

## Stamps Have Value

# Kelleher & Rogers China Results

by John F. Dunn

This past November 13-15 Kelleher & Rogers conducted a comprehensive auction of China, encompassing singles, covers and large lots. In this review we will focus on a sampling of the more valuable lots and their realizations.

Too detailed to describe here, the first lot was a huge all mint Specialist's Stock, 1898-1949, with hundreds of thousands of stamps, all perfectly arranged and identified by Scott or Ma numbers in individual glassines, with specialized notation as required. It was summarized as "an incredible holding, the type which is rapidly vanishing from the market place, largely NH, Very Fine." Estimated at \$7,740-9,030, it soared to a realization of \$30,965.

(All prices quoted here are converted from Hong Kong to U.S. Dollars as of the auction date. The do not include the 15% buyers premium that is added on to these hammer prices.)

Although it did not sell, worth mentioning nonetheless is this Shanghai 1866, Large Dragon (Antique Numerals, "CANDAREENS" plural), 3ca terra cotta on wove paper, printing 37a (Chan LS27 variety, Scott 28 var.; Scott and Chan list it on laid paper), affixed to a small piece and cancelled by a blue Shanghai Small Garter by favor in 1875. Described as "without question the finest known example quality-wise of the issue either mint or used." It was estimated at \$32,250-45,150.



Next we have a China 1894 Empress Dowager 60th Birthday First printing 24ca carmine (Chan 30, Scott 24), with full clean original gum, a fresh, bright copy, Fine to Very Fine. With an SCV of \$900 and a presale estimate of \$310-361, it sold for \$4,387.



Another "Dowager", the 1897 60th Birthday 2nd printing 12ca pale orange yellow (Chan 29S, Scott 23n), o.g., fresh and well-centered with true second printing color, described as "a splendid example of this elusive issue" brought \$5,161 against an SCV of \$3,750 and a presale estimate of \$3,870-\$5,160.



At the top of the next column we have a China 1897 Small 2¢ on 3¢ Red Revenue strip of 3, center stamp normal, right stamp with inverted "S" in "CENTS" and left stamp no period after "CENTS" (Chan 84, 84f, 84g; Scott 79, 79b, 79c), all well centered. The two rare varieties are never hinged and only the normal, middle, stamp is hinged. With an SCV of \$2,625, and an estimate of \$3,354-3,870 it brought \$4,129.



This next lot offered a complete set of sheets of 100 of the China 1909 Emperor Hsuan Tung set (Chan 137-139, Scott 131-133, shown



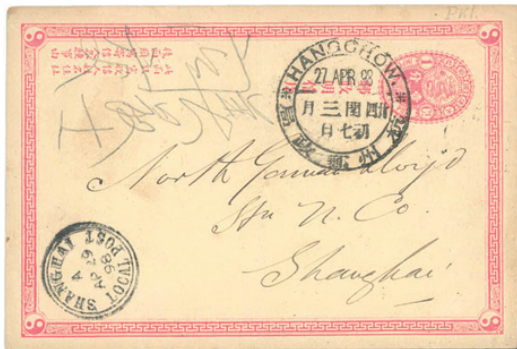
Sc. 133) with slightly dryish, but white o.g., fresh, with a few minor expected separations, and light tones, Fine to Very Fine. One of a few surviving set of sheets extant, with an SCV of \$3,850 and presale estimate of \$3,870-\$5,160, it was hammered down for \$4,645.

Next we have a double rate combination cover from Tientsin to Pawtucket, Rhode Island, franked on the reverse by a pair of 3ca rough perf 12½ Small Dragons, tied by a blue Tientsin seal cancel with matching small Customs c.d.s. alongside and additionally tied by a Shanghai



small Customs transit c.d.s. dated Feb 26. The front shows a U.S. 5¢ Garfield pair cancelled by barred handstamp, with adjacent light “U.S. Postal Agency / Shanghai” oval handstamp in violet; all stamps with stained perfs from the brown glue that affixed them, the cover with a sealed tear that affects one stamp. Still, one of only a small handful of U.S. / Small Dragon combination covers, it was estimated at \$6,450-7,740, but did not sell.

