

## “Double Circle” type Medium-Size, Single-Circle cancellation with a 2-digit year New reported sightings from Kōbe and Tōkyō

by Anker Nielsen

In 2011 Charles A. L. Swenson presented (JP 66/38-42) an in-depth study of an unusual roman-letter datestamp used at Kōbe in 1898-1900. This information was later updated in my article published at JP 70/272 that cited a new first usage date. In a subsequent article (JP 71/94-97) I reported the first instance of a similar variety used at Tokio. I have now been able to expand the time-period for known usages at Kōbe in 1898, and to establish a time-period for usage of the Tokio type during 1901.

### Kōbe datestamp

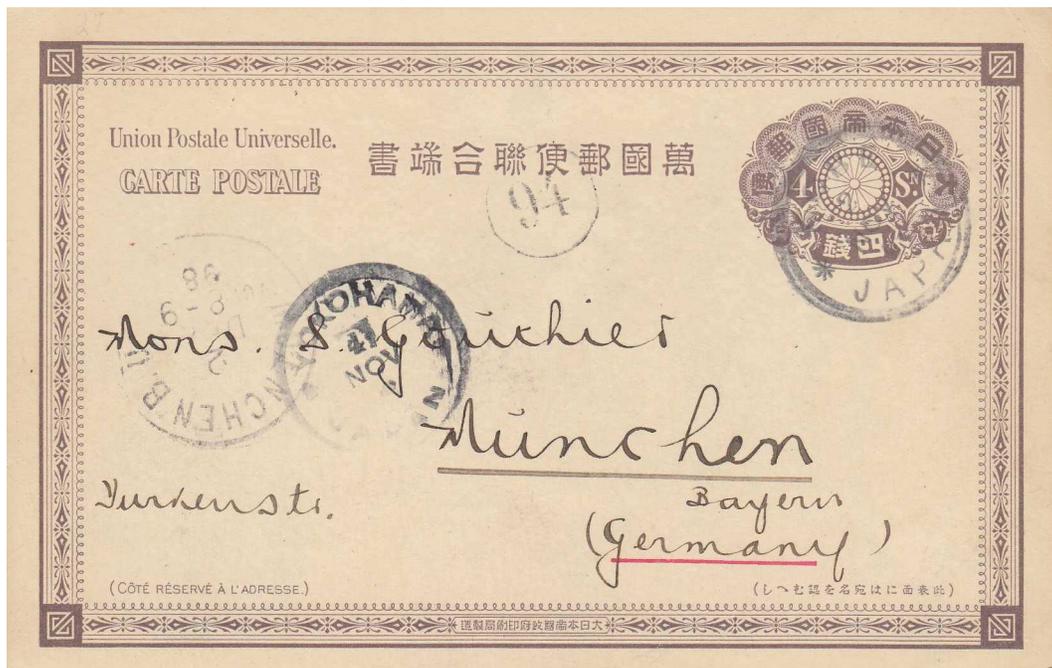


Figure 1

This unusual cancel type is a double-circle variety of the Medium-Size, Single-Circle with a 2-digit year. In the most recent update its known usage period was defined as 18 November 1898 to 17 November 1900 (JP 71/97). Note that there is a break from 23 December 1898 to the date in 1900 where no usages have been reported. Is it possible to find cases with double circles in that period? I have now found a new earliest date of a cancel applied on 2 November 1898 to a postcard sent to München (Munich) in Germany (**Figure 1**). The card was sent via Yokohama and arrived in München on 2 December 98. The date on the Kōbe can be more easily seen in the accompanying enlargement (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Additional usages that are earlier than the previously published first day of 18 November 1898 are depicted in **Figure 3** (9 November) and **Figure 4** (10 November).

As noted on page 170, with the exception of the 17 November 1900 reporting, the latest known usage date of this cancel variety is 23 December 1898. I have now found two additional examples used after that date. The first is a damaged postcard (**Figure 5**) sent from Kōbe to Batavia in the Dutch East Indies (today Jakarta in Indonesia). It has two of the Kōbe “double circle” type cancels from 26 December 1898, as well as transit cancel applied at Singapore on 10 January 1899 and an arrival cancel at Batavia on 16 January 1899. An enlargement of one of the Kōbe cancels is shown in **Figure 6**.



Figure 5



Figure 6

The other new example is a postcard (**Figure 7**) sent from Kōbe to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. It has a Kōbe “double circle” type cancel dated 30 December 1898. It was also sent via Yokohama (on 2 January 1899), and also has another transit cancel applied at San Francisco dated 20 January 1899. An enlargement of the Kōbe cancel is shown in **Figure 8**.



