

# China Express Letter Stamp, Second Republic Issue(1914-1916)

## About this Exhibit

This exhibit explores the China Express Letter Stamp, Second Republic Issue (Scott #E10), released in 1914 and used until early 1916. For simplicity, this exhibit refers to it as "E10". E10 was one of the world's longest stamps at the time. It was divided into five parts by rouletting, each with a specific role in control, tracking, recording, postage proof, and receipt.

## Treatment

The exhibit details E10's design, printing varieties, functions, and usage, including during the Hung Hsien Monarchy. It ends with E10's demonetization and transition to express slips in 1916.

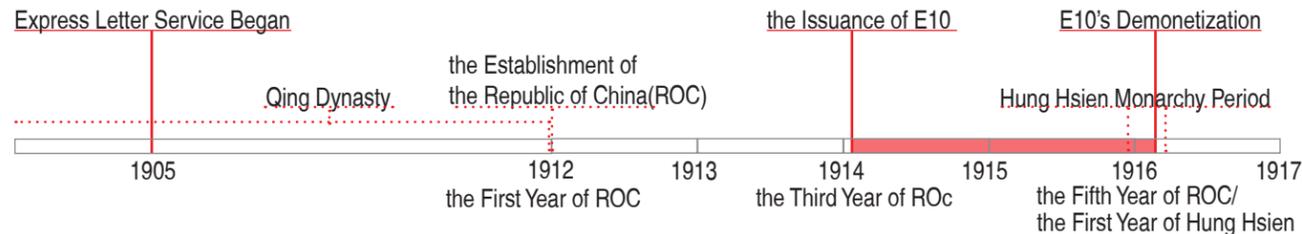
## Importance

E10 is a fascinating piece of postal history. According to the Report on the Working of the Chinese P. O., express mail usage was extensive, with 5.7 million items processed in 1914 and an annual growth rate of 10%. The E10 stamp stands out as the only express stamp used during two pivotal moments in China's postal and political history.

## Philatelic References

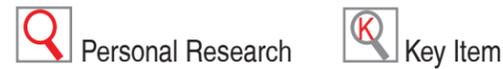
1. China Clipper, Dr. Lloyds Ruland, 1941
2. Researches on Express Letter Stamps of Qing Dynasty and Republic of China, Zengshu Chang, 1991
3. Republic of China Express Letter Stamps & Mail Slips:1912-1929, H. James Maxwell, China Stamp Society website
4. Studies on the Express Delivery Service from Late Tsing Dynasty to Early Republic of China (1905-1916), the Exhibitor, Collectors' Philatelic Annual Report (2022), Vol 24
5. Printing Varieties Study of Republic of China's Second Issue Express Letter Stamp, the Exhibitor, the China Clipper, Whole Number 513, Vol 89, No. 2, 2025

## Timeline



## Exhibit Plan

- Part 1 Title Page, P1
- Part 2 Print Errors and Verities of E10, P2
- Part 3 Thousand Character Classic Management System, P3
- Part 4 Handling of Each Part of E10 in Express Service, P4
- Part 5 Regular Usage of E10, P5
- Part 6 Uncommon Usage of E10, P6
- Part 7 E10 During the Hung Hsien Monarchy Period, P7
- Part 8 Demonetization of E10, P8



## Challenges

Chang's research reveals that the exact issue date of E10 remains unclear, with no records of specimens or print sheets in postal archives. Express stamps were purchased and used immediately, with parts A, B, and C archived and later destroyed, making unused examples rare. Many surviving Part B and C are damaged from detachment during delivery. Collecting E10 items from the brief Hung Hsien Monarchy and their late usage in 1916 has been especially challenging.

## Presentation

Dates are presented in the standard month, day, year format, though the original styles on canceled stamps or covers. Special date formats, like "the fifth year of the Republic of China (ROC)" or "the first year of Hung Hsien," are preserved in their original forms. City names are shown as they appear on the covers or canceled stamps, such as Peking (Beijing), Tientsin (Tianjin) and Nanking (Nanjing).



Serial No. 0001  
Changchow (Mar. 26, 1915)



Serial No. 1000  
Peking (Dec. 21, 1914)

E10 measured 7.5" x 2.75" and was divided into five parts by a roulette. It featured a flying goose design on Parts C and D, with only Part C having a 10-cent face value. E10 was printed in booklets with serial numbers from 0001 to 1000, and the background displayed "Chinese Post Office" in serified letters.

The leftmost Part A stayed in the booklet for control purposes, while Part D was given as a receipt. Parts B, C, and Ca were attached to the back of the envelope. At the destination post office, Parts B and C were detached and signed by recipient, while Part Ca remained on the envelope.



**Part A** Local P. O. Record  
**Part B** Destination P. O. Record  
**Part C** Delivery Record  
**Part Ca**  
**Part D** Receipt of Sender



Heavy Background Pattern  
Peking (Apr. 13, 1915)



Light Background Pattern  
Peking (Jun. 29, 1915)