

14.00 Yen Himeji Castle The Most Lovely Japanese Landscape Stamp

Introduction
Outbound mail was prohibited after the WWII in Japan, and was resumed on August 28th, 1947. Surface post card rate was 2 Yen at first, however, was raised two times in 1948 and 1949 because of the postwar inflation.
1949 surface post card rate was 14 Yen and it lasted for 10 years until March 31st, 1959. As there were no stamp of 14 Yen denomination, the ministry of post & telecommunication issued it on March 27th, 1951.

Souvenir sheet of this stamp was also issued on the same day and the number of issue is only 200 thousand.

This stamp and its souvenir sheet was produced through engraved plate press, which was used for high value stamps just to prevent counterfeit, and produce outstanding design which was enough to appeal the rival of Japan then.

Exhibit Plan
There exist no essays, DTP proofs and proofs for this issue.
So the collection starts with MIHON overprinted stamps, which means SPECIMEN in this leaf, followed by three leaves showing mint sheets and multiples of the different printing panes.

Transfer method was long used for engraved plate press since 1928 when the first engraved stamp was issued in Japan, and this stamp was also used this method. This method inferior to electrolytic method introduced in 1953 because of the poor precision of reproduction.
This means the transferred copies have many varieties, which is also shown in the exhibit.
Selected usages are shown in page 5 & 6. Although this stamp was sold for rather long period of more than five years between 1951 and 1956, demand on surface post card rate stamp was weak and the number of printing was also small.
The last two pages show the souvenir sheet. The first page shows the production varieties based on the exhibitor's original study, followed by a page showing selected usages: internal and external, full souvenir sheet and cut from s/s.

Purpose of the Exhibit, and the Original Study
This is the first and only research to show the production of this stamp by deep analysis, and it's based on the exhibitor's original study.
Production report including date and quantity was normally recorded by printing company, however, no report for this issue exist either in private hand or in museum. Thus it's next to impossible to study this stamp deductively, and as a result the number of study report was small since the issue.

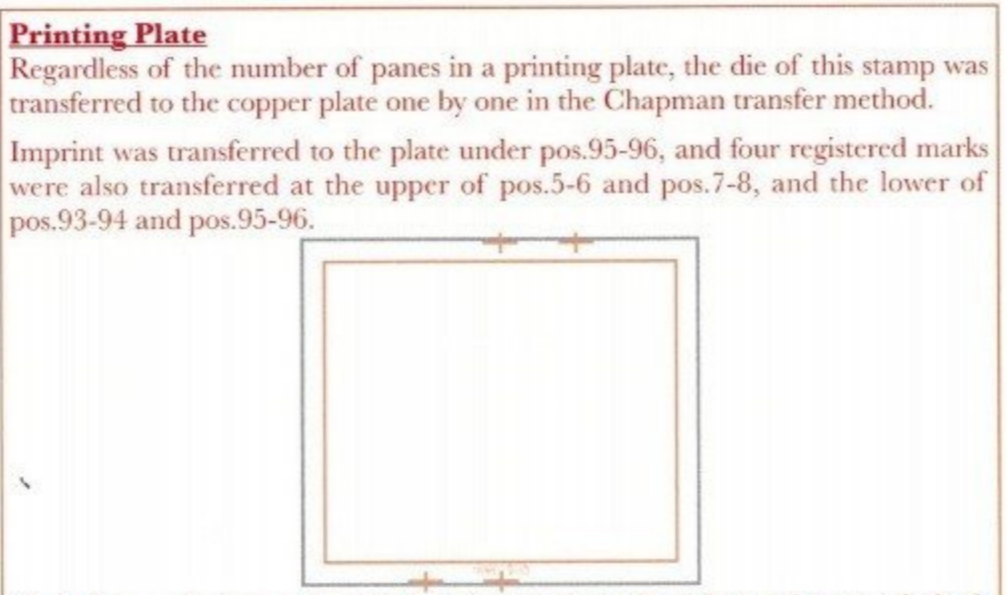
Among those study reports, the existence of a plate flaw "raked hair line" (*) seems to be a key finding, because this plate flaw was often found at pos.97, while several other pos.97 does not have this plate flaw.

*1 Reported by Mr. Haruna YAMAJI, the Stampedia Philatelic Journal 2012 edition. Several examples

The exhibitor thought this might be a starting point of inductive study of this stamp, and collect sheets and big multiples containing the lower rows as much as possible.
As a result of this accumulation, three facts about plate flaws are found.

- (1) Curled hair line is not only a plate flaw of pos.97, but large crack spread on a vertical strip of ten from pos.7 to pos.97. (see the left vertical strip of ten)
- (2) Another crack also spread on a vertical strip of ten from pos.5 to pos.99. (see the right vertical strip of ten)
- (3) Above two cracks exist on several sheets together, and the other several sheets without these cracks are also found.

The existence of two printing panes can be supposed from these facts about plate flaws. The exhibitor named one printing pane A and the other printing pane B.
The maximum number of panes which can be put into an engraved plate press together is four, however, it was also all right with only one pane. So it is not clear that both of printing pane A and B were used at the same time or not.



Each distance between the stamp and the registered marks are the same in both panes A and B, however the distance between the imprint and the stamp differs in panes A and B.

#2 A is an arabic gum and D is a dextrin gum
#3 Distance between stamp and imprint
Engraved plate press was not equipped with any perforation unit, so sheets were transported to perforation machine by hands. Every 5 or 6 sheets were pin-holed at the register mark and then were perforated one row and one row.



Printing Pane B

This is a pane without big two crack lines, which can be found in the pane A.
The distance between the imprint and the stamp is 3.5 mm.
Both of arabic gum and dextrin gum was used for this pane.

