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POSTAGE STAMPS OF MANCHOUKUO

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Manchoukuo, though condemned to a premature death by the report given to the League of Nations by the Lord Lytton enquiry commission, is not only very much alive today but is a very much sought after country through her very limited number of postage stamps by a small family of some 20 million serious stamp collectors throughout the world.

Though the population of Manchoukuo is daily increasing, the number of stamps available is far too limited to satisfy the demand of all the stamp collecting body, both the school-boy type and the serious group. The writer was once told that there are some 75 million stamp collectors but by far the greater number of these are of the school-boy type.

Because of the very definite number of stamps issued especially those issued on several yet rare occasions the stamps of Manchoukuo are today, perhaps, among the most wanted, and this naturally causes their value to rise greatly in the never satiated philately market. Though the postage stamps of Manchoukuo are sufficiently high priced in France, the philately market of Shanghai is paying still higher prices.

The true significance of the founding of Manchoukuo may still be little known abroad, as well as her economic potentialities and the great contributions she is able to make to the economic well-being of the entire world; yet her political history since her establishment is pretty well known to the stamp-collecting family. Each issue of postage stamps always carries a short explanation accounting for the issue.

Every fourth boy in the United States of America, to give an instance of the size of the stamp collecting body, knows Manchoukuo through her stamps. It is said that in that country there are over 27 million stamp collectors almost one-sixth of the entire population of the country though less than a fourth is of the serious group.

The Manchoukuo Government is to be highly complimented on its steadfast refusal to exploit the stamp-collecting public by issuing unnecessary stamps as some States are wont to. Two instances to prove this claim for Manchoukuo are given here; the postal authorities have issued only four stamps for their airmail the second issue being necessitated by the increase in franking charges; and the withdrawal from currency of all duplicating values of different issues concurrently in circulation.

This disinclination of the Government to issue any unnecessary stamp, its banning of all duplicating values from sale at the same time, and the rapid and important changes taking place in the history of Manchoukuo necessitating corresponding changes in her stamps or calling for issue of special stamps in very limited numbers; these factors, at least so it appears to the writer, conspire to create greater demand for, and give greater value to, Manchoukuo stamps.

King Of Hobbies—Stamp collecting is the king of hobbies and hobby of Kings. To name a few of the Rulers of the world who are philatelists; in Japan there are several Royal philatelists and in Europe there are Leopold III, King of the Belgians; Alphonso XIII, ex-King of Spain; the Crown Prince of Sweden; the Duke of Windsor; the late King Albert, father of the reigning Belgian King; the late King George V; his uncle, the late Duke of Edinburgh; the late King Alexander of Yugoslavia; the late King Fuad of Egypt; the late King of Siam; and then we have President F. D. Roosevelt of the U.S.A.

The collection of late King George V is said to fill more than 100 albums and it is related that he once wrote to an intimate friend on his stamp collection in the following vein, "It is one of the greatest pleasures of my life". The Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, prior to his ascension to the throne of the British Empire, was honorary president of the Royal Philatelic Society. The Crown Prince of Sweden is the Patron of the Swedish Philatelic Society, ex-King Alphonso XIII has one of the best collections extant of stamps of the Spanish Empire and takes a great pride in his hobby and the late King Fuad had a special English stamp expert to look after his very large collection and his philatelic interests. It is said that there are few collections that can equal Mr. Roosevelt's. However it must not be concluded that stamp collecting is confined to men, for actually philately finds great favor among the Royal ladies of Europe, amongst whom mention might be made of the Queen-Mother of Belgium, the Queens of Italy and Rumania and the Princess Royal of England.

ADVICE TO BEGINNERS

How to Begin—The best way to commence will be to acquire one of the larger packets advertised from a few yen upwards, obtaining as large a number of different varieties as, possible for the outlay decided upon. After buying one or two carefully chosen packets, attention may be paid to purchasing sets, particularly of countries not so far represented in the collection. A good grounding will thus be secured, as well as a knowledge of what stamps are not easily picked up this way. These must be acquired singly, as opportunity offers, and then will come the thrill of every collector the chase after the elusive, and the joy of possession when tracked and found.

Condition of Stamps—Of far more importance than rarity is the condition of stamps. The collector should not allow a dirty or damaged copy to appear on any page. If unused, they should be in 'mint' condition, as when they left the Post Office. If used, every vestige of paper and foreign matter must be carefully FLOATED off the backs.

Equipment—See that you are properly equipped before you begin to handle stamps. Stamps are delicate objects, very susceptible to damage, and damaged stamps are, generally speaking, worthless. The essential items in your outfit will be: a good magnifying glass, tweezers, watermark detector, perforation scale, one with millimetre scale is preferable as this scale is required for measuring the length of the surcharges, their sizes, and the distance

China Bound Stamps of 1935-37 Surcharged



*Commemorating the Capital Construction of Hsinking,
September 1927*



*Commemorating the Abolition of Extraterritoriality Rights
by Japan on December 1, 1937*



between two lines of surcharges, mounts and duplicate books.

No philatelist fingers his stamps, but carries a pair of small tongs or tweezers, plated to prevent rust, which he uses for placing his specimens where required.

One of the most frequent causes of damage is the use by ignorant collectors of ordinary gummed paper or stamps edging for mounting stamps. This is only a shade better than the old harmful way of sticking stamps down flat, as either plan will damage the stamps when removed. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that only specially prepared easily peelable mounts should be used.

Duplicates are bound to accumulate and the best way to keep them orderly is to obtain a duplicate book. This consists of strips of linen or card fixed to stout leaves and forming a series of slots into which the duplicate may be slipped loose.

