

# *The Malayan Philatelist*



Happy New Year!

*The Malayan Philatelist*

JOURNAL OF THE MALAYA STUDY GROUP

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## EDITORIAL:

For the first time in several years, the TMP cupboard is starting to look very bare, so your articles, long or short, would be very welcome. If you do not know the answers, why not send a question to Question Box? Someone may be able to answer immediately, or eventually (see page 14)!

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of MSG who contacted me with condolences following the loss of my dear wife Anne in December. It was very comforting, at a very difficult time, to know that there were so many good friends out there.

All items in this publication are copyright. Unless otherwise stated, the copyright rests with the author of the item concerned or, failing that, with the Malaya Study Group. Any person or organisation seeking to use such copyright items should initially approach the Editor of "The Malayan Philatelist". Unless specifically requested by a contributor, contributors' contact details will not be provided to third parties.

Opinions expressed in this journal are those of the contributor and should not be taken to reflect any policy of the Malaya Study Group.

The Editor welcomes submissions of any length in any form, but digital copy in Microsoft Word with JPEG images scanned at 300dpi (minimum) would be particularly helpful to minimise processing.

**SOCIETY HEADLINE NEWS****CONGRATULATIONS:**

Two MSG members, namely Stan Challis of the UK and Glen Stafford of Australia, were granted Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2022.

**NEXT ZOOM MEETING:**

The next videoconference meeting will be held at 1.15pm UK time on 11 February using Zoom, when Peter Cockburn will display BMA Postal History. If your up-to-date e-mail address is held by the group, you should receive a link for the meeting. The more the merrier!

**NEXT LONDON MEETING:**

Meetings are held at Spink, 67-69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET; nearest underground stations Holborn or Russell Square. The next meeting will be on 25 March 2023, which will be The Annual General Meeting at 12.30pm, followed by the Auction at 1.15pm (viewing from 11.15am). All members are welcome, so please come along.

**BOOK OFFER:**

Should any member wish to buy a copy of Richard Hale's new book "The Pioneer Merchants of Singapore", reviewed in this issue, this can be obtained directly from R.E. Hale, 25 Dairy Farm Road #01 – 02, Singapore 679047 if accompanied by a UK sterling cheque for GBP40 in his favour. It will be sent by airmail.

**WEBSITE:**

Please visit the MSG website at [www.malayastudygroup.com](http://www.malayastudygroup.com) for up-to-date information about society events and news items relevant to Malayan philately. On the Group's website, as well as expanded reports of recent meetings and notice of forthcoming events of interest, there are: a recording of the most recent Zoom Displays; indices for TMP and full colour versions of the same; provisional supplements to the Malaysia book for you to view and input to if you find errors or have additional information, and much more.

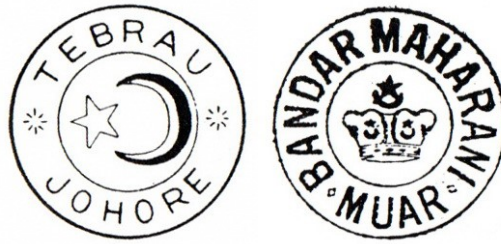
**VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

The MSG and its meetings/services do not happen by themselves. It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes work by the members of the Committee, many of whom have been doing the jobs for a long time. To be frank, we are getting tired and we need some new helpers, particularly in the UK, to learn the ropes to ensure that the MSG is here for years to come. It is unlikely that you would be thrown in at the deep end of a major role immediately and we will be there to help you find your feet. Please give it some thought, and, if you feel that you have some spare time to give us, please contact the Chairman.

**SOCIETY TIES AND SCARVES**

Leaping Tiger ties and scarves to celebrate our sixtieth anniversary are still available. For the fastidious, self-tie and clip-on bow ties are also available and a fabulous new design of scarf is ready for the ladies. Prices are £15 each for the ties and bow ties, or £25 for the scarf. Please contact Peter Cockburn to buy yours today!

**JOHORE POSTAL SERVICES**  
by Richard Hale



Covid restrictions have provided me more time for reading than I have had for years and, last year, Amarjit Kaur's "Bridge and Barrier" published in 1983, subtitled "Transport and Communications in Colonial Malaya 1870-1957" came to hand. It is a mine of information about early railways and roads in Malaya and much else besides.

According to The Postal History of Malaya, Vol III, postal agencies existed at Tebrau and a number of other estates in the neighbourhood of Johore Bahru from 1891, but their cancellations, all of the Tebrau type shown above, have not been recorded later than 1896. Johore Bahru, Kota Tinggi, Batu Pahat, and Bandar Maharani Muar, however, continued to use this "crescent and star" type until, in 1900, for no particular reason as far as I can discover, a similar cancellation with a crown was introduced replacing the crescent and star, followed in 1905 by Kota Tinggi with a change of spelling.

Use of this new type of cancellation continued until about 1911, with Segamat Upper Muar having been added in 1901, Cucob in 1908, Mersing very briefly in 1910 combined with a new type of cds, and finally Kluang, the first station with a postal agency on the new Johore State Railway line. Kluang, named after the flying foxes so prevalent in the area, was a new town being built where the proposed main road, from Batu Pahat on the west coast to Kuala Mersing on the east, was to cross the railway line. By the end of 1911, the trace for the 34 miles of the western section was complete but only 15 miles of the eastern had been drawn.



*Mersing crown cancel with cds type D1 apparently used only in 1910*

Before 1909 and the intermittent openings of the new railway (due to land slips), land transport in the state was minimal due to the almost complete absence of roads. Mail to or from Muar (Bandar Maharani) and Batu Pahat had to go by sea from or to Johore Bahru. Such mail as there was, for or from Kota Tinggi and estates on the Johore River or the East coast, was carried by steam launches.

The new line, the Johore State Railway, to connect the FMS railway line at Gemas NS with Johore Bahru through virgin jungle and swamp, was fully opened to the public to little fanfare on 1 July 1909, six months late. From north to south, stations or halts were located at Batu Anam, Buloh Kasap, Segamat, Tenang, Labis, Bekok, Niyor, Mengkibol, Rengam, Layang Layang, Sedenak, Kulai, Senai and Tampoi, terminating at Johore Bahru for the ferry crossing to Singapore.<sup>2</sup> Pagoh, Paloh, Kluang, Saleng and Scudai were opened at various

later dates. All the stations along the line were linked by telegraph wires owned by the FMS Posts and Telegraphs Department.<sup>3</sup> When a party of five Europeans on the first “up” train ran out of anything to drink, one was able, at the Layang Layang halt, to wire to a Tamil acquaintance at Labis, some two and a half hours ahead, for large bottles of beer to be available for them on arrival.<sup>4</sup>

*“The stations are the usual wayside type of the F.M.S, and close by each is a house for the station-master, another for the pointsman, and brick lines of the permanent-way coolies. Here and there are the bangsals of the construction coolies, but, except where finishing touches have just been put to embankments, etc, these are uninhabited and rapidly falling into ruin. Now and again gangs of coolies are passed at work on the permanent way, but with this exception hardly a living thing is to be seen between the stations save an occasional bird. At the stations themselves not a house except those used by men connected with the line is to be seen and most of the stations are several miles from the nearest kampong.”*<sup>5</sup>

Just when postal agencies were first authorised at the various stations or post offices established at the rubber estates and villages growing up around them is hard to establish. From the earliest known recorded cancellations, we get a date of 17 November 1911 for Batu Anam, 1912 for Sedenak and possibly Kluang where a new post office was reported as being built, and 1914 for Rengam. Labis appears in 1928, but all the others are in the 1930s or later.

In mid-1911, roads in the vicinity of Johore Bahru totalled only 112 miles, the chief road being that to Kota Tinggi (30 miles) and, across the river, an extension to Mawai (18 miles) with another to ‘Lumbong’ (8 miles). A road ran to Gunong Pulai, branching at the tenth mile to Senai and on to Kulai. In the Bandar Maharani Muar district, the total reported was 74 miles. The road to Kesang (8 miles) was being upgraded. Other roads to Tangkak and other places on the border with Malacca existed and it was hoped that one of these could be extended to Batu Anam, the final station on the railway line before it crossed into Negri Sembilan and the FMS at Gemas.<sup>6</sup>

On 12 May 1914, Sultan Ibrahim reluctantly signed an agreement accepting a British General Adviser, with powers similar to a Resident in the FMS, and thus ceded to him all powers except those related to Malay religion and custom.

Over the years since the closure of the postal agency at Tebrau, and as development of the district grew, various appeals were made for a post office to be opened. All were declined by the state government due to lack of funds and/or possibly the realisation that any resulting income would not cover the expense involved.

In 1918, one Mohammed Taib, a resident of Tebrau, hoped to overcome this difficulty and *“applied on behalf of a group of villagers to set up a private post office for the delivery and collection of mail. They stated that they would undertake to employ a man who was literate both in English and Malay, and requested permission to charge their own rates, undertaking not to force anyone in the area to patronize their post office. The inhabitants, who were mainly of Indonesian origin, clearly realised that the institution of postal facilities would enable them to maintain better communication with their homeland and the outside world.”*<sup>7</sup>

The application was turned down by the Colonial Government on the grounds this time, not of expense, but that the

*“exclusive privilege of dealing with mail matter should only be vested in the government”*<sup>8</sup>

Conveyance of mail by sea was slow and the General Adviser sought, in 1919, permission to start an overland service between Johore Bahru and Batu Pahat. The Postmaster General in Singapore turned this down flat, arguing that such a service would cost Straits Dollars 100 per month to operate whereas the sea service needed only 10 to 15 Dollars.

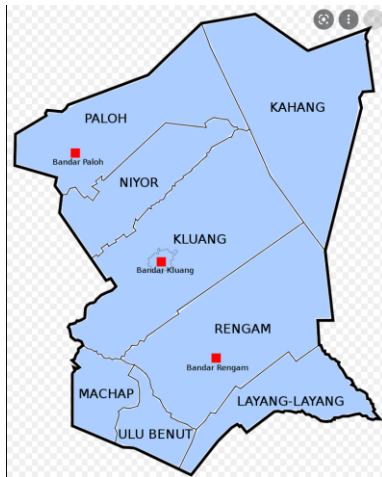
Complaints were aired elsewhere. In the early 1920s, residents and rubber estate managers in Mersing were loud in their dissatisfaction with the sea mail service and repeatedly demanded an overland mail service to Kluang.

*“They offered to subsidise delivery charges by automobile rather than be deprived of postal communication with the rest of the world.”*

Despite this, the demand was rejected and instead arrangements were made for the residents of Mersing to collect their mail at Kluang 45 miles distant.<sup>9</sup>

Things have changed greatly in the century since this, but complaints still arise!

I end with a challenge. The station at Niyor existed at least until the second world war and, if so, why did it not have at least a postal agency? If it did, maybe there is still a so-far-undiscovered cds out there.



