

CHAPTER THREE

PHILATELIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Validity of stamps and postal stationery for postage.

Under the Malayan Postal Union Agreement of 3 February 1934, any postage stamp or item of postal stationery bearing the text “MALAYA” was valid for postal use in any party to the Agreement, namely the Federated Malay States and Singapore. After the war, the MPU agreement was extended to all the states of the Federation. Thus, stamps of the Federation or its states could be used in Singapore and Singapore stamps could be used anywhere in the Federation. When Singapore gained internal self-government in 1959, this condition that MALAYA should appear on stamps was dropped and most subsequent issues were not so inscribed.

Stamps of the Federation were issued throughout its territory in parallel with the stamps of the individual states. Stamps of the Federation states were normally issued only in the state concerned, but could be used anywhere in the Federation.

Federation of Malaya (and, from 1963, Malaysia), State and Singapore stamps and postal stationery continued to be mutually recognised into the 1960s. Following the parting of the ways between Singapore and the rest of Malaysia in 1965, Malaysian stamps remained valid in Singapore (and vice-versa) until 1 February 1967¹. Until this date, first day cover facilities continued to be available in Singapore.²

Sabah and Sarawak issues were also recognised throughout Malaysia from 1963 to 1 April 1970.

Until 1981, Malaysian postage stamps fell neatly into two categories, **definitive stamps** issued for everyday use and **commemorative stamps** issued for a limited period to celebrate or mark a particular event. Commencing with the “Trees” issue of 16 December 1981, several issues of Federal **pictorial stamps** each year were simply intended to illustrate aspects of Malaysia nature, life or culture, available, like commemorative stamps, only for a limited period. The term “**special issues**” is used in this book to refer to the combination of pictorial and commemorative issues of both stamps and postal stationery.

Malaysia state definitive issues were now normally released only in the state marked on the stamp, but their sale in post offices of other states frequently occurred in times of shortage. State commemorative issues were normally put on sale throughout Malaysia on the day of issue only, but were then immediately withdrawn and issued for the full designated period (usually three months) in the appropriate state only. All stamps are theoretically available throughout the network of Philatelic Bureaux for the full period of issue. Today, state issues are the exception as there has been a deliberate attempt to eliminate the complexity of having state stamps.

For validity of Malayan Postal Union postage due stamps, please see Chapters 12 and 73.

2. The Stamp Production Process and Dates quoted in this Handbook.

To understand the significance of the various dates quoted in this book, it is first necessary to understand the normal process by which a stamp comes into being. If it is a new issue, printers and/or artists would be invited to submit designs for considerations in an open or closed contest.

Essays are stamp-sized renderings of the stamp design produced for the purposes of seeking agreement to the design to be used. Often, alternative designs are produced for comparison, sometimes differing in only minor details. Essays used to determine the colours to be used, often by printing a single stamp in a variety of colours/colour-combinations, are termed “**colour trials**”.

Once the design and quantity of stamps needed is decided, an order (often termed a **Requisition**) is raised, either by the postal authority (usually in the case of Malaya the central Postal Services Department (later Pos Malaysia) in Kuala Lumpur). This may be placed directly with a printer, or sent to a purchasing agent (until the 1960s, normally the Crown Agents³ in London). There will be a contractual arrangement between the postal authority and the printer, especially where an on-going series of issues is concerned. Once the order is placed, the printer produces the printing plates.

Once all necessary design approvals have been obtained, the plates would be produced and issued to the print shop for work to commence. In the case of recess and letterpress printing, it was necessary for a skilled engraver to produce a metal master die. Progressive “**die proofs**” would be printed from the incomplete (and completed) die at each major stage of manufacturing, so that any errors could be corrected at the earliest possible moment.

Once the plates (or in the case of recess printing the master die) have been produced, “**plate proofs**” are produced for final design approval by the appointed authority and again at each stage of the production process to ensure high quality.

In the case of multi-coloured designs, “**colour-separation proofs**” are produced in each separate colour. Sequential combinations are then produced to ensure the elimination of flaws and to ensure correct colour-balance in the final stamps. These colour-separation proofs may be die proofs of single stamps (during development of the design for production) or plate proofs of full sheets (in the final pre-production stages). The term “**progressive proofs**” is sometimes misapplied to a series of colour-separation proofs from pre-production trial sheets.

Until the 1950s, it was normal practice for all plates to be held by the Crown Agents and released to the printer as required for return immediately the print run was completed.

Print runs are scheduled to make best use of the facilities available to the printer, involving not just the use of the printing presses themselves, but also the availability of materials (ink, paper, gum, packaging), storage space for new and in-process materials and completed products, manpower, and order deadlines. For example, printing the stamps

from different requisitions, but in the same colour, at the same time could reduce the amount of press cleaning that was necessary.

Once printed, the stamps are shipped to location. In the case of Malaya in the early period covered by this book, air transport was still in its infancy. Most transport was by sea. The sheets of stamps or postal stationery would be formed into parcels and packed into water-tight packing cases for transport by ship to Singapore, Malacca, Penang or Port Swettenham. Sometimes, the order specified that the order must be divided into banded bundles or packets, and/or with the items interleaved with waxed paper to avoid them sticking together in transit and storage. If an order was small or urgent, all or part of the order may be sent by Parcel Post. This avoided the need for packing cases and the mails, although still carried by ship, was given a higher priority at the ports. Sometimes, the more expensive Insured Parcel Post was used. The most urgent orders were sent by air letter post, air parcel post or air freight.

As well as sending material directly to Malaya, the Crown Agents had a Stamp Bureau in London which supplied stamp dealers and distributed specimens to a select list of people and agencies. The Requisition for each new issue included an agreed quantity of stamps for the Bureau.

When dealing with material claimed to be from reprints, one has to be careful with its attribution. When an issue was reprinted, it was normal practice for the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau to return an agreed quantity of unsold stock to the printer in exchange for an equal quantity of each new printing. That returned stock was then sent out to the territory as part of the new order. This ensured that the stock held by the Bureau was kept in the best possible condition. This stock held by the Bureau was not only available for sale to collectors of new printings, but also provided a buffer stock for the Crown Agents which could be supplied urgently to the territory in the (frequent) event of shortages of a particular value which needed to be filled quicker than the printer could supply new stocks. Thus, if a very urgent request came in, or one for a small number of sheets, the Bureau would be requested to supply the order immediately from stock. A replacement quantity would then be added when convenient to a future order to restore the Bureau's stock level.