FIRST CHINESE STAMPS—First postage stamps to appear in any part of China were issued at Shanghai where the first local Chinese stamps were released in 1865 and the last local series in 1896. These stamps were not available for franking mail matter for interior points of China but only for abroad.

The Chinese Government issued their first stamps for the whole of China in 1878. Formosa issued its own special stamps (three in all) in 1888 and before she could make a second issue this island was ceded to Japan by China as compensation for the war in which China lost to Japan.

Postage stamps of China proper were used in Manchuria (the Three Northeastern Provinces) without any distinctive marks until 1927, when the Government authorities had all stamps for the territory surcharged with five Chinese characters (限吉黑貼) signifying 'good for franking mails only in Kirin and Heilunkiang provinces'.

At the time (1927) when the Chinese Government first issued these surcharged stamps for Kirin and Heilunkiang provinces, two out of three provinces forming Manchuria, the reason was that the monetary value throughout Manchuria, excluding the Japanese Leased Territory of Kwantung, was 25 per cent cheaper than that in China proper, and same conditions existed until and after the establishment of the Central Bank of Manchou, June, 1932 which organization was instructed by the Manchoukuo Government to redeem by the end of June, 1934 all notes issued by the former Chang regime and by private banks through sanction of, and participation in by, the Chang regime. However as the redemption of all old notes was not completed in that time the period of redemption was extended until the end of August, 1935 when all the 15 different kinds of notes and 136 denominations were finally withdrawn from the market and burnt at a total cost of MY-138,000,000 to the Central Bank of Manchou. In pre-Incident times the Chinese were not slow in taking advantage of the discrepancy in currency values, buying stamps at a cheaper price in Manchuria and selling them at higher prices in China thus gaining a profit of 25 cents on every dollar. It was to stop this robbing of the State treasury that these 'localized' stamps were issued, with the five character surcharge.

FIRST MANCHURIAN STAMPS—The first stamps so surcharged in black appeared in Manchuria in 1927 and are of the 1922-33 China issue (printed from retouched plates) perforation 14, unwatermarked, 20 stamps in all; values:—one-half cent, one cent, .one and one-half cent, two.

three, four five, six, seven, eight and ten cents all in junk design; 13, 15, 16, 20, 30 and 50 cents all in reaper design and one, two and five dollars with Confucian Temple at Peking for a design. Yvert and Tellier—Champion of France, French authorities on philately. price the foregoing stamps. according to their 1940 catalogue, as follows: for mint, 0.60, 0.60, 1.00, 1.50, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 4.00. 6.00, 6.00, 6.50. 7.50, 8.00, 10.00, 15.00, 25.00, 40.00, 80.00 and 200.00 francs each and for used ones (the word 'used' employed here is meant that the stamp had fulfilled the purpose for which it has been made, namely it has been used for franking a letter): 0.75, 0.75, 1.25, 1.50, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 6.00, 0.75, 4.50, 7.50, 3.50, 4.50, 5.00, 3.00, 10.00, 50.00 and 225.00 francs each; the French values given here are put in the sequence of the face value of the stamps, viz., the list commences from the lowest denomination and to the highest, and prices for mint are given first; this method of showing the European prices for the stamps will be maintained throughout this article. It will be noticed that the ten cents mint is priced at six francs whilst the used one is worth less than a franc. This also applies to the 50 cent stamp, of which the mint is valued at 25.00 francs whereas its cancelled companion is valued only at three francs. The value of stamps increases with their rareness in quantity and only in rare cases is the value of the stamp affected by its age.

CHANG TSO-LING ISSUE: — Commemorative stamps were issued on the first anniversary in 1928 of the Dictatorship over North China and Manchuria by Marshal Chang Tso-ling, warlord of Manchuria. Chang Tso-ling, a native of Iyeh-hsien, Shantung, China, was of no great import in the large and loosely organized body called the Chinese Army until 1916 when he was appointed Governor, civil and military,, of the Fengtien province, the most populous province of Manchuria (the Three Northeastern Provinces) by the Government of the Chinese Republic. A couple years later he became Governor-General of all Manchuria, and as a result of his first and miscarried invasion of Chihli Province early in 1922 he withdrew his troops to Manchuria and in May of the same year declared the independence of Manchuria from China. In 1924 whilst Chang was engrossed in defensive plans in his second invasion of Chihli, one of his subordinate generals, Kuo Sung-lin, betrayed his cause. Chang, seeing himself between two fires, sued for peace with the Chihli faction and exerted all his efforts towards crushing the rebellion within his camp which had nearly cost him his life, and eventually succeeded in not only quelling the uprising but also in capturing Kuo in the battle of Hsinmingtun.

Early in 1926 Chang again broke peace with Chihli for the third time and this time invaded the territory and overran it. His power rapidly extended farther west and south, and in 1927 his authority extended as far south as Chekiang, Kiangsi, Anhui and Hunan Provinces. In June, 1927, he had himself declared ruler of that part of China where his military might held sway. Almost a year later, feeling the increasing and merciless pressure put against him, he gradually withdrew northward, which movement was greatly accelerated by the treacherous act of General Feng Yu-hsiang, the so-called Christian General, who joined forces against him and in the opening days of June Marshal Chang Tso-ling finally withdrew to Mukden from Peking, but as he was nearing Mukden an explosion blasted his train, fatally wounding him, and he succumbed on June 4, 1928. A set of four stamps were issued throughout his domain a few days before his flight from Peking and on the fifth of June all unsold stamps were withdrawn and destroyed, together with the plates. The stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper, perforation 14. Four Chinese characters (吉黑貼用) meaning Kirin-Heilunkiang Province were employed as surcharges (in red) on one, (brown-yellow), four (olive) and ten cents (blue), and in blue on one dollar (red); these four stamps make up the set and they are valued according to the French authorities, for mint, 2.00, 6.00, 10.00 and 75.00 francs and for used, 2.00, 6.00. 10.00 and 90.00 francs.

