

## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

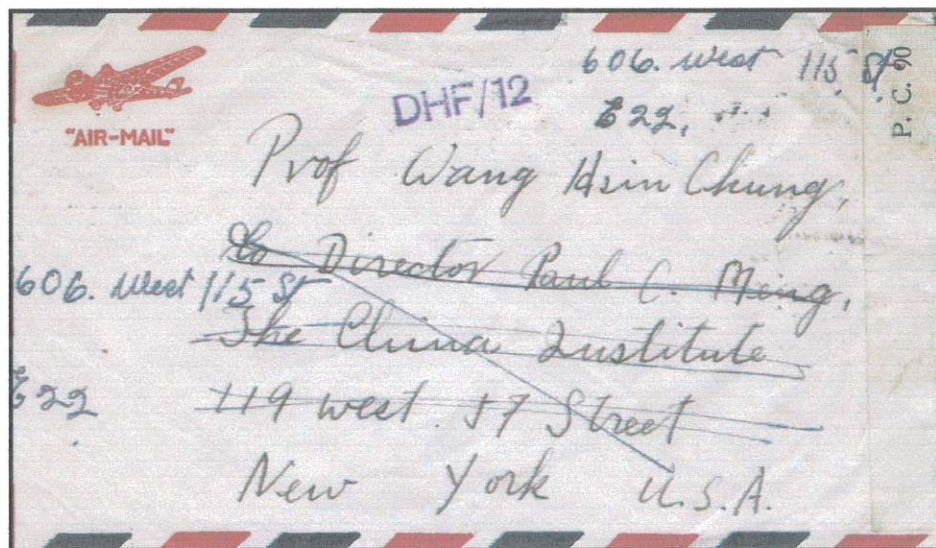
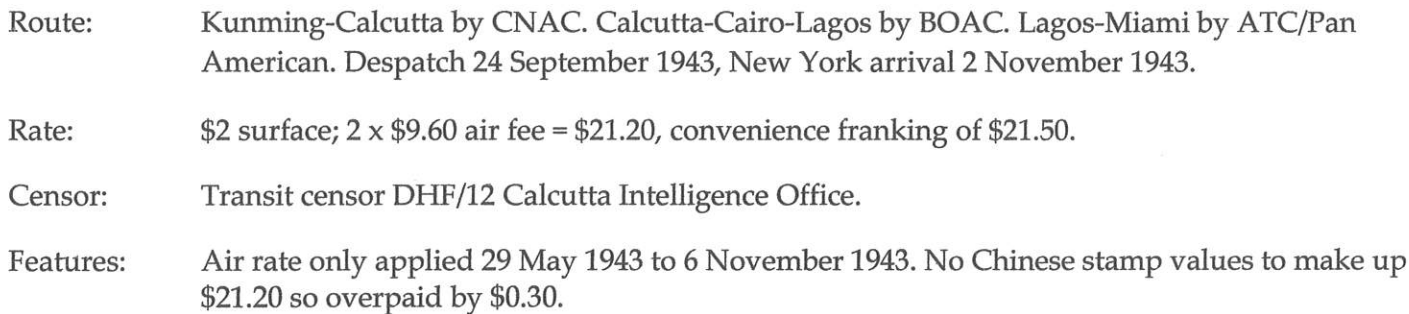
BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1943.



- Route: Siking-Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Siking 25 June 1943, transit Chungking 6 July 1943. Arrive Miami 9 August 1943.
- Rate: \$2 surface, \$2 registration, 2 x \$9.60 air fee = \$23.20. Convenience franking \$24 on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90 label.
- Features: Surface rate and registration increased from \$1.50 to \$2 from 1 June 1943.





BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1943.



## Wartime Air mail

BOAC China to United Kingdom via Hong Kong 1940.



- Route: China-Hong Kong by surface. Hong Kong-Bangkok by BOAC shuttle. Bangkok-London by BOAC. Despatch China 12 March 1940. Hong Kong 19 March 1940.
- Rate: \$0.50 surface fee. \$1.75 air fee. Total \$2.25. Apparently only air fee paid? No other rate complies.
- Features: Showing use of surface travel from China to Hong Kong. Hong Kong to Bangkok flight HB221, connecting with flight SW224 leaving 20 March, arriving Southampton 28 March 1940.





# World War 2 Airmail

## China to USA via Lagos

Airmail cover from Hingping via Chungking to New York flown "over the hump" and then by the Horseshoe and trans-Africa routes to connect with the Pan American FAM-22 service via Miami to New York. Cover endorsed "By Chinese Air Service to Calcutta the onward by British Imperial Airways to Lazos (*sic*) Nigeria then on by Pan-American Airways to U.S. of America."

Despatch strikes of Hingping read 23.1.32 (23<sup>rd</sup> January 1943) with a Chungking transit strike dated 12.3.32, and Miami arrival of April 25<sup>th</sup>. Other covers from the same correspondence show a journey time Hingping to Chungking of 19 days which would suggest that on this occasion the Hingping date stamp was incorrectly set and should have been February rather than January.

Rate paid \$11.70. made up of \$1.50 registration, \$1.50 surface rate + \$8.70 airmail surcharge. Rate applied 1<sup>st</sup> November 1942 to 29<sup>th</sup> May 1943.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American Airways. China to United States via Lagos 1943.



Changsha to Washington 1943. Airmail cover carrying a route instruction :

***"By airmail, China, Calcutta, Cairo and Port Bell – Entebbe. By South African Airways to Leopoldville. Thence by PAA to destination."***

Despatch date unclear, transit Kweilin, arrival Washington 24 March 1943. No transit censorship, which is unusual.

Despite the 'via Port Bell' endorsement, the cover must have travelled via Lagos since CAA records show that all South African Airways operations to Leopoldville ended on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942, and the bulk of mail carried by Pan American from West Africa to Miami was by the ATC flights to and from Lagos, and not from Leopoldville. Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC, Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC, then by Pan American/ATC flight Lagos- Miami.

Rate: For the Port Bell route \$1.50 surface + 2 x \$9.50 air fee = \$20.50. Underpaid, \$20.40 franking.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight. China to United States via Lagos 1942.



Chengtu to Seattle 1942. Airmail cover carrying a route instruction :

***"By airmail, China, Calcutta, Cairo and Port Bell – Entebbe. By South African Airways to Leopoldville. Thence by PAA to destination."***

Despatch Chengtu 20<sup>th</sup> July 1942, arrival McMinnville 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942. Censored in India, backstamp of DHA/04??, and the closure label on the left side of the cover has been removed leaving the remains of an Indian crowned "Passed" octagonal censor cachet.

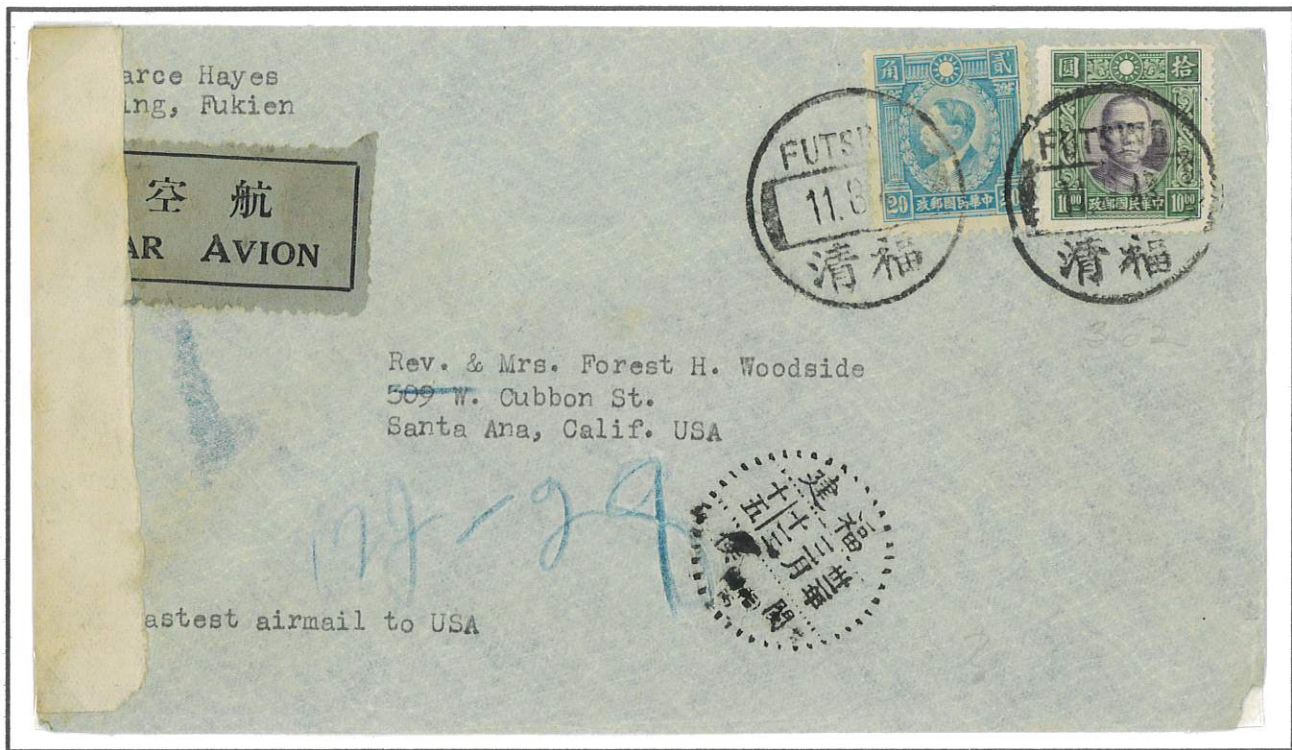
Rate paid \$9.50 which corresponds to the airmail surcharge for this route which was in force for only 10 days from 30<sup>th</sup> June 1942 to 10<sup>th</sup> July 1942, but no evidence of payment for the \$1 basic surface rate, and I can only surmise that the Chinese postal clerk was in error. Despite the air surcharge for the route via Lagos being only \$8.70, the cover must have travelled via Lagos since CAA records show that all South African Airways operations to Leopoldville ended on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942, and the bulk of mail carried by Pan American from West Africa to Miami was by the "Special Mission" flights to and from Lagos, and not from Leopoldville.

Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC, Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC, then by Pan American special mission flight Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad, then Pan American local service to Miami.

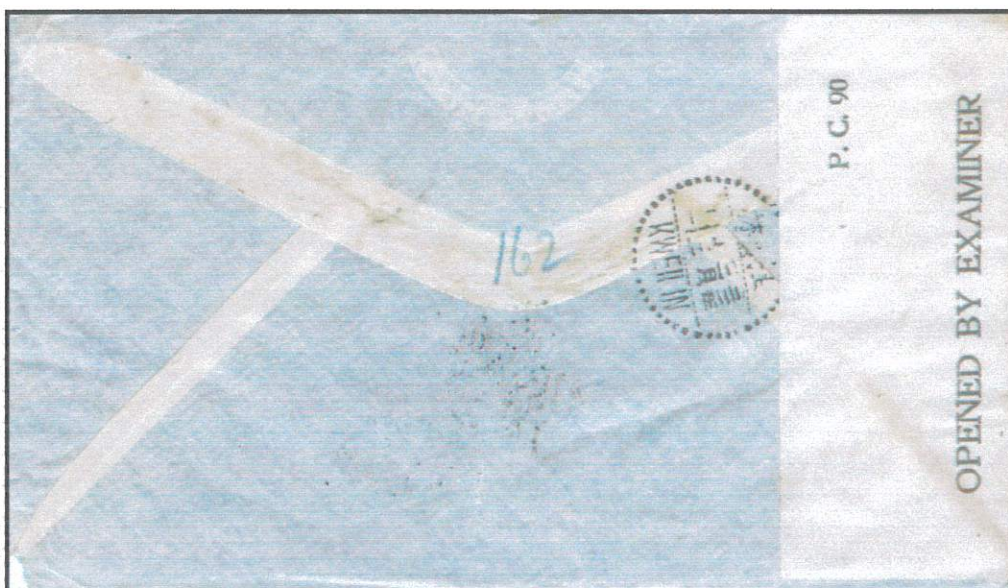


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1943.



- Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Futsing 11 March 1943. Transit Kweilin 13 March.
- Rate: \$1.50 surface; \$8.70 air fee = \$10.20 as on cover.
- Censor: Censored Calcutta.
- Features: Route endorsement "By fastest airmail to USA".





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chungking 3 October 1944. Arrive Miami 27 October 1944.

Rate: \$4 surface, Registration \$6, 4 x \$18 air fee = \$82 as on cover.

Censor: India censor Calcutta.

Features: Rates applied from 1 May 1944. \$80 paid by plate block of \$20 Paicheng printing.



## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Accra 1945.



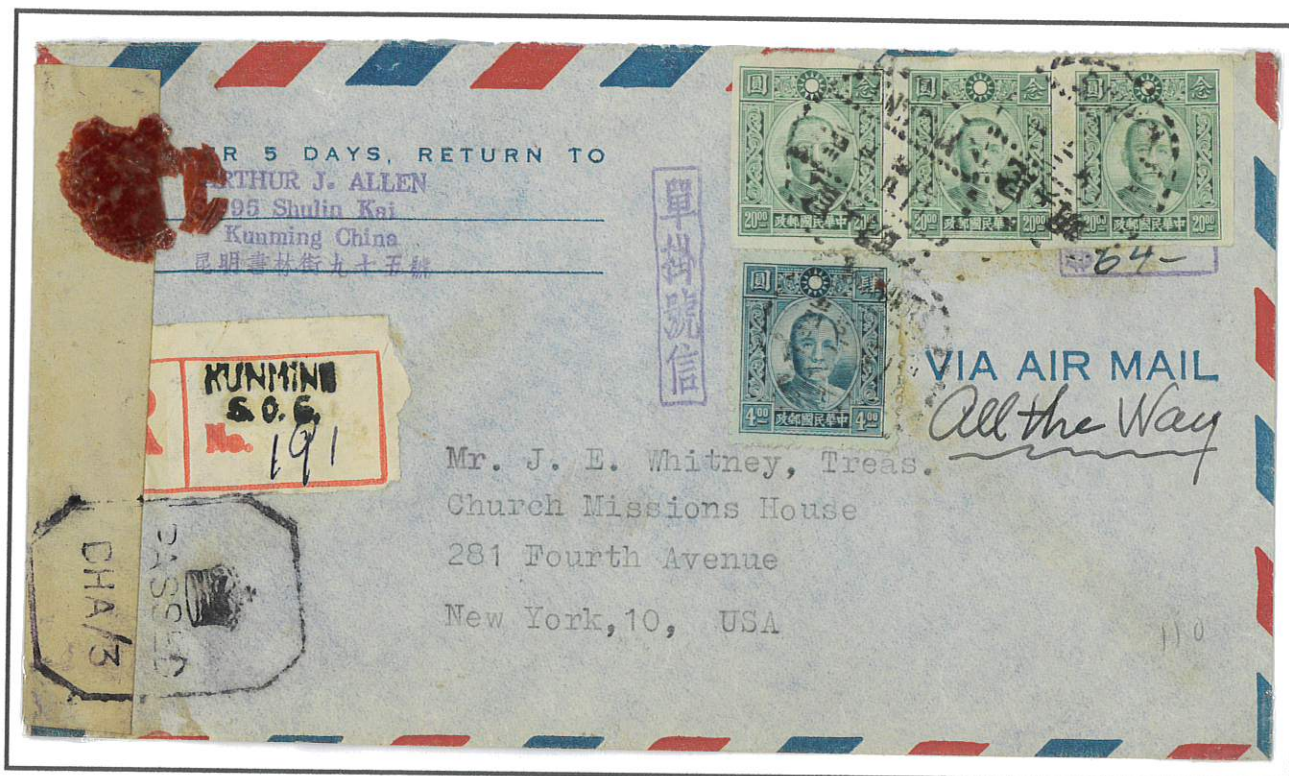
- Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Accra by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtu 30 June 1945. Miami arrive 8 August 1945.
- Rate: \$4 surface, \$6 registration, 3 x \$18 air fee = \$64 as on cover.
- Censor: US Army censor tape. No civilian censorship. Japan surrendered 15 August.
- Features: Rates and route applied from 1 May 1944 to 1 June 1945. Then route change from Lagos to Accra until 3 October. \$60 paid by strip of 3 x \$20 imperforate Paicheng printing.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1945.



- Route: Kunming-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Kunming 20 March 1945. Miami arrive 13 April 1945.
- Rate: \$4 surface, \$6 registration, 3 x \$18 air fee = \$64 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90 Indian label. Examiner DHA/3. Indian censor wax seal.
- Features: Air rate applied from 1 May 1944. Sender obviously knew the correct postage rates, calculated on rear and total written before applying stamps. \$60 paid by strip of three imperforate \$20 Paicheng printing.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



- Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chungking 10 May 1944. Miami arrive 19 June 1944.
- Rate: \$4 surface, \$6 registration, \$18 air fee = \$28 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90 Indian label. Dual censor DHA/130 and DHF/21 Calcutta Intelligence centre.
- Features: Surface, registration and air rates increased dramatically 1 May 1944. \$20 paid by imperforate pair of \$10 Paicheng printing.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1942.



- Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chungking 8 September 1942. Miami arrive 13 November 1942.
- Rate: \$1 surface, \$1 registration, 2 x \$8.70 air fee = \$19.40 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90 Indian label.
- Features: Surface and registration rates increased 1 November 1942. Carriage from Lagos by Pan American "Special Mission" shuttle flights.