Dextrin Gum



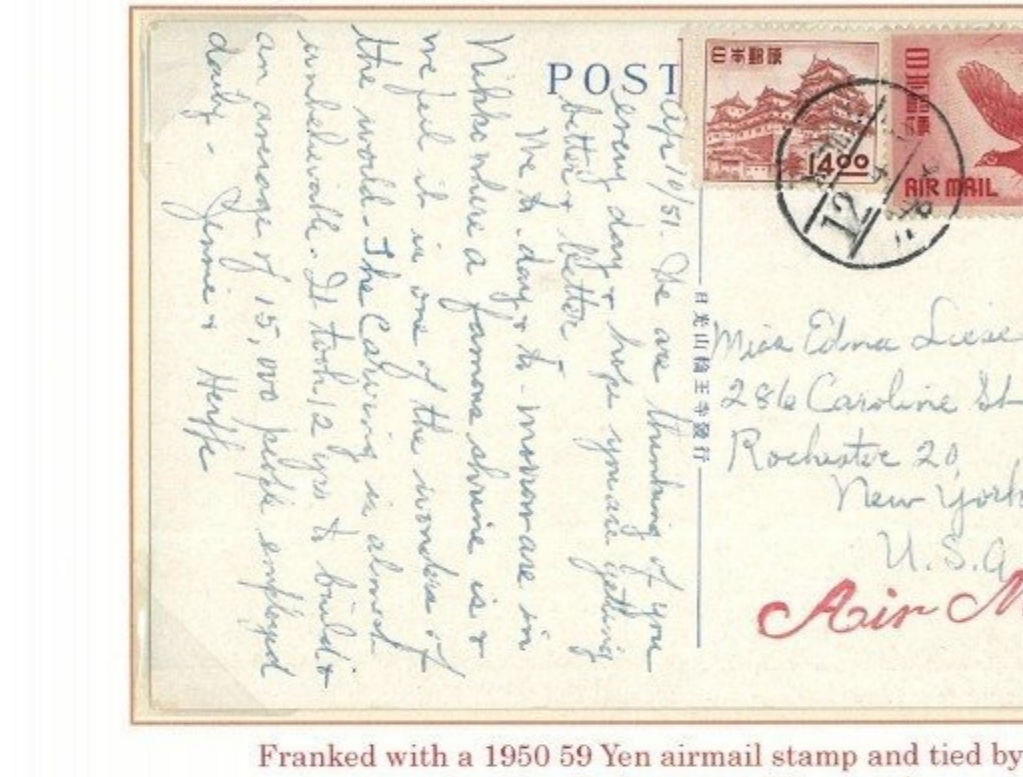
Lower Register Mark



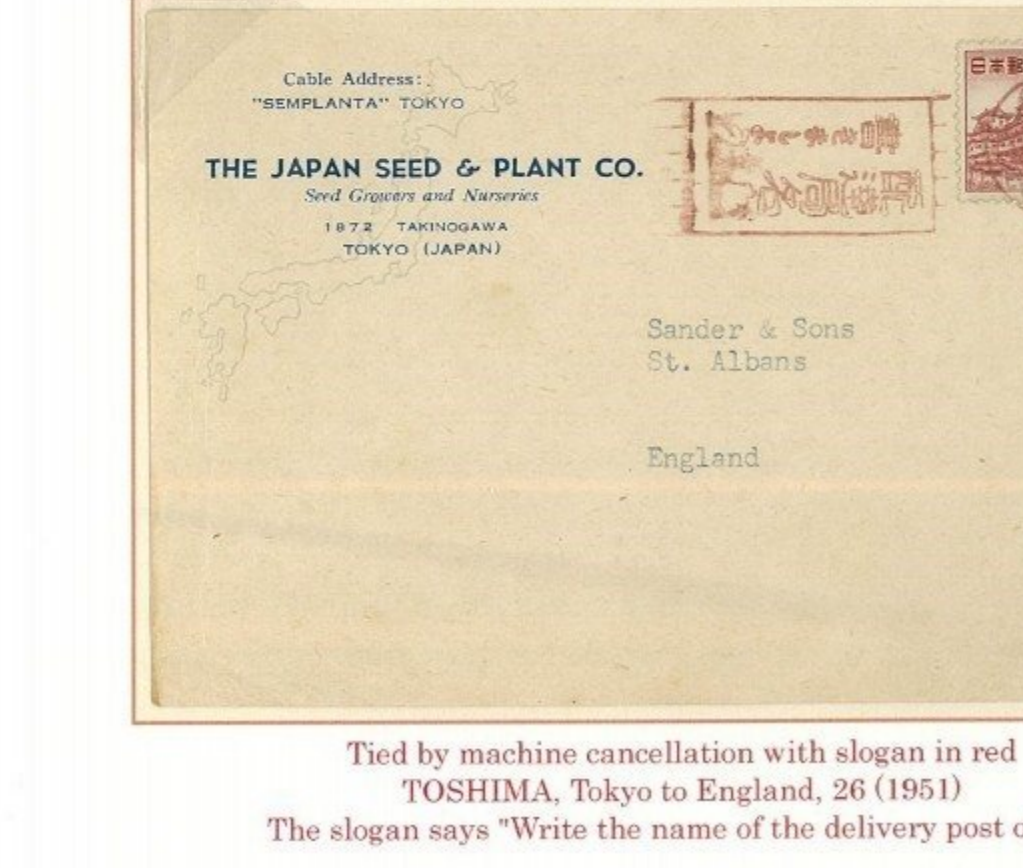
A Sheet with Arabic Gum



Early Usage



Machine Cancellation with Slogan



Internal Registered Letter



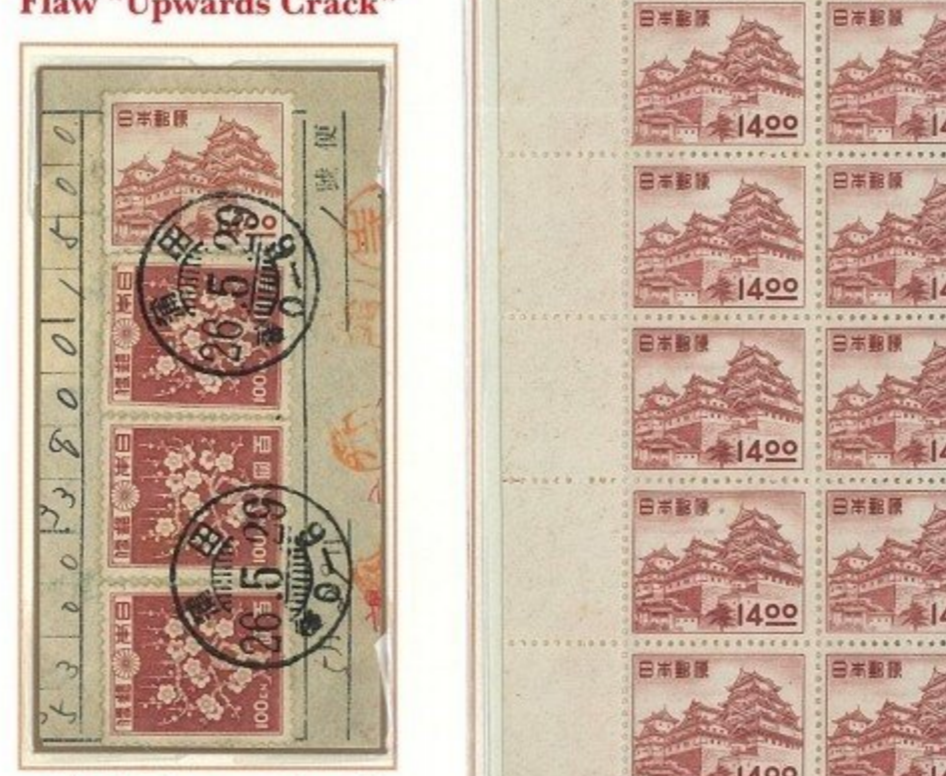
Surface Post Card to Taiwan



Printing Pane A

This is a cracking plate and two crack lines can be seen in vertical strips of pos.797 and pos.999.
The distance between the imprint and the stamp is 3.1 mm.

Pos. 49 with a Plate Flaw "Upwards Crack"



KAMATA 26 5 29 (1951)
Bulk mails payment document

A Sheet with Dextrin Gum



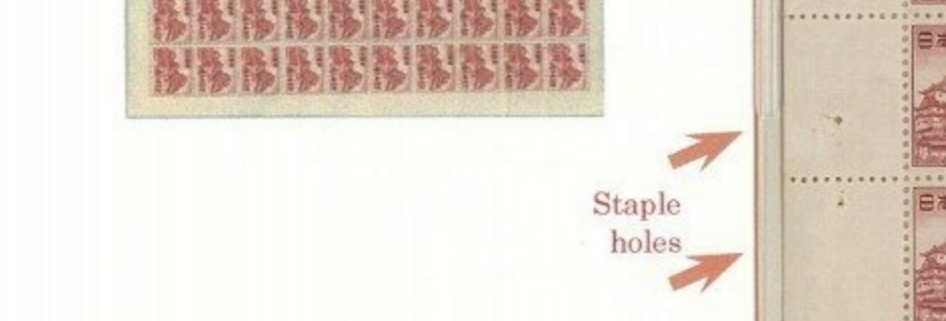
Printing Pane B with Different Staple Position

This is a pane without big two crack lines, which can be found in the pane A.
Staple holes are at the left of pos.7181, when a sheet is rotated as other denomination stamps with vertically long design.