CHIANG KAI-SHEK SET: — A second commemorative set of four stamps were issued in 1929 in celebration of the unification of China under General Chiang Kai-shek. General Chiang, a native of Fenhua, Chekiang Province and son of a banker, received his military training in one of

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the Military Academies in Japan. Upon returning to China, he joined the South China army and has been one of the greatest disciples of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Chiang displayed no great military ability until early in 1927 when he, through the assistance and guidance his 'Red' friends, organized a North Expeditionary Army. His advance northward was whirlwindlike but after his capture of Nanking—incidentally this action nearly caused a serious international crisis between his New China on the one hand and Great Britain and the United States of America on the other—Chiang betrayed and turned upon his 'Red' friends who had created Hankow as the capital of China. After his capture of Shanghai he resumed his northward push until he finally succeeded in evicting Marshal Chang Tsoiling from his proud pedestal. With the termination and successful conclusion of his North expedition he threw his whole armed might against his 'Red' friends of yesterday. But his anti-Red expedition finally ended in Chiang himself been kidnapped by Young Marshal Chang Hsuehliang, at Sian in December 1936 and as a price for his head he compromised with them. The picture of the General appears on the stamp printed on unwatermarked paper, perforation 14, values—one, four and ten cents and one dollar all with the same surcharges as the preceding set, only in red. European prices are for mint, 3.00, 4.50, 6.00 and 40.00 francs and for used 1.25, 3.00, 7.50 and 45.00 francs.

SUN YAT-SEN SET—Again in 1929 the Chinese Government Postal Administration issued a set of four stamps on the occasion of the State funeral given the mortal remains of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, father of the Chinese Revolution. Dr. Sun, a native of Chushan, Kwantung Province, south China, was educated in the United States where the democratic ideas so fascinated him that he wished such ideas and ideals might take ground in China. After the abdication of boy-Emperor, Hsuan Tung, in February, 1912, Dr. Sun was elected the first President of the Government of the Chinese Republic but he too abdicated in favor of General Yuan Shih-kai after a few months of presidency, as a result of the friction caused between the Northern Chinese who wanted and insisted that the Capital of China be Peking whereas the Southerners wanted and insisted on Nanking. Dr. Sun died at Tientsin. The Sun Yat-sen. Mausoleum at Nanking is the pictorial design of these four stamps printed on unwatermarked paper with perforation 14; values, one, four and ten cents and one dollar with the same surcharges as the preceding two issues, only in black. European prices for these stamps are 2.00, 3.75, 5.00 and 40.00 francs for mint and for used, 1.25 3.00, 6.00 and 60.00 francs.

MANCHOUKUO—Manchuria, after having been so called for more than 3,000 years finally in 1932 changed its name to Manchoukuo, as Westerners now know it, but in reality the old

Chinese characters (滿洲) meaning Manchu have not been changed beyond that an appendage (國) meaning 'country' which has been added to the old native appellation of the country. This new State then invited His Excellency, Mr. Pu Yi, to be its Chief Executive. His Excellency was the last Emperor of the Chin dynasty that had ruled over China for almost 300 years and his era was called the Hsuan Tung. In 1912 due to the overwhelming defeat of the Manchu army in its attempt to crush the Chinese rebellion headed by Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the Emperor was forced to abdicate in favor of the Republicans and until his assumption of his new post in his native country, Manchuria, he lived in the Japanese concession in Tientsin. In compliance with the prayers of the populace His Excellency ascended the throne of Manchoukuo on March 1, 1934 as the first Emperor of the new Empire, and with the commencement of the Kang Teh era the

name of the State was slightly changed; that is the word (帝) meaning TI (Empire) was inserted between the characters (滿洲) Manchu and (國) Kuo.

FIRST MANCHOUKUO ISSUE—Upon the refusal of the Government of the Chinese Republic to enter into negotiations with Manchoukuo; the latter on July, 26, 1932 took control of all aspects of the Chinese postal administration still functioning within the State of Manchoukuo and issued its own postage stamps. The first general issue contains 18 lithographed stamps of two designs, Liaoyang Pagoda and the effigy of the Chief Executive; perforation 13 X 13-1/2; unwatermarked; values: Pagoda design, stamps, one-half fen (sepia), one fen (red-brown), one and one-half fen (purple), two (grey), three (brown), four (olive green), five (green) six (vermilion), seven (grey-brown) eight (yellow) and ten fen (reddish-yellow); stamps with the effigy of the Chief Executive, 13 fen (brown), 15 fen (vermilion), 16 fen (greenish-blue), 20 fen (sepia), 30 fen (orange yellow) and 50 fen (olive-green) and one yuan (violet).

The European prices for stamps of the first issue of Manchoukuo stamps are, for mint, 1.50, 1.00, 2.60, 5.00, 7.50, 1.75, 2.50 7.50, 3.00, 4.00, 7.50, 7.50, 1.00, 17.50, 10.00; 15.00; 17.50 and 50.00 francs; for used 1.50, 0.75, 3.75, 3.00, 7.50, 0.75, 25.00, 5.00, 2.50, 4.00, 2.00, 9.00, 4.05, 15.00, 4.50, 10.00, 8.50 and 50.00 francs. The price 2.50 francs for mint and 3.75 francs for used one and one-half fen (violet) stamp as assessed by the French philatelists is very much lower than the latest prices offered by the Shanghai philately mart.

