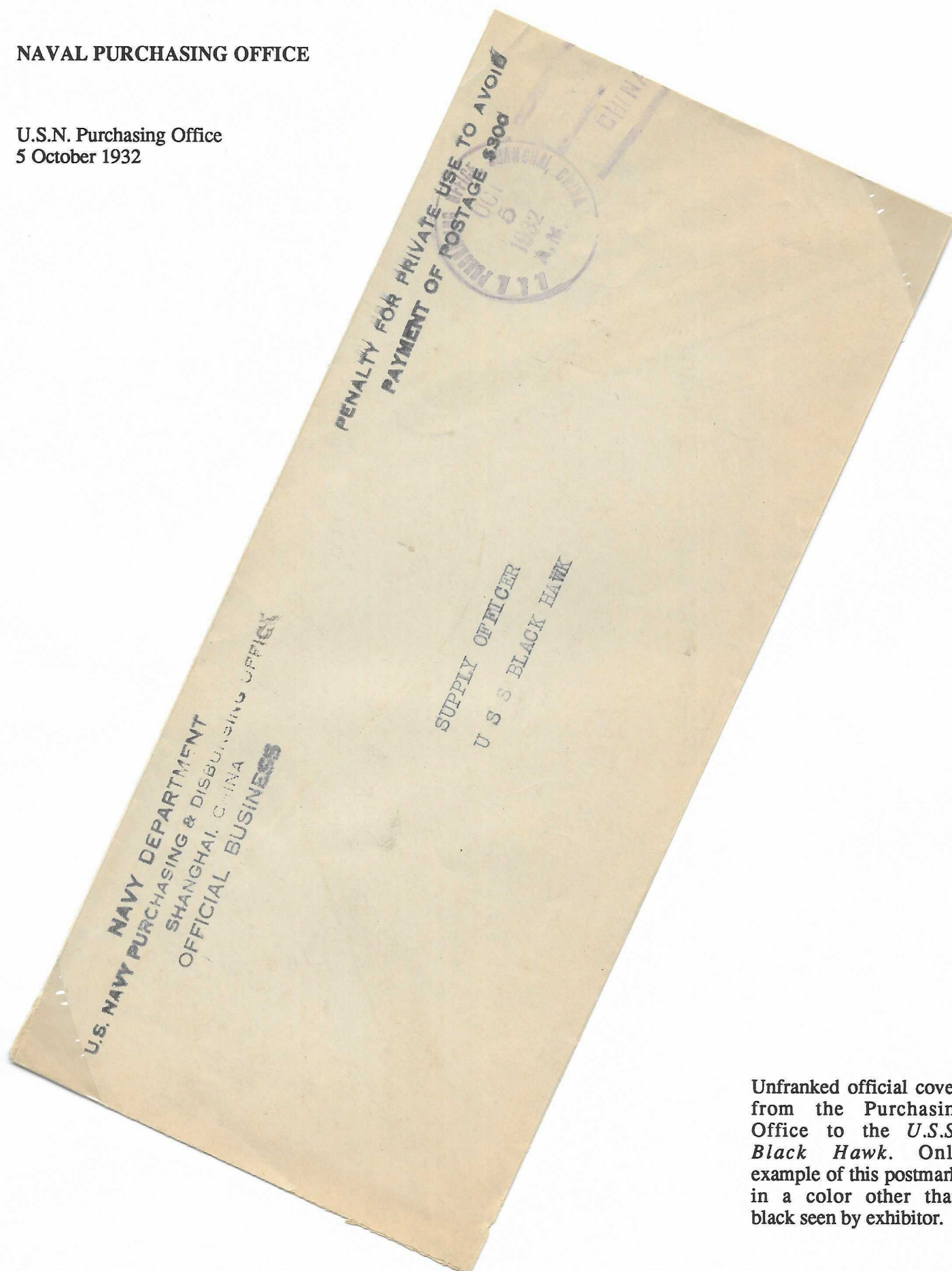
Earliest and Latest Recorded Examples of This Postmark



In early 1931, a second postmark with the wording in a continuous circle was introduced. Shown above are the extreme dates of use of this marking.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
5 October 1932

