

Part 2: POST CARDS
Section PC-E: King George VI

Webb # Sch. #	KG VI Issued	Value & Format	Early	Webb Early	Webb Late	Late	Notes
	1938			*			* Webb ERDs are FDCs
P47 28		2c grey, French and English heading	N/A	5.5.38		8.9.41	LRD: Spink, 11.2004, lot 491
	1946	Only English inscription		*			Webb: Issued 24.4.46
P48 29		2c grey, rough quality grey buff cards	N/A	24.4.46	24.3.48	8.12.51	LRD: HKSC Bulletin 249-24(a): Latest known use of all HK post cards
P49 30		4c orange	N/A	24.4.46	9.3.51	12.4.51	LRD: Bull, 6.2008, lot 1306: to Yugoslavia
P50 31		10c violet	N/A	24.4.46	23.11.50	6.1.51	ERD: FDC - PhilaChina, 7.2004, lot 1024 LRD: Norton - only indicia portion; Un Long c.d.s.
	1950?						
P51 32		2c grey on grey buff, better quality		9.3.51		16.6.51	Webb ERD: Harmon Fine LRD: LCS
	1951?						
P49 33		4c orange + 1c stamp affixed		9.3.51		1952?	Webb ERD: LCS LRD: Bull, 6.2006, lot 231

Table PC-6. King George VI post cards description and usage dates

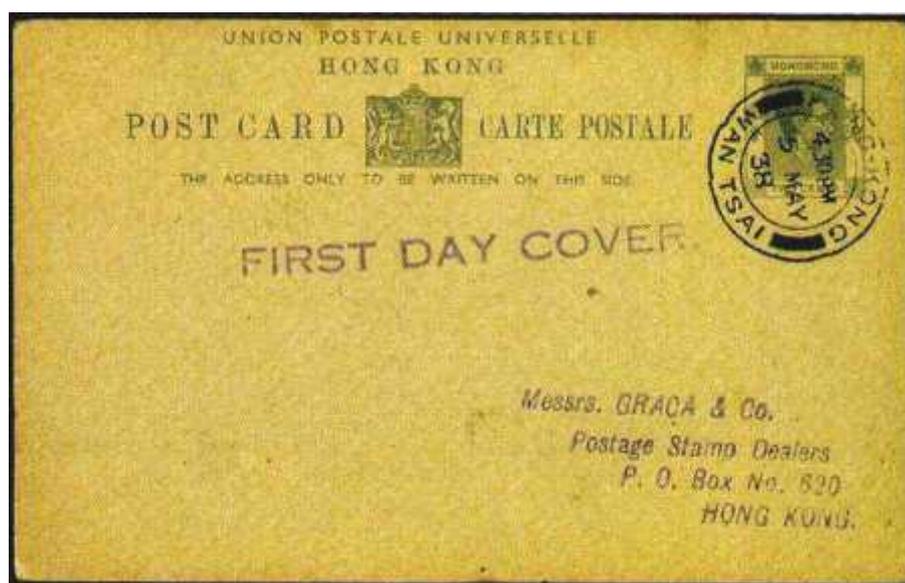


Figure PC-9a-1. 5.5.38 - Earliest recorded KG VI post card; used on date issued

The usage of Hong Kong preprinted post cards has fallen off over the years, and the KG VI issues are some of the scarcest in used condition. Even though most used examples are philatelic, they have commanded amazingly high auction realizations in recent years. Col. Webb listed the ERD for the first KG VI post card, the 2c grey, as 5.5.38, not long after the issue of the first KG VI adhesive stamps, and he stated that it was a First Day Cover (i.e., used on the date of issue). A

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seldom seen example cancelled by a “Wan Tsai” c.d.s. (Proud Type D3: 1932 – 41), with hand-stamped “First Day Cover”, is shown in Figure PC-9a-1 (John Bull, 11.2010, lot 2581).

