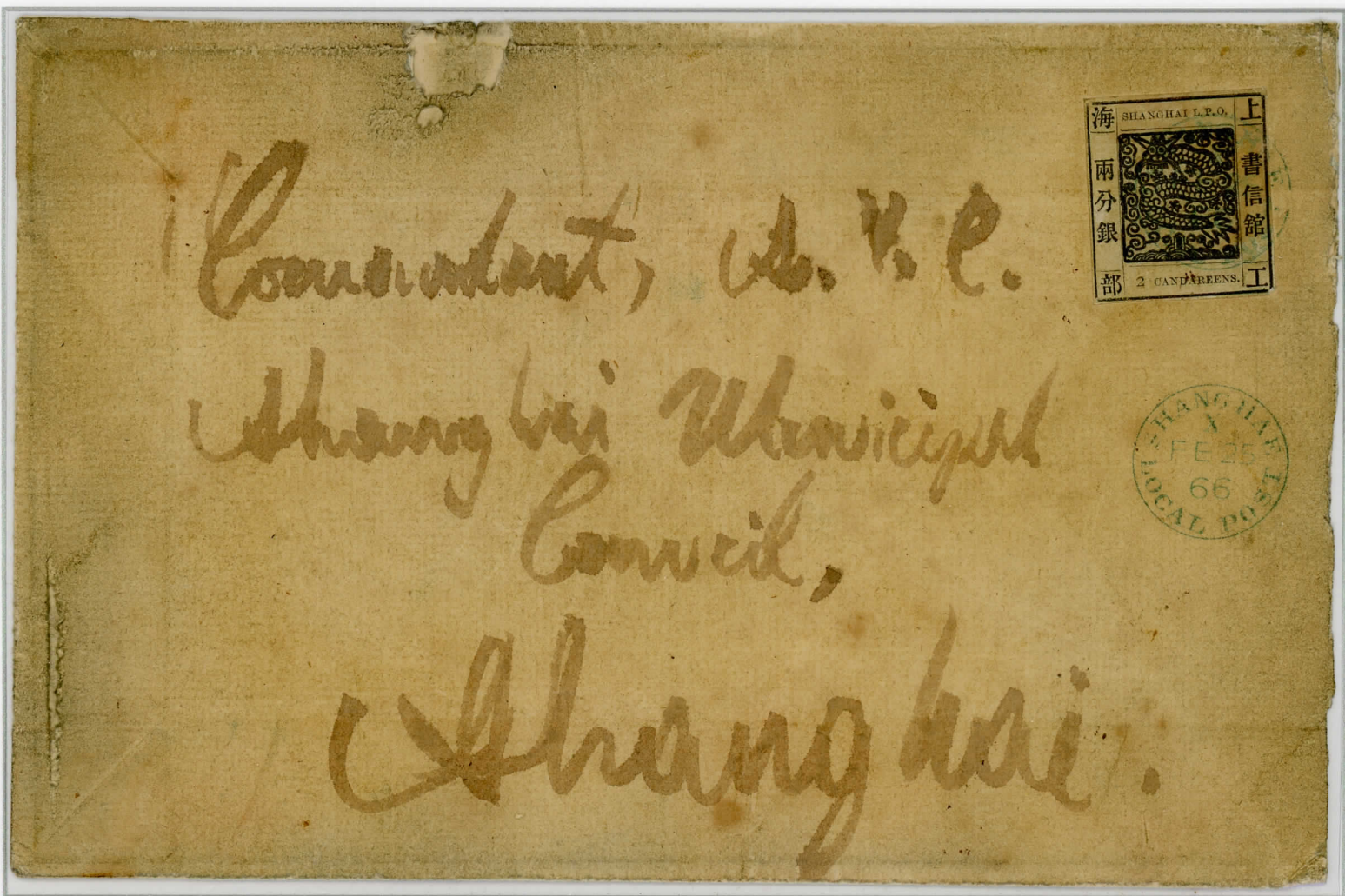


The Shanghai local post handled two kinds of letter - covers from subscribers which did not need stamps and cover from non-subscribers which did need stamps. A subscription only paid for delivery within the foreign settlement of Shanghai. This cover, addressed in the brush hand of a Chinese writer, enclosed a map and report of the Volunteer Corp's policing patrols over the six bridges that crossed Soochow Creek into the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

In the Report of the Monthly Meeting of the Shanghai Municipal Council held on 5 September 1865 it was noted under the heading "Local Post Office" that:

A branch office has been established in the eastern suburb of the native city (as opposed to the foreign settlement where the main Shanghai Local Post Office was located) for the sale of postage stamps and collection of native correspondence. A contract has been made with Paou Shun, for the sum of \$600 per annum, he is allowed to collect and forward a portion of the Chinese postal matter.



25 February 1866 Shanghai "town letter" prepaid 2 candareens (print #14) blue-green Shanghai Local Post postmark and cancel, use from a non-subscriber addressed to the Commandant of the SVC, Shanghai Municipal Council, Shanghai

probably deposited at the "Paou Shun" branch post office and subject to the 2 candareens rate

one of three known Shanghai Local Post large dragon stamps on cover

Shanghai Local Post



The earliest dated cover from a find of three covers, two bearing two candareens large dragon stamps (prints #14 and #41), and five maps is shown below. The original enclosure in the cover is the 1865 map of the Soochow Creek Bridges shown overlaid on the cover in a cropped and reduced image. The reverse of the map is endorsed "Dec. 65 / R.20 S.V.C." in the same "brush" hand as the address of the cover. The maps probably each accompanied a written report of the Volunteer Corp patrols over the 6 bridges shown.



The "Shanghae Local Post" datestamp struck in blue-green is reported used as a dispatch postmark on covers dated between July 1864 and June 1865 and is later found used as a cancel on stamps.



21 December 1865 Shanghai Local Post postmark and cancel, stamp torn away, to Commandant "Shanghai Municipal Council / * SVC 1865 * / Soochow Creek Bridge Patrol" map bridges numbered "1" to "6" by hand from left to right

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
★ S.V.C 1868 ★
SOOCHOW CREEK BRIDGE PATROL



Feb. 66

U.V.C. R. 12.

Dec. 65

R. 20. Ave.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

* S.V.C 1865 *

SOOCHOW CREEK BRIDGE PATROL