Dates:

Issue dates are, unless otherwise stated, the first date that items were put on sale in Malaya. The release date in London from the Crown Agents (where applicable) to dealers may have differed. In the case of postal stationery and some definitive stamp issues (especially reprints), new material was not generally released into normal use by individual offices until existing stocks of the previous issues had been exhausted. This could lead to such issues appearing, for example, in East Malaysia a long time after they were released in West Malaysia.

Reprint release dates normally quoted in catalogues are the dates on which the reprints are recorded as having been put on sale to the trade by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau in London. The date of issue in Malaya may differ considerably, as the new printing would generally only be issued to a post office when existing stocks at that office were exhausted. In addition, older stock might later be released to an office which had used later material if residual old stock again reached the top of the pile in the warehouse. Any specific known examples of local issue dates are positively identified as such. Formal reprint releases have not been a feature of recent definitive issues, so modern information tends to be sketchy.

These dates must not be confused with the **printing dates**, which are the dates that the material was actually printed, and the **shipping dates**, which are the dates on which the printer shipped the material to Malaya. The former are rarely known, while shipping dates have been incorporated in the text where known. Available information tends to run out by 1970. Where two despatch dates are quoted against an order in the Crown Agents Requisition Books, it has been stated these are officially the delivery start and delivery finish dates. In practice, it is usually clear that these were isolated mailing dates, as additional shipments are recorded where they were necessary. However, the possibility of intermediate, unrecorded shipments cannot be ruled out.

Another cause for care is a number of apparent anomalies between the issue date at the Bureau and the shipping date from the printer, particularly where the latter is later!

Withdrawal dates are the dates that the issue was finally withdrawn from sale in Malaya. Normally, this will have been the date from which philatelic counters were ordered to take the stamps off sale. Normal sale will usually have ceased earlier at many offices. At various times, the period of official sale for commemorative stamps was usually "three months or until stocks are exhausted, whichever is earlier" (and similarly six months for pictorial issues), but the actual period of issue varied depending on the subject of the issue. Whether or not the issue could be found on sale would depend on the numbers of stamps actually supplied to individual post offices and their demand (philatelic or otherwise). Unless otherwise stated, it must be assumed that special stamp issues were on sale until stocks were exhausted.

Invalidation dates are those from which it was no longer officially possible to use the stamps on correspondence. Holders were usually allowed three months to exchange unused stocks for currently-valid stamps by written application to the Director of Posts. Invalidation was a means of protecting the Post Office's cash-flow against the risk of excessive future postal demand by persons using old stamps. The practice of formal invalidation appears to have been abandoned in the mid-1980s.

3. Printing methods.

The sheet:

The machines used by printers differ depending on the process used and the volumes of stamps which it was necessary to print. In considering sheets of stamps, we need to differentiate between counter sheets and printer's sheets.

Counter sheets are those offered over the counter for sale. They normally consist of a single block of up to 100 stamps with a border known as the **selvedge** or **margin**.

Sometimes the counter sheet is divided into **panes** by one or more narrow or full stamp-size blank or decorated bands, known as **gutters**, which enable the counter clerk to easily divide the sheet into part sheets for ease of handling and accounting. A pair of stamps spanning this gutter with a blank or decorated label between them is known as a **gutter pair**.

Printer's sheets are usually considerably larger. For really large jobs, the printer may use a machine taking a continuous reel of paper. In other cases (including the majority of Malayan issues), the press will be sheet-fed. Printing may be by a flat-bed process, using flat **plates**, or, more commonly, by a rotary process either using plates that have been bent into a curve to fit around a printing roller or, for high volume production, using **cylinders** manufactured in that form. By tradition, collectors have referred to plates for both and this term is used throughout this book, irrespective of the process used, unless the context dictates otherwise. A printer's sheet can be thought of as the area of paper printed by a single impression of a plate or a single cycle of a cylinder. This may comprise a single pane of stamps or it may contain two, four or more panes. Perforation may take place as part of the printing process or after the sheet has been guillotined into counter sheets. The printer's sheet usually includes an outer band of paper, often containing guide and control markings for the printer's own use, which is removed before delivery to the customer. After removal of this waste, the sheet may be in its final counter form, or, if it comprises more than one pane, it may be guillotined into separate counter sheets. In the modern era, it is not unusual for a printer's sheet to include sheets of stamps of different designs and, in some cases, all the different stamp designs of a set may be printed in a single operation, then guillotined into separate counter sheets.

Occasionally items described as **uncut press sheets** are offered for sale. Only very rarely are these actually complete printer's sheets, but, when they are, they can tell us a lot about how the issue was produced. More commonly, these are just imperforate sheetlets specially produced for collectors.

A printer's sheet for small **sheetlets** or **miniature sheets** could produce typically 12 or 16 (or more) counter sheets. Miniature sheets are usually close trimmed and thus lose all sheet markings, whereas sheetlets usually retain some markings.

The number of images on a printing plate is termed the **set**. Thus, a plate with 100 stamps is said to be a **100-set plate**. If a 100-set plate actually contains two panes of 50 stamps, these are **50-set panes**.

Where a stamp has only one colour and is printed by a single plate, that plate is termed a **single working plate**.

Where a stamp has more than one colour, it is necessary to use two or more plates to print the stamp. Where two plates are used, as was the case in many earlier issues in the period under study, there are two main alternative ways of describing the two plates concerned. One is to use the term "**border plate**" to describe the outer part of the design and "**vignette plate**" to describe the plate used to print an inset design, usually (but not always) in a different colour. Except for the purpose of plate proofing, the border was always printed first and then the vignette inserted. The alternative is to use the terms "**head plate**" and "**duty plate**", the latter taking its name from the inclusion of the figures of value. **Key plate** is also sometimes used to describe a common plate that does not include the duty.

Sheet markings.

Every plate is identified by the printer by a **plate number** which may or may not appear on the part of the plate used to produce counter sheets.

Where the printer's plate is intended to produce more than one counter sheet, the panes which will form separate counter sheets are normally identified by a **letter suffix**. Thus Plate 1 with three panes will produce counter sheets with **pane numbers** 1A, 1B and 1C.

These markings are intended to identify which plate or plates was used to print a sheet in order to enable quality control during printing or and recall of faulty sheets afterwards. One plate or pane number is normally printed on each counter sheet by each plate used, so sheets of multi-coloured stamps will usually display one number for each colour.

By way of exception to normal practice, SPM appears to have used 1A for all stamps produced for Malaysia, irrespective of the pane's position on the sheet, with the exception of the 1986 Definitive Issues where a change of number is understood to be a financial control marking to signify the new (annual) reprinting contract (for more details, please see Chapter 17).

