



The Yasushi Tejima Collection Part I

# Japan Dragon Stamps

H. R. Harmer

June 1, 2026

***H. R. HARMER***

EST · 1940

FINE STAMP AUCTIONS

**Offered by  
H. R. Harmer  
in co-operation with  
the Global Philatelic Network**

The Bi-Centennial Sales Series

Japan Dragon Stamps

The Yasushi Tejima Collection

Part I

To be offered on June 1, 2026

A Silent Witness to a Revolution

## The Dragon Awakens

In April 1871, Japan did something the world thought impossible: it transformed from a feudal society into a modern global titan virtually overnight. At the heart of this “Big Bang” of modernization was the birth of the national postal service and its first emissaries: the hand-engraved **Dragon Stamps**.

We invite you to explore the **Tejima Collection**, a philatelic monument that redefines our understanding of this era. Containing approximately **40% of all known examples** of Japan’s inaugural stamps on cover remaining in private hands, this collection is a census of rarity. Among these survivors rests a cornerstone of history—the **earliest recorded cover** of the Japanese Postal Service, processed just 48 hours after the system’s inauguration.

Turn the page to witness the “DNA” of a nation’s birth, captured through artisanal masterpieces that have remained silent witnesses to history for over 150 years.

H.R. Harmer Sale 3071

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*The Global Philatelic Network*  
*Sell your stamps where your stamps sell best*

# The Bicentennial Sales Series by The Global Philatelic Network

The Postal Reform of 1840, which introduced the world's first postage stamp on May 6th of that year, will reach its historic Bicentennial in 2040. To honor this upcoming milestone, the Global Philatelic Network is proud to launch an exclusive new auction concept: The Bicentennial Sales Series (1840–2040).

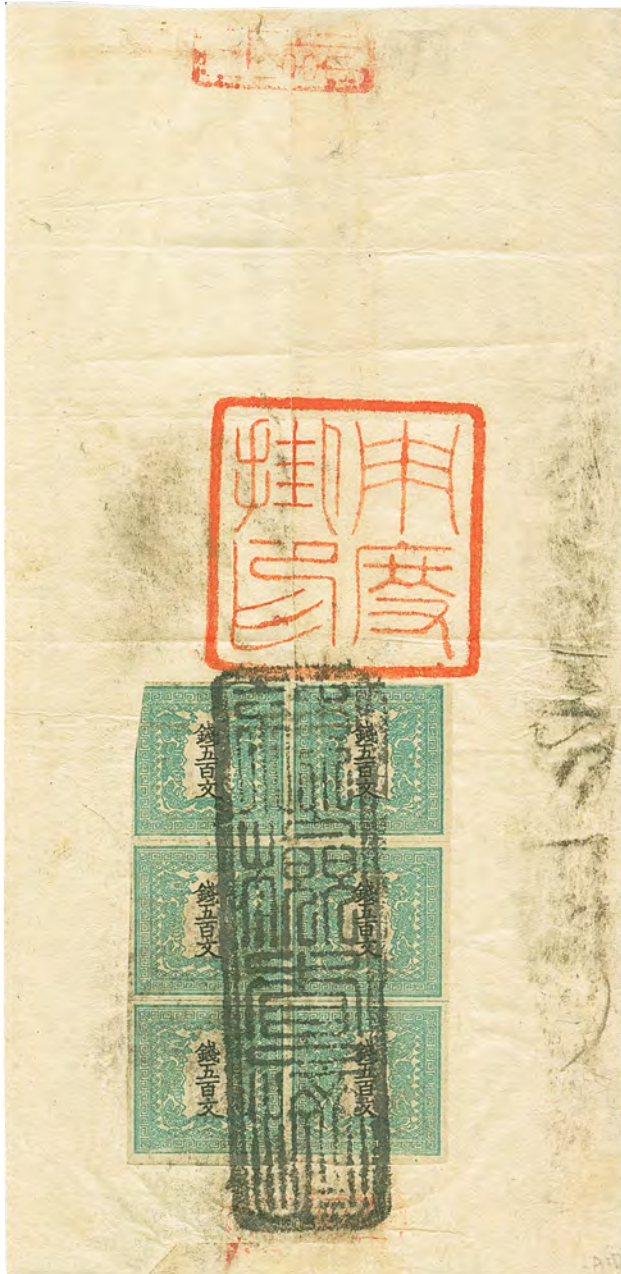
While 2040 remains fourteen years on the horizon, we believe that true market leadership requires action in the present. In philately, the future is built today. As pioneers in the global market, we invite both seasoned philatelists and the next generation of collectors to join us in this landmark Campaign for Philately.

The Global Philatelic Network curates a premier worldwide community of active buyers and consignors. We recognize that building a collection of international significance—

one capable of standing at the pinnacle of the 2040 celebrations—requires time, foresight, and a disciplined pursuit of the finest material. To possess a world-class exhibit in fourteen years, the journey must begin now.

The Bicentennial Sales Series will present definitive collections of key philatelic areas, adapting our prestigious and traditional sales concepts to a modern era. Each auction in this series will feature the most important philatelic archives of our time—showpieces destined to be the centerpieces of the 2040 Bicentennial.

These sales will not follow a rigid pattern; rather, they will emerge as extraordinary opportunities arise. We are honored to present in this catalogue the second landmark collection to be offered on our strategic path toward the Bicentennial of 2040.



# Foreword

It is with immense pride that the Global Philatelic Network and H.R. Harmer present the second catalog in our Bicentennial Sales Series: The Unparalleled Collection of Yasushi Tejima.

Postal History, at its highest level, is more than the accumulation of rare postal items; it is the preservation of historical truth. For more than four decades, Yasushi Tejima has been the foremost guardian of Japan's classic postal history. His collection is not merely an assembly of "Dragon Stamps"—it is a scientific mapping of the very foundation of modern Japanese communication.

By bringing this collection to New York for sale with H.R. Harmer, we celebrate the global nature of our enterprise. Mr. Tejima's achievements, culminating in the Grand Prix National at the FIP show PHILANIPPON 2011, represent a standard of excellence that inspires collectors across the philatelic world. We are honored to facilitate the transition of these treasures to a new generation of collectors who will carry the legacy of the Dragons forward.

*Dieter Michelson, Tobias Huylmans, Jonas Hällström  
Partners of the Global Philatelic Network*

月耕隨筆

龍昇天



月耕



明治廿五年十一月一日  
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# The Dragon Awakens: The Dawn of Japanese Philately

## A Nation Transformed

Today, Japan is recognized as a global titan—a pinnacle of advanced technology, economic leadership, and deep-seated culture. However, to understand the soul of this nation, one must look back to the mid-19th century, a time of profound global transformation. While the Industrial Revolution was reinventing the Western world and conquering distance at a breathtaking pace, communication was exploding across the globe. Great Britain had already revolutionized the world with the Penny Black; the Austro-German Postal Union had unified Central Europe by 1850; and by the close of 1870, approximately 150 nations had already adopted the postage stamp as the currency of progress.

During these decades of Western “explosion,” it appeared in hindsight that Japan—the Land of the Rising Sun—remained a world apart, guarded by its unique history and a more deliberate pace of change. But this “laid-back” exterior was deceptive. Beneath the surface, a sophisticated society was preparing for one of the most rapid modernizations in human history. At a political level, the government assigned a high degree of importance to the communication sectors that would underpin this modernization: railways, telegraphs, steamships, and the posts.

*The Japanese statesman Maejima Hisoka (1835–1919) founded Japan’s modern postal system.*



## The Visionary Reform of Maejima Hisoka

The founder of the modern Japanese postal system, Maejima Hisoka, presented a visionary plan for a practical, unified service in June 1870. Following its approval in October 1870, the reform proceeded with remarkable speed. The Council of State ordered the Ministry of Finance to commence the printing of stamps in December, and by February 1871 (Meiji 4.1.24), the first comprehensive postal regulations—defining the inaugural distances and rates—were published.

These mandates were enforced on April 20, 1871 (the 1st day of the 3rd month of Meiji 4), and the first official postal transport departed Tokyo that very day. To ensure a smooth transition, the new postage stamps had been made available in Tokyo already one week earlier, from Meiji 4.2.24. When this unique civilization finally decided to embrace the modern postal era, the result was not merely a copy of Western systems, but a hand-engraved masterpiece: the legendary “Dragon Stamps”.

## The Tejima Collection: A Census of Rarity

We are privileged to present the Tejima Collection, an assembly that has been curated over decades and shown in numerous exhibitions to redefine our understanding of this era. Comprising an unprecedented 210 covers and 49 sheets resp. meticulous plate reconstructions, this collection represents approximately 40% of the world’s known census of Japan’s inaugural stamps on cover in private hands. A deeper look into this extraordinary collection documents the astonishing speed with which written communication spread from Japan’s major urban centers to the remotest corners of this vast country. Among these survivors is a silent witness to the very first hours of this revolution: a 100 Mon cover processed on only the third day of the route’s existence.

## The Lifeline of a Nation: From Courier Guilds to Postal Revolution

For centuries, Japan moved information through a reliable but fragmented system of private courier guilds known as Hikkyaku. These professional runners served the Shogunate, provincial lords (Daimyo), and wealthy merchant houses, traversing the famous Five Highways. However, this was not a “public” service in the modern sense; it was expensive, lacked standardization, and offered no central post offices for the common citizen.

The events of April 20, 1871 (Meiji 4.3.1), represented a radical departure from this ancient tradition—a revolutionary postal reform comparable to the transformation witnessed in Great Britain three decades earlier. Under the visionary leadership of Maejima Hisoka, Japan unified a centuries-old courier culture into a single, government-managed national network. The hand-engraved

Dragon Stamps were the fiscal tools of this revolution, replacing private negotiations with a standardized public tariff and introducing the concept of prepayment to the Japanese masses.

The birth of this modern system was a precision strike on the nation’s primary artery: the Tokyo-Yokohama-Kyoto-Osaka corridor, traced along the ancient Tokaido highway. While some historians initially viewed this as a local experiment, the Tejima Collection provides definitive proof of how quickly this corridor became a sophisticated, high-speed network. The earliest known cover, franked with a 100 Mon Plate 1 stamp, was processed in Minakuchi on March 3rd (Meiji 4.3.3)—just 48 hours after the system’s official birth. This is primary evidence of the immediate efficiency and reliability of the very first dispatch carried from Tokyo toward Osaka.

*This historical photograph by Italian photographer Felice Beato (1832–1909) depicts a section of the Tōkaidō highway around 1865. It was the most significant of the five main thoroughfares of Japan's Edo period (1603–1868), connecting Kyoto with Edo (modern-day Tokyo).*

## The Logic of the Mon Denominations: Mastery of Weight and Distance

To understand the intended usage of the first Dragon issues, one must look at the two distinct postal rate periods that governed their life.

### The First Rate Period (April 1871 – January 1872)

The initial system was governed by regulations published in February 1871. This inaugural period did not utilize fixed distance tiers. Instead, the government published a specific list of rates between the “Three Capitals”—Tokyo, Kyoto (Saikyo), and Osaka—and various destination names, along with their expected transit times. During this period, the denominations served very specific roles based on a sophisticated weight progression:

- The 100 Mon Stamp: The workhorse for a standard basic-weight letter (up to 5 momme or 18.75g) for short distances and local mail.
- The 200 Mon Stamp: Intended for middle distances or triple-weight short-distance letters.
- The 500 Mon Stamp: Reserved for long distances and multiple-weight documents.
- The 48 Mon Stamp: Designed specifically for weight surcharges. A letter weighing between 5 and 10 momme required the standard rate plus a 50% surcharge. Since short-distance rates were often multiples of 100, the 48 Mon stamp covered these fractional increases.

For context, the highest basic weight rates were significant: Tokyo to Saikyo cost 1,400 Mon, and Tokyo to Osaka reached 1,500 Mon.



### The Second Rate Period (1872 – 1873)

The complexity of the inaugural system was short-lived. On January 14, 1872 (Meiji 4.12.5), a second rate period began that drastically simplified the tariff structure and cut costs for long-distance communication. The government dropped the destination-based list in favor of five clear distance tiers based on a weight unit of 4 momme:

- Within 25 ri: 100 Mon
- Within 50 ri: 200 Mon
- Within 100 ri: 300 Mon
- Within 200 ri: 400 Mon
- Over 200 ri: 500 Mon

This simplification allowed for the unexpectedly rapid expansion of the post into rural areas. It was during this phase that city drop mail and official government mail were introduced, often rated at half the standard letter rate. This opened the door for the 48 Mon stamp—and later the ½ Sen—to be used for specific local and printed matter rates.

### Transition to the Sen Currency and Unified Tariffs

While Sen coinage was introduced in 1870, it was initially limited to high values, ensuring the Mon remained a necessity for daily postal transactions. The shift toward a decimalized future accelerated on November 30, 1871 (Meiji 4.10.18), when stamps in Sen currency were officially ordered. By early 1872, postal rates were quoted exclusively in Sen, with a standardized conversion established at 48 Mon to ½ Sen and 100 Mon to 1 Sen. The issuance of the “Sen Dragons” in April 1872 marked a pivotal technological milestone as the first perforated stamps of Japan.

## The Final Evolution

During the 3rd rate period (April 1, 1873, to December 31, 1882), the system fully matured:

- **Nationwide Letter Rate:** A unified basic weight rate of 2 Sen was established for the entire country.
- **City Drop Mail:** Local delivery was charged at a half rate of 1 Sen.
- **Introduction of Postcards:** Starting December 1, 1873, postcards were introduced at a 1 Sen rate for nationwide delivery, with city drop postcards requiring only  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sen.

The Dragon stamps were officially recalled from post office counters by March 1873 (Meiji 6.3), making way for the Cherry Blossom issues. However, they remained valid for postage for nearly two decades, carrying the nation's correspondence until their final demonetization on November 30, 1889.

## Institutional Scaling: Rapid Expansion Beyond the Corridor

The staggering velocity of the network's growth is best illustrated by the data of the era. When the service inaugurated, it consisted of a modest 65 post offices. Within less than a year, that number quadrupled to 264. By July 1872, the network had exploded to 994 offices, allowing the government to officially proclaim a truly nationwide service. By April 1873, the registry grew to 1,229 offices. This institutional scaling transformed the postage stamp from an urban novelty into a universal tool of the Japanese people in just twenty-four months.



## The Technical Foundation: A Scientific Legacy

While the movement of mail fascinates the postal historian, the Tejima Collection is anchored by 49 sheets resp. meticulous plate reconstructions. To understand their importance, one must appreciate the artisanal nature of Dragon stamp production. They were printed using soft, non-hardened copper plates hand-engraved in a classic 17th-century style. These plates deteriorated rapidly under the pressure of the press, meaning every position on a sheet of forty was unique and subject to change over time.

By identifying rare positional flaws—such as the “Dragon’s tail partly missing” (Plate 2, Pos. 7) or the “3 claws missing” (Plate 2, Pos. 15)—Tejima successfully mapped the evolving “DNA” of Japan’s first issues. For the collector, these reconstructions serve as the ultimate insurance policy. They provide an indisputable framework for verifying the authenticity of the 210 covers in the archive, allowing us to confirm the exact origin and period of every historical piece. This integration of technical mastery and history makes the Tejima discovery a verified monument to the birth of modern Japan.



*Yasushi Tejima in front of his exhibit.*

# Yasushi Tejima – A Philatelic Icon

The name Yasushi Tejima is synonymous with the “Golden Age” of Japanese philatelic research. A second-generation managing director of a mid-sized enterprise, Mr. Tejima’s true life’s work began in March 1966, when his marriage became the catalyst for a long life obsession with the Dragon issues.

## A Master of Research

Mr. Tejima’s approach was defined by what he called the “Philatelic Trinity”: Passion, Luck, and Finances. He did not simply collect; he investigated. His monumental publications remain the definitive bedrock of the field. His expertise was so profound that national broadcaster NHK relied on his original covers to illustrate their documentary series on the founding of the Japanese post.

## The Highest Honor

His decades of dedication reached a summit at the World Stamp Exhibition 2011 (PHILANIPPON ‘11). There, his exhibit, “Dragon Stamp Covers (1871–1884),” was awarded the Grand Prix National. This is the highest accolade a Japanese philatelist can achieve in their home country, recognizing his “overwhelming” assembly of 141 rare covers.

## A Legacy Shared

Mr. Tejima has chosen to share his “monument to the birth of modern Japan” with the world. This vast archive, comprising 210 covers and 49 sheets and plate reconstructions, is too significant for a single event. It will be offered in two parts: this first session in June 2026 and a concluding auction in November 2026. We invite you to participate in the dispersal of a collection that is, quite literally, the history of Japanese 19<sup>th</sup> century communication on paper.

# Auction Details

Japan Dragon Stamps  
The Yasushi Tejima Collection  
Part I

H.R. Harmer Sale 3071

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***H. R. HARMER***

EST · 1940

FINE STAMP AUCTIONS

Auctioneer licence: NY License #2086265

# Auction Time and Venue

June 1, 2026, 5pm ET

The live auction will be held at the prestigious:

**Collectors' Club New York**

58 W 40th Street, New York, NY 10018

## Exclusive Viewing Opportunities

We invite collectors and enthusiasts to view these rarities in person at the following locations and dates:

### **Westpex 2026, Stand #67**

Dates: April 24–26, 2026

Location: San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel  
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, California

### **Boston 2026 World Expo, Stand #103**

Dates: May 23–30, 2026

Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center  
415 Summer St, Boston, MA 02210, US

*Viewing of Part I and II.*

### **New York Viewings at the Collectors' Club**

May 31: By appointment only ([info@hrharmer.com](mailto:info@hrharmer.com))

June 1: Open viewing from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

*Viewing of Part I and II.*

# Bidding

## Absentee Bidding

Bid directly on [www.hrharmer.com](http://www.hrharmer.com) and also by phone, email or mail. Register now to start bidding at [www.hrharmer.com](http://www.hrharmer.com)

## Telephone Bidding

Telephone bidding for our auction is on a limited and priority basis only. If you are interested in telephone bidding, please contact our office at [info@hrharmer.com](mailto:info@hrharmer.com) no later than 72 hours before the day of the sale, with your contact information and a list of the lots that you wish to bid on.

## Live Internet Bidding

We invite you to utilize live internet bidding via our website [www.hrharmer.com](http://www.hrharmer.com) for our sales.

In order to bid during our live auction, you must be registered and approved for bidding with H.R. Harmer.

Please note: Once a lot is announced as sold by the auctioneer on the floor, no late Internet bids will be accepted, nor will lots be reopened to the Internet once they have been sold on the floor. If you have any questions or concerns about Internet bidding or the registration process please do not hesitate to contact our office by email at [info@hrharmer.com](mailto:info@hrharmer.com).

## Agent for Japan

If you wish to bid through an Agent in Japan, please contact STAMPEDIA Auction, inc.: [auction@stampedia.net](mailto:auction@stampedia.net)

## Bidding increments

All bids are in U.S. dollars.

Bids of			Increase by	Bids of			Increase by
Up to		\$250	\$10	\$5,000	to	\$10,000	\$500
\$250	to	\$500	\$25	\$10,000	to	\$25,000	\$1,000
\$500	to	\$1,000	\$50	\$25,000	to	\$50,000	\$2,500
\$1,000	to	\$2,500	\$100	\$50,000	to	\$100,000	\$5,000
\$2,500	to	\$5,000	\$250	\$100,000	and up:	Auctioneer's discretion	

Bids that do not conform to the above increments will be reduced to the next appropriate bid. No bids will be accepted below the start price.

## Limit Bids

Individuals who wish to restrict their total purchases to a fixed amount (not less than \$1,000) in any given auction may do so by advising us of the maximum amount they wish to spend. We will execute bids only until lots in the indicated limit are secured. The buyer's premium will be added to the total, after the limit has been reached.

## Buyer's Premium

A Buyer's Premium of 22% will be added to the hammer price of each lot.



# Expert Authentication & Certification

We are pleased to announce that all descriptions featured in this special catalogue have been meticulously curated and verified by Florian Eichhorn, a leading specialist in Japanese Philately.

To provide our collectors with the highest level of assurance, buyers participating in this auction may request formal authentication for their acquisitions. Upon request, Mr. Eichhorn can issue an official certificate as member of the German Expert Organisation (BPP).

Please Note: These BPP certificates are issued only upon request following the sale and are subject to additional certification fees payable by the buyer.

## CATALOG REFERENCES

Unless otherwise indicated, all catalog numbers provided throughout this volume refer to the Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalogue 1871-1876 (JSCA). This standard reference work serves as the primary basis for the classification, numbering, and plating varieties of the issues presented in the Tejima Collection.



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# Auction lots

## Covers

### A NOTE ON PRESENTATION AND QUALITY

In accordance with standard practices for the exhibition of philatelic items of such extraordinary historical importance, many covers in the Tejima Collection have been opened out for display. This necessary and customary format allows for a comprehensive appreciation of the postal markings and the integrity of the document's history. Such presentation is the professional standard for artifacts of this significance and does not represent a reduction in the condition, quality, or value of the pieces.

# 1

## The Earliest Recorded Cover of the Japanese Postal Service (First Mail Transport)

### PROVENANCE

Dr. Ichida

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in Ichida (1959); Ichida (1971), colour plate A and p. 85; plating reference p. 92; Dragon Covers p. 2; 19th century fig. 3.

1871, 100 mon dark steel blue, earliest printing, plate I, position 1, tied by a large “Kensazumi” handstamp in small seal style (reisho) on the reverse of a cover from Minakuchi to Otsu.

Manuscript dateline (Meiji 4) 3.3, corresponding to 22 April 1871 (Gregorian).

A cover of extraordinary historical importance, carried during the first postal dispatch of Japan, originating from Tokyo on Meiji 4.3.1 (opening day of the national postal service). The letter was taken into the mail en route at Minakuchi on Meiji 4.3.4 (early morning) and subsequently delivered to Otsu. As the earliest recorded example associated with Japan’s inaugural postal operations, this cover represents a cornerstone artefact of Japanese postal history and an item of the utmost rarity and significance.

### RATE

100 mon basic rate, separate area rate of the first rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

11

### START PRICE

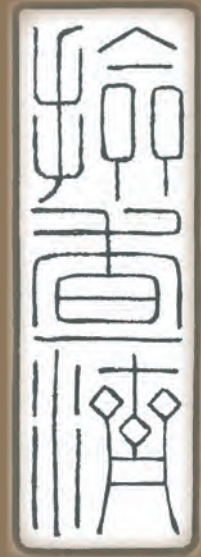
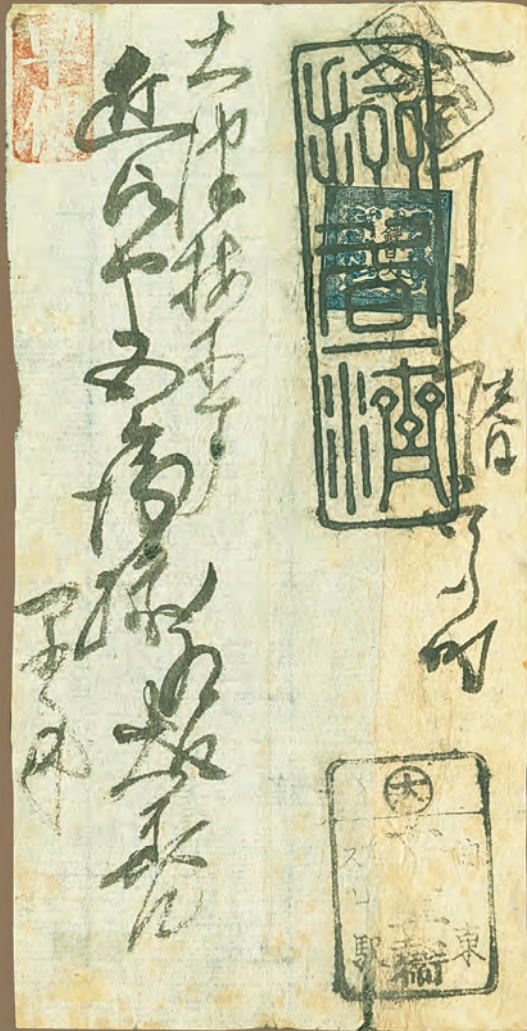
\$ 110,000



Japanese Postal Runner



Minakuchi, 50th Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



Rare large 3 characters  
"Kensazumi" handstamp

## 2

### High-Value 1200 Mon Franking with 500 Mon and 200 Mon Earliest Printings

#### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 16; Dragon Covers, p. 131.