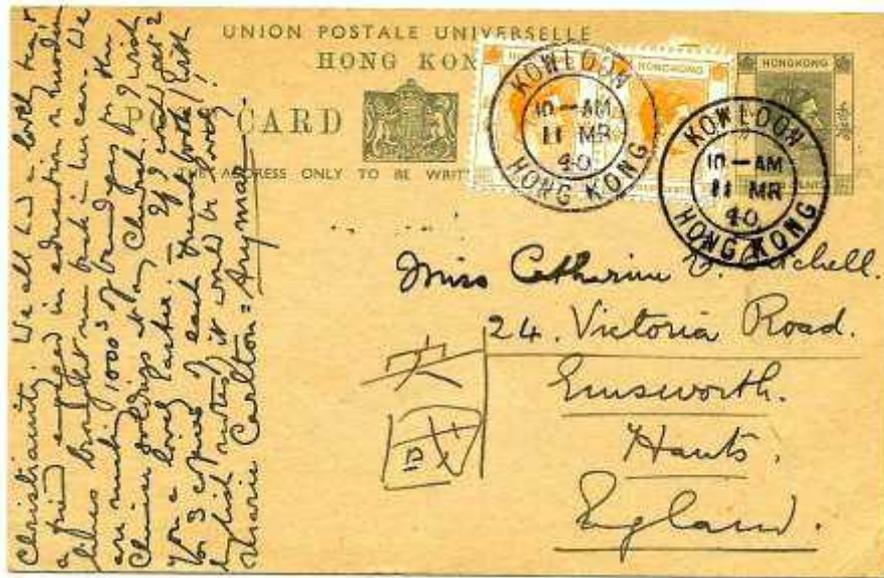


Figure PC-9a-2. 2c KG VI post card + 8c paying 10c GB & Commonwealth rate

Chris Norton kindly provided the scan of the 2c KGVI PC illustrated in Figure PC-9a-2. It is a private, seldom seen, non-philatelic usage to England, which is augmented with two KGVI 4c adhesive stamps to pay the 10c PC rate to British Commonwealth members. This rate went from 8c to 10c on 1.6.1936, at the same time as the PC rate to other UPU countries went up from 10c to 15c. These rates remained in effect until 1.4.48, when they were increased to 15c to the British Commonwealth and 20c to other countries.

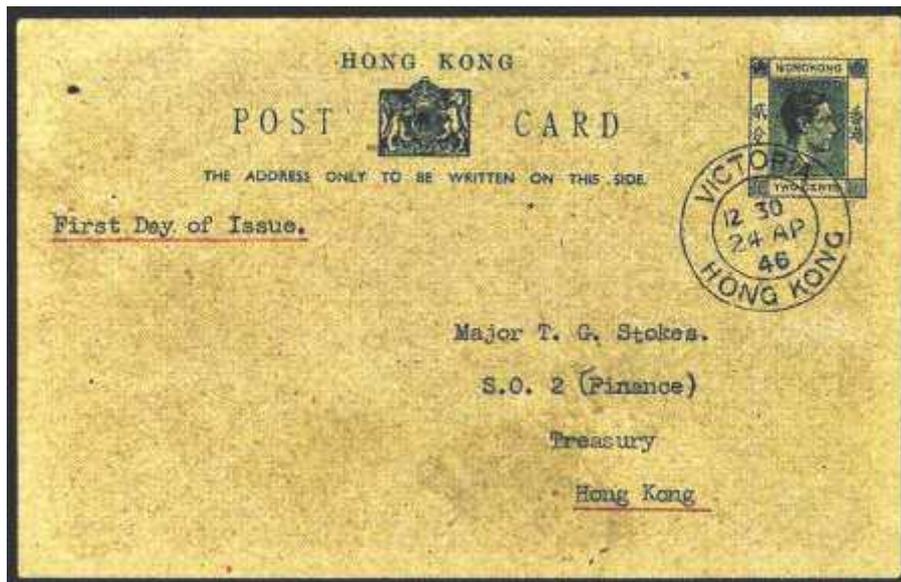


Figure PC-9b-1. 24.4.46 - Earliest known post-WWII KG VI card; used on date issued

Following WWII, another 2c grey PC was issued on rough quality grey buff cards, without the French “Union Postale Universelle” and “Poste Carte” parts of the inscription, as shown in Figure PC-9b-1. The 24.4.46 date of this card is its “First Day of Issue”, as it is annotated. The 2c local post card rate was in effect from 1931 to 1949. The Proud Type D178 datestamp is recorded used only from 28.9.45 to 29.5.46.

