

Malaya Study Group

Malaya in the British Library Philatelic Collections

By Susan McEwen

This book lists the Malayan Stamps, Revenues, Meter marks and Postal Stationery in the British Library Philatelic Collections.

The Philatelic Collections at the British Library range from 'The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive', which is massive, to the 'Tapling collection' which is relatively small being stamps up to 1891, but which contains great rarities and is believed to be the only 19th Century collection still intact. The Crown Agents Archives form a major part of the book, but the Kay Collection of Revenues, the Row Collection of Thailand used in Kedah and Kelantan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office collections and the U.P.U. collection must also be mentioned. In total 18 different Collections contain Malaya.



These illustrations show some of the Proof and unissued items illustrated in the book

The Collections can be seen by appointment at the British Library in London, but now their 'Malaya' content is listed in this book which also illustrates many unique proofs and archival pieces from the Collections, 34 items on 16 Colour plates.

The British Library website is www.bl.uk

'Malaya' is a geographical area, not a Political one. It covers the Peninsula of Malaya, now the Western part of Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore. It has a long, fascinating and at times complex history resulting in 21 different Stamp Issuing authorities being represented in the Collections. This history gives plenty of scope and interest for Philatelists and Postal Historians.

Help has been received from Malaya Study Group Members Andrew Norris and Peter Cockburn, for which the Author is grateful. The Head of the Philatelic Collections David Beech MBE has provided guidance. Philatelic Curator Paul Skinner has worked on this project throughout and his knowledge of the Collections, and Stamp Printing techniques has been more than just useful it has been essential.

The result is a reference document which will answer many questions about issue dates and design work, it will provide a ground work for future Study projects.

The book is A4 size hardbound 160 pages plus 16 full colour plates and has a full colour dust jacket.

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