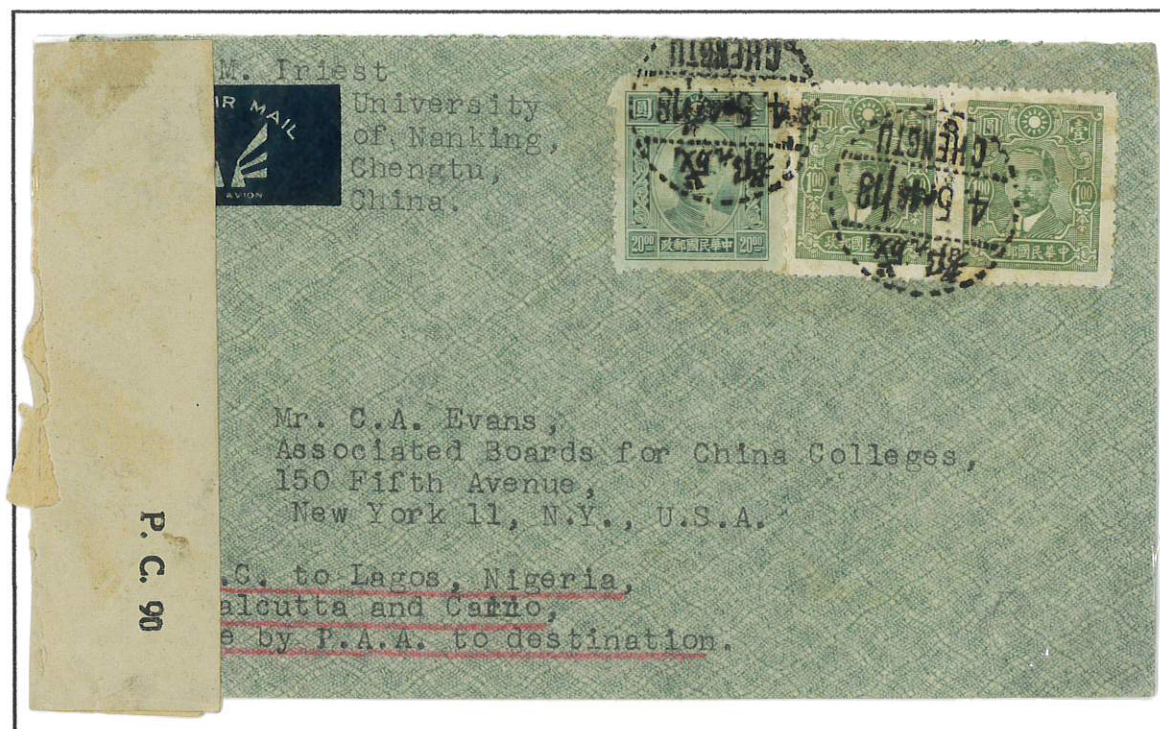
## World War 2 Airmail

### China to USA via Lagos

Airmail cover from Chengtu to New York flown "over the hump" and then by the Horseshoe and trans-Africa routes to connect with the Pan American FAM-22 service via Miami to New York. Cover endorsed "BOAC to Lagos, Nigeria via Calcutta and Cairo, thence by PAA to destination."

Despatch Chengtu 4<sup>th</sup> May 1944, censored in India with back stamp of DHA/180 censor. Sadly, no transit dates.

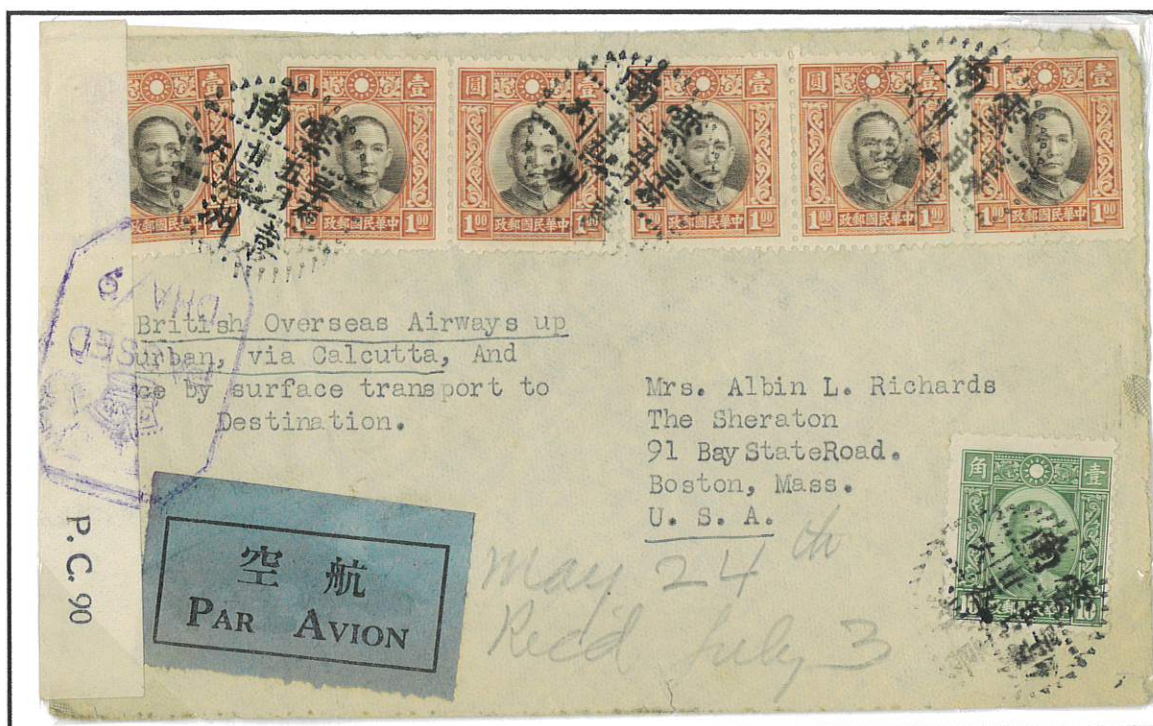
Rate paid \$22. made up of \$4 surface rate + \$18 airmail surcharge. Rate first applied 1<sup>st</sup> May 1944.





## World War 2 Air Mail

China to United States air/sea via Durban 1942.



- Route: Despatched 25 May 1942 from Hsichow. Flown CNAC to Calcutta then BOAC "Horseshoe" route to Cairo-Khartoum-Durban, then sea to United States.
- Rate: Rate introduced 12 March 1942. \$1 surface fee; \$5.10 air fee.
- Censor: Calcutta DHA/9. No other censorship en route.
- Features: West bound route from China using existing BOAC "Horseshoe" route to accomplish air/sea carriage to United States. Short-lived route, superseded by the all-air route from Cairo to Lagos trans-Sahara, then Pan American South Atlantic flying boat service.



## World War 2 Airmail

### China to USA via Lagos

Airmail cover from Hingping via Chungking to New York flown "over the hump" and then by the Horseshoe and trans-Africa routes to connect with the Pan American FAM-22 service via Miami to New York. Cover endorsed "By Chinese Air Service to Calcutta the onward by British Imperial Airways to Lazos (*sic*) Nigeria then on by Pan-American Airways to U.S. of America."

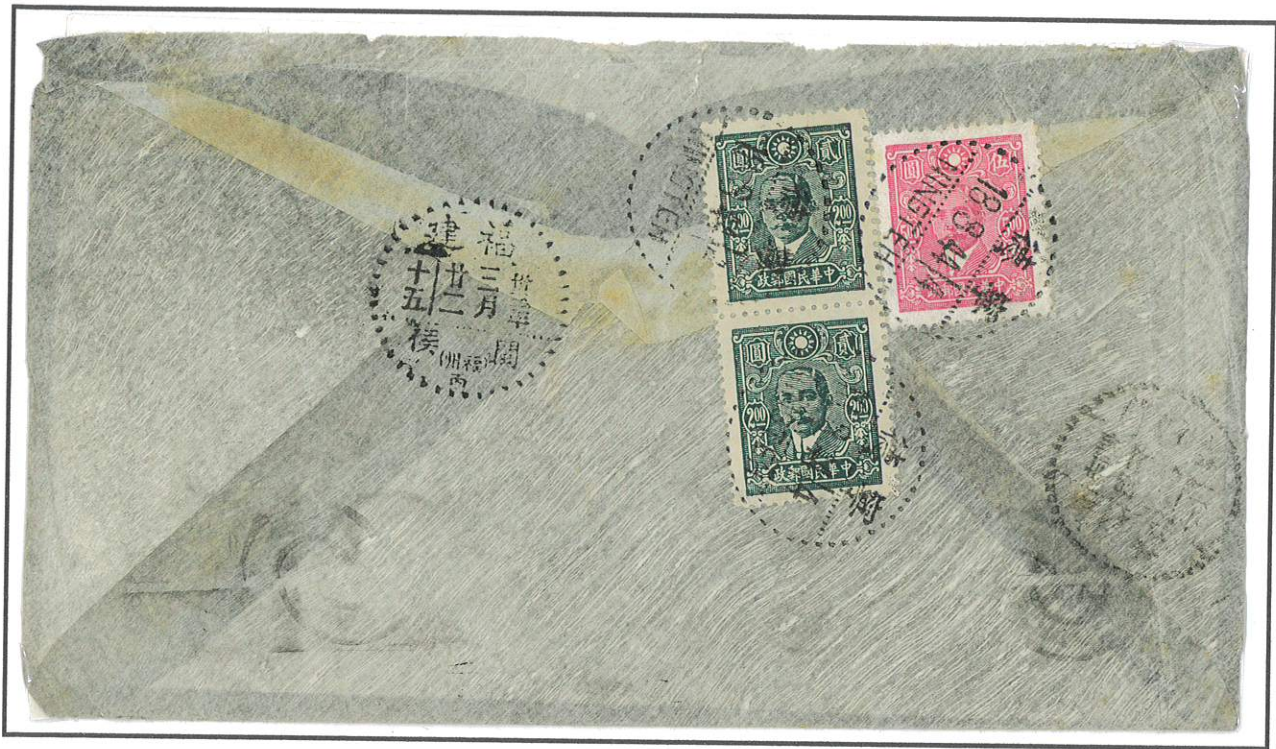
Despatch strikes of Hingping read 3.1.32 (3<sup>rd</sup> January 1943) with a Chungking transit strike dated 22.1.32, and Miami arrival of March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Rate paid \$11.70. made up of \$1.50 registration, \$1.50 surface rate + \$8.70 airmail surcharge. Rate applied 1<sup>st</sup> November 1942 to 29<sup>th</sup> May 1943.

