

Part 2: POST CARDS
Section PC-C: King George V

Webb # Sch. #	KG V Issued	Value & Format	Early	Webb Early	Webb Late	Late	Notes
	1912			16.5.13	26.3.36		
P28 20		1c brown	25.3.13			15.2.38	ERD for 1c and all KG V post cards: C.H. Chan LRD: Carlin; Rumsey, 12.2007, lot 660 - \$1.50 airmail rate for post card
P29 22		1c + 1c brown intact reply (22) Message half (22x) Reply half (22y)	31.10.15			Undated	22x ERD: Philachina, 5.2005, lot 994. 22x LRD: ZA 6.2003, 957 Only 2 known examples. Reply half not seen used.
				26.11.14	8.12.34		
P30 21		4c carmine	13.8.13			28.10.37	ERD: Bull, 6.2011, lot 1260; with "Too Late" LRD: Chan, + 11c to Chile
P31 23		4c + 4c carmine intact reply (23) Message half (23x) Reply half (23y)	28.5.13			3.3.14	23 (intact) ERD: Carlin; Rumsey, 12.2007, lot 602 23 (intact) LRD: LCS Reply half not seen used
	1918						
P32		1-1/2c surcharge on 1c brown (Sch. 20)		---	---		Only listed with "CHINA" overprint by Schoenfeld
P34 24		1-1/2c orange definitive	14.3.18	24.9.21	9.5.23	1.7.24	ERD: LCS; 1-1/2c + Straits 3c stamp with HK c.d.s. LRD: Norton - local use
P33	1922	6c surcharge on 4c carmine (Sch. 21)		---	---		6c on 4c carmine only recorded with "CHINA" overprint by Schoenfeld
	1923						
P35 25		2c green with Royal Arms in green and no background (same as preceding issues, vs, Sch. 26)	21.10.30	---	---		ERD: EB330002394000 - + 4c stamp (6c reciprocal PC rate to or from China). Only known example.
P36 - P38			*	---	---		Webb: Type P36-38 not recorded used. * HKSC 268: "unrecorded," but shows 13.12.34 ERD for 1c brown?
P39 26	1935	2c green with Royal Arms in white on colored (green) background	18.5.35	25.3.36	8.2.37	22.1.38	ERD: C.H. Chan - ERD indicates issued in 1935 vs. Webb: "about 1936." LRD: Bull, 12.2003, 1100
P40 27	1937?	2c grey as Sch. 26	17.9.37	3.11.37	---		ERD: Dynasty, 3.2011, lot 1191. Only two 1937 uses known; probably was not issued until 1937 vs Webb: "about 1936"

Table PC-4. King George V post cards description and usage dates

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The Sun Philatelic catalog for their 11.1998 auction listed a 27.12.12 KGV PC to Kobe as part of lot 842, but there was no photo by which to verify this. A scan of the 25.3.13 post card illustrated in Figure PC-7a, and several other KE and KGV PCs, was kindly provided by Mr. C. H. Chan. The Figure PC-7a PC is not only the earliest verified use of the King George V 1c post card (Sch. 20), but also the earliest verified use of all of the KGV post cards. Unknown to me until this update, Col. Webb's 16.5.13 ERD of this PC was in my collection (see ZA 6.2007, lot 984).



Figure PC-7a. 25.3.13 - Earliest verified use of all KGV post cards

Mick Goldsmith illustrated and described a most interesting KGV 1c PC, which was sent to the Greek island of Corfu (HKSCJ 322/7), the only example I recall having seen of HK mail sent to that destination. This card bore an additional 1c adhesive stamp, thus paying the 2c “Printed Matter” rate, as was printed on it. The message from the Austro-Hungarian Consulate at Hong Kong on the back of this card gave information on a deserter from the S.M.S *Kaiser Franz Joseph*. I had an identical card (except that it was sent to Saigon), which was recorded as the KGV PC ERD (c.4.4.13) in the original issue of this monograph. One of few KGV 1c PCs used within the Far East, as intended (i.e., no additional stamps for higher rates), bears a 9.4.34 hexagonal Macau date stamp and Hosking Type 3215 “Paquebot” mark across the indicia (Bull, 6.2011, lot 4292).

In the original Hong Kong Postal Stationery monograph, I noted that the KGV 1c reply card (Sch. 22) was “Not seen used.” I subsequently saw the example of this PC that is exhibited in Figure PC-7b (Philachina, 5.2005, lot 994), as usual, when looking for something else. The message half of this reply card, date-lined 31.10.15, and cancelled “Posted Free / P.C. / Prisoners of War,” also bears a seldom seen rectangular “Passed / Hong / Kong / Censor” with crown in the center. The listed “LRD” for this reply card bears the same rectangular censor mark, but has no date stamp.



