

The First Commemorative Stamp of Queen Elizabeth II

The Hong Kong 1953 Coronation Issue

On 9th February 1952, Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed as Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second, following the death of her father King George VI a few days earlier.

On the first day of issue, 1,045,719 stamps were sold in the first three hours of business, compared with the average full day sale of the 10c definitive stamps which amounts to 84,000.

Reference: The Postal History of Hong Kong 1841-1997 by Edward B. Proud. The Philatelic History of Hong Kong Vol. 1 - The Adhesives by Hong Kong Study Circle published 1984. Hong Kong Stamp Catalogue published 1990 by China Philatelic Association and Philatelic Bureau Hong Kong Post Office.

Date of issue: 2nd June 1953. Designed and engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Recept printed by De La Rue on watermarked multiple Crown Script CA paper.

Vignette Die Proof. Die Proof for all countries in the omnibus issue. "Rejected" Die Proof with paper-fold fault. Annulled by two red lines.



No requisition number on sheet. Stock retained by Crown Agent. Duty Plate 1A, Head Plate 3A.



Vignette in central position. Normal alignment. Vignette lowered. Misaligned. The vignette was printed after the frame, slight misalignment of the two printing plates resulted in minor vertical shifting of the Queen's portrait.

10 cents Hong Kong 1953 Coronation of QEII complete sheet of 60



Duty Plate 1

Reference: The Postal History of Hong Kong 1841-1997 by Edward B. Proud. The Philatelic History of Hong Kong Vol. 1 - The Adhesives by Hong Kong Study Circle published 1984. Hong Kong Stamp Catalogue published 1990 by China Philatelic Association and Philatelic Bureau Hong Kong Post Office.

Local Use



Duty Plate 1

5 November 1953 Used on advertising envelope.



The internal rate became 10 cents per first oz and 10 cents per each additional oz from 1953.

Use to the British Commonwealth

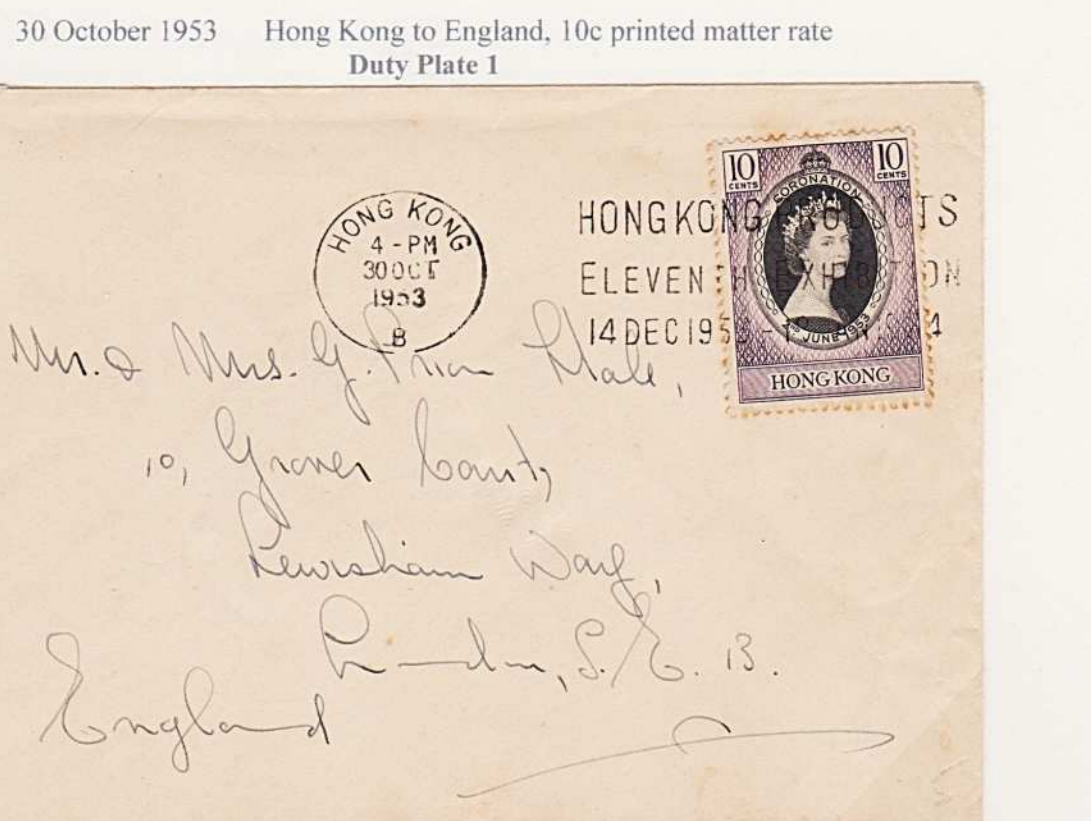


29 September 1953 Hong Kong to Canada. Duty Plate 1.



The imperial surface mail letter rate became 20c per first oz and 15c per each additional oz from 1953.

Use to foreign countries



The machine cancellation was the slogan postmark for 11th Hong Kong Industrial Products Exhibition.

