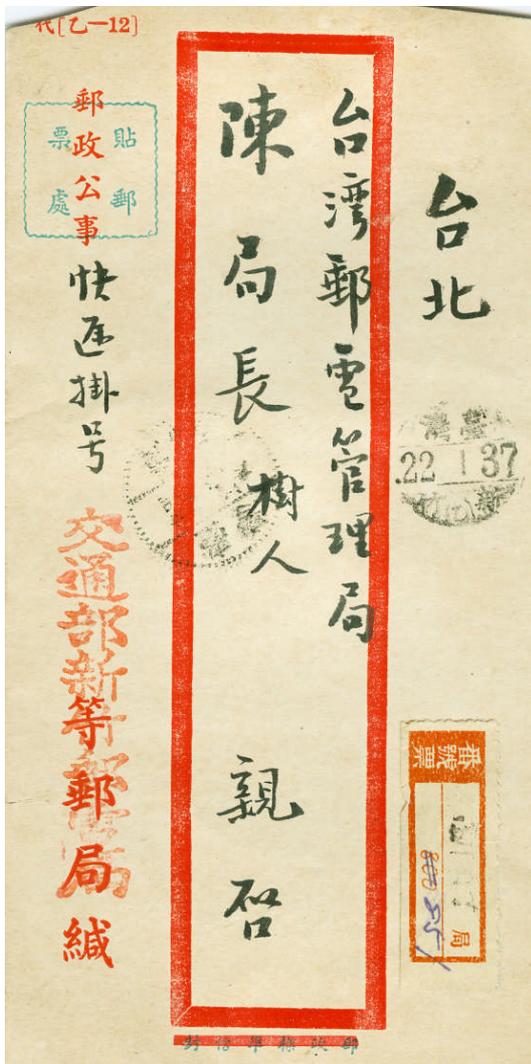


EARLY TAIWAN POSTOFFICE BUSINESS ENVELOPE

Ai Li-Shan

When postal officials took control of the post offices in Taiwan after the end of World War II, the on hand postal forms, labels and cancels continued to be used for a short period of time. In the case of the cancels, many were still in use in 1948, being gradually replaced with the larger cancel of 28 mm.

When the postal officials arrived in Taiwan they brought with them forms and envelopes necessary to convert the postal system. I have never been able to get a list of the officials sent from China to carry out this task. We now know at least one, perhaps two of them. Many years ago I acquired a cover that was used in Taiwan for official post office business. It is one of the envelopes brought from China for use in Taiwan (fig. 1)



New form number (in red)

Upper left corner box (in blue) place stamp here
Upper left corner (4 red characters) Postal Business

Addressed to: Mr. Chen Shu-Jen, Postmaster, Taipei,
Taiwan Postal Telegraph Administration Bureau

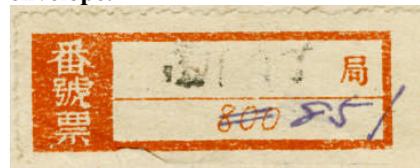
Hsinchu cancel, 1948.1.22 (22 mm in diameter)

Taipei receiving cancel, not clear but appears to be 1.24
(cancel 26 mm in diameter)

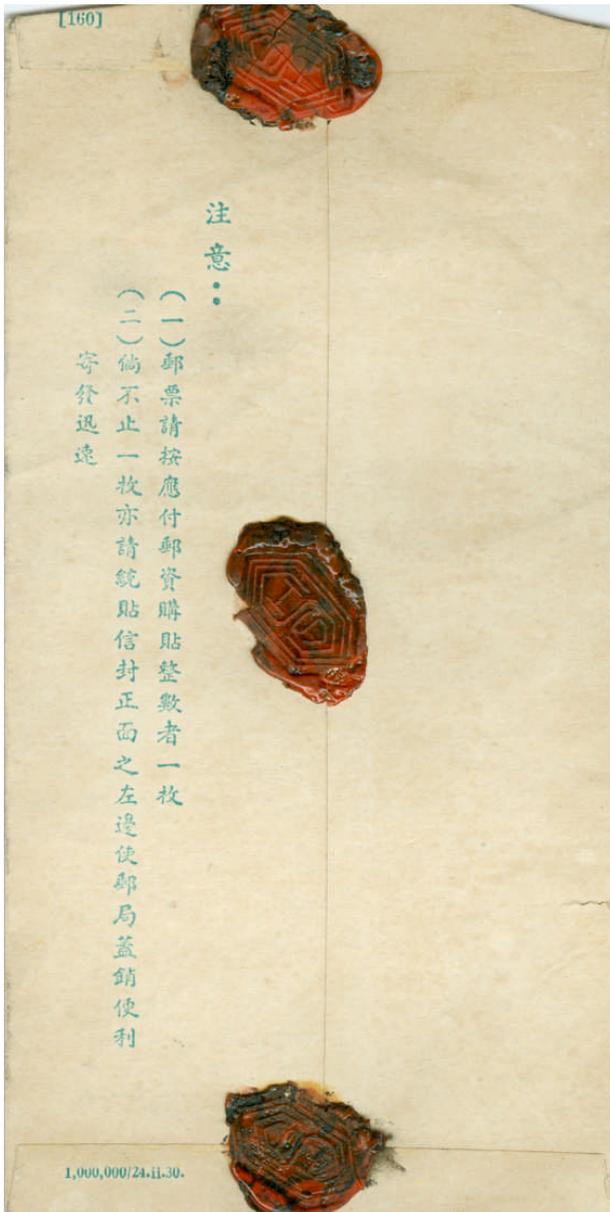
Hand stamped in red - 8 characters - Communication
Department Hsinchu Postal and Telegram Office.

four characters - printed dark red - Post Office

At the bottom of the envelope, the 6 characters in blue
(which has been blotted out with a red bar) reads
standard envelope.



Japanese registered label printed in orange, hand
stamped Hsinchu in black at the top. The printed
number has been changed to handwritten 851



Previous postal form number (160)

Printed in blue: reading right to left

Note:

1. Please use proper postage - only one stamp.
2. If you cannot use one stamp, please use the other stamps on the front left side for the convenience of the post office in cancelling them.

bottom of envelope in blue - 1,000,000/24.ii.30.
(1941.Feb 24)

Personal seals:



Personal seal "S.H"

This is the seal of Sigfried Hopstock, an employee of the Directorate General of Posts sent to Taiwan to establish the Chinese Postal Service.

It is known from other covers that Mr. Hopstock was assigned to Taiwan in 1946, possibly early in the year. He wrote many letters to his wife and daughter living in Santa Monica, California during this time. Many of them had the Japanese stamps overprinted for use in Taiwan Province.

A little background for Mr. Hopstock - he was born at Christiania, Oslo, Norway on March 5, 1897. He joined the Customs Service about 1920-21, and married an American woman about 1925. Their only daughter Madeleine, was born in Shanghai in 1926. The census rolls of 1940 picked them up as living in Santa Monica, California. After his name was entered "CHINA" indicating he was in China at that time. So far, I am unable to find out more information about his service in China and Taiwan, except that he probably stayed in Taiwan until 1950, then retired and emigrated to the United States. However, these dates remain to be confirmed. There is a publication "Norwegian Members of the Chinese Customs Service" that was private published in China in 1937. If one could find this obscure publication, I am sure it would be helpful.