Figure PC-7b. 31.10.15 – Earliest of only 2 used KGV 1c reply paid post cards

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Although I have yet to see a used “REPLY” part of the KGV 1c + 1c card, the intact, message, and “REPLY” parts are broken out separately herein, since they are listed as such by Schoenfeld.

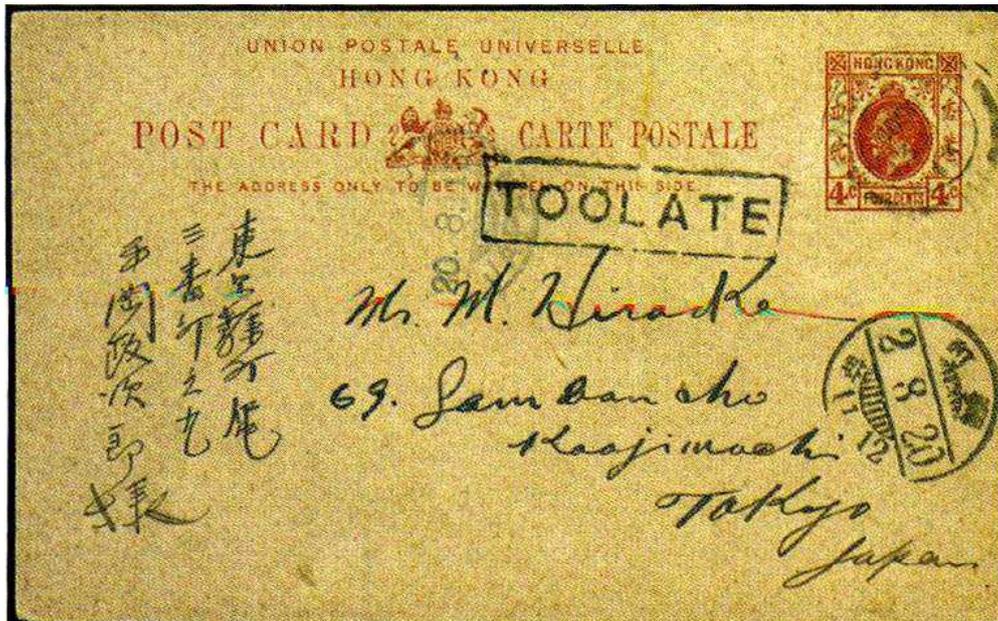


Figure PC-7c. 13.8.13 - Earliest known use of KGV 4c post card; “TOO LATE”

The 13.8.13 KGV four cent carmine post card (Sch. 21) illustrated in Figure PC-7c is now the ERD for this card (John Bull, 6.2011, lot 1260). Application of the framed “TOO LATE” handstamp indicates that this PC was received too late at the HKPO to have caught a steamship that departed on that date for Tokyo. This “TOO LATE” marking is Proud Type I10, which he recorded as having been used from 1903 to 1922.

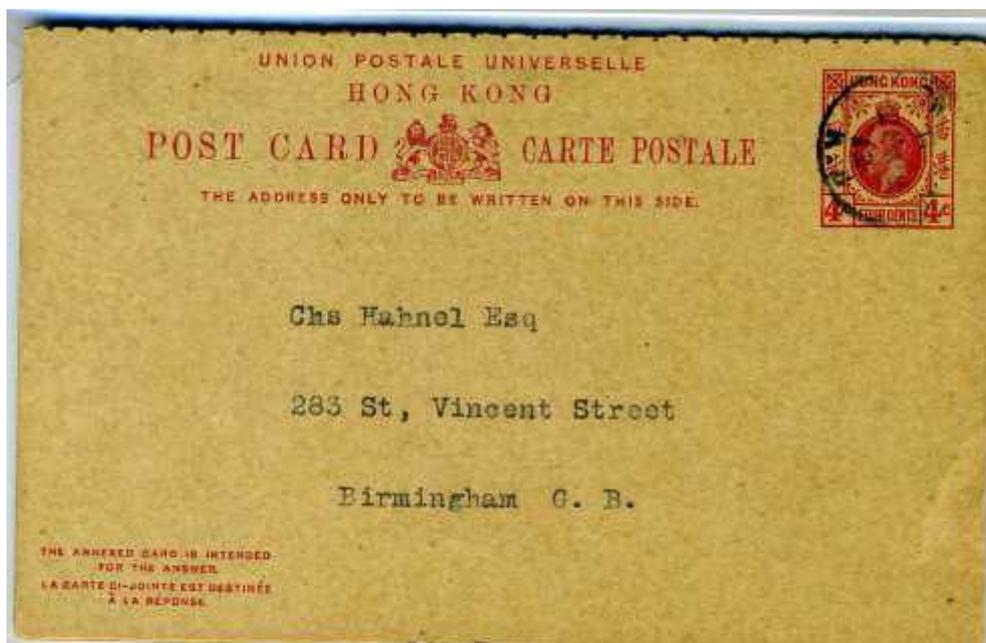


Figure PC-7d. 28.5.13 - Earliest known use of KGV 4c reply paid post card

The KGV four cent reply paid card, although not quite as scarce used as the one cent reply PC, is not common. The earliest use so far seen of the KGV 4c + 4c reply card (Sch. 23) is 28.5.13, as is

