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In association with:



  
*The Meiji “明治” Property*

## The “Meiji” Property of Classic Japan

Including the Grand Prix Collection  
with the 500 Mon Center Inverted

Geneva - Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 9:30 CEST

Tokyo - Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 16:30 JST

# The “Meiji” Property of Classic Japan

Including the Grand Prix Collection  
with the 500 Mon Center Inverted

## Part I

Geneva - Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 9:30 CEST

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You may also bid live in any of our auctions via the Internet. Follow your targeted lots on screen and enter your bids with the confidence that you will be bidding as if you were in the auction room itself.

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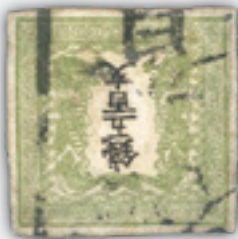


The Meiji “明治” Property

# Japan: The “Meiji” Property including The Grand Prix Collection with the 500 Mon Center Inverted

Geneva - June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 - Part I

**The Most Important Ensemble of Classic Japan Ever Offered at Auction**



**ONE OF THE GREATEST WORLD RARITIES**

*“I consider this stamp the most valuable in Asian philately, and for an Asian collector like myself, the most valuable stamp in the world. I would have paid any price to obtain it”.*

**Ryohei Ishikawa**



David Feldman  
International Auctioneers

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IBAN CH02 0483 5039 8878 8100 0  
Swift / BIC CRESCHZZ80A  
Beneficiary David Feldman SA

#### US Dollars (USD)

Account 0316-398878-82  
Iban CH65 0483 5039 8878 8200 0  
Swift / BIC CRESCHZZ80A  
Beneficiary David Feldman SA

#### Euros (EUR)

Account 0316-398878-82-3  
IBAN CH81 0483 5039 8878 8200 3  
Swift / BIC CRESCHZZ80A  
Beneficiary David Feldman SA

#### British Pounds (GBP)

Account 0316-398878-82-4  
Iban CH54 0483 5039 8878 8200 4  
Swift / BIC CRESCHZZ80A  
Beneficiary David Feldman SA

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### Post Office / Poste / Post

#### Euros (EUR)

Account 91-285892-6  
Iban CH04 0900 0000 9128 5892 6  
Swift / BIC POFICHBEXXX  
Beneficiary David Feldman SA

#### Swiss Francs (CHF)

Account 12-4880-0  
Iban CH27 0900 0000 1200 4880 0  
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Geneva - June, 2023



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- Egypt - Part VIII of the Joe Chalhoub Collection
- The “Meiji” Property of Classic Japan
- All World and Collections
- France and Colonies
- Great Britain and British Empire
- Olympic Games

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Collectors are invited to attend the auction in one of the two auction rooms in Geneva and Tokyo. Online and phone bidding options are available for those unable to attend the auction in person, ensuring that you can participate from wherever you are located.

Our auction rooms are diligently synchronized to provide a seamless bidding experience, with final adjudications taking place in Geneva to ensure accuracy and efficiency.



## **Auction in Geneva, Switzerland**

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 9:30 CEST

### **Venue**

Chemin du Pavillon 2  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex, Geneva



## **Auction in Tokyo, Japan**

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 16:30 JST

### **Venue**

Yuzankaku Building 4F  
2-6-9 Fujimi, Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo  
1020071 Japan

Japanese collectors are invited to join the auction room in Tokyo and participate in live bidding as if they were present in the main auction room in Geneva.

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## Auction in Geneva, Switzerland

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 9:30 CEST

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Chemin du Pavillon 2  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex, Geneva



## Auction in Tokyo, Japan

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 16:30 JST

### Venue

〒102-0071 東京都千代田区富士見2-6-9  
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# Introduction

Dear Collector and Client,

The Meiji Property of Classic Japan presented here consists of the National and International Grand Prix collection formed by Yuji Yamada as well as the property assembled over decades of collecting Japan classics by an international connoisseur. This first of two auctions together certainly represent the most comprehensive and important offering of Japan Classics ever.

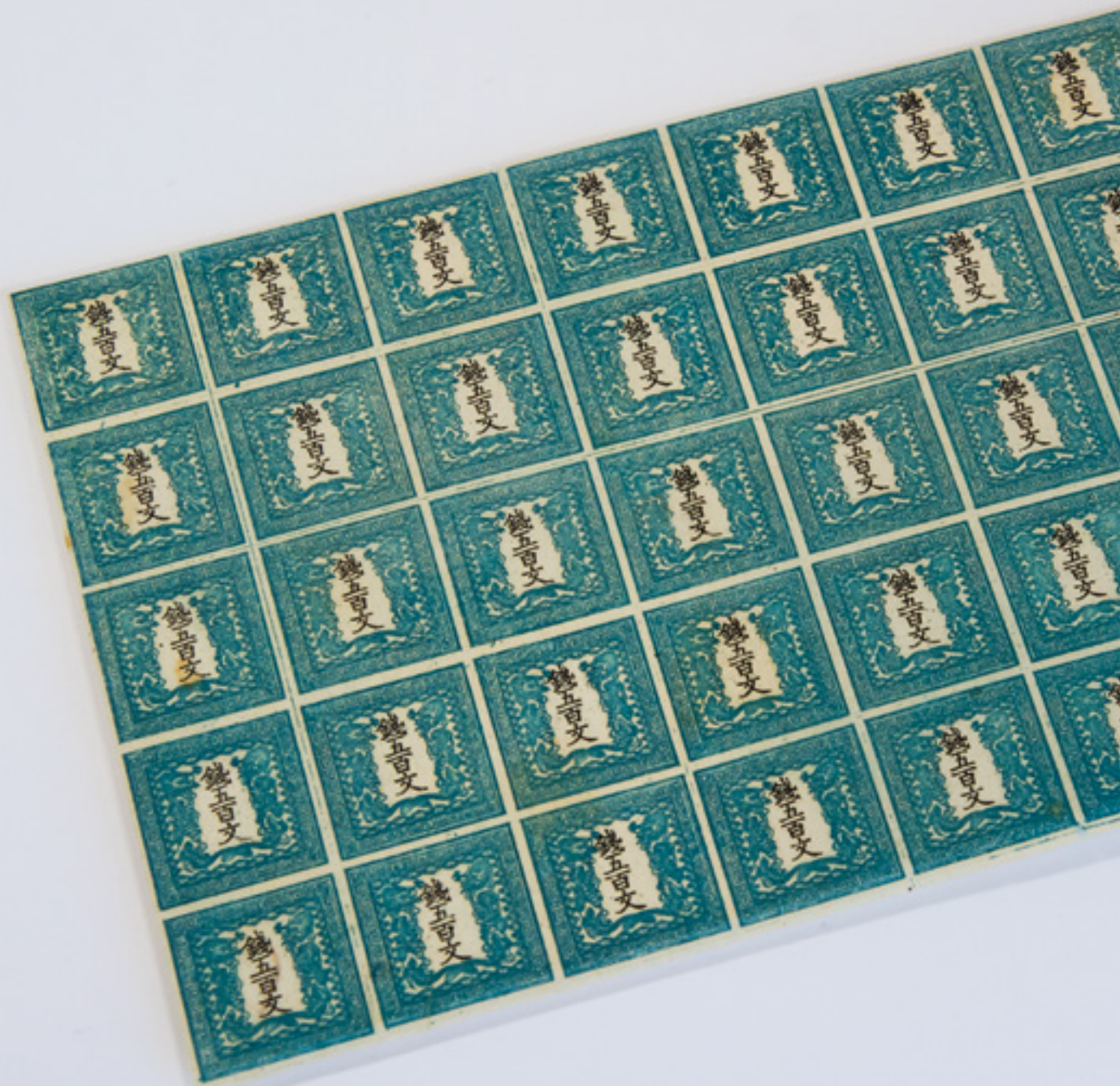
The number of superlatives is overwhelming. Perhaps it suffices to just mention the entry piece: the outstanding letter of 1865 from Queen Victoria to the Emperor Kōmei, whose son opened the Meiji period just two years later; and of course the famous First Issue 500 mon with center inverted, the most celebrated and valuable stamp of Japan. This great rarity is not just the most valuable stamp in all of Asian philately, but its only competition in a field of great world rarities may be the British Guiana One Cent as the most valuable stamp in the world.

Great items are included in each of the classic issues, The Dragons imperforate and perforate, the Cherry Blossoms and the Bird Issues.

Japan as both a classic philatelic country for collectors and several famous Japanese celebrities have extensive palmares and world renown. One needs only to mention Hiroyuki Kanai who formed the world's greatest collections of both Mauritius and Japan, Ryohei Ishikawa with the world's best ever United States at the time as well as other areas, Ichiro Kondo with his world class Korea etc. The latter two were also proud owners of the famous 500 mon center inverted.

However, perhaps most significantly it is worth observing that in over 50 years of international auctions there have been very few offerings of Japan classics, most of them many decades ago. None have been as comprehensive or extensive as what is now being offered. We believe the estimates are attractive and modest and the entire offering is without reserve. So this probably represents the most ideal opportunity ever presented for new collectors to take up this exciting and challenging collecting area.

Geneva, April 2023





# The “Meiji” Property of Classic Japan



<b>Japan</b>	<b>30000 - 30323</b>
1871, Dragons Mon Currency, Imperforate	30001 - 30070
1872, Dragons Sen Currency, Perforated	30071 - 30105
1872, Cherry Blossoms, Native Paper	30106 - 30170
1874, Cherry Blossoms, Native Paper, with Syllabics	30171 - 30207
1874, Cherry Blossoms, Foreign Paper, without Syllabics (4s, 30s)	30208 - 30210
1874, Cherry Blossoms, Foreign Paper, with Syllabics	30211 - 30254
1875, Bird Design Stamps	30255 - 30271
1875, Cherry Blossoms Changed Colours, without Syllabics (1s, 4s)	30272 - 30280
1875, Cherry Blossoms Changed Colours/Sizes, with Syllabics	30281 - 30307
1875/76, Cherry Blossoms Changed Designs, no Syllabics	30308 - 30323

# Historical Background

## 1868 - Shogunate Overthrown

In 1868, the old feudal government of the Tokugawa clan in Japan was overthrown. The “Meiji Revolution” started, with modernization in all areas, and the capital was moved to Tokyo (Meiji 1.7.17 renaming of old Edo).

In the feudal period, only official mail couriers on horseback and private courier companies (hikyaku) operated and no modern postal system for the general public existed.

The new government sent diplomats to Europe and to the USA to study factors relevant to economic and military success. A modern postal system was identified as a key factor for the economy and general communication, along with railways, steam power and gas.

A draft for a modern postal system and the issuing postage was drawn up by the Ministry of Finance by Meiji 3.5.16 (June 14, 1870). In the next month, the father of Japanese postal service, Maeshima Hisoka, sent his memorandum of a postal law to the cabinet. On Meiji 3.9.1 the Council of State gave permission of start of postal services and on Meiji 3.9.17 (1870.10.11) the Council of State instructed the Ministry of Finance to print stamps.

## Engravers and Stamp Production Details and Dates

- Meiji 3.11.-, the private printing company of Matsuda Atsumoto (1837-1903), who were experienced in security printing using etched copper plates, was hired for stamp printing by the Ministry of Finance
- Meiji 5.9.4 - Paper money office establishes an engraving department but de facto production continues by Matsuda Co.
- Meiji 5.11.—The engraving department of Paper money takes over stamp production from Matsuda, except original plate engraving.
- Meiji 6.2.2 - Matsuda also gives over the plate engraving business to the government printing office.
- Meiji 7.10.17 Matsuda and Umemora are hired as chief engravers by the engraving department
- Meiji 8.1.14 - Italian engraver Edoardo Chissone is hired to introduce modern typographed printing for stamp and security printing, and also to create new modern designs. This became the “Koban” series introduced from Meiji 9.5.17 (May 17, 1876).
- Meiji 8.8.- / 8.9.- (Aug./Sept. 1875) electrotype introduced for plate multiplying, probably also for some late 1875/76 cherry blossom issues.

### Other Postal history Developments

- Meiji 4.8.18 (Oct. 1, 1871) Maeshima Hisoka (1835-1919) became Postmaster General. In office to Meiji 14.11.8 (Nov. 18, 1881), he initiated and surveyed almost all of the developments of the postal service.
- Meiji 5.4.24 - First postal stationery of Japan issued, a newspaper wrapper.
- Meiji 5.5.7 - First railway of Japan opened between Tokyo and Yokohama, with mails transported from the next day. One trip 53 minutes. This was a trial freight connection. The official inauguration for regular business with passenger transport was Meiji 5.9.12 (14 October 1872). It took until the end of Meiji 22 (1889) to have what could be called a nationwide railway network
- Meiji 6.4.1 - Uniform nationwide rates introduced by weight: letter 2 sen, city drop mail half of this.
- Meiji 6.5.1 - Letter transportation become a government monopoly.
- Meiji 6.12.1 - Stationery cards and envelopes issued.



“Dragon” stamps were printed first in Meiji 3.11.- (22 December 1870 at the earliest, as the exact day is not recorded). The printing and design were executed by private printer Matsuda Atsutomo. He used elements from his design for banknotes, which he had printed for the government: the 1868 “Dajokan satsu”, later the “minbusho-tsuho”. At left a 10 ryo banknote of “minbusho-tsuho” is a good example to show the similarities with the “Dragon” stamps (EJP 1974).

### First Stamps of Japan Issued - Imperforated “Mon” Unit Dragons

- Postal services started on Meiji 4.3.1 (April 20, 1871). The 4 imperforated “mon” currency unit dragons design stamps were valid from this day. Stamp sales had already begun at the Tokyo post office a week earlier, by Meiji 4.2.24.
- Initially, letters were the sole mail category and for the first day, statistics reported 134 covers posted in Tokyo and 174 covers elsewhere. Categories other than letters were introduced only a full year later.

- In the beginning, the main postal route “Tokaido” between Tokyo and Osaka was served. Three post offices were opened in the capital cities of Tokyo, Saikyo and Osaka, and 62 postal agencies were created elsewhere. The amount of time in transmission between Tokyo and Osaka was 72 hours (three days).
- The system was extended step by step and reached Nagasaki by Meiji 4.12.5 (January 14, 1872). By Meiji 5.7.1 (August 4, 1872), the nationwide postal service was proclaimed with approximately 700 post offices now active.

### “Sen” Dragons, Perforated and Later Also Gummed

- Meiji 4.10.18 - For postage stamps, the introduction of perforation and gummed reverse was ordered
- Meiji 5.1.14 - Postage stamps ordered to be issued in the new “sen” currency (coinage issued already M4.5.-)
- The issue of the Dragon series, sen unit was made by Meiji 5.2.- (March, 1872). They were initially sold without gum and only towards the last third of their usage they were issued gummed.



The General Post Office in Tokyo-Yokkaichi, 1879 colour woodcut by Hiroshige III. The building, in western style, featured two new symbols of modernization: the first clock gable and the first gaslight in Tokyo. At left, a one-horse mailcoach with postal flag. Kanagawa Prefectural Museum, Yokohama (Hashimoto 1986 p. XVII).

### Cherry Blossom Design - Coming into Being and Revisions

- The dragons design was felt to be “unmodern” and for the projected new denominations of 10, 20 and 30 sen, new designs were planned by Meiji 5.2.18.
- Meiji 5.5.30 - Increasing deterioration of the dragon stamps original plates required the urgent issuance of new design stamps in denominations ½s, 1s and 2s. The 1s

and 2s in the new “Cherry blossoms” design were issued. Five weeks later, ½s and high values of 10s, 20s and 30s followed.

- Meiji 6.3.- Extant post office stocks of “old design” (dragons) were recalled from post offices for exchange with new design stamps (cherry blossoms).

### 5 Sen/500 Mon Replaced by 4 Sen

- Meiji 5.10.8 - Revised design, the 5s denomination was altered to 4s, as usage of 5s was reportedly low, while 4s was in demand. A 4 sen cherry blossom was issued Meiji 6.4.1 and 5 sen dragon (probably also the 500 mon) were declared invalid after Meiji 6.5.31.
- These were the only classic stamps demonetized before the general end of classic stamps by Meiji 22.11.30 (Nov. 30, 1889).

### Introduction of Syllabics in Stamp Design

- Meiji 6.8.19 To assist with statistics of stamp sales, the insertion of syllabics into stamps was made. The first stamps with syllabics were the 6 sen violet brown native paper of Meiji 7.1.1.
- By Meiji 8.6.12 (June 12, 1875), the system turned out to be too cumbersome and was dropped



Postman “otokichi” by Kikugoro the Fifth. The costume in black is inspired by the modern western style. In 1873 the use of the round wicker-hat was generalized. The postman holds sealed letters in both hands, in the folding style of the Edo period (Dawn 1990 p.9).

### **Native Paper Usage Dropped by Meiji 7.2.- (Feb. 1874)**

A memo of Meiji 7.1.8 summarized, that the current postage stamps native paper's brittle appearance on postage stamps made an unfavourable impression on domestic and foreign customers alike. Also the gumming of native paper increased the risk of stain by bacteria. So by Meiji 7.2.13 it was decided to switch to western style paper in stamp production.

### **Foreign Paper Series with Syllabics Issued (1874)**

- In consequence of the introduction of western style paper, the new series was issued. Earliest recorded usages are from Meiji 7.4.- (April 1874).

### **Bird Series of 1875 and Foreign Mails**

Some foreign post offices had been opened by foreign powers in the treaty ports, by Great Britain (1860), France (1865) and USA (1867), these however only served foreign mail.

To have her own foreign mail system and to remove foreign post offices on her soil, Japan concluded a postal treaty with the USA in 1873. This became enforced by Meiji 8.1.1 (January 1, 1875) allowing for Japanese stamps to be used for overseas mail via USA from this date. A distinctive series with three bird designs was issued at the same time.

With the USPO having closed in December 1874, Japan now entered in negotiations to enter the GPU/UPU and became a member on June 1, 1877, with regulations enforced on June 20.

In consequence of the 1875/77 developments and the demonstration of a reliable Japanese postal service, the business of foreign post offices in Japan dwindled down and they were closed in 1879 (UK) and 1880 (France).

### **1875.2.- Stamp Colour and Sizes Changed**

A Meiji 7.10.10 paper money office report to the General Post Office suggested a change of postage stamp size and colours, using cheaper colours and less paper. It took until Meiji 8.2.4 for the new series of 7 values to be issued.

### **1876-Onward Replacement by the New Typographed "Koban" Design Series**

While the new typographed "Koban" design stamps were issued 1876/83, cherry blossom and bird design stamps remained at postal counters and were valid for postage.

### **Recalled from Post Office Sale 1886 and Demonetized 1889**

Effective Meiji 19.4.1 (April 1, 1886), all cherry blossom/bird design stamps and stationery (plus odd and seldom used koban denominations) were recalled from post office stocks and returned to Tokyo.

By Meiji 22.11.30 (Nov. 30, 1889), all stamps issued in 1871/79 were declared invalid from December 1 1889. Being no more available at postal counters, forgeries of classic stamps started almost immediately around February 1890.



# Catalogue Notes

## **JAPANESE NAMES**

Following the Japanese tradition, the Japanese names are presented with the surname first, followed by the first name.

## **AUTHENTICITY**

Florian Eichhorn is a renowned and acknowledged expert on all aspects of classic Japan, as well as a member of the prestigious German Association of Philatelic Experts (BPP, Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer e.V.). Florian Eichhorn has issued certificates for many of the lots included in this auction sale, and also carefully reviewed all the lots offered from the "Meiji" property. Additional certificates can be issued by this expert on request.

## **Illustrations Literature, Key to Quoting**

**100 Years Vol. 27:** Ministry of Postal Services: Postal Buildings Architecture History sources collection (100 Years Postal Services History, Sources collection, Vol. 27). Tokyo (Yoshikawakobunkan) 1971.

**EJP 1974:** Mizuhara Meiso (ed.), Nihonkittehyakkajiten Encyclopedia Japanese Philately, Tokyo (Japanese Philatelic Society) 1974.

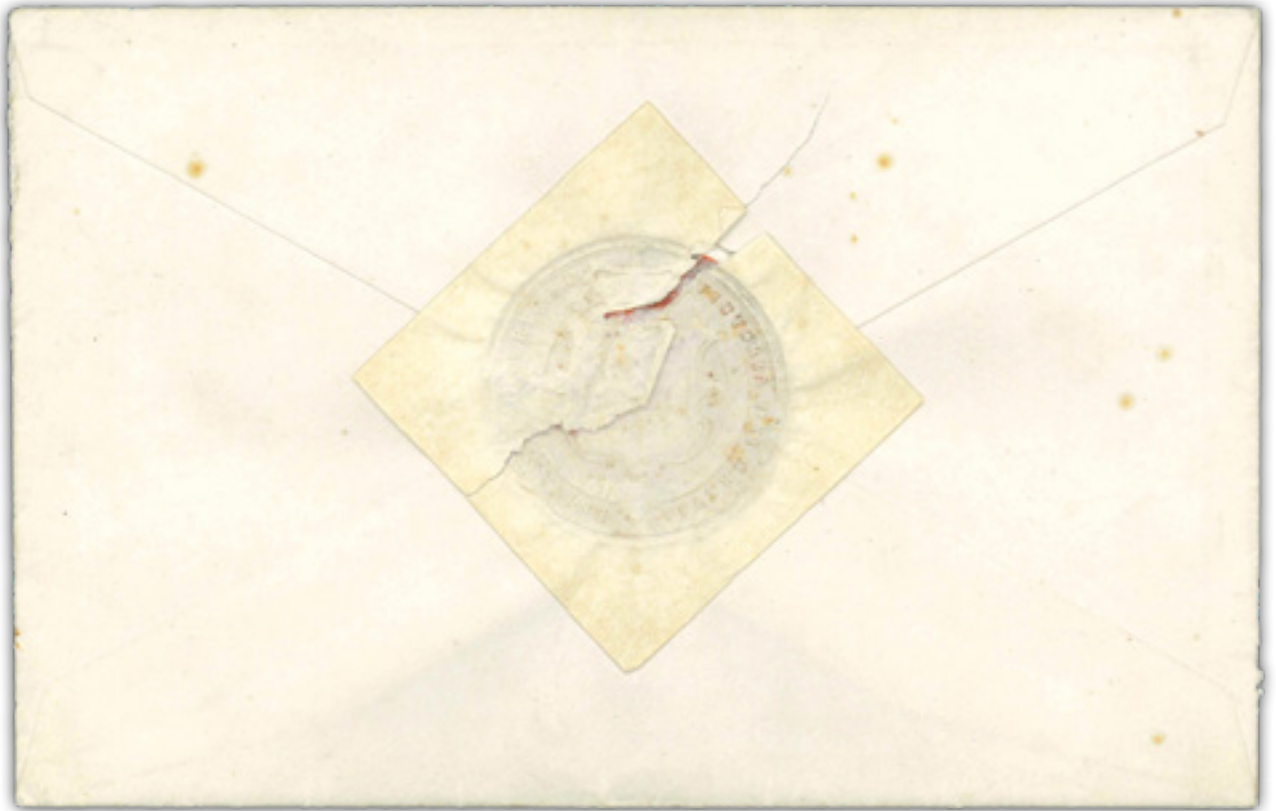
**Hashimoto 1986:** Hashimoto, Teruo/Japan Postal History Society: Nihon no yubin rekishi (Postal History of Japan). Tokyo (Hokuto) 1985.

**Yamaguchi 1987:** Yamaguchi, Osamu: yubinhakubutsukan (Postal Museum).

**Dawn 1990:** Teishinsogohakubutsukan (Communications General Museum): Kindai yubin no akebono. Dawn of Modern Postal Service. Tokyo (Dai-ichi Hoki Shuppansha KK) 1990.

## Japan

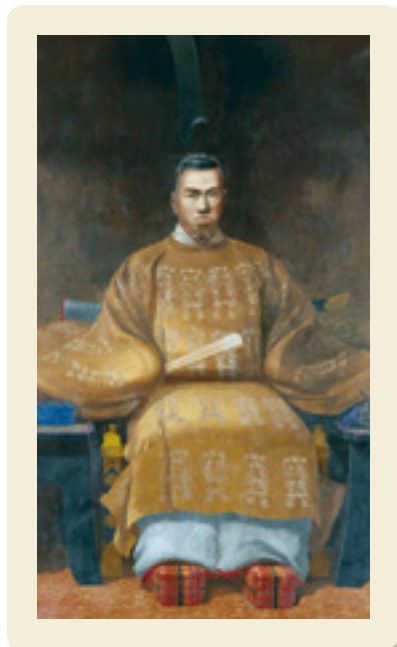
### Letter from Queen Victoria to the Tycoon of Japan the Emperor Kōmei



Cover back

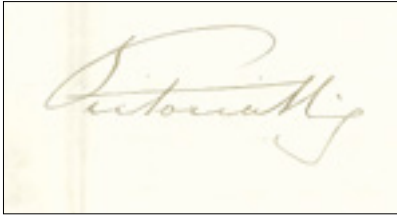


1882, *Portrait of Queen Victoria*, photo by Alexander Bassano, National Portrait Gallery (London - United Kindom).

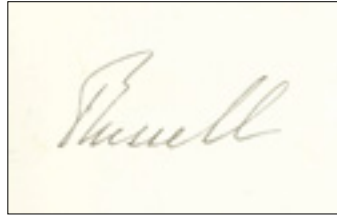


1902, *Portrait of Emperor Kōmei*, oil painting by Koyama Shotaro, National Museum (Tokyo - Japan).

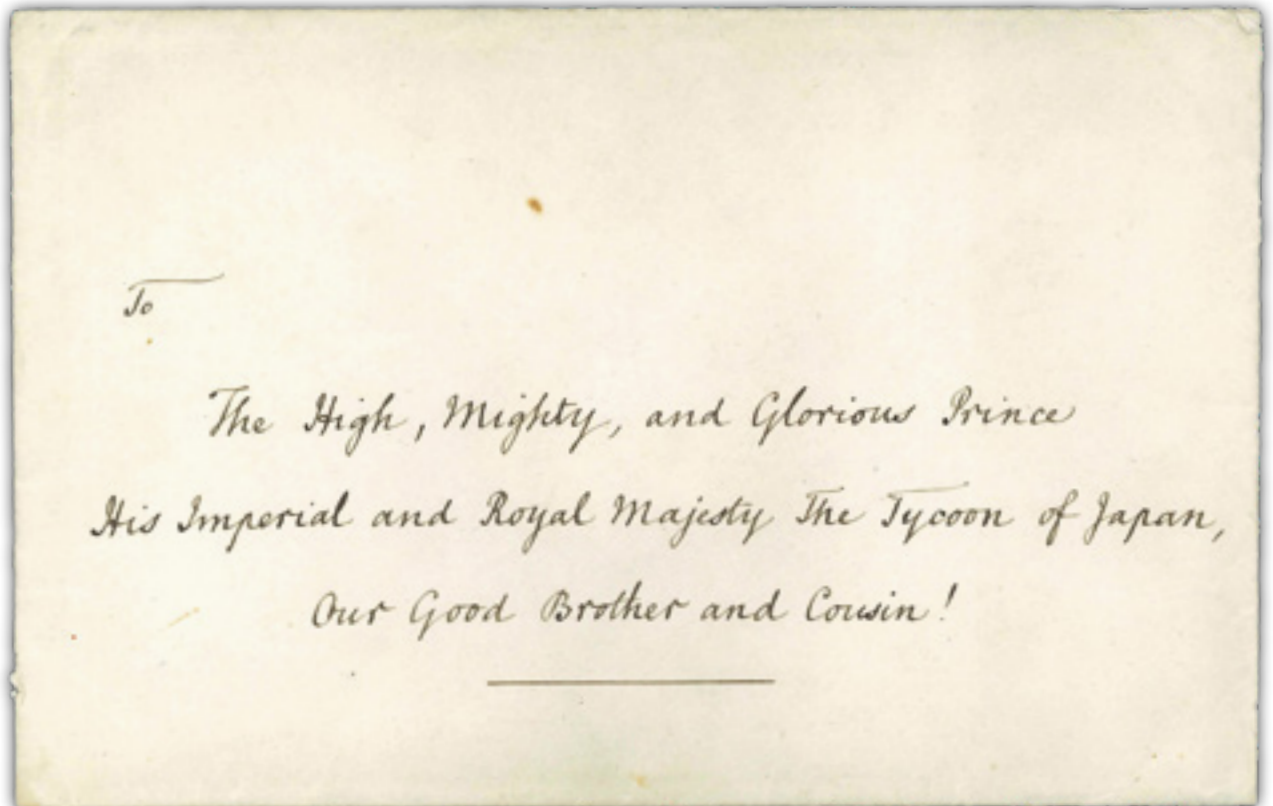




Signature of Queen Victoria



Signature of Secretary of State Lord John Russell



Cover front

30000

✉ / 24-25

10'000 - 15'000

1865, Signed letter from **Queen Victoria** in the twenty-eighth year of her reign, addressed to the **Tycoon of Japan the Emperor Kōmei**. Including the original envelope carried by diplomatic mail, addressed to "The High, Mighty, and Glorious Prince His Imperial and Royal Majesty The Tycoon of Japan, Our Good Brother and Cousin!", with Royal dry seal with coat of arms on reverse (torn on opening) "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA BRITANNIARUM REG.F.D" (REG F. D. for "regina fidei defensor"), "Victoria by the Grace of God Queen of the Britains, Defender of the Faith", as well as "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE" for "shamed be whoever thinks ill of it".

The letter begins with "Victoria, by the Grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (...) to the most High, Mighty, and Glorious Prince, His Imperial and Royal Majesty the Tycoon of Japan (...)". The missive continues with: "the services of Our Trusty and Well beloved Sir Rutherford Alcock, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, who for some time resided at the Court of Your Imperial and Royal Majesty in the Character of Our Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, we cannot omit to notify to You that his functions in that capacity, have terminated (...) being however anxious to maintain without interruption the Relations of Friendship and good Understanding which happily subsists between Our respective Empires (...)". Then stating that Sir Harry Smith Parkes will be the person appointed to replace Sir Rutherford Alcock in this position. Before the signature of the Queen, the letter concludes with "Your Imperial and Royal Majesty's affectionate Sister and Cousin", signed "Victoria R" as Queen, and below we find the "Russell" signature from the Secretary of State Lord John Russell.

**An early and extremely rare Queen Victoria - Tenno Kōmei letter, including the envelope and a significant missive, from the period when Japan started to open outwards.**

1871, Dragons Mon Currency, Imperforate



30001

(\*)

11

350 - 700

1871, 48 mon light reddish brown, plate 1, late printing, three examples unused without gum as issued, all featuring prominent positional varieties, including: position 1, spines retouched; position 16, plate crack and dot missing in denomination's script; position 27, large crack. All well margined. A very fine and unusual ensemble. (JSCA ¥180,000).



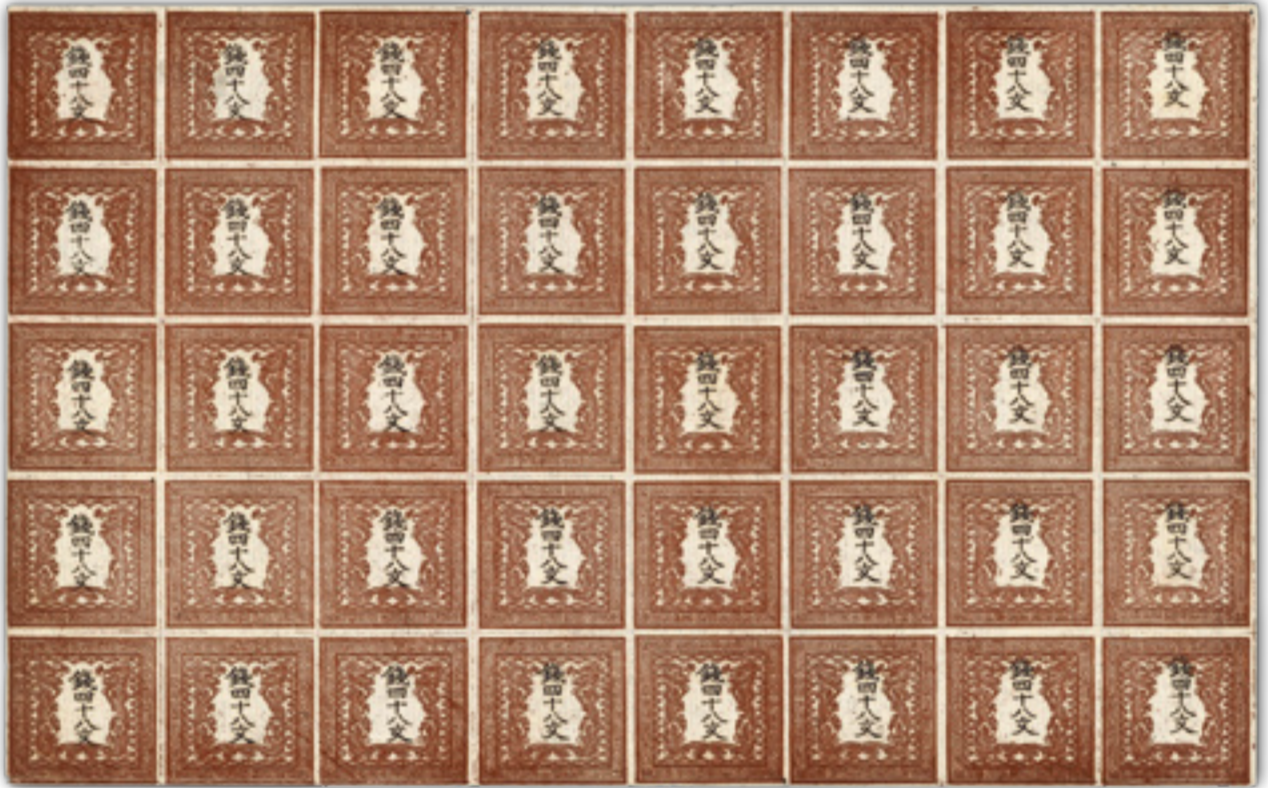
30002

田 (\*)

11

500 - 800

1871, 48 mon reddish brown, plate 1, early printing, block of six (2x3) showing positions 23-24 / 31-32 / 39-40, unused without gum as issued, good uniformly balanced margins. Very fine and fresh appearance. (JHES ¥370,000).



30003

田 (\*)

11

6'000 - 10'000

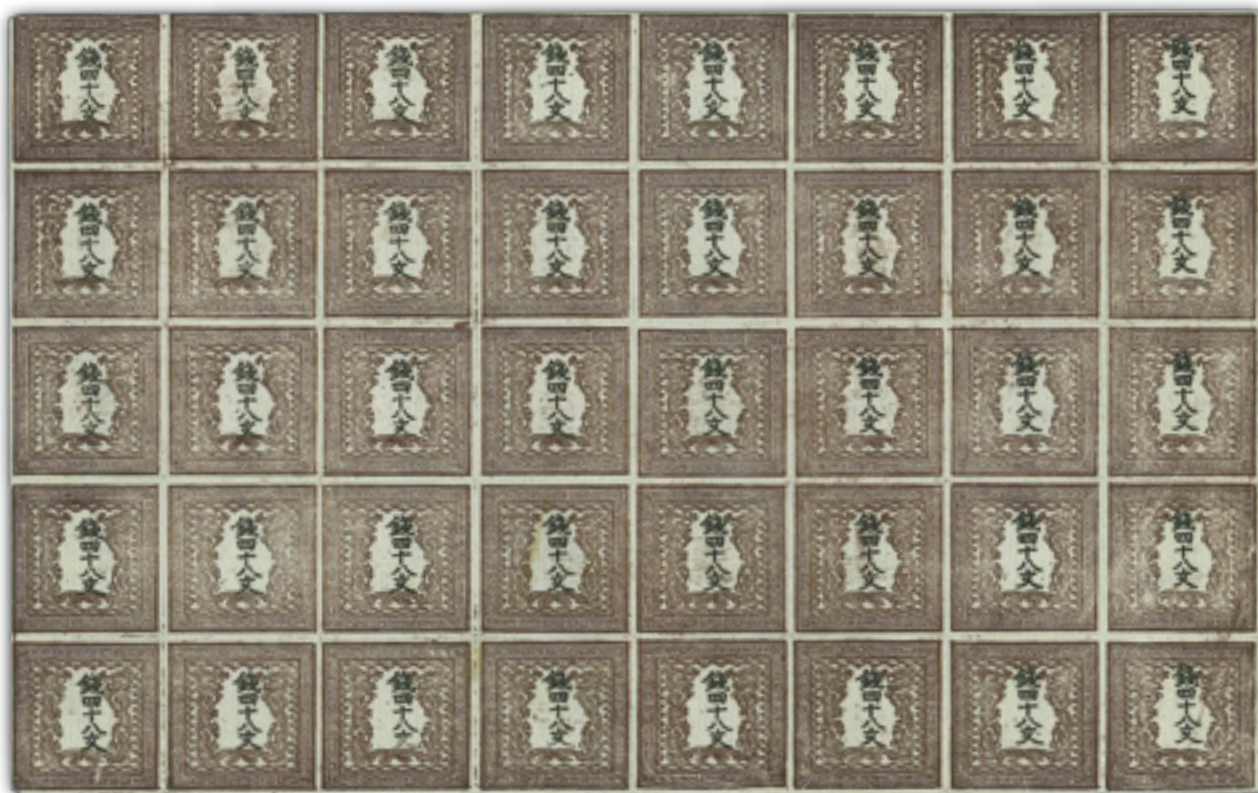
1871, 48 mon light reddish brown, plate 1, late printing, **complete sheet of 40**, unused without gum as issued, displaying margins all around and being large on two sides; bright shade and detailed impression, including the four positional pinholes (type R) -mostly respecting the designs- used to simultaneously fix various sheets before being cut.