A **colour dab** (sometimes called a "traffic light") is normally similarly printed by each plate to assist in checking that all colours have been printed on each sheet. Most printers use a simple dot; others, such as SPM, use an emblem (e.g. a trade mark) instead. Others use a rectangular block or a symbol appropriate to the issue. Many of the printer's colour check marks are printed in the waste area of the sheet and are lost when the printer's sheet is cut into counter sheets. When possible, colours used are quoted in this book in the sequence of colour dots counting from the nearest corner of the sheet. However, this sequence is not always constant within the sheet.

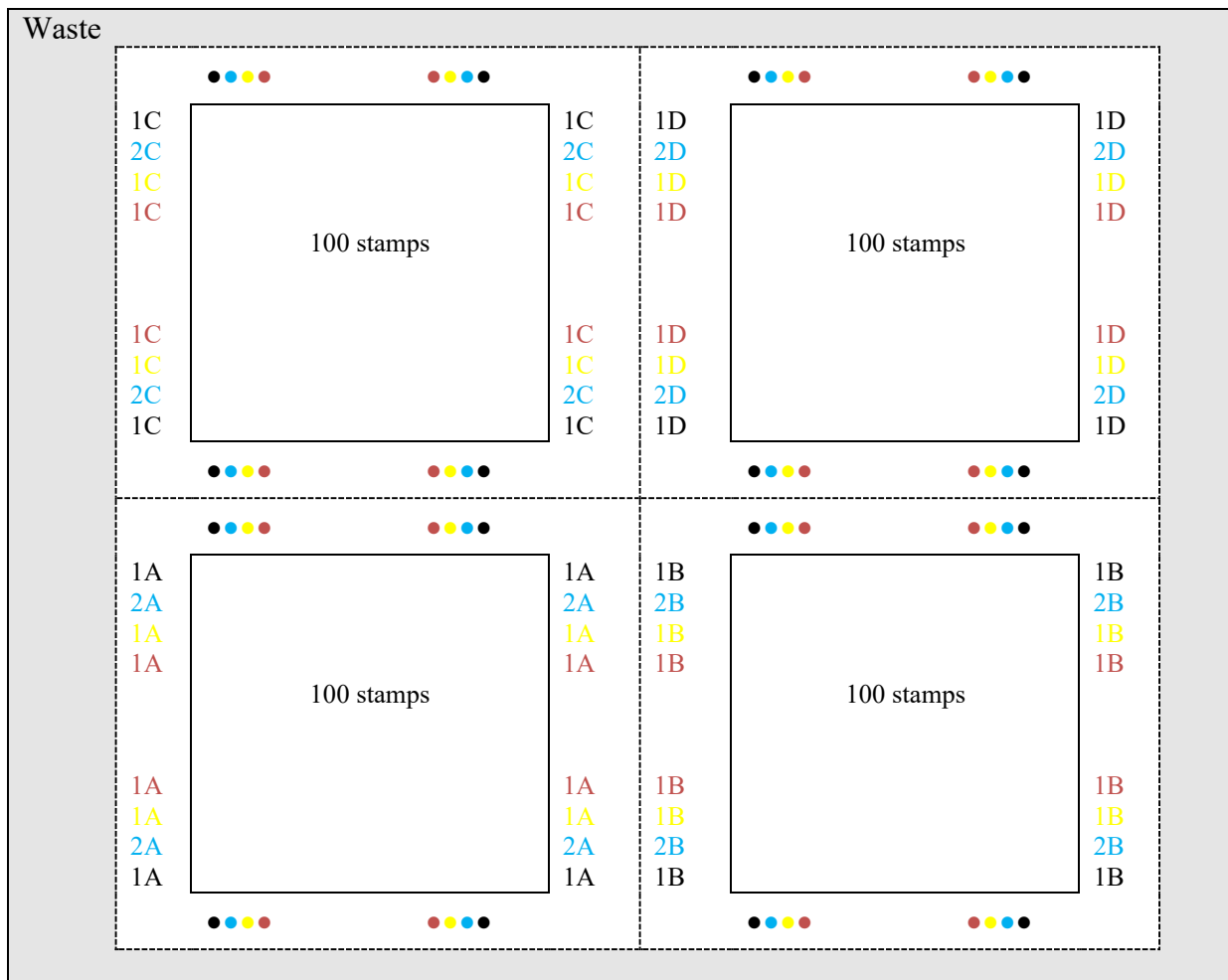
Changes of number normally indicate that a plate has become damaged or worn out and replaced by a new plate. Often a change will only affect one colour. It follows that, where a multi-pane plate has been used, the number change should normally appear simultaneously on all panes on the plate.

Originally, sheet markings appeared only once on the sheet, and were sometimes wholly or partially lost when the printer's sheet was guillotined to produce counter sheets. With the growth of interest in plate blocks, to meet demand

from collectors, Malaysia issues since 1986 (at least) normally have the plate numbers and colour dots repeated symmetrically in each corner of the sheet, so that more of the sheet can be sold in blocks to collectors.

Where phosphor bands or frames have been printed during the process, pane numbers and/or colour dabs may also be found printed in ink that is only visible under ultra-violet light.

An example, illustrating the above features, is shown below. It illustrates a printer's uncut sheet from a four-pane printer's plate for printing counter sheets containing 100 stamps each using four colours. The plate 1 for printing the second colour has become damaged and has been replaced by a new plate numbered 2.



Positions of stamps in sheets.

The positions of stamps in sheets are commonly variously described by either stamp number or by row and column. These systems operate as follows:

		COLUMNS				
		1	2	3	4	5
ROWS	R 1	1	2	3	4	5
	O 2	6	7	8	9	10
	W 3	11	12	13	14	15
	S 4	16	17	18	19	20
	5	21	22	23	24	25

Thus, in this 25-set example, Stamp 8 can also be described as Row 2 number 3, or R2/3 for short. This last convention will normally be used in this book.

Printing processes.

There are essentially three kinds of printing:

- **Intaglio**, in which the image is formed by marks cut into the otherwise flat surface of the printing plate, which is then inked, wiped clean and the image produced from the residual ink trapped in the recesses on the plate;
- **Gravure**, in which the image is formed by pixelated dots cut into the otherwise flat surface of the printing plate, which is then inked, wiped clean and the image produced from the residual ink trapped in the recesses on the plate;

- **Letterpress**, in which the images to be printed stand proud of the plate and, when inked, applies an image to the paper;
 - **Lithography**, in which the plate is flat but an imposed image attracts or rejects ink.
- Stamps may also be embossed or have extra material applied to obtain special effects.

