

PART 3: POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES

Introduction

(updated 5.2013)

Webb recorded four basic sizes of postal stationery envelope (PSE), “A” to “D,” using inches as the unit of measurement. Yang also uses inches for this measurement, and records the same four sizes, with two exceptions. Yang does not use a fixed set of PSE sizes across all reigns, as Webb did, but restarts his size letter designators at A for each reign. This leads to the same physical size having two or more different letter designators, depending on reign, in some cases, which can be somewhat confusing. Secondly, he states a value of 3^{-1/4} x 4^{-3/4} inches for the King Edward size B envelope. No evidence has so far been found to validate this stated size, and so it is assumed that the “3^{-1/4}” is a typographical error for 3^{-3/4} inches.

Higgins & Gage (H&G) and Dr. Schoenfeld use millimeters as the unit of measurement for PSE size categories, and measurements of the Hong Kong PSE in those categories are identical. A comparison of the two units of measurement employed in these four catalogs across the four PSE sizes is provided in Table PSE-1 below. The inch values have been converted to millimeters at 25.4 millimeters per inch, rounded to the nearest millimeter. For size D, there is a significant 5 mm. difference between the two sets of width measurements recorded by 1) Webb / Yang and 2) H&G / Schoenfeld. Examination of quite a number of covers indicates that the 145 mm. width specified by H&G / Schoenfeld is the correct value. No examples near the 5^{-1/2} inches (140 mm.) given by Webb / Yang were found for the size D PSE.

As can be seen in Table PSE-1, the values are the same, to the nearest millimeter, for the two sets of size C measurements. The measurements are within one millimeter of each other in each of the width and height dimensions for sizes A and B. Examination of a number of covers indicates that the H&G / Schoenfeld measurement values in millimeters are almost invariably more accurate than the Webb / Yang values in inches. The only minor discrepancy seen was that a large majority of the size B covers measured closer to 119 mm. wide than to 120 mm. wide. Nonetheless, it is recommended that the H&G / Schoenfeld millimeter values be employed when sizing Hong Kong PSE. A tolerance of plus or minus one or two millimeters should be allowed to compensate for natural size variations resulting from the folding process, and care should be taken to determine if a cover has been cut down during or after its opening.

CATALOG	SIZE							
	A	A	B	B	C	C	D	D
	Inches	Millimeters	Inches	Millimeters	Inches	Millimeters	Inches	Millimeters
Webb /								
Yang	3-1/8 x 5-1/2	= 79 x 140	3-3/4 x 4-3/4	= 95 x 121	4-3/8 x 5-1/2	= 111 x 140	4-1/2 x 5-1/2	= 114 x 140
H&G /								
Schoenfeld		78 x 140		94 x 120		111 x 140		113 x 145

Table PSE-1. Comparison of catalog sizes of Hong Kong PSE

Thanks to Paul Campion, who provided the Government Notification displayed below, which states the values / sizes of PSE that were to be available as of 1.1.03. It may be presumed that the sizes stated in this notification are in British inches. Although the stated sizes can be directly



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