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illustrated in Figure PC-7d (Raymond Carlin collection; Rumsey 12.2007, lot 602). The indicia on this card was cancelled with a “K. B.” (Kowloon Branch) c.d.s. Very few used examples of the KGV 4c reply card are known intact, as are both the ERD and LRD. The “REPLY” half of the KGV 4c + 4c card (Sch. 23y) has not yet been seen used by itself.

Col. Webb stated that the 1½c definitive post card (Sch. 24) was issued “late in 1918,” and did not record usage of that card until 1921. Prior to the discovery of the card illustrated in Figure PC-8, a 1919 example with additional stamps, but still postage due, had been found. The 1918 Hong Kong Postmaster’s report states: “In February the rate on postcards sent to China was raised from 1 cent to 1½ cents in order to conform to the Chinese domestic rate.” Sieh and Blackburn recorded that the Chinese domestic post card rate was increased from 1c to 1½c effective 1.7.17.

The Philatelic History of Hong Kong records that Hong Kong ordered 1½c post cards on 4.7.17. This reference also notes that, since a large stock of 1c cards had just been sent out, “Hong Kong was authorized by the GPO to proceed with the (local) surcharge (1c to 1½c) on 1 August 1917, in preparation for the introduction of the 1½c rate on 15 February 1918.” The 14.3.18 date of the card illustrated in Figure PC-7e provides clear evidence that the 1½c definitive PC was issued shortly after the local PC rate was increased from 1c to 1½c, vs. “late in 1918” as stated by Webb.

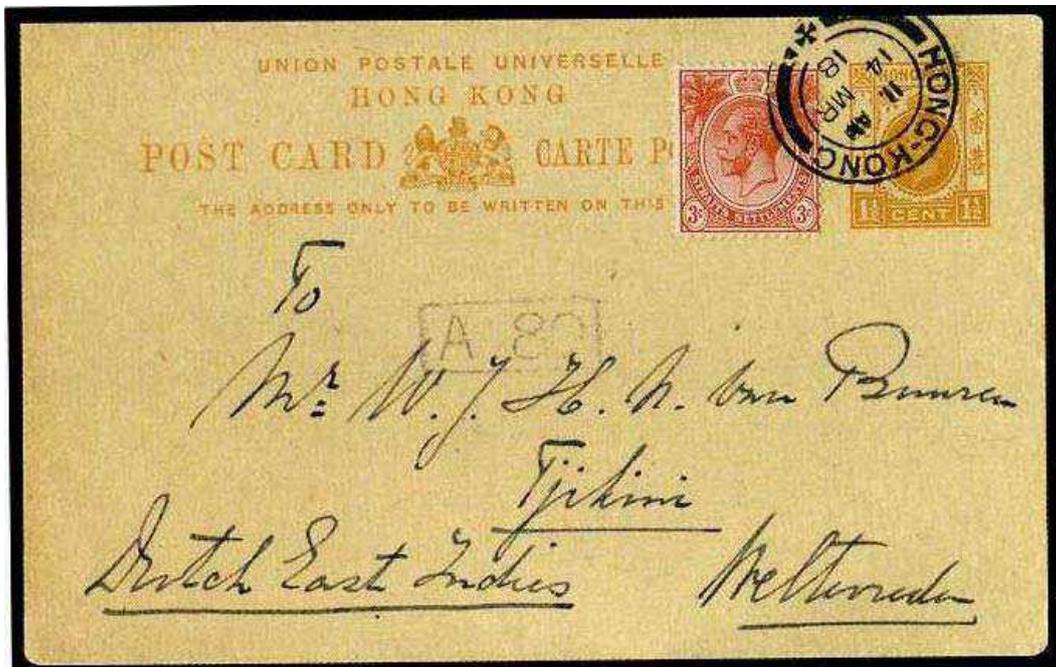


Figure PC-7e. 14.3.18 - Earliest known use of KGV 1½c definitive post card

The reason for combination of Hong Kong and Straits Settlements postage on the Figure PC-7e card is unclear. Neither the card nor message appear to be philatelic. The 1½c Hong Kong post card rate was intended for “local” use, which included the Treaty Ports. This 1½c rate may have also been sufficient for cards sent to Singapore, but a 1921 1½c card to Batavia with 3c postage added indicates that the post card rate to the Dutch East Indies was the standard 4c UPU rate.