**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**

Besides these earlier and later observations, I have also found a 27 November 1898 usage (**Figure 9**) since the last JP update.

**Table 1** provides a full listing (in date order) of all the 1898 examples of the Kōbe cancel that have now been identified. This excludes the 17 November 1900 example which has a slightly different design (see JP 66/38-41).



**Figure 9**

**Table 1**  
Medium-Size, Single-Circle cancellations with a 2-digit year and a Double-Circle exterior recorded from Kōbe

Date	Source reference	Mail item type
1898.11.02	<b>Figure 2</b>	Postcard
1898.11.09	<b>Figure 3</b>	Postcard
1898.11.10	<b>Figure 4</b>	Stamp
1898.11.10	Internet – not shown	Postcard
1898.11.18	JP 70/272	Postcard
1898.11.19	JP 66/40	Letter
1898.11.27	<b>Figure 9</b>	Postcard
1898.11.30	JP 66/40	Stamped envelope
1898.12.03	JP 66/40	Unknown
1898.12.08	Internet – not shown	Letter
1898.12.22	JP 66/41– not shown	Unknown
1898.12.23	JP 66/38	Stamp
1898.12.26	<b>Figure 6</b>	Postcard
1898.12.30	<b>Figure 8</b>	Postcard

Tokio datestamp

In my JP 71/94-97 article reporting this cancellation type used at Tokio, I had only one example, used on 28 November 1901. I have now found additional examples with dates ranging from 20 March 1901 to 20 December 1901. Note that we do not have a full 360 degree double circle, but only variations in the length of the double circle.

**Figure 10** is a postcard sent from Tokio to Vienna in Austria. It initially had a maruni (trisected circle) domestic cancel applied and subsequently the “Double Circle” type of the Medium-Size, Single-Circle with a 2-digit year at Tokio on 20 March 1901 (enlarged in **Figure 11**).



Figure 10



Figure 11

**Figure 12** is a postcard sent from Jena in Germany to Asakusa in Tokio. Mailed at Jena on 22 November 1901, the card had a “double-circle” arrival cancel applied at Tokio 20 December 1901 (enlarged in **Figure 13**).



Figure 12



Figure 13

I have also found additional dates both from my collection and the Internet. **Table 2** provides a full listing (in date order) of all the examples of the Tokio cancel that have now been identified.

Table 2 Medium-Size, Single-Circle cancellations with a 2-digit year and a Double-Circle exterior recorded from Tokio		
Date	Source reference	Mail item type
1901.03.20	<b>Figure 11</b>	Postcard
1901.03.23	<b>Figure 14</b> (Internet)	Postcard
1901.10.15	Internet – not shown	Postcard
1901.10.25	<b>Figure 15</b> (Internet)	Postcard
1901.11.16	<b>Figure 16</b>	Postcard
1901.11.28	JP 71/97 - <b>Figure 17</b>	Letter
1901.12.20	<b>Figure 13</b>	Postcard

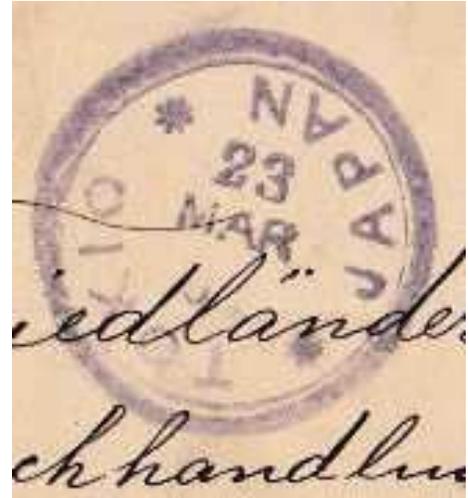


Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

As can be seen from **Figures 10 to 17** there is a variation in the central part of the cancel with the date. In most cases, the date is under “OK” in “TOKIO” but not always. This variation comes from changing the date in the central part of the cancel as mentioned at JP 65/42-43. It is not uncommon to have the central part inverted.

**Conclusions**

For the Kōbe type we can give an interval of usage from 2 November to 30 December 1898. The last date of 17 November 1900 mentioned in previous articles is more than a year after the rest. I have seen only normal Medium-Size, Single-Circles with a 2-digit year from 1900 and 1901.

For the Tokio type we can give an interval of usage from 20 March to 20 December 1901. There are variations in the cancels, but they all have a double ring in part of the circle. ■



Figure 17