1871, 500 mon yellow green, earliest printing, two singles including position 37, used in combination with 200 mon earliest printing, plate I, bottom 500 and 200 mon, cut into at upper right, uncancelled, but with sender's address in Tokyo and addressed to Kameyama, Ise Province.

Manuscript date "year of the ape 3rd month 16th day", or Meiji 4.3.16 (5 May 1871).

A remarkable early high-franking cover from the opening months of the postal service, of considerable postal-historical interest despite the absence of postal obliteration.

#### RATE

1200 mon basic weight, separate area rate of the first rate period.

#### CONDITION



#### CATALOGUE

31, 41

#### START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**

龜山藩

近藤鐸山様

東京龜山藩邸

近藤幸止

侯者鎌五所署名

要用書

平安

辛未

三月十六日出



### 3

## Earliest Recorded Usage of the Large Kensazumi from Ejiri

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Gallery, Vol. 2, p. 2; Dragon Covers, p. 5.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, earliest printing, plate I, position 1, just touched at lower right, tied by a large “Kensazumi” handstamp in regular script (kaisho) on the reverse of a cover from Ejiri to nearby Numazu.

Manuscript dateline (Meiji 4) 3.18, corresponding to 7 May 1871 (Gregorian).

An important early usage, representing the earliest recorded application of the large Kensazumi handstamp from Ejiri. The clarity of the strike and the positional significance of the adhesive further enhance the desirability of this cover within the classic Dragon issue postal history. A well-preserved and highly presentable example.

RATE

100 mon basic rate plus an additional 100 mon for delivery beyond 2 ri outside the standard delivery circuit, yet within 1 ri under kobin regulations; separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 12,000**

### 4

## Large Shizuoka Kensazumi with Rare “Carry-On Fee Settled” Instructional Mark

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 11.

1871, 200 mon, early printing, plate I, position 21, slightly oxidised, tied by a clear strike of large “Shizuoka Kensazumi” of Shizuoka, Suruga Province, to the reverse of a cover to Kakegawa, Totomi Province.

Alongside dateline “4th month 26th day” and official manuscript “dispatched 29th day”, or Meiji 4.4.29 (17 June 1871). At bottom right also showing vermilion framed “mochikomi chinsen zumi”, meaning “carry-on fee settled”.

A highly interesting and desirable early cover, distinguished by this rare instructional marking relating to onward courier conveyance.

RATE

100 mon basic rate, separate area fee plus 100 mon kobin fee for final delivery by courier = 200 mon, first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 1,300**



Rare large 3 characters  
"Kensazumi" handstamp



# 5

## Earliest Recorded Fushimi Large Kensazumi on 500 Mon Earliest Printing

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in Large Placename Kensazumi (1979), p. 52; Dragon Covers, p. 15.

1871, 500 mon yellow green, earliest printing, plate I, position 10, tied by large “Fushimi Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover via Hirakata, Kawachi Province, to Hoshidamura, Kawachi Province.

Manuscript dateline 6th month 9th day of Meiji 4 (26 July 1871).

The earliest recorded cover bearing the large Fushimi Kensazumi, and an important early postal-history usage of the 500 mon earliest printing.

### RATE

100 mon basic weight plus additional charge for kobin area (within 3 ri square) 400 mon, separate area rate of the first rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

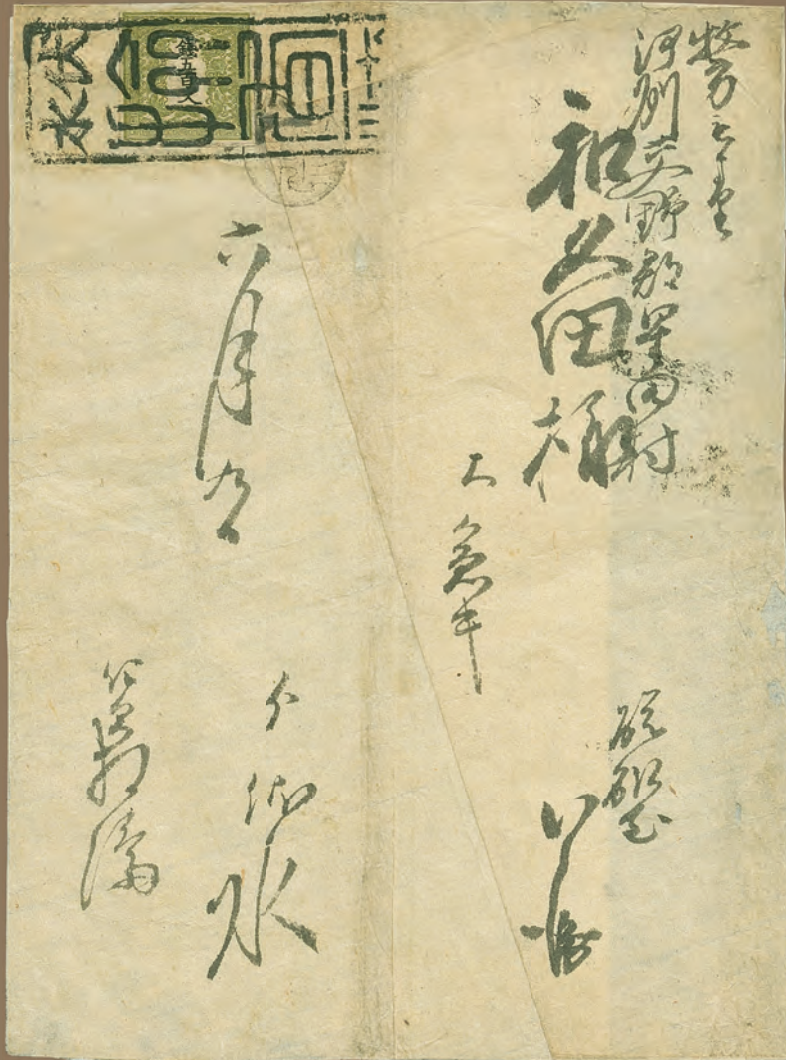
41

### START PRICE

**\$ 5,000**



Fushimi Inari Shrine with Honden



Fushimi "Kensazumi" cancellation

## 6

### Magnificent 7-Stamp Franking with Major “Missing Arm” Variety

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 18.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, earliest printing, plate I, comprising vertical pair positions 31-39, strip of three positions 11-19-27, and at right vertical pair positions 32-40 (with official pinhole at upper right), tied by two strikes of large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Saikyo.

The franking includes the major variety at position 31, “left dragon arm missing”, as well as the variety at position 19, “right dragon hair missing”. Manuscript dateline of Meiji 4, year of the goat, 6th month 27th day (13 August 1871).

Also showing a red circular framed hakoba-in “kyo” (京) of Kyobashi, a letter box mark used only during Meiji 4. The major variety at position 31 was retouched at an early stage (JSCA 3v-1-31; catalogue value loose ¥1.2 million).

A spectacular seven-stamp franking on cover, uniting major plating interest, scarce postal markings, and great exhibition value.

RATE

1400 mon basic weight cover, Tokyo to Saikyo, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 12,000**



Pos. 31: 'left dragon missing arm'

# 7

## 500 Mon Earliest Printing Pair and 200 Mon Plate I on Cover

1871, 500 mon yellow green, earliest printing, a vertical pair, plate I, upper 500 mon with point rubbing, used in combination with 200 mon vermilion, plate I, early printing, position 5, tied by large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to large part of cover-reverse.

Vermilion framed “year of the monkey 7th month 18th day / Saikyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 4.7.18 (2 September 1871).

A scarce and attractive high-value franking from the first rate period, probably addressed to Fujisawa or Oiso.

RATE

1200 mon basic weight, perhaps to Fujisawa or Oiso, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31, 41

START PRICE

**\$ 2,500**

# 8

## 100 Mon Plate I with Large Saikyo Kensazumi and Matsubara Letter Box Mark

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 21.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, position 36, tied by large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Osaka.

Manuscript dateline “7th month 29th day” of Meiji 4.7.29 (13 September 1871). Also showing vermilion vertical frameless “29” day marking of Saikyo, together with circular framed hakoba-in “matsu” (松) of Matsubara letter box.

A desirable early Saikyo cover, additionally enhanced by the scarce Matsubara letter box marking.

RATE

100 mon basic rate, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

21

START PRICE

**\$ 600**



# 9

## 200 Mon Plate I with Large Tokyo Kensazumi and Rare Shiba Letter Box Mark

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 8.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, early printing, plate I, position 32, tied by a full strike of large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Hiratsuka, Sagami Province.

Manuscript dateline “10th month 8th day”, or Meiji 4.10.8 (20 November 1871). On the address side at foot, vermilion circular framed hakoba-in “Shiba” (芝) of Shiba Shinmeimae letter box.

A scarce and appealing first-period cover, especially desirable for the fine full strike of the large Tokyo Kensazumi and the rare Shiba letter box marking.

### RATE

200 mon basic weight, separate area rate of the first rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

31

### START PRICE

\$ 1,000



A burial ground of the Shiba



Hiratsuka, 7th Station of the Tokaido by Utagawa Hiroshige



# 10

## The Rarest 48 Mon Single Franking – Special Yokohama-Tokyo Rate

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 132.

1871, 48 mon brown, earliest printing, plate I, position 34, frame cut at left, bottom laped margin to touched, otherwise large margins, tied by large “Yokohama Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover with manuscript dateline “10th month 19th day”, Meiji 4.10.19 (1 December 1871), from Yokohama to Tokyo-Ushigome. On the address side at lower right, vermilion circular framed hakoba-in “No” (野) of the Nogemachi letter box, recorded in use from Meiji 4.7 to Meiji 6.3 (1871–73).

This special rate applied only between Yokohama and Tokyo. It was set deliberately low in an effort to displace the private courier services then operating on the route. At the time, the local postal rate remained 100 mon; from the second rate period onward, beginning Meiji 4.12.5, the rate between the two places was standardised at 100 mon.

The scarcest of all 48 mon single frankings of Meiji 4, of which only a handful are recorded.

### RATE

Yokohama-Tokyo special in-between rate of 48 mon per 2 momme weight, period Meiji 4.8 to 4.12.4 (19th Century, commentary volume, pp. 57/60).

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

11

### START PRICE

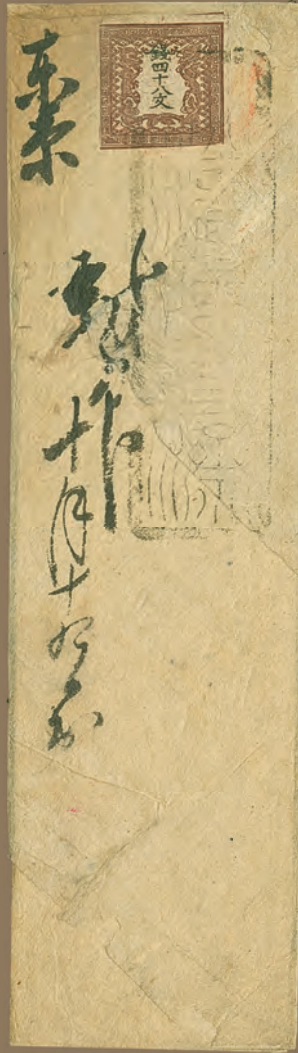
\$ 11,000



Native quarter street to the temple in Yokohama



Nihانبashi, 1st Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



# 11

## Spectacular Three-Colour Mon Franking with 500 Mon Pair

1871, 48 mon brown, plate I, a vertical pair, positions 20-28; 100 mon blue, plate I, vertical pair positions 3-11 and single in a different shade, position 17; together with 500 mon bluish green, plate I, middle period printing, a vertical pair, positions 17-25, all tied by two strikes of large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Fushimi, Yamashiro Province.

Manuscript dateline on address side left, “year of the goat 10th month 22nd day”, or Meiji 4.10.22 (4 December 1871). Also showing a vermilion circular framed hakoba-in “yu” (郵), the letter box mark of the posting box outside the gates of the Tokyo-Yokkaichi postal bureau, the first main post office of Tokyo. This hakoba is recorded from Meiji 4.4 to 4.11 only.

A most impressive and visually striking three-colour mon franking, additionally distinguished by this scarce Tokyo letter box marking.

RATE

1400 mon to Fushimi, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

11, 21, 41

START PRICE

**\$ 10,000**



The Nihonbashi bridge in Tokyo



12

**100 Mon and 200 Mon Plate I  
Mixed Franking from Kyoto  
Administration**

1871, 100 mon dark blue, early printing, plate I, position 37, with positional pinhole, right frameline partly touched to cut in, used in combination with 200 mon vermilion, late printing, plate I, position 17, slightly oxidised, tied by a clear strike of large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover, reduced at top right and bottom left, to an unclear destination, probably Kuwana or Yokkaichi.

Sender: Kyoto city administration.

Manuscript dateline “10th month 28th day”, or Meiji 4.10.28 (20 December 1871).

A scarce official mixed franking from the Kyoto administration, with strong postal-historical appeal.

RATE

300 mon basic weight, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

21, 31

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



Tea Field and Toji Pagoda in Kyoto



# 13

## 200 Mon Earliest Printing with Large Osaka Kensazumi and Oka Letter Box Mark

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 7.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, earliest printing, plate I, position 1, tied by large “Osaka Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Otsu.

Manuscript dateline “11th month 10th day”, or Meiji 4.11.10 (21 December 1871). On the address side at foot, vermilion circular framed hakoba-in “Oka” (岡) of Okazakibashi letter box.

A fine and attractive cover, notable for the earliest printing of the 200 mon and the scarce Okazakibashi letter box marking.

RATE

200 mon basic weight, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 600**

# 14

## 200 Mon Strip of Three on Cover with Rare Kyobashi Letter Box Mark

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 133.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, a vertical strip of three, positions 5-13-21, partly oxidised, with two positions showing lured margin at right, tied by large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Kakegawa, Totomi Province.

Manuscript datelines “11th month 10th day sent” and “11th month 12th day received” of Meiji 4 (22 and 24 December 1871). Also showing the red circular framed hakoba-in “kyo” (京) of Kyobashi, a letter box mark used only during Meiji 4, together with framed vermilion “adjusted 10th day dispatched”, the latest known usage of this marking.

A highly attractive first-period cover, made especially desirable by the rare Kyobashi letter box mark and the late usage of the Tokyo dispatch datestamp.

RATE

600 mon basic weight cover, Tokyo to Kakegawa, separate area rate of the first rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



# 15

## The Famous “Woodward” 500 Mon Block of Six – A Philatelic Icon

### PROVENANCE

Tracy M. Woodward (H.R. Harmer auction, 1939)

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 22; *Dragon Covers*, p. 30.

1871, 500 mon bluish green, early printing, a block of six, plate I, positions 3/4-11/12-19/20, position 3 cut into at upper left, tied by large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover, address side incomplete, from the Ministry of Finance to Kyoto.

Manuscript dateline on front side, month 29th day. Positions 3 and 20 with official pinholes at upper right for sheet stacking.

A celebrated and highly important classic Dragon cover, long associated with the name of Tracy M. Woodward. The impressive block of six, together with its official origin and distinguished provenance, places this among the iconic large-multiple covers of Japan.

### RATE

Triple weight, basic rate 1400 mon x 3, overpaid by 200 mon. Separate area rate of the first rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

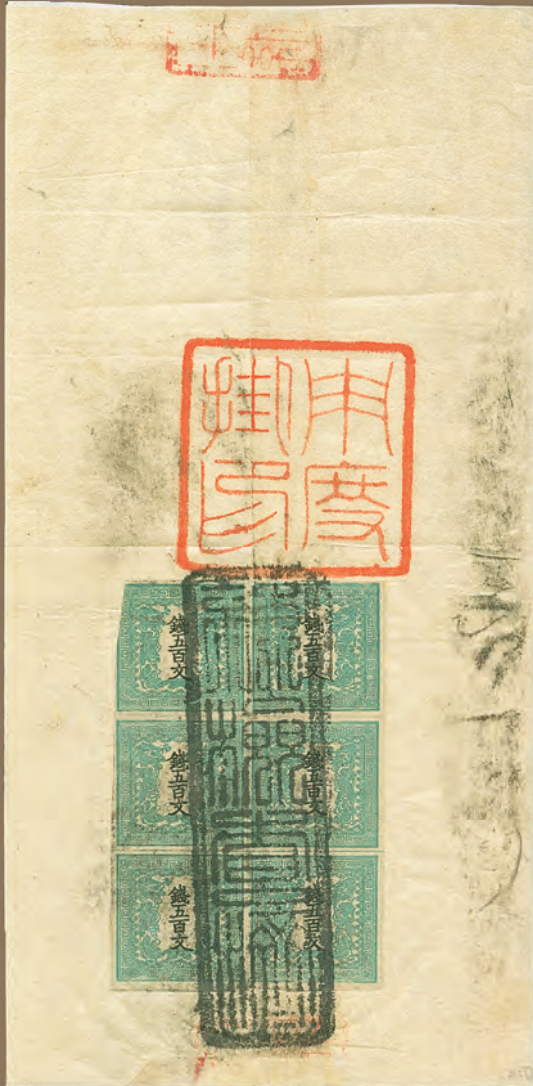
41

### START PRICE

**\$ 18,000**



A. M. Tracy Woodward



# 16

## Illustrated Official Cover with Large Otsu Kensazumi and 100 Mon Plate I

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 34.

1871, 100 mon blue, late printing, plate I, position 21, touched at right frameline, tied by large “Otsu Kensazumi” (Nakagawa type A of Meiji 4) to the reverse of an illustrated cover to Kyoto.

Official correspondence from the Otsu prefectural administration to the Kyoto city administration. At lower right, vermilion oval framed “Otsu”. No dateline survives, though usage in the second half of Meiji 4 is assumed.

An attractive official and illustrated cover, combining administrative origin with the scarce Otsu Kensazumi in its early form.

### RATE

100 mon basic rate, separate area rate of the first rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

11

### START PRICE

\$ 600



View of Ishiyama



Otsu, 53rd Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



Large "Otsu Kensazumi"  
cancellation

# 17

## Rare 48 Mon Fractional Usage for Higher Weight – Fewer than Ten Recorded

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 35.

1871, 48 mon brown, plate I (position 23), comprising a block of eighteen, vertical strip of four, and single, used in combination with 100 mon plate I (position 6, strip of four and two singles), all tied by six strikes of a large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover, address side incomplete, via Shono, with framed vermilion “Shono eki tatsu”, addressed to Ueno, Ise Province.

Manuscript dateline Meiji 4.12.1 (10 January 1872).

On the address side, a red circular framed hakoba-in “ba” (羽) of Akabanebashi.

An exceptional and rare example of intended usage of the 48 mon fractional value to satisfy a higher weight rate during the first rate period. Fewer than ten such covers have been recorded.

### RATE

Higher weight rate: Tokyo to Shono separate area rate of the first rate period— $1100 \text{ mon} \times 1.5 = 1650 \text{ mon}$ , plus 100 mon for delivery beyond the standard circuit.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

11, 21

### START PRICE

**\$ 25,000**



Windmill at Ueno-Hirokoji Tokyo



Shōno, 45th Station of the Tokaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



# 18

## 500 Mon Plate I with Latest Recorded Sujikai Letter Box Mark

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 39.

1871, 500 mon pale dull green, middle period printing, plate I, position 32, tied by large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to a cover to Kaso, Bizen Province. Cover slightly reduced at top; thins at centre on reverse (backed). Opened out for display.

First-month usage of the Tokyo datestamp, framed in vermilion “year of the goat 12th month 25th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 4.12.25 (5 February 1872). On the address side at lower right, vermilion circular framed hakoba-in “suji” (筋) of the letter box outside the Sujikai gate. This is the latest recorded usage of this hakoba.

A highly desirable Tokyo cover, notable both for its late use of the Sujikai letter box mark and its clear first-month datestamp.

### RATE

Exceeding 200 ri = 5 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

41

### START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



The Sujikaibashimon (the Sujikai Gate) at Edo Castle



# 19

## 200 Mon Plate I with Latest Recorded Yotsuya Letter Box Mark

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 23.

1871, 200 mon, middle period printing, plate I, position 39, stamp partly cut at right, tied by large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to a cover to Mishima, Suruga Province.

First-month usage of the Tokyo datestamp, framed in vermilion “year of the goat 12th month 25th day”, or Meiji 4.12.25 (5 February 1872). On the address side at lower right, vermilion circular framed hakoba-in “yon” (四) of Yotsuya-gomongai, the letter box outside the Yotsuya gate, here in its latest recorded usage.

A highly desirable Tokyo cover, of particular significance for the latest known date of the Yotsuya letter box mark.

### RATE

Within 50 ri = 200 mon, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

31

### START PRICE

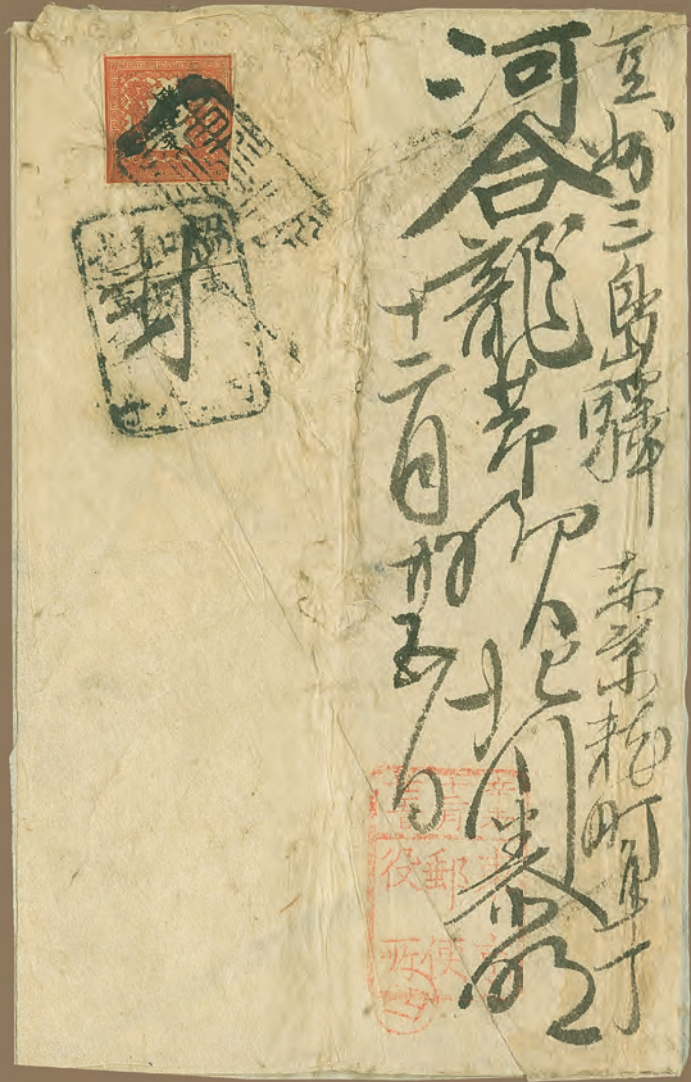
\$ 3,000



Yotsuya Gate



Mishima, 11th Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



## 20

### Earliest Recorded Yokohama Datestamp on 200 Mon Plate I Cover

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 40.

1871, 200 mon, middle period, plate I, position 35, tied by a full strike of large “Yokohama Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover, mounted on paper, to Ejiri, Suruga Province.

