

Manchukuo China Mail Stamps - a Disambiguation

The Manchukuo "China Mail" stamps are confusing unless you are a Manchukuo specialist. So here is a simple explanation of how to tell the various printings apart.

The First Issue - January 1, 1935 (Engraved)



All you need to know is that if you hold these stamps up to a light a wavy line watermark will be easily visible. If you can see this they are first issue.

Second Issue - March 1, 1935 (Engraved)



This, and the following issues have a watermark made up of characters but these are difficult to see so if the watermark is not wavy lines, look at the petal and sky detail. No wavy line watermark, narrow petals and clear lines in the sky mean you have the second issue.

Third Issue – Jan/March 1936 (Redrawn and Litho printed)



No wavy line watermark, wider petals and much finer lines in the sky mean you are looking at the third issue.

Fourth Issue – 1937



Fortunately the fourth series is obvious due to value and colour changes so these are not a problem.