

中國郵戳史

第十冊

袁君
辭題



HISTORY OF POSTAL CANCELLATION
OF CHINA
PART X

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第十冊

目錄.....	1
第62章 無法投遞退件戳	
概說.....	5
戳圖.....	15
封片.....	28
第63章 催領戳與此票作廢戳	
概說.....	112
戳圖.....	115
封片.....	116
第64章 戰俘及被拘免費戳	
概說.....	130
戳圖.....	135
封片.....	137
第65章 信件檢查戳與封簽	
概說.....	153
戳圖.....	163
封片.....	170
第66章 上海商碼與ED戳	
概說.....	238
戳圖.....	248
封片.....	252
第67章 交局與非二十局戳	
概說.....	311
戳圖.....	314
封片.....	315
第68章 信筒與信箱開出戳	
概說.....	320
戳圖.....	322
封片.....	324
第69章 信差戳	
概說.....	344
戳圖.....	349
封片.....	361
第70章 小包郵件與包裹專用戳	
概說.....	540
戳圖.....	542

封片	543
第71章 集郵品戳	
概說 戳圖	545
封片	547
第72章 暫代郵票戳	
概說 戳圖	554
封片	556
第73章 代辦所積壓信件戳	
概說 戳圖	559
封片	561
第74章 民信局罰資與遲到郵件戳	
概說	562
戳圖	567
封片	568
第75章 LQ戳	
概說	570
封片	572
第76章 海關驗訖戳	
概說	573
戳圖	576
封片	577
第77章 輪船名戳	
概說	584
戳圖	586
封片	587
第78章 外交信件用戳	
概說	592
戳圖	596
封片	597
第79章 地名在上干支日戳	
概說 戳圖	600
封片	603
第80章 補遺	
概說 戳圖	605
封片	607
1-10冊簡目	611
編後贅語	624
附錄 獲得榮譽 爲戳修史論文	641

PART X CONTENT

Contents	3
Chapter 62 Returned Postmark of Undeliverable Mail Matters	
Summary	9
Figures	15
Cover & Cards	28
Chapter 63 "Notice Sent" and/or "Stamp Canceled" Mark	
Summary	113
Figures	115
Cover & Cards	116
Chapter 64 Exemption from Postal Charges of Items Which Concerned Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees	
Summary	132
Figures	135
Cover & Cards	137
Chapter 65 Mail Censor's Mark and Seal	
Summary	156
Figures	163
Cover & Cards	170
Chapter 66 Commercial Numerals and E.D. Marks Used at Shanghai	
Summary	241
Figures	248
Cover & Cards	252
Chapter 67 "Sent to Office" & "Not S.O. #20" Mark	
Summary	312
Figures	314
Cover & Cards	315
Chapter 68 Marks on Mail Items Collected from Letter Box	
Summary	321
Figures	322
Cover & Cards	324
Chapter 69 Tales of Postmen's Mark	
Summary	345
Figures	349
Cover & Cards	361
Chapter 70 "Small Packet" & "Parcel" Mark	
Summary	541
Figures	542
Cover & Cards	543
Chapter 71 Philatelic Item Mark	

Figures	545
Cover & Cards	547
Chapter 72 Postmark Taking Place of Postage Stamp in Expediency	
Summary.....	555
Figures	554
Cover & Cards	556
Chapter 73 "Mail Matter Delayed by Postal Agency" Mark	
Summary	560
Figures	559
Cover & Cards	561
Chapter 74 "Smuggling Mail Matter by Private Letter Agency to Be Fined"	
&"Late Posting Fee Paid" Marks	
Summary	564
Figures	567
Cover & Cards	568
Chapter 75 "L.Q." Mark	
Summary	571
Cover & Cards	572
Chapter 76 Custom Examined Mark	
Summary	574
Figures	576
Cover & Cards	577
Chapter 77 Steamer's Name Mark	
Summary	585
Figures	586
Cover & Cards	587
Chapter 78 Diplomatic Mail Mark	
Summary	594
Figures	596
Cover & Cards	597
Chapter 79 Lunar Dater with " Peking " on Top	
Summary	601
Figures	602
Cover & Cards	603
Chapter 80 Addendum	
Summary & Figures	606
Cover & Cards	607
Contents in Brief of the Part I to X	611
Postscript	624
Appendix: Honors Awarded to the author	
Essays Related to the publishing of my Books	641