The Straits Settlements post card rate was 2c local and 4c foreign from 1.18, so the 3c Straits Settlements stamp affixed to the Figure PC-7e card was not sufficient for the entire postage to Batavia from Hong Kong. Although neither country’s postage was sufficient for the entire route by itself, the combination of the Hong Kong and Straits Settlements postage on the card was accepted as sufficient by the Hong Kong Post Office, as indicated by the Hong Kong c.d.s. tying both stamps to the card, and the absence of any postage due marking.

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In contrast to the Figure PC-7e PC, I had a HK KGV 1½c post card with an additional 2c adhesive stamp, both tied by a 22.9.19 Western Branch cds. It was struck with a HK encircled “T” postage due mark, and the US collected 1c additional postage. I also had a 23.3.21 1½c post card with additional 1c and 2c adhesive stamps, which fully paid the 4c international PC rate, plus a half cent overpaid. A HK KGV 1½c definitive post card with Sai Ying Pun cds of 21.2.20 sent to Tungkun, China, (Kohler, 3.2013, lot 1275) demonstrates that the 1½c PC rate was applicable to China, as well as to HK and the TPs. The 1½c rate for PCs sent from HK to China proper was in effect from 18.2.18 until 15.1.23, but is seldom seen. The earliest known example of the 1½c rate for a PC sent from HK to China, 19.11.19, is illustrated in Figure PC-7f-1, and a card at the subsequent 2c rate is shown in Figure PC-7f-2.

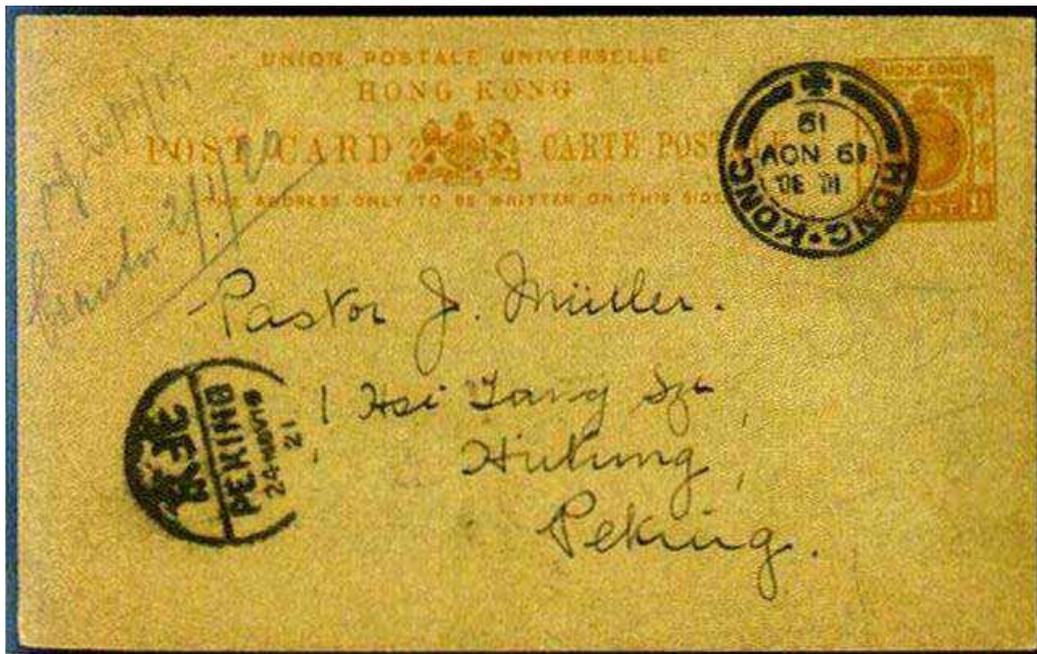


Figure PC-7f-1. 1½c post card rate used from HK to China seldom seen

Webb included the 1½c surcharge on 1c post card (i.e., without “CHINA” overprint) as P32 in his list of Hong Kong KGV cards, but both Schoenfeld and Yang eliminated this card from their catalogs. Although this card is not known used from Hong Kong, mint 1½c / 1c cards are recorded, so they have been retained in the basic list of KGV post cards herein. The actual use of these 1½c / 1c cards was apparently constrained to the Treaty Ports through application of the “CHINA” over-print. Similarly, the basic 6c on 4c card listed by Webb, but not by Schoenfeld and Yang, has been retained herein, since it is recorded mint. Both Schoenfeld and Yang cataloged the 1c and 1½c definitive cards with CHINA overprint. Although some mint examples of these latter two cards exist, only a very small number of used examples have been recorded.

