

**MS 19/1**

(Contraband Rice Junk Seizure)

A mixed file of correspondence, reports and memoranda concerning the seizure by Customs Launch "Lungtsing" on March 7, 1899, of a fishing junk loaded with contraband rice bound for Macao.

The file includes the statements made to Piry by all the parties concerned: the Launch Officer (*Melly*), the Tidesurveyor (*Manners*), the Officer in Charge (*Wolfe*), the Chinese seaman and Chinese pilot, etc.

The seizure led to a diplomatic incident between the Chinese Customs (under Piry) and Macao, because the junk drifted into Macao's territorial waters where it was taken over and the crew arrested by the Portuguese. A tense exchange of correspondence in French, between the Governor of Macao and Piry is included, and one can easily see how difficult Piry's position must have been not only to pacify the obstinate Governor, but to justify legally the action taken by his officers. Legal advicewas obtained from the Hongkong solicitor C. Ewens., and a court of inquiry was held at which Piry and his assistants, Messrs. Basto, Andrew Nolasco, Douglas Irvine, & Manners presided, and the Chinese seamen questioned.

The file is a mixture of original reports (some signed), damp-copies on flimsy paper, scribbled notes, numerous corrected versions of the actual circumstances surrounding the seizure of the rice junk, etc. Piry's tatty working notes, in fact.

**MS 19/2**

(Lappa - Peking correspondence).

A series of approx. 25 numbered S/O reports, mostly handwritten by Piry writing from Custom House, Lappa, and addressed to Sir Robert Hart, and subsequently to R.E. Bredon at the Inspectorate General of Customs, Peking, between Jan. 13, 1898 and June 9, 1899.

These reports, serially numbered between S/O # 54-S/O # 95, but with lacunae, are mostly damp-ink duplicates on flimsy paper and partly original drafts on embossed Custom House Lappa, letterheading. In some cases, the original is present with its duplicate, but the originals partly complete the series of damp-ink duplicates.

These reports, all in English, cover the host of problems with which Piry had to contend in his day-to-day administration of the Lappa Custom House: rice smuggling, an outbreak of plague and the Lappa Hospital, problems with the Portuguese authorities at Macao, navigation, Likin, trade reports, supposed French designs on St. John's Island, the rice-junk seizure case, stamp-duty in Macao, etc.

**MS 19/3**

(Peking - Lappa correspondence)

A series of approx 35 letters, notes and other papers, mostly signed R.E. Bredon, but also Alfred E. Hippisley and R. Walsham (the latter acting as Private Secretary to Hart or Bredon).

These papers are chiefly replies to Piry's S/O reports from Lappa, giving him instructions as to policy, answering his queries, etc. They include the 4 page manuscript text of a "Convention entre la France et la Chine relative à la concession de Kivar-Chou Wan" (a 99-year lease for the establishment of a naval coaling depot), and an 11-page manuscript "memorandum on the proposal of the Hongkong Government to undertake the bonding of opium and to prevent the smuggling of the drug into China". This memorandum, dated Kowloon, Jan. 18, 1899 and signed Hillier, is a poor, but readable, damp-copy on flimsy paper (MS 19/3/ii).

Hart, Sir Robert: 12 short manuscript letters or notes from Hart at Peking to Piry at Macao, dated between 5 Oct. 1896 and 13 Oct. 1899

#### **MS 19/4**

"Macao Matters"

Paper folder thus labelled in pencil, containing various manuscript or printed copies of memoranda (mostly drafts with corrections) and correspondence dating between 1898 and 1902. Inter alia:-

- "Note on memorandum re Chinese Custom House at Macao"
- "Memorandum for proposed agreement re Chinese Custom House at Macao"
- "Portuguese Minister's memo. To Yamen" (manuscript draft)
- "Note. Chinese Customs in Macao"
- "Agreement about the Establishment of a Maritime Customs Office at Tsingtao" (printed text)
- Memorandum .... (re treaty of commerce of 1887 between China and Portugal)
- Manuscript translation of an important despatch by the Governor of Macao dated 30 July 1898
- "Duty Rules: West River Trade" (printed text)
- Important draft despatch (with corrections) from Custom House, Lappa, to Sir Robert Hart in Peking
- Pencilled drafts of 2 memoranda on Customs and Revenue matters at Lappa
- Typed despatch on duty collection at Lappa
- "Memorandum on Canton practice on the treatment of steam-launches, etc"

(plus various notes, letters, etc. interspersed in these papers)

#### **MS 19/5**

(Rice Exports to Macao). Draft despatch, typewritten and unsigned (but drafted by Piry) dated 6 April 1898, addressed to I.G. (Inspector General, Peking), # 2622.