Kluang District - Wikipedia

## References:

1. Straits Times 1 July 1909.
2. Daily Commerce & Trade Reports, Washington 23 November 1912.
3. Singapore Free Press & Mercantile Advertiser 23 July 1909 'Advance Johore'.
4. Straits Echo 6 July 1909.
5. Straits Budget 12 March 1912 re AGM of Mengkibol (Central Johore) Rubber Co.
6. Straits Budget of 27 July 1911.
7. Letter Mohammed Taib & Co. Tebrau to General Adviser Johore 19 May 1918.
8. Letter Postmaster-General Singapore to General Adviser Johore 27 May 1918 enclosed in GAJ 334/1918.
9. Letter, Johore Planters' Association to General Adviser Johore 27 August 1923, and letter General Adviser, Johore to Johore Planters' Association 17 January 1924, enclosures in GAJ 651/1923.

### HARRISON & SONS LTD & MR. W.H. BROWN - 1950s ESSAYS by Andrew Norris

Some new material, in the form of production essays, appeared on the market recently, which was apparently from the effects of a Mr. W.H. Brown. This article lists the material from our area, which comprises Federation of Malaya, Negri Sembilan and Singapore, from a period circa the 1950s. Harrisons were the photogravure specialist printers for postage stamps, so naturally their essays are nearly always photographic.

Two items of Harrison & Sons Ltd. headed notepaper that accompanied the original lot, of which I have scans, comprise a 1957 letter from their High Wycombe office to Mr. Brown accompanying a presentation set of the Great Britain 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scout Movement issue. The address this letter was sent to is worth noting – “*W.H. Brown, Esq., C/o. The Studio, Harrison & Sons Ltd., 44-47, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.2.*”

The other letter is dated November 1966 and lists the “in house” designs that “... were produced by Mr. W. H. Brown” and “Mr. Brown was a laminate designer to this company in the period August 1948 to October 1966”. This letter, we presume, was by way of a reference or testimonial of his past work.

Our member Hong Tuck Kun has kindly also forwarded scans of two documents from the Goaman archive relating to the Singapore pictorial 1955 issue which also mention Mr. Brown. The 1955 issue designs are mainly credited to Dr. C.A. Gibson-Hill who was a noted photographer of Malaya & Singapore for many years and it was his images that were the basis for the designs. It was however the Goamans who took the designs forward to the issued stamps for the 1c, to 50c, printed by Harrisons.

Sylvia Goaman was the daughter of the English novelist and playwright J.B. Priestley and a noted graphic artist and a stamp designer who worked with her husband Michael. They produced a good number of stamp designs from the 1950s to at least the 1980s and their archive was sold by Harmers of London some years ago.

The first document is a letter from Harrisons' St. Martin's Lane office to Michael Goaman signed W. Brown with detailed comments about the 1c, and 2c, values.

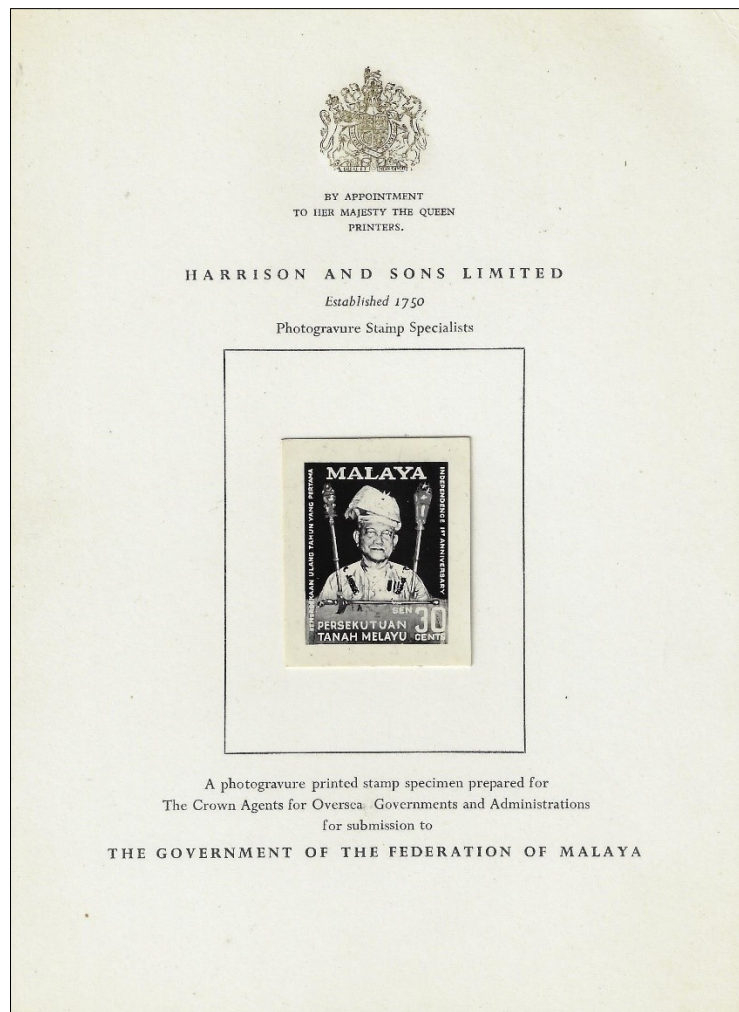
The other document is a very technical tract and critique about the design for the 12c. value ‘Hylam Trader (Junk)’ which is now titled a Hainan Junk. At the foot of this document is an initialed manuscript footnote that reads “*From this information Mr. Brown made up the 12c bromide*”. It may not be a coincidence that the essays that Mr. Brown retained are for the 1c. and 12c. values.

So, there is no doubt that Mr. W.H. Brown was in the forefront of postage stamp design at Harrison & Sons for some years. A list of the material follows.

#### Federation of Malaya 1958

Photographic essay for the 1958 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Independence 30c showing the Yang di-Pertuan. This is affixed to a presentation card of the correct period which usually had a low value issued stamp on them. An attractive essay and item.





### Negri Sembilan circa 1957

Considering the trouble that Sir Frank Swettenham went to in getting the F.M.S. tiger design right, I dare not think what he might think of the tiger in these essays! It may have been an early design for the 1957 10c. value which features a tiger, but, fortunately, a different design evolved or was used.



*10c tiger's head with Lalang grass background photographic essay with State coat-of-arms affixed to plain card*

A similar essay, but with a slightly different Lalang grass background in a block of four. There was several of these blocks, all from the same negative with a dark spot between the E & G of Negri on the lower-left unit. There is some variation in the shading from light to dark and on the light blocks there is, towards the foot of the lower pair, some vestige of perforations in the photograph. In the darker prints, the backgrounds are distinctly blotchy. I have scanned both a light and dark blotchy print.



#### Singapore 1949 or 1950s for the 1955 issue

By far the most important and only group of essays in this material is for the Singapore 1955 pictorial issue. We know that the design process was somewhat tortured and long winded because we have here the use of two different portraits of King George VI. On his death, the designs were then proceeded with Her Majesty the Queen, Queen Elizabeth II.

The 25c. then held everything up as this, originally, was to show the De Havilland Comet jet airliner. The metal fatigue that caused it to start crashing was an unknown phenomenon. The replacement of that aircraft with the Lockheed Constellation which crashed due to pilot error at Singapore lead to that also being dropped and we ended up, eventually, with a Douglas Argonaut aircraft. Third time lucky!

The Essays in this group reflect a little of this long process and comprise:

- Fig.1: KGVII Head 50c. essay of S.S. Chusan. An early essay, as still using the “young king” sideways profile head that was dropped circa 1949. Size and positioning of the ship different from eventual design with smoke from the funnel heading straight for the king! With pencil calculations in margins, perhaps for sheet/cylinder size?
- Fig.2: KGVII Head 35c. essay of a B.O.A.C. aircraft. This has the full face “older king” head used circa 1951/52. The plane is a Lockheed Constellation adopted temporarily to replace the Comet aircraft, but this was also judged as inadvisable as one of these Lockheed aircraft crashed at Singapore in 1954 with great loss of life.
- Fig.3: QEII head 1c. essay of Chinese Sampan marked ‘Not approved’ and dated 3 June 1954. Size & positioning of sampans different to issued design. With transparent overlay. This and the following 1c. essay both have Harrisons & Sons Ltd. framed chop on reverse. This has a figure “1” added; the next has a figure “2”.
- Fig.4: QEII head 1c. essay very similar to, if not the final design. With transparent overlay.
- Fig.5: QEII head 12c. essay of Hainan Trader. Sunk-mounted with gold trim surround and with transparent overlay. An early design for this value as with numerous differences to the issued stamp. Presumably taken from a photo that was later “tidied up” to simplify the design and improve overall appearance, e.g. removing smaller ships or boats, reducing the clouds, changing figure of value and CENTS, etc.



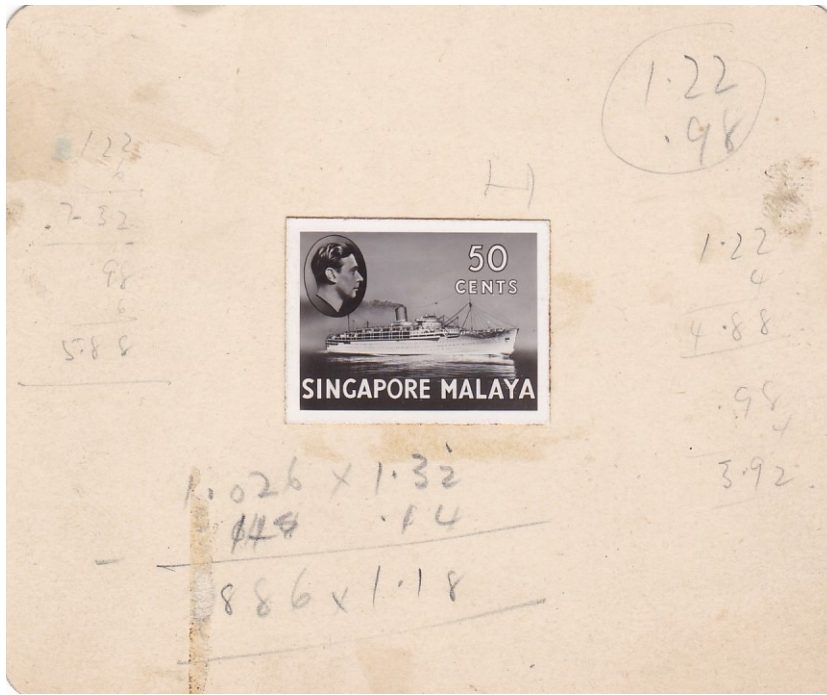


Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

*Fig.4**Fig.5*

### **Harrison & Sons Presentation folders for Singapore issues**

There were also two Presentation Folders present.

Printed Folder (5 inches across & 6¼ inches down) produced for the 1955 issue with silhouette of the timber tongkong used for 10c. value on front. Contains the issued 1c. to 50c. stamps that Harrison & Sons printed with captions. The 20c. is inscribed COCUS instead of Cocos-Keeling schooner!

Printed Folder (7 inches across & 5½ inches down) produced for the 1959 New Constitution and containing the three low values of that set. The outside shows a large printing machine, but printed text inside refers directly about this issue.