FIRST COMMEMORATIVE SET—A set of four stamps were issued on March 1, 1933 and sold for a few days, marking the first anniversary of the founding of the State of Manchoukuo.

Perforation 12-1/2. Unwatermarked white paper. Values: —one, two, four and ten fen. One (orange) and four fen (vermilion) stamps are with the map-outline of Manchoukuo encircled by entwined twigs of leaves and with crossed national colors superimposed with six Chinese

characters (建國一年紀念) signifying 'Commemorating the first anniversary of the founding of the State of Manchoukuo'; two fen (olive-green) and ten fen (blue) stamps have the Government House as design with the same letters as legend. The French prices for these stamps are, for mint, 10.00 and used 12.50 for the one fen stamp; 25.00 francs for mint or used for two fen; 20.00, mint or used four fen; and 75.00 francs, mint or used ten fen stamp.

SECOND GENERAL ISSUE—Nine stamps of the first general issue of 1932 were re-issued (plates not retouched) in 1934 on paper showing pieces of silk-thread, perforation 13 X 13-1/2, watermarked horizontal wavy line. There is a likelihood that these stamps had been printed in Japan due to the similarity of paper used in this issue to that used by the Japanese postal administration in making their stamps. Values are one-half fen (sepia), one (reddish-brown), one and one-half (violet), two (grey), three (brown), four (olive green), and ten fen (orange) all with the Pagoda design; 15 fen (vermilion) and one yuan (dark violet) with the effigy of the Chief Executive. Of this issue, the 15 fen (vermilion) is now highly priced, due to the fact that only a very limited number of this stamp, had been sold, when the whole issue still unsold at the time of the change of the State into the Empire on March 1, 1934 was withdrawn from currency and the plates destroyed. European prices for this issue are : for mint, 1.25, 1.25, 1.50, 2.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.50, 750.00 and 40.00 francs and for used, 1.50, 0.75, 2.00, 2.00, 0.90, 4.50, 2.23, 750.00 and 20.00 francs. The price 750 francs for the 15 fen stamp (mint or used) is taken from the Yvert October 1939 supplement.

ENTHRONEMENT SET—With the establishment of the Empire of Manchoukuo on March 1, 1934, a set of four stamps were issued to mark this auspicious event in the history of Manchou-ti-kuo. The values of these stamps are one and one-half fen (yellowish brown) and six fen (green) showing the Imperial Palace and three fen (vermilion) and ten fen (blue) with allegorical

phoenix. Perforation 12-1/2, paper with pieces, of silkthreads and unwatermarked. One and one-half and three fen stamps both for mint and used are priced at 5.00 francs each, the four and ten fen at 25.00 francs each for mint and the four and ten fen at 30 francs each for used are the European prices.

FIRST SURCHARGES :—In 1934 two stamps of the general issue of 1932 were surcharged, the original values of four (olive-green) and 16 fen (greenish blue) being changed into one and three fen respectively. In the one fen surcharge the color of the surcharge is officially black but as an error there is a brown surcharge which is highly priced. The color of the three fen surcharge is black. These surcharges were printed at Harbin. The one fen black surcharged stamp is price-tagged in France at 1.50 francs for mint and 2.50 for used. The three fen is valued at 4.50 francs for mint and used. The brown surcharged one which is an error as already mentioned is valued accordingly and is listed at 50.00 francs for mint and 60.00 used. There are seven known varieties in the matter of the positiln of the verticals in these surcharges.

THIRD GENERAL ISSUE—Stamps of the same design as the first general issue (1932) were issued in July, 1934 with the exception of the change in the legend. The former issue had the five Chinese lettered legend whereas the present issue has six Chinese lettered legend signifying 'Manchoutikuo Postal Administration'. Perforation 13 X 13-1/2, watermark same as the second general issue, paper with pieces of silk-thread. Values-one-half fen (sepia), one fen (red-brown), one and one-half fen (violet), three (brown), five (bluish grey), five (blue), six (vermilion), seven (grey-brown), nine (reddish yellow), 15 (vermilion), 18 (greenish blue), 20 (sepia), 30 (brownish yellow) and 50 fen (olive-green) and one yuan (dark violet). European prices for this issue are, for mint: 1.00, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 7.50, 7.50, 5.00, 6.00, 7.50, 10.00, 10.00, 9.00, 12.50, 20.00. and 37.50 francs and for used 0.60 0.40, 1.25, 0.40, 2.50, 4.50, 2.00. 3.75, 2.50, 3.50, 4.50, 4.00, 5.00, 9.00 and 15.00 francs.

