

**Hong Kong - King George VI
Wartime Printings**

Hong Kong KGV stamps were printed by De La Rue and because the printing factory in England was bombed on 29 December 1940, the printing plates held by the Crown Agents were sent to other printing factories for production of stamps. The Bradbury Wilkinson printing consisted of 2c, 5c, 10c, 30c and 50c, from Requisition C, all printed on rough-surface paper perforated 15 x 14. 4c and 8c from Requisition B were printed by Harrison and high values from S1 Requisition C were printed by William Lea on "Chalk substitute" paper. Delivery of these printings, all except the 8c were held up by the war in the Pacific and stocks diverted to Australia and South Africa. These and the remaining stock in England were dispatched to Hong Kong after the end of the war on 21 & 23 September 1945. After liberation, the volume of mail increased rapidly and further supplies were needed urgently; the so-called post-war printings were delivered from December 1945 to January 1946 per Crown Agents Requisition Book.
Post office stock of the wartime printings were used up by 1947 and late usages invariably came from private holdings brought from the post office while they were on sale.

This exhibit shows the KGV wartime printings and usages. It is a one-frame exhibit because of the narrow scope and material available is not sufficient to fill a multi-frame exhibit without much duplication.



1 October 1945 "First Mail" to Macao showing usage of Pre-war 2c, 5c Centenary issue and 8c Harrison Printing recovered from the post office vault. The postage rate to Macao was 8c per oz. at this time.

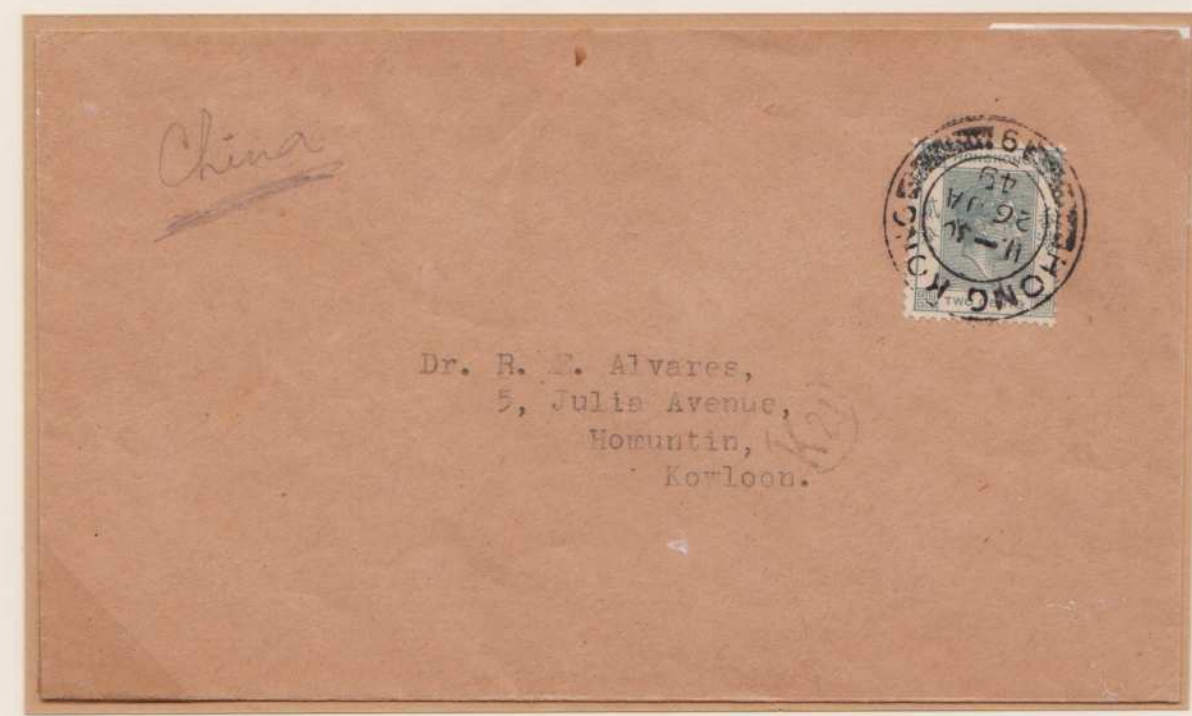
- Reference:
1. R. Vouden, 'HK 1941-45: The effects of WWII on postal matters' London Philatelist Vol. 108, September 1999
 2. N. Hainwood, D. Amacher, 'A study of the Hong Kong definitive adhesives of King George VI, Hong Kong Study Circle
 3. The Postal History of Hong Kong 1841-1997 by Edward B. Proud
 4. The Philatelic History of Hong Kong Vol. 1 - The Adhesives, Hong Kong Study Circle

2c Grey Requisition C from Plate 1, perf. 15x14

10,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson



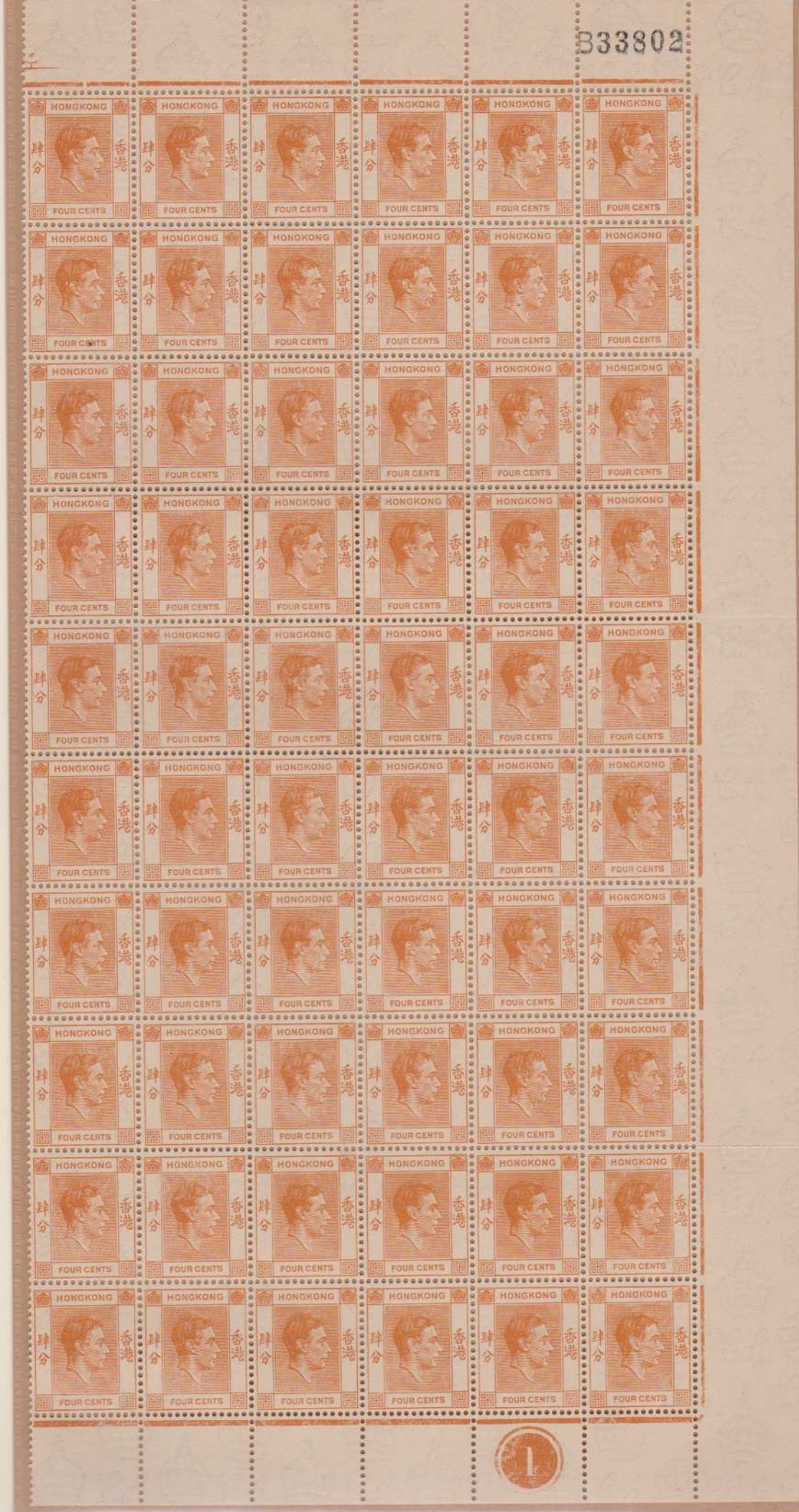
Requisition number printed on half sheet



2c on local printed matter dated 26 January 1949. By this time, only postwar printings were sold by the post office and therefore this stamp could be from private stock brought earlier.