**POSTCARDS OF CHAN CHEW PHOTO STUDIO: 3. TIEN WAH PRESS UNNUMBERED**  
 by Tom Anderson and Gary Brown

Advanced printing technology reached Malaysia during the 1960s and Chan Chew photo studio teamed up with the Tien Wah Press (TWP) to produce beautiful colour postcards of Pahang and Trengganu, published during the 1970s and 1980s. The TWP started out as a small letterpress printing shop in Singapore in 1935, run by Wong Tik Yun. The company started a printing business in Kuala Lumpur in 1960, subsequently expanding in Singapore. Although books were their main focus, postcards were printed for a number of different publishers in Malaysia. Here, we present the first Chan Chew postcards published by TWP, which are unnumbered; in the next article in the series, we will describe the numbered series that followed. Chan Chew had, by now, passed away (in 1951) and the photographic journey was continued by his son, Chan Meng Sing, who also authored and produced the book, "Early Kuantan in Pictures 1903-1963" (Ref.1).

The unnumbered TWP cards can be separated into three Types, each with "Tien Wah Press, Malaya" printed in capitals up the central divide. We denote the three types CC-1, CC-2 and CC-3 and show the earliest dated examples that we have seen for each, placing the three Types in chronological order.

**Type CC-1 cards** have "Photo & Pub by Chan Chew Photographers, 41 Wall Str. Kuantan" printed bottom centre, without accompanying Chinese text. Our example of this Type was converted into a QSL card and shows a picture of fishermen unloading their catch at the Beserah Fishing Village (Figure 1). It was sent to Angola and, although the stamp was removed, the card nevertheless exhibits a fine "KUANTAN 24 NOV 1969" postmark, as well as an entry cancel "SA DA BANDEIRA 29 1 70" (Sá da Bandeira was renamed Lubango when Angola gained independence in 1975).

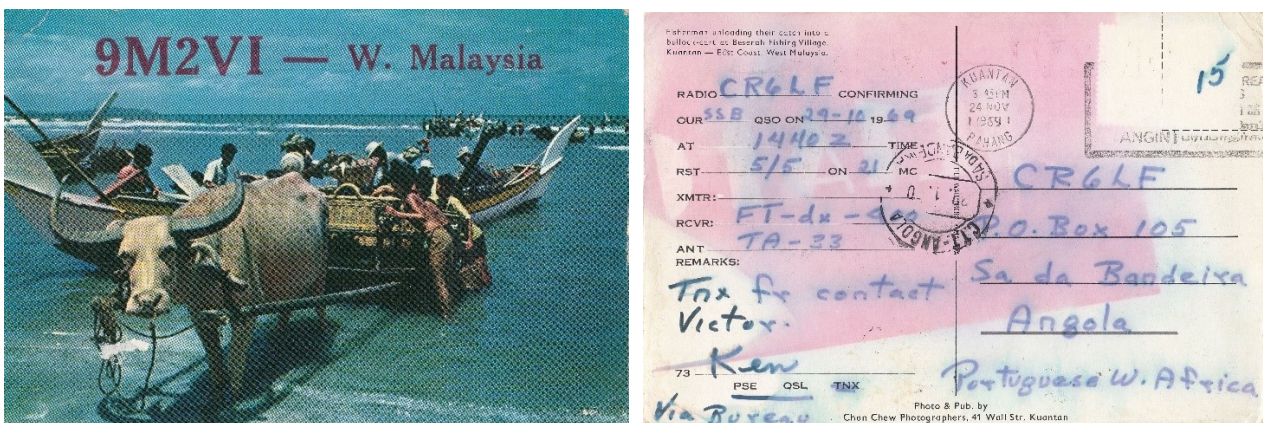


Fig.1. Fishermen unloading their catch, sent to Angola 24 November 1969.

**Type CC-2 cards** have different text in the bottom centre, in both English and Chinese: "Published by Chan Chew Photographers, Kuantan". The card shown in Figure 2 is the earliest of this Type that we have seen and shows a "penyu" turtle at the beach near Dungun, Trengganu. It was sent to Australia paying 25c. postage using attractive 10c. and 15c. stamps celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of installation of H.R.H. Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah as the Sultan of Trengganu. The stamps are cancelled "KUALA TRENGGANU 15 SEP 1971".

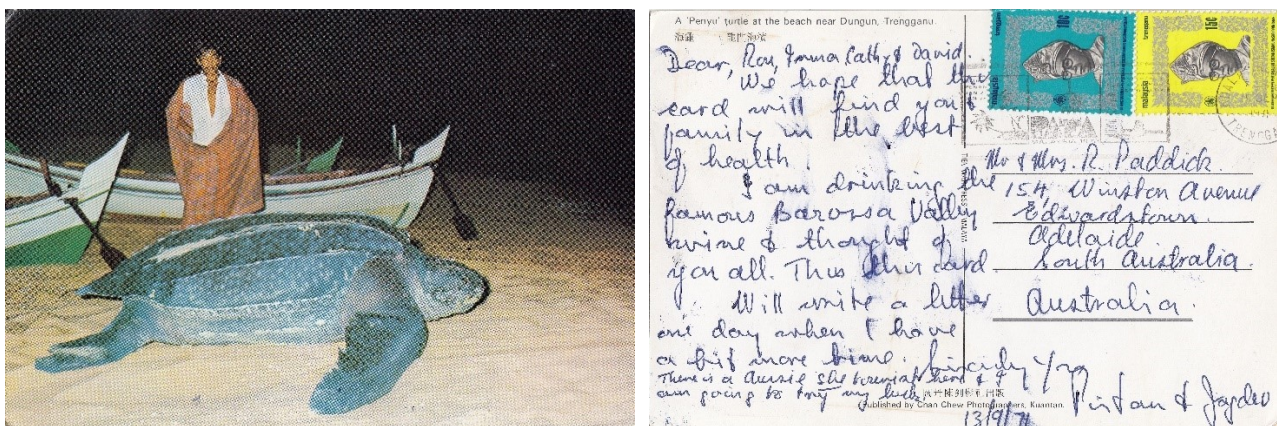




Fig.2 (previous page). Postcard showing turtle at the beach near Dungun, Trengganu, sent to Australia 15 September 1971.

Finally, **Type CC-3 cards** have the same text bottom centre as Type CC-2, but this is now accompanied by "Photo by Chan Meng Sing" in the bottom left of the verso. The card shown in Figure 3 is a beautiful image of Beserah Fishing Village that appears as one of the few colour photos in the above-mentioned book. The book caption is: "Early morning scene of Beserah fishing village taken from the bridge in 1973, which looked like an Indonesian painting. Taken with Leica M2 35mm f2 Summicron lens with Kodachrome film." The card was sent to Belgium paying 40c. postage and was cancelled "KUANTAN 9 MEI 1978" along with an entry cancel on the front, "ST KATELIJNE-WAVER 18-5-78". Many Type CC-3 cards can be found, mostly dating to the mid-1980s.

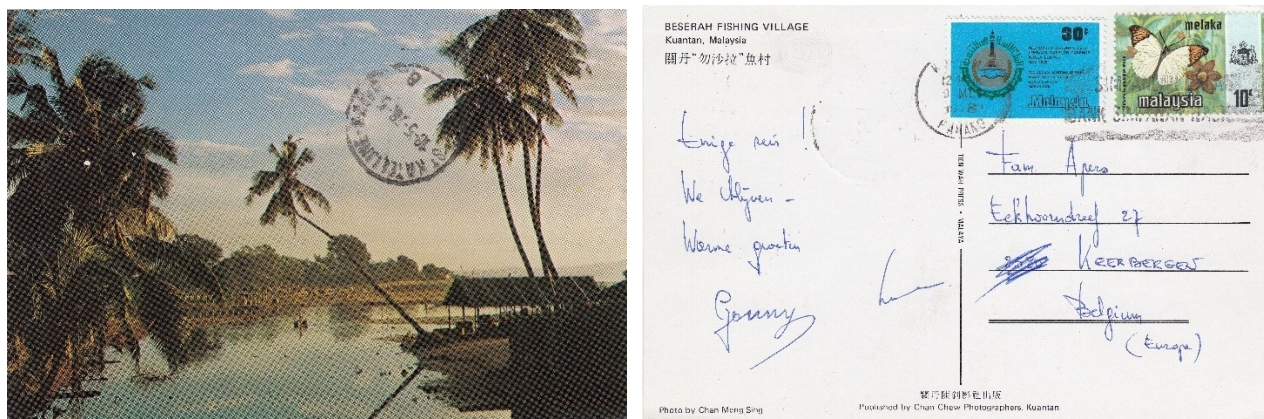


Fig.3. Postcard showing Beserah Fishing Village, Kuantan, sent to Belgium, 9 May 1978.

We conclude by providing a listing for the TWP unnumbered cards (Table 1), noting that the reference numbers are ours and do not appear on the cards.

Table 1. Card listing.

Type	Ref.	Description
CC-1	1-1	Beserah Fishing Village, Kuantan, East Coast, West Malaysia.
CC-1	1-2	Fishermen unloading their catch into a bullock-cart at Beserah Fishing Village Kuantan - East Coast, West Malaysia.
CC-1	1-3	Penyu bertelur di pantai Dungun, Trengganu.
CC-1	1-4	Telok Chempedak Beach, Kuantan, East Coast, West Malaysia.
CC-2	2-1	Bangunan Pejabat2 Kerajaan Negeri Pahang, Kuantan.
CC-2	2-2	Jalan Wall, Kuantan, Pahang.
CC-2	2-3	Masjid Sultan Ahmad I, Kuantan, Pahang.
CC-2	2-4	WISMA SRI PAHANG, Kuantan.
CC-3	3-1	Bangunan Pejabat-Pejabat Kerajaan Negeri Pahang.
CC-3	3-2	BERSILAT OLEH GADIS2 KG. SG. ULAR. Malay art of self-defence demonstrated by girls of Kg. Sg. Ular, 22 miles north of Kuantan, Malaysia.
CC-3	3-3	BESERAH FISHING VILLAGE Kuantan, Malaysia.
CC-3	3-4	Fishing boats returning to Beserah fishing village at dawn.
CC-3	3-5	Jalan Bank, Kuantan, Pahang.
CC-3	3-6	Jalan Makhota (formerly Jalan Wall).
CC-3	3-7	Jalan-jalan di Bandar Kuantan Malaysia.
CC-3	3-8	KAMPONG SUNGEI ULAR, KUANTAN, MALAYSIA. Fishermen mending nets under the tropical sun.
CC-3	3-9	KAMPONG TANJONG LUMPUR, KUANTAN, MALAYSIA. Fishing village at the mouth of the Kuantan River opposite Kuantan Town.
CC-3	3-10	Masjid Sultan Ahmad I.
CC-3	3-11	Pantai Telok Chempedak. Crowded like any other popular beach resort on weekends.