Alongside, vermilion framed “year of the cock 12th month 27th day / Yokohama postal bureau”, or Meiji 4.12.27 (7 February 1872).

The earliest recorded example of this Yokohama datestamp, giving the cover notable postal-historical importance.

RATE

200 mon within 50 ri distance, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 800**



A street in Benten-Dori in Yokohama



Yokohama "Kensazumi" cancellation

## 21

### 200 Mon "Dot of Sen Missing" Variety with Kobin Due Usage

#### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 41.

1871, 200 mon, latest printing, plate I, position 36, showing the constant variety "dot of sen missing", tied by large "Saikyo Kensa-zumi" to the reverse of a cover to Gengahama, Mino Province.

On the address side, framed vermilion "year of the monkey 1st month 4th day / Saikyo postal bureau" (12 February 1872), with manuscript notation: "Postage paid unto Kuwana, but from Kuwana to destination postage must be paid by addressee". The kobin charge was paid by latest printing plate I, position 8, with positional pinhole, tied by vermilion brush stroke.

A highly interesting due usage, combining a constant variety with postal markings and manuscript instructions of considerable specialist interest.

#### RATE

Up to 50 ri = 200 mon; kobin area 100 mon x 2, second rate period.

#### CONDITION



#### CATALOGUE

31

#### START PRICE

**\$ 1,700**



Pos. 36: 'dot of sen missing'

## 22

### Extremely Rare “Chinsenkittezumi” Marking – One of Eight Known

#### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Stamps Plating Book*, p. 108;  
*Dragon Covers*, p. 42; listing in *Dragon Stamps  
Plating Book*, p. 104, no. 7.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, earliest printing,  
plate I, position 26, tied by a large “Saikyo  
Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Gifu,  
accompanied by a large framed “Chinsen  
Kitte Zumi” marking (“prepayment for return  
postage paid”).

On the address side, a red framed “Saikyo /  
year of the monkey [Meiji 5] 1st month 13th  
day” (21 February 1872). Red manuscript  
notation indicates an additional 50 mon  
payment.

Only eight covers are recorded bearing the  
large “Chinsenkittezumi” marking. Notably,  
its precise and documented postal function  
remains uncertain; extant examples suggest  
usage upon arrival, certifying payment to  
a courier for delivery beyond the standard  
postal agency distribution network.

A rare and intriguing auxiliary marking of  
considerable postal-historical interest.

#### RATE

200 mon up to 50 ri distance, basic weight, second  
rate period.

#### CONDITION



#### CATALOGUE

31

#### START PRICE

**\$ 9,000**



Imperial Palace Gardens in Kyoto



貨錢切手濟

Rare large "Chinsen Kitte Zumi" marking

## 23

### 100 Mon Plate II Block of Four with Official "Head Portion" Tokyo Kensazumi

#### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 137.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate II, early printing, a block of four, positions 31-32-39-40, tied by the head section\* of large "Tokyo Kensazumi" to the reverse of a cover from Tokyo to Yamada, Ise Province.

Alongside, vermilion framed "year of the monkey 3rd month 16th day / Tokyo postal bureau", or Meiji 5.3.16 (23 April 1872).

Vermilion manuscript notation: "from Yokkaichi carry on" (持込).

A scarce and highly attractive multiple on cover, made particularly interesting by the officially regulated head-portion strike and the manuscript instruction for onward courier conveyance.

Head section: the "large placename Kensazumi" postmarks were officially ordered in Meiji 4.12 to be struck with the placename head portion only, or even with the lower three characters removed. This is therefore not an incomplete strike, but a consequence of official regulation.

#### RATE

Within 100 ri distance = 3 sen, plus 1 sen delivery to a destination outside the postal circuit of the next post office, second rate period. Tokyo to Yokkaichi/Ise was within 100 ri; Yokkaichi to Yamada/Ise was carried onward by courier (approximately 18 ri).

#### CONDITION

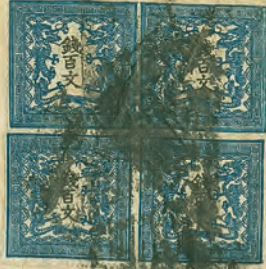


#### CATALOGUE

211

#### START PRICE

\$ 2,000



得賢相無忘 仔替山因尾所

野月園去取 五年說

後知本州 大志用 四月初



車察  
長官可  
基

## 24

### 48 Mon Plate I Earliest Printing Pair with Teramachi Letter Box Mark

1871, 48 mon brown, earliest printing, plate I, a vertical pair, positions 15-23, tied by large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of cover, slightly reduced at top and left, to Osaka.

Framed vermilion “year of the monkey 3rd month 25th day / Saikyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.3.25 (2 May 1872). Circular framed hakoba-in “tera” (寺) of Teramachi letter box.

A pleasing and scarce cover, further enhanced by the presence of the Teramachi letter box marking.

RATE

Up to 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

1I

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**

## 25

### Earliest Recorded 1 Sen Plate II and Earliest Blue Tokyo “Ken” Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 49; Dragon Covers, p. 46.

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II, a vertical pair, tied by non-standard blue framed “Ken” of Tokyo on a cover to Setogawa, Suruga Province, near Fujieda. Alongside, manuscript dateline “7th moon 12th day dispatched”. On the address side, vermilion framed “year of the goat 4th month 4th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.4.4 (10 May 1872).

The framed “Ken” in blue is recorded from Meiji 5.4.4 to 5.7.12, and this is the earliest recorded usage. The medium-sized vermilion Tokyo datestamp is likewise the latest recorded usage. Sender: ekiteiryō (General Post Office).

A highly important Tokyo usage, combining the earliest recorded blue framed “Ken” with the earliest known postal use of the 1 sen Plate II.

RATE

Within 50 ri distance = 2 sen, second rate period.

The revised postal regulations of Meiji 4.12.5 stated Setogawa as “within 100 ri = 3 sen”, but recorded distances vary between 49 and 51 ri. Tejima suggests that Setogawa was probably reclassified as “within 50 ri” by Meiji 5.3.1 (see 19th century, fig. 49).

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

6II

START PRICE

**\$ 4,500**

古恒而新理  
 寺  
 京素  
 問屋町  
 寺  
 京素  
 問屋町

法西系  
 今身保  
 京便所  
 四月廿四日  
 役部  
 京便所  
 京便所

## 26

### 200 Mon Plate I Pair with Tokyo “Ken” Postmark

1871, 200 mon, plate I, middle printing, a vertical pair, positions 9-17, upper stamp with scraped left frame and dragon teeth at upper left, tied by two strikes of blue framed “Ken” to the reverse of a cover to Osaka.

Framed “year of the monkey 4th month 10th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.4.10 (16 May 1872). Framed “Ken” was used in Tokyo from Meiji 5.4.1 to 6.4.30. Vermilion framed arrival “year of the monkey 4th month 12th day / Osaka postal bureau” (18 May 1872).

A scarce and attractive cover, notable for the Tokyo framed “Ken” usage on a Plate I pair.

RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



Pos. 36: 'scraped left frame and dragon teeth'

27

## Earliest Recorded Nara Cover Featuring the Plate I-22 Retouch Variety

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 138.

1871, 200 mon, plate I, two singles in different printings and shades, the upper a middle-period example from position 18, cut into at right frame, the lower a late printing from position 22, showing the retouched right dragon variety (右龍修正再刻; JSCA 3v-1-22), tied by framed non-standard “Nara station / Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Tokyo.

Blue framed arrival, tying the adhesives, “year of the monkey 4th month 21st day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.4.21 (27 May 1872).

The earliest recorded cover from Nara, further distinguished by the presence of the notable Plate I-22 retouch variety.

RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**

28

## 2 Sen Single Franking with Large Yokohama Kensazumi on Cover

1872, 2 sen vermilion, tied by a clear strike of large “Yokohama Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to an unclear destination, probably Yamuramachi in Kai Province. Cover reduced at top, with part of address incomplete.

Framed vermilion “year of the monkey 4th month 24th day / Yokohama postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.4.24 (30 May 1872).

A scarce and attractive single-franked cover, well showing the large Yokohama Kensazumi.

RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION

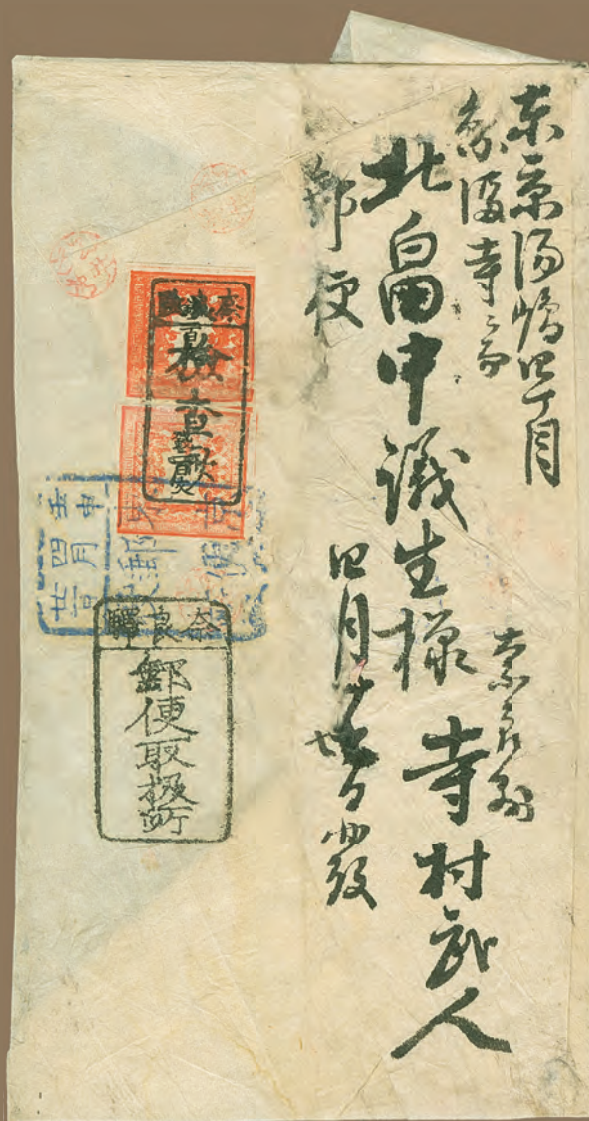


CATALOGUE

7

START PRICE

**\$ 800**



Large "Yokohama Kensazumi" cancellation



## 29

### Earliest Recorded Tokyo “Morning Delivery” Mark on 200 Mon Pair Cover

#### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 139.

1871, 200 mon, middle period printing, plate I, a horizontal pair, positions 38-39, tied by large “Osaka Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Tokyo.

Manuscript dateline “year of the monkey 4th month 25th day”. On the address side, vermilion framed “year of the monkey 4th month 25th day / Osaka postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.4.25 (31 May 1872). Below the stamps, circular framed “jo” (常) of Joanbashi Kitazume letter box. Blue framed arrival “year of the monkey 5th month 29th day / Tokyo postal bureau” (4 July 1872), together with framed vermilion “morning delivery”, the earliest recorded date of this marking, known from the 4th to 9th month of Meiji 5.

A notable Tokyo destination cover, of particular interest for the earliest recorded usage of this delivery marking.

#### RATE

Up to 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

#### CONDITION



#### CATALOGUE

31

#### START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



View of Osaka

東京淺州廣小路

駿州至長九里門外

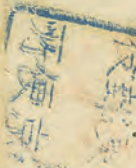
野村清太郎

同德裕

至急平安

四月廿五日

自浪花中



# 30

## 100 Mon Plate II with Spectacular “Jaw Missing” Major Variety

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in Large Placename Kensazumi (1979),  
p. 21.

1871, 100 mon dark blue, middle period printing, plate II, position 25, displaying the major variety “jaw missing from the right dragon”, tied by a large “Fujieda Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover from Fujieda (Suruga Province) to Hamamatsu (Totomi Province).

Manuscript dateline [Meiji 5] 4th month 29th day (4 June 1872).

A visually striking major variety, clearly defined and well-presented on cover, greatly enhancing its appeal to the specialist collector.

### RATE

1 sen up to 25 ri distance, basic weight, second rate period.

### CONDITION

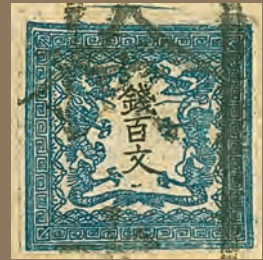


### CATALOGUE

111

### START PRICE

**\$ 3,500**



Pos. 25: 'jaw missing from the right dragon'



"Fujieda Kensazumi" cancellation

# 31

## 100 Mon Plate II with Major “Right Dragon Leg Missing” Variety

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in Ichida (1971), p. 93; Dragon Covers, p. 53.

1871, 100 mon dark blue, middle period printing, plate II, position 18, slightly touched at left, tied by a large “Osaka Kensazumi” to a cover addressed to Koriyama, Yamato Province.

Alongside, a red framed “Osaka / year of the monkey 5th month 8th day” (Meiji 5.5.8; 13 June 1872). On the reverse, a circular framed hakoba-in “gen” (源) of Genzaemoncho, recorded between Meiji 4 and 8.

The adhesive shows the major variety “right dragon leg missing” (JSCA catalogue value ¥1.5 million).

A striking and desirable example combining a prominent variety with clear postal markings.

### RATE

100 mon (1 sen) up to 25 ri distance, basic weight, second rate period.

### CONDITION

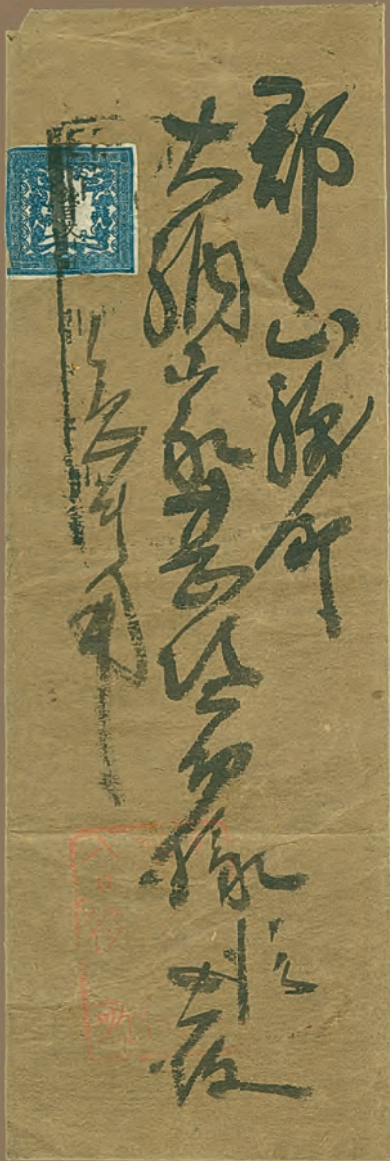


### CATALOGUE

111

### START PRICE

**\$ 6,000**



Pos. 18: 'right dragon leg missing'

# 32

## Rare Mixed Mon and Sen Dragon Three-Colour Franking

1871/72, 500 mon blue, plate I, middle period printing, position 25, used in combination with Dragon 2 sen vermilion, rounded corner and some perf faults, and Dragon 1 sen blue, plate II, position 12, tied by framed blue “ken” of Tokyo to the reverse of a cover, corner clipped, to Kyoto.

Blue framed “year of the monkey 5th month 16th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.5.16 (21 June 1872), on address side; on reverse, vermilion framed arrival “year of the monkey 5th month ... / Saikyo postal bureau”.

A scarce and attractive three-colour franking, notable for the mixed usage of mon and sen Dragon values during this transitional period.

RATE

Up to 200 ri distance = 4 sen, double weight = 8 sen.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

41, 611, 7

START PRICE

**\$ 6,500**



View of Tokyo



Kyoto, end Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



## 33

### 200 Mon Plate II Pair Used on Cover from Tokyo to Osaka

1871, 200 mon vermilion, a vertical pair, plate II, positions 5-13, tied by framed blue “Ken” to the reverse of a cover, slightly reduced at top, to Osaka.

Framed “year of the monkey 5th month 18th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.5.18 (23 June 1872). Vermilion framed arrival “year of the monkey 5th month 22nd day / Osaka postal bureau”.

A fine and straightforward postal usage of the 200 mon Plate II on intercity mail.

RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

311

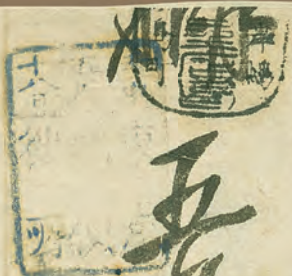
START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



View of Osaka

五存古卷  
 新恒  
 月八  
 年  
 月  
 日



此乃...  
 備...  
 年...  
 月...  
 日...

## 34

### Official “Head Section” Yokohama Kensazumi to the Ministry of Public Works

1871, 100 mon blue, latest printing, plate I, position 20, tied by the head section\* of large “Yokohama Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover, address side incomplete at left, from Yokohama to Tokyo.

Vermilion framed “year of the monkey 5th month 27th day / Yokohama postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.5.27 (2 July 1872). Blue framed same-day arrival of Tokyo postal bureau. Framed vermilion Tokyo delivery marking “morning delivery”, recorded in use from Meiji 5.5 to 5.9. Addressed to the staff of the Telegraph Office (Denshinryo) within the Ministry of Public Works.

A scarce and attractive official usage, combining the regulated head-section Yokohama strike with a particularly desirable governmental destination.

Head section: the “large placename Kensazumi” postmarks were officially ordered in Meiji 4.12 to be struck with the placename head portion only, or even with the lower three characters removed. This is therefore not an incomplete strike, but the consequence of official regulation

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



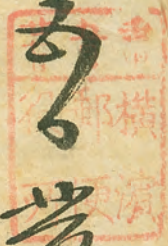
CATALOGUE

21

START PRICE

**\$ 600**

新五月五日 寄 岩



東京  
三都省電信審三  
中山操



五二八  
中山

# 35

## Rare 48 Mon Single Franking – Saikyo City Drop Mail

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 57.

1871, 48 mon, middle period printing, plate I, position 7, tied by large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover, address side incomplete, with manuscript dateline “6th month 10th day” alongside.

Red framed “year of the monkey 6th moon 10th day / Saikyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.6.10 (15 July 1872). At upper left, circular framed hakoba-in “shita” (下) of the Shimotachiuri letter box, recorded in use from Meiji 4 to Meiji 8 (1871–75).

A scarce and appealing single-franked city drop mail cover, representing the reduced local rate introduced in the second rate period.

### RATE

City drop mail rate of ½ sen, half the ordinary rate, introduced Meiji 4.12.5, within the second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

11

### START PRICE

**\$ 5,000**



View of Kyoto



# 36

## Unique Mixed Franking of 500 Mon Plate I and Plate II

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 50; Dragon Covers, p. 58.

1871, 500 mon bluish green to turquoise, five singles from plate I (2) and plate II (3), positions 1-14, 2-38, 2-31, 2-30 and 1-5, tied by framed “ken” to the reverse of a cover from Tokyo to Nagasaki.

Alongside black framed “year of the monkey 6th moon 14th day”, or Meiji 5.6.14 (19 July 1872). Sender: Honganji Temple Administration, Tokyo Asakusa. The cover bears the weight endorsement “17 momme 8 fun”, indicating five times the basic weight.

The only recorded mixed franking of the 500 mon value from two different plates (plate I and plate II), of outstanding rarity and great importance within Dragon issue postal history.

### RATE

Letter basic rate exceeding 200 ri = 5 sen; five times weight = 25 sen.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

41, 411

### START PRICE

**\$ 70,000**



In the Temple of Asakusa in Tokyo

肥前長湊桶屋所  
光永ちかなが

在東京浅草  
本願寺

伯東ちかあき

守務所

十四日交郵便

日方拾七支下



七

# 37

## 200 Mon Pair Featuring Position 30 "Left Dragon Retouched" Variety on Cover

PROVENANCE

Dr. Ichida

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Ichida (1971), p. 53; Dragon Covers, p. 60.

1871, 200 mon, plate I, latest printing, a vertical pair, positions 30-38, with retouch at position 30, tied by large "Shizuoka Kensa-zumi" to the reverse of a cover to Tokyo.

Manuscript dateline "year of the monkey 6th month 18th day", or Meiji 5.6.18 (23 July 1872). Blue framed arrival "year of the monkey 6th month 20th day / Tokyo postal bureau", together with framed vermilion "afternoon delivery".

A scarce and appealing variety cover, showing the retouched position 30 clearly on postal use.

RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



Pos. 30: 'left dragon retouched'



"Shizuoka Kensazumi" cancellation

# 38

## Spectacular Postal Fraud – One of Only Two Recorded Dragon Stamp Fraud Covers

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 61.

1871, 48 mon dark brown, plate II, a vertical pair, positions 14-22, upper stamp touched at upper right frameline, tied by framed non-standard “Nara aratame / kensazumi”, with framed “Nara station / postal receiving and handling agency” alongside, to a cover to Ichinomoto, Yamato Province.

Manuscript dateline “6th month 20th day”, or Meiji 5.6.20 (25 July 1872).

A remarkable instance of postal fraud: already postmarked stamps, originally cancelled by large Kensazumi, were reused and passed undetected by the postal clerk. Only two such fraud covers bearing Dragon stamps are recorded.

An exceptional postal-history rarity of great interest and exhibition significance.

RATE

Up to 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

111

START PRICE

\$ 6,500



Inspecting the Mail in the Post Office



The Tōkaidō route with the joining route of this cover shown in green: Nara Station to Ichinomoto, Yamato Province



## 39

### The Earliest Recorded “River Flooding” Delay Mark in Japanese Philately

#### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 322; Dragon Covers, p. 63.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, early printing, a vertical pair, positions 25-33, the latter with positional pinhole, tied by large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Tokyo.

Vermilion “year of the monkey 7th month 2nd day / Saikyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.7.2 (5 August 1872). Circular framed hakoban in “ima” (今) of Imadegawa letter box. Also struck with the large vermilion oval instructional marking “arrival delayed by river flooding” of Tokyo. Arrival framed “year of the monkey 7th month 9th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, together with framed “Kojimachi / postal branch bureau” and vermilion “morning delivery”.

The earliest recorded delay marking in Japanese philately, and a cover of outstanding postal-historical significance.

#### RATE

Up to 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

#### CONDITION



#### CATALOGUE

31

#### START PRICE

**\$ 3,500**



"Arrival delayed by river flooding" postmark

40

### Rare 5 Sen and 200 Mon Plate II Mixed Franking with Blue Tokyo “Ken”

1871/72, 5 sen bluish green, middle period printing, used in combination with 200 mon Plate II, tied by blue framed “Ken” of Tokyo to a cover to Kamikanbayashi, Shinano Province.

Framed “year of the monkey 7th month 3rd day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.7.3 (6 August 1872), alongside.

A highly desirable and unusual mixed franking, uniting mon and sen values in a scarce blue Tokyo “Ken” usage.

RATE

Within 100 ri = 3 sen, double weight = 6 sen, plus 1 sen to destination outside the delivery circuit, total 7 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

311, 8

START PRICE

**\$ 5,000**



Tea Garden near Tokyo



41

## 200 Mon Plate II Pair Used on Cover from Tokyo to Kamo

1871, 200 mon, plate II, a vertical pair, positions 1-9, cut into at left frame, tied by framed blue “Ken” to the reverse of a cover, partly soiled by gum, to Kamo, Mino Province.

Alongside, blue framed “year of the monkey 7th month 4th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.7.4 (7 August 1872).

A scarce and attractive provincial destination cover bearing a Plate II pair with the Tokyo framed “Ken” cancellation.

RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

311

START PRICE

**\$ 1,500**



# 42

## The Elusive Osaka “Mystery Mark” on 100 Mon Plate I Cover

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 143.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, tied by damaged rectangular Osaka marking to the reverse of a cover to Kyoto.