Proud indicates that the Hong Kong UPU rates became applicable to Sin Kiang, Mongolia, and Tibet (S,M,T) on 1.10.19. Sieh and Blackburn recorded that the postal rates from Sin Kiang and Mongolia to Hong Kong were the same as those from China proper to Hong Kong effective from 5.8.10, and that international rates were charged from 1.11.19 (Tibet not addressed). Specifics on the c.1910 inclusion of S,M,T in the rates from Hong Kong to China have not been found. Sieh and Blackburn noted that the letter and post card rates from Sin Kiang and Mongolia to Hong Kong became the same as the China proper rates on 1.5.35. Jim Ashby indicates that the rates for letters and post cards sent from Hong Kong to S,M,T reverted to those from Hong Kong to China proper on 4.7.35. No example of any of the Hong Kong to S,M,T PC rates has been seen.

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Figure PC-7f-2. 2c post card rate from HK to China very seldom seen

Although in effect from 15.1.23 to 15.9.41, the 2c PC rate from HK to China is very seldom seen. A 15.2.30 example is illustrated in Figure PC-7f-2 (Gaertner, 1.2013, lot 437). It is addressed to the Basel Mission, and bears a "HWAPING 19.2" arrival mark, and a 16.2.30 Canton transit date stamp on the reverse.

The 1922 Hong Kong Postmaster General's report stated that "The postcard rate to China was increased from 1½ cents to 2 cents in order to conform to the Chinese domestic rate." Proud noted: "The single postcard rate to China . . . was further increased to 3 cents for the China Agencies on the 1 October 1922." It seems more likely that the British Agency post card rate to China proper was increased to 2c vs. 3c, since Sieh and Blackburn recorded a 1.11.22 Chinese domestic rate increase to 2c. No example of this rate has been seen, which is not surprising, given that the Treaty Ports closed on 30.11.22.

Proud also noted: "The single postcard rate to China . . . from 1½ cents to 2 cents to China from Hong Kong, local post on 15 January 1923." This apparently corresponds to the Chinese post card rate to Hong Kong having increased from 1½c to 2c on 1.11.22, as recorded by Messrs. Sieh and Blackburn, since postage rates between Hong Kong and China were typically reciprocally adjusted. The 1923 Hong Kong Postmaster's report shows issue of a 2c post card (Sch. 25) in that year, but recorded only 250 having been sold, and Webb did not record any used examples. Dr. Schoenfeld listed a price for this card in used condition, but no used example had been seen until 2006, when **a card bearing an additional 4c stamp used in 1930 was sold in an Internet auction (unfortunately, a scan of this rarity cannot now be found).**

Sieh and Blackburn listed a 1.5.32 increase from 2c to 3c in the rate for post cards sent from China to Hong Kong and Macao. Surprisingly, only about three weeks later, on 20.5.32, this rate was then reduced to 2.5c. Sieh and Blackburn show this 2.5c rate as having continued in effect until 20.9.40. Although the post card rate from Hong Kong to China is recorded as having remained at 2c until 1941, the Figure PC-7g PC provides circumstantial evidence that the HKPO apparently provided notice of the Chinese 3c / 2.5c PC rates applicable to mail handed in onboard vessels bound from HK to Canton and other Chinese ports.

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Figure PC-7g. 22.8.32 - Unique HK post card paying Chinese 2.5c paquebot rate

The 1c KGV post card to Canton illustrated in Figure PC-7g was franked with two additional 1c stamps, for a total of 3c. The “From Steamer Box / Punyu (Canton)” cancel shows that this card was handed in on board a river steamer bound to Canton, vs. at a Hong Kong post office. UPU regulations required that such paquebot mail be franked at the rate applicable at the port of arrival, i.e., 2.5c rounded to 3c, in this instance. This is the only known example of a Hong Kong post card franked to pay the 2.5c rate applicable to mail received in China by paquebot from Hong Kong. The “From Steamer Box / Punyu (Canton)” cancel is two years earlier than recorded by Hosking: Type 3056: only 1934.