Very fine and rare. An essential exhibition item in a highly advanced collection. (JSCA ¥2'500'000).



The Edobashi (bridge) as seen from the Aramebashi, colour woodcut triptych by Hiroshige III, published February 1877. - The center woodcut above the bridge shows the Tokyo Post Office building with its western gable clock. At bottom the Aramebashi, showing at right a mailcoach with postal coachman in black uniform and the old postal flag "kushidanga" (Dawn 1990 p. 11).





30004

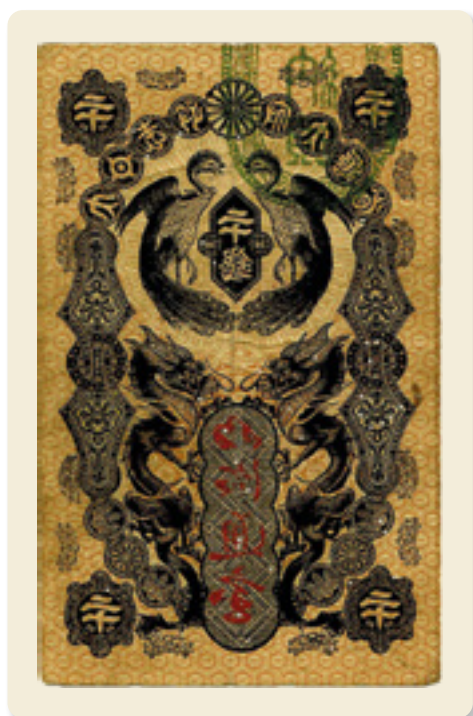
田 (\*)

11

6'000 - 10'000

1871, 48 mon brown, plate 1, late printing, **complete sheet of 40**, unused without gum as issued, showing the constant varieties in positions 1, 2, 16, 27 & 35, intense shade and quite fresh impression, slightly touched at top left, with margins ranging from good to very large in other respects, clearly showing part of the positional pinholes in positions 20 and 38 (type R).

Very fine and rare. An essential exhibition item in a highly advanced collection. (JSCA ¥2,500,000).



Meiji-tsuho (banknote) printed in 1870 by Dondorf & Naumann in Frankfurt/Germany. Designed by Edoardo Chiossone, using elements of Matsuda Atsutomo's original 1868 design, also displaying two dragons as in the "Dragon" stamps. This 20 sen note is from April 1872 (Wikipedia).



30005

◎

11

300 - 600

1871, 48 mon deep reddish brown, plate I, earliest printing, position 28, three large margins to clear at top, in an uncommonly strong shade, cancelled by large "Kensazumi" type with three characters in regular script. Very fine.

**Provenance:** *Dr. Tani Takashi*



30006

△ 田

11

2'000 - 4'000

1871, 48 mon brown, plate 1, block of four, positions 21-22 / 29-30, together with pair from positions 7-8, both with large margins and an infrequent deep shade, tied to piece by complete strike of large "Tokyo-Kensazumi" hs. A magnificent showpiece. (JSCA ¥590'000+).

**One of the Finest Examples Known of the Rare 48 Mon Single Franking**



30007

✉ / 30

11

15'000 - 20'000

1871, 48 mon brown, plate 1, position 39, a well margined single displaying an excellent impression and rich colour, ideally tied by framed "Saikyo Ken" to reverse of Saikyo local cover, showing on front clear strikes of framed "(year of) Water Ape 11<sup>th</sup> Month 13<sup>th</sup> Day / Saikyo Post Office" (Gregorian 13 December 1872) and framed "Afternoon Delivery" hs, both in red, and circular "Muro" of Muromachi "Hakoba" (mail deposit place). Cover backed up and opened for display having slight insect damage not affecting the stamp. Certs Philatelic Federation of Japan (2011), Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**To our knowledge, twelve single frankings of the 48 mon are recorded, of which eight are in private hands, with this undoubtedly being one of the finest.**

**Note:** A special reduced inner-city mail rate of 48 mon per each 4 momme was introduced at Saikyo/ Kyoto and Osaka at Meiji 4.12.5. Before that date, the 48 mon value was intended to pay the fractions of certain postal increment above the single weight, as it did not suffice to pay the single weight letter rate. Saikyo was a temporary renaming of Kyoto during the Meiji era, between Meiji 4 and Meiji 9 (1871-ca1876).

**Provenance:** Frederick H. Gloeckner (Kanai Stamp Co. June 25<sup>th</sup> 1967 lot 1)

**Census of the twelve 48 mon single frankings on cover we have documented:**

- The example presented here
- 17.9.1871: Yokohama to Tokyo, in the Tejima collection
- 14.10.1871: Yokohama to Tokyo, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- 14.11.1871: Tokyo to Yokohama, ex Fukuhara collection
- 1.12.1871: Yokohama to Tokyo, in the Tejima collection
- 2.12.1871: Yokohama to Tokyo, in the Suzuki collection
- 27.5.1872 Saikyo City drop letter, in the Nathaniel collection
- 15.7.1872: Saikyo City drop letter, in the Tejima collection
- 24.12.1872: Saikyo City drop letter, in the Tejima collection
- 20.1.1873: Saikyo City to Osaka area, ex Peplow and in the Suzuki collection
- 30.1.1873: Saikyo City drop letter, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- 16.2 (year unavailable): From Tokyo to Yokohama, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)



The Only Recorded Combination Cover with a Private Courier Bearing the “Number One”





30008

✉ / 32

11

10'000 - 20'000

1871, 48 mon brown, plate 1, vertical strip of four, positions 8 / 16 / 32 / 40, mainly good margins, tied by large "Nagoya Kensazumi" hs to reverse of cover (opened for display) from Nagoya (Owari) to Yamada (Ise), dated lunar 1<sup>st</sup> month 11<sup>th</sup> day (Gregorian 27 February, 1872), showing below superb strike of framed three-line Ise Yamada handstamp of the local Suzukiya Takeuemon courier company. Insect hole damage, affecting the stamp at base and parts of the cover (backed), still though perfectly preserving the superb strike of the courier company. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Fourteen State Post - private courier combination covers are documented exhibiting the "Dragon" (10) or "Cherry Blossom" (4) stamps. See "Hiyaku to Yubin" (private couriers and state mails) by Mr. Yamazaki Yoshiyuki, Narumi publishers 2016, pp. 135/148 and 306/318. This is the only known cover with the first stamp of Japan, which was carried through the state postal service and then a local private courier mail handler. Illustrated in the Dr. Ichida's handbook on "Dragon" issues, second edition of 1971, page 13.**

**Note:** The state postal connection between Nagoya and Yamada (Ise) existed only up to Yokkaichi (Ise). Consequently it required the service of a "hiyaku" (literally "flying feet", private courier company) to deliver the mail. The company Suzukiya Takeuemon, which was used in the carriage of this letter, was already established since 1776 (Ansei 5). The 200 mon rate covered the Nagoya-Yokkaichi route and was paid with the stamps, according to the single rate for 4 nomme within a distance of 50 ri. The combination service of State Post and "hiyaku" west of Osaka was possible during 18 months only, between Meiji 4.8. and Meiji 6.3.31.

**Provenance:** Watanabe Yoshio



30009

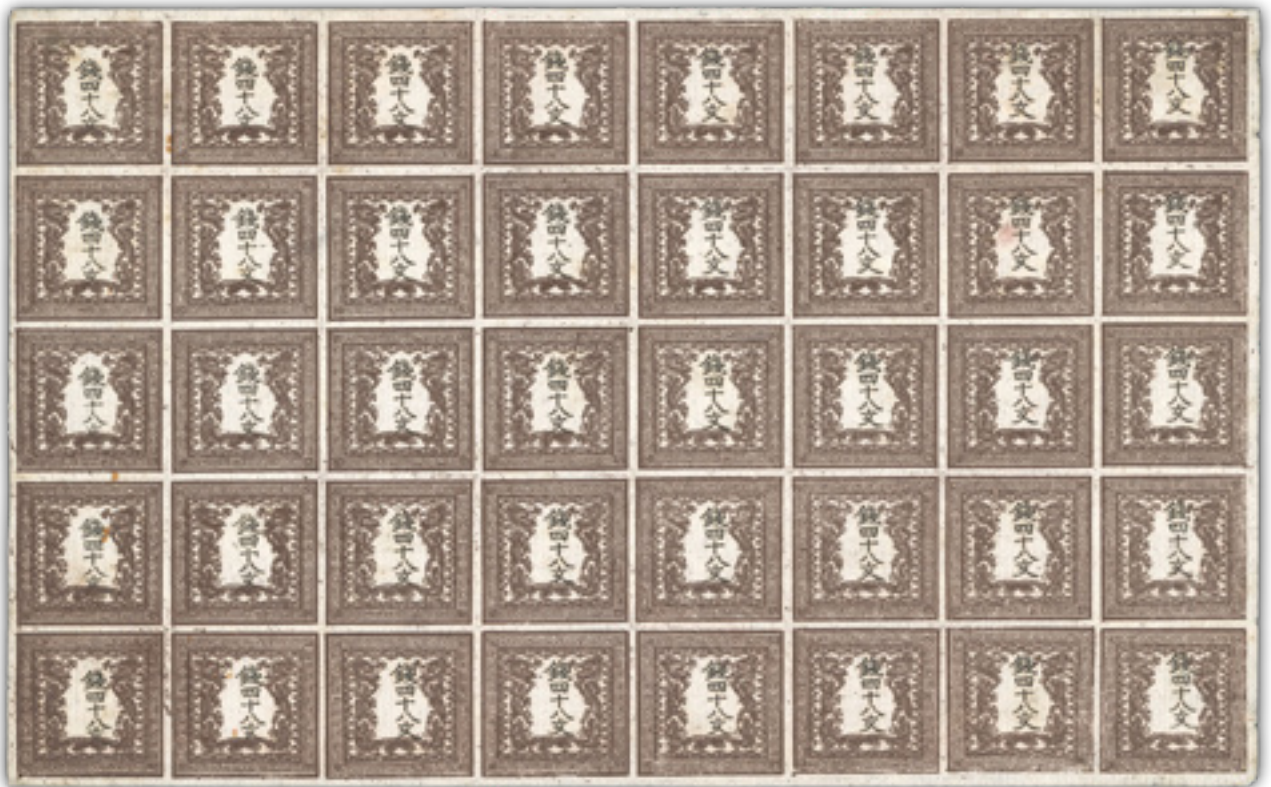
田 (\*)

111

1'000 - 1'500

1871, 48 mon brown, plate 2, vertical block of six, positions 23-24 / 31-32 / 39-40 including the "Blind Dragon" prominent variety in position 24, positional pinhole (type R disposition) at top left of the upper second stamp, barely touched at top, otherwise margins varying from good to very large, unused without gum as issued. A remarkable multiple. (JHES ¥380,000+).

## The "Caspary" - "Number One" Complete Sheet



30010

田 (\*)

111

8'000 - 12'000

1871, 48 mon dark brown, plate 2, **complete of sheet of 40**, unused without gum as issued, including constant varieties in a deep shade uniformly distributed and crisp impression, positional pinholes type R, excellent margins all around being nicely balanced as well, positions 11, 18, 20, 26 & 27, unused without gum as issued. (JSCA ¥2,600,000).

**An exquisite quality example of this rare "Number One" Plate 2 sheet.**

**Provenance:** Alfred H. Caspary (H.R. Harmer New York, 28.10.1958, lot 54)



30011

◎

111

800 - 1'200

1871, 48 mon yellowish brown, plate 2, vertical pair from positions 8 / 16, good margins all around except in upper right corner as a result of the positional pinhole at top right, showing very fine strike of seal-style (tensho) "Sakurai Kensazumi" framed postmark of Sakurai (Yamato Province). A decidedly appealing and rare showpiece. (JHES ¥380,000).

**Note:** The printing period of plate 2 was short and almost no variable shades but dark brown are known. **The yellowish shade is rare and the few existing pieces emanate from Sakurai.**





30012

\* 田

21

500 - 1'000

1871, 100 mon indigo, plate 1, early printing, block of four, positions 17-18 / 25-26, ample even margins, unused without gum as issued, position 25 with tiny surface scuff in upper left corner. A scarce block in a very appealing bright indigo shade. (JSCA ¥240,000).



30013

田 (\*)

21

8'000 - 10'000

1871, 100 mon intermediate printing, plate 1, **complete sheet of 40**, including constant varieties in positions 3, 7 and 8 in the ornate surrounding the dragons, unused without gum as issued, positions 8 and 16 touched at right due to an irregular cut by the printers, otherwise clear to large margins. Faint horizontal fold between the second and third horizontal rows and vertical in centre, not affecting the designs and not detracting.

A very fine example of this rare first-issue sheet, of great visual impact with this radiant and appealing shade. (JSCA ¥2,400,000).



30014



21

1'000 - 1'500

1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, very fresh possessing very good and even margins all around, showing a very fine strike of the upper part of large "Kensazumi" handstamp with three characters in seal script (Tensho), also known as "Eguchi type".

**A superb example with this very rare cancellation.**

**Note:** The "Eguchi" type cancellation, named after the philatelist and author Eguchi, is a local variety of the three-character "Kensazumi" handstamp in reisho script, up to now confirmed to be used in Saikyo and Osaka only. It is assumed that, due to the increasing number of mail in the first week of issue, the "ekiteiryō" (G.P.O.) Osaka branch office manufactured two extra postmark devices reisho script in the first week of Meiji 4.3, which clearly differed in character style from the standard type distributed in Meiji 4.2. The three recorded covers confirm the usage of these additional postmarks during the period of Meiji between 4.3.7 and 4.4.7; Eguchi mentioned them for the first time in his classic "Early Meiji period postmarks of Japan", although back in the 1950s nobody believed these to be genuine. (See the recent work by Yamazaki Yoshiyuki: "Dragon Stamps Plating Book", Tokyo (Narumi) 2017, pages. 101-103).

**Provenance:** Eguchi H.



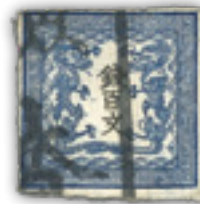
30015



21

400 - 600

1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, a magnificent and fresh example displaying large balanced margins on all sides, cleanly cancelled by large "Kensazumi" three-characters postmark. Most desirable in this outstanding condition. (JHES ¥150,000).



30016



21

300 - 500

1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, position 11, strong colour, full to very large margins, neatly cancelled by large "Kensazumi" three-characters postmark. A desirable example exhibiting the typical sharp impression of the earliest printings and enabling a well detailed design to be admired. (JHES ¥150,000).



30017



30018

30017

△

21

750 - 1'000

1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, a large margined example boasting a very unusual intense shade, tied to piece by the "head portion" of large "Kensazumi" postmark featuring three characters in reisho script hs to piece.

**An extremely fine and unusual earliest-printing example, further enhanced by the rare "Eguchi" type cancellation (only three covers recorded).**

30018

△

21

500 - 750

1871, 100 mon blue, wove paper, plate 1, position 35, mainly very large margins, glowing colour, tied to piece by a clear strike of framed seal-style (tensho) postmark from Iwamuro P.O. in the province of Kawachi, rare partial "Iwamuro..." framed hs adjacent. Cert. Philatelic Museum Foundation (2008).



30019

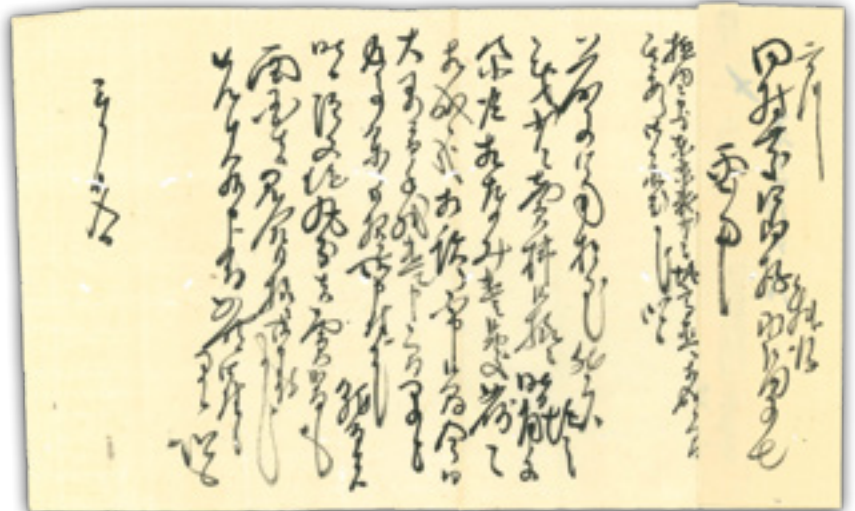
◎ 田

21

600 - 1'200

1871, 100 mon blue, plate 1, block of four from positions 5-6 / 13-14, excellent and balanced margins all around, deep shade and clear impression, showing the "head portion" of large "Tokyo-Kensazumi" hs. Very fine and rare. (JSCA ¥300'000).





Enclosed letter

Front

30020



21 25'000 - 40'000

1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, position 6, very good impression, wide margins all around, used on reverse of Meiji 4.3.9 (29 April 1871) folded envelope from Maisaka (Totomi Province) to Futagawa (Mikawa Province), tied by **large “Kensazumi” handstamp with three characters in regular script (Kaisho)**, which was used in the post offices and agencies east of Atsuta and Nagoya (“East Zone”). *Includes original letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> month 9<sup>th</sup> day, sent by the Maisaka postmaster to the Futagawa postmaster. This cover was dispatched eight days after establishment of postal services in Japan. Envelope with some insect damage not affecting the franking. Cert. Philatelic Museum Foundation (2014).*

It is also included a letter written by the Maisaka postal agent and addressed to another postal agent in Futagawa. This document adds an additional degree of rarity, as this is a rare feature encountered in this period.

**Nine covers and three cover fronts are documented bearing the large “Kensazumi” in Kaisho script; this is the earliest recorded date for a cover with Kaisho script postmark, together with a cover front from Toyohashi. A very early postal history example on the ninth day of the establishment of Japanese postal services (1871). Illustrated on page 86 of the 2017 “Dragon Stamps Plating Book” by Yamazaki Yoshiyuki (JHES ¥6,000,000).**



30021



21

20'000 - 30'000

1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, position 26, well margined except for being touched in a very small place at right, rich colour, tied by large **"Kensazumi" handstamp featuring three characters in clerical script (reisho) and used in the West Zone**, on cover from Otsu to Minakuchi, both in Omi Province. Manuscript date unclear, although presumably during the week after the establishment of postal services in Japan. Cover opened for display, backed up with two small portions of paper missing. Illustrated on page 96 in the *"Dragon Stamps Plating Book"* by Yamazaki published in 2017. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan (2000).

**Sixteen covers are documented to exist with this desirable cancellation in reisho, half of them exhibiting a neat strike.** (See the recent work by Yamazaki Yoshiyuki: *"Dragon Stamps Plating Book"*, Tokyo (Narumi) 2017, pages. 101-103).

**Provenance:** Takahashi private treaty 2001, used for the title page illustration (estimated at ¥4,800,000 = €35'000)



Front



Reverse

30022



21

1'500 - 3'000

1871, 100 mon blue, plate 1, position 6, applied on reverse of small Western-style envelope to Yokohama, tied by head portion of large "Tokyo (Kensazumi)" hs, showing framed red "(year of) Water Monkey... Moon 15<sup>th</sup> Day/Tokyo P. O." (Gregorian spring 1872) datestamp alongside. Harmless filing fold through centre well clear of the franking.

**Mon "Dragon" covers used between foreign residents are rare.**

**Note on the date:** The practice of using the head of the cancellation only went into force when the G.P.O. ordered the cutting-off of the bottom three characters of the large "Tokyo (Kensazumi)" handstamps; according to Mr. Tejima, the head-portion usage periods for Tokyo are: Meiji 5.2.1-5.4.2 (the first period of usage) and Meiji 5.7.14-7.28 (the second period of usage, being shorter); the framed datestamp in red was only used from Meiji 5.4 to 5.4. Consequently, this allow us to date the cover within the earlier period.

**Note on the addresses:** The cover was addressed to "R. B. Baker Esqr. No 78" in Yokohama, and sent by "Tsukiji / Loureiro". The sender, Eduardo Loureiro, was the Portuguese consul for Kanagawa and Yedo residing in the Tokyo-Tsukiji foreign concession, while the addressee Mr. Baker was the manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank.





30023



21, 31

3'000 - 6'000

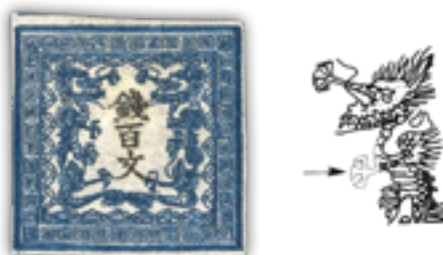
1871, 100 mon dark steel-blue, plate 1, earliest printing, vertical pair from positions 5 & 13 and single from position 24, together with with **200 mon vermilion, plate 1, position 31 featuring retouched "Missing Arm"**, all well margined, used on reverse of cover from Shizuoka (Suruga Province) to Yokohama, tied by large "Shizuoka Kensazumi" framed handstamp. Manuscript date 5<sup>th</sup> moon 8<sup>th</sup> day (Gregorian 25 June 1871). *The 500 mon rate corresponded to the first postal period, Meiji 4.3.1-4.12.4.* A very appealing and scarce first-issue combination cover.

**Provenance:**

*Maurice Burrus (Kanai Stamp Co., 12.10.1963, lot 89)*

*Dr. Tani Takashi*

## The One-Armed Dragon



30024

(\*)

211

5'000 - 10'000

1871, 100 mon blue, plate 2, position 18 featuring the prominent **“Right Dragon Arm Missing”** variety, close but clear margins at left, good to large in other respects, unused without gum as issued. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA 2v-2-18, ¥2,000,000).

**As a result of the detailed impression and rich shade, a very fine example of this very rare and desirable variety.**

**Note:** *This striking omission in the dragon design was never retouched, as evidenced by the reappearance of this error in the 1 sen dragon plate 2. The high catalogue value of this error in the JSCA catalogue clearly reflects the rarity of this variety and the very low number issued of the 100 mon plate 2 in comparison with the 1872 1 sen blue with the same error, as the former is priced over eighteen times higher.*



30025

⊙

211

500 - 800

1871, 100 mon blue, plate 2, position 26, with the **right dragon's hair retouched** variety, full margins all around, lightly cancelled. Paper adherence's on reverse and thinned. (JSCA 2v-2-26, ¥400,000).

**According to Lois M. Evans-de Violini, only nine examples of this variety are recorded, of which five are in used condition.**



30026

◎ 田 (\*)

2!!!

10'000 - 20'000

1871, 100 mon blue, plate 2, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40**, made up of 17 positions unused, including two remarkable blocks of four and five, and 23 used single stamps, with the highlights being the prominent varieties "missing arm" in position 18, "missing chin" in position 25, "retouched hair" in position 26 and "missing raimon" at left in position 36, as well as an uncommon red handstamp cancel in position 14. Generally well margined choice examples.

**Considering the scarcity of the second plate of the 100 mon, this is an extraordinary reconstruction that would be extremely difficult to duplicate. No full sheets exist in private hands** (the only example recorded is in the Kanai collection in The Philatelic Culture Museum, ex Woodward and Levy. (JSCA ca. ¥5,000,000).



30027



211

2'000 - 2'500

1871, 100 mon dark blue, plate 2, position 29, strong colour and impression, barely touching at right, otherwise well margined, tied by the "head portion" of large "Fushimi (Kensazumi)" hs to reverse of cover (opened for display) from Fushimi to Osaka, with handwritten date 6<sup>th</sup> moon 7<sup>th</sup> day, showing above arrival "(year of) Water Monkey 6<sup>th</sup> Moon... Day" (Gregorian early July of 1872) ds in red. An appealing and scarce second-plate single franking. (JSCA ¥600,000).

**Note:** According to the official order of Meiji 4.12, the large Kensazumi postmarks were instructed to be applied with the name of the place only.

**Provenance:** Kobayashi auction (Philanippon 2001, lot 13, sold for ¥500,000 = €3,500)





30028

田 (田)

2II

10'000 - 20'000

1871, 100 mon dark blue, plate 2, vertical block of ten, positions 6-7 / 14-15 / 22-23 / 30-31 / 38-39, and horizontal pair from positions 4 & 5, both showing an outstandingly precise impression and being well margined, with only one position touched at right in the block, tied to large piece of cover by eleven strikes of framed "Ken" of Tokyo, with ms. date 10.19 adjacent, and framed arrival "Osaka Post Office (year of) Water Monkey 10<sup>th</sup> Moon 23<sup>rd</sup> Day" (Gregorian Nov. 19 resp. 23, 1872), both struck in black. Very fine and visually impressive. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**The used blocks of the second plate of this value are extremely scarce, and this unique block is the second largest recorded**, the largest being a block of twelve (also unique) on cover (in the Yigal Nathaniel collection). (JSCA ¥1'000'000 for a used block of four).

**Provenance:**

*Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 18.11.1964, lot 97, "probably unique")*

*Lois M. Evans-de Violini (Dynasty auctions, 6.8.2011, lot 1517)*



30029

(\*)

31

200 - 300

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, early printing, position 18, clear margins and rare very sharp impression, unused without gum as issued. Extremely fine. (JSCA ¥100,000).



30030

(\*)

31

800 - 1'200

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, position 22, three examples showing the three states of plate condition: pre-damaged (clearly revealing an early printing), damaged and retouched, all well margined and unused without gum. (JHES ¥420,000).

**Note:** In the later stage of the printing of the 200 mon values, some positions of dragon plate were damaged. The damages in positions 22, 26 and 30 were serious, therefore these positions were repaired by retouching.



30031

(\*)

31

7'000 - 14'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, early to intermediate printing, position 31 displaying the striking "**left dragon's arm missing**" variety, clear impression and uniformly large balanced margins all around, unused without gum as issued, very fine. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023)

**A choice example of this important variety, of which only six are recorded in unused condition.** (JSCA 3-v-1-31, cat. ¥2,000,000).



30032

田 (\*)

31

800 - 1'600

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, block of four, positions 10-11 / 18-19, showing the constant varieties "Missing Fingers" (pos. 11) and "Bald Dragon" (pos. 19), clear to predominantly very large margins, intense colour, unused without gum as issued. Natural paper creasing not detracting. (JSCA ¥250,000).



30033

田 (\*)

31

2'000 - 4'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate I, intermediate printing, vertical block of eight, positions 3-4 / 11-12 / 19-20 / 27-28, including position 11 displaying "**dragon nails missing**" variety and position 19 with "**dragon hair missing**" variety, possessing good to large margins, unused without gum as issued. A very fine multiple of great visual appeal as a result of its radiant vivid colour and scarcity.





30034

◎ (\*)

31

1'000 - 1'500

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, position 26, exhibiting the three states of plate condition: pre-damaged (used example with minute surface rubbing), damaged and retouched, the latter two with unused examples without gum as issued, full to large margins. (JHES ¥460,000).

**Note:** The progressive deterioration of the surface of the dragon copper plates was especially remarkable in positions 22, 26 and 30, which required these positions to be retouched.



30035

◎ (\*)

31

900 - 1'200

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, position 30, exhibiting the three states of plate condition: pre-damaged (used example), and two unused without gum examples representing the damaged state and the retouched state, just the first state with one margin touched, otherwise margins ranging from clear to large. The damaged state strikingly exhibits most of the design of the dragon at left missing. (JHES ¥420,000).

**Note:** The copper plate was progressively deteriorated with the use of corrosive vermilion ink. These damages were especially remarkable in positions 22, 26 and 30, which required the plates to be retouched and repaired.

**Provenance** (Damaged state):

Frederick H. Gloeckner (Kanai Stamp Co., 29.4.1967, lot 51)

Metzelaar collection (R. Wolfers-Tokyo, 5.4.1981, lot 129)



30036

◎

31

1'500 - 2'500

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, earliest printing, vertical pair from positions 26 & 34, complete margins on all sides, exhibiting the "head" portion of early non-standard "Kensazumi" postmark of Echigawa (Omi Province, opened in Meiji 5.2).

**A magnificent strike of this very rare post mark, of which only about half a dozen are recorded, including two covers.**

**Note:** While other post offices used "large place kensazumi" postmarks, the Echigawa post office curiously utilised an almost identical type in size and style ("reisho") to the first postmark of Japan ("three character kensazumi"), ostensibly disregarding the orders of the general post office indicating that postmarks then had to show a place name.



30037



30038

30037

△

31

1'000 - 1'500

1871, 200 mon vermillon, plate 1, vertical pair, positions 6 & 14, full to large margins, tied to piece by large "Kuwana Kensazumi" postmark. A magnificent strike being very rarely found so clear. A striking piece for exhibition.

30038

◎ 田

31

3'500 - 5'000

1871, 200 mon vermillon, plate 1, vertical block of eight, positions 12-13 / 20-21 / 28-29 / 36-37, including the constant variety in position 36, in an appealing refulgent colour, just touched at bottom left, cancelled by two strikes of large "Tokyo Kensazumi" hs, of which one displayed complete.

**In superb condition for this very rare block of stunning appearance.**

**Provenance:**

*Heinrich Salomon 75<sup>th</sup> Auction (lot 1894, applied on piece at that time)*

*Takahashi Private Treaty 1995 (¥1'200'000 = €8'400)*



30039

◎ (\*)

31

7'500 - 10'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40**, comprising 17 unused, including position 38 displaying an earliest to early printing, as well as 23 used, including three pairs, with an outstanding vertical pair from positions 19 & 31, featuring the remarkable “right dragon’s hair missing” in position 19 and “left dragon’s arm missing” in position 31, with large “Yokohama Kensazumi” hs. The used display also includes prominent varieties from positions 2, 32, 36 & 40. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023) for the pair pos. 31-39 with variety. A challenging and very rare reconstruction. (JSCA ¥4,225,000+).



Osaka “yubinyakusho” (postal bureau) in April 1871 (see next lot).  
Postal Museum Tokyo (Hashimoto 1986 p. 188).





30040



31

1'500 - 2'000

1871, 200 mon vermillion, plate 1, vertical pair from positions 28 & 36, large margins all around, tied by large "Osaka Kensazumi" postmark to cover for Nagasaki, displaying black circular hakoba-in "wata" ("Watanabebashi") handstamp of Osaka at base, with on reverse framed "(Naga)saki / (year of) Water Monkey 6<sup>th</sup> Moon 11<sup>th</sup> Day" datestamp in red. Some tone spots, barely detracting from this rare and attractive cover. Cert. I.S.J.P. (2014, F. Eichhorn), signed Tyler. (JSCA ¥350,000).

**Provenance:** Mike Ruggiero (*Dynasty Auctions*, 13.4.2014, lot 2646).



30041



30042

30041

(\*)

3II

400 - 800

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, position 36, featuring “dot in sen-character missing” variety, margins ranging from good to enormous. Faint thin spot on reverse, still though attractive and rare. (JSCA ¥350,000).

30042

(\*)

3II

700 - 1'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, position 9, in a delicate bright shade, graced by large even margins all around, unused without gum as issued. Extremely fine and rare. (JSCA ¥350,000).



30043

◎

3II

1'200 - 2'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, position 8, private perforation 11; showing the “head portion” of non-standard “Kanazawa Kensazumi” cancellation.

**Private perforations are extremely rare on “Dragon” stamps, any usage other than in Nagasaki is a major rarity.** As a curiosity, Dr. Ichida states in his “The Dragon Stamps of Japan 1871-1872” handbook of 1959 to have only seen three examples of the perforated 200 mon, including one from plate 2.



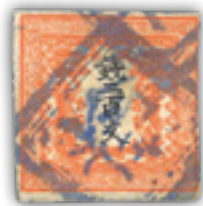
30044

◎

3II

500 - 750

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, brittle laid paper of 50 microns, position 10, a clear to very large margins example with vivid colour, showing part of large place-name “kensazumi” cancellation postmark, neatly struck. Very fine. (JSCA ¥300,000+).



30045

◎

3II

1'000 - 2'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, **thick wove paper of 78 microns**, position 35, rich colour, ample or large margins on three sides, touched at right, showing a quite complete strike of framed “Ken” cancellation of Tokyo, scarcely struck in blue.

**A rare thick-paper variety from the second plate.** (JHES ¥600,000; Michel 3IIx €5,500, unrecorded unused).

## The Sheet Reconstruction of 200 Mon Plate 2



30046

◎ (\*)

311 30'000 - 50'000

1871, 200 mon vermillion, plate 2, **the phenomenal sheet reconstruction of 40**, comprising three unused, including one pair in positions 5-6, as well as 37 positions used, displaying six pairs and some choice cancellations. The position 36 exhibits the “missing dot” in ‘Sen’ character” variety.

**A striking reconstruction of the rare plate 2 of which no unused sheets are recorded.** The replication of this reconstruction would be a truly daunting challenge. *An unused block of 24, in the Ota Katsumi collection, is the largest known multiple.* (JSCA ¥12,150,000+; Michel 311y €100,000).





Front



Reverse

30047



311

2'500 - 5'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, position 36, featuring "Ten Ochi" constant variety consisting in a missing dot in the sen-character, surrounded by ample margins and being outstandingly fine in this respect, tied by large "Nagoya Kensazumi" to reverse of illustrated inland cover (folded from old letter contents), showing framed "Fee Paid" hs alongside, on front vermilion framed "9<sup>th</sup> Moon 4<sup>th</sup> Day/ Nagoya Station Postal Handling Agency" datestamp at bottom left. Cover with small area affected by insect fault clear away of the stamp. An attractive and colorful plate 2 cover.



30048



311, 211

2'500 - 3'500

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, position 27, together with 100 mon, plate 2, position 15, both displaying an uncommonly detailed impression and ample margins all around, tied by large "Nagoya Kensazumi" framed postmark to reverse of cover sent to Yokohama, dated 5<sup>th</sup> moon 15<sup>th</sup> day (Gregorian June 20, 1872). At top showing Nagoya merchant's seal (diamond in square), small-size bilingual "Batchelor" double circle on front.

**An exceptional combination franking featuring the very elusive 200 mon plate 2 on cover**, with a franking of great beauty and freshness.

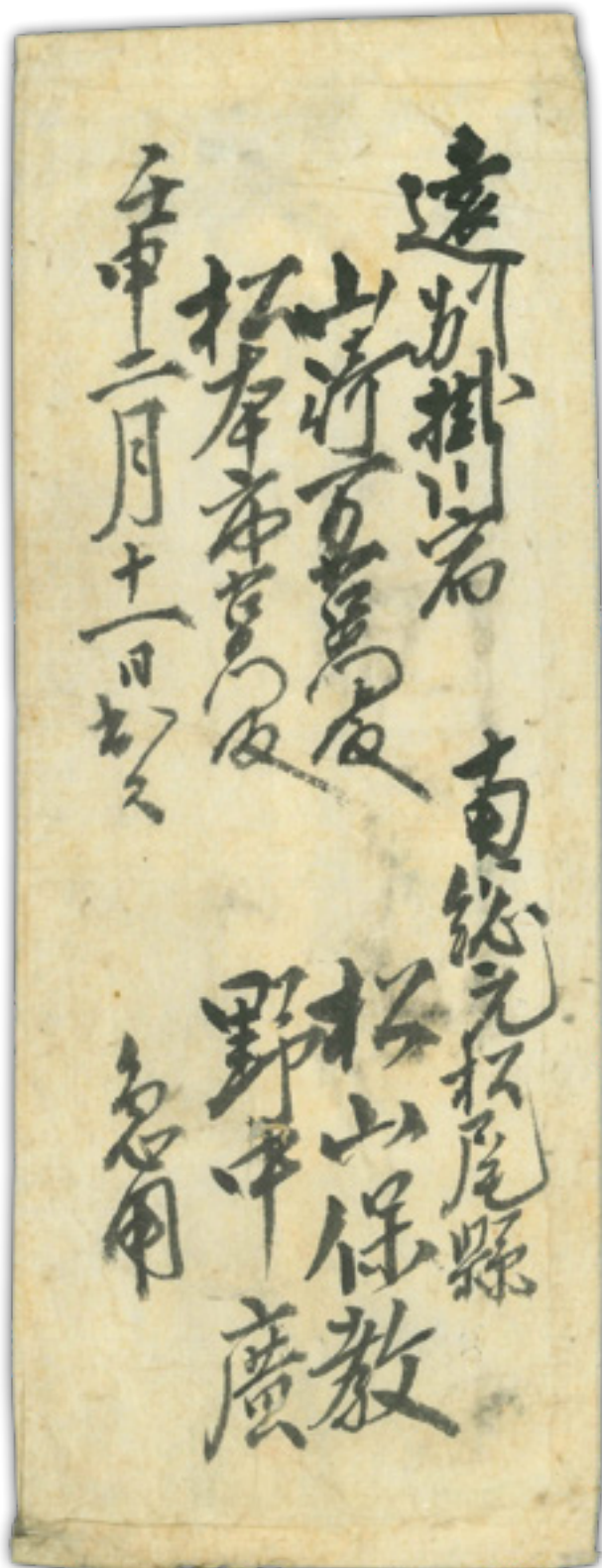
**Note:** The 300 mon franking paid the basic weight letter rate up to 4 momme within 100 ri distance, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> inland rate period (Meiji 4.12.5-6.3.31).