Alongside, framed vermilion datestamp “year of the monkey 7th month 5th day / Osaka postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.7.5 (8 August 1872), with part strike of same-day Saikyo arrival on front.

This Osaka cancellation, measuring 11 x 35 mm and classified as Nakagawa type C, is recorded in use from Meiji 5.5 to 5.8. No fully readable strike has yet been found, lending this cover particular significance as an example of the elusive so-called Osaka “mystery mark”.

### RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

21

### START PRICE

**\$ 500**



Dotonbori Canal in Osaka



# 43

## Latest Recorded Usage of the Blue Tokyo “Ken” and Blue Datestamp

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II, earliest printing, tied by blue framed “Ken” of Tokyo to a cover to Yokohama.

Alongside, blue framed “year of the monkey 7th month 12th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.7.12 (15 August 1872), and framed vermilion Yokohama arrival of the same date. Framed vermilion “Yokohama night dispatch” delivery mark alongside.

The latest recorded usage on cover of both the blue Tokyo “Ken” and the blue Tokyo datestamp. A particularly desirable terminal-date usage.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

611

START PRICE

**\$ 700**



A street in Tokyo



# 44

## Earliest Recorded Hodogaya Cover with Rare Large Kensazumi

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 66.

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II (3, one damaged), tied by large “Hodogaya Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Hakone, Sagami Province. Alongside, manuscript dateline “year of the goat 7th moon 26th day”, or Meiji 5.7.26 (29 August 1872).

The earliest recorded cover from Hodogaya, and a scarce provincial Dragon usage of considerable specialist interest.

### RATE

Within 100 ri distance = 3 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

6II

### START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



Rare large  
"Hodogaya Kensazumi"  
cancellation

# 45

## Latest Recorded Date of Temporary Tokyo Kensazumi Usage on 2 Sen Pair Cover

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 45; *Dragon Covers*, p. 67.

1872, 2 sen vermilion, early printing (2), tied by large “Tokyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Saikyo. On the address side, framed “year of the monkey 7th month 28th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.7.28 (31 August 1872). On reverse, framed vermilion collection mark “morning dispatch” together with framed “Kojimachi postal branch office”. Vermilion framed arrival of Saikyo postal bureau of Meiji 5.8.2 (4 September 1872).

During the regular period of framed “Ken” usage in Tokyo, the large Tokyo Kensazumi was temporarily re-employed. This cover represents the latest recorded date of that temporary usage.

A highly desirable terminal-date cover of notable postal-marking importance.

### RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

7

### START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



Interior of a Japanese Post Office

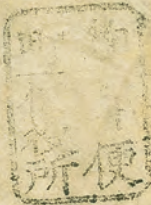
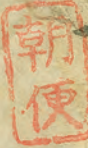
西京寄所  
邇下裝所  
其  
糖系  
所

西邨  
新物  
液  
袖  
景  
京

至  
利  
平  
也



月  
中  
公  
祭



# 46

## 100 Mon Plate II Featuring the “Right Dragon Head Retouched” Variety

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 68.

1871, 100 mon dark blue, middle period printing, plate II, position 25, showing the variety “right dragon head retouched”, tied by a large “Kanbara Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Shizuoka, Suruga Province.

Manuscript dateline [Meiji 5] 8th month 4th day (6 September 1872).

A scarce and well-defined retouch variety, attractively presented on cover with clear postal markings.

### RATE

100 mon (1 sen) up to 25 ri distance, basic weight, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

211

### START PRICE

**\$ 13,000**



The Bay of Suruga



Pos. 25: 'right dragon head retouched'



"Kanbara Kensazumi" cancellation

47

### 1 Sen Plate III with Earliest Recorded Hongo Collection Mark

1872, 1 sen blue, plate III, single franking tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo to a cover to Yokohama. On reverse, “year of the monkey 8th month 6th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.8.6 (8 September 1872). Also showing rounded-rectangular framed vermilion “Hongo” collection mark, the earliest recorded date of this marking, known in use until Meiji 7.4.13. On front, vermilion framed next-day arrival of Yokohama postal bureau, together with framed vermilion “afternoon dispatch” delivery mark.

A highly desirable Tokyo-Yokohama cover, particularly notable for the earliest recorded usage of the Hongo collection mark.

RATE

Within 25 ri = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



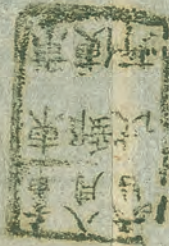
CATALOGUE

6III

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**

紙



川口

川口

川口

川口



後漢辭文通之月

行存及出之月

中山漢部様

長

東京



出

PL3  
117

# 48

## Earliest Recorded Utsunomiya Cover with Plate II/I Mixed Franking

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 70.

1871, Dragon 100 mon dark blue, plate II, position 12, used in combination with 200 mon vermilion, plate I, position 22, showing the “right dragon worn out” variety (右龍損傷), tied by vermilion framed “Kensazumi” of Utsunomiya, Shimotsuke Province, with “8th month 13th day” dateline alongside, to Kakeda, Iwashiro Province.

Transit at Fukushima post office with manuscript vermilion dateline “13th day, 7th hour”. Date of dispatch is Meiji 5.8.13 (15 September 1872).

The earliest recorded cover from Utsunomiya, and an important mixed-franking example further enhanced by the plated variety on the 200 mon.

RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, plus 1 sen fee for delivery outside the postal delivery circuit = 3 sen.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

2II, 3I with variety  
JSCA 3v-1-22

START PRICE

**\$ 3,000**



Panorama of Utsunomiya



The Tokaido route with the joining route of this cover shown in green: Ōshū Kaidō to Kakeda



## 49

### 2 Sen Pair with Rare “Noon” Framed Instructional Marking

REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 67.

1872, 2 sen vermilion, middle period printing (2), tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo to a cover to Osaka.

Alongside, framed “year of the monkey 8th month 8th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.8.8 (10 September 1872). Framed vermilion “noon dispatch”, partly overstruck by the datestamp. From Meiji 5.8.1, there were two daily despatches of mail to Osaka; the P.M. 1 despatch was the “noon” (晝) despatch and was marked accordingly.

A scarce and highly interesting instructional-marking cover from the period of twice-daily despatches to Osaka.

RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION

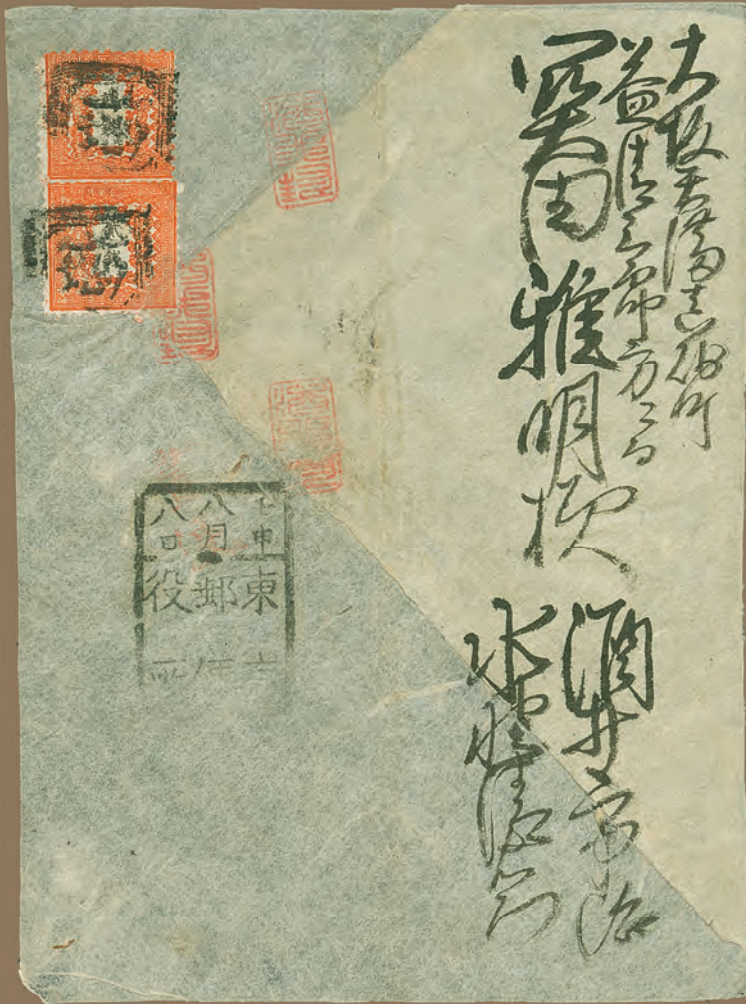


CATALOGUE

7

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



方收去後...  
 益...  
 溪田雅明

溪田雅明  
 水...  
 ...

東中  
 八月  
 郵役

50

## 100 Mon Plate II Pair with Large Fujieda Kensazumi

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 117; *Dragon Covers*, p. 72.

1871, 100 mon dark blue, plate II, a vertical pair, positions 32-40, tied by large “Fujieda Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover from Fujieda, Suruga Province, to Tokyo.

Manuscript dateline “8th month 21st day”. Below, framed arrival “year of the monkey 8th month 23rd day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.8.23 (25 September 1872). Vermilion framed “Hongo” of Hongo postal branch bureau, together with “Morning dispatch”.

A scarce and attractive provincial usage, well marked and with an interesting rate-note history. Mr. Tejima suggests that although Fujieda/Suruga to Tokyo was listed in the first printed rate tables of the second period as within 100 ri = 3 sen, it may later have been regrouped or reduced to the lower rate.

### RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

211

### START PRICE

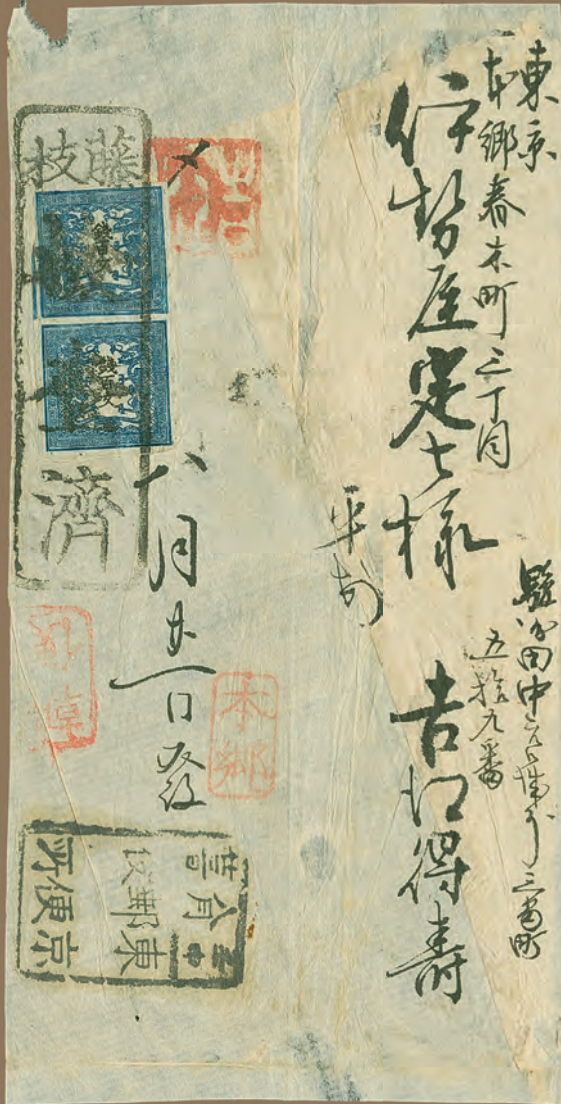
\$ 3,500



View of Fujieda



Fujieda, 22nd Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



"Fujieda Kensazumi" cancellation

# 51

## Official “Head Section” Yokohama Kensazumi Usage with Rare Letter Box Mark

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, position 2, cut into at right frame, tied by the head section\* of large “Yokohama Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover from Yokohama to Tokyo.

Manuscript dateline “8th month 25th day” of Meiji 5.8.25 (27 September 1872). Vermilion framed “year of the monkey 8th month 25th day / Yokohama postal bureau”. Red circular framed hakoba-in “hon” (本) of Honcho letter box. Framed arrival “year of the monkey 8th month 26th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, together with framed vermilion Tokyo delivery marking “morning delivery”, recorded in use from Meiji 5.5 to 5.9.

A scarce and appealing Yokohama-Tokyo cover, additionally distinguished by the rare Honcho letter box mark and the officially mandated head-section strike of the large Yokohama Kensazumi.

Head section: the “large placename Kensazumi” postmarks were officially ordered in Meiji 4.12 to be struck with the placename head section only, or even with the lower three characters removed. This is therefore not an incomplete strike, but the consequence of official regulation

### RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

21

### START PRICE

\$ 500



Main Street in Yokohama

東条之信

上州屋手印標

長久保  
松平宗重

信多

二名



信

八月廿九日

中島仁



## 52

### 1 Sen Plate III Single Franking on Tokyo City Tariff Cover

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate III, rounded corner at upper left, single franking tied by framed "Ken" of Tokyo on a local cover to Hatchobori. On reverse, framed "year of the monkey 1st month 18th day / Tokyo postal bureau", or Meiji 6.1.18. On address side, vermilion framed delivery mark "afternoon".

A pleasing and scarce local Tokyo usage of the 1 sen Plate III.

RATE

Within city district, basic weight to 4 momme = 1 sen, from Meiji 5.3.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

6III

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



八丁坂地飛摺先  
 達摩極丁步傳  
 庄田脈之標

大  
 沼  
 徳



53

## 100 Mon Plate II with Rare Tensho-Style Gose Kensazumi

1871, 100 mon dark blue, plate II, position 39, cut into at top frame, tied by tensho-style “Gose Kensazumi” of Gose, Yamato Province, to the reverse of a cover to Wakayama, Kii Province.

Manuscript dateline “8th month 29th day”, or Meiji 5.8.29 (1 October 1872). Alongside, vermilion framed “Gose machi / postal receiving and handling agency”.

A scarce and elegant provincial cover, notable for the attractive tensho-style Gose cancellation.

RATE

Within 25 ri = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

211

START PRICE

\$ 500

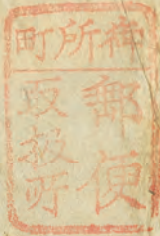


Tatsuta Mountain and River in the Yamato Province



The Tōkaidō route with the joining route of this cover shown in green: Gose, Yamato Province to Wakayama, Kii Province

和紙 山 中 三 柳  
 竹 田 心 奇 書 札  
 右 方 名 年  
 了 乃 報 本  
 所 和 平 和  
 所 和 平 和  
 所 和 平 和  
 所 和 平 和



# 54

## ½ Sen Plate II Pair with Official “Head Portion” Yokohama Kensazumi

1872, ½ sen brown, plate II, vertical pair, positions 10-18, tied by the head section\* of large “Yokohama Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover from Yokohama to Tokyo.

Manuscript dateline “9th month 2nd day”. Vermilion framed non-standard “year of the monkey 9th month 2nd day / Yokohama postal bureau” (4 October 1872). Red circular framed hakoba-in “hon” (本) of Honcho letter box. Framed same-day arrival “year of the monkey 9th month 2nd day / Tokyo postal bureau”, together with framed vermilion Tokyo delivery marking “midday delivery”, recorded from Meiji 5.5 to 5.9.

A scarce and attractive Yokohama-Tokyo cover, distinguished by the officially regulated head-portion strike and the Honcho letter box mark.

Head section: the “large placename Kensazumi” postmarks were officially ordered in Meiji 4.12 to be struck with the placename head section only, or even with the lower characters removed. This is therefore not an incomplete strike, but the consequence of official regulation

RATE

Within 25 ri = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

511

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



Bentenbashi and Station in Yokohama

東京小野川

加島吉之助様



附奉石巻印

返換



×

カクノコ



## 55

### Illustrated Cover with 200 Mon Plate II from Tokyo to Kofu

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate II, position 19, tied by blue framed non-standard “Ken” to the reverse of an illustrated cover from Tokyo to Kofu, Kai Province.

On the address side, framed mark “year of the monkey 9th month 3rd day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.9.3 (5 October 1872). Address largely inked out.

An appealing illustrated cover, combining decorative appearance with a clear Tokyo framed “Ken” cancellation on the 200 mon Plate II.

RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

311

START PRICE

**\$ 700**

## 56

### Rare Large “Yodo Eki Kensazumi” and Yodo Station Mark on 200 Mon Cover

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 73.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, early printing, plate I, position 3, with official pinhole at upper right, tied by large “Yodo Eki Kensazumi”, with framed vermilion “Yodo station” alongside, on a cover from Yodo, Yamashiro Province, to Sano, Izumi Province.

On reverse, manuscript dateline “9th month 8th day sent” of Meiji 5.9.8 (10 October 1872). Transit mark in vermilion framed “Senshu / postal receiving and handling agency / Kaizuka”. Senshu is an old alternative name for Izumi Province.

A highly attractive and uncommon cover, especially notable for the combination of the large Yodo Eki Kensazumi and the matching station handstamp.

RATE

2 sen up to 50 ri distance, basic weight, second rate period.

CONDITION

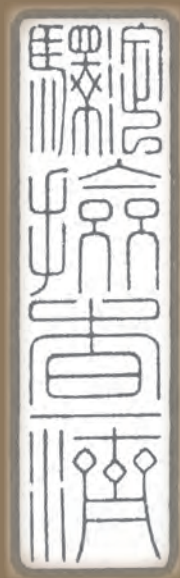
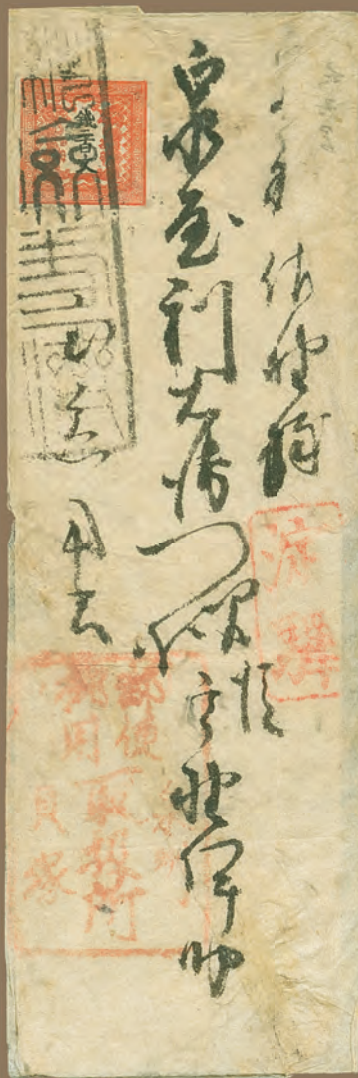


CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



"Yodo Eki  
Kensazumi"  
cancellation

# 57

## 1 Sen Plate II with Rare Kobe Intaglio Fancy Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 154.

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate II, tied by non-standard intaglio “Kobe” to the reverse of a cover to Osaka.

Framed bluish-violet “year of the monkey 9th month 8th day / Kobe postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.9.8 (10 October 1872). Vermilion framed arrival of Osaka the following day, with vertical single-line “Osaka morning delivery” above.

A scarce and attractive intercity cover, distinguished by the rare intaglio-style Kobe cancellation.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

611

START PRICE

**\$ 600**

# 58

## Rare 1 Sen Plate I Single Franking – One of Only 10 Recorded

PROVENANCE

Dr. Ichida

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 74; Ichida (1971), p. 170.

1872, 1 sen blue, plate I, probably position 20, tied by large “Saikyo Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Osaka.

Two strikes of red framed “year of the monkey 9th moon 14th day / Saikyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.9.14 (16 October 1872), appear on both sides of the cover. Alongside, vermilion framed “year of the monkey 9th moon 15th day / Osaka postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.9.15 (17 October 1872). At top, vertical single-line delivery marking “Osaka / morning”.

A great rarity of the 1 sen Dragon issue. Only ten single-franked covers of the 1 sen Plate I are recorded, making this an item of marked importance for the specialist in classic Japan.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION

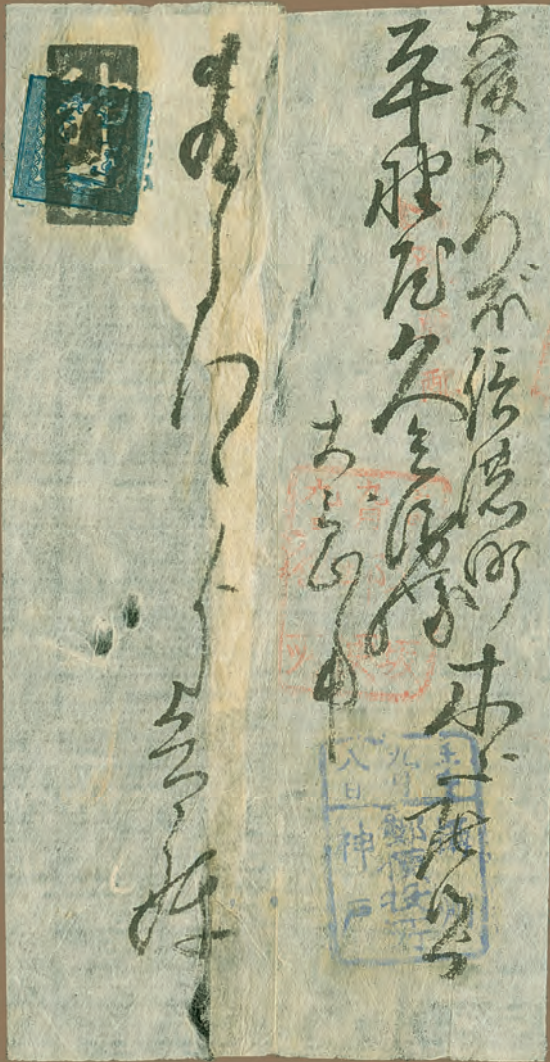


CATALOGUE

61

START PRICE

**\$ 8,000**



## 59

### Earliest Recorded Usage of the Matsuzumi Branch Office Mark on 2 Sen Cover

1872, 2 sen vermilion, tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo to the reverse of an illustrated cover to Kofu, Kai Province.

Also tied by framed “year of the monkey 9th month 16th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.9.16 (18 October 1872). Alongside, framed collection mark “Matsuzumi”. This Matsuzumi mark is recorded from Meiji 5.9.16 to 7.9.17, and this is the earliest recorded cover showing its usage.

A highly desirable branch-office cover, made especially appealing by the earliest recorded date of the Matsuzumi marking.

RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

7

START PRICE

**\$ 700**

## 60

### Early Yanagimoto Cover with Spectacular Fancy “Seal Style” Cancel

1871, 48 mon brown, plate I, a horizontal pair, positions 7-8, the latter with official pinhole at upper right, tied by two clear strikes of an oval seal-style non-standard (“fancy”) cancel of Yanagimoto, Yamato Province.

Manuscript dateline “9th month 25th day”, or Meiji 5.9.25 (27 October 1872). Arrival framed vermilion “year of the monkey 9th month 26th day / Saikyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.9.26 (28 October 1872).

A striking and highly decorative cover, showing this distinctive Yanagimoto fancy cancel to excellent effect.

RATE

Up to 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

11

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



# 61

## Tokyo City Drop Mail with Earliest Recorded "A.M. Dispatch" Mark

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 159.

1871, 48 mon plate II, a vertical pair, positions 24-32, used in combination with 100 mon plate I, position 8 (with official pinhole at upper right), tied by framed non-standard "ken" of Tokyo (type 4) to the reverse of a cover used within the city, from Ushigome Yugen-zaka to Shiba, vertical envelope fold affecting stamps.

Framed datestamp "year of the monkey 10th month 5th day / Tokyo postal bureau", Meiji 5.10.5 (5 November 1872). Handwritten vermilion "Ushigome" of the Ushigome branch office, being the latest known usage. Also showing frameless vermilion "A.M. dispatch" collection mark, the earliest recorded example, with recorded period of use from Meiji 5.10.5 to Meiji 6.1.9.

