

## Tientsin British Post Office Date Stamps – by Chris Norton

This update is an attempt to correct and/or clarify some of the information provided by Webb [2], Schoenfeld [6] and Proud [7], and in so doing to present a revised classification of the types of date stamp in use at the Tientsin British Post Office during the period 1 October 1906 to 30 November 1922 inclusive. N.b. To aid clarity all the following illustrations are shown at a magnification of 2½ except for Types R(i) and R(ii).

### **Type 1 date stamp** (Proud D1).

Webb (p. 333) does not show an illustration of this marking and states, on the basis of seeing only one example: “The absence of a date leads us to conclude that this was an office stamp ... and that it has no postal significance.” However, my inspection of several other examples of this marking reveal two impressions, the first being a circle of approximate diameter 24 mm containing “B.P.O. TIENTSIN” in two lines as illustrated by Proud (p. 1140); and the second being a handstamped date across the first impression. So the complete marking does include a date, and therefore it may be described as a “date stamp”. After being closed in 1890, the Tientsin B.P.O. was re-opened on Monday 1 October 1906, and it seems likely that this date stamp was only in use during the first week of October, i.e. until Type 2(i) became available. Schoenfeld [6] does not list this date stamp.



**Earliest recorded date:**

1 October 1906 (Ref. 8).

**Latest recorded date:**

3 October 1906 (Proud)



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