

In July 1931, the new Chinese Government supported a  
**BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE GOODS AS A RESULT OF ANTI-CHINESE RIOTS IN  
JAPANESE-OCCUPIED KOREA.**

That situation along with Japanese insinuation of Chinese sabotage to the rail line between Mukden (**THE 'MUKDEN INCIDENT'**) and Port Arthur on the Liaotung Peninsula, Japanese controlled territory, resulted in Japanese Forces (18 September 1931) entering and occupying the eastern Manchurian cities of Antung, Changsun (Hsiking), Kirin & Yinkow along with Harbin by 1932, resulting in interruption of operation on the eastern Chinese & southern Manchurian rail line sections of the trans-Siberian network.

**ON 26 JANUARY 1932, HOSTILITIES ALSO COMMENCED AT SHANGHAI WITH BOMBARDMENT OF THE CITY AND LANDING OF JAPANESE FORCES.**



6 FEBRUARY 1932

Up-rated postal stationery card, postmarked at Shanghai, China,  
with route endorsement

"Via Siberia",

written by a German printer working in Shanghai, sent to his  
brother & sister-in-law at Leipzig, Germany.

"Dear Brother Oscar & Friedel,  
In the meantime, you have, no doubt, heard about the tumult  
in Shanghai. The Japanese took revenge for the loss which they  
had because of the boycott (of Japanese goods).  
The battle is currently continuing. The Japanese are particularly out  
for us at our company, The Commercial Press. It was in flames on the  
first night from bombers. It is, however, our hope that everything is  
fireproof and a lot can be rescued. Since the Commercial Press is  
relatively capital strong, everything will be rebuilt.

I personally have to temporarily suffer. I have moved my apartment  
to the consulate, and when everything is again clear, I shall go back  
to my old apartment. Otherwise I have emerged well from the affair."

"All Russia" Northern Route:

Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) to Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Leipzig

15 Cents...

UPU International Postcard-Rate

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA

1931-1932 ..

1931-1939

Japan-Germany Commercial Mail

PRINTED MATTER  
MAIL

13 DECEMBER 1931

Printed-matter  
cover, postmarked  
at Tokyo, Japan,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
to Górlitz, Germany

Route:  
Tokyo-Vladivostok-  
Tschita-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-  
Berlin-Górlitz

2 Sen..  
International  
printed-matter rate  
for mail weighing up  
to 50 grams.

Yuasa & Co.

GINZA MAIN STREET  
TOKYO, JAPAN



Via Siberia  
シベリヤ經由

Alexander Berezowski

Goerlitz

Germany

PRINTED MATTER  
印刷物

歐  
州  
行

THE HISHIHIRA CO., LTD.  
GENERAL IMPORTERS & EXPORTERS  
P. O. BOX NO. 16  
OSAKA, JAPAN

VIA SIBERIA

Messrs. Vereinigte Schmirgel-u. Maschinen-Fabriken  
Hannover-Hainholz,

Germany.



R OSAKA  
No A 159

A. 7542  
-3 OKT. 32. 10 50

REGISTERED.

REGISTERED MAIL

7 SEPTEMBER 1932

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Osaka,  
Japan, with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
to Hanover-Hainholz,  
26-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hannover,  
3 October 1932"

Route:  
Tokyo-Vladivostok-  
Tschita-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-Hanover

26 Sen ...  
10+6 Sen..  
Double-weight  
(20-40 grams)  
international  
letter-rate +  
10 Sen.. Registry fee

# HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA 1931-1939

British Forces  
'China Garrison'

The 'Boxer Protocol Peace Agreement' signed by China and twelve nations in September 1901 permitted the establishment of foreign garrisons in selected areas of China along with military post offices.

**BRITISH MILITARY POST OFFICES WERE ESTABLISHED AT SHANGHAI IN JANUARY 1926  
(UNTIL 1940) AND AT TIENTSIN (UNTIL NOVEMBER 1937).**

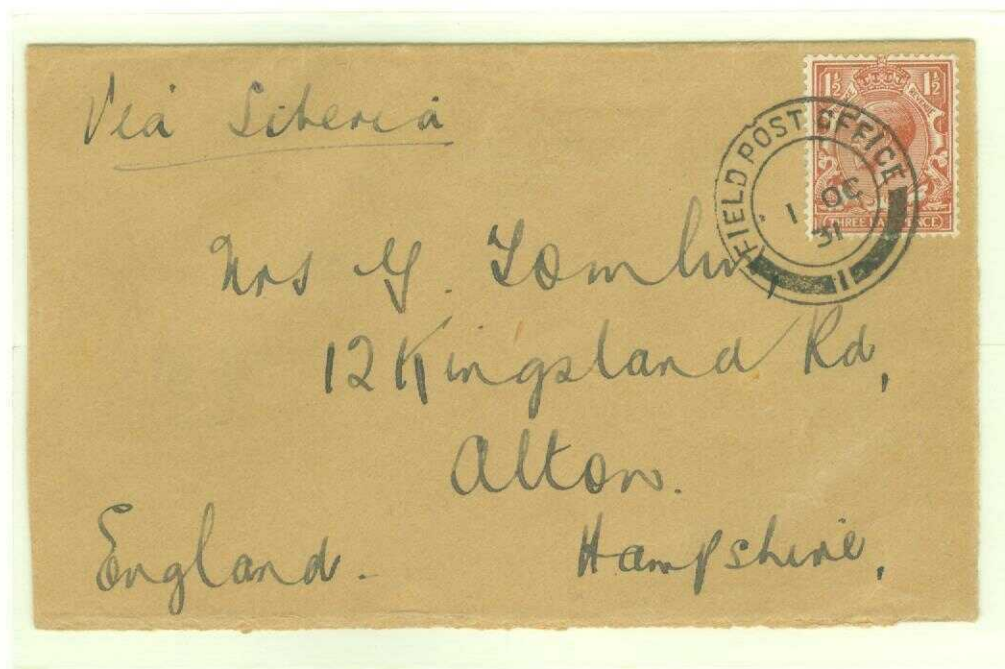
## SOLDIER'S MAIL TO ENGLAND

30 JANUARY 1931

Cover, postmarked at  
"Field Post Office 1"  
with route endorsement  
*"Via Siberia"*  
sent to Alton,  
Hampshire, England.

Probable Route:  
Shanghai-Pukow-Peking-  
Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-Hamburg-  
England

1½ Pence... Military  
concession single-weight  
(to 20 grams)  
letter-rate.



## SAILOR'S MAIL TO ENGLAND

DECEMBER 1933

Cover, written by a sailor  
aboard a British naval  
vessel at Shanghai,  
un-postmarked &  
un-franked with route  
endorsement  
*"Via Siberia"*,  
sent to Plymouth, Devon,  
England, with postage  
& penalty due.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Received from  
H.M. Ships.. London, -  
January 1934"

Probable Route:  
Shanghai-(by sea)  
Dalny-Vladivostok-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-  
Hamburg-London

3 Pence Postage Due:  
1½ single-weight letter  
+ 1½ penalty



HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

French Forces'  
'China Garrison'

In addition to British Forces remaining in China after the Boxer Conflict, French Forces remained retaining their military post offices at both Shanghai & Tientsin as well as aboard their Yangtze River Fleet and at Shaameen Island, Canton.