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The KG VI 2c “rough print” PC scan reproduced in Figure PC-9b-2, which is one of a series that were prepared and sent by “Trader Henry Ho”, was kindly provided by Chris Norton. The 2c card plus 53c in adhesive stamps paid the 25c registration fee, plus the 30c post card rate by air mail to Manila. The 30c rate had gone into effect on 23.11.46, according to Nick Halewood in his “Hong Kong Airmails 1945-1995”. This card was mailed only a few days later on 2.12.46, and directed “By CNAC Service” to Manila, which Halewood records as the first flight by that company outside of China. The registration label, with large “K” overprint (for Kowloon PO) and index “C” is later than the very short 8 – 11.46 usage recorded by Ming Tsang (Type KLGKC). The “By Air Mail” label is Mair Type HKG-A-6, issued in 1946.

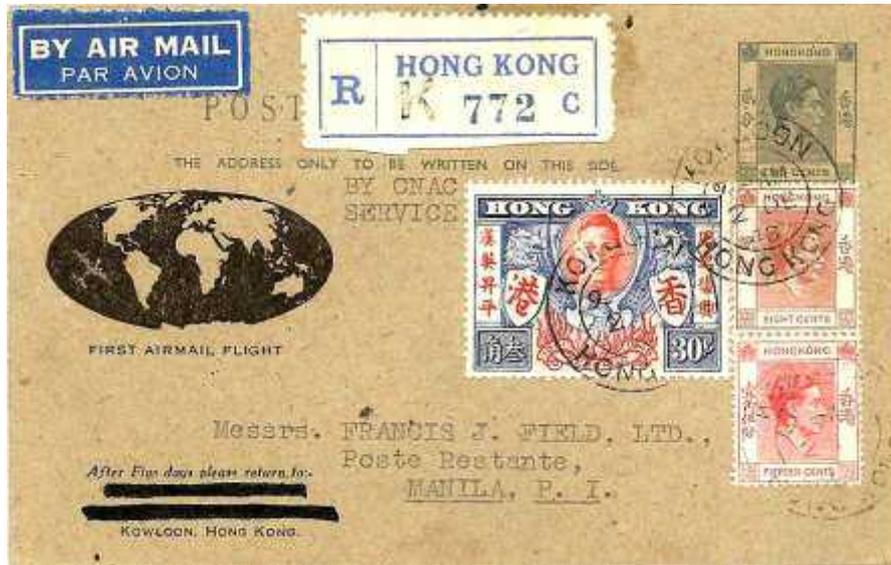


Figure PC-9b-2. 2.12.46 KG VI 2c PC bearing later than recorded registration label

Another 2c on rough quality card was mailed on 10.10.49 (Philachina, 12.2005, lot 976), but the 2c local PC rate had been raised to 5c on 1.4.49, so this card was apparently sent at the local 2c per two ounces printed matter rate. Mr. C. Y. Chen reported the 8.12.51 latest known usage of this 2c PC, which is also the latest verified use of all HK post cards (except for official PCs: Section PC-F). An unverified 1952 is noted for the 4c PC with 1c adhesive affixed

