

THE
MAGNOLIA
COLLECTION
UNITED STATES MAIL IN CHINA AND JAPAN

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL AGENCY IN SHANGHAI

THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHED ITS FIRST POSTAL AGENCY IN CHINA IN OCTOBER 1867. The first post office operation was located inside the U.S. consulate office at 12 Chingkiang Road from 1867 to 1874, and from 1874 to 1890 it was in the consulate building on Woochang Road. On April 1, 1890, it moved to 12 Kiukiang Road. On August 1, 1901, a new lease was signed for space at 36 Whangpoo Road. On September 25, 1907, the U.S. Post Office Department appointed John M. Darrah as the first official postmaster, taking over from the Consulate General, and the post office moved into 16 Whangpoo Road. The U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai was closed at the end of the day on December 31, 1922.

Over the 55 years the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai existed, from 1867 to 1922, significant events occurred in China which affected the mails. Guangxu's reign as emperor started in 1875 with Empress Dowager Ci'an and Empress Dowager Cixi as regents to the child ruler. Following Guangxu's assassination by arsenic poisoning in 1908, the child emperor, Puyi, held the throne until the Qing (Manchu) Dynasty collapsed in 1911. The Republic of China was formed and President Sun Yat-Sen was inaugurated in 1912. In 1921 the Communist Party of China was founded, which led to civil war and the Communist conquest of China in 1949, following World War II.

Empire building at the turn of the century by Japan and European powers, as well as the United States annexation of Hawaii and the Philippines, influenced China's postal system. The first Sino-Japanese War in 1894-95 was followed by the Boxer Rebellion in 1900-01 and the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-05. World War I raged in Europe from 1914 to 1919, and conflict with Japan escalated after the war, culminating in the second Sino-Japanese War before and during World War II.

These historical events are reflected in covers passing through the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai.

The Magnolia Collection, Part 2

The lots in this sale are all directly related to the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai. The first section is exclusively **registered mail** from 1876 to 1920 (lots 201-275), arranged by the markings used, including handstamps, registry labels and the U.S. and China stamp issues.

The next section is an array of covers with **Parcel Post** stamps (lots 276-287), including the 75c and \$1.00 on covers from the 1949 Tows sale, which are believed to be the only Q11 and Q12 covers from China. These are followed by a few covers with unusual features, including an **Official Seal handstamped "SHANGHAI"** and a **Philippines Special Delivery** stamp used from China (lots 288-290).

The stamps specifically produced for the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai start with a philatelically inspired set of **1895-98 Bureau Issues** tied on a sheet of paper by the enigmatic small circular handstamp (lot 291). The rare **unofficial "Shanghai China" Darrah overprints** produced in 1913-14 are represented by complete sets, unused and used, and a wrapper with eight different Parcel Post overprinted stamps (lot 298), followed by a cover with the 1c Parcel Post inverted overprint (lot 299).

In an offering of unprecedented size and importance, 120 lots of **1919-22 Offices in China overprints, Scott K1-K18**, will be found (lots 300-419). These surcharged issues were made at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to facilitate the sale of stamps in China at the prevailing 2:1 currency exchange rate. When the exchange rate changed, the surcharged issues were withdrawn from sale, from October 1920 to approximately one year later. Included in this section is a run of plate blocks with numerous plate numbers and positions represented, including four \$1.00 on 50c (K15) and two \$2.00 on \$1.00 (Scott K16) values.

Rare 1919-22 overprint errors in the sale include an unused single, used single, block and cover of the **\$2.00 on \$1.00 Double Surcharge, Scott 16a** (lots 403-406). Only six Double Surcharge covers are recorded—they are listed in the description of lot 406—and of these, one is in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library and another is trimmed into the address. Of the four intact covers available to collectors, one has a pair, and three have singles. All of the recorded covers were addressed in the same hand to two different local Shanghai addressees.

Finally, the **1919-22 Offices in China stamps on covers** are represented by 44 lots, including the earliest documented K1-K2 cover, a complete set on cover, registered covers, and the high values. This is one of the finest groups of Offices in China covers ever offered (lots 420-463).