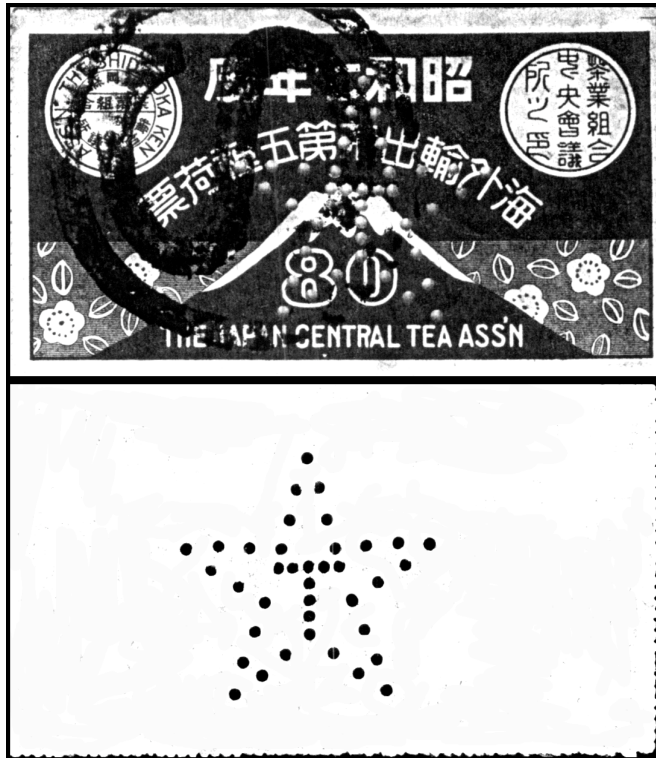


Three Items of Interest

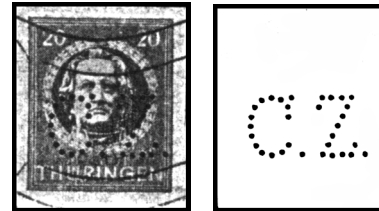
Joe Laura, jr. (#1238)

The first is a Japanese stamp (or seal) reflecting issuance by 'The Japan Central Tea Association'. It has a large Star (T) perfin. As a guess, this item might be a tax stamp reflecting payment of the tax on a bale of tea or similar revenue payment.



The second item is German pattern 1.CZ,4 on a stamp from Thuringia ('Thuringen' on the stamp) which is not a German stamp, and which is not listed

as a place of use in the ARGE catalog of German perfins.



[Editor's note: Thuringia was a stamp-issuing sector (not a city) of the Russian Zone of 1945-46 occupied Germany. I would not expect it to be listed in the ARGE catalog which generally lists use by city. The cancel is no help to me in determining city of use since it is only lines and no city name. As to the stamp itself, it is cataloged in the Michel Catalog of German stamps (as Thuringia 98A), and now in Scotts. (as #16N17; after DDR issues.)]



And finally, the China stamp pattern 1.IS,19 is listed for use in Shanghai, but the catalog lists only issues with overprints. Is this an unusual use of German postage from China (not overprinted) or is there another, simpler explanation?

Does anyone out there have any further information? Please let me know what you know!