



# *Malaya Study Group*

SINCE 1959

## **A Brief History of the Malaya Study Group**

**1959 - 2019  
60 Years...  
...and Counting**

Compiled by Francis Podger FRPSL

“The ship is launched, it is up to the crew to make a successful voyage.”

Howard Selzer writing in the inaugural TMP<sup>1</sup>



Howard J. Selzer  
Founder of The Malaya Study Group  
Secretary / TMP Editor 1959-1970

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<sup>1</sup>The Malayan Philatelist, Issue 1, April 1959

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## Introductions

### Chairman's Introduction

For many years now, various public-spirited individuals within the Group have maintained an archive of the Group's published and unpublished material: photographs, correspondence, philatelic medals etc. Over the years, this informal archive has grown in size to fill the study or spare bedroom of the public-spirited member who currently held the archival material.

So, as a follow-on to the Group's successful Diamond Jubilee in 2019, the Committee decided to seek a more permanent home for the archive. We were very pleased when the Royal Philatelic Society London's Spear Museum of Philatelic History agreed to house our archive. Once Covid restrictions are fully lifted, it will be available to view on appointment, as an aid to philatelic and social research.

Rather than simply ship the archive off in its raw state, the Committee also decided to commission Francis Podger FRPSL to write a history of the Group from its foundation in 1959 to its jubilee year in 2019, drawing on the archive material.

Francis has written a thorough and comprehensive thematic history. In my personal opinion, it is also a very readable history. So, it can be read purely for enjoyment. But it also contains many useful nuggets and facts, which add to its interest and which contribute to the history's value for social and philatelic research purposes.

It also contains a range of photographs, in which longer-standing members will recognise their colleagues past and present, in more youthful guise.

I commend the history to members. Enjoy!

Dominic Morris CBE  
Chairman  
April 2021

## Compiler's Introduction

It gave me great pleasure when I was asked to set about writing an account of the activities of the Malaya Study Group over the first 60 years. While I am one of the 'more recent' members, the Group is steeped in a rich history and I am pleased to compile this publication to record some of the background, notable events and activities that we have accomplished over these years and that have formed the Group to what it is today. It is not intended to be definitive, but to give a flavour of the Malaya Study Group over these first sixty years, and I trust those reading it today, and those in the future, will derive some pleasure from this.

In preparing the history, I made two reflections. Firstly, the Group's name resonates around 'Study' and The Malayan Philatelist shows that there are still studies to undertake - remembering that study can be embraced by all levels of collectors. The second is that as we pass from these 60 years to the future, we must recall that we were not a US Group with overseas members, we are not a UK Group with overseas members, we are The Malaya Study Group and are a Worldwide Group for all members to enjoy and participate in.

In stating these reflections, I would like to quote two items from past MSG Newsletters:

The first is from Rob Holley who, on the approaching the Fortieth Anniversary of the Group, wrote a little on changes in the world in the last 40 years, and went on to say '...who would dare to forecast what the next 40 years will bring... One forecast I will make. The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of the MSG, if it still exists, will be held in Kuala Lumpur or Singapore.'

The second is a letter to the Newsletter Editor in 1998, where a comment about 'Estate Auctions' (Sale of Members Collections through the Group), was made: '...voluntary organisations of which the MSG is one, tend to have peaks and troughs of interest and some troughs are so deep that the organisation disappears. I'm not so sure about the MSG but I have a gut feeling that its nature is at a crossroads. Many senior (both in age and experience) members have first hand experience of Malaya which has fuelled their interest and position for "Things MSG". It is sad that they are gently falling by the wayside. This will change the balance of interest and expertise amongst membership and change the profile. Hence the current Committee do have a moral if not written responsibility to ensure the continuance of the MSG, the Committee's planned replacement, the schooling and development of expertise and the encouragement (cajoling) of voluntary contributions. Strong and experienced committees departing for whatever reason can have a very debilitating effect on an organisation.'

Here is to our participation and long success of our Group into the future.

Francis Podger FRPSL  
April 2021

In compiling this history of the MSG in its first sixty years, I would like to thank the Chairman and Committee for entrusting me with this task, and especially Andrew Norris for providing additional support and Len Stanway for the Officer listing in the Appendices. I acknowledge that there may be errors or omissions in pulling together the information, these are entirely mine and no offence is meant, and I trust none is taken.

## **MSG Formative Events**

### **The Creation of the Malayan Study Group**

The Society's roots are to be found in Howard Selzer's interest with the Postage Stamps of India used abroad, and as such the stamps of India used in Singapore, Penang and Malacca. However, his interest was more in Postal History and so, through the Robson Lowe auctions, he started to find some of the better Straits Settlements postal history covers – which, in the end, were to be the bedrock of his collection.

For Howard the next step was the desire for Information and knowledge about the operation of the postal services in the Straits Settlements / Malaya. At that time he could not discover necessary information, so he started to reach out trying to find like-minded people who were interested in Malayan Philately. This is where he heard from Gordon Peters. At about the same time, Howard had contact with Ted Proud while he was employed in Ipoh, Perak. With these two contacts and other correspondents that were developing, Howard had the idea of forming an organization where the knowledge of its members could be accumulated, developed and distributed to those who were interested.

With this nucleus of people on board and while putting out further publicity, Howard began to develop the basis of a publication and, in April 1959, the first issue of The Malayan Philatelist was mailed out – effectively announcing the formation of the Malayan Study Group. Dr FE Wood was given the position of Honorary Chairman. The major content of the first issue was a bibliography of Malayan Philately, based on material in Howard's own library, and the section on the Japanese Occupation, on the library of Jim Dewy.

This was the start of the Study Group.

### **A Clear Objective**

Howard set a clear objective for the new Group as being '...a joint study of the stamps and postal history of Malaya. It sometimes takes many small bits of information to form a complete story. These small bits of information contained in the stamps, covers, cancellations and perhaps even in the letters and documents in collections, collections that each of us has worked hard, and many times long, to build. It is now our pleasant task to weave this information together until we have the correct or complete answer, whichever the case may be.' He went on to add 'This can be accomplished by sending the bits of information you have, answers to the questions other members have presented and adding to the information contained in the articles whenever possible. A small effort or contribution by many will produce a very desirable result.', with this holding true as at the time of writing this history as it did when written by Howard sixty years ago.

### **What is in a Name – Malaya v's Malayan**

Although originally called the Malayan Study Group, in June 1959 a question was raised on the title of the Society as 'Malayan' means 'from Malaya'. With this in mind, the views of the then members were sought. In June 1960 it was announced in The Malayan Philatelist (TMP Vol 2 No 2) that 'with this bulletin we wish to announce the change of our name to "Malaya Study Group".' The announcement went on to say: 'Without exception, members expressing

an opinion have indicated that they felt the change should be made. It is effective immediately.’

### **Expansion of the Group**

In June 1962 [TMP Vol 4 No 3], Howard, in his position as Editor, wrote ‘It is my feeling that the Study Group has now progressed to the point where the administration and business of our organization should be handled by a group of officers and/or a board of directors. Up to now this has been, for the most part, handled through the office of the editor, largely because of necessity, in view of the fact that our membership is so widely separated and our bulletins (TMP) have been our major membership contact. As we continue to grow and our activities become more and more ambitious there are certain plans and decisions that must be made. I do not feel that it will be in the interest of the Study Group for me to act as the sole judge and jury in all these matters; also that we will be able to greatly increase our scope of activities with a number of officers or directors to organize and plan them. A plan of how to best go about electing a group of officers or directors is needed. Without a local group such as many specialized organizations have, this presents somewhat of a problem.’

He went on to suggest calling for nominations through TMP and holding a mail-in election. The suggestion was a board of 7 with a Chairman and, given the membership distribution, one representative from each of Australia, Great Britain, Malaya and USA, with 3 additional members elected at large. He finished by inviting suggestions.

Ideas came in from membership for improvements and in the August 1962 issue of TMP these were reported. One was to have ‘Study Units’ looking at specialised studies on particular subjects. One to have a membership list with areas of interest noted to enable others with like interests to make contact. Another to have a ‘article contest’ with an award for the best over a volume of TMP, and it was proposed by the Editor this would start with Volume 5.

Ideas for the management of the Malaya Study Group were reported in the following TMP in October 1962. There were quite a few suggestions, but the consensus of opinion was ‘that we should ask for nominations first and then hold an election from these nominations; that we should elect a president and a five-member board of directors; that the official office of sec.-Treas. Should remain with your editor temporarily, until organizational duties can be re-allocated and put into operation.’ With that, nominations were open, and it was reported in the December 1962 TMP that nominations had been coming in.

February 1963 saw the announcement of nominations. There was one for President and 8 for the 5 Board of director positions. By the April TMP it was noted the votes were still coming in. The results were announced in June 1963 (TMP Vol 5 No 3) with GJR Rosevear as the first President and Mrs S Cannicott, J Dewey, MB Jinadasa, C Ricardo, and G Turner elected as Directors. Dr FE Wood remained as Honorary Chairman.

In Mr Rosevear’s opening message in the August 1963 TMP, he said: ‘It was with very great pride and pleasure that I learned from Howard Selzer of your decision to elect me President of the Malaya Study Group. I can assure you all that I will do all I can to further the great work which our editor has started, a task in which I look forward to receiving the cooperation of all of you. The Board of Directors and our Editor, who is now perhaps more correctly styled,



Secretary and editor of the bulletin, represent a strong cross-section of Malayan philately and with this wide experience to call upon, I am sure that we shall be able to build considerably and successfully upon the foundations which have been laid by Dr Wood and Howard Selzer.' In May 1964 Dr FE Wood passed away and the role of Honorary Chairman ceased.

### **UK Branch**

While the election for the Board of Directors for the Malaya Study Group were going on, members in the United Kingdom, towards the end of 1962, were asked if they would be interested in attending occasional meetings in London. As a result of this, Mr Rosevear organised the first meeting on members on 15 March 1963.

The Editor of TMP in April 1963 related that 'Reports from our members in the United Kingdom indicate that substantial progress has been made towards the formation of a U.K. Branch of the Study Group. A preliminary meeting was held on 15 March with 24 Study Group members in attendance, a most encouraging showing indeed.' By April 1963 there were 67 of the 141 MSG members based in the UK.

At the meeting on 15 March a small committee consisting of S Harris as Chairman, GPT Peters as Hon Secretary, GJR Rosevear as Hon Treasurer and J Lake as Assistant Secretary/Publicity Officer, along with 3 Committee Officers, was elected and given the action to investigate and make recommendations for forming the UK Branch, and the Committee held its inaugural committee meeting on 29 March 1963. At the meeting a complete agenda for a General Meeting was prepared, and this General Meeting was held on 17 May 1963 in London and was attended by 16 members and 5 visitors.

At the General Meeting, the Committee's proposal for the formation of a branch of the MSG entitled "Malaya Study Group (UK Branch)" was considered. The focus of the Branch was to hold meetings, circulate packets and hold auctions. In a letter read to the meeting, Mr Selzer was agreeable to the to the formation of a Branch 'provided that it contributed to the general well-being of the Group as a whole' and he promised every assistance he could. He also suggested 50% of the UK Exchange Packet commissions be retained by the Branch for Branch funds. After further discussion the Committee's proposal was put to the meeting and carried. With this, only, and all, MSG members residing in the UK would be regarded as UK Branch members. A Constitution, with an Annual AGM, was agreed. Reports of the Branch Meetings were produced by the Branch Secretary.

The first report of the UK Branch appeared in TMP Vol 5 No 4 of August 1963.

It is worth to mention that there were 2 displays given at the 15 March meeting and 3 displays at the 17 May meeting. These were the first meetings with displays for the MSG.

At the 17 May 1963 meeting 2 further meetings, in September and December, were proposed to be held in London with an AGM to be held on 14 March 1964 (as agreed with a postal vote of members in the UK), the Saturday of Stampex. In commenting on the high cost of staying in London for meetings the Secretary said 'he was exploring the possibility of holding occasional provincial meetings.'

At the first AGM of the UK Branch, the Secretary reported 'I think we can fairly say that as a self-supporting Branch we have got off to a good start'. In regard to commentating on the meetings held in the first year, the Secretary stated 'opinion was expressed that we could well hold more frequent meetings and your committee will propose a programme of six meetings for 1964-65'. Thus, the UK Branch was set with a series of displays throughout each year. For this AGM, Dr Wood sent some of his collection of Pahang for display.

There was no report of the 1964 UK Branch AGM in TMP. However, there was a report on the second AGM held on 20 March 1965. It was reported that a tape recording of part of the meeting was made which was to be taken to Howard to be able to hear the voices of those he had been corresponding with. [He later commented that 'It was a great thrill to hear the voices...'] It was noted that in the previous year 5 meetings had been held in London and one in Bristol. Reports were given by Officers. The meeting decided against having a competition included in the programme and postponed the idea of having an annual dinner.

At this meeting a 'Record Book' was on view. This, presented by the Chairman and being compiled by D Parr, contained a record of the activities of the Branch and its members. Press cuttings and photographs were included to make up the interesting book. (This is now preserved in the Spear Museum of Philatelic History held at the Royal Philatelic Society London's premises – see Record Books Section.)

MSG Director C Ricardo passed away in March 1966. This Director position was not back filled. However, in December 1966 it was announced that S Anketell-Jones was appointed as a Director of MSG, filling the position vacated by the resignation of S Cannicott, due to her busy schedule.

In the June 1966 issue of TMP, Howard (as Editor) wrote: 'Our UK Branch has been an active group, providing a varied program of activities to maintain and increase members interest. Perhaps members located in other areas would like to hear of some of the things they have been doing.' He went on to list the activities, concluding that reports from the AGM 'show the wonderful success this very active branch has made. They all deserve our congratulations and well wishes.'

### **10 Years of MSG**

At the end of 1968, in TMP Vol 10 No 6, Howard wrote 'The ship is launched, it is now up to the crew to make a successful voyage. 'Twas but ten volumes ago, with Volume 1, Number 1, our ship was launched with these words, - and we were blessed in having the dean of Malayan philately, Dr FE Wood, to guide the ship during its first years of sailing. The crew has consisted of a who's who in Malayan Philately, as evidenced by our membership list and the by-lines of the articles in The Malayan Philatelist.'

In commenting about the TMP, which was Howard's outlet to members of MSG, he wrote: 'In ten volumes our pages have not been the most; it has been your editor's objective to provide quality rather than quantity, not a count of words but words that count. And now we need to head the ship into the next ten volumes, with a more experienced crew and the benefit of the knowledge we have gained from the past ten. May they provide an ever increasing expansion of our knowledge of Malayan philately.'

Maybe he knew then, but things were about to change.

In August 1969, in TMP Vol 11 No 4, Howard noted it was election time and called for nominations for President, Secretary and four Directors of MSG, with plans to note those nominated in the December issue. However, this was not to be.

### **1970 - A Major shift**

In the latter part of 1969 Howard Selzer suffered a number of personal setbacks, which interrupted his running of the Group along with no publication of The Malayan Philatelist. The UK Branch Committee Minutes records that there was worry by the UK Branch for the future of the Group and a letter was sent to the President of the MSG, the Directors and Howard Selzer 'expressing the concerns of the UK Branch Committee over the inactivity of the group, and that they are loath to see it die as a world-wide organisation.'

In the April 1970 UK Branch Newsletter, which being the year of the Philypia Exhibition in London was being sent to all MSG members, a statement was made: 'The Malayan Philatelist: The UK branch committee is concerned about the continued absence of TMP and has offered to help if required.'

At the Ordinary Meeting of 8 May 1970, the UK Branch Secretary read a letter written to the President and Directors of the Group, drawing attention to the situation. The President had written back to the UK Branch Secretary asking if the UK Branch was prepared to take on the editorship/production of TMP. The meeting discussed the matter and agreed this could be so with Mr Clayton taking on the role of Editor, if this became necessary. The Secretary was asked to write to the President to inform him of this and asking him to write to Howard Selzer to suggest this course of action. It was also agreed at the meeting that 'If nothing had been heard by the next ordinary meeting in July.... the Philypia meeting in September might be called as a General Meeting to decide the future shape of the Group.'. At the subsequent meeting in July, there had been no reaction to the letter sent to Howard Selzer and it was agreed that that 'the UK Branch would ask the President to call a meeting with the UK Branch Committee and other Directors, with a view to formulating proposals to put before the meeting on 19 September.'

In regard to this, due to Howard Selzer's 'incapacity as Secretary / Editor of MSG' there was an agreement to move the leadership of the Malaya Study Group from the United States. To action this and get confirmation of the future arrangements for the Group and its journal, there was a Special General Meeting on 19 September 1970 in London, the meeting being held during the International Stamp Exhibition. It was due to be a UK Branch meeting but was turned to focus on the future of the Group. In the absence of the MSG President, the President asked the meeting to be chaired by the Chairman of the UK Branch.

At the Special General Meeting a brief summary was given regarding the circumstances of Howard Selzer's inability to continue editorship of TMP and managing the worldwide membership. Howard had recently written to the MSG President asking that the UK Branch should take over his former functions and 'do all that is necessary to maintain the Group as a going concern'.

Following discussion at the meeting it was resolved 'The responsibility for the administration of the Malaya Study Group as a whole should be vested in the United Kingdom Branch as from 19 September 1970' and 'The Chairman, Committee and Officers of the UK Branch should until further notice form the National Executive for administering the Group, as from the 19th September 1970'. [At this point the President and Directors stayed the same.] It was further agreed that the business of the UK Branch be continued until the AGM of 1971 and then the UK Branch cease. The last matter of the meeting was to make Howard Selzer an Honorary Life Member – the first of the MSG – and this was done 'unanimously and with acclamation'. The meeting is fully reported in TMP Vol 11 No 5.

Continuing the reorganisation, at the Committee meeting of October 1970 it was agreed that as the Directors had 'no function in the administration of the Group' the office of Director should be abolished. In the February 1971 TMP it was reported 'Following discussion with Mr GJR Rosevear and individual Directors of the Group, it has been decided to allow the appointments of President and Directors to lapse. Obviously, it has been impracticable for the Directors to meet and the running of the group is now in the hands of the Executive Committee named above.' The TMP issue, as previous issues, did not list the President and Directors.

On 6 March 1971 the final Annual General Meeting of the UK Branch took place, and the first Annual General Meeting of the Malaya Study Group followed. By this time the President and Directors had resigned or offered to resign if the meeting agreed. This day effectively reset the operations of the Malaya Study Group bringing together the work by Howard Selzer and the work of the UK Branch into a unified set-up. The then [UK Branch] Committee, as agreed by the meeting with no other nominations made at the meeting, was elected to run the Group. The lapsing of the roles of President and Directors of the Group was approved.

### **Constitution**

At the November 1974 meeting, a comment made by a member that he had 'been a member for a number of years and that nothing had been achieved in the way of study or research'. The member thought 'it was time the Group had a proper constitution.' Malcolm Wade, coming in as Chairman in 1975, wrote in the August Newsletter that year that he intended 'to formulate a set of basic rules for Group management' and 'to establish a long term policy regarding Group publications', stating his aim to implement these at the next AGM.