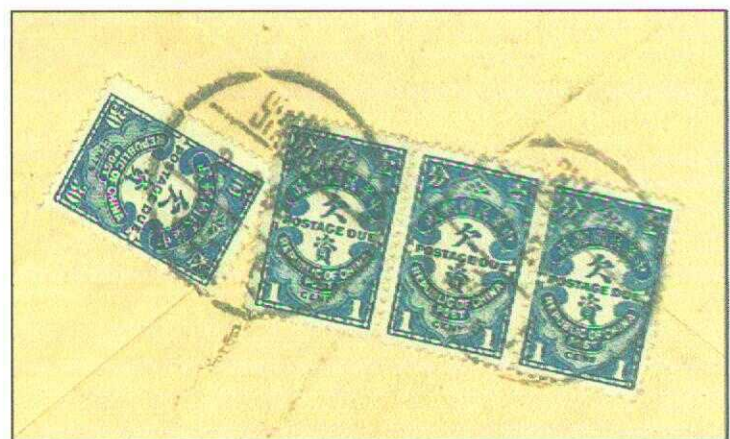
INBOUND UNDER-FRANKED COVER FROM FRANCE SENT TO AN OFFICER  
WITH THE FRENCH FAR EAST FORCES AT SHANGHAI

31 DECEMBER 1932

Inbound cover, postmarked at Saint-Pol-de-Leon,  
France, with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Shanghai, China,  
with short postage + penalty due.  
33-days transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Shanghai, 2 February 1932"

Probable Route:  
France-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-  
Peking-Pukow-Shanghai



Reverse

Fr. 0.50 postage ...  
with 33 Cents postage + penalty due  
(covering Fr. 1.50 rate applicable)

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1932.. Suspended Mail Service  
Eastern Manchuria

By 1932, Japanese Forces had occupied most of Eastern Manchuria and controlled the Chinese Eastern & Southern Manchurian Rail Line intersection at Harbin, part of the southern trans-Siberian rail network, with MAIL FLOW TO EASTERN MANCHURIA NOW INTERRUPTED, RE-DIRECTED, HELD AND/OR RETURNED TO SENDER.



27 DECEMBER 1932  
(German Post Office)

Printed-matter wrapper, postmarked at Munich, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Yenki, Kirin Province, Eastern Manchuria,

"Service Suspended" to Yenki because of hostilities from the Japanese invasion and ongoing occupation of Manchuria. Mail also marked "Return to Sender" (probably at Harbin) and re-directed to the Chinese Post Office at Shanghai, first arriving there on 6 February 1933.

Probable Route: Munich-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-interruption and re-direction in 1933 to Shanghai

10 Pfennig...  
Printed-matter rate for mail 50-100 grams in weight.

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1932-1934.. "Via America"  
Mail Routing

Between 1932-1934, Japanese occupation of Manchuria resulted in a Chinese boycott of mail service to Manchuria causing an interruption of mail traffic to/from Europe over the Manchurian & Eastern Chinese Railways' portion of the Trans-Siberian-Far East Network.

TO BYPASS THE INTERRUPTION, THE GERMAN POST OFFICE ROUTED  
FAR-EAST-BOUND MAIL "VIA AMERICA"



29 JULY 1933  
(German Post Office)

Registered cover, postmarked at Wuppertal-Elberfeld, with route endorsement  
"Via America"  
sent to Shanghai, China. 31 day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Shanghai, 29 August 1933"

Route:  
Wuppertal Elberfeld-Hamburg-New York-San Francisco-Shanghai

60 Pfennig...  
25 Pfg.. Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate +  
30 Pfg.. Registration fee +  
5 Pfg.. Convenience franking

**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939**

1932... Formosa & Korea..  
Mail to Europe

The Sino-Japanese War of 1895 with resulting 'Peace Treaty of Shimonoseki' acknowledged the independence of Korea, albeit with Japan effectively controlling the government ending with full annexation in 1910. Under the same treaty, Formosa was ceded to Japan and remained occupied until its WWII defeat in 1945.

**JAPANESE POSTAGE STAMPS & RATES WERE USED IN KOREA FROM 1905-1945 AND ON FORMOSA FROM 1895-1946.**

**FORMOSA TO  
SWITZERLAND PRINTED-  
MATTER**

**31 DECEMBER 1932**

Printed-matter, postmarked at Taihoku (Taipei), Formosa, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Zürich, Switzerland.

Probable Route:  
Taipei-Vladivostok-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Basel-Zürich

**2 Sen... Printed-matter rate (to 50 grams).**



**COMMERCIAL  
MAIL FROM  
KOREA TO  
GERMANY**

**28 MARCH  
1932**

Commercial mail, postmarked at Keijo (Seoul), Korea, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Stuttgart, Germany.

Route:  
Seoul-Vladivostok-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Stuttgart

**10 Sen..  
UPU  
International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams)  
Letter-Rate**



**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939**

1932.. Rise of "Manchukuo"

By 18 February 1932, "**MANCHURIA**" was occupied by Japanese forces, establishing the Japanese vassal-state of "**MANCHUKUO**" in March, having its capital at Changsun (renamed "Hsinking") with abdicated (1912) Chinese Emperor Henry Pu-Yi, as regent.

**JAPANESE CONTROL OF MANCHUKUO WITH ITS MANCHURIAN RAILWAY BRANCH CONNECTING TO THE CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY RESULTED IN A CHINESE BOYCOTT OF MAIL TRANSIT BETWEEN 1932-1934 ... PREVENTING MAIL TO/FROM EUROPE & CHINA THROUGH MANCHUKUO, RESUMPTION AGAIN IN 1935.**

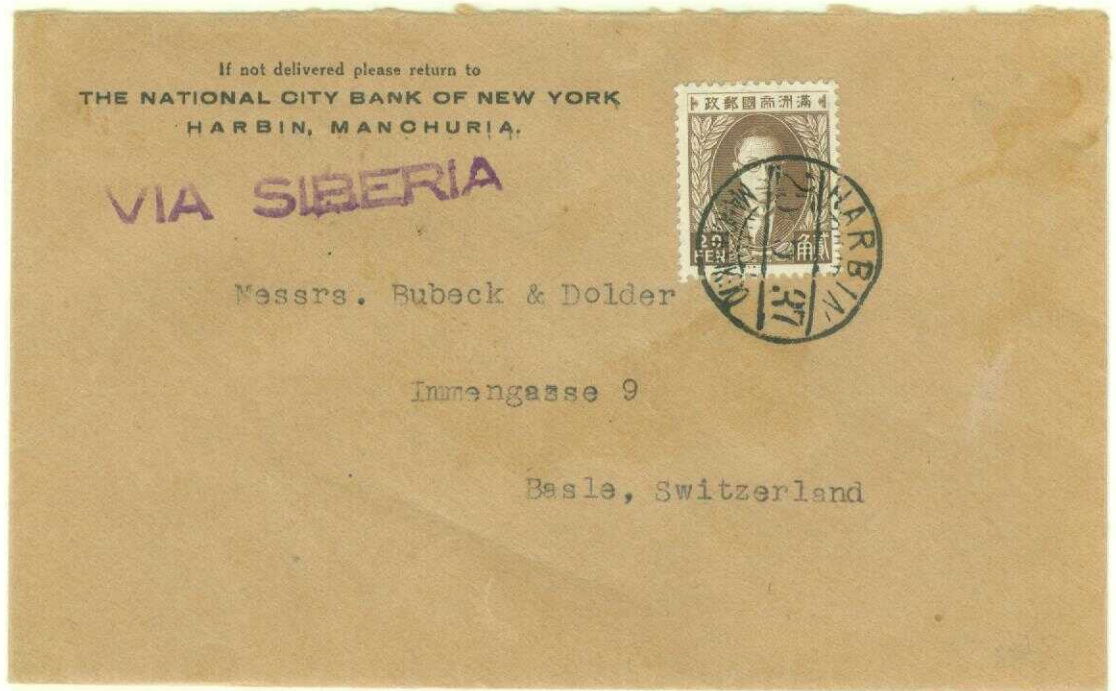
25 MAY 1937

Commercial cover,  
postmarked at Harbin,  
Manchukuo,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via America"  
sent to Basel (Basle),  
Switzerland

Route:  
Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-  
Frankfurt/Main-Basel

20 Fen...  
Single-Weight  
International  
Letter-Rate

Postage stamp  
illustrates Henry Pu-Yi



12 DECEMBER 1937

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Harbin,  
Manchukuo,  
with route endorsement  
"Via America"  
sent to Kazanlik,  
Bulgaria.  
17-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
"Kazanlik, 29 December  
1937"

Route:  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Munich-Vienna-  
Bulgaria

36 Fen...  
20 Fen.. Single-Weight  
Letter-Rate +  
16 Fen.. Registration fee





THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION  
OF MANCHURIA & ITS VASSAL-STATE 'MANCHUKUO',

boycotting mail to/through 'via the trans-Siberian rail network' .... ending in 1935... with bypassing such boycott with Europe-bound mail only by courier mail to Manchukuo for forwarding with the Manchurian Rail/Trans-Siberian Railways, or by ship 'via Suez' or 'via America'.