Type	Ref.	Description
CC-3	3-12	Pantai Telok Chempedak. Serene and lovely on week days.
CC-3	3-13	Pasar Besar, Kuantan.
CC-3	3-14	Pukat (Seine-Gang) Batu Hitam, Kuantan.
CC-3	3-15	PULAU ULAR KUANTAN, MALAYSIA A twin island two miles off the shore of Kg. Sg. Ular. Rock-crabs inhabit among rock crevices on the main island.
CC-3	3-16	Pulau Ular, Kuantan. Twin island off the shore of Kg. Sg. Ular..
CC-3	3-17	RECLINING BUDDHA inside Bukit Cheras, Panching (18 miles west of Kuantan) Huge caves and limestone formations abound. Malaysia.
CC-3	3-18	Sefeshen Satelit Bumi, Kuantan.
CC-3	3-19	Sg. Pandan waterfall.
CC-3	3,20	Stadium Darul, Mamkur, Kuantan.
CC-3	3-21	TASEK CHINI, PAHANG, MALAYSIA. An aborigine girl and the floating hut in Lake Chini.
CC-3	3-22	Telok Chempedak Beach and the swimming pool of Hotel Merlin.
CC-3	3-23	Wisma Sri Pahang.

**Reference:**

1. Chan Meng Sing (2007). Early Kuantan in Pictures 1903 - 1963. Chan Chew Photo Studio, Kuantan, 299 pp.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Richard Hale** writes

**A STRAITS ODDITY EXPLAINED?**

I found your article on the oddity fascinating and wonder if there is not even more to it than you thought. All the Seepost mail through Singapore was either the Nieuw Guinea line or the Ost Asiatische Hauptlinie, but never, as far as I know, the Hamburg Sudamerika Linie. TMP does not have much to go on, but the internet has helped.

The most likely ship was the regular mail ship "König Albert" which sailed from Singapore for China and Japan on 18 July 1901 and returned on the homeward voyage on 27 August, but why she had a Sudamerika chop is beyond me.

This of course was after the relief of the embassies in Peking (during the Boxer Rebellion) and just before peace was signed on 7 September 1901. There was a big German expeditionary force in Tsingtau and maybe she called there, but I am not able to confirm that, which still leaves the question of the Hamburg Sudamerika marking.



**The Editor** replies

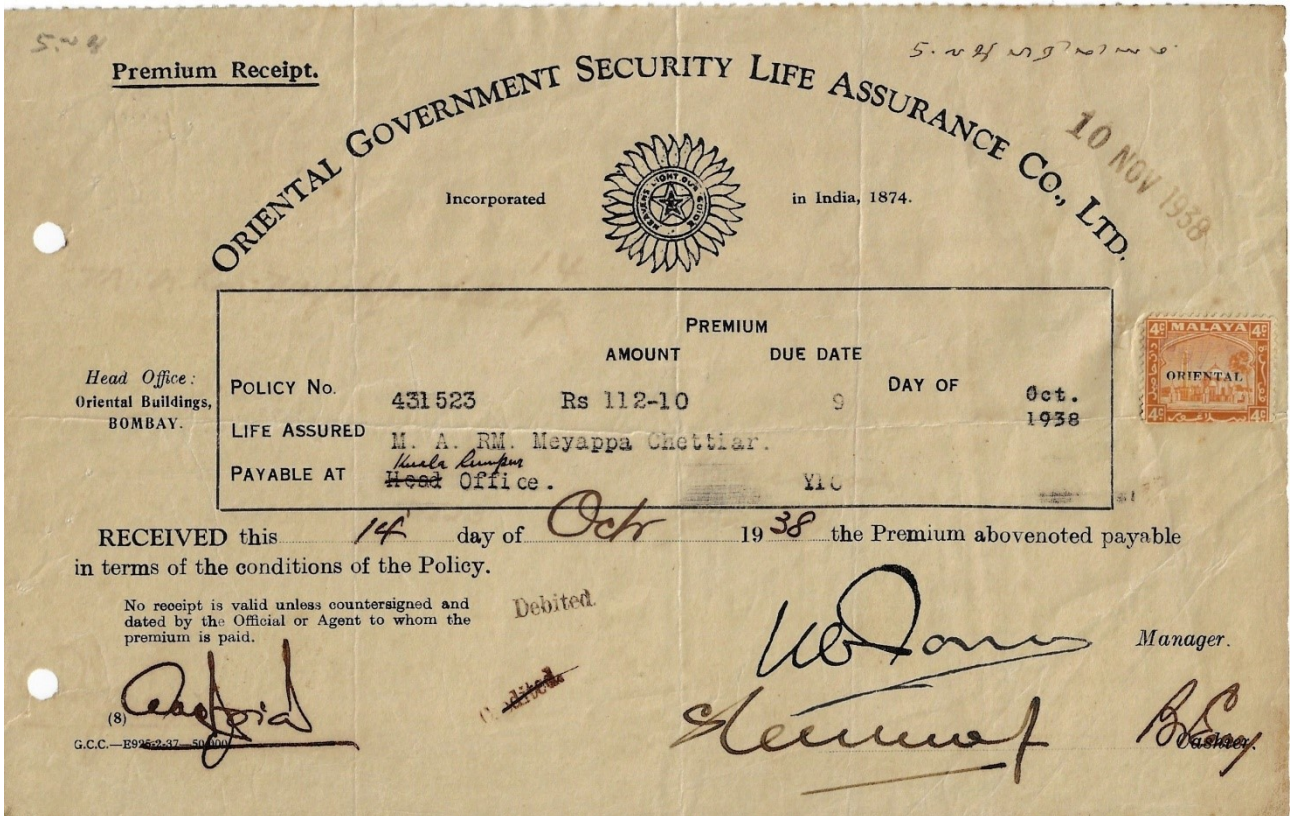
Thanks for your suggestion of the ship involved. I had noticed that postmark, which is why it was dismissed for so long. If the ship carried multiple handstamps to cover the routes on which it might operate, the clerk could have just used the wrong one. Alternatively, he could have lost the right handstamp and used the first available one. Otherwise, it could be the “strange things happen at sea (or in wartime)” effect! We will probably never know for certain.

**THE QUESTION BOX**

**Len Stanway** gives a late reply:

**A/21/32/Q3: “ORIENTAL” Overprint on Selangor 4c.**

In TMP21/31 in 1980 (the year I joined the MSG!), the late John Naylor asked “Does anyone know the significance of the overprint “ORIENTAL” on the FMS 4c. orange?” In the next issue (TMP21/48), Gordon Peters and the late Geoffrey Rosamond correctly identified it as a private overprint, probably linked to the insurance industry. It does not appear to have been mentioned since. I am now pleased to be able to illustrate the same private revenue overprint on the 4c. mosque on a premium receipt from the “Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Co. Ltd.” dated 14 October 1938.



**Michel Houde** asks:

**Q/298/1: UNIDENTIFIED OVAL RING OBLITERATOR**

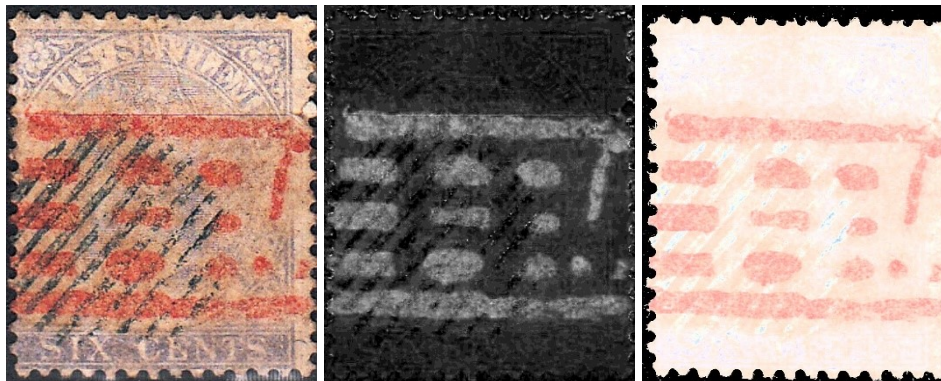




Can anyone identify the source of this obliterator/markings and shed light on who used it? The Straits Settlements six cents stamp is the 1868 Crown CC issue. The two eight cent Hong Kong are from lot 3212 in the Christie Robson Lowe: The George C. Dyer HONG KONG (Part II) auction held in Zurich on 10 April 1985. The first Hong Kong stamp has what is most likely the chop of Bradley & Co. [Rod Sell has a very useful website where Hong Kong firm chops are pictured, identified and listed. See: <http://rodsell.com> ]

**Michel Houde** asks:

**Q/298/2: STRANGE MARKING ON STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ISSUE**



Can anyone identify the source of this obliterator/markings/chop and shed light on who used it?

**MALAYA STATES – BUILDING THE COLLECTION**  
by **Keith Osborne**

You may recall my earlier article “A journey through time to the Malaya States” (TMP60/101), where I described how I had spent three wonderful years in Brunei, where my interest in the stamps of Malaya had been rekindled.

However, on my return to the UK, I did not immediately devote much time to Malaya stamps, not least because I had rented my house out, so on my return to it after three years’ absence there was plenty to do! Also, on my return to the UK I had a career break, so I needed to spend time to find a new job. Fortunately, I quickly found a suitable new senior position, but the downside was that I quickly became very busy with the job, and had relatively little time to spend on philately.

After twenty years and a couple of job moves, I had still not spent much time on my Malaya stamps. However, as retirement began to appear on the horizon, I started to spend more time, not least in organising my Malaya collection, which at that stage was still fairly limited and basic. But more importantly than the actual stamps was that my interest in Malaya and Malaysia was now stronger than previously, so in that respect I was anticipating retirement so that I could devote more time to building the collection. It was also at about this time that I became aware of, and joined, the MSG.

But the best laid plans do not always work out. When I did retire, after six months I was back in work! I found that I wasn’t really quite ready to retire, and I suppose I still wanted the intellectual challenge of work. Eventually, however, I decided that after a long successful and very interesting career it was time to finish, so from last year I was able to devote more time, in a structured manner, on building my Malaya collection.

When I returned to work after retiring, I had let my membership of MSG lapse, so one of the first things I did last year was to re-join. Obviously, one of the key benefits for me of membership of the MSG was access to specialized resources, such as TMP and books, as well as general news about developments in the field of Malayan philately.

The first steps I took in building my Malaya collection from a modest collection of the various states was to be clear as to exactly what I had – and therefore what I was missing. There followed a period of checking watermarks, shades, perforations and overprints, which lasted for a considerable time. The other early step I took was to decide the boundaries of my collection, both in time and also by geographic boundaries. So, in terms of time, I collect to the end of the 1957 pictorial definitives, meaning to about 1962. This means that Malaysia, as opposed to Malaya, is out of my collection. (I applied a similar cut-off point to my collection of GB – at about the time when the wallpaper started). In terms of type, I do not collect Japanese occupation or

revenues, nor do I collect stamps from the island of Borneo (Sarawak, North Borneo / Sabah), but I do include Singapore up to independence.

Making sure I had the appropriate infrastructure – albums, catalogues, accessories – was also an early prerequisite, as was knowing dealers and other avenues for acquiring stamps. Naturally, the latter included the MSG auctions!