In the minutes of the 1977 AGM, it was reported 'Mr Wade said that the questions concerning the Group Rules and Group Publications referred to in the minutes [1976 AGM] were still a matter of concern and were being pursued by the Committee.'. This did not progress any further until it was raised at a Committee meeting in November 1981 when the comment was made 'it might be a good idea to have a rule about what to do if the society were ever disbanded whilst holding assets.' However, it was agreed 'this was left in abeyance for the present'.

This issue of a constitution was again raised at the 2019 AGM. While it was agreed that there were some benefits to this there was no immediate necessity for a formal constitution and the work required to create one and the Group will be run on the basis of common sense and democracy, while considering some resolutions on financial delegation.

## Notable Anniversaries

A selection of information gathered is reported on the Group's notable anniversaries.

### 21 Year Anniversary 1980

As Reported in TMP Vol 21 No 4 a reception was held to celebrate the anniversary. Both H Selzer and G Rosevear wrote letters in TMP in reflection of the important milestone.



Mrs S Cannicott with H Selzer cutting the anniversary cake at the Group's reception held in London, during the International Stamp Exhibition, May 1980



Photographs taken at the MSG Reception, May 1980  
(Reproduced from TMP)

### 25 Year Anniversary 1984

The AGM in 1982 elected a sub-committee to recommend what celebrations might be appropriate to celebrate the Group's 25 Year Anniversary.

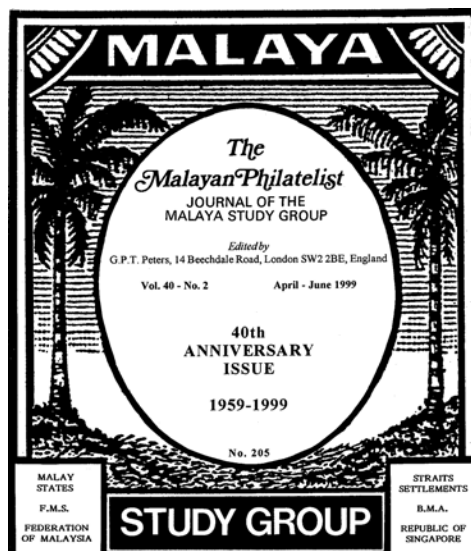
The result was a celebration dinner on Saturday 2 June 1984 in London held after the Thomas Traill Kelantan auction. The dinner was reported in the Newsletter Issue 4 1984 [Number 78] along with some black and white photographs.

### 30 Year Anniversary 1989

The 30 Year Anniversary celebration was held belatedly in conjunction with the London '90 stamp exhibition. There was an open meeting on Friday 4 May. On Saturday 12 May, there were invited displays followed by dinner.

### 40 Year Anniversary 1999

The Malayan Philatelist Vol 40 No 2 (April - June 1999) celebrated the 40 Year Anniversary with a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue.



In recognition of being 40 years on, the TMP Editor wrote: 'In April 1959, Mr Howard J Selzer of Chicago, USA, distributed the first issue of "The Malayan Philatelist". In it he wrote: "The ship is launched. It is now up to the crew to make a successful voyage". Happily, two members of the first crew are still travelling with us - Howard himself, and Mrs Shirly Cannicott of the UK. I know that present members of the Malaya Study Group will wish to send greeting to them both, with a special word of gratitude to Howard for having the interest & commitment to initiate and run the Group for so many of the early, formative years. Howard's "ship" has undergone many re-fits and changes of captain, officers and crew, but the purpose of this long voyage, visiting many countries of the world, remains unchanged: the study of Malayan philately. Long may it continue.' As part of the celebration, the first supplement was issued TMP 'In Search of the Real Malaya – An Account of 12 Days Local Leave in 1949 in Kelantan and Trengganu'.

A 40 Year Anniversary dinner was held in June 1999 following a display by R Holley, the then Chairman.

### **45 Year Anniversary 2004**

A meeting was held on 4 December 2004 for the celebration. Starting with a buffet with drinks and standing displays, which included a memorable letter from Howard Selzer in response to a request by Susan McEwen (see Appendices for transcript) and album pages from the collections of past members. Then an invited display was given, topped off with cake and speeches. This was ably followed by one frame displays by the Officers and Committee. It was noted to be one of the best attended events that the Group has held for some time.



### **50 Year Anniversary 2009**

The Malayan Philatelist Vol 50 No 2 (April -June 2009) celebrated being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue with the then Chairman, P Cockburn, writing ‘We all rejoice at the success of the Group through the past fifty years, from before Malaysia was formed and the foundation of Singapore as a City State. We rejoice, but have we all put something back to say “Thank You” for all that we take out? Many have served, and some are still to serve, beyond the call of duty, but let us resolve to take the Group forward into the next half-century by doing just a little bit more for the Group. In the inaugural journal, our Founder referred to making a successful voyage. If each existing member recruits just one other this Jubilee Year, that success will be consolidated and its future assured.’

The year started with the writing of a series of articles which were published in the April edition of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, and these set the tone of the year’s celebrations. In addition the Group sponsored 11 “One Frame Competition” entries at the Spring Stampex held in February in London; the UK regional meeting in March in Leicester was extended to include a celebration champagne reception followed by dinner; in June a day of displays (15 members displaying) at Spink, London, followed by a reception, kindly given by Spink, was held; in July Australian members organised a meeting in Melbourne in conjunction with the International Exhibition being held there; and in August a weekend was held at The Eastern and Oriental Hotel in George Town, Penang, in conjunction with the Penang Philatelic Society museum exhibition with the following weekend, a Jubilee meeting being held at the Singapore Swimming Club followed by an evening dinner.

The Celebrations were concluded on 15 October at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, with a display by 22 members of forty aspects of Malayan Philately.

### **Diamond Jubilee 60 Year Anniversary 2019**

To start the 60 Year Anniversary celebrations in March 2019 the Malaya Study Group were once more invited to display to the Royal Philatelic Society, London. This was a 52-frame display by 22 members from Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore & UK, with a good number of

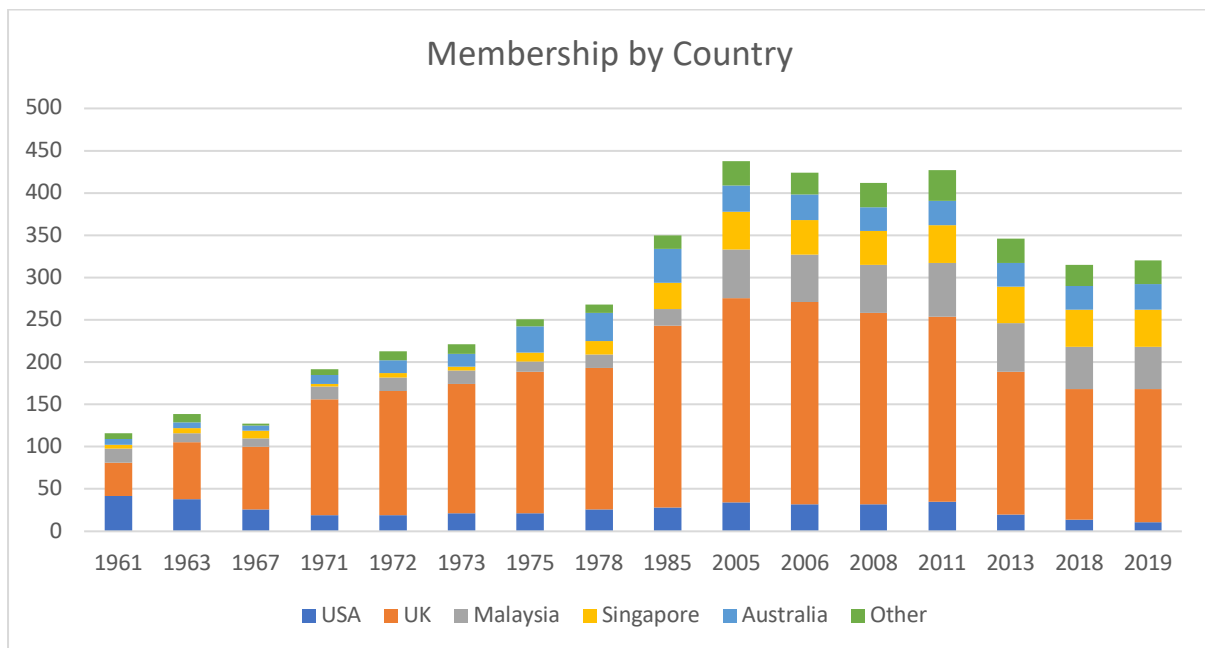
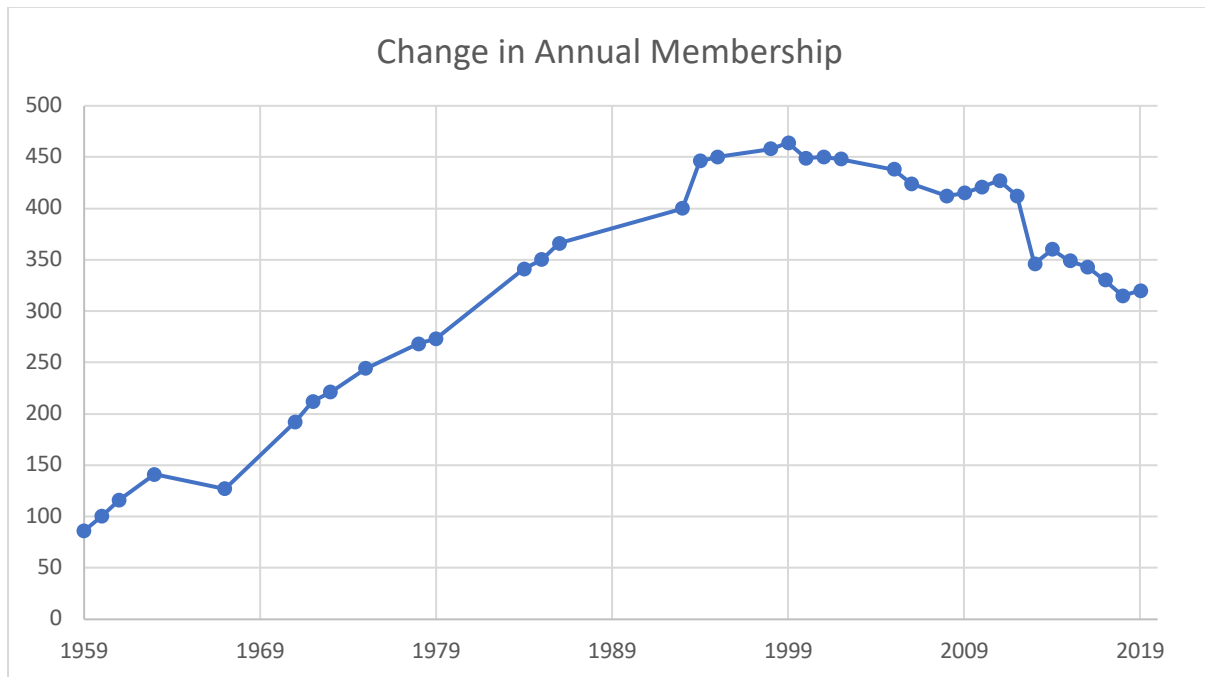
visitors from Malaysia and Singapore. A luncheon for members preceded the display and the RPSL President gave a generous reception following the display. In August at Singpex 2019, held at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore, a special meeting with displays was held to celebrate. 9 members displayed with an additional 20 members attending. Finally at the November meeting in London, there was a buffet lunch reception to round off celebrations for the year. The meeting was well attended including members from Singapore and Continental Europe. During the year, Gibbons Stamp Monthly published several articles on Malayan Philately provided by members.



## Membership of the Malaya Study Group 1959 - 2019

Membership on the Malaya Study Group started with ten founding members. By the time of the publication of the first issue of the Group's journal there were 16 members, and by the end of 1959 membership stood at 86. The years that followed saw a steady rise in the number of members with peak membership being reached in 1999 at 464 members. In April of the Diamond Jubilee year the Group still was strong with 320 members.

The change in annual membership and the corresponding breakdown of members by country is shown.



It should be noted that the numbers dropped substantially in 2013 due to the strict enforcement of 'expulsion' for non-payment of subscriptions.

The details of the membership statistics, as reported over the years in either TMP, the Newsletter or AGM reports, may be found in the Appendices. Data has been reported where available from the published information.

### **50+ Years Membership in 2019**

TMP Vol 60 No 1 listed members with long standing membership. At the Diamond Jubilee, in 2019, these members and year of joining were:

<b>60 Years (Joined 1959)</b> Jeffrey Newman (Australia)	<b>59 Years (Joined 1960)</b> Gordon Peters (UK)	<b>58 Years (Joined 1961)</b> William Wells (Australia)
<b>57 Years (Joined 1962)</b> Graham Nelson (UK)	<b>55 Years (Joined 1964)</b> Ted Needham (UK) Brian Williams (UK)	<b>54 Years (Joined 1965)</b> Rob Holley (UK) Koh Seow Chuan RDP (Singapore)
<b>52 Years (Joined 1967)</b> Graham Boyd (UK)	<b>51 Years (Joined 1968)</b> AE Barnes (UK) Martin Roper (UK)	

No current member at the Diamond Jubilee joined in 1963, 1966 or 1969.

### **Country Representatives**

In June 1960, Mr M.B. Jinadasa, Penang, was appointed Consul for the Study Group in Malaya. With the transfer of the running of the Group to the UK in 1970, Mr J Dewey became the representative in the USA. In April 1972, Dr W Wells was invited to become the representative for Australia. By October 1973, it was recorded in TMP that the national representatives were: Malaya - M.B. Jinadasa; Australasia – WG Wells; USA – R Cragg. In 1991 it had changed to USA, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore having county representatives.

The country representatives over the years are found in the Appendices under the 'Role of Officers'.

### **Member's Interests**

In January 1976 a list of members interests was published with TMP. This was compiled by M Wade following returns of a questionnaire by 115 members (just under 50% of the membership). This listing of member's interests had been suggested in the early days of the MSG but not really materialised until the issue of this list.

In 2008 a questionnaire was sent out with the Newsletter asking members to 'send a little more detail about themselves than has been available hitherto'. This was not to be published but to allow the 'committee to get a better idea of the membership's profile and plan for the future expected size of the Group and where their interests lie.'

These are the only times such information was collected.

### **Membership - Annual Subscriptions**

With the creation of the Group, Howard Selzer set the initial subscription at 1 Dollar 50 Cents or 10 Shillings a year, with renewals of subscription being payable on the anniversary of joining the Group. By 1963, the subscription had been raised to 2 Dollars 10 Cents or 15 Shillings, to allow a build-up of funds to increase the activities of the Group – i.e. Group Study Papers. At the same time, to simplify bookkeeping, the subscription became due on the first of April annually for everybody.

The subscription rate was again discussed when the running of the Group moved to the UK. At the first Group AGM in 1971 it was agreed that a further increase in the subscription rate was required, but that it should be kept to a minimum. The rate was increased to 1 Pound or 2 Dollars 50 Cents. The question of paying subscriptions in advance was raised in 1973 and at the July 1973 Committee Meeting, the payment of subscriptions for a 'number of years in advance' (10 years at the prevailing rate) was agreed and this was announced at the 1974 AGM. However, allowing a 'Life Membership subscription' was rejected by the Committee.

The next rise in the subscription rate was in 1976 to 2 Pounds and then in 1981 to 3 Pounds, with the comment made in 1983 that a forward payment of subscription could be made 'for any number of years'. In 1986 a distinction was made for the sending of publications by airmail, with the rates being 8 Pounds or 20 Dollars for this. Increases thereafter were 1991 - 5 Pounds or 10 Dollars; 1995 - 7 Pounds or 12 Dollars.

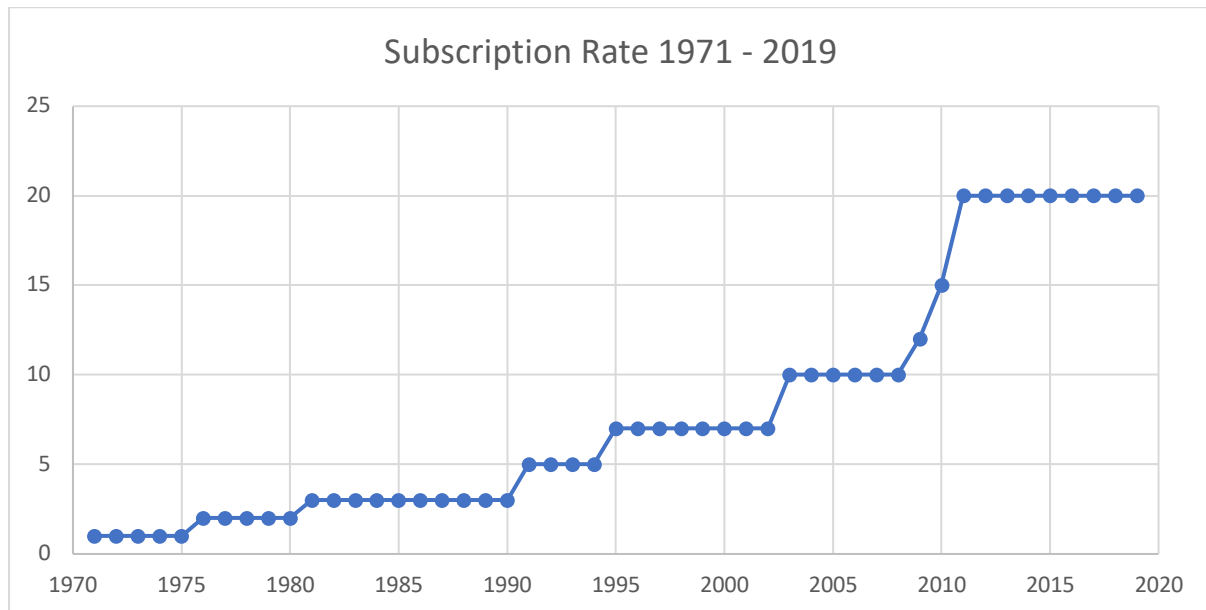
A major change occurred from 2003 with there being 6 newsletters per year, four TMPs, and various auction catalogues often going out at different times. As a result of these different mailings, it became apparent rationalisation was required - the administrative burden needed lightening, the system needed simplifying and standardising, and the Group needed to reduce expenditure on postage. Thus, the mailings were streamlined. From this time all mailings outside the UK went airmail, with the airmail subscription supplement being stopped, and all members would receive all mailings. With that decision, a uniform subscription was introduced being £10 (US\$15) per annum from 1 April 2003.

In 2009 the subscription rate was raised to 12 Pounds, and in 2010 it was raised to 15 Pounds. This was the first time there had been a consecutive year on year rise. At the end of 2010, it was noted that the rates were 15 Pounds or 25 Dollars with the caveat that if the subscription was paid before 30 June an early payment discount of £3.00 / \$5.00 would be applied. If a member joined after 1 October, then subscription would be £18 / \$30 for a year-and-a-half.