The Largest Recorded Multiple of the Rare 200 Mon Plate 2 on Cover



Reverse



Front

30049

✉ / 56

3II, 2I

15'000 - 25'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, vertical strip of five, positions 6 / 14 / 22 / 30 / 38, with positional pinhole at bottom left of position 38, with just two stamps touched at right, otherwise well margined showing a strong impression, in combination with 100 mon, plate 1, vertical pair, positions 26 / 34, wide margins, applied on reverse of large cover from Tokyo (Musashi Province) to Kakegawa (Totomi Province), tied by two complete strikes of large "Tokyo Kensazumi" postmark, showing clear framed dispatch "(year of) Water Monkey 2<sup>nd</sup> Moon 11<sup>th</sup> Day/Tokyo Post Office" (Gregorian 19 March 1872) datestamp in red alongside. *The 1,200 mon franking was twice the 600 mon rate to Kakegawa.* Some imperfections including small tear at top left in the pair and tiny tear in position 22 in the strip, the folded envelope with slight insect damage not affecting the franking, these not detracting from the great significance of this unique impressive showpiece.

**A unique franking including the 200 mon plate 2 with the largest used multiple on or off cover we have recorded. This multiple being of great significance as the plate 2 is by far scarcer than plate 1. This strip is a complete vertical column (6<sup>th</sup>) in the sheet.**

**Note:** *The JSCA mentions a block of 10 as the largest known used multiple, but the book of the Ota Katsumi collection mentions a used strip of five as the largest known.*



At left, Tokyo post office at Nihonbashi-Yokkaichicho, April 1871, with the entrance gate in the centre of the picture. At right, mailcoach with postmen and the Japanese postal flag. Oil painting after photograph, Postal Museum Tokyo (100 Years Vol. 27 p. II).



## A Unique Mixed-Issues Franking with the Rare 200 Mon Plate 2



30050



3ll, 4l, 6l

10'000 - 20'000

1871, 200 mon vermilion, plate 2, vertical strip of three with magnificent margins, positions 8 / 16 / 2, positional pin hole at top right, together with 500 mon bluish green, plate 1, vertical pair, positions 1/9 (featuring "extra dot in second value character" variety in position 9), barely touching on two sides and varying to huge margins, in conjunction with 1872, Dragon 1 sen, plate 2, position 28, each cancelled by boxed "Ken" (for examined) chops of Tokyo with framed blue "(year of) Water Monkey 4<sup>th</sup> Moon 28<sup>th</sup> Day / Tokyo P.O." datestamp ("Tokyo Yubin Yakusho", Tokyo Post Office) alongside, to reverse of cover to Kobe. Addressee's side displaying framed arrival datestamp: "(year of) Water Monkey 5<sup>th</sup> Moon 2<sup>nd</sup> Day / Sesshu Kobe P. O." (Sesshu = Settsu province).

**Covers bearing the 200 mon plate 2 are exceedingly scarce, particularly in mixed franking with the 500 mon. An exceptional and splendid imperforate-perforated combination franking.**

**Provenance:**

*Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 18.11.1964, lot 111)*

*Lois M. Evans-de Violini (Dynasty Auctions, 6.8.2011, lot 1533)*

## The 500 Mon “Missing Stroke” Plate Variety



30051

(\*)

41

40'000 - 60'000

1871, 500 mon greyish yellow green, plate 1, earliest printing, position 2, featuring the “Missing Stroke” variety in the “Sen” character, very fine with clear to very large margins and good impression, unused without gum as issued. In addition, two examples of plate 1, position 2, showing the retouch which corrected the error are included for comparison; these represent the early printing in bright green (Dr. Ichida: “pure green”) used, and the intermediate printing with an unused example. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of only about five examples recorded of this major plate flaw variety, which together with the “Missing Stroke and Missing Dot” variety are the most valuable and significant plate flaws in any value of the classic period. One of the early gems of Japanese philately and a key item in the most advanced collection.** (JSCA 4v-1-2 cat. ¥10,000,000).

**Note:** As it was not the case with other plate varieties, this error was found very soon and was retouched, so that even the earliest printing examples in dull yellow-green already possess the “sen” character amended. As a result of this, this error is of great scarcity. The stamp offered here is illustrated in Dr. Ichida’s “The Dragon Stamps of Japan 1871-1872” handbook (1959), on page 139.

**Provenance:** Yamamoto Kunichi

**Our -probably partial- census:**

- The example offered here
- Single unused illustrated in “Gallery of Japanese Stamps” vol.2 (1990) fig.19
- Single unused, in the Ota Katsumi collection
- Single franking on cover in the Tejima collection.



30052

(\*)

41

400 - 800

1871, 500 mon, dull yellow green, plate 1, earliest printing, position 6, full to mainly ample margins, unused without gum as issued. Thin spots at left, probably as a result of fallen-off wooden enclosures. Very scarce. (JSCA ¥350,000).



30053

(\*)

41

400 - 500

1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 1, already displaying the shade of plate 2, position 12, thick wove paper of 84 microns, boasting an incredible freshness, large margins for the most part, unused without gum as issued. A striking example of great scarcity with this clear impression. (JSCA ¥250,000).



30054

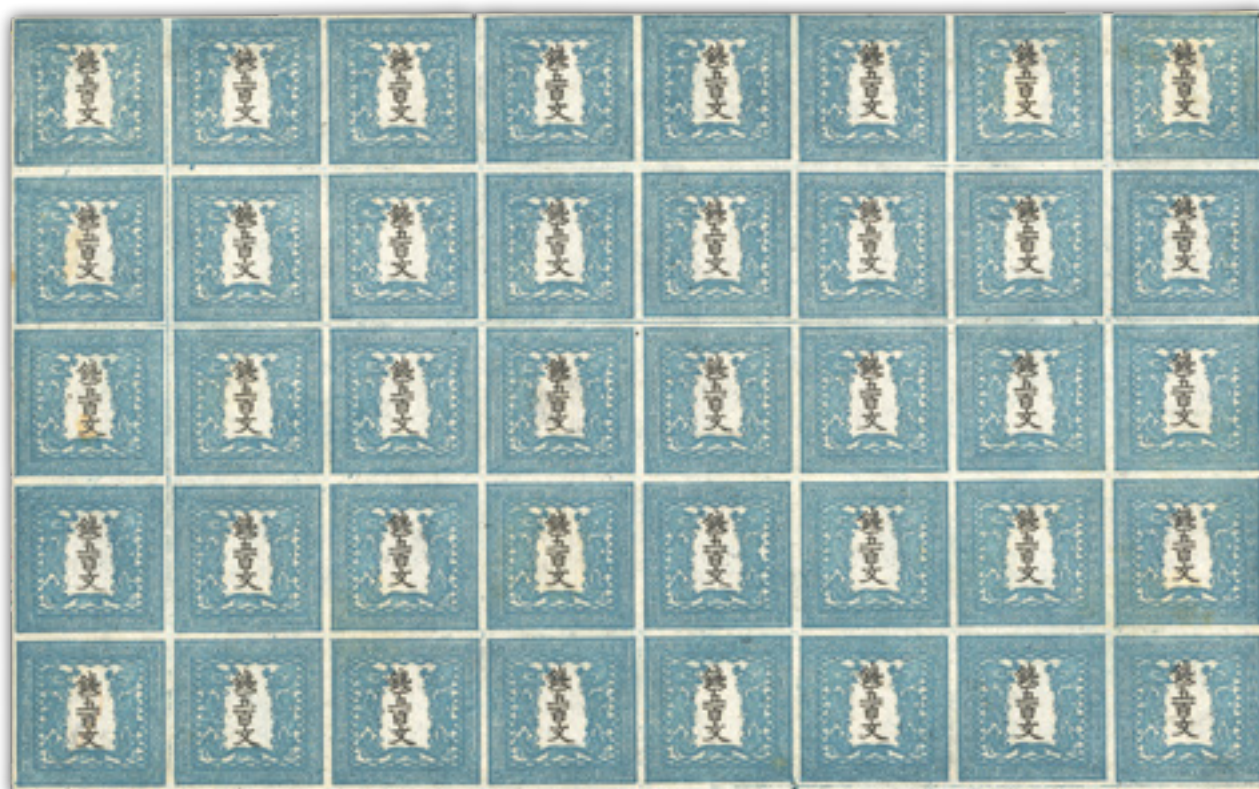
(\*)

41

250 - 500

1871, 500 mon bluish green, plate 1, printed on thick wove paper of 76 microns, position 29 showing "flame missing" variety, close although full margin at right and evenly ample margins on other sides, clear impression, unused without gum as issued. (JHES ¥130,000).

## The 500 Mon Complete Sheet



30055

田 (\*)

41

15'000 - 20'000

1871, 500 mon pale blue green, plate 1, intermediate printing, **complete sheet of 40**, surrounded by margins varying from clear to huge, uniformly applied and fresh impression in a bright and delicate shade, unused without gum as issued, featuring constant varieties in positions 9, 14 and 29. Positional pinholes following the type R model. Natural paper imperfection in position 20 and a couple of slight tone spots at left, not detracting from the rarity and unusual freshness.

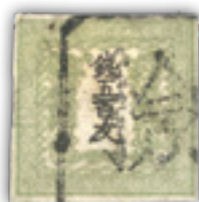
A very rare complete sheet of the highest first-issue denomination, being an essential piece in an advanced collection. (JSCA ¥4,400,000).

**Provenance:**

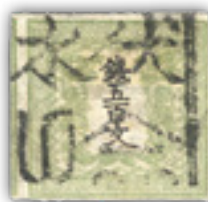
*Captain E. J. Allen (Robson Lowe -Part I-, London 24.9.1958, lot 6)*

*F. J. Peplow (H. R. Harmer N.Y, 16.3.1970, lot 8 and described as "fresh immaculate")*





30056



30057



30056



41

2'000 - 4'000

1871, 500 mon, greyish yellow green, plate 1, earliest printing, position 6, a well margined example cancelled by the "head portion" of large three-character "Kensazumi" postmark in regular script, used in the Eastern Zone.

**A very rare example exhibiting the first postmark of Japanese philately, which was used during merely six weeks.**

**Note:** The earliest printing of the 500 mon is nowadays classified as "greyish yellow-green" and "dull yellow-green". Any other early green shade is classified as "early printing".

30057



41

1'500 - 2'000

1871, 500 mon, greyish yellow green, plate 1, earliest printing, margins ranging from good to enormous showing part of neighbouring stamp at left, cancelled by "head portion" of large "Fushimi Kensazumi" handstamp.

**A highly desirable example showing the part of this elusive cancellation combining the regular and tensho scripts. A choice example.**



30058



30059

30058



41

300 - 400

1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 1, late printing, showing the shade of plate 2, position 23, just touched at top left, otherwise full to large margins, cancelled by early non-standard "Tsuru" circle of Tsuguraoka. Three tiny tears in margin. (JSCA ¥250,000).

30059



41

1'500 - 2'500

1871, 500 mon bright green, plate 1, early printing, a well margined vertical pair from positions 16 / 24, very fresh with two magnificent strikes of early non-standard "Saikyo-ken" postmark of Saikyo. Extremely fine and desirable with this scarce usage. (JHES ¥430,000).

## The Largest Used 500 Mon Multiple in Private Hands



30060

◎ 田

41

10'000 - 15'000

1871, 500 mon bluish-green, plate 1, vertical block of ten, positions 1-2 / 9-10 / 17-18 / 25-26 / 32-33, in the typical shade of the middle period of printing, plate 1, just touched or very slightly cut into in two small places, otherwise margins ranging from clear to very large, resplendent pastel shade and detailed impression, cancelled by two strikes of large "Tokyo Kensazumi" hs. Slight imperfection in upper left corner, otherwise very fine.

**An astonishing used large block including the two first columns of a complete sheet, being the only known and the largest used multiple in private hands. Additionally a block of 17 is also known on cover, belonging to the Kanai Hiroyuki collection property of The Philatelic Culture Museum (Kobe, Japan).**

**Provenance:** A. M. Tracey Woodward (H. R. Harmer, London, 26-28.6.1939, lot 110, then still affixed to original fragment with other values)

30061

No lot.



30062

(✉)

41

2'000 - 4'000

1871, 500 mon bluish-green, plate 1, position 7, shade characteristic from the middle period of printing, margins ranging from full to very large, used on back of large part cover to Tokyo, tied by framed seal-style ("Tensho") postmark from the Sekito post office (Suo province), with alongside showing framed "Yubin / Boshu Sekito Postal Handling Agency" hs in vermilion, and arrival "(year of) Water Ape 4<sup>th</sup> Moon 3<sup>rd</sup> Day" / Tokyo P.O." (Gregorian May 9, 1872). A delightful and rare single franking.



検査済

30063



41, 21

40'000 - 60'000

1871, 500 mon, greyish yellow green, plate 1, earliest printing, position 30, together with 100 mon dark-steal-blue plate 1, earliest printing, position 15, both well margined and applied on reverse of envelope from Shizuoka (Suruga Province) to Nagoya (Owari Province), tied by large "Kensazumi" handstamp featuring three characters in regular script (Kaisho) -used in the Eastern Zone-. Dated in manuscript on 3<sup>rd</sup> moon 20<sup>th</sup> day (Gregorian 9 May 1871). The top flap has few backed insect damages as usually found in this period, clear away from the franking. Cert. Philatelic Museum Foundation signed by Dr. Sawa (2001).

*Illustrated in the new 2023 JSCA catalogue on page 24.*

**Twelve covers are recorded exhibiting the large "Kensazumi" postmark in regular script (Kaisho)** -this being a highly sought-after feature in Japanese philately-, **being unique with this franking and the 600 mon rate.** (JHES ¥7,000,000).

**Provenance:**

*Dr. Ichida Soichi*

*Fukuhara Kazunobu*





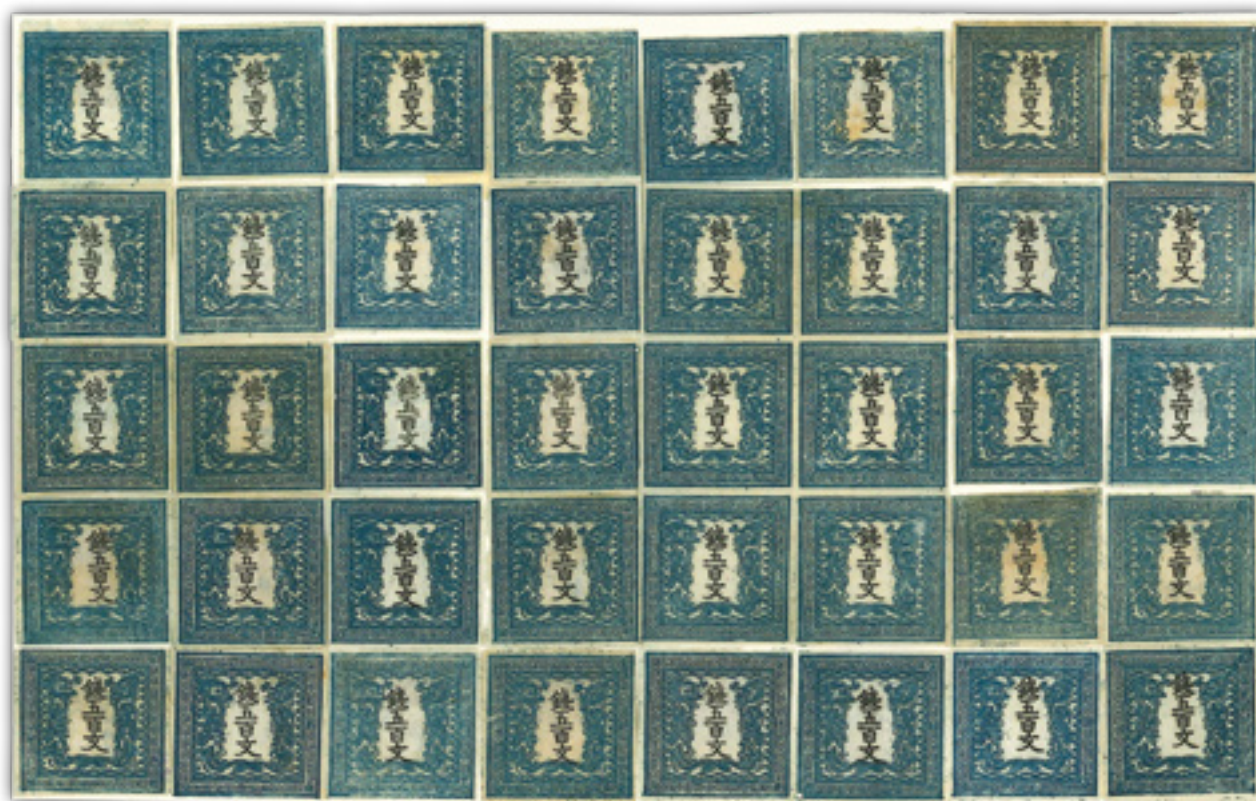
30064



30065

**30064** (\*) 4II **500 - 700**  
 1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 2, vertical pair, positions 4 / 12, three good to very large margins on three sides, close but clear at right, deep shade, unused without gum as issued. Very fine and of great freshness. (JHES ¥250,000).

**30065** 田 (\*) 4II **1'200 - 2'000**  
 1871, 500 mon dark blue-green, plate 2, block of four from positions 21-22 / 29-30, rich colour and intense impression, uncommonly large margins for the great majority, unused without gum as issued. Small scissor cut between stamps at left and spot at top right of upper left stamp most probably natural origin, in no way detracting from this rare and appealing block. (JSCA ¥520,000).



**30066** 田 (\*) 4II **10'000 - 20'000**  
 1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 2, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40**, exclusively made up of unused stamps, including a vertical block of six in positions 13-14 / 21-22 / 29-30 and one pair, positions 8-16, except for one corner very slightly cut into or touched in positions 14 and 31, it is to be appreciated that all are well margined examples. The prominent constant varieties can be found in positions 2, 6, 7, 8 and 15, the first one featuring a remarkable scratch through the head of the left dragon.  
 A very difficult reconstruction of great appearance. (JSCA ¥4,800,000+).



30067

⊙

4||

800 - 1'200

1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 2, position 37, excellent even margins and crisp impression, leaving the design very clear with early non-standard "Ken" framed cancellation confined to the top. Signed Senf brothers (Leipzig).

**A superb and most desirable example from the rare plate 2 in used condition.** (JSCA ¥600,000).



30068

△

4||

1'000 - 2'000

1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 2, position 2, cut into or touched on two sides, very large margins at top and right, uncommonly detailed impression, tied to piece by early non-standard framed "Waka" circle of Wakamatsu P.O. Insect hole affecting outer margin but not altering the design.

**A most unusual provincial fancy postmark**, of even more desirability exhibiting this perfect strike. (JHES ¥850,000).

**Note:** *The 500 mon plate 2 was only sold in thirteen post offices. With regards to the postmark in this lot, also one pair on piece is known, which was part of the Harold Bradshaw collection (Fine Stamp Club first auction, 1966, lot 31).*



The Rarest "Dragon" Stamp on Cover





Detail of the franking (1.3x its actual size)

30069

✉ / 68-69

4II, 5I, 6II

40'000 - 60'000

1871, 500 mon dark blue green, plate 2, position 35, a very fine example with a considerably strong impression and very good margins with part of frame line of adjoining stamp at left, in mixed franking with 1872 ½ sen brown, plate 1, two examples from positions 9 respectively position 33, as well as 1 sen blue, plate 2, position 25, all paying seven times the single rate up to 28 momme within basic distance, not exceeding 25 ri, tied by five strikes of circular framed fancy "Tsuru" handstamp of Tsurugaka to very large local cover, opened for display. Framed "(year of) Water Monkey 10<sup>th</sup> Moon 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Day" [handwritten]/Uzen Province/ postal receiving and handling (Gregorian 6 and 7 November 1872) datestamp on reverse. The two different days are dates of acceptance and delivery. Apart from the very fine quality highlighted in the 500 mon, the Sen Dragons are above the usually encountered state of preservation. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**A unique and spectacular franking including the first-issue highest denomination 500 mon, plate 2, being the rarest "Dragon" stamp on cover, with only five known including one in a museum. (JSCA ¥9,000,000).**

**Note:** Illustrated in the new 2023 JSCA catalogue on page 24.

**Census of 500 mon plate 2 complete covers we have documented:**

- The example presented here
- Single franking, Hiroshima to Utsunomiya, in the Tejima collection
- Single with 200 mon and 1 sen plate 2 (second issue), Jizodo to Saikyo, Meiji 5.11.30 (30.12.1872), in the Tejima collection
- Pair (the largest known multiple) and 1 sen (2), Atsugi to Hino, ex Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 18.11.1964, lot 114), in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Three examples in combination with 500 mon plate 1 (2), Tokyo to Nagasaki, in the Tejima collection





文淵閣  
書  
卷之五

**The 500 Mon  
Center Inverted**

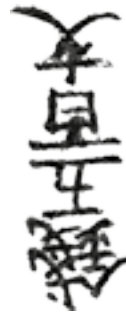
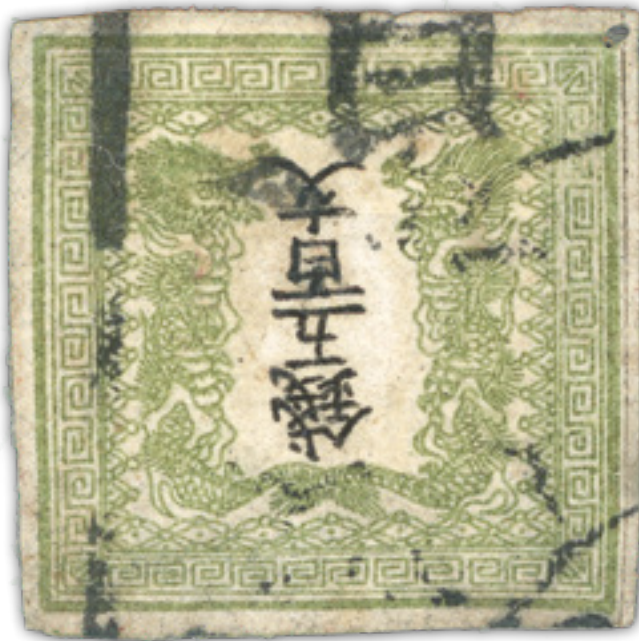
**The Most Valuable  
Stamp of Asia**

**One of the Greatest  
Gems of Worldwide  
Philately**

This lot is presented in detail in a special catalogue  
available on request.

Contact us at [info@davifeldman.com](mailto:info@davifeldman.com)

**The 500 Mon Center Inverted**  
**The Most Valuable Stamp of Asia**  
**One of the Greatest Gems of Worldwide Philately**



30070

◎ / 72

4v-1-8

**Estimation**  
(see the special  
catalogue)

1871, 500 mon, greyish yellow-green, earliest printing, plate 1, position 8 from the upper right corner of the sheet, **centre inverted**, this being the characters of the denomination printed in black and originating from position 33. It displays a detailed impression and deep shade, possessing large even margins all around. It was lightly cancelled with part strike of large "Kakegawa Kensazumi" postmark, allowing the error to be clearly exhibited. Positional pinhole at top right corner, occasionally found in classic stamps of Japan and not being at all a fault, as it was applied by the printer in four corners of the sheet in order to fix a number of sheets to be cut or perforated simultaneously.

The error is presented on the original exhibition page of its previous owner as displayed when his collection of "Japan 1871-1876 Hand Engraved Issues" was awarded a "Grand Prix National" at Philanippon 2021. This gem is accompanied by two additional 500 mon for comparison, both emanating from the same position 8, with the centre correctly printed, and showing intermediate and late printings in contrasting shades, the former being unused, while the latter was cancelled by the "head portion" of large "Nishioji Kensazumi" postmark.

**The unique example of the only inverted centre of all classic Japan, irrefutably being the most important and valuable item of Japanese and Asian philately, as well as one of the top-ten most important items of worldwide philately.**

**Contrary to other highly great rarities of the world, this stamp is faultless and preserved in a very fine state.**

**Note:**

*The 500 mon stamp was produced in a two-part printing process. Initially the plate featuring the dragons and the frame was printed in colour, and after drying, the plate of the denomination was printed in black. Prior to this second step, one sheet was apparently piled up upside down. The authenticity of the error is irrefutable since the plate positions of the dragons & frame in green, position 8, and the denomination in black, position 33, located in the upper right corner (8) and lower left corner (33) of the sheet of 40, fell exactly in-line when the sheet was inadvertently printed upside down.*

**Expertise:**

*The error was discovered some time between 1953 and 1973 by John C. Linsley, an American collector who found the error in a Japan collection he acquired. The error became public when his stepson submitted the stamp for certification in 1973. It was then submitted to the International Society for Japanese Philately (I.S.J.P.) Expert Committee and was expertised by Dr. Varro E. Tyler (also head of the expert committee of the American Philatelic Society). Before issuing a certificate, the I.S.J.P. wanted to have the additional opinion of the Dr. Tani Takashi from the All Japan Philatelic Federation Expert Committee and Dr. Soichi Ichida from the Study Group of Hand Engraved Stamps. All experts concluded this stamp to be genuine with full confidence. The certificate unfortunately has been lost since, but the signature "Tyler" of Dr. Varro E. Tyler is pencilled on reverse in lower right corner.*

*Currently the stamp is accompanied by a certificate of The Philatelic Federation of Japan Expert Committee (2011), which is signed by Dr. Sawa, as well as a certificate issued by Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).*

**Provenance** (the following information is the result of our research to date):

*John C. Linsley (1953, an American collector who spotted the inverted centre in 1953 in a Japan collection he acquired)*

*Mark E. Weber (1973, the adopted son of Mr. Lindsey as his heir)*

*Waverley Trading Co. (Tokyo, December 1973, lot 748, then described as "one of the ten most valuable philatelic items in the world", sold for hammer ¥21,000,000)*

*Group of four Japanese dealers (1973)*

*Ichiro Kondo (1973, bought by private treaty for ¥25,500,000)*

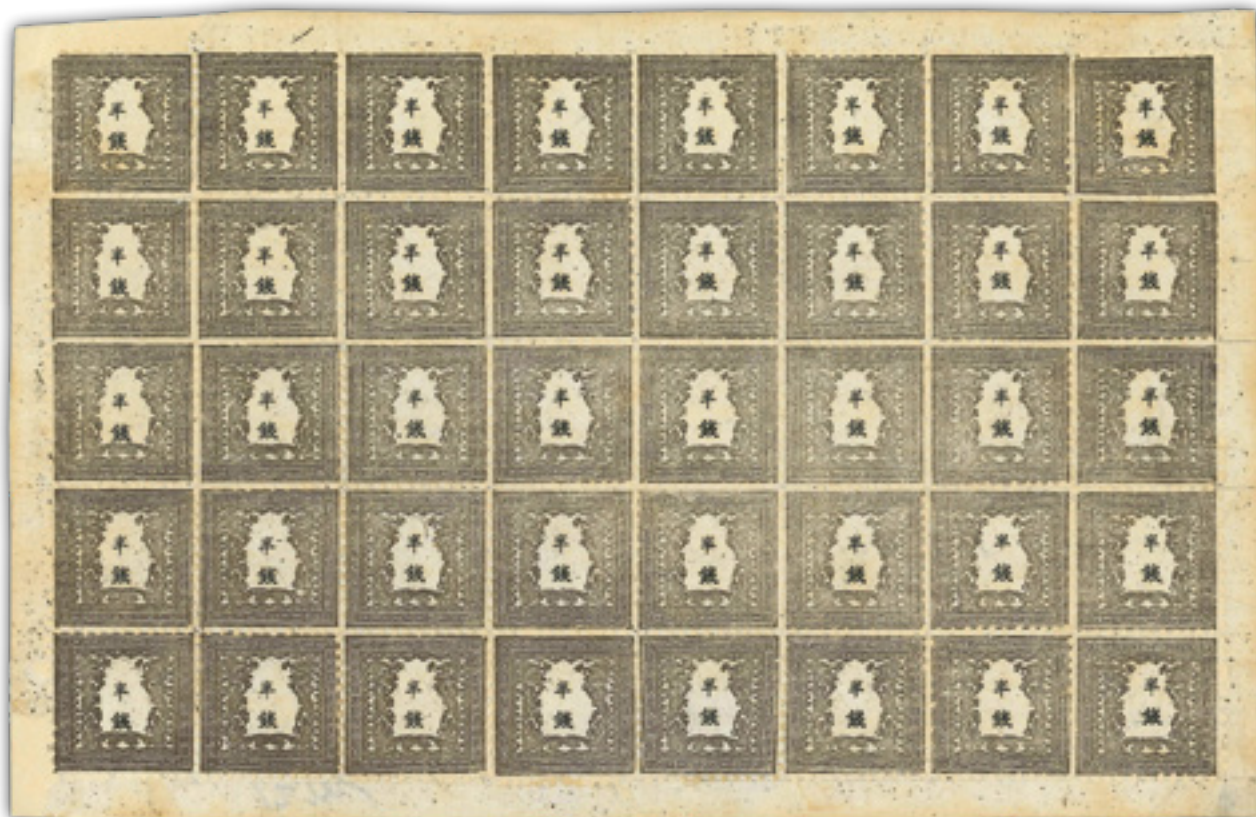
*Ryohei Ishikawa (1974)*

*Kilchiro Hayashi (1995)*

*Yuji Yamada (2013, sold to him by private treaty for an undisclosed amount by Takahashi Stamp Co., Tokyo)*



## 1872, Dragons Sen Currency, Perforated



30071 田 (\*) 51 3'000 - 5'000

1872, ½ sen brown, plate 1, brittle laid paper, **complete sheet of 40**, featuring plate varieties in positions 11, 18, 20, 26 and 27, unused without gum and mounted to cardboard, small part of the sheet margin missing in upper and lower left corners. Tiny corner fault at top left and some separated perforations as it is the norm with this very fragile paper. Rare and very fresh. (JSCA ¥1,300,000).



30072



30073

30072 ◎ 51 250 - 400

1872, ½ sen brown, plate 1, ductile paper of 70 microns, position 30, above average centring with only one frame line touched, cancelled by two strikes of early non-standard handstamp. Bottom left corner repaired, still a very scarce stamp on this paper. (JSCA ¥440,000).

30073 ◎ 51 300 - 600

1872, ½ sen brown, plate 1, brittle laid paper, lower right corner-sheet margin pair from positions 39 and 40, selvedge on two sides, usual centring, cancelled by Kiban Echigo No. 28 of Niigata. A very interesting positional multiple.



30074



51

500 - 1'000

1872, ½ sen brown, plate 1, brittle laid paper, vertical pair from positions 24 / 32, tied by early non-standard intaglio "Sakai" handstamp to reverse of cover addressed to Kobe, both localities in Settsu Province, additionally struck with framed "Sakai Postal Handling Agency" on back "(year of) Water Monkey 11<sup>th</sup> Moon 11<sup>th</sup> Day/ Kobe P.O." (Gregorian 11 December 1872) datestamp. Cover opened for display and franking torn on opening. An exquisitely struck and very attractive cancellation. (JSCA ¥400,000).



Kobe post office, May 1875 Postal Museum, Tokyo (Yamaguchi 1987 p. 9).





30075



30076



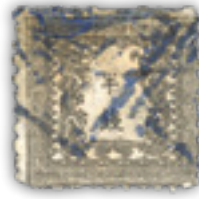
- 30075 (\*) 5II 500 - 800  
 1872, ½ sen dark brown, plate 2, ductile paper of 88 microns, position 40, usual centring and strong impression, unused without gum.  
**A very rare stamp being unrecorded in used condition.** (JSCA ¥350,000).
- 30076 田 (\*) 5II 350 - 700  
 1872, ½ sen reddish brown, plate 2, brittle laid paper, block of four from the right of the sheet, positions 15-16 / 23-24, including the position 24 with part of the "Sen" character missing, additionally showing a very rare double vertical perforation at top, unused without gum as issued. Very fine. (JHES ¥160,000).



- 30077 \* 田 5II 3'000 - 4'000  
 1872, ½ sen reddish brown, plate 2, perforation 9, brittle laid paper, **complete sheet of 40**, showing plate varieties in positions 11, 24, 38 and 39, centred to right with original gum. Sheet margin somewhat reduced almost surrounding all stamps. Some hinges reinforcing the fragile perforations. *Illustrated in the Dr. Ichida's "The Dragon Stamps of Japan 1871-1872" handbook on page 20.* Rare and very fine. (JSCA ¥1,000,000).  
**Provenance:** Dr. Ichida Soichi



30078



30080

30078

⊙

5II

150 - 200

1872, ½ sen reddish brown, plate 2, brittle laid paper, position 1, perforation 9 at left and top, showing part of the upper sheet margin, cancelled by large “Kensazumi” type with place name. Trimmed from the sheet at right and top showing most of the design intact; except for a minute thin spot, very fine and scarce.



30079

⊙

5II

1'000 - 2'000

1872, ½ sen reddish brown, plate 2, brittle laid paper, position 16, right sheet-margin example possessing vertical perforation 9, cancelled by early non-standard handstamp, scarcely applied in red. Positional pinhole and 2mm thin spot. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Only two examples are believed to exist with vertical perforation 9.**

**Provenance:** *Dr. Tani Takashi*

30080

⊙

5II

150 - 250

1872, ½ sen olive brown, plate 2, brittle thick wove paper of 78 microns, centred to lower right and deep shade, showing blue non-standard “Ken” fancy cancel of Tokyo. (JSCA ¥100,000).



30081

△

5II

600 - 1'000

1872, ½ sen brown, plate 2, four examples from positions 31, 32, 39 & 40, showing “missing hair” variety in position 39, deep shades, tied to piece by an outstandingly well centred and bold strike of Kiban te-17 cancellation from the Otsuchi P.O. in the Rikuchu province. Faults in corners, nevertheless a very attractive usage with this numeral postmark.





30082

✉ / 78

5II

5'000 - 10'000

1872, ½ sen reddish brown, plate 2, brittle laid paper, two vertical and horizontal pairs and two singles, magnificent impressions and rich colour, used on cover from Ajiki to Komaki-Shinden (both in Shimosa Province), tied by early non-standard double circles of Ajiki Meiji 7 morning and further 7.1.25 afternoon in blue (January 24/25, 1874) as acceptance and dispatch days, large non-standard double circle of Matsudo on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

A very attractive Shimosa province cover, representing the second highest complete franking of this plate we have recorded (after the famous Metzelaar (lot 183) cover), and being **the only complete cover bearing this franking** -an additional cover is known with six singles, but with the addressee's panel missing, ex Henry W. Moser-. *Pictured in JHES catalog 2007 edition on page 56. Furthermore a block of eleven on a cover with one stamp missing is in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum).*

**Note:** *Komaki-Shinden was outside the regular delivery circuit of a post office, hence an additional 1 sen delivery fee was charged to the 2 sen letter fee (Uniform Rate of 1.4.1873). The blue double circle of Ajiki P.O. was an imitation of the regular N1B1 cds.*

**Provenance:** Shirai Tsugumi



30083

\*

6I

600 - 1'000

1872, 1 sen blue, plate 1, brittle laid paper, position 5 featuring "stroke missing" in "Sen" character, average centring and mounted mint. Very appealing in a delightful vivid shade. (JSCA 6v-1-5, ¥300,000).



30084

\*

6I

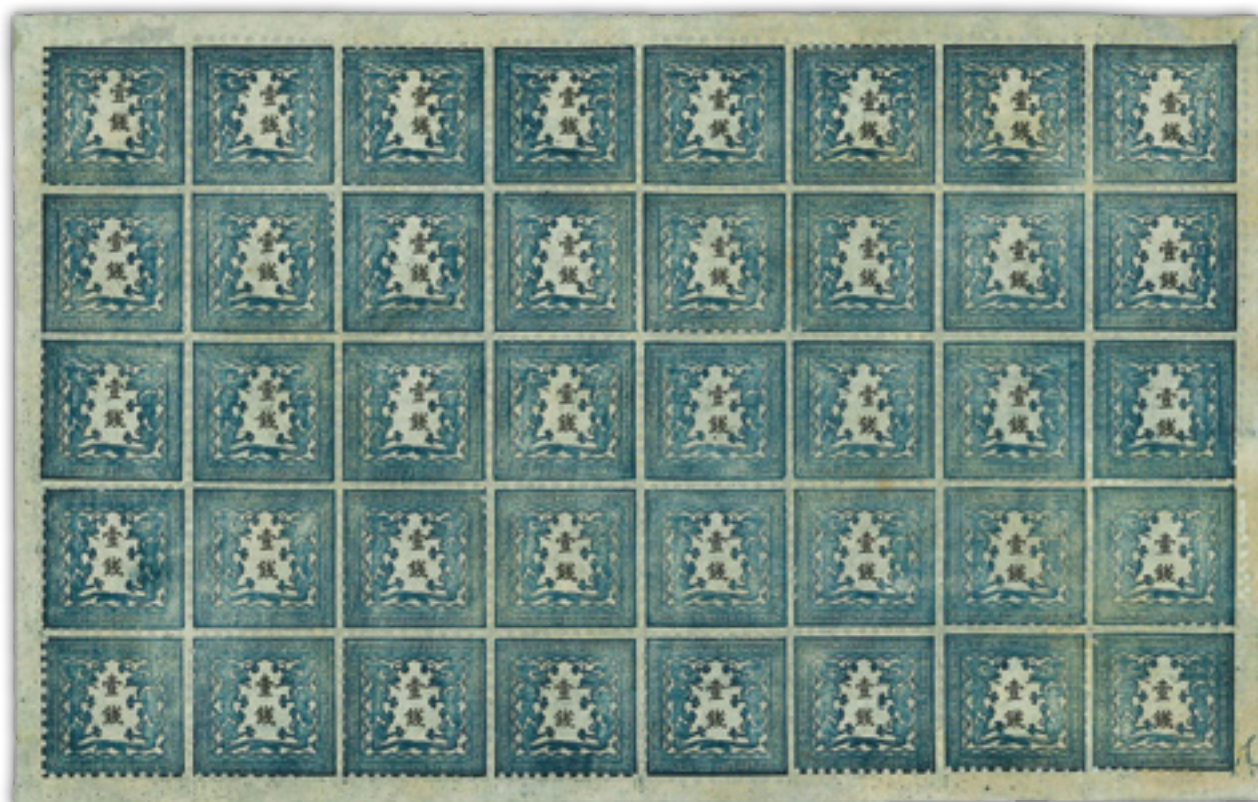
2'500 - 3'000

1872, 1 sen dark blue, plate 1, position 25, very thick wove paper of 124 micron thickness, centred to upper left, possessing original gum. Small thin spot confined to the top right corner, of little significance for this extremely rare stamp. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023)

**Only two examples have been so far recorded on this exceptionally thick wove paper of more than 100 microns.** (JHES ¥1,000,000).