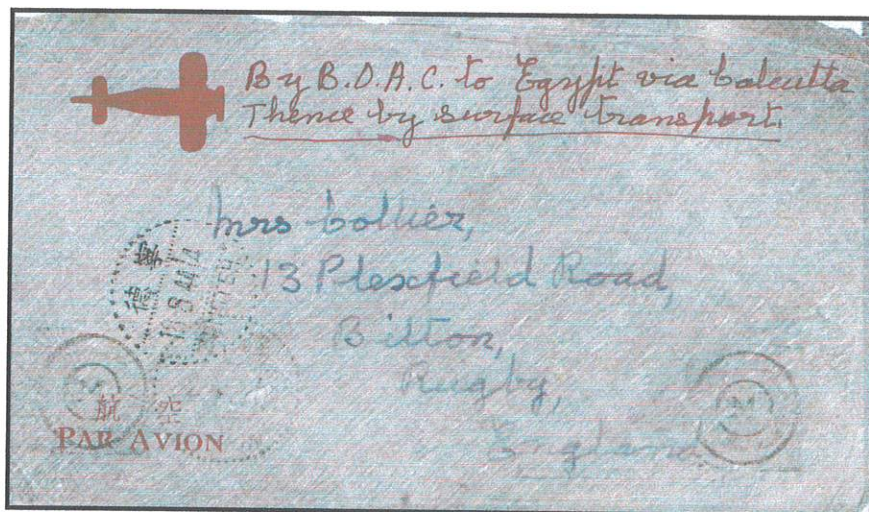




Wartime Air mail  
China to United Kingdom via Egypt 1944.



- Route: Ningteh-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo by BOAC, then sea from Port Said. Despatch Ningteh 18 March 1944. Transit cancel of 22 March confirms Ningteh date.
- Rate: Surface rate \$2, air fee \$5.50. Total \$7.50. Franked \$9 (convenience)?
- Censor: Egypt inspection.
- Features: Air fee had increased from \$5 to \$5.50 on 15 March, making previous total of \$7. One can only assume that the additional \$0.50 was covered by an additional \$2 adhesive. The Ningteh cds month digit is confirmed as 3 and not 8 despite appearance. Ningteh is located on the East coastline of China and was close to Japanese held territory.





## Wartime Air mail

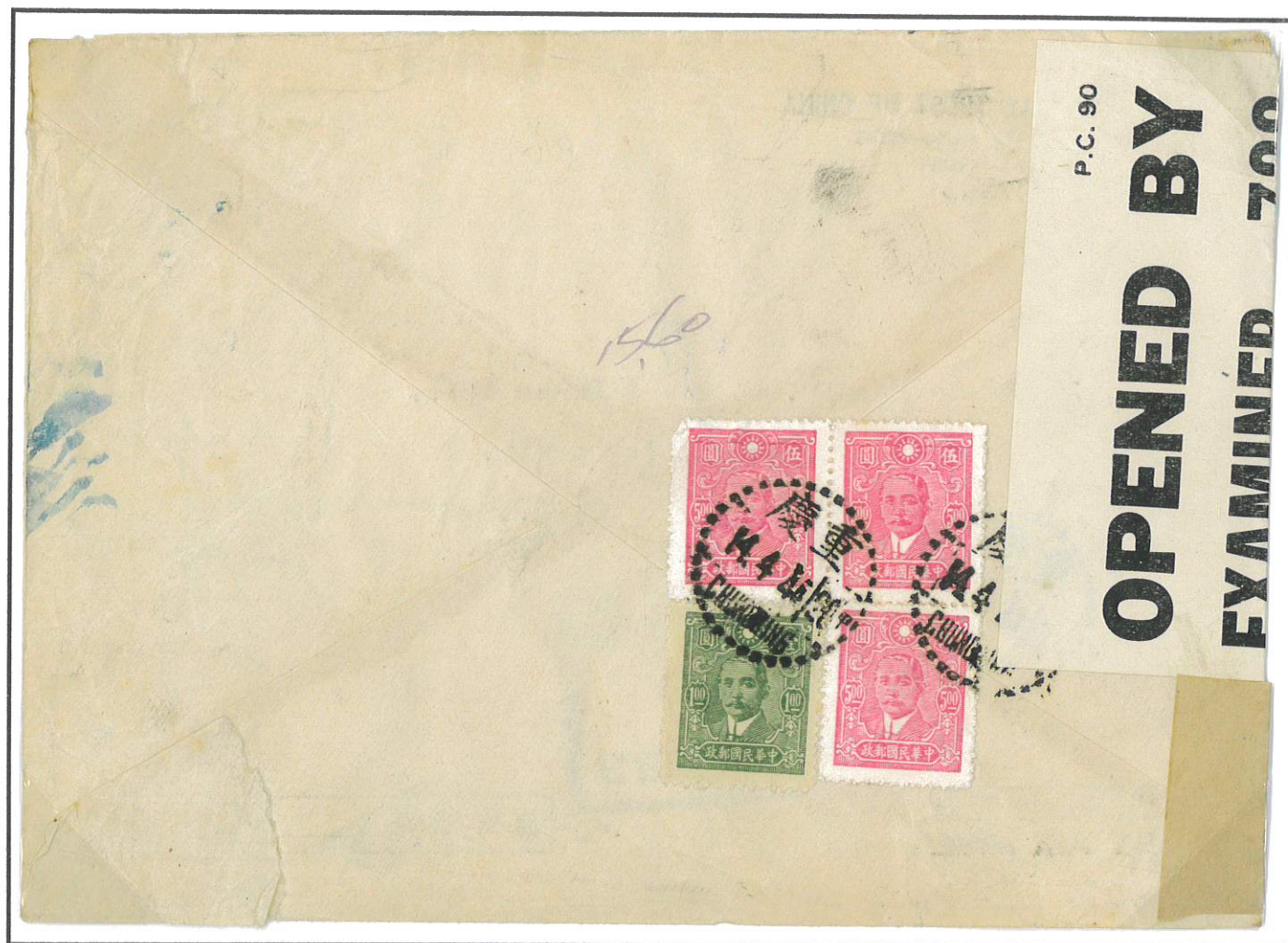
China to United Kingdom via Egypt 1944.



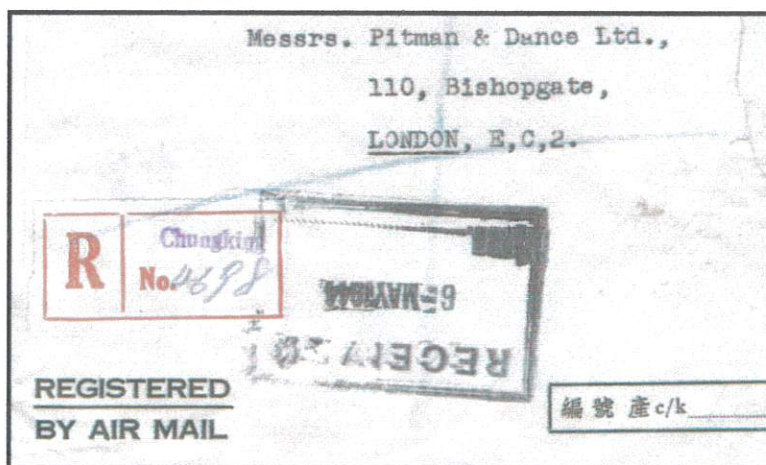
- Route: Kweiyang-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo by BOAC, then sea from Port Said. Despatch Kweiyang 11 November 1944.
- Rate: Surface rate \$4, air fee \$8. Total \$12 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta DHA/225. Egypt inspection.
- Features: Air fee of \$8 and surface \$4 introduced on 1 May 1944.