FIRST STAMPS FOR CHINA BOUND MAIL :— The populace of both China and Manchoukuo immediately felt the severe effects of the postal ban placed on mails to and from Manchoukuo by the Chinese Government as soon as Manchoukuo carried out their declared intentions to seize all the Chinese postal administrative functions then operating within its State and this took place on July 26, 1932. Naturally such state of affairs brought its own train of contraband mails from both ends, for the people naturally did not stand by with folded arms and watch their lines of communication severed. In order to alleviate such extreme inconvenience to its own people the Chinese Government finally agreed to negotiate on the matter with Manchoukuo through the good offices of the Japanese Government and the result of such negotiations was that a postal treaty was signed between the two States. However the Chinese Government insisted that the Manchoukuo Government should frank all mails intended for China with stamps whereon the word 'Manchoukuo' did not appear; the result of which was the issue in 1935 of a new set of four stamps in compliance with the demands of the Government of the Chinese Republic. These new stamps are printed on paper (very similar to that employed by the Japanese Postal administration) with pieces of silkthread, watermarked with undulating lines horizontally instead of vertically as is the method employed by the Imperial Japanese Postal Administration, perforation 12 1/2 X 13-1/2; values, two (yellowish green) and eight fen (deep yellow) with the design of orchids (Coat-of-Arms of the Imperial House of Manchoutikuo) encircled by two stalks of kaoliang and four (olive green) and twelve fen (reddish brown) stamps depicting the Holy White Mountains with dark waters. Though primarily intended for franking mails only for China, the stamps were employed for mails in general. European prices for these are mint, 1.50, 2.00, 4.50 and 10.00 francs and used 1.50, 1.75, 4.50 and 1.00 francs.

SECOND SURCHARGES:— second series of surcharged stamps printed in Harbin was issued in 1935, including the four fen of the first general issue, unwater marked, and the four fen of the second general issue, watermarked, when each were surcharged into three fen. As there was a very limited quantity left of the first general issue four fen stamp (unwatermarked) this surcharge(stamp in France is worth 125.00 francs either mint or use(whereas the watermarked one is valued three francs only for mint or used.

IMPERIAL VISIT TO JAPAN SET : —His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoutikuo went to Japan on April 2 1935 to repay the Imperial visit paid him by His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan through the proxy of Imperial Highness. Prince Chichibu. The Imperial Japanese Government placed at His Majesty's disposal the cruiser Hiei both on his outward and homeward journeys and later the cruiser was presented to the Manchoukuo Navy as a gift. To celebrate this memorable visit, the first Imperial visit ever made by the reigning Emperor in the history of Manchoutikuo, the Government issued a set of four stamps, printed by the Printing Department of the Central Bank of Manchou, Hsinking, on white paper with pieces of silk-thread, watermark, Manchu characters signifying 'Manchu Postage' in the whole sheet, so that on individual stamps only fragments of these characters will appear, perforation 11. Values, one and one-half fen (deep green) and six fen (red) with Mount Fuji design and three fen (red orange) and ten fen (blue) with the allegorical phoenix as the design. There are also 12-1/2 perforations on some of the ten fen variety. European prices for these stamps are: mint, 3.00, 4.00, 9.00 and 10.00 francs and for used. 3.00, 3.00, 7.50 and 7.50 francs.

The Postal authorities having now secured their own paper and not wishing to appear as if borrowing the Japanese Postal Administration's paper for their stamps, re-issued sometime in 1935 the three values of their China-ward stamps on paper with pieces of silk-thread watermarked with Manchu characters, perforation 12-1/2 X 13 1/2, values:two, eight and twelve fen, in their original colors and designs. French prices for these stamps are; mint, 1.50, 5.00 and 12.50 francs and 1.25, 5.00 and 6.00 francs for used.

In 1935 a set of two stamps of the first general issue (1932) was issued in the denominations of ten (blue) and 13 fen (brown); the former with the Liaoyang Pagoda design and the latter with the effigy of the Chief Executive. The paper used for printing these two stamps is watermarked with fragments of Manchu characters and contains pieces of silk-thread, perforation 13 X 13-102, legend is in six Chinese letters same as the third general issue. The ten fen stamp is valued in France at 5.00 for mint and 3.00 francs for used and the 13 fen at 7.50 each for mint and used.

*CHINA BOUND ST AMPS RETOUCHE*D:—In 1936 the two and eight fen stamps for franking mails intended for China were issued but from retouched plates. The difference to be noticed in the new stamp is that the orchid design is much bolder than in the original issue and the center is surrounded by dark spaces which do not exist in the two 1935 issues. A new two and one-half fen (violet) stamp has likewise been issued from this new plate. All these three stamps are printed on paper with pieces of silk-threads, watermarked with fragments of the Manchu characters and perforation 12-1/2 X 13- 1/2. European prices for these are: mint, 1.75 and used 1.25 for the two fen; 1.50 francs for mint or used for the two and one-half fen and 2.50 francs for the eight fen stamp (mint or used).

POSTAL TREATY STAMPS : —The Governments of Japan and Manchoukuo concluded a Postal Treaty in

December, 1935 and for this occasion the Manchoukuo postal authorities issued on January 26, 1936, a set of four stamps. This treaty called for the immediate liquidation of all Japanese postal

offices then operating within the territory of Manchoukuo and the transferring same to the latter whilst a gradual transfer of postal administration commenced within the South Manchuria Railway zone and this function was entirely taken over by the Government of Manchoukuo on December 1, 1937. These stamps are printed on white paper with pieces of silk-thread, with perforation 12-1/2, watermarked with fragments of the Manchu characters and values are: one and one-half fen (blackish-brown), three fen (lilac), six fen (bright red) and ten fen (blue). The one and one-half fen and six fen stamps have the map-outline of Japan, Chosen and Manchoukuo with a bird flying from the first named country to the last named one, and the three fen and ten fen stamps have for design the building of the Ministry of Communications, Hsinking, with the legend band ornamented with the Imperial Coats-of-Arms of Japan and Manchoukuo. The French prices for these stamps are :—2.50 (mint), 3.00 francs (used) for the one and one-half fen, 4.00 (mint) 3.00 francs (used) for the three fen stamps, for the six fen both for mint and used 7.50 francs each and for the ten fen stamp the price is 10 00 francs each for mint or used. The writer saw in one of the department stores of Dairen about a month ago a set of these (used) stamps offered for sale at Yen 2.50.