The subscription was again raised in 2011. The new rate was 20 Pounds or 34 Dollars with a similar caveat that if the subscription was paid before 30 June an early payment discount of £5.00 / \$8.50 would be applied. If a member joined after 1 October, then subscription would be £22.50 / \$46.75 for a year-and-a-half.

As the years have gone by, the costs of running the Group (Publication of TMP and postage, etc) have been higher than subscription income. The subscription rate has been supplemented by the commission from the auctions. This was also noted in 2018 when, in

discussing subscriptions, it was noted that the Group was able to hold subscription rate due to strong auction results.



## MSG Awards

There are two MSG awards: Honorary Membership and the Rosevear Medal. These are both awarded at the discretion of the MSG Committee. In the 60 years of the Group there have been eight Honorary Life Memberships, one Honorary Membership and four Rosevear Awards.

### Honorary Membership

Howard Selzer was made the first Honorary Life Member at the Special General Meeting on 19 September 1970 in recognition of his 'singular and considerable services' to the Malaya Study Group. The next Honorary Life Membership was awarded to G Peters in the AGM in March 1980.

Subsequently the following were awarded Honorary Life Membership:

1984 AGM	Thomas Traill
2000 AGM	Ian Raybould
2001 AGM	Graham Nelson
2017 AGM	Susan McEwen
2017 AGM	Andrew Norris
2018	Rob Holley (at the auction by the MSG of his 'Northern States of Malaya' material)

In addition, in 2013 Honorary Membership was given to HRH the Sultan of Selangor in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Malaysia.



2017 AGM Presentation of Life Membership

From left: Susan McEwen; Dominic Morris (MSG Chairman); Andrew Norris

### Rosevear Award

"The John Rosevear Medal" is named after John Rosevear the MSG President 1963 to 1971. The award was set-up by John's widow, with a fund of £100 donated.

The award is presented to a member for meritorious service to the Group 'with no particular type of service being specified although it is envisaged it would mainly be in the form of research or time devoted to the interests of the Group as a whole' and 'to be made as and when appropriate'.

The original award was a medal, in Selangor pewter, and had on one side Raffles' statue set against a montage of modern Singapore and the inscription from the statue on the other.



The original John Rosevear Award Medal

The Rosevear Medal has been awarded to:

1992	Derek Clayton	Contribution to the Group's activities
1993	Bill Reeves	Work on the Group's publications
2002	Rob Holley	Contribution to the Group as a whole Presented when stepping-down from role as Chairman ['Malaysian Landmarks' Plate – Royal Selangor Pewter]
2016	Peter Hooper	Unsung backroom jobs on distribution and auctions

## The Malayan Philatelist

The philatelic journal 'The Malayan Philatelist' (known to members as TMP) may be regarded as the foundation stone of the Malaya Study Group. As noted in the chapter on the Formative Events of the Group, Howard Selzer, having received positive responses from a small number of correspondents produced and published issue number 1 of the journal. This first issue of the Journal announced Dr FE Wood as the Honorary Chairman with the main focus of the issue being a Bibliography of Malayan Philately. From this start, the journal has continued to be published regularly.

There was a short break from the August 1969 issue to the October 1970 issue as the leadership of the MSG was reorganised due to Howard's 'incapacity as Secretary of MSG / Editor of TMP'. Editorship and production of The Malayan Philatelist moved to the UK as agreed at the Special General Meeting held in September 1970. It was also agreed that subsequent numbers of issues of The Malayan Philatelist should be at the discretion of the editor - subject to the overall direction of the Executive Committee. In January 1971, the Committee confirmed the appointment of G Peters as Editor, continuing from him taking on the journal in October 1970.

At the March 1974 Committee Meeting, the possibility of reducing the production of TMP from 6 to 4 issues per year was discussed, however it was agreed 'to make no change at present'. This was changed in 1975, when 4 issues were produced due to the Editor's time involved, which was noted to the AGM in March 1975, but also a contributory factor was the increase in postage costs. The plan would be to keep the total number of pages of TMP unchanged.

In 1976 there were 5 issues produced, rising back to 6 in 1977 until 1984 when it was noted in the Newsletter that not enough material was available for publication in TMP, and so subsequently the number of issues per year would be reduced on permanent basis. Although after this there were occasions for 5 issues and the issue of supplements. While the number of pages has varied, since 1991 the number has been around 100 pages per year.

This rose to around 112 per year in 2016 when it was decided to stop a separate Newsletter and incorporate the Newsletter and its information into a specific section of TMP.

The number of Volumes from 1959 to 2019 is 60 volumes consisting of 285 issues. The TMP Volume statistics are reported in the Appendices. An index has been published annually for each TMP volume.

TMP has essentially continued as it was started and after sixty years of publication, it might be thought that there is less and less to fill the pages of the journal. Be that as it may, its fundamental purpose remains the recording and discussion of all aspects of the stamps and postal history of what is now constituted as West Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore, including their various historic governmental groupings, from the earliest time forward. Although, even after 60 years, the pages do cover newly 'discovered' items and original research.

To quote from the November 1970 Newsletter, the Newsletter Editor writing on the continuation of TMP (all-be-it from the UK) defined its function as 'conveyance of philatelic knowledge, postal history, and results of studies. All is not yet known, nor clearly defined, and research may prove some long held theories or even basic accepted facts to be wrong. Please therefore send your articles in to the Editor of TMP also questions, these really are valuable, and anything else which may help or encourage research will we are sure be most welcome. A happy Editor is one who has a file of articles, questions, book references, and studies waiting for space. It's our magazine, we the membership want the knowledge of what exists and why, how it came about etc. You voice your question the answer will assist the great majority. Please do not be afraid to put pen to paper, and do not duck when someone comes back with a blitz, if they are correct research will be gained, if wrong prove it and let them bow to your diligent fact finding.'

In the January - March 1993 issue of 'The Philatelist and Philatelic Journal of Great Britain' edited by Robson Lowe, in a feature 'Review of Reviews' examining the issues 169 to 176 of TMP, the Editor commented: 'The excellent 'Malayan Philatelist' seems to go from strength to strength... It is a magazine packed with useful information for Malaya collectors of all stages. We cannot even begin to mention all the notes, queries and replies, nor the updates on previous researches and illustrations of hitherto unrecorded postal markings; and for those interested in the new issues, there are lengthy explanations and descriptions which will help to inject life and meaning into even a straight forward display of this very attractive material.'

### **TMP Editors**

There have been, in the initial 60 years of production, only three editors of The Malayan Philatelist:

Howard Selzer	April 1959 to August 1969 (Issue 1 to 63)
Gordon Peters	October 1970 to June 2009 (Issue 64 to 245)
Len Stanway	from March 2010 (Issue 246)

### **The Evolution of Production of TMP**

The journals of the Group were originally printed on a mimeograph machine with the stencils for the machine being cut on a mechanical typewriter and then duplicated. The paper size used was American Quarto (8½ x 11 inches).

Production methods changed when the TMP was published in the UK from the October 1970 issue. In 1971, the then Editor, with help of a £100 loan from the Group, purchased a typewriter (at a cost to himself of £216) to type TMP, rather than have it professionally typed, thus saving the Group production costs. The quality of print was also improved. Then in 1972 the company which printed TMP was changed, and this led to a more consistent product, particularly in respect of the quality of paper used. Off-set litho printing was used, with colour being introduced in 1987 for some of the images.

The next major adjustment was in 1998 when the paper size was changed, as both the American size paper was not so readily available in the UK and there was an issue with colour



photocopying on to that size. The decision was taken to use A4 sized paper with this trimmed to a height of 11 inches to fit with the binders being used.

With the change in Editor in 2010, the publication was changed to be digitally printed rather than photocopied, with full colour typically used throughout the issues. In addition, the publication was printed in Malaysia (and distributed from there). The format was changed to be printed in A3 and folded to A4 and stapled, with the index being provided loose annually.

### **Features of TMP**

In addition to regular informative articles, there have been a few features to TMP over the years.

**The Question Box:** This has been a regular feature over the years from the very first issue with questions being posed. Dr FE Wood, in the second issue, said 'The Question box also looks as if it would provide us with a lot of information and a good deal of fun, I hope.'. The second issue saw the answers to the first questions, with new questions coming in.

**Post Offices:** First introduced by Shirly Cannicott in TMP Volume 1 Number 2. In the early TMPs the discussion was under 'Dead Men' or defunct Post offices. After the appointment of Mr Jindadasa as MSG Consul for Malaya, he would write in his 'Report from Malaya' on new Post Offices and Agencies. The reporting on Post Offices continued from then on by various members.

**Stamp Issues:** From the beginning of TMP reports came in covering new stamp issues across Malaya. However, it was only in 1990 that a formal 'New Issues Column' was established and has remained a regular feature.

**Specialist Subjects:** In 1966 it was announced that in 1967 three issues of TMP will be set aside special subjects and the other three to cover Malayan Philately in general. There was just one dedicated issue until the TMP editorship passed to the UK. After this there were several further 'dedicated' issues, with the next being Vol 17 No2 which focused on the Postal History of the Japanese Occupation Period.

**Competition:** In the August 1962 issue ideas came in from membership for improvements and one was to have a 'article contest' with an award for the best over a volume of TMP, and it was proposed by the Editor this would start with Volume 5. At the end of Vol 5 the Editor listed 14 articles for members to vote on - calling on all members to be engaged in this. The result was announced in the August 1964 issue, with P Pratt the winner with the article 'French Maritime Cachets on Straits Settlements Stamps'. He received a three-year paid membership subscription. In 1964 13 articles were available to vote on and was won by J Dewey, and in 1965 there were 5 articles to vote on. After request to vote nothing further happened and the competition never again took place.

**Malayan Miscellany:** This was introduced into TMP in 1971. The feature brought together snippets of information, news items, notes, reports, etc., which though of interest and importance, were too short to form even a brief article by themselves. Corrections and

additions to previous articles were also to be included here. This was hoped to encourage members to send in those items which may have otherwise thought to be too short.

### **Awards for TMP**

TMP has been entered into 4 exhibitions over the years, winning Silver medals in each. These are:

London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition. TMP awarded Silver Medal in the Literature Class.



AMERIPEX USA International Stamp Exhibition May 1986 Chicago, Illinois. TMP awarded Silver Medal in the Literature Class.



Stamp World 90, May 1990 at Alexandria Palace, London. TMP awarded Silver Medal in Literature Class.

NAPEX, Washington DC, USA, June 2011. TMP Volume 51 awarded a Silver Medal in Literature - Periodicals Class.

# Newsletter

## UK Branch Newsletter

A UK Branch Newsletter was introduced in July 1965 under the editorship of D Clayton. Up until this point, the Secretary of the UK Branch had been sending letters to members prior to each meeting. There were about 6 UK Branch newsletters sent out each year.

The Newsletter's main focus was listing upcoming events and reporting on meetings with detail. In addition, it gave news on: the packet; membership information; subscriptions; obituaries; visits to other societies/displays by members being given; awards; and other general news. In addition, AGM information/reports were included annually. In the early newsletters there was also some philatelic questions and answers / discussion / sharing of information - that were not sent for publication in TMP! Although in the May 1968 Newsletter it was noted that the Newsletter 'will not, however compete with The Malayan Philatelist but run parallel to it' serving those in the UK. A 'question box' was started in the August 1969 Newsletter and a new feature was added in April 1970 issue of the Newsletter – a full listing of Auction results (the first being the auction held in March 1970).

In April 1966 I Raybould took over editorship when D Clayton moved to Singapore and H Miller took over from August 1967 but had to stop due to work commitments. D Clayton stepped back in to the role from April 1969 having returned from Singapore.

There were 33 UK Branch Newsletters.

## Malaya Study Group Newsletter

The Malaya Study Group (UK Branch) Newsletter then became the MSG Newsletter, following the running of the Study Group moving to the UK. It was noted that the committee felt that 'the newsletters fulfil a very useful purpose, and so will continue' and would be sent out with TMP. Within TMP it was to be reserved for technical philatelic articles, news, questions and answers etc and the Newsletter for more domestic uses - notices, accounts of previous meetings, member's wants etc and to help complete a study before publication in TMP. The editorial in TMP will be used to draw member's attention to administrative matters. The Group Newsletter started at No 1 with the April 1971 issue.

D Clayton agreed to be Editor of the Newsletter and, following his election at the first AGM of the Group, continued his role from the UK Branch newsletter. He remained in post until March 1979 (with Newsletter No 45 in the pipeline) when he retired, and N Hackney was appointed.

New production methods came about in 1982 due to distribution issues with a move to offset litho in issue 64 (No 1 1982). The production then moved to typeset in 1987 with issue 92.

The 'Centenary Edition' of the Group's Newsletter was issue No. 5 1988 (December), which was N Hackney final issue as Editor.

R Holley was elected in March 1989 and his first issue, Number 101 was published and printed using, at the time, the 'Group's latest acquisition', an AMSTRAD PCW9512. The newsletter was printed using computer software called 'Locoscript' and typed with a daisy wheel printer.

In 1998 a change in computer to the Newsletter Editor's own, which was more up-to-date, resulted in a modest format change in font and layout. There was also a change of printers to the printers that printed TMP, still on A4 sheets. From the start of the year 2000, the newsletter was produced in 'book form' - A3 sheets folded to A4. The printers again changed due to an alteration in arrangements for dispatching the Group's publications.

There was a major change in 2003 with a reduction from 6 to only 4 issues of the Newsletter per year. It then being issued with TMP to rationalise the administrative burden and mailings and thus reduce expenditure on postage. In 2004 meeting reports were to be provided by the exhibitor or a volunteer as rapporteur whereas up to then typically it was the Newsletter Editor providing the reports.

The Newsletter was a separate publication until Issue 1 2016 – Series 235, when it then became an integral part of The Malayan Philatelist with the TMP Editor managing the content.

#### **MSG Newsletter Editors**

Derek Clayton	1970-1979
Nicholas Hackney	1979-1989
Rob Holley	1989 - 2004
Gaden Robinson	2004 – 2009
Nick Hackney	2010 (stepped in to do 2 issues due to passing of Gaden Robinson)
Mac McClaren	2010 - 2015

The Newsletter contains a fascinating range of information – both from display reports, but also from the recorded 'letters to the editor' and responses and, in addition, the pondering thoughts from the editor.

Being a Newsletter meant that occasionally there were items aired that were 'highly controversial views' which then created some friction... It was agreed by the Executive Committee that the Editor retained the right to 'expressions of personal opinion' but 'it was essential that meetings were properly reported...'

## MSG Study Projects

Howard Selzer had the notion that the Malaya Study Group would have a focus on study rather than just being called a 'society'. With this in mind, to help new members and member's research, he first started with a bibliography of Malayan Philately launched in issue 1 of The Malayan Philatelist (TMP). There followed input to the bibliography in the next editions of TMP, with an updated list appearing in the December 1967 issue of TMP.

The next focus to assist members was an illustrated index of Post Office cancellations of Malaya, and this was launched in Vol 1 Number 5. The first results of the cancellations were published in August 1960 (Vol 2 no 4), with the first decade to be written up and illustrated being the 1890s. The next decade of cancellations was the 1900s issued in the April 1961 TMP, and the 1930s cancellations in the February 1962 TMP. Howard himself, due to challenges with postmarks being run over different decades, decided that he would put down information for the 'early years', and produced lists for the 1820s through to the 1880s in the June/August 1962 issues of TMP (Vol 4 No 3 and No 4).

In October 1960 (TMP Vol 2 No 5), a suggestion was made for a project to list all the Post Offices of Malaya, with information about each. For this it was reported 'There was found a lot of popularity amongst our members'. The first list of Post Offices to be reported were those in Kelantan and Trengganu (TMP Vol 3 No 1) with the note 'several members are working on other States'. Due to space in TMP the listings were decided to be limited to opening and closing of the Post Offices, with a space left for members to write their own remarks. By August 1961 (TMP Vol 3 No 4) the first 'full' list of the Post Offices of Kelantan and Trengganu were added as a supplement, and the initial list of Singapore Post Offices reported looking for the details of opening and closing of these.

At a UK Branch meeting on 14 May 1965 a display of Malaya Borneo Exhibition Overprints was given. There was much interest and agreement there was more to learn of the overprints, that it was agreed 'there and then that this issue should form the subject of the group's first philatelic study'. In January 1968 there was a call in the UK Branch Newsletter for more study projects, with one suggested being the BMA Overprints. The UK Branch Committee at their April 1968 meeting discussed approaching various members with proposed study areas. By August 1968 one proposal for study had been received and an offer to start one, with a list of other suggestions. The call was continued in the July 1969 Newsletter stating 'The object of a study group is to study....we are a study group, and consequently we should endeavour to live up to our name....'. Reports note that the study projects of the UK Branch took off after this date.

Following discussion at the Group AGM in March 1971, where it was debated that 'as the Malaya Study Group... there should be more emphasis on conducting studies...', a Co-ordinator of Study Projects was appointed in June 1971. In the following TMP it was announced that the appointment had been made. The announcement stated 'The function of the co-ordinator will be to try to avoid separate studies being conducted on the same subject; to put members in touch with the appropriate person running a study, and to give advice generally, when asked, on the conduct of a study. He will not necessarily instigate, or even participate in, the studies themselves. Although the resources of the Group will be, as far as

practicable, available to members concerned in a study, the initiative must come from individuals. If, therefore, you feel that a particular aspect of Malayan philately needs detailed study, and there is, of course, plenty of scope in that respect, here is your chance to do something about it.' The first suggested study, following this announcement, was Postal Rates in Malaya.

After further discussion at the 1972 AGM, and a proposal that 'the Executive Committee of the Group should make the study of philately its special function, and should appoint a Sub-Committee... to promote study projects and the publication of knowledge and information resulting from these.', there was a 'Study Projects Committee' formed in 1972. At the 1973 AGM it was noted 'the Sub-Committee had got off the ground, if only just. The first principal project would be a series of studies on the growth of Post Offices and Postal Agencies in the various states.'. At the December 1973 Committee Meeting it was agreed that a budget be allocated to allow the Sub-Committee to produce projects. A further agreement was reached to loan a member of the Sub-Committee up to £200 [£181 spent] for the purchase of an electric typewriter to aid preparation of the studies to a good pre-publication level. Papers were written and submitted to the Committee, who would then ask members if they could add to the study and would then send a copy of the paper for comment/addition.

By 1974, after the slow start, a number (7) of draft papers were in circulation [including Kelantan & Kedah postal history & post-war cancellation papers; Surcharge marks; Civilian censor marks; Orchids] and some in preparation, with several more offers (7) made for projects. There was a lot of discussion at the 1974 AGM about membership being involved sufficiently and ensuring members, who were interested, reviewed the drafts of any study projects. A sum of £200 was also voted for to meet the cost of the first book and it was agreed that a questionnaire would be sent to everyone to understand collecting interests to assist with gaining support / input to projects [NB: About 50% of membership responded].