2 foolscap leaves, loose-leaf

The despatch refers to the withdrawal, on the part of the Canton authorities, of the prohibition placed a few months previously on the export of rice to Macao. The Kowloon and Macao offices (respectively

run by Messrs. Hillier and Piry) were instructed by the Chinese authorities that the rule limiting the annual export of rice from Kuantung to HongKong and Macao to 500,000 piculs, should now be exported in proportional quantities month by month to those stations. The friction between Macao and Canton caused by these restrictions appears clearly in this despatch and a tactful approach to the Governor of Macao is prepared by Piry and Hillier jointly, avoiding the "strong colonial susceptibility at Macao".

**MS 19/6**

(HongKong Junk Trade). Two important manuscript draft despatches addressed to Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Customs at Peking, by Messrs. Drew, Hillier, and Piry jointly (respectively commissioners at Canton, Kowloon and Lappa).

The first of these, dated 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1898, contains the commissioners' joint proposals regarding a suggested "System of dealing with the HongKong Junk Trade". Foolscap folio, 8 1. recto-verso (i.e. 16pp) loose-leaf. Signed "T. Piry"

The second, dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 1899, acknowledges Hart's approval of the above three commissioners' joint proposals regarding the new system of dealing with the HongKong Junk Trade, and goes on to discuss in detail the arrangements, cost estimates, etc. etc. involved.

Foolscap folio, 15 1. recto-verso (i.e. 30pp.) loose-leaf with corrections, written in two different hands, unsigned.

**MS 19/7**

Lucy, R.M.; & Piry, T.: Hupeh Salt Likin Collectorate. Hupeh. Report on Native Opium. 1901

30 page folio manuscript neatly written (in Piry's handwriting) recto-verso on 15 leaves of foolscap, loosely held with green silk cord, signed by Lucy, Deputy Commissioner, Hankow, 6<sup>th</sup> April 1901, with his large red seal.

Annexed to this Report are 7 enclosures, including 4 in neat Chinese calligraphy and a very neat manuscript sketch-map of Hupeh, place-names mostly in Chinese characters. Two of these enclosures are initialled by Lucy.

Although this Report is officially signed by Lucy, probably for submission to the Inspector General of Customs in Peking, it seems evident that Piry drafted it, not only as the writer, but more probably as the author as well.

On "Likin" (i.e. Inland transportation tax), see J. Dyer Ball: "Things Chinese", pp. 348-351

**MS 19/8**

Piry, T.: Report on the trade of Pakhoi for the year 1879.  
Pakhoi Custom House 1880

4to. 13pp. disbound offprint, stitched, as issued.

Addressed by Piry to his chief, Robert Hart, Inspector General of Customs, Peking

---(IDEM): ditto ... ditto. Original ink manuscript draft of the above Report in Piry's handwriting and signed by him, damp-copied onto 43 folio thin-paper leaves. Brown paper wrapper & title-label, stitched.

**MS 19/9**

(River Launch). Report on R.L. "Cumsing".

Tidesurveyor's report, manuscript, signed and dated Custom House, Lappa, April 16<sup>th</sup> 1900, describing the appalling condition of the river launch "Cumsing", just back from Hongkong. The writer proposes that he carry out a refit of the launch's hull, estimating the cost at \$600 to \$700. a sketch of the launch appears on the reverse of this report.

**MS 19/10**

Memorial presented by the Board of Posts and Communications petitioning that a date should be fixed for the Board to take over control of posts.

Cheng Chih Kuan Pao, June 2<sup>nd</sup> (no year ?1911)

5 leaves typewritten folio translation signed "A.D.B." (i.e. Arthur Dickinson Blackburn, T. Piry' son-in-law) on official British letter-heading blindstamped with the Lion & Unicorn crest.