第 62 章 無法投遞退件戳

概 說

國營郵政在開辦之初，總辦通函第 8 號檢發各局應用之各種戳記。其中下列三種，是蓋用在無法投遞郵件者。

1. 取領人無 UNCLAIMED.

此戳應是存局候領郵件，存局期滿無人領取，退給寄件人時蓋用者。

郵件規則第六節規定，存局候領郵件，存局期限國內互寄者為一個月，國外寄來者為二個月。寄件人在封面上如註明，留至幾日未領退回，郵局也可照辦。

2. 寄誤信此 MISSENT.

乃郵局內部封裝郵袋時，將寄往甲局郵件，誤裝送往乙局郵袋內。乙局在轉寄前途時加蓋此戳，表明延遞原因。

3. 人寄原還退 RETURNED TO WRITER.

在郵件無法投遞，退給收寄局時蓋用。

郵件為何退還？退還之原因何在！對收寄局與寄件人均有清楚交待之必要，因而演化有下列種種戳記與批條。

4. 批條（簡式）

印製紙條貼在郵件上。上段是「不能投遞之情節」，下段是「不能退還寄件人之情節」。（圖一）何時啓用，無機會到兩岸之郵政檔藏去求證。在覓得之舊封上，見到 1920 年北平郵局貼用。

5. 批條（繁式）

在上角所印文件編號與簡式同為 D-156X，但印有八項退回情由，依照情形分別圈定，其第八項空白，留備填用（圖二）。此種繁式批條，

在舊封上，見到較早者是1937年。

簡式與繁式之批條已見有大同小異不同之多種版式。

6. 廣州批條

繁要局可能設有無法投遞之部門，處理此種郵件。見廣州印有專用批條。左上角印有〔粵88〕左下角印有100,000 4.1.30.是在1930年1月4日印製十萬枚（圖三）

7. 上海批條

說明無法投遞郵件處理之程序（圖四），在1938年5月12日使用。

8. 退信戳

退還郵件時，在信封或批條上，筆寫情由。也有刻備多種小戳代替筆寫者。

A. 文字 戳刻文字有外文、中文與中外文合用。最早刻用小戳者見吳淞1902年7月12日蓋用外文戳。

B. 箭式 中文外文合用，在1938年至1944年蓋用。

C. 手指式 見有二種，只見外文，1920年至1944年使用



9. 退信日戳

A. 大清郵政方形日戳 美國寄福州封經上海戳無地名似福州蓋用。

B. 中華郵政方式日戳 只見廣州1923~1930年蓋用。

C. 全英文方形日戳 上海1920年10月26日蓋用。

10. 死信處

郵政規則第11條規定「無法投遞郵件……無寄件人姓名地址者，退還原寄局，於揭示公告一個月後，如無人領取，則由指定郵局處分之」。
。所謂指定郵局，在舊封上見有：

A. 華北無法投遞郵件處日戳

1929及1931年，上海改寄國外信函，退回上海後，蓋有華北無法投遞郵件處日戳。據此可知當時只在華北設有死信處？

B. 上海死信處

1935年漢口寄上海封，蓋有「退上海死信處」戳，是時上海可能設有死信處？

C. 無人領取故作死信

1940年8月22日成都收寄封，蓋有此戳。當時四川可能有死信處

11. 退信免費

萬國郵政公約第32條規定，無法投遞函件，應即退回原寄國，無法投遞之印刷物無退回之義務。掛號之明信片、書籍及印刷物，應予退回。退回函件除特殊情形外，不收任何費用。

中國郵政開辦初期，信件、新聞紙、書籍等均免費退回但包裹須加繳回資費。民國25年（1936）公佈之郵政規則，只信函免費退回，但書籍、印刷物貿易契須另納郵費。

12. 無著郵件公署戳

大清郵政章程138條，若皮面未寫寄件人住址者，應送「上海無著郵件公署」拆閱處理。柏齊德《中國郵戳》有件「DEAD LETTER OFFICE DEPARTMENT I.P.O. SHANGHAI MAR 5 1909」上海死信處戳記。

