

# POSTAL USAGE TAIWAN COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

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The collecting of commemorative cancels on postal cards has always been popular in Taiwan. This was especially true of the earlier period, especially during the 1959-62 period. During this period a tremendous number of cards received the cancels. It was not unusual to collect the complete dates of an event, so you can imagine an event of 30 days required some effort to go daily and get a card(s) cancelled. These cards often had the cancel in black, with no figures only the text and date. Even today these cards are readily available on the market.

However, during this period very few of the cards were actually mailed at the Post Office. In all my years of collecting Taiwan, I have perhaps seen less than 12 of the cards actually mailed. I suspect that few people are aware of the differences in the cancels themselves. In most cases, there was a cancel for “Philatelic” cancels to void the card and a cancel used to actually mail the card. In most cases the “Philatelic” cancel had the character Kuei 癸.

When a card was actually mailed at the counter, it usually received the character Jia 甲.

However, from the figures below, you will see exceptions. One thing is certain - officially the use of the character Kuei was never used in a postal cancel. Saying this, you no doubt can find an exception where in fact the wrong cancel was applied. However, this is an exception. One might also keep in mind, it is simple to address a card later, as if it had been mailed. Such an item would of course be suspect. As far as I know, there is few of the postal used cards on the market.

## FREEDOM DAY



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1c



Fig. 1b Philatelic cancel 癸



Fig. 1d Mail counter cancel 甲

This is the most common combination.

### KEELUNG CITY – 11th ATHLETIC MEET



Fig. 2 Both types of cancels on one card



Fig. 2b Philatelic cancel 癸



Fig.2c Mailed – no character

The figure 2 is an example of both types on one card, the non-philatelic used to cancel the indicia.

# MISS CHINA PAGENT



Figure 3a



Figure 3c



Fig. 3b Philatelic cancel 癸



Fig. 3d Mail counter cancel 甲

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – 2nd MEETING



Figure 4a



Figure 4c



Fig. 4b Philatelic cancel

癸



Fig. 4d Mail counter cancel

甲

### DOMESTIC PRODUCTS EXHIBITION



Figure 5a



Figure 5c



Fig. 5b Philatelic cancel

癸



Fig. 5d No character

In figure 5d, the character for “9” which signifies Temporary Post Office number 9, has been shifted to the bottom of the cancel.

Hopefully, this short article will help you determine if the cover or card with these cancels are actual postal usage or not. I am sure there are many other variations waiting to be found.