(6) JUNE 1934

Cert. Haveman

- Triple-weight cover, 15 Cents franking, postmarked at Shanghai, sent to the German Embassy at Peiping (8 June 1934) requesting mail be forwarded to Germany (manuscript note on cover front) attempting to bypass Chinese postal boycott;
- Mail, affixed with Japanese postage (10 Sen) for a single-weight cover, re-directed address applied, taken by courier and dropped in a Mukden mailbox, postmarked 1 December 1934;
- Mail found to be under-franked by the Japanese Post Office requiring 30 Centimes/Pfennig postage due;
- Because of damage, the cover was officially sealed at Kötzschenbroda, Germany, with delivery on 15 December 1934 per manuscript note on reverse of cover.

Route endorsement: "Germany via Siberia".  
192 day transit time.

Route:  
Shanghai-Peiping-Moukden (by courier)-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Kötzschenbroda

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1935.. Commercial Mail  
Manchukuo-Germany

MAIL TO  
'GERMAN BANK  
FOR COLONIAL-  
GERMAN  
SETTLEMENTS'

W. N. K O B  
BERLIN No. 24  
Elsasser-Strasse Nr. 90.  
HARBIN (CHINA)  
Samannaja No. 1.  
P. O. Box 424.

Germany via Sibiria.



3 May 1935

Cover,  
postmarked  
at Harbin,  
Manchukuo,  
with route  
endorsement  
*"Germany via  
Siberia"*,  
sent to Berlin,  
Germany.

Titl.

Kreditbank fur Auslands & Kolonialdeutsche  
in Liquidation,

Berlin W 9.  
=====

Schellingstrasse 2.

Route:  
Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin

Germany - Via Siberia

德國行過哈爾濱

Herrn

Eugen R e i s

G.m.b.H.

Bruchsal / Baden  
=====



CATHOLIC  
MISSION  
MAIL

DECEMBER, 1935

Cover,  
postmarked at  
Yenki,  
Manchukuo,  
with route  
endorsement  
*"Germany  
Via Siberia"*  
to Bruchsal,  
Baden, Germany.

Route:  
Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-  
Stuttgart-Bruchsal

10 Fen ...  
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate.

HOSTILITIES & WAR  
IN  
MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1933.. Japanese Control of the  
"Liaotung Peninsula"

By 1933, Japanese Forces had control of Manchuria and controlled the trans-Siberian railway feeder lines .. Southern Manchurian & Chinese Eastern Railways .. to DALNY (DARIEN) ON THE CHINESE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA, WHERE A JAPANESE POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED.

MITSUBISHI SHOJI KAISHA, LTD.,  
DAIREN.

REGISTERED

MESSRS. SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME FRANÇAISE MITSUBISHI,

VIA SIBERIA

No. 70 Bis, Rue de Amsterdam,  
144, Avenue des Champs-Élysées,

PARIS.



29 MARCH 1933  
(Japanese Post Office)

Registered commercial mail, postmarked at the Japanese Post Office at Darien, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Paris, France.

Transit Postmark:  
"Hsinking,  
31 March 1933"

Route:  
Darien-Hsinking  
(Harbin)-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-Paris

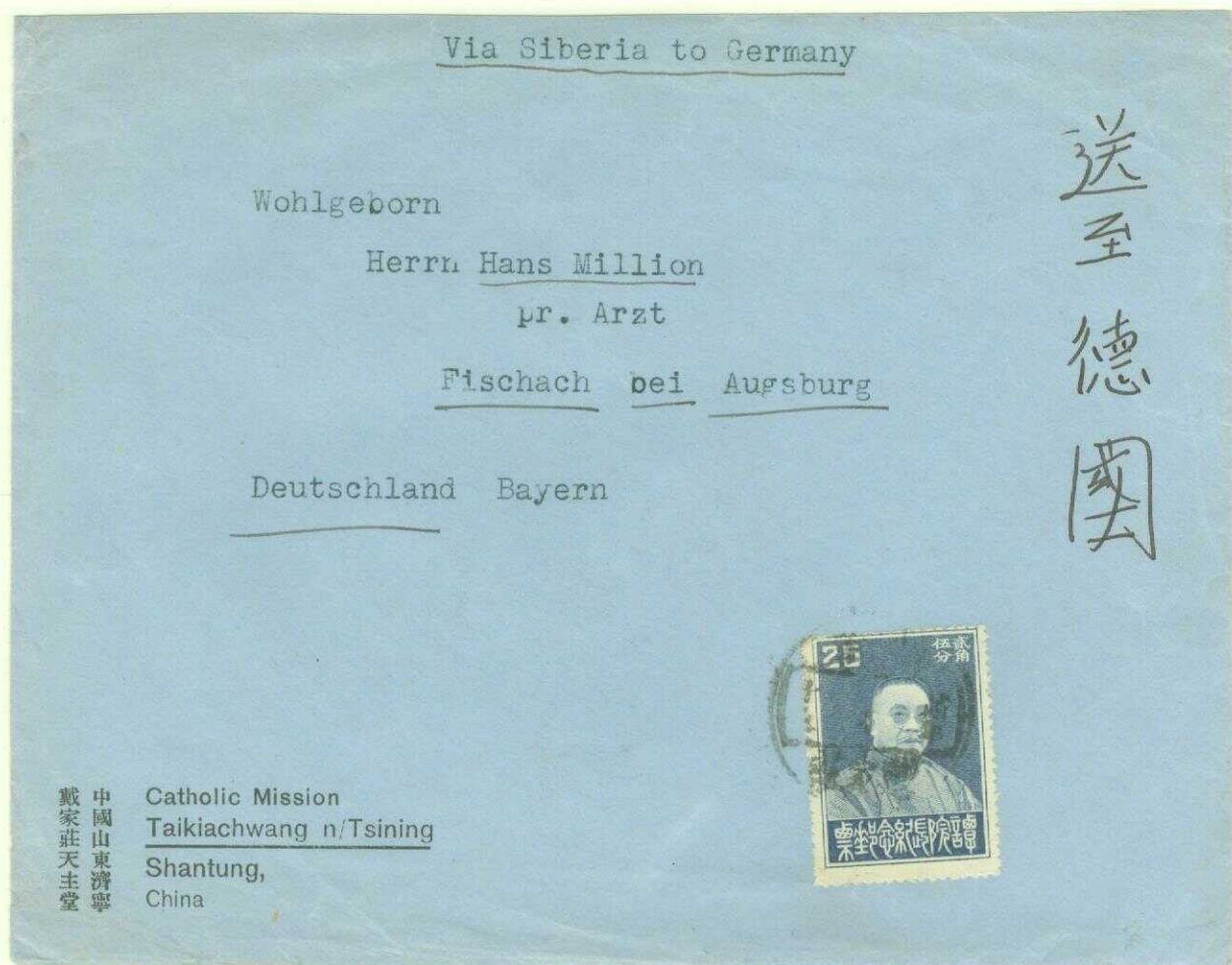
32 Sen...  
10+6 Sen... Double-  
weight (40 grams)  
international  
letter-rate +  
16 Sen.. Registration  
fee

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1933.. Missionary Mail  
North China-Germany

NORTH CHINA WAS THE FIRST AREA OF CHINA TO BE UNITED BY THE  
NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL CHANG KAI-SHEK  
BETWEEN 1926-1936.

Shantung Province in North China  
had many German-established missions, hospitals and schools.



SHANTUNG, NORTH CHINA, CATHOLIC MISSION  
MAIL TO GERMANY

1933

Cover, postmarked at Taikiachwang/Tsining, China  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia to Germany"  
sent to Fischach/Augsburg, Germany.