1. Intaglio (also known incorrectly in philately as **Recess** or **Line Engraving**):

The first method used for printing stamps, intaglio uses the skill of the engraver to produce a negative master die from the artist's original artwork by removing metal by hand, using a tool called a **burin**, from a steel or copper die. The die is then hardened and impressed into a steel roller which is again hardened then used to impress the appropriate number of images onto the printing plate. After hardening, the plate is usually coated with a hard-wearing metal surface before printing. The plate is swept clear of surface ink by a metal straight edge, known as a **doctor blade**, before being applied to the paper. The ink retained in the recesses then forms the image on the stamp. Today, few countries use recess printing on a large scale due to its cost, but it can produce a finely detailed image and it has come into vogue to add fine detail (usually in black) to stamps which have been printed mainly using lithography or photogravure.

2. Gravure methods:

The gravure process is similar in principle to intaglio, in that it uses holes cut in the plate to hold the ink, but each area of colour is broken into a series of cells (pixels), the depth of which determines the depth of colour at that point. This allows a wider graduation of colour intensity across the design. Gravure plates can be produced by a variety of methods, as described below. The plates (normally cylinders) have a nickel-plated steel core on which a thick layer of copper has been deposited by electrolysis. After the design has been added to the plate surface, the surface is made more wear-resistant by electroplating the cylinder with a thin layer of chromium. The cost of preparing plates for gravure printing means that this process is at a disadvantage for short runs such as special stamps. It can still be viable for definitives and other large-volume work, for which reason, almost all modern gravure production uses cylinders and web fed (reel-fed) continuous printing. The term "gravure" is now used in the printing industry to encompass these modern techniques, photogravure and all other methods using such a pixelated plate.

2.1. Photogravure (Heliogravure in France):

Photogravure, invented in the 1890s but first used for stamps in Bavaria in 1914, uses a plate which has been etched photochemically with a negative image in a pattern of fine dots (pixels). The depth of the pixels determines the intensity of the colour. To prepare the plate, a photograph of the artwork, on which a fine mesh **screen** has been superimposed, is projected onto a light-sensitive coating, a step-and-repeat mechanism allowing repetition of the process until the complete sheet is formed. For stamp production, intermediate processes allow preparation of a multi-positive image so that the entire cylinder surface may be exposed and etched in a single operation. The sheet markings are added using standard formats. Acid is then used to differentially etch the screened image to produce the indentations which will hold the ink, usually relying on human intervention to judge and adjust, if necessary, the degree of etching across the plate. The coarseness of the screen (for example, 200 Screen has 200 dots per inch) defines the size of the pixels and hence the graininess of the image produced. A doctor blade scrapes surplus ink off the surface of the cylinder, which is then applied to the paper leaving a series of dots. Whilst photogravure could use the same four-colour separation CMYK technique used for lithographic printing, it is more usual to use inks of colour appropriate to the intended final result as chemical differences between photogravure and lithography inks make the former less able to visually blend on the stamp. Photogravure printings can therefore often use six or more colours.

2.2. Rotogravure

Rotogravure was a USA term for photogravure using cylinders as opposed to flat plates, short for "rotary photogravure".

2.3. Gravure

The advances in computer artistry and machining techniques are now such that it has been possible to dispense with both the physical artwork and the manual or photo-chemical etching. Modern gravure takes the computer-generated image of the stamp design, creates plate images with all necessary sheet markings, etc. and then uses a computerised tool to engrave the individual pixels directly from the computer image onto the printing plate. Originally referred to as "computer-assisted gravure", the process is now so widespread that it is generally referred to as simply "gravure". This gives a sharper and more consistent image, allowing finer detailing, and allows more flexibility in sheet make-up than a simple step-and-repeat photographic system. There are two modern gravure methods:

- "Direct Laser Engraving" (DLE), in which the cells are burnt into the copper plate using a fine, high-power laser at the rate of about 70,000 cells a second;
- "Electro Mechanical Engraving" (EME), in which the cells are engraved using a diamond stylus at the rate of about 8000 cells a second.

3. Letterpress (also known incorrectly in philately as **Typography** or **Surface Printing**):

Letterpress (often erroneously referred to in stamp catalogues as “typography”) can be thought of as the opposite of recess, in that it is the raised parts of the plate that apply the ink to the paper instead of the recesses. The name letterpress comes from the fact that all removable type systems (including the typewriter) use the same principle, dating from the first introduction of printing. A master die was produced in a similar manner to a recess die, but the engraver removed the surplus material, leaving the design raised above the surrounding areas. This was then inked and the inked surfaces applied to the paper. A letterpress plate for stamp printing was usually assembled using blocks or **clichés** (sometimes termed **stereos** or **leads**) cast in a mould taken from the master die. The clichés and/or loose type were assembled in a frame, known as a **chase**, to create a **forme**, from which the uncut sheets of stamps or stationery items were printed. If a cliché became damaged, it was possible to replace the damaged cliché with a spare. Most, if not all, overprinting of stamps and most postal stationery was done using letterpress, as was the bulk of De La Rue stamp printing for the Crown Agents.

“**Embossing**” is a form of letterpress in which the printing block is pressed against a leather pad which forces the paper to deform around the block. The surface of the block may be uninked (“albino embossing”) or inked.

3. Lithography:

Lithography takes its name from the fact that this form of printing originally took place on the smooth surface of a block of fine-grained limestone. Invented in 1796 in Bavaria, it relies for its effect on ink adhering to some parts of a printing plate (“stone”) or cylinder and not to others. This effect was traditionally achieved by defining the image to be printed using an oil- or wax-based material, then moistening the stone and applying an oil-based ink, which only adhered to the design. Metal printing plates were later used. For stamp production, the image was either applied directly by an artist to the plate or, more commonly, drawn or printed on a transfer paper which was used to apply the image to the stone.

Today, the vast majority of lithographic printing is by “**off-set lithography**”, which has low set-up costs and is cost effective for runs up to about 10 million stamps. Off-set lithography uses a (often screened) positive, master image applied using a polymer to a metal (usually hardened and textured aluminium) printing cylinder, which is then dampened before the ink is applied. The plate transfers a negative ink image to an intermediate rubber-faced roller of the same diameter (the “blanket”), which absorbs any surplus water and, in turn, transfers the positive image to the paper. It can be safely assumed that all lithographed issues in this period were produced by the off-set method. The high-quality of modern lithography means that it has a cost advantage over photogravure whilst still producing an excellent result. Before the advent of laser printing, most photocopiers used a form of off-set lithography. Sheet-fed presses are used for the majority of lithographic work.