An especially interesting Tokyo local cover, combining branch office notation, non-standard framed "ken", and the earliest known strike of this scarce dispatch marking.

### RATE

City drop rate 1 sen, double weight = 2 sen, second rate period from Meiji 4.12.5 onward.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

111, 21

### START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



Entry to the Shiba from the Courtyard of the Mausoleum

芝哲上守山内  
 日新先生志局事  
 芝友源叔  
 芝園芝南



芝  
 友  
 源  
 叔

芝  
 友  
 源  
 叔

## 62

### 1 Sen Plate III Featuring Position 5 “Stroke Missing” Flaw on Tokyo City Cover

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 79.

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate III, position 5, showing the plate flaw “stroke missing in sen character”, single franking tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo on a local cover roughly opened from Shitaya Takemachi to Shitaya Kanesugicho. On reverse, framed “year of the monkey 10th month 11th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.10.11 (11 November 1872). Alongside, framed collection mark “Matsuzumi”. Vermilion single-line “midday dispatch” delivery mark. This Matsuzumi branch office mark is recorded from Meiji 5.9.16 to 7.9.17.

A highly interesting local cover, combining a plated flaw with attractive Tokyo branch-office and delivery markings.

RATE

Within city district, basic weight to 4 momme = 1 sen, from Meiji 5.3.1.

CONDITION

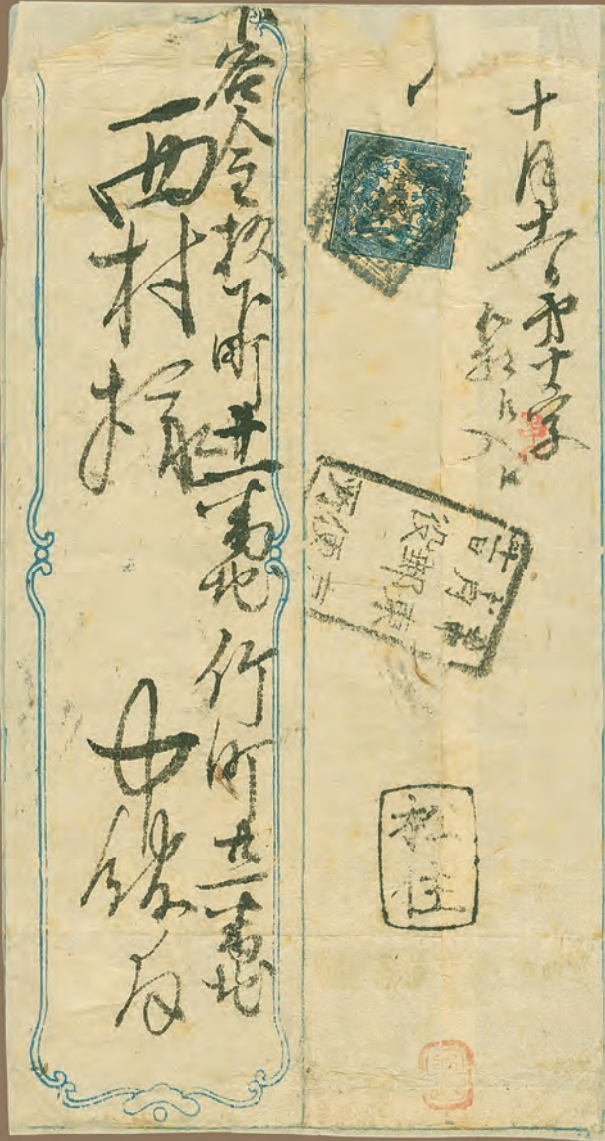


CATALOGUE

6III

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



Pos. 5: 'stroke missing' flaw

# 63

## 1 Sen Plate III Pair with Large Shizuoka Kensazumi – Ex-Ichida

PROVENANCE

Dr. Ichida

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Ichida (1971), p. 173; Dragon Covers,  
p. 164.

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate III (2), tied  
by large “Shizuoka Kensazumi” to the reverse  
of a cover to Iwabuchi, Suruga Province.  
Manuscript dateline “year of the monkey 10th  
month 19th day”, or Meiji 5.10.19 (19 Novem-  
ber 1872).

A scarce and highly appealing pair on cover,  
further enhanced by its provenance from the  
celebrated Dr. Ichida collection.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, plus kobin area fee 1  
sen = 2 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION

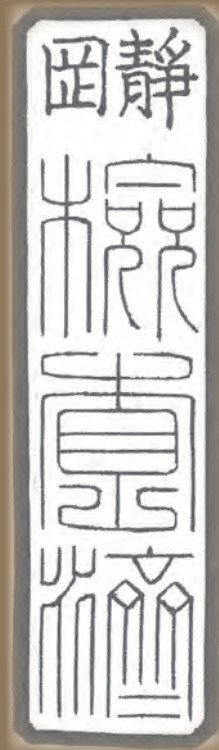


CATALOGUE

6III

START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



"Shizuoka Kensazumi"  
cancellation

## 64

### 1 Sen Plate II Early Printing on Tokyo Local Illustrated Cover

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II, early printing, tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo to an illustrated local cover.

On reverse, framed “year of the monkey 10th month 19th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, corresponding to Meiji 5.10.19 (19 November 1872). Frameless vermilion “morning dispatch” delivery mark.

A pleasing illustrated city cover, showing the 1 sen Plate II in attractive local usage within Tokyo.

RATE

Within city district, basic weight to 4 momme = 1 sen, from Meiji 5.3.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

611

START PRICE

**\$ 600**

## 65

### 48 Mon Plate I Pair with Rare Tensho-Style Gose Large Kensazumi

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 81.

1871, 48 mon brown, plate I, a vertical pair, positions 25-33, the latter with official pinhole at lower left, tied by large “Gose Kensazumi” in tensho style of Gose, Yamato Province, to the reverse of a cover to Osaka. Manuscript dateline “10th month 21st day”, or Meiji 5.10.21 (21 November 1872). Framed vermilion “Gose town / postal receiving and handling agency” alongside. At foot, framed arrival “year of the monkey 10th month 22nd day / Osaka postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.10.22 (22 November 1872).

A rare and highly attractive usage of the Gose large Kensazumi in tensho style, combining uncommon postal marking with a well-presented pair on cover.

RATE

Up to 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

11

START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**



66

## ½ Sen Plate II with Rare “Nagoya Ken” Fancy Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 165.

1872, ½ sen, plate II (2), upper stamp with corner fault and small rubbing spot, tied by framed non-standard “Nagoya Ken” to the reverse of a cover to Tokyo.

Manuscript dateline “10th month 26th day”. Green framed non-standard “10th month 27th day / Nagoya station postal receiving and handling agency” on address side, corresponding to Meiji 5.10.26/27 (26/27 November 1872). Arrival framed non-standard “year of the monkey 10th month 30th day / Tokyo postal bureau” with vermilion vertical “A.M. dispatch” delivery mark alongside.

A scarce and well-marked cover, especially notable for the rare Nagoya fancy cancellation.

RATE

Within 25 ri = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

511

START PRICE

**\$ 700**



View of Nagoya Castle



# 67

## 100 Mon Plate I Pair with Tensho-Style Tsuruga Kensazumi

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 52.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, two singles, positions 17 and 24, tied by tensho-style “Tsuruga / Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover via Imajo to a village near Honbo, all in Echizen Province.

At foot, vermilion framed “10th month 28th day / Tsuruga port / postal receiving and handling agency” of Meiji 5.10.28 (28 November 1872). Also showing framed transit “Imajo / postal handling agency”.

A scarce and attractive cover, notable for the elegant tensho-style Tsuruga cancellation and clear postal route markings.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance 1 sen, plus 1 sen for delivery beyond the postal delivery circuit = 2 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

11

START PRICE

**\$ 1,100**

# 68

## Unique Red Fancy Private Seal Cancel on Forwarded Mon/Sen Mixed Franking

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 84.

1871, 200 mon, middle period printing, plate I, position 18, tied by four strikes of a vermilion framed seal-style marking, the private seal of the postmaster of Hokota, Hitachi Province, to the reverse of a cover initially addressed to Tokyo, with manuscript “11th month 8th day dispatched” alongside. Also showing framed vermilion “morning dispatch” delivery mark of Tokyo.

In Tokyo, Cherry Blossom native paper 1 sen and 2 sen (2) were added, tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo, and the letter was forwarded to Tomimura, Bizen Province. Framed “year of the monkey 11th month 11th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 5.11.11 (11 December 1872), alongside. Also transit framed non-standard “Okayama postal receiving and handling station”.

A unique and highly important forwarded cover, combining mon and sen mixed franking with an exceptional red private seal cancellation.

RATE

Up to Tokyo, within 50 ri = 2 sen; from Tokyo, within 200 ri = 4 sen, plus 1 sen for delivery outside the postal delivery circuit, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

21, 10, 11

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



# 69

## One of Seven Known 500 Mon Plate II Covers – Spectacular Three-Colour Franking

**PROVENANCE**

Arnold Ebel auction (Frankfurt, 1980)

**REFERENCE**

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 87.

1871/72, 500 mon late printing, plate II, position 38, with 200 mon plate II and 1 sen plate II, tied by the private seal of the postmaster of Jizodo, Echigo Province, to a cover to Kyoto.

Sender’s black manuscript “11th month 13th day dispatched”. The franking is cancelled by two strikes of the tensho (seal-style) private name seal of the local postmaster (probably Miyas-hige), together with vermilion manuscript “year of the monkey 11th month 19th day / postal agent” of Meiji 5.11.19 (19 December 1872).

Transit markings include Teradomari, with very clear strike of the vermilion “Hokuriku-do / Postal receiving and handling agency / Teradomari station”, also red framed mark “-.11.24 / Kanazawa postal bureau”. On address side, arrival “year of the monkey 11th month 27th day / Saikyo postal bureau”, and below, small framed vermilion “morning delivery”.

One of only seven known covers bearing the 500 mon Plate II, and an outstanding three-colour franking of great rarity and exhibition value.

**RATE**

Within 200 ri distance = 4 sen, double weight = 8 sen, second rate period.

**CONDITION**



**CATALOGUE**

3II, 4II, 6II

**START PRICE**

**\$ 25,000**



The Island near Kanazawa



Map showing The Tokaidō Route in red and Ōshū Kaidō Postal Routes in blue with the village of Jizodo in the Echigo Province



70

## One of Eight Known 500 Mon Plate II Covers – Extraordinary Multi-Mixed Franking

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 167.

1871/72, 5 sen bluish green on “tough paper” (Tejima term) and Cherry Blossom 2 sen vermilion tied by framed “Ken” of Tokyo to an underpaid cover to Shimamura, Kozuke Province.

Manuscript date “year of the monkey 11th month 19th day”, or Meiji 5.11.19 (19 December 1872). Also showing 500 mon Plate II (2, damaged, one only a small remainder, including position 33) and Cherry Blossom 1 sen blue, native paper (2), all with vermilion postage-due brush strokes and vermilion text “500 mon stamps 2 pieces” and “1 sen stamps 2 pieces”. The amount due to be collected from the addressee was 12 sen. Framed Tokyo datestamp of Meiji 5.11.19 appears below the 1 sen Cherry Blossoms.

Despite the faults, this is a most extraordinary and complex cover, combining 5 sen and 500 mon Plate II usages. One of only eight recorded covers bearing the 500 mon Plate II.

### RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, triple weight = 6 sen, plus 1 sen to destination outside the delivery circuit, total 7 sen, second rate period. It appears the cover remained triple-weight underpaid and the missing 6 sen was charged double to the addressee.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

4II, 8, 10, 11

### START PRICE

**\$ 4,000**



Under the Cherry Blossoms along the Main Avenue of Shiba Park in Tokyo

壬申十二月五日

尾園防同古知郡

山ノ縣廳



釋馬縣管下刀根川  
上野國佐佐郡島



田島武平  
山ノ縣

至急乞費願

71

## 200 Mon Plate II and Cherry Blossom Mixed Franking – Tokyo Cover

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate II, probably position 31, used in combination with Cherry Blossom 1 sen blue, tied by blue non-standard “Ken” of Tokyo on the reverse of a cover to Takahashi, Shinano Province.

Alongside framed “year of the monkey 11th month 10th day / Tokyo postal bureau” and corresponding “11th month 11th day” (21 December 1872).

A pleasing mixed franking from Tokyo, showing the 200 mon Plate II in combination with the 1 sen Cherry Blossom for a properly adjusted composite rate.

### RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, plus 1 sen for despatch to a place outside the postal delivery circuit = 3 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

3II, 10

### START PRICE

**\$ 1,200**



72

### 1 Sen Plate II with Rare “Yamaguchi Station” Oval Fancy Cancel

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate II, middle period printing, perforation fault at upper right, tied by non-standard oval framed “Yamaguchi station” to a cover to Yoshida, Nagato Province. On reverse, vermilion framed non-standard “Suo Province Yamaguchi station / postal receiving and handling agency”. No dateline, though usage is most probably Meiji 5 (1872).

A scarce and attractive provincial cover, distinguished by this unusual oval Yamaguchi station fancy cancellation.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

611

START PRICE

\$ 1,200



In the Great Temple of Yoshida



Yoshida, 34th Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige

吉田隆吉

友年友七



山崎



山崎

# 73

## 200 Mon Plate I Pair with Rare “Right Dragon Worn” Variety from Nagasaki

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 91.

1871, 200 mon vermilion, latest printing, a vertical pair, plate I, positions 26-34, tied by framed early non-standard “Nagasaki Kensa-zumi” to a cover to Osaka.

On reverse, vermilion framed “year of the cock 1st month 22nd day / Nagasaki postal bureau” (22 January 1873), with matching manuscript dateline. Arrival framed vermilion “year of the cock 1st month 27th day / Osaka postal bureau” (27 January 1873).

Position 26 shows the rare “right dragon worn” variety (右龍損傷), in the state before retouching (JSCA 3v-1-26).

A scarce and attractive variety cover from Nagasaki, combining plating importance with clear postal markings.

### RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

31



### START PRICE

**\$ 2,500**



The Bay of Nagasaki

古報長坂回屋為河波屋事之御物也  
例用海千鳥標



Pos. 26: 'right dragon worn'

74

**200 Mon Position 26 Retouched Variety with Rare Samegai Fancy Cancel**

1871, 200 mon vermilion, latest printing, plate I, position 26, retouched (修正再刻), tied by framed early non-standard “Samegai Kensazumi” of Samegai, Omi Province, to the reverse of a cover to Iwatemura, Mino Province.

Manuscript dateline “1st month 22nd day”, or Meiji 6.1.22 (22 January 1873). Position 26 shows the retouched right dragon variety (JSCA 3v-1-26).

A scarce and desirable variety cover, combining a plated retouch with an attractive provincial fancy cancel.

RATE

Within 25 ri = 1 sen, plus 1 sen fee for destination outside the delivery circuit = 2 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



View of Samegai



Pos. 26: 'retouched'



"Samegai Kensazumi"  
fancy cancel

75

## 500 Mon and Native 1 Sen Mixed Franking with Rare Hiroshima Fancy Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 170.

1871/72, 500 mon dark bluish green, latest printing, plate I, in a Plate II shade, used in combination with Cherry Blossom 1 sen blue, native paper, tied by framed tensho-style non-standard “Hiroshima Kensa”, with manuscript dateline “1st month 25th day dispatched” to the reverse of a cover to Osaka.

Alongside, vermilion vertical single-line mark “25th day dispatched”, or Meiji 6.1.25 (25 January 1873). At lower centre, vermilion framed “Postal receiving and handling agency / Hiroshima Shioyamachi”. Arrival framed vermilion “year of the cock 1st month 27th day / Osaka postal bureau”, together with vermilion two-character “morning dispatch”.

A highly attractive mixed franking, notable for the scarce Hiroshima fancy cancellation and strong postal markings throughout.

RATE

Within 100 ri = 3 sen, double weight = 6 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

41, 10

START PRICE

**\$ 4,500**

76

## Earliest Recorded Azabu Branch Office Mark on Tokyo City District Cover

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 92.

1872, ½ sen brown, plate II (2), tied by framed non-standard “Ken” of Tokyo to the reverse of an illustrated local mail cover. At foot, vermilion framed “Azabu branch office”, the earliest recorded usage of this marking. Also framed non-standard “year of the cock 2nd month 4th day / Tokyo postal bureau” of Meiji 6.2.4 (4 February 1873). On the address side, vermilion framed “night” delivery mark. From Surugadai to Azabu.

An important Tokyo local cover, combining earliest-recorded branch office usage with attractive illustrated-envelope appeal.

RATE

Within city district, basic weight to 4 momme = 1 sen, from Meiji 5.3.1.

CONDITION

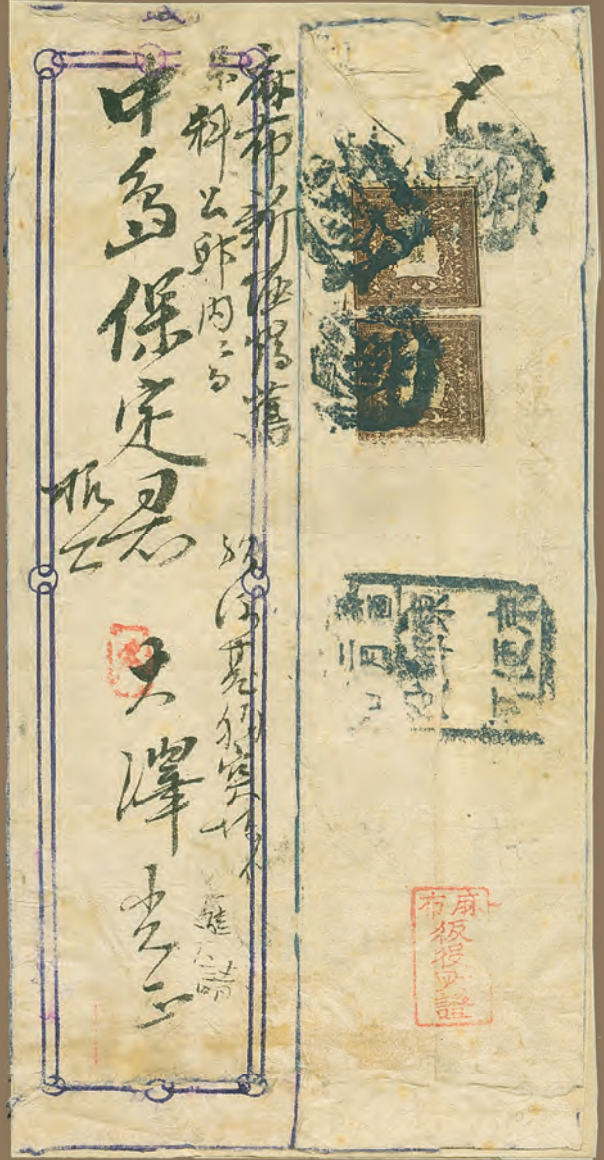


CATALOGUE

511

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



77

## Earliest Recorded Ueno (Ise) Cover with Rare Seal-Style Fancy Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 171.

1871, 500 mon bluish green, latest printing, plate I, tied by non-standard framed seal-style “Ueno station” of Ueno, Ise Province, to a cover, lower reverse corner missing, to Tokyo. Manuscript dateline “2nd month 27th day dispatched”. At foot, an unclear framed transit mark “...postal receiving and handling agency...”. On reverse, arrival “year of the cock 3rd month 4th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, or Meiji 6.3.4 (4 March 1873), together with small vermilion framed “A.M.” of Tokyo. The earliest recorded cover from Ueno, Ise Province.

A scarce and highly attractive long-distance cover, distinguished by this rare seal-style station marking.

RATE

Exceeding 200 ri = 5 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

41

START PRICE

\$ 1,800



View of Ueno



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the actual route of the cover from Ueno to Tokyo in green



78

### Earliest Known Hongo Cover with Rare Tensho-Style Fancy Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 172.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate II, position 34, middle period printing, slightly touched at upper right frame, used in combination with 200 mon plate I, position 32, late printing in damaged state, cancelled by framed tensho-style non-standard marking of Hongo, Aki Province, on the reverse of a cover to Saikyo. Alongside, framed non-standard “Hongo / postal receiving and handling agency”. Manuscript dateline “3rd month 2nd day” of Meiji 6.3.12 (12 March 1874). Addressed within Honganji Temple.

The earliest known cover from Hongo, and a scarce and appealing example of this unusual tensho-style fancy cancellation.

RATE

Within 100 ri = 3 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

2II, 3I

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**

79

### ½ Sen Plate II Pair with Rare Matsuzumi Branch and “Night” Delivery Marks

1872, ½ sen brown, plate II, earliest printing, a horizontal pair, tied by two strikes of framed non-standard “Ken” of Tokyo to the reverse of a local mail cover, slightly reduced at top. At lower left, framed “Matsuzumi” branch office mark. Framed non-standard “year of the cock 3rd month 25th day / Tokyo postal bureau”, incomplete strike, of Meiji 6.3.15 (15 March 1873). On the address side, vermilion square framed “night” delivery mark. From Kanda Izumicho to Tokiwabashi.

A scarce and appealing city-district cover, especially notable for the combination of Matsuzumi branch office and “night” delivery markings.

RATE

Within city district, basic weight to 4 momme = 1 sen, from Meiji 5.3.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

5II

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



80

## Unique 5 Sen Cover – The Only Known Example with Ginza Agency Marking

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 153; *Dragon Covers*, p. 95.

1872, 5 sen greenish blue, middle period printing, tied by framed “Ken” to the reverse of a cover from Tokyo to Kaminakashima, Kii Province.

Framed “year of the goat 3rd month 16th day / Tokyo postal bureau” (16 March 1873). At lower right, “Ginza / postal receiving and handling agency”, the only recorded cover bearing this marking. Transit mark in vermilion: larger double-circle “Osaka postal agency Meiji 6.3....”.

A cover of outstanding rarity and significance, unique for the presence of the Ginza agency marking.

### RATE

Within 200 ri = 4 sen, plus 1 sen to destination outside the delivery circuit = 5 sen, second rate period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

8

### START PRICE

**\$ 3,500**



Ginza Street in Tokyo

紅仔國百田部

上寫印

教蓮寺榜

書狀正中

東原日比谷總持  
近衛四重土隊

教蓮寺良運

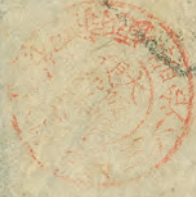


卷



三月十日

卷



紙

81

## 100 Mon Plate I with Large Yokkaichi Kensazumi on Cover

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 96.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, position 6, tied by large “Yokkaichi Kensazumi” to the reverse of a cover to Kanbe, both in Ise Province.

Alongside manuscript dateline “3rd month 1st day”, or Meiji 6.3.16 (16 March 1873).

On front, framed red non-standard “Yokkaichi station / postal receiving and handling agency”.

A pleasing provincial cover with clear strike of the large Yokkaichi Kensazumi and well-matched auxiliary handstamp.

RATE

Within 25 ri distance = 1 sen, second rate period.