4c Orange Requisition B From Plate 1 Perf. 15 x 14

62,135 sheets printed by Harrison



Printed in 120 format without central gutter

This half-sheet is of perforation type 15iii

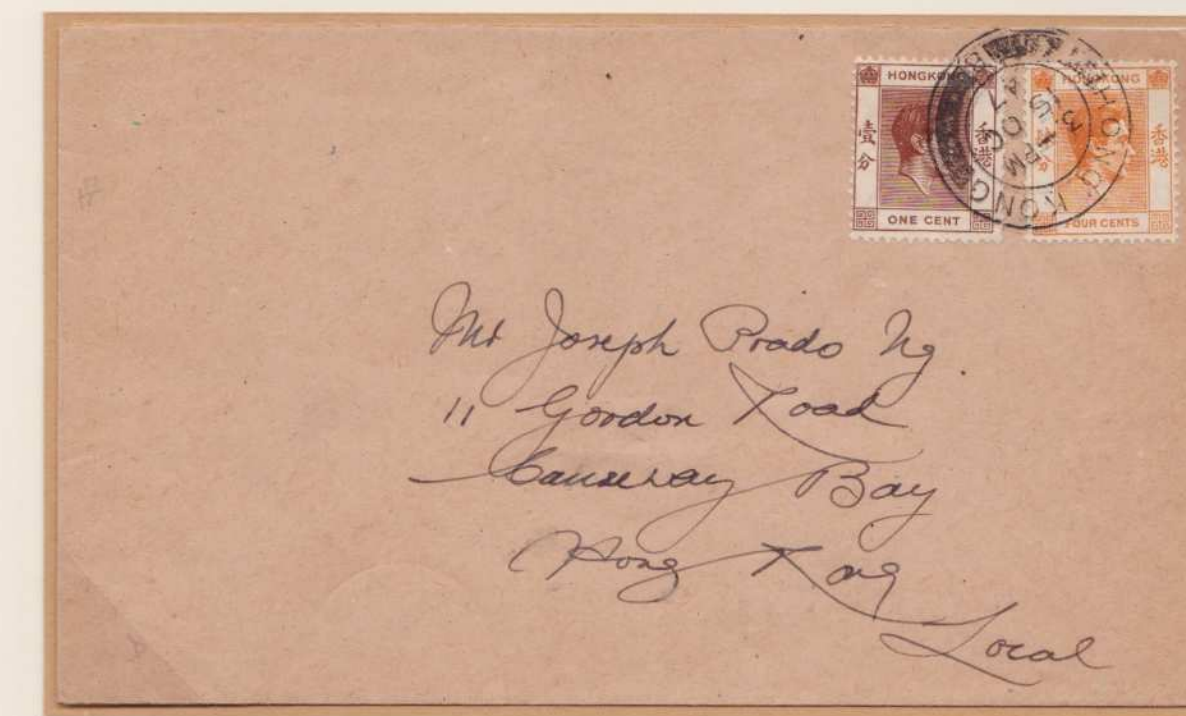
No extension hole on side margin

Top and bottom margin perforated

Fed through the perforating machine sideways

Two other perforation types recorded²

4c Harrison Printing usages



15 October 1947: 5c Local letter rate



10 May 1946: 30c surface rate to U.S.A.

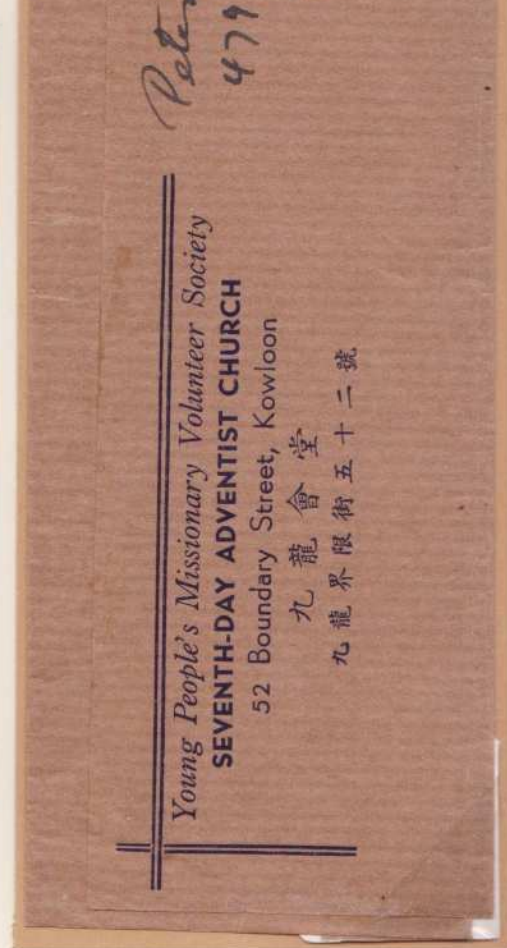
5c Green Requisition C from Plate 2, perf. 15x14

10,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson

5c local printed matter rate 22 January 1952



Requisition block and Plate block showing bottom fed (top margin perforated) type 15i perforation (1 pin on side margin)



5c printed matter rate dated 15 November 1948 to Canada

5c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



6 November 1948: 5c China letter rate



14 April 1947: \$1.30 rate by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A. BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY Proud AM27 (16.10.46 - 9.5.47)

Covers of 5c Green from the Bradbury Wilkinson printing are less common than the other values since the stamp was used mainly on printed matter. The 5c Centenary issue was initially put on sale at the post office before the 5c.

10c Violet Requisition C from Plate 1, perf. 15x14

10,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson



Requisition block and Plate block showing bottom fed (top margin perforated) Type 15i perforation (1 pin on side margin)