The author of this memorial, Sheng Hsuan-Huai, after briefly retracing the history of the Chinese postal administration, sets out a series of new measures to improve and up-date the Administration. Chief amongst these is the appointment of Théophile Piry ("Mandarin of the Second Grade, decorated with the Order of the Third Class of the Second Division") to be Postmaster-General, vacating his former post of Commissioner of Customs. We know that Piry was appointed Postmaster-General in May, 1911. a note at the end of the present Memorial in fact states that ... "The decree in reply has already been printed in the Gazette of May 26<sup>th</sup>." (no year)

**MS 19/11**

(Chinese Manuscript) History of U-Tchau (Postal) Service, 3-IX-'12

10 leaves (= 20 pp.) beautifully calligraphed recto-verso, 12 columns to a page, vertical 8vo., blank wrappers, stitched.

**MS 19/12** (Trans Siberian Railway). Jadot: Renseignements sur le voyage de Pékin à Paris par le Transmandchourien et le Transsibérien. (Voyage de Mr Jadot, du 19 Mai au 10 Juin 1902).

4to. Typescript 4 leaves, paper wrapper, stud-bound. The trip took 22 days, covered 12,744 km. and involved transfers to steamers at Yin-K'ou-Newchang and across Lake Baikal.

Added: large printed map of the Transsiberian Railway (folded).

**MS 19/13** "THE TRANSIBERIAN TRANSIT and China's position vis-à-vis the Union in regard to Trans-Manchurian Railways. - Future procedure re Foreign Transport Services."

Foolscap paper folder thus labelled in manuscript by T. Piry and dated 23 December 1913.

Contains the following type-written memoranda:

- "Treaty of Peace between Japan and Russia. Signed at Portsmouth, U.S.A. August 23<sup>rd</sup>. 1905. ratified November 5<sup>th</sup>.1905". 3 foolscap leaves.
- "Arrangement conclu avec la Compagne du Chemin de Fer Chinois de l'Est, pour le transport de correspondance de la Poste Imperiale Chinoise". 6 foolscap leaves. Signed on 6/19 February 1909 by R. Barbier acting for the Chinese eastern Railway Administration, and by J. Korostovetz, Russian Minister, on the one hand, and by T.Piry, general Secretary of the Imperial Chinese Post Office, and by Robert E.Bredon, Inspector-General on the other.
- "Contrat pour la construction et l'exploitation du Chemin de Fer Chinois de l'Est, signed at Berlin 27<sup>th</sup> August/8th.September 1896". 6 foolscap leaves.
- "Regulations of the Chinese eastern railway Company". 22 foolscap leaves, followed by a "Preliminary Agreement", signed on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1909 between Russia and China relating to the Chinese eastern railway Company and China's supreme rights on its zone of operation. 6 foolscap leaves.
- "Statuts de la Societe du Chemin de Fer Chinois de l'Est. Annexe III. 3 foolscap pages.
- "Effet de l'entrée de la Chine dans l'Union sur les Services d'Echange". (23 December 1913). 2 foolscap pages.

**MS 19/14** "FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN CHINA".

25 leaves folio, typewritten recto on loose-leaf foolscap held together with green tape.

Important draft memorandum prepared c. 1911 or 1912, probably subsequently printed. It retraces the historical development of foreign post offices in China from early times, first reviewing each of the principal nations concerned: Great Britain (1842), the USA. (1844),

France (1844), Japan (1871), Russia (1851), and Germany (1861) to whose post offices in China several pages are devoted. The memorandum follows on with a study of "The right for Alien Post Offices to exist in China". Altogether an interesting summary, probably by Piry but unsigned except for the signature of a translator, at the end, of certain of the documents quoted.

**MS 19/15** DESTELAN, H. Picard: A file containing some 27 letters, mostly typewritten carbon copies with enclosures, written between June 13 and September 9, 1914 by H. Picard Destelan from Peking and addressed to Piry in Europe, during the latter's absence from China on home leave and to attend the planned Universal postal Union Congress to be held in Madrid. (Due to the outbreak of World war I in July 1914, the congress was never held). Destelan, acting as interim for Piry, keeps him in constant touch with events, asking his advice, requesting that decisions be taken, enclosing copies of other letters, etc. All Destelan's letters are signed "H.P Destelan" and illustrate the numerous routine matters, appointments, dealings with the Chinese authorities etc. involved in running the Chinese postal Service.