Probable Route:

Taikiachwang-Peking-Pukow-Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) Kiachta-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Augsburg-Fischach

25 Cents ...

Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate.

(Validity: 1 February 1931 - 31 January 1936)

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1931-1933 ..

Missionary Mail to Germany

MISSIONARY MAIL  
POSTMARKED  
1931, 1932, 1933

2 July 1933

Covers,  
postmarked at  
Hong Kong with  
route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Stuttgart,  
Germany

會 賢 禮  
RHENISH MISSION  
84, BONHAM ROAD.  
HONG KONG.

Via Siberia.



H e r r n

Via Siberia!



Herrn

G . W . Diehl ,

German

RHENISH MISSION  
84, BONHAM ROAD,  
TEL. 20314  
HONG KONG

Via Siberia!



Herrn

G . W . Diehl ,

Stuttgart - Cannstatt

Germany!

Wiesenstrasse 52, III.

Probable Route:  
Hong-Kong-  
(by sea) to  
Vladivostok-  
(by rail) to Tschita-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Stuttgart

20 Cents..  
International  
single-weight  
(20 grams)  
letter-rate



HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1933/36 ..  
China-France Mail

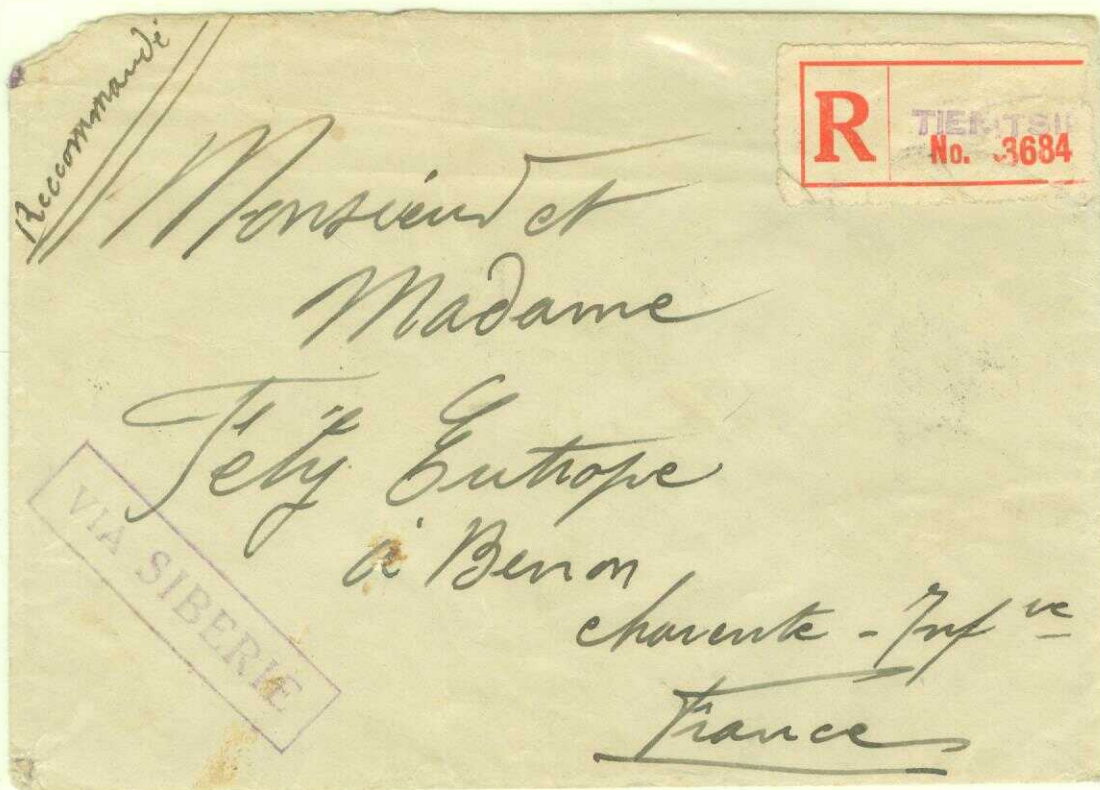
STANDARD LETTER MAIL

14 JULY 1933  
(China Post Office)

Single-weight cover  
postmarked at Peiping, China  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
to Paris, France.  
32-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Paris,  
15 August 1933"

**CNC 0.25..**  
**Single-weight (20 grams)**  
**International letter-rate.**  
(Validity:  
February 1933 - 31 October 1934)



REGISTERED MAIL

4 NOVEMBER 1936

Cover, postmarked at  
Tientsin, China,  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"; sent to  
Benon, France.  
16-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"20 November 1936"

Probable Route:  
Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-  
Paris-Benon

**CNC 0.50...**  
**CNC 0.25 international**  
**single-weight (20 grams)**  
**letter-rate +**  
**CNC 0.25 Registration fee**

(Validity: 1 February 1936 -  
31 August 1939)



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1934.. Germany-U.S.A.  
'Via America' Routed Mail

RESULTING FROM THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF MANCHUKUO & INTERRUPTION  
OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE NETWORK BETWEEN 1932-1934,  
GERMAN-ORIGIN USA-BOUND MAIL WAS ROUTED BY SEA FROM HAMBURG  
THROUGH THE EAST COAST, U.S.A.



"TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS" ENDORSED-MAIL ROUTED 'VIA AMERICA'

14 MAY 1934

Advertising cover, postmarked  
at Stuttgart, Germany,, with cachet endorsement  
"Trans Siberian Express"  
to Burlingame, California, and re-directed,  
upon arrival, to Paxton, California.  
15-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Burlingame 29 May 1934"

Route:  
Stuttgart-Hamburg- (by sea) to New York (by rail) to Chicago-San Francisco-  
Burlingame-Paxton

25 Pfennig ...  
Single-weight (20 grams) International letter-rate



HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1934.. Airmail 'Via Siberia'  
Germany- Japan

Despite the trans-Siberian northern (all Russia) route availability for surface European mail to Japan,  
**FASTER AIRMAIL FLIGHTS,**  
similar to the 1929 Zeppelin flight,  
**FOLLOWED THE GOVERNMENT-APPROVED TRAIN ROUTE FOR SAFETY & NAVIGATION PURPOSES.**



REGISTERED COMMERCIAL AIRMAIL GERMANY-JAPAN

6 APRIL 1934  
(German Post Office)

Registered commercial airmail, postmarked at Magdeburg-Buckau, Germany,, with endorsement "*Par avion au dela de Moscou*" sent to Kyoto, Japan.

Probable Route:  
Magdeburg-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Vladivostok-Tokyo-Kyoto

Mk 1.05 ...  
25 Pfg.. Single-weight (20 grams)  
International letter-rate +  
50 Pfg.. Airmail Surcharge +  
(up to 10 grams)  
30 Pfg.. Registration fee

# HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA 1931-1939

1935.. Airmail 'Via Siberia'  
Chad (Central Africa)  
to China

## REOPENING OF THE SOUTH MANCHURIAN & EASTERN CHINESE RAILWAYS IN 1935

enabled surface European China-bound mail to again transit  
the full 'via Siberian' network, including surface mail to Manchouli  
to be forwarded by air with Eurasia Airways to southern China.