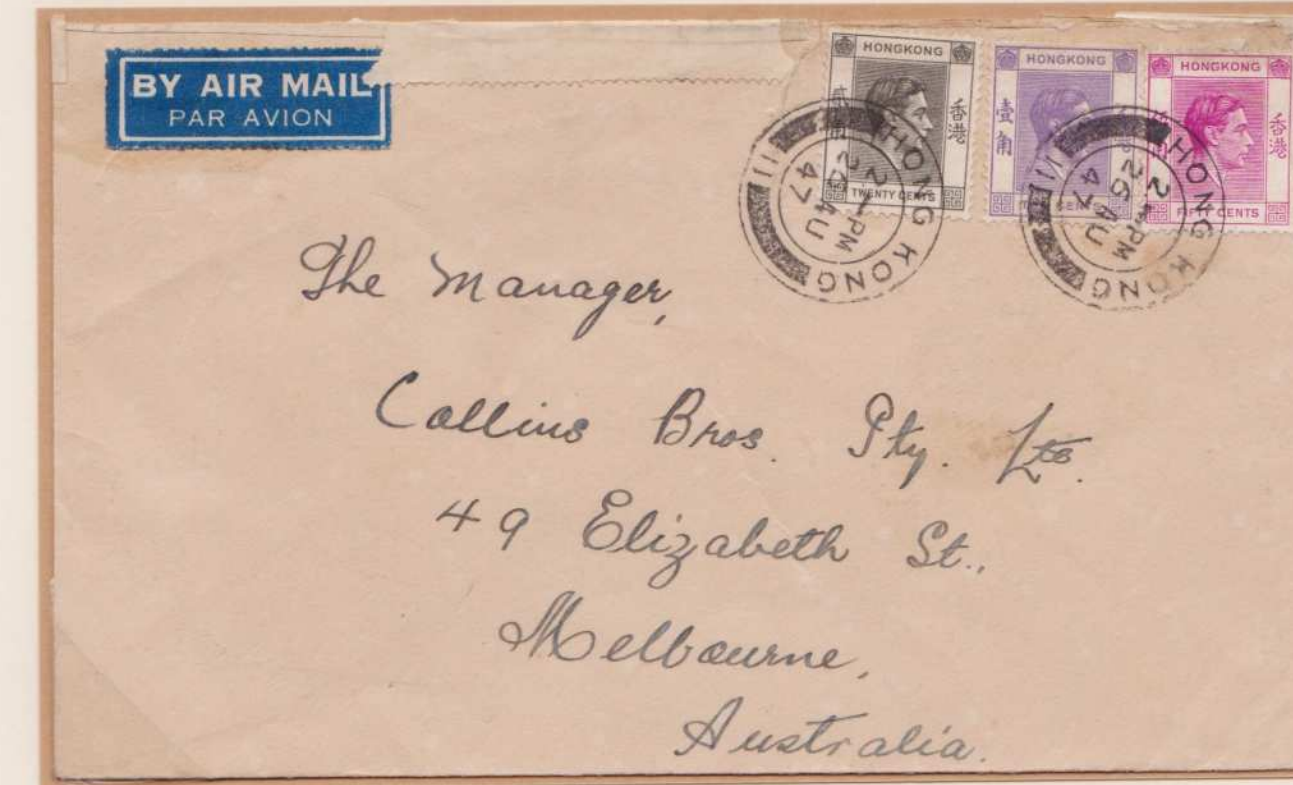


10c used on surface mail rate dated 15 November 1945 to Australia.

10c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



12 July 1946: affixed on post office formula airmail to Singapore 40c rate 30c Sage affixed is also from Bradbury Wilkinson Printing



26 August 1947: 80c per 1/2 oz. airmail rate to Australia

10c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



15 December 1947: \$1.30 rate by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A. BY AIR TO OFFICE OF EXCHANGE ONLY Proud AM19 (10.2.47 - 27.9.48)



23 September 1946: \$1 airmail rate to England By this time, postwar printings had arrived, 50c from Reg. E

30c Sage Requisition C From Plate 1 Perf. 15 x 14

17,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson

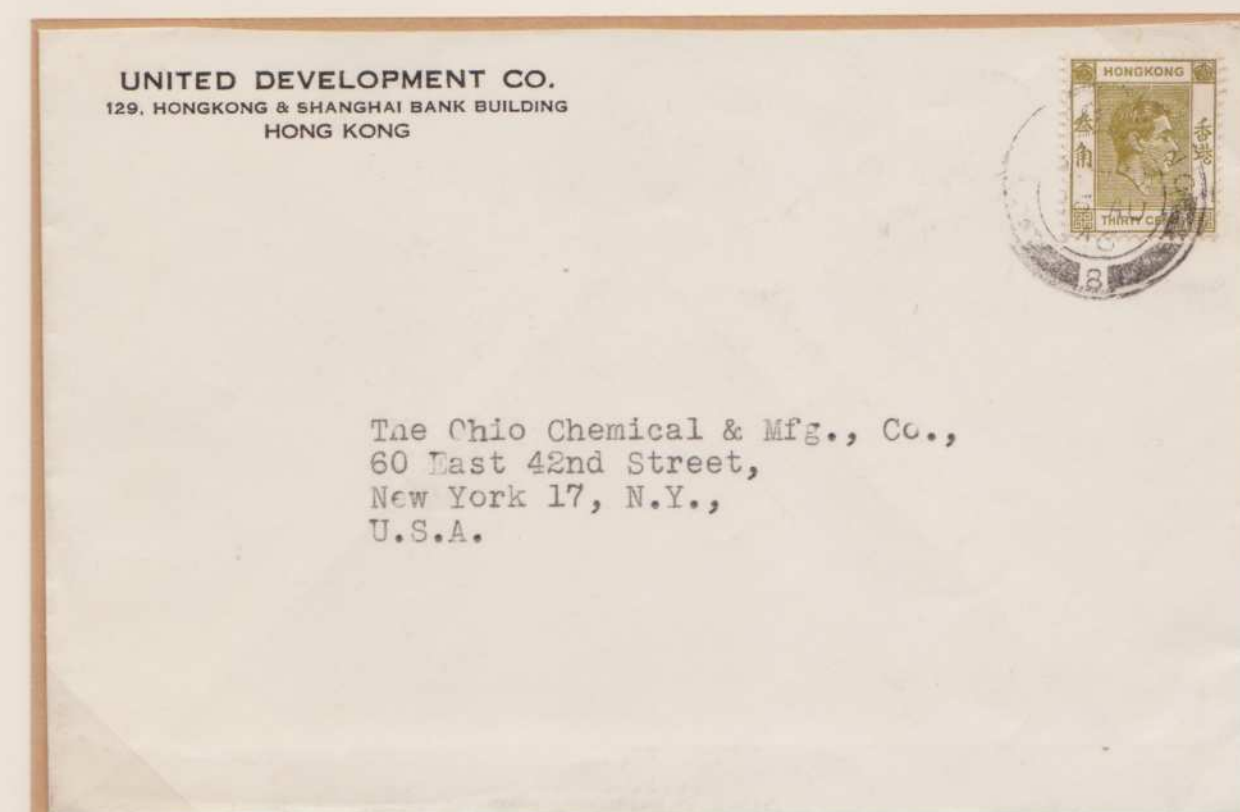
Printed in 60 x 60 format with central gutter

One extension hole on side margin and gutter

Top fed (bottom perforated) Only value perforated from this direction



30c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



16 August 1946: surface mail to U.S.A., 30c per oz. rate



3 January 1947: direct airmail to U.S.A., \$2.80 per 1/2 oz. rate

30c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



23 August 1946: by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A., \$1.30 per 1/2 oz. rate BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY Proud AM5 (23.11.45 - 2.10.46)



27 August 1946: Double-rate + 25c registration fee by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A. Probably no instructional handstamp was available at the Kowloon Branch post office

50c Red Purple Requisition C from Plate 1, perf. 15x14

7,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson

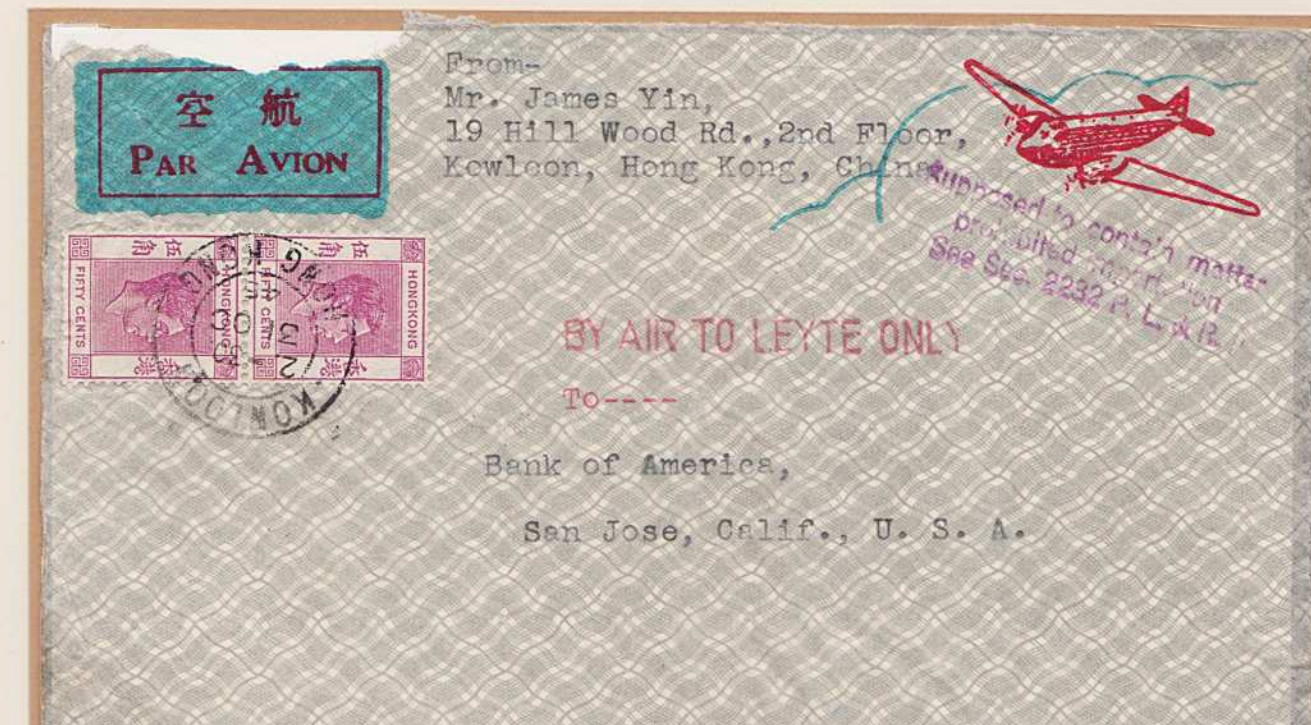


Requisition block and Plate block showing bottom fed (top margin perforated) Type 15i perforation (1 pin on side margin)