香港鑑珍公司1994年1月22日拍目有件天津1911年4月5日寄往隨州封。封背蓋有廣水、漢口、天津等處日戳，封面也蓋有與柏齊德相同之上海死信處戳。日期是1911年5月6日。

鑑珍同日拍目上列有一件「大清郵政無法投遞之郵件」專用封（如附錄），藉此可知1909年上海曾用郵政公事退還郵件。



無能退還原寄信人之情節

不能投遞之情節

誤却由並姓云
不識于蘭田寂
好甚

黃得照

中國
二十
年
十月
廿
日
收

廣東馬溪

【第—88】

廣州無法投遞郵件處批

此件無法投遞應當
按地址退回原寄人

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1907
U. S. POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

For no return and in order.

1907年6月10日

無 法 投 遞 件 批 條 (依原情情形分別定章)	
此件依照左列圈定	情形退回原寄局 (一) 原址查無其人 (二) 遷移新址不明 (三) 原寄地址不明 (四) 招銀逾期未領 (五) 該校關閉歇業 (六) 死亡無人代收 (七) 收件人拒收 (八)
投遞局日期 北平 十月 廿二日 十月 原寄局無法退 回寄主之理由 係上列各款分別圈定	信差 名 數 差長 名 數 姜長雷炳章
原寄局無 法退 回寄主之 理由 (一) (二) (三) (四) (五) (六) (七) (八)	寄 票 局 日 期 信差 名 數 差長 名 數

(圖四)

件偷無法投遞，應由投遞人加蓋小圓
批註原因，再退回本局（現註）支局按明
臨時存局候領辦法辦理。

支局

無法投遞之原因：

（圖中可見：「SHANGHAI 1259713」郵戳、一個小圓、以及「觀日」字樣）

CHAPTER 62

A Brief Introduction of The Returned Postmark of Undeliverable Mail Matter

SUMMARY

In 1897, when the Chinese Imperial Post Office was just inaugurated at its prime stage, a Postal Secretary's Note No.8 was issued accompanied by various kinds of postal markings amongst which were three kinds for use on undeliverable mail items. They are as follows:

1)

人 寄 原 還 退
RETURNED
TO WRITER

This mark was to be impressed on a Poste Restante mail item which was kept in the post office for a prescribed period and for which nobody called on to claim or accept. As a rule, this unclaimed item was returned to the sender.

A stipulation was set in the Postal Regulations. It reads: "The period of retention for mail matters addressed Poste Restante is fixed at one month for domestic mail matter and two months for those originated from abroad. It shall be three months for items addressed to post office at a seaport for a person on board a ship under sail expected to call thereat. At the expiration of the period prescribed above, the items uncalled shall be disposed of as undeliverable mail matter. If the sender requests to have the item returned in advance within the aforesaid time limit by marking on the cover with the indication 'Please return it if not called for after having been retained for..... days', his request may be complied with.

2)

寄 誤 信 此
MISSENT

When Mail matters enclosed in mail bags and dispatched between certain post offices by mistake (the bags that should have been sent to office A were wrongly sent to office B) is called

"MISSENT". In that case, office B on discovering this missending should impress such a postmark on all the missent items before transmitting them to their proper office of destination in order to express the cause of delay.

3)

取 領 人 無
UNCLAIMED

This mark to be impressed on the undeliverable mail item before returning it to the office of origin.

