

NEW POSTAL MARKINGS
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Ai Li-Shan

Recently, I acquired a cover mailed from Egypt to Taiwan, but was returned to Egypt rather than being forwarded to Taiwan. fig 1. the cover was mailed from Heliopolis (6 miles East of Cairo) on April 3, 1977.



Figure 1

When I acquired the cover, I corresponded with the stamp dealer that had mailed the cover. He told me that he had answered an ad from the Pacific Stamps in Taipei, which offered to buy Taiwan stamps. He enclosed the stamps and mailed them by surface mail. The cover was returned to him on July 9, unopened - the contents being intact. The owner of the cover had kept it all these years.

I have never seen the two markings that was applied to the cover (probably in Shanghai). I have seen other covers that had been misrouted to China, and subsequently forwarded to Taiwan for delivery. It would appear the red marking "Return", and the obliteration of "Formosa" was by the same person. could it be that the person objected to the use of "Formosa" - which was used extensively by the Japanese during their control of the island until 1945. This is the only possible reason that I can see for return of the cover to sender rather than forwarding it to Taiwan as shown on the cover. Perhaps someone has seen these markings before and can provide additional information.

中华人民共和国台湾省
Taiwan Province
The People's Republic of China

Figure 2, note "I" used for "L" in People's and Republic. Lettering uneven and not sized. 64 mm in length

SUSPENSION OF SERVICES

Figure 3, note large "S" in suspension. 62 mm in length

Figure 4. Reverse side of cover with name of dealer blocked out. Black receiving cancel appears to read July 9th.



Figure 4