Late use of 50c on double-rate registered letter from Kowloon Branch post office on 2 July 1950 to U.S.A. Surface mail rate 30c for first oz. and 20c for each additional oz., registration fee 30c

50c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



31 October 1943: by airmail to Leyte and surface mail to U.S.A., \$1 per 1/2 oz. rate BY AIR TO LEYTE ONLY Proud AM9 (25.10.45 - 27.11.45) on reverse Victoria Hong Kong S1 OC 45



20 February 1946: by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A., \$1.30 per 1/2 oz. rate. BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY Proud AM5 (23.11.45 - 2.10.46)

50c Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



7 December 1945: double-rate letter airmail to London by Imperial Airways, \$1 per 1/2 oz. rate Probably due to shortage of \$1 value, block of four of the 50c was affixed



9 December 1945: by airmail to Sydney only and surface mail to Brisbane, \$1 per 1/2 oz. rate BY AIR TO SYDNEY Proud AM8 (4.12.45 - 15.2.46) less than six examples recorded

30c & 50c Bradbury printing for uprating postal stationery envelope



22 November 1945: airmail to England, \$1 per 1/2 oz. rate The 15c-envelope intended for the pre-war Empire 1/2 oz. surface rate was obsolete after the war



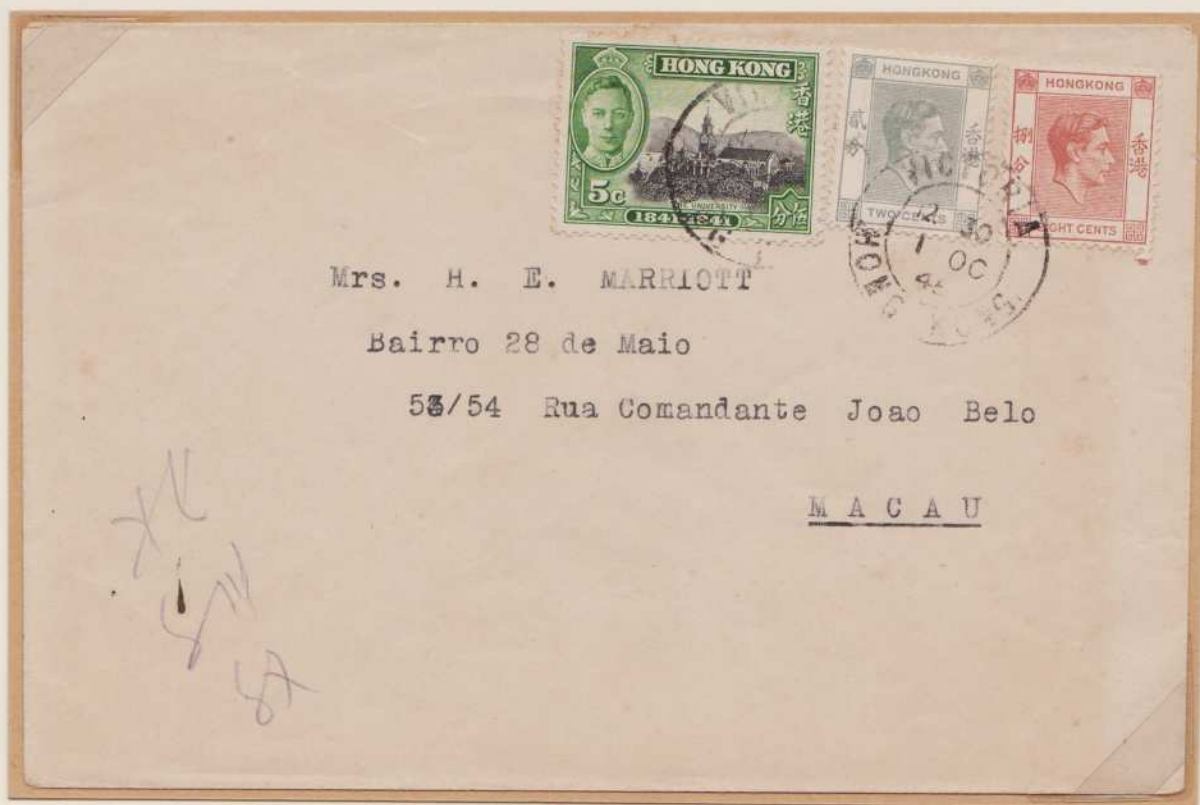
14 November 1945: \$1 William Lea printing on "Chalk substitute" paper, 1/2 oz. airmail letter to England According to Halsewood², only 5,049 40120 sheets were delivered to Hong Kong

Hong Kong - King George VI Wartime Printings

Hong Kong KGVI stamps were printed by De La Rue and because the printing factory in England was bombed on 29 December 1940, the printing plates held by the Crown Agents were sent to other printing factories for production of stamps. The Bradbury Wilkinson printing consisted of 2c, 5c, 10c, 30c and 50c, from Requisition C, all printed on rough-surface paper perforated 15 x 14. 4c and 8c from Requisition B were printed by Harrison and high values from \$1 Requisition C were printed by William Lea on "Chalk substitute" paper. Delivery of these printings, all except the 8c were held up by the war in the Pacific and stocks diverted to Australia and South Africa. These and the remaining stock in England were dispatched to Hong Kong after the end of the war on 21 & 24 September 1945. After liberation, the volume of mail increased rapidly and further supplies were needed urgently; the so-called post-war printings were delivered from December 1945 to January 1946 per Crown Agents Requisition Book¹.

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1 October 1945 "First Mail" to Macao showing usage of Pre-war 2c, 5c Centenary issue and 8c Harrison Printing recovered from the post office vault. The postage rate to Macao was 8c per oz. at this time.

Reference:

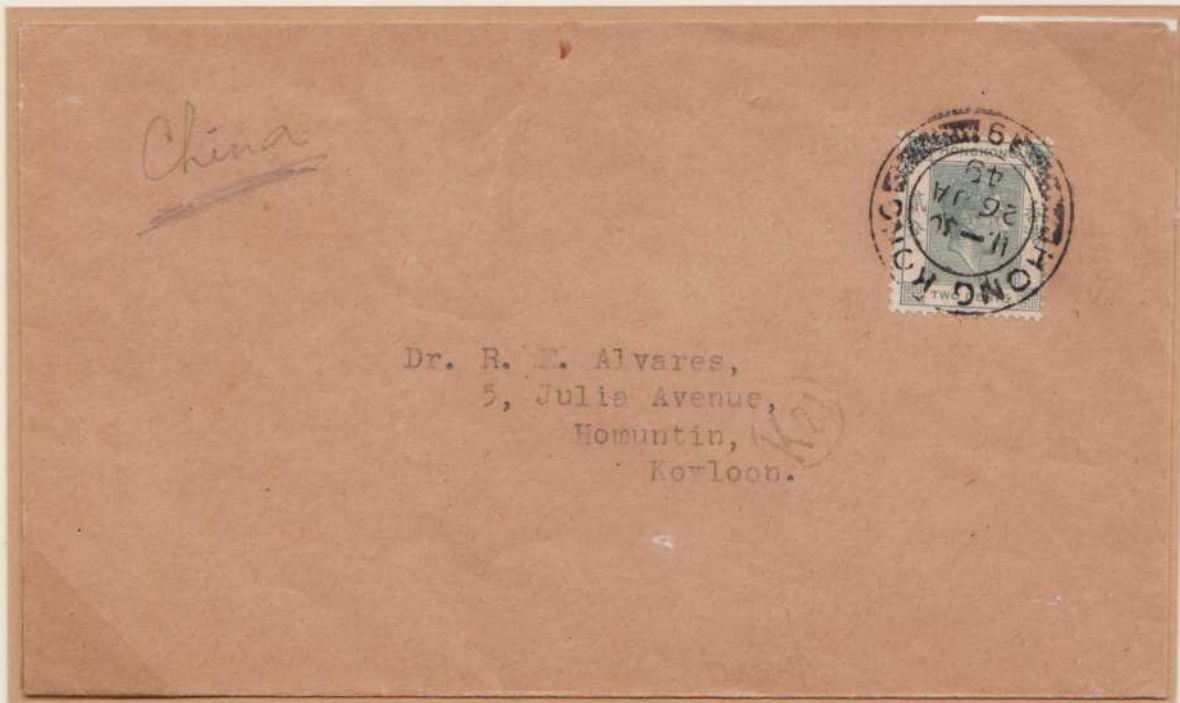
1. R. Vousden, 'HK 1941-45: The effects of WWII on postal matters' London Philatelist Vol. 108, September 1999
2. N. Halewood, D. Antscherl: A study of the Hong Kong definitive adhesives of King George VI, Hong Kong Study Circle
3. The Postal History of Hong Kong 1841-1997 by Edward B. Proud
4. The Philatelic History of Hong Kong Vol. 1- The Adhesives, Hong Kong Study Circle