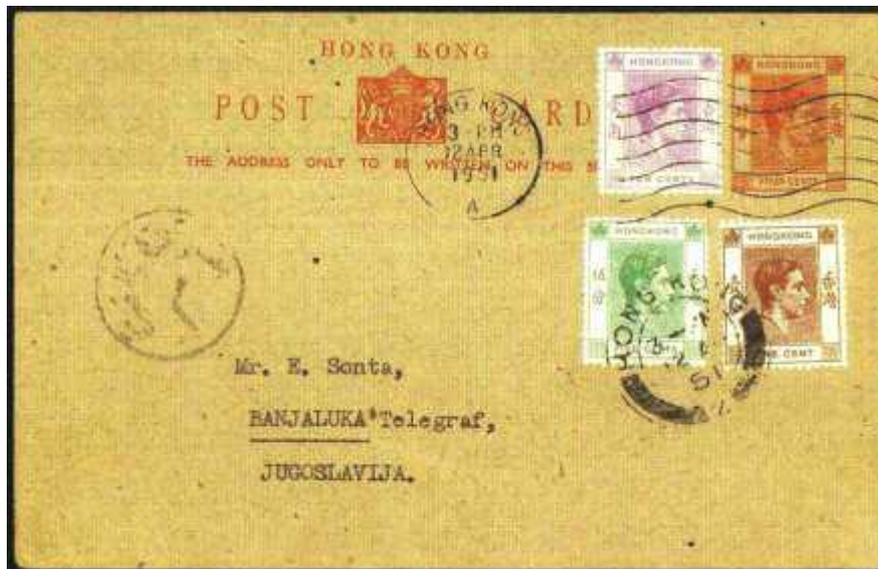


Figure PC-9c. KG VI 4c PC LRD augmented for 20c foreign rate to Yugoslavia

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Col. Webb stated that the 2c, 4c and 10c KGVI post cards were issued on 24.4.46, which he showed as the ERD for all three. Dr. Schoenfeld indicated that the post card rates on 1.4.46 remained the same as the pre-war rates: 2c local, 4c to China and Macao, and 10c to the British Empire. Surprisingly, no PC was issued to satisfy the 15c international rate. I had a 24.9.46 KGVI 4c PC bearing additional 1c and 10c adhesive stamps, making up the 15c foreign rate. No example has been seen of the 4c card, used as it was intended to China or Macao. Webb labeled this 4c as “yellow”, and Yang followed suit, but Higgins & Gage and Schoenfeld term it “orange,” and it certainly appears orange to me in Figure PC-9c. The latest known use of the KGVI 4c post card, augmented with 1c, 5c, and 10c KGVI adhesive stamps for the 20c international surface PC rate (Bull, 6.2008, lot 1306), which was in effect from 1.4.48 to 1.6.52, is illustrated in Figure PC-9c. This card was sent to Banjaluka (a large city in Bosnia), Yugoslavia, a destination which is very seldom seen from HK. Note that the wording and indicia are at an angle on the card.