At this stage, I developed a plan that would enable me to build up a comprehensive collection from a nucleus of what was essentially an unstructured collection of predominantly more common (= cheaper) stamps, while ensuring that the collection was of a reasonable quality, encapsulated the rich history of the Malaya States, and showcased the wide variety of designs. Therefore, I decided to focus on Straits Settlements and the FMS Springing Tiger issues, though not to the complete exclusion of acquiring stamps of other States along the way.

One of the lessons I learnt early on was that catalogue prices of Malaya States stamps are not always a reliable indicator of a stamp's rarity (or indeed, value). For example, the very early Straits India overprints, SG 1–9, with an average used catalogue price of £100, I had expected to be difficult to obtain, but I managed to acquire most of them quite easily at a substantial discount on the SG prices, even allowing for the usual 40% factor. Conversely, though, seemingly lesser-priced stamps, such as FMS 1931 35c scarlet and purple SG73, catalogued used at £14 has been very difficult to track down – in fact, the last Springing Tiger that I acquired. Strange how these things work!

I said earlier that the chronological limits of my collection of Malaya stamps are from the earliest issued Straits Settlements stamps of 1867 until the end of the pictorial definitives of the States in about 1962. This gives a range of approximately 2000 stamps, so comparable with collecting GB from the Penny Black to about 1997. So, plenty of scope there! And, like GB, plenty of opportunities to spend big, for example, Straits SG 169.

Along the way, I have refined various aspects of acquiring, logging, mounting and cataloguing the stamps. Inevitably, I find that there are unavoidable duplicates, often from when a dealer has incorrectly labelled a stamp, particularly with shades and perforations, but this is not a major problem as I have developed an efficient process to deal with such duplications.

I find that there is great interest in not only the Malaya States stamps themselves, but also the diverse and endlessly interesting country they represent. In several senses, Malaya is unique, not only in its constitutional arrangements – several semi-independent states bound together in one country, the only country whose monarch is elected on a rotating basis - but also the complex historical arrangements of Federated and Unfederated states, as well as the northern states and their relationship with the southern part of Thailand.

It has been very enjoyable and rewarding building the collection, a real labour of love. No wonder the country is so popular with collectors! Next time, in another article, Editor permitting, I will explain why I find the stamps of Malaya so attractive.

## LINKS TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE LIST AVAILABLE FREE ON THE INTERNET

by John Copeland

*[Editor's note: Non-member John Copeland has kindly provided the following list of links to Colonial Office reports for Singapore and Malaysia and its components available free on the internet which MSG members may find useful: (Links correct at 9 March 2021).]*

“From 1862, the Colonial Office published historical and statistical information concerning the United Kingdom's colonial dependencies in The Colonial Office List, though between 1926 and 1940 it was known as The Dominions Office and Colonial Office List. It later became known as the Commonwealth Relations Office Year Book and Commonwealth Office Year Book.”

The books contained account of various colonies, lists of various officers of the Colonial Service and other information. Sometimes limited information about postal affairs was provided.

More than one link may be shown, (although once one link has been found, others have not been deliberately looked for) as defects in one copy may not appear in another even if the same copy of an item has been used to provide scans for the different providers, the formats available or search results may differ.

Experience of using internet links shows that these can easily disappear. Most of those listed however are from organisations who are unlikely to cease to exist, although there is always a risk of a change in storage arrangements resulting in the substitution or deletion of links or a change of policy regarding provision of documents.



The form in which documents can be viewed varies, with some providers only providing one option and others a choice. Where a text option is supplied, this is usually produced by optical character recognition (OCR) and the quality of the copy produced can be poor.

If a website has a search facility this usually utilises OCR, so a negative result does not automatically mean that the term searched does not appear in the item.

How easily a document is read may depend on the browser used. For instance, in July 2017 the Bodleian Library's pdfs were most easily read using Chrome rather than Firefox or Edge.

If you find a link that does not work or spot an error, please email [internetlinklists@btinternet.com](mailto:internetlinklists@btinternet.com) with details.

#### The Colonial Office List for 1862 1st publication

	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=GtANAAAAQAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=GtANAAAAQAAJ</a>
	<a href="https://archive.org/details/colonial-office-list-1862">https://archive.org/details/colonial-office-list-1862</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1867	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=1dcNAAAAQAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=1dcNAAAAQAAJ</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1877	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=CtgNAAAAQAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=CtgNAAAAQAAJ</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1878	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=ij4KAQAAMAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=ij4KAQAAMAAJ</a>
	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951002214374g">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951002214374g</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1879	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=T9UNAAAAQAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=T9UNAAAAQAAJ</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1880	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Phg5AQAIAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Phg5AQAIAAJ</a>
	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.\$b587083">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.\$b587083</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1881	<a href="https://archive.org/details/colonialoffice100offigoog">https://archive.org/details/colonialoffice100offigoog</a>
	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Dc8NAAAAQAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Dc8NAAAAQAAJ</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1883	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.319510022143796">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.319510022143796</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1886	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=s8xPAAAAMAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=s8xPAAAAMAAJ</a>
	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89094367026">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89094367026</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1889	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89090339342">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89090339342</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1890	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89068223700">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89068223700</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1894	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3838146">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3838146</a>
The Colonial Office List for 1896	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=dBwqAQAAIAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=dBwqAQAAIAAJ</a>
The Colonial Office list for 1901	<a href="https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_001">https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_001</a>
The Colonial Office list for 1902	<a href="https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_002">https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_002</a>
The Colonial Office list for 1903	<a href="https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_003">https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_003</a>
The Colonial Office list for 1904	<a href="https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_004">https://archive.org/details/ldpd_11897910_004</a>
The Colonial Office list for 1924	<a href="https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=I9cZAAAAIAAJ">https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=I9cZAAAAIAAJ</a>
The Colonial Office List 1951	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440863">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440863</a>
The Colonial Office List 1952	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440872">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440872</a>
The Colonial Office List 1954	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440890">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440890</a>
The Colonial Office List 1955	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440906">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440906</a>
The Colonial Office List 1956	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440915">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440915</a>
The Colonial Office List 1957	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440924">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440924</a>
The Colonial Office List 1958	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440933">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440933</a>
The Colonial Office List 1959	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440942">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440942</a>
The Colonial Office List 1960	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440951">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440951</a>
The Colonial Office List 1961	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440960">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440960</a>
The Colonial Office List 1962	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440979">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440979</a>
The Colonial Office List 1963	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440988">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440988</a>
The Colonial Office List 1964	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440997">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109440997</a>
	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3763164">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3763164</a>
The Colonial Office List 1965	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.319510012271856">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.319510012271856</a>
	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109441007">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109441007</a>
The Colonial Office List 1966	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109441016">https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.c109441016</a>

## NEW LIGHT ON BMA 50c. FORGERIES by Gerald Brown



Fig.1

I have previously related my good fortune in obtaining a group of five BMA 50c forgeries (Fig.1) over time at little cost, which show a nice gradation of green dyeing achieved by the forger(s), presumably as the result of experimentation over time. Perhaps unsurprisingly ownership of these has encouraged further interest by me of the matter. In addition to my group, I now have accumulated illustrations of 35 more from various sources.

Received wisdom to date has suggested that a bank employee took copies of 1c stamps from his employer and painstakingly produced forgeries to use on employer's outgoing mail. Peter Cockburn's item (Fig.2) containing no less than 14 examples has the company stamp of the National City Bank of New York which would suggest a strong link, although I think Rumpole might actually suggest that as a location of them being put into circulation rather than conclusively saying the forger and user were one and the same without further evidence.



Fig.2

As part of my search for examples I came across one (Fig.3) that had been fiscally used, as illustration, from a Grosvenor sale catalogue. I believe the company stamp may be that of the Bank of Taiwan, Singapore. Part of the purpose of this article is to elicit help to advance study of these, and I would ask if anyone has an example of a BMA period stamp of that company to permit comparison with the partial stamp on the example.



Fig.3.

Computer analysis by Lin Yang Chen of the value blocks (see TMP 62/14) suggests that the forger prepared a die rather than them being free hand. If this is the case, the suggestion is that it was more of a cottage industry exercise. To have 14 to hand for one franking might support this theory, as might establishing how many examples there are that have survived. To that end, I would ask if members would be prepared to scan their examples and forward them to me at [brown.gerald@ntlworld.com](mailto:brown.gerald@ntlworld.com). Some will have, at least partially, legible postmarks to help further investigate earliest and latest usage. I would be happy to create a gallery of examples and put it on the Group website in due course. I appreciate that knowledge of a large number of survivors could have an effect on "market value" of individuals' examples!

To date the earliest and latest usage dates that I have been able to fully ascertain are 15 September 1948 to 24 November 1948. The Peter Cockburn 14-example cover has the postmark date of 15 September 1948.

That it also contains two Singapore 10c. stamps to make up the franking value to me suggests a reason for the concentration of forgery usage in the summer / autumn of 1948 in that the 50c. value of that Singapore issue came into use on 1 October 1948, and was doubtlessly announced some time in advance. I would conjecture that a commercial post room holding of stamps would turn over relatively quickly, such that continued presence and/or use of “old” stamps might be questioned during any audit.

That risk of audit would suggest to me that the forgery user, if in a commercial post room, would always try to maintain a correct presence in his stock book. Having discussed volume production above, it is noticeable that the forgeries to date appear to have all been on thin striated paper 1c. stamps which were issued from the summer of 1946 in a modest quantity, but principal usage of the forgeries was not until 2 years later. To me, that suggests purchase of a number of sheets and a period of experimentation and stock building, such that “poorer” green quality versions are mixed in with better ones in the seemingly principal usage period. I wonder if the forger(s) alighted on the thin paper issue 1c. stamps by chance, or after experimentation with absorption of the green dye.

Peter Cockburn has carried out successful experimentation with dying of stamps green, but that does remove the gum. This suggests to me that when used, the user had a separate stock that would be adhered to the mail item and only then would the equivalent value of 50c. genuine stamps be removed from the company stock book. This, presumably, finally producing the opportunity to “cash in” on the exercise, but what do you do with genuine 50c stamps, apart, possibly, from selling them on at a discount? From my limited experience of company stamp stock books, stamps tend to be held in blocks wherever possible, whereas examples in blocks of the forgery seem distinctly rare and with the variable green colour increasing the risk of questioning if held within the stock book.

Lin Yang Chen's article mentioned above also illustrated what appears to be a genuine block of four indicating improved “production” technique. The lateral and vertical perforation variations suggest that, by comparison with Peter Cockburn's whole sheet of the 1c. striated, the block comes from columns 2 and 3 of a sheet. It is worth noting that the perforator used for the 1c. striated (and 25c. striated for that matter) was unusual in having a fully-perforated side margin one side and only 5 perforation holes on the other side margin. Members may have not noticed that both the block of four and a single illustrated in that article have the same postmark date of 24 November (although no year visible on the single).

Two commercial bodies have been identified above as locations of use. A Straits Times article dated 30 June 1949 reports police investigations into the matter and reveals they knew of one, but, intriguingly, indicate “innocent” usage.