Not long after becoming Chairman in 1975, Malcom Wade wrote in the Newsletter 'I would remind members that the primary aim of the Group is study, and the publication of the results of such study. It is incredible that after sixteen years existence, the Group has yet to publish any authoritative document on any facet of Malayan philately or postal history. The Malayan Philatelist contains some fascinating and erudite articles, but these in total only serve to wet the appetite. A vast field remains to be unearthed, studied, recorded, collated and published....'. He continued 'We have an ever increasing membership, but how many consider themselves 'students'? I believe that specialisation in philately falls into three phases - Interest, Accumulation, Study. I think that too many members concentrate on accumulation, have minimal real interest and no intention to study.... If such members cannot appreciate the importance of their accumulations and the information they contain then attempts should be made to persuade them to make their material available to those of us with a real interest so that records can be made, facts noted, conclusions drawn and the results published.' With finally 'We are a world-wide organisation and I would like to see much closed liaison between members with similar interests, and far more participation by members in the UK or from overseas who cannot attend meetings.....'. However, this sentiment was not universally accepted....

By the end of 1975 there were 5 papers in circulation. It was agreed by the MSG Executive Committee that publication decisions should not be taken until a publication manuscript had been passed before the Committee. At the February 1976 Committee Meeting, it was noted that the papers for Kedah, Kelantan & Singapore were still in circulation, that the post-war cancellation index study was now 80% complete; and a new paper had been received and one was promised. However, while some projects proceeded, some fell by the side.....

With the issue and review of papers taking too long, the Study Projects Coordinator gave his resignation which was accepted at the March 1976 Committee Meeting. Nevertheless, despite issues, the rest of the team continued, with the name of the team being changed by the Executive Committee to 'Special Publications Committee'.

The same position continued at the AGM in 1977. It was noted that the Singapore, Kelantan and Straits Settlements Postmark papers had been reviewed and returned to the authors, and the Kedah and an FMS paper were being amended to take account of the De La Rue Archive material, that had recently come to the market. Further, a supplement on Japanese Occupation was still in circulation and a paper on the Stamps of Johore had recently been received. There was no information received on the Post-war Cancellations paper nor another paper on postmarks that had previously been submitted.

At the July 1977 Executive Committee Meeting a typed copy of the W Reeves FMS handbook, with the illustrations, was placed before the Committee. The format was discussed and agreed with costs to be established. Reported in January 1978 Committee Meeting, the costs would be £700 for 300 copies. It was agreed to proceed on the basis of the recommendation of the Publications Committee.

It was reported at the 1978 AGM that the Singapore paper and the Kedah paper were undergoing revision and that the FMS book had been delayed due to the review of the De La Rue archive material, 'However, the book had now been produced and was available at the meeting'. Thus, the first MSG Study Project materialised and M Wade, retiring as Chairman at that meeting, noted 'he was particularly pleased that the first of the Special Publications Committee's publications had taken place during his term of office.'

The Special Publications Committee's report to the 1979 AGM stated, 'A substantial study of Malayan Postal Markings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century has been received and is under consideration' and 'a list of Malayan Post Offices to 1957 has been compiled' with the decision pending on how this may be made available. In addition, it was noted that 'members are at work on studies on the stamps of Singapore and stamps and postmarks of Kedah'. The report went on to outline the concept of the project scheme and note that a paper on Kelantan 'is in existence' but there were other states to study and asking for members to come forward. During 1979 a study of Straits Settlements Postal Markings to 1867 was published in a single special issue of TMP being 18 pages.

At the 1980 AGM, the Special Publications Committee reported that a number of papers were still being worked on and reported one member was doing a book on the postmarks of Malaya during the Japanese Occupation. They also noted that one study had been withdrawn as the information had mostly been covered in TMP. During the year a 20-year index to TMP was

produced by R Price in Australia, under the auspices of the Special Publications Committee. The 1981 AGM report only updated on the progress of the Malayan Post Offices and noting the Kedah paper had been delayed. At the 1982 AGM it was reported that the List of Post Offices was being printed and would be available soon and for the Kedah paper the part on stamps had been completed but had needed expansion. The Kelantan and Singapore papers were in abeyance. The Malayan Post Offices study paper was published in 1982.

Although work on studies continued, an editorial by the Group's Newsletter Editor, in his final issue as editor at the end of 1988, commented that there was a danger of auctions dominating the Group's activities. He wrote 'I would like to express one personal observation, and a hope, that the research activities of the Group can be enhanced again. I wonder if we look too much on the prices realised, and too little on the study aspects of the Group.'

The Kelantan publication was eventually published in 1992 and the Kedah, by then with Perlis, publication entitled 'Kedah & Perlis: Their Stamps & Postal History 1887 – 1941' was published in 1995, this costing about £10,000 to publish. By the end of 1995 it had sold enough copies (circa 300) to cover this cost.

Following the 1992 publication, the next study publication by MSG was 'Malaya Postal Stationery 1937 to 1947'. A study was started by Ian Raybould but never came to fruition before he passed away. In 2003 it was decided to form a study group to work on completion of the study, as Ian's research papers were handed over to the MSG by his family in hope of the project continuing. To move this forward a Study Meeting was held in October 2003. Only about a dozen attended the meeting but, with contributions from members outside of the UK, items were shown, and data recorded. It was a profitable meeting and as a result was described more as a true study made by the Group, which continued over the following years and included a 4-page questionnaire distributed with the Oct/Dec 2004 Newsletter which resulted in a further 20 members or so contributing information. There were in the end 43 contributing members. A project team of 7 members then worked to ensure it went to print, which was eventually accomplished in 2008. The final publication should be recognised as the first ever to progress all the way to independent publication by the Group.

To highlight that work on a project does take time and effort, in 1989 the Royal Commonwealth Institute donated the Malayan Government Gazettes to the Group. It was decided to extract relevant information, which was a major task to process the Government Gazettes. However, this work resulted in the CD 'Postal and Historical Information extracted from the Government Gazettes of Straits Settlements and Native States' edited by Nigel Tyre being issued in 2012. By the time the project was completed, and the CD produced, the Royal Commonwealth Society had passed their library to Cambridge University. The Group, although knowing the gazettes were valuable, recognised that some of the material was not in the National Archives in the UK and, with this in mind, the Group decided to donate the gazettes to Cambridge University, so the gazettes would be available for future research.

A list of MSG Publications is in the Appendices.



## MSG Finances

The MSG since its formation has successfully managed, through the hard work of the various Committee Members over the years, to increase its reserves, typically year on year. With increasing reserves, this has allowed for very few small increases in subscription rates (see section on membership for these rates).

From the start of the Group, the reserves increased due to the increase in membership, with the subscriptions collected. It was also supplemented with 50% of the packet commission from the UK Branch. For the UK Branch, the increase in reserves grew through the commission on the auctions held and the remaining packet commission. [See sections on Auctions and Packet.]

When the Group administration was transferred to the UK in 1970, it still was the auction and packet which drove the increase in the reserves. In the later years, while the packet makes a contribution to income, it has really been the auction commission that has given the Group a stable base of income.

In 2018 the Group's financial position was secured for years to come, following the generous bequest to the Group by J Robertson from the proceeds from the sale of his collection by an auction house.

In 2019, as part of MSG's 60 years celebration and the continuing support for philately, a 5-year interest free loan of £40,000 was made to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, as financial assistance towards their fundraising 'Tomorrow's Royal' for their new headquarters at Abchurch Lane.

## Auctions

In the first issue of TMP the Editor mentioned that auctions were to be a feature of the Group, with 'a planned commission of 10% to the Study Group'. Further to this, in TMP Vol 2 No 5 October 1960, the Editor stated 'In the past the start of a Group Auction, via the pages of our bulletin, has been mentioned several times. However the response has not been very encouraging. Your editor recently had the opportunity of discussing this matter of auctions within a specialist group with the officers and members of several other such groups. Without exception they were all full of praise for the additional interest such auctions had provided among their members and for the success of the auctions themselves. This leads me to wonder whether we have not missed the boat in not putting forth a greater effort to get an auction started within our group.' There followed an appeal for members to send material to the Editor (Howard Selzer) to 'help get this additional group activity off to a successful start'. Members were reminded of the 10% commission that would go the Study Group to 'cover costs, and it is hoped, to provide some help in covering the cost of putting out our bulletins.'

The listing for the first Group auction appeared in TMP Vol 3 No 2 April 1961, with the Editor running the auction. It was a post bid auction with a closing date of 10 July, to allow time 'so that Study Group members overseas can take part in the auction service'. There were 26 lots - 22 stamp lots and 4 postal history covers (The Catalogue Value reported excluding the Postal History items was around \$170). Unfortunately, there appears to be no recorded comments on how the auction went or what the items realised. However, in the 1961 statement of accounts is reported a commission for the auction at \$3.12, suggesting that the auction raised over \$31.

In TMP Vol 4 No 5 October 1962, it was noted 'Quite a few members have again expressed their interest in holding auctions. Our last auction was held in April 1961, with only moderate interest. There is no reason why they cannot be held again.' There then followed a call for material.

In the UK, at the general meeting held 15 March 1963 to discuss the formation of a UK Branch, an auction was held with lots provided by 3 members (and one lot by proxy). Sales amounted to £11 17s which provided a commission sum of £1 3s 9d.

At the 17 May 1963 UK Branch meeting (and reported in TMP August 1963) it was announced that there would be two further meetings, in September and December, proposed to be held in London. It was stated that there would be 'Bring & Buy Auctions' held at each meeting. These auctions were of course "room only" auctions, so exposure to many members was still limited. For later sales, lists were prepared and distributed to members, with the opportunity for "postal bidding". It is noted that these Bring & Buy Auctions gradually dropped off as full auctions became established.

The catalyst for holding a planned auction by the UK Branch came about due the success of the packet being run. One member, C Taylor, had submitted several booklets of Straits Settlements stamps 'surplus to his requirements - desirable material, and by no means overpriced'. It was felt that if these had gone into the circuit, each member who was first on the list 'would have a field-day, leaving little for those lower on the list'. The Committee

decided that sale by auction was the only fair way to give more members a chance to obtain this decent material.

The next mention of an auction is in the December 1963 TMP. This was from the UK Branch of the Study Group with the notice that a large auction would be held at the AGM on 14 March 1964 at Caxton Hall, London, and that material should be submitted. It was noted 'In the past the UK Branch auctions have been very successful and the Branch officers are working hard to make this the best of them all'. Before the auction the Secretary noted that the 'Bring & Buy Auctions have been held at most meetings and have proved popular. This success has prompted today's bigger auction.' 150 lots were offered with 102 sold to the room and 6 to postal bidders. Realisations totalled £161 11s 6d, which benefited UK Branch funds to £16 3s 2d.

Following this, there was a passing comment made in the February 1965 TMP that the UK Branch is planning their AGM and 'Grand Auction' and that 'Last year both the meeting and auction were an outstanding success'. In the April 1965 TMP there was a report of the 1965 AGM and Auction held on 20 March. This reported there were 168 lots of which 150 sold for around £181, many prices being well above valuation. 67 bids were received from 11 postal bidders 'a marked increase over last year'. By the November 1966 auction, although there were only 137 lots, 120 were sold with postal bidding attracting 117 bids from 13 members.

In December 1967 the UK Branch held its first wholly Postal Auction. Over 500 bids were received from 48 members of which 44 were successful. The auction realised £460 15/-. (There is some discrepancy between information reported in TMP and that in the book containing the written minutes.)

The pattern of auctions continued being held after the UK Branch AGM and a second later in the year. The first detail of full Auction results was given in the April 1970 issue of the UK Branch Newsletter for auction held in March 1970.

### **Auctions Moving Worldwide**

In TMP December 1970, it was noted: 'A feature of the UK Branch meetings for the past few years has been the auction of philatelic material sent in by members. Usually, these sales consist of about 250 lots at valuations of a few shillings to many pounds, and contain something to interest almost everyone. The sale catalogue is sent to all UK members, but due to the time and expense involved, it is not practicable to send to other members. However, if any member outside the UK would like a copy of the March [1971] sale catalogue, please let me [G Peters, Editor] know, and one will be sent by airmail.'

### **Growth of Auctions**

From an average of c230 lots submitted per auction in the early 1970s, the total number of lots rose to 300 - 350 per auction in the 1980s. This growth prompted the Committee to note that 'The large amount of material coming forward for auction was getting to be a problem'. Notwithstanding this, the number of lots being submitted continued to increase to around 600 by the turn of the twenty-first century.

This increase was met by the growth in the number of auctions from once to twice or even three times a year in the 1990s and 2000s.

### **The challenge of the MSG Auctions**

As with every aspect of running an organisation questions are raised, and the auction has been no different. Several times comments were passed about material presented for the auction, lot descriptions, and therefore unsold lots, with these leading to minimum reserve prices. There were several noteworthy comments on the issue of lot description. For a flavour, two are noted.

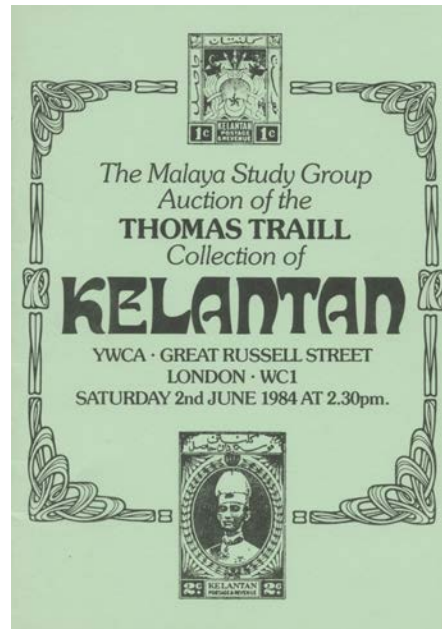
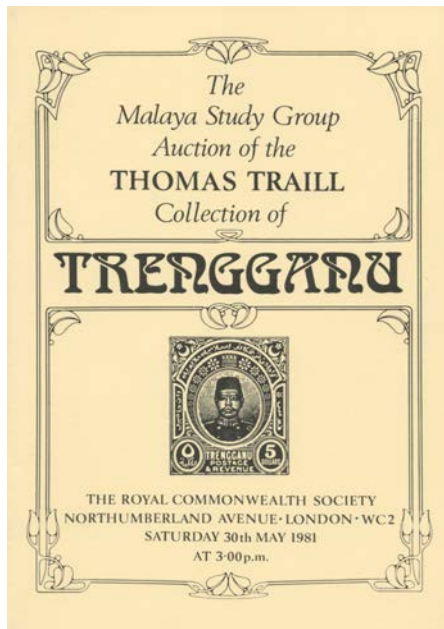
Writing in NL 156, Sept/Oct 1998, the comment was made on preparing lots 'More than half of the lots in our Group auctions go to postal bidders, mainly abroad. Without that foreign demand, vendors would not do nearly so well. It is in fact, one of the reasons why there is always material for our sales while the turnover for the packet has declined, i.e. the auctions have high percentage of sales, good prices, quick returns. A significant factor in the confidence of our postal buyers is the accuracy of our descriptions. If a lot has a fault or a blemish we mention it. It is in no-one's interests if a lot is returned, it means extra cost to the Group and more work for the hard-pressed auctioneer. I think, at times however, an impression is given that our auctioneers are too hard, we run down the lots too readily, and may even be thought to be looking for faults. It is certainly true that running down one's product is a bad way to sell it. On the other hand, our method works, ...our sales record is good and we have virtually no discontented buyers.'

Following this, ten years later, R Holley in the Aug/Nov 2008 Newsletter (NL204) in preparing the write-up of the July auction results, which featured 380+ lots including 120 lots selling the remnants of Bill Reeves collection, commented on why 67 lots went unsold - although it appears that no realisation was published on this occasion only the report on the auction. 'To some extent we are the victims of our own success. We break material down into small lots, give full descriptions and charge a humble 10% with no add-ons, so we are a popular auction house, but I cannot help wondering how long this can go on. It is getting increasingly difficult to get members to volunteer for the work involved and for this reason we have been reduced to two auctions a year...' He went on to note the unsold lots were more likely to be defective material or doubtful postmarks rather than unrealistic reserve prices - the scarce and attractive find buyers. The need to describe material well was discussed and the challenges this poses - including leading to the unsold lots - and an opinion was given how to overcome this. In reply to this, A Norris noted that the balance in a description is of equal import as accuracy. '...there are very few stamps, proofs, covers or other philatelic items that can be described simply as "fine"... many fine and collectable items do not have something 100% about them.'

Rob Holley's concerns, expressed in 2008 about volunteers to run the auctions, have proved prescient. Since 2013, no one has been willing to assume the formal role of Auction Manager. Instead, auctions have continued with an ad hoc, revolving cast of acting auction managers, often splitting the running of the auction between them. Since 2019 the number of auctions has reduced to one a year.

The other concern recently has been a decline in the number of items submitted by vendors. This may reflect the fact that several of the long-standing collectors of Malayan material have already disposed of their collections, either in blocks in multi-vendor auctions or in single vendor auctions. (See below).

### Single Vendor Auctions



Although the Group had held many auctions with members committing material, the early collections of members went to auction houses for sale, starting with Dr FE Wood's collection. The first single vendor auction held by the Group was the T Traill collection of Trengganu. This was on 30 May 1981. It consisted of 238 lots, with only 19 being unsold. This was followed by his collection of Kelantan held in the Group's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in June 1984 with 257 lots sold.

There followed, in regular intervals other single vendor auctions. The single vendor auctions and the number of lots are:

Auction Date	Member	Collection	No. Lots Offered	No. Lots Sold
May 1981	Thomas Traill	Trengganu	238	219
June 1984	Thomas Traill	Kelantan	282	257
June 1987	Hugh Allen	Malaya	402	397
Oct 1990	John Rosevear	Malaya	516	477
Oct 1991	Ashley Skinner	Malaya Part 1	518	496
Nov 1993	Ashley Skinner	Malaya Part 2	1,000	1,000
Autumn 1994	T Marshall D Clayton	Malayan Stamps Postal History	637	628
November 1995	Patrick Kearney	Malaya Part 1	652	628
October 1996	Patrick Kearney	Malaya – Part 2	618	595
June 2002	Ian Raybould	Malaya	500	476

October 2004	Malcolm Wade	Selangor	320	306
May 2007	Peter Setchell	Malaysia MBE Kedah	350	317
July 2009	David Medhurst	Postal Stationery & Stamps	441	
July 2010	Malcolm Wade	Perak	286	267
2013	Malcolm Wade	BMA Postal History	366	366
October 2016	Edward Proud Malcolm Wade	Stamps & Postal Stationery	373	364
October 2018	Rob Holley	Kelantan, Perlis & Trengganu	449	426

### **Success of Auctions**

From small beginnings, the core features of the auctions have been constant: i) to provide a philatelic benefit, available to all members; ii) restriction of availability to auctions to members-only; iii) no buyer's premium and, by commercial standards, a pretty modest vendor's commission; iv) the application of proceeds surplus to the cost of holding the auction to other philatelic benefits for the Group's members, such as support for publications, keeping membership subscription rates down, and the maintenance of a sustainable reserve.

To finish, the Newsletter Editor in 1997 wrote 'We are a study group... our auctions were started simply as an opportunity for members to dispose of their duplicates to the mutual advantage of all' and went on to say '...the Group has gained a great deal from the named sales we have had in the past. We have become financially viable and, as individuals, we have been given access to some wonderful material in a very easy-to-buy form.'