Again in 1936 the postal authorities issued a set of four China-bound stamps of the Holy White Mountains design of four, five, twelve and thirteen fen denominations. The four and twelve fen ones are re-issues whilst the five and thirteen fen ones are original issues. These latter two stamps were issued to equalize the franking charges with those from China and were issued at a later date than the first two stamps of this issue. The postal authorities seeing the twelve fen stamp was unnecessary withdrew same from circulation, as a result of which it has a far greater value in the philately market due to its very limited circulation. The four fen stamp is yellow-green; five fen, steel-blue; twelve fen, reddish orange; and thirteen fen, reddish-brown and all are printed on white paper with pieces of silk-thread, watermarked with fragment of the Manchu characters, perforation 12-1/2. European prices for these stamps are:—four fen. 4.50 francs (mint or used); five fen 4.00 francs for mint and 2.00 francs for used; twelve fen 50.00 (mint) and 60.00 francs (used) and thirteen fen 6.00 francs each mint or used.

FOURTH GENERAL ISSUE:—The fourth, general issue was put into circulation by the Government in December 1936. This issue contains 18 stamps printed on white paper with pieces of silkthread, watermarked with fragments of the Manchu characters, perforation 13 X 13-1/2 and in four pictorial designs, viz: the building of the State Council of Manchoukuo, Hsinking; a cartload of Soya beans drawn by three mules, the Imperial Mausoleum (Pei-ling), Mukden and the Imperial Summer Palace at Shotoku, Jehol. The following denominations are of the first design : —one-half fen (brown), one fen (brownish-red), one and one-half fen (violet), three (reddish-brown), and five fen (grey); the second design includes: two fen (green), six (red), 20 (brown), and 50 fen (brown-olive); while the third design appears on; four fen (olive-yellow); seven (grey-black); nine (red-orange); 12 (orange); 13 (brown-red) and 15 fen (red) and the Imperial Palace group comprises ten fen (blue), 50 fen (yellow-brown) and one yuan (violet). With domestic postage rates like those for China slightly increased during the year, the one and one-half fen stamp used for franking postcards was withdrawn from circulation. The five fen and thirteen fen of this issue were also withdrawn at the same time. These latter values were recalled from circulation, according to the explanation offered the writer by an official of the Hsinking Postal Superintendence Bureau, that there are China bound stamps of like values. The European prices for this issue are: mint, 0.15, 0.30, 2.50, 0.50, 1.75, 1.00, 9.00, 1.50, 1.75, 2.25, 2.50, 3.00, 15.00, 10.00, 7.50, 7.50, 12.50 and 25.00 francs and used ones, 0.20, 0.25, 3.00, 0.30, 0.75, 0.30, 9.00, 1.50, 3.00, 4.00, 1.00, 1.75, 10.00, 1.00, 4.50, 4.00, 6.00 and 15.00 francs.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY SET :—On March 1, 1937 the Government of Manchoukuo issued a second commemorative set of stamps on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the founding of

the State. Within this short period, Manchoukuo, in the field of foreign relations, had received the recognitions, in addition to Japan, of El Salvador (March '34), the Vatican (April '34) and the Dominican Republic (October '34); all these three recognitions being 'de jure'. In October the following year, Germany sent an economic inspection party to Manchoukuo and as a sequel to this tour Germany in 1936 signed a Manchoukuo-German Trade treaty, thus giving de facto recognition.

This took place after the Manchoukuo-Japan-Soviet Railway transfer agreement had been signed at Tokyo on March 22, 1935. Manchoukuo paid Yuan 190,000,000 for the Soviet share of the former Chinese Eastern Railways and by virtue of this transfer agreement Soviet Russia recognized Manchoukuo de facto. Great Britain, not to be outdone by either Germany or Russia, sent unofficially a party of members of the British Federation of Industries in October 1935 under the leadership of Lord Francis Barnby. These are the highlights of international events greatly affecting Manchoukuo that took place within the first five years of its existence. The stamps of this issue are printed on unwatermarked white paper with 12-12-1/2 perforations. Values and designs are:— one and one-half fen (rose-red) Sun with three legendary 'good luck' clouds over sown fields, and the three fen (green) stamp Sun rising behind a building, very appropriate designs for a rising and vigorous State like Manchoukuo.

The European prices for these two stamps are:—one and one-half fen (rose-red) 5.00 francs for mint and 6.00 francs for used and three fen (green) 3.00 francs for mint and 4.00 francs for used.

THIRD SURCHARGES— To equalise the franking charges for mails to China with those of the Chinese Government, the Manchoukuo Postal authorities early in 1937 surcharged all their former issues of the China bound stamps of 1935-36. There were seven values surcharged on this occasion. The value of the two fen (green) the 1935 re-issue on Manchoukuo paper is changed into two and one-half fen, the value of the surcharge on this stamp being printed in Chinese characters (貳分五釐) The value of the two fen stamp (yellow-green) of the 1936 issue from the retouched plate is surcharged with the same overprint; but the value of the surcharge used for increasing the value of the two fen (green) of the 1936 issue also printed from the retouched plates is in Chinese figures (二分五釐) and not in characters. The design of these three stamps is the Orchid, the Imperial Coat-of-Arms of Manchoukuo. The four fen (olive) of the 1935 original issue on Japanese paper is changed into five fen by a surcharge in Chinese characters and the same surcharge is employed in raising the value to five fen of the four fen (yellowish-olive) of the 1936 issue from the retouched plates but on paper with pieces of silk-thread, watermarked with fragments of the Manchoukuo characters. The twelve fen (reddish-brown) of the 1935 re-issue and the twelve fen (orange) of the 1936 issue from the retouched plates both printed on paper with pieces of silkthread, watermarked with fragments of the Manchu characters have their values increased to thirteen fen. The value of the surcharges is in characters. The four and twelve fen stamps are of the Holy White Mountains design with 12-1/2 X 13-1/2 perforations. There are two varieties in the width of the space between the two verticals of the surcharge made on the stamps of the two fen (yellowish-green) of the 1936 issue, four fen (yellowish-olive) of the 1937 issue and twelve fen (reddish brown) of the 1935 second issue. The width between the two verticals of the surcharges are four and one-half millimetres on some stamps and six and one-half millimetres on others.

