

The Reverend Blodgett Correspondence

Reverend Henry D. Blodgett (sometimes spelled Blodgett) was a graduate of Yale, Class of 1848, along with Reverend William Aitchison (see lot 2008). He spent 40 years as a missionary in China and was one of five missionaries who translated the New Testament into Mandarin. He also translated about two hundred hymns and other works into Chinese, and helped write an “Apology for Christianity” for the Emperor of China in 1890. Nineteen covers from the Blodgett correspondence were offered in the John A. Fox “400” Sale on March 11, 1964, where they were disingenuously described as a new find “offered for the first time.” Those covers were generally of poor quality. The better covers reached the market privately through Fox, as indicated by Marc Haas’s acquisition note on the back of the cover offered in this sale as lot 2010 (“Fox 3/63 200”).

A magnificent cover to Shanghai, China, with a superb strip of the 1855 10c Type III



LOT 2009 ✉ ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

10c Green, Type III (15). Horizontal strip of three, huge margins all around, used with **3c Dull Red, Type I (11)**, large to huge margins, cancelled or tied by grids and “Greenfield Ms. Mar. 17” (1857) circular datestamp on immaculate cover **to Shanghai, China**, from the Reverend Henry Blodgett correspondence, sender’s directive “*via New York*”, red “New-York Br. Pkt. Mar. 18” circular datestamp on back, magenta manuscript “28” credit—carried on the Cunarder *Persia*, departing New York March 18, 1857, and arriving Liverpool March 29 due to heavy fog, but mails unloaded via steam tug on March 28—red London circular datestamp (March 30), “Hong-Kong 22MY 1857” transit datestamp on back

EXTREMELY FINE. A STUNNING COVER TO SHANGHAI, CHINA, WITH A 3-CENT 1851 AND HUGE-MARGINED STRIP OF THE 10-CENT 1855 ISSUE PAYING THE 33-CENT RATE BY BRITISH MAIL VIA SOUTHAMPTON.

Ex Gross (Sale 1211, lot 268).