## Packet

In the first issue of The Malayan Philatelist, it was reported that a Packet Circuit was in the planning stages in the USA, with James Dewy as the organiser. In the second issue of TMP it was noted that 6 people had expressed their interest in the Packet, and by TMP Volume 2 issue 1, February 1960, it was announced: 'Our Group circuit or packet is now ready to go into operation. Due to the problems encountered in sending a circuit overseas we are going to have one in the United States, one in Great Britain, and perhaps another in Malaya if suitable arrangements can be made, with a District Manager in each area. This will also simplify providing insurance and currency exchanges. The packets will be circulated both within a district and between districts. A district manager to handle these duties in Great Britain is needed and we hereby ask for a volunteer.' By April 1960, packet books were available in the USA for filling, and it had been agreed that a charge of 10% was to be levied on all sales to 'cover running expenses and help towards Group funds.'

### Packet in the USA

In the April 1961 TMP the Editor wrote 'Our circuit manager in the US... reports that the response has been slow and disappointing.' and that a letter would be sent out to all members in the US in hoping 'this will encourage members to help to put the circuit into more active operation'. This letter included a questionnaire in regard to the packet.

By December 1961, it was noted in TMP that the first US circuit packet has been sent out and asking 'that those receiving it keep it moving so that there is not unnecessary delay in it reaching other members. Again, there was a call for material. Ultimately, the packet in the US never took off.

### Packet in the UK

Following suggestions made in TMP, Mr Rosevear undertook to organise an Exchange Packet circulating among members in the UK. In August 1960 arrangements had been made for a packet in England [England was changed in the next TMP to Great Britain] with the Packet Secretary agreed as G Rosevear. In the December 1960 issue of TMP there was the announcement: 'U.K. Circulating Packet: - Mr Rosevear writes that one packet has been launched and the sales has exceeded his expectations.' It went on to add 'however more books and members are needed. Remember, the packet has been put into operation for your benefit'.

In October 1961 the TMP Editor reported from Mr. Rosevear that 'sales in the U.K. packet have been extremely good; some have sold all that they put into the packet and at least half of the total value of the packet has been sold.' The Editor continued that the 'only problem is getting enough contributions from members to keep the packets going. U.K. members please take note.'

At the 1965 UK Branch AGM, it was noted in the packet report that there was a 'high percentage of sales obtained'. By 1967 about 60 members in the UK were taking the packet, with a packet taking about 7 to 8 months to circulate. It was reported that 'although it is not the object of the Group to amass considerable sums of money, the 10 % commission on sales is considerably helping the funds and will undoubtedly be of use in the event of the Group

launching any special project or publications. Half the commission is retained by the UK Branch, the remainder, less expenses....is credited to the Groups main account run by the Secretary.'

### **Group Packet**

When the Group administration moved to the UK, the Packet in the UK continued with all the commission going into the main Group account.

In 1973 it was noted that MSG members in Australia had set up a packet in conjunction with the Sarawak Specialists Society and material was requested. A proposal to send the packet circulating in the UK to Australia was not taken up and, in addition, a proposal to allow informal exchange of MSG and SSS packet in the UK was rejected by the MSG Committee.

Packets occasionally went missing creating follow-up with insurers to have claims paid. In the early 1980's three packets went missing in a very short space of time and the insurance claim was refused. This threatened the existence of the Malaya Study Group, as the value of these packets was greater than the Group's funds. The ex-U.K. member to whom all three packets had been addressed when they went missing had emigrated. The person had moved to the Middle East on a long term work contract, and because of this the Insurance Company could not get the information from him they required. Fortunately, the person visited a philatelic society in Malaysia and the Group managed to track down an address. Thankfully the person replied to clarify that he never received the three packets, and the insurance company was obliged to pay the claim in full. The Group then had several successful auctions which helped take the pressure of the exposure from the Packet. By the early 1990s the Group was in a much more secure financial position, due again to successful auctions, moving away from a similar threat of exposure.

In 1991 there was a 'drastic reduction' in packets circulated compared to the previous few years and an argument that the insurance charge of 5% [necessary as packets often had gone missing in the mail] as well as the 10% commission, was putting off members submitting booklets. The discussion continued, so in early 1992 the insurance charge was subsidised by Group by 40%, so the effective insurance rate to contributors dropped from 5% to 3%. By 1992 there was a small upturn in the packet sales therefore Group income, but not enough to be worthwhile to cover the insurance subsidy. To try and stimulate material circulation and therefore sales, there was the note in the Jan/Feb 1993 Newsletter that material not selling in the Auction should be placed in the Packet. In 1994 the 40% subsidiary for insurance withdrawn.

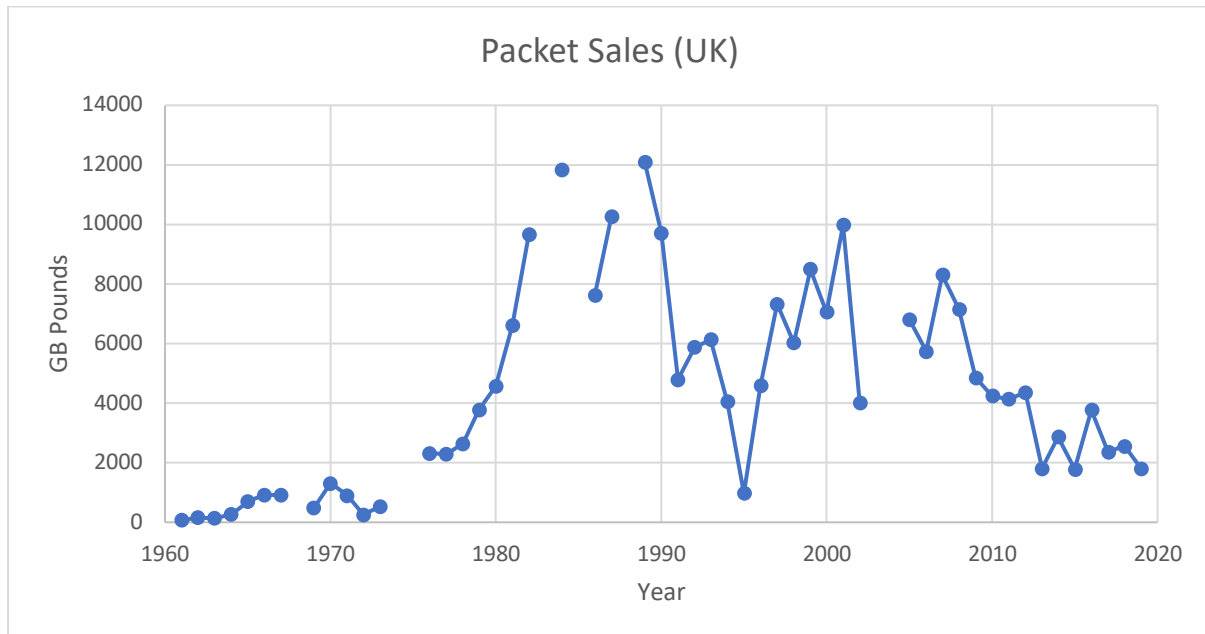
In October 2011, Packet 1,000 had completed its circuit in the UK. In 2011 there were 3 circuits and 94 Packet members. In 2015, 71 members were taking the Packet and by 2019 65 members taking the packet.

In 2013 a trial was undertaken for overseas members to be able to enjoy the packet. The plan was to scan packet material and send the scan to a member so they could select material, then pay, then receive said chosen material. This was done with one member and resulted in sales of £43. Further trials were conducted in 2017 with the possibility of using PayPal to



manage funds from overseas. However, in 2019, the packet was still only available for UK based members.

The UK Packet Report Summary is given in the Appendices.



Data reported where available

## Regional Meetings

### MSG UK Meetings

Meetings with displays started with UK Branch general meetings held in London. The first of these meetings was held at the City of London PA Rooms, Bishopsgate. The meetings were then held at Claxton Hall, the 'Barley Mow', then BPA premises on the Strand for Friday meetings and the Royal Commonwealth Society for Saturdays. It should be noted that most of the London meetings were initially held on a Friday, with an occasional Saturday meeting. There was a gradual shift to Saturday meetings, and in 1966-67 there being 3 Friday and 3 Saturday meetings. In 1971, with a rise in numbers attending, the Friday ordinary meetings moved to the Stanley Gibbons Auction Room, with occasional meetings at the Royal Commonwealth Society or Claxton Hall. Then in 1979 the meeting location moved to the YMCA (Gt Russell St) for most Friday and Saturday meetings – as Stanley Gibbons Auction Room was no longer available for use.

At the AGM in March 1980, Saturday display meetings in London were discussed with consideration of them becoming 'all day meetings' to attract more members travelling to London. The first London all-day meeting took place on 9 May 1981. On 30 April 2000, the first Sunday meeting was held, with only 11 attending. The 2001 programme dispensed with mid-week meetings for first time and the second Sunday meeting was held in September that year. By 2012 there were up to 8 meetings per year in London. In the intervening years this has now reduced.

### London Meeting Venues

1963	City of London Auction Rooms, Bishopsgate (Inaugural Meeting)
1963-1968	Caxton Hall
1968-1971	British Philatelic Association Boardroom, The Strand WC2 (Fridays) or Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue WC2 (Saturdays)
1971-1972	Stanley Gibbons Auction Rooms, Russell Street WC2 (Fridays) or Royal Commonwealth Society (Saturdays)
1972-1974	Stanley Gibbons Auction Rooms (Fridays) or Caxton Hall, SW1 (Saturdays)
1974-1977	Stanley Gibbons Auction Rooms (Fridays) or Royal Commonwealth Society or Caxton Hall (Saturdays)
1977-1979	Stanley Gibbons Auction Rooms (Fridays) or National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place SW1 or Caxton Hall (Saturdays)
1979-1980	YWCA Central Club, Great Russell Street WC2 (AGM at Royal Commonwealth Society, one Friday at Victory Services Club, Seymour Street W2)
1980-1990	YWCA Central Club (AGM at Royal Commonwealth Society)
1990-1998	YWCA Central Club (Central Club Hotel from 1996)
1998-1999	British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street EC1
1999-2000	British Philatelic Centre (one meeting at Tavistock Hotel, Tavistock Square WC1)
2000-2001	British Philatelic Centre or 22A Brownlow Mews, WC1 (alternating)
2001-2002	22A Brownlow Mews (three at British Philatelic Centre)

2002-2003	Spink Auction Rooms, Southampton Row WC1 (two at British Philatelic Centre)
2003-2019	Spink Auction Rooms

In addition to several London meetings throughout the year (including the “festive nibbles” at the Christmas meeting from 2005), there have been many regional meetings - which have changed as the years have gone by. Meetings held post 1971 were MSG meetings.

At the 17 May 1963 UK Branch AGM, it was noted that ‘occasional provincial meetings’ (for the UK Branch) were being explored and at the 1964 AGM in May, it was announced there would be a meeting in Bristol on 30 May (1964), and this took place.

The first weekend event took place over 24/25 February 1968 in Rugby, and the following year in Bournemouth there was a meeting 28/30 March. This meeting included reminiscences from those who had lived in Malaya along with displays. The Bournemouth meeting continued for a number of years but when it did not happen in 1975 there was a call for considering additional ‘provincial meetings’, this having been raised on more than one occasion.

The Newsletter of June 1976 publicised that a provincial meeting in Edinburgh was planned for 4 June 1977. This was later amended to being Friday 3 June, and only in the evening. The meeting took place during the Edinburgh Philatelic Society Golden Jubilee weekend. It was the Group’s only provincial meeting that year. Regular regional meetings in Scotland started in 1983, with informal meetings organised by Bill Spalding. These were first advertised in the Newsletter in 1986, and by 1989 were no longer entitled ‘informal’. The meeting ran until 2017, with the meetings from 1992 switching between Iain Dyce (Glasgow) and David Mekie (Edinburgh) and in 1993 the meetings were switched to May to avoid other regional meetings. The meetings with known as the ‘Scottish Meeting’ but was renamed ‘Scotland & North of England Meeting’ in 2004. In 2010 it reverted to ‘Scottish’.

In the February 1977 Newsletter there was noted the possibility of a provincial meeting in Nottingham for 1978. This meeting was held Saturday 9 September 1978.

At the March 1980 AGM meetings outside London were reviewed. A Worthing meeting was looked at, which had been proposed as a location at the 1979 AGM. This regional meeting came about on 18 October 1980. 1981 was missed but a meeting was again held in 1982 after a proposal (and volunteer) was made at the 1982 AGM. From then there continued the annual Worthing meeting, typically in September period.

Another long-term regional meeting was that at Leicester, running from 1991. The first six years of the meeting cakes were produced for the meeting showing a variety of ‘iced’ stamps [see miscellaneous photographs in Appendices for examples.].

From the 1988/89 season, the number of annual meetings was regularly in double digits. In the 1995/96 season there reached 12 MSG meetings: 7 London meetings (including the Patrick Kearney Auction and AGM/Auction), 4 UK regional meetings (Bristol, Worthing, Leicester, Glasgow), and the Singapore 95 meeting. The availability of 10 or more annual meetings continued through the years and into the 2018/19 programme.

### Locations and Dates of Regional Meetings in UK

Location	Year	Month	Comments
Bournemouth	1969 to 1974, 1976, 1979	March	Weekend Event
Bristol	1964 to 1972	May	Planned to be moved from Bristol in 1969 as the organiser no longer had access to the facilities used but continued at new location
Bristol (Portishead)	1987 to 1995	August	Held during Bristol and District Federation Annual Convention
Edinburgh	1977	June	Only regional meeting in 1977
Leicester	1991 to 2019	March/April	
Milton Keynes	2013 to 2016	June	Stopped due to lack of suitable venue
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1996	November	Ran to coincide with ABPS Newcastle '96
	2010	September	Coincide with NEPHILEX 2010
Nottingham	1978 1985, 1988	September April	
Rugby	1968	February	Weekend Event
Scotland Edinburgh	1990 1993, 97, 2001,04, 05, 08/09, 12, 13, 16	September May	'Scottish' meeting (Renamed 'Scotland & North of England Meeting' in 2004 and in 2010 reverted to 'Scottish')
Glasgow	1983 to 1989, 91, 92 1994, 95, 96, 1998, 99, 2000, 2002/03, 06/07, 10,11, 14, 15, 17	October May	
Stockport	1970	October	
Swindon	1996	June	During SWINPEX
Worthing	1980, 1982 to 2019	Typically in September	Open meeting with a bourse

Stands have also been on occasions taken at regional stamp shows to promote the society. i.e. Midpex, AEPS Essex, Basildon National Philatelic Exhibition.

It should be noted too that in the early years, the UK Branch was invited to display at various society meetings.

Over the years there have been several other in-formal meetings [i.e. not advertised in the Newsletter] arranged by members - such as Southampton 1984 and 1987 (recorded from photographs), Bournemouth when the annual weekend ceased, and the informal meeting held in Bournemouth during Stampworld 1990. An informal meeting was tried in Cheltenham 1983 but cancelled.

### **MSG Meetings with Other Societies in the UK**

There have also been joint meetings over the years with other specialist societies. The main number of joint meetings being between the Sarawak Specialist Society and the Malaya Study Group. Many are members of both societies, given the 'overlap' in the territories history. For example, in December 1997 the Sarawak Specialist Society visited the MSG as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, where cheese and wine was provided. The Sarawak Specialist Society presented 'The Borneo Connection' and provided a written programme for the occasion. A reply to this was in November 2001, with a joint meeting where the MSG visited the Sarawak Specialist Society. As examples for more recent meetings with other societies, in 2014 there was a joint meeting with the GeoSix Society and in 2016 the British Airmails Society.

### **MSG Meetings Outside the UK**

Following a meeting with the Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Malaysia, in the June 1972 TMP the Editor put forward a comment 'I wonder if it will be possible to hold an international meeting of the Malaya Study Group in Malaya in the not too distant future?'. This produced a positive response from some members in the UK and the task was set to investigate the practicability, although formal meetings appear not to have materialised.

The Members in Australia have been relatively active over the years and have arranged MSG meetings around the country in Melbourne, Sydney, and Canberra, with meetings often held during stamp exhibitions and quite often in conjunction with the Sarawak Specialists Society (such as Ausipex 1984, Melbourne National 1989). Other meetings recorded include in March 1999 a joint meeting of MSG and Sarawak Specialist Society in Australia and 2 meetings in September 2004 Sydney and Melbourne. Then in April 2005 an MSG morning meeting (including Sarawak Specialists Society) at Pacific Explorer World Stamp Exhibition, Sydney.

During the Singapore World Stamp Championship in September 1995, held at the Singapore International Convention Centre, an MSG meeting was arranged where 69 people attended throughout the day to a 'myriad of displays'. Following this exhibition, a meeting in Singapore ran alongside Singapore WSC 2004 at the same location. For Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition, held in August at Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Centre and celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Singapore Day", a meeting brought together 41 members from Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and UK. This was followed by a dinner.

In September 2007, to mark 50 Years of Nationhood through Philately in Malaysia, the Philatelic Society of Malaysia and the Malaya Study Group co-sponsored a 5-day meeting in Malaysia. A number of formal displays were given over the 5 days. The Philatelic Society of Malaysia produced a souvenir book following the meeting, which included contributions from MSG members.

Other occasional meetings have been held in Malaysia and Singapore, i.e. An all-day meeting December 2014 in KL, in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Straits Settlements Postage Stamps and an informal gathering of Malaysian and Singapore members of MSG took place in October 2017, which included 'poolside refreshment and Italian dinner'. At the end of 2019, MSG members in Malaysia started a Philatelic Lifestyle series - showing there is always more to do and say in different ways.

## Exhibitions / Notable Displays

During the first 60 years of the Malaya Study Group various notable displays have been given by the Group, and special meetings to co-inside with major exhibitions organised.

### Early MSG UK Branch Displays

In 1964, the UK Branch of the MSG, as it was then, secured agreement to display at the March Stampex due to the Branch's Chairman S Harris. There was a full range of Malaya philately exhibited shown across 14 frames of 9 sheets each. A full report was given in TMP Vol 6 No 2. Displayers were: G Turner, S Harris, S Cannicott, J Edye, D Clayton, J Lake, J Rosevear, G Peters, P Kearney and F Govett.

To mark the Centenary of the first definitive issue of Straits Settlements stamps, the UK Branch arranged a special exhibition for the whole of September 1967. This was of Straits Settlements and other stamps of the Peninsula and of Singapore, and the displays were shown in the Library of the Royal Commonwealth Society, London. During this, on 16 September, the MSG President, J Rosevear, gave a display and talk on 'the stamps of 100 years ago' at the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Following this, the UK Branch participated in the '150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Singapore' exhibition at the Royal Commonwealth Institute, London from 17 to 31 August 1969. The exhibition was organised by the Crown Agents and the MSG were specifically invited to display postal history (shown 1836 to 1966) alongside the (modern) adhesives shown by the Crown Agents.