Another Straits Sunday Times report dated 4 March 1951 may help lead to more, contemporary, information on these stamps. If anyone knows of a source of Harmer's sales catalogue for 19 February 1951 to look at the description of BMA forgery items within the sale of the collection of forgeries formed by Singapore resident D. K. Walters, I would again be pleased to be advised. The article mentions a “block” of 6 as sold for £7, possibly the one illustrated (Fig.4)! The article also identifies a “Chinese gentleman” as the perpetrator, but I have not found to date any reference in the Straits Times of anyone being brought to justice over the 50c. matter. By 1951, the waters of guilt may have been muddied by the inclusion in the article mention of the forged Singapore \$2 value. If anyone has definitive evidence of a conviction for the BMA forgeries, I would obviously be pleased to be advised.



*Fig.4*

### SINGAPORE - GOING THE EXTRA MILE by Len Stanway

I am always pleased to receive Christmas cards from members, but I was surprised to receive one on 31 January! It was posted in Singapore in good time, 13 December 2021, but, as the close-up shows, it travelled by New Zealand Post! It appears to have been received in New Zealand on 22 December, held over the Christmas and New Year holidays and reposted on 5 January.





## NEW ISSUES COLUMN - 122

by Len Stanway

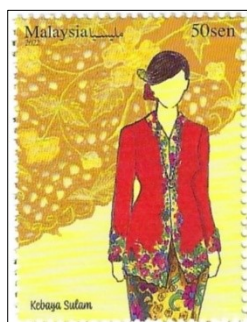
### Introduction

It is notable that Malaysia has tended to reduce both the frequency of new issues and the number of stamps per issue. This column covers new issues during the period from September to November 2022.

### 1. NEW ISSUES - MALAYSIA

27 October 2022.

Traditional Dress - Kebaya.



Pos Malaysia returned to its most popular costume subject. Designed by Pos Malaysia itself, this issue comprised two counter sheets, a process sheet and a miniature sheet. The 30mm x 40mm counter sheet stamps showed: 50s.: Kebaya Sulam (Embroidered Kebaya); RM1.30: Kebaya Pendek (Short Kebaya). They were printed in sheets of 20 (4 x 6 with central block of four used for issue title) by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour offset lithography. Sheet markings were issue title in R3-4/3-4, Po emblem above R1/2 and below R6/1, colour dots (x4) to left of R2/1 and right of R5/4, pane numbers (x4) to right of R2/4 and left of R5/1, material detail on other positions. The unwatermarked, 103gsm phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 14.1 x 14.0. A process sheet containing se-tenant pairs was used to make up pre-serviced first day covers. Technical details were as for counter sheets. The 120mm x 84mm miniature sheet, die-cut in the shape of a kebaya with arms outstretched, contained a 31mm x 64mm RM5 stamp showing a Kebaya Labuh (Long Kebaya). It was perforated 13.8 x 13.2. The first day cover, sold at 50s., featured the three kebayas on which the designs were based. The special first day postmark included a kebaya with arms outstretched. The folder was sold at RM6.

2 November 2022.

Recycling - Circular Economy.

This issue, in support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, is intended to highlight the importance of recycling in achieving Circular Economy. All materials involved in this issue were printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper. Designed by Slingshot Advertising this issue comprised a single counter sheet. The 35mm square RM1.50 counter sheet stamps showed a virtuous circle of waste being recycled into new products and ending up back in the green dustbin! They were printed in sheets of 20 (4 x 5) by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour offset lithography. Sheet markings were issue title in top margin, pane numbers (x4) to left of R5/1, colour dots (x4) to right of R5/4, Sustainable Development Goals slogans in English to right of R1/4 and in Bahasa left of R3/1, recycling symbols to left of R1/1 (plastic bottle), R2/1 (paper), to right of R3/4 (can), R4/4 (glass bottle), or below R5/2





(all four). The unwatermarked, Tullis Russell High Reading Yellow/Green Phosphor Gummed Stamp Paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 14.0 x 14.4. The first day cover, sold at 50s., featured people with wheely bins, KL skyline, the Earth and a recycling plant. The special first day postmark included the world held in two hands, with trees. The folder was sold at RM6.

**30 November 2022.**

**Centenary of Sultan Idris University.**



Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris or Sultan Idris University of Education (UPSI) began life as the Sultan Idris Training College (SITC) in Tanjong Malim, Perak, on 29 November 1922 following a 1917 proposal of R.O Winstedt, the curriculum centring on Malay-language teaching, handicrafts and agricultural skills. It was soon attracting trainees from throughout Malaya and British Borneo. The first teachers graduated in 1924. In 1957, European administrators were replaced by Malays and the name changed to Maktab Perguruan Sultan Idris (MPSI). The first female students were accepted on 13 January 1973. A

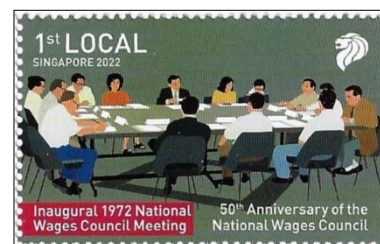
further name-change on 21 February 1987 to Institut Perguruan Sultan Idris (IPSI) reflected an increasing status of the institution. On 1 May 1997, the institution was reconstituted as a university under the present name and a period of rapid expansion began. Today there are nine faculties: Education and Human Development. Science and Mathematics, Management and Economics, Sports Science and Coaching, Music and Performing Arts, Languages and Communication, Social Sciences and Humanities, Technical and Vocational Education, and Arts, Computing and Creative Industries. The original campus was renamed the Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah Campus in 2002 and a additional campus at Proton City opened on 20 February 2012 as the Sultan Azlan Shah Campus. Designed by UPSI Corporate Communications and World Communications Network, this issue comprised a single counter sheet. The 40mm x 30mm RM1.30 counter sheet stamp showed the Well-mannered Torch Building (Bangunan Suluh Budiman). They were printed in sheets of 20 (3 x 5) by Brebner Print Limited (a New Zealand company, part of the Blue Star Group) using standard four-colour offset lithography. Sheet markings were issue title in top margin, pane number (x4) to left of R1/1, right of R3/4, left of R5/1 and below R5/4, colour dots (x4) to right of R1/4, left of R3/1, below R5/1 and to right of R5/4, emblems to left and right of R2 (1927, 1957) and R4 (1987, 1997), Pos emblem below R5/2.. The unwatermarked, Tullis Russell High Reading Yellow/Green Phosphor Gummed Stamp Paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 13.5. The first day cover, sold at 50s., featured the main entrance. The special first day postmark included the UPSI emblem. The folder was sold at RM6.

## 2. NEW ISSUES - SINGAPORE

**29 September 2022.**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Wages Council.**

This Council meets annually to formulate wage guidelines to balance the needs of businesses, workers and the economy and comprises representatives from business groups, trade unions and government. Designed by Andy Koh, this issue comprised four counter sheets. The 48mm x 30mm designs portrayed: 1<sup>st</sup> Local: Inaugural 1972 NWC Meeting (table discussion); 80c.: Flexible Wage System (whiteboard presentation); 90c.: Uplifting Lower-wage Workers (workers); \$1.50: Emerging Stronger from COVID-19 (coffee shop opening for business). They were printed in sheets of 10 (2 x 5) by Secura Singapore using offset lithography. Sheet markings included barcode (8 888993 988114, 988121, 988138, 988145 respectively) in the left margin. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a yellow-green fluorescent reaction, but negligible after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 13.6. The plastic presentation pack was sold at \$6.10 with barcode 8 888993 800843. The first day cover, with barcode 8 888993 810842 and sold at 50c., featured the issue title, but had no printer's imprint. The special first day postmark included three clasped wrists.



8 October 2022.

Celebrating SG Families.



2022 is the Year of Celebrating Singapore Families, the family being the bedrock of building a caring and stable society. The issue uses the mascot of “Families for Life”, Becky Bunny. It was originally scheduled for September. Designed by Andy Koh, this issue comprised four counter sheets. The 30mm x 41mm designs portrayed: 1<sup>st</sup> Local: “Love” (Becky Bunny hugging vegetables). 70c.: “Care & Concern” (Becky sheltering a growing carrot with an umbrella). 90c.: “Commitment” (Becky watering a plant). \$1.50: “Respect” (Becky taking someone a cup of tea). They were printed in sheets of 10 (5 x 2) by Secura Singapore using offset lithography. Sheet markings included the Singpost emblem in the top and bottom margins. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a yellow-green fluorescent reaction and limited after-glow under ultra-violet light. The

comb perforations measured 12.8. The plastic presentation pack was sold at \$5.95 with barcode 8 888993 800911. The first day cover, printed by Besley & Pike with barcode 8 888993 810910 and sold at 50c., featured Becky Bunny. The special first day postmark included Becky’s head.

15 November 2022.

Singapore-Bangladesh Joint Issue - Song Birds.

This issue marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Designed by Teo Nam Siang, this issue comprised two counter sheets and a miniature sheet. The 41mm x 30mm designs portrayed: \$1.50(A): Zebra Dove; \$1.50(B): Oriental Magpie-Robin. They were printed in sheets of 10 by Secura Singapore using standard four-colour offset lithography. Sheet markings included colour dots (x4) above the top right stamp, pane numbers (x4 - 1A seen) to the right of the top right stamp. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a yellow-green fluorescent reaction, but negligible after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 12.8. The 140mm x 75mm miniature sheet contained the two stamps. Paper and perforation were as for the counter sheets. It was sold at \$3.20, because it was subject to GST. The plastic presentation pack was sold at \$5.55 with barcode 8 888993 809501. The first day cover, printed by Besley & Pike with barcode 8 888993 819500 and sold at 50c., featured the birds. The special first day postmark included the issue title.



15 November 2022.

MyStamp - Vanda Miss Joaquim.



By an unknown designer, this issue comprised a sheetlet and five postcards. The 16mm x 35mm designs portrayed: 1<sup>st</sup> Local(A): Single flower; 1<sup>st</sup> Local(B): Bare stem; 80c.(A): Single flower, side-on; 80c.(B): Budded stem; \$1.50: Stem with flowers. They were printed in se-tenant sheets of 5 (vertical strip with labels) by Secura Singapore using offset lithography. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a yellow-green fluorescent reaction, but negligible after-glow under ultra-violet light. The perforations measured 13.8. The sheet packaging had barcode 8 888993 508015. The five postcards were based on the five stamp designs and were sold at \$1.60 each of \$6 for the set of five. The set packaging had barcode 8 888993 822760. The first day cover had no printer’s imprint or barcode. Sold at \$8.50 serviced, it featured Vanda Miss Joaquim. Pre-serviced covers had the sheet edging removed, leaving just the stamps and labels. The special first day postmark included Vanda Miss Joaquim.

An issue, proposed for 30 September 2022, marking the 30th anniversary of the bilateral relationship between Singapore and Ukraine did not appear. It may have been deemed too politically sensitive. A Horoscopes issue planned for October 2022 was also not released.

### 3. UPDATES ON PAST ISSUES - SINGAPORE

8 August 2022.

National Day.

A matching postcard was sent free to subscribers with the July-September issue of Miniature World.