27 October 1954 registered surface mail to USA 65c rate + 30c registration fee. Duty Plate 1.



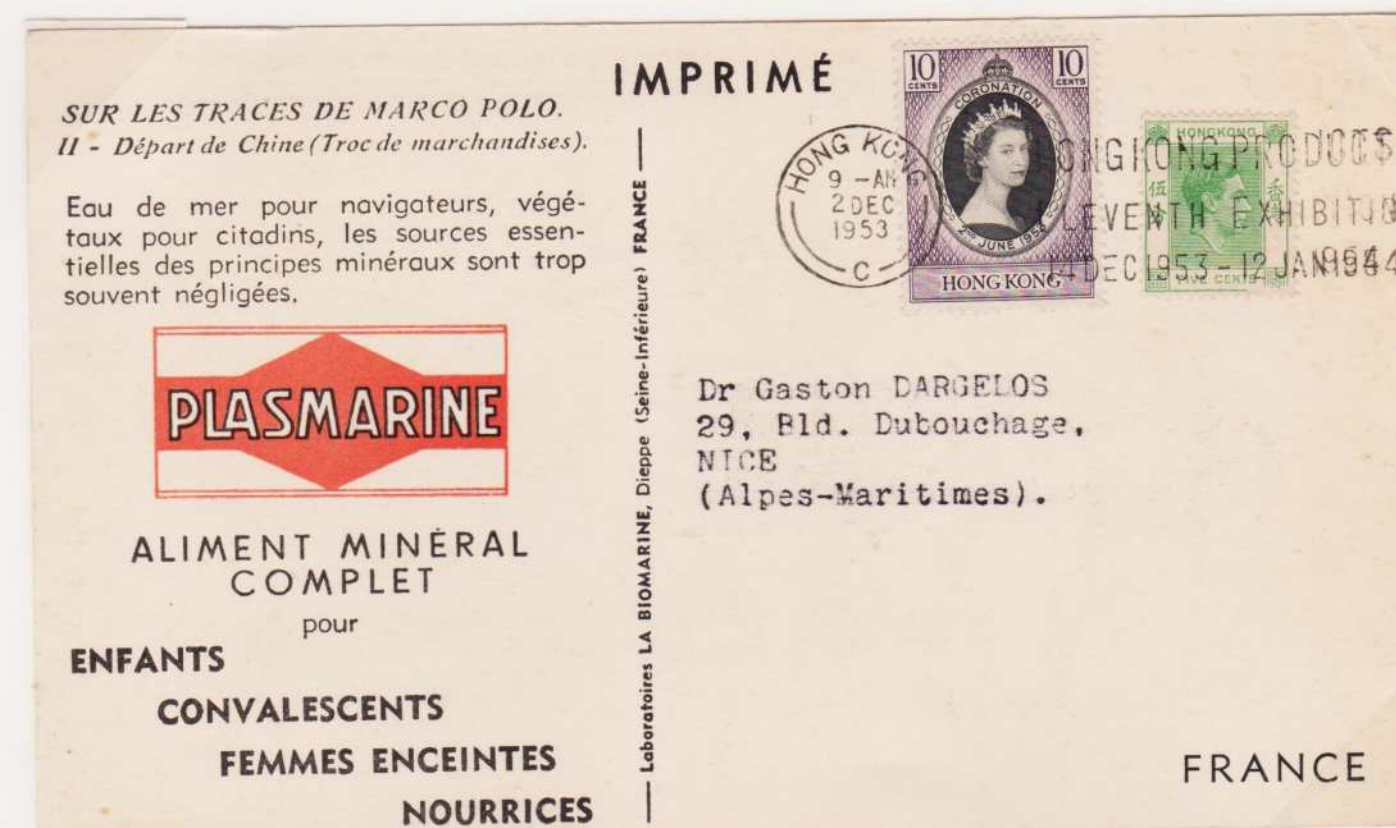
The surface mail rate to foreign countries became 40c per first oz and 25c per each additional oz.

Use on post card



The post card airmail rate became \$1.0 in zone 3 area on 1 May 1953.

2 December 1953: Hong Kong to France by sea 15c rate. Duty Plate 1.



The post card surface mail rate became 15c since February 1953.

