



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

Yiannis Lazarides

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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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DR. YIANNIS LAZARIDES

STAMPS AND POSTAL  
HISTORY OF  
RUSSIAN POST  
OFFICE IN CHINA



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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: Estimate: 15'000 EUR Price realised: 20'000 EUR QUASI OFFICIAL MERCHANTS POST: 1871 Cover from Tientsin to Germany, taken to Peking for dispatch by Merchants post as the Russian P.O. was not operating from Tienstin at that time, sent via Kyakhta and Moscow before arriving in Rossleben, originally franked on the reverse with four pen cancelled stamps paying the 30k Merchants rate and 14k from Russia to Germany, before the stamps were removed in transit between Russia and the German border, noted by German inspector who applied "FRANCO" cds with ms "f 2" on front, with ms "China" and arrival cds over traces of stamps on reverse, very fine, also including 1858 perf. 12 1/2 30k with ms "27 July / 1867 / Pekin" cancel.

The earliest known mail from the Russian Post in China and one of the two known cover from the Merchants Post

Note: Described and illustrated in BJRP 94/95 (2006) p.47, Feldman spring 2012





Figure 2: 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 3: 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



Figure 4: Estimate: 3'000 EUR Price realised: 16'000 EUR April 2012 QUASI OFFICIAL MERCHANTS' POST: Incoming 1871 Russian 10k postal stationery envelope from a convent in Orel to a member of the Ecclesiastical Mission at Peking, taken by rail to Nizhnii-Novgorod via Moscow, thence by road to the Mongolian border via Irkutsk (Siberia), transferred to the Merchants' Post at Kyakhta for conveyance by camel and donkey to Peking, with several transit bs, oval tax hs from Kyakhta for 30k Merchants' Post rate plus 50 percent surcharge for underpaid (rated RRR by Hellrigl, possibly unique) Note: Described and illustrated in BJRP 94/95 (2006) p.45-46