

Part 2: POST CARDS

Section PC-F: Postage Paid and Official Paid

In the introduction I stated that I did not intend to include the newer (Queen Elizabeth era) types of postage prepaid postcards in this publication. However, after rereading Mr. Mak's "The first pre-printed Postage Paid Government post card" in HKPSJ-9, I decided that this type of card should be included, because of its actual non-philatelic usage, and due to its still unique nature. The example shown by Mak, with "Postage paid" preprinted on the card, is illustrated in Figure PC-10a.

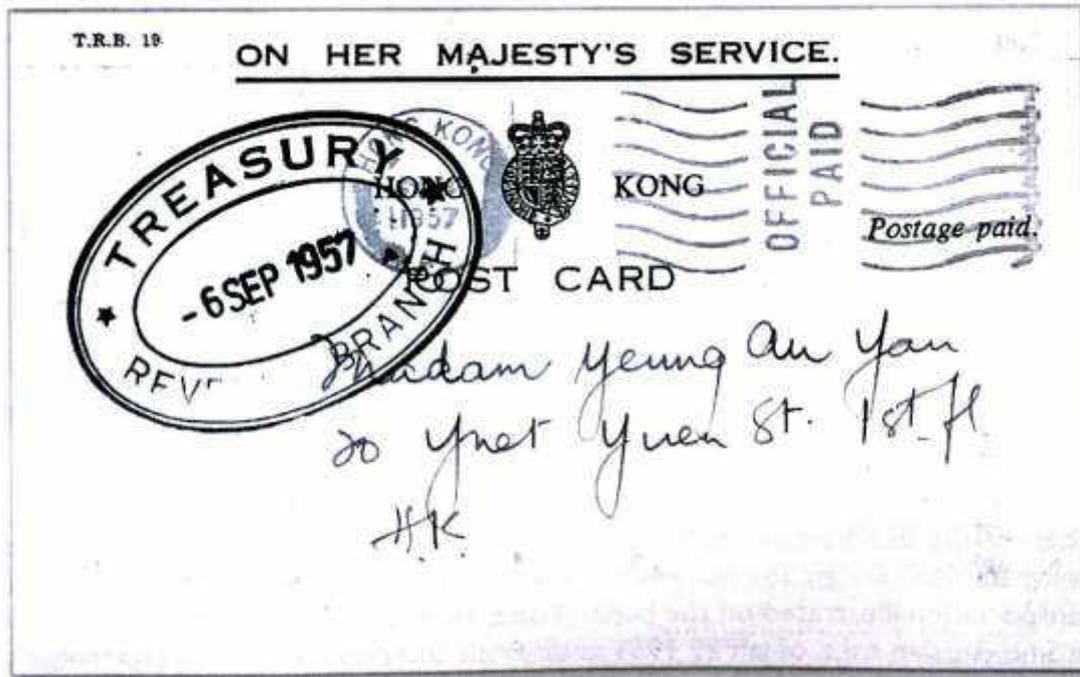


Figure PC-10a. 12.9.57 - Only known Official Use "Postage paid" imprinted card

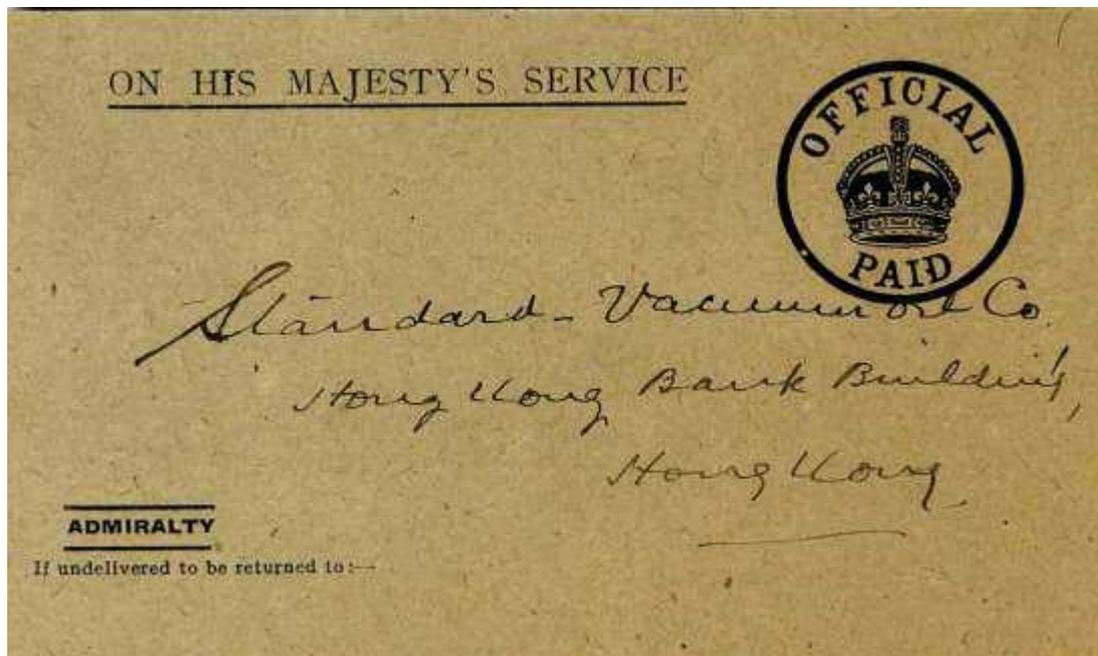


Figure PC-10b. 20.11.50 - Earliest known HK use of imprinted "OFFICIAL PAID" PCs

Part 2: POST CARDS
Section PC-F: Postage Paid & Official Paid

The decision to include Mak's official "Postage paid" card naturally led to a logically necessary decision to include imprinted "Official Paid" post cards, which in turn spawned the inclusion of "Postage Paid" and "Official Paid" envelopes (see monograph Part 3, Postal Stationery Envelopes, Sections PSE-E and F). The first post card with preprinted "Official Paid" indicia used in HK was a British general issue, as illustrated in Figure PC-10b. This example is stamped "Superintending Civil Engineer," 20.11.50 on the back. The Admiralty return instruction printed in the lower left corner on the front is in a different format than the type that was handstamped on earlier postal stationery envelopes with imprinted "Official Paid".