Use on airmail to Zone 1



Use on airmail to Zone 2



6 June 1953: Hong Kong to Germany direct by air \$1.3 rate. Duty Plate 1.

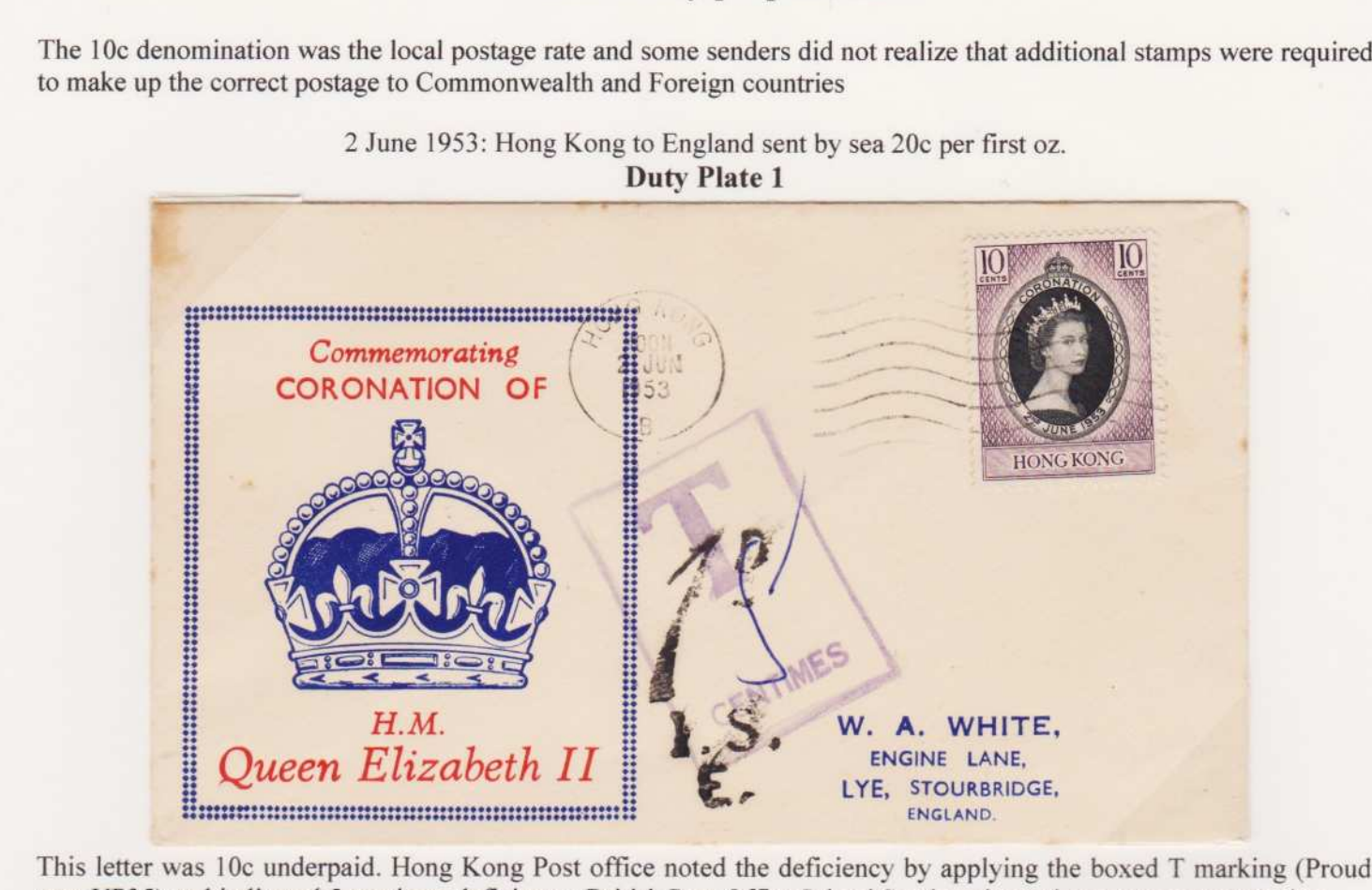


Use on airmail to Zone 3



The airmail letter rate became \$2.0 per half oz in zone 3 area on 1 May 1953.

Insufficiently prepaid mail



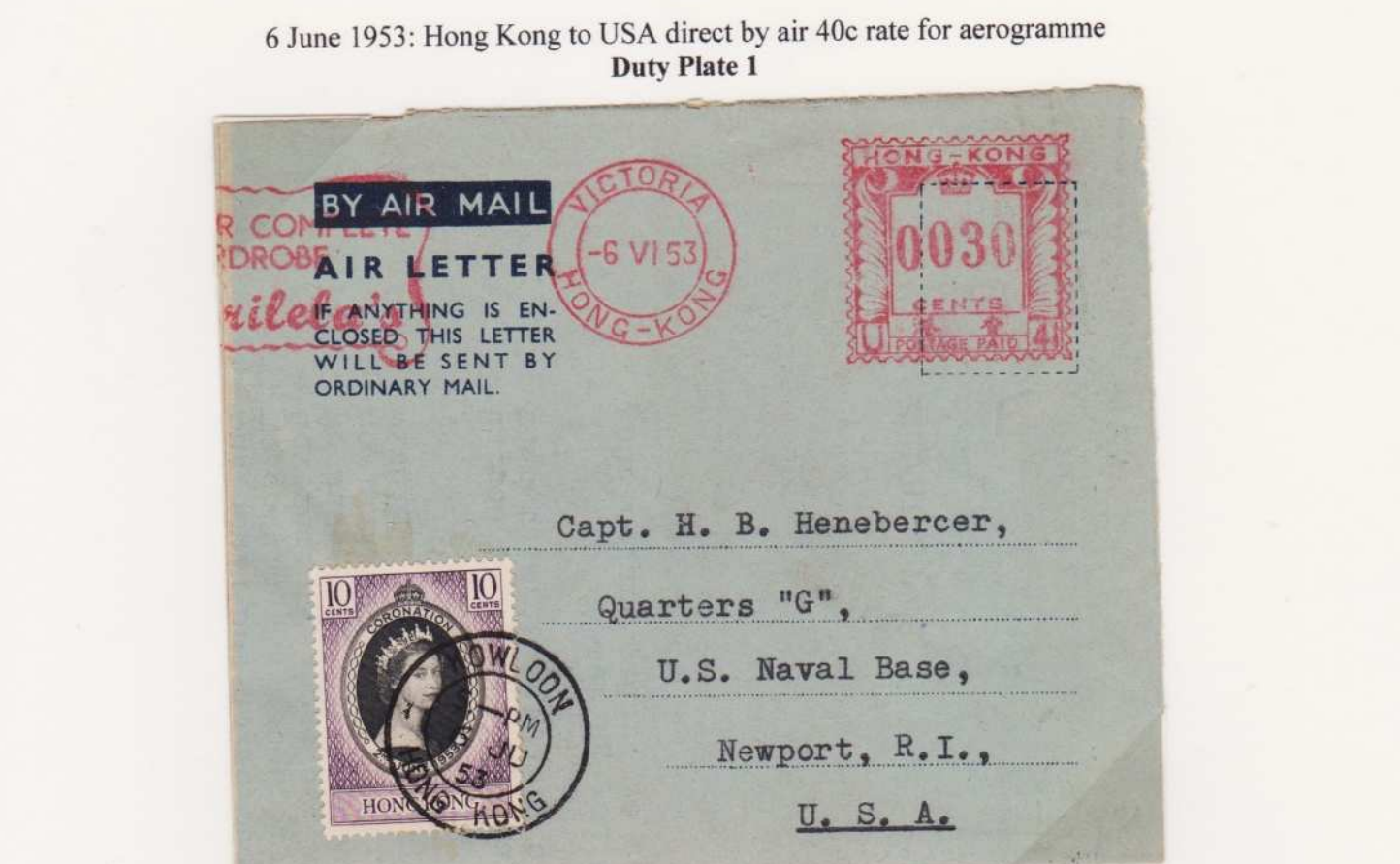
This letter was 10c underpaid. Hong Kong Post office noted the deficiency by applying the boxed T marking (Proud type UP35) and indicated 5 centimes deficiency. British Post Office Inland Section charged one penny postage due.