This is uncommon positions for staple holes, which can only be seen in this sheet and it is supposed that this will also be a key to find the period of the production.

Dextrin Gum



Lower Register Mark



A Sheet with Arabic Gum



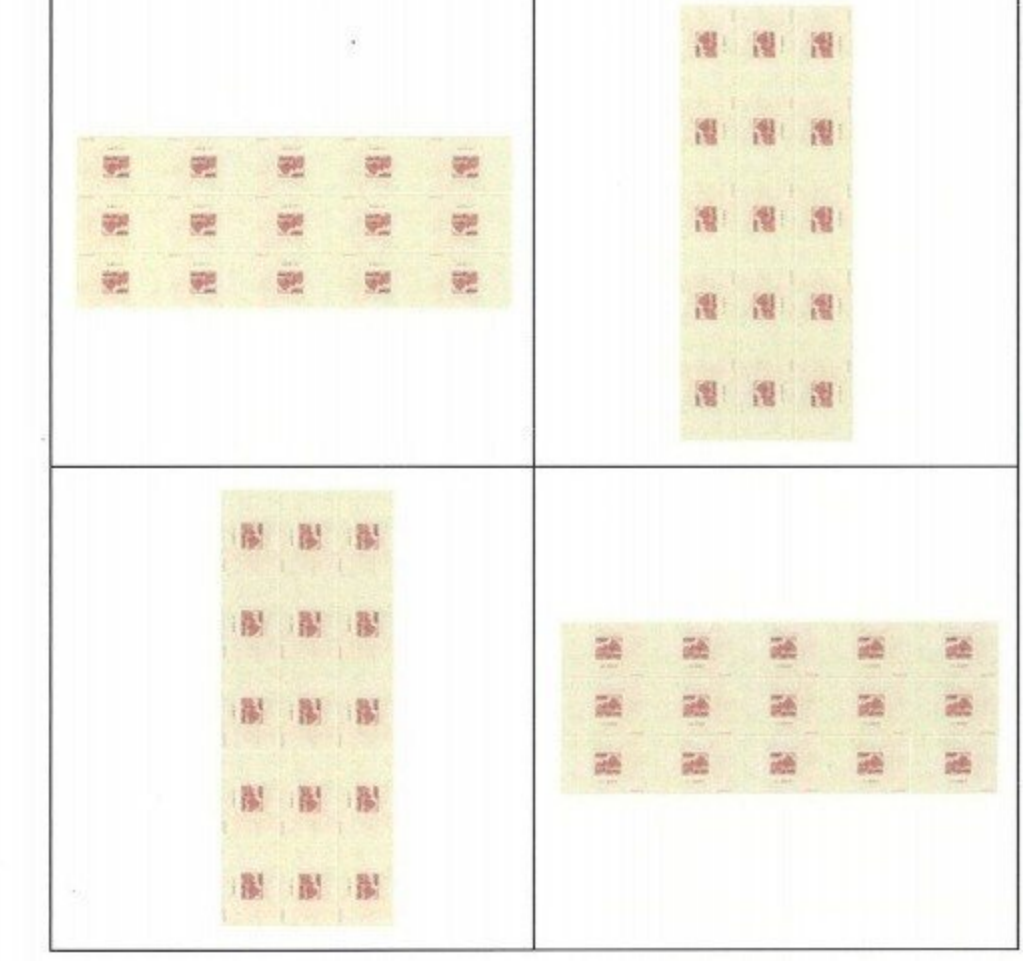
Single, Double, Triple and Quadruple Franking Letters



How The Souvenir Sheet Produced

Speed engraved press was used to produce the souvenir sheet.
The printing plate of the printer was consisted of four panes, which was rotated 90 degrees to the left with the progress of the work.
Each pane has three rows of five copies, (1) which were filled up with brick ink (2) excess of which were wiped out (3) put a sheet on which (4) took a sheet from which.
Then the printed sheet was cut into three rows of five copies, and moved to a perforating machine, then was perforated and cut into five souvenir sheets.

