

Part 6. AEROGRAMS

Introduction

(updated 6. 2013)

Aerograms (aerogrammes, air letters – AG for short) are second only to post cards as the most prolific of the Hong Kong postal stationery categories, and they are the last type of official HK PS to continue in use. As indicated in the introduction, only the official Hong Kong issues with imprinted stamps will be addressed herein (except for Webb #1, described in Chapter 6, section A of his *Hong Kong Airmails monograph*); i.e., not including Christmas aerograms, and other such AGs.

I probably should recant my somewhat elitist introductory remarks about certain Hong Kong PS, such as the Christmas aerograms, after seeing 1966 and 1967 Christmas aerograms (Webb A.13 and A.14) sitting at over 30 GBP each on Ebay. These, at least, appeared to be genuinely used (vs. the usual hand-backs), which I don't recall having seen before, but they still looked philatelic. That may be the only way to obtain them, but the price had already climbed too high for me to justify joining in the fray.

I later found the Christmas greeting card addressed to me, which is illustrated and described in HKSCJ 365/21. It is Yang Type CG2a, which was restricted to only local use, unless additional stamps were affixed, whereas the “b” set was prepaid for airmail. This “b” set is clearly a form of aerogram, but, since I have no other new information to contribute regarding this type of AG, they are not further addressed herein.

Due to the relatively large number of AGs, the ERD / LRD and related information have been provided in separate tables for the KG VI and QE reigns, and for convenience, the QE AGs have been broken into two tables: 1) 40c and 50c values, 2) 60c and above values. There are several “new finds,” but they tend to be more of a “fly speck” nature than the new finds for other types of HK PS. The tabular ERD / LRD and related information may be accessed by clicking below on the appropriate table link. The corresponding text follows each of these tables.

<u>Reign / Type</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Table</u>
King George VI	AG-A	AG-1
Queen Elizabeth 40c & 50c	AG-B	AG-2
Queen Elizabeth 60c & up	AG-C	AG-3

Mr. Martin Walker, a Philatelist in Australia, emailed me that he has developed an interest in HK aerograms. He mentioned that he found, via internet search, and made use of the aerogram part of the postal stationery monograph on our web site. He kindly provided the following information concerning AG quantities issued, based on his research in the microfilms of the Crown Agents Philatelic, Security and Printing Archive at the British Library. He noted:



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