CONDITION

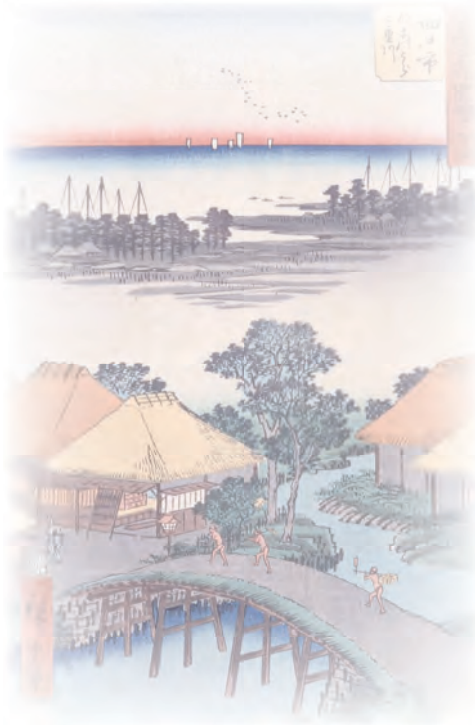


CATALOGUE

11

START PRICE

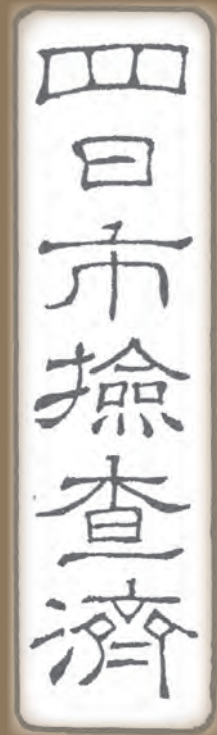
\$ 700



View of Yokkaichi



Yokkaichi, 43rd Station of the Tōkaidō by Utagawa Hiroshige



"Yokkaichi Kensazumi" cancellation

82

## 2 Sen Dragon and Native 1 Sen Mixed Franking with Yokohama “Ken” Cancel

1872, 2 sen vermilion with Cherry Blossom  
1 sen blue, tied by framed “Ken” of Yokohama  
to the reverse of a cover, small part of reverse  
backed, to Kamimuro, Mikawa Province.

Manuscript dateline “3rd month 23rd day”  
with unclear Yokohama postal bureau framed  
datestamp, or Meiji 6.2.23 (23 March 1873).

A scarce and attractive mixed franking from  
Yokohama, combining Dragon and native-pa-  
per Cherry Blossom issues.

### RATE

Within 50 ri = 2 sen, plus 1 sen to destination  
outside the postal delivery circuit, second rate  
period.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

7, 10

### START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



Yokohama Port scene



三洲園崎南在吉良

上室村

尾崎

善兵衛様  
所親展

横濱居

同姓

恒

織

三月廿五日

三月廿五日  
ちせの相持

# 83

## Rare Dragon 200 Mon Postage Due Usage with Ueno Fancy Cancel

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate II, cut into at upper right, cancelled by vermilion brush circle and also tied by oval non-standard “Senshu postal receiving and handling agency / Ueno” of Ueno, Iga Province, as postage due on the reverse of a cover in transit from Osaka; Cherry Blossom 1 sen, address side incomplete, tied by framed non-standard “Osaka Ken” to Nabari, Iga Province.

Senshu is an old alternative name for Iga. Vermilion double-circle “Osaka postal bureau / Meiji 6.3.24 7 o'clock” (24 March 1873). This large double-circle type was used only from the 3rd to 5th month of Meiji 6 before being superseded by the standard double-circle dater from Meiji 6.4.1 onward.

A rare and highly interesting postage due usage, combining Dragon and Cherry Blossom issues with scarce auxiliary postal markings.

**RATE**

Within 25 ri = 1 sen, plus despatch to a place outside the delivery circuit = 1 sen; the latter unpaid and therefore charged double, as shown by the vermilion manuscript note at right, total 2 sen.

**CONDITION**



**CATALOGUE**

311, 10

**START PRICE**

**\$ 1,800**



Inspecting the Mail



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Osaka to Nabari in green



84

## 200 Mon Plate I Early Printing with Rare “Yao” Intaglio Fancy Cancel

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 173.

1871, 200 mon, early printing, plate I, position 29, tied by intaglio non-standard “Yao” of Yao, Kawachi Province, to the reverse of a cover to Saikyo.

Transit vermilion double-circle N1B1 “Osaka 6.4.11” alongside; on address side, arrival red double-circle N1B1 “Saikyo 6.4.12” (12 April 1873).

A scarce and attractive cover, especially desirable for the rare intaglio-style Yao cancellation.

### RATE

Unified nationwide rate of 2 sen from Meiji 6.4.1.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

31

### START PRICE

\$ 1,200



View of the Kawachi Province



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Yao to Saikyo in green

西京兩六乘  
 馮中丞執事  
 顯謚寺下  
 有志法事  
 至意如司



河國

# 85

## 2 Sen Pair Used as Postage Due on Unpaid Cover from Kochi

1872, 2 sen vermilion vertical pair, cancelled by black brush strokes on an unpaid cover, address side with small insect holes, inbound to Osaka from Kochi.

Manuscript date “5th month 14th day dispatched”. Arrival large double-circle “Osaka Meiji 6.5...” (May to June 1873).

A scarce and highly interesting postage due usage, with the 2 sen pair applied to collect doubled unpaid postage under the unified tariff.

**RATE**

Letter 2 sen, unpaid and therefore doubled = 4 sen, nationwide tariff from Meiji 6.4.1.

**CONDITION**



**CATALOGUE**

7

**START PRICE**

\$ 800

# 86

## Rare 1 Sen “Same Denomination” Mixed Franking with Kamebashi Letter Box Mark

**REFERENCE**

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 105.

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II, used in combination with Cherry Blossom native paper 1 sen blue, tied by double-circle N1B1 “Osaka 6.6.20” (20 June 1873) on a cover from Osaka to Akashi, Harima Province.

Also showing red circular framed hakoba-in “kame” (瓶) of Kamebashi letter box.

A scarce and attractive “same denomination” mixed franking, further enhanced by the uncommon Kamebashi letter box marking.

**RATE**

Nationwide letter, basic weight = 2 sen, unified standard rate of the third rate period from Meiji 6.4.1.

**CONDITION**



**CATALOGUE**

6II, 10

**START PRICE**

\$ 1,000



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Kochi to Osaka in green



87

## Rare Naitoshinjuku Postage Due Usage with Dragon and Cherry Blossom Mixed Franking

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 177.

1872, 2 sen vermilion, a vertical pair, cancelled by red brush strokes as postage due on an overweight cover bearing Cherry Blossom native paper 2 sen yellow, tied by double-circle N1B1 "Tokyo Meiji 6.6.24" (24 June 1873), addressed to Naitoshinjuku.

Also showing framed non-standard "Koshukaido / postal bureau / Naitoshin station" and red "insufficient" marking of Naitoshinjuku.

A highly unusual and desirable postage due cover, combining Dragon and Cherry Blossom issues in a rare mixed-franking deficiency usage.

### RATE

Letter double weight = 4 sen; unpaid deficiency of 2 sen doubled = 4 sen, nationwide tariff from Meiji 6.4.1.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

7

### START PRICE

**\$ 2,500**



Uyeno Park in Tokyo with its Cherry Blossom Trees



88

## Earliest Recorded Kanazaki Cover with Rare Tensho-Style Postmaster Seal

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 178.

1872, ½ sen brown, plate II, early printing, a horizontal strip of four, positions 5-6-7-8, upper stamp faults, each stamp with full strike of a circular framed non-standard tensho-style marking, probably the postmaster's seal of Kanazaki, Shimotsuke Province, on the reverse of a cover, a few insect holes not affecting the adhesives, to Tomita within the same province.

Manuscript dateline “7th month 17th day dispatched” of Meiji 6.7.17 (17 July 1873). The earliest recorded cover from Kanazaki.

A rare and highly attractive provincial cover, notable for the repeated full strikes of this probable postmaster seal on a handsome strip of four.

### RATE

Letter nationwide = 2 sen, unified rate period from Meiji 6.4.1.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

511

### START PRICE

\$ 1,700



Postal Station at Tomita



Map showing The Tokaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Kanazaki in the Shimotsuke Province to Tomita in the same province in green



89

## Rare Official Printed Matter Rate – 5 Sen and ½ Sen Mixed Franking

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 112.

1872, 5 sen and ½ sen Plate II, tied by framed non-standard “Tottori Ken” to an official wrapper to Tawara, Hoki Province.

At lower left, framed non-standard “Inaba Province Tottori / postal receiving and handling agency”. At upper right, imprinted “Tottori Prefecture” of the sending authority.

A highly unusual and important official wrapper, showing the rare special printed-matter rate in a striking mixed franking.

RATE

Postal special rate of 1 ½ sen per 16 momme for bound official printed matter; triple weight = 4 ½ sen, plus 1 sen to destination outside the delivery circuit = 5 ½ sen. Rate in force Meiji 6.4.1 to 6.12.31 (1 April to 31 December 1873).

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

5, 8

START PRICE

\$ 8,000



Layout of Tottori Castle



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route and the Ōshū Kaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Tottori Ken to Tawara, both in the Hoki Province in green

七

鳥取縣

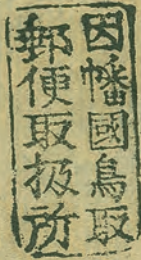


縣

長形大別屋敷

久米村

田江村



90

## 2 Sen Plate I with Matsuzumi Branch Mark on Cover to Sakura

REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 83.

1872, 2 sen vermilion, middle period printing, tied by double-circle N1B1 “Tokyo 6.9.14” (14 September 1873) to a cover to Sakura, Kazusa Province.

On reverse, framed collection mark “Matsuzumi” and dispatch mark N1B1 “Tokyo 6.9.16”.

A pleasing and well-marked Tokyo branch-office cover from the unified tariff period.

RATE

Letter 2 sen nationwide, unified tariff from Meiji 6.4.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

7

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**

乙級名楠部  
 依念心可  
 山部所  
 名用  
 道  
 屋  
 依  
 心  
 室  
 家



91

## Rare Usage of Standard Double-Circle Datestamp on 200 Mon Dragon

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in 19th century, fig. 83; *Dragon Covers*, p. 181.

1871, 200 mon, latest printing, plate I, tied by double-circle type N1B1 "Tokyo Meiji 6.10.9" (9 October 1873) to a cover to Kazo, Musashi Province.

The standard double-circle type is uncommon on Dragon stamps. On reverse, transit framed vermilion "Okegawa yubin" of Okegawa post office. A notably late Dragon usage from Tokyo.

### RATE

2 sen, basic weight inland cover of the unified rate period from Meiji 6.4.1.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

31

### START PRICE

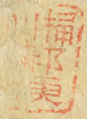
**\$ 2,000**



Along a crowded canal with freight headed for the center of Tokyo

別加須何 行至  
 煙 宗 屋 事 元 名 物  
 小 名 所 在 中

美 公 屋  
 市 廣 慶 門



92

## Earliest Recorded Komoro Cover with Rare “Komoro Kensazumi” Fancy Cancel

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 99.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, position 36, and 200 mon vermilion, late printing, plate I, position 27, upper frameline largely luped margin to touched, tied by framed non-standard “Komoro Kensazumi” of Komoro, Mikawa Province, to the reverse of a cover to Hamamatsu, Totomi Province.

Manuscript dateline Meiji 6, 11th month 9th day (9 November 1873).

The earliest recorded cover from Komoro, and a scarce and attractive mixed franking with this rare fancy cancellation.

### RATE

Standard letter rate nationwide, basic weight 2 sen, plus 1 sen for despatch to a place outside the postal delivery circuit = 3 sen, unified letter rate from Meiji 6.4.1 onward.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

21, 31

### START PRICE

\$ 2,500



The Zig Zag Bridge in Mikawa Province



Map showing the route of the cover from Komoro in the Mikawa Province to Hamamatsu in the Totomi Province

要用平安

九日發



袁州濱松在木舟折田 三家奉母  
亭校

芳林高孝君  
待史  
芳林高久  
符具

93

## Earliest Recorded Saganoseki Cover with Rare Kyushu Dragon Usage

1872, ½ sen reddish brown, plate II, a top margin block of four, positions 5-6 / 13-14, tied by two strikes of circular framed non-standard “Saganoseki” of Saganoseki, Bungo Province, to the reverse of a cover, address side incomplete, to Kobe, with arrival double-circle type N1B1 6.12.13 (13 December 1873).

On the address side, two strikes of single-line “postage insufficient”, apparently not pursued at Kobe. Dragon usages on Kyushu are uncommon. This is the earliest recorded cover from Saganoseki.

A highly desirable provincial rarity, combining earliest recorded status with uncommon Dragon usage from Kyushu.

**RATE**

Letter nationwide = 2 sen, unified rate period from Meiji 6.4.1.

**CONDITION**



**CATALOGUE**

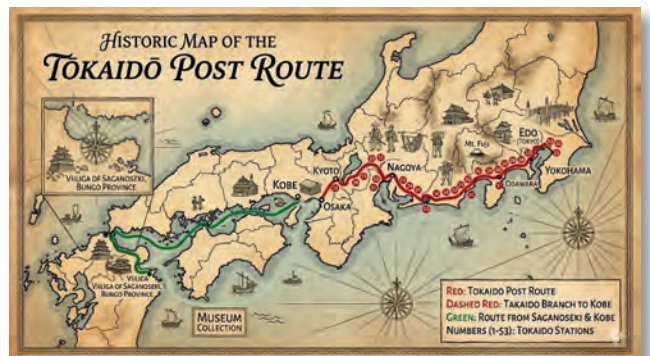
511

**START PRICE**

**\$ 3,000**



View of Bungo Province



Map showing The Tokaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Saganoseki in the Bungo Province to Kobe in green



# 94

## Rare Same-Colour Mixed Franking with Late 100 Mon Usage

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 182.

1871/72, 100 mon blue, plate I, position 5, used in combination with 1 sen blue, plate III, both tied by oval non-standard “Kochi Meiji 7.1.3” (3 January 1874) to the reverse of a cover to Osaka, with large double-circle arrival marking of Meiji 7.1.7.

A late and highly unusual usage of the 100 mon issue, made particularly notable by the same-colour, same-denomination mixed franking. Such combinations are seldom encountered and possess strong specialist appeal.

### RATE

6 sen, triple-weight inland cover of the unified rate period from Meiji 6.4.1 (1 April 1873).

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

21, 6III

### START PRICE

\$ 6,000



Island of Shikoku



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the route of the cover from Kochi to Osaka in green



95

2 Sen Plate I with Rare “Ueno Station” Fancy Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 114.

1872, 2 sen vermilion, late printing, tied by framed non-standard “Ueno station”, with double-circle KG “Ueno. Ise 10.19” alongside, to Tsu, Ise Province.

Manuscript dateline “10th month 18th day” of Meiji 7.10.18 (18 October 1874).

A scarce and attractive provincial cover, notable for the rare Ueno station fancy cancellation.

RATE

Letter 2 sen nationwide, unified tariff from Meiji 6.4.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

7

START PRICE

\$ 1,000

96

Rare Dragon Usage on Hokkaido – 1874 Hakodate Local Cover

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 115.

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II, position 25, tied by double-circle N1B1 “Hakodate Meiji 7.11.13” (13 November 1874) to the reverse of a local cover, slightly reduced at top.

Dragon stamp usages on Hokkaido are scarce, and this represents a desirable local usage from Hakodate during the unified-rate period.

RATE

Within city district = 1 sen per 2 momme, unified rate from Meiji 6.4.1 onward.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE



611

START PRICE

\$ 1,500



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the location at Hakodate

傳角所  
 田端 德長 齋 探  
 尾 建 源  
  


去月 廿  
  
  


97

**½ Sen Plate II Two-Shade Franking on Rare Unsealed Cover**

1872, ½ sen brown, plate II (2), late printing, in two different shades, olive brown and brown, positions 13 and 8, tied by framed non-standard “Yamagata Kensazumi” to the reverse of an unsealed cover to District No. 27.

No dateline, though Meiji 7 (1874) is suggested.

A scarce and appealing local official usage, notable for the uncommon unsealed format and the attractive two-shade franking.

RATE

1 sen, administration reply unsealed within the same district at half-letter rate, introduced Meiji 6.5.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

511

START PRICE

**\$ 600**



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route and the Ōshū Kaidō route in red and the location of Yamagata

98

**Earliest Recorded Yuge Cover with Rare “Yuge Kensa” Fancy Cancel**

1871, 200 mon vermilion, late printing, plate I, touched to cut at left frame, slightly oxidised, tied by framed non-standard “Yuge Kensa”, with vermilion framed “Sakushu / postal receiving and handling agency / Yuge” alongside, to the reverse of a small cover to Yamanoshiro, Mimasaka Province.

Sakushu is an old alternative name for Mimasaka. No dateline is present, though usage is assumed to fall in Meiji 8 (1875). The Yuge post office opened on Meiji 7.12.16 (16 December 1874).

The earliest recorded cover from Yuge, and a highly attractive example of this rare fancy cancellation.

RATE

2 sen, unified nationwide rate from Meiji 6.4.1 onward.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 1,800**



99

**The Latest Recorded 48 Mon Plate I Cover with Rare Kiban Cancel**

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 119.

1871, 48 mon, early printing, plate I, a horizontal strip of four, positions 5-8, tied by three strikes of kiban ra-14 (Tarui, Mino Province), with double-circle type KG “Tarui -7.13” alongside, to the reverse of a cover to Osaka, with arrival type N1B1 Meiji 8.7.15 (15 July 1875).

One of very few recorded 48 mon covers cancelled by kiban postmark, and the latest recorded usage of the 48 mon Plate I on cover.

RATE

Nationwide letter, basic weight 2 sen, unified standard rate of the third rate period from Meiji 6.4.1 onward.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

11

START PRICE

**\$ 3,500**

100

**The Largest Recorded Multiple of the ½ Sen Plate I on Cover**

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 121.

1872, ½ sen brown, plate I, a block of 10 (2 x 5), tied by eight strikes of kiban i-he 26 (Nakamura, Harima Province) to the reverse of a cover to Himeji.

Manuscript dateline Meiji 8.11.31 (31 November 1875).

The largest recorded multiple of the ½ sen Plate I on cover, a remarkable showpiece of the sen issue and an item of considerable rarity.

RATE

Half letter rate for official mail, five times weight = 5 sen.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

51

START PRICE

**\$ 4,500**



Map showing The Tokaidō Route in red and the route of the letter from Nakamura to Himeji.



101

## ½ Sen Plate I and II Mixed Franking with Rare Iwayado Kiban Cancel

REFERENCE

Illustrated in Dragon Covers, p. 118.

1872, ½ sen tan brown, plate I (1), with ½ sen dark brown, plate II (3, including a pair), tied by two strikes of kiban te-26 (Iwayado, Rikuchu Province) to the reverse of an illustrated cover to Ishinomaki, Rikuzen Province.

Double-circle type KG Iwayado -.6.24 alongside, with transit KG Ichinoseki -.6.26 on the address side. Contents still enclosed. This cover dates from Meiji 8 or 9 (1875 or 1876).

A most attractive mixed-plate franking on cover, additionally enhanced by the rare Iwayado kiban cancellation and retained contents.

RATE

Letter nationwide = 2 sen, unified rate period from Meiji 6.4.1.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

51, 51I

START PRICE

\$ 2,000



Cancelling the Mail



Map showing The Tokaidō Route and Ōshū Kaidō Route in red and the route of the letter from Iwayado to Ishinomaki in green.



102

## ½ Sen Plate I and Cherry Blossom Mixed Franking with Takasago Kiban

### PROVENANCE

Consul General Dr. Borchers (Rapp auction, 1986)

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 122.

1872, ½ sen greyish brown, plate I, a vertical pair, positions 28-36, used in combination with Cherry Blossom 2 sen yellow “Ribbon”, tied by two strikes of kiban i-he 7 of Takasago, Harima Province, to the reverse of an illustrated cover, reduced at top, to Naruo, a destination outside the postal delivery circuit.

The ½ sen pair paid the 1 sen messenger surcharge. Manuscript dateline “1st month 27th day” and double-circle type KG Takasago -1.5. Date is Meiji 9.1.5 (5 January 1876) at the earliest.

A scarce and attractive mixed franking, notable for the use of the ½ sen pair to satisfy the messenger fee.

### RATE

Letter nationwide 2 sen, plus 1 sen to a place outside the postal delivery circuit = 3 sen, unified rate period from Meiji 6.4.1.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

51, 38

### START PRICE

\$ 1,000



A Postal Runner



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route and Ōshū Kaidō Route in red and the route of the letter from Takasago to Naruo in green.



# 103

## Late 1876 Dragon Usage with Rare Miyoshi Kiban Cancel

### REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Covers*, p. 125.

1872, 2 sen vermilion, tied by kiban i-nu 10 (Miyoshi, Bingo Province) to the reverse of a cover to Tokyo.

Alongside, double-circle “Miyoshi. Bingo 12.1” of Meiji 9.12.1 (1 September 1876). Transit double-circle KG “Onomichi. Bingo 12.2” on the address side, and arrival double-circle N2B2 “Tokyo Meiji 9.12.7”.

A notably late usage of the 2 sen Dragon, further enhanced by the scarce Miyoshi kiban cancellation.

### RATE

Letter 2 sen nationwide, unified tariff from Meiji 6.4.1.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE

7

### START PRICE






\$ 1,000




Bandai-ji Temple in the Bingo Province



Map showing The Tōkaidō Route in red and the route of the letter from Miyoshi in the Bingo Province to Tokyo in green/red-green.






  
 備後縣備後國  
 尾道  
 其  
 十月三日發

東京藥研社  
 報知社  
 需用大急



錢五百文

錢五百文

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# Auction Lots Sheets

## REGARDING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SHEETS AND POSITIONAL AUTHENTICITY

The assembly and reconstruction of complete sheets represent one of the most rigorous scholarly endeavors in philately, serving as a vital record of printing production and plate characteristics. While every effort has been made to ensure the highest degree of accuracy, it is acknowledged that advanced philatelic research is an evolving discipline. Consequently, certain reconstructions may reflect the consensus of earlier Tejima's findings, and some individual positions may differ from the latest specialized plating studies. Such discrepancies are regarded as a natural reflection of the progression of postal scholarship and do not detract from the fundamental integrity, rarity, or significant educational value of these reconstructed multiples.

104

**Pristine 48 Mon Plate I Full Sheet –  
Unused as Issued**

1871, 48 mon brown, plate I, middle period printing, complete full sheet, unused without gum as issued.

A highly impressive and rarely encountered full-sheet multiple of the first issue, preserved in pristine unused condition as issued. A major showpiece for the specialist in classic Japan.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

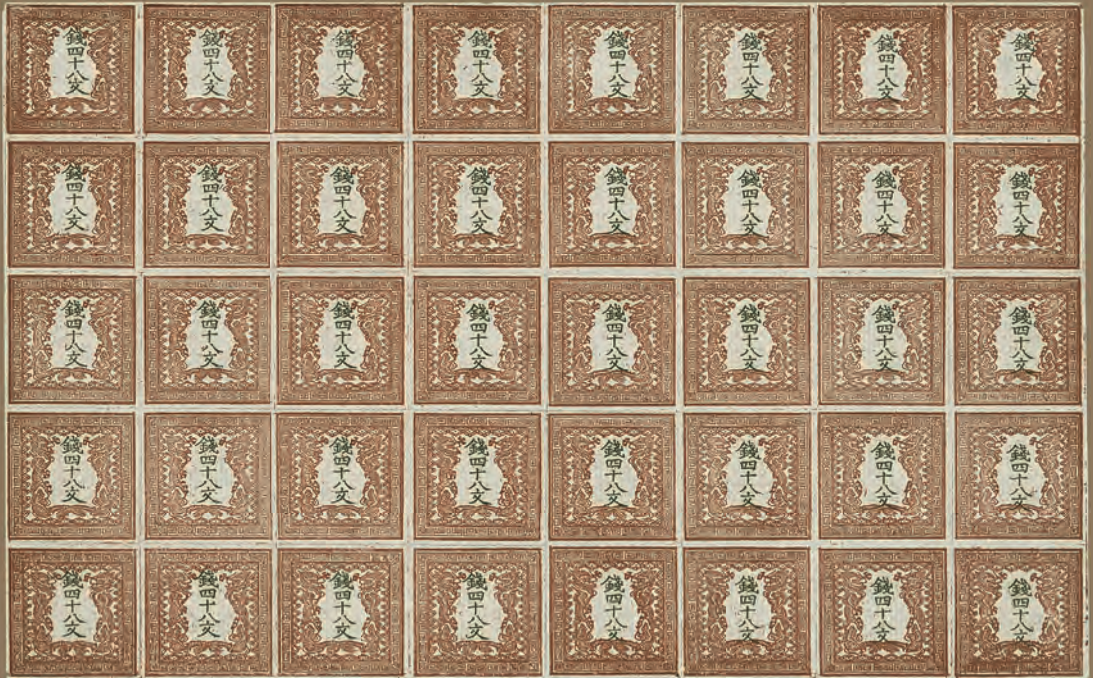
(JSCA cat. ¥2,400,000)

CATALOGUE

11

START PRICE

**\$ 9,000**



# 105

## 48 Mon Plate I Sheet Reconstruction with Mixed Mint/ Used Items and Double Circles

1871, 48 mon dark brown to blackish brown, plate I, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by unused and used stamps, including a mint block of six, used block of four, and mint mirror-L unit, together with two clear strikes of standard double-circle type N1B1 in late usage, as well as fancy cancellations.

