

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a disease in humans which is caused by the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV). The outbreak was first identified in Foshan, Guangdong, China, on November 16, 2002. Within a matter of weeks in early 2003, SARS spread rapidly to infect individuals in some 37 countries around the world. The World Health Organization declared SARS contained on 5 July 2003. However, several SARS cases were reported until May 2004. The envelope, printed by Gansu Security Printers in 2001, displayed above has been backstamped with 'SARS DISINFECT' in English and Chinese.

It was posted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2003 in Gangu County, Gansu Province and arrived in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is stamped on the front with 'Printed Matter' in red and pays the 60f printed matter rate with a 1994 50f Year of the Dog stamp and a 10f 'Environment' definitive stamp, issued in 2002.

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