

## A new Waghorn cover to China

In order to speed up the mail to India and the Far East and vice-versa, Thomas Waghorn, an agent of the East India Company pioneered the overland route across Egypt from Alexandria up the Nile to Cairo and by camel to Suez connecting the packet service to India. With the French Packet operating a service from Alexandria to Marseilles via Malta in 1837, this provided a faster service between European countries, the Near and Far East.

Lot 3001 of Interasia December 2012 Hong Kong sale shows a letter sent by the Waghorn Agency in London.

The catalog description is as follow:

Hong Kong, First China War: 1842 envelope front to "Eastern Expedition, China" (received 15.6.42 per pencil annotation at top) showing handstamp in black on front:-

**CARE OF Messrs. WAGHORN & Co  
LONDON. ALEXANDRIA**

The letter is addressed to a Mr. Upjohn of the Transport *Eagle* c/o Captain Patterson of the China Expedition Force. The Waghorn Agent in London acted as a forwarding agent and a service fee was levied independent of the postage. Since this letter did not bear any rate markings, therefore, it would be carried privately from London to China via India.

John K. Sidebottom O.B.E. in his book "The Overland Mail" published by the Postal History Society in 1948 described this as type 7. He recorded eight covers bearing this type of handstamp between July 1839 and September 1841. Four of them from London to Calcutta and one to Bombay. Only two of them to China (1840 & 1841) and one to Macau (1841).

Hong Kong Study Circle (U.K.) Chairman Mick Goldsmith published an article in HKSC Journal No. 339 December 2006 updating the known Waghorn covers to China.

Both sources did not mention this item.

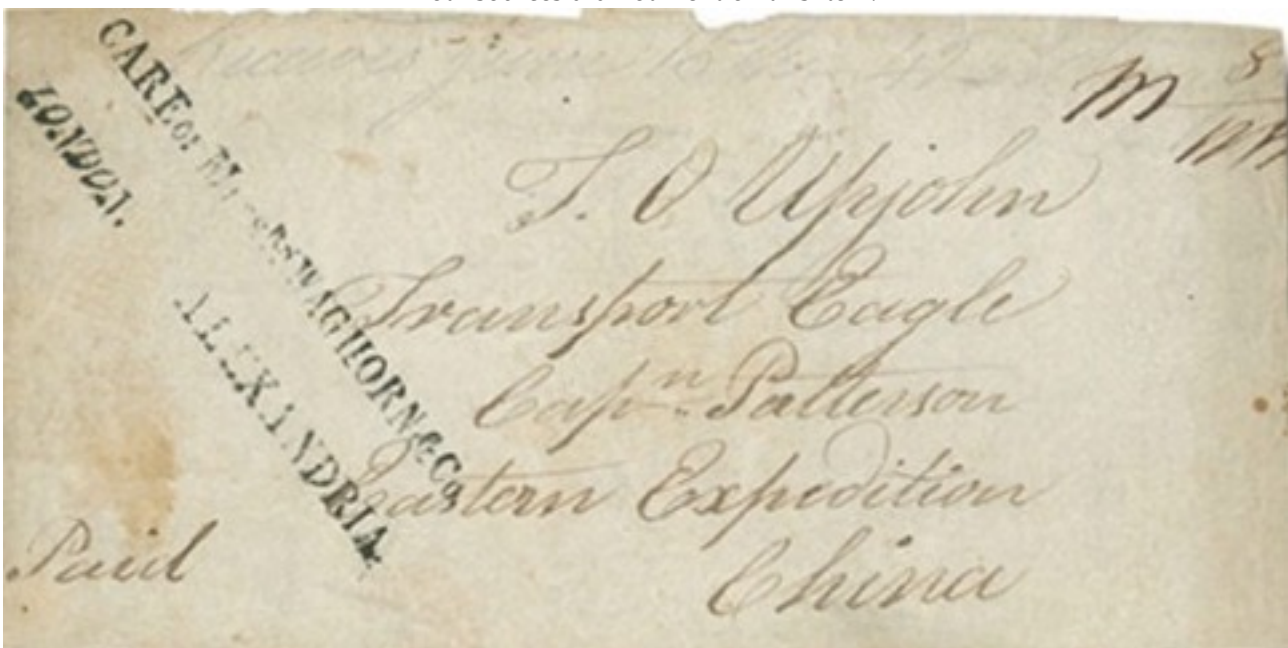


Illustration courtesy of Interasia Auctions Ltd.