Why should the mail item be returned to the sender? And what is the reason for it being undeliverable? It needs to be explained clearly to the office of origin and the sender of mail. Therefore several kinds of notice slips of postmarks evolved and were put in use. they are as follows:

4) Notice slip (simplified form) This is a printed paper slip to be stuck on relevant mail items. On the upper part is noted the reason for it being undeliverable by the office of delivery, and on the lower part room is left for the office of origin to express the reason for it being unreturnable, in case it may be.

Owing to my poor knowledge of the inside historical documents in the archives kept by the post headquarters both on Taiwan or in mainland China, I can not tell when this kind of notice slip form was put in use. However, I am more than delighted that there happens to be one in my collection on a used cover of 1920 with this slip stuck on by the Peking Post Office. (see Fig. 1)

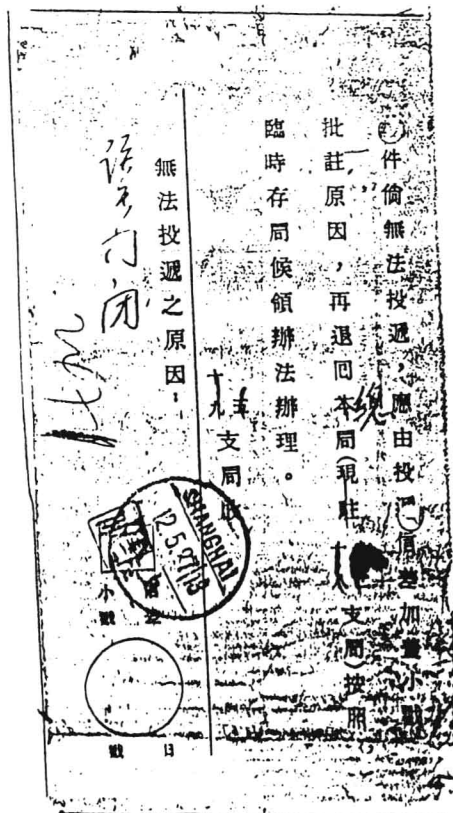
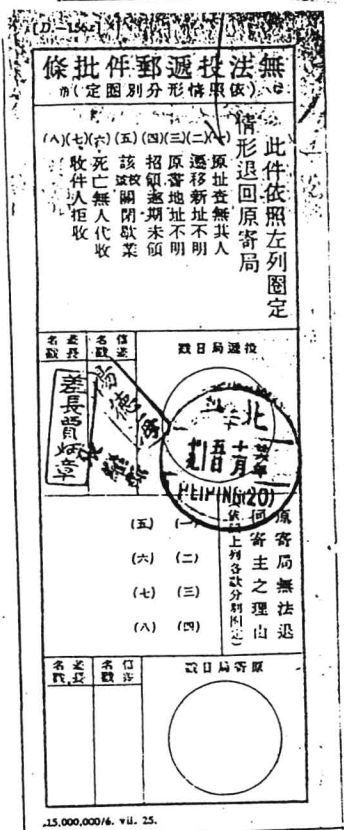
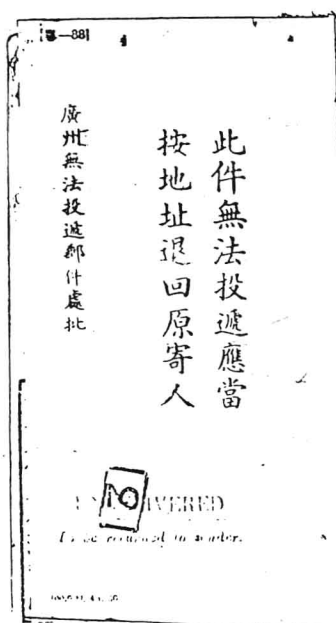
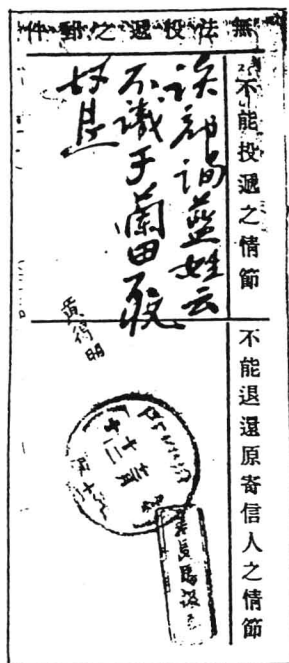
5) Notice slip (complicated form) On the upper left corner, there is a series of number, (D-156x), denoting its official control stationery. In the column on its upper part, though it is used in the same way as fig.1 for the office of delivery to indicate the reason for being undeliverable, there is printed eight cases for relocation. If any one of the cases is proper and fits, just put a mark on the number. There is also a blank space under No.8 which could be filled in by handwriting, if it happens to be a specific reason beyond the other seven undeliverable cases as preprinted. (see Fig.2)