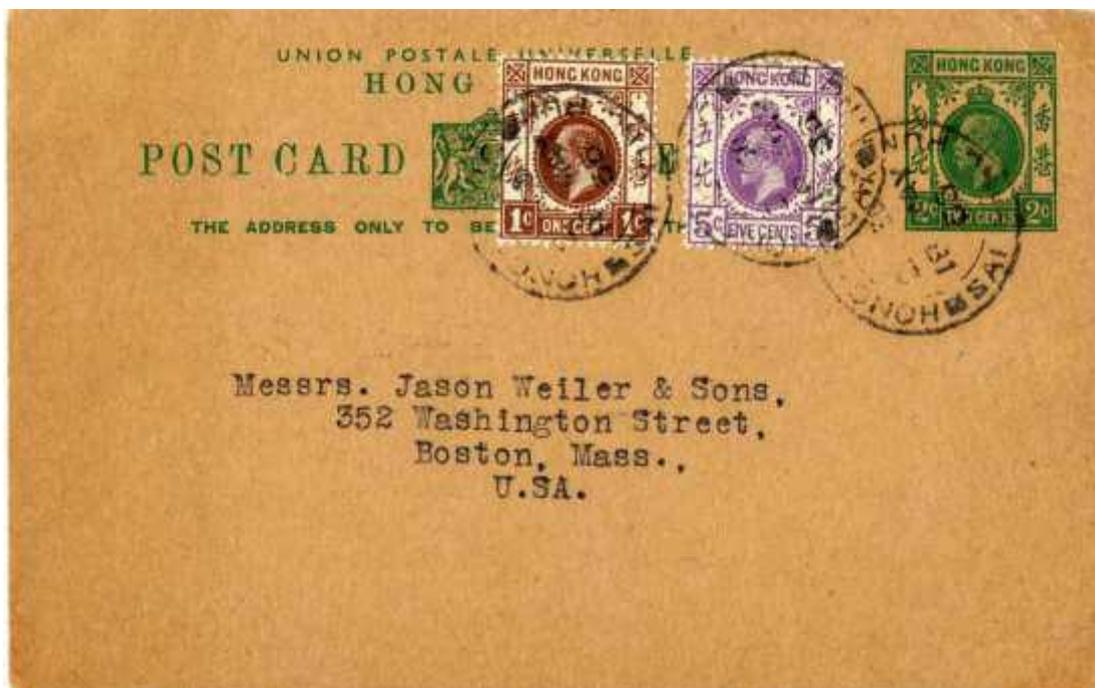


Figure PC-7h. 18.5.35 – Earliest known KGV 2c green with Royal Arms in white

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Webb, Schoenfeld, and Yang all show a second type of KGV 2c green post card, with Royal Arms in white on colored background (Sch. 26), as having been issued in 1936. However, an 18.11.35 example was found, bearing two 3c stamps to make up the 8c international and British Empire post card rate, which was in effect from 1931 to 1936. A scan of an even earlier example of this card has been provided by C. H. Chan. This 18.5.35 card, canceled at Sai Ying Pun (Proud Type D5: 1929 – 41), is illustrated in Figure PC-7h. This 2c KGV PC is franked with additional 1c and 5c adhesive stamps (John Bull, 6.2004, lot 959), comprising the 8c PC rate.

The 1935 Hong Kong PMG's report shows that 5,500 2c post cards were sold in that year (none the previous year). Subsequent reports state that only 2c cards were sold from 1936 through 1939, since the 1c and 4c cards that had also been sold in preceding years were made obsolete by the 1931 increases in the post card rates. The 2c green example illustrated in Yang's catalog appears to be 22.2.37, but it is too indistinct to be certain. The latest known usage of the 2c green listed herein is 22.1.38, although an extraneous 9.1.46 example (the earliest known post-WWII PC use), which bears additional 5c and 8c adhesive stamps to comprise the 15c foreign rate, has been seen (Bull, 6.2008, lot 1299).