AIRMAIL FROM THE FRENCH COLONY OF CHAD TO SHANGHAI

5 AUGUST 1935

Lightweight "Air Afrique" postal stationery cover,  
postmarked at Fort Lamy, Chad, with endorsement

"Par Avion via Paris-Moscow-Siberia"

sent to Shanghai, China.  
18-day transit time

Transit Postmarks:

(Reverse)

"Paris, 9 August 1935"

"Berlin, 9 August 1935"

Manuscript Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Shanghai, 23 August 1935"

Route:

Chad-(Air Afrique-Sabena)-Paris-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-  
(by rail) to Manchouli-Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai



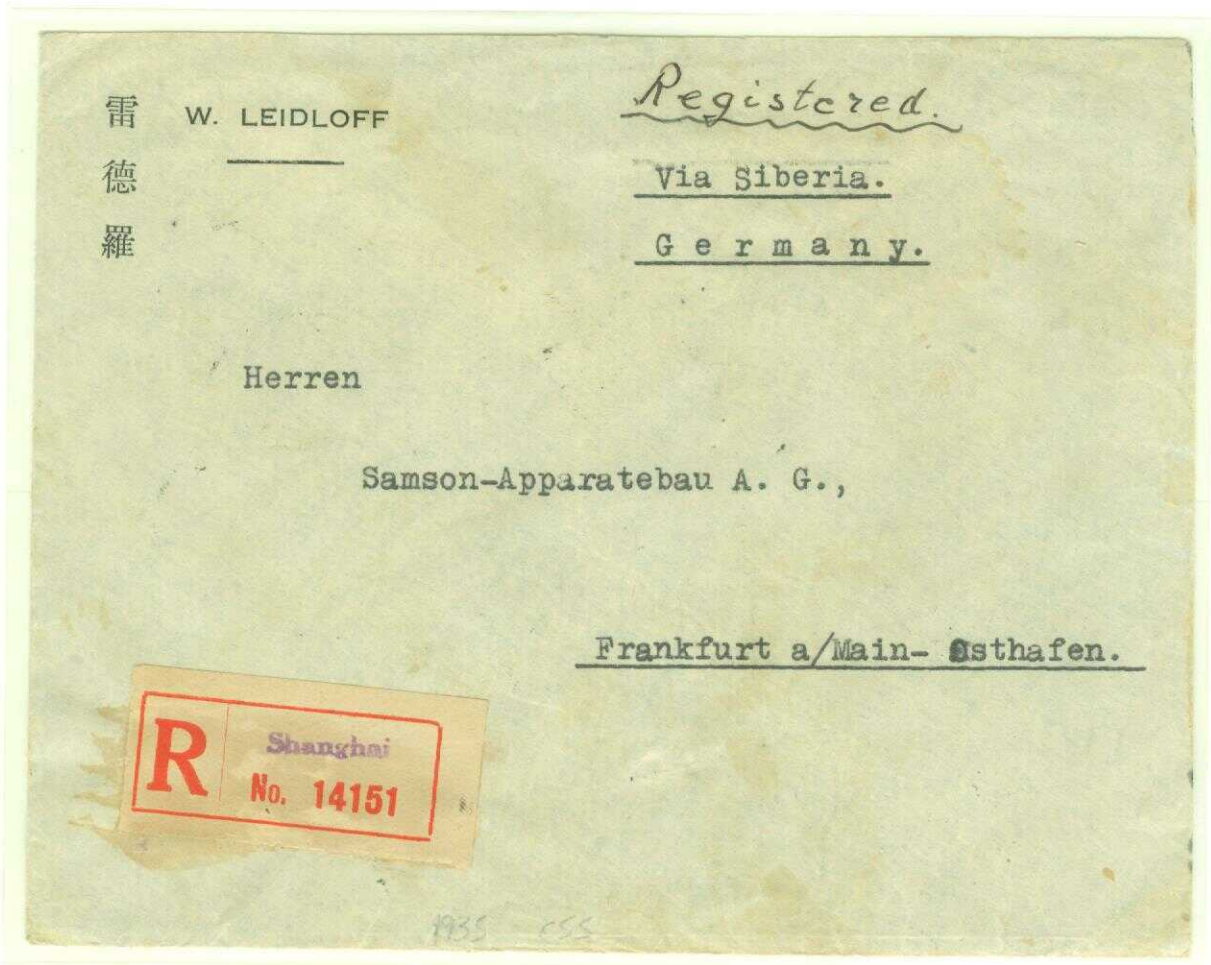
Reverse

Fr 5.00 ...

Single-weight (10 grams)  
International letter-rate

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1935..  
China-Germany  
Commercial Mail



SHANGHAI-ORIGIN REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO GERMANY

13 JULY 1935

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Shanghai, China,  
with route endorsement  
**"Registered Via Siberia Germany"**  
to Frankfurt/Main, Germany.  
19-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Frankfurt (Main),  
31 July 1935"

Probable Route:  
Shanghai-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-Frankfurt/Main

**CNC 0.40 ...**  
**0.20.. Single-weight (20 grams)**  
**International letter-rate +**  
**0.20 Registration fee**  
(Validity: 1. June 1935 - 31 January 1936)





SHANGHAI-ORIGIN REGISTERED MAIL TO AUSTRIA

8 FEBRUARY 1936

Registered cover,  
postmarked at Shanghai, China with endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Vienna, Austria.

Probable Route:  
Shanghai-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-Munich-Vienna

CNC 0.50 ...  
0.25.. Single-weight (20 grams)  
International letter-rate +  
0.25 Registration fee  
(Validity: 1. February 1936 - 1 September 1939)



Reverse

# HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA

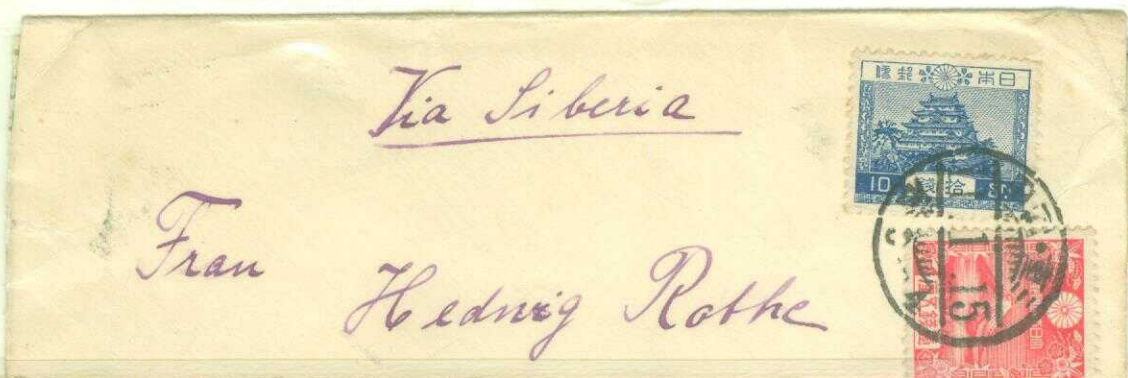
1936..

1931-1939

Japan-Germany  
Customs Inspected Mail

15 JANUARY 1936

Double-weight cover, postmarked at Tokyo, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" with Customs inspection at Plauen, Germany.



17 SEPTEMBER 1936

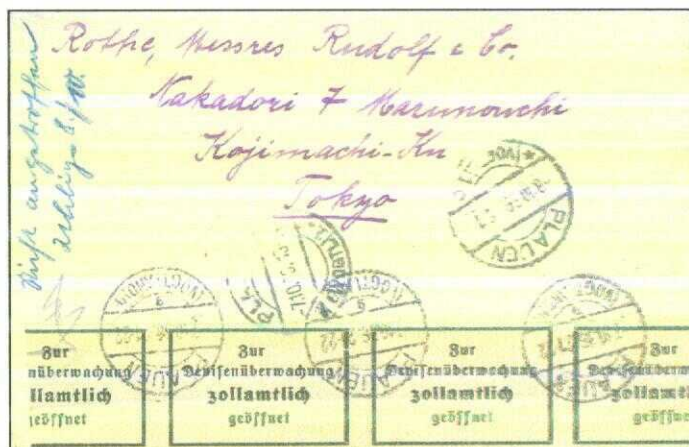
REGISTERED CUSTOMS-INSPECTED  
JAPAN-GERMANY MAIL

Registered cover, postmarked at Tokyo, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Plauen, Germany, opened & inspected for possible currency-violation and officially sealed. 20-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Plauen, 7/8 October 1936"

Route:  
Tokyo-Vladivostok-Tschita-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Leipzig-Plauen

26 Sen ...  
10+6 Sen.. Double-weight (20-40 grams)  
International letter-rate +  
10 Sen.. Registration fee



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1935-36..  
China-England Mail