The earlier date of this kind of complicated form, so far as I have found in my collection, is on a used cover of 1937.

Both the aforesaid notice slip of simplified and complicated forms had been reprinted several times with minute differences in plate arrangement.

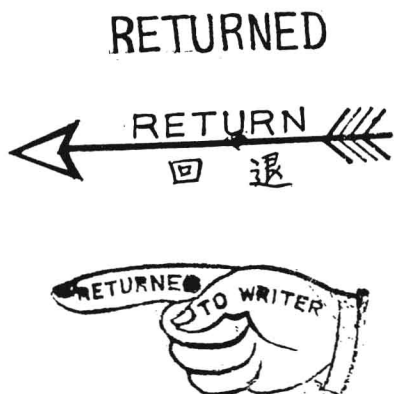
6) Notice slip used in Canton There was established in several important post offices a special department for treatment of undeliverable mail items. Take the Canton Post Office for example, I have found some of the notice slips specially printed for use in Canton. On the upper left corner there was printed a numbered mark "粵 88", and on its lower left corner it was marked with numerals as "100,000/4.1.30" which, I think, means that this batch was printed on Jan. 4, 1930, turning out 100 thousand pieces in all, and was supplied for special use at the Canton Dead Letter Office in the Kwangtung Postal District. (see Fig. 3)

7) Notice slip used in Shanghai This slip indicates the operation procedure of a mail item in case of being undeliverable. It is quite different from the forms used by other post offices. (see Fig. 4) This slip was actually used on May 12, 1938 as shown by the postal dater of Shanghai on the lower left part of it.



8) Return Mark

This is a kind of prepared small wooden shop inscribed with several words indicating the cause of undeliverable mail and selected as fit and proper to be impressed on the notice slip or on the cover of the relevant mail item before it to be returned. The chop (mark) in use is to take the place of handwriting in order to simplify work procedure and save time. The wording of this kind of mark and shape of the chop are in various forms:



(A) Wording -- There are different kinds with foreign languages, Chinese characters and/or bilingual. One of the earliest chops (marks) that I have ever seen was in English used by Woosung (Branch of Shanghai) Post Office on July 12, 1902. (Fig. 5)

(B) Arrow form -- with bilingual wording, used in 1938 to 1947. (Fig. 6)

(C) Finger form -- There are two sizes in large or small forms with foreign wording only used in 1920 till 1944. (Fig. 7)

9) Returned Dater



(A) Square Mark bearing "大清郵政" (Chinese Imperial Post) in Chinese characters only -- It is found on a cover from U.S.A., via Shanghai, to Foochow. There is no name of a place on the mark. It seems to have been put on by the Foochow Post Office.