Printing Plate of 4 panes of 15 souvenir sheets



Specimen



Size Varieties of Souvenir Sheets



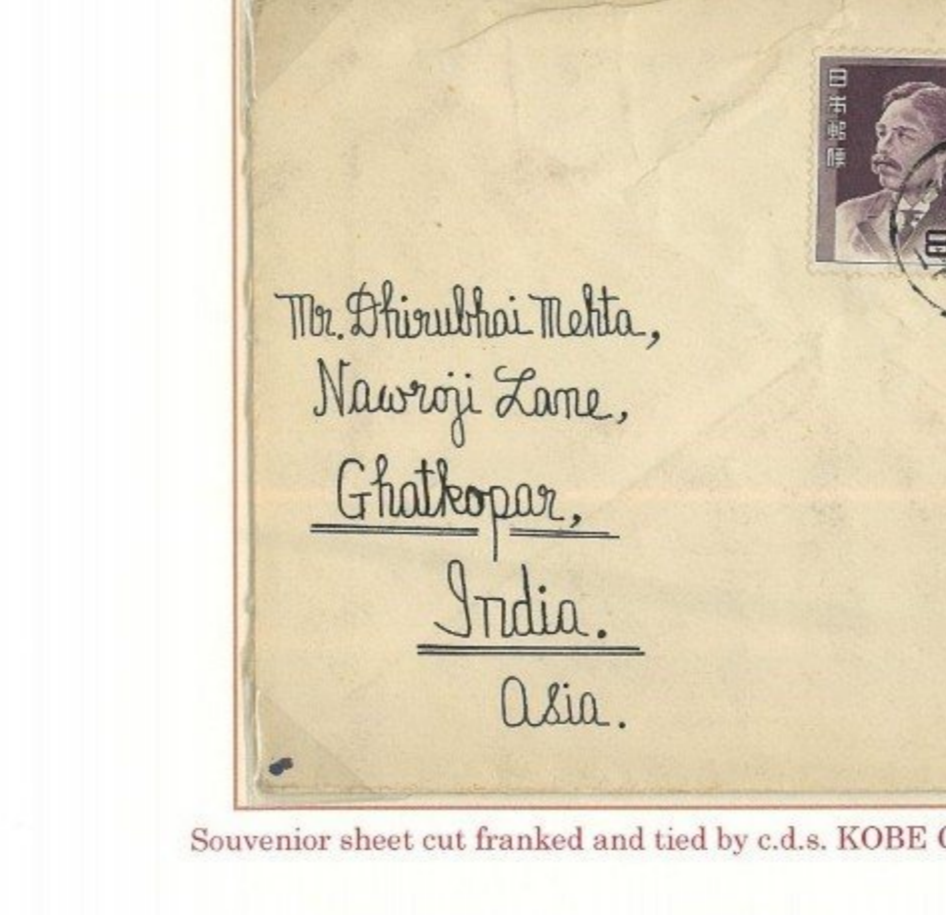
Plate Flaw



Internal Express Letter



Surface Letter to India



Registered Letter



14.00 Yen Himeji Castle

The Most Lovely Japanese Landscape Stamp

Introduction

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This stamp and its souvenir sheet was produced through engraved plate press, which was usual for high value stamps just to prevent counterfeit, and produce outstanding design which was enough to appeal the revival of Japan then.

Exhibit Plan

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Selected usages are shown in page 5 & 6. Although this stamp was sold for rather long period of more than five years between 1951 and 1956, demand on surface post card rate stamp was weak and the number of printing was also small.

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The exhibitor thought this might be a starting point of inductive study of this stamp, and collect sheets and big multiples containing the lower rows as much as possible.

As a result of this accumulation, three facts about plate flaws are found.

- (1) **Curled hair line is not only a plate flaw of pos.97, but large crack spread on a vertical strip of ten from pos.7 to pos.97. (see the left vertical strip of ten)**
- (2) **Another crack also spread on a vertical strip of ten from pos.9 to pos.99. (see the right vertical strip of ten)**
- (3) **Above two cracks exist on several sheets together, and the other several sheets without these cracks are also found.**

The existence of two printing panes can be supposed from these facts about plate flaws. The exhibitor named one printing pane A and the other printing pane B.

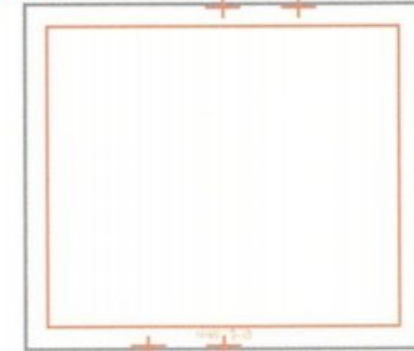
The maximum number of panes which can be put into an engraved plate press together is four, however, it was also all right with only one pane. So it is not clear that both of printing pane A and B were used at the same time or not.



Printing Plate

Regardless of the number of panes in a printing plate, the die of this stamp was transferred to the copper plate one by one in the Chapman transfer method.

Imprint was transferred to the plate under pos.95-96, and four registered marks were also transferred at the upper of pos.5-6 and pos.7-8, and the lower of pos.93-94 and pos.95-96.



Each distance between the stamp and the registered marks are the same in both panes A and B, however the distance between the imprint and the stamp differs in panes A and B.