**Wartime Air mail**  
China to United Kingdom via Egypt 1944.

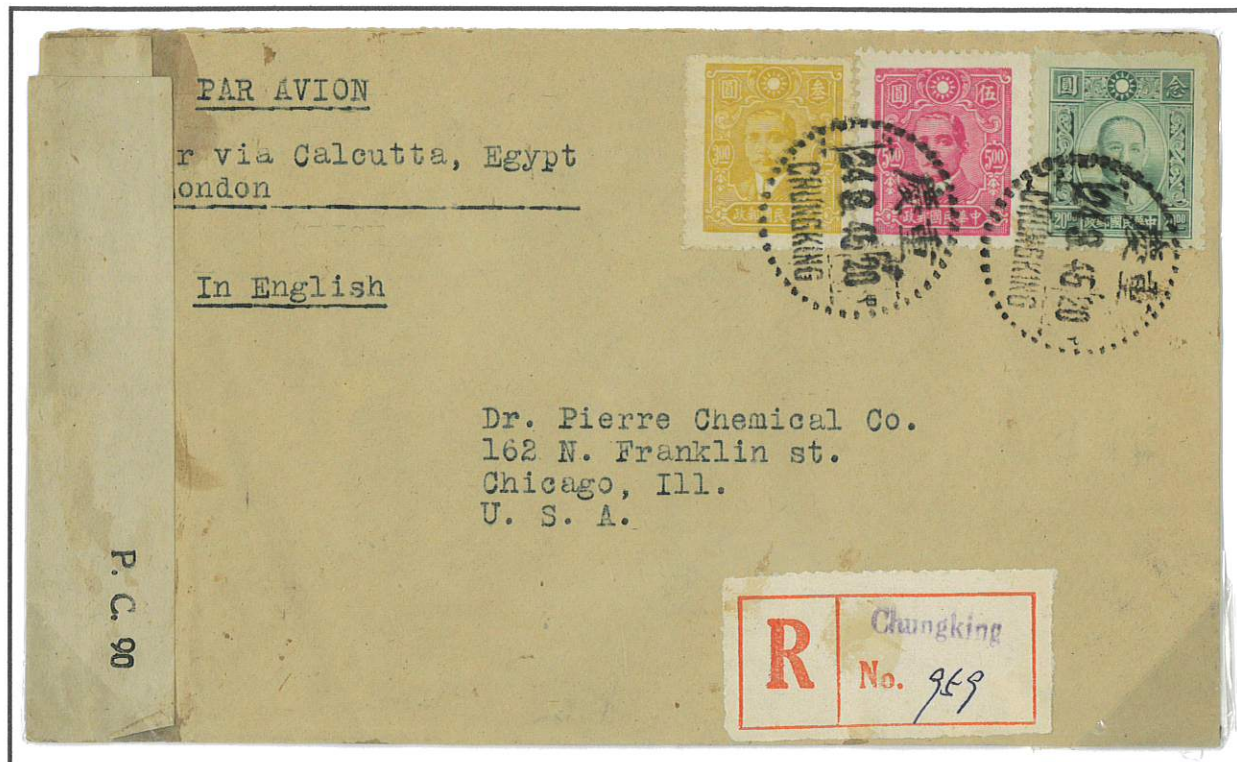


- Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo by BOAC, then sea from Port Said. Despatch Chungking 14 April 1944. Arrive London 6 May 1944.
- Rate: Surface rate \$2, registration \$2.60, air fee 2 x \$5.50. Total \$15.60 as endorsed by Chinese postal clerk. Convenience franking of \$16.
- Censor: No transit censorship since mail addressed to UK was always censored on arrival.
- Features: Air fee of \$5.50 introduced 15 March 1944. Increased to \$8 on 1 May. Rate existed for only 46 days.





Trans-Atlantic Air mail  
China to United States via West Africa 1945.



- Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chungking 24 March 1945. Miami arrive 13 April 1945.
- Rate: Surface rate \$6; registration \$4, air fee via West Africa \$18. Total paid \$28.
- Censor: Indian PC-90 label. No indication of location.
- Features: Although endorsed "via London" the cover must have travelled by the trans-Sahara route to West Africa and then trans-Atlantic to the US because it arrived at Miami. Had it travelled Egypt-London it would have arrived at New York by surface, since that was the designated route according to Sieh & Blackburn (Blackburn Route 13). It is possible that the cover attracted a double Route 13 air fee of 2 x \$9 which coincidentally was the single rate for the West Africa route (Blackburn Route 9).





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to Canada via Lagos 1942.



- Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtu 20 November 1942.
- Rate: \$1.50 surface, \$8.70 air fee = \$10.20 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90.
- Features: Clear route endorsement by BOAC from Calcutta. \$1.50 surface fee introduced 1 November.

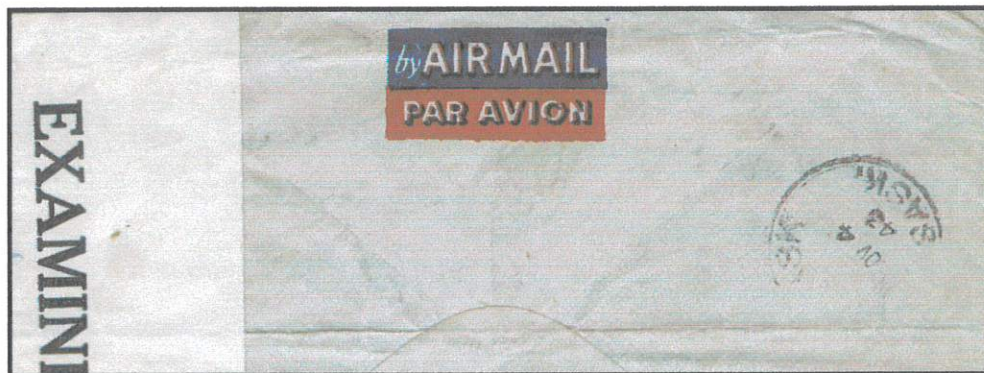


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to Canada via Lagos 1943.



- Route: Tanshuihow-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Tanshuihow 21 June (?) 1943. Alsask, Canada arrive 4 November.
- Rate: \$2 surface, \$9.60 air fee = \$11.60. \$12 convenience franking on cover.
- Censor: Canadian re-sealing label. No transit censorship.
- Features: \$9.60 air fee introduced 29 May 1943. Rate continued until 6 November 1943. Lack of Indian censorship suggests sealed bag transit.



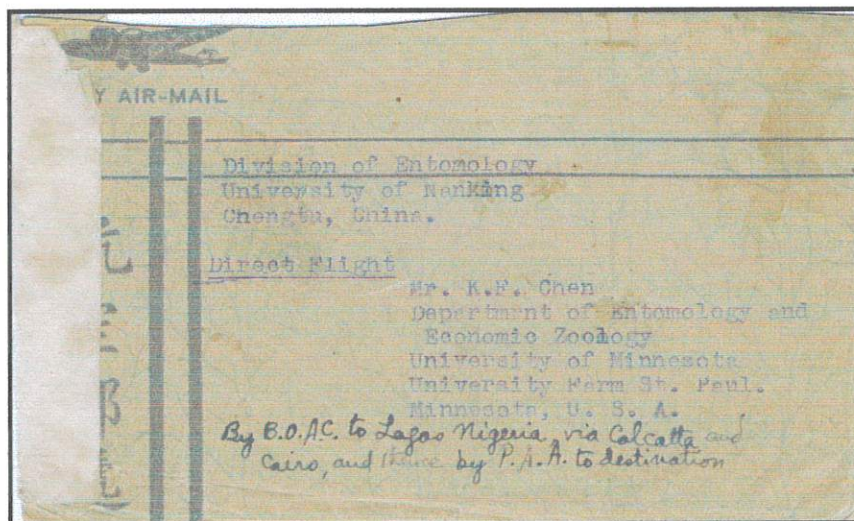


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1942.



- Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtu 25 September.
- Rate: \$1 surface, \$8.70 air fee = \$9.70 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90 Indian label.
- Features: \$8.70 air fee introduced 21 January 1942 when trans-Africa and trans-Atlantic routes became available for civil mail. Rate continued until May 1943.



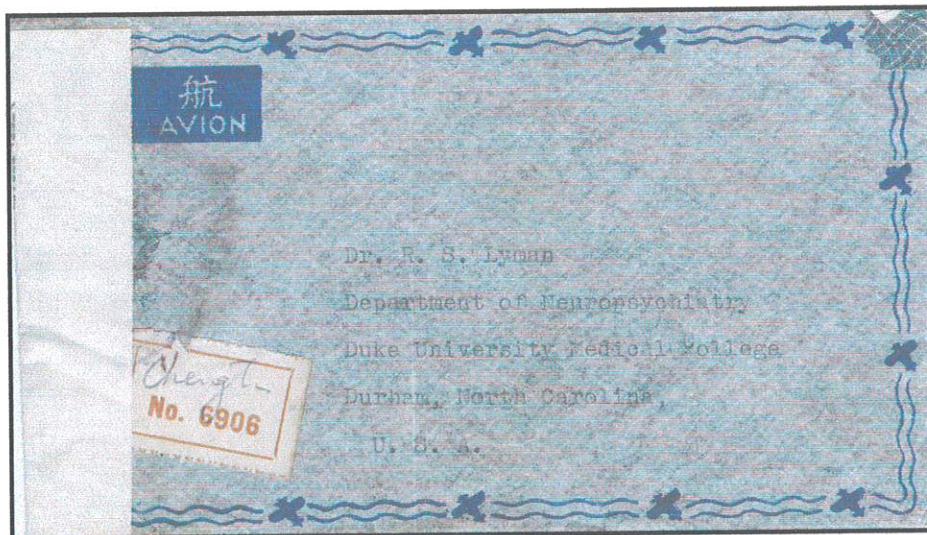


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1942.



- Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtu 20 October 1942. Miami arrive 2 December 1942.
- Rate: \$1.50 surface, \$1.50 registration, \$8.70 air fee = \$10.70 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta PC-90 Indian label. Censor DHA/?.
- Features: Sieh & Blackburn record surface and registration fees increased on 1 November 1942, but this cover pre-dates this. Despatch date definitely 20 October.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



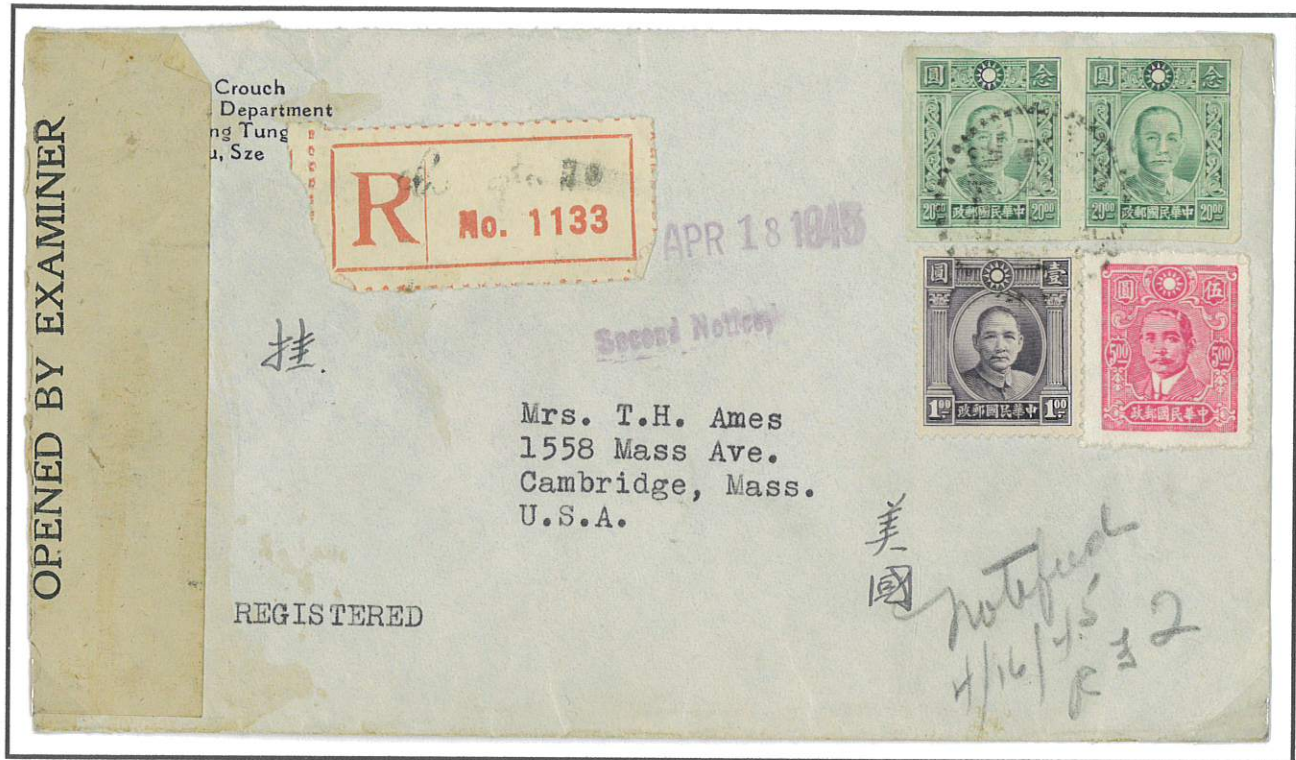
- Route: Kukong-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Kukong 20 January 1944. Miami arrive 31 March 1944.
- Rate: \$2 surface, \$2.60 registration, 2 x \$10 air fee = \$24.60 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta Intelligence censor DHF/19. PC-90 Indian label removed after arrival in America.
- Features: Air rate applied from 6 November 1943 1944 to 15 March 1944. \$20 paid by \$20 imperforate Paicheng printing. Original enclosure present.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1945.



- Route: Chengtung-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtung unclear. Miami arrive 13 April 1945.
- Rate: \$4 surface, \$6 registration, 2 x \$18 air fee = \$46 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta censor label.
- Features: Rates and route applied from 1 May 1944 to 1 June 1945. Then route change from Lagos to Accra. \$40 paid by strip of 2 x \$20 imperforate Paicheng printing.



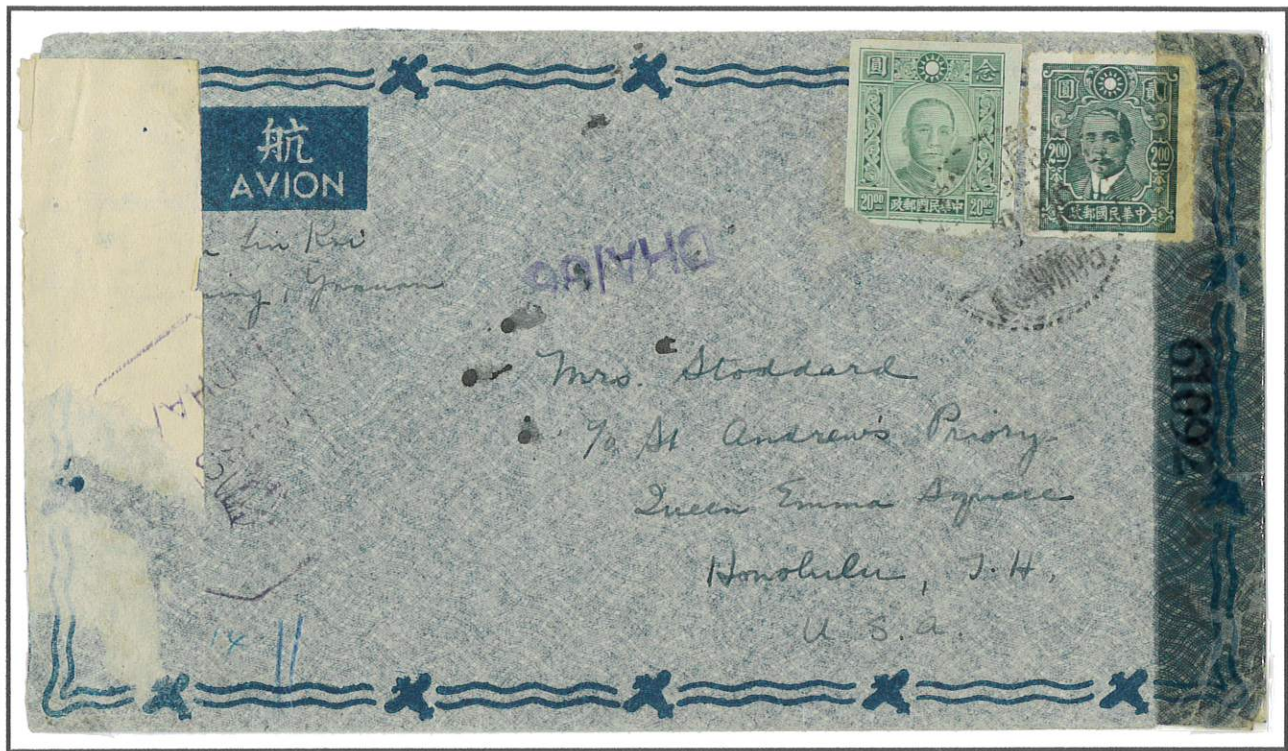






## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944?



- Route: Kunming-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Miami-San Francisco by Eastern. San Francisco-Honolulu by Pan American. Despatch Kunming December 1944 (note by previous owner).
- Rate: \$4 surface, \$18 air fee = \$22 as on cover.
- Censor: Calcutta DHA/86. San Francisco examiner 61692.
- Features: Rates and route applied from 1 May 1944 to 1 June 1945. \$20 paid by imperforate Paicheng printing. According to Blackburn, air fee to Hawaii should have been \$22.50.



## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1945.



Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtu 25 January 1945. Miami arrive 15 March 1945.

Rate: \$4 surface, \$6 registration, \$18 air fee = \$28 as on cover.