Most full-colour lithographic printing uses the “**four-colour separation**” method of colour reproduction (also known as “**full colour process**” or “**CMYK**”, in which the design is photographed under several different coloured lights. Plates bearing the resulting selective images produced from the photographs are then used to build up a composite colour image comprising pixels printed in cyan (bright blue), magenta, yellow and “key” (black). In this book, use of the term “**standard four-colour lithography**” indicates the use of this method and these colours. Although the standard colours are used for the vast majority of lithographic work, additional or different colours (“**spot colours**”) may be used to enhance the image. If silver and gold are wanted, these colours are usually printed separately (but as part of the same operation using additional rollers). Similarly, additional colours/rollers may be used where a pure tone is needed or where differing elements are needed on part of the printing (such as state names and emblems on some state definitives). Phosphor-based security or mechanical stamp-recognition-in-sorting markings (e.g. phosphor bands) may also be applied as part of the printing process using additional rollers.

A more recent development is “**Hexachrome**”, which uses the standard four colours plus Pantone Hexachrome Orange and Pantone Hexachrome Green. This allows a far greater range of exact colours to be reproduced.

Colour intensity variation is normally achieved by varying the size of the pixels on the screened image. Lithographic printing can often be detected by the symmetrical groups into which pixels of the standard four colours are typically grouped.

Patent systems of lithography are sometimes marketed under different trade names. A De La Rue patented, fine-screened, photo-litho system was marketed as “**Delacryl**”. Another such system, used by Enschedé, is “**Stochastic Litho**”, which uses variation in the frequency, rather than the size, of the pixels to vary the intensity of the colour and is therefore only possible with modern digital art systems. As this uses a diamond-shaped screen, this is sometimes referred to as “**Diamond Screen Litho**”.

4. Composite processes:

Although early attempts suffered problems due to failure of the different inks to adhere to one another, it has recently become commercially viable to print additional fine detail or images on lithographically printed stamps using recess or photogravure as a separate, subsequent function. At an earlier period, letterpress was sometimes used to add country names to recess printed stamps, as on the Royal Silver Wedding high value.

4. The Printers.

Note: In Malaysian business names, “Sdn. Bhd.” is the abbreviation for “Sendiran Berhad”, which is equivalent to “Company Limited” in English.

Asher: Asher & Co. Pty Ltd. (Australia, 1974-1981): This Moorabbin (Melbourne) printer began printing stamps in 1974, but produced only one series of issues, namely the original issue of 1979 Definitives. In April 1981, Asher was taken over by **Leigh-Mardon** (q.v.) and subsequent production was under the latter name.

Bradbury, Wilkinson: Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. (UK, 1854-1990): This security printer, founded in the 1850s and part of the American Bank Note Company group from 1903, produced the 1948 Royal Silver Wedding 10c., the Trengganu 1948 Revenue Issue, then a number of issues for Malaysia between 1968 and 1974, and designed at least one other issue. BW's stamp business was transferred to Harrison & Sons circa 1976, together with the balance of Malaysia's 1970 Definitive Issue contract. The remainder of the security printing business was taken over by De La Rue in 1986 and closed in 1990.

Cartor: Cartor Security Printing Ltd. (France, 1974-date): Cartor started printing stamps in 1974, with a reputation for non-standard and specialist printing techniques. In 1995, it was taken over by Gilles le Baud. It was bought by Walsall in June 2004 to form part of the International Security Printing Group with Courvoisier and Walsall. Within the Group, Cartor specialises in small- to medium-sized runs of lithographic printing using sheet-fed machines. Cartor uses automatic perforators supplied by James Burn International that positions and aligns the sheet, then uses a conventional perforating comb. They also have a six-unit Heidelberg press printing machine that can have an add-on die-cutter for self-adhesive stamps. Phosphor bands can be applied by a separate single Heidelberg machine. Heidelberg platen (flat plate) presses are used for specialised printing, embossing, holograms, etc. In 2006, Cartor used gummed paper supplied by Tullis Russell Coates and self-adhesive paper from Avery. In 2021, all companies in the ISP group began trading as Cartor Security Printers.

Courvoisier: Helio Courvoisier S.A. (Switzerland, 1880-c.2001, UK c.2001-c.2004, France c.2004-date): This printer only produced three issues for Malaya, namely the Johore Coronation of 1960, the Freedom from Hunger issue of 1963 and the I.T.U. Centenary issue of 1965, the latter two of which marked Swiss-based United Nations events. It was acquired by Walsall in 2001, retaining its independent identity. It now forms part of the International Security Printing Group formed in June 2004 with Cartor and Walsall. Within the group, Courvoisier now specialises in short run, recess-printed stamps using a reel-fed Moser machine which prints, perforates and guillotines the sheets in a single sequence of operations. This machine has been moved from the original plant in Switzerland to Walsall, then to Cartor's premises in France. In 2021, the group revised the company name to Cartor Security Printers with a website relaunch planned for January 2022.

De La Rue (DLR): De La Rue Security Print Ltd. (UK, 1813-date): As Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., this British printer had a near monopoly of stamp printing for Malaya until independence, but, after 1960, there were only a few issues. DLR took over the Malayan Postal Union postage dues contract with Waterlow's business in 1961. By 1973, De La Rue was also printing in Dublin and produced Federation revenue stamps from that plant. It withdrew from stamp printing in the 1970s. However, De La Rue returned to stamp printing in February 1997 with the take-over by De La Rue International Ltd. of Harrison & Sons Ltd., which they renamed De La Rue Security Print with effect from 8 September 1997. In 2002, DLR took-over The House of Questa and concentrated all of its stamp printing operations at the latter's Byfleet plant, closing the former Harrison High Wycombe operation.

Dickinson: John Dickinson & Co. (UK, 1804-date): Dickinson was primarily known as a printer of private stationery, but was also involved in security printing. The Dickinson Silk Thread paper originated with this company and the company produced "formular" unstamped aerogramme forms for private sale under the "Apsley" brand. It is believed that De La Rue may have subcontracted some postal stationery work to Dickinson in 1957-1963, but no documentary evidence has been found.

ELPOS Print: ELPOS Print Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia, 2002): This company printed at least one cover for Malaysia.

Enschedé: Royal Joh Enschedé Stamps BV (Netherlands, 1703-date): Johannes Enschedé & Zonen, from Haarlem, has only occasionally printed stamps for Malaya since 1959, with a twenty-four-year gap from 1971 to 1995, after which it printed a number of issues. The Royal title was granted in 2003 as part of the company's third centenary celebrations.

Graphic Press: This Petaling Jaya printer produced promotional etiquettes for the Malaysian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in 1982-1986.

