

OBSCURER TAIWAN POSTAL FORGERY

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All of us are aware of the constant barrage of forgeries that are being produced. However, when we consider the number that was actually produced to defraud the postal system, the number is indeed very small. I can only think of less than 10 that might fit in this category.

On September 28, 1965, the Directorate General of Posts in Taipei released a stamp for Mencius. The stamp was engraved and issued in sheets of 50 (10 x 5) with the face value of NT\$3.60. This denomination was no doubt for a very specific class of mail that combined other services since the domestic letter rate at that time was \$1.00.

The only mention that I have seen concerning a forgery is a note after the listing in the Scott catalog that states "Forgeries exist". What makes this forgery so interesting is that an effort was made to add the "Yu" watermark as in the original. Figure 1 is the lower left corner block of the forgery. A vertical pair of the original issue is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1 Forgery



Figure 2 Genuine

Figure 3 shows the watermarks that have been added. They are faint but have been darkened to highlight the marks. The perforation of the original is 12, while the forgery is 13.5. As to the thickness of the paper, the original is .0036 inches, the forgery .0048 inches. Both were issued without gum.



Figure 3 Forged “Yu” watermark

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