2¢ Grey Requisition C from Plate 1, perf. 15x14

10,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson



Requisition number printed on half sheet



2¢ on local printed matter rate dated 26 January 1949. By this time, only postwar printings were sold by the post office and therefore this stamp could be from private stock brought earlier.

333802

**4¢ Orange
Requisition B
From Plate 1
Perf. 15 x 14**

**62,135 sheets
printed by Harrison**

Printed in 120 format
without central gutter

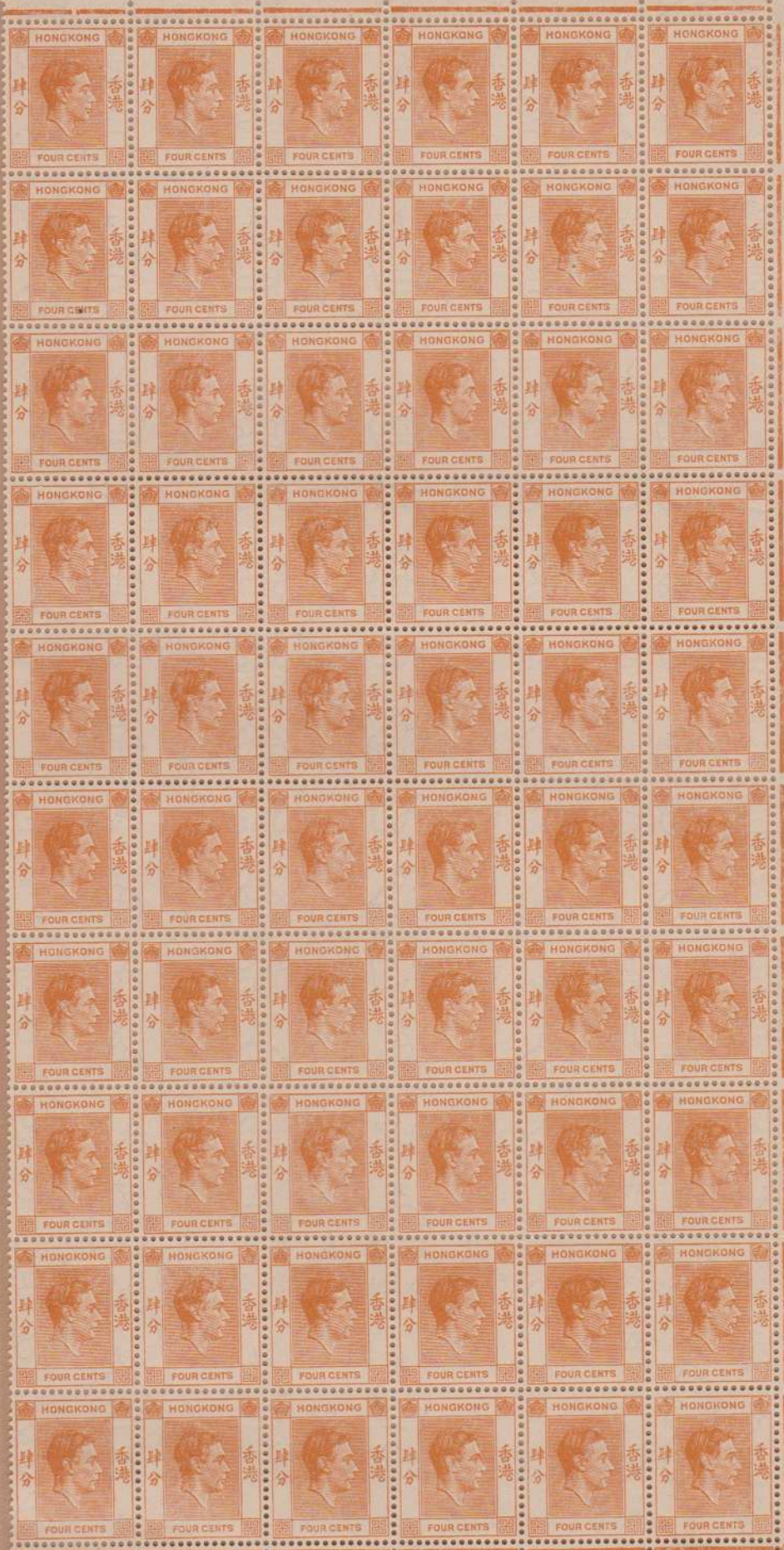
This half-sheet is of
perforation type 15iii

No extension hole
on side margin

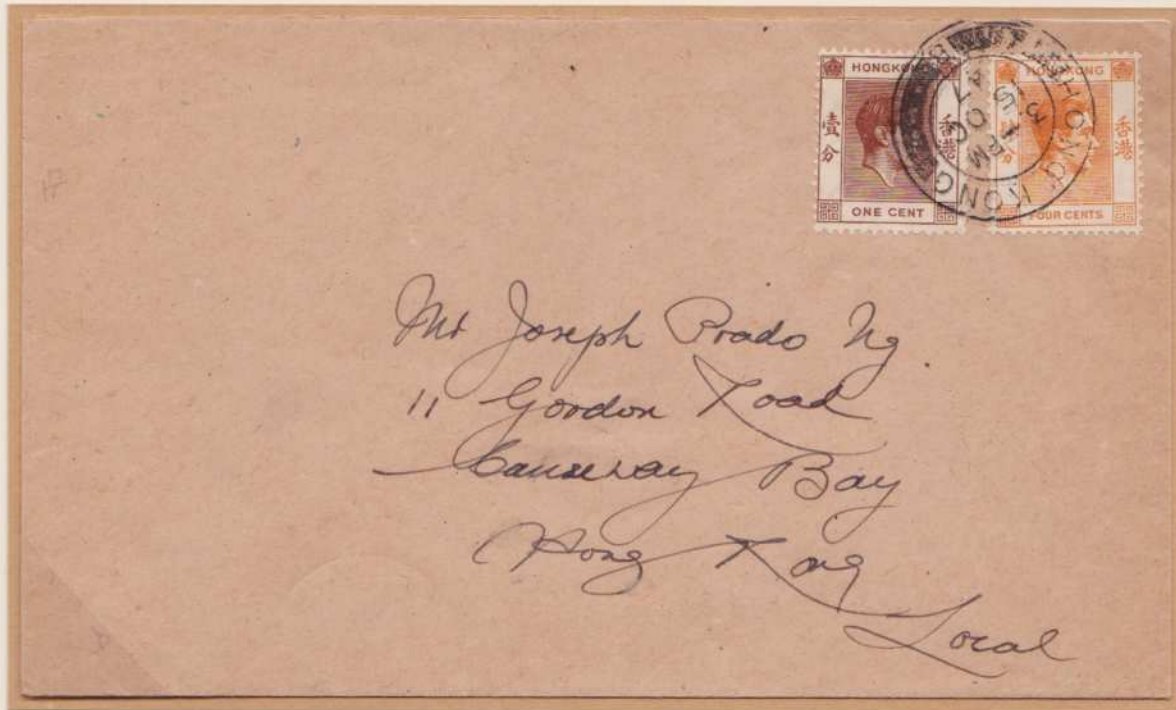
Top and bottom
margin perforated

Fed through the perforating
machine sideways

Two other perforation
types recorded²



4¢ Harrison Printing usages



15 October 1947: 5¢ Local letter rate



10 May 1946: 30¢ surface rate to U.S.A.

5¢ Green Requisition C from Plate 2, perf. 15x14

10,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson

5¢ local printed matter rate
22 January 1952



Requisition block and Plate block
showing bottom fed (top margin perforated)
type 15i perforation (1 pin on side margin)



