



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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Russian Post Offices in China

Russian Merchant's Post

The Russian Merchants' (or Mongolian) Post was a private enterprise under the protection of the Russian Government initiated in 1865, about 10 years before the official Russian Post was established in Mongolia and China. A charge for its service was levied on incoming mail, payable by the recipient. From January 1872 such mail received the standard "Doplatit" (to pay) hs.

Earliest Known Cover

The Russian post offices in China were a collection of post offices established by Imperial Russia in various cities of China beginning in 1870.



Figure 1: 10000 QUASI OFFICIAL MERCHANTS POST: 1871 Envelope to Ratibor (Prussia) from the North German Consulate in Tientsin, taken to Peking for conveyance by Russian Merchants' Post to Russian border at Kyakhta, the fee of 30k paid in cash with ms note on reverse, Russian 1k, 3k and 10k pen cancelled by sender for pre-payment of UPU rate from Russia to Prussia, some peripheral wear, still unique and the earliest known cover bearing Russian stamps in China. Note: Described and illustrated in BJRP 94/95 (2006) p.45-46 Currently (SAN)...EU 30,000.00



Figure 2: 10001 QUASI OFFICIAL MERCHANTS POST: 1871 Incoming 10k postal stationery envelope (1863 issue) sent to the Border Commissar at Kyakhta on the Siberia / Mongolia border for transmission to a member of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission at Peking, placed on Postal Wagon No.11-12 (Kiev-Nizhnii-Novgorod), then taken by Merchants' Post across Mongolia to Peking, received 10.8.71 (ms note) Currently (SAN)...EU 1,800.00

Russian Post Offices in China

Russian Embassy Post



Figure 3: 10002 RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN CHINA POST: 1875 (Dec 16) Cover to France incl. contents datelined "Peking, le 16 Dec 1875", carried by the Embassy post from Peking through diplomatic channels to St. Petersburg and on to Vienna, where it was franked with Austrian 10k and put into the normal post, with French transits and reverse with wax nobility seal. Note: This incredible routing is confirmed by the contents which says: "Do not be surprised to see on this letter Viennese postage stamps. I am sending in the winter all my packets by the Russian Courier free to St. Petersburg and from there they are sent on to Vienna". Freezing over of the River Yangtze is given as the reason for this unusual route for this correspondence. Use of the Diplomatic Bag would have been in deference to the sender's status. Provenance: Ex Beckeman EU 4,000.00