2 June 1953: Hong Kong to USA sent by sea 40c rate per first oz. Duty Plate 1.



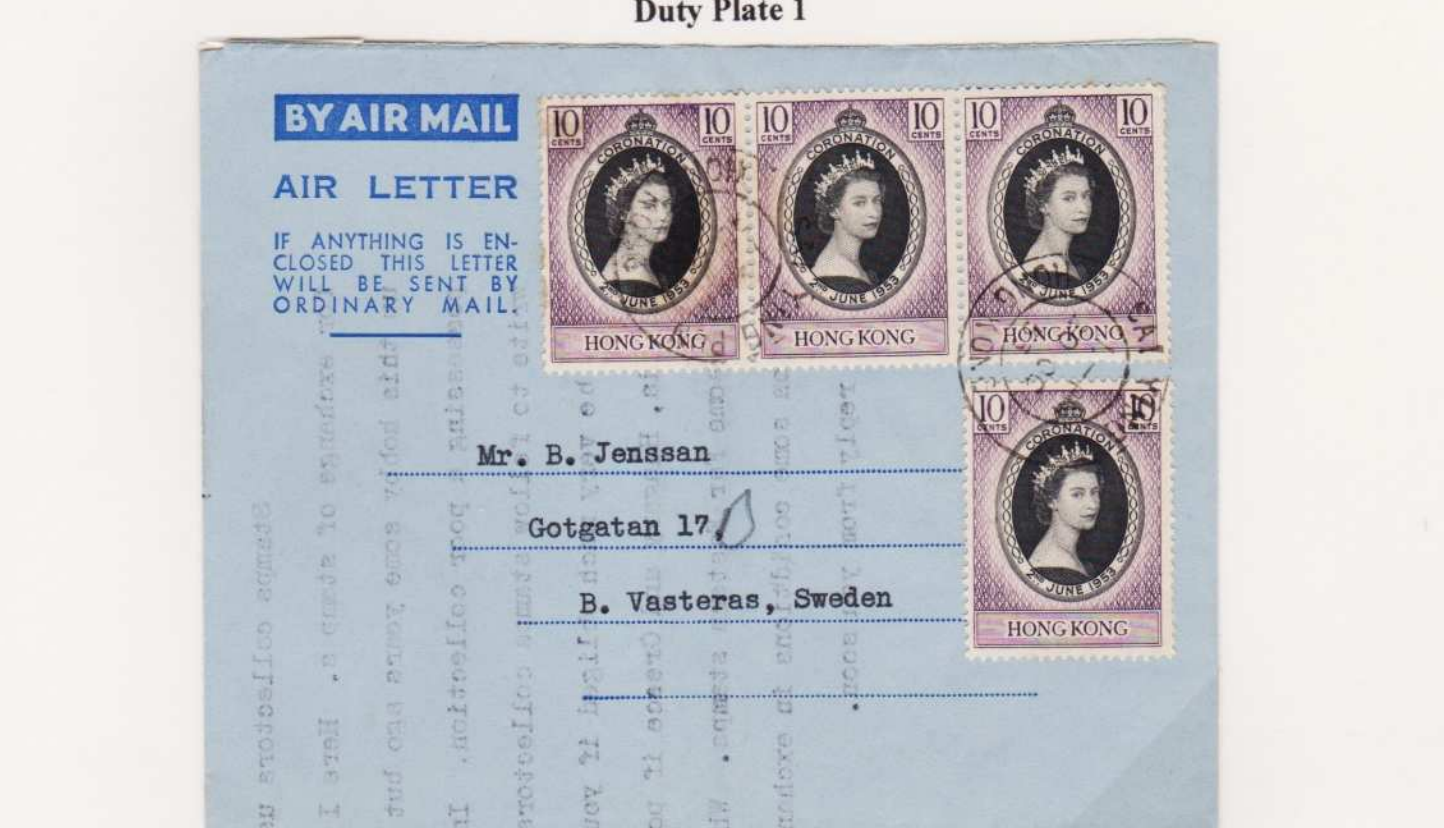
This letter was 20c underpaid. Hong Kong Post office noted the deficiency by applying the boxed T marking (Proud type UP35) and indicated 5 centimes deficiency. It was marked 2c postage due by Chicago and US postage due applied.