In early 1970 the Royal Philatelic Society, London, invited the UK Branch to display to the society in 1971. In March 1971 the Malaya Study Group, as no longer a 'UK Branch' provided an afternoon 52 frame display at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. There were 30 studies of Malayan stamps and Postal History on display by 18 members.

Other displays have been given which coincide with Group anniversaries and reported in the Anniversary Section.

### Exhibition Meetings

#### Philympia 1970 Exhibition, London

At the London International Stamp Exhibition "Philympia 1970" held in September, a UK Branch meeting was scheduled during the exhibition, but this was where and when the Special General Meeting took place to reorganize the Malaya Study Group (19 September 1970). A 'Branch Dinner' was planned for that night but turned out to be the first MSG Group Dinner.

#### London 1980 Exhibition

The London 1980 Exhibition from 9 to 14 May coincided with the Group's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. The Group held a meeting on evening of Friday 9 May where UK / non-UK members displayed (42 members attended). An extra (due to demand) informal display meeting on Saturday afternoon 10 May was held, and a buffet in the evening, where a souvenir philatelic menu was prepared as a keepsake.



Mrs S Cannicott with H Selzer cutting the anniversary cake at the group's reception held in London, during the International Stamp Exhibition, May 1980 – As reported in TMP

#### London 1990 Exhibition

The idea to lay on an event during the 1990 International Exhibition was first discussed at the AGM in 1988, with the initial feeling that a similar format to that used in 1980 should be followed. This consisted of an open meeting on Friday 4 May and invited displays on Saturday 12 May, followed by dinner. During the Saturday, four committee members were presented pen and pencil sets to mark extremely long and meritorious service – Bill Reeves, Ian Raybould, Gordon Peters and Graham Nelson. An informal meeting to coincide with the event was also held in Bournemouth.

#### Singapore 1995 Exhibition

An all-day Group Meeting was arranged at the Singapore National Convention Centre on 7 September 1995. This was the first recorded formal MSG event to be arranged outside of the UK.

#### London 2000 Exhibition

On the Saturday afternoon 27 May, a Group meeting with series of invited displays was held at the Comfort Inn Hotel, a short walk from the Exhibition Hall. This was followed by dinner at the hotel. A 'viewing programme' was prepared for the 13 displays given. On Sunday 28 May a Group meeting at the Earls Court Exhibition hall was held with special display by one member.

#### World Stamp Championship Exhibition Singapore 2004

An MSG Meeting was held on 8 August at the Singapore National Convention Centre.

#### Melbourne 2009

In July 2009, Australian members organised a meeting in Melbourne in conjunction with the International Exhibition being held there to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Group.

#### London 2010 Exhibition

Richard Hale gave a display with over 40 members attending, of which a large contingent was from outside the UK. This was followed by a sojourn to 'the pub' followed by a meal in Chinatown.

### Melbourne 2013

In May 2013, Australian members organised a meeting with the Sarawak Specialists Society in conjunction with the International Exhibition being held there. A dinner was held afterwards.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Federation of Malaysia Day

The September 2013 edition of Gibbons Stamp Monthly celebrated 50 Years of the Federation of Malaysia with articles by MSG members. On 14 September 2013 a 'Malaysia Day' themed meeting was held in London, with dinner after.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of "Singapore Day" / Singapore 2015

A meeting with displays was held on 15 August 2015 in Singapore which ran alongside Singapore 2015, and brought together 41 members from Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and UK. The meeting was followed by a dinner. There was also a celebration held in London in September 2015 with displays where 18 members attended. This was followed by dinner.



Since then, and at the writing of this, this aspect of laying on something 'special', except for the Anniversary Years, has tended to lessen.

### **Other Celebrations / Events**

#### 2008 Merdeka Celebrations

August 2007 Joint meeting with Sarawak Specialists Society to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of and the Malayan Federation. Full day meeting with 2 sessions of displays and evening reception hosted by Spink.

#### May 2011

Australian MSG members gave display to Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.



## Website

The first MSG internet pages were created by John Morgan in 1998. These internet pages were accessible through John's own website, which hosted other societies pages as well. The initial MSG internet pages showed information about the Group, including forthcoming meetings, contents of the most recent TMP and index of articles on issues 21 to 39, and an application form to join the MSG. By end of 1998 a list of MSG publications had been added.

Notable about the venture to use the 'world wide web' was that in the first year, 1998, a new member came about from the internet and, in 1999, 5 new members to MSG came through internet use – more than any other source that year. In the following 2 years, 8 new members per year came by the internet.

The Website address started to appear at the top of the MSG Newsletter in July/Aug 2002 and by mid-2004 the web address changed to a direct access MSG address, moving to its own domain and not through John Morgan's own portal.

In 2008 the running of the website was taken over by Nick Hackney. With this, the website was re-established and relaunched. The website was enhanced with the site evolving in its content, structure and appearance. The update included:

- Reports on meetings with photographs
- Publishing the auction catalogues with full colour illustrations
- Update on new issues for Malaysia and Singapore
- Launch of the MSG Forum – sharing information.
- Publishing PDF readable & printable copies of the MSG Newsletters

The Group website was again re-designed and updated in 2018 and remains a visible window of the Malaya Study Group for non-members, and for members, continues to provide additional information in the 'members only area'.

## Record Books

### UK Branch

At the UK Branch Committee meeting of August 1964, it was proposed by the Secretary to have a 'Record Book' for the Branch activities which was to contain photos, cuttings, etc, and this was agreed to. A half leather bound record book with 'Malaya Study Group' in gold on the spine was procured and the cost covered by the then Chairman, Mr S Harris. Following this, the creation of the record book was mentioned to the UK Branch display meeting in January 1965 and reported in The UK Branch newsletter, asking members for contributions. At the AGM held in March 1965 the 'Record Book' was on view with a few pages completed, and again contributions were invited both 'factual & pictorial'.

The material in the Record Book, as completed, covers: An account by G Rosevear of events leading to the first meeting in the UK; Account of the second meeting of the UK Branch; Letter June 1963 by Hon Sec to members living in the UK noting the formation of the Branch and planned activities; Photos of visit to Dr FE Wood; Letter Sept 1963 from Dr FE Wood with thanks for MSG Birthday card; 1964 description Stampex entries from programme and the certificate issued to MSG; Report of 1964 AGM sent to Branch members; Accounts of displays; Notices of passing of Dr FE Wood; Notices of AGM 1965 and 1966; Branch Newsletters (from 1965 to 1970); some newspaper cuttings regarding UK branch activities; Programme Card 1968-1969; Set of photographs (mobile POs boats / vans; Malacca and KL GPOs & Sepoy lines PO); 1970 dinner menu and tickets; and UK Branch / MSG letter headed paper.

### MSG

In issue 2 of the 1986 newsletter, it was reported that an MSG 'Record Book' [not the same book as above] is being kept and asked for 'MSG memorabilia which could be donated or lent for copying for our Official Record Book'. The request noted that photographs, press cuttings, letters etc from 1968 onwards were being sought, to bring this fascinating history of the Group up to date. Requests for material again appeared in issue 3 of the 1988 newsletter, noting 'the Group's Record Book is being revived'.

Moving forward 10 years, in the Jan/Feb 1997 Newsletter the Editor noted that 'the Group has accumulated a quantity of photographs, programme cards, letters and various other items of memorabilia which, with some passing years, could have a passing interest to members. It is intended to mount these in an album which could be brought to meetings from time to time. If anyone has anything similar hanging about in a drawer or cupboard, now is the time to unearth it and send it to your editor who has found a volunteer to lick it into shape. If it is too bulky to send by post perhaps it could be handed over at a meeting.' Further to this, in the July/August 1999 Newsletter, the Editor writes: 'MSG Archives. When I was looking for photographs to take to the Dinner [40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary] I had, perforce, to sift through the bulging plastic bags containing our 'archives'. The latter range from a bulky copy of a Malayan Rural District Development Plan [now missing] to trophies, [not available] minute books, lists of attendance, catalogues, magazines, assorted newsletters and items of correspondence. Members have been very good in donating things but, apart from an early attempt by Don Parr to mount some of them in an enormous, gold-blocked scrapbook which weighs a ton, little has been done by way of sorting, cataloguing and presentation. As the years go by, storage and transportation are going to be problems also, and beg the question

of whether the accumulation is ever going to be looked at again or when or where. The programme cards seem well worth preserving, however, being easy to store and containing a wealth of information, and after much hunting and sorting and some 'making up' from my own accumulation, I have managed to put together a continuous run from 1968/69 to the present day..... Some cards are a little tired and care worn and it would be nice to put together a 'mint' set. Those needed are 1968/69, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1981/82 and 1982/83. Photographs too, are worth keeping and if members have any in their possession which were taken at Group meetings or functions and which he or she could spare, they could be sent to me or brought to a meeting sometime. We are short of snaps taken in the early days - the 1960s & 70s. We do not have a single memento of the meetings held in the Broughty Ferry Hotel in Bournemouth, for example, or the Nottingham meetings of the 1980s. One thing is vital, please indicate (not on the back as photographs are easily damaged by pencils and pens) when, where and, if possible, of whom they were taken. It is a curious fact that few people bother with this chore, and I had a dickens of a job preparing captions for those I took to the Dinner. It was worth the several days' labour it involved, however, as there was a lot of interest shown in them, especially those of the Leicester cakes! Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to show them (the photographs, not the cakes) at the Dinner afterwards but I shall take them to the provincial meetings over the course of next year.'

[For the Programme cards, by the following Newsletter three were provided 1968/69, 1981/82 and 1982/83, with the others being donated after this up to and including 2002/03.]

All the material that the Group has gathered has been passed to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 2021 for archiving in the 'Spear Museum of Philatelic History'. The listing of the donated material is recorded in the Appendices.

## Appendices

- Howard Selzer's Recollections on the 45th Anniversary of the Founding of the Malaya Study Group
- Roll of Officers of the Malaya Study Group 1959 - 2019
  - MSG 1959 - 1970
  - UK Branch 1963 - 1970
  - MSG 1970 - 2019
- TMP Volume Statistics
- MSG Publications
- Packet Report Summary
  - UK Packet Circuit Report
  - Packet Details (UK Distribution)
- Subscription Details 1959 - 2019
- Selection of Photographs
  - Meetings
  - Displays
  - Medal Presentations
  - Auctions
  - Miscellaneous from Available Photographs
- Membership Statistics 1959 - 2019
- Archive Material Donated to the Spear Museum of Philatelic History

## Howard Selzer's Recollections on the 45th Anniversary of the Founding of the Malaya Study Group

The following is transcribed from a typed letter from Howard J Selzer to the MSG.

Message to those attending the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Malaya Study Group

In preparing of what might be of interest to members of the Malaya Study Group from a now aging and sometimes tired ole founder, since so many of the earlier members are no longer with us, the majority of those now attending our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration were probably not with us during the earliest struggling years or participated in any of the events that lead to its formation.

First, some background information, that was the incentive and inspiration for what was to follow.

Other than what was a few years of my preteen life I was never a stamp collector. During my high school years I had a job working for the local newspaper of a small rural town in the state of Michigan and was also on the schools baseball and track teams, so stamps were a secondary interest.

I graduated from high school in June 1940, when World war II was already in operation. As a result I joined the U.S. Air Force in February 1941, to avoid being drafted, and spent the next 5 years in the military service, that included flying 55 combat missions with a B 26 Maurauder Bomb Group inn Europe. Although I was never stationed in England, I was able to visit there a number of times during the years 1944/45, mostly in the London area. Stamps were no part of my life during this time.

When I returned to the United States in October 1945 I was married, spent several years getting some additional education and went to work to support a family, settling in the Chicago area, where my wife and her family lived.

The next step, I learned that there was a stamp club that held its meetings near where I lived and curiosity lead to my attending some of their meetings. After only a few meetings it all happened.

During these meetings a speaker was part of the activities and their subject was many times about a subject I did not know existed. Yes, it was Postal History. No more stamps for me. It was postal history from then on.

Stay with me folks. This is all part of the rout that leads to Malaya.

The club speakers talked about various areas of postal history. In an effort to find something of interest I attended many of the area stamp exhibitions. But exhibits at the time were still, unlike now, mostly about stamps. Postal history had yet to make its big move.

In choosing a subject to collect I was confined to something I could afford. Still young and early in the working world, with family responsibilities, my pocket book was more empty than otherwise.

I found an exhibit at one of the local stamp exhibitions that was a display of the early postmarks of India. A check of Scott's stamp catalog indicated that the stamp prices and my pocketbook were compatible, so that was the direction I went.

As most collectors of Malaya know, from the use of the stamps of India during the earlier years in the Straits Settlements, early India postmarks and postal history provide a diverse field for the collector. The various postmarks are endless, the combination covers of India/Indian states of great interest, and then there is the field of India used abroad.

Yes, India used abroad. Here is where the interest finds its way to Malaya, stamps of India used in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

At about the same time I started to obtain the Robson Lowe postal history auction catalogs. Unlike the stamp auctions in the U.S.A., here I found some of the better Straits Settlements postal history covers. In fact, this source was the major contributor to the collection I eventually assembled.

The next step: Information and knowledge about the operation of the postal service in Straits Settlements/Malaya. I found next to nothing here in the states. I subscribed to several of the British stamp magazines. They were an improvement, but not much more.

The only major articles were from the pen of Dr. Wood. For my interests, postal history, Dr. Woods major interest at that time was in the multiple of overprint issues and their settings within the stamp sheets.

Next, I tried in every way I knew to make contact with other collectors; hopefully there were others with similar interests.

We are now in the early to mid 1950s. My memory is not clear on the exact circumstances, but probably as a result of press releases I was sending to both the U.S. and British philatelic magazines and papers in an effort to make contact with others interested in Malaya, I heard from Gordon Peters. At last, with some results. Knowing what I know now, who better could it have been than Gordon.

At about the same time, and again I do not recall the exact circumstances, perhaps through Gordon, I made contact with Ted Proud, while he was employed in Ipoh, Perak. As a result, ted sent me some covers addressed to himself, from other parts of mainland Malaya. This was local use, something I had not been able to find here in the states, at least up to that time. The sunshine of Malayan philately was getting brighter. I still have them.

With a contact in London and one in Malaya I then felt that the only way to go now was forward and up. Little did I know then, the magnitude of the contributions these two

gentlemen would make to our knowledge of the postal service in Malaya during the years that were still in the future.

At this point in time, as additional contacts were developing, the idea of forming an organization where the knowledge of its members could be accumulated and distributed to those who were interested developed. This then became the subject of the press releases I was sending out.

My next step was to develop and design the format for a publication that would be both pleasing in appearance and functionally effective. I examined as many different journals then serving this function as I could find, to determine how they were handling their publications. Using my own judgement the format that became *The Malayan Philatelist* resulted.

At that time many of the high tech developments in the field of graphic arts were still in the future. The journals of the Study Group were printed on a mimeograph machine that I purchased (no cost to the Study Group; we had no financial assets at the time). I cut all the stencils on my own mechanical typewriter. My wife, who had beautiful handwriting addressed most of the mailing envelopes and she and my daughter many times helped in the gathering of the printed pages, preparing them for mailing. Sounds pretty crude now, but the costs to the Study Group were very small, next to nothing.

The first issue of *The Malayan Philatelist* was mailed in April 1959. The major content was a bibliography of Malayan Philately, based on material in my own library, the section on the Japanese Occupation, on the library of Jim Dewy.

I also included a listing of the first 10 members of the Study Group and that Dr. Wood had agreed to serve the group as its Honorary Chairman.

What followed and is now history and covered in detail in the subsequent pages of *The Malayan Philatelist*.

The Study Group has been blessed with members with interests, dedication and skills that have generated the steady growth and success we have enjoyed. I had no idea that during the time the events discussed in this message were developing, that so much would fall into place so well and so quickly and that the membership would grow to 86 during the first year. What a wonderful reward for the efforts that, as I mentioned in the first issue, "The ship is launched, it is up to the crew to make a successful voyage".

Lastly, perhaps you are wondering if there were rewards or regrets in doing what this message is all about. Yes, there were both.

Rewards – 1 – the importance the hobby has played during so many of the years of my adult life.

2 – the many lasting friendships that developed from the hobby activities.

Regrets – 1 during the latter years of his life I enjoyed an enlightening correspondence with Dr. Wood. My regret is that I never had the opportunity to meet him personally, to discuss our common interests.

Regret – 2 – that I live so far from the center of the Study Group activities and unable to participate in them with the other members. There is not much Study Group level of interest on my side of the Atlantic.

If you have found any interest in the content of this message, please extend your thanks to Susan McEwen\*. It was her idea and suggestion. I found it hard to say no to someone who manages the Study Group auctions activities with the efficiency the department enjoys.

My sincere thanks to the many members who, what to me sometimes seems like it has all been a miracle, made it all happen.

Signed Howard Selzer

\* Compiler's Footnote:

It should be recorded that this letter came about following an MSG auction. Susan McEwen was running the auction and out of the blue Howard sent in a bid form. He got one very small lot and Andrew Norris suggested that rather than invoice him for it, and him having to find a way of paying, that it should be sent it to him as a gift, and to thank him for founding the MSG, which was such an important part of Susan & Andrew's lives. So, they jointly paid for the lot he won, and Susan posted it off to him as a gift and best wishes with the thought from Susan that, as it was imminently the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, would he like to send a message that we would happily convey to that meeting and the members in general. The reply Susan got was this wonderful letter.



## Roll of Officers of the Malaya Study Group 1959 - 2019

Information kindly collated by Len Stanway

### MSG 1959 - 1970

#### **Honorary Chairman:**

1959-1964 Dr Francis Ernest Wood

#### **President:**

1963-1971 John Rosevear

#### **Directors:**

1963-1966 Mrs Shirley Cannicott, James Dewey, M. B. Jinadasa, C. Ricardo, George Turner.

1966-1967 James Dewey, M. B. Jinadasa, George Turner.

1967-1971 S. W. Anketell-Jones, James Dewey, M. B. Jinadasa, George Turner.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

1963-1970 Howard Selzer

#### **Editor, The Malayan Philatelist:**

1959-1970 Howard Selzer

#### **Circuit Manager (USA):**

1960-1963 James Dewey

#### **Consul in Malaya**

1960-1963 Mr. M. B. Jinadasa

#### **Malaya Subscriptions Representative**

1961-1970 Mr. K. P. Chan / L C Lee & Co.