Harrison: Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd. (UK, 1500s-1997): This printer, originating in the 16th Century but a company since 1750, supplied a large proportion of Malayan stamps between the mid-1950s and the emergence of Security Printers (Malaysia) in 1983, including the 1965 Definitive Issue. It took over Bradbury Wilkinson's stamp business circa 1976, gaining the balance of the 1970 Definitive Issue contract. In 1986, it gained the contract for the 1986 high value definitives. In February 1997, Harrison was taken over by De La Rue International Ltd, which renamed it De La Rue Security Print and dropped the Harrison name with effect from 8 September 1997. Harrison also supplied paper to other printers for printing stamps. Following the subsequent take-over of the House of Questa, De La Rue moved its stamp printing operation to Byfleet. Harrison's first stamp for Malaya in the period under study was the 1960 Johore Coronation stamp.

Imprimerie Belge de Securite S.A.: See Waterlow.

International Security Printers: See Walsall, Courvoisier, Cartor.

ITVF: Imprimerie des Timbres-poste et Valeurs Fiduciaires (France, 1880-date): French Post Office Printing Works at Boulazac, Périgueux. This printer supplied revenue stamps during the mid-1980s.

JGPB: Japanese Government Printing Bureau (Japan): This Tokyo printer supplied a number of issues, between 1961 and 1969, commencing with the Colombo Plan Conference issue.

La Poste: Printing branch of French post office. Some work is outsourced to other established printers. Credited with the Jit Sin School issue of 2018.

Leigh-Mardon: Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. (Australia, 1848-1995): This Melbourne, Australia printer was founded in 1848. In April 1981, it took over the stamp printing business of Asher & Co, subsequently printing all stamps under the Leigh-Mardon name, under which it undertook the reprints of the 1979 Definitive issue from 1983 to 1986. In 1994, it broke the SPM monopoly by printing the stamps to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Tunku Abdul Rahman. Leigh-Mardon withdrew from stamp production in May 1995, having lost its Australia Post contracts. From 1996 to April 2004, it was part of the American Banknote Corporation, after which a partial management buy-out restored its independence, but it has not returned to the stamp market.

MB : MB Security Printing (Malaysia). (Malaysia): Kuala-Lumpur-based printer of the second 1970 Definitive Issue aerogramme. Part of the Metal Box group of companies, which included, from 1965, the pioneer British stamp printer Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. MB became SPM circa 1977.

McCorquodale : McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. (UK, 1841-date): Primarily known as a printer of aerogrammes, it acquired stamp printer Blades, East & Blades in 1927 and produced some 1948 Definitive Issue envelopes for Malaya. It is now owned by Bong.

Mercury-Walch: Mercury-Walch Pty. Ltd. (Australia, 1976-2005): This Hobart-based printer of postal stationery began printing for Malaysia by 1996. Following a change of ownership in 2005, Mercury Walch became **PMP Tasmania**.

PKN: See SPM below.

Printcraft : Printcraft Ltd. (Malaysia): Kuala-Lumpur-based printer of first day covers. It also produced the 1960 World Refugee Year aerogramme.

Questa: The House of Questa (UK, 1966-2002): This printer, based at Byfleet, Surrey, produced one issue for Malaya in 1986, followed by a second in 1995. It was acquired by Waddington in 1984, allowing Waddington to concentrate all its stamp production under the House of Questa brand. Questa was sold to MDC Canada (owners of stamp printer Ashton Potter) in 1996. Questa was then bought by De La Rue in 2002. De La Rue subsequently transferred its UK stamp printing operations from High Wycombe to Byfleet and dropped the House of Questa brand name.

Rosenbaum: Bruder Rosenbaum (Austria): This Vienna printer produced only two issues for Malaysia in 1974 and 1982.

Rota Envelopes: Min Hwa (Malaysia): The Rota Envelopes imprint is found on many special covers, including first day covers. The additional Min Hwa imprint is found on a 1986 first flight cover.

SCP: Southern Colour Print Ltd. (New Zealand): From Dunedin, SCP emerged on the stamp market in 1995 but claims over 150 years' experience in printing. It has since produced a large number of issues. It is part of Global Security Products Group Limited.

Secura: Secura Security Printing Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia): The Malaysian arm of Secura (see SPM), based at 59, Jln Tpp 1/1, Tmn Ind., Puchong, Selangor, obtained a contract to print a Malaysia-China joint issue in 2002 and subsequently produced a number of issues for Malaysia alongside PKN's continuing major share of the business.

SPM: Security Printers (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia): Also trades as Percetakan Keselamatan Nasional Sdn. Bhd. (National Printing Corporation) at No.1, Jalan Chan Sow Lin, 55200 Kuala Lumpur. Formerly Metal Box (see above), it is now a subsidiary of Fima Corporation Berhad and of Fima Metal Box Berhad. In business by 1977, this local printer was dominant from 1983 to 1995, having a virtual monopoly for most of this period. It still prints a large percentage of issues, including the current definitives. At least one early Director was shared with Secura Singapore Ltd and the two companies co-operated in sponsoring at least one major philatelic event. The PKN title is now used for

domestic orders, but export orders continue to use the SPM title. The relationship with the new Malaysian Secura company is unknown.

Thai British: Thai British Security Printing PCL (Thailand). Thailand’s first security printing company. Established in the 1990s and began printing stamps for Malaysia in 2018.

Waddington: John Waddington of Kirkstall Ltd., (UK, 1867-1984): Well known as a security printer for playing cards, this Leeds firm entered the stamp field in the mid-1970s, becoming briefly the dominant printer of special issues for Malaysia in the 1978-1985 period. They took over The House of Questa in 1984, merged the stamp businesses and ceased printing stamps under their own brand name.

Walsall: Walsall Security Printers Ltd. (UK, 1894-date): Walsall Lithographic was a family-owned specialist label printer before De La Rue referred the Tonga Government to them to print some gold foil stamps in 1963. Walsall Security Printers Ltd. was formed in 1966 to handle the stamp business. It is now a major stamp producer and a leader in many technical innovations. It has only produced one issue for Malaysia, namely the Petronas Twin Towers hologram miniature sheet, which was at that time the largest hologram to be reproduced on a stamp. Walsall took over Courvoisier in 2001 and Cartor in June 2004. In June 2004, the three brands formed the International Security Printing (ISP) Group. ISP was sold in December 2008 to a management buy-out team. ISP provided an overall “one-stop-shop” marketing agency umbrella for the Walsall companies and other businesses. All orders were taken by Walsall and distributed within the group according to suitability and available resources. Within the group, Walsall now specialised in high-volume, reel-fed printing. On 23 August 2021, the group revised the company name to Cartor Security Printers with a website relaunch planned for January 2022.

