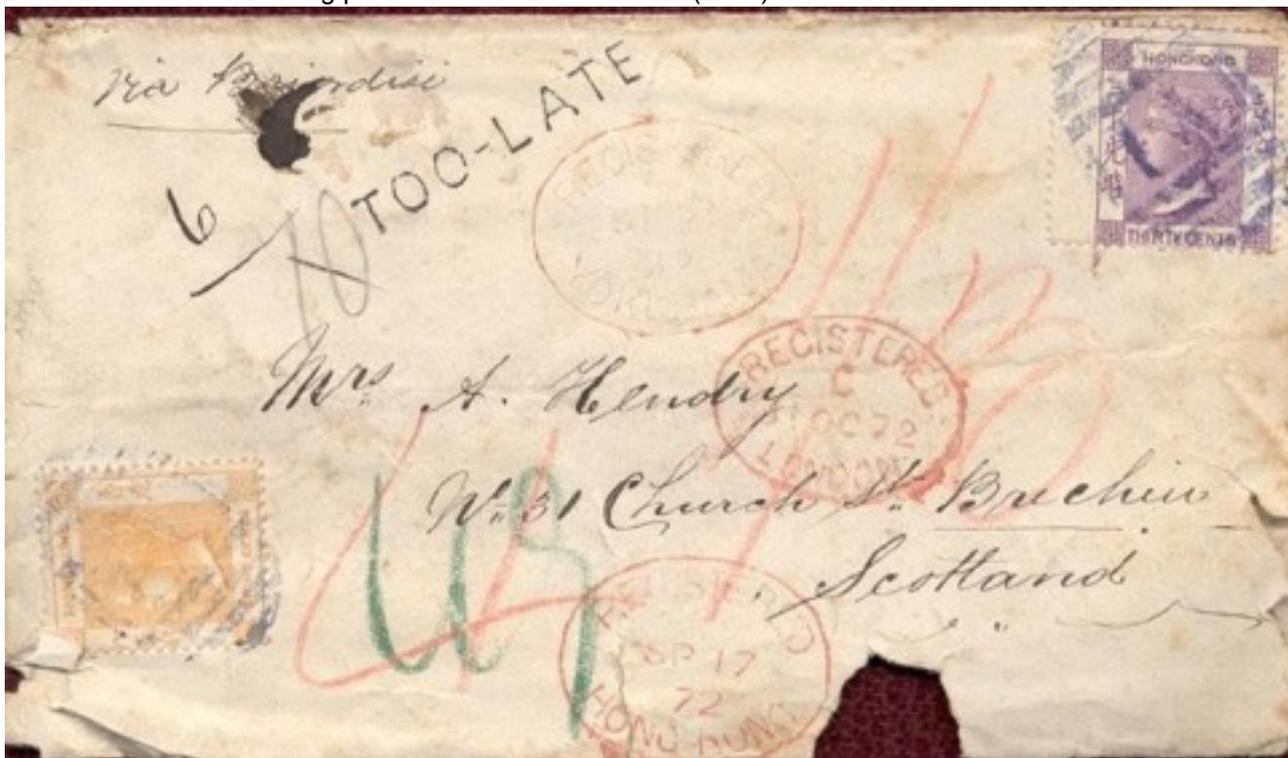


## Yokohama Registered covers (excepts from HKPS April 2003 NL revised August 2011)

Five letters from the *Mrs. Agnes Hendry of Brechin, Scotland* came into light on eBay in 2003. Four covers were mailed from the Yokohama British Post Office and the fifth from the U.S. Post Office. Three out of the four mailed from the B.P.O. are registered covers bearing the oval Yokohama registered oval datestamp. It is not known whether these five covers are the only survivors from this correspondence. All four covers from the Hendry correspondence have not been recorded in the study of "Y1" covers by Messrs. Frank Drake, David Drake and Y.K. Wong published in HKPS Journal 5 (2001).



In the collection of a Hong Kong collector

The earliest of the three registered letters in this new find is postmarked 2 September 1872. The *purple* "Y1" is the narrow type. It was carried by the French Ligne S *Godavery* 11 September to Hong Kong arriving on 17 September and by Ligne N *Cambodge* to Marseilles on 30 October. The letter was intended to go by British Packet since it bears the notation "Via Brindisi" but the scheduled British Packet *P&O Ottawa* broke shaft on the 5 September and its mails transferred to the French Packet *Godavery*. This might be the reason why the TOO-LATE mark was struck, probably at Yokohama. However, this hyphenated handstamp is quite different from the Ishikawa Oct. 1872 "Y1 TOO LATE" cover illustrated as lot 644 in the 1980 sale. This October 1872 letter somehow missed the intended French Packet *Volga* and the HK arrival date 11 November suggests that it went on the *P&O Madras* which sailed on the 4 November to HK.



In the collection of a Japanese collector

On the other hand, the next letter dated 17 November 1873 was sent by British Packet as intended. P&O Avoca 18 November 1873 to Hong Kong arriving on 25 November. P&O Travancore 27 November to Ceylon, P&O Pekin to Suez and P&O Malta to Brindisi arriving on 2 January 1874. The blue "Y1" is the narrow type.



