

EVOLUTION OF THE GERMAN POST OFFICES 'KIAUTSCHOU' CHINA

SYNOPSIS

(June 2026)

Treatment & Philatelic Significance:

This exhibit, as defined on the title & exhibit outline pages, offers the viewer a chronological overview of the evolution of the German Post Offices in the Kiautschou Territory/Colony from early German naval mail through to Japanese Occupation 1914-1923.

Each 'division', or chapter, gives an overview of a particular aspect showing Tsingtau Post Office City mail, forerunner postage, official colonial issues, postmarks & usage of postal station mail in the territory **proper & neutral zone**, various other mail activities including postal history relating to Japanese occupation along with an epilogue as closure.

All-important postmarks of the German Post Offices in the territory are shown with over 90 postal history examples as well as all postage issues, except an example of the ultra-rare Second 'Tsingtau Auxiliary Issue' ("5 Pf" Overprint) of which little to none have been on the market for years.

Philatelic Knowledge & Research:

The exhibitor has not patterned this exhibit on any others involving China or period, but, rather, has attempted to research the subject matter using the best available references in German or English so as to develop a cohesive "storyline" as he perceives it. Any original research has been integrated into the exhibit text and not highlighted.

Rarity, Condition & Difficulty of Acquisition:

Most of this exhibit consists of scarce examples, many of which are expertized ('Exp') and/or have certificates ('Cert') found on the page reverse.

All material is the best found by the exhibitor in the last forty+ years and acquired piecemeal. As far as the exhibitor has been able to determine, this is the only known dedicated exhibit on this subject in North America & Europe.

Presentation:

The exhibit uses colored text as follows:

- Black:** General historical, geographical & postal information
- Light Blue:** Chapter-start-page heading & important annotative information.
Blue-matted examples indicate particular importance & scarcity,
which may or may not be additionally detailed.
- Maroon:** Postal rate information.

Evolution of the German Post Offices 'Kiautschou' China
Synopsis Page 2 of 2
(June 2026)

Thus, the viewer, or philatelic judge, can quickly survey the exhibit by following the colored text which is of most interest to him/her. Important annotative information, where indicated, is in blue text color, and could also be 'passed' if not of interest, for example. General historical or geographical information will be 'boxed' and usually found at the top of the applicable pages.

Text (Century Gothic) font sizes are: heading/title (14), sub-headings (12 or 10.5) or boxed text (10), cover/postcard/document descriptive text (10 or 9).

Bibliography:

- * Friedemann/Wittmann, *Die Postwertzeichen und Entwertungen der Deutschen Postanstalten in den Schutzgebieten und im Ausland*, 4th Edition, Wittmann Verlag, Munich, 1988.
- ** Miller, Jerry H., *German Offices in China 1886-1917: Background & Evolution*, The China Clipper, March, 2012, Volume 76, Number 3, Whole Number 435, Pages 90-96, 106-108.
- ** Miller, Jerry H., *German Offices in China 1886-1917: Background & Evolution*, The German Postal Specialist, June 2012, Volume 63, No. 6, Whole Number 685, Pages 229-237. July 2012, Volume 63, No. 7, Whole Number 686, Pages 271-281.
- * Schmidt/Werner, *Geschichte der deutschen Post in den Kolonien und im Ausland*, Konkordia Verlag Reinhold Rudolph, Leipzig, 1939.
- * *Stempelkatalog..Ehemalige deutsche Kolonien und Auslandspostämter*, Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen eV, (18th Edition), Berlin, 2018.

EVOLUTION OF THE GERMAN POST OFFICES 'KIAUTSCHOU' CHINA



GERMAN 'KIAUTSCHOU' TERRITORY
("Kiau-chow" = "Jiaoxian" or "Chiao-hsien" or "Kiao-hsien")

ON 6 MARCH 1898, A 99-YEAR LEASEHOLD AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE IMPERIAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT COVERING THE 'KIAUTSCHOU BAY' IN NORTHERN CHINA, subsequently becoming the home port facility of the German Far East Cruiser Squadron, responsible for protecting the Far East and Pacific German Colonies, Territories and Settlements, and a German Colony with its own postage stamps.



Cert.

EXHIBIT

This exhibit chronologically presents
the evolution of the 'German Post Office'
in the "Kiautschou Bay"
German-Leasehold & Protectorate Territory
in China from early 1898 until 1914,
including forerunner postage, dedicated
colonial issues, postmarks & usage,
along with related associated mail areas/types, examples of
Japanese occupation period (1914-19) postal history,
along with an epilogue as closure.

EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

- I. MAP, HISTORY & TITLE PAGES
- II. GERMAN NAVAL ADMINISTRATION .. TSINGTAU
- III. POSTAL ISSUES
- IV. TERRITORIAL POSTAL STATION POSTMARKS & USAGE
 - A. Kiautschou Proper
 - B. Neutral Zone
- V. KIAUTSCHOU FIELDPOST
- VI. KIAUTSCHOU-SCHANTUNG PROVINCE RAILWAY
- VII. TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE NETWORK MAIL
- VIII. 'IMPERIAL EAST ASIA NAVAL SQUADRON'
- IX. 'IMPERIAL COURT' AT TSINGTAU
- X. JAPANESE OCCUPATION 1914-19
- XI. EPILOGUE

TEXT COLOR CODING

BLACK: General Information

BLUE: Important historical & notable information,
rarity factors & chapter/topic start pages

MAROON: Postal Rate Information