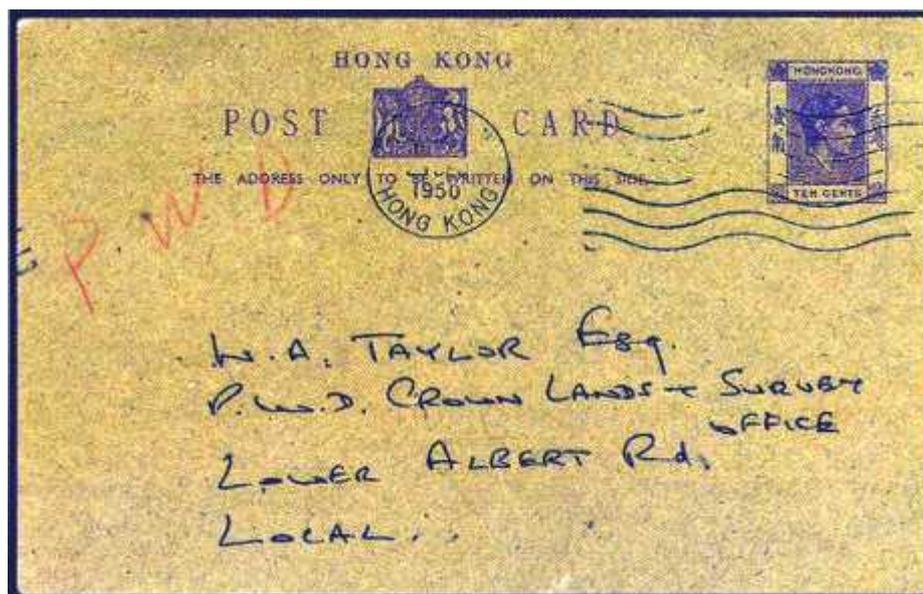


Figure PC-9d. KG VI 10c post card used locally; early Kowloon machine cancel

A FDC of the KGVI 10c post card, although not so marked, is known to Australia (Philachina, 7.2006, lot 1463). Another example of the 10c card, issued to satisfy the British Empire rate although used locally, so overpaid 5c, is illustrated in Figure PC-9d. This 23.12.50 example has been superseded as the LRD by Mr. Norton's 6.1.51 c.d.s. on a 10c indicia cutout.

In the KG VI post card section of Webb's book he said: "It is assumed that the 4c rate was increased to 5c in March 1951." This was presumably based on his recording of several examples of the KG VI 4c card (Sch. 30) with an additional 1c adhesive (4c + 1c: Schoenfeld 33) cancelled on 9.3.51. However, Webb inconsistently recorded in Appendix XXVII that the local post card rate increased from 2c to 5c on 1.4.49.

Schoenfeld, in his post card rate chart in HKSCJ 301/4, showed 1.4.49 for the rate increase from 2c to 5c. Webb recorded 9.3.51 as the LRD for the 4c KG VI post card, but he noted that it was "with 1c adhesive added", as is illustrated in Figure PC-9e. Schoenfeld listed this as a separate issue (#33), indicating the 4c card was issued by the HKPO with the 1c stamp affixed, perhaps with the intent of using up their stock of these PCs. Webb only recorded the 4c + 1c card used on 9.3.51, but an auction lot of 13 used KGVI PCs (Bull, 6.2006, lot 231) included five "1951-52 4c orange

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(Yang P40) all with 1c brown added". Thus it appears that this 4c + 1c card was used in 1952, as well as in 1951, although no photo was provided in the catalog for verification.



Figure PC-9e. 9.3.51 – earliest known KG VI 4c post card with 1c stamp affixed

The implication of the 4c card + 1c adhesive having been listed in the catalogs is that it was an official issue. However, the official status of this issue is itself questionable, since various other combinations of adhesives affixed to post cards to make up the applicable rates are also known, and at least one of these is definitely of private origin. It is a 2c grey post card with an additional 3c U9 meter dated 17.5.51 (Ebay 250027730827).

Additionally, Harmon Fine has a 2c grey post card with a 4c adhesive stamp, overpaying the 5c local PC rate. It is cancelled on Webb’s 9.3.51 ERD for his Type P51 PC by the very rare “STAN LEY” (space between the two parts of the PO name) c.d.s. (HKPSJ 15, pg. 88). This 9.3.51 usage is also the earliest known after reopening of the Stanley PO (Proud Type D4: 25.5.51), following its closure at the end of 1948. Nonetheless, these privately franked examples do not rule out the possibility that both official and unofficial up-ratings of post cards occurred, so the 4c + 1c card listing in other catalogs has been retained herein.