Figure PC-10c. 1974 imprinted "OFFICIAL PAID / HONG KONG" bilingual PC

For the record, although unused, the only other two HK post cards with imprinted "Official Paid" that I have seen are illustrated in Figures PC-10c and 10d. The "Official Paid" indicia imprinted on the Figure PC-10c example has "Hong Kong" at the bottom, and the corresponding Chinese characters in an inner circle. The form printed on the back of this card has "L.D. 126 (6/74)" at the bottom left, indicating that it was not issued until June 1974. Several government envelopes with various types of imprinted "Official Paid" indicia, which were used both before and after the Figure PC-10c card, are shown in Part 3, Section PSE-E. This indicates the possibility that post cards with corresponding "Official Paid / Hong Kong" indicia were also in use.

The Figure PC-10d card has a "crowned oval" indicia with "HONG KONG / OFFICIAL / PAID", and corresponding Chinese characters beneath. This PC has a government return address of the "General Post Office". The back of this card bears a printed form that was apparently sent to various companies to offer HKPO assistance with the types of services that are listed at the top of the form: Speedpost, Intelpost, and air parcels. However, unlike the Figure PC-10c card, that

Part 2: POST CARDS
Section PC-F: Postage Paid & Official Paid

shown in Figure PC-10d has no form number, or other such information, which would indicate when this form was issued. Based on my purchase note penciled on the back of this card, it would appear to have been in use during the mid-1980s.

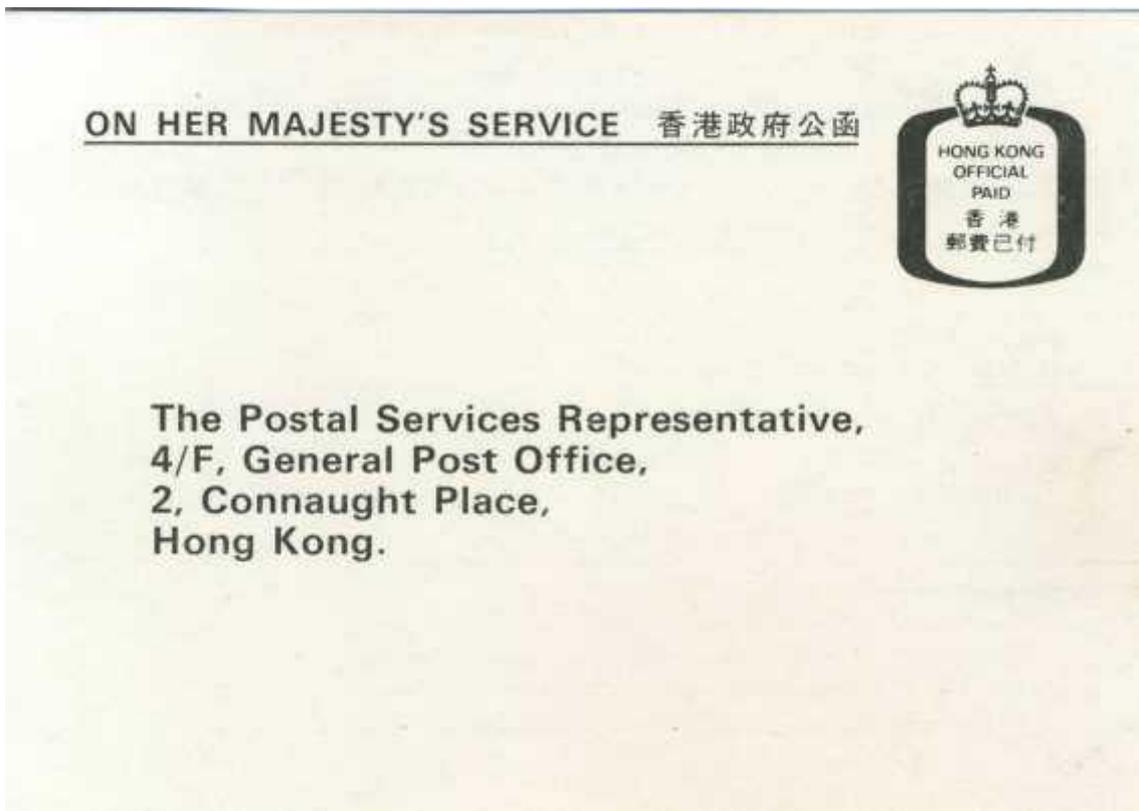


Figure PC-10d. Imprinted “HONG KONG / OFFICIAL / PAID” bilingual PC

A similar unused government folding envelope, bearing the same indicia as the card illustrated in Figure PC-10d, but with the Chinese equivalent of “On Her Majesty’s Service” below the English rendition, vs. following it on the same line, and which bears a different government return address (“Southern District”), is also known. A government envelope label, with the same type of an oval imprinted “HONG KONG / OFFICIAL / PAID” indicia, is also shown in Part 3, Section PSE-E, of this monograph.

The next section is 3. Postal Stationary Envelopes. To access this section or other parts of the monograph, return to the HKSC website/Papers. <http://www.hongkongstudycircle.com/papers.html>