**NEWSLETTER No.263**  
(see also **Society Headline News**)

**PROGRAMME 2022-23:** All meetings at Spink, 67-69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET, unless otherwise stated. **Bold text** indicated changes from the previous issue.

- 11 February (Zoom) BMA Postal History by Peter Cockburn (1.15pm).  
 25 March (Spink) Annual General Meeting (12.30pm) & Auction (1.15pm).  
 22 April (Zoom) Life of a Naval Provost Marshal in mid 1960s Singapore by Nick Hervey (1.15pm).  
 20 May (Leicester) Members' displays - Any subject (10.30am).  
**17 June (Spink) Selangor - Susan McEwen (1.15pm).**  
 15 July (Zoom) Subject to be announced (1.15pm).

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

Members are reminded to advise the Membership Secretary of any changes to address, telephone number or e-mail address. Whilst these details will not be published in the newsletter unless specifically requested by the Member concerned, it is essential that this is kept up-to-date to permit official communications with members, such as TMP mailings, notifications of late meeting changes, etc.

**Membership Applications:**

The Group is pleased to report that it has received applications for membership from Prakob Chirakiti (Thailand). If any member knows good reason why an applicant should not be a member of the Group, please contact Martin Roper immediately.

**Membership Confirmed:**

The Group is pleased to confirm the membership of Mo Shuen Yu (Malaysia).

**Albums Closed:**

We have been informed of the sad passing of member Ngoh See Jam (Malaysia).

**Resignations:**

We regret to have to announce the following resignations: Charles Limb (UK), David Loffstadt (UK), Steve Schumann (USA).

**E-mail returned:**

The following members are requested to inform the Membership Secretary of their e-mail addresses as mail has been returned: Peter Barrett (UK).

**MALAYA STUDY GROUP'S DIAMOND AND GOLDEN MEMBERS:**

Not many societies sixty years old can proudly claim to still have members from their earliest years. The Group is very pleased to congratulate the following members on achieving fifty years or more continuous membership (two Diamond, rest Golden):

**64 Years (Joined 1959):**  
Jeffrey Newman (Australia)

**63 Years (Joined 1960)**  
Gordon Peters (UK)

**59 Years (Joined 1964):**  
Ted Needham (UK)

**58 Years (Joined 1965):**  
Koh Seow Chuan RDP  
(Singapore)

**55 Years (Joined 1968)**  
Martin Roper (UK)

**52 Years (Joined 1971):**  
Nicholas Hackney (UK)  
B.J. Moss (Malaysia)  
David Mekie (UK)

**51 Years (Joined 1972):**  
Cheah Jin Seng (Singapore)  
Clive Freestone (UK)  
Anthony Lawrence (UK)

**50 Years (Joined 1973):**  
Ludwig Liermann (Germany)  
Geoffrey Wade (Australia)  
Michael J. Elliot (UK)  
Ray Price (Australia)  
Roy Robins (Australia)

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Members are reminded that renewal of your annual subscription became due on 1 April. If you have not already done so, please send your £20 (or \$US40) (£15 or \$US30, if paid before 1 July) to the Treasurer, or as locally arranged in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA.

**MEETING REPORTS based on reports by Nick Hervey (unless otherwise stated):****Zoom Meeting 22 October 2022 - Michael Waugh – Early Malayan Philately**

Twenty members were treated to a wonderful display of early Malaya, which encompassed pre-stamp mail, stamps of India used in the Straits Settlements (SS) – the provisional issues, the full range of Crown over CC usage, overprints including the Bangkok Bs, many of which were on wonderful covers. Also, lots of wonderful examples of the stamps featuring the chops of well-known firms operating in the SS. This took him up to July 1883, and he stated that he had so much material that we would need another display to go into the Crown CA issues and beyond. He also identified some of the useful sources he had mined for background information, mentioning, in particular, *Straits Settlements Postage Stamps* by F E Wood FRPSL [1961]; *Colonial Directory of the Straits Settlements 1872*; and *The Postal History of Malaya Vol 1* by Ted Proud.

There were some lovely pre-stamp covers, the first being one from Bencoolen, Sumatra [now Bengkulu] to Scotland, sent from Fort Marlborough by the noted botanist Dr William Jack, to his sister in Aberdeen. In 1818, Jack accompanied Stamford Raffles to Sumatra where he extensively documented the rich flora of that region until his death in 1822. The second was a cover from Singapore to Edinburgh about the clearance of land for crops to do with the estate of merchant Hugh Syme - which was a duplicate letter. Michael then showed the 1971 *Early Views of Singapore Art stamps* [SG165-70] for context, and referenced the 1989 *Old Maps of Singapore* set. [There is also a more recent set of early map stamps issued by Singapore on 1 December 2020]. Michael showed an early Malacca cover, more difficult to find, sent to London. Most covers from there, to date, have been connected with the Church Missionary Society. The letter was informing the CMS that a bill had been drawn on account.

From 1810, Raffles had declared Singapore a Free Port, and a lot of extant letters relate to the business of Guthrie which was founded in 1821. Michael showed two letters both linked to the Opium Trade. A further letter from August Behn [later of Behn-Meyer Firm in Singapore] to London based merchant banker Frederick Huth also mentioned the start of the opium war, and was mail which went by the overland route via Alexandria. The last pre-stamp cover was one going out to Singapore, via Marseilles, overland from Alexandria to the Red Sea and by steam onwards to India and the SS. Michael then showed some covers with the Indian stamps used in SS, the first with a lovely chop of Schmidt, Kustermann & Co. The next two covers to GB were a business letter and a personal Christmas letter to Clevedon, Bristol which arrived at the end of January. There was a letter from Singapore to New York with four different stamps an 8 pies pair, a 4 anna black and an 8 anna rose. A lot of the early business covers went to Germany mostly via Trieste, Michael showing one which went via Suez, Alexandria, Trieste, across Austria to Bremen, plus two covers going to Hong Kong. The first was going to Augustine Heard, to be sent on to Canton, and the other was an 1866 cover to Pufffarchen, Rheiner & Co., a German business in Hong Long. There was also a lovely cover from Singapore to Calcutta sent via Rangoon and the BSN Company. This had a red sealed box cancellation of Singapore and a receiving mark in Calcutta dated 11 April 1864.

In 1867, SS was transferred to the responsibility of the Colonial Office as a Crown Colony. On 1 September 1867, it issued the provisionals of India overprinted, of which there are many forgeries. Michael showed a cover from Singapore to Bordeaux with a late use of a provisional in December 1869. He said that there were more of these after the Suez Canal opened in November that year. He said that Michel Houde's website, "Security Markings on British Malaya stamps", is a wonderful resource about Firms' Chops. Michel then showed the 1867 Crown CC stamps, also showing examples with the chops of many well-known firms: Boustead & Co; Brinkmann, Kumpers & Co.; the Borneo Company; Brennand & Co.; Behn, Meyer & Co. to name a few. He also showed the 1880 10c. and 5c. overprints, and two covers sent from Singapore to Edward Bates & Sons, Liverpool with three of the 10c. overprints. Other covers with firm chops included one from Singapore to Edinburgh with the cachet of John Cameron & Co, and another from Singapore to Venice, via Brindisi tied by a particularly fine Staehelin & Stahlknecht oval chop. Michael then showed three used examples of the particularly pricey March 1880 10c on 30c, followed by seven examples of the April 1880 issue overprinted 10 without cents. There followed a cover from Singapore to Sydenham, London with 10 on 30c. franking and a Paterson Simons & Co circular chop, sent via Naples. Michael then showed SG44-46 the 1880-1881 surcharges, followed by the last Crown CC issues, in January 1882, the 5c. purple-brown and 10c. slate, with the chop of William McKerrow, an assistant of Guthrie. This still left some surcharges on previous CC issues, including the June 1883 surcharges 2c. on 4c. rose (a Crown CA issue) and 2c.. on 12c. blue (a Crown CC issue). The last surcharge was SG84, the 3c. on 5c. purple brown.

Among the last items shown were the various overprints on Straits Settlements Crown CC stamps in the Malayan states, Perak, Selangor, Sungei Ujong and Johore. These included examples of the Perak 12c. and 24c. P.G.S. Official overprints. Finally, Michael showed the British P.O. in Siam, Bangkok B overprints on the 6c. lilac, 12c. blue, 24c. green, and 96c. used. It was a wonderful display greatly enjoyed by all who zoomed in.



**Spink Meeting 19 November 2022 - Members Displays – Survey Department Essays**

Six members were present. Unfortunately, our Chairman, Dominic Morris, who has a good collection of Survey Department Essays was unable to attend this meeting, as he was isolating at home ahead of surgery, but we look forward to his return in the New Year. Prior to the meeting there was an extended opportunity to examine material in the forthcoming auction, “Stamps and Covers of Asia,” to be held at Spink on 6-7 December, which will include Peter Cockburn’s collection of Malaya B.M.A. There was also an auction catalogue available for a separate auction to be held at the RPSL on 9 December, again focused on material from SE Asia and India.

The first round was a splendid display by Andrew Norris of the Survey Department Essays from Negri Sembilan – the Nine States – taking us through examples of all the type designs, with all the colour variations. He started with the vertical format design of the coat of arms with the nine sheaves of rice, the top example with the sheaves open, and the bottom with the sheaves closed. We also saw the progression from the earliest designs where there were also 8 small shell like emblems, through the majority of examples which had nine emblems, to the final design submitted to De La Rue which only had seven emblems, much to the annoyance of the nine states making up Negri Sembilan. In his book on the Survey Department Essays, Andrew, had suggested, on p.83, that a combination block of four that contained two Pahang essays, on the left (Types N above and O below) and a Negri Sembilan Type K above right, and a Perak Type J below right, was probably cut from the centre of a sheet of 32, and we were able to see such a block which had come to light since the book’s publication.

The second round, provided by Susan McEwen, was an equally stunning display of similar material from Selangor, which had more essays than any of the other states. She started with the extraordinary bovine head with Jawi script set in a lattice work, and included some original large design artwork for the mosque with tower at Klang, and of Sultan Suleiman. There were essays which showed Type M6 with Sultan Suleiman above the mosque in one design and a reduced version of that. Also, the rather beautiful M9 essay showing the mosque on a starry night. The Sultan Suleiman essays were also shown in a range of delicate colours including Type S33 in three beautiful shades of lilac and one of red lake; Types S15 and S19 in brown, Type S29 in red, S33 in orange and the S34 plate proof forme in black. There were also four beautiful blocks of four of the S33 in orange, brown, orange & black, and red-brown & black.