**Provenance:** Shirai Tsugumi.

## The Only 1 Sen Plate 1 Full Sheet in Private Hands



30085

田 (\*)

61 40'000 - 60'000

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate 1, brittle laid paper, the astonishing **complete sheet of 40**, comprising the constant plate varieties in positions 3, 5, 7 and 8. Unused without gum and backed with thin paper for a better preservation, in position 24 featuring a misplaced and double perforation at right, framed by the surrounding large external margin which is only broken in a small place in position 8. Uneven inking of the plate but quite detailed impression with a bright colour enabling the positions in the plate to be easily identified. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**A rarity of the highest degree, as this is the only 1 sen plate 1 complete sheet recorded in private hands and, in addition, the most valuable sheet in the early classic issues and consequently, a great gem of Japanese philately. (JSCA ¥12,000,000).**

**Note:** *The other complete sheet is part of the Kanai Hiroyuki collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum), previously owned by F. J. Peplow.*

**Provenance:** *Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 20.2.1962, lot 130 "very fresh condition")*



30086

⊙

6l

600 - 900

1872, 1 sen blue, plate 1, brittle laid paper, position 5 presenting “stroke missing in Sen” character, used with early non-standard handstamp, probably being the Osaka-Ken middle-size type. Usual centring and 2mm thin spot on reverse, barely detracting from this rare variety. (JSCA ¥500,000).



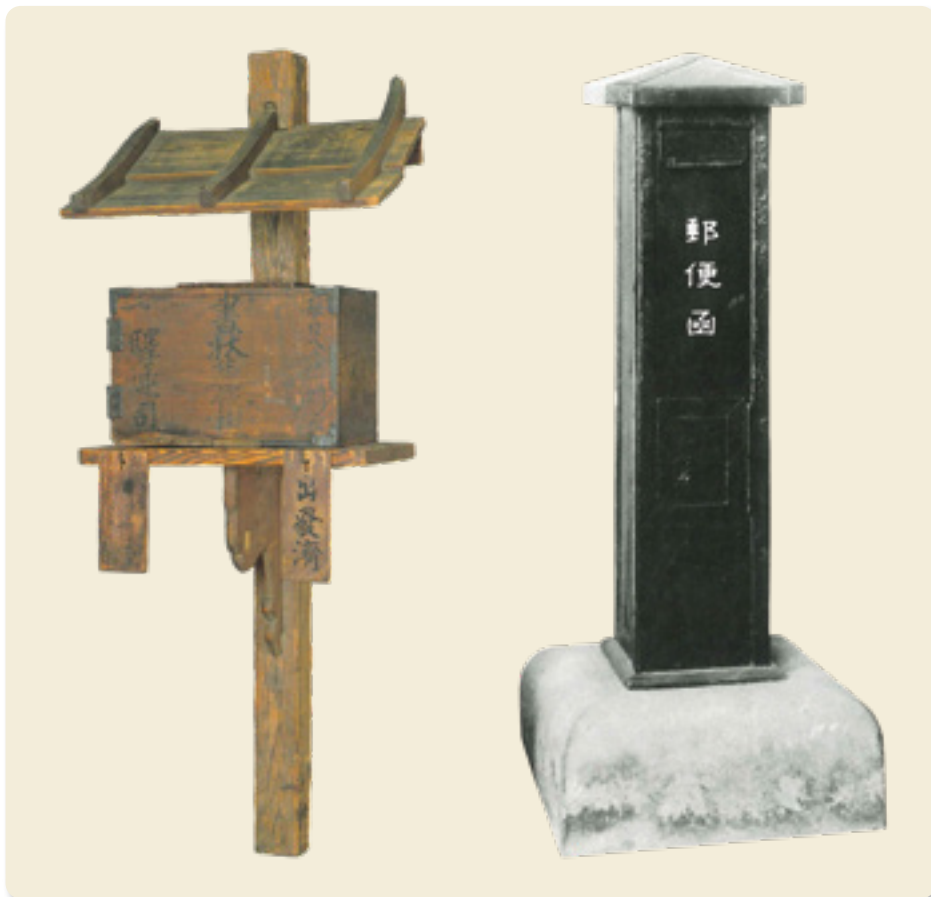
30087

⊙

6l

300 - 500

1872, 1 sen blue, plate 2, ductile paper of 85 microns, position 36, strong impression, three well margined sides, usual perforation into the frame line at top, cancelled by complete strike of non-standard blue “Ken” postmark of Tokyo. An attractive usage in blue. (JSCA ¥190,000).



The first postal box at left, April 1871, and the revised one at right, March 1873.  
Postal Museum, Tokyo (Yamaguchi 1987 p. 93).





30088



61

4'000 - 8'000

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate 1, position 16, an outstanding example with sheet margin at right, better centring than usual, tied by framed non-standard “Ken” cancel of Tokyo in blue to local cover front, showing black “Shiba Mishima Kariyakusho” (Shiba Mishima temporary branch office) postmark alongside, together with Tokyo datestamp in blue reading “(year of) Water Monkey (Meiji 5)”, as well as framed “Afternoon Delivery” handstamp in red confirming the Tokyo inner-city delivery, all these postmarks being partly struck. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**At most ten covers bearing this stamp are believed to exist (only six according to Yamada), irrefutably being the scarcest “Dragon” stamp on cover after the 500 mon plate 2. This example is further enhanced by being one of two recorded covers with the Shiba-Mishima postmark (unique in private hands).** (JSCA for complete cover ¥3,500,000).

**Note:** The 1 sen postage paid the double inner-city tariff (½ sen for each 2 momme), which was introduced in Tokyo on Meiji 5.3.1 (8 April 1872). Shiba-Mishima was a temporary branch of Tokyo Shibaguchi. This cover can be dated in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Moon, as the “Shiba-Mishima” temporary branch post office was only opened at this location during these two months. The other cover recorded with Shiba-Mishima postmark is located in the Mitsui Bunko Foundation Museum (see “Mails in the 19<sup>th</sup> century” by Tejima-Sawa-Asami on pages 112-113, fig. 136).



30089

\* 田 (\*)

611

2'000 - 4'000

1872, 1 sen blue, plate 2, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40** just comprising mint stamps, including two pairs in positions 7-8 and 27-28, one vertical strip of four 16 / 24 / 32 / 40, and two blocks of four 24-25 / 32-33 and 30-31 / 38-39, exhibiting the constant varieties in positions 5, 18, 25, 26 ("right dragon's arm retouched") and 36. A very appealing and difficult reconstruction still mounted on the original card support used by Mr. Woodward.

**Provenance:** *A. M. Tracey Woodward*



30090

田 (\*)

611

600 - 800

1872, 1 sen blue, plate 2, brittle laid paper, block of four from positions 23-24 / 31-32, with "tail incomplete" plate variety characteristic of the position 24, excellent balanced impression, unused without gum. Usual centring with perforations just into the frame line on two sides, and hinge reinforcement along horizontal perforations. Very fine and attractive. (JSCA ¥280,000).



30091

△

6II, 3I

400 - 800

1872, 1 sen blue, plate 2, brittle laid paper, position 25 featuring “beardless dragon at right” plate variety, centred to lower right, combined with First Issue 200 mon vermilion, plate 1, with full margins, neatly tied by large “Okasaki Kensazumi” handstamp to small piece. A very appealing and scarce mixed franking.



30092

(\*)

6III

8'000 - 16'000

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate 3, brittle thick wove paper of 73 microns, position 6, very good detailed impression, exceptional centring for this issue with two sides partially and slightly touched on two sides, unused without gum. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**An extremely rare stamp on this paper in unused condition.** (JSCA ¥1,500,000; Michel 6IIIx unpriced in unused, but in correspondence with other catalogue values, it should be more than €20'000).



## The Rarest Complete-Sheet Reconstruction in the “Dragon” Issues



30093

\* ◎ (\*)

6III 30'000 - 50'000

1872, 1 sen blue (shades), plate 3, on brittle laid paper, the breathtaking **complete reconstructed sheet of 40**, showing constant plate varieties in positions 4, 5, 11 and 31, comprising used examples except for the positions 7, 11 and 21 in mint condition -which incidentally are remarkably scarcer than in used condition-, including a good range of cancellations and a striking vertical pair from positions 8 / 16, showing Kiban i-ni No. 4 type from the Iwami Province and probably originating from Yunotsu; the position 4 used with red postage due cancellation.

**A monumental exhibition reconstruction, being undoubtedly the most significant “Dragons” complete-sheet reconstruction believed to exist. One of two recorded in private hands, with no complete sheets so far in existence. Illustrated in 2017 “Narumi” handbook on page 66. (JSCA ¥17,450,000+).**

**Note:** *Dr. Ichida estimated just two or three reconstructions to have been ever completed, although the illustrations of six positions were not available in his handbook in 1959, nevertheless being these included in the subsequent edition of 1971. The assemblage presented here is illustrated in the 2017 “Dragons” plating handbook published by Narumi Co.*

**Census:** *The three recorded reconstructions include the assemblage presented here (ex Yamada Yuji), with most stamps illustrated by Dr. Ichida, the reconstruction located in the Tejima collection and the third one, not available for collectors and ex Woodward, is exhibited in the Baron Mitsui Foundation Museum.*





30094



6III

5'000 - 10'000

1872, 1 sen deep dull blue, plate 3, brittle laid paper, vertical strip of three from positions 19 / 27 / 35, applied on reverse of cover from Nagoya addressed to the Tokyo Kanda district, tied by large "Nagoya Kensazumi" framed postmark, below displaying green framed "Nagoya P.O. (year of) Water Monkey 7<sup>th</sup> Moon 18<sup>th</sup> Day" datestamp, two postmarks on arrival including framed Tokyo 21<sup>st</sup> datestamp and red "Afternoon Dispatch" handstamp. Slight wrinkle at left and the upper two stamps with lower right corner defective. Most appealing. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan (2011).

**One of the highest multiple frankings known of the very rare plate 3 on cover.** (JHES ¥1,300,000+).

**Note:** The 3 sen postage paid the basic letter fee within 100 ri distance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> rate period of Meiji 4-6.



30095



30097

30095

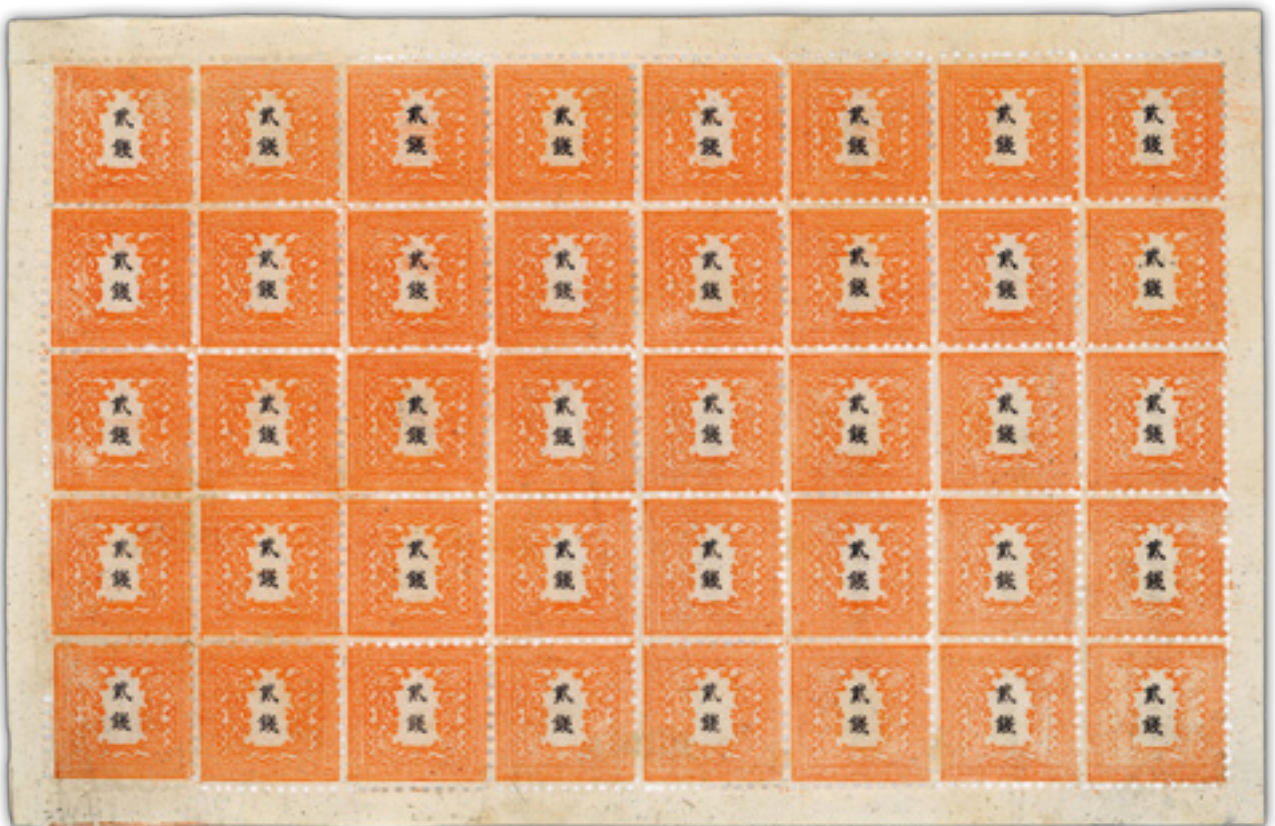
(\*)

7

200 - 300

1872, 2 sen vermillion, pelure wove paper, position 34, luminous colour and quite balanced margins, unused without gum as issued. Very fine. (JSCA ¥100,000).

### The Finest 2 Sen Full Sheet Recorded



30096

田 (\*)

7

12'000 - 20'000

1872, 2 sen vermillion, brittle laid paper, **complete sheet of 40**, boasting a splendid freshness and strong impression together with a bright shade, several examples being unusually well centred and with complete selvedge, unused without gum as issued, showing in position 8 the constant plate flaw consisting in the dot missing in the "2" figure of value. Some natural paper wrinkles at left. Unusually good state of preservation of the perforations, which are partly reinforced with hinges in the two first columns at left, and an overall very fine appearance for this outstanding exhibition item.

**One of only six complete sheets documented, this being arguably the finest.** (JSCA ¥4,500,000).

**Provenance:** S.G. & Kanai Stamp Co. sale, 26.10.1972, lot 39

30097

◎

7

400 - 800

1872, 2 sen vermillion, ductile paper of 82 microns, position 36, well centred, cancelled by virtually full and centrally struck "Osaka 7.1.5" (5 January 1872) N1B1 double circle. *The N1B1 type on this paper is unpriced in JHES.* Very fine. (JSCA ¥140,000+).



30098



30099

30098



7

2'000 - 4'000

1872, 2 sen vermilion, brittle laid paper, position 22, strong impression, tied by an ideal strike of early non-standard "Yokkaichi Kensazumi" oval framed handstamp to cover from Yokkaichi (Omi Province) to Hatsukaichi (Shimoso Province), with handwritten date Sept. 8 in red (amended from Sept. 6) on reverse, where also the double circle type N1B1 "Tokyo 7.9.13" (Sept. 13, 1874) was struck in transit. A very fine example of this single franking with this highly attractive cancellation. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Note:** The unified nationwide rate of 2 sen -except for the local city rate- was introduced on Meiji 6.4.1 (1 April 1873).

30099

\*

8

500 - 800

1872, 5 sen blue, brittle laid paper, an incredible example from the lower right corner of the sheet, position 40, magnificent impression, displaying an extra large selvage as a result of a pre-printing paper fold, possessing positional pinhole at top left (type F). A stunning showpiece for exhibition and of extraordinary occurrence, proving that several sheets were trimmed and perforated at the same time.

**Provenance:** Dr. Ichida Soichi





30100



30101

30100

(\*)

8

400 - 600

1872, 5 sen light greenish green, pelure wove paper, position 1, unused without gum as issued. A magnificent example uncharacteristically well centred and of great freshness. (JSCA ¥150,000+).

30101

(\*)

8

400 - 600

1872, 5 sen light greenish blue, pelure wove paper, position 32, centred to lower left, showing a double perforation at right, unused without gum as issued. A desirable and impressive example. (JSCA ¥150,000).



30102

\* 田

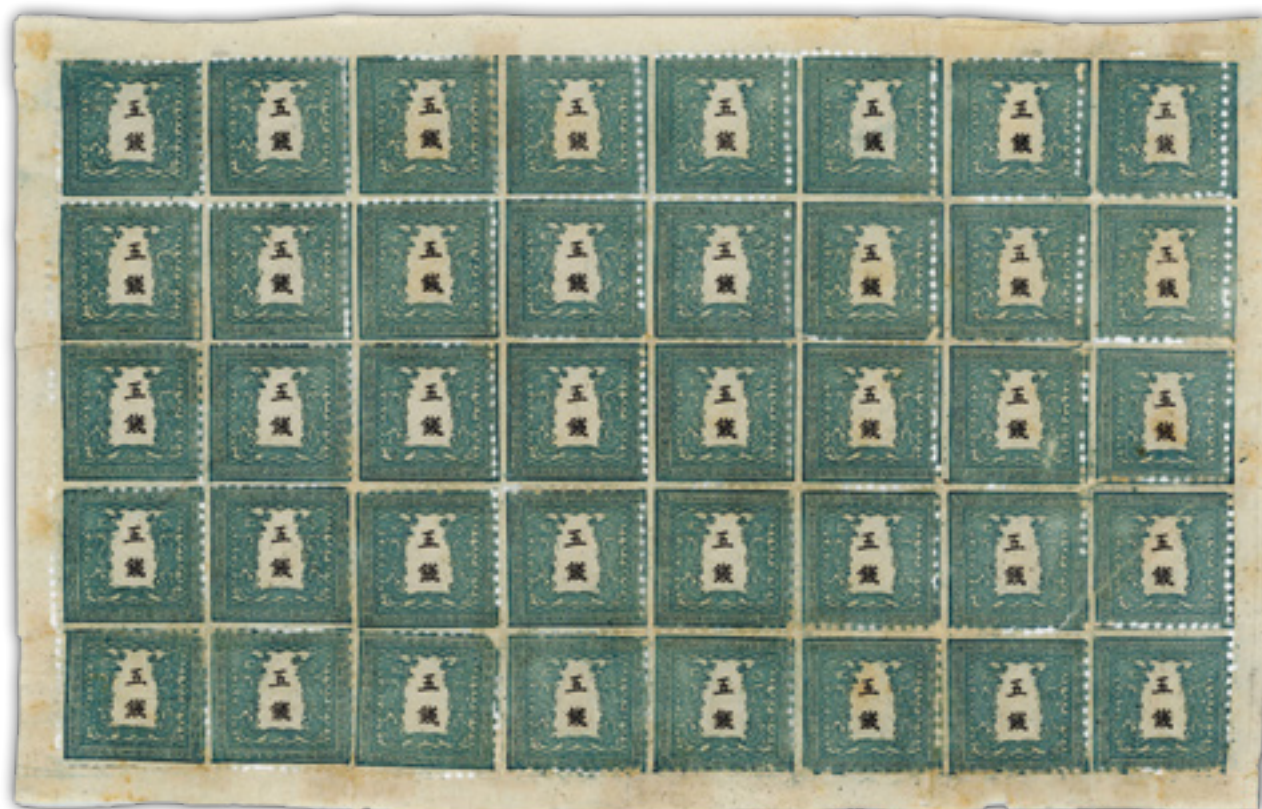
8

6'000 - 8'000

1872, 5 sen blue on brittle laid paper, block of 20 (4x5) comprising the left half of the sheet and still preserving large part of the surrounding sheet margin, positions from 1 to 4 / 33 to 36, showing constant varieties and "slip through Dragon's Head" in position 2, remarkably crisp impression, unused without gum as issued.

Minor perforation flaws or strengthening, in no way detracting from this **very rare multiple in a very good state of preservation**. (JSCA ¥2,600,000).





30103

\*\*\* 田

8 15'000 - 20'000

1872, 5 sen blue, brittle laid paper, **complete sheet of 40**, overall freshness and crispness seldom encountered, featuring the prominent constant plate varieties in positions 2, 6, 7, 8 and 15, variably centred to right and possessing original gum. Positions 31 and 32 with closed tear and gum wrinkle along the bottom row, perforations partially reinforced with hinges as usually found. Very fresh.

**One of just six complete sheets recorded.** (JSCA ¥5,400,000).

**Provenance:** *Dr. Ichida Soichi*



30104

◎

8 1'000 - 2'000

1872, 5 light greenish blue, **ductile thick paper** of 88 microns, position 6, somewhat centre to right, cancelled by black non-standard framed "Ken" (examined) postmark.

**A very fine used example on the scarcest paper for this value.** (JSCA ¥400,000).

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**The Highest Multiple Franking of the Highest Second-Issue Denomination**



30105

(✉) / 92

8 20'000 - 30'000

1872, 5 sen bluish green, brittle laid paper, vertical strip of three emanating from positions 18 / 26 / 34, all considerably better centred than usual and displaying a vivid shade, used on official cover front from Tottori (Inaba Province) to Yabase (Hoki Province) probably containing printed matters sent by the Tottori Prefectural Administration (cachet at top right), tied by two very fine strikes of framed early non-standard "Tottori / Kensa" framed handstamp, with very fine framed "2<sup>nd</sup> Class / Tottori Postal Bureau" handstamp in red a longside. Of great visual appeal for exhibition. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023)

**We have documented fifteen covers or cover fronts bearing this value, and this cover is unique bearing the largest multiple. Of great significance, as this is the highest denomination in the "Sen-Dragon" series. A great gem of this issue. In this restricted group of fifteen, two originate from Tottori and both are official printed matter mail, this being a very rare characteristic in this period.**

**Note:** Carried at ten times the rate for bound official printed matters, not exceeding 600 grams, with 1 ½ sen paid per each 16 momme (60 grams), according to the postal rate period of Meiji 6.4.1-6.12.31 (1873). This cover is illustrated in the Dr. Ichida's handbook on "Dragon" issues, second edition of 1971, page 194.

**Provenance:** Yamamoto Kunichi

**Our census of 1872 5 sen covers:**

- The example presented here
- Single franking, Iyo-Uwajima to Tokyo, in the Tejima Yasushi collection
- Single franking, Tokyo to Kii-Kaminakajima, in the Tejima collection
- Single franking, Tokyo to Rikuzen-Shiogama, in the Tejima collection
- Single franking, Osaka to Akita, in the Tejima collection
- Single franking, Ogori to Tokyo, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection
- Single with 1872 ½ sen, official mail Tottori to Hoki-Tahara, in the Tejima collection
- Single with 1872 1 sen, registered from Hiroshima to Osaka, in the Tejima collection
- Single with "Cherry Blossom" 1 sen, Tottori to Yabase, ex Shirai Tsugumi
- Single with "Cherry Blossom" 1 sen, Fukushima to Tokyo, in the Suzuki Tetsukazu collection
- Single with "Cherry Blossom" 1 sen & 2 sen, Tokyo to Osaka, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection
- Two examples, Tokyo Musashi to Niiya, in the Kanai Hiroyuki collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Pair with "Cherry Blossom" 2 sen, Tokyo to Osaka, in the Ota Katsumi collection
- Two examples with 1872 ½ sen (12), Tokyo to Saikyo, ex Metzelaar
- Two examples with "Cherry Blossom" 2 sen, Tokyo to Osaka, in the Tejima collection



## 1872, Cherry Blossoms, Native Paper



30106



9

150 - 200

1872, ½ sen brown, two singles and one pair, applied on western-type envelope (back flap lacking) to the Kaitakushi Tokyo, tied by three strikes of N1B1 “Yokohama 7.6.11” cds (June 11, 1874). Overall toning, still though an appealing cover with a centrally applied multiple. Bilingual addressed covers (sender’s address on reverse in Japanese) are rarely found.

**Note:** The cover was addressed to Benjamin Smith Lyman at the Kaitakushi (Hokkaido development agency). From 1873 to 1879, Lyman was a foreign advisor (oyatoi) to the Japanese government as chief geologist and mining engineer.



30107



9

1'500 - 2'000

1872, ½ sen brown, Matsuda printing, plate 3, vertical pair, positions 15 / 23, irregular perforation at lower right, very fresh used on reverse of cover from Tokyo to Shimodate (destination within 100km distance), tied by two strikes of framed non-standard “Ken” postmark on dispatch. Alongside with framed “(year of) Water Monkey 10<sup>th</sup> Moon 12<sup>th</sup> Day / Tokyo P. O.” (Gregorian 12 November 1872) datestamp.

**The earliest usage recorded of the lowest “Cherry Blossom” denomination.**



30108



9

750 - 1'000

1872, ½ sen brown, Matsuda printing, type III, plate 4, position 23 not presenting the stroke in the “Ki-Hansen” character, perforations barely encroaching the frame line at right, mounted mint and very fresh.

**A fine example of the most prominent plate variety of this value, of much greater scarcity than any of the other five constant flaws which occurred in the plates.** (JSCA 9v-4-23 ¥420,000; Michel €2,800).



30109



9

2'500 - 4'000

1872, ½ sen brown, Matsuda printing, plate 4, **complete sheet of 40** with margins all around, detailed impression and well centred examples for the most part, including the **famous variety “stroke missing in left ‘Ki-Hansen’ “in position 23**, as well as position 24 with “leaf vein missing of paulownia”, freshly preserving its full original gum with all but four examples being never hinged. Gum corner crease at top right and some separated perforations as a result of its fragility, in outstandingly fine condition.

**A very desirable and rare complete sheet being the most valuable of the four plates and with the famous “Ki-Hansen” variety.** (JSCA ¥750,000).



30110



10

2'500 - 3'000

1872, 1 sen blue, Matsuda printing with MLL perforation, type III, plate 3, position 12, used on reverse of cover from Tokyo (Musashi Province) to Ryugasaki-Shinden (Hitachi province), harmoniously tied by square non-standard "Ken" fancy handstamp on dispatch. Framed "(year of the) Cock 3<sup>rd</sup> Month 16/17<sup>th</sup> Day" (March 16-17, 1873) datestamp alongside. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

A very attractive example of this **rare single franking featuring Matsuda long large perforation**. (JHES ¥800,000; JSCA ¥500,000 off cover).

**Note:** The 1 sen rate paid corresponded to the single letter weight up to 25 ri distance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> rate period, Meiji 4.12.5-6.3.31.





30111

\*\*\* \* 田

11

2'000 - 3'000

1872, 2 sen vermilion, Matsuda printing with long large perforations, plate 1, block of sixteen (4x4), positions 9-12 / 17-20 / 25-28 / 33-36, mint original gum and still preserving six examples never hinged. Four stamps with small thins and some trimmed perforations at base, not detracting from the beauty of this rare large multiple. (JSCA ¥1,280,000+).



30112



30113

30112

◎

11

1'000 - 1'500

1872, 2 sen vermilion, Matsuda printing, combined short tool 12 with Matsuda long large perforations, plate 1, position 24, uncharacteristically well centred, cancelled by faint strike of early non-standard double circle type of Kambara (Suruga Province). Very fine with a usual paper wrinkle. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan (2013).

**A very rare compound-perforation stamp which is only available in used condition.** (JSCA ¥700,000).

30113

◎

12

100 - 120

1872, 10 sen dull green, Matsuda printing, crisp impression, showing complete and neat strike of "SHIP" straight-line handstamp. Scarce. (JHES ¥38,000; JSCA ¥40,000).

**Note:** The "Ship" handstamp was a Japanese paquebot forerunner type into service between 1875 and 1886, used in post offices of ports in Japan and those in China and Korea with IJPA/IJPO.





30114

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13

300 - 400

1872, 20 sen dark violet, Matsuda printing with short tool perforation 12, position 8, an impressive upper right corner-sheet example, well centred with intact perforations well clear of the design all around, very fresh with lightly hinged original gum. Two minute tone spots which occasionally occur in this combination of paper and gum, of no importance. Very fine. (JSCA ¥120,000).



30115

\* ◎ (\*)

13

8'000 - 12'000

1872, 20 sen, Matsuda printing, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40**, comprising eight unused examples in bright reddish violet (4) and lilac (4), made up with used examples for the other 32, featuring a good display of postmarks including double circles of Aikawa (Sado Province), Fukuoka, Iwajima, "kibans" of Tsuyama and Gifu, as well as the rare brown Tokyo "Bota" cancellation used for the presentation albums or "gift books" on position 20. The prominent constant varieties are in this sheet located in the positions 5 "pistil missing of cherry blossom in SE", 12 "line missing of ornament in SE", 27 "underpetal missing of cherry blossom in NW" and 39 "pistil missing off cherry blossom in NW". (JSCA ¥3,100,000).

**Provenance:**

*Captain E. J. Allen (according to Mr. Yamada)*

*Yamamoto Kunichi*

## One of Just Six Covers Available Bearing the 20 Sen Matsuda Printing



30116



13 25'000 - 35'000

1872, 20 sen bright reddish violet, Matsuda printing, very fresh used on registered envelope (opened for display) from Nagasaki via Hong Kong to Maloyaroslavets (Russia), tied by "crossroads" cancel for foreign mail of Nagasaki (Nishino type NS77A), with large-type "Nagasaki Jun 1 2. P.M." cds adjacent, bold circular framed "R" in red at top on dispatch. On reverse showing "Hong Kong Ju 6 81", two strikes of Russian railway "No. 76 Reni-Benderi" T.P.O. cds's of July 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (Julian calendar) and arrival cds (partly exhibited as a result of a very small portion of paper on back missing). Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan signed by Dr. Sawa (2011).

**Eight covers exhibiting the 20 sen native paper are believed to exist, of which three are sent abroad** (reported in the Ota Katsumi collection, although we have not been able to document a third example). Of all these eight covers, **just six are in private hands**. (JSCA ¥3,500,000).

**Note:** The 10 sen U.P.U. single rate was paid for a letter not exceeding 15 grams, with the other 10 sen corresponding to the registration fee (adjusted on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1879); Japan entered the U.P.U. on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1877. It was probably carried by the P&O "Khiva" departing from Shanghai on 4<sup>th</sup> June, via Hong Kong and Suez. This cover is illustrated on page 46 of the JSCA catalogue (2023).

**Provenance:** Takahashi private treaty of July 2001, lot 37.

#### Census of 20 sen Matsuda Printing on cover:

- The example presented here
- Single franking, 30.6.1885, Osaka to London, ex Fukuhara Kazunobu, in the Ota Katsumi collection
- Single franking, also from Nagasaki to a foreign destination (reported by Ota Katsumi in his collection book, but not found by us)
- Single with 2 sen, 4.2.1874, Tokyo to Fukui, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Strip of three with "Bird" 12 sen and "Koban" 1 sen (2), 13.6.1891, registered mail from Osaka, in the Kanai collection according to Dr. Ichida in his 1965 handbook and illustrated in JSCA 2023)
- Strip of four with "UPU Koban" 2 sen (3), 25.7.1884, Nagasaki to Matsuura district, sold by Felzmann Auctions 11-2013, and offered in this sale
- Block of six (largest multiple on cover) with 2 sen & 10 sen, 23.9.1874, Tottori to Tokyo, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Single used as postage due on cover franked by 2 sen (3), 5.12.1873, in the Tejima collection



**The Highest 20 Sen Matsuda-Printing Franking in Private Hands**



30117

✉ / 100

13, 80

10'000 - 15'000

1872, 20 sen dark violet, Matsuda printing, a spectacular vertical strip of four including positions 11 / 19 / 27 / 35, in mixed franking with three "UPU Koban" 2 sen carmine, of which two are with insect faults; all used on reverse of large registered cover to a place in Matsuura district in Nagasaki prefecture. Each stamp cancelled by large "bota" of Nagasaki with accompanying dN3B3 "Nagasaki 17.7.25" (July 25, 1884) cds alongside. A spectacular and extraordinary franking. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan (2013).

**Only six covers are recorded in private hands exhibiting the 20 sen native paper, this example possessing the largest multiple available. Out of eight covers documented, this is unique in combination with the "UPU Koban" issue. The largest multiple on cover is a block of six in the Kanai collection in the Philatelic Culture Museum.**

**Note:** The exceptionally high 86 sen franking was required to pay forty times the single weight (80 sen), and the additional 6 sen paid the registration fee. This covers illustrates the domestic mail for this stamp on page 46 in the JSCA catalogue (2023).



Nagasaki Post & Telegraph Office, May 1882. Postal Museum, Tokyo (100 Years Vol. 27 p. 35).





30118

\*

14

400 - 600

1872, 30 sen grey, Matsuda printing, short tool perforation 12, vertical pair possessing sheet margin at left, positions 9 / 17, great freshness as a result of its deep shade and detailed impression, relatively well centred, lightly hinged with full fresh original gum. Horizontal perforations reinforced with hinges and a few irregular perforations as usually found and not detracting. Very fine and scarce. (JSCA ¥200,000+).

### One of the Five 30 Sen Compound Perforation Multiples



30119

\*\*\* \*

14

10'000 - 15'000

1872, 30 Sen grey Matsuda printing, **combined short tool and MLL (Matsuda long large) perforations**, a spectacular strip of three from the left of the sheet, positions 9-10-11. Featuring MLL perforation vertically at left in the sheet margin -where this variety is very clearly shown- and between the first and second stamps, impression highlighted with overall crispness, original gum of great freshness being lightly hinged on sides, never hinged in centre, with one natural gum wrinkle vertically. Extremely fine and desirable. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of only five unused pairs known with this mixed perforation**, graced by a delightful state of preservation boasting an outstanding freshness and intact perforations throughout. (JSCA ¥4,100,000+).

**Note:** *This strip emanates from a complete sheet which was part of the Maurice Burrus and Bernard Peyton collections. The sheet was subsequently separated and five multiples were created with this Matsuda long large perforation variety, which only occurred in the two first vertical perforations of the sheet at left, in combination with the rest of the perforations in short tool 12.*

**Provenance:**

*Maurice Burrus (Kanai Stamp Co., 12.10.1963)*

*Bernard Peyton ("Isleham", Robert A. Siegel, 25.5.1986, lot 3097)*

*Fukuhara Kazunobu*

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One of Two 30 Sen Matsuda-Printing Single Frankings on Complete Cover



30120

✉ / 104

14

15'000 - 25'000

1872, 30 sen grey, Matsuda printing, position 10, strong shade, used as single franking on official registered express cover carried locally at Tokushima (Awa Province), addressed to "No. 6 Large District No. 6 Small District.", tied by type KG "Awa Tokushima -.11.9" (9 November) cds. A spectacular large cover of great visual appeal. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan (2017).

**One of just nine covers recorded (only seven with complete franking) bearing the 30 sen Matsuda Printing, this being one of just two single frankings on complete cover, the other being in contrast sent abroad. This item has been chosen to illustrate the usage of this stamp on cover in the JSCA catalogue (2023). (JSCA ¥5,000,000).**

**Note:** The sender was the Kochi Prefecture/Tokushima branch office, which was established on Meiji 9.8.21 (August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1876). This cover is assumed to have been sent in Meiji 9 or 10 (1876/77), consequently the rate was paid in accordance with the 11<sup>th</sup> weight (22 momme or 82.5g) for an amount of 22 sen, with the special delivery being 2 sen (for post offices below 2<sup>nd</sup> class and agencies) and the 6 sen corresponding to the registration fee.

**Census of covers with 30 sen Matsuda Printing** (nine, but only seven with complete franking):

- The example presented here
- Single franking, from Shizuoka, 2.5.1874, "matome bin" box address label ("front"), (pictured on the back cover of JHES 1981)
- Single franking, 18.10.1880, Nagasaki to Ribe (Denmark), ex Brun Rasmussen auction
- Single with "Cherry Blossoms" 4 sen, 3.6.1873, Tokyo via Osaka 6.6 to Tsuyama, in the Ota Katsumi collection ("matome bin", bundled official writings), also illustrated in "Gallery of Japanese Stamps" (vol. 2, 1990, page 32).
- Single with "Cherry Blossoms" 6 sen (3) and "Koban" 2 sen (4) (some "Koban" stamps missing), 15.9.1882, registered from Nagasaki to France
- Single with "Koban" 2 sen (3) on incomplete cover (one 30s and two "Koban" 2 sen missing, as endorsed "64 sen"), 10.10.1876, Niigata to Mizuhara
- Pair with "Cherry Blossoms" 6 sen & 10 sen, 30.7.1874, Niigata to Sakata, in the Kanai Hiroyuki collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum), illustrated in Ichida Cherry Blossoms 1965 page 142
- Strip of three, Kashiwazaki to Niigata, 7.9.1874, "matome bin" (colour plate entry in Takahashi Stamp Co. "tebori notes II" page I)
- Strip of three with "Cherry Blossoms" 2 sen and 4 sen (4), 1877/78 Niigata to Kanaya-Mura, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection (ex-Shirai Tsugumi)





30121



30123

30121

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16

250 - 350

1872, 1 sen blue, intermediate printing (Government printing with rare short tool perforation), type I, plate 1, perforation 13:13 ½, position 40, unused without gum, quite well centred. (JSCA ¥120,000).