Use on Post Office Approved Aerogramme

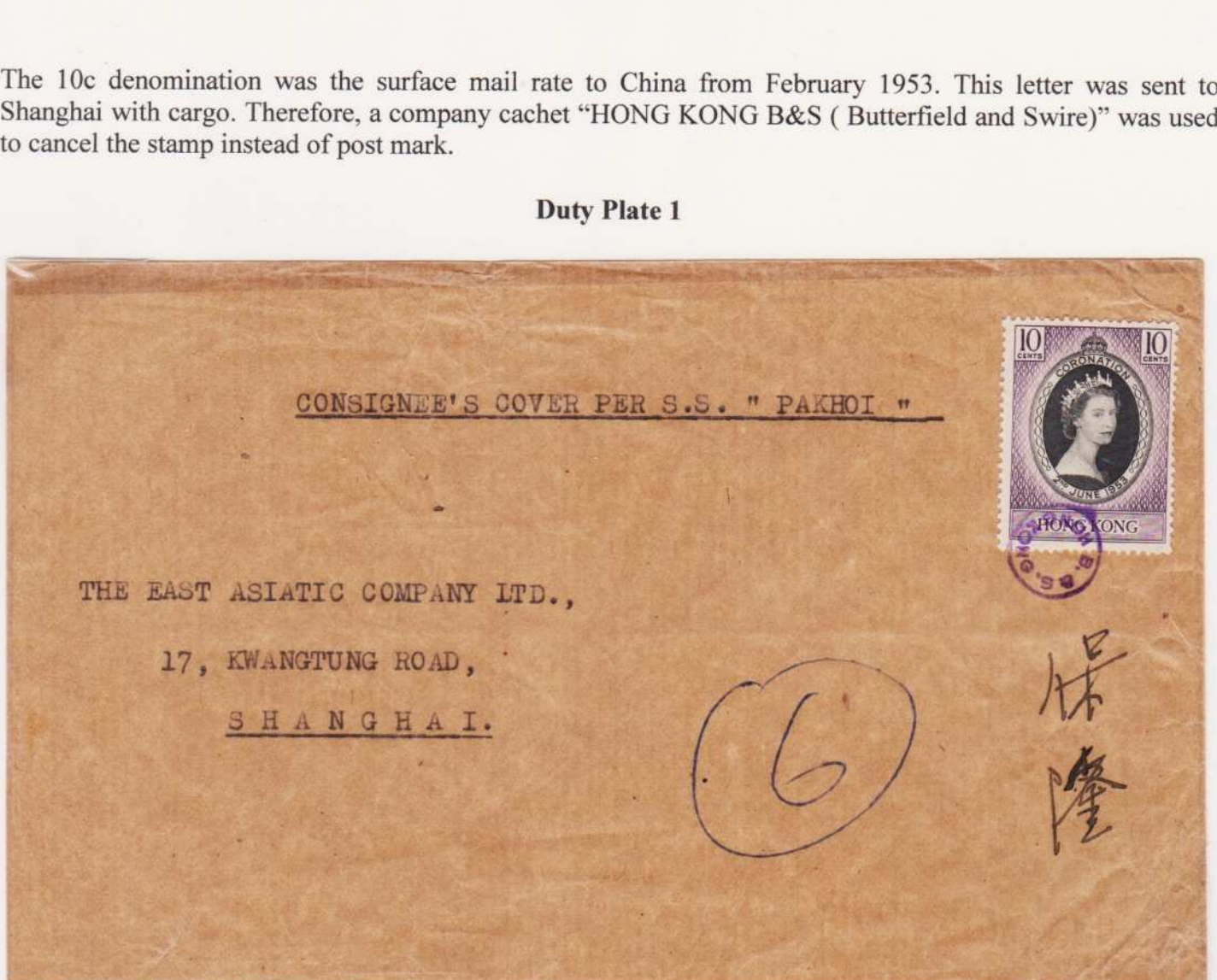


The postage meter impression was wrongly set at 30c which was 10c underpaid for aerogramme. This was noted by the post office and 10c stamp added before re-posting on the same day.

20 October 1953 Hong Kong to Sweden. Duty Plate 1.



Consignee's Cover



Union Trading Company



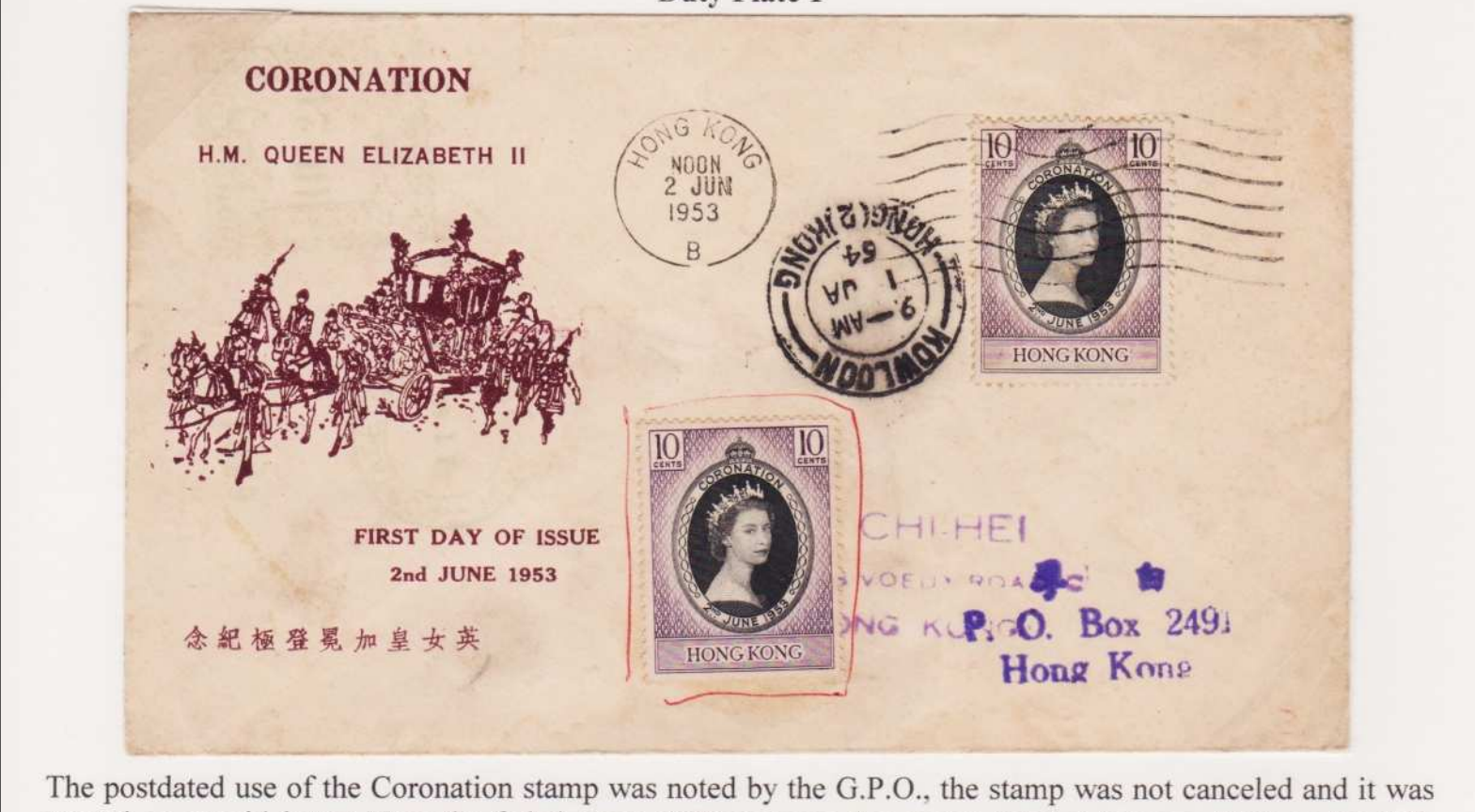
One of two recorded. Security marking in QEII is scarce.