For the last round Peter Cockburn showed a range of revenue stamps from Sarawak. The first were issued in 1875. They were labelled “RECEIPT STAMP”, valued at 3c. and showed Rajah Charles Brooke using a portrait similar to that used in SG2. This sheet also displayed 1918 Revenue Stamps featuring Charles Vyner Brooke, overprinted customs (a \$2 used, and a block of three \$5) and a complete and attractive set of 1932 postage stamps surcharged “Telegraph”. The next sheet went back to the 1900 issue featuring Sir Charles Brooke, printed by De La Rue in small format as the Straits Settlements 1882 issue, and displayed imperforate plate proofs, two values (10c. & \$4) cancelled by DLR for specimens, and a number of used examples including most values singly, a block of four of the 10c. and a \$2 and \$1 on piece together. He also showed the same revenues mint with a full range of values. Lastly, he showed stamps of the 1934 Charles Vyner Brooke issue printed by Bradbury & Wilkinson, variously overprinted during the Japanese occupation. There were examples of the 1c. and 5c. overprinted with T1 Kanji (Dai Nippon Telkoku Selfu - Imperial Japanese Government); and a range of values with an oval chop reading “Receipt”, of which there are now many forgeries. This sheet also showed a marginal block of 12 of the 6c. value overprinted with the single line kanji in violet, and three additional Chinese characters [“Sun Wor Chee”, meaning “Seal Paper”] with four vertical obliterating lines used for sealing Government and Fiscal documents. There was also a sheet showing a land transfer document with a mixed franking: two (\$4) of the 1934 issue and a \$1 stamp from the Crown Colony issue, all cancelled with a triple ring stamp “Lands and Surveys Dept Third Division”.

Nick Hervey was able to get clarification of his solitary Pahang essay which was a Type P, and not a Type Q, but is one of the less common essays.

Martin Roper displayed one sheet, the results of his research into 600 Selangor mosque 2c. orange stamps, on loan from Gordon Peters. There were some known varieties and a new earliest date.

**MSG Spink Meeting - 10 December 2022 - Christmas Buffet & Members Displays – “N to P”.** (Based on notes by Michael Waugh.)

Although there was a select attendance of just six members, a good time was had by all, thanks to Andrew and Susan who bought along lovely wine, bread, pies, pate, cheese, grapes, celery, etc., and all were well looked after by Tom Fell from Spink.

Michael Waugh started with “Nederland Indie via Malaya to overseas destinations and vice versa,” from 1820-1946. He showed a NEI British post office strike Post Paid, Java 23 December 1820 to Jakarta, followed by five covers from British firms in Batavia to Great Britain via Singapore 1845-1863. Eight sheets, mainly postcards, were shown, via Penang or Singapore, from Dutch Borneo, Java and Sumatra to Europe or Straits Settlements 1885-1891, followed by mail from either NEI or from the rest of the World until WW1, including many showing NEI Post agent cancels in Penang or Singapore, and censorship still in 1902 by British Authorities at Durban on post from Pretoria to Java. Included in this group were postcards using the Nord Deutscher Lloyd line. Five covers showed WW1 censorship by British censors on mail from NEI to Malaya or Europe including a large stamp not seen before, “PASSED BY ASSISTANT POSTAL CENSOR PENANG” on commercial mail in 1917 Medan to K.L. There was also an example of a perfin of Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij used with a registered cover to the Hague, also censored in 1917, the route via the Straits being the only practical way as, if sent direct to Holland, post was held up by British authorities until 1919. The 1920s were covered by cards of Dutch Inter Island steamships. The early start of KLM airmails from 1928 onwards to WW II included censorship. The display ended with a cover using a 15c. Perak stamp cancelled Singapore 30 January 1942 to Batavia, and a cover showing Netherlands Post Office cancel, Bangkok under BMA administration to Batavia.

Peter Cockburn followed based on letter P, showing the use of Perfins from 1884. He pointed out that they were used not only to show the originating firm, but as a precaution against pilfering, at a time when unused stamps could be exchanged at the post office for cash. He also showed why a cover serviced with perfins was the prize required over just perfin stamps. Among many examples that he showed, notable was Yokohama Specie Bank used with stamps arranged as V for victory at the start of WWII. He showed perfins from Schmidt, Küstermann, John Little, Nederlansche Handel-Maatschappij, Volkart Bros, HSBC and very many more. At a later stage in the afternoon, he showed a remarkable Registered cover of the 1890s with no less than 74 2c. brown British North Borneo Postage and Revenue stamps sent to Lincolns Inn Fields.

Carl Stott displayed based on O, which included many ex-Holley items of various cancellations of the orchid series and butterflies of Johore of the 1960s and 70s. Among others noted were Batu Pahat, Muar, Pagoh, Paloh, Panchor, Parit Jawa, Pengerang, reflecting the many post offices open at the time.

Martin Roper chose the letter N, and gave a display of some examples of early Negri Sembilan, firstly showing variations in the 1891 overprinted “Negri Sembilan” on 2c. bright rose of Straits Settlements to show the step up between Sem and Ne. Later, he showed 1c. green 1891 leaping tiger with plate number and the introduction of “tiger face-on” in 1895, and some examples of the overprinted Four cents with bar below of 1898.

Susan Mc Ewen chose the letter P and followed with an interesting display of examples from Penang including an early cover of 1819 to Edinburgh with cancel of “India ships”, a pre-stamp cover to the French firm Mathieu at Marseille, a beautiful late Victorian cover to Cambridge with correct postage with multiple stamps to cover the rate, a Penang to Singapore sorter cancel, perfin from Penang of Eastern Smelting company, and examples of first flights Penang to Hong Kong and vice versa in March 1936.

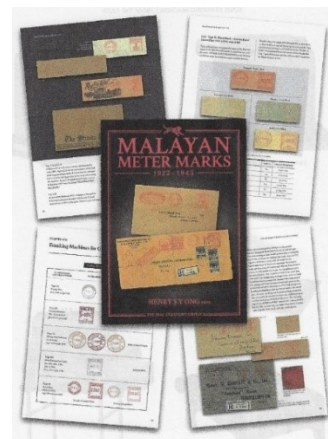
Andrew Norris covered N and P giving what must be a unique display - a collection of stamp booklets which were produced from 1935 of Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor. He explained their popularity at the time, how they were interleaved to prevent stamps sticking to one another in the Tropics, and how advertisements of well-known British manufacturers and Straits trading firms were included. It featured Bovril, Raleigh, Wolsely and Morris cars, State express cigarettes, and Wearne Bros in the Straits. Rusting appears now at the staples either on the left or right sides of the booklets. For good reason, many have been dismantled to prevent further deterioration. There are only a very few that are still complete.

## RECENT GROUP PUBLICATIONS

### “MALAYAN METER MARKS 1927-1945” by Henry Ong FRPSL:

The MSG is very pleased to publish *Malayan Meter Marks 1927-1945* by our distinguished Member, Henry Ong FRPSL. The book is being launched on 10 February at a display at The Royal Philatelic Society of London. It is the result of many years of careful collecting and diligent research. It explains the importance of Meter Marks, their origin and development from single value machines to multiple value ones and the early inclusion of advertising which helped to make them so popular in the commercial world. This hardback book is lavishly illustrated which adds enormously to its use as a guide and reference work, not just to specialist collectors, but to all of us who have at least some meter marks among our wider collection.

It is available for £28 +P&P from Peter Cockburn.



### “STRAITS SETTLEMENTS REVENUE STAMPS 1867 TO 1902 - THE POSTAL MUSEUM DE LA RUE ARCHIVE” by Francis Podger:

This publication is a detailed analysis of the De La Rue records at The Postal Museum covering stamps for revenue use in the Straits Settlements from 1867 to 1902. The study covers both the issue of Adhesive Stamps and dies for Impressed Stamps and contains a wealth of information, much not previously retorted or published in this field. 117 pages A4 hard-bound with dust jacket. It is now available from Peter Cockburn at £35 plus postage (£4 second class postage and packing in UK).



## OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST:

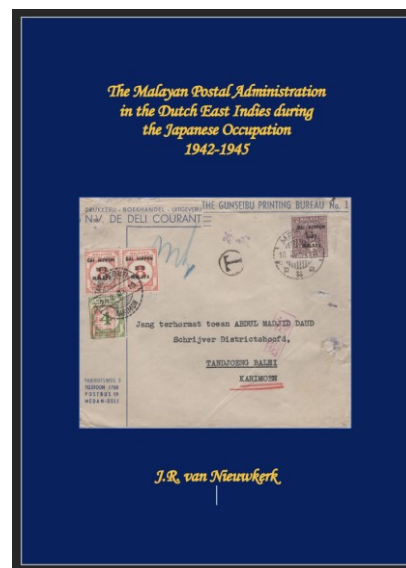
### The Malayan Postal Administration in the Dutch East Indies during the Japanese Occupation 1942-1945 by J.R. van Nieuwkerk. Published by Dai Nippon.

Philatelists interested in the philately of the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies, Malaya, and the Republik Indonesia have long been aware that Malayan stamps were used for several years on Sumatra during WW II. Much less known is that parts of the former Dutch East Indies (the Riau Islands) were incorporated into Malaya during the war and were part of the Malayan postal service for the entire war period, using stamps, stationery, cancellations, etc. of the Japanese occupation of Malaya.

Because this area of philately is often not considered Dutch, Malayan, or Indonesian, it has been largely undocumented and forgotten. Case in point, the Malayan stamps used in the Riau Islands were not included in the Dai Nippon catalogue of the Dutch East Indies until 5 years ago. This book attempts to document this neglected part of postal history.

The Japanese had decided early on in 1942 that Malaya and Sumatra should be administratively united. A detailed plan was drawn up for a united postal service headquartered at Singapore. This plan, which was set in motion in April 1942, included common tariffs, stamps, cancellations, routines, etc. This book describes the plans and what became of them. It describes in detail the use of Malayan stamps on Sumatra, the establishing of a common postal service, standardisation of routines, etc. The postal services in the Riau Islands are also discussed in detail with specific chapters on the Riau Archipelago, Karimon Islands, Lingga Archipelago, and Anambas, Natuna and Tambelan Islands during this period. The book is the result of many years of research, including finding and reviewing the sparse literature, examining many collections in Japan, Indonesia, and the Netherlands, and spending countless hours at the Dutch National Archive. The book contains many examples of rarely seen material, as well as historical photographs.

The book counts 267 pages in hard cover and comes with many colour illustrations. It is published by Dai Nippon will be printed on demand. The price is €65,00 plus postage and handling. The subscription period was due to end on 15 December 2022. For latest information, email the secretary of Dai Nippon at [secretary@dai-nippon.nl](mailto:secretary@dai-nippon.nl). The book was expected to be printed in January for delivery in March 2023.



**MALAYA STUDY GROUP**

Founded 1959 by the late Howard J. Selzer.

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**Please note** that Bernard Chung's address is as shown above and not as shown on the MSG Programme Card. Apologies to Bernard. Please amend your programme card.

**Annual Subscription:**

The annual, worldwide subscription to the Malaya Study Group is £20 or US \$34.00, running from 1 April to 31 March. Any existing member paying before 30 June in any year receives an early payment discount of £5.00 or US \$8.50. For new members joining after the 1 October in any year, the initial subscription will be £22.50 or US \$46.75, being a half subscription for the current year and a full subscription for the following year, including early payment discounts. Enquiries regarding membership should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

**Publications dates:**

Our objective is that members should receive TMP on or close to 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November, although, for logistical reasons, the February issue may be a little later. This is, of course, subject to the vagaries of the postal service and other factors beyond our control. If you have not received the journal within 28 days of the due date, please contact the Membership Secretary.