

COVER MEANT FOR FORMOSA – SENT TO FORMOSA

Ai Li-Shan

Recently, I was fortunate in finding an interesting “Missent” cover. It is a cover (fig. 1) from an Insurance Company in Buenos Aires to Isla Yobay Guazu. This is a general area, rather than a specific town. It is a very remote area, probably of ranches or large tracts of uncultivated land.



Figure 1

Rather than an in country letter, it wound up being sent to Taiwan (Formosa). Mailed on July 6, 1962, it was received in Taipei on July 16, 1962. (fig.2 and 3). There are no other transit marks that might indicate handling by an intermediate country.



Figure 2

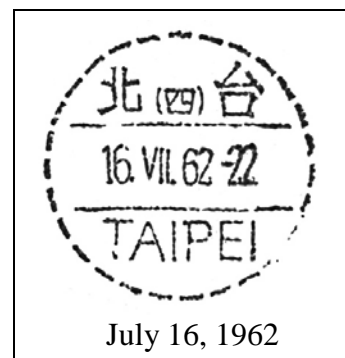


Figure 3

During this earlier period, many countries would indicate “Missent To” and the name of the town and/or country. Also, many would date stamp the envelope to indicate the date forwarded. This was true of Taiwan at this time. Perhaps as early as the late 1960s or early 1970s, the hand stamp would only read “Missent to Taipei”, with no date stamp being applied. This is the first time that I have seen this type of hand stamp (fig. 4). size – 53 x 19mm.

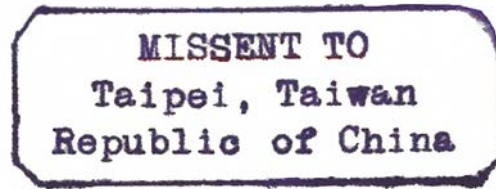


Figure 4

There is no indication on the cover as to the date received back in Buenos Aires, or indication of final delivery.

How was this possible? It is guessing, but I would think that it stuck to an envelope that was destined for Taiwan. It would be hard to imagine that a postal clerk would make the mistake of thinking there Province of Formosa was indeed the country.

None of these early missent or misdirected mail are common. Such is none philatelic mail!