



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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SHANGHAI_PART1

Shanghai

The earliest surviving mail from Shanghai is an embossed local envelope with additional Russian stamps dated 4.1.97. The Russian Post Office in Shanghai

Despite the fact that the Imperial Russian Post Office had been running a postal service between Kiakhta and the cities of Peking and Tientsin in Northern China since the early 1860's, Russia was the last of the foreign nations to open Postal Agencies in Shanghai: an event that occurred in November 1867.

Dr. Raymond Casey, while researching in Tomsk, found a telegram giving the exact date for the opening of the last three Russian Post Offices to be opened in China. In this context, Dr. Casey comments: "The telegram, which is dated 6th November 1896, is from the Chief of the Russian Postal - Telegraph Administration in St Petersburg (one General Petrov) to the Priamur Governor-General of Eastern Siberia stationed at Kharbarovsk, with copies to other interested parties. The telegram announced that: 'With effect from 19th November, 1896, the Russian Consulates in Chefoo, Shanghai, and Hankow, will accept International Mail Matter' from the general public. This will be taken by ship to Vladivostock and forwarded from there. In addition to Ordinary Mail, Registered Letters could be accepted.'

Contemporary correspondence from these post offices indicates that, by the end of December 1897, the original instructions regarding the transmission of mail matter via Vladivostock had either been withdrawn or were no longer adhered to by these offices, as far as foreign mail to be forwarded westwards was concerned."



Figure 1: 10052 SHANGHAI: 2c Shanghai Local Post embossed stationery envelope with additional Russian 10k, the latter paying the single rate to Germany and tied by Shanghai 4.1.97 cds in purple (T&S type 1) with further strike on reverse, with French paquebot ds ("Ligne N" Yokohama-Marseille No.2 on board SS "Tamise"), Hamburg bs. The earliest known mail from the Russian P.O. in Shanghai EU 4,000.00.



Figure 2: 10053 SHANGHAI: 1897 Cover to England with Arms 7k and 3k tied by double ring Shanghai 24.10.97 cds in blue (T&S type 1), with French paquebot ds adjacent, superb cancellation EU 500.00



Figure 3: 10054 SHANGHAI: 1898 3k Postcard uprated with Arms 1k from NINGPO to Australia, sent via Chinese Imperial Post to the Russian P.O. at Shanghai where it was cancelled with Shanghai 28.10.98 (9.11.98 in Gregorian calendar) cds in violet (T&S type 2), with further Shanghai 14.11.98 (in Gregorian calendar) cds in blue (T&S type 1) before being sent by French paquebot to Hong Kong, then on to Sydney, all transits present, fine and very interesting card

Note: From Feb. 1897 the Chinese Imperial Post abolished the inland charge for carriage of foreign mail, with message on card confirming this fact: "Am writing this on a Russian card and posting it here in this city, if there is anything to pay on it, it will be an overcharge." EU 800.00.



Figure 4: 10055 SHANGHAI: 1900
Cover registered to France with "KITA"
2k, 3k, 5k and 10k tied by Shanghai
26.2.1900 cds (T&S type 1), with rare
registration label in English at lower left
reading "I(mperial). R(ussian). P(ost).
O(ffice). / Shanghai, China," an attrac-
tive franking and rare registered cover
EU 800.00