

JAPAN's WARS 1894 - 1911.

In the late 19th Century and early 20th Century history offered a dramatic illustration of international relations in the Far Eastern political situation with the outcome being the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895), the Boxer Uprising (1900) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), resulting eventually in Japan gaining the territories of Formosa (Taiwan), Manchuria Kwantung and Railways, Southern Sakhalin (Karafuto) Island and eventually the territory of Korea. This exhibit shows the postal history of these Wars and the subsequent military occupation of Korea until the 1910 Annexation by Japan with Japan's ultimate object of Korea becoming a territory of Japan.

The exhibit is shown in the following format and the items shown are classified from scarce to rare mainly based upon the usage via the Field Post Offices and the military cancellations applied during these wars.

Frame 1	Sino-Japanese War; military mail from Korea and Manchuria,	1894 - 1895
Frame 2	Sino-Japanese War; military mail Manchuria, Formosa and China.	1895 - 1897
Frame 3	The Boxer Uprising; military mail from the International Force in China.	1900 - 1901
Frame 4	The Russo-Japanese War; military mail from Japanese & Russian Forces in Korea and Manchuria.	1902 - 1904
Frame 5	The Russo-Japanese War; military mail from Japanese & Russian Forces in Manchuria.	1904 - 1905
Frame 6	The Russo-Japanese War; military mail from Japanese & Russian Forces in Korea and Manchuria. Chinese Eastern Railway.	1904 - 1905
Frame 7	The Russo-Japanese War; military mail from Japanese & Russian Forces in Manchuria, Korea, Sakhalin, Russian, Japanese and British Prisoner of War mail.	1904 - 1906
Frame 8	Post Russo-Japanese War; military mail from Japanese & Russian Forces in Manchuria and Korea. The usage of the Uch'eso cancels in Korea.	1905 - 1911

Important items of mail are exhibited in Frames 1 and 2 from The Sino-Japanese War period (1894 - 1897), these include rare and exceptional items such as the first mail carried by Japanese ship '*Nagato-maru*' to Manchuria in October 1894, Mail travelling through No. 16 Field Post Office of the Japanese 2nd Army, Manchuria, in May 1895, the earliest mail recorded at No. 4 Field Post Office, 30th May 1895 Manchuria. Then mail at No. 2 and No. 3 Field Post Offices at Taipei (April 1896) and Hsinchu (June 1896) Formosa. With the occupation of Wei-hai-wei, China, important items of mail are shown with an exceptional item of printed matter mail being exhibited.

The Boxer Uprising, Frame 3, is illustrated by mail from the International forces, German, French, Russian, British Indian Army and Japanese, with mail through the Japanese post offices at Tungchow and Yangtsun being of particular interest.

The Russo-Japanese War commences at Frame 4, commencing on the first page with a rare item from the Russian post office at Dalnii, Japanese mail from Korea through Field Post Offices with very short opening periods, Russian mail from the Red Cross Society and various scarce postal cancels.

Frame 5 shows Japanese earliest recorded mail through a number of different Field Post Offices, Japanese naval mail, Russian mail from a Russian Hospital Ship, Manchuli Railway Postal Branch, Kharbin Hospital Suburb and Mukden cancels.

The 6th Frame exhibits Japanese earliest recorded mail through Field Post Offices, Military Observer and Diplomatic Mail, Russian mail of the Chinese Eastern Railways showing scarce and rare items.

Frame 7 shows Japanese mail from Korea Occupation Army, 13th Independent Division (Sakhalin), Russian and Japanese Prisoner of War mail, an exceptional item of a British Prisoner of War, from the '*Sado-maru*' captured by the Russian Ship '*Rurik*' and imprisoned in Russia as a prisoner of the Russo-Japanese War.

The final Frame 8, commences with rare Field Post Office cancels, then proceeds to show the Japanese Occupation of Korea from 1905 to 1911, including the Annexation of Korea, illustrated by a rare collection of Uch'eso Provisional / Temporary Postal Station cancels.

References;

SUZUKI Takao, '*A Study on Locating of Japanese Field Post Offices, Large Gold Medal collection 'The Russo-Japanese War'.*
 KENNETH G. CLARK, '*The History & Postal History of Japan's Wars*', Large Gold Medal collection '*The Russo-Japanese War*'.
 Dr. RAYMOND CASEY, Grand Prix Collection '*The Russo-Japanese War*'.