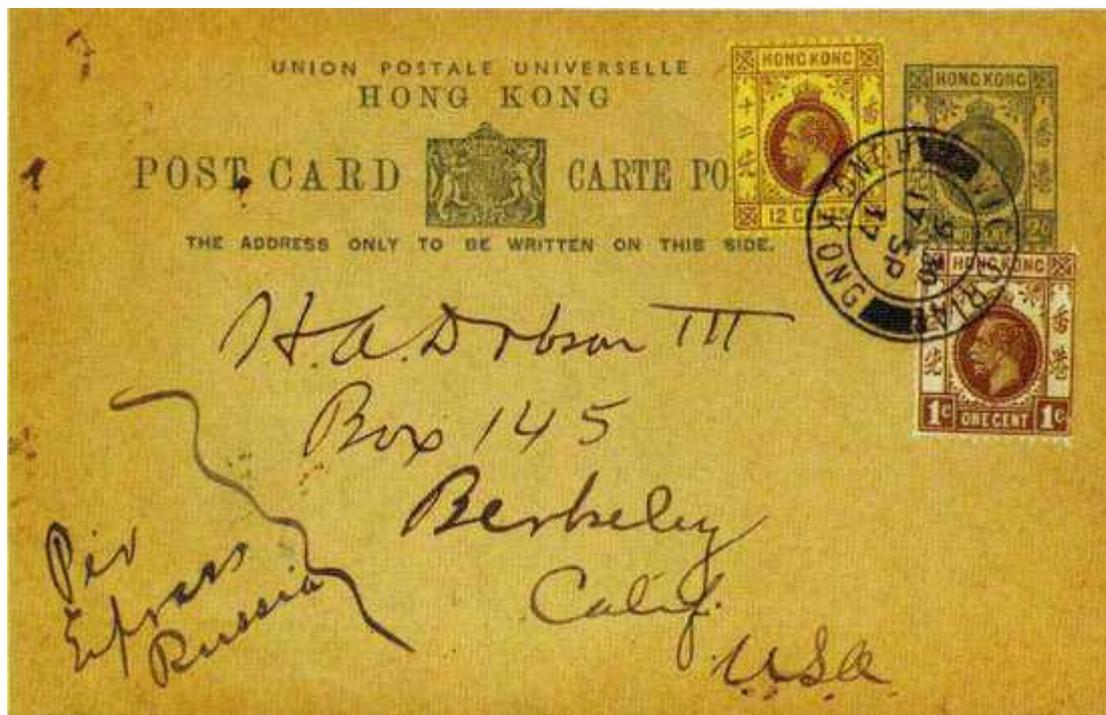


Figure PC-7i. 17.9.37 - Earliest of 2 known uses of KGV 2c grey post card

The previously mentioned catalogs also list a KGV 2c grey post card (Sch. 27) as having been issued in 1936. The need for issuing two differently colored 2c cards in the same year would seem hard to justify, so it is believed that the 2c grey was not issued until 1937 (as recorded by Higgins & Gage), after the 1935 issue of the 2c green had been in use for some time. Col. Webb recorded the 2c grey KGV card used only on 3.11.37. Only one other used example, which is dated 17.9.37, has since been seen, as displayed in Figure PC-7i (Dynasty, 3.2011, lot 1191). This post card bears additional 1c and 12c adhesive stamps to make up the 15c foreign PC rate, which was effective from 1.6.36 to 1.2.41. With the ascendancy to the throne by George VI causing the issue of new stamps and postal stationery in 1937, it is not at all surprising that use of the 2c grey George V post card was very limited.

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Mr. C. H. Chan has kindly provided scans of KGV PCs (augmented with additional adhesive stamps, as necessary) used for the following PC surface mail rates:

- 2c local (1c PC + 1c stamp; see Figure PC-7j): 3.11.31
- 8c international (2c green PC ERD + 1c and 5c stamps; see Figure PC-7h): 18.5.35
- 15c international (4c PC LRD + 3c and 2 x 4c stamps; see Figure PC-7k) to Chile (scarce destination): 28.10.37; also a 5.1.37 from Kowloon Tong (2c PC + 1c + 12c) to Germany

Although this monograph has been constrained to postal stationery sent by surface mail, I would be remiss not to mention the special airmail rates at which HK PCs could be sent. Duncan Crewe and Nick Halewood have fully documented these rates in their airmail books, and Duncan has also illustrated a number of pre-WWII HK PCs sent at the following airmail rates (see HKSCJ 352):

- 49c Christmas concessionary rate by Air Orient (4c PC + 20c & 25c stamps): 6.12.32
- 49c Christmas concessionary rate by KLM (4c PC + 5c & 2 x 20c stamps): 7.12.33
- 55c rate to Europe by AF, KLM & IA (4c PC + 1c & 50c stamps): 10.4.34
- 50c rate to Europe by KLM (1c PC + 4c, 5c, 2 x 10c & 20c stamps): 1.12.34
- 32c rate to GB by IA (4c PC + 8c & 20c stamps): 29.6.35
- 26c rate on 1st flight by IA via Penang to GB (2c PC + 4c & 20c stamps): 26.3.36

Duncan noted: “None of these cards are common. Even the first flight of the Hong Kong-Penang feeder service only carried 194 cards compared to 6,504 letters sent to Britain alone.”

The HK 1c local PC rate, which had been in effect since the issuance of the first of the definitive PCs in 1880, was finally increased to two cents on 1.4.31, at the same time as the HK international letter rate was raised from 14c to 20c. An early, and seldom seen, usage of this 2c local PC rate is illustrated in Figure PC-7j. The 2c local PC rate remained in effect until it was raised to 5c on 1.4.49. The use of HK PCs continued to decline throughout the 1930s, and afterward, until no more cards were issued after 1951. Extant post cards that were used locally in HK are much less common than those sent internationally, at least partially due to the ravages of WWII.