The stamp was withdrawn from sale on 31 December 1953 and was invalidated on 1 January 1964.

27 December 1961: Local use 10c rate sent from a temporary post office during the Boy Scout Golden Jubilee in Hong Kong between 27 December - 2 January 1962. Duty Plate 1.



Use after invalidation: First day cover re-posted on 1 January 1964 at Kowloon Branch Office. Duty Plate 1.



The postdated use of the Coronation stamp was noted by the G.P.O., the stamp was not cancelled and it was treated as unpaid letter. Note the faded green GPO postage due meter dated 3 January 1964 on the left. Postage due 20c being doubled the local rate.

Use on Parcel Post



Only a few examples recorded on parcel. Believed to be the largest recorded multiple on parcel.

# The First Commemorative Stamp of Queen Elizabeth II

## The Hong Kong 1953 Coronation issue

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 1952, Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed as Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second, following the death of her father King George VI a few days earlier.

The Coronation was on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 and to commemorate the occasion, a Commonwealth omnibus issue was planned. The stamp was designed and engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson. The design is composed of an approved portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in an oval frame incorporating the date of the Coronation and the name of the issuing territory and the value. The stamp was recess-printed by De La Rue in sheets of 120 which were divided into two panes A and B.

Because of the anticipated popularity with the Hong Kong issue, large amount of stamps were printed using combinations of 2 duty plates (Plate 1 and 2) and 4 head plates (Plate 2,3,5 and 6).

On the first day of issue, 1,045,719 stamps were sold in the first three hours of business, compared with the average full day sale of the 10c definitive stamps which amounts to 84,000. The Post Office did not issue an official first day cover but there were many private printed pictorial covers available; the commonest being the China Philatelic Association, a leading philatelic club at that time. The total sales of this stamp during its six-month life was 15,240,844, the highest of all the 59 participating Crown Colonies. The stamp was withdrawn from sale on 31 December 1953 and was invalidated on 1 January 1964.

This exhibit shows the issued stamp and its uses in 1953 during its sale period; covers used after this period are far less common and some are shown here. No major printing errors have been reported.



Duty Plate 1

Reference:

The Postal History of Hong Kong 1841-1997 by Edward B. Proud

The philatelic History of Hong Kong Vol. 1 - The Adhesives by Hong Kong Study Circle published 1984

Hong Kong Slogan Cancels published 1993 by China Philatelic Association and Philatelic Bureau Hong Kong Post Office

Date of issue: 2nd June 1953  
 Designed and engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.  
 Recess printed by De La Rue on watermarked multiple Crown Script CA paper  
 Perforation: 13½ x 13  
 Quantities issued: 15,240,844

**Vignette Die Proof**

Die Proof for all countries in the omnibus issue



**“Rejected” Die Proof with paper-fold fault**

Annulled by two red lines



No requisition number on sheet  
 Stock retained by Crown Agent

Duty Plate 1A, Head Plate 3A



“Dropped Queen’s head”  
 Only one sheet recorded



Vignette overlapping  
 Part of the frame

Vignette in central position  
 Normal alignment

Vignette lowered  
 Misaligned

The vignette was printed after the frame, slight misalignment of the two printing plates resulted in minor vertical shifting of the Queen’s portrait.

10 cents Hong Kong 1955 Coronation of QEII complete sheet of 60  
Duty Plate 1A, Head Plate 2A & Duty Plate 2B, Head Plate 6B

244815

030149



28

88

Local Use

4 June 1953 Registered local letter 10c + 30c registration fee



Duty Plate 1

5 November 1953 Used on advertising envelope



Duty Plate 1

The internal rate became 10 cents per first oz and 10 cents per each additional oz from 1953

## Use to the British Commonwealth

2 June 1953 Hong Kong to Nyasaland  
Duty Plate 1



29 September 1953 Hong Kong to Canada  
Duty Plate 1



The letter was 10 cents over paid and it was received on 3 November 1953 due to rail strike

The imperial surface mail letter rate became 20c per first oz and 15c per each additional oz from 1953

Use to foreign countries

30 October 1953 Hong Kong to England, 10c printed matter rate  
Duty Plate 1



The machine cancellation was the slogan postmark for 11<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Industrial Products Exhibition

27 October 1954 registered surface mail to USA 65c rate + 30c registration fee  
Duty Plate 1



The surface mail rate to foreign countries became 40c per first oz and 25c per each additional oz.

