

TYPE C5

Type C5 is probably the earliest type of Chinese postmark, being found used from LHASA from MAY 1954 onwards. It has a dotted circumference and date bridge and an internal diameter of about 25 mm. On the date bridge, reading from right to left, are figures for hour, day, month, year; the hour may be omitted or separated from the remainder by a bar. The figures may be separated by stops. In the top arc is the town name in Chinese and in the lower arc the name in Tibetan.



A, presumably philatelic, local postcard from LHASA cancelled with type C5 postmark of 24 APRIL 1955 with the time shown as 14 (2 p.m.)

In addition to LHASA the type C5 postmark is known from the towns of GYANTSE, SHIGATSE and YATUNG and the villages of HEI-HO and SHEYANG.

C-5 + C-6

Postmark type C5 was the earliest type known used from LHASA, being recorded from as early as MAY 1954. It is also the commonest of the type C5 postmarks and exists with many different variations in the date bridge.



A very interesting cover from LHASA to GYANTSE cancelled with a very clean strike of the type C5 postmark dated 5 AUGUST 1954. The transit, or arrival, mark is dated 11 (or 14) AUGUST 1954 and would appear to be a type C6 postmark from GYANTSE although it is too indistinct to be certain. If this is so it is the earliest recorded use of the type C6 postmark by some 9 months. C6 measures 30 mm in diameter

C 5 VARIATIONS

Two variations on the KHASA type C5 postmarks.



The top cover, dated 18 MARCH 1956, has a mixture of Chinese and English figures in the date; the bottom cover, dated 9 SEPTEMBER 1955, has the stops in the date at the head of the numbers instead of at the foot.

GYANTSE C-5

A cover from GYANTSE to KATHMANDU which, unusually, has no transit mark of YATUNG. It is possible this may have taken the westerly route through Tibet rather than the more usual southerly route through PHARISONS and YATUNG.



This cover is cancelled with a very clear strike of the type C5 postmark of GYANTSE dated 12 JULY 1960 and showing the hour of posting as 13 (?). In the lower are the Tibetan characters for GYANTSE are very easily seen. On reverse is an indistinct transit or arrival mark of the Nepalese post office.

SHIGATSE C-5

A cover from SHIGATSE addressed to KAXIMPONG, India, cancelled with the type C5 postmark of SHIGATSE dated 4 MAY 1956



This cover also bears a type C11 transit marking of YATUNG dated 11 MAY 1956 and a KAXIMPONG arrival postmark dated 14 MAY 1956. There is a second strike of the SHIGATSE postmark on reverse.

YATUNG

C-5



A cover from YATUNG that travelled Eastwards to China rather than the more normal route to India. It is cancelled with the type C5 postmark dated 23 JUNE 1955. The Chinese characters for YATUNG are easily recognisable, particularly the left hand one like a cross.

This cover is backstamped with a Chinese machine cancellation, with six wavy lines, dated 15 AUG 1955. It was nearly 2 months on its journey.