30122

(\*)

16

3'000 - 4'000

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, also known as intermediate printing), thin native wove paper, type I, plate 2, position 18, unused without gum, centred to bottom, natural paper inclusion and very slight tone spots mentioned for accuracy, being irrelevant for this rarity. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of just two unused examples known.** This was the example chosen to illustrate this rarity in the JHES catalogue in 2007. (JSCA ¥1,200,000).

30123

\*

16

800 - 1'400

1872, 1 sen blue, intermediate printing (Government printing with short tool perforation), type III, plate 3, perforation 10, position 38, displaying a fine impression and centred to the bottom, mint hinged with part original gum.

**The scarcest plate of Government Printing 1 sen with short tool perforation in unused condition.** (JSCA ¥500,000).



30124



Detail (2x its actual size)



30125

30124

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16

400 - 600

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 3, position 8, pistil missing in upper petal of the lower left flower, this being a very unusual variety, hinged mint with original gum. Minute surface scuff at base. A very fresh and well centred example. (JSCA ¥250,000+).

30125

\*

16

150 - 200

1872, 1 sen blue, intermediate printing (Government printing with short tool perforation), type III, plate 4, perforation 13:13 ½, position 21, appealing deep shade, perforations encroaching the frame line at base, mint hinged original gum. (JSCA ¥80,000).



30126

◎

16

1'200 - 1'600

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with short tool perforation, type III, plate 6, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40**, only comprising used examples, including six pairs and a good display of cancellations, among them to be remarked the usage in positions 15 / 22 & 18 of the early non-standard "Onomichi Kensazumi" framed handstamp.

**A notable and desirable reconstruction as no complete sheets of plate 6 are recorded.** (JHES ¥650,000).

**Provenance:** *Yamamoto Kunichi*



30127

(\*)

16

3'500 - 5'000

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 7, position 16, bright colour, perforated and displayed within clear to mostly large margins, unused without gum. Two slight corner creases not detracting from this rarity. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Three unused examples are believed to exist.** (JSCA ¥1,600,000).



30128

\*

16

3'000 - 5'000

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 8A, vertical pair from positions 5 / 13, delicate pastel greyish shade and clear impression, quite well centred for this stamp, unused with part original gum. Few "blind" perforations have been backed and hinge reinforcement between stamps to keep them joined at left.

**A very scarce multiple from the rare plate 8A.** (JHES ¥1,200,000).





30129



30130

- 30129** \* 16 200 - 250  
 1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 9, position 35, mint with original gum. A choice example graced by the strong colour, the neat impression and the perforations clear of the design. Signed Tyler. (JSCA ¥85,000).
- 30130** \* 16 300 - 500  
 1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 17, position 10, radiant colour reinforced by the neat impression, perforations barely touching at left, part original gum. A very fine and choice example. (JSCA ¥200,000).



- 30131** ◎ 16 400 - 600  
 1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing, type III, plate 18, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40** accomplished with used examples, including six pairs, and with the highlight of the postmarks being the "head portion" of the large "Mitsuke Kensazumi" handstamp in positions 29-30.  
**No complete sheet of plate 18 is currently known.** (JHES ¥208,000).  
**Provenance:** Yamamoto Kunichi



### The Unique Reconstruction of the Very Rare Plate 19



30132

⊙ / 110

16 20'000 - 30'000

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing, type III, plate 19, an astonishing **complete plate reconstruction of 40**, made up of used stamps and including seven pairs from positions 1-2, 13-14, 25/33, 26/34, 27/35, 29/37 (remarkably exhibiting a red non-standard handstamp) and 39-40. To be highlighted the position 19 featuring the “dot missing in left sen ‘sen’ character” variety. The great majority of the stamps possess clear margins and include a good range of cancels.

**A breath-taking reconstruction of immense difficulty and the only known accomplished, this being by far the rarest plate of the 1 sen blue native paper, for the first time offered for sale. A true labour of passion and fascination, which is virtually impossible to duplicate, and which includes several very rare pairs. To be noted that one used pair is already estimated at ¥450,000 in the JHES catalogue, as well as the variety in position 19 at ¥400,000 in the JSCA catalogue. No sheets of this plate are recorded.**

**The story of the plate 19 reconstruction:**

1) Dr. Soichi Ichida, in his authoritative handbook “Japan 1 Sen Blue Native Paper of 1872” (1970, two volumes), presented a reconstruction of the plate 19 with seemingly only one position open (position 18). But de facto, 10 to 12 of the 40 positions were not definitely confirmed, as there were not pairs available yet.

2) Mr. Fukuhara Kazunobu continued with the work of identifying the uncertain positions in the reconstruction by including pairs or rejoining pairs, and exhibited his last version at Philanippon 2001. This assemblage was unconfirmed for merely three positions: 18, 36 and 38. (Mr. Fukuhara was an eminent Japanese collector specialised in sheet reconstructions and president of “The Study Group of Hand Engraved Stamps” after Dr. Ichida, its founder; this Group publishes the JHES catalogue since 1973). Mr. Fukuhara won the “Grand Prix National” at Philanippon 2001, exhibiting several difficult reconstructions.

3) In 2016, Narumi Stamp Co. (owned by Mr. Yamazaki Yoshiyuki) offered this reconstruction in a private treaty sale as “ex-Fukuhara”, displaying the reconstructed sheet unchanged as exhibited in 2001.

4) Presumably Mr. Yamada Yuji acquired the reconstruction and exhibited this ex-Fukuhara assemblage without changes at NY 2016 (New York).

5) In 2018, Mr. Takano Norio confirmed the position 36 to be correct, corroborating the characteristics already formulated by Dr. Ichida. Then only positions 18 and 38 were not definitely accepted. (Mr. Norio was the president of the above-mentioned study Group founded by Dr. Ichida, also known as “Tebori Kittekenkyukai” in Japanese, who assumed the responsibility of the presidency after Mr. Fukuhara). The reconstruction was complete, but it is not clear whether position 18 or 36 are at their right places, as no pairs have been so far found yet.

6) Compared to Mr. Fukuhara’s reconstruction, in Mr. Yamada’s version positions 38 and 18 were exchanged with each other. The current state of the reconstruction was shown at Philanippon 2021 by Mr. Yamada Yuji (“Grand Prix National”).

**Ascertained provenance of most of the items:**

Dr. Ichida Soichi

Fukuhara Kazunobu





30133

\*\* \* 田

16

2'000 - 3'000

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing, type III, plate 21, **complete sheet of 40**, position 26 “missing the last line of the right SEN kanji character”. Only hinged in corners at base, otherwise mint never hinged, showing an uneven inking of the plate and with some ink irregularities caused during the process of printing. Corner crease at lower right resulting in a small closed tear, minor small tone spots.

**A very appealing and rare sheet featuring the prominent plate flaw in position 26.** (JSCA ¥650,000).



30134

\*

16

700 - 1'200

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 22, position 10, in an attractive pastel shade with usual centring, mint hinged with part original gum. Small paper adherence on reverse of no importance, one perforation missing at top which has been replaced, still though attractive and a very rare example from this plate. (JSCA ¥450,000).



30135



30136

30135



16

150 - 180

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing, type III, plate 24, vertical pair, positions 16 & 24, used on reverse of folded envelope to Tokyo, tied by numeral Kiban ma-1 cancelation from Wakamatsu 11.23, with corresponding cds alongside, also displaying Shirakawa KG -11.23 on the same day in transit and arrival with N1B2 10.11.25. (Gregorian Nov. 25, 1877, ties pair). Very fine.

30136



16

200 - 300

1872, 1 sen blue, Government printing with long tool perforation, type III, plate 26, position 14, deep colour and clear margins, unused without gum. Few short perforations at right, still though very fine. (JSCA ¥180,000).



30137



16

500 - 750

1872, 1 sen blue, type III, Government printing on laid paper, a magnificent block of 12 (6x2) with sheet margin at left, unused without gum as issued. Despite the lower-left corner stamp being affected by a very small tear, this very appealing multiple is in an outstandingly good and desirable state of preservation.





30138

\*

17

1'000 - 2'000

1872, 2 sen rose, Government printing with long tool perforation, plate 1, position 25, a marginal example from the left of the sheet showing a striking **imperforate sheet margin at left**, great freshness and uncharacteristically well centred within large even margins on the three perforated sides, unused without gum. Very fine. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

*An extremely rare variety. Another similar example, but not so well centred and not available in private hands, is exhibited as part of the Hiroyuki Kanai collection in The Philatelic Culture Museum in Kobe, Japan. (JHES ¥200,000).*



30139

◎ 田

17

1'000 - 1'500

1872, 2 sen rose, intermediate printing (Government printing with short tool perforation), plate 2, vertical block of six, positions 17-18 / 25-26 / 33-34, centred to lower left, cancelled by six strikes of framed non-standard "Ken" postmark. Just two missing perforations in position 34, fresh and clean in other respects and a very rare used multiple. (JHES ¥480,000+; JSCA ¥400,000+).



30140

◎

17

500 - 1'000

1872, 2 sen rose, Government printing, plate 2, **complete sheet reconstruction of 40**, with dot at right of the second character in centre, comprising used copies except for position 19, displaying from early deep rose-red to late-printing pale shades, with a good variety of postmarks including strikes in blue and red, as well as attractive non-standard markings including seal-style. (JSCA ¥400,000+).



30141

\* (\*)

18

700 - 1'200

1873, 2 sen yellow, type III, plates 1 to 5 and 7 & 8, seven unused examples, including plate 1 with variety in position 22 ("flower missing of paulownia"), plate 3 with a bottom sheet-margin. Plates 3 and 8 possible featuring short tool perforations. The stamps from plates 4, 5 and 8 without gum, otherwise mounted mint. The plate 5 with tiny thin and part scissor cut. A useful and desirable group including a good range of different plates. (JSCA ¥310,000+).



30142

\*

18

300 - 500

1873, 2 sen yellow, long tool perforation, type III, plate 6, bright colour, slightly centred to top right and showing the design untouched and complete, original gum with light hinge remnant. Very fine and scarce. (JSCA ¥160,000).



30143



18

600 - 1'200

1874, 2 sen yellow, N-type III (plate 8 or 9?), tied by square early non-standard “Nataka/Kensazumi” postmark of Nataka (Kii Province), to reverse of cover sent to Kobe, showing large framed non-standard “Kiishu Natakaura/Postal Handling Agency” handstamp in red alongside, struck in transit with “Osaka 6.6.3” (June 3, 1873) N1B1type cds, and arrival in violet on the same day at top left.

**The earliest recorded usage of a 2 sen yellow native paper, pre-dating by two days the official date of issue (Meiji 6.6.5, 5 June 1873).**



30144



30145

30144



18

300 - 500

1873, 2 sen yellow, long tool perforation, type III, plate 9, very good impression enhanced by the deep shade, frame line barely touched at right, otherwise three clear to large margins, original gum, lightly hinged. A very attractive example. (JSCA ¥160,000).

30145



18

400 - 600

1873, 2 sen yellow, short tool perforation 11, type II, plate 10, vivid colour, ample even margins on three sides and full design at right, original gum lightly hinged. A choice example. (JSCA ¥220,000).

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu





30146



30147

**30146** (\*) 18 250 - 400  
1873, 2 sen yellow, short tool perforation, type II, plate 11, usual centring and vibrant colour, unused without gum. (JSCA ¥160,000).

**30147** (\*) 18 200 - 400  
1873, 2 sen yellow, long tool perforation, type III, plate 12, top right positional pinhole, centred to left, unused without gum. Small closed tear at top and paper adherence on reverse at left. (JSCA ¥150,000).



30148



30149



**30148** \* 18 400 - 600  
1873, 2 sen yellow, long tool perforation, type III, plate 13, position 31, design exhibited complete, original gum barely hinged. Partly separated by scissors on two sides. **The stamps of this plate were mostly used and few mint examples survived.** (JSCA ¥200,000).

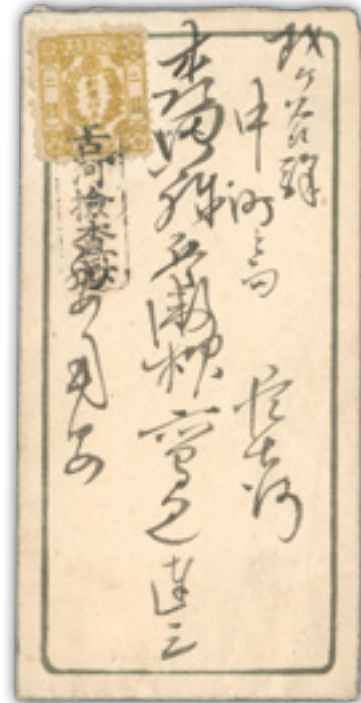
**30149** \* 18 500 - 700  
1873, 2 sen yellow, long tool perforation, type III, plate 15, position 20 featuring "lower left cherry blossom with underpetal missing" variety, excellent impression and deep shade, good centring, original gum with negligible hinge mark. Two gum creases mentioned for accuracy only. A very fine and rare positional piece. (JSCA ¥200,000+).



**30150** ☒ 18 250 - 300  
1873, 2 sen yellow, type III, plate 15, position 1, top left corner example with sheet margins, used on reverse of envelope from Odawara (Sagami Province) to Tokyo (Musashi Province), very neatly tied by non-standard "Odawara / Kensa-in" double circle, showing red "Sagami Odawara -.5.12" type KG datestamp alongside, with N1B1 7.5.13/14 arrival and delivery marking (13/14 May 1874). Small portion of paper lacking on front. A visually impressive usage in this remarkable quality.



30151



30152

30151



18

150 - 180

1873, 2 sen yellow, type III, tied by early non-standard oval framed "Sakai ken" hs on reverse of cover (opened for display and reinforced along folded edge) to Aiko (Harima province), alongside showing transit of Osaka with N1B1 6.9.25 cds (Sept. 25, 1873). On obverse large red framed "Izumi Province Sakai Postal Agency" postmark. Stamp separated with scissors on three sides. An appealing usage.

30152



18

200 - 250

1873, 2 sen yellow, type III, tied by framed non-standard "Koga Kensazumi" to small envelope from Furukawa to Koshigaya, and on reverse non-standard double circle "Kazusa Province Katsushika District Koga Station / Postal Bureau" in vermilion. Back flap incomplete. A very fine and clean example.



30153



19

300 - 600

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing, type I, plate 1, better centred than usual, showing a superb strike of type N1B1 "Tokyo 6.4.3 A.M." cds (April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1873).

**The earliest recorded usage of this value**, as corroborated in the JSCA catalogue.



30154

30155

30154

\* (\*)

19

300 - 600

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing with long tool perforation, frame-type I, six unused examples from plates 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 10, and positions 37, 39, 14, 32, 16, 6 respectively. Just the plate 7 without gum, otherwise all possessing gum. An appealing group displaying three different shades and each from a distinctive plate. (JSCA ¥190,000).

30155

\*

19

200 - 250

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing with short tool perforation, plate 3, position 7, and long tool perforation plate 4, position 17, two examples, the latter with sheet margin at top, displaying highly contrasting shades, both very fine hinged with original gum. (JSCA ¥70,000).

**Provenance:** *Fukuhara Kazunobu*



30156

\*\*\* \* 田

19

3'000 - 5'000

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing, plate 4, **complete sheet of 40**, including plate varieties in positions 8, 15, 27 and 34, four positional pinholes (type B), fabulously fresh in deep shade. Apart from three hinge reinforcements between single positions, the perforations are in a great state of preservation and intact, with complete selvedge all around except in one position. **A phenomenal and extremely fine complete sheet of great desirability.** (JSCA ¥1,400,000).





30157

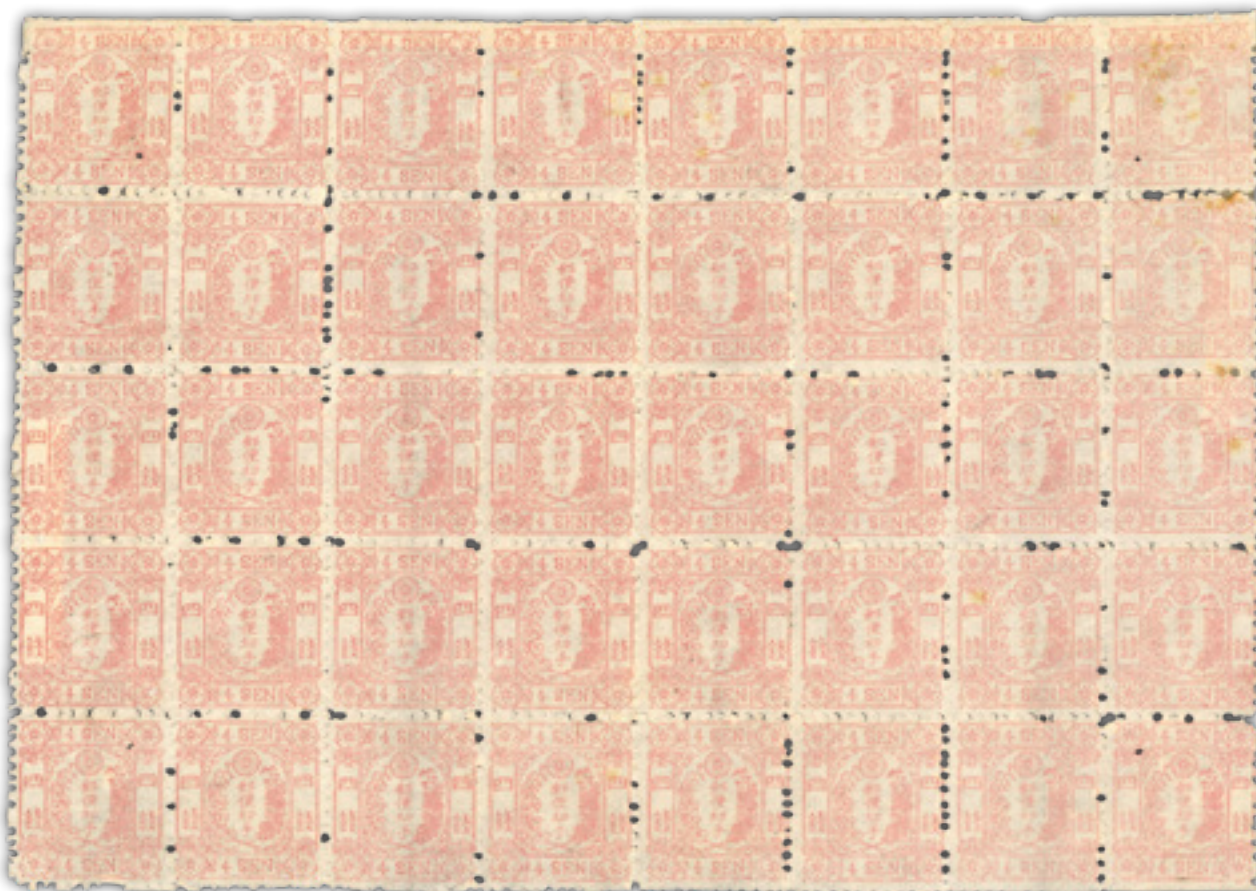
\*\* \* 田

19

350 - 500

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing, N-type II, plate 5, marginal block of four from the top of the sheet, positions 5-6 / 13-14, usual centring and great freshness, original gum with the two examples at base being never hinged. Very fine.

**A scarce and desirable block: among the fifteen plates of the 4 sen on native paper, only the plate 5 features the N-type II. (JSCA ¥145,000).**



30158

\*\* \* 田

19

3'000 - 5'000

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing, plate 6, **complete sheet of 40**, four positional pinholes (type B), without selvedge, in a delicate pastel shade displaying a fine impression, including several very good centrings, with original gum and mostly never hinged. Some perforations partly trimmed by scissors, with small strip of paper along the edge of the horizontal row at top with the purpose of avoiding the perforations to open. Very fine and rare. (JSCA ¥1,400,000).





30159

\*

19

300 - 600

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing with long tool perforation, type I, plate 8, position 23, usual centring and infrequently fresh impression, original gum. Fine and scarce. (JSCA ¥220,000).



30160

◎ 田

19

700 - 1'000

1873, 4 sen rose, plate 8, Government printing, block of four, positions 18-9 / 26-27; plate 8A at top and plate 8B at base, originating from the intersection of the 8A and 8B plates between the third and fourth horizontal rows of the sheet. Displaying a very good centring and each stamp cancelled by very fine strike of type N1B1 "Niigata 9.9.1" (1 September 1876) cds. Few insect holes in lower left stamp, otherwise and extremely fine and fresh multiple.

**An exceedingly scarce multiple, larger than a pair, exhibiting sub-plates 8A & 8B. While pairs can be scarcely found, a block of four is a true rarity.** (JSCA for normal plate 8 in block of four: ¥200,000).

**Note:** The type 8A features the two horizontal lines slanted in the Japanese "Te" character of "Yubin-Kitte" (in centre), and in the plate 8B the ornament in the four angles in centre is different with one of the elements being a semi-circle instead of a scroll. Exceptionally in the plate 8 only, we find "sub-plates": the upper three rows (positions 1-24) are classified as plate 8A, and the lower two rows (positions 25-40) as plate 8B.

**Provenance:** Dr. Tani Takashi



30161

\*\* \* 田

19

1'000 - 1'500

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing, plate 9, horizontal block of eight from lower right corner with sheet margins, positional pinhole at top left in position 40 and plate variety in position 39, delightful pastel shade and overall crispness. To be highlighted the upper row displaying precisely well centred designs, original gum with four light hinge marks and the other four being never hinged. Superb.

**The largest multiple documented of plate 9. (JSCA ¥380,000+).**



30162

\*\* \*

19

250 - 500

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing, type II, plate 11, position 23 (short tool perforation); plate 12, position 5; and plate 14, position 26. Three examples lightly hinged and uncommonly well centred. A very fine trio. (JSCA ¥140,000).



30163

\*

19

500 - 700

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing with long tool perforation, type II, plate 13, position 2, sheet margin at top and uncommonly well centred, crisp impression, lightly hinged with part original gum. Extremely fine. (JSCA ¥240,000).

### One of the Two 4 Sen Plate 13 Complete Sheets



30164

\*\* \* 田

19 20'000 - 30'000

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing with long tool perforation, plate 13, an astonishing **complete sheet of 40**, rarely displaying such a remarkably neat impression which is enhanced by a vivid colour, retaining the peripheral margins except for position 4 only, with full original gum which is only slightly disturbed by one hinge in each corner. Small paper reinforcements along the external margins -and occasionally applied on the area of designs- in most of the intersections between stamps, with the purpose of avoiding the perforations to separate from the outer sides of the sheet, successfully keeping them joined.

**The 13 is the scarcest plate of the 4 sen native paper** -as a matter of fact it is valued at more than three times than the second scarcest complete sheet in the JSCA catalogue-. **One of only two documented examples, being one of the most significant sheets in the "Cherry Blossom" Issues and the most valuable of the one-figure denominations.** (JSCA ¥10,000,000).

**Provenance:** F. J. Peplow (H. R. Harmer, 16.3.1970, lot 54)





30165



30167



30168

**30165**

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19

**600 - 800**

1873, 4 sen rose, Government printing with long tool perforation, plate 15, bottom right corner-sheet pair from positions 39-40, very attractively cancelled by Kiban Ni-19 circular type of Mito-Shimouchi in Hitachi Province. Position 40 with insect hole and positional pinhole, a very attractive and scarce usage enhanced by the sheet margins. (JHES ¥300,000).



**30166**

\*\* \* 田

19

**1'000 - 2'000**

1873, 4 sen carmine-rose, bottom left corner-sheet block of 12 (4x3), with selvages on both marginal sides, never hinged for the most part and only with hinge remnant on two stamps in centre at top. Negligible and small peripheral tone spots, in no way detracting from this rare and very well presented multiple.

**30167**

\*

20

**200 - 300**

1872, 10 sen apple green, Government printing with long Tool perforation 11, few perforations just touching at bottom right, otherwise clear margins and bright shade, original gum with trace of hinge usage. Very fine. (JSCA ¥100,000).

**30168**

\*

20

**200 - 300**

1872, 10 sen apple green, Government printing with long tool perforation 11L, centred to upper left, large part original gum. Fine. (JSCA ¥110,000).



30169



20

10'000 - 15'000

1872, 10 sen apple green, Government printing, paying a double-weight registered cover from Osaka (Settsu Province) to Obama (Wakasa Province), cancelled by a magnificent strike of negative "Ne-Ichi" syllabic-numerical circle of Osaka. Reverse showing type N1B1 "Osaka 9.4.23" (23 April 1876) cds and Obama arrival (4.25). Cover opened for display with small area of paper lacking at top. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Merely three 10 sen Government Printing covers are recorded, being of even more scarcity if we consider that only two are in private hands. Unquestionably one of the rarest stamps of Japan on cover, and a true postal history rarity of classic worldwide philately. No covers are illustrated in the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps", volume 2 (1990). (JSCA ¥2,000,000+).**

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu

**Census of 10 sen Government Printing on cover** (each carried at different rate):

- The example presented here
- Single on registered cover, 21.6.1874, Osaka to Eichen Aizu, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Pair with 6 sen & 1 sen, 5.11.1874, Shizuoka to Okabe, ex Shirai Tsugumi, currently in the Yigal Nathaniel collection

## The Only Multiple in Private Hands and the Earliest Recorded Usage of the Scarcest Catalogue-Number Stamp of Japanese Philately



30170

◎

21

120' - 180'000

1872, 20 sen deep reddish lilac. Government printing with long tool perforation 11, **native laid paper**, vertical rejoined pair from **positions 24 / 32**, exhibiting an appealing centring. Perforations a bit trimmed by scissors at right, showing two strikes of "Tokyo 7.6.13 night" (June 13, 1874) type N1B1 cds. Certs. Philatelic Federation of Japan (2009) and Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**THE EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE OF THE SCARCEST CATALOGUE NUMBER OF JAPANESE PHILATELY.** Irrefutably one of the most important items of Japanese philately and a worldwide philatelic gem.

**Neither unused stamps nor usages on cover have been reported of the 20 sen Government Printing. ONLY TWENTY-ONE EXAMPLES OF THIS STAMP ARE RECORDED, WITH ONLY THREE PAIRS KNOWN AND THIS BEING UNIQUE IN PRIVATE HANDS. THIS IS THE LARGEST MULTIPLE IN EXISTENCE.** (JHES pair ¥50,000,000).

**Note:**

*This stamp was issued on 3 October 1872 and it was valid until 30 November 1889. The quantity of issued stamps is unknown, and despite the long period of validation, this had to be very low as confirmed by the number of surviving examples.*

*This pair could be rejoined from singles which had resurfaced at auctions in the United States (1989) and Germany (1990). The former, being position 32, was bought for US\$88,000 by the Japanese auctioneer Mr. Tai Michiharu; the latter, position 24, previously emerged but "hidden" as part of a collection sold in a Swiss auction in 1984, which was bought and found by the Great Britain dealer Mr. Herbert Goldsmith, to be offered as a single lot in the Schwanke auction of Hamburg in 1990. The perforations at base of the upper stamp and at top of the lower stamp perfectly match in-between, as does the shape of the datestamp of Tokyo, demonstrating that it was originally used as a pair. This discovery was made public for the first time during the international stamp exhibition "Philanippon 1991" by Mr. Tai. These two examples were later sold as singles again.*

(Continued in the following page)



**Provenance:**

*Shirai Tsugumi (position 24 in this rejoined pair)*

*Narumi auction in Japex 1990, 25.11.1990, lot 29, sold for ¥16,611,000 or circa €180,000 (only position 32 of this rejoined pair)*

**Post offices of usages of the 21 examples recorded:**

- *Wakamatsu: 1 example*
- *Fukushima: 2 examples*
- *Kubota (Akita): 4 examples*
- *Tokyo: 5 examples*
- *Tsuruga: 9 examples*

**Census of the multiples:**

- *Horizontal pair, positions 21-22, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)*
- *Vertical pair, in the Mitsui Bunko Foundation Museum*
- *Vertical pair, positions 24/32, ex Yamada Yuji (the example presented here)*



Kyobashi bridge in Tokyo, 1871.  
Colour woodcut by Hiroshige III. In centre white flag stating "posts" attached to a letter collecting box (Dawn 1990 p. 7).

### 1874, Cherry Blossoms, Native Paper, with Syllabics



30171

(\*)

22 (1)

15'000 - 20'000

1874, 2 sen chrome-yellow, native wove paper, syllabic i (1), very fresh featuring a vibrant colour, well centred, unused without gum. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan signed Dr. Sawa (2012).

**An extremely rare plate with just about fifteen unused examples known.** A highly desirable gem of Japanese philately. According to the Yamazaki Yoshiyuki (Narumi 2018) plating book (page 29), **twelve examples are in private hands.** *This is the example used to illustrate this stamp in the JSCA catalogue (2023).* (JSCA ¥4,800,000; Michel 20y €38,000).

**Note:** *This major Japanese rarity on native paper exists on native wove- and native laid paper, with the former being by far the rarest.*



30172

◎

22 (1)

250 - 350

1874, 2 sen chrome-yellow, syllabic i (1), sheet margin at left, refulgent colour, quite well centred for this stamp, cancelled by type N1B1K "Mino Gifu 7.11.x1" cds (1. November 1874) of Gifu (Mino Province). Very fine and impressive. (JHES ¥110,000).



30173

◎

22 (1)

200 - 300

1874, 2 sen chrome-yellow, syllabic i (1), usual centring, cancelled with rectangular framed non-standard "(O)tsu Kensazumi" handstamp of Otsu (Omi Province). Very fine and appealing usage. (JHES ¥100,000).



30174



22 (1)

300 - 500

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 1 (i), tied by early non-standard square “Uzen Yonezawa/Kensazumi” handstamp to reverse of cover to Tokyo, additionally tied by framed “Yonezawa/Yubin/Toriaktsukaisho” (Y. postal handling agency) postmark. Handwritten date by the sender “5<sup>th</sup> Month 25<sup>th</sup> Day” and type N1B1 Tokyo receiving cds on Meiji 7.6.2 (2 June 1874). Very fine. (JSCA ¥80,000).

**Provenance:** Koizumi Tatsunosuke



30175



30176

30175



22 (16)

250 - 350

1874, 2 sen chrome-yellow, syllabic 16 (ta), position 22 featuring “flower bud missing with paulownia” variety, excellent centring with large margins all around, original gum with light hinge remnant and gum crease. Extremely fine. (JSCA ¥90,000).

30176



22 (16)

400 - 500

1874, 2 sen chrome-yellow, syllabic 16 (ta), clear to mostly large margins, trimmed perforations, used with brown “large Bota” cancellation of Tokyo which was used for the presentation albums, scissors separation as occasionally seen with Hand-Engraved Issues in presentation albums or gift books. Very fine and scarce. (JHES ¥200,000).





30177



30178

- |  |   |        |           |
|--|---|--------|-----------|
| 30177  | * | 23 (1) | 700 - 900 |
| 1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic i (i), very fresh and centred to left, hinged with original gum. Fine and scarce. (JSCA ¥300,000).  |   |        |           |
| 30178  | ◎ | 23 (1) | 200 - 300 |
| 1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic i (i), bottom right sheet corner example from position 40, well centred with sheet margins and showing early non-standard postmark of Kubota (Akita). Very fine. (JHES ¥150,000). |   |        |           |



- |   |   |                |             |
|---|---|----------------|-------------|
| 30179   | ✉ | 23 (1), 29 (9) | 800 - 1'200 |
| 1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic i (i), position 8, an example with upper right corner sheet margins, together with 1 sen blue syllabic 9 (ri), tied by two strikes of Kiban ku-17 of Utsunomiya (Shimotsuke Province) to reverse of cover addressed to Shirakawa (Higo Province). Alongside showing KG "Utsunomiya -1.14" cds, N1B1 transits of Tokyo 8.1.15 (Jan. 15, 1875) and Osaka 8.1.18. Cover opened for display. |   |                |             |
| <b>Note:</b> The 6 sen paid the triple letter rate, with the additional 1 sen paying the extra fee to places outside the delivery circuit of the next post office (so called "inconvenience rate").   |   |                |             |



30180



30181



30182



Detail (1.2x its actual size)

- |       |  |        |               |
|-------|--|--------|---------------|
| 30180 | *<br>1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 2 (ro), clear impression and bright shade, good centring showing clear margins all around, lightly hinged original gum. Very fine. (JSCA ¥350,000).  | 23 (2) | 800 - 1'000   |
| 30181 | ⊙<br>1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 2 (ro), a position 33 example from the lower left of the sheet, positional pinhole at top right, showing the design complete despite being centred to lower right and with very appealing sheet margins on two sides, cancelled by large bota postmark of Osaka. Very fine. (JHES ¥100,000).                 | 23 (2) | 250 - 300     |
| 30182 | ✉<br>1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 2 (ro), a well centred example in deep shade from the left of the sheet, used on large cover from Settsu (Osaka Province) to Harima (Kobe Province), tied by indistinct negative cancel and "Osaka -.9.3" type KB2 cds for Kobe. A rare 1879 (Meiji 12) usage. A very fine single franking. (JSCA ¥400,000). | 23 (2) | 1'000 - 1'500 |

**Note:** The sender was the Osaka City Administration and it was addressed to the Chinese Consulate in Kobe. The 6 sen rate covered the triple inland weight.

**Provenance:**

Maurice Burrus (Kanai Stamp Co., 12.10.1963, lot 461)

"Alexander" collection (Richard Wolfers Inc., 23.3.1980, lot 359)

Takahashi private treaty, July 2001, lot 252 (¥350,000 = ca. €2,800)



30183

⊙

23 (3)

250 - 400

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 3 (ha), intensively deep shade and strong impression, centred to lower left, exhibiting early non-standard "Nagoya Ken" boxed cancellation. scissors separation at top. An attractive usage. (JSCA ¥220,000).



30184

\*

23 (4)

20'000 - 30'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 4 (ni), position 36, in an intense shade and very good impression, centred with the perforations clear of the design all around, hinged with original gum. Very fine. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2016).

**Only seven example are believed to exist in unused condition.** (JSCA ¥4,000,000; Michel €30,000).

**Note:** This example was chosen to illustrate the syllabic 4 in the JSCA catalogue (2023), being also published on page 74 of the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps", volume 2.

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu



30185



30186

30185

⊙

23 (4)

250 - 400

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 4 (ni), a striking marginal example from the upper left of the sheet, showing non-constant plate flaw consisting in the strokes missing at left in the value tablet at base, having the sheet margins and incredibly preserving the paper in the perforated holes on the marginal sides, thus further enhancing the good presentation. Extremely fresh cancelled by small-size negative cross. A spectacular and superb example. (JSCA ¥115,000).

30186

⊙

23 (5)

300 - 400

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 5 (ho), bottom right corner-sheet example from position 40 with part of the selvages, positional pinhole at top left, good centring, cancelled by type KG double circle ds of Kochi (Tosa Province). Very fine. (JHES ¥125,000).





30187

\*

23 (6)

20'000 - 30'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 12 (wo), position 5, uncommonly deep shade, centred to right although with the design untouched and intact; very lightly hinged fresh full original gum. Very fine. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2016).

**Seven unused examples have been documented to exist by Yamazaki Yoshiyuki.** (JSCA ¥4,000,000; Michel €35,000).

**Note:** This stamp was chosen to illustrate this syllabic on page 74 of the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps", volume 2, as well as the JSCA catalogue in 2023.

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu



30188

\*

23 (6)

10'000 - 15'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 6 (he), position 29, overall freshness and good colour, re-perforated with clear balanced margins on all sides, part original gum with hinge remnants. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2016).

**One of nine examples documented in unused condition by Yamazaki Yoshiyuki.** (JSCA ¥4,000,000; Michel €35,000).

**Note:** This stamp is illustrated in the JSA catalogue (2023) for syllabic 6, as well as on page 74 in the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps", volume 2.

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu



30189

◎

23 (6)

300 - 400

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 6 (he), bottom left corner example with sheet margins originating from position 32, exceptionally fresh, neatly cancelled by type KG double-circle datestamp of Miharu (Izumo Province). Extremely attractive. (JHES ¥145,000).

## One of the Rarest Unused Syllabics of Japanese Philately



30190

(\*)

23 (7)

20'000 - 30'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 7 (to), position 28, with very well preserved perforations and ideally centred leaving the design throughout intact and clear, unused without gum. Some very slight soiling which is not stated in the certificate and mentioned for accuracy. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2016).

**The scarcest syllabic of this denomination in unused condition, a great gem of the “Cherry Blossom” issues with only two examples known.** (JSCA ¥5,000,000; Michel 17y €45,000).

**Note:** Illustrated by Dr. Soichi Ichida in his 1968 handbook on page 200, as well as in the JSCA catalogue (2023).

**Provenance:**

*Dr. Ichida Soichi*

*Fukuhara Kazunobu*



30191

◎

23 (7)

300 - 400

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 7 (to), a marginal example from the top left of the sheet and therefore position 1, positional pinhole at lower right, quite well centred, very fresh impression, cancelled by indistinct small-size tsubure handstamp. very fine. (JHES ¥145,000).



30192

◎

23 (7)

200 - 250

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 8 (chi), a marginal example from the bottom right corner of the sheet, position 40 with positional pinhole at top left, uncommonly well centred, cancelled by double-circle type KG datestamp from probably Nissaka (Totomi Province). Extremely fine. (JSCA ¥100,000).



30193

(\*)

23 (8) 20'000 - 30'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic (8 chi), position 17, a very clean example of outstanding freshness, quite well centred, unused without gum. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2016).

**Just twelve unused examples are recorded in the Yamazaki Yoshiyuki (2018 Narumi) plating handbook.** (JSCA ¥4,000,000; Michel 17y €45,000).