Waterlow: Waterlow & Sons Ltd. (UK, 1810-1961): Apart from the Malayan Postal Union postage dues which ran from 1935 to Waterlow’s demise in 1961, Waterlow’s only contributions in the period under consideration were the Royal Silver Wedding \$5, the Kelantan 1948 Revenue Issue and the Independence commemorative of 1957, which was, in fact, sub-contracted to its Belgian Subsidiary **Imprimerie Belge de Sécurité S.A.** (founded in 1953). Waterlow’s stamp and banknote businesses were bought and absorbed by De La Rue early in 1961. ⁴

5. Paper.

Dimensional stability:

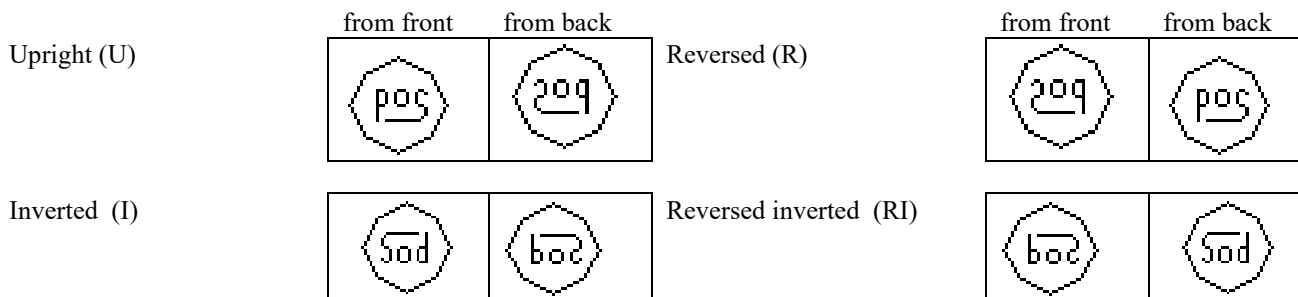
Paper varies in size with temperature and humidity. Printing today uses dry printing techniques, but it is nevertheless essential for the printer to allow paper to acclimatise to the ambient conditions in the printing room before use in order to avoid problems as the paper passes through the presses, which could cause lack of colour or perforation registration, or even paper jamming in the presses.

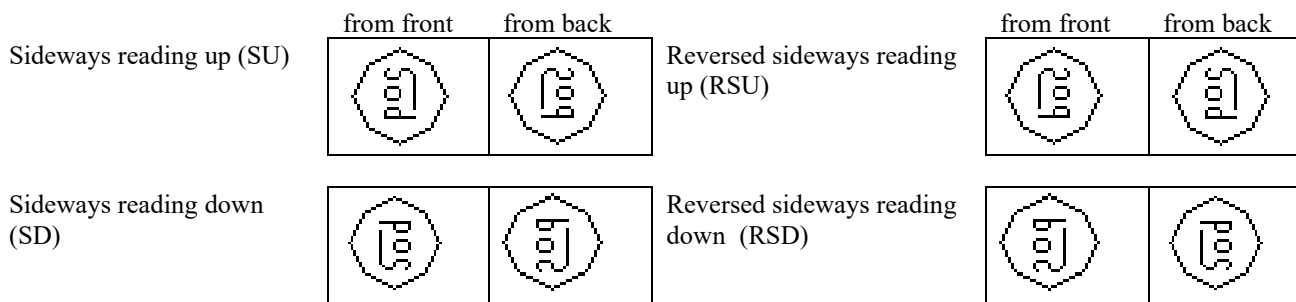
This has a bearing for collectors as precise dimensions of stamps and precise gauging of perforations may vary depending on the conditions under which measurement is taken (depending on the material from which it is made, the user’s perforation gauge will also expand or contract with temperature, but at a different rate from the stamp paper). Where precision is necessary, the information in this book must therefore be correlated with sample measurements taken by the user and adjusted accordingly.

Watermarks.

At the start of this period, most stamps had watermarks, which were intended as a deterrent to forgery. Watermarks generally ceased to be used in 1970, but later came back into fashion in Malaya, particularly following the emergence of SPM.

Watermarks are introduced into the paper during manufacture by adding metal pieces (“bits”) to the “dandy rolls” which squeeze the pulp into paper. These locally reduce the paper thickness and the resulting difference in light transmission shows up as a “watermark” when the paper is held up to a light source or against a dark object. When the stamp is printed, the paper may have one of eight orientations. In order to describe these, it is necessary to adopt a convention. The base line is to view the stamp from the front, with the stamp upright (viewed from the back, the normal and “reversed” watermarks will be transposed as shown). The position of the top of the watermark relative to the stamp determines the classification as follows:





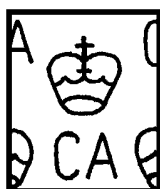
Other conventions for describing sideways watermarks re very confusing, even to catalogue compilers, as the description changes depending on whether the stamp is viewed from the front or the back. The above system does not have this disadvantage.

The watermarks used on issues in this book are as follows:

Multiple Crown Script CA: Designed by De La Rue, the new dandy roll used in paper making to produce this watermark was delivered to the Crown Agents on 13 September 1920, who used it until World War Two, when a new dandy roll was obtained at a cost of £136. The replacement was accepted and put into store at Chatham as a reserve roll on 9 July 1941. This watermark was then used to make paper until circa 1964. A stock of paper was then held to enable existing issues to come to their natural conclusion. In July 1964, the Crown Agents announced that stocks of this paper had been exhausted.

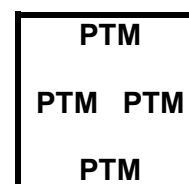


The original bit die for making the watermark elements was still in existence in June 1946, but, by 1949, when the UPU issue was produced, at least one crown “bit” fell off the dandy roll and was replaced by a crudely-made bit which continued in use for the remaining life of the watermark. One or more other bits were subsequently substituted in this way. These have been described as St. Edward’s Crowns, as the top does not taper down in exactly the same way as the Tudor Crown, but do not closely resemble those used in the later watermark. Assuming that the dandy roll was of similar dimensions to that described below, it is likely that any variation would appear in roughly one in three sheets of stamps, depending on the size of the sheet, in every stamp using this paper from the time the variation occurred until the end of production or until a further defect affected the same bit.