Use on Post card

13 June 1953: Hong Kong to USA by air \$1.0 rate  
Duty Plate 1



The post card airmail rate became \$1.0 in zone 3 area on 1 May 1953

2 December 1953: Hong Kong to France by sea 15c rate  
Duty Plate 1



The post card surface mail rate became 15c since February 1953

Use on airmail to Zone 1

2 June 1953: Hong Kong to British North Borneo direct by air 50c rate  
Duty Plate 2



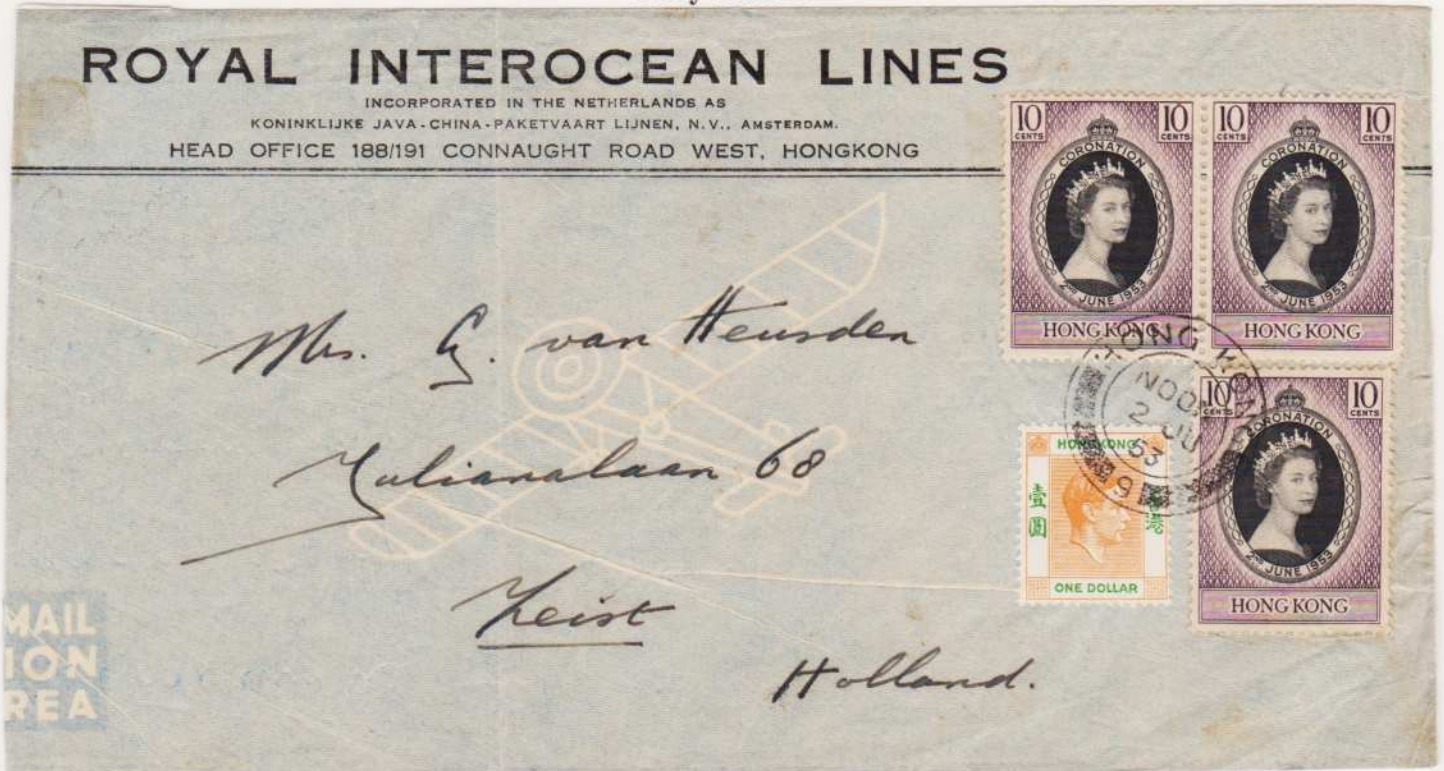
23 August 1953: Hong Kong to Okinawa (Japanese territory) direct by air 50c rate  
Duty Plate 2



Use on airmail to Zone 2

2 June 1953: Hong Kong to Holland direct by air \$1.3 rate

Duty Plate 1



6 June 1953: Hong Kong to Germany direct by air \$1.3 rate

Duty Plate 1



### Use on airmail to Zone 3

12 June 1953: Hong Kong to Hawaii direct by air \$2.0 rate per half oz.

#### Duty Plate 1



3 July 1953: Hong Kong to USA direct by air \$2+ 30c registration fee  
Duty Plate 2 (Left vertical pair) & Duty Plate 1 (Block of 6)



Two 10c stamp on the back lost in transit

Two 10c stamps on the back lost in transit

The airmail letter rate became \$2.0 per half oz in zone 3 area on 1 May 1953

## Insufficiently prepaid mail

The 10c denomination was the local postage rate and some senders did not realize that additional stamps were required to make up the correct postage to Commonwealth and Foreign countries

2 June 1953: Hong Kong to England sent by sea 20c per first oz.

### Duty Plate 1



This letter was 10c underpaid. Hong Kong Post office noted the deficiency by applying the boxed T marking (Proud type UP35) and indicated 5 centimes deficiency. British Post Office Inland Section charged one penny postage due

2 June 1953: Hong Kong to USA sent by sea 40c rate per first oz.

### Duty Plate 1



This letter was 20c underpaid. Hong Kong Post office noted the deficiency by applying the boxed T marking (Proud type UP35) and indicated 5 centimes deficiency. It was marked 2c postage due by Chicago and US postage due applied

# Use on Post Office Approved Aerogramme

6 June 1953: Hong Kong to USA direct by air 40c rate for aerogramme  
Duty Plate 1



The postage meter impression was wrongly set at 30c which was 10c underpaid for aerogramme. This was noted by the post office and 10c stamp added before re-posting on the same day.