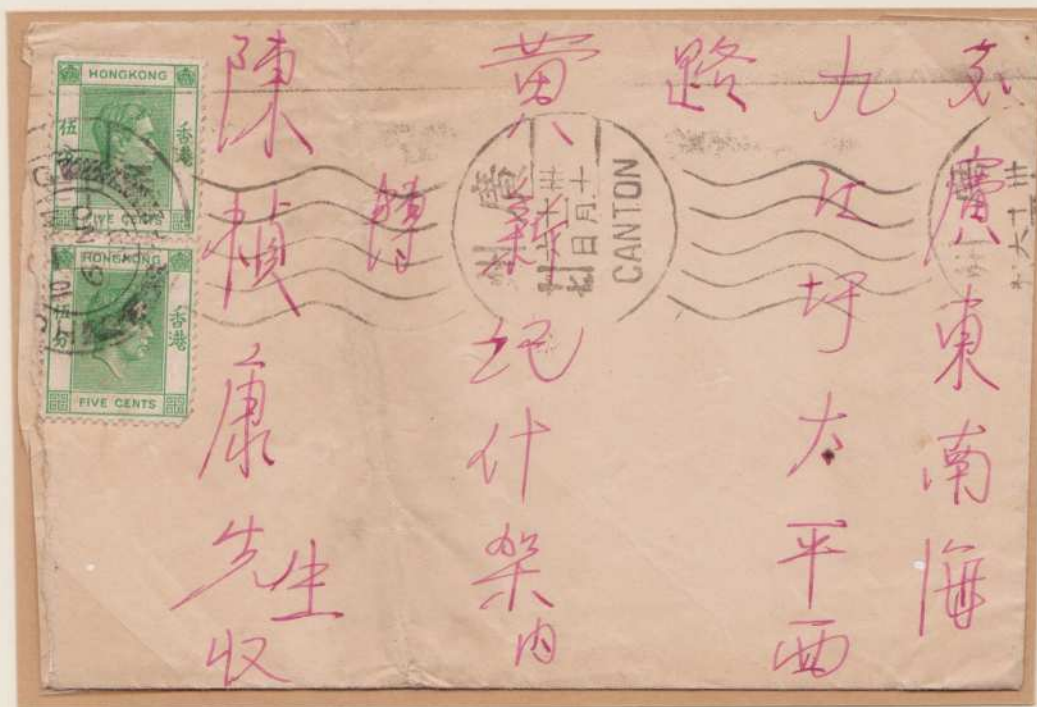
*Peter Shek
479 Cadde Peak Rd.,
Kowloon.*

*Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
52 Boundary Street, Kowloon
九龍會堂
九龍界限街五十二號*

*Mr. Howard R. Walton,
% Strain Walter Sons Ltd,
Walkerville, Ont.
CANADA.*

5¢ printed matter rate dated 15 November 1948 to Canada

5¢ Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



6 November 1948: 5¢ China letter rate



14 April 1947: \$1.30 rate by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A.

BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY Proud AM27 (16.10.46 - 9.5.47)

Covers of 5¢ Green from the Bradbury Wilkinson printing are less common than the other values since the stamp was used mainly on printed matter. The 5¢ Centenary issue was initially put on sale at the post office before the 5¢.

10¢ Violet Requisition C from Plate 1, perf. 15x14

10,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson

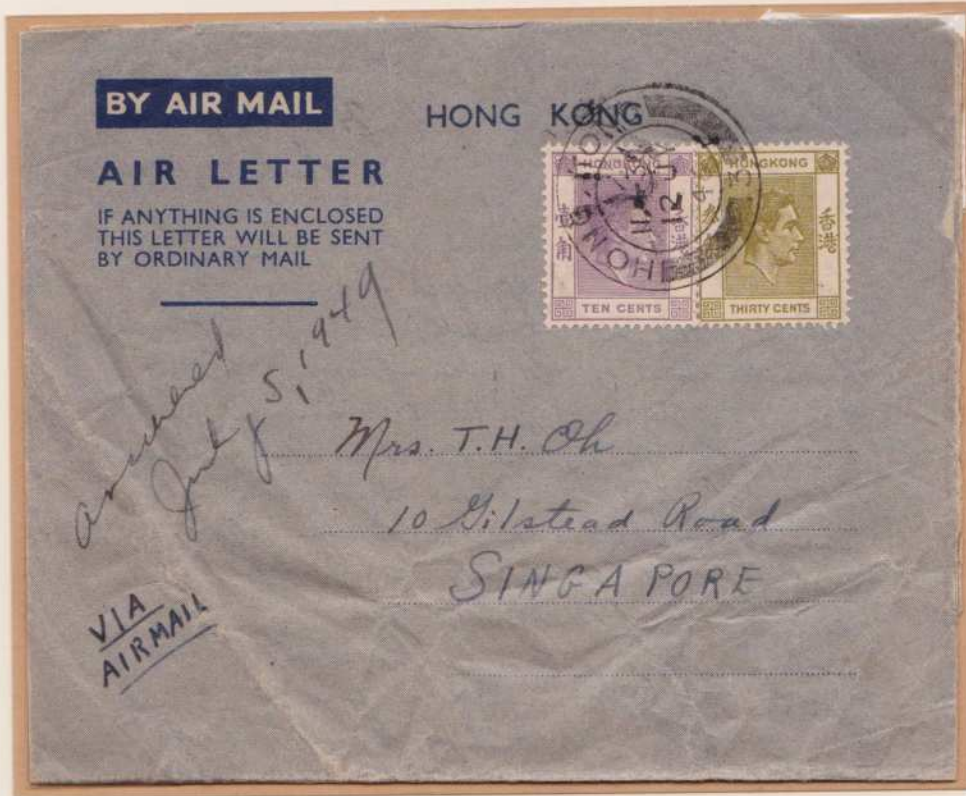


Requisition block and Plate block showing bottom fed (top margin perforated)
Type 15i perforation (1 pin on side margin)



10¢ used on surface mail rate dated 15 November 1945 to Australia.

10¢ Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



12 July 1946: affixed on post office formula aerogram to Singapore 40¢ rate
30¢ Sage affixed is also from Bradbury Wilkinson Printing