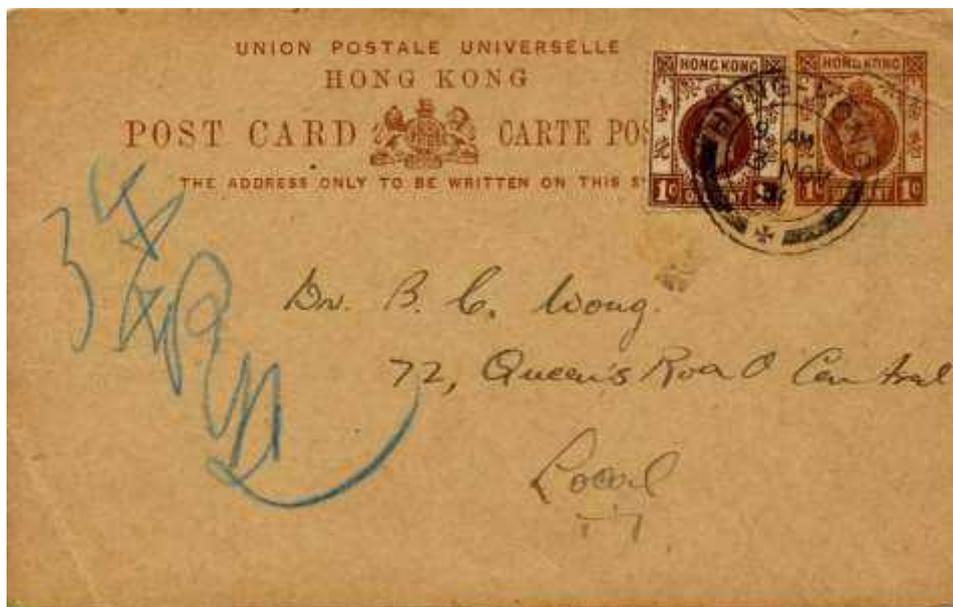


Figure PC-7j. 3.11.31 – 1c KGV PC + 1c stamp to pay increased local PC rate

The PC illustrated in Figure PC-7k is the HK KGV 4c LRD: 28.10.37. A 3c and two 4c stamps were added to make up the 15c international surface rate for PCs, effective 1.6.36 – 1.4.48. This

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card is addressed to Chile, a very scarce destination from HK. The earliest HK PC to Chile that I recall seeing is illustrated and described in HKSCJ 352/11 by Ingo Nessel. It is the message half of a 4c black surcharge on 3c brown card sent from Amoy on 9.5.01.



Figure PC-7k. KGV 4c PC LRD uprated to 15c sea rate to Chile; scarce destination

Harmon Fine queried re. a 1929 private picture PC with 6c franking sent from HK via Shanghai and the trans-Siberian railroad to Switzerland. A 6c PC rate is noted in Table PC-1, but only in 1922 from the “Agencies” (British Treaty Ports plus Wei-Hai-Wei). Sieh and Blackburn listed a 1.11.22 increase from 6c to 8c in the rate for post cards sent from China to other countries, and then a change back to 6c on 1.1.23, this rate then having remained in effect until 1.7.30. As is described in more detail in the “CHINA” overprint section, HK generally reciprocated Chinese postal rate changes beginning in 1918. Harmon’s card is quite a rare example of this 6c HK PC rate, only a half dozen or so having been seen. My 1c KGV PC bearing five 1c adhesives to make up this 6c rate, which was posted onboard a ship at Shanghai in 1927, is illustrated in Figure PC-7l.

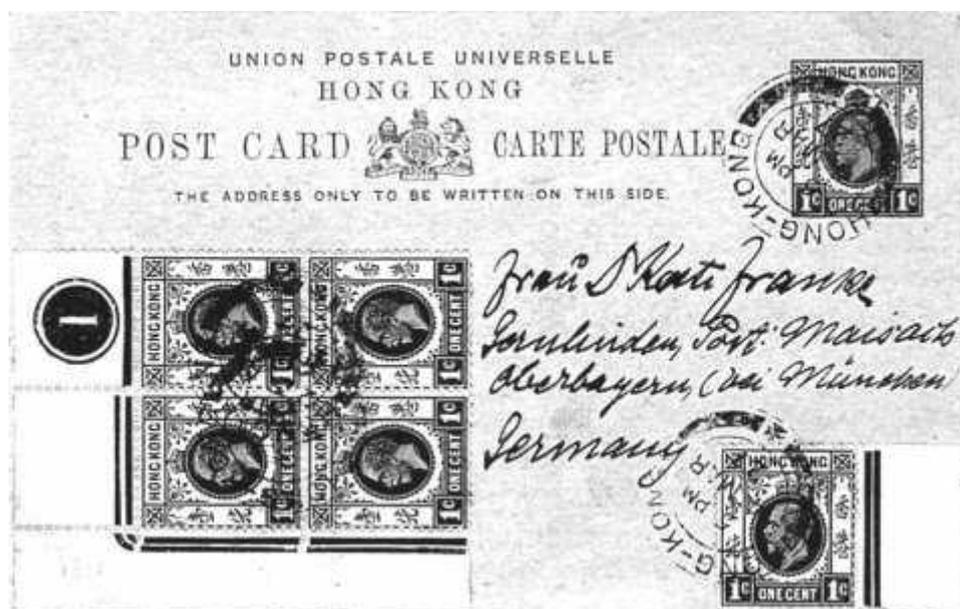


Figure PC-7l. KGV 4c PC + 5c in stamps paying Chinese 6c international PC rate

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The next section is PC-D KGV – ‘CHINA’ Post Cards. To access this section or other parts of the monograph, return to the HKSC website/Papers. <http://www.hongkongstudycircle.com/papers.html>