A particularly engaging reconstruction, notable for its combination of mint and used material and its strong range of cancellations.

CATALOGUE VALUE  
(JSCA cat. ¥2,000,000)

CONDITION  
◎

CATALOGUE	START PRICE
11	<b>\$ 7,000</b>

# 106

## 48 Mon Plate I Sheet Reconstruction with a Wealth of Rare Postmarks

1871, 48 mon brown, plate I, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including a vertical strip of four, positions 9-17-25-33, with large Osaka Kensazumi, and nine pairs showing attractive postmarks, among them large Yokkaichi Kensazumi, oval fancy type, and late Yokohama double-circle N1B1 of Meiji 7. Position 39 with fabricated cover marking “Daijoji”.

A fascinating and highly characterful reconstruction, especially rich in postmark interest and postal-history appeal.

CATALOGUE VALUE  
(JSCA cat. ¥2,000,000)

CONDITION  
◎

CATALOGUE	START PRICE
11	<b>\$ 7,000</b>



107

### Spectacular 100 Mon Plate I Full Sheet – Unused as Issued

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, middle period printing, complete full sheet, unused without gum as issued.

A magnificent surviving full sheet of the iconic 100 mon Dragon issue, offering exceptional visual impact and great importance for the advanced collector or exhibitor.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥2,400,000)

CATALOGUE

21

START PRICE

**\$ 9,000**

108

### 100 Mon Plate I Early Printing Sheet Reconstruction with Large Tokyo Kensazumi Block

1871, 100 mon blue, plate I, early printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including a block of eight with large “Tokyo Kensazumi”, a vertical strip of three, and seven pairs, including Osaka N1B1 double-circle usage.

A most attractive reconstruction, especially notable for the impressive Tokyo Kensazumi block and the strong range of postal markings represented.

CONDITION

●

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥1,880,000)

CATALOGUE

21

START PRICE

**\$ 7,000**



109

**100 Mon Plate II Sheet  
Reconstruction – Unused with  
Prominent Plate Flaws**

1871, 100 mon blue, plate II, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued, including a block of six, two horizontal pairs, and prominent plate flaws: position 18, “claw missing”, in a block of four; pair including position 25, “beard missing”; and position 26 with right dragon head retouched in its early state.

A highly significant reconstruction for the plating specialist, bringing together several of the key flaws of Plate II in one remarkable study piece.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥6,600,000)

CATALOGUE

2II

START PRICE

**\$ 20,000**



Pos. 18: 'claw missing'



Pos. 25: 'beard missing'



Pos. 26: 'right dragon head retouched'

109



# 110

## 100 Mon Plate II Sheet Reconstruction – Featuring the Sensational “Tawaraya” Block of 10

### PROVENANCE

This remarkable block formed part of the W. Meluish Japan Collection, Robson Lowe auction 1385–1386, June 1955.

1871, 100 mon blue, plate II, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including prominent plate flaw position 26 with right dragon head error, of which only a few are recorded, together with three pairs, including kiban ra-3, and a strip of three with large placename Kensazumi.

The most celebrated component, however, is the used block of ten, positions 5-6 to 37-38, the second-largest recorded used multiple of the 100 mon Plate II, cancelled by three strikes of the “Tawaraya” shop seal of the owner and postal agent of the Okayama postal receiving and handling agency.

An exceptional reconstruction of major importance, centred on one of the most famous surviving multiples of the issue.

### CONDITION



### CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥12,000,000)

### CATALOGUE

211

### START PRICE

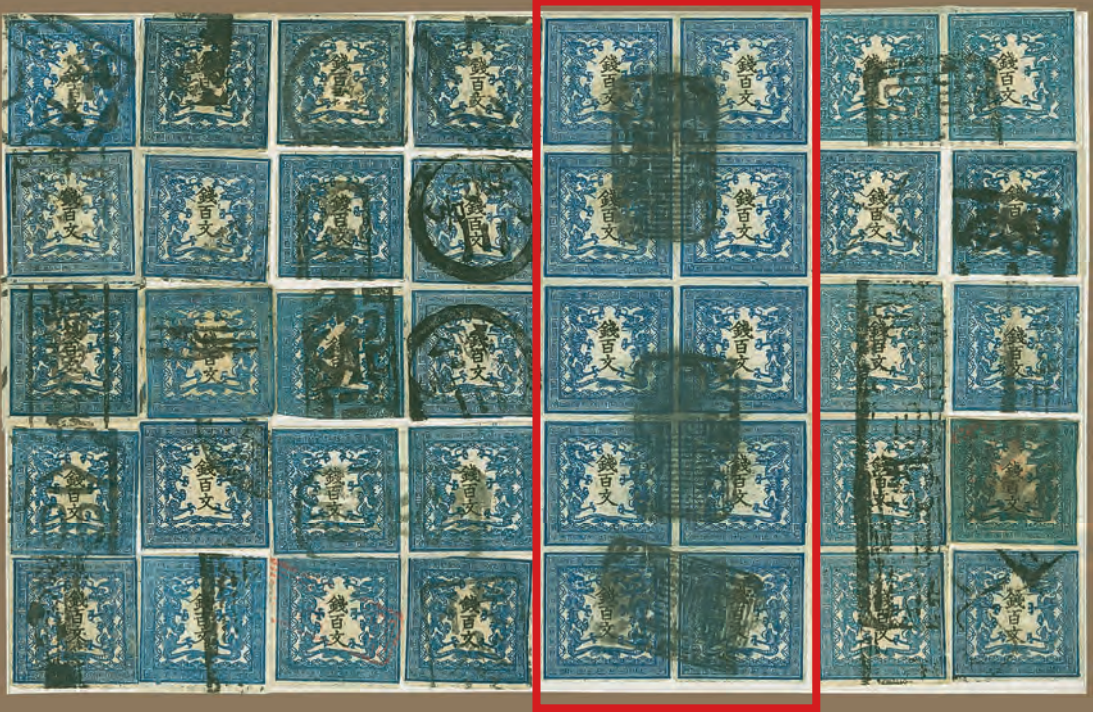
**\$ 40,000**

head retouch



Pos. 26: 'right dragon head error'

110



111

**200 Mon Plate I Earliest Printing  
– Stunning Sheet Reconstruction  
with Block of 35**

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, earliest printing, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued, including a remarkable block of 35. Featuring plate flaws at position 19, constant variety “right dragon hair missing”; position 31, “left dragon arm missing”, soon retouched and found only on the earliest printing; and position 37, constant variety “dot in sen character missing”.

A truly outstanding reconstruction of the earliest printing, of exceptional importance for the specialist, anchored by the extraordinary block of 35 and multiple major varieties.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥6,700,000)

CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 24,000**

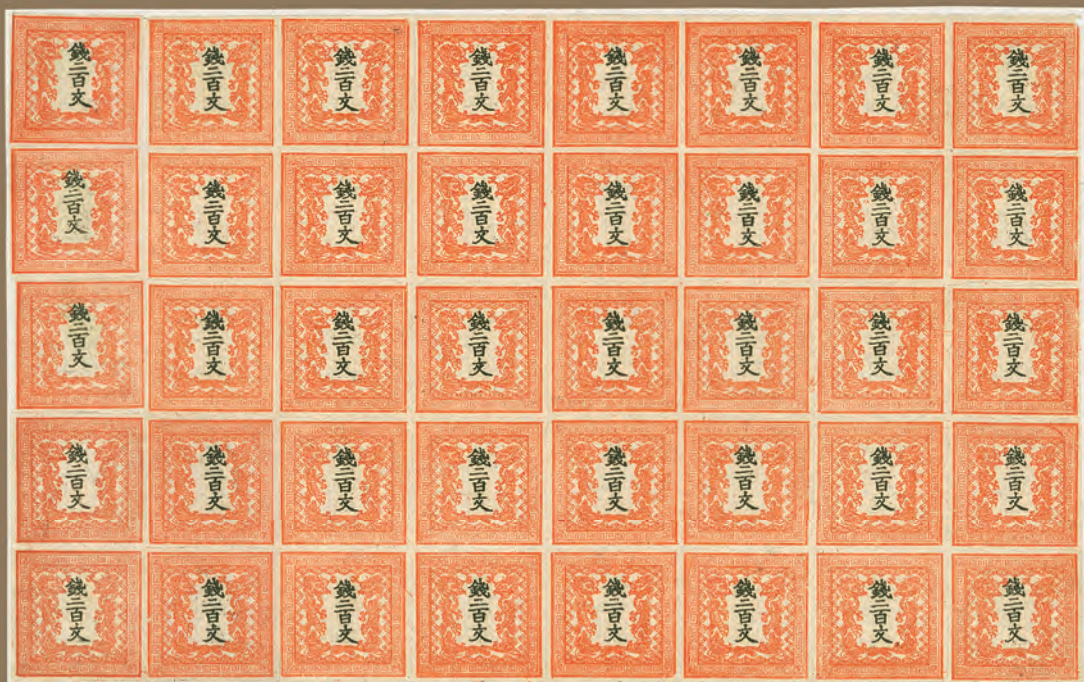


Pos. 19: 'right dragon hair missing'



Pos. 31: 'left dragon arm missing'

111



Pos. 36 & 37

112

### Impressive 200 Mon Plate I Full Sheet – Unused as Issued

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, middle period printing, complete full sheet, unused without gum as issued.

A handsome and rarely encountered full sheet of the 200 mon Dragon issue, of considerable importance for both study and exhibition.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥3,400,000)

CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 12,000**



Pos. 22

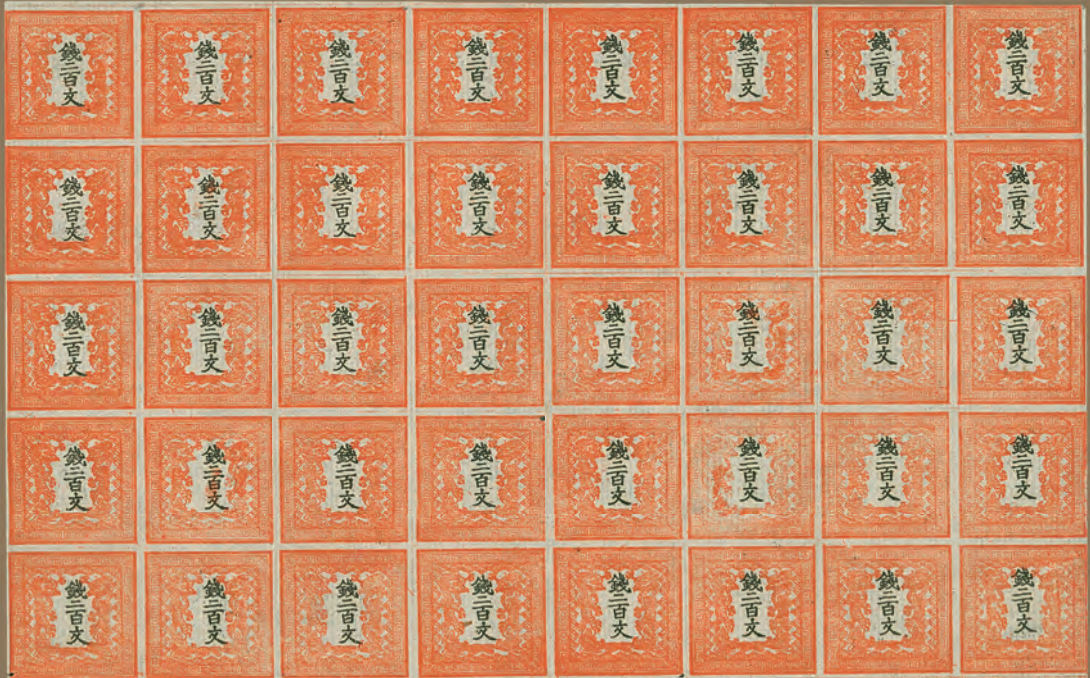


Pos. 26



Pos. 30

112



# 113

## 200 Mon Plate I Late Printing Sheet Reconstruction with Unretouched Varieties

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, late printing, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued, including the three significant positions 22, 26 and 30 in their unretouched state. Also included is a block of four, positions 5+6 / 13+14.

A most instructive reconstruction, of particular importance for the study of the unretouched states preceding the later repairs.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥2,600,000)

CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 9,000**



Pos. 22



Pos. 26



Pos. 30

113



114

## 200 Mon Plate I Latest Printing Sheet Reconstruction with Large Unused Blocks

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, latest printing, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued. Includes positions 22, 26 and 30 with retouched dragons, together with large blocks of 20 and 15.

A remarkable latest-printing reconstruction, notable both for the important retouched positions and the presence of unusually large surviving unused blocks.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥2,600,000)

CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 9,500**



# 115

## 200 Mon Plate I Sheet Reconstruction Featuring Large Tokyo Kensazumi Block and Strip

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, early printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including a block of nine and a vertical strip of five, the complete right column, both cancelled by multiple strikes of large “Tokyo Kensazumi”.

An exceptionally attractive used reconstruction, distinguished by these impressive large multiples with bold Tokyo cancellations.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥2,400,000)

CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 9,000**

# 116

## 200 Mon Plate I Sheet Reconstruction with Rare Kiban and Fancy Cancels

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, middle period printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps. Includes a strip of three and four pairs, with a variety of non-standard fancy and Kensazumi postmarks, as well as kiban chi-14 of Nanbu, Kai Province, rare on mon Dragon issues.

A highly appealing reconstruction, notable for the breadth and quality of its cancellation study material.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

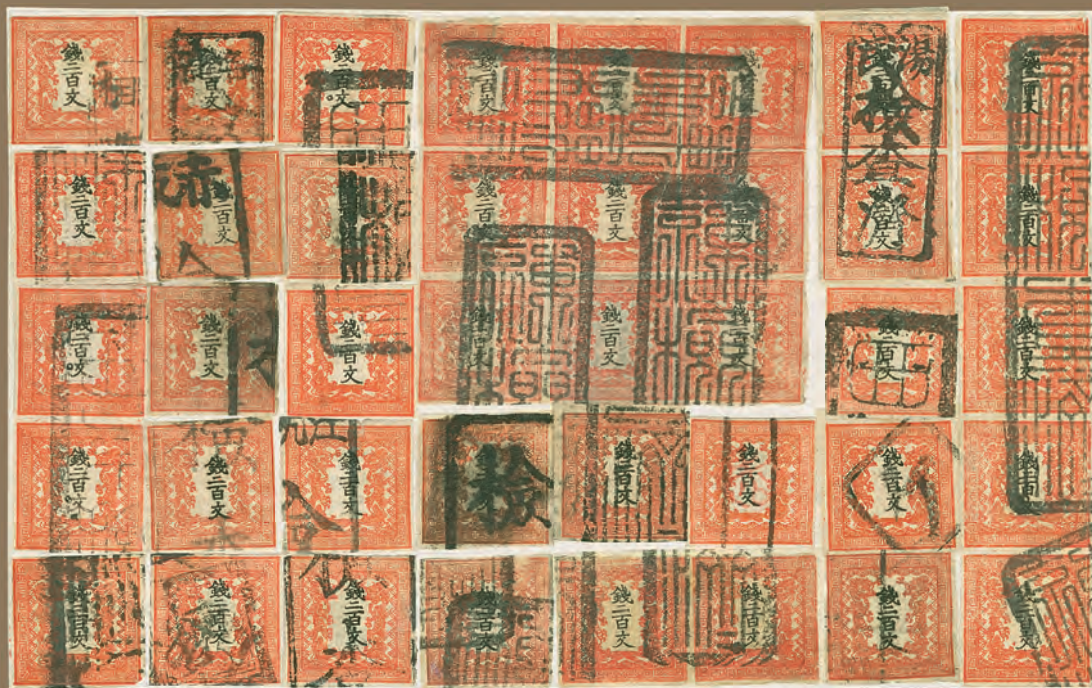
(JSCA cat. ¥2,600,000)

CATALOGUE

31

START PRICE

**\$ 9,500**



117

## 500 Mon Plate I Earliest Printing – A Philatelic Masterpiece Sheet Reconstruction

REFERENCE

Illustrated in *Dragon Stamps Plating*, pp. 23 and 53.

1871, 500 mon yellow green to pale green, plate I, earliest and early printing, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued, except position 3, used with large “Kakegawa Kensazumi”. Includes rare plate flaws at positions 2, unused, and 3, used, as well as two pairs, a vertical strip of three, and a block of four. Notably, a full unused sheet of the 500 mon Plate I earliest or early printing remains unreported.

A reconstruction of the very highest order, of exceptional rarity and importance, and one of the true masterpieces of classic Japanese philately.

CONDITION

(★)/(◎)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥33,300,000)

CATALOGUE

41

START PRICE

**\$ 120,000**



Pos. 1: no plate flaws



Pos. 2: with plate flaw 'stroke missing'



Pos. 3: with plate flaws 'dot and stroke missing'

117



118

**500 Mon Plate I Early Printing  
Unused Reconstruction Featuring  
Magnificent Large Blocks**

1871, 500 mon, plate I, early printing, in various shades of green, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued, including a block of 16, a block of eight, four blocks of four, and a strip of three. Includes plate flaws at positions 14 and 29. Notably, a full unused sheet of the 500 mon Plate I early printing remains unreported.

A magnificent unused reconstruction, especially notable for its impressive large blocks and strong study value.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥14,400,000)

CATALOGUE

41

START PRICE

**\$ 50,000**



Pos. 14: with plate flaws

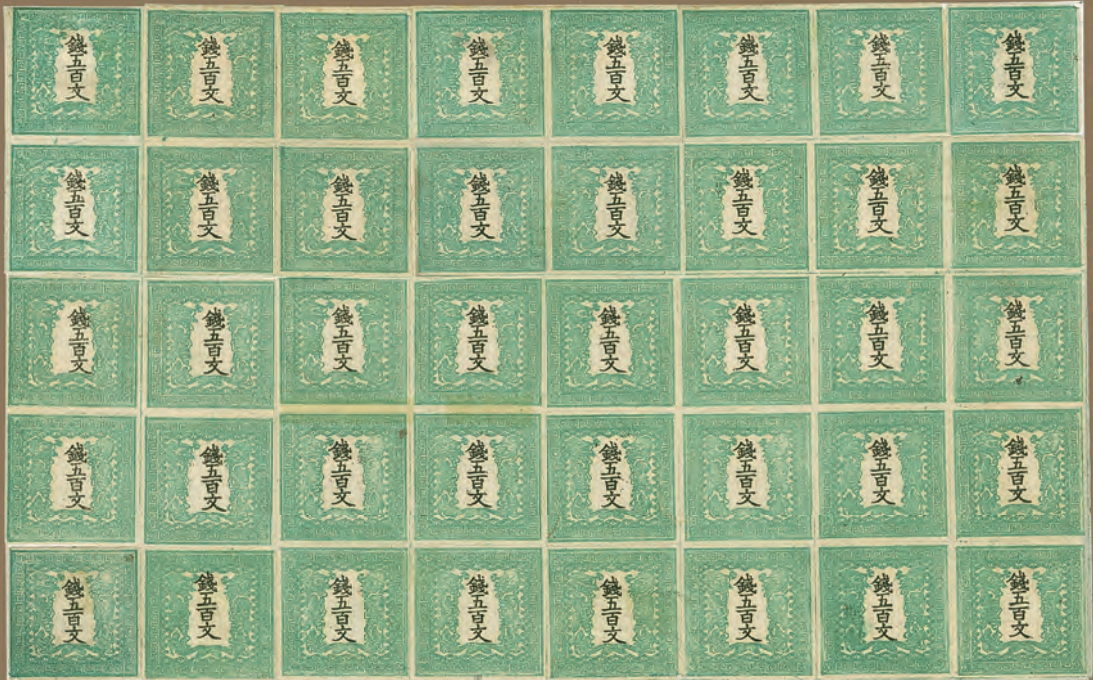


Pos. 21: no plate flaws



Pos. 29: with plate flaws

118



# 119

## 500 Mon Plate I “Bluish Green” Unused Reconstruction with Impressive Large Blocks

1871, 500 mon, plate I, middle to late printing, in shades of blue and bluish green, full sheet reconstruction by unused stamps without gum as issued (37), used stamps (2), and one mihon specimen. Includes blocks of nine, six and four, together with a pair. Also includes an extra copy of position 6.

A highly attractive and substantial reconstruction, with excellent visual presence and an especially strong showing of large multiples.

CONDITION

(★)/◎

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥5,000,000)

CATALOGUE

41

START PRICE

**\$ 17,000**

# 120

## Magnificent 500 Mon Plate I Full Sheet – Unused as Issued

1871, 500 mon bluish green, plate I, late printing, complete full sheet, unused without gum as issued.

A magnificent and highly important full sheet of the high-value 500 mon Dragon, a major showpiece for the advanced collector or exhibitor.

CONDITION

(★)

CATALOGUE VALUE

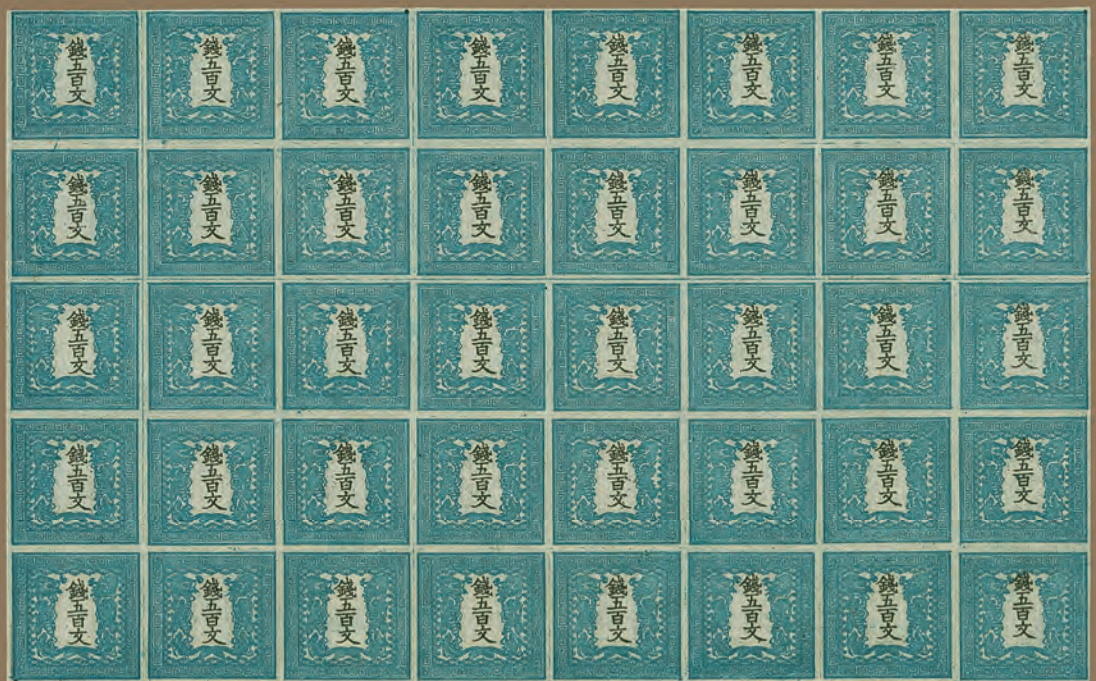
(JSCA cat. ¥4,400,000)

CATALOGUE

41

START PRICE

**\$ 15,000**



121

**500 Mon Plate I "Mixed Shades"  
Sheet Reconstruction with Earliest  
Printings**

1871, 500 mon, plate I, earliest to late printing, in mixed shades, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including eleven examples of the earliest printing, rare plate flaw at position 3 from the earliest printing, and three pairs.

