

REPUBLIC OF CHINA EXPRESS STAMPS AND MAIL SLIPS: 1912-1929

SYNOPSIS—2026

Purpose and Treatment

The Revolution of 1911-12 replaced the Imperial government with the Republic of China. The postal authorities wanted new stamps for the Republic. This exhibit is of the new express stamps and those that followed prior to the transition in 1942 to conventional postage stamps for domestic express and domestic registration.

Difficulty Factor

Since the slips were not to be sold over the counter at post offices, few unused examples of some of the slips have survived. Also, some examples are very scarce used.

Knowledge and Research

The exhibitors personal research built upon the original work of Major James Starr ^o, Lloyd Ruland ¹, Chang Paul Ke-Shing ² and Zhao Renlong. ³ New information on the stamps appeared in the China Stamp Society catalog edited by the exhibitor. The new information on the express mail slips appeared in the exhibitor's article "Republic of China Express Mail Slips," in Vol. 78, No. 2, Jan. 2014, page 46, of the *The China Clipper*, the journal of The China Stamp Society, Inc.

Bibliography and Other Research Sources

Maxwell, H. James, ed. China Stamp Society Specialized Catalog of China to 1949. Kansas City, MO: The China Stamp Society, Inc., 2021, Pp. 273-275. It provides detailed information.

Photocopy of the 1993 exhibit "Chinese Express Stamps 1906-1916," by Willliam R. Cluck

Footnotes

^o Information appears on pages 147-57 of the final installment of "Chinese Express Letter Stamps," by Major James Starr, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, No. 2 (April 1930), pages 95-102 and No. 3 (July 1930), pages 145-157.

¹ Information appears on pages 60-62 of the final installment of "The Express Letter Stamps of China," by Lloyd S. Ruland, *The China Clipper* (1941-42) Vol. 6, No. 2, pages 11-15, Vol. 6, No 3, pages 26-31, Vol. 6, No. 4, pages 35-38, Vol. 6, No. 5, pages 43-50, and Vol. 6, No. 6, pages 56-63.

² Information appears on pages 522-24 of *A Concise Catalogue of Postal Cancellation of China (1872-1949)*, by Chang Paul Ke-Shing, San Francisco: Paul Ke-Shing Chang, 1996.

³ Information appears on page 12 of "Questions on Express Letter Stamps End of Qing Dynasty and Early Republic," by Zhao Renlong, *The China Clipper* Vol. 71, No. 1 (Nov. 2006), pages 6-13.

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This is a display division exhibit of the stamps (largest in the world at the time), their demonetization, and their cheaper replacements. In late 1912 the Republic of China (ROC) issued its first domestic express stamp, following the example of the Imperial Post which issued seven between 1905 and 1912. Like the Imperial stamps it was in green with black numbers. Express service was available between most First and some Second Class post offices. The express service required a fee of 10¢, which included 2¢ for postage (up to 30 g.), 5¢ for registration, and 3¢ for express service. An optional 5¢ paid the equivalent of Acknowledgement of Receipt (AR), or what the Chinese call "double registered."

Each stamp has five sections: the first a stub retained at the originating post office; the second retained by the receiving post office; the third (a receipt) returned to the originating office, the fourth used to glue the second and third to the cover; and the fifth a sender's receipt.



The second ROC domestic express stamp was issued in February 1914, but with green numbers.



Express stamps were discontinued Feb. 1, 1916. Regular stamps were used to show payment of postage and the express fee. Express mail could be posted anywhere and would receive express delivery if available at the addressee's post office. The express stamps were demonetized by locally overprinting "A," "B," "C," and "D" on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th sections, turning them into express mail slips. Next, stamp-like slips were printed with the letters appearing at the top. City names were sometimes overprinted in black. Finally, less expensive slips were printed on cheap paper, first in a rectangular format and then in a somewhat square format.

RATE TABLE

Date	Surface*	Express Fee	Total
2/1/16	.03	.10	.13
11/1/22	.04	.16	.20
1/1/23	.03	.10	.13
11/1/25	.04	.10	.14
2/1/29	.04	.12	.16

* per 20 g.

Character For Express 快

Plan of Organization

Stamps & demonetization	1-3
Stamp-like express slip	4
Rectangular express slips	5-6
Square express slips	7-12