The European prices for these stamps are: —two fen 1935 issue 250 francs for mint and 3.00 francs for used; two fen 1936 issue for mint or used 4.50 francs; two fen 1936 issue with Chinese numeral surcharge for mint or used 4.50 francs; four fen 1935 issue 7.50 francs for mint and 6.00 francs for used four fen 1936-37 issue for mint 5.00 francs and 6.00 francs for used 12 fen 1935 issue 17.50 francs for mint or used and 12 fen 1936-37 issue 25.00 francs for mint or used.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION STAMPS—The Government issued a set of four very beautiful stamps in September, 1937, to mark the completion of the first five-year plan of the Capital Construction. It was in March, 1924 that the Government created the Capital Construction Bureau and to it was entrusted the work of building a city as a capital befitting the State. Hsinking was nonexistent prior to 1932 and outside of the South Manchuria Railway zone and the city Changchun of some 50,000 souls there was nothing to indicate that over the dirt of the native city and the open fields surrounding it would so soon arise a wondrous and modern city in every sense. By September, 1937 the Government through the Capital Construction Bureau had spent 34,000,000 yuan. The network of city streets built within this period would cover an area of more than five and one-half million square metres. In addition 302 kilometres of city sewers had been completed, almost 9,000 houses valued at 75,000.000 yuan had been erected. All this was accomplished within the short space of five years.

The stamps issued on this occasion have designs depicting most appropriately the event, viz., the Capital construction. One design shows a distant view of the city of Hsinking with a fan-tailed pigeon, and the other a view of the Imperial Palace with the national colors superimposed over the building. The perforation on the stamps is 12 X 12-1/2 and values of the stamps are two fen (lilac), four fen (red), ten fen (grey-green) and twenty fen (blue). The two and ten fen stamps have the distant view of Hsinking city as their design and the four and twenty fen stamps, the Imperial Palace. The European prices for these are (mint) 2.00, 3.00, 6.50 and 20.00 francs and 2.50, 4.00, 7.50 and 25.00 francs for used.

EXTRATERRITORIALITY ISSUE—On December 1, 1937 Japan signed a treaty with the Government of Manchoukuo whereby the former voluntarily relinquished all extraterritorial rights enjoyed by her within the domain of the latter, at the same time rendering up to the latter the civil administrative rights within the South Manchuria Railway zone enjoyed by Japan since the transfer of the rights of the leasehold on Kwantung territory and the railway trunk from Changchun (now Hsinking) to Port Arthur by Russia to Japan as a part of the war prize at the termination of the Russo-Japanese war some 32 years before. That this red letter day in Manchoukuo's history might be still more impressed on the people, the Government issued on December 1, 1937, a set of six stamps of four designs, perforation 12-1/2 X 13-1/2. The two fen (red) has the map-outline of Manchoukuo; the four fen (green) and eight fen (reddish-orange) stamps depict the Japanese Ambassador's residence at Hsinking, the twelve fen (violet) has the Ministry of Justice for its design and ten fen (blue) and twenty fen (brown-red) feature the Postal Administration building. The European prices for these stamps are: (mint) in francs, 1.75, 4.00, 6.00, 6.00, 7.50 and 15.00 and for used 1.25, 5.00, 6.00, 6.00, 7.50 and 17.50 francs each.

NEW YEAR STAMP—The Manchoukuo Postal Administration for the first time in their history issued a special stamp for franking New Year mail. Aimed principally to cover domestic mail, the authorities issued at the year end of 1937 a two fen stamp, perforation 12 X 12-1/2. It is blue bordered with uprights composed of Chinese characters signifying 'happiness' and in the center a large Chinese symbol in red meaning 'fortune' (luck). One franc for mint and 1.50 franc for used are the values given in France.

RED CROSS STAMPS—On October 15, 1938 the Manchoukuo chapter of the Red Cross Society was established in Hsinking and with its establishment all Japanese Red Cross institutions throughout the State were handed over to the newly established Manchoukuo institution. To mark this memorable event the Government issued a set of two stamps printed on white paper with pieces of silk-thread, watermarked with fragments of the Manchu characters; perforation 12-1/2. The design on the two stamps is a globe with Manchoukuo in white with a red cross within it and beneath it are 11 Chinese letters in two lines. The upper line with seven letters and the lower with four; the whole signifying in essence 'Commemorating the Founding of the

Manchoukuo Red Cross'. The Imperial Coat-of-Arms of Manchoukuo atop the globe and beneath it the dateline in six Chinese letters reading 'Kang Teh, fifth year, tenth month'; Kang Teh means the era of the present reigning Emperor of Manchoukuo and the 6th year is equivalent in Western calculation to 1938.