26 August 1947: 80¢ per ½ oz. airmail rate to Australia

C13744

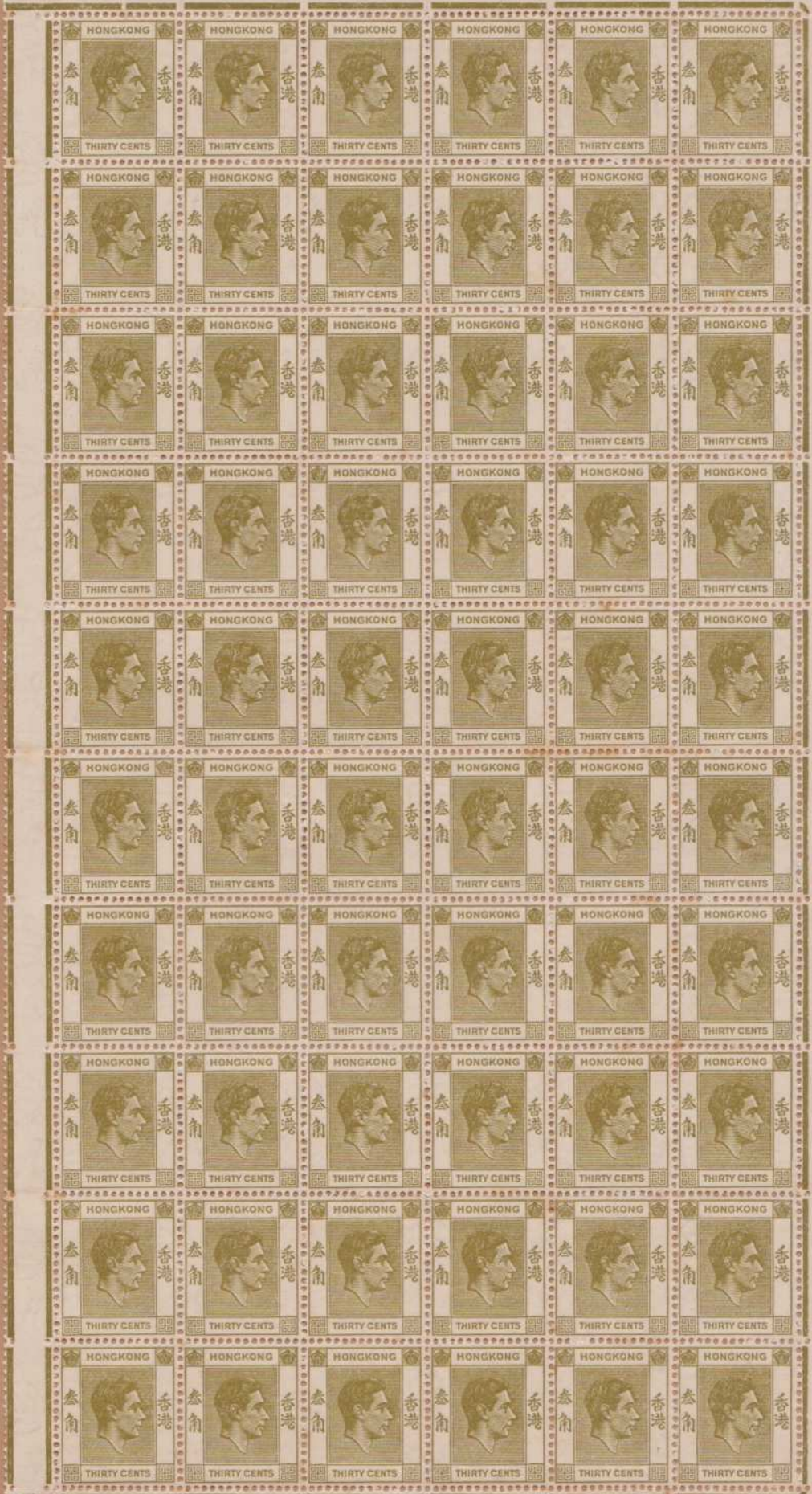
30¢ Sage
Requisition C
From Plate 1
Perf. 15 x 14

17,000 sheets
printed by Bradbury
Wilkinson

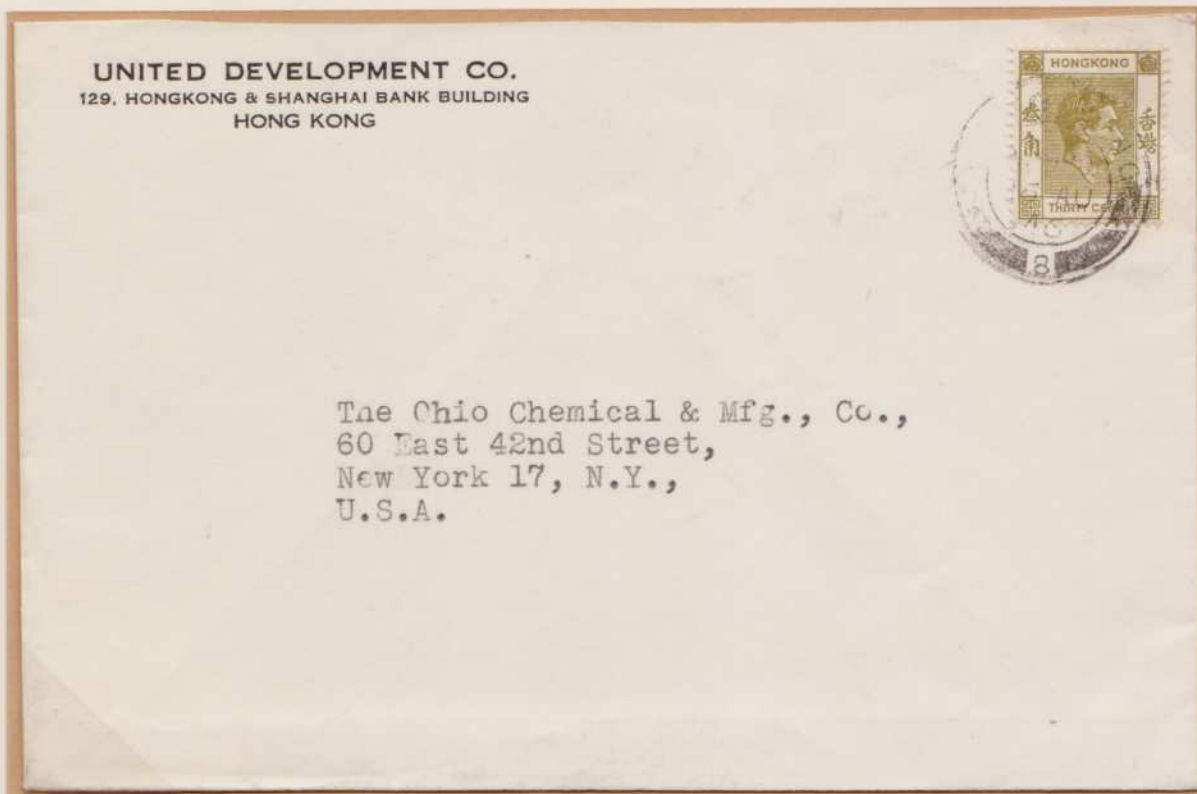
Printed in 60 x 60 format
with central gutter

One extension hole
on side margin and gutter

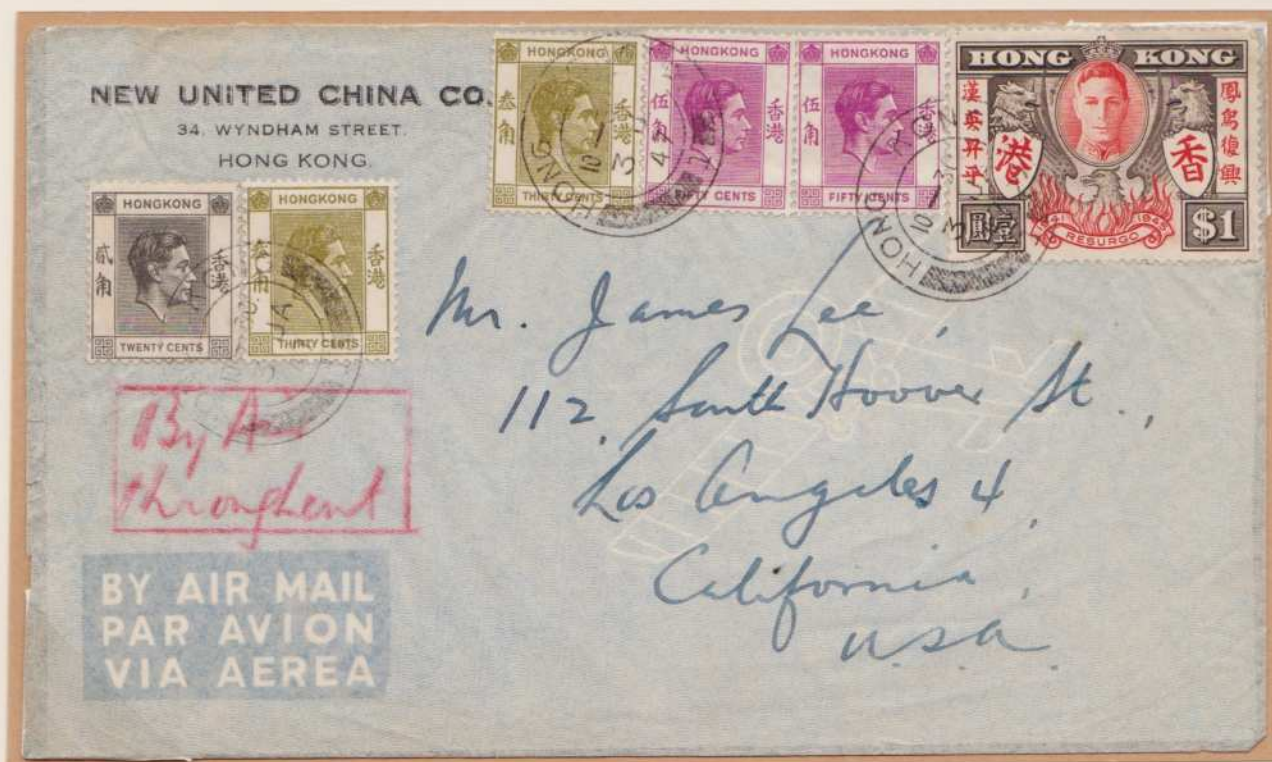
Top fed (bottom perforated)
Only value perforated from
this direction