Censor: Transit censor Calcutta.

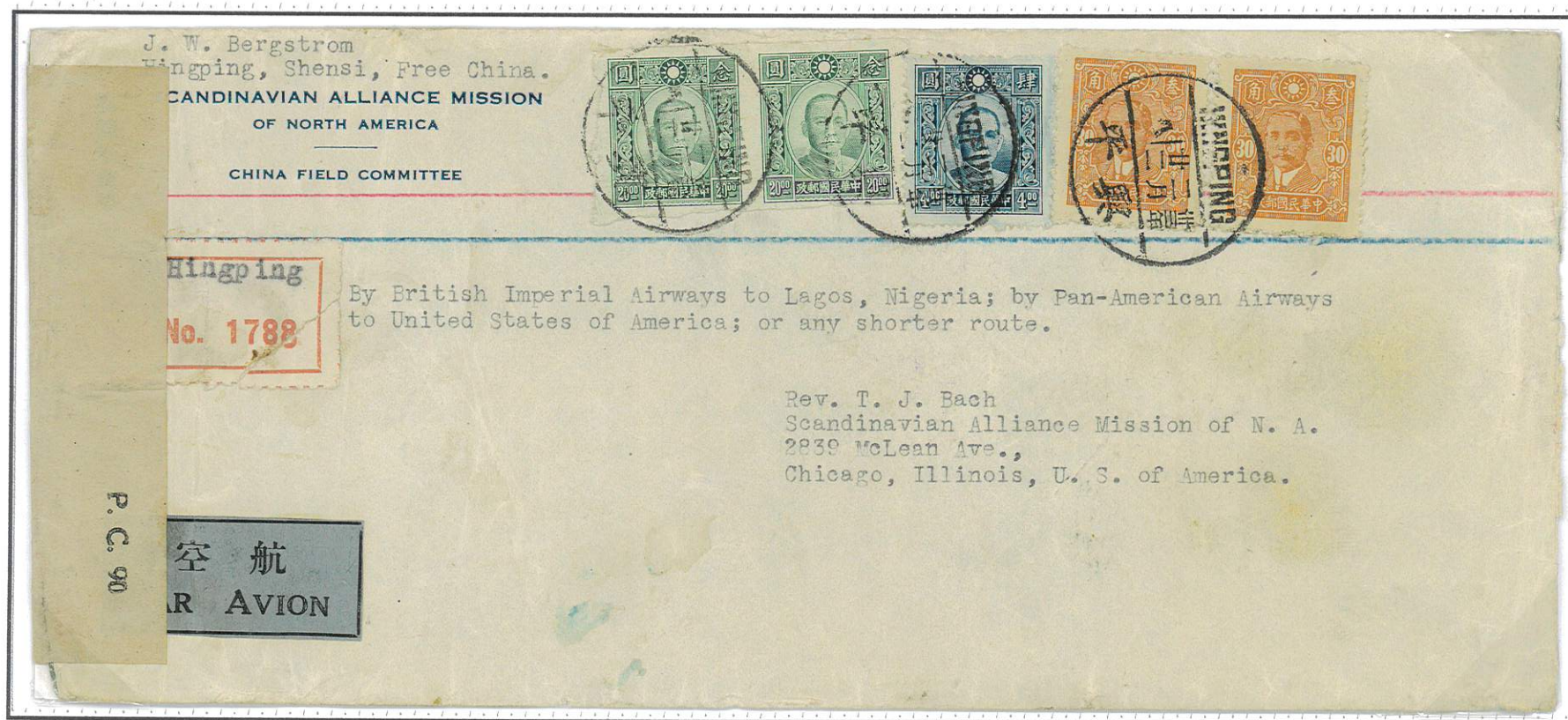
Features: Rates and route applied from 1 May 1944 to 1 June 1945. Then route change from Lagos to Accra.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.

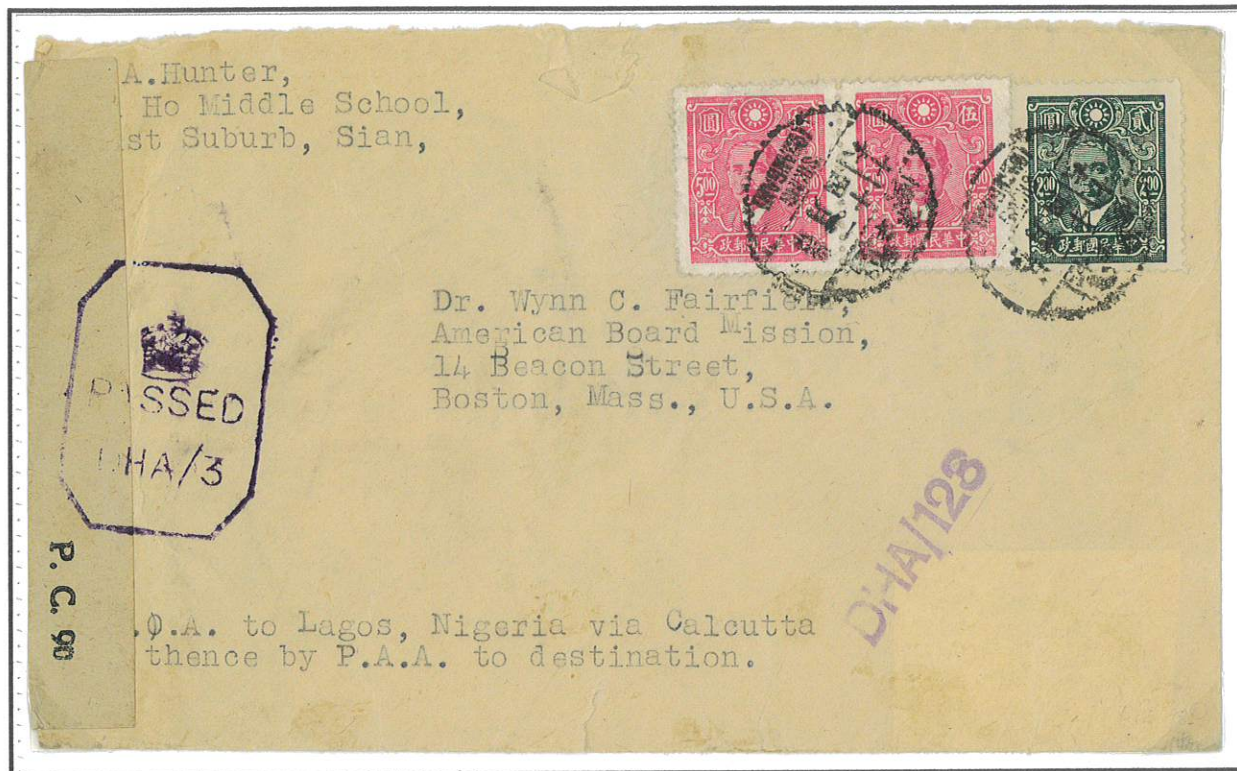


- Route: Hingping-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Hingping 22 February 1944. Arrive Miami 3 April 1944.
- Rate: \$2 surface, Registration \$2.60, 4 x \$10 air fee = \$44.60 as on cover.
- Censor: India censor Calcutta.
- Features: Rates applied from 6 November 1943 to 14 March 1944. \$40 paid by imperforate pair of \$20 Paicheng printing. Detailed route endorsement.



## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



- Route: Siking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Siking 14 February 1944. Transit 24 February 1944.
- Rate: \$2 surface, \$10 air fee = \$12 as on cover.
- Censor: Transit censor DHA/3 and DHA/128 Calcutta.
- Features: Rates applied from 6 November 1943 to 14 March 1944.



## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



Route: China-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Tsangwu 21 March 1944, transit Kweilin 27 March 1944.

Rate: \$2 surface; \$10.50 air fee = \$12.50 overpaid \$1.50 convenience franking.

Censor: Transit censor DHF/17 Calcutta Intelligence censor office.

Features: Rates only applied 15 March 1944 to 30 April 1944.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



- Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chengtu 19 January 1944.
- Rate: \$2 surface, 2 x \$10 air fee = \$22 as on cover.
- Censor: Transit censor re-sealing Calcutta.
- Features: Rates applied from 6 November 1943 to 14 March 1944.

