THE USE OF HONG-KONG STAMPS IN JAPAN
(The American Journal of Philately, Vol. 1, No. 4, June 1, 1868)

We have received the following from an obliging correspondent, and we think it will be of interest to our readers.

I observe you state, at page 165 of your third volume, that the use of the stamps for our colony at Hong Kong was extended to Jeddo (Yedo) and Nagasaki, in the Japan islands.

I now hand you a copy of the circular regulating the sale of stamps in Yedo, and also a notification respecting a supply of Kanagawa, or, as it is termed by the foreign residents, Yokohama.

These notices appeared in the Japan Commercial News for the 7th September 1864, and published in Kanagawa.

“NOTIFICATION.

“The following extract of a circular dispatch received from F.W. Mitchell, Esq., H.B.M.’s Postmaster-General for the colony of Hong Kong, is published for the information of the foreign community at this port: A supply of postage stamps has been sent for. Upon receipt of the stamps due notice will be given to the community.

“PHILIP B. WALSH.

“Packet Agency,

“Kanagawa, 1st Sept., 1864”

“CIRCULAR.

“General Post-Office, Hong Kong,

“18th August, 1864.

“SIR, - As very considerable inconvenience is felt in this department through one portion of the correspondence contained in the mails received here from the Packet Agencies being prepaid in money, and the other by means of postage stamps; and as difficulties arise in adjusting the accounts with the Imperial Post-Office in consequence; I have to request that, on and after the 15th October next, you will discontinue to receive money in payment of the correspondence posted at your office, and you will demand that such payment be made in the postage stamps of the colony of Hong Kong. This system has been in operation here for the last few months; and although it met with many objections from the community at the outset, it was soon found to be an advantage, and also a convenience to the post-office. Similar objections may possibly be raised at your port; I am satisfied, however, that they can soon be surmounted, and consequently no modification will be made in this arrangement.
I enclose you sets of the table of rates of postage in force here, and the same, as you are aware, apply to Yedo, with the addition of the local rate of 8 cents per ½ ounce letter, and 2 cents for each paper, or price current, forwarded from your office to this for dispatch to all places, except the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and other places through England and France.

“(Signed),

“F.W. MITCHELL,

“Postmaster-General.

“To H.B.M.’s Packet Agent, Yedo.”

It would seem by the above, that letters to this country would come direct without the bags being opened at Hong Kong. I have seen many packets from Kanagawa, and the stamps have always been post-marked with the B. 62 which is found on all the labels of that colony.

Correspondence by the Messageries Imperial, is of course, franked with French stamps, which are generally obliterated by a diamond of small dots, with an anchor in the centre. – Stamp-Collectors Magazine.