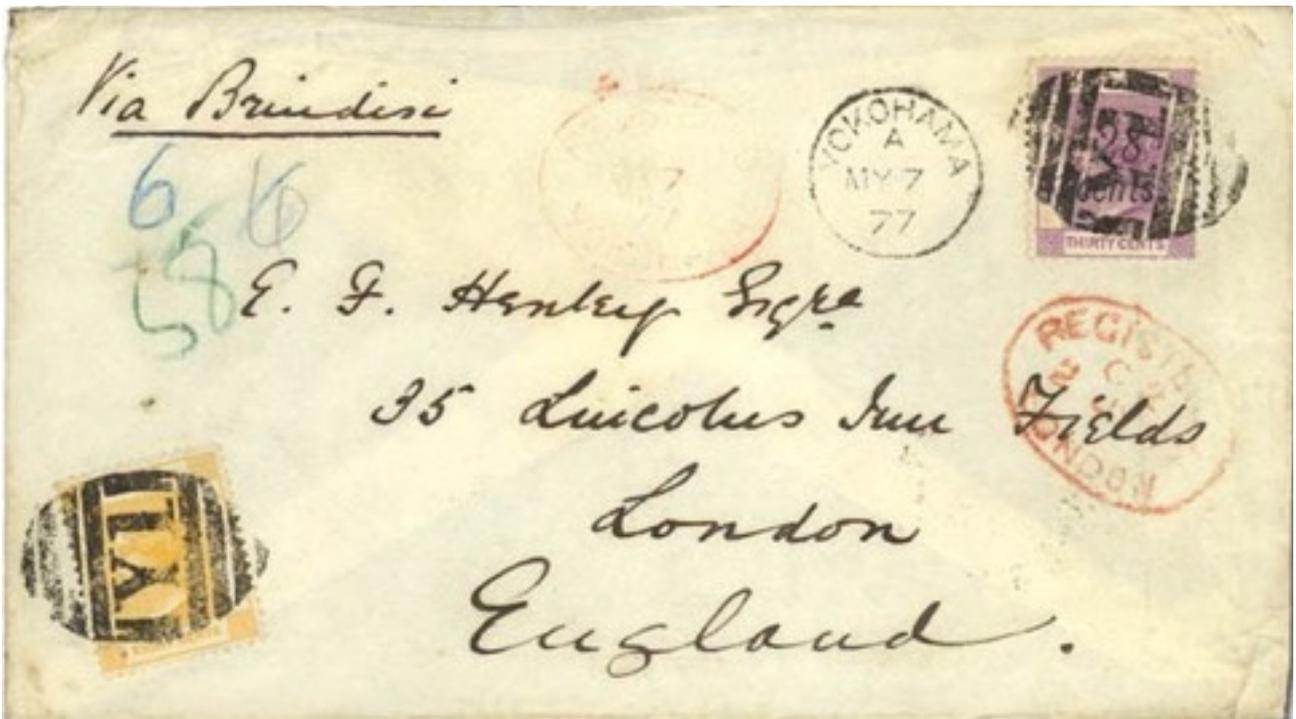
In the collection of a Hong Kong collector

The third letter dated 23 November 1874 endorsed French Packet and was sent by the *Menzaleh* 24 November to Hong Kong arriving on 30 November, then carried by French Packet *Pei-Ho* to Marseilles. The stamps are cancelled by thick "Y1" in blue.

In addition to the registration markings, the three covers also show different forms of the "Y1" killer. In 1872, thin "Y1" was struck in purple ink, blue in 1873 and finally in 1874 thick "Y1" in blue. A truly remarkable trio indeed!

Apart from these three new finds two other Yokohama British Post Office registered covers are known at present:-

1. Webb recorded one letter dated 7 May 1877 bearing an 8c and a 28c/30c to London via Brindisi. This is illustrated on Plate 54 and it is said to be from Mr. Ashton's collection. The letter addressed to a E.F. Henley of 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London is the LATEST RECORDED Y1 REGISTERED COVER. The cover featured in 7 August 2011 Dynasty Auction in Hong Kong and realized HK\$250,000 a new record.



2. EARLIEST RECORDED Y1 REGISTERED COVER is a 24 March 1871 letter to Rome (see illustration below) sent by British Packet via Marseilles shortly after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71. The cover has five QV30c orange (over franked) and pair of 4c grey (for registration fee) and endorsed via Brindisi. The rate stated in manuscript  $2s2d \times 2 = 4s4d$  (\$1.04) being the quadruple rate via Marseilles 26c per 1/4oz. rate. Interesting the French cachet on reverse stated that the weight of the letter was 13 grams i.e. less than 1/2oz.!

Yokohama Post Office often overcharged senders because of the inaccurate weighing scale used and lack of stamps of the correct denomination. A complaint letter was sent by British Post Office on 8 December 1870 to this effect. (see \*E.B. Proud: Post History of the British Post Offices Abroad page 460)

via Brindisi

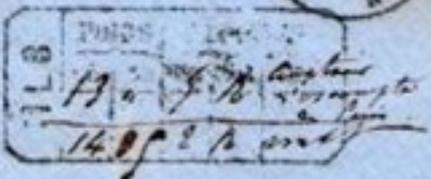
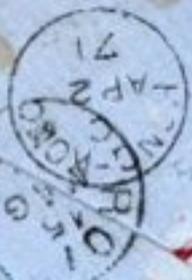
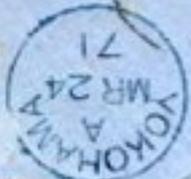
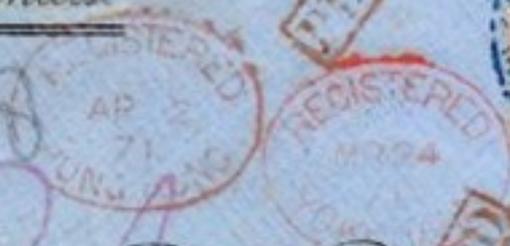
11

Mrs. E. Cantello

"via Facis & Boria N° 2"

Rome  
(Italy)

CHARGÉ



638

896

Return to sender  
if not delivered