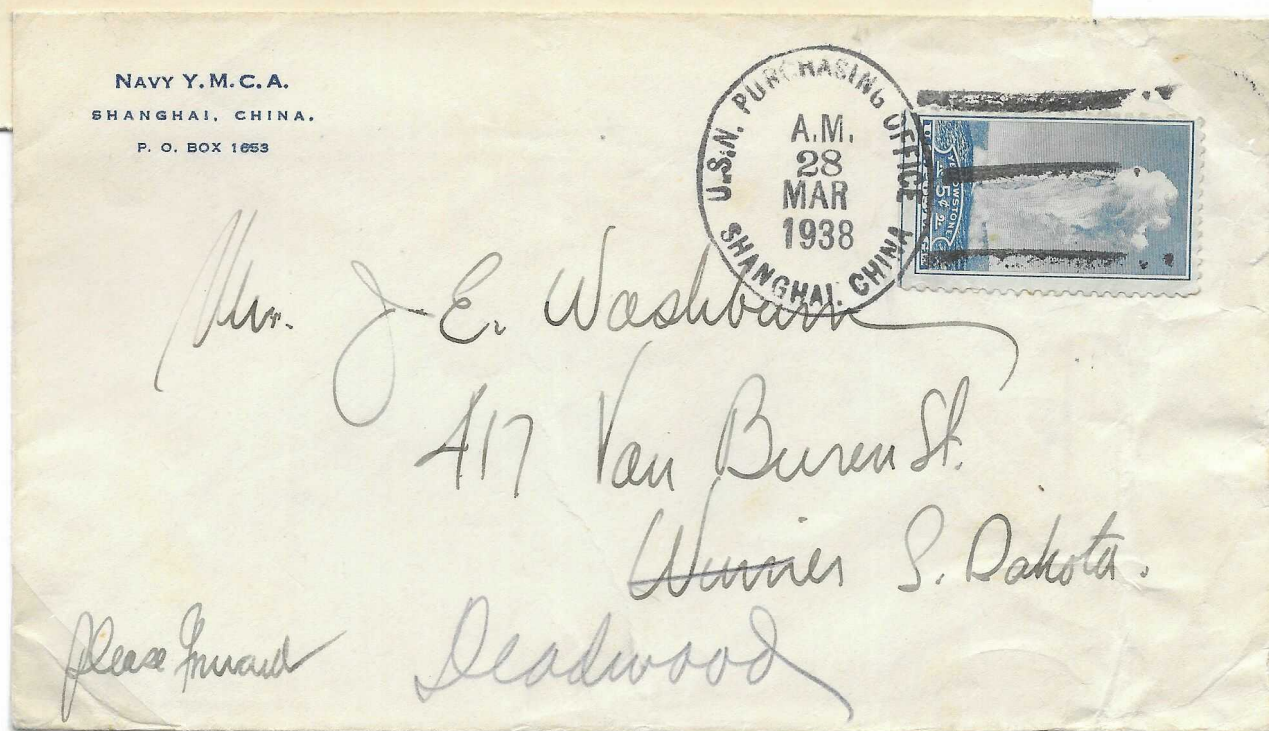


Unfranked official cover from the Purchasing Office to the *U.S.S. Black Hawk*. Only example of this postmark in a color other than black seen by exhibitor.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
3 April 1934
28 March 1938

