

SMALL FIGURE SURCHARGE ON  
SECOND CUSTOM ISSUE  
1897

In 1896, the National Post office of China was inaugurated to take the place of the Customs Post Service in issuing stamps. Valuation of regular postage was changed to dollar currency. Until the new stamps could be printed, the Second Custom Issue of 1888 and Dowager stamps were surcharged with new values in dollars or cents.

Only the Custom issue stamps with clean cut perforations of 11-1/2 (Scott #s 13-15) were surcharged. Since the numeral figure used here was smaller than that of the later surcharge, it is referred to in that manner. (Scott #s 25-27.)

SMALL FIGURE SURCHARGE ON  
DOWAGER ISSUE  
January 2, 1897

The Dowager Jubilee Issue with surcharge of dollar values was issued on the above date. The colors of the basic stamps are all the same as the original ones without surcharge; however, for some values the colors may be a little deeper or lighter. (Scott #s 28-37.)



\$250

LARGE FIGURE SURCHARGE ON  
DOWAGER ISSUE

May 1897 1-1/2 mm Apart

This surcharge is the same as before, and as on the first and second printings of the Dowager issue, except that the spacing between the figures of value and the Chinese characters has been reduced by 1 mm. Some of the surcharged first printing (Scott #s 56-64) are very rare. According to Ma's, the 3 candarin (#58) has hardly ever been seen. The second printing (Scott #s 65-72) is more common, except for the 30 cents on 24 candarin (#72, regular #24n).



\$ 9.80

The 2 and 3 candarin Dowager stamps were re-drawn, re-engraved and printed for subsequent surcharging, with the large figure 1-1/2 mm. below the Chinese characters. (Scott #s 73 and 74) They were surcharged 1/2 cents on the 3 and 2 cents on the 2. According to Ma's none of the unsurcharged original stamps of these two values has ever come into the hands of any collector.

The surcharged Second Customs Issue was made in Shanghai on the stamps recalled from all district offices. Those from Pakhoi, located far away, arrived too late for surcharging with the initial small figure or the large figure set 2-1/2 mm. apart. It was only in time to be surcharged with large figures 1-1/2 mm. below the Chinese characters, as those on the Dowager stamps, later in 1897. (Scott #s 75-77.)



SURCHARGED RED REVENUE STAMPS

1897 Perf. 12 to 16 Unwmkd.

With the formal inauguration of the National Postal Service during the Ching Dynasty, higher denomination stamps were needed for postal remittance, parcels, and insured matter. The unused 3-cents Revenue Stamps kept in stock by the Statistical Department of the Maritime Customs were surcharged for postal use (Scott #s 78-85) Only a few copies of the stamps exist without surcharge and according to Scott only one is cancelled.

The stamps are colored red, vermilion red, or crimson red. The engraved steel plate had very fine gratings, being made by Waterlow and Sons, London. The total issue was 600,000 stamps. The top line of the "one cents" surcharge reads "Postal Administration of Ching Dynasty", and the second line reads "As one cent".

There are two kinds of 2 cent surcharges. In the "large" type, the numeral is positioned above the word "cents". In the "small" type, the numeral and word occupied the same line. While there is only one variety of the "large" type (#80), there are many varieties of the "small" type because it had a poor setting.

There are also two kinds of 4 cent surcharges, a "large" and "small" type (#s 82 and 81), and in each the numeral is positioned above the word. The "small" type was actually a printing proof and because the numeral was two small the large type was used afterwards. Thus, the "small" type is much more rare.



\$800

The 1 dollar surcharge also is of two types, "small" and "large", and this also relates to the Chinese characters. The former (Scott # 83) is one of the rarest Chinese stamps. As two color shades, red and crimson red, have been found, there were at least two sheets of 25 stamps surcharged. According to Ma's 1947 edition, about 20 stamps were accounted for and there is only one known used copy.



PROVISIONAL SURCHARGES ON  
JUNK AND REAPER STAMPS

On account of postage rate revisions, the Post Office often found in its stock large quantities of stamps with obsolete face values. To make use of these stamps, new provisional values were overprinted. Since 1922, nine kinds of First and Second Peking Junk type stamps were overprinted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Peking. The first was the First Peking Print Junk 3 cents, surcharged in red with 2 cents. (Scott # 247)



The second overprint of this type issued in 1925. It consists of a red 3 cts surcharge on the 4 cents grey, which is of the Second Peking Junk Type. (Scott # 274) There was an excess supply of 4 cents stamps, since a previously decreed increase in the postage rate from three to four cents had not been enforceable.







\$571









368  
369







828  
70  
882

\$680





960-962



C63



E-13  
F3



\$580





\$360



