

1980 cover from Purang via Shiquanhe to Shenyang

A beautiful usage of a classic modern stamp. Illustrated envelope with two parrots on a perch, addressed to postcode 110024 (a district in the city of Shenyang, in Liaoning), from postcode 859500 of Bangre, 邦热 in Burang County, Ngari Prefecture, Tibet. Franked with 4f Peonies, a painting by Qi Baishi, stamp 16-1 from set T44, cancelled by Chinese/Tibetan bilingual cancel of Burang Town (Purang), Burang County, Ngari Prefecture, Tibet, dated 2nd July 1980:



Remarkably this cover had another 4f stamp, this time from the R18 definitive set, apparently added on the back 6 days later at Shiquanhe 狮泉河 / ལྷ་ལྷོ་རྫོང་རྫོང་ལྷོ་གྲོང་ཁའུ་, Gar County, Ngari Prefecture (sometimes called Ngari, but not the old village of Gartok (Gar), some miles away, which is now not as important a place as it was). Or possibly more likely, the 4f stamp was put on the back in Purang, but missed being cancelled there and was cancelled later in Shiquanhe? Perhaps we'll never know? It seems likely that all mail went (slowly!) from Purang to the main town of the prefecture, Shiquanhe, and distributed from there.



The receiver cancel is rather unclear, but has at the base 24 (支 = branch) which is probably Gongrencun Post Branch Bureau, South 11th West Road, Tiexi, Shenyang, Liaoning, China, 110024. Or possibly Zangong Street Post Office, Zangong Street, Tiexi, Shenyang, Liaoning, China, 110024. The magenta handstamp "35" is probably a postman's chop.