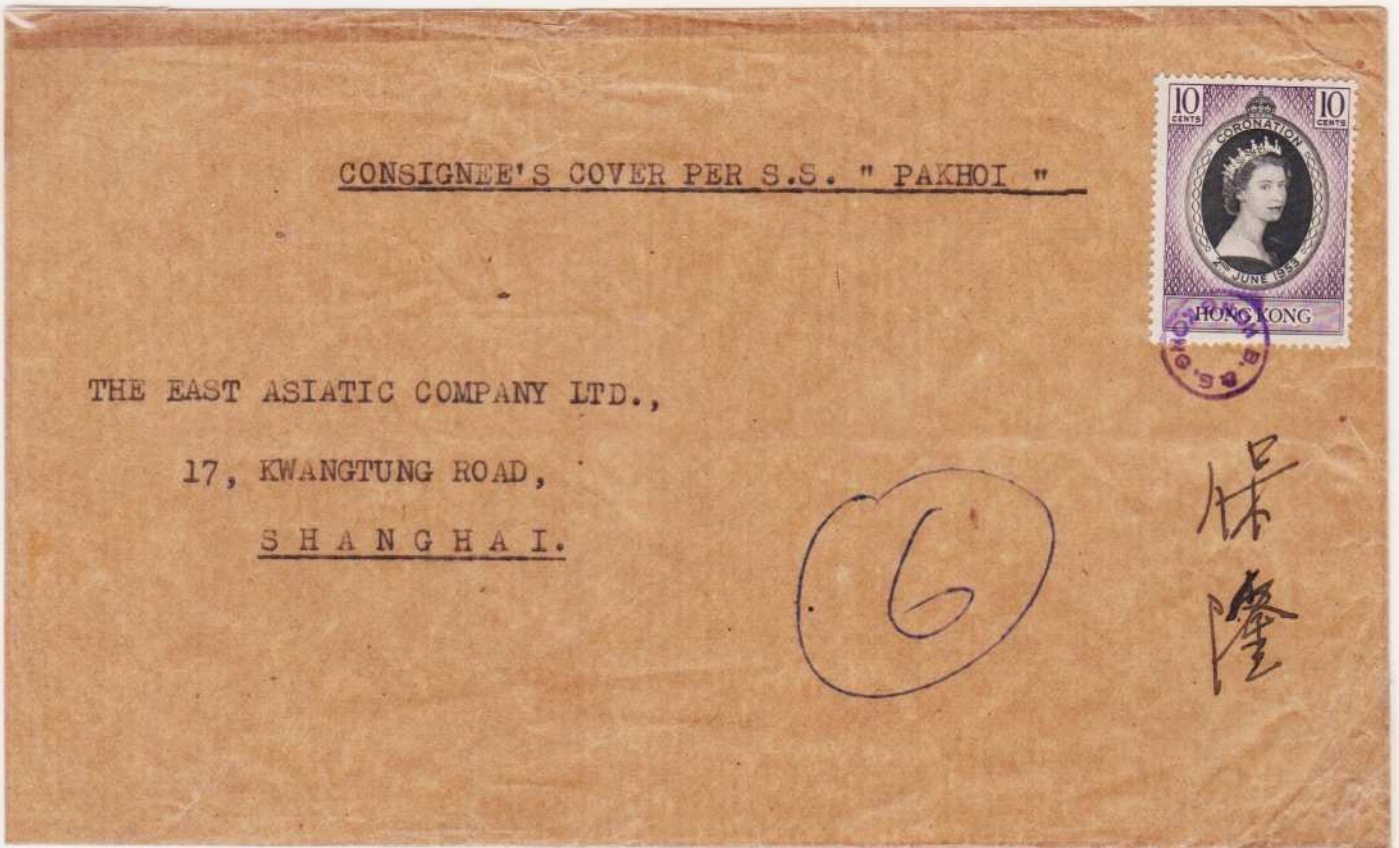
20 October 1953 Hong Kong to Sweden  
Duty Plate 1



## Consignee's Cover

The 10c denomination was the surface mail rate to China from February 1953. This letter was sent to Shanghai with cargo. Therefore, a company cachet "HONG KONG B&S ( Butterfield and Swire)" was used to cancel the stamp instead of post mark.

### Duty Plate 1



### Union Trading Company



### One of two recorded

Security marking in QEII is scarce

**Late Use**

The stamp was withdrawn from sale on 31 December 1953 and was invalidated on 1 January 1964

27 December 1961: Local use 10c rate sent from a temporary post office during the Boy Scout Golden Jubilee in Hong Kong between 27 December – 2 January 1962

**Duty Plate 1**



Mr. A. R. Osborne,  
K.P.O.Box 5936,  
Kowloon.



Use after invalidation: First day cover re-posted on 1 January 1964 at Kowloon Branch Office

**Duty Plate 1**



The postdated use of the Coronation stamp was noted by the G.P.O., the stamp was not canceled and it was treated as unpaid letter. Note the faded green GPO postage due meter dated 3 January 1964 on the left. Postage due 20c being doubled the local rate.

## Use on Parcel Post

29 June 1953: Block of 23 used on parcel mailed at the G.P.O. parcel office cancelled HONG KONG 2 rubber parcel chop (Proud type PP40 early usage).



Only a few examples recorded on parcel  
Believed to be the largest recorded multiple on parcel