#### **United Kingdom Subscriptions Representative**

1959-1963 J P Bailey

1964-1965 John Rosevear

## UK Branch 1963 - 1970

### UK Branch Chairman:

1963-Sep 1966	Sidney Harris
Nov 1966-1970	George Turner
1970-1971	Gordon Peters

### UK Branch Secretary:

1963-1969	Gordon Peters
1969-1971	Mike Smith

### UK Assistant Secretary/Publicity Officer:

1963-1965	John Lake
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### UK Branch Treasurer:

1963-1967	John Rosevear
1967-1970	Tommy Traill
1970-1971	Graham Nelson

### UK Branch Packet Secretary:

1963-1966	John Rosevear
1966-1971	B Dexter

### UK Branch Auditor:

1963-1966	G Turner
1966-1967	T Traill
1967-1968	J Rosevear
1968-1971	Bill Reeves

### UK Branch Auction Secretary / Auctioneer:

1963-1965	John Lake – Not official??
1965-1969	?
1969-1971	Gordon Peters

### UK Branch Committee Members:

1963-1964	Ian Raybould, B Dexter, D Clayton
1964-1966	Ian Raybould, D Clayton, D Parr
1966-1967	Ian Raybould, D Clayton, D Parr, H Miller, G Nelson
1967-1968	H Miller, Graham Nelson, Don Parr
1968-1970	Graham Nelson, Don Parr, Ian Raybould
1969-1970	Graham Nelson, Gordon Peters, Don Parr, Ian Raybould
1970-1971	Don Par, Tommy Traill, George Turner

### Editor, UK Branch Newsletter:

1965-1966	Derek Clayton
1966-Aug 1967	Ian Raybould
Aug 1967-1969	Harry Miller
1969-1971	Derek Clayton

## MSG 1970 - 2019

### Chairman:

1970-1975	Gordon Peters	1996-2002	Rob Holley
1975-1978	Malcolm Wade	2002-2004	Gaden Robinson
1978-1983	Ian Raybould	2004-2010	Peter Cockburn
1983-1991	Andrew Norris	2010-2016	Susan McEwen
1991-1996	Peter Cockburn	2016-2019	Dominic Morris

### Secretary:

1970-1973	Mike Smith	1995-2007	Joe Robertson
1973-1984	Peter Kent	2007-2016	Dominic Morris
1984-1995	Susan McEwen	2016-2019	Michael Padmore

### Membership Secretary:

1984-1995	Dennis Moon	2005-2018	David Tett
1995-2001	Joe Robertson	2018-2019	Martin Roper
2001-2005	Keith Elliot		

### Treasurer:

1970-2001	Graham Nelson	2001-2019	Carl Stott
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### Auditor:

1970-1982	Bill Reeves	2008-2013	John Hawes
1982-2008	Brian Reeder		

### Examiner:

2013-2019	John Hawes		
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### Auction Secretary:

The role of Auction Secretary was divided between an officer responsible for the overall conduct of auctions (later termed Auction Manager) and assistants who acted as Auction Secretary for one or more auctions during the year, shown as Deputy Action Secretaries below although this term was not used.

### Auction Member

1970-1971	?	1973-1987	Ashley Skinner
1971-1973	Tommy Traill		

### Deputy Auction Member:

1980-1984	Rob Holley	1984-1987	Susan McEwen & Keith Elliot
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### Auction Secretary

1987-1989	Ashley Skinner	1989-1998	Susan McEwen
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### Auction Manager

1998-2005	Susan McEwen	2011-2019	(vacancy)
2005-2011	Roger Barry		
<b>Deputy Auction Secretary:</b>			
1987-1989	Susan McEwen & Keith Elliot	2005/2008	Carl Stott with Gaden Robinson
1989-1990	Susan McEwen & Mike Ludlow	2011-2012	Michael Waugh & Joe Robertson
1990-1993	Mike Ludlow	2012-2013	Graham Coles & Dominic Morris
1990s	Henry Wilson		
1996	Rob Holley with Keith Elliot	2013-2014	Michael Waugh & Susan McEwen
1995-1997	Iain Dyce	2014-2015	Michael Waugh & Carl Stott
1998	Pat Badmin		
1999-2001	Gaden Robinson with Carl Stott	2015-2016	Michael Waugh & Dominic Morris
1999-2001	David Mekie	2016-2019	Michael Waugh, Dominic Morris & John Hawes
2003	Pat Badmin		
<b>Auctioneer:</b>			
1970-1971	Gordon Peters	1975-1999	Ian Raybould
1971-1972	Donald Parr	1999-2000	David Mekie
1972-1975	?	2000-2019	Peter Cockburn
<b>Packet Secretary:</b>			
1968-1972	Barry Dexter	1995-2007	Anthony Rogers
1972-1983	Tony Winner	2007-2009	Alan Price
1983-1985	Malcolm Wade	2009-2013	Charles Keel
1985-1995	Tony Winner	2013-2019	Michael Ellison
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>			
2004-2012	Mac McClaren	2018-2019	Mac McClaren
2012-2018	Martin Roper		
<b>Editor, The Malayan Philatelist:</b>			
1970-2010	Gordon Peters	2010-2019	Len Stanway
<b>Contributing Editor (Pre-1948), The Malayan Philatelist:</b>			
2010-2018	Richard Hale		
<b>Editor, Newsletter:</b>			
1970-1979	Derek Clayton	2009-2010	Nicholas Hackney
1979-1989	Nicholas Hackney	2010-2016	Mac McClaren
1989-2004	Rob Holley	Incorporated in TMP	
2004-2009	Gaden Robinson		

**Distribution Secretary:**

1984-1992	Peter Hooper	2000-2010	Rob Holley
1992-1998	Joe Robertson	Role transferred to printer	
1998-2000	Bill Pain		

**Co-ordinator of Study Projects:**

1971-1973	Mike Smith	1973-1974	Harry Miller
1973	Peter Kent	1974-1976	Barry Dexter

**Chairman of Publications Sub-Committee:**

1976-1990	Bill Reeves	2000-2011	Bill Pain
1990-2000	Ian Raybould	Main Committee took over role	

**Publications Officer:**

2001-2011	Bill Pain	2011-2019	Peter Cockburn
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**Webmaster:**

2009-2019	Nicholas Hackney	2019 (Acting)	Alan Chong
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**Production Manager:**

2010-2019	Peter Cockburn
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**Committee Members:**

The Committee comprised the principal officers plus the following members:

1970-1972	Don Parr, Tommy Traill, George Turner
1972	Don Parr, Ashley Skinner, Tony Winner
1972-1976	Barry Dexter, Don Parr, Ashley Skinner
1976-1978	Don Parr, Ashley Skinner
1978-1982	Peter Hooper, Dennis Moon, Don Parr, Malcolm Wade
1982-1983	Peter Hooper, Andrew Norris, Don Parr, Malcolm Wade
1983-1984	Peter Hooper, Susan McEwen, Ian Raybould, Tony Winner
1984-1985	Peter Hooper, Ian Raybould, Tony Winner
1985-1986	Ian Raybould, Tony Winner
1986-1989	Ian Raybould
1989-1991	Peter Cockburn, Ian Raybould
1991-1992	Peter Hooper, David Medhurst, Andrew Norris, Joe Robertson
1992-1994	David Medhurst, Andrew Norris, Ian Raybould
1994-1996	Andrew Norris, Ian Raybould
1996-1998	Peter Cockburn, Andrew Norris, Ian Raybould
1998-2000	Peter Cockburn, Keith Elliot, Andrew Norris, Ian Raybould
2000-2002	Peter Cockburn, Andrew Norris, Bill Pain, Gaden Robinson
2002-2004	Peter Cockburn, Mac McClaren, Andrew Norris, Bill Pain
2004-2005	Roger Barry, Andrew Norris
2005-2006	Susan McEwen, Andrew Norris
2006-2007	Susan McEwen, Dominic Morris, Andrew Norris
2007-2008	Susan McEwen, Andrew Norris
2008-2009	Nicholas Hackney, Susan McEwen, Andrew Norris, Joe Robertson

2009-2009	Graham Coles, Nicholas Hackney, Susan McEwen, Andrew Norris, Joe Robertson
2010-2012	Graham Coles, Rob Holley, Andrew Norris, Joe Robertson
2012-2015	Graham Coles, Andrew Norris
2015-2016	Graham Coles, Andrew Norris, Mike Padmore
2016-2018	Mac McClaren, Susan McEwen, Andrew Norris
2018-2019	Susan McEwen, Andrew Norris

**Australia Representative:**

1973-2019	Dr. William G. Wells
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**Malaysia Representative:**

1971-1977	M. B. Jinadasa	1978-1992	None
1977-1978	K. P. Chan	1992-2019	Dr. Gong Ngie Hee

**USA / North America Representative:**

1971-1972	James Dewey	2002-2004	None
1972-1973	Thomas Slemmons	2004-2006	Michael McGowan
1973-1979	Robert Cragg	2006-2010	Stanley Bednarczyk
1979-1993	None	2010-2011	None
1993-2002	William Lyons	2011-2019	Steven Schumann

**Singapore Representative:**

1991-2002	James Song, Paul Yap & Michael Ho
2002-2004	James Song
2004-2019	Bernard Chung

## TMP Volume Statistics

The Malayan Philatelist was first published April 1959 as Volume 1 Issue 1 and consisted of 12 pages. In the first year there were five issues consisting of a total of sixty pages. The first illustrations appeared in the third issue (Vol 1 No 3).

The table gives a rundown of the volumes of TMP produced by the Group with notable items during its run.

Volume	No of Issues	No of Pages	Notes
1	5	60	Plus 2 pages of illustrations
2	6	74	Plus 4 pages illustrations The first photographs in the June 1960 issue (vol 2 no 3)
3	6	94	Plus 16 pages of illustrations, Post Office listings of Kelantan and Trengganu and a full membership list
4	6	78	Plus 14 pages of illustrations and 3 pages listing of Singapore Post Offices
5	6	71	Plus 6 pages of illustrations and 5 pages of the full membership list
6	6	72	Plus 5 pages of illustrations
7	6	76	Plus 4 pages of illustrations
8	6	70	Plus 7 pages of illustrations
9	6	88	Plus 5 pages of illustrations + 20 pages for Bibliography
10	6	76	Plus 6 pages of illustrations
11	6	84	With the change of the running of the Group from the USA to the UK, Volume 11 covered the years 1969 and 1970 Illustrations integral in TMP articles from October 1970 while up to this issue images appeared at the end of each issue of TMP
12	6	82	
13	6	84	Plus 5 pages of membership list
14	6	70	
15	6	74	March 1974 Committee Meeting, the possibility of reducing the production of TMP from 6 to 4 issues per year was discussed, but it was agreed 'to make no change at present'.
16	4	60	4 issues of TMP due to editor's time and postage costs Plus 3 pages of amendments
17	5	88	5 issues
18	6	100	The March - April 1977 issue of TMP (Vol 18 No2) marked the 100 issue of The Malayan Philatelist.
19	6	86	

20	7	116	Issue 6 being a single article of 18 pages on Straits Settlements Postal Markings to 1867 [See MSG Projects Section]
21	6	100	Return to 6 issues
22	6	88	Plus 8 pages of Membership List
23	6	100	
24	6	84	
25	4	56	Note in the Newsletter that not enough material for publication in TMP - so subsequently number of issues per year reduced to 4 on permanent basis – although number of pages varying
26	4	96	Plus 7 pages listing members
27	4	76	
28	4	80	This included the first colour images (page 57 - 2 covers India used in Singapore with bisected stamps)
29	4	68	
30	4	74	Vol 30, page 42, next use of colour images in TMP
31	4	94	Included single colour image of cover in Issue 2 Issue 4 dedicated to article on Netherlands Indies Postal Agents at Singapore and Penang
32	5	120	
33	4	100	
34	4	104	
35	4	96	
36	4	118	
37	5	122	Issue 3 dedicated to articles relating to Pahang
38	4	98	
39	4	118	Included D Tett's opus on Prisoner of War & Internee Postal History Singapore 1942-1945 first 3 parts; of which Part 4/5/6/7 appeared in Vol 40 and final part, 8, in Vol 41
40	4	114	Issue 2 – 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue; 2 pages colour In addition, included was the issue of the first 'supplement' - In Search of the Real Malaya (52 pages)
41	4	98	
42	4	98	First Volume to have more than 2 pages of colour photocopies (4, 4, 5 and 3 in each issue respectively)
43	4	98	Included supplements to EB Proud's Postal History of Malaya books - 13 pages total
44	4	98	
45	4	96	
46	4	84	
47	4	94	
48	4	102	Issue 2 dedicated to 'Johore: The printings of the 1922-1941 Issues' (22 pages)
49	4	92	



50	2	62	Two issues in year due to change of TMP Editor
51	4	96	Colour more regularly used throughout journal
52	4	96	Vol 52 No 1 was the 250 <sup>th</sup> issue of TMP
53	4	96	
54	4	96	
55	4	96	
56	4	96	
57	4	108	Group newsletter incorporated into TMP from Vol 57 No 2
58	4	112	
59	4	112	
60		116	Diamond Jubilee Year Included with Vol 60 issue 4 the Supplement 'Straits Settlements Postal Stationery - The 1891 3 Cents Blue Postcards Surcharged "2" in Penang and the Watson Postcards' (32 pages)

## MSG Publications

With one of the aims of the Group being study, and to give focus to have the studies published, a Co-ordinator of Study Projects was appointed in June 1971. In 1976 the team looking after member's studies was renamed Special Publications Committee. From 2011 the role of bringing studies to publication was led by the Production Manager. Over the years the Malaya Study Group have been responsible for a range of publications, which are detailed in this section.

During these times production has changed from the early publications with black and white illustrations, moving to colour illustrations, change from soft to hard cover, moving to digital printing, with the latest books being digitally printed 'on demand'. Along with the physical books, the Group has included the publication of 3 CDs and a USB drive.

Listing of MSG Publications and awards:

### Books

- The Postage Stamps of Federated Malay States 1900 - 1935, WA Reeves, 1978  
74 pages, A4, soft cover, b&w illustrations
- The Malayan Philatelist Index to Volumes 1 - 20, Compiled by Raymond Price, 1980  
71 pages, 8.5 x 11 inches, soft cover
- Malayan Post Offices (A list compiled for philatelists), WA Reeves [with G Nelson & B E Dexter], 1982, 30 pages  
Bronze Stampex 1983
- Malayan Postal History to 1939 as Recorded in Official Documents, WA Reeves 1984  
110 pages, A4, soft cover, b&w illustrations
- Malaya: The Survey Department Essays of 1933-34, Andrew Norris, 1985  
93 pages, A4, soft cover, b&w illustrations  
Silver British Philatelic Exhibition 1986
- Singapore Post Offices and Registration Labels, WH Lyons, 1990  
140 pages, A4, soft cover, b&w illustrations  
Silver RPS Canada Philatelic Exhibition 1993
- Malaya: Postal Documents from 1876, Andrew Norris, 1991  
104 pages, A4, soft cover, b&w illustrations
- Kelantan: Its Stamps and Postal History, WA Reeves & BE Dexter, 1992  
107 pages, A4, soft cover, b&w illustrations
- Kedah & Perlis: Their Stamps & Postal History 1887 - 1941, DRM Holley, 1995  
495 pages, 7 x 9.5 inches, hard cover, 8 colour plates and 135 b&w illustrations  
Large Vermeil Singapore 1995
- The Malayan Philatelist Volumes 21 - 39 Consolidated Contents and Authors List, Compiled by Susan McEwen, 1999  
42 pages, A4, loose bound
- Subject Index to The Malayan Philatelist, Vols 1 – 45, Raymond Price, 2006  
Bronze-Silver Torquay 2006
- Malaya - Postal Stationery 1937 to 1949, Malaya Study Group, 2008  
93 pages, A4, soft cover, full colour illustrations

#### Vermeil NAPEX 2011

- Malaysia and The Federation of Malaya Their Stamps and Postal Stationery Volume 1, Len Stanway, 2010  
350 pages, A4, Hard Cover, full colour illustrations  
Large Vermeil Indipex 2011
- Malaysia and The Federation of Malaya Their Stamps and Postal Stationery Volume 2, Len Stanway, 2010  
450 pages, A4, Hard Cover, full colour illustrations
- Malaysia and The Federation of Malaya Their Stamps and Postal Stationery Volume 3 (1994-2009 and Revenue Stamps), Len Stanway, 2011  
438 pages, A4, Hard Cover, full colour illustrations
- Malaya in the British Library Philatelic Collections, Susan McEwen, 2012  
160 pages, A4, Hardback, 16 colour plates
- Singapore Post Offices and Registration Labels [Third Edition], Len Stanway, 2014  
275 pages, A4, Hardback, colour / black & white illustrations  
Vermeil Singapore 2015
- Straits Settlements Revenue Stamps 1867 to 1902 – The Postal Museum De La Rue Archive, Francis Podger, 2019  
117 Pages, A4, hardback, full colour illustrations

#### Electronic Publications

- CD: The Malayan Philatelist Volumes 1 – 48 1959 – 2008, Indexed by Raymond Price, Malaya Study Group, 2009
- CD: The Malayan Philatelist Volumes 1 – 50 1959 – 2010, Malaya Study Group, 2011
- CD: Postal and Historical Information extracted from the Government Gazettes of Straits Settlements and Native States, Edited by Nigel Tyre, 2012
- USB Drive: The Joe Robertson Collection of Underpaid Mail & Postage Dues of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Malaya, Malaysia, Singapore & Bornean Territories, Malaya Study Group, 2018

#### Online Publications

- Index to The Malayan Philatelist, Edited by Len Stanway

## Packet Report Summary

### UK Packet Circuit Report

(Reported in Newsletter)

Year	No of Packets Completed	Sales £
1961	3	68
1962	5	159
1963	3	133
1964	3	263
1965	8	688
1966	16*	923
1967	16*	903
1969	6	475
1970	15	1,310

\* Change from parcel post to letter post thus reducing number of booklets in packet, therefore increasing number of packets sent.