The two fen is dark red and the four fen is dull green. The two fen stamp was issued in a much smaller number than its bigger priced brother, with the result that a higher value is being offered for it in the Shanghai philately market at Present. The writer happened to be in Harbin on the very day when these stamps were first put on sale and yet within a couple of hours after the Post offices opened their doors, he had to visit four post offices before he could get a few of the two fen stamp whereas one could get the four fen stamp at the post office almost a week later. The European values are for either stamp in mint condition 2.50 francs and 3.00 francs for used.

MANTETSU STAMPS—All railways operating under the former regime the Manchoukuo Government, simultaneously with its founding, designated as State Railways and placed them under the immediate control of the Department of Communications and in view of the inseparable relationship existing between herself and Japan, the Government finding it imperative to have a unified control and rational management of all railways within the State finally decided to entrust the South Manchuria Railway Company with the construction and operation of all railways in Manchoukuo. The total length of railways in operation in Manchoukuo on October 21, 1939 was 10,066 kilometres. The Government issued a set of two stamps to mark the completion of the first 10,000 kilometres. The denominations of the two stamps which are locally known as the 'Mantetsu' stamps are two and four fen. Mantetsu is the abbreviated or telegraphic code name of the South Manchuria Railway Company and the present issue is printed on white paper with- pieces of silk-thread, watermarked, perforation 12-1/2 X 13-1/2. The design on the two fen (light orange) is the map-outline of Manchoukuo in white covered with a network of railway lines in blue and the design for the four fen (blue) is a locomotive of the 'Asia' super-express train in bluish violet (almost black).

Some irregularity in connection with the Mantetsu stamps took place at Harbin. Some of the postal employees of the Harbin Postal Administrative District managed to possess themselves of several sheets of these

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stamps (a sheet contains 100) before they were officially released to the general public. Several of such illegally gotten sheets were chemically treated with the result that the bluish-violet locomotive was changed to greyish-black. Such counterfeits were then panned off on several of the Harbin philatelists as governmental errors. The unsuspecting people believing them to be genuine errors readily bought them, for "errors" are always eagerly sought by the philatelists because of their rarity. However one Russian authority in philately at Harbin, Mr. Yaroshevitch, detected the chemical ordor still clinging to the stamps and at once declared the stamps as frauds and immediately called the attention to the trick of the Postal authorities of his city who in turn reported the discovery to the Central authorities at Hsinking and who, at the time this article was being written, were vigorously conducting investigations as to how such administrative irregularity could have taken place and as to who are the perpetrators of the present swindle. Because of this irregular pre-issue sale, many philatelists in Harbin were unable to get a specimen of these stamps for their collections not to mention the several hundred non-philatelist buyers who are most eager to buy these stamps to send to their relatives and friends abroad as gifts thus indirectly becoming unofficial advertising agents for Manchoukuo.

AIR MAIL STAMPS

The Manchoukuo Postal Administration is to be congratulated on its beautiful designs for its airmail stamps issued first in 1936. In this first issue there are two stamps, printed on white paper with pieces of silk-thread, watermarked with fragments of the Manchu characters, perforation 13 X 13-1/2, their values are 18 and 38 fen. Early in the following year the values of these stamps were raised by one fen each due to an increase in rate that is to say, the new values of the airmail stamps are 19 and 39 fen printed on the same kind of paper with the same watermarks and perforations as the first issue. The design on the 18 and 19 fen is a flock of sheep with a shepherd out on a pasturage, with an aeroplane overhead. The color of the stamp is green. The 38 and 39 fen stamps have the railway bridge over the Sungari river at Harbin with an aeroplane in flight as a design, the color of the stamps is blue. European prices for these stamps according to Yvert catalogue of 1940 are 12.50, 7.50, 25.00 and 175.00 francs each either mint or used. Unfortunately from the point of view of the philatelist, after the Postal Administration had withdrawn the 19 and 39 fen stamps from circulation late in 1937, the 39 fen stamp has again been put into currency during the summer of 1939. The writer bought one of the 39 fen specimens is one of the Hsinking post offices in November 39 and has found the stamp to be printed on the same paper, with the same color, with the same perforation and watermark as that in the originally issued stamp of 1937. This is unfortunate from the philatelic point of view, because of such withdrawals and re-issues, philatelists throughout the world will not be able to give a true value to the stamps so irregularly issued. The 18 and the 19 fen stamps ones were used to cover mails destined for points within the State whereas the 38 and 39 fen ones were used to cover mails destined for Japan.

MANCHOUKUO POSTAL HISTORY

In conclusion the writer wishes to give a short sketch of the historical data on the postal administration of this country. The management of the postal facilities, under the former regime, was carried out on a private enterprise system and under the aim of urban centralization as a result of such manipulations these facilities did not altogether perform their proper social function as a vital means of communication. Immediately after taking over these facilities, the Manchoukuo Government revised the policy of the former regime and has been and is devoting its efforts to improve the existing facilities and to extend the communication network especially to the rural communities

The Postal Administration Superintendence Bureaux are located at Harbin, Hsinking, Mukden and Chinchow and under these there were, at the end of 1937, 1,888 local postal organs made up of 468 postal administrative offices and 1,416 postal offices with a total railway mail route of 31,694 kilometres; air mail route of 16,580 kilometres; motor-car delivery route, 10,873 kilometres and water routes, 2,900 kilometres. The Government has inaugurated airmail, New Year special delivery service, postal transfer and postal life insurance services. The Government through the good offices of the Japanese Government has signed postal money order service treaties with the Governments of the Dutch East Indies, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and Hongkong, in addition to Japan and China.