

MISSENT COVERS

Ai Li-Shan

Many of us are familiar with the return to sender covers, but probably far less are familiar with the "Missent Covers". It is rather simple to obtain a "Return to Sender" cover from most countries - matter of fact in some cases first flight covers are marked as such - usually unclaimed. It is much different with the covers that have been "missent" by the post office!

I have been watching for these covers for the past few years, but have had only a very limited success with those marked from China or Taiwan. Those from Manila and Bangkok are perhaps the most common - at least those of recent years. It is interesting to note the routing on many of them in that they are sent in the general direction of the destination country. For example, I have seen a cover from Malaysia, missent to Bangkok, when the final destination was in Vietnam. Also seen a cover from Saudia Arabia, missent to Bangkok when the final destination was Australia. I suspect that the postal clerk did not have very many for the final destination and just included in a pouch destined in the general destination.

Here are the two covers that I have found:

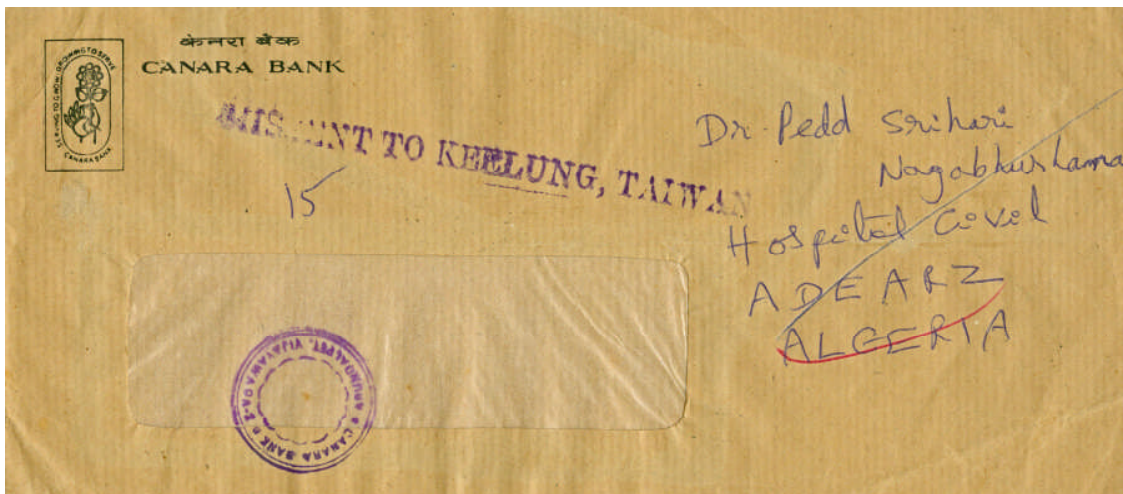


fig 1. Mailed from India 1984.7.30 -- destination?, rerouted to Algeria? No receiving cancels on back.

MISSSENT TO KEELUNG, TAIWAN

fig. 2 "Missent to Keelung, Taiwan" 5 x 107 mm surface mail



fig. 3

Cover mailed from India 1984.12.13, missent to Manila, then missent to Taipei, finally arrived in Korea on 1984.12.24, returned to sender (gone away) on 1985.1. 22. There was no return address on the cover, so an arrow indicated return to the mailing office.

MISSENT TO TAIPEI

fig. 4 4.5 x 42 mm

Please note - there is no receiving or dispatching cancels from the offices that processed the mail on the way to the final destination. So far, other countries (Bangkok) also followed this procedure.

If you have any covers to add, please send your scans to the Editor.