(B) Square Mark bearing "中華郵政" (Chinese Post Office) on four corners -- Only seen on a cover from Canton during 1923-1930. (Fig. 8)

(C) Square Mark bearing English wording only -- Used at Shanghai on a cover of Oct. 26, 1926. (Fig. 9)

10) Dead Letter Department An article stipulated in the Chinese Postal Regulations, reads "Dead mail matter is opened for examination by the post office specially designated. If the sender's address can be discovered, it is enclosed in a special envelop and returned to the sender; otherwise it is disposed of in the following manner." The so-called "post office specially designated" is officially named as "U.M.M. DEPT. (Undeliverable Mail Matter Department)", "Dead Letter Office" or "Dead Letter Desk (死櫃檯)". These names have been discovered in postmarks on used covers, such as:

(A) U.M.M. DEPT. for North China (華北無法投遞郵件處)



In 1922 and 1931, on letter items accepted at Shanghai, sent abroad which were undeliverable, and returned to Shanghai for disposal. As the postmarks of "U.M.M. DEPT. for North China" were shown on the cover of said letters, we can be certain that there really was such a designated office established in North China. (Fig. 10)

(B) Shanghai Dead Letter Office (上海死信處) On a cover from Hankow to

退上海死信處

Return to Dead Letter Office

to Shanghai in 1935, there was impressed a bilingual mark in a rectangular shape bearing Chinese characters "退上海死信處" and "Return to Dead Letter Office" in English. (Fig. 11)

(C) "Unclaimed Mail matter, treated as Dead Letter" (招領日久無人領取故作死信)

On a cover of a letter posted at Chengtu Post Office on August 22, 1940, there was impressed with a wooden postmark inscribed wording in Chinese as indicated above. It is quite possible that there was a Dead Letter Office situated in the Szechwan Postal District at that time. (Fig. 12)

招領日久無人領取故作死信

11) Return of Undeliverable Letters Without Additional Charge

According to article No. 32 in the Convention of the Universal Postal Union: "Undeliverable correspondence should be returned to the country of origin, but that of printed matters are not obliged to return to the place of origin free of charge. Registered postcard, books and printed matter should be returned as much. With exception of special situation occurred, return of all correspondences are free of charge".

During the initial stage of the Chinese Postal Service, all letter items, newspapers and books, if undeliverable, were returned free of charge but parcels returned were subject to pay return postage. The Postal Regulations of R.O.C. promulgated in 1936 stipulated that only letters were to be returned free of charge, and books, printed matter, commercial papers, ect. were subject to new postage.

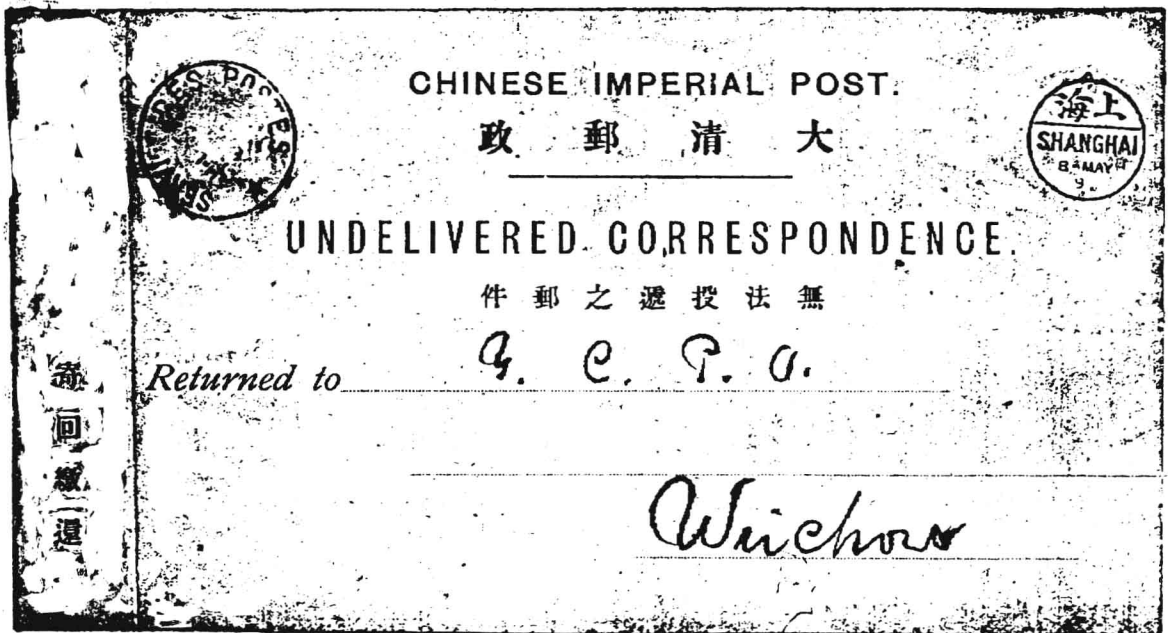
12) Postmark of "Dead Letter Department, I.P.O. Shanghai"