### Packet Details (UK Distribution)

Year	Sales £	Packets Completed	% Packet Sold	Comments
1971	901	9		
1972	248	3	47	Change of Packet Secretary
1973	516	7	53	
1976	2,312	17	53	
1977	2,281	15	55	
1978	2,637	17	56	
1979	3,780	15	59	
1980	4,567	21	53	
1981	6,600	19	53	
1982	9,663	25	50	
1983				Change of Packet Secretary
1984	11,840	17	44	
1985				Change of Packet Secretary
1986	7,625	21		
1987	10,270	38		
1989	11,235	45		
1990	13,870	48	39	

1991	4,940	25	47	
1992	4,036	24	36	
1993	6,131	27	40	
1994	4,044	21	40	130 taking
1995	972	5	35	Change of Packet Secretary
1996	4,599	21	43	4 circuits
1997	7,327	30	42	142 taking
1998	6,024	26	49	137 taking
1999	8,500	28	51	121 taking
2000	7,057	26	47	
2001	9,981	28	46	3 circuits
2002	4,016	16	55	
2005	6,794		63	
2006	5,737	19	58	3 Circuits with about 35 members in each
2007	8,307		c60	
2008	7,158		c60	
2009	4,856		50	
2010	4,241		60	
2011	4,129		54	Packet 1,000 completed its circuit in the UK
2012	4,353		46	
2013	1,804		35	Change of Packet Secretary
2014	2,864		37	
2015	1,778	6	35	
2016	3,768	15	39	
2017	2,354	9	37	
2018	2,555	9	42	
2019	1,800	6	40	

Reported as completed packets

Where years are missing, data not available in archive material

### Subscription Details 1959 - 2019

Year	Subscription	Comments
1959	Initial Subscription \$1.50 or 10/-	In the second issue of the TMP, subscriptions for UK Branch members were able to be paid to The Brighton Philatelic Co in UK, due to dollar currency restrictions.
1963	\$2.10 or 15/-	In October 1963, the date for paying membership fees was simplified. At the start of the Study Group, membership subscriptions were due on the anniversary of the date joining. To simplify bookkeeping it was decided to make subscriptions due on 1 April of each year. This practice has remained. At the same time there was a subscription increase, due to comments by many members there should be one 'so that the activities of the Study Group can be enlarged'.
1971	UK £1 USA US\$2.50 Malaysia/Singapore M\$7.50 (other countries exchange rate to £1).	At the first AGM of the Group, it was agreed that the 15/- would not cover the Group expenses, especially with the postage and printing costs of TMP/Newsletter. However, it was also agreed, the increase should be kept to the minimum.
1973		At the July 1973 Committee Meeting, the payment of subscriptions for a 'number of years in advance' (10 years at the prevailing rate) was agreed and to be announced at the next AGM. However, allowing a Life Membership subscription was rejected.
1976	£2	
1981	£3.00	1983 offer of forward payment for 'for any number of years'
1985	£3 or \$7.50	Dollar rate noted in Newsletter
1986		Noted that subscription rates with publications being sent by air would be £8 or \$US20
1991	£5.00 or US\$10	
1995	£7.00 or US\$12	Noted in Newsletter: £13 / US\$30 if by airmail
2003	£10.00	
2004	£10.00 or \$19	Increase in Dollar rate due to fall in value of US Dollar
2005	£10.00	First mention of Euro rate for subscription at €15.00
2009	£12.00	£2 discount for paying before 30 June
2010	£15.00	Later noted as £15.00 or \$25.00 and if paid before 30 June an early payment discount of £3.00 / \$5.00 would be applied. If a member joined after 1 October, then subscription would be £18 / \$30 for a year-and-a-half.
2011	£20.00 or \$34.00	If pay before 30 June, early payment discount of £5.00 / \$8.50. If join after 1 Oct pay £22.50 / \$46.75 for a year-and-a-half
2018		Noted that able to hold subscription due to strong auction results

## Selection of Photographs

### Meetings



Early AGM of UK Branch  
George Turner; Ian Raybould  
John Rosevear; Derek Clayton; P Wilson



Visit to Dr FE Wood 1963  
Derek Clayton; George Turner; Philip Pratt; Dr FE Wood; John Lake; John Rosevear  
Gordon Peters; Eve Clayton; Jo Rosevear; Shirley Cannicott



Bristol May 1965  
MA Lewellyn; Gordon Peters; George Turner; Derek Clayton; Stanley Barrow; RS Lewellyn  
Brig. Anketell-Jones; Margo Llewellyn; Robin Sanderson; Major B Gausson



Bristol May 1965

Don Parr; Brig. Anketell-Jones; Alfred Toms; John Lake; Robin Sanderson  
Shirley Cannicott; Mrs N Parr; Gordon Peters; George Coomber; Cmdr S Barrow; Ron Hardacre



Bristol May 1967

Don Parr; WT Barr; A Fenton (Visitor); Brig. Anketell-Jones; Ron Hardacre;  
John Lake; Alfred Toms; Gordon Peters; Hugh Allen; Cmdr S Barrow; Robin Sanderson



Bristol June 1968

Alfred Toms; George Turner; David Medhurst; Ian Raybould  
Hugh Allen; Cmdr S Barrow; Robin Sanderson; Brig Anketell-Jones  
Keith Elliot; Gordon Peters; Ron Hardacre





Stockport 1970

Derek Clayton; Gordon Peters; Ashley Skinner; Mike Smith;  
FH Sutcliff; Mrs JC Hastewell; Derek Kent + visitors



Bournemouth 1981

Ashley Skinner; Cmdr David Morell; Rob Holley; Andrew Norris; Gordon Peters; Peter Giffen; Dennis Moon  
Margaret Morell; Pat Moon; Hugh Allan; Pauline Elliot; Keith Elliot



Southampton 1984

Gordon Peters; Ashley Skinner; Andrew Norris; Rob Holley;  
Hugh Allan; Bill Lyons; Keith Elliot



Southampton 1987  
Keith Elliot; Bill Lyons; Mrs Pat Moon; Susan McEwen; Andrew Norris  
Rob Holley; Dennis Moon; Pauline Elliot



Portishead 1988  
Don Metcalfe; Rob Holley; Keith Elliot; Dennis Moon; Ian Raybould; Malcolm Clarke; Stan Tidwell  
Andrew Norris; Derek Clayton



Worthing 1989  
Bill Reeves; Andrew Tan; Doug Binder; John Fisher; Rob Holley; Harold Carpenter; ?; Ann Whittaker;  
David Medhurst; Susan McEwen; Jeremy Gaskell; Peter King; Andrew Norris; Ian Raybould; Brian Cave;  
Keith Elliot; Anthony Rogers



Bournemouth 1990

Rob Holley; ?, Malcolm Wade; James Song; David Medhurst; Dennis Moon; Keith Elliot; Bill Lyons  
Derek Clayton; Michael Ho; Bernard Chung; Jane Ludlow; Mike Ludlow; Richard Kim



Edinburgh 1990

Bill McKinlay; John Morgan; Iain Dyce; Jack Brown; Bill Spalding; Keith Elliot; Frank Reminch  
Andrew Norris; Susan McEwen; David Meki



Porti

shead 1991

Stan Tidwell; Dennis Moon; Keith Elliot; Susan McEwen; Malcolm Clarke; Mike Ludlow; Peter Cockburn  
Don Metcalfe; Andrew Norris



AGM 1993



Worthing - Date Unknown



Worthing - Date Unknown



Worthing 1997



Worthing 1999



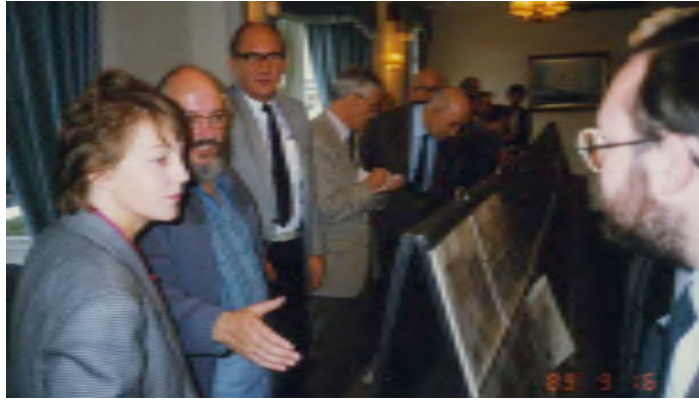
2000

Richard Thio; VT Nathan; Keith Elliot; Dr Gong; Ong Kuee Hong



Worthing 2002

## Displays



Worthing 1989

Susan McEwen; Jeremy Gaskell; Keith Elliot; Rob Holley; David Medhurst; Andrew Norris



Leicester 1993



R Holley Pahang 1999

Gordon Peters; Malcolm Wade; Iain Dyce; ?; Rob Holley; Henry Ong; Richard Hale; Ted Needham; Len Stanway



Singapore 1995



'London 2000' - May 2000  
Rob Holley with Gordon Peters (about to display)

## Medal Presentations

Roseaver Medal



1992 Derek Clayton



1993 Bill Reeves

Both presented by Peter Cockburn

## Auctions



Early UK Branch Auction  
Bill Reeves; Graham Nelson; Sidney Harris; Philip Pratt; Stanley Barrow



T Trail Kelantan sale June 1984



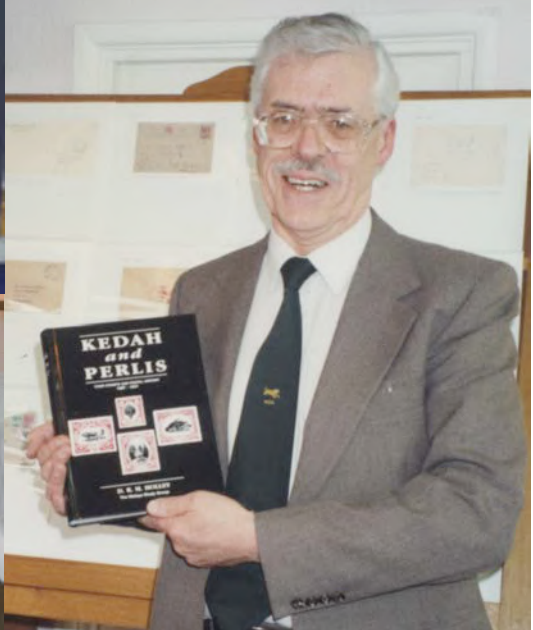
Autumn Auction 1989 – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Miscellaneous from Available Photographs







## Membership Statistics 1959 - 2019

Year	Number	Comments
1959	86	There were 10 founding members of the Malaya Study Group. Membership had risen to 16 members by the publication of the first issue of TMP. By the second issue of TMP there were 23 additional members, by the third an additional 29, by the fourth an additional 13 and the fifth an additional 5. So, by the end of 1959, membership stood at 86.
1960	>100	June copy of TMP revealed that 'We are also happy to announce that our membership has now grown to and passed the 100 mark'.
1961	116	Complete list of membership (names and addresses) was published as a supplement to Vol 3 No2. This totalled 116 members with the split being: USA 42; UK 39; Malaysia 17; Singapore 4; Australia 7; other countries (7) 7.
1963	141	In June (Vol 5 No 3) membership list published which showed 141 members with the distribution USA 38; UK 67; Malaysia 11; Singapore 6; Australia 7; other countries (10) 12.
1967	127	Vol 9 no 1 February membership list published. After addenda this gave 127 members with the distribution USA 26; UK 74; Malaysia 10; Singapore 9; Australia 6; other countries (2) 2
1969		The UK Branch AGM noted that there were 110 members in the UK (for the first time being over 100).
1971	192	At the AGM noted that there were 137 members in the UK and TMP in June (Vol 12 No 3) gave the list of members resident outside of the UK with the distribution USA 19; Malaysia 15; Singapore 3; Australia 11; other countries (6) 7.
1972	212	AGM reported UK 147; Malaysia and Singapore 21; USA 19; Australasia 17; other countries 9
1973	221	TMP April (Vol 14 No 2) membership list published. After addenda this gave 221 members with the distribution USA 21; UK 153; Malaysia 16; Singapore 5; Australia 15; other countries (10) 11
1975	244	TMP Vol 16 No 1. April reported 244 members: USA 21; UK 168; Malaysia 12; Singapore 10; Australia 31; other countries (8) 9
1978	268	TMP Vol 19 No 1 February. 268 members: USA 26; UK 167; Malaysia 16; Singapore 16; Australia 33; other countries (9) 10
1979	273	January Committee Meeting minutes notes 273 paid up members.
1981		AGM noted that in 1980 that a large number of new members had joined the Group. While London 1980 had provided several, also the number in Singapore recruited by members there was increased.
1984	386	AGM noted 386 members but including some 45 non-payers!
1985	350	Vol 26 No 2 June. 350 members: UK 215; Australia 40; Singapore 31; USA 28; Malaysia 20; other countries (11) 16.
1986	366	At March AGM noted 366 members
1993	>400	Membership noted in Newsletter at being just over 400.
1994	446	AGM in discussion of subs noted 446 members, with 243 in UK.

1995	450	UK members 240
1998	458	
1999	464	
2000	449	
2001	450	
2002	448	
2005	438	UK 242; Singapore 45; Malaysia 57; USA 34; Australia 31; Europe 14; other countries 15.
2006	424	UK 239; Singapore 41; Malaysia 56; USA 32; Australia 30; Europe 13; other countries 13.
2008	412	AGM Membership = 412. UK 226; Singapore 40; Malaysia 57; USA 32; Australia 28; Europe 14; other countries 15.
2009	415	
2010	421	
2011	427	UK 219; Singapore 45; Malaysia 63; USA 35; Australia 29; Europe 21; other countries 15.
2012	412	
2013	346	UK 169; Singapore 43; Malaysia 57; USA 20; Australia 28; Europe 16; other countries 13 (reduction driven by strict 'expulsion' for non-payment.
2014	360	
2015	349	
2016	343	
2017	330	
2018	315	Reported as: UK 49%; Singapore 14%; Malaysia 16%; USA 4%; Australia 9%; other countries 8%.

2019 Membership: 320 ordinary members. Of which: 3 Signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists; 24 Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London; 1 Honorary Member; 5 Honorary Life Members; 1 Corporate Member; and 10 Library members.

Country	No. of Members	Country	No. of Members	Country	No. of Members
Argentina	1	Hong Kong	2	Romania	1
Australia	30	India	1	Scotland	10
Belgium	1	Indonesia	1	Singapore	47
Canada	2	Ireland	1	Spain	1
China	1	Isle of Man	1	Taiwan	1
Cyprus	1	Japan	2	Thailand	1
England	149	Malaysia	53	USA	15
France	2	Netherlands	3	Wales	3
Germany	5	Northern Ireland	1		

Information extracted, where reported, from TMP, Newsletters, AGM reports and the 2019 information from L Stanway's production of the Membership Roll for the Diamond Jubilee.

## **Archive Material Donated to the Spear Museum of Philatelic History (Held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London)**

Bound copies of The Malayan Philatelist Volumes 1 - 31

MSG Publications: The Malayan Philatelist Index to Volumes 1 - 20; Malayan Postal History to 1939 as Recorded in Official Documents; Kelantan: Its Stamps and Postal History; Malayan Post Offices; Malaya: Postal Documents from 1876; Malaya: The Survey Department Essays of 1933-34; Singapore Post Offices and Registration Labels; and The Postage Stamps of Federated Malay States 1900 – 1935.

Book containing handwritten UK Branch Committee Minutes with dates covering 29 March 1963 to 10 April 1970.

Book with a mixture of handwritten and printed UK Branch Ordinary Meeting minutes and Annual General Meeting minutes with dates covering 15 March 1963 to 11 July 1970.

Book with a mixture of handwritten and printed MSG Ordinary Meeting minutes (UK meetings), Annual General Meeting minutes and Committee Minutes with dates covering 19 September 1970 to 10 March 1984.

Single page with signatures of those present at sale of T Traill's collection of Kelantan at YMCA, London, on 2 June 1984. [Located in the back of the above book]

Three bound volumes containing originals of the Newsletters issued.

Vol I: 6 letters sent to UK Members June 1963 to March 1966; UK Branch Newsletters July 1965 (no 1) to Feb 1971 (No 33); MSG Newsletters April 1971 (no 1) to February-March 1979 (No 45)

Vol II: MSG Newsletters April-May 1979 (No 46) to Issue 5 1988 (No 100)

Vol III: MSG Newsletters Issue 1 1989 (No 101) to Issue 6 (Nov/Dec) 1993 (No 127)

Folder with Newsletters Jan/Feb 1994 (No 128) and March/April 1994 (No 129); Auction listings: October 1989; February 1992; June 1992; and October 1992; AGM Notices 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1994.

Loose set of Newsletters May/June 1994 (No 130) to July/Oct 2005 (No 192). Includes some loose AGM Notices: 2000, 2001 and 2003.

Handout MSG display to RPSL 15 October 2009.

Handout Malayan Revenues Peter Cockburn display to RPSL 27 February 2014.

Singapore Stamp Club Newsletter Issue 53 May 2013 [Report of talk by Richard Hale to MSG Members in Singapore].

A half leather bound record book with 'Malaya Study Group' in gold on the spine. [See section on Record Books for contents.]

Auction listings: UK Branch March 1965 - with hand annotated realisations; UK Branch November 1966 - with hand annotated realisations; Auction listing - UK Branch April 1967.

Hardbound volume of MSG Special Auction Sales containing: Descriptions of the display to the Royal Philatelic Society London March 1971; T Traill Kelantan June 1984; T Traill of Trengganu May 1981; H Allen Malaya June 1987; J Rosevear Malaya October 1990; A Skinner Malaya Part 1 October 1991; and A Skinner Malaya Part 2 November 1993.

Three airmail letters from Howard Selzer to L Gunn. One regarding H Selzer's collecting interests (22.09.1958) and two in relation to the formation of the MSG (04.01.1959 and 22.02.1959).

21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary menu card signed by 33 people.

Certificate from Canada Philatelic Exhibition 1993 to W Lyons for Singapore Post Offices and Registration Labels.

CD containing postal Stationery project illustrations.

London 1980 medal awarded for TMP with presentation case.

AMERIPEX 1986 medal awarded for TMP with presentation case.

4 notebooks listing UK meeting/auction attendees. March 1963 to October 1973; November 1973 to November 1983; January 1984 to September 1990; and October 1990 to April 1997.

Stamp Collecting Weekly Vol 113 No 22 (2934) January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1970. Issue contains information about MSG and articles on 'The Story of Malaysia'; The Perak Emergency Postal receipts; The Birth of the FMS Tigers; The Real Values of Malaya; The postmarks of Taiping, Perak; and the "rainbow" mark.

Christies Robson Lowe auction catalogues: Malaya The Howard Selzer Collection, November 1986; The Isleham Collection, Part Three Near and Far East Postage Stamps, November 1986.

MSG Auction Catalogue for M Wade's BMA Postal History, 19 October 2013.

Gibbons Stamp Monthly April 2009 with articles to Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MSG.

Transcript of a presentation on Malaya (States) - Author unknown (but could be H Miller).

'Birthday Card' signed by members present at World Stamp Expro March 1999 in celebration of MSG's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

MSG UK Branch Programme Cards 1968/69, 1969/70 and 1970/71.

MSG Programme Cards 1971/72 to 2002/03.

Philatelic Collections Newsletter Spring 2012 - Article on 'Malaya in the British Library Philatelic Collections'.

Reproduction cover 'Forth Taipeng Talk Perak Post 1880 - 1900' signed by Malcom Wade.

Two letters written by Dr FE Wood dated 04.07.1947 and 09.07.1947 and 7 album pages from Dr FE Wood's collection (No stamps) with a cover letter from EW Proud donating them to the Group.

Letter from J Rosevear to Dr FE Wood 26.10.1960.

Hand prepared card to be presented to HRH The Raja Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Al-Marhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail at an MSG reception held in his honour at the RPSL, September 1996.

5x Air Letters sent to Mrs S Cannicott covering philatelic matters.

Number of letters regarding bookings for the dinner arranged for London 2000. Includes 3 Air Letters - 2 of which cover other philatelic matters.

Handout covering displays (13) given at the MSG meeting for London 2000.

Journal of the Japanese occupation Society Vol 1 No 1 (photocopy).

Original data (part?) collected for an MSG Study project on 'Straits Settlements Postage Rates' valid during the nineteenth century (15 sheets).

Card signed by 19 members present at MSG Meeting in Singapore 20 July 2013.

MSG Dinner 14 September 2013 - Menu and list of attendees (21) with respective menu choices.

Mounted collection of photographs from MSG meetings most with annotated locations/names.

Loose collection of photographs from MSG meetings with some annotated locations/names.

Note: Some of the above material may have been existing the Royal Philatelic Society's collections and as such, may be found elsewhere and not duplicated under the MSG donation.