

Large Crown Shanghae Post Office Paid Webb type 1 (updated September 2014)



This is the first postal marking of the Shanghai British Post Office which was established in 1844. It is known as Shanghai Webb type 1 or Proud PD2 and was made locally. This 32mm circular marking consists of an ornate Crown in the centre surrounded by 3.5mm serif capital letters. Webb records three covers in 1861 and since then many more are known. A survey was conducted in 2002 culminating in a listing of this mark in HKPS June 2002 newsletter.

The preliminary listing was revised with additional information by our members and owners of such covers and was published in HKPS March 2004 newsletter. Since then, several new and old finds have surfaced and the listing will be updated upon new discovery from time to time.

We have now recorded 17 covers. In addition, there are at least four pieces of the Large Crown Shanghae Paid known.

- 1 Shanghai (October 1851) to Rochester (21 December) via Southampton. Red London Paid 20 Dec 1851 and Rochester arrival (blue) and backstamped with Hong Kong c.d.s. The cover contains the original contents - a letter from Eliza Mary Hillier, who was the daughter of Dr W H Medhurst one of the first missionaries in the Treaty Port of Shanghai. (SG London sale December 2006 lot 408) **[Fig. #01]**
- 2 Shanghai (29 June, 1852) to Bombay, part cover only. (Perrin sale, Cavendish 26 June 1982, lot 206) **[Fig. #02]**
- 3 Shanghai (July 1853) mourning covers to Philadelphia "arrived 15 Oct. 1853" ex. Major Richard Pratt. **[Fig. #03]**
- 4 Shanghai (dateline 6 November 1855) to Paris, Large Crown Shanghae Paid struck across back flap, Hong Kong boxed PAID (type 10) on front. Paris arrival 1 Jan. 1856 (ex. D. Wrigley stock) reported in HKPS March 2013 newsletter. **[Fig. #16]**
- 5 Shanghai (April 1856) to London via Marseilles. Webb type 1 struck on the reverse of the cover with HK boxed PAID in front. **[Fig. #04]**
- 6 Shanghai (August 1856) to West Maitland, Sydney via Singapore with boxed PAID (HK marking). Sydney 11 Dec. 1856 arrival. (Cavendish 25 May 02 Norman Bennett sale, lot 953) **[Fig. #05]**
- 7 Shanghai via HK (12 Sept. 1856) to Swansea, South Wales (Nov. 3). Combination of Small Crown Hong Kong PAID c.d.s. and Webb type 1 (Beckeman sale, Zurich Asia 2000) **[Fig. #06]**
- 8 Shanghai (October 1856) "Overland via Marseilles" to Valreas, France. Paris 30 Nov. arrival. Note: Outer sheet only, 1 page missing (Rarities of the World, Boule, Nov. 97, John Bull, HK June 2006 lot 711) **[Fig. #07]**
- 9 Shanghai (6 Oct. 1856) to Paris via Marseilles (SG John Parker sale 1994) **[Fig. #08]**
- 10 Shanghai (6 Oct. 1856) to Lyon, France via Marseilles Guerin correspondence. Ex. Percival David and James Riddell. (Robson Lowe 22 March 1974 lot 114 and Lot 1269 Zurich Asia March 2006 HK011 sale) **[Fig. #09]**
- 11 Shanghai via HK (HK c.d.s. 12 Oct. 1856) to Charleston, South Carolina USA. (Mizuhara/Spink 2003) **[Fig. #10]**
- 12 Shanghai via HK (HK c.d.s. 12 Oct. 1856) to Paris, France (IA Nov. 2014 sale) **[Fig. #17]**
- 13 Shanghai (20 June 1857) to Sydney via Ceylon showing double oval "Missent to Melbourne Victoria" datimestamped HK 20 JU 1857 (Cavendish R. Chan sale Oct. 2003) **[Fig. #11]**

- 14 Shanghai (July 1857) to New Haven, Connecticut, via New York (Oct.1857). (Webb's record ex. Rose-Hutchinson and lot 583 Ishikawa sale Dec. 1980) **[Fig. #12]**
- 15 Shanghai (July 1857) to Sydney via Ceylon, Hong Kong c.d.s 5 August and Sydney arrival 18 Oct. (Webb's record also lot 584 Ishikawa Dec. 1980 sale and CRL D'Almada sale 1990) **[Fig. #13]**
- 16 Shanghai (13 April 1858) Ashworth correspondence to "The Oaks, near Bolton-le-Moor", England via Marseilles, HK boxed PAID London 12 June arrival. (Zurich Asia June 2005 HK010 sale lot 911) **[Fig. #14]**
- 17 Shanghai (24 April 1858) via HK to Birmingham, HK boxed PAID (July 20). (Argyll Etkin sale March

Year	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858
No. of covers	1	1	1	0	1	8	3	2
Destinations	U.K.	France	Australia	USA	India			
No. of covers	5	5	3	3	1			

2004) **[Fig. #15]**

Acknowledgement: This information was published in Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal 11 in Feb. 2007 with illustrations. We would like to thank Spink, Sotheby, Cavendish, John Bull Stamps, Argyll Etkin, Stanley Gibbons, Dr. Jeffrey Schnieder of Zurich Asia, Michael Goldsmith-Chairman of the Hong Kong Study Circle, Alfred Chu, David Wrigley and those owners who wish to remain anonymous for providing information and illustrations