**MS 19/16** DEWALL, Wolf v.; NIXON, F.A.; DESTELAN, H. Picard; and several others: A green file containing some 50 letters, notes, memoranda, etc., mostly typewritten carbon copies, from various members of the Post Office staff in Peking and elsewhere, addressed to Piry in Europe between June 23 and September 18, 1914, for his information, or requesting advice or his authority to proceed.

The file is full of information on the workings of the Post Office in China, the innumerable day-to-day administrative problems and the policy questions, relating to China's postal arrangements with the Universal Postal Union, Russia, the United Kingdom, Japan, and even Indo-China. Germany is especially present in this file, subsequent to the outbreak of war on July 28, 1914.

During these months of June to September 1914, Piry's absence in Europe was only supposed to be a temporary affair, prior to his taking part in the planned Madrid Congress of the Universal Postal Union. This explains his constant handling of postal affairs in China despite his absence in Europe. However, the outbreak of World War I in July 1914 prevented the U.P.U Congress from taking place, and lead to Piry never returning to china and eventually having to retire prematurely.

**MS19/17** (POSTAL WORK). Four manuscript draft memoranda on the postal working systems and duties, as follows :-

1. "Postal work. Mr. Van Aalst's memo on work", in Piry's handwriting, undated. Foolscap folio, 8 1. recto-verso (i.e.16pp.) neatly joined with 3 pink cotton knots at the spine. This memorandum covers archives, books, stationary, furniture, staff, gazettes, guides, office hours, Winter PeOitaiho Mail Service, French postal activity in Kwantung, Japanese post

offices, German postal enterprises, railway transport, Shanghai, Chungking, Mengtzu, Wuchow, Samshui, Lunchchow, Pakhoi, Canton, Sawtow, Amoy, Foochow, Wenchow, Ningpo, Hankow, Kiukiang, Naking, Kiaochow, Chefoo, Tientsin, Minchu, the Newchang Winter Mail Service, etc;

2. "Memorandum on work of Assistant in charge of General Office". Undated, foolscap folio, 4 1. recto-verso (i.e. 8pp).
3. Confidential memo "Kowloon and Lappa Stations: can see the working system of the Stations and Frontier be simplified?". Foolscap folio, 3 1 handwritten recto only, signed "T.Piry" commissioner, Lappa 21 Aug.1899, (with numerous corrections). 3 different drafts.
4. "Duty Rules. West River Trade". 3 damp-copied sepia-ink folio leaves (crumpled edges). 18 paragraphs of rules and procedures to be applied. Manuscript, no date.

**MS19/18** (POSTAGE UNITS). Table of Units of Postage of various Union Countries.  
4to. 4pp. on 2 leaves, disbound. (Probably c.1910)

**MS18/19** China's Entry into the Universal Postal Union

2 thick files of carbon-copy correspondence, dispatches, etc. 1913-1915 between Paris, Peking, Berne, and other capitals, from the papers of Th. Piry. Neatly classified with subject index and contents sheet, these two files labelled "Union File 1" and "Union File 2" contain, respectively, some 86 and 30 separate missives, memoranda, etc. neatly flagged with numbers along the outer margins.

China's entry into the Universal Postal Union (Headquarters in Berne) had first been broached at the Union Convention at Washington in 1897, but it was not until 1913 that her post-office was considered sufficiently organised to join the Union. Without attempting a deep analysis of the contents of these two files, they would seem to cover all the basic work, all the correspondence to and fro between Piry, Picard, Destelan, Estrade, etc. and the postal administration of other unions concerning China's entry into the Union, and the many reciprocal agreements over postal regulations. The preparatory work, begun in 1913, was further delayed by the outbreak of World War II, but the correspondence and preparatory work continued throughout 1914 and into 1915.