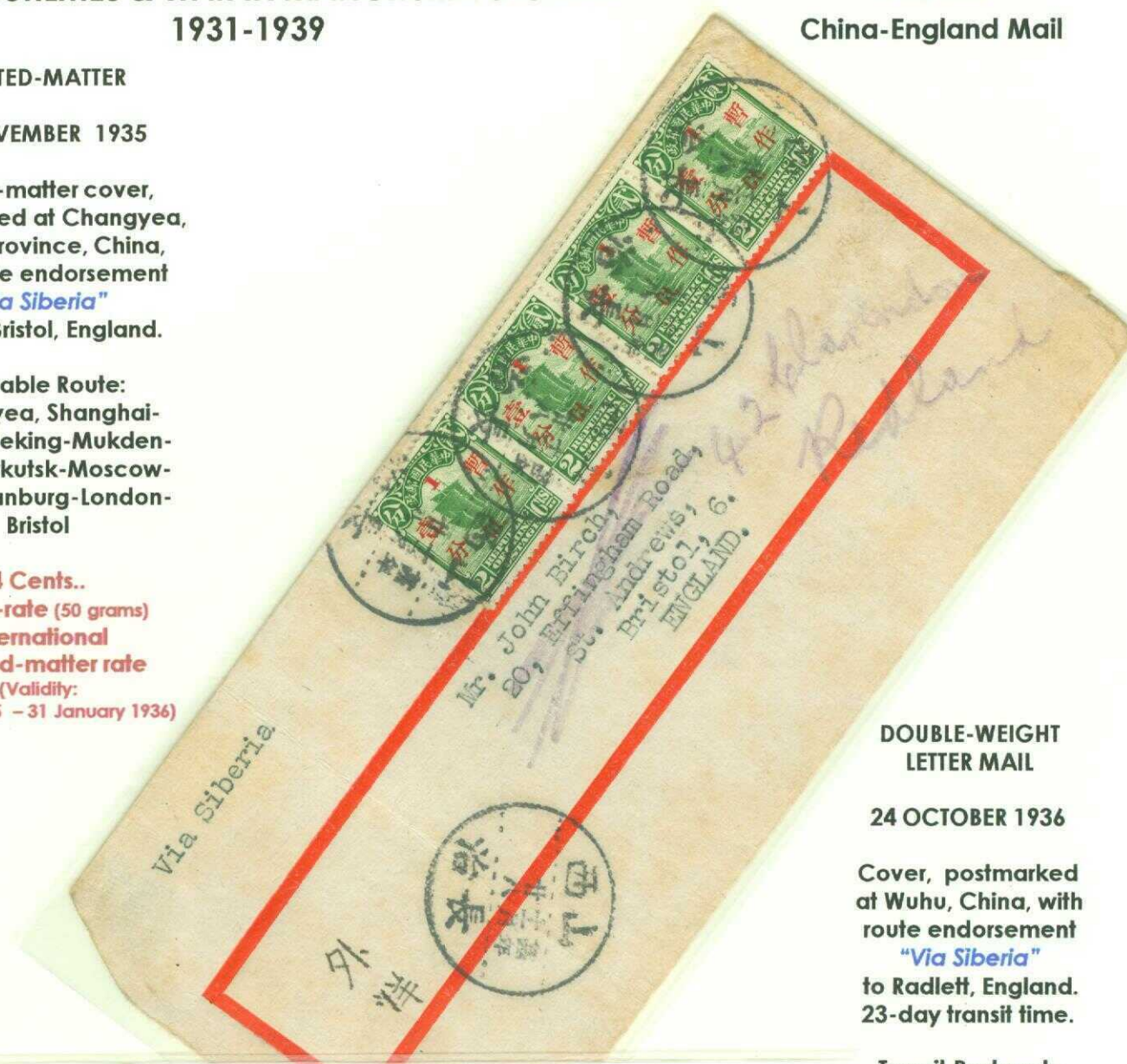
PRINTED-MATTER

28 NOVEMBER 1935

Printed-matter cover,  
postmarked at Changyea,  
Shansi Province, China,  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Bristol, England.

Probable Route:  
Changyea, Shanghai-  
Pukow-Peking-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Hanburg-London-  
Bristol

4 Cents..  
Single-rate (50 grams)  
international  
printed-matter rate  
(Validity:  
1 June 1935 - 31 January 1936)



DOUBLE-WEIGHT  
LETTER MAIL

24 OCTOBER 1936

Cover, postmarked at Wuhu, China, with  
route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
to Radlett, England.  
23-day transit time.

Transit Postmark;  
(Reverse)  
"Tientsin,  
26 October 1936"

Arrival Marking:  
(Front)  
"16 November  
1936"

Probable Route:  
Wuhu-Tientsin-  
Peking-Harbin-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Hamburg-  
England

40 Cents...  
25+15 Cents..  
Double-weight  
(to 40 grams)  
international  
letter-rate  
(Validity: 1 Feb. 1936 -  
31 August 1939)

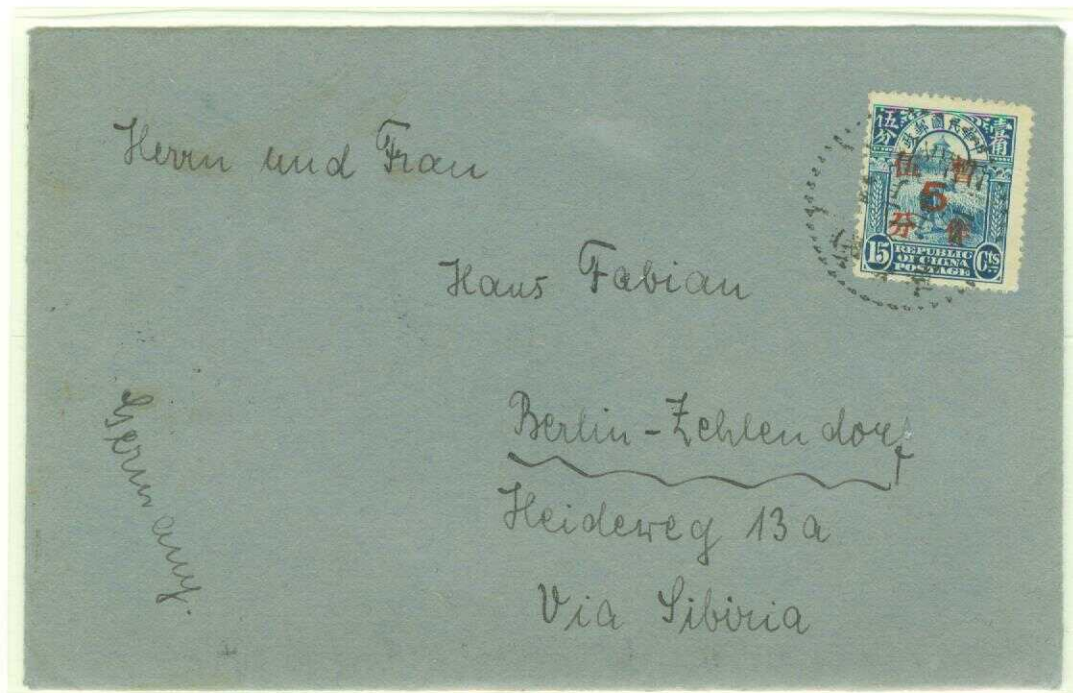


**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939**

1936.. Nanking

Already in June, 1928, the Nationalist Government established the City of Nanking as its capital. Between 1928-1936, the National Government, fighting a civil war with the Communist Government, attempted to unify Chinese provinces under the "Nationalist Front" of General Chiang Kai-Shek.