Name	Pane	Gum *2	Shade	Distance *3	Shown
Sheet A	with crack	D	dark	3.1 mm	P.2
Sheet B	with crack	A	light	3.1 mm	P.2
Sheet C	without crack	A	light	3.5 mm	P.3
Sheet D	without crack	A	light	3.5 mm	P.4
Block A	with crack	A	light	3.1 mm	not shown
Block B	without crack	A	light	3.5 mm	P.3
Pair A	with crack	A	light	3.1 mm	not shown
Pair B	without crack	D	dark	3.5 mm	P.3

*2 A is an arabic gum and D is a dextrin gum

*3 Distance between stamp and imprint

Engraved plate press was not equipped with any perforation unit, so sheets were transported to perforation machine by hands. Every 5 or 6 sheets were pin-holed at the register mark and then were perforated one rows and one rows.

First Day Cancellation



TOKYO 27 3 51 (Showa 26)

Printing Pane A

This is a cracking plate and two crack lines can be seen in vertical strips of poa.7/97 and poa.9/99

The distance between the imprint and the stamp is 3.1 mm.

Pos. 49 with a Plate Flaw "Upwards Crack"



KAMATA 26 5 29 (1951)
Bulk mails payment document

Staple holes →

A Sheet with Dextrin Gum

A Sheet with Arabic Gum



Register mark and pin hole

Register mark and pin hole

Register mark and pin hole

Crack starts here to upwards

Crack starts here to upwards

Printing Pane B

This is a pane without big two crack lines, which can be found in the pane A.

The distance between the imprint and the stamp is 3.5 mm.

Both of arabic gum and dextrin gum was used for this pane.

Dextrin Gum



Pos.95/96

Lower Register Mark



Pos.85/96 with arabic gum

A Sheet with Arabic Gum



Supposed to be a register mark

Register mark

Staple holes

Register mark and pin hole

Register mark and pin hole

Printing Pane B with Different Staple Position

This is a pane without big two crack lines, which can be found in the pane A.

Staple holes are at the left of pos.71/81, which are upper of pos.2/3 when a sheet is rotated as other denomination stamps with vertically long design.

This is uncommon positions for staple holes, which can only be seen in this sheet and it is supposed that this will also be a key to find the period of the production.