Another postal history lot was this China 1898 (Apr 27) 1¢ Imperial Chinese Postal card, used from Hangchow to Shanghai, cancelled by a choice strike of a Hangchow



27 APR 98 large dollar chop, with Shanghai AP29 Local Post arrival c.d.s. lower left. We are told that the Hangchow dollar dater is rare on postal cards, so this card, despite a faint file fold, with an estimate of \$1,548-2,064 fetched a lofty \$12,902.



Next we find a China, 1901 (Nov), red band Imperial Post Office (Pakhoi) cover from Nanning to Saone-et-Loire, franked

by 2¢ and two 4¢ Coiling Dragons tied by bold strikes of Nanning tombstone cancels. The cover also bears a Hong Kong 10¢ Victoria tied by a Victoria 15 NO 01 Hong Kong c.d.s. and further tied by a bold Pakhoi I.P.O. tieprint chop, the front and reverse also with Pakhoi bilingual c.d.s.'s dated 11 Nov, and a Saone-e-Loire 16 Dec receiver. Aptly described as a rare and desirable combination, it was estimated at \$1,806-2,322, it sold for \$3,613.

A few lots later this China 1904 (Jan 12) registered red band cover from Pingyung to Peking, franked by 1¢ and 10¢ Coiling Dragons, tied by a Pingyung Post Office tombstone killer in blue, with lunar dater of 11.25 and matching boxed Pingyung registry marking. The back shows Taiyuan 1.18 transit and Peking 1.23 oval arrival markings. Another rare cover, this lot realized \$3,097 against a \$1,032-1,548 presale estimate.

Shown at the top of the next column, we have the 1912 (May 24) 1¢ & 5¢ Coiling Dragon bisects used on cover from Hsing An Fu to Chungking, both bisects used to pay the 3¢ domestic rate, tied by Hsing An Fu 5.5.24 c.d.s.'s, with Hanchungfu 4.24 Kwangyuan and Shunking transit markings.



Described as an exceedingly rare usage, it was estimated at \$1,935-2,580 and sold for \$3,613.



Indian Offices in China included this British Railway Administration 1901, “B.R.A.” on China Coiling Dragon, 5¢ on ½¢ brown, green surcharge (Gibbons BR133b, Chan BRA1) block of 20, representing the complete setting, o.g., all but 20 stamps never hinged, fresh and well centered, described as “in near Post Office quality, Extremely Fine, a showpiece!”



The bidders agreed, as it brought \$9,032 against a presale estimate of \$5,160-\$6,450.

Next we have a Japan 1896 (March 25) “Official History of the Postage Stamps of Japan” Enkakushi Presentation Book. Issued originally as a reference book for foreign diplomats and domestic high officials, it features the history of postage stamps and stationery from March 1871 to March 1894. Included are 59 postage stamps, 34 items of postal stationery, plus 10 Telegraph stamps and 2 “urgent” labels. Estimated at \$12,900-\$15,480, it sold for \$15,480.



To Be Continued

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This past November 13-15 Kelleher & Rogers conducted a comprehensive auction of China, encompassing singles, covers and large lots. Continuing where we left off in our January 8 edition, we see here a Japan 1877, blue envelope from Nagasaki to Northampton, England, franked by a 20 sen violet Cherry Blossom syllabic 5 (Scott 38), tied by a "Nagasaki Nov 11 12 M Japan: c.d.s., the cover also with a red "Yokohama Nov 18 PAID ALL" alongside. The reverse shows a red "San Francisco DEC 5 Paid All" transit and "Northampton A DE 23 77" receiver. Estimated at \$1,032-1,290, it soared to \$8,900.



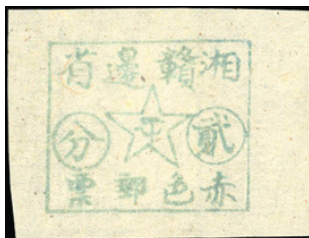
(All prices quoted here are converted from Hong Kong to U.S. Dollars as of the auction date. They do not include the 15% buyers premium that is added on to these hammer prices.)

Next we have a Korea 1884 First Issue, 5m rose left margin, perf 8½ to 11½ (Scott 1), cancelled by bold full negative strikes of "His Corean Majesty's Customs - Jenchuan" seal-type cancels, the right stamp with a light crease.