The inconsistencies among the various authors about the PC rates in effect during the 20 or so years after WW II is somewhat surprising to me. One might expect that the information about such things would be more precise and well documented as the time horizon moves toward our current period, but such does not always seem to be the case (see Table PC-7). Proud listed the British Commonwealth post card rate as 10c in his 1.1.51 table, with increase to 15c on 1.6.52. However, Webb and Schoenfeld recorded that the Commonwealth post card rate increased from 10c to 15c on 1.4.48. The recorded post-WWII surface rates for foreign post cards are even more disjointed, as demonstrated in the Table PC-7:

Date	Webb	Schoenfeld	Proud
1.4.1946	10c	15c	15c
1947	15c		
1.4.1948	25c	20c	
1.1.1951			20c
1.6.1952		25c	25c

Table PC-7. Recorded HK Foreign Post Card Rates Following WWII

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The rates given by Schoenfeld in the table above are believed to be correct, based on the evidence of extant post cards. For example, I had a 1946 KG VI 4c post card, bearing additional stamps to make up the 15c foreign PC rate, thus validating the 15c rate recorded by Schoenfeld and Proud, over the 10c rate listed by Webb. However, even Schoenfeld and Proud's 1.6.52 foreign surface PC rate of 25c is subject to question, based on a 4.3.53 PC to the US, bearing a 20c KGVI adhesive stamp, but with no postage due marking (Ebay 320212789717, 3.2.2008).

As with the earlier post cards, some of the recorded issue dates would also appear to be in question. For example, why would the better quality 2c card (Sch. 32) have been issued in 1950, if the local post card rate was raised from 2c to 5c on 1.4.49, as stated by Schoenfeld and Proud (note: Webb inconsistently listed the 5c local post card rate as effective both on 1.4.49 and 3.51). Even more questionable, why would issue of the 4c card with an added 1c adhesive stamp affixed have been delayed until 1951, if as just noted, the local post card rate was raised to 5c on 1.4.49? [See section PC-A: Queen Victoria for the complete set of PC surface mail rates, as currently understood.]

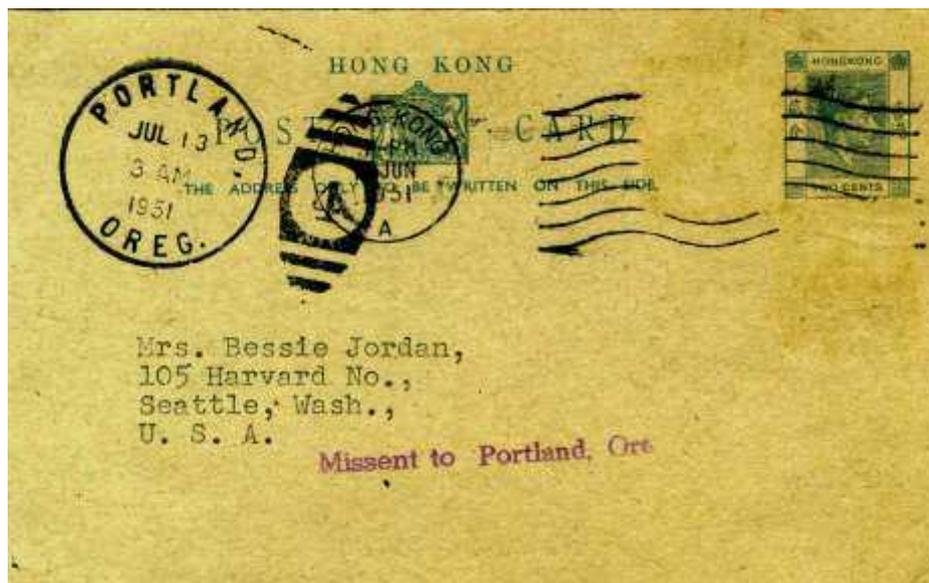


Figure PC-9f. 16.6.51 - Latest known usage of 2c KGVI PC on better quality stock

The various PS catalogs list a reissue of the KG VI 2c PC on better quality card stock in 1950, but Col. Webb did not record its use until 9.3.51. The latest known use of this post card is 16.6.51, as is illustrated in Figure PC-9f, quite a short life span for a newly issued PC. This PC was sent by American missionaries, who had recently been released from detention by the communist Chinese. The missing stamps were probably an 8c and a 10c which, in conjunction with the 2c PC stamp, would have made up the 20c foreign PC surface rate, effective from 1.4.48 to 1.6.52.

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