Staple holes



A Sheet with Arabic Gum

Register mark and pin hole

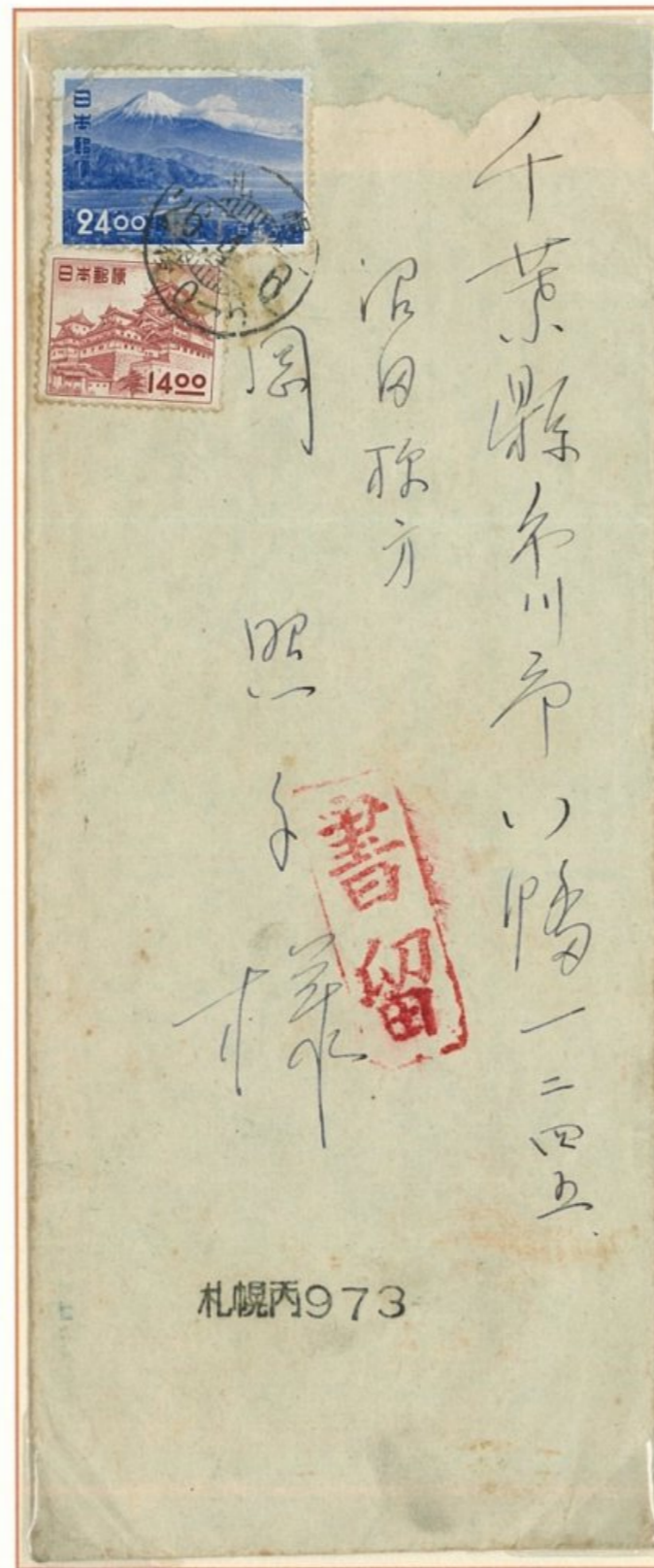
Register mark and pin hole

Early Usage



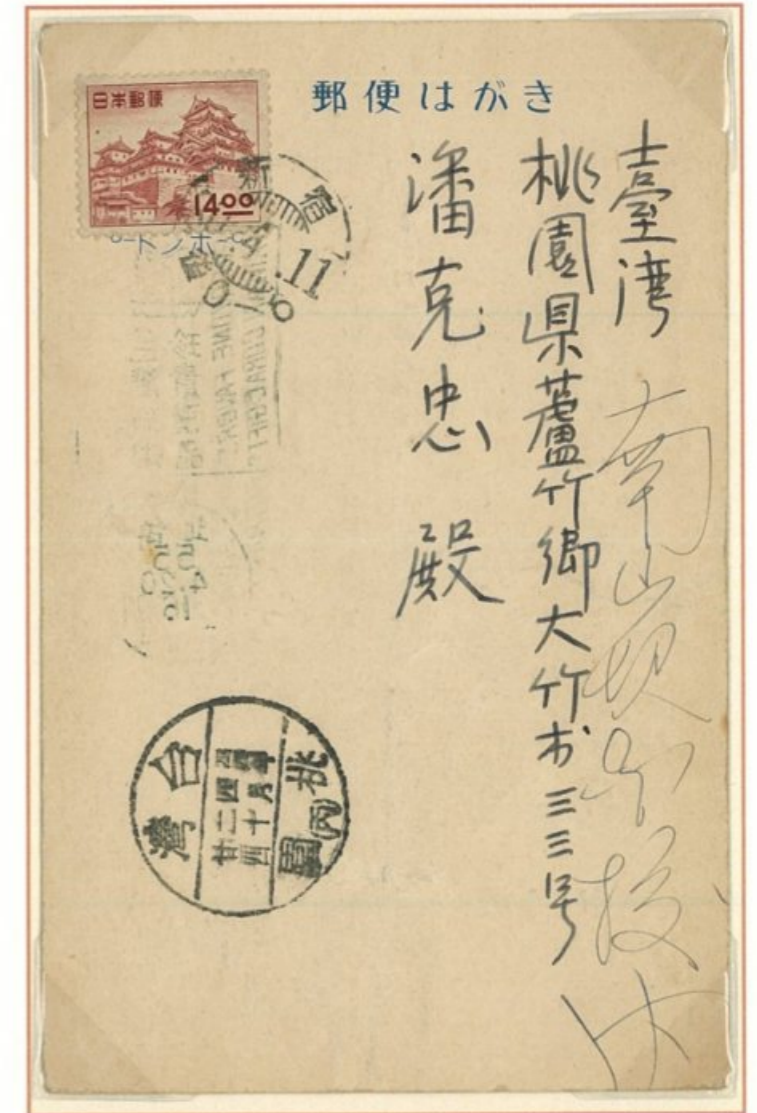
Franked with a 1950 59 Yen airmail stamp and tied by c.d.s. ? to New York, 12 4 51 (Showa 26)
59 Yen was correctly paid for additional airmail fee to USA, the third zone

Internal Registered Letter



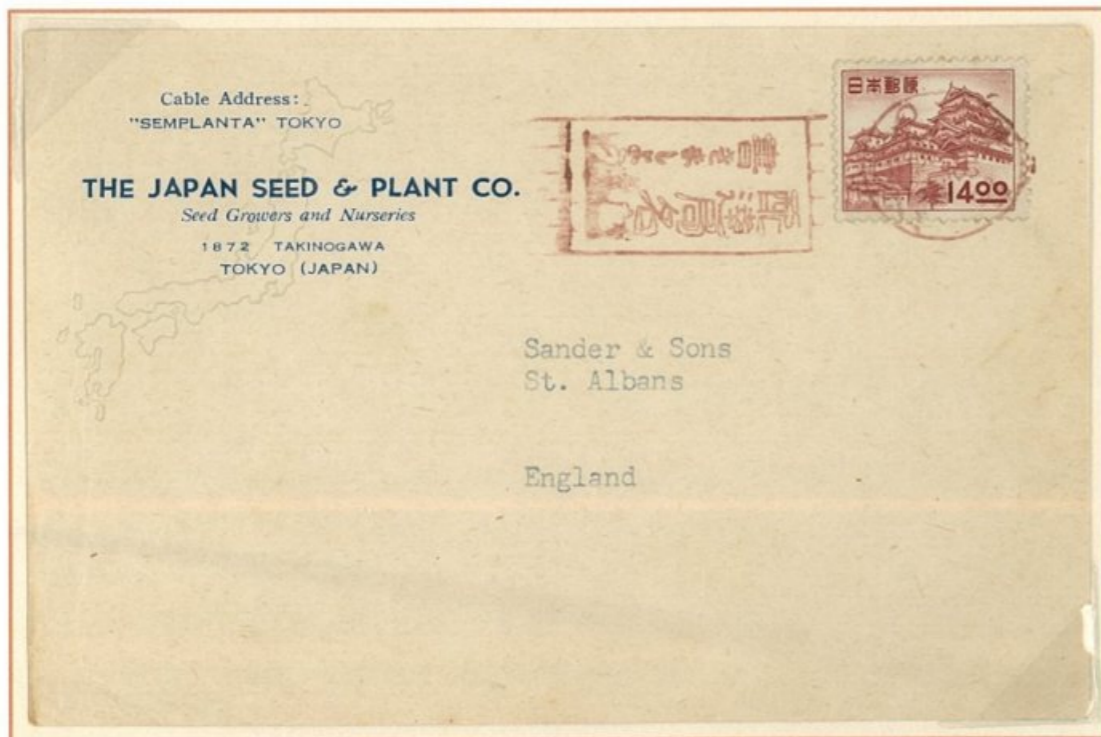
Franked with a 1951 24 Yen commemorative stamp and tied by c.d.s. SAPPORO to Chiba, 26 4 6 (1951)
38 Yen correctly paid for internal registered letter, 8+30

Surface Post Card to Taiwan



Tied by c.d.s. with Chinese arrival c.d.s. beside SHINJUKU to Taoyuan / Chinese Taipei, 30 4 11 (1955)

Machine Cancellation with Slogan



Tied by machine cancellation with slogan in red TOSHIMA, Tokyo to England, 26 (1951)
The slogan says "Write the name of the delivery post office"



Block of four tied by roller cancellation USHIGOME 29 1 12 (1954)

