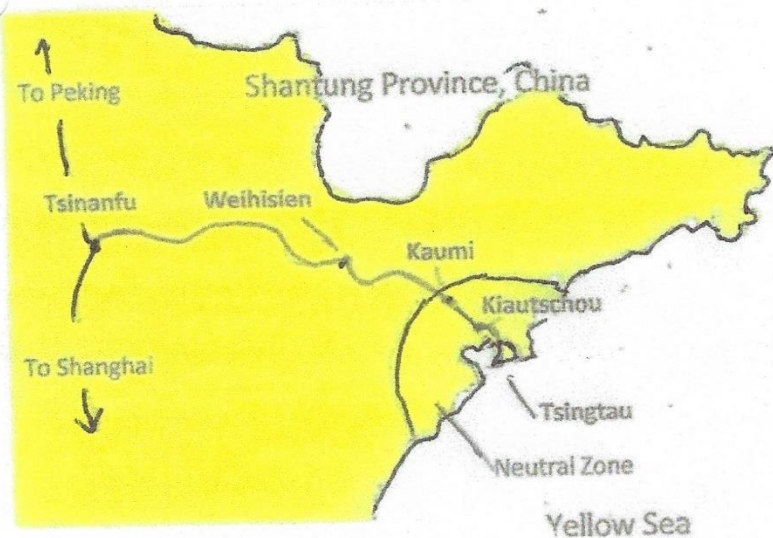


## ALONG THE SHANTUNG RAILWAY, CHINA: GERMAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, 1900 – 1914



**PURPOSE:** This single frame postal history exhibit shows the development of German postal services associated with the Shantung Railway.

**THE RAILWAY:** The Shantung railway was constructed in the years 1900 - 1904 to connect the port of Tsingtau, Kiautschou leased territory, with mining concessions in the interior of Shantung province and with the Chinese rail system at Tsinanfu, the provincial capital.

**THE POSTAL SYSTEM:** A German postal system was established in connection with the railway and its construction. This exhibit shows the development of that postal system through the postage stamps and postal markings used during the stages of railway and postal system expansion.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1898 Germany obtained a ninety-nine year lease to Kiautschou Bay and adjacent land area in Shantung province, China (the "leased territory"). The lease treaty granted Germany limited rights in a 50 km zone around the bay (the "neutral zone") as well as mining and railway concessions within Shantung province beyond the leased territory. While the Kiautschou leased territory was to become the base for the German East Asiatic Fleet, it was also intended to be a commercial entry port into China. The railway and its postal system were integral to that intention.

Four types of postmarks were associated with the railway. Those of a **railway post office** and of **railway postal agencies** were directly associated with the railway. Military **Field Post** offices and **civilian post offices** were established in towns along the railway.

### PLAN

Each section follows a period of railway construction. A new railway cancellation is introduced and post offices and railway postal agencies open or close. Each section has a cover from each new post office or agency introduced during that period. The covers in each section illustrate a particular aspect of the railway postal system (indicated below in *italics*).

**Part 1. Pre-railway postal service, (1900-1902):** Field post and civilian post offices in the neutral zone.

**Part 2. Railway postal service begins, (1900 – 1901):** Use of the railway post office cancel "Tsingtau - Kiautschou Bahnpost". *Use of the railway post office. Registered mail.*

**Part 3. Railway postal service extends to Weihisien, (1902):** "Tsingtau – Kaumi Bahnpost."  
*Use of Kiautschou Leased Territory postage or Offices-in China postage.*

**Part 4. Railway postal service extends to Tsinanfu, (1902-1904):** "Tsingtau – Weihisien Bahnpost."  
*Significance of Train 1 ("Zug 1") or Train 2.*

**Part 5. Railway postal system is complete (1904-1914):** "Tsingtau – Tsinanfu Bahnpost."  
*Effect of political changes.*

**Epilog (1905-1917):** The last German post offices along the Shantung Railway.