**Note:** This stamp is illustrated in the JSCA catalogue of 2023 for syllabic 8.

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu

## The Finest Example of Five Syllabic 9 of 6 Sen in Unused Condition



30194

\*

23 (9) 25'000 - 30'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 9 (ri), position 6, extremely fresh impression and exquisitely centred with uncharacteristically wide equal margins all around, lightly hinged original gum. A choice superb example. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2016).

**One of just five unused examples known of this syllabic, see the Yamazaki Yoshiyuki (2018 Narumi) plating handbook. In an incredibly fine state of preservation making this the finest example of the rare unused 6 sen syllabics native paper exhibited in the Yamada collection.** (JSCA ¥4,000,000; Michel €30,000).

**Note:** Illustrated on page 170 of "The Cherry Blossom Issues of Japan 1872-1876" by Dr. Soichi Ichida (1965), as well as in the 2023 version of the JSCA catalogue to represent this syllabic.

**Provenance:**

*Dr. Ichida Soichi*

*Fukuhara Kazunobu*





30195

⊙

23 (9)

300 - 500

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 9 (ri), upper right corner-sheet example from position 8, positional pinhole at bottom left, showing a good centring, light shade and fine impression, preserving the sheet margins. Cancelled by type N1B1K "Iwashiro Fukushima 7.8.28" cds (28 August 1874). Extremely fine. (JHES ¥200,000).



30196

⊙

23 (10)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 10 (nu), position 38, bright colour and quite well centred, cancelled by Kiban ne-1 type of Osaka. Two tiny thin spots confined to top and bottom margins. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan signed by Drs. Ichida, Sawa and Tani (1981).

**One of the two rarest syllabics of the "Sumiroku" in used condition, which is not reported unused.** (JSCA ¥600,000).

**Provenance:** Takahashi Stamp Co. private treaty sale, July 2001, lot 191



30197



30198

30197

⊙

23 (11)

600 - 1'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 11 (ru), quite well centred cancelled with an indistinct handstamp. One short perforation at left and tiny repair at lower right, still though very fresh and attractive.

**One of the two rarest syllabics of the "Sumiroku" in used condition, with unused examples being unknown.** (JSCA ¥600,000; Michel €4,500).

30198

⊙

23 (12)

600 - 1'200

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 12 (wo), clear margins all around, cancelled by a barely complete strike of Kiban i-no 1 type of Kumamoto (Higo Province). A couple of short perforations, barely detracting from this very scarce syllabic of fine appearance. (JHES ¥400,000).



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**One of Four Inner Covers Under the Double-Envelope System for Foreign Mail**



Front



Reverse



30199



Scott 156, 158

4'000 - 6'000

1872-1875. **Inner envelope of the double-envelope system:** Mourning cover without sender's details addressed to Eastbourne (England), bearing on reverse, below the franking at right, Japanese acceptance "Tokyo 6.(9).1" (Sept 1, 1873) postmark, franked with United States 1873 1c ultramarine and 3c green strip of five, paying the 16 cents U.S. postage, tied by negative cork cancels with matching "Yokohama Sept 7 Japan" cds from the United States P.O. clearly struck on front, showing alongside large red "San Francisco Cal Oct 1 Paid" cds. The franking is additionally tied on arrival by 21 October cds's. Cover endorsed "Via Brindisi", but that was ostensibly ignored, as an eastbound steamer was faster then and this mail arrived after 51 days.

**One of only four non-Dr. Hennon inner covers recorded of the double-envelope system** (not belonging to the Dr. Hennon correspondence). **According to our research, amongst the all inner covers, being unique exhibiting a postmark from Tokyo, making this the most attractive example.** *Illustrated with high relevance in the JHES (2007) as one of the two introductory pictures of this reference catalogue.*

**The double-envelope system:**

*This was part of the "Foreign Mail Procedure" ("kaigaiyubintezoku") introduced on Meiji 5.4.8 (14 May 1872). Then Japan had not a foreign mail service of its own. Foreign residents or visitors at the treaty ports could use the services of the extant foreign post offices of United States, France and Great Britain there, although customers in the outer provinces could not benefit from these services.*

*The double-envelope system was used to enhance the communications for Japanese nationals as well as foreign employees ("oyatoi gaikokujin") in the outer provinces. It consisted of two envelopes, including a smaller-size inner envelope which had to contain the letter inside and indicate the addressee outside. The outer envelope had to be franked according to the Japanese foreign rate for the destination country indicated in the inner envelope under this special procedure, as listed in the postal tariff of the "Foreign Mail Procedure" (which was not an "inland rate up to Tokyo" as some philatelists erroneously assumed, being unaware of the official postal regulations). This outer envelope had to be addressed to "c/o Tokyo General Post Office, Foreign Mail dispatching process". In Tokyo, the outside envelope was opened, and the inner envelope had to be franked with foreign stamps as required, to be forwarded to the Yokohama's foreign post office of choice.*

*Customers residing in Yokohama or Tokyo could post their envelopes directly at the Tokyo P.O.'s counter and no outer envelope was required (see the "Boinville" cover in the Yigal Nathaniel collection).*

*As a proof of the scarcity of this system, in 1873 and 1874 only 725 and 873 letters were carried under this system, with the main destinations being United States and Great Britain (research by Dr. Tani Takashi).*

*When the foreign mail of Japan started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1875, and even with the United States P.O. of Yokohama closed, the double-envelope system continued for some time until September 1875, through the French and British post offices.*

**Provenance:** Shirai Tsugumi

**Census of inner covers under the Double-Envelope System for foreign mail:**

- *The example presented here*
- *Cover addressed to Italy bearing French stamps, with Tokyo double circle and posted in October 1874 (Meiji 7)*
- *Cover addressed to United States bearing U.S. "Jefferson" 10c, with Tokyo double circle and posted on 16 January 1873 (Meiji 5.12.18), which emerged in a 2017 auction of JSA, Osaka*
- *Cover addressed to the United States bearing U.S. "Jefferson" 10c with boxed Tokyo date stamp and posted on 17 March 1873 (Meiji 6.3.17)*
- *Fewer than 20 covers are recorded originating from the Hennon correspondence (addressed to Lyon, France, and all numbered at top left by the addressee Madame Hennon), of which 60% bearing a U.S. franking and 40% a French franking. According to our research, this may not possess the transit of Tokyo*

**The Unique Outside Envelope of the Double-Envelope System**



Alfred Lucy, sender of the above cover, was a British teacher from Birmingham. He introduced English methods of agriculture and stock raising in Aomori Prefecture (old Rikuchū Province).

30200

✉ / 140

23 (6), 30 (4)

50'000 - 75'000

1874, **The Hachinohe cover under the double-envelope system** (see note in the previous lot): Addressed to the Tokyo General Post Office for the Foreign Mail dispatching process, franked by 6 sen violet brown on native paper, syllabic 6 (he), pair and single (an additional example overlapping the edge missing) and 2 sen yellow on foreign paper, syllabic 4 (ni), each tied by "Kiban" a-10 circular postmark of Hachinohe (Mutsu Province) carried via Morioka (Jan. 5) and Fukushima (Jan. 9), with "Tokyo 8.1.12" (12 January 1875) receiving cds, alongside showing clear strike of framed early non-standard "Mutsu Hachinohe / Postal Handling Agency" postmark in red. Cover slightly reduced on all sides. Certificate Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

*The cover is addressed to William Henry Lucy in Tamworth, Staffordshire (England), and bears a handwritten "sent 12<sup>th</sup> month 31<sup>st</sup> day Rusei" notation by the foreign advisor Alfred Lucy.*

*As there are no foreign markings and Tokyo is the latest dated postmark, this outer envelope ended its journey at Tokyo GPO (see note in the previous lot). Handwritten endorsements on address side include "Tokyo / General Post Office" in black and "Request to send mail overseas" in red, Japanese notations on reverse are "via USA to England" and "sent 12<sup>th</sup> month 31<sup>st</sup> day Lucy" (below the red postmark), as well as sender's address being Alfred Lucy's farm in Yachikashira in Aomori Prefecture.*

*Franked under the special rate of the "foreign mail procedure" using the double-envelope system, with the postage for the inland letter being 2 sen per 2 momme (7.5 grams) if posted outside Tokyo or Yokohama, and 24 sen per 4 momme (15 grams) for a letter to Great Britain according to the 3<sup>rd</sup> "foreign mail procedure" rate period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1874.*

*The double-envelope system was part of the "Foreign Mail Procedure" regulation which existed between 8 April 1872 (Meiji 5.3.1) and 9 September 1875 (see previous lot). For a detailed discussion about this item, see Dr. Spaulding in JP Vol. 46 (1991) 4 pp.177-178 and Dr. Tani in "Zen Nihon Yushu" 12/1990. Cf, also Dr. Spaulding in JP 15/62-71, 18/30-31, 20/146-150, and Sawa/Chikatsuji/Tani in "Zen Nihon Yushu" 9/1985 pp. 277-280.*

*As a proof of the scarcity of this system, in 1873 and 1874 only 725 and 873 letters were carried under this system, with the main destinations being United States and Great Britain (research by Dr. Tani Takashi).*

**The only example recorded of the outside envelope, being the only visual proof of this significant feature in the double-envelope system. Illustrated in Dr. Ichida's "The Dragon Stamps of Japan 1871-1872" handbook on page 12. Appearing with high relevance in the JHES (2007) as the colour illustration of two introductory items published in this reference catalogue.**

*According to Dr. Spaulding, "it is logical to assume that the Postal Communications Bureau either filed them (the outside envelopes) a certain period for accounting purposes (to show that Japanese stamps on the outer envelopes prepaid the cost of foreign stamps the Bureau affixed to the inner envelopes); and after a prescribed storage period, the files are usually destroyed".*

**Provenance** (the item was first reported in 1957):

*Dr. Tani Takashi*

*Dr. Ichida Soichi*



Tokyo post office, 1874.  
Postal Museum, Tokyo  
(Hashimoto 1986 p. 186).

## One of the Greatest Gems of Japanese and Asian Philately



30201

S ☉

24 (1)

100' - 150'000

1874, 20 sen reddish violet, syllabic 1 (i), with the usual “sumi-ten” ink spot. Possessing original gum, a remarkably vivid colour and very clear impression, with full to large margins. Perforations partly trimmed by scissors. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2015).

**Only five examples of 20 sen syllabic 1 (i) are believed to exist according to the Yamazaki Yoshiyuki (Narumi 2018) handbook where all the existing examples are illustrated, all with normal “sumi ten” ink spot. Only three examples are sound, of which two are in private hands. One of the greatest gems of Japanese and Asian philately, as well as an “aristocrat” of worldwide rarities. The JHES considers this stamp to be the biggest challenge among all “Tebori” Issues (Hand Engraved Issues 1871-1876) -see 2007 catalogue on page 24-. This value is reported in volume 3 of “Philatelic Gems” by Linn’s. (JSCA ¥30,000,000; Michel 23y plate 1 €260,000).**

*Before the discovery of two previously unknown examples in 1994 (one of them being this lot), four were recorded, of which two are in bad condition. An additional example in the J. H. Crocker collection was destroyed in 1906 in San Francisco, as a consequence of the earthquake and subsequent fire, which devastated the city -fortunately most of his collection of Hawaii escaped from the catastrophe as it was displayed in an international exhibition in London-. Of the two examples in bad condition: one was part of the Mr. Fujio collection and was damaged by sea water in Kamakura (Japan), as a result of a flood following the earthquake of 1923; the other example in bad condition was discovered in the H. G. Fletcher collection in 1927 (which bears the same supplementary black handstamp at top).*

*In the Alfred H. Caspary sale no. 16 (H. R. Harmer, New York, 28-29.10.1958), an example of this stamp was offered as lot 383 “the rarest stamp of Japan”, which was sold for a hammer price of US\$3,600 (not including buyer’s premium), the highest price ever realized to that date for a single stamp of Japan. This stamp nowadays belongs to the Kanai Hiroyuki collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum, Kobe, Japan), and prior to Mr. Caspary, it graced the Stoltz collection.*

**Provenance** (discovered in 1994):

*Takahashi private treaties of 1995 (lot 41), offered at ¥18,000,000*





30202

\*

24 (2)

5'000 - 8'000

1874, 20 sen reddish violet, syllabic 2 (ro), never issued, position 15 with variety consisting in “lightly etched syllabic”, centred to left with fresh impression, part original gum. Minutely thinned at top and short perforation in lower right corner barely detracting. Cert. Philatelic Museum, Foundation (2016).

**An exceedingly scarce example featuring the prominent variety of this value. Illustrated in the volume 2 of the “Gallery of Japanese Stamps” (1990). (JSCA 24 (2) v1-15 ¥2,200,000).**

**Provenance:**

*A. M. Tracey Woodward (H. R. Harmer, London, 26-28.6.1939, lot 630, this being the only example from pos. 15 in his monumental collection)*

*H. G. Fletcher (Robson Lowe London, 11.9.1968, lot 1631)*



30203

\*

24 (2)

6'000 - 10'000

1874, 20 sen reddish violet, syllabic 2 (ro), never issued, centred to left, very fresh lightly hinged with original gum. The least scarce of the three syllabics, still tough rare and sought after. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥2,000,000).

**Note:** *It is believed that this stamp fell into philatelic hands since the Government decided to export sheets to foreign dealers. One full sheet is known, but no other multiples. This example is illustrated in the “Gallery of Japanese Stamps” published in 1990, volume 2, fig. 81.*



30204

S

24 (3)

4'000 - 6'000

1874, 20 sen reddish violet, syllabic 3 (ha), overprinted "Mihon" (specimen), an ideal example boasting a strong shade and outstanding freshness, as well as being very well centred within large margins. Original gum with hinge remnant and very light gum crease. Highly desirable.

**An extremely fine example of this very rare stamp.** *This copy is illustrated in the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps" published in 1990, volume 2, fig. 81. (JSCA ¥2,000,000).*



30205

\*

24 (3)

4'000 - 6'000

1874, 20 sen reddish violet, syllabic 3 (ha), never issued, deep colour and quite well centred for this stamp, cracked original gum with hinge remnants. Mild corner crease of little importance and not mentioned in the certificate. Very fine. Signed Schlesinger, cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥2,000,000).

**Note:** *Some syllabic 3 stamps were also exported by the Government, presumably in lower quantity than the syllabic 2 when considering the number of stamps extant. No multiples are believed to exist.*



30206

\*

25 (1)

1'500 - 2'000

1874, 30 sen grey-black, perforation 11, syllabic 1 (i), originating from the right of the sheet with part selvage, position 8 with variety consisting in "dots missing in NW corner", attractively fine impression, centred displaying complete to large margins, original gum lightly hinged. Very fine.

**A very rare and appealing marginal example exhibiting the scarcest of the three prominent plate flaws reported for this value.** *This is the example chosen to illustrate the 30 sen native paper in the JSCA catalogue (2023). (JSCA 25v-1-8, ¥800,000).*

**Provenance:**

*Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 20.2.1962, lot 328)*



30207

◎

25 (1)

600 - 1'000

1874, 30 sen grey-black, perforation 11, syllabic 1(i), position 12 bearing variety featuring "bottom right cherry blossom top underpetal missing", bold impression and centred to right, cancelled by negative "Y" cancel of Yokohama applied on foreign mail (Nishino-type YH3B), which was into usage in March 1883. Closed tear in upper left corner, still an attractive usage. (JSCA ¥600,000+).

**Provenance:**

*Captain E. J. Allen (Robson Lowe, 24.9.1958, lot 254)*

**1874, Cherry Blossoms, Foreign Paper, without Syllabics (4s, 30s)**

30208

\*

26

250 - 400

1874, 4 sen rose, frame type I (plate 8), perforation 12 ½, usual centring, hinged with part original gum. An attractive example displaying an unusually clear impression. (JSCA ¥130,000).



30209

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27

20'000 - 30'000

1874, 30 sen grey, "butchi" crossed branches, long tool perforation 12 ½, position 28, a very fresh example displaying a fine impression, well centred on three sides, possessing an outstanding original gum with two small hinge remnants. Cert. Philatelic Federation of Japan signed Dr. Sawa (2012).

**Only at most fifteen unused examples are believed to exist, of which only ten are known in decent condition, this standing out for its very fine state of preservation. Illustrated in the volume 2 of the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps", published in 1990. (JSCA ¥6,000,000; Michel 15z €40,000).**

**Provenance:** *Takahashi private treaty of July 2001, lot 205, ¥4,800,000*



30210

\* ◎

27

1'500 - 2'000

1874, 30 sen grey, "butchi" crossed branches, long tool perforation 12 ½, position 11 showing plate variety consisting in broken corner frame at top left, cancelled by Kiban handstamp, probably "ku-7" of Utsunomiya (Kozuke Province). Small crease of little consequence. Very rare and fine. (JSCA ¥1,500,000).

**Provenance:** Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 20.2.1962, lot 273)

### 1874, Cherry Blossoms, Foreign Paper, with Syllabics



30211

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28 (1)

600 - 1'000

1874, ½ sen deep brown, plate 1, syllabic 1 (i), perforation 12 ½, complete sheet of 40, mainly exhibiting well centred designs, strong impression, plate varieties in positions 9, 10, 15, 28, 29, 31 and 37-4, complete sheet margins all around, very fresh original gum and most units never hinged. Vertical perforation opened in centre which has been backed with hinges, intact and well preserved perforations in other respects. Very fine. (JSCA ¥260,000).





30212

\* (\*)

29 (1-4, 6-9)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 1 sen grey-blue, group of eleven unused stamps with syllabics 1-4 and 6-12, hinged with original gum except for syllabics 4, 6 & 8 being without gum. Syllabics 2 and 11 with light tone spots on right margin, syllabic 7 is position 1 showing plate variety, syllabic 6 appears to be imperforate at base but a closer inspection reveals a line of blind perforations. An appealing and useful group including different syllabics. (JSCA ¥460,000).



Yokohama post office, 1873. Postal Museum, Tokyo (Yamaguchi 1987 p. 8).



30213



29 (2)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 1 sen grey-blue, syllabic 2, a very fresh pair on cover front to Paris sent by a member of the French Military Mission, paying the single rate per 7.5 grams to Paris and tied by double circle type N1B1 "Yokohama 7.6.16" (June 16, 1874) cds, in combination with France "Cérès" 5c yellow green, 15c bistre and 80c rose, these three tied by GC "5118" lozenge with associated "Yokohama Bau Francais 16 Juin 74" cds alongside, required to pay the single rate by French packet, in this case being carried by the ship "Menzaleh". Alongside showing Japanese "Degron-kun" type 1 handstamp wording in "Yokohama Honcho 5-chome/Futsukoku Kikyakusen Kaisacho/Degron-kun" (Mr. Degron, Chief of French Mail Ship Co., Honcho 5-chome, Yokohama). Cert. Scheller (2023).

**A very rare and appealing mixed franking, with at most four recorded exhibiting this three-colour French franking, being unique in combination with 1 sen syllabic 2.**

**Note:** The sixteen members of the French Military Mission in Tokyo were exceptionally allowed, as a result of their status, to prepay their correspondence with French and Japanese stamps on the same cover, without using another outer envelope, as regulated by the Japanese "Overseas Postal procedures". The 'Degron-kun' wooden handstamps were produced with the purpose of making its instructional text understandable for Japanese postmen, who could not read a Latin script, and had to deliver the correspondence to Mr. Degron, the Postmaster of the French P.O. at Yokohama. Surviving examples of the "Degron-kun" covers are dated between 1873 and 1877.

**Provenance:** Dr. Tani Takashi



30214

\*

29 (5)

300 - 500

1874, 1 sen grey-blue, syllabic 5, positional variety consisting in a "dot missing in right Kanji sen", very fresh with original gum. Very fine. (JSCA 29 (5) v-1-x, ¥160,000).



30215



29 (5)

800 - 1'200

1874, 1 sen blue in foreign paper, syllabic ho (5), two very fresh examples cancelled by Fujisawa Rikuchi province non-standard negative "Fuji" fancy cancel, applied on reverse of cover, tied on dispatch by "Fujisawa Rikuchu -.2.8" double circle type KG. Alongside showing vermilion double circle KG "Rikuzen Oinokawara -.2.8" in transit and arrival KG "Rikuzen Tomeshi -.2.9.". Envelope with faults at base and bottom (torn on opening), and with full contents. A very desirable cover bearing the scarcest syllabic for this value.

**Note:** The Fujizawa P.O., located in remote Rikuchu, opened in end of 1874. The JSCA catalogue values this syllabic "ho" at more than double the second scarcest syllabic.



30216

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30 (6)

800 - 1'200

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 6 (he), top left corner example with sheet margins, position 1, centred to right, lightly hinged with part original gum. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of the most spectacular examples we have seen.** (JSCA ¥400,000).





30217

\*

30 (7)

800 - 1'200

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 7 (to), bright colour and great freshness, original gum with hinge remnant. A choice example. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥400,000).



30218

✉

30 (8, 14)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 8 (chi), vertical pair, together with syllabic 14 (ka), both tied by "Kiban" i-49 postmark of Yokohama on preprinted registered envelope endorsed "Official Business." & "Consulate of Japan, San Francisco, CAL, U.S.A." addressed "To H.I.J.M. Superintendent of Customs, Custom House, Hakodate, Japan." "Yokohama 8.(1.)7" (Jan. 7, 1875) type N1B1 cds on front, backstamped in transit at Tokyo and Fukushima (7-10 January). Carried at quadruple rate and 4 sen registration fee.

**A very scarce Japanese consular mail forwarded from the United States, probably unique with this franking.**



30219

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30 (10)

1'000 - 1'500

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 10 (nu), unusually vivid colour and strong impression, centred within complete to large margins, part original gum with paper adherence's of a similar stamp on reverse. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**A very fine example of one of the rarest syllabics of the 2 sen.** (JSCA ¥550,000).





30220

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30 (12)

400 - 700

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 12 (wo), very well centred within narrow margins, unused without gum. Two small/tiny holes at top barely detracting from this very rare stamp.

**One of the rarest syllabics of the 2 sen.** (JSCA ¥530,000; Michel €4,200).



30221

(\*)

30 (13)

1'000 - 1'500

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 13 (wa), good deep colour, original gum lightly hinged. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Of one of the rarest syllabics of the 2 sen.** (JSCA ¥500,000).



30222

\*

30 (14)

500 - 700

1874, 2 sen yellow on foreign Esparto paper, Government printing, syllabic 14 (ka), positional pinhole at top right, strong impression, small part of original gum. Small thin spots and 2 mm closed tear barely entering the design at top. Very scarce. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥530,000).



30223

(\*)

30 (16)

400 - 600

1874, 2 sen yellow, Government printing, syllabic 16 (ta) on foreign Esparto paper, sharp impression and radiant colour, unused without gum. Thin spot at top and 3 mm closed tear at top, still though rare and desirable. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥500,000).

## Printed Matter Sent Abroad: the Rarest Type of Foreign Mail



30224



30 (18)

1'500 - 2'000

1874, 2 sen yellow, syllabic 18 (so), tied by large negative cross to printed circular to New York, dated inside "Yokohama, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1875" by Heard & Co., with blue crayon "2" confirmed with "Due 2" marking struck on arrival on front. Two vertical filing folds not affecting the stamp.

**The printed matter is the scarcest type of mail sent abroad, with fewer than ten examples recorded for the whole "Cherry Blossom" issues.**

**A preliminary census of "Cherry Blossom" printed matter mail sent abroad:**

- The example offered here
- Single of 6 sen orange, syllabic 5 'ho', foreign paper, on wrapper from Shanghai to Elmira New York, 1877, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection
- Two examples of 2 sen on wrapper from Kobe to Manchester, 10.3.1875, ex Stanley Berman (lot 691), currently in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Two examples of 1874 1 sen (2), syllabic 5 'ho', foreign paper, with 2 sen (2), syllabic 2 'ro', foreign paper, on wrapper ("three papers", triple rate) from Yokohama to Washington, arrival on 10.3.1875, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection (recording in 2002 just four printed-matter rates sent to a foreign destination)
- Single of 1874 6 sen, syllabic 'ru', western paper, another triple rate from Yokohama to United States, March 1875, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection
- Single of 1875 1 sen brown "ribbon", from Shanghai to United States, 1878, in the Florian Eichhorn collection



30225



30 (22)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 2 sen yellow, Government printing, laid western paper, syllabic 22 (ra), very good centring and unusually well preserved perforations, with cracked original gum lightly hinged. Very fine and desirable. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥530,000).



30226

(\*)

30 (various)

400 - 700

1874, 2 sen yellow, privately made printing plates, syllabics 1 to 5, 8, 9 and 11, unused without gum, except syllabic 8 mounted mint, syllabic 7 with thins which have been backed. A useful group of different syllabics. (JSCA ¥400,000).



30227

(\*)

30 (various)

600 - 1'000

1874, 2 sen yellow, Government printing plates, group of 10 with syllabics 15, 17 to 21, 23; Syllabic 20 in both Esparto and porous paper and the former with positional pinhole; syllabic 21 and 23 both in Esparto and laid paper. All are unused without gum, except syllabics 15, 17 & 21 being mounted mint. The syllabic 18 has backed margins. A scarce group with a good display of syllabics. (JSCA ¥408,000).



30228

◎

30 (various)

300 - 400

1874, 2 sen yellow, privately made printing plates, group of 16 stamps representing all syllabics 1-13 (i - wa), all being corner examples (syllabic 10 without sheet margins), all used except syllabic 2 mint and syllabic 10. Including non-standard postmarks from Sekiyama and Komatsubara, otherwise mostly kibans. A striking group for the amateur of corner examples. (JHES ¥69,000+).



30229

⊙ △

30 (various)

250 - 400

1874, 2 sen yellow, Government printing plates, all syllabics 14-23 (ka-mu), group of 14 stamps pieces including one strip of four and one pair, seven spectacular examples originating from a corner of the sheet (to be highlighted syllabic 19 on piece with Azamai P.O. Ugo Province non-standard marking). Mostly kiban markings; for the amateur of corner examples. (JHES ¥73,000+).



30230

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31 (1)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 4 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), position 1, perforation 11, positional pinhole at upper left, brilliant colour and crisp impression, original gum with hinge remnants at top. Couple of light tone spots not detracting from the freshness. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥520,000).



30231



30232



30233

30231

⊙

31 (1)

250 - 350

1874, 4 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), perforation 11, bottom left positional pinhole, intense deep colour, quite well centred, showing almost complete strike of seven-blade propeller of Hyogo (unrecorded in Nishino's 1985 handbook on foreign markings, but later confirmed for Hyogo on a cover with dated 20 Feb. 1875 dispatch). Scarce and very appealing. (JHES ¥96,000).

30232

⊙

31 (1)

250 - 300

1874, 4 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), perforation 11, positional pinhole at bottom right, centred within good to large margins, cancelled by double cross of Yokohama in blue, (Nishino-type YH75D used in March 1875). Very fine. (JHES ¥96,000).

30233

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32 (10)

150 - 200

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 10 (nu), position 22, very fresh displaying a good centring with the design complete, unused without gum. Very fine. (JSCA ¥100,000).





30234

30235

30234

△

32 (10)

250 - 400

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 10 (nu), very clear impression, cancelled by small golf ball type (Nishino-type seal NS75A), used on piece with large "Nagasaki Apr 26 12 M." cds and the framed "Paid All" single circle in red at left of Nagasaki alongside. Scissors' cut on three sides, barely touching two frame lines.

**One of the earliest usages of Nagasaki's foreign mail.** (JHES ¥170,000).

30235

△

32 (11)

200 - 300

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 11 (ru), a remarkable example from the upper right corner of the sheet, position 8, overprinted "Mihon" (specimen), good centring. Extremely fine. (JHES ¥90,000).



30236

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32 (13)

8'000 - 16'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 13 (wa), radiant colour and crisp impression, original gum with light hinge remnant. Light gum crease only mentioned for accuracy and in no way detracting from this rarity. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Only about a dozen of 6 sen syllabic 13 are believed to exist in unused condition.** (JSCA ¥2,500,000; Michel €22,000).

**Note:** A similar example, presumably emanating from the same horizontal row and also showing part of the frame line of a neighbouring stamp at base, was part of the Dr. Soichi Ichida collection and illustrated in his 1965 handbook on page 229.

**Provenance:** Captain E. J. Allen (Robson Lowe London, 24.9.1958, lot 315)



30237

△

32 (13)

2'000 - 3'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 13 (wa), together on piece with "Old Koban" 4 sen blue-green, each tied by Ikuno type KG cds (5.8, Tajima Province).

**A rare stamp enhanced by the very scarce combination, including the 6 sen violet brown instead of the 6 sen orange.** (JHES ¥900,000).



30238



30240

30238

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32 (14)

150 - 300

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 14 (ka), an example from the lower right corner of the sheet, position 40 with the official pinhole at bottom right, intense impression and relatively well centred, hinged with original gum. A choice piece. (JSCA ¥60,000).



30239

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32 (15)

20'000 - 30'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 15 (yo), very attractive as a result of the very strong colour and impression, hinged with original gum. A renowned rarity in very fine condition.

**One of just nine examples of this syllabic are documented to be in unused condition, of which seven are in private hands.** A great opportunity to obtain this extremely difficult stamp. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥4,000,000; Michel €35,000).

**Provenance:**

*A. M. Tracey Woodward (H. R. Harmer, London, 26-28.6.1939, lot 590)*

*King Carol of Romania*

**Census:**

- *The example presented here*
- *Centred to right and narrow at left, ex Robert Levy, in the Kanai Hiroyuki collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)*
- *Centred a bit to top and left, "slightly thinned", ex A. M. Tracey Woodward (lot 591)*
- *Centred to bottom right, gum spots at top, in the Ota Katsumi collection*
- *Centred to left, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection*
- *Centred to left with portion of neighbouring stamp visible at bottom right, in the Mitsui Bunko Foundation Museum*
- *Very fine centring, part original gum, (Narumi 42<sup>nd</sup> auction, lot 55, Japex 1999)*
- *Centred with narrow margins at left and right, plate scratch at top, "washed and a little thinned" (RPSL cert.), ex Olgiero Koreywo (Kanai Stamp Co., Dec. 1978, lot 697)*
- *Centred to left, "small thin spot", ex Alfred H. Caspary (H. R. Harmer, 28.10.1958, lot 475)*

30240

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32 (15)

300 - 600

1875, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 15 (yo), perforation 11s:11, as usual slightly irregular perfs but exceptionally centred, cancelled by indistinct inland postmark. Very faint traces or rust in few perforations. Scarce and fine. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥210,000).

**Provenance:** *H. G. Fletcher (Robson Lowe London, 11.9.1968, lot 1648)*



30241

30242

30241

⊙

32 (15)

100 - 150

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 15 (yo), well-inked impression, cancelled with "kiban" postmark. Tiny repair at left of "6" at top. (JHES ¥90,000).

30242

⊙

32 (16)

200 - 300

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 16 (ta), three used examples: plate 2 position 33, with bottom left corner sheet margins and cancelled by Hyogo foreign mail cancel (Nishino type HG75B) and red cds of Yokohama; plate 1, position 18 with plate variety featuring sen character incomplete, with unidentified double circle; plate 1 position 40, with lower right corner sheet margins and used with Hyogo foreign mail cancel of February 1875. A very appealing trio. (JHES ¥88,000).



30243

✉

32 (17)

5'000 - 7'000

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 17 (re), pair from the left of the sheet positions 17-18, tied by blue asterisk of Yokohama, Nishino-type YH75E, to treaty port envelope to Nagasaki endorsed "per S. S. Golden age". Blue "Yokohama Apr 21 4 P.M." and circular "Paid All" handstamp in red alongside, large "Nagasaki Apr 26 6 A.M." cds on arrival.

An appealing correspondence between Chinese merchants with a Chinese-style cover with corresponding seals and writing, displaying an extremely fresh franking. **Certainly amongst the highest rates recorded on a treaty post cover.** A well-known example which has been illustrated in several articles. (JSCA ¥500,000).

**Provenance:**

Maurice Burrus (Kanai Stamp Co., 12.10.1963, lot 322)



30244

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32 (18)

150 - 200

1874, 6 sen violet brown, syllabic 18 (so), top left marginal corner-sheet example from position 1, unused mounted mint, top margin perforation line reinforced with hinge, very fresh original gum. An impressive piece. (JSCA ¥50,000).



Front

Reverse

30245

✉

32 (18); SE5a

800 - 1'200

1874, 6 sen slate-purple, syllabic so (18), tied by Kiban "i-u 16" (Hizen province, Nagasaki) numeral on reverse of Cherry Blossom stationery envelope, showing on front 2 sen yellow, syllabic i (1), also tied by numeral hs on dispatch and with KB1 "Nagasaki Hizen -5.10" cds alongside, with red handwriting below value indicating the registration, with type N2B2 arrival 10.5.16 (May 16, 1877) in Tokyo applied to registered mail. Horizontal crease to envelope and far from the franking. In unusually fresh condition for this native long envelope. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2003).

**Note:** The 6 sen paid the registration fee. The envelope was addressed to the company Nipposha, publisher of "Tokyo Nichinichi" newspaper (predecessor of present day "Tokyo Mainichi").





30246

\* ◎ S

33 (2)

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 10 sen green, syllabic 2 (ro), **sheet reconstruction of 40**, comprising seven unused, two specimens of position 15 with "Mihon" overprint and position 35 with ink-dot overprint ("sumi-ten"), otherwise used with mostly foreign mail or "kiban" postmarks. Exhibiting plate varieties in positions 18, 24 & 40. A difficult assemblage. (JSCA cat. ca. ¥648,000).



30247

◎ △

33 (2)

100 - 150

1874, 10 sen green, syllabic 2 (ro), two examples from positions 1 and 40, the former with corner sheet margins and cancelled by large intaglio foreign-mail cross of Yokohama (Nishino type YH76B, still preserving its full original gum; the latter, with small thin spot, showing "bottom left cherry blossom underpetal missing at right" variety, also cancelled by type YH76B. A very attractive duo. (JHES ¥50,000).



30248



33 (2)

3'000 - 5'000

1874, 10 sen yellow green, syllabic ro (2), proof-like impression, used on July 10, 1876 cover from Yokohama to Lyon (France, Raud-Duplay-Balay correspondence), tied by large golf ball foreign mail cancel (Nishino type YH 76D), with large red "Yokohama Jul 11 Paid All" cds at left, displaying transits of San Francisco (black) and New York (red) alongside, as well as two-line "5. Cent." due marking at left for the U.S. credit, with blue merchants cachet "J. Raud & Co. Yokohama (Japon)" and Paris transit cds on back. A delightful foreign mail cover.



"Picture of Opening of Yokohama Post Office", colour woodcut by Hiroshige III, January 1875. It depicts the evening party on Jan. 5 with Ito Hirobumi, US consul Hiram Bingham, and Japanese navy band giving musical entertainment (Hashimoto 1986 pp. 144-145).





30249

\* © S

33 (2), 19, 29 (9)

2'000 - 4'000

1874, 10 sen green, syllabic 2 (ro), together with 4 sen rose, native paper, and 1 sen blue, syllabic 9 (ri), used on reverse of envelope from Tokyo addressed to the Japanese Vice Consul Tomita in New York for onward transmission, each cancelled by unclear negative inland handstamp of Tokyo, showing on reverse "Tokyo 8.2.24" (Feb. 24, 1875) double circle datestamp (type N1B1). Obverse with transit "Yokohama Feb 26 6 A.M." cds in blue tying part of the franking and "Paid all" within red circle adjacent, San Francisco March 25<sup>th</sup> cds in red at lower left. Cover opened for display.

**A very appealing and rare three-colour franking on cover dispatched during the second month of Japan's foreign mail service.**

**Note:** In 1875 Japan and United States concluded a Postal Exchange Treaty. From 1875 1.1. to 1875 12.31 the ship mail charge was established at 15 sen.



30250

☉ (\*)

33 (3)

250 - 400

1874, 10 sen green, syllabic 3 (ha), porous cotton paper, two very fresh examples, including one with perforation 11, unused without gum; the other printed on wove paper, perforation 12 ½: 11, cancelled by full strike of "kiban" (i-to) No. 7 circular handstamp of Tsuyama P.O. (Mimasaka Province). Some faults, but of great appearance. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥210,000).



30251

✉

34 (5)

4'000 - 8'000

1874, 20 sen deep reddish violet, syllabic 5, intense shade and strong impression, tied by large "Nagasaki Nov. 11 12. M. Japan" cds on neat small-size blue envelope (portion of back flap missing) to Northampton, England. Adjacent showing large vermillion "Yokohama Nov. 12 Paid All" cds, with on back clear transit "San Francisco Dec. 5 Paid All" and bold Northampton arrival. Small closed tears at top of the envelope, just mentioned for accuracy and in no way detracting.

**A splendid example of an exceedingly scarce single franking.** (JSCA ¥1,500,000).





30252

◎ (\*)

35

300 - 400

1874, 30 sen grey, syllabic 1 (i), nine examples presented on exhibition page, including position 33 unused without gum, positions 8, 12, 19 & 20, used with varieties. Postmarks mostly being foreign mail examples and with single showing complete seriffed "SHIP" straight line.



30253

◎ (\*)

35

1'000 - 2'000

1874, 30 sen grey, syllabic 1 (i), **reconstruction of complete sheet of 40** by used singles with mostly Yokohama and some Hyogo foreign mail cancels. Includes all the positional varieties for positions 2-38 (JSCA more than ¥760,000).

## A Unique 30 Sen Multiple on Foreign Mail



30254



35

8'000 - 12'000

1874, 30 sen grey, syllabic 1 (i), horizontal pair displaying an intense impression, tied by two strikes of large negative cross cancel (Nishino-type YH751) to 1875 cover from Yokohama to London, with double circle "Yokohama Paid All Sep 25" below. San Francisco (Oct. 18) cds, "15 Cents" two-line credit hs as U.S. credit and arrival cds (Nov. 8) on obverse, all struck in red, backstamped in transit at New York. Cover flap toned and filing fold away from stamps, of no significance for this extraordinary showpiece.

