



RUSSIAN-POST-OFFICES-IN-CHINA STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

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Cover image: The cover image shows Jo Bodeon, a back-roper in the mule room at Chace Cotton Mill. Burlington, Vermont. This and other similar images in this book were taken by Lewis W. Hine, in the period between 1908-1912. These images as well as social campaigns by many including Hine, helped to formulate America's anti-child labour laws.

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STAMPS AND POSTAL
HISTORY OF
RUSSIAN POST
OFFICE IN CHINA

Kalgan

Zhangjiakou (Kalgan) is a water-scarce city was historically the chief northern gate in the Great Wall to China for Europeans travelling along the Tea Road (such as Ivan Petlin (1619)[1] or Nicolae Milescu).



Figure 1: 10046 KALGAN: 1875 8k Arms with dateless straight-line cancel in double oval (T&S type 1), tiny thin at upper left otherwise fine and very rare. Provenance: Ex Pappadopoulos, Blomfield and Torrey. EU 4,000.00

In August 1211, there raised the Badger's Mount Campaign, Genghis Khan 90,000 strong force destroyed the 450,000 strong Jin Dynasty army. In the 19th century, the town was the seat of a very extensive transit trade. In early autumn long lines of camels would come in from all quarters for the conveyance of the tea chests from Zhangjiakou, the Kalgan, to Kyakhta; and each caravan usually made three journeys in the winter. Some Russian merchants had permanent residences and warehouses just outside the gate. In October 1909, Kalgan was connected by railway with Peking. The 1911 Encyclopædia Britannica noted that, in Kalgan, "the ordinary houses have an unusual appearance, from the fact that they are mostly roofed with earth and become covered with green-sward" and that "on the way to Peking the road passes over a beautiful bridge of seven arches, ornamented with marble figures of animals".

In 1937 the Japanese occupied the region and made Kalgan the capital of the autonomous Cha-nan (South Chahar) Province. The Federated Mengjiang Commission was set up to supervise the economic affairs, banking, communications, and industry of Japanese-occupied Inner Mongolia (Mengjiang).

In the early 1960s at the height of Sino-Soviet tensions, Zhangjiakou was considered one of the most important cities in China for military strategy reasons. Zhangjiakou was aptly nicknamed, "Beijing's Northern Door", because whoever controlled Zhangjiakou was in a good position to either attack (in the case of the Soviets) or defend (in the case of the Chinese) Beijing.



Figure 2: 10047 KALGAN: Selection of stamps with Kalgan cancels incl. piece with four 1k tied by T&S type 2 oval ds, piece with 1k pair tied by type 2 oval ds (unrecorded subtype with month above day), 7k with blue type 2 oval ds (unrecorded subtype with month in Arabic numerals), 2k with type 2 oval ds (unrecorded subtype with right year digits missing and date above month) and a 1R and a 50k with type 2 oval ds (unrecorded subtype with right year digits missing and month above date), some minor faults EU 600.00



Figure 3: 10048 KALGAN: Selection of used stamps incl. 7k with forged T&S type 2 oval ds, type 2 oval ds on piece with 1k and 3k (2) and in red on 2k (only known Kalgan cancel in red), type 3 cds on 7k and "KITAI" 1R and 3R50, and type 5 on piece with Romanov 2k, 3k and 25k, on piece with Romanov 7k, 14k and 15k, and single 3R50, some minor faults EU 400.00



Figure 4: 10049 ZoomKALGAN: 1897 Cover to Sweden with Arms 1k (3) and 7k tied by single circle Kalgan 9.11.97 cds (not recorded by T&S, Casey type 4), sent via Troitskosavsk where it was struck with violet disinfection mark, one of only two known covers bearing this cancel. Note: See the "British Journal of Russian Philately" no.46 (1971) p.6, and 94/65 (2006) p.13 EU 20,000.00



Figure 5: 10050 KALGAN: 1914 Native cover to Peking via Harbin, Manchuria, with ordinary Russian 7k pair tied by Kalgan 7.9.14 cds (T&S type 4, Casey type 7), received at the Russian and Chinese P.O. at Peking after incredible route across Mongolia, Siberia and Manchuria, very rare as no other covers are recorded with this Kalgan cancellation Note: Illustrated BJRP 94/95, p.16 EU 4,000.00



Figure 6: 10051 KALGAN: 1916 Cover registered to the USA, franked on the reverse with War Charity 3k (2) and 7k (2) paying the 10k foreign rate plus reg'n fee, tied by Kalgan 10.7.16 cds (T&S type 5, Casey type 6), opened and resealed by censor at Petrograd, reg'd label on obverse in English, a rare use of the War Charity issue. Note: Illustrated BJRP 94/95, p.17 EU 2,000.00