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## My Favorite Find

What could be more interesting than this colorful cover from Chungking, China that was mailed to the U.S. in the spring of 1943? It went via air mail to Calcutta and then by surface transport. It is loaded with postal history along with some attractive Chinese stamps (The Dr. Sun Yat-sen series of 1941-43). The exact mailing date is not clear, but the first receiving mark from the Bombay GPO is 01 March 1943. The NYC receipt dates are 26 and 28 June. That's almost four months en route. Chungking was China's war capital, a city heavily bombed by the Japanese from 1938-1943 with great devastation to infrastructure and life. In 1943 Chungking's population was 724K with few foreigners including 207 U.S.



What is not to like about this cover? It contains • Wax censor seals on the front and back, • Censor tape (probably by the British in Chungking or Bombay), • Crown censor stamp, • Two types of Chinese postmarks, • A registration label, • An auxiliary "Forward" stamp, and • Four receiving marks in the back. There is lots to learn from a cover like this. What was going on in Chungking during WWII? There are the mysterious aspects of what was contained in such a cover. To get to the return address, the censor tape and wax seals would necessarily be disturbed. What can be seen appears to be French. And what is the WHA on the upper left? An organization, a person's initials? There is lots of good stuff.

WHY IS THIS YOUR FAVORITE?

(circle one)

aesthetics • details • history • world connections • origins