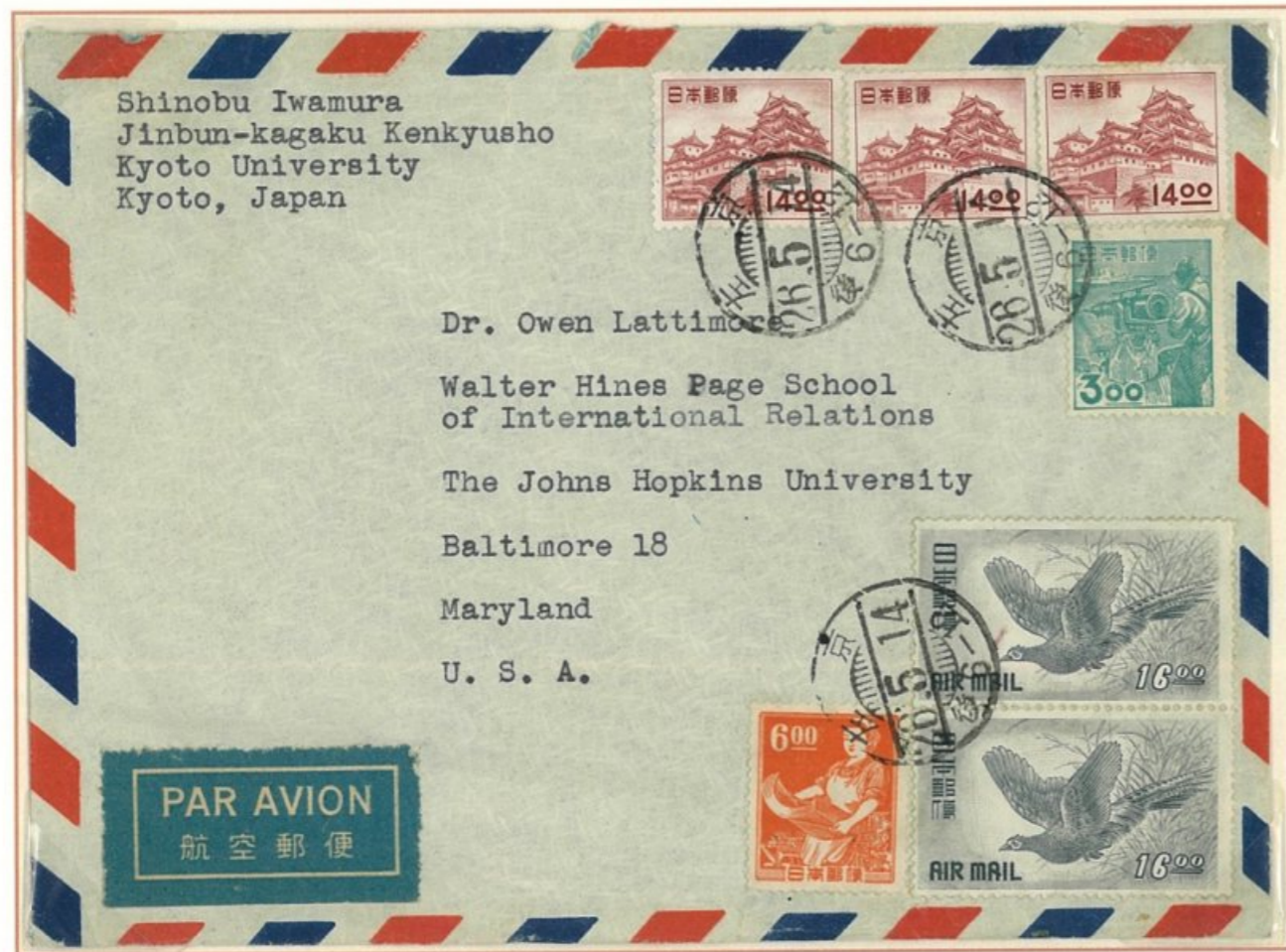
Single, Double, Triple and Quadruple Franking Letters



83 Yen correctly paid for airmail third zone letter valid until 1951.11.30, 24+59 NAGASAKI / JAPAN to Iowa / USA, 29 5 51 (Showa 26)



128 Yen correctly paid for airmail third zone registered letter valid after 1951.12.1, 80+48 OSAKA-MINAMI to NY / USA, 27 7 24 (1952)



83 Yen correctly paid for airmail third zone letter valid until 1951.11.30, 24+59 SAKYO, Kyoto to Maryland / USA, 26 5 14 (1951)



114 Yen correctly paid for registered letter of the fourth weight step valid until 1951.11.30, 24+14*3+48 TOKUYAMA to Oklahoma / USA, 26 4 6 (1951) 10c was also charged to the recipient.

How The Souvenir Sheet Produced

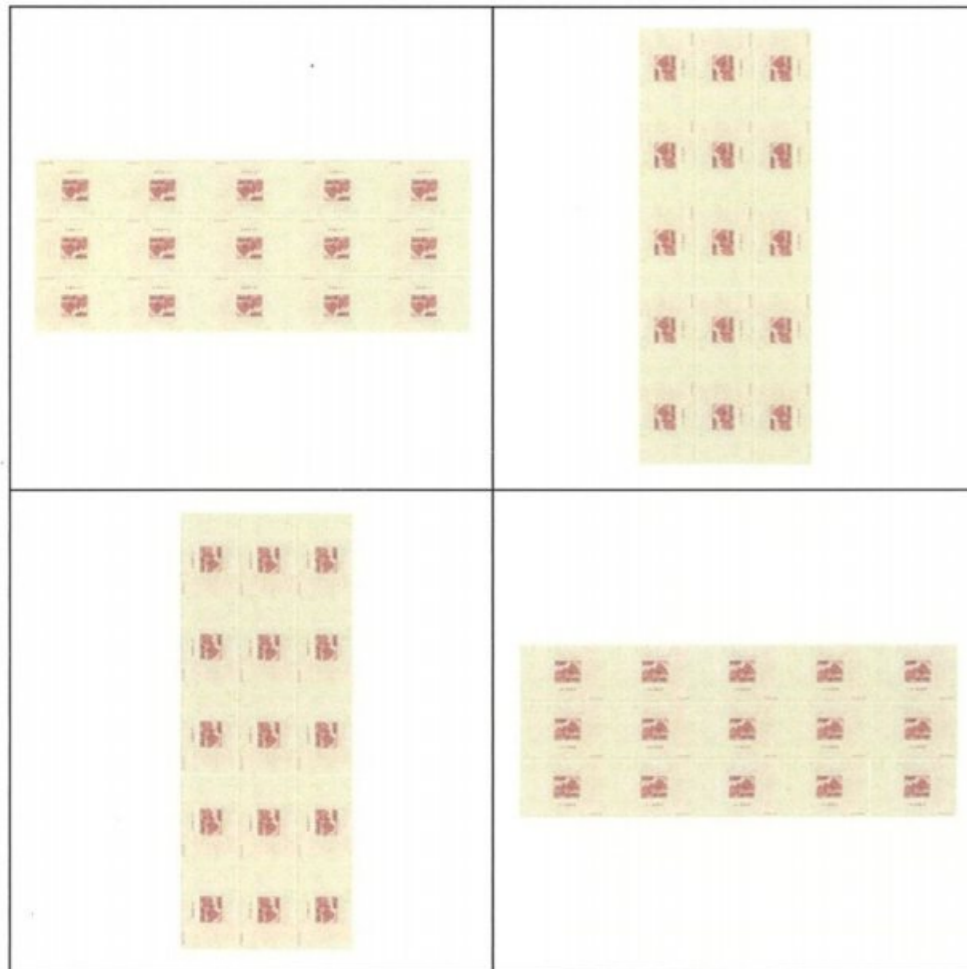
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Each pane has three rows of five copies, (1) which were filled up with brick ink (2) excess of which were wiped out (3) put a sheet on which (4) took a sheet from which.

