

Identifying a Chinese postmark (1)

An illustration here of the usefulness of the [list of Chinese Post Offices](https://westnab.com/MaxStamps/), which is now published online on my web site <https://westnab.com/MaxStamps/>. It used to be published at <http://worldpostmarks.net/HTML/Countries/china.htm>, but this no longer exists, it seems. I am indebted to the original compilers and publishers.

I came across these three stamps, apparently posted from the same town on the same day, probably on the same cover, probably staying together through more than a few Chinese stamp collections:



Unfortunate that all three have trimmed perfs. The postmarks are dated 20th (probably April, 4th month) 33 year (1944) and, on the \$3, we can see the western letters KWONGH(O?)...

Searching for KWONGHOI or KWONGHOW on the internet doesn't result in any useful results.

I consulted the very useful "[LINE Dictionary](#)", which can recognise Chinese characters from rough sketches (click the brush icon in the search box at the top of the page). Drawing the character on the postmark as best I could, produced:

儻 Kuǎng as the closest match. Close, but not what we have here.

However, searching for "KWONGH" in the web page <https://westnab.com/MaxStamps/ChinesePO1.php> brings up one match:

Kwonghoi (Guanghai) 廣海 - in the Guangdong section. Success!

Guanghai (simplified 广海, Guǎng hǎi) is a town under the jurisdiction of Taishan, in Guangdong province in southern China. It gives its name to nearby Guanghai Bay, and is near to the outlet of the Datong River, just south of the S32 Western Coastal Expressway, about 70km west of Macau.

It is interesting that it was using Nationalist stamps in 1944, when Japanese occupied Guangdong was using the Kwangtung overprinted issues since June 1943. Was Guanghai held by the Nationalists at this time? Or were the Japanese controlled areas using Nationalist stamps as well as the overprinted Kwangtung issues?

If anyone knows the answers to either of these questions, please get in touch.