

◀ 132 **China**

Replace paragraph 'The 1898 issue ...' with:

The 1898 issue inscribed 'CHINESE IMPERIAL POSTS' printed by Waterlow on watermarked paper and overprinted 'SPECIMEN' has been found in all official collections examined, including that of the International Bureau. The typeface of the 'SPECIMEN' overprint is typical of that used by Waterlow.

No Circular relating to their distribution has been found and it appears that the stamps were sent directly to members of the UPU even though China had not yet joined.



ex Natal collection



ex Royal Swedish Post Office collection

The set in the Natal Collection was additionally handstamped 'SPECIMEN.' Type NA2 provides proof of distribution and the page from the Royal Swedish Post Office archives dated '1898' in manuscript confirms the year of distribution.

Insert after introductory text:

UPU specimen stamps of the Republic of China and of Sinkiang are now listed and priced by Stanley Gibbons.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁹ Stanley Gibbons *China* stamp catalogue, 12th edition, 2018.