**A spectacular and most infrequent sextuple overseas rate. Only five covers with a multiple of the highest Cherry Blossom denomination are recorded, this being unique used without additional franking on foreign mail. As a proof of the rarity of this stamp, about 14 covers are documented exhibiting this value.**

#### Census of 30 sen multiples on cover:

- The example presented here
- 30 sen pair on 30.1.1875 cover from Yokohama to London, uprated with Foreign Paper 1 sen & 2 sen (ex Takahashi P.T. of 2001)
- 30 sen pair on 12.7.1875 cover from Yokohama to London (same correspondence), uprated with "Birds" 12 sen & 15 sen (ex Stanley Berman, today in the Ota Katsumi collection)
- 30 sen strip of three and two singles 28.11.1878, registered from Nagasaki to Hamburg, Yigal Nathaniel collection
- 30 sen pair, 10 sen, 2 sen pair, 18.7.1875, from Yokohama to London, ex Fukuhara Kazunobu collection



## 1875, Bird Design Stamps



30256

30255

30255

S

36-38

500 - 700

1875, 12 sen, 15 sen and 45 sen, syllabic 1 (i), complete set of three with ink-dot specimen ("Sumiten"), affixed to Government Notification No. 1 by Council of State, with pre-printed text reading "Postage stamps 45s 15s 12s of three kinds per samples at left have been issued in Meiji 8<sup>th</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> month 1<sup>st</sup> day, which is notified hereby / Meiji 8.1.4 / Chancellor of the Realm Sanjo Tsunetomi". Very fine and rare.

30256

\* 田

36 (1)

2'500 - 3'000

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), vertical block of ten, positions 1-2 / 9-10 / 17-18 / 25-26 / 32-33, thus originating from the left of the sheet and including the two first columns, very appealingly presented with sheet margins on three sides, with original gum lightly mounted mint, but including four examples never hinged. **Of outstanding freshness and great delight.** (JHES ¥745,000).





30257

\* 田

36 (1)

8'000 - 12'000

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 1(i), **unused complete sheet of 40**, exhibiting the delightful design and attractive pastel shade with overall freshness, preserving the sheet margins, including constant plate flaw in position 21 featuring "diamond missing in NE". Backed with thin tissue paper as protection and small stain probably from gum in position 9, with hinge paper reinforcement horizontally along perforations at top. Superb fresh colour.

A very rare and visually impressive showpiece of this popular stamp. (JSCA ¥4,000,000).

**Provenance:**

*Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 20.2.1962, lot 559)*

*Bernard Peyton ("Isleham", Robert A. Siegel, 25.5.1986, lot 3112)*



30258

◎

36 (1)

300 - 400

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), two used examples possessing “Oriental Bank Corporation / Yokohama” double oval embossing. One example with 1mm hole in centre. A very desirable and scarce variety. (JHES ¥200,000).

**Note:** *The Oriental Bank Corporation embossing was the first security marking used on Japanese stamps. It has been reported on “Tebori” and some “Old Koban” stamps.*



30259

△

36 (1)

150 - 200

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), very fresh and well centred, used on fragment of cover with black inland cancel, accompanied by N1B1 “Tokyo 9.1.9” (Jan. 9, 1876) double circle at left, showing large “Yokohama Jan 10 / (bar) / Japan” cds and tied by “San Francisco Jan 31” cds. A very interesting usage featuring the short-lived 12 sen rate to United States, which was into force during just three months from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1876; the “Bird” 12 sen was issued with the purpose of paying this rate.



The new Yokohama post office, opened 5 January of 1875. Postal Museum, Tokyo (Yamaguchi 1987 p. 8).



30260



36 (1)

4'000 - 6'000

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 1 (i), together with with "Old Koban" 2 sen olive, right sheet-margin example, both applied on reverse of western-style registered express envelope from Yokohama to Tokyo Kanda district, with the back flap showing a typical 1860's-1870's embossing of a girdle with belt buckle, cancelled (2 sen) and tied (12 sen) by negative cross handstamp, with Yokohama KB2 cds of Musashi -.7.2 at bottom right, struck on arrival with Tokyo N2B2 cds 11.7.2 (Gregorian July 2, 1878) at right of the 12s bird. Sender's handwriting stating "Meiji 11th year 7th month 2nd day AM 6." in red, and additionally stating "arrived AM 6.55", also handwritten in red, so the time in transit was less than one hour, as this cover conveniently caught an early train on its journey. Tokyo framed delivery handstamp indicating a second delivery (bingo "ro"), denoting that it was delivered somewhat later on that forenoon. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JHES ¥1,500,000+).

**Inland usages of the "Bird" issues are extremely rare.**

**Note:** The 14 sen franking correctly paid the single weight letter rate including 2 sen for postage, 6 sen registration fee and 6 sen for the special delivery service to Saikyo. From 1876.1.1, registration was compulsory for special delivery ("betsu haitatsu", inland express).

**Provenance:** Dr. Tani Takashi





30261



30262



30261

(\*)

36 (3)

800 - 1'500

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 3 (ha), a fresh and quite well centred example within ample margins, unused without gum. Light perforation crease circumscribed to the margin in bottom right corner. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023)

**Notably the scarcest syllabic of this denomination.** (JSCA ¥750,000).

30262

◎

36 (3)

1'000 - 2'000

1875, 12 sen rose, syllabic 3 (ha), with plate variety consisting in **“three lines missing in double circle”** at top right, quite well centred, cancelled by Yokohama negative initial handstamp used for foreign mail, probably being Nishino YH84B type of 1884. A sheet position has not been so far established for this variety. Very fine and fresh. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**This variety is only recorded in used condition, with just five examples known**, three single and a pair. It was only discovered in September of 1991 (JSCA 36 ha (3) v-1-x ¥300,000).

**Provenance:** *Dr. Tani Takashi*



30263



30264

30263

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37 (1)

150 - 200

1875, 15 sen violet syllabic 1 (i), an impressive example from the lower left corner of the sheet with selvages, position 33, outstandingly fresh, lightly hinged with original gum. An extremely fine choice example. (JSCA ¥70,000).

30264

◎

37 (1)

200 - 300

1875, 15 sen violet, syllabic 1(i), cancelled by “crossroads” handstamp of Hyogo (Nishino type HG75A), used on piece showing large “Yokohama Jan 8 8 P.M.” cds at left, **on the first day of foreign mail dispatch from Japan**, and tied by red “San Francisco Jan 31 Paid all” cds in transit. Piece cut to shape. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**The earliest recorded usage of a “Bird” 15 sen.**

**Provenance:** *Dr. Tani Takashi*



30265

\* 田

37 (1)

8'000 - 12'000

1875, 15 sen violet, syllabic 1(i), **unused complete sheet of 40**, of great visual impact as a result of its vivid colour and detailed impressions, including various units with excellent in the lower horizontal rows. Tissue paper interleaving adhering to back for a better preservation. Extremely fine.

**A very rare and spectacular exhibition item of delightful quality with a notable freshness out of the norm.** (JSCA ¥3,000,000).

**Provenance:**

*Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 20.2.1962, lot 560)*

*Bernard Peyton ("Isleham", Robert A. Siegel, 25.5.1986, lot 3113)*

## The Handwritten “Kakiju” Retouch



30266

\*

37 (2)

10'000 - 15'000

1875, 15 sen violet, syllabic 2 (ro), position 5 featuring “handwritten 10 (+)” (“kaki-zyu”) variety, good impression and deep shade clearly exhibiting this extraordinary variety, hinged with original gum being cracked as usually encountered. Very fine. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2015).

**Only about five unused examples recorded of this fascinating hand-retouched error.** (JSCA 37 2 (ro) v-1-5-r, ¥2,500,000).

**Note:** In position 5 the “kanji” character for “10” was omitted at right and later retouched. In most of the already printed sheets the missing character was precariously inserted by hand. The error occurred in the earliest printing and was discovered shortly after; as a matter of fact, the omission and the corrections inserted by hand only appear on examples in grayish shade, which is distinctive of the very early printing.



30267

⊙

37 (2)

6'000 - 10'000

15 sen violet, syllabic 2 (ro), position 5 featuring “handwritten 10” (“kaki-ju”) variety, very fresh, cancelled by negative “crossroads” cancel used on external mail. Very fine. Cert. Philatelic Museum Expert Committee (2015), Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Of this famous hand-retouched error, only about a dozen examples have been recorded in used condition.** (JSCA 37 2 (ro) v-1-5-r, ¥2,000,000).

**Note:** In position 5 the “kanji” character for “10” was omitted at right and later retouched. In most of the already printed sheets the missing character was precariously inserted by hand. The error occurred in the earliest printing and was discovered shortly after; as a matter of fact, the omission and the corrections inserted by hand only appear on examples in grayish shade, which is distinctive of the very early printing.





30268



37 (3)

5'000 - 8'000

1875, bird 15 sen violet, syllabic 3 (ha), on envelope from Yokohama to Philadelphia (United States), tied by foreign registered mail "R" intaglio cancel, with octagonal violet "Registered Yokohama Apr 7 1882" alongside, reverse with San Francisco transit (April 22) and arrival (April 30) datestamps. Cert. F. Eichhorn BPP (2022).

**Single frankings featuring the syllabic 3 on foreign mail are considerably scarcer than those with syllabic 1 and 2. Undoubtedly one of the most attractive covers known bearing the very rare 15 sen syllabic 3, with only three recorded according to our research (of which one in a museum).**

**Note:** The 15 sen rate includes 5 sen for foreign postage and 10 sen for registration fees. The special "R" negative postmark of Yokohama was into force from 1880 to 1883 and was applied on outgoing correspondence; it is interesting to note that we found another cover in the "Birds" Issue with this cancellation, also franked with a 15 sen, but syllabic 2, and addressed to the U.S. (Robson Lowe, 28.1.1970, lot 1204).

**Our census of covers bearing the "Bird" 15 sen syllabic 3 (ha):**

- The example presented here
- Single franking, 22.3.1883, Yokohama to New York, ex Yamada Yuji, to be offered in the "Meiji" Property auction sale - Part II
- Single franking, 23.10.1883, registered from Shanghai to Nagasaki, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Single with "Bird" 45 sen, "Cherry Blossom" 20 sen and "Koban" 2 sen, 11.2.1882, registered from Yokohama to Bavaria (Germany), Christoph Gärtner auction (30.5.2016, lot 119)



30269

30269

\* 田 / 172

38 (1)

700 - 1'200

1875, 45 sen rose-carmine, syllabic 1(i), a remarkable top left corner block of four with sheet margins almost complete, positions 1-2 / 9-10, strong shade and crisp impression, lightly hinged with original gum. Horizontal perforations separated at left and small tear at left not detracting.

A very rare and desirable positional block of four. (JSCA ¥360,000).



30270

\* 田

38 (1)

10'000 - 15'000

1875, 45 sen rose-carmine, syllabic 1 (i), **complete sheet of 40** which appears to have been completed by the addition of positions 1 and "(this characteristic being omitted in the Robert A. Siegel "Isleham" sale of 1986), displaying numerous examples with an outstandingly good centring, deep and sharp impression resulting in an overall phenomenal freshness, exhibiting plate varieties in positions 12, 32, 37 and 39. Very fresh cracked original gum with thin paper reinforcements along some perforations. A really minor imperfection with a small rub in the south east corner example, otherwise superb.

A very rare and desirable sheet of the highest denomination in this very early issue of worldwide philately depicting birds. (JSCA ¥3,500,000).

**Provenance:**

*Robert Levy (Robson Lowe, 20.2.1962, lot 561)*

*Bernard Peyton ("Isleham", Robert A. Siegel, 25.5.1986, lot 3115)*



### The Unique "Bird" 45 Sen Cover from Korea and Sent Registered Abroad



Nagasaki post office, 1875. Postal Museum, Tokyo (Yamaguchi 1987 p. 9).





Detail

30271

✉ / 174-175

38 (1), 71, 80

15'000 - 25'000

1875, 45 sen rose-carmine, syllabic 1 (j), perforation 11, position 19, in combination with "Old Koban" 10 sen blue and "UPU Koban" 5 sen dull blue (torn), used on registered cover to Stockholm, Sweden, redirected inland to Loftahammar, pre-printed with "On His Corean Majesty's Service." and "Foreign Office, Seoul." endorsements. Each stamp tied by negative "N" initial handstamp of Nagasaki applied on foreign mail, with associated large "Nagasaki Jun 18" cds and red framed "R" alongside, with transit backstamps including "San Francisco Jul 10 1884", "New York 7-19 1884", Swedish T.P.O. cds on 31 July and arrival at Stockholm on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Filing fold at right not affecting the franking. Certs Philatelic Federation of Japan, signed by Dr. Sawa (2014), Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Note:** *The 60 sen postage included 50 sen to pay the U.P.U. rate corresponding to the quintuple weight, and the additional 10 sen for the U.P.U. registration fee. The envelope, despite being endorsed "On His Majesty's Service", was dispatched when Korea had not established its first national postal service yet, as it started four months after this cover was mailed. Consequently this cover was carried privately to Nagasaki, to be posted in Japan for onward transmission.*

**Only eight covers are recorded bearing the highest denomination of the "Bird" Issue**, of which one is not complete and another one, with incomplete franking, is in a museum; consequently **only six are complete. This example must be regarded as the most significant bearing the 45 sen for the following reasons: a unique cover originating from abroad, one of just three known being registered (being unique with syllabic 1), as well as one of three sent abroad - only two are documented with the combination of the postal registration and the external destination.**

**This item may be also regarded as a forerunner of the Korean postal service and one of the most significant items of Korean postal history.**

#### Census of the "Bird" 45 sen covers:

- *The example presented here*
- *Single syllabic 1 with "Cherry Blossom" 1 sen & 2 sen (2) (missing stamps incl. one "Bird" 15 sen), part cover front, 1875, locally posted in Yokohama, ex Agathon Fabergé*
- *Single syllabic 1 with "Cherry Blossom" 5 sen & 20 sen, 2.6.1878, Yokohama to Shanghai, in the Ota Katsumi collection*
- *Single syllabic 1 with "Cherry Blossom" 6 sen and "Old Koban" 1s sen & 2 sen, 11.1879, sent to Tokyo, ex H. G. Fletcher*
- *Single syllabic 1 with "Old Koban" 1 sen and 10 sen, ca.1878, Wakayama to Tanabe, ex Henry W. Moser*
- *Single syllabic 1 used on 1876 registered cover, Tokyo to Berlin/Germany, in an anonymous collection, Germany*
- *Block of five syllabic 1, with "Cherry Blossom" 20 sen and missing stamps, 1884, Yokohama to Berlin, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)*
- *Single syllabic 2 with "small size Cherry Blossom" 20 sen, "Birds" 15 sen and "Old Koban" 2 sen violet, 11.2.1882, registered from Yokohama to Bavaria, Christoph Gaertner auction May 30 2016, lot 119*
- *Single syllabic 2 with "Old Koban" 5 sen, 30.4.1887, registered inland from Tokyo-Azabu to Usuki, Bungo province*

## 1875, Cherry Blossoms Changed Colours, without Syllabics (1s, 4s)



30272

\*\*\* 田

39 30'000 - 40'000

1875, 1 sen brown, crossed branches "butchi", perforation 11m, a marginal block of four from the bottom of the sheet, positions 27-38 / 35-36, good centrings within clear to large margins, great freshness overall, possessing immaculate original gum which is only very slightly disturbed by a very small hinge remnant. In superb condition. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Only about five unused blocks are recorded. An exceptional multiple of this stamp, being already very difficult to find as single example.** (JSCA ¥5,000,000; Michel €48,000+).

**Note:** This block originates from a unique complete sheet which was part of the collections formed by A. M. Tracey Woodward and F. J. Peplow. After the sale of the Peplow collection in 1970, the sheet was split into multiples. A surviving block of 20 is the largest block recorded, with blocks of four being the second largest. Two different blocks of four were offered by Takahashi by private treaty in 1995 and 2001, priced at ¥5,500,000 (€38,000) and ¥5,800,000 (€40,000) respectively.

**Provenance (as complete sheet):**

A. M. Tracey Woodward (H. R. Harmer, London, 26-28.6.1939, lot 842)

F. J. Peplow (H. R. Harmer N.Y., 16.3.1970, lot 111, "one of the outstanding pieces in Japanese philately" and being the title cover illustration of the sale)



30273

☉

39

150 - 200

1875,1 sen brown, perforation 11:11s, position 32, a well centred example cancelled by clear strike of Kiban ki-1 of Tsuruga P.O. (Echizen Province). Tiny closed tear at top. A very fine usage. (JSCA ¥75,000).



30274

✉

39

500 - 800

1875,1 sen brown, two examples cancelled with "Zeifusoku" handstamp in red denoting insufficient postage, applied as postage due on 1 sen blue folded stationery card, cancelled by "Kiban" ne-14 from the Kobe P.O. (Settsu Province), addressed to a location near Amagasaki, with corresponding double type KG -.5.5 cds on reverse. Card with insect damage at bottom left and slightly reduced, with some very small tone spots. The address "Owari Province Chita District / Nishinoura Uchiumi" was located out of the Amagasaki regular delivery circuit, consequently it was underpaid by 1 sen for the delivery charge, so 2 sen had to be paid as postage due. A scarce usage. (JSCA ¥300,000).





30275



40 (7, 8)

300 - 400

1875, 4 sen green, frame type I, choice group of five stamps including: plate 7, corner sheet-margin pair from positions 39-40 and cancelled with “Kiban” chi-1 handstamp of Kofu, and position 12, “underpetals missing of kiku crest”, used with large Nagasaki cds; as well as plate 8, two examples, position 40 with corner sheet margins showing “Kiban” cancel, and position 13, with “incomplete engraving” plate variety. (JHES ¥137,000).



30276

\* (\*)

40 (7, 13)

200 - 300

1875, 4 sen green, two examples, one with frame type I originating from plate 7, perforation 10, unused without gum; the other, frame type II, plate 13, position 22, has large part original gum with small thin spot at top and faint crease. (JSCA ¥120,000).



30277



40 (13)

300 - 500

1875, 4 sen green, frame type II, plate 13, position 24, impressively fresh, neatly showing an early non-standard postmark of Noda (Shimosa Province). Round corner at top right. A very good strike.

**Few non-standard postmarks have been reported to have been used on the 4 sen “butchi”.** (JHES ¥230,000).



30278

◎

40 (13, 14)

250 - 350

1875, 4 sen green, frame type II, choice group of four used stamps including: plate 13, pair with corner sheet margins from bottom right, cancelled by "Kiban" chi-1 handstamp of Kofu (Kai Province); plate 14, two examples showing "crossroads" mute cancel used for foreign mail. A very fine group. (JHES ¥111,000).



30279



30281

30279

✉

40 (14), 30 (21)

250 - 400

1875, 4 sen green, frame type II, plate 14, together with 2 sen yellow, syllabic 21 (na), both displaying sheet margin and used on reverse of registered cover to Gifu, tied by "Kiban" chi-1 handstamp of Kofu P.O. (Kai Province), struck below with type KG -.6.17 cds and similar type on arrival also alongside. The 4 sen paid the inland registration fee, in force in Meiji 8-9 (1875/76). Very fine.



30280



40

1'500 - 2'000

1875, 4 sen deep grey-green, crossed branches "butchi", used on double weight folded wrapper from Nagasaki to Yokohama, carried by ship as treaty port mail, sent by L. Kniffler & Co. to its Yokohama branch, tied by large "Nagasaki Sep 23 2 P.M." cds, with framed vermilion "PAID ALL" circle, backstamped with "Yokohama Paid All Sep 28" cds in red. Small surface scuff in upper left corner of the stamp and rough separation at right. A very clean and fresh cover. (JHES ¥350,000).

**An extremely rare example of a Roman-Letter postmark on a domestic mail**, as this type, according to the postal rules, had to be applied on mail sent abroad only.

**Provenance:** Michael Eugene Ruggiero (Dynasty Auctions, 13.4.2014, lot 2872)

### 1875, Cherry Blossoms Changed Colours/Sizes, with Syllabics

30281

S / 179

41-48

300 - 500

1875, ½ sen, 4 sen, 6 sen, 10 sen, 20 sen and 30 sen, the complete set exhibiting each with ink-dot specimen mark ("sumiten"), all affixed to page of Government Notification No. 16 reading: "Among these postage stamps (½ -30 sen) seven kinds per samples at left have been revised, which is notified hereby. But the gluing and acceptance of formerly received items is not to be stopped / Meiji 8.2.4 / Chancellor of the Realm Sanjo Tsunetomi"; in the second sentence indicating that previous issues were still valid. (JSCA ¥200,000).

**Note:** On 10 October 1874, the Ministry of the Treasury Printing Bureau suggested to change the colours of the stamps. Ekytei-ryo agreed it, so on 12 November 1874 the Government decided to change colours and new stamps were issued on 4 February 1875.





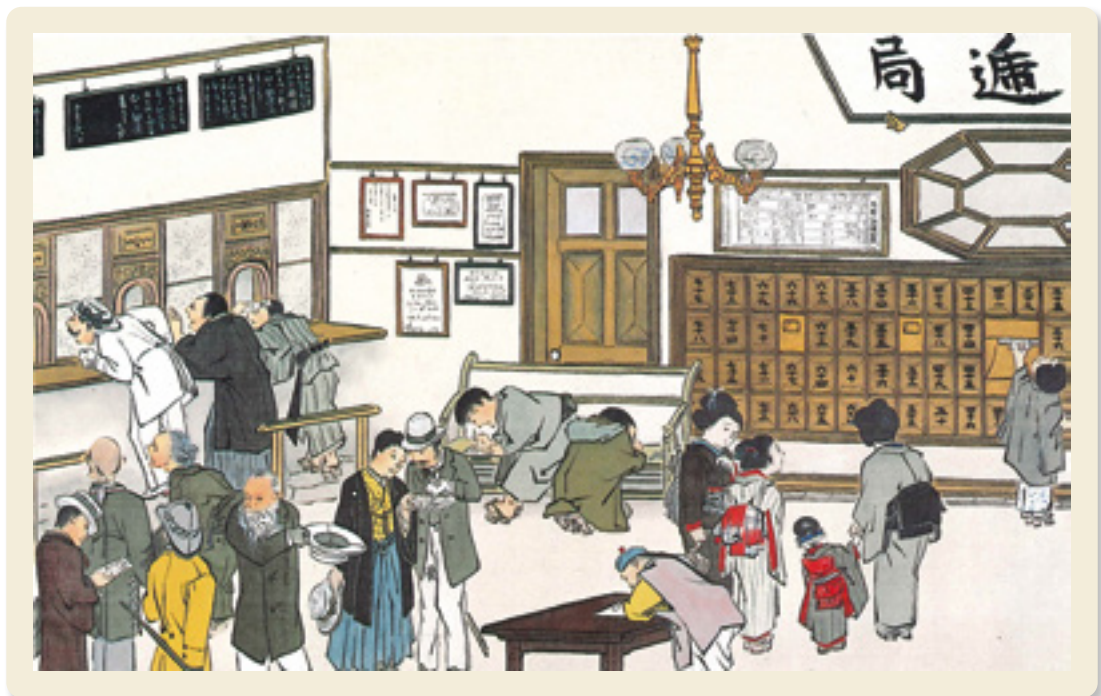
30282

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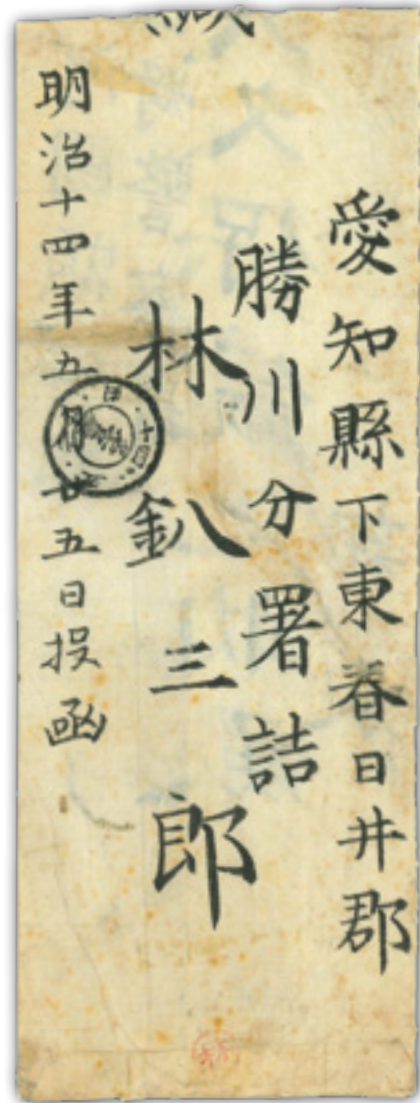
41 (3)

600 - 900

1875, ½ sen black, syllabic 2 (ro), plate1, perforation 11s:11, complete sheet of 40, good centring displaying complete designs, sheet margins all around, with original gum and the vast majority never hinged. Very fine and fresh. (JSCA ¥220,000).



"Mail Handling", one of the large posters prepared for the New Orleans World Exposition held from December, 1884, until May, 1885, by Shibata Shinsai, 1884. Shown is the General Post Office Tokyo in the latter 1870s. At left Japanese and foreign customers at the postal counters, also a Chinese at the desk (bottom centre) writing a letter. Notifications and rate tables on the wall in centre, private post boxes at right. Postal Museum, Tokyo (Yamaguchi 1987 p. 138).



30283



41 (3)

250 - 400

1875, ½ sen black, syllabic 3 (ha), plate 2, an irregular block of four, positions 17 / 25 / 33-34, displaying corner sheet margins, tied by "Katsukawa" type KG double circle (Owari Province), on large cover (reduced at top) to Okazaki (Mikawa Province). Dated by the sender on reverse on Meiji 14.5.25 (25.5.1881), with on reverse type N2B2 of Nagoya cds on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The blocks features the "missing stroke in character yu" plate variety in position 33 (JSCA (3)-v-2-33). This corner multiple scarcely exhibits the "tonbo" lines (sheet cutting guidelines) on the selvage.



30284



42 (5)

150 - 250

1875, 1 sen brown, syllabic 5 (ho), position 33, wove western wove paper, good centring, hinged with original gum. Slight gum corner crease at lower left not detracting from the great freshness. (JSCA ¥75,000).

## The Unused Plate Variety of 1 Sen Syllabic 7



30285

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42 (7)

30'000 - 40'000

1875, 1 sen brown, syllabic 7 (to), wove western paper, position 40 possessing typical positional pinhole in bottom left corner (type D), exhibiting the plate variety consisting in "left panel with kanji sen featuring lower stroke missing at right", with original gum lightly hinged. Very fine. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of just five to seven examples recorded of this syllabic in unused condition -including one in a museum. This stamp, in contrast to the others, exhibits a prominent plate variety (JSCA 42 (7)v-x-40); the JSCA catalogue indicates this variety to be featured in position 40, confirmed by this example with type D pinhole position at lower left, being only possible in the bottom right corner of the sheet. (JSCA ¥4,500,000 without the plate variety, but unpriced "-" with the plate flaw; Michel €40,000+).**

**Census of 5 out of 7 known** (according to Yamada Yuji seven are recorded, but we could only confirm five):

- *The example presented here*
- *Centred to left, illustrated by Dr. Ichida in his 1965 handbook on page 281, in the Yigal Nathaniel collection (ex Ollerstad -"Swedish Sailor Stamp"-, Dr. Ichida and Shirai)*
- *Centred to bottom, thinned and left corner defective, in the Ota Katsumi collection (ex Woodward)*
- *Centred to left, in the Kanai collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum), presumably being the other "Swedish Sailor Stamp" which formed the pair (together with the above-mentioned example in the Nathaniel collection), in the Bertil Ollerstad collection*
- *Centred to right, sheet margin at right, illustrated in the vol. 2 of "Gallery of Japanese Stamps", ex Fukuhara*



## The Finest Unused Example Extant of Only Six 1 Sen Syllabic 8 Recorded



30286

\*

42 (8)

40'000 - 60'000

1875, 1 sen brown, syllabic 8 (chi), wove western paper, the spectacular example from the lower right corner of the sheet, position 40 displaying sheet margins, with the design intact, untouched by the perforations, possessing very fresh original gum which is slightly cracked and with a very slight hinge mark. A magnificent example. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of the “Swedish Sailor Stamps”, the finest unused example recorded of this stamp, unique with corner sheet margins. Six examples of this stamp are known, with five being in private hands.** (JSCA ¥6,500,000; Michel €60,000).

### Note on the “Swedish Sailor Stamps”:

*By a certain point in time, the posts stocks of “Cherry Blossom” 1 sen brown, syllabics 7 and 8, had been completely exhausted. Apparently nothing was exported to foreign stamp dealers or sold to local philatelists, so surviving unused examples had to come from customers remainders.*

*In 1939, the auction sale of the Woodward collection included one unused example of each syllabic. In the 1958 auction sale of the Caspary collection, the syllabic 8 from the Woodward collection reemerged.*

*When in the early 1960s the collection of Mr. Bertil Ollerstad was auctioned, it was a great sensation to find two “extremely fresh” pairs with full gum of both syllabics (ex-singles illustrated in Dr. Ichida’s handbook of 1965 on page 281). These were soon separated into singles and went into the collections of Dr. Ichida and a U.S. collector (reference by Dr. Ichida, 1965 as above.).*

*In 1958, Bertil Ollerstad privately published his book “Handbok över Japans äldre frimärken” (Swedish, 61 pages), which displayed illustrations of items from his collection, including these stamps. Due to the language and its nature as private publication, this discovery did not become widely known. Once “The Ollerstad Find” became public, research was undertaken. It appears that these pairs were provided by Mr. Ollerstad’s grandfather, who was a sailor onboard a Swedish ship which called at Yokkaichi (Japan) in the summer of 1875. He probably bought these pairs as souvenir at the local post office.*

*By 2023, the number of recorded unused copies still stands at seven for syllabic 7 (to), and six for syllabic 8 (chi).*

### Provenance:

Bertil Ollerstad

Dr. Ichida Soichi

Shirai Tsugumi

### Census:

- The example presented here
- Centred to bottom left with few tone spots, position 10, in the Ota Katsumi collection
- Centred to left, sheet margin at right, position 24, in the Kanai Hiroyuki collection (The Philatelic Culture Museum)
- Centred to left, position 32, being the stamp which formed a pair with the corner example offered here, but in the position 32 the sheet margin was removed, Yigal Nathaniel collection (ex Ollerstad and Dr. Ichida)
- Centred to bottom (“thinned, rather badly in place”), unknown position, ex Woodward and Caspary (lots 736 and 521 respectively, the latter not illustrated)
- Centred to bottom right, unknown position, illustrated in the “Gallery of Japanese Stamps” (vol. 2, 1990, page 135), ex Fukuhara



30287

\*

42 (12)

800 - 1'200

1875, 1 sen brown, syllabic 12 (wo), wove western paper, well centred for this stamp, hinged with original gum. Very fine and scarce. (JSCA ¥300,000).



30289

30288

30288

✉

43 (1)

500 - 800

1874, 4 sen deep blue green, syllabic 1 (i), two very fresh examples applied on reverse of registered cover to Tokyo, tied by two clear strikes of Kiban "te-6" (Hanamaki P.O., Rikuchu province), with associated non-standard "Rikuchu Province / Hanamaki" framed circle below, and N2B2 Tokyo 10.3.3 cds (Gregorian March 3, 1877) upon arrival at top. Cover slightly reduced at base. A scarce and appealing usage.

30289

\* ◎ △ (\*)

43 (1, 2, 3)

300 - 400

1875, 4 sen blue green, complete exhibition page including syllabic 1 (i), plate 1, bottom right corner mint example with sheet margins; plate 2, three used examples from positions 1, 13 and 19; syllabic 2(ro) on thicker wove paper comprising three, unused without gum, on piece with large vermilion "Yokohama Paid All" cds alongside, and lower left corner-sheet marginal example (thinned) from plate 1 position 33 ("tonbo" in margins) cancelled by "Kiban" Wakamatsu; as well as syllabic 3 (ha) with five stamps, including mint plate 1 position 33 on porous paper, three used singles (plates 1, 2 and 3), and one pair with "Kiban" handstamp of Yoich (Shiribeshi Province). (JSCA ¥190,000).



30290



44 (11)

10'000 - 15'000

1875, 6 sen orange, syllabic ru (11), well incised impression, tied by small size intaglio cross to folded letter endorsed "Pr Nevada" to Shanghai, accompanied by neat "Yokohama Jul 31 Paid All" in red, with oval merchant's cachet "Ziegler & Co. Yokohama (Japan)" at lower left, blue Shanghai Local Post receiving cds on reverse.

**The earlier of just two documented examples of 6 sen orange single frankings for the 6 sen foreign letter rate to China;** the other cover with a 6 sen single sent to the same address, bears a different syllabic: nu (10), and it was used on August 14 (Chiba Shinichi collection). A third cover with this rate is also known, but with a different franking and not originating from the Peil correspondence.

**Note:** The 6 sen postal rate was into force from January 1875 to March 1876 on mail sent to Shanghai, according to the U.S.-Japan Postal Treaty of 1875; this 6 sen fee was subsequently reduced to 5 sen. The "Nevada" steamship was covering the Shanghai branch line of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

**Provenance:** Pigeron auction (Nov. 1995, lot 4171), sold for FF18,800 and bought at this auction by the Paris stamp dealer Laroche; the "Peil" archive of Shanghai was sold by the French dealer Xavier Pigeron.

30291

No lot.



## One of Just Seven 6 Sen Syllabic 15 Recorded



30292



44 (15) 80'000 - 120'000

1875, 6 sen dull orange, privately made plates, syllabic 15 (yo), the so called "Tamaroku Yo", quite well centred within virtually complete to ample margins on three sides, just partly touched at left, in an outstandingly intense deep colour and strong impression, cancelled by red brush cross used to denote postage due. A few perforations at top are thinned on reverse, small surface scuff and partly separated with scissors at bottom, these being of no significance, as all but one of the examples known have faults. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**One of just seven examples of this stamp are recorded. Of all the examples extant, this exhibits the most intense colour, thus augmenting the desirability of this great rarity. To be significantly considered is that just one of the seven examples recorded is faultless. A great gem of Japanese philately.** (JSCA unpriced; JHES ¥18,000,000; Michel €250,000).

**Census** -based on 1968 Dr. Ichida Soichi's monograph on "Sumiroko" and on Yoshida Takashi's "YO' of Egg-brown-6; The New Discovery, 7<sup>th</sup> found" article included in the "Philatelic Journal" (2012, pages 147-148 published by Stampedia):-

- A bit centred to top, used with negative postmark (Ichida serial no. 1), ex Caspary
- Centred to lower left, red postage-due usage (Ichida serial no. 1)
- Centred a bit to left, red postage-due usage (Ichida serial no. 7), sold for ¥8,500,000 in 1991 (JPS auction)
- The example presented here (Ichida serial no. 28)
- Centred to top right, used with negative postmark, pinhole type D, the only example faultless (Ichida serial no. 33)
- Centred to top with cancellation erase (see previous lot), (Ichida serial no. 36), ex King Carol II and Woodward)
- Centred to lower left, red postage-due usage (Ichida serial no. 37)



30293



30294



30293

\*

45 (22)

1'500 - 3'000

1875, 6 sen dull orange, Government made plate, syllabic 22 (ra), porous cotton paper, very attractive as a result of its vivid shade and crisp impression, unused without gum. A rare and very fresh example in delightful condition. Cert. Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023). (JSCA ¥850,000).

30294

\* ☉

46 (4)

400 - 600

1875, 10 sen dull blue, syllabic 4 (ni), a selected group of nine stamps, including three in mint condition featuring 11, 11s and 12.5 perforations; the other six used with one (perforation 11s) showing "dot missing in left side sen-character" plate flaw and cancelled with Urawa double circle (type KG), perforation 11 position 8 with small-size intaglio cross cancel used for inland mail; the others perforated 12.5 with foreign mail handstamps including Hakodate. Very fine and unusual. (JSCA ¥213,000).



30295

✉

46 (4)

400 - 600

1875, 10 sen dull blue, syllabic 4 (ni), wove western paper, perforation 11s, cancelled by small-size intaglio cross on cover to Stuttgart, Wurttemberg (Germany), showing "Tokyo 10.3.29" (29 March 1877) type N2B2 cds at left, additionally alongside red "Yokohama Paid All Mar 30" cds, two-line "5./cents" (U.S. credit) marking and "San Francisco Apr 28 St. SHP." cds. On reverse N2B2 type of Yokohama, New York transit and Stuttgart delivery postmarks. Part of back flap missing but still preserving a portion of embossed seal of Austro-Hungarian "K.u.K. Minister-Resident". A magnificent example displaying a great freshness and good centring. (YSCA ¥130,000).



30296



30297



30296

\*

46 (5)

200 - 300

1875, 10 sen dull blue, syllabic 5 (ho), porous paper, (long tool) perforation 9s:11s, remarkably deep bright colour, very well centred, lightly hinged with original gum. Few very small thin spots in upper margin. Of fabulous appearance. (JSCA ¥75,000).

30297

◎

46 (5)

250 - 400

1875, 10 sen dull blue, syllabic 5 (ho), porous paper, two used stamps including a magnificent lower right corner example with sheet margins displaying "tonbo" cross and excellent centring, long tool 9s:11s perforation, position 40, showing complete strike of intaglio cross cancel for foreign mail; as well as perforation 11 used example with foreign mail "ring" of Hyogo, (Nishino type HG76A of 1876). A very fine duo. (JSCA ¥100,000).