**MS19/20** AMENDED POSTAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND FRANCE

(Peking, 1990)

4to. 15pp. unbound, stitched. Bilingual arrangement comprising XII articles, signed by A. D'Anthouard and S. Pichon for France, and by J. Van Aalst and Sir Robert Hart in the name of the Postal Administration of China, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. February 1900.

- MS19/21** POSTAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND GERMANY  
(Shanghai & Peking, 1905)  
4to. 15pp. unbound, stitched. Bilingual French and English Arrangement comprising XII Articles, signed by Bischoff and A.V. Mumm for Germany, and by T. Piry and Robert Hart in the name of the Postal Administration of China, on 3<sup>rd</sup>. November 1905 in Shanghai and on the 25<sup>th</sup>. October 1905 in Peking.
- MS19/22** POSTAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND RUSSIA  
(Peking, 1909)  
4to. 8pp. unbound offprint. Bilingual French and English Arrangement comprising VII Articles. Signatories were Golouboff and J. Korostovetz for Russia, and T. Piry and Robert E. Bredon for the Postal Administration of China, on 6/19<sup>th</sup>. February 1909.
- MS19/23** POSTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN  
(Peking, 1910)  
4to. 6pp. unbound. The Agreement comprises XIX Articles, signed by K. Honda and H. Ijuin for Japan, and by T. Piry and Robert E. Bredon in the name of the Postal Administration of China, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1910.
- MS19/24** PARCEL POSTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN  
(Peking, 1910)  
4to. 7pp. Printer wrapper, stapled.  
The Agreement comprises XXIV Articles and was signed by K. Honda and H. Ijuin for Japan, and by T. Piry and Robert E. Bredon in the name of the Postal Administration of China, on 9<sup>th</sup>. February 1910.
- MS19/25** CUNEO, Marous; & VILAR, Andre: Traite des Postes, Telegraphes et Telephones. (Extrait du "Repertoire du Droit Administratif").  
Paris, Paul Dupont 1905.  
Large 4to. 72p. printed in 2 columns, nicely bound half-shagreen & mottled boards, gilt-stamped title along the spine.
- MS19/26** A file of Miscellaneous Notes, letters, Petitions and Proclamations entirely in Chinese manuscript: The following list is compiled from the pencilled indication of contents scribbled in Roam on the covers.
- Hospital at Wanchai. 15/4/98.
  - Conventions between France and China (1887, 1888, 1895, etc.)
  - Rice export pre-permits.
  - Rice syndicate.

- Rice - crises
- To Viceroy. Rice export: pointing out objection to Prohibition.
- Draft of document prepared by Hillier re Export Chinfei. (Cotton yarn). 5/6/97. (Enclosed is a letter from Hillier to Piry explaining the draft.)
- Petition to Governor of Macao.
- Alluvial reclamation laws. Rules.
- Wire to Viceroy.
- Extension to Hong Kong (April '99). Viceroy Fut'ai/Proclamation to People.
- Magistrate of Chienshan. Proclamations. Graves along Chineshan Road. Burials at K'Chan. 25/5/98. Chin Minfu's proclamations re rice export.
- Proclamation
- Proclamation re Kowloon Stations. Selections of Sites. From Hsiang Shan.
- Macarira (?).
- Macarira. Teachers' notes.
- Viceroy of Macao, Governor. Dec. 1898. Stone pillars in Wengchow.
- To Hoppo. Chinese men of war. Rules (not sent).
- To Viceroy. Protest suggested to Drew re steam launches inland.
- To Viceroy I'an. Kowloon Stations: authorising selection of Sites for supplementary bureaux.
- Kang Yi's reply to Merchants' petition re Likin matters at canton. Copied from native papers.
- Kueishan Magistrate. Kowloon Land Frontier Stations.
- To Hsiang Shan Magistrate, Kowloon Stations. Requesting appointment for selection of Sites.
- To Viceroy asking interview.
- My interviews at canton with Viceroy re Kowloon matters. Notes.
- Kowloon Stations. Letters to and from Chang Weiyuan.
- Kwangchow Wan.
- I.G. (i.e. Inspector General) to Yamen. Kowloon Stations. Relinquishment of old Stations imperative. Mr. Piry to arrange with Viceroy. 27 May 1899.

**MS19/27**

Plus various unidentified Chinese manuscript memos, etc.