30¢ Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



16 August 1946: surface mail to U.S.A., 30¢ per oz. rate



3 January 1947: direct airmail to U.S.A., \$2.80 per ½ oz. rate

30¢ Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



23 August 1946: by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A., \$1.30 per ½ oz. rate
BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY Proud AM5 (23.11.45 – 2.10.46)



27 August 1946: Double-rate + 25¢ registration fee by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A.
Probably no instructional handstamp was available at the Kowloon Branch post office

50¢ Red Purple Requisition C from Plate 1, perf. 15x14

7,000 sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson



Requisition block and Plate block showing bottom fed (top margin perforated)
Type 15i perforation (1 pin on side margin)



Late use of 50¢ on double-rate registered letter from Kowloon Branch post office on 2 July 1950 to U.S.A.
Surface mail rate 30¢ for first oz. and 20¢ for each additional oz., registration fee 30¢

50¢ Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages

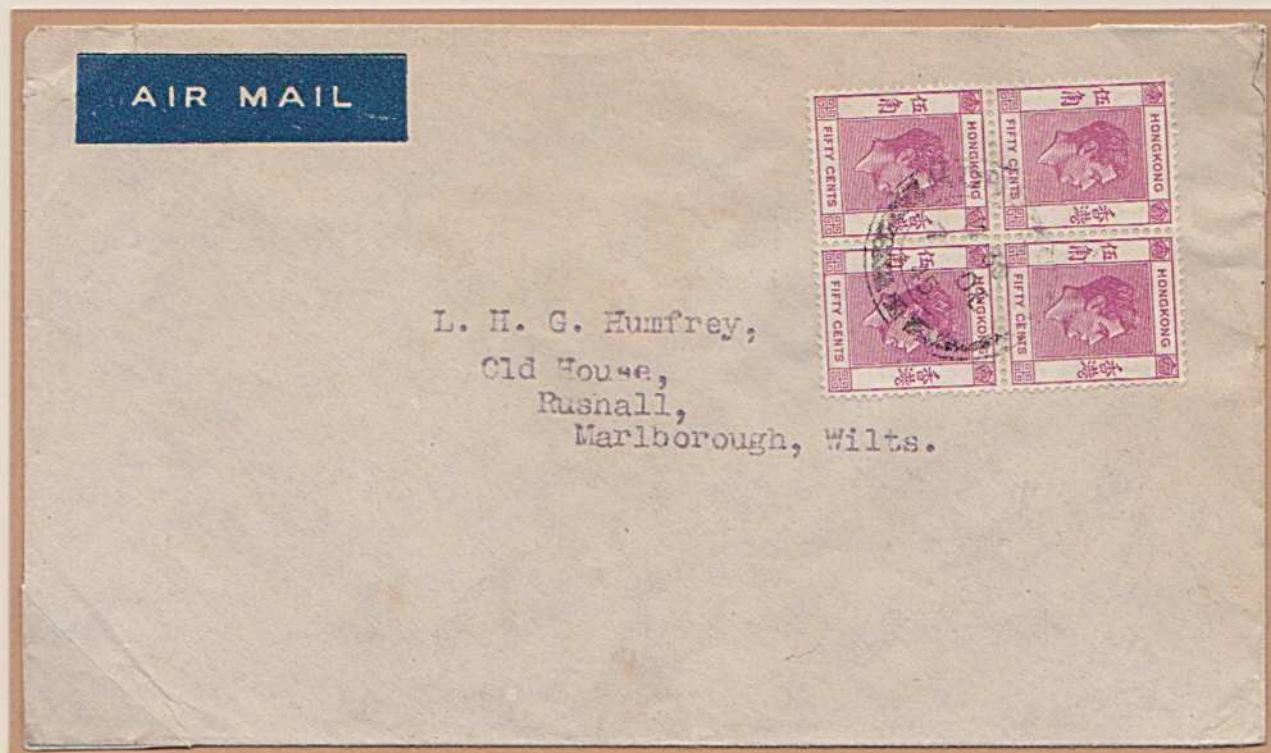


31 October 1945: by airmail to Leyte and surface mail to U.S.A., \$1 per ½ oz. rate
BY AIR TO LEYTE ONLY Proud AM9 (25.10.45 – 27.11.45) on reverse Victoria Hong Kong 31 OC 45



20 February 1946: by airmail to London and surface mail to U.S.A., \$1.30 per ½ oz. rate.
BY AIR TO LONDON ONLY Proud AM5 (23.11.45 – 2.10.46)

50¢ Bradbury Wilkinson Printing usages



7 December 1945: double-rate letter airmail to London by Imperial Airways, \$1 per ½ oz. rate
Probably due to shortage of \$1 value, block of four of the 50¢ was affixed



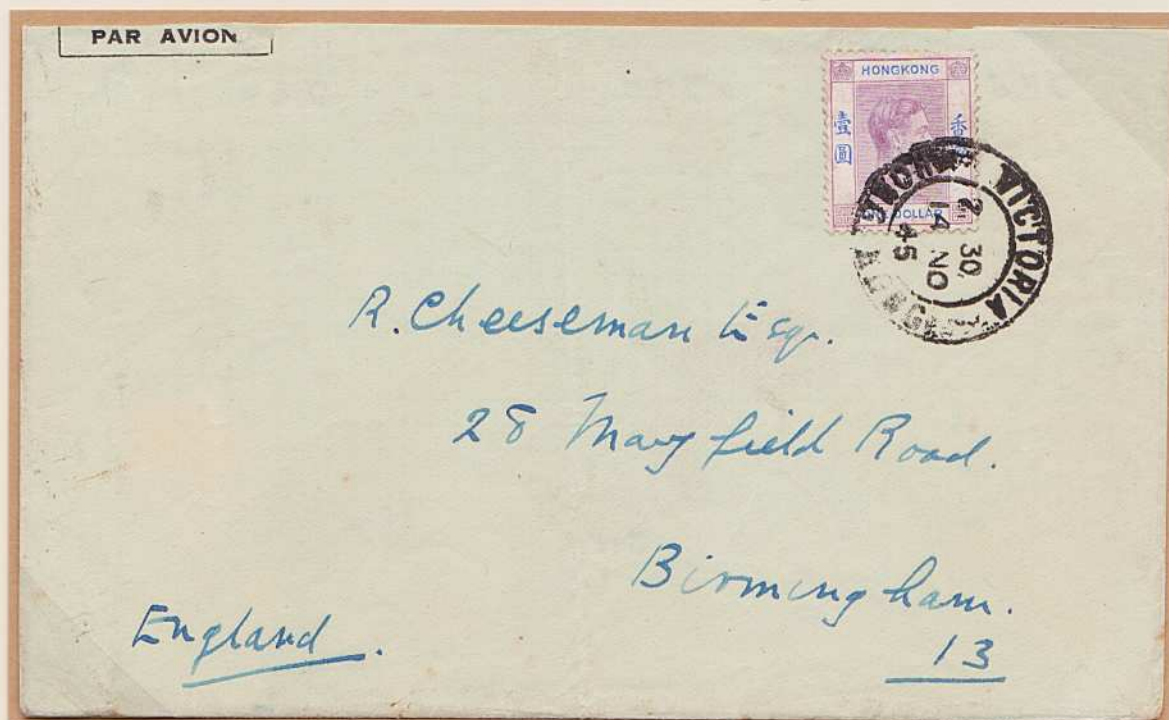
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The 15¢-envelope intended for the pre-war Empire ½ oz. surface rate was obsolete after the war

\$1 on "Chalk substitute" paper



14 November 1945: \$1 William Lea printing on "Chalk substitute" paper, ½ oz. airmail letter to England
According to Halewood², only 5,049 40/120 sheets were delivered to Hong Kong