30298

✉

46 (5)

1'500 - 3'000

1875, 10 sen dull blue, syllabic 5 (ho), paying the single external rate on 23 May 1877 cover from Yokohama to Lyon (France), tied by damaged "golf ball" cancel, with alongside accompanying "Yokohama Paid All" cds and "5./cents" (U.S. credit) in two lines, both in red, "San Francisco Jun 10 St. SHP" cds and French entry of Calais on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Backstamped on reverse on arrival on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and merchant's cachet "E. Jugin & Cie / Paris-Yokohama". A very appealing bright-colour example on rare outgoing mail. (JSCA ¥450,000; Michel €500 off cover).





30299

\* ◎ 田 (\*)

47 (8)

1'000 - 1'000

1875, 20 sen red, syllabic 8 (chi), a selection of ten stamps including seven unused with perforation 12.5 comprising a magnificent plate 1 block of four with corner sheet margins from lower left (positions 25-26 / 33-34), position 23 "lightly etched leaf of cherry blossom NW" plate flaw, plate 2 single with corner sheet margins from lower left displaying "tonbo" cross, and single with perforation 11 (unused without gum); the used display with perforation 11:10 position 8 showing "light etching top right" plate flaw, as well as plate 4 with top right corner pair with sheet margins featuring "tonbo" cross, positions 7-8, cancelled by double circle of Urawa. **A very desirable and unusual choice group.** (JSCA ¥300,000+).



30300

30301

30300

◎

47 (8)

250 - 350

1875, 20 sen red, syllabic 8 (chi), perforation 12 1/2:11, position 35, very good colour, exhibiting complete strike of "SHIP" straight-line handstamp. A scarce and desirable perforation. (JSCA ¥100,000+).

30301

◎

47 (8)

200 - 300

1875, 20 sen red, syllabic 8 (chi), perforation 9, vertical right with sheet margin at right, positions 8 / 16, extremely fresh, cancelled by double circle of Urawa. A rare used multiple with this perforation. Superb. (JSCA ¥60,000+).



30302



47 (8)

400 - 500

1875, 20 sen red, syllabic 8 (chi), plate 1, **sheet reconstruction of 40**, including plate varieties in positions 8, 23, 28 and 30, only featuring used units. As expected for this high denomination, there are almost exclusively foreign mail cancellations with a good range, except for a couple of examples with inland double circle of Tsu. Very attractive and scarce.



30303



47 (8)

1'200 - 1'800

1875, 20 sen red, syllabic 8 (chi), used on registered cover from Tokyo to Dresden (Germany), carried at single rate including 10 sen for the registration fee, tied on dispatch by black "flower" negative type for foreign mail, with matching "Tokio 24 Jun Japan" medium trial cds adjacent, faint strikes of octagonal "Registered Yokohama July 10 1880" datestamp and "Too Late." straight line alongside, both in violet. Struck on reverse with "San Francisco Registered Jul 26 1880" in four lines and Dresden old town arrival of August 14. Cover with some imperfections including slight soiling, vertical filing fold and two slits besides the stamp, none of them affecting the franking. A rare usage. (JSCA ¥450,000).

## One of the Rarest Stamps of Japan and of Japanese Philately



Detail (8x its actual size)

30304



47 (9) 80'000 - 120'000

1875, 20 sen bright rose, syllabic 9 (ri), porous cotton paper, long tool 9s perforation, cancelled by large "Bota" handstamp of Kagoshima, displaying a detailed impression. Tiny thin on reverse at top of no significance for this immense rarity, otherwise in fine condition. Certs. Philatelic Federation of Japan signed Dr. Sawa (2009) and Philatelic Museum Expert Committee signed Takano Norio (2009), Florian Eichhorn BPP (2023).

**Only two examples of this stamp are recorded, this being slightly better centred, both possessing Kagoshima large "Bota" postmarks. This must be considered as the rarest regular stamp of Japan without a variety, indeed the reason why the syllabic 9 (ri) was printed is shrouded in mystery. This example is offered at auction for the first time. (JSCA ¥"- unpriced).**

**Together with 1875 6 sen orange syllabic 15 (yo), of which seven examples are known, are the rarest syllabics of a postally issued stamp of Japan. The 20 sen has more importance as it is much rarer and the sensation caused by its recent find. Both of these famous Japanese stamps are offered in this sale.**

### Note and provenance:

*In January 1991 this stamp was discovered by Mr. Tai Michiharu, the owner of Japan Stamp Auction JSA, "hidden" in a lot with a starting price of ¥30,000 in a local stamp auction. In the description of that lot, it was mentioned that it included a "changed 20 sen perforation 9s Kagoshima Bota". During viewing, he noticed the porous paper with perforation 9s (the same paper and perforation as for the 10 sen light blue syllabic 5). Although there were many floor attendants, he was the only floor bidder and the lot was knocked down to him at ¥31,000+13%. Later it turned out that the only mail bidder was a philatelist from the old Satsuma Province area where Kagoshima is located, and his bid was probably just intended for obtaining the postmark of Kagoshima on the ordinary 20 sen syllabic 8.*

*On the reverse side of this stamp we find a violet crayon note "40", which corresponds to the numbering of the French "Yvert & Tellier" catalogue, so this example had probably returned from Europe to Japan.*

*As the stamp is printed on porous (cotton) paper 9s perforated, it is assumed that it was produced in the second half of Meiji 8 (1875), contemporary with the printing of the 10 sen light blue syllabic 5.*

*The second example of the 20 sen syllabic ri (9) surprisingly surfaced and was offered by an eBay.com seller in the United States, starting at only \$9.99, to be sold in an auction scheduled to end on 17.10.2009. After an incredible and intense bidding activity, the lot was sold to Mr. Yamaguchi Mitsuru of Japan for US\$53,000. This find was defined as "the greatest discovery of the century".*

*The example presented here was acquired by Mr. Yamada Yuji in 2019, twenty-eight years after having been discovered by Mr. Tai Michiharu.*

### Literature:

*Tai Michiharu in "Yamada Yuji collection tebori stamps", Narumi publishers Tokyo 2022, explanations p. 18 (abbreviated version)*

*Tai Michiharu in JSCA Visual Vol. 1 Tebori, JPP publishers Tokyo 2023, pp. 166-170 (details of the discovery and aftermath)*





30305

\* © S

48 (2, 3, 4)

400 - 700

1875, 30 sen violet, syllabics 2, 3 & 4, group of nine stamps including syllabic 2 (ro) on wove paper with perforation 12.5 one mint, a specimen with ink-dot "sumiten" on piece, and perforation 11 with scarce used cancelled by Hong Kong "B62" (small tear, signed Tyler); the rest all perforation 11, comprising syllabic 3 (ha), one unused without gum partly trimmed by scissors, and one used with "Sendai" double circle; syllabic 4 (ni) mint corner example from lower left (few slight tone spots and corner crease), as well as two used showing black gift-book Tokyo large "Bota" cancellation (part scissor's separation) and negative cross notched. (JHES ¥210,000).



30306

S

48 (2, 3, 4)

300 - 400

1875, 30 sen violet, syllabic 4 (ni), applied on piece and tied by gift-book large "Bota" cancellation of Tokyo, with perforations partly trimmed by scissors. The scarcest syllabic of this denomination with this specimen cancellation. (JHES ¥120,000).



View of pier from Yokohama with two steamships in the background.



30307



48 (2),

10'000 - 20'000

1875, 30 sen violet, syllabic 2 (ro), in combination with "Old Koban" 10 sen blue, horizontal pair with sheet margin at right, used on 14 November 1880 envelope from Yokohama to Paris, each cancelled by seriffed foreign mail initial "Y" handstamp of Yokohama (Nishino type YH0A), the 30 sen tied by thimble "Yokohama Nov 14 1880" cds, below showing "Indo-Chine/Paq.Fr.Modane" red entry cds in France (Salles fig. 1897). Struck on reverse with "Ligne S Paq. Fr. No. 1 14 Nov 80" cds confirming the endorsement on front indicating the "Tanis" as the steamer to carry this correspondence per French maritime mail.

**A probably unique mixed franking paying a high external rate, with any usage on cover of the highest denomination of this issue being very rare.** An exceptional regular-size envelope bearing the 30 sen, as this high value is more found on large-size covers. (JSCA ¥2,500,000+).

**Note:** From 1877 6.20 to 1897 9.30 the surface mail charge to European nations members of the U.P.U. was 10 sen for each 15 grams. This cover was carried at a most unusual quintuple rate. Illustrated in the "Gallery of Japanese Stamps" (vol. 2, 1990, page 143).

**Provenance:** Fukuhara Kazunobu

### 1875/76, Cherry Blossoms Changed Designs, no Syllabics



30308

\* ©

49

700 - 1'000

1875, 1 sen brown "ribbon, plate 2", three stamps including position 34 lightly engraved with original gum lightly hinged (couple of thin spots), as well as two fresh used examples with retouches at right of the upper value tablet (A & B types), with negative cork cancels. A very fine and rare trio with these desirable varieties. (JHES ¥372,000).



30309

©

49

600 - 800

1875, 1 sen brown "ribbon", plate 2, position 18, featuring type A retouch in the lower left leaf of NW cherry blossom, well centred with neat impression, cancelled by brown "Musashi.Koshigaya 23.1.6" (Jan. 6, 1890) bisected cds. A choice example.

**An exceptional usage after the period of validity on 30 November 1889. Illustrated on page 178 in the JHSE catalogue (2007).** (JHES ¥180,000 for just the retouch).





30310

☉

49

300 - 400

1875, 1 sen brown "ribbon", plate 2, position 18, two used examples, one lightly engraved featuring "lightly etched leaf of cherry blossom in NW" plate flaw with double circle of Osaka; the other (trimmed vertically by scissors) showing retouch type B in the lower left leaf of NW cherry blossom, cancelled by "Kiban" i-he 1 of Himeji (Harima Province). (JHES ¥192,000).



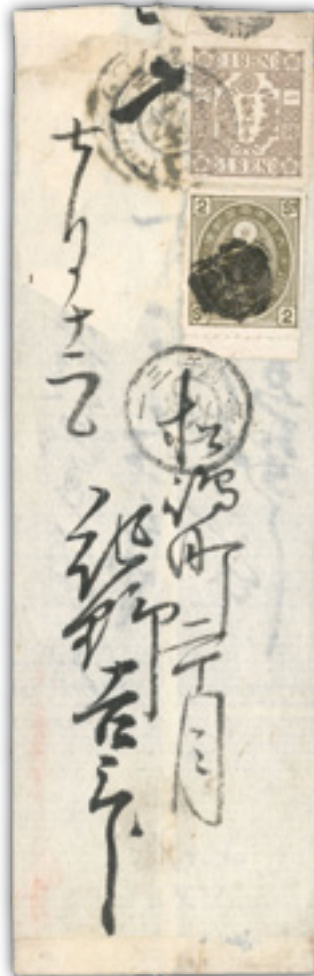
30311

☉

49

150 - 200

1875, 1 sen brown "ribbon", plate 2, a well centred pair from positions 31-32, lightly engraved at right, cancelled by non-standard ".kensa" framed handstamp. Scissors' separation at right. Scarce and outstandingly fresh. (JHES ¥57,000).



30312



49, 64

1'500 - 2'500

1875, 1 sen brown "ribbon", roulette perforation 14 ½, a remarkable example with sheet margin at top, vertically separated by scissors, in combination with "Old Koban" 2 sen olive, sheet margin at base, tied with two strikes of duplex intaglio with "Osaka -.7.13" type KB1 cds applied on reverse of inland cover, with the 1 sen paying the delivery charge for places outside the regular circuit of a next post office. Dated Meiji 9 (1876). An extremely rare usage on cover. (JSCA rates a loose copy already at ¥120,000).

**Note:** The so called "roulette" 14 ½ perforation is only found in the 1 Sen "ribbon" of 1876 in Japanese philately (classified in JSCA as LT 14 ½ perforation, although it is widely known and described by exhibitors as "roulette perforation"). Mr. Woodward suggested this variety to have occurred as a temporary usage of perforation gauges formerly applied for fiscals (issues of April 1873-September 1874), but this is not confirmed.



30313



50

250 - 400

1875, 2 sen yellow "ribbon", possessing "N.C.H" perfin, refulgent colour, cancelled by five-star type of Shanghai (Nishino type SH77B), which was used in the second half of 1877. Fine and rare.

**Note:** The "N.C.H" initials refer to the North China Herald newspaper. **This is the earliest perfin (company security mark) recorded on Japanese stamps.** (JHES ¥120,000).



30314



30315

30314

⊙

50

150 - 200

1875, 2 sen yellow "ribbon", dark shade, used with small early non-standard "Ni No. 50" circle of Hirakata (Hitachi Province). A remarkable example showing a complete strike of this scarce cancellation. (JHES ¥35,000).

**Note:** This curious postmark was produced trying to imitate the style of the "Kiban" handstamp. "Ni" was the code for "kibans" in the Hitachi Province. The usage is recorded in Meiji 10 (1877).

30315

⊙

50

150 - 200

1875, 2 sen yellow "ribbon", vivid strong shade, exhibiting vertical early non-standard "Shinzaike" oval frame of Shinzaike (Settsu Province). A superb example with such a strikingly clear strike. (JHES ¥35,000).



30316



30317

30316

⊙

50

150 - 200

1875, 2 sen yellow "ribbon", deep shade, cancelled by early non-standard "Naokata Kensa" framed handstamp of Naokata (Hizen Province). Two sides separated with scissors but leaving very generous perforations. Very fine. (JHES ¥35,000).

30317

⊙

50

150 - 200

1875, 2 sen yellow "ribbon", perforation 9:11, cancelled by early non-standard "keshi-in" circle, all in katakana syllabics, meaning cancellation mark which appears to be another imitation of the "Kiban" postmark. Interesting and scarce. (JHES ¥35,000).



30318



30319



30318

(\*)

51

150 - 300

1875, 5 sen light green "negi", porous paper, perforation 9s, above-average good centring and neat impression, unused without gum as issued. Extremely fine. (JSCA ¥100,000).

30319

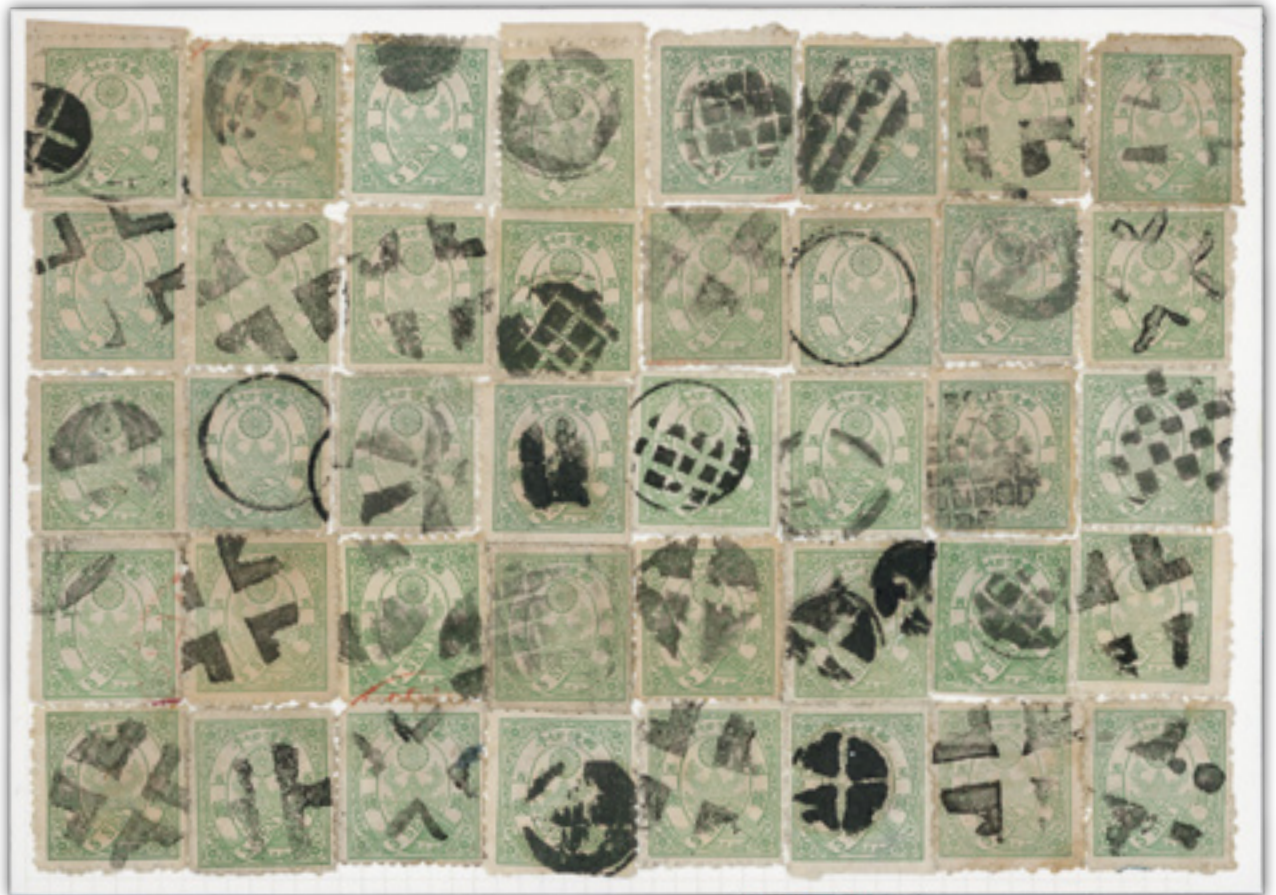
⊙

51

200 - 250

1875, 5 sen light green "negi", porous paper, perforation 11, position 15, plate variety featuring "re-touched hatching near 'N'", cancelled by early "Nagasaki May 12 10 A.M." large cds. Very fine. (JHES ca. ¥70,000).





30320



51

1'500 - 2'000

1875, 5 sen light green "negi", **sheet reconstruction of 40** made up of used single examples, showing plate varieties in positions 13, 15 and 21, including an attractive range of foreign-mail postmarks, mainly featuring types originating from Shanghai I.J.P.A., Yokohama and Hyogo. A difficult, rare and appealing assemblage for exhibition. (JSCA ¥600,000+).



30321



51

500 - 750

1876, 5 sen light green "girdle", a very fresh example with sheet margin at foot, applied on reverse of Chinese-style envelope from Shanghai to Nagasaki (Japan), correctly paying the 5 sen rate from Shanghai to Japan which was into force from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1876, tied by 'crossroads' cancel of Shanghai (Nishino type SH76A), with large "I.J. Postal Agency Shanghai Nov 15" cds alongside, struck on arrival with "Nagasaki Nov. 17 6 A.M." also on back. Additionally dated "9<sup>th</sup> Month 29<sup>th</sup> Day" in manuscript according to the lunar calendar. Some insect damage to envelope, otherwise very fine and scarce. Cert. F. Eichhorn BPP (2015). (JSCA ¥250,000).



30322



51

800 - 1'500

1876, 5 sen light green "girdle", vertical pair on double weight cover to Salem (United States), tied by intaglio 'crossroads' cancels (Nishino type YH76B), additionally tied by red "Yokohama Apr 26 Paid all" cds, struck in transit with "San Francisco May 20" in purple. A scarce usage of a 5 sen pair in 1876 to the United States.



30323



51, 49, 50

800 - 1'200

1875, 5 sen light green "negi", porous paper, together with "ribbon" 1 sen brown and 2 sen yellow, all on registered cover from Tokyo to Mibu (Shimotsuke Province), each tied by negative cross, with on reverse red "Hongo Yubinkyoku / Tokyo" (Hongo branch P.O.) double circle and black "Tokyo...5.31" cds. 1 sen with three insect holes and cover corner fault, not affecting the rare 5 sen on domestic cover. A Meiji 9 (1876) usage.

**Inland usages of the 5 sen light green are rare. (JSCA ¥400,000).**

**Provenance:** *Dr. Tani Takashi*

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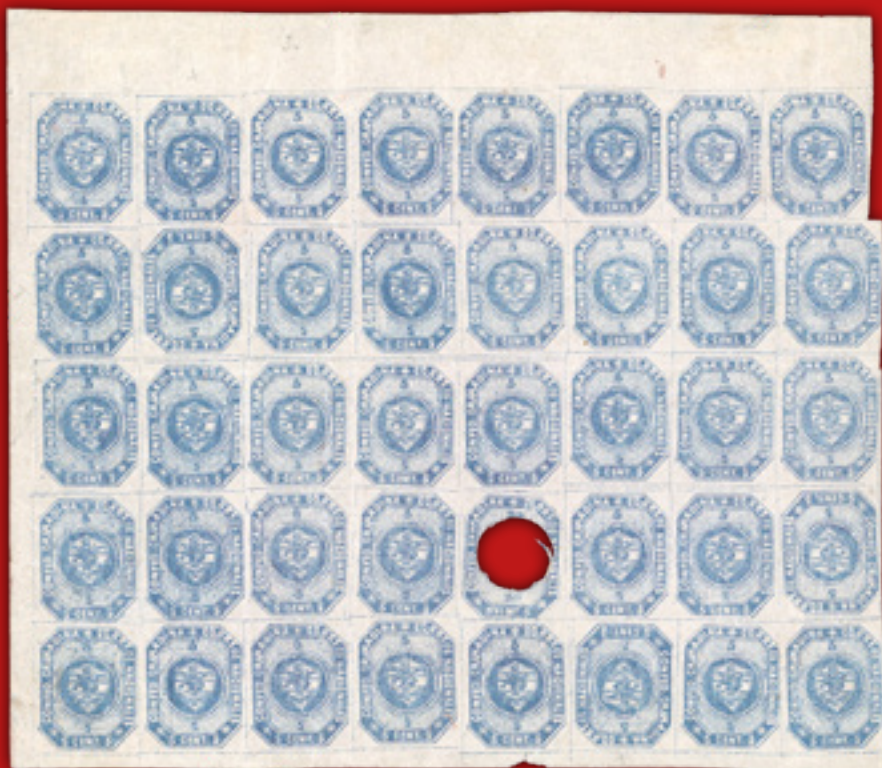


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The most significant ever formed



The multiple demonstrating that the 1859 5c stone A was also printed in blue; *ex Hubbard and Goeggel*.



1859 5c block of 40 containing three tête-bêche varieties and the "50" instead of "5" centavos transfer error with punched hole, one of the greatest rarities of South American philately; *ex Goeggel*.



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# The “Ingeniero” Collection

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1861 2 ½c strip of five, the largest multiple recorded of this stamp;  
*ex Caspary, Neuburger and Goeggel.*



1861-62 50c in marginal block of 12, the largest multiple recorded of this issue;  
*ex Newbury, Burrus, Hubbard and Goeggel.*



1863 5c block of five, unique with the two varieties: the tête-bêche and the sideways position, one of the most spectacular rarities of Colombia.

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# Symbols and Condition

## Symboles et Condition / Symbole und Erhaltung

### Symbols / Symboles / Symbole

*	mint with original gum <i>neuf avec gomme / ungebraucht mit Falz</i>
**	mint never hinged <i>neuf avec gomme intacte / postfrisch</i>
(*)	unused, ungummed or regummed <i>neuf sans gomme ou regommé / ungebraucht ohne Gummi oder nachgummiert</i>
⊙	used <i>oblitéré/ gebraucht</i>
⊞	block of four or larger <i>multiple / Viererblock</i>
⌒	tête-bêche pair <i>paire tête-bêche / Kehrdruckpaar</i>
⊗	fiscal cancel <i>oblitération fiscale / fiskalische Entwertung</i>
△	piece or fragment of a cover or document <i>fragment / Briefstück</i>
✉	cover or postcard incl. postal stationery <i>lettre, carte postale ou entier / Brief, Postkarte oder Ganzsache</i>
E	essay <i>essai / Entwurf</i>
P	proof (incl. die, plate or trial colour) <i>épreuve / Probedruck</i>
R	revenue or fiscal <i>timbre fiscal / Gebührenmarken</i>
S	specimen <i>spécimen / Specimen</i>
F	forgery <i>faux / Fälschung</i>

### Condition of Covers / Condition des lettres et entiers / Erhaltung von Briefen

#### Extremely fine / Superbe / Prachterhaltung

Outstanding, the envelope with only slight wear, fresh stamp and cancel. / *Qualité irréprochable, l'enveloppe ne présente que de très légères traces d'usure, le timbre est frais et l'oblitération est propre.* / *Herausragende Qualität, Brief mit minimalen Gebrauchsspuren (Archivqualität), frische Marken und sehr klarer Stempel.*

#### Very fine / Très beau / Sehr schön

Choice condition, the envelope shows typical slight soiling or wear from usage. / *Qualité premier choix, l'enveloppe peu néanmoins présenter quelques légères salissures et usures.* / *1. Wahl, Brief zeigt nur typische leichte Gebrauchsspuren.*

#### Fine to very fine / Beau à très beau / Schön bis sehr schön

Normal condition, the envelope shows a bit heavier wear or soiling. / *Qualité standard, les traces d'usures sont un peu plus prononcées.* / *Gewöhnliche aber noch einwandfreie Erhaltung mit etwas stärkeren Gebrauchsspuren (leicht fleckig oder andere leichtere Abnutzungen).*

#### Fine / Beau / Schön

Evident wear or other factors (see description and photo), still a presentable example. / *Evidentes traces d'usures ainsi que d'autres facteurs (voir photo et description) mais exemplaire très présentable.* / *Offensichtliche Gebrauchsspuren oder andere Mängel (siehe Beschreibung und/oder photo bzw. scan) aber noch immer herzeigbare und sammelwürdige Qualität bzw. Erhaltung.*

**Please note:** Light edge wear, top backflap faults, slight reductions at one side, and file folds are normal for 19<sup>th</sup> Century covers. Also normal are light cleaning or minor stains and small mends along the edges. They are to be expected and are not always described, and are not grounds for return, nor are factors visible in the illustrations. We will gladly provide full-size scans on request.

*Prrière de noter : De légères traces d'usures, défauts au rabat, de légères réductions sur un côté et des plis d'archives sont des caractéristiques normales pour des lettres du 19<sup>ème</sup> siècle. De légères améliorations au niveau de la propreté ainsi qu'un éventuel ajout de quelques renforts sont également acceptables et ne figurent pas nécessairement dans les descriptions. Ces points ainsi que tous les éléments visibles au niveau de l'illustration ne peuvent par conséquent pas être sujets à réclamation. Des scans supplémentaires d'une pièce peuvent être envoyés sur simple demande.*

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- We can also offer the possibility of making direct purchases

We are interested in any World, British, Persian or Egyptian coins, particularly gold or those of high quality or rarity. We can handle single pieces or indeed complete collections.

We offer consignors the ability to sell their items via our online auctions as well as at our public auctions in Geneva. Our more frequent online auctions also provide the opportunity for vendors to receive payments more quickly after consigning their items to us.

**Please feel free to contact us anytime**

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AMERICAN  
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SOCIETY



# Conditions of Sale

The currency of the auction is the Euro (€)

Participation in any David Feldman S.A. auction means acceptance in full of the following conditions as well as any rights and obligations arising therefrom. These same conditions also apply to all transactions taking place outside the realm of the auctions. DAVID FELDMAN S.A., organiser of the auctions, acts as an agent only and is not liable in any way whatsoever for any default(s) of purchaser(s) and/or vendor(s).

## 1. The auction lots are offered

**1.1.** As presented in the relative auction catalogue and/or through the David Feldman S.A. website. Lots are meticulously described and with the greatest care, however without responsibility. Photographs count as part of the description with regard to the margins, perforation, centering, postmarks and all other visible attributes. The descriptions of the lots mention if the items are signed by recognised experts and/or accompanied by expert certificates.

**1.2.** As viewed in person: before and during auction sales, persons or their agents may examine lots at our offices or at the auction location, and must confirm their auction invitation before viewing. Persons or their agents attending a Live Room auction by invitation and/or who have viewed lots before an auction are understood to have examined all lots which they purchase and accept them as they are at the moment of the knocking-down and not necessarily as described.

## 2. Auction bids

**2.1.** The auction bid steps for all auctions are as follows: (some auctions may be in other currencies than Euros)

€ 50 - 100:	€ 5	€ 2'000 - 5'000:	€ 200
€ 100 - 200:	€ 10	€ 5'000 - 10'000:	€ 500
€ 200 - 500:	€ 20	€ 10'000 - 20'000:	€ 1'000
€ 500 - 1'000:	€ 50	€ 20'000 - 50'000:	€ 2'000
€ 1'000 - 2'000:	€ 100	€ 50'000 - 100'000:	€ 5'000

Bids between these steps will be adjusted accordingly to the next highest bid step. The bidder is bound by his offer until a higher bid has been validly accepted.

**2.2.** DAVID FELDMAN S.A. has full discretion to refuse any bidding, to divide any lot or lots, to combine any two or more lots and to withdraw any lot or lots from the sale without in any case giving any reason. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may also bid on behalf of vendors in cases where reserve prices have been fixed. In these cases, the vendor is treated as a buyer and the auctioneer shall bid on his behalf up to reserve prices. If the reserve price fixed by the vendor is not reached, the auctioneer passes to the next lot by a simple knock of the hammer.

**2.3.** Bid orders are only accepted from registered clients of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. and/or its associated companies. Live Room bidders must confirm their invitation prior to obtaining a bidding number.

**2.4.** Bid orders received by DAVID FELDMAN S.A. including via its website before the relative auctions have priority over room bids in the case of Live Room auctions. Clients giving bidding instructions to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may make alternative offers and/or limit the total of their expenditure in advance. Bids marked "BUY" are considered as up to ten times the quoted estimate price where such exists. Bids made in other currencies than the advertised currency of the auction will be converted into that

currency at the market rate of the day of receipt by DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Bids are standing and hold good for at least 60 days from the auction period. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to invoice bidders up to the end of the 60 day period, payment being due immediately.

## 3. The auction

**3.1.** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, the currency of the auction is Euros. Attendance at the Live Room auction is reserved for invited clients and/or their agents.

**3.2.** Prerogatives of David Feldman S.A.: DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may withdraw, group differently, divide or refuse to knock down any lot. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to refuse any bid orders and/or for Live Room auctions, refuse admittance to the auction room, at its discretion, to anybody whomsoever. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. cannot be held responsible for any physical accident that may occur on the premises where auctions take place. In the case a bone fide offer for the entire collection presented in this catalog is received at least two weeks before the auction date, and would be accepted by the vendor and the auctioneer, it may be withdrawn from sale and the auction offer cancelled.

**3.3.** Bidders' representatives and auction agents: any person bidding for the account of a third party is fully liable for any obligation arising from such bidding. This responsibility is notably applicable for the verification of the condition and for the payment of purchased lots.

**3.4.** Winning Bids: each lot is sold on behalf of the respective owner to the highest bidder who becomes the buyer at one bid step over the next highest bid step; this is the knock-down price. A buyer's premium will be added to the knock-down price per lot and is payable by the buyer as part of the total purchase price. The buyer's premium is 23% of the knock-down price; cost of postage will be invoiced separately from the buyer's premium. On the knock of the hammer, liability for the lots passes to the bidder whose bids have been accepted. The lots are delivered to the buyer when the total sale price (knock-down price plus all fees) have been paid in full.

VAT (Sales Tax) - Notes for guidance concerning auctions for which the lots are located in Switzerland: buyers domiciled abroad are not liable for this tax once the goods are duly exported from Switzerland. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. are pleased to arrange this export; alternatively, clients may make their own arrangements and furnish DAVID FELDMAN S.A. with proof of export, stamped by Swiss customs. Any purchases by buyers who wish to keep their purchases in Switzerland will be liable to VAT at 7.7% of the purchase price. It is the buyer's responsibility to pay any relevant duties that may be incurred upon import to other jurisdictions; the buyer shall be responsible for all costs of purchases that are returned to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. should they refuse to pay import duty.

**3.5.** Payment: Sale price plus buyer's premium and additional costs (if any) are due for immediate payment as invoiced against delivery of the lots. Payment in other currencies is accepted at the rates of exchange of the day as quoted by a major Swiss bank. The bidders who are successful with whom it has been expressly agreed that they pay after the sale under special conditions, are due to pay the sale price, buyer's premium and any other costs according to those terms. In these cases, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. keeps the relevant lots which are delivered to the buyers on full settlement of their account. Delivery of the purchased lots by post, courier or any other means if instructed by the buyer including cost of normal transit insurance cover is at the expense of the buyer.

Title or ownership of the purchased lots, delivered or not, remains with the auctioneer on behalf of the seller until payment has been made in full.

**3.6. Special extended payment facility:** upon request **prior to the auction**, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may offer a special extended payment facility for buyers. In these cases, the buyer must pay a minimum of 25% of the total invoice immediately, and the balance over a maximum period of 4 months, paying an equal instalment at the end of each month. Interest charges of 2% of the remaining balance are debited to the buyer's account at the end of each month from the auction date. When the special extended payment facility has been granted, the buyer understands that any claims regarding his purchases must be made within 30 days of the auction sale date, even though the lots may be held by DAVID FELDMAN S.A. awaiting full settlement of the account. Until delivery, all lots may be examined by their respective buyers at the offices of DAVID FELDMAN S.A.

**3.7. Pledge:** until full settlement of the account, the buyer grants to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. a pledge on any and all properties held by DAVID FELDMAN S.A., acquired prior to, during and/or after any auction. This pledge secures the repayment of any amount due in principals, interests, commissions, costs and other possible fees. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. is entitled, but not obliged, to realise freely the pledge assets without further formalities and without previous notice if the buyer is in default with the payment of his debts or with the fulfilment of any other obligation hereunder. For this purpose, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. is not bound to comply with the formalities of the Federal Law dealing with actions for debt and bankruptcy proceedings; in addition, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may choose to institute or go on with the usual proceedings without having beforehand sold the pledged goods and without having moreover given them up.

#### 4. Guarantee

**4.1. Extent of the guarantee:** subject to paragraph 4.3 below, the authenticity of all philatelic items sold in the auction is guaranteed for a period of 30 days from the auction date, with the express exclusion of any other fault(s). Any reclamation regarding authenticity must come to the notice of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. on the delivery of the lots but at the latest within 30 days from that date. Before delivery, which may take place after the 30 days period, the lots purchased may be examined at the Geneva offices of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. The buyer whose reclamation is made after 30 days from the auction date loses all rights to the guarantee. Such reclamation will not be valid by DAVID FELDMAN S.A.. If an extension of the period is required in order to substantiate the claim with an expertise, a request for such extension must be made to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. within 30 days of the auction date. No request for extension will be considered beyond this 30 days period. An extension will expire 3 months after the date of the auction; the results of the expertise for which an extension was agreed must come to the notice of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. within that period. No further extension of the period will be considered without the express written agreement of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Only claims, expertise results or other details which are made within the agreed periods will be valid.

**4.2. Expertise and counter-expertise:** should the authenticity of a lot be questioned, the buyer is obliged to provide an expertise or counter-expertise from a prominent expert in the field, justifying the claim. If a stamp is found by a recognised expert, taking financial responsibility for errors, to have been forged, he may mark it accordingly. Consequently,

the marking "FALSCH" (forged) is not considered an alteration. In the case of such reclamation, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to request, at its own discretion, one or more further expertise(s). All expertise and relative charges accrue to the vendor's account in the case of a justified claim, or to the buyer's account if the claim is not justified. In the case of a justified claim, the lot is taken back and the knock-down price plus the commission are refunded to the buyer. In the case of delayed payment due to expertise agreed by David Feldman S.A., interest is charged at 50% of the standard rate for all cleared lots. If David Feldman S.A. has not agreed, then full interest is due.

**4.3. Exclusions:** lots described as collections, accumulations, selections, groups and those containing duplicates cannot be the subject of any claim. Claims concerning lots described as a set or groups of sets containing more than one stamp, can only be considered under the terms of paragraph 4.1 above if they relate to more than one third of the total value of the lot. Lots which have been examined by the buyer or his agent, lots described as having defects or faults cannot be subjected to a claim regarding defects or faults. Illustrated lots cannot be subjected to a claim because of perforations, centering, margins or other factors shown in the illustrations.

**4.4. Late Payment:** if payment of the knock-down price plus commission due by the buyer is not made within 30 days of the date of the auction, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to cancel the sale and dispose of the lot(s) elsewhere and/or to make a recourse to any legal proceedings in order to obtain payment of the amounts due as well as for any incurred damages and losses and any legal expenses. A charge on overdue payment of 5% for the first month and 2% per month afterwards plus expenses incurred is chargeable on any outstanding amount after 30 days of the date of the auction. The buyer who is in default in any way whatsoever has no right of claim under any circumstances.

**4.5. Exceptionally,** the knock-down price will be reduced to the lowest winning bid where it is shown that the exact same buyer has inadvertently increased the price by using more than one medium of bidding on the same lot.

#### 5. Applicable law and jurisdiction

Unless otherwise stated, all auctions as well as any rights and obligations arising from them shall be governed exclusively by Swiss law. Any legal action or proceeding with respect to the auctions shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Geneva, subject to appeal to the Swiss Federal Court in Lausanne. In every case, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. shall also be entitled, at its discretion, to sue any buyer in default at his place of residence; in such case, Swiss law shall remain applicable and in the case of issues regarding price value, the Euro is converted at its Swiss Francs value at the time of the auction.

#### 6. All Transactions

These Conditions of Sale apply to all transactions of every kind including those outside the auctions, with David Feldman SA.

**Note:** If these Conditions of sale are translated into one or more other languages, the English translation shall be the official version and shall prevail over all other translations.

(Version: Private Auction - EN-EUR - Last revision: April 2023)

# Your contacts



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Member of the Board



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## Our Team

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