Then the printed sheet was cut into three rows of five copies, and moved to a perforating machine, then was perforated and cut into five souvenir sheet.

Printing Plate of 4 panes of 15 souvenir sheets



Shape of the Perforation



Specimen



"MIHON" overprinted

Early Usage



OSAKA CPO 26 4 2 (1951)

Size Varieties of Souvenir Sheets



X 76.5
Y 52.0
A 6.0



X 76.5
Y 51.0
A 6.3



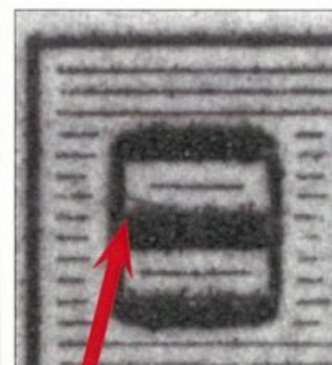
X 74.0
Y 50.0
A 6.1



Plate Flaw



Unknown position with a plate flaw of 日



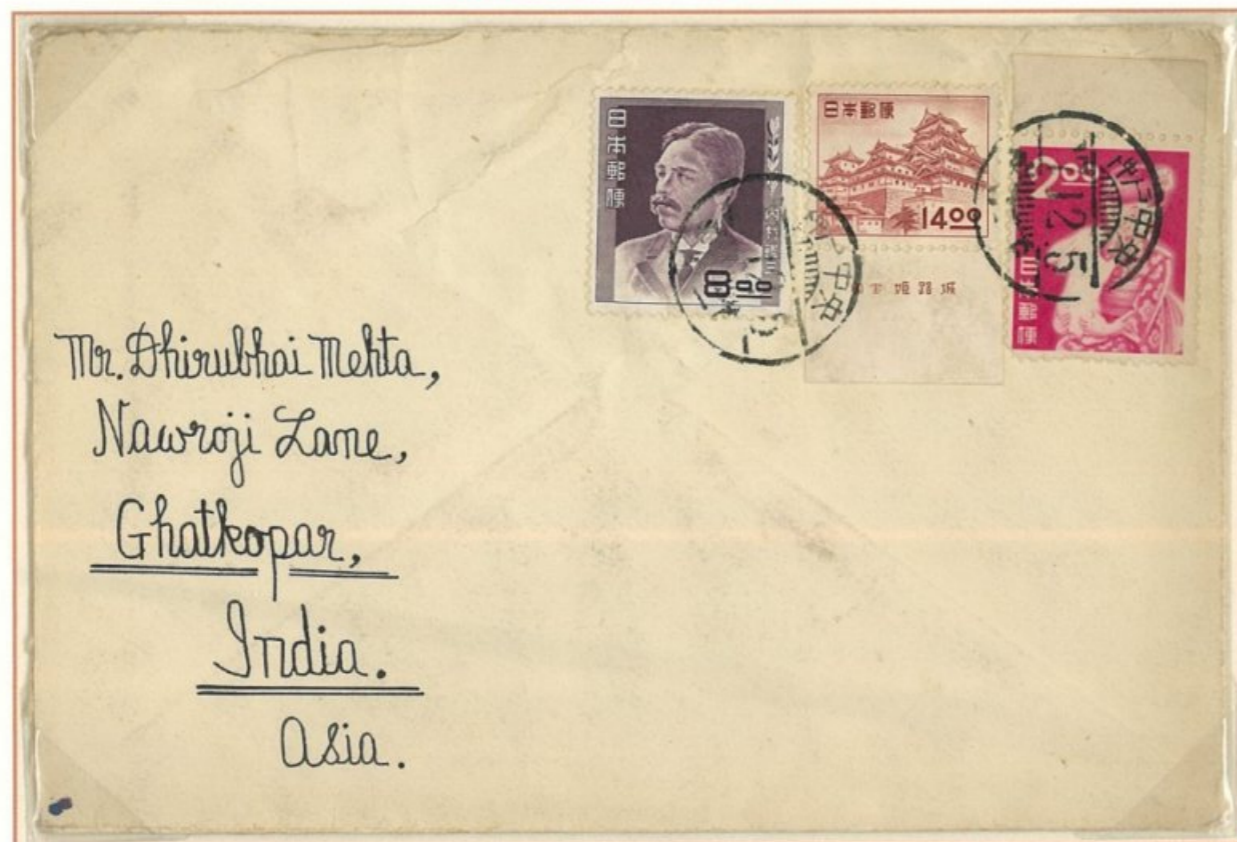
extra line

Internal Express Letter



Souvenior sheet franked with a 14.00 Yen stamp, tied by c.d.s. with an arrival c.d.s. beside
 OSAKA CPO to Kanagawa Oiso, 26 3 27 (1951)
 28 Yen correctly paid for internal express letter, 8+20

Surface Letter to India



Souvenior sheet cut franked and tied by c.d.s. KOBE CPO to Ghatkoper / India, 27 12 5 (1952)

Registered Letter



Souvenior sheet and e.t.c. tied by roman letter c.d.s.
 OSAKA to Maryland / USA, 13 4 51 (Showa 26)
 83 Yen correctly paid for airmail third zone letter valid until 1951.11.30, 24+59