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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Post Office Notification is republished for general information.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th August, 1863.

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified for general information that arrangements have been made for an exchange of Mails between Hongkong and France, by means of the French Mail Packets on the Indo-China line and the necessary additional articles to the detailed regulations arranged between the Post Office of Great Britain and the Post Office of France for the execution of the Postal convention of 24th September, 1856, having been concluded it has been decided to give effect to the same from this date.

The service will consist—

First—Of an exchange of Mails between the United Kingdom and the Ports served by the French Packets.

Second—Of an exchange of Mails between Hongkong and France.

Third—Of an exchange of Mails between this Office and the Agents of the French Post Office on board the Packets of the Messageries Imperiales.

As regards the Mails which will be forwarded from the United Kingdom to Hongkong and *vice versa*, the correspondence transmitted in them will be liable to the same rates of postage as the correspondence sent in the Mails by the British Packets.

The correspondence contained in the Mails between Hongkong and France will be liable to the same rates of postage as that now charged by the British Contract Packets.

The exchange of Mails between this Office and the Post Office Agents on board the French Packets, is an entirely novel service, and in availing of this means of conveyance, due regard will be had to the advantage of the privilege given under the agreement, of forwarding *closed* Mails to all the British Ports served by the French Packets.

Mails will also be exchanged between this Office, and the French Offices at Pondicherry, Saigon and Shanghai by means of the French Packets, and the rates of postage on the correspondence conveyed to these places by this means will be 8*d.* for a letter under  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce in weight, 1/4 under 1 ounce, above 1 ounce and not exceeding 2 ounces  $\frac{2}{8}$ , and so on adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  for each ounce or fraction of an ounce after the first ounce, or double the rate charged upon letters sent by British Packets or Private Ships.

The correspondence sent in the Mails by the French Packets to places in Asia (being British possessions) other than those mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs will be liable to double the rates charged upon letters sent by the British Packets or Private Ships when conveyed a distance of over 2,000 nautical miles; but when conveyed from one British Port to another British Port by French Packet, or to places of which the Port of arrival and Port of departure are not separated the one from the other by a distance of more than 2,000 nautical miles, the same rates of postage chargeable on the correspondence forwarded by British Packets will be levied.

A Table of the rates of postage to which correspondence sent from Hongkong by the French line of Packets will be liable for the present, is appended.

The correspondence intended to be forwarded by these vessels must be superscribed per Messageries Imperiales Steamer “\_\_\_\_\_” or it will not be forwarded by them.

F. W. MITCHELL,  
*Postmaster General.*

General Post Office, Hongkong, 22nd August, 1863.

## RATES OF POSTAGE

To be collected in Hong Kong, *henceforward*, upon Letters forwarded by the Vessels of the Messageries Imperiales.

DESTINATION.	Not exceeding	Above	Above	Above				
	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. and not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.				
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.				
United Kingdom .....	0 0	1 4	0 0	2 8				
United State of America (through England) .....	0 0	2 0	0 0	4 0				
France or Algeria .....	0 8	1 4	2 0	2 8				
Spain ... ..	0 9	1 6	2 3	3 0				
Portugal .....								
Luxemburg .....	0 10	1 8	2 6	3 4				
Baden .....								
The Netherlands .....								
Belgium .....								
Rhenish Prussia .....								
Bavaria .....								
Wurtemberg .....								
German States; viz., Hohenzollern, Birkenfeld, Hesse Homburg, Lippe Dermold, Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt, Rouss, Nassau, Saxe Coburg Gotha, Saxe Meiningen-Hildburghausen, Hesse Electoral, Hesse Darmstadt, Saxe Weimar-Eisenach, Frankfort on-the-Maine, Ham- burgh, Bremen, and Lubeck .....								
Switzerland .....								
Sardinia .....								
Prussia (the Rhenish Provinces excepted) .....					1 0	2 0	3 0	4 0
Hanover .....								
Saxony .....								
Mecklenburg-Schwerin .....								
Mecklenburg-Strelitz .....								
Brunswick .....								
Oldenburg (the Principality of Birkenfeld excepted) .....								
Anhalt .....								
Austrian Dominions and Belgrade .....	1 1	2 2	3 3	4 4				
Denmark .....								
Southern Italy .....								
Servia (Belgrade excepted) .....	1 1	2 2	3 3	4 4				
Montenegro .....								
Moldavia .....	1 7	3 2	4 9	6 4				
Wallachia .....								
Turkey in Europe (the places at which France maintains Post Offices excepted) <i>via</i> Austria .....								
Sweden .....								
Norway .....								
Poland .....								
Russia .....								
Aden and Malta .....	0 0	0 8	0 0	1 4				
Suez .....	0 0	1 0	0 0	2 0				
Alexandria .....	0 0	1 0	0 0	2 0				
Ceylon, Calcutta, Madras, Pondicherry and Saigon .....	0 0	0 8	0 0	1 4				
Singapore and Penang .....	0 0	0 4	0 0	0 8				
Shanghai .....	0 0	0 8	0 0	1 4				
Australian Colonies ( <i>via</i> Galle) .....	0 0	1 0	0 0	2 0				

The postage upon Letters for Spain, Portugal, Servia, (Belgrade excepted,) and Montenegro, or for Foreign Countries beyond Sea, must be paid in advance. Letters for the other Countries specified may either be paid in advance or forwarded unpaid at the option of the Sender.

## REGISTERED LETTERS.

Letters addressed to all those Countries and Places to which, according to the foregoing Table, the entire postage to destination can be paid in advance, may be registered at the desire of the Senders, and in such case the postage *must be prepaid*, and at double the rates of postage chargeable for ordinary Letters.

F. W. MITCHELL,  
Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, 22nd August, 1863.