**'1936' WOULD BE THE LAST PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS FOR NANKING.**



**CHINESE 1936 CHRISTMAS CARD  
NANKING TO GERMANY**

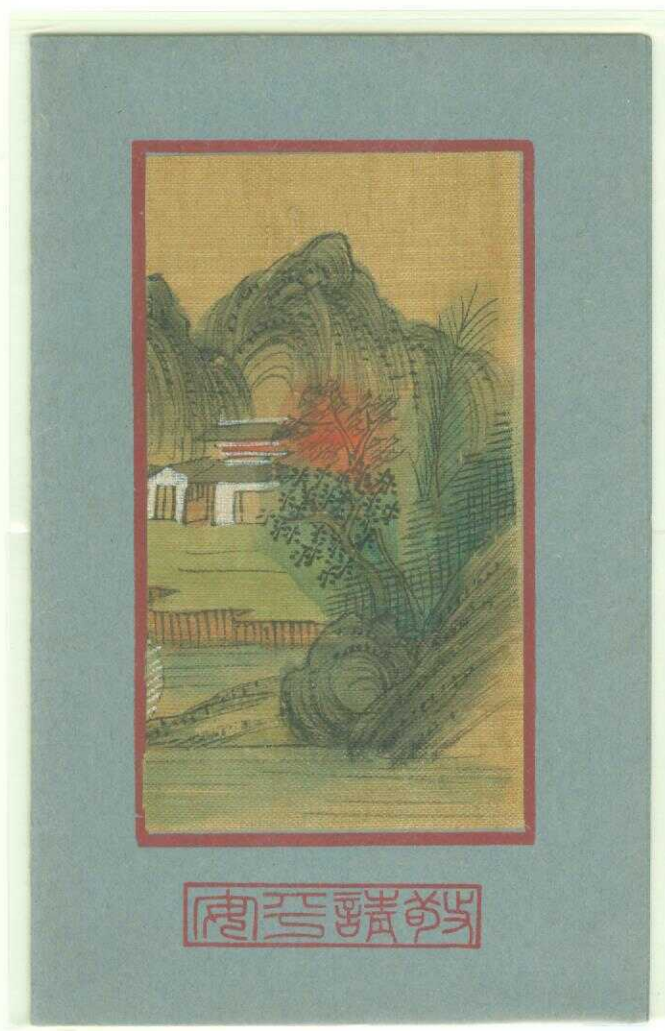
**30 NOVEMBER 1936**

Printed-matter cover, postmarked at Nanking, China, with route endorsement "*Via Siberia*" sent to Berlin-Zehlendorf, Germany.

Transit Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Tientsin,  
1 December 1936"

Probable Route:  
Nanking-Tientsin-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin

**CNC 0.05 ...**  
International printed-matter rate for mail weighing up to 50 grams.  
(Validity: 1 Feb. 1936 - 31 August 1939)



**"PEACETO YOU"**  
(Old Chinese Font)

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1937.. In-Bound China-Mail  
Prior to The Fall of Nanking



IN-BOUND ENDORSED "URGENT DESPATCH PRINTED-MATTER"  
SENT PRIOR TO THE FALL OF NANKING

11 JULY 1937

Printed-matter cover. postmarked  
at Berlin, Germany, with route endorsement  
*"Nanking/Via Siberia"*  
sent to Nanking, China.  
18-day transit time.

Transit Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Tientsin,  
27 July 1937"

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Nanking,  
29 July 1937"

Probable Route:  
Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-Tientsin-  
Pukow-Shanghai-Nanking

5 Pfennig ...  
International printed-matter rate for mail up to 50 grams in weight.



# HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA 1931-1939

1937..

'Marco Polo Bridge Incident'  
(Begin of Sino-Japanese War)

On 7 July 1937,  
Japanese troops on  
night maneuvers at  
Lukouchiao, about 9  
miles SW of Peking,  
clashed with Chinese  
troops, whereupon  
Japan sent an  
ultimatum to China,  
which was ignored,  
resulting in Japanese  
occupation of  
**PEKING (28 July) &  
TIENTSIN (29 July).**  
On 11 August, a  
Japanese naval  
force landed at  
**SHANGHAI** resulting  
in fierce fighting.



28 OCTOBER 1937  
(China Post Office)

Registered printed-  
matter front,  
postmarked at  
Shanghai, China,  
with route  
endorsement  
**"Via Siberia"**  
sent to  
Wusterhausen,  
Germany.

"This cover was  
mailed during the  
on-going hostilities  
at Shanghai  
between  
11 August -  
8 November  
whereupon the city  
surrendered.

Probable Route:  
Shanghai- (by ship) to Vladivostok- (by rail)  
to Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Wusterhausen

35 CNC...  
10 CNC.. Up to 100 grams printed-matter +  
25 CNC.. Registration fee

**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939**

**1937.. The "Panay Incident"  
& The Fall of Nanking**

Continuing their invasion of China and, having just occupied Shanghai, Japanese Forces attacked the United States Vessel 'Panay' as well as British Yangtze River gun boats near Nanking on 12 December 1937.

**BY 13 DECEMBER 1937, THE CITY OF NANKING  
WAS OCCUPIED BY JAPANESE FORCES.**

On 20 November 1937, the Nationalist Chinese Government moved to **CHUNGKING**.



**11 JANUARY 1937**

Registered express cover, postmarked at Nanking, China, with route endorsement **"Via Siberia --- Germany"** sent to Berlin-Charlottenburg, Germany. 21-day transit time.

Transit Postmark: (Front)	Arrival Postmark: (Reverse)
"Tientsin, 13 January 1937"	"Berlin Charlottenburg, 1 February 1937"

Probable Route:  
Nanking-Tientsin-(by EURASIA) to Irkutsk (by rail) to-Moscow-Berlin

**CNC 1.00 ...**  
**0.25.. Single-weight (20 grams)**  
**international letter-rate +**  
**0.75.. Registered express fee**

**REGISTERED EXPRESS MAIL SENT FROM THE  
'CHINESE MINISTRY OF WAR'  
TO THE 'GERMAN OFFICE OF MILITARY  
WEAPONRY' PRIOR TO THE FALL OF  
TIENTSIN, PEKING & NANKING**



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1938.. Europe-Japan Mail  
'Via Siberia' Northern Route

MAIL TO FRENCH  
AMBASSADOR IN  
JAPAN

18 FEBRUARY 1938

Cover, postmarked  
at Paris, France, with  
route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Tokyo, Japan.

Route:  
Paris-Berlin-Moscow-  
Irkutsk-Tschita-  
Vladivostok-Tsuruga-  
Tokyo

Fr 1.75...  
Single-weight  
(20 grams) international  
letter-rate



Madame Francine Bidaut  
Ambassade de France  
à Tokio  
Via Siberia Nippon

Abfender: G. Schlesicky,  
Bad Ems  
Das Rinnabrad  
Die...  
alle hier...  
Dort...  
wie...  
Hoch...  
nach...  
mit...  
mit...  
im...  
alle...

Postkarte  
Via Sibirien  
15 15  
BAD EMS  
28  
Deutsches Reich  
DR. C. KRAYER  
山横 44 C Bluff  
手濱 Nakaku  
市 市  
二 中  
四 區  
C  
シー、クライヤー様  
r, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk oder Postschließfachnummer

GERMANY-JAPAN  
POSTAL STATIONERY  
CARD MAIL

26 MAY 1938

Postal stationery  
card, postmarked at  
Bad Ems, Germany,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Yokohama,  
Japan.

Route:  
Bad Ems-Berlin-  
Moscow-Irkutsk-  
Tschita-Vladivostok-  
Tsuruga or  
Yokohama

15 Pfg...  
International  
postcard-rate

TRADE SAMPLE  
PARCEL TO  
ENGLAND

1938

Parcel clip,  
postmarked  
Kobe, Japan,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to  
London,  
England.

Route:  
Kobe-Tsuruga-  
Vladivostok-  
Tschita-Irkutsk-  
Moscow-Berlin-  
Hamburg-  
London

40 Sen...  
(2x 20 Sen = New  
Die = 18.5x22mm  
postage stamps)

International  
Commercial  
Sample Rate  
for mail up to  
16 ounces in  
weight.

Per .....

Via .....

SIBERIA

BONA-FIDE TRADE SAMPLES

5 Bayon Cards

NET WEIGHT

(16g)



Messrs. M. MAKOWER & Co.,

40, OLD CHANGE,

CHEAPSIDE,

LONDON, E. C. 4

"C/O The Officer of Customs and Excise,

Mount Pleasant Depot,

General Post Office,

LONDON E. C.