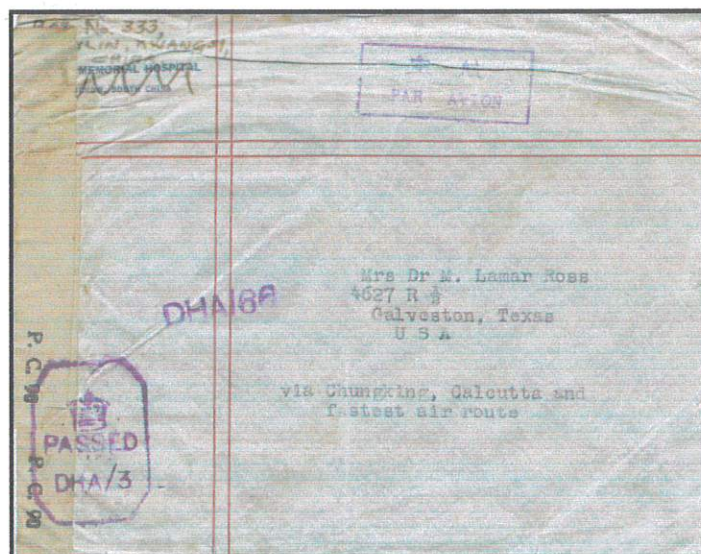


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



- Route: Kweilin-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Kweilin 20 May 1944.
- Rate: \$4 surface, 3 x \$18 air fee = \$58 as on cover.
- Censor: Transit censor DHA/3 and DHA/66 Calcutta.
- Features: Rates applied from 1 May 1944. \$50 paid by Paicheng print imperforate \$20 pair and \$10 single .



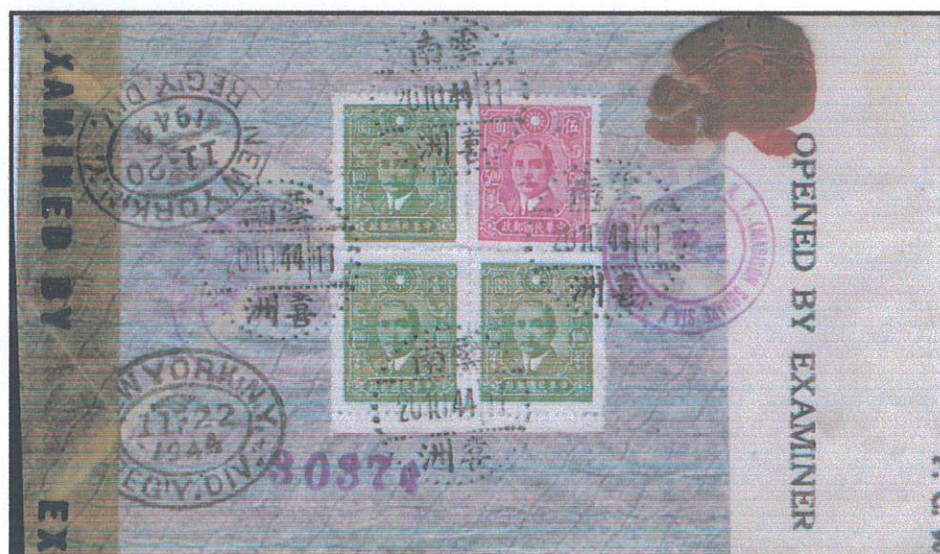


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to United States via Lagos 1944.



- Route: Hsichow-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Hsichow 20 October 1944, Miami arrival unclear, New York 20 November.
- Rate: \$4 surface; \$6 registration, \$18 air fee = \$28 as on cover.
- Censor: Transit censor DHA/3 Calcutta. Red wax India seal. New York Examiner 5752.
- Features: Rates applied from 1 May 1944. \$20 paid by Paicheng print \$10 pair imperforate.



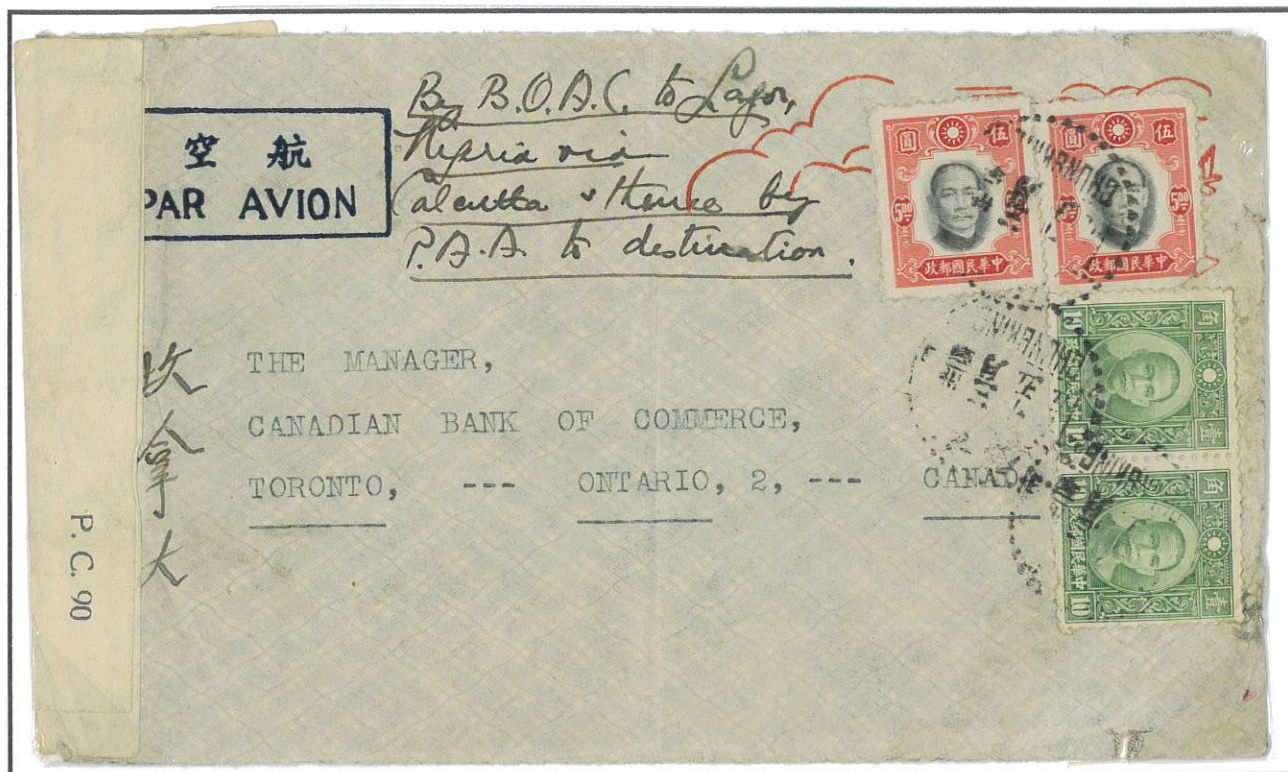




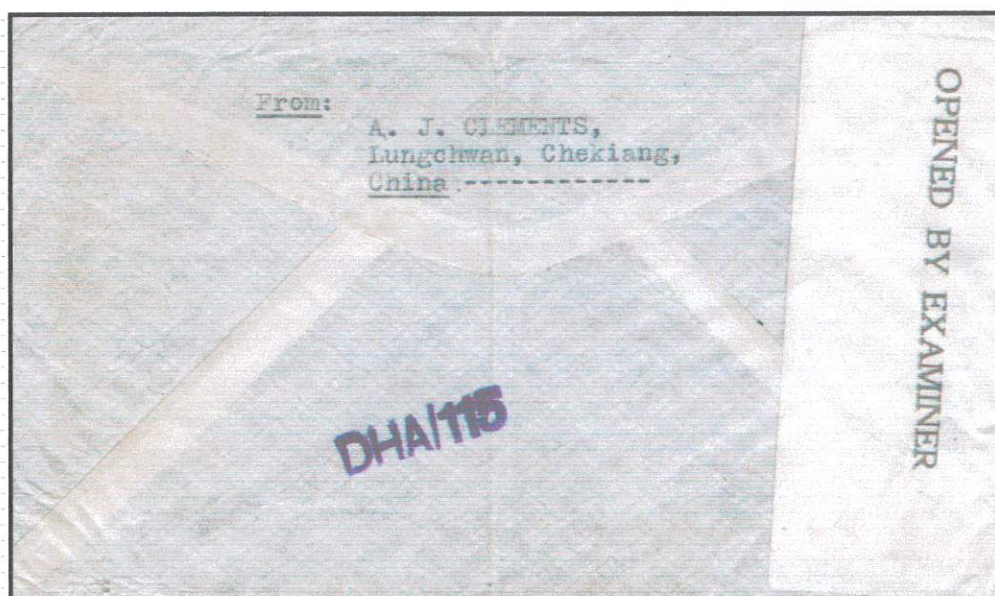


## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC/Pan American/ATC. China to Canada via Lagos 1943.



- Route: Chungking-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos by BOAC. Lagos-Miami by ATC/Pan American. Despatch Chungking 10 March 1943.
- Rate: \$1.50 surface; \$8.70 air fee = \$10.20 as on cover.
- Censor: Transit censor DHA/115 Calcutta.
- Features: Route endorsement and franking agree for "Via Lagos" carriage.





## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

BOAC Horseshoe. China to United States air/sea via Durban 1942.



Route: Chengtu-Calcutta by CNAC. Calcutta-Cairo-Durban by BOAC. Durban-Miami by sea.  
Despatch Chengtu 23 November 1942.

Rate: \$1.50 surface; 2 x \$5.10 air fee = \$11.70 as on cover.

Censor: Censored Calcutta.

Features: Despite route endorsement "via Lagos", rate shows air/sea route via Durban.

