

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified for general information, by order of His Excellency SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, that henceforward Book Packets, and Packets of Patterns or Samples of Merchandize, may be transmitted through the Post by the Mails made up to be forwarded both by the British Contract Packets and by Private Ships, between this Office and each Agency thereof in China and Japan, viz.: Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Hiogo, and Yokohama, and also between any two of these Agencies, at the following rates of postage, which must be paid in advance, viz.:—

<i>not exceeding</i> 4 oz.	<i>above 4 oz., and not</i> <i>exceeding 8 oz.</i>	<i>above 8 oz., and not</i> <i>exceeding 1lb.</i>	<i>above 1lb., and not</i> <i>exceeding 1½lb.</i>	<i>Every additional</i> <i>½lb.</i>
6 cents.	12 cents.	24 cents.	36 cents.	12 cents.

Special attention is directed to the following rules and regulations which will be strictly enforced:—

AS REGARDS BOOKS.

A Book Packet may contain any number of separate Books, Almanacks, Maps or Prints, and any quantity of paper, vellum or parchment (to the exclusion of letters whether sealed or open); and the Books, Maps, Paper, &c., may be either printed, written or plain, or any mixture of the three.

All legitimate binding, mounting or covering of the same or of a portion thereof, will be allowed, whether such binding be loose or attached; as also rollers in the case of prints, markers (whether of paper or otherwise,) in the case of Books, and in short whatever is necessary for the safe transmission of literary or artistic matter or usually appertains thereto.

Every Book packet must be either without a cover, or in a cover open at the ends or sides.

It must not contain any letter, open or sealed, nor any sealed enclosure whatever; the name and address of the sender is however not only permitted but recommended, so that if the cover come off, or for any other reason the packet cannot be forwarded, it may be returned.

No packet must exceed two feet in length, breadth or depth, exceeding these dimensions it cannot be forwarded through the Post.

AS REGARDS PATTERNS.

They must not be of intrinsic value. This rule excludes all articles of a saleable nature, and indeed, whatever may have a value of its own, apart from its mere use as a pattern; and the quantity of any material sent ostensibly as a pattern must not be so great that it can fairly be considered as having on this ground an intrinsic value.

There must be no writing or marks other than the address of the person for whom the packet is intended and that of the sender, a trade mark and numbers, and prices of the articles; otherwise the Packet will be detained or forwarded charged as an unpaid letter.

The Patterns must be sent in covers open at the ends, so as to be easy of examination. Samples however, of seeds, drugs, and so forth, which cannot be sent in open covers, may be enclosed in bags of linen or other material, tied at the neck; bags so closed that they cannot readily be opened, even although they be transparent, must not be used for this purpose. Non-compliance with this rule will also subject the packet to be detained or forwarded as an unpaid letter.

The Packets or the contents thereof must not contain any inclosure, sealed or otherwise closed against inspection.

In all other respects the general regulations of the Book Post between Hongkong and the United Kingdom will apply to the Pattern Post. Under these regulations, in order to prevent any interruption to the regular transmission of letters, a Packet of Patterns may, when it is necessary be kept back for the following Mail by which, in the ordinary course, it would be forwarded.

The decision of the Postmaster General as to the eligibility of any Packet, pattern or sample contained therein, to be forwarded under these regulations, will be final and conclusive.

The rule which forbids the transmission through the Post of any article likely to injure the contents of the Mail Bags or Boxes, or the person of any Officer of the Post Office is, of course, applicable to the Pattern Post; and a packet containing anything of the kind will be stopped, and not sent to its destination. Articles such as the following have been occasionally posted as Patterns, and have been detained as unfit for the Post, viz.: Metal boxes, porcelain and China, fruit, vegetables, bunches of flowers, cuttings of plants, spurs, knives scissors, needles, pins, pieces of machinery, sharp pointed instruments, samples of metals, samples of ore, samples in glass bottles, pieces of glass, acids of various kinds, curry combs, copper and steel engraving plates and confectionery of all kinds.

F. W. MITCHELL
Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, 13th October 1869.

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified for general information, by order of His Excellency SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, that, the system of registration has been, from this date, extended to letters and other descriptions of correspondence transmitted by the Post, in the Mails by both the British Contract Packets and by Private Ships, between this Office and each Agency thereof in China and Japan, viz.: Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Hiogo, and Yokohama, and also between any two of these Agencies.

The fee for registration is 8 cents each letter, &c.,

No Letter, Book, or packet of patterns can be registered unless the full postage upon it, as well as the registration fee, be paid in advance in postage Stamps.

Letters, &c., for registration will be received up to half an hour before the time fixed for closing the Mails.

F. W. MITCHELL,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong 13th October, 1869.

No. 118.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Account, duly certified, of the Average Amount of BANK NOTES in Circulation in Hongkong, during the Month ending 30th September, 1869, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th October, 1869.

BANKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.	SPECIE IN RESERVE.
	\$	\$
Oriental Bank Corporation,.....	750,201	250,067
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China,.....	581,584	250,000
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,.....	364,650	125,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,.....	1,168,938	800,000
TOTAL,.....\$	2,865,373	1,425,067

No. 116.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

CECIL CLEMENTI SMITH, Esquire, having reported his return to the Colony, has this day resumed his duties as Registrar General.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 7th October, 1869.

No. 117.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified, that Her Most Gracious Majesty The QUEEN, by Additional Instructions under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, dated Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 16th of August, 1869, and addressed to His Excellency SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, C.B., has been pleased to appoint CECIL C. SMITH, Esquire, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Colony of Hongkong.

The Honorable CECIL C. SMITH has been this day sworn in accordingly.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th October, 1869.