ENGLAND.

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1939.. Blockade of French  
& British Concessions at Tientsin

In an effort to enforce their control of occupied China and the objective to have the existing small but important French & British garrisons at Tientsin, protecting their respective concessions there, evacuated,  
**ON 14 JUNE 1939, THE JAPANESE BLOCKADED THOSE CONCESSIONS.**



FREE-FRANK FRENCH SOLDIER'S MAIL FROM THE  
FRENCH FAR EAST MILITARY ARSENAL AT TIENTSIN

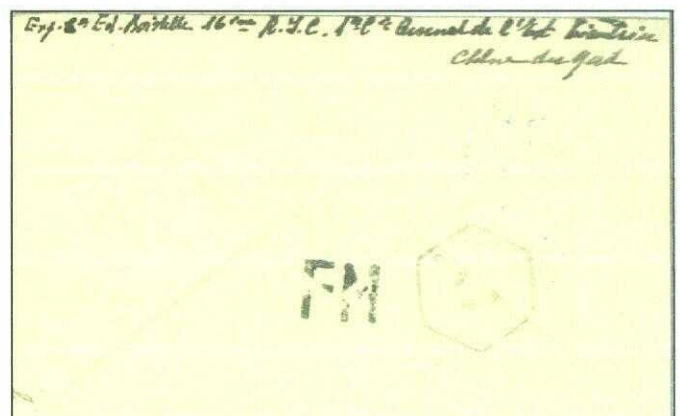
AUGUST 1938

Single-weight free-frank cover,  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Dachstein, France.

Cachet Mark:  
"Occupation Corps for China  
Quartermaster"

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Dachstein,  
9 September 1938"

Probable Route:  
Tientsin-Peking-Mukden-Harbin-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Strasbourg-Dachstein



Reverse

**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939**

**1939.. China-Germany Mail  
Prior to Outbreak of WW II**

**GERMAN CUSTOMS  
INSPECTED &  
RESEALED  
REGISTERED MAIL**

**8 MARCH 1939**

Cover, postmarked  
Shanghai, China, with  
route endorsement  
"Via Siberia",  
to Hamburg, Germany,  
Inspected & resealed.  
17-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Hamburg,  
25 March 1939"

Route:  
Shanghai-Pukow-  
Tientsin-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Hamburg

CNC 0.50...  
CNC 0.25.. Single-  
weight (20 grams)  
international letter-rate  
+CNC 0.25.. Registry fee  
(Validity:  
1 February 1939 -  
1 September 1939)

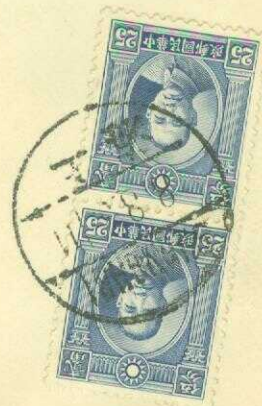
From Shanghai Nurseries  
P.O.Box 318  
Shanghai, China.

**REGISTERED**

The Aquarium Hamburg,  
Richardstrasse 47,  
Hamburg 22,  
GERMANY.

VIA SIBERIA

**R** SHANGHAI  
No. 16086



PRINTING MATTER  
GERMANY

Via SIBERIA

Herrn  
Max Morgenroth und Frau Gemahlin  
i.H.Berger & Wirth, Farbenfabriken

LEIPZIG N 24.

Waldbaurstr. 2



**COMMERCIAL  
PRINTED MATTER MAIL**

**3 JANUARY 1939**

Cover, printed matter  
postmarked at  
Shanghai, China,  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Leipzig,  
Germany.

Route:  
Shanghai-Pukow-  
Tientsin-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Leipzig

CNC 0.10...  
International printed  
matter rate up to  
100 grams.  
(Validity:  
1 February 1936 -  
1 September 1939)

**HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939**

**1939-41.. Refugee Mail  
to Shanghai**

The *Gleichschaltung* Law (so-called "political coordination" law = elimination of opponents) by the 'Third Reich' Government and the impact of societal regulations of the 'Nuremberg Laws of 1935', amended in 1938, people of Jewish faith attempted emigration. Palestine, as a destination, was closed by the British, while a number of countries were unwilling to accept refugees.  
**SHANGHAI REMAINED AS A FREE TRANSIT PORT AND DID NOT REQUIRE VISA ENTRY.**

**THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES TO CHINA RESULTED IN ELEVATED MAIL TRAFFIC FROM EUROPE, BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1939 – JUNE 1941 .. NOT REQUIRING SPECIFIC ROUTE ENDORSEMENT.**



**18 APRIL 1941**

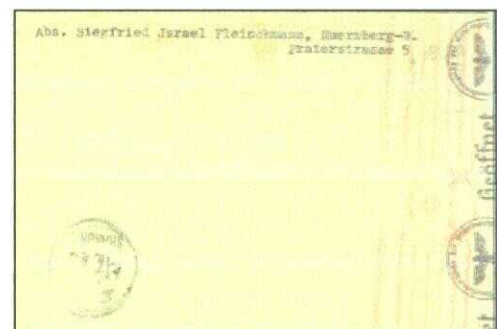
Cover, postmarked at Nuremberg, Germany, without route endorsement sent to Shanghai, China

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Shanghai,  
.... 1941"

Probable Route:  
Nuremberg-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai

**25 Pfennig...  
Single-weight (20 grams)  
international letter-rate**

**CHINA-BOUND 'VIA SIBERIA' REFUGEE  
GERMAN-CENSORED MAIL SENT BY  
"SIEGFRIED 'ISRAEL' FLEISCHMANN"  
TO REFUGEE "LILI DANZIGER" AT SHANGHAI**



Reverse

HOSTILITIES & WAR IN MANCHURIA & CHINA  
1931-1939

1939.. German Refugee  
Early Mail to Shanghai

EARLY IN-BOUND REFUGEE MAIL WAS SENT TO THE SHANGHAI POST OFFICE AS 'GENERAL DELIVERY'  
UPON WHICH THE RECIPIENT PAID A STORAGE FEE UPON RECEIPT.

Upon the advent of the German Third Reich in 1933, the addressee, an attorney, was forced to give up his law practice, survived as a stamp dealer until 1938 when he was arrested, permitted in 1939 to emigrate with his wife to Shanghai, and again emigrated after WWII, under the German-immigration quota, to the United States, where he lived and died at Salt Lake City in 1982 at age of 81 years old.

RAILWAY-POSTED (VIOLATION) GENERAL DELIVERY ENDORSED MAIL SENT BY "EMMY LICHENHEIM"  
TO REFUGEE SON "DR. MAX LICHENHEIM" AT SHANGHAI



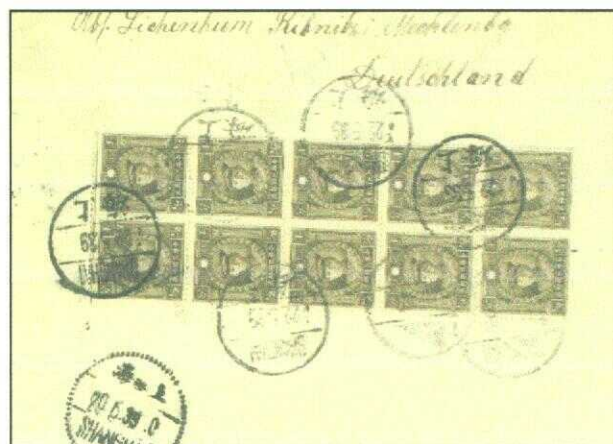
29 APRIL 1939

Un-inspected mail, lacking sender's "Sara" insert (violation), postmarked aboard "Train 285" from Stralsund-Rostock, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Siberia", with acceptance from Shanghai general-delivery on 22 May 1939 .. with 5 Cents fee paid.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Shanghai,  
20 May 1939"

Probable Route:  
Rostock-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Mukden-  
Tientsin-Pukow-Shanghai

25 Pfennig...  
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate



Reverse