Earliest and Latest Recorded Examples of This Postmark

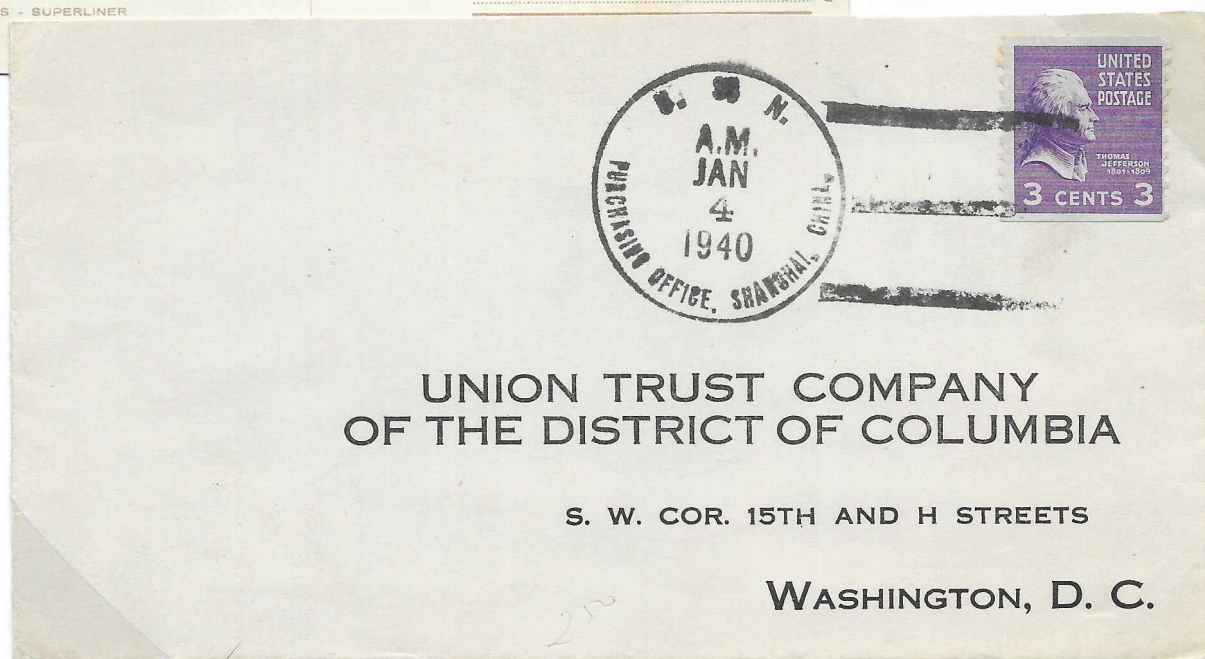


A second version of the initial Purchasing Office postmark, but without comma at the end of "Office" and with comma between Shanghai and China, was used between 1934 and 1938. Note that the cds had assumed an oval shape toward the end of this period, possibly due to becoming overheated in the sunlight.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
26 May 1936
4 January 1940

Earliest and Latest Recorded Examples of This Postmark



A third different postmark of the Purchasing Office, with only "U.S.N." at the top of the cds, was used between 1936 and 1940, sometimes with a slogan between the killer bars.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE
Registered Mail

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
18 January 1929
24 March 1931

Earliest and latest recorded usage of this marking



The first version of the special double-circle marking for registered letters had its wording entirely in upper case letters. However, it was soon replaced by a postmark using both upper and lower case letters, thus is seldom seen.

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
30 October 1934
10 November 1937
17 August 1940



Last Day of Use
of Purchasing
Office Postmark

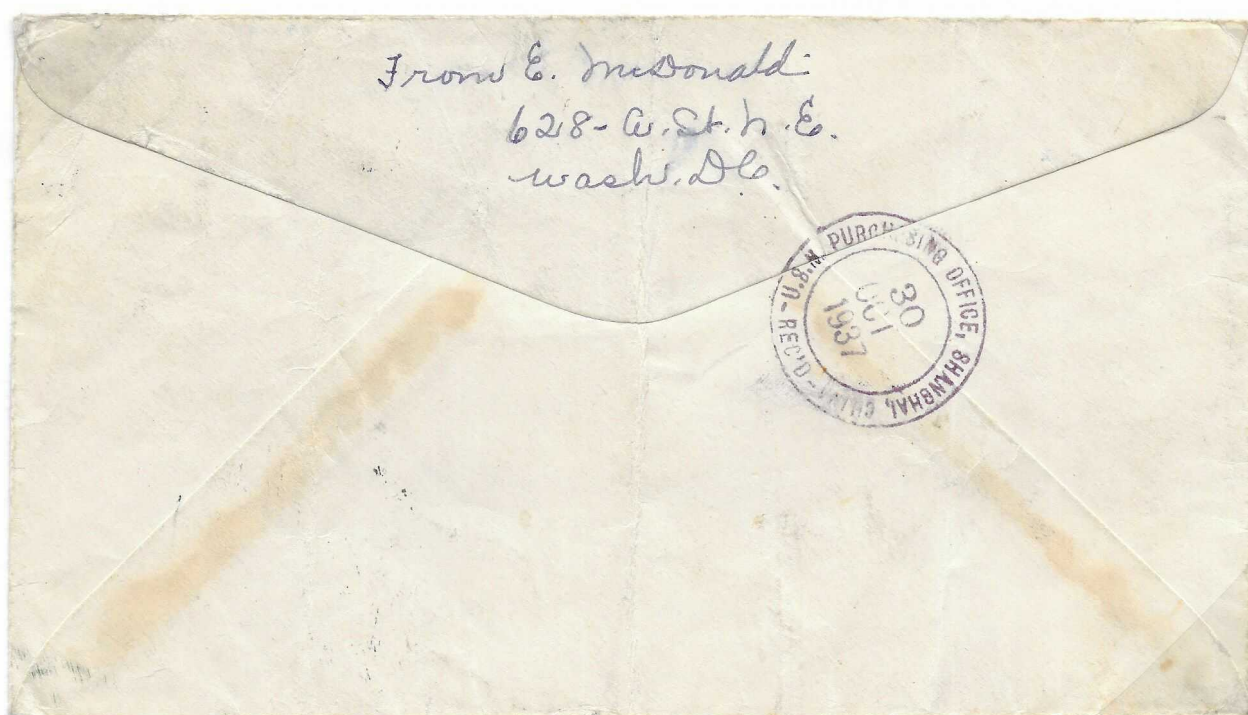


These covers show examples of the registration marking with upper and lower case letters. The first is on an inbound registered letter from the Philippines; the second on an outbound letter to San Francisco. Lower cover is highly philatelic, no doubt sent over to be postmarked on the last day of operation. However, it has an example of the third minor version of the regular postmark, with periods after "Office" and "China."

NAVAL PURCHASING OFFICE

U.S.N. Purchasing Office
30 October 1937

Only Recorded Example of Receiving Postmark



Special double-circle markings were provided for use on inbound mail and registered letters. The receiving mark shown above has its wording entirely in capital letters.