Two plating errors included (pos. 12 and 20), two exchanged (pos. 26 and 27).

A highly desirable reconstruction, notable for the broad range of shades represented and the inclusion of the important earliest-printing position 3 flaw.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥15,800,000)

CATALOGUE

41

START PRICE

**\$ 55,000**



Pos. 3: from the earliest printing with plate flaws 'dot and stroke missing'

121



122

## Extremely Rare 500 Mon Plate II Sheet Reconstruction – A Zenith of Japanese Philately

1871, 500 mon, plate II, early to late printing, sheet reconstruction of 38 by used stamps, with positions 18 and 24 still required, including a pair and a variety of non-standard fancy postmarks.

An exceedingly rare and important reconstruction of the 500 mon Plate II, representing one of the pinnacles of specialised Japanese philately.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥22,800,000)

CATALOGUE

411

START PRICE

**\$ 80,000**



# 123

## ½ Sen Plate I Sheet Reconstruction with Choice Fancy Postmarks

1872, ½ sen, plate I, in various brown shades, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including three pairs and a variety of non-standard fancy postmarks.

A particularly engaging reconstruction, rich in cancellation interest and highly appealing for the postal-marking specialist.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥800,000)

CATALOGUE

5I

START PRICE

**\$ 2,000**

# 124

## ½ Sen Plate II Sheet Reconstruction with Rare Foreign Mail “Crossroads” Cancel

1872, ½ sen, plate II, dark brown, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including four pairs (pos. 8/16, 10/18, 30/38, and 31/32) and position 12 with foreign mail “crossroads” cancellation.

A highly interesting reconstruction, especially notable for the rare foreign-mail cancellation.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥400,000+)

CATALOGUE

5II

START PRICE

**\$ 1,000**



125

**1 Sen Plate II Sheet  
Reconstruction with Four Pairs  
and Colourful Fancy Cancels**

1872, 1 sen blue, plate II, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps, including four pairs and attractive non-standard fancy postmarks, also in blue and red.

A highly appealing reconstruction, notable for its lively range of coloured cancellations and multiple units.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥1,400,000)

CATALOGUE

6II

START PRICE

**\$ 4,500**

126

**1 Sen Plate II "Deep Dull Blue"  
– Advanced Used Part-Sheet  
Reconstruction**

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate II, early to late printing, part-sheet reconstruction by 23 used single stamps.

A useful and appealing advanced reconstruction, offering strong study value for the collector of used Plate II material.

CONDITION



CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥80,500)

CATALOGUE

6II

START PRICE

**\$ 200**



127

## 2 Sen Full Sheet with Rare “Ear” Corner Margin and Plate Variety

1872, 2 sen vermilion, middle period printing, complete full sheet, unused mint, with top right sheet-corner extra margin “ear” (fukumimi). Includes constant variety at position 8, “dot in sen character missing”.

A highly desirable full sheet, made particularly attractive by the rare fukumimi corner margin and constant plate variety.

CONDITION

★

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥4,800,000)

CATALOGUE

7

START PRICE

**\$ 16,000**

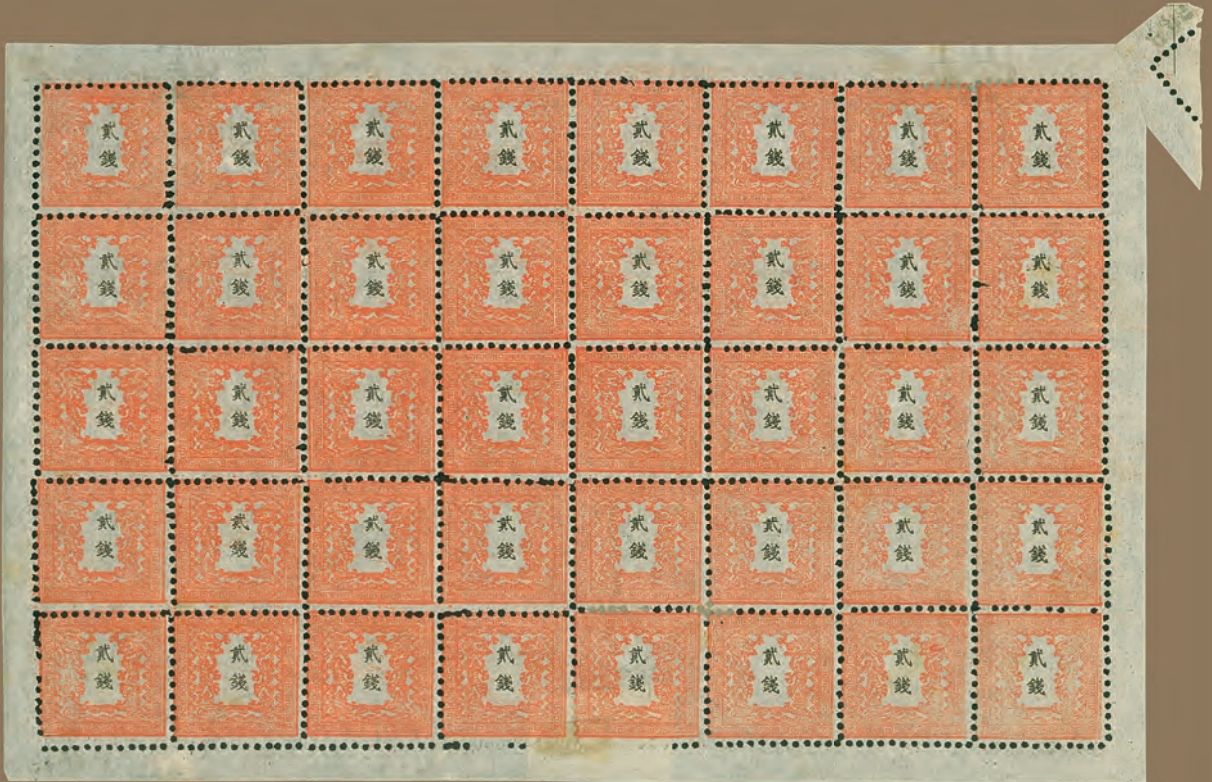


Stamp with the dot  
of sen character



Pos. 8: 'dot of sen  
character missing'

127



128

**5 Sen Sheet Reconstruction  
Featuring Kumamoto Fancy  
Cancel Pair**

1872, 5 sen blue to bluish green, early to late printing, full sheet reconstruction by used stamps. Includes pair positions 8-16 cancelled by the oval framed non-standard fancy postmark "Kumamoto Kensa".

A highly attractive reconstruction, made especially desirable by the scarce Kumamoto fancy-cancel pair.

CATALOGUE VALUE

(JSCA cat. ¥4,000,000)

CONDITION



CATALOGUE

8

START PRICE

**\$ 14,000**





花脚便を可成丈々簡便自在に致し儀公事名勿論士民私用向々至る近世上々交々於て切要之事は蒙是近商家に任じ置道乃分書狀之届方免角日限相後也其遲滞之甚きを僅數十里之道法より十日餘も相掛り或は後々達せざるの掛念し有る様急便にて八價錢高直にて負窮之者共遠國近在且其情を通兼且四方之安否品物之相場等も急速に不相分り道路不取道風説も惑ひ在者も不少我相聞へ不便之事を依之追之諸街道に遍く花脚印仕法被為立遠近之人情を通四方之模様も急速相分り上下一般急便之書通自由に出未為致在而趣意を先試之為免當三月朔日より西京迄三十六時以迄三十九時限花脚毎日印差立兩地勿論東海道筋宿四五里四方之村に并勢州美濃路等も右幸便を以相違な様印仕法相成を余其意を得書狀差出入心得書之通可致奉

辛未正月

太政官

各地時間價錢表

東京ヨリ		西京ヨリ		大坂ヨリ	
地名	時間	地名	時間	地名	時間
川崎	一時三十分	伏見	八分	伏見	二時七分
神奈川	二時	淀	五分	西京	三時六分
藤澤	三時五分	大坂	三時六分	大津	三時九分
大磯	四時七分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
小田原	五時八分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
箱根	七時	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
三島	八時一分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
三島	八時一分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
原	八時九分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
吉原	九時七分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
蒲原	十時五分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
奥津	十一時五分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
静岡	十二時五分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分
岡部	十三時五分	大津	八分	大津	三時九分

書狀を出入る心得

毎日西京八ツ七ツ時大坂名益八ツ時限り何様天氣にも往來之差支無く上々必也花脚差立左向右刻限より東京ハ四日市西京名城小路車屋町西入大坂名中ノ島迄花脚角驛連司郵便役所書狀可差出奉

右役所のみ一ツ所ハ不便利に付東京ハ虎ノ門門外兩國橋筋違門門外浅草觀音前牛込門門外赤坂門門外京橋門神明前赤羽根橋四ツ谷門門外水代橋西京名下立賣馬九分出川大宮五條寺町四條室町大坂名本町橋西詰安堂寺橋西詰阿弥池池表門前雜子場常安橋小詰源左衛門町天満天神書狀集め箱差出置奉東西京名八ツ時大坂名九ツ時限右之箱入置可申奉

總石書狀差出左節正價錢取引等之儀名一切不致答付三府郵便役所其外書狀集め北箱場并最寄書狀切手賣捌所相認め左掛札有之場所も買求も右切手價錢表之刻合を左書狀之表に糊付可致奉 但は多き箱名と張置可申奉

都而書狀差出左節表書之通先方名宛并自分姓名等別段小札もなき者には左様書狀張置可申奉 都而書狀名三府郵便役所前其外所々差出置左書狀箱に差入置左得左無遠失先方相違左付總石取扱所之場所請取書名不名出左得左為念後取書請後并前書之通先方名宛自分姓名等相記に左小札二枚張置置左小札に請取之

名宛自分姓名等相記に左小札二枚張置置左小札に請取之 但東海道縁に書狀集め箱差出置左間可預取 尤右縁に於て差立之利限左其地之都合寄左故其様立

場之定免、随以可申奉

書狀名都而長廿四寸九寸巾三寸迄子限る左一目方名五分を壹通之重廿五分む故子五分以上指込迄左通半拾分以上拾五分迄左二通分、價錢を拂小宛一是より以上左皆此割合を用左故子書狀名可成丈々落き紙を用以文字名

*Image previous page:*

*Table of Postal Rates and Delivery Times for Various Locations (Meiji 4, 1871)*

*This seminal document, issued by the Dajokan (Grand Council of State), serves as the foundational regulation for the modern Japanese postal service. Pre-dating the official launch of the postal system in April 1871, it provides a comprehensive schedule of transit times and standardized fees for the Tokaido route. As an artifact of extraordinary historical importance, it illustrates the transition from feudal courier guilds to a centralized, state-run communication network.*

# Terms and conditions

## BIDDING

Bids below the listing start Price will not be accepted

Unless announced otherwise by the auctioneer, all bids are per lot, as numbered in the printed Catalogue. H.R. Harmer, as agent for the consignor or vendor, shall regulate the bidding and shall determine the manner in which the bidding shall be conducted. Harmers reserves the right to withdraw any lot prior to sale (without liability to any potential purchaser or agent), to re-offer any withdrawn lot, to divide a lot or to group two or more lots belonging to the same consignor or vendor, and to refuse any bid believed not made in good faith.

The highest bid acknowledged by the auctioneer shall prevail. Should a dispute arise between bidders (including a dispute between a floor bidder and the auctioneer acting on behalf of a mail bidder, consignor or vendor), the auctioneer alone shall determine who is the successful bidder and whether to reoffer the lot in dispute. Should a dispute arise after the sale, the auctioneer's sale records shall be conclusive. On all lots sold, a commission of 22% on the hammer price is payable by the buyer.

(a) The auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of clients (and consignors or vendors) but shall not be liable for errors and omissions in executing instructions to bid, however received, and whether such errors or omissions be those of the bidder or agent or those of the auctioneer.

(b) All lots are offered subject to a reserve price. The auctioneer may implement such reserve price. The auctioneer may implement such reserve price by bidding on behalf of the consignor vendor.

(c) It may also be assumed that all consignors have been advanced monies against the sale of their stamps and Harmers therefore has a security interest over and above the normal auction commission.

(d) Purchases made by a consignor or vendor or his agent on his own lots shall be considered as a sale subject to commissions and sales tax as applicable.

(e) Agents are responsible for all purchases made on behalf of their clients, unless other arrangements have been confirmed in writing prior to the auction.

(f) HR Harmer further reserves the right to ban any bidder from participation in its' sales for any reason deemed appropriate in its' sole discretion.

(g) HR Harmer retains the right to demand a cash deposit from anyone prior to bidder registration and/or to demand payment at the time the lot is Hammered down to the highest bidder, for any reason whatsoever. In the event that any buyer refuses or fails to make payment in cash for any lot at the time it is knocked down to him, the auctioneer reserves the right to reoffer the lot for sale to the highest bidder.

## PAYMENT FOR PURCHASES

(a) Subject to any extension of credit (which shall be made in accordance with Harmers' credit policies and requested prior to the commencement of the auction), payment for lots shall be as follows:

(i) Floor Bidders. All floor bidders must register prior to the beginning of sale. All invoices to Floor Bidders shall be due on the day of the auction.

(ii) Mail Bidders. A successful mail bidder will be notified of lots purchased. Payment is due within ten (10) business days of auction. Mailed delivery will be to the address on the bid sheet and proof by Harmers of receipt of a sending at the advised address shall constitute delivery. All charges for handling and delivery shall be added to your invoice. All shipments sent by Harmers are fully insured against loss in transit unless otherwise requested.

(iii) Where an opinion of a generally recognized authority is desired, payment is still due within ten (10) business days of auction. We will hold the funds while we send the items to the recognized authorities.

(b) Payment is accepted in the form of

(i) Check in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. If payment is made by check, Harmer's reserves the right to hold shipment/delivery for up to ten (10) business days while it clears.

(ii) By wire transfer. Harmers will credit your account with the actual USDs credited to our account net of any fees.

(iii) By credit card (MasterCard, Discover or Visa). Payment by credit card is accepted as payment but will be subject to a 3% Convenience fee. This fee will be added to the total of the invoice including hammer price, buyer's premium, shipping and other applicable taxes and fees.

## TITLE; DEFAULT

(a) Subject to the fulfillment of all of the conditions set forth herein, on the fall of the auctioneer's hammer, title to the offered lot will pass to the highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer, and such bidder thereupon (a) assumes full risk and responsibility therefore, and (b) will pay the purchase price as set forth in Conditions of Sale 4.

(b) In addition to other remedies available to us by law, we reserve the right to impose from the date of sale a late charge of 2% per month if payment is not made in accordance with the conditions set forth herein. Unless otherwise agreed by Harmers, all property must be removed from our premises by the purchaser at his ex-

pense not later than 10 business days following its sale. (c) If any applicable conditions herein are not complied with by the purchaser, the purchaser will be in default and in addition to any and all other remedies available to us and the Consignor by law, including, without limitation, the right to hold the purchaser liable for the total purchase price, including all fees, charges and expenses more fully set forth herein, we, at our option, may (x) cancel the sale of that, or any other lot or lots sold to the defaulting purchaser at the same or any other auction, retaining as liquidated damages all payments made by the purchaser, or (y) resell the purchased property, whether at public auction or by private sale, or (z) effect any combination thereof. In any case, the purchaser will be liable for any deficiency, any and all costs, handling charges, late charges, expenses of both sales, our commissions on both sales at our regular rates, legal fees and expenses, collection fees and incidental damages. We may, in our sole discretion, apply any proceeds of sale then due or thereafter becoming due to the purchaser from us or any affiliated company, or any payment made by the purchaser to us or any affiliated company, whether or not intended to reduce the purchaser's obligations with respect to the unpaid lot or lots, to the deficiency and any other amounts due to us or any affiliated companies. In addition, a defaulting purchaser will be deemed to have granted and assigned to us and our affiliated companies, a continuing security interest of first priority in any property or money of or owing to such purchaser in our possession or in the possession of any of our affiliated companies, and we may retain and apply such property or money as collateral security for the obligations due to us or to any affiliated company of ours. We shall have all of the rights accorded a secured party under the New York Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).

(d) Payment will not be deemed to have been made in full until we have collected good funds. Any claims relating to any purchase, including any claims under the Conditions of Sale, must be presented directly to Harmers. In the event the purchaser fails to pay any or all of the total purchase price for any lot and Harmers nonetheless elects to pay the Consignor any portion of the sale proceeds, the purchaser acknowledges that Harmers shall have all of the rights of the Consignor to pursue the purchaser for any amounts paid to the Consignor, whether at law, in equity, or under these Conditions of Sale.

#### EXHIBITION AND INSPECTION OF LOTS; QUALITY AND AUTHENTICITY

(a) On Premises Inspection and Postal Viewing. Ample opportunity is given for on premises inspection prior to the auction date, and, upon written request and at Harmers discretion, for inspection by postal viewing (all as detailed elsewhere in this Catalogue).

(b) Each lot is sold as genuine and correctly described, based on individual description as modified by any specific notations in this Catalogue, including but not

restricted to the section entitled "Key to Cataloguing". (c) Quality. Any lot which a purchaser considers to be incorrectly described may be returned to Harmers within two weeks of its receipt by such purchaser ("Returning Purchaser"), provided, however, that the same is received by Harmers within four weeks of the date of the auction; however, Harmers may, in its discretion, refuse acceptance of such returned lot. If an opinion of a generally recognized authority is desired, the period of time within which a lot must be received by Harmers will be extended in accordance with Condition of Sale 8. In the event that a dispute cannot be resolved by reference to a generally recognized authority, and Harmers thereupon undertakes to re-offer the lot with a description identical to the description disputed, the Returning Purchaser shall be liable for the deficiency, if any, between the proceeds of the sale to the Returning Purchaser and the proceeds of a sale to a subsequent purchaser, as well as for all costs and expenses of the resale, including commission, and all incidental damages. Any lot, the description of which is disputed, must be returned intact in the condition received by the purchaser. The following lots are not returnable except at the discretion of Harmers: (i) lots from purchasers who attended the exhibition of the lots; (ii) lots examined by postal viewers; (iii) lots on account of their appearance, if they are illustrated in this Catalogue; (iv) lots described as having repairs, defects or faults—for any reason; (v) U.S. stamps (through 1918) for reasons of paper inclusions, (vi) no encapsulated stamps unless originally offered in this condition. (vii) Multiple stamp/item lots including sets of 15 or more stamps, collections, large lots and group lots, whether certified or not, as sold "As Is" and are not returnable for any reason.

(d) Authenticity. Any lot which is declared otherwise than genuine by a generally recognized authority is returnable, provided such lot is received by Harmers within four weeks of the date of the auction. Proof that a generally recognized authority declines to express an opinion is normally grounds for the return of a lot.

(e) Expenses incurred in the submission and the return of a lot under Conditions of Sale 7-9 are not refunded.

#### EXTENSION OF TIME

All lots to be sent out on extension must be paid in advance and submitted by H.R. Harmer.

(a) If a lot is certified by a generally recognized authority to be other than as described:

(i) the sale (and the invoice with respect thereto, if outstanding) will be cancelled; and,

(ii) to the extent set forth in Condition of Sale 9, payment of the expense of certification will be made to the purchaser.

(iii) in the event any item "not as described," the buyer will be refunded the purchase price and certification fee up to \$500 unless otherwise agreed.

(b) Any lot with a P.F. or PSE certificate issued in the last six years is not eligible for extension.

## EXPENSES OF CERTIFICATION

Expenses of certification shall be borne by the purchaser except where a lot is certified other than as described and is returned to Harmer in accordance with Condition of Sale 8.

## SALES TAX

All lots sold are subject to any applicable sales tax (or customs duty for non-U.S. buyers) unless a valid resale permit is presented.

## Shipping of Purchased Lots to Addresses Outside the United States

Lots will be shipped by Federal Express (street addresses) or by USPS Express Mail (PO boxes) with a minimum fee of US\$50 per shipment. If you wish to have your purchases delivered by another method, you must make your request in writing before the sale. You will need to prepay your invoice in full and guarantee that once the package is accepted by the postal service or other courier that HR Harmer, GPN Inc. is not liable for any loss or damage to the package, and that should any loss or damage take place, HR Harmer, GPN Inc. is not obligated to make refund or restitution.

## JURISDICTION, VENUE, CHOICE OF LAW:

- (a) Dispute resolution shall occur in New York County, New York, USA. The provisions of the Conditions of Sale will be construed and disputes determined by application of New York Law.
- (b) Notice, Service of Process: Buyers agree to accept all notices and service of process relating to dispute resolution at the address provided by Buyer on any registration forms required to be executed as a condition of bidding in our auction.
- (c) Dispute Resolution: All disputes and claims arising out of or relating to events and actions covered herein, brought by or against us, shall be resolved by mediation or binding arbitration in accord with the procedures set forth below. This provision does not apply to claims brought by the Buyer directly against the Consignor, including, but not limited to any action brought pursuant to the rescission provisions noted above.

## MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

- (a) Within 30 days of written notice that there is a dispute, the parties or their representatives may meet at a time and place mutually agreed upon, to mediate their differences. If the parties agree, a mediator acceptable to the parties shall be selected. The mediator shall be an attorney, trained in mediation techniques and familiar

with commercial law and the UCC. The mediator's fees shall be shared equally and paid by all parties. At the mediation, all parties shall have actual authority to settle the dispute. Any statements made during, and all aspects of, the mediation process shall be kept confidential and shall not be admissible in any subsequent arbitration or judicial proceeding. Any resolution shall be confidential.

(b) If the parties cannot agree to mediation, or if mediation does not resolve the dispute, or in any event no longer than 60 days after receipt of written notice referred to above, the parties shall submit the dispute for binding arbitration before a single neutral arbitrator jointly selected, or absent agreement, selected from the panel of Arbitrators provided by the American Arbitration Association (AAA). If, within 15 days, the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, then AAA shall select one (1) person as arbitrator in accord with AAA rules. The arbitrator shall be an attorney, experienced in commercial law and with the UCC. The arbitrator shall be required to follow the law in making his award, and the award shall be in writing and shall set forth findings of fact and legal conclusions.

(c) The arbitration shall occur within 60 days of the selection of the arbitrator, in New York County, New York, unless the parties agree to another location. Discovery and the procedure for the Arbitration shall, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, follow the procedures and policies of AAA governing commercial arbitration, subject however to the following modifications:

(i) All arbitration proceedings shall be confidential. None of the parties nor the arbitrator may disclose the existence, content or results of the arbitration without the written consent of all parties.

(ii) The parties shall attempt to agree on the issues to be arbitrated, or identify the disputed issues in writing no later than 45 days prior to arbitration.

(iii) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, discovery, if any, shall be limited as follows: (a) Requests for no more than 10 clearly identified categories of documents, to be provided to the requesting party within 14 days of written request therefore; (b) Depositions: No more than two (2) per party, provided however, the deposition(s) are to be completed within one (1) day; (c) Compliance with the above shall be enforced by the arbitrator in accord with New York law.

(iv) Each party shall have no longer than eight (8) hours to present its position. The entire hearing before the arbitrator shall not take longer than three (3) consecutive days, unless all parties agree otherwise in writing.

(d) The award shall be made in writing no more than 30 days following the end of the proceeding. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered by any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each party shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs in connection with the proceedings and shall share equally the fees and expenses of the arbitrator.



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