Estimated at \$2,580-3,870, it fetched a top bid of \$3857.

Entering the People's Republic of China section, my first selection, from the early Liberated Areas, was a 1931 Hunan-Jiangxi Chinese Red Post 2¢ bluish green (Yang catalog RP13), without gum as issued, a flawless example with wide margins. Estimated at \$5,160-6,450, it sold for \$8,159.



A strong performance in this section was turned in by this Chinese Soviet Posts 1932 Postage Due 1¢ brown (Yang SPD1), without gum as issued, a choice example of this rare issue, fresh with large, even margins, estimate \$1,806-2,322, it realized \$5,044.



At the top of the next column is a North China 1938 Tangxian Provisional Issue 1¢ vermilion (Yang NC81), with a corner cancel and a few faint tone spots "as often encountered on this issue," per the auction experts.



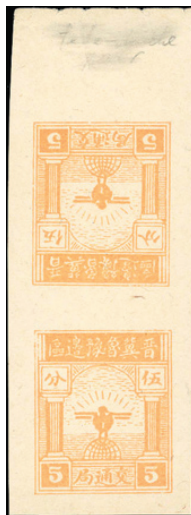
With only 45 examples recorded, this one was estimated at \$1,935-\$2,580 and brought \$4,450.

Also showing strength was this North China 1943 Shanxi-Hebei-Shandong-Henan Border

Area "Bird on Globe" Cent Unit 5¢ yellow orange, *tete-beche* pari (Yang NC171), without gum as issued, Extremely Fine. With only one other pair recorded, it was estimated at \$2,580-3,870 and went for \$7,418.



And to the left is another "Bird on Globe" Cent Unit, this one the 10¢ surcharge on 100¢ apple green (Yang NC182), without gum as issued, in Very Fine condition. Estimated at \$1,032-1,290, it realized \$3,857.



North China cent unit Bird issues also included this 1944 Postage Due with woodchop hand surcharge in black on a (5¢) 20¢ brown (Yang NCD4) "Temporarily used for" overprinted and surcharged issue, without gum as issued, Extremely Fine. With a pre-sale estimate of 2,580-3,870, it did not close until being hammered down for \$6,676.



This next North China stamp is the 1949 Parcel Post Highway design issue with a \$500 on \$10,000,000 surcharge, part of a rare set (Yang NCP1-NCP5. Scott 3LQ1-3LQ5), without gum as issued, that is unpriced mint in Yang and Scott. This rare set was one of the best performers in this auction, with a \$5,341 realization against a \$284-361 estimate.



Shown on the facing page is a postal card from Changchun to Shanghai with the North East China 1947 (Sep 26) North East \$4 on \$1 surcharge "limited for use in the North East" issue, uprated with a Sun Yat-sen NE issue \$10 block of 4 and \$4 on \$50 surcharge issue, tied by Changchun 9.26 c.d.s.'s with blue Post Office instructional handstamp Shanghai 10.4 arrival c.d.s. on the reverse. Estimated at \$194-258, it went for \$5,340.

Also on the facing page is a PRC 1980 Year of the Monkey bottom margin single (Sc. 1586), with never hinged original gum, in Very Fine condition. With a Scott value of \$1,875 and a pre-sale estimate of \$1,290-1,258, it realized \$1,929.

A subsequent lot contained the PRC 1980-1991 Lunar New Year issues (Scott 1586//2315), 12 complete sheets of 80, fresh and lightly folded, o.g., never hinged, including a “Monkey” sheet. With an SCV of \$157,128 and pre-sale estimate of \$129,000-154,800, it was hammered down for \$170,603.



This 1968 Directives of Chairman Mao complete se-tenant strip of 5 with imprint and sheet number, with NH o.g., SCV \$6,500, estimate \$3,870-\$5,160 went for \$8,901; and completing this review of China value, one major Back-of-the Book lot was a complete set of the 1951 Tien An Men 5th Issue (Sc. 95-100, shown Sc. 100), without gum as issued, in a select quality set. With an SCV of \$6,198 and an estimate of \$4,515-5,160, it sold for \$5,341.