Article No.138 in the earliest issue of THE POSTAL GUIDE, published 1899, indicated that:

"If the undeliverable mail matter bears nothing about the name and address of the sender on its cover which will be not possible to return to its owner, the Post Office should send it to SHANGHAI DEAD LETTER OFFICE for disposal." I have not had the



opportunity to find this kind of postmark in my own collection. However, reference is made in P.I. Padget's book "THE POSTAL MARKING OF CHINA". On page 40 of his book, there appears a seal of "DEAD LETTER DEPARTMENT, I.P.O. SHANGHAI". It is said that this near-oval marking was stamped in purple with a date: Mar. 5, 1909. (Fig. 13)



I、郵路被阻退件戳

I. Mark of Mail Returned for Mail-route Interrupted

編號戳	圖	寄出	退信	到達
No.	Figure	Posted	Returned	Arrival
1-1-1	郵路不通 奉令退回	東口'32 Tungkow		庫倫 Urga
1-1-2	現因東三省郵政 時停辦原件退還	'32		
1-1-3	現因東三省郵政 停辦原件退還	洛陽'32.6.28 Loyang	天津33.12.1 Tientsin	哈爾濱 Harbin
1-1-4	該地情形特殊無 法轉往前途故退	琳村'37.11.20 Lintsun		蘇州 Soochow
1-1-5	該地情形特殊無 法轉投退回原局 蘭谿清理郵件處批	上海'37.11.26 Shanghai	蘭谿 Lanchih	杭州 Hangchow
1-1-6	該地情形特殊無 法轉投退回原局 縣清理郵件處批	美國'37×× U.S.A.	天津'37.10.6 Tientsin	臨洛關 Linlokwan
1-1-7	該地情形特殊無 法轉投退回原局 鄭縣局批	錄自甲戌郵刊 (vide Chiashih Pilatelic Journal)		

編號	戳	圖	寄	出	退	信	到	達
No.		Figure		Posted		Returned		Arrival

1-1-8	該處情形特殊 法轉往前途故退 無錫郵局			上海'37.11.21 Shanghai		無錫 Wusih		南橋鎮 Nanchiaochen
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1-1-9	該處情形特殊 無法投遞故退	美國'38.3.23 U.S.A.		上海'38.5.13 Shanghai		木瀆38.5.20 Mutu		
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1-1-10	該件因戰事關係 無法轉遞故退			上川37.11.21 Shangchwan		涇縣37.12.12 Kingsien		蕪湖長街 Wuhu Changchieh
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1-1-11	因戰事關係無法 轉遞故退寄主	屯溪'37.12.1 Tungki						南通 Nantung
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1-1-12	該地戰區無法 投送退寄件人			上海'37.12.28 Shanghai				杭州 Hangchow
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1-1-13	該地情形特殊 無法投遞	美國'38.3.29 U.S.A.		上海'38.5.3 Shanghai		杭州38.4.25 Hangchow		
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1-1-14	該處情形特殊郵件無 法轉遞退原寄局查存	錄自甲戌郵刊 (vide Chiashih Philatelic Journal)						
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