Multiple St. Edward’s Crown Block CA: Used by the Crown Agents from 1957 to circa 1974. There were several dandy rolls, producing different widths of paper roll. One dandy roll was made by W. Green & White of London and had a usable surface area 6ft 3in wide by 2ft 1in circumference (this is now preserved by the British Library). Within the roll, the watermark bits vary in spacing and shape because of the nature of its construction. The height of letters varies between 5.5mm and 7mm within the sheet. Paper was made with the watermark in line with the grain of the paper and across the grain, so that the watermark was always upwards on both landscape- and portrait-format stamps. In 1966, a programme of rationalisation of the number of paper sizes held by printers resulted in withdrawal of one dandy roll, so that paper was only produced with the watermark across the grain of the paper, and consequently the change of watermark direction from upright to sideways on the issues of some countries, including Singapore, so that the same paper could be used for both landscape- and portrait-format stamps.

Multiple PTM: Unique to Malaya, this watermark was introduced in November 1961 and used until 1970. It is often difficult to clearly identify the watermark on the issues concerned.



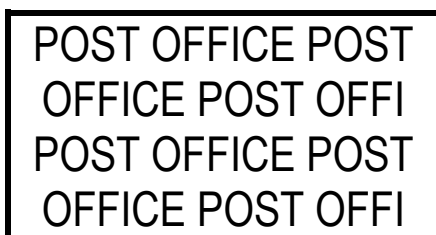
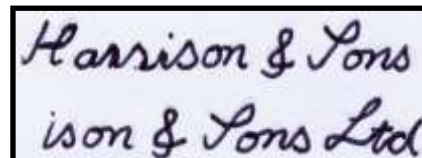
Multiple POS in Octagon: Unique to Malaysia, this watermark was only used for the 1979 definitive issues. The easiest way to determine the orientation of this watermark is to look for the horizontal bar of the S. The marks are in diagonal lines sloping up the sheet from left to right.

Multiple SPM: Used by Security Printers (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. from 1986 to date. This watermark comprises six columns of the letters “SPM” in sans-serif letters. The second and fifth columns are horizontal, while the other columns are diagonal (approximately 30 degrees to the horizontal), forming a wave pattern reading up, horizontal, down, down, horizontal, up, up, horizontal, and so on across the sheet. *(image reduced)*



Multiple Crown CA Diagonal: Introduced by the Crown Agents in 1974 and replaced by a script version in 1985, but not used in Malaya except for a printing of Federation of Malaya revenue stamps and for the 1995 Clouded Leopard issue. It is believed that both instances were in error.

Multiple Script Harrison & Sons Ltd.: Used by Harrison & Sons Ltd. only for the 1986 high value definitives. The words “Harrison & Sons Ltd” appear in italic script repeatedly in lines across the sheet.



Multiple Post Office: Used by Secura from 2002. (Image reduced - Letters in watermark are 9mm high.)

Phosphor:

The other main factor in determination of paper type was the introduction of various phosphors, which react to ultraviolet (UV) light. Initially, certain phosphors (fluorescers) were added to make the paper look whiter, using a reaction which makes the paper glow blue-white under UV light. The natural UV content of sunlight was sufficient to make the paper look whiter than earlier papers. The quantity of this “**Optical Brightening Agent**” (OBA) increased over time as customers grew more demanding in respect of paper whiteness. In recent years, there is a tendency away from use of OBA in many countries, but Malaysia still uses high OBA papers.

Later, the introduction of electronic mail-handling equipment introduced a need for the equipment to be able to find the stamp and cancel the envelope in the right position. To use this, a stroboscopic short wavelength UV light was used in conjunction with a different type of phosphor which glowed after the light was turned off (such phosphors do not respond to long wavelength UV). Detectors sought this after-glow and machinery turned the envelope until the stamp was in the correct position for cancelling. Malaysia standardised on ZSC (Zinc Sulphide Copper), a yellow-green (Y/G) phosphor coating, which combines a blue-white or greenish-white fluorescent reaction with the yellow-green after-glow. The first Malayan issue to use Y/G phosphor was that on 1 October 1973, but this may have been accidental through a chance choice of paper. It next appeared and became standard for most issues from 26 June 1986. Unlike Singapore, Malaysia does not use surface-applied phosphors which fluoresce brightly under UV light, preferring to use paper where the phosphor is incorporated in the paper coating, sometimes called “**phosphorised paper**”. If phosphor bands, etc., are required over a printed image, either the ink must be allowed to dry before a separate printing operation or a drying stage must be incorporated between the ink rollers and the phosphor roller. If this was not done, the phosphor would be dispersed by the wet ink with loss of efficiency.

Papermakers:

Tullis Russell Coaters Ltd., Macclesfield, UK: This firm, part of the Scotland-based Tullis Russell Group (and not to be confused with sister company Tullis Russell Papermakers, who do not make stamp paper) was founded in the early Nineteenth Century, and started making stamp papers in the 1970s. It subsequently acquired long-established competitors Coated Papers Ltd. and Henry Leigh Slaters Ltd.

6. Measurements.

Variety position:

The position of varieties on a stamp is, where known, given by reference to the “Thirkell Position Finder”, a transparent grid sold by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Dimensions:

The dimensions of stamps and other items in this handbook are measured as the effective size that a collector would have to allow in order to mount an item. In all cases, the horizontal measurement is given first followed by the vertical measurement. Thus a large dimension followed by a smaller one (such as 39mm x 29mm) indicates **landscape format**, whilst a small dimension followed by a larger one (such as 29mm x 39mm) indicates **portrait format**. Thus, for a stamp, the dimensions are the width over perforations by the height over perforations.

See also the note under Section 5 “Paper” on “**Dimensional Stability**”.

Dimensions - Registered and Other Envelopes:

A letter code for standard size designations was used by Great Britain for its registered and other envelopes and those of its colonies, with dimensions in inches. In some cases, the size designations differed between domestic and colonial issues. The following list relates to colonial issues. A, B and C below applied to postcards and the remainder to envelopes. These designations are used, where relevant, in this book and were nominally as shown below:

Size:	Dimensions		Size:	Dimensions	
	inches.	mm.		inches.	mm.
A	3½ x 4¾	89 x 121	G2	5¾ x 4¾	145 x 88
B	3 x 4¾	76 x 121	H	5 x 8	203 x 127
C	3½ x 5½	89 x 140	H2	9 x 4	229 x 102
DL	8½ x 4⅓	218 x 110	I	10 x 7	253 x 182
F	5¼ x 3¼	133 x 83	J	10 x 4	253 x 106
G	6 x 3¾	152 x 95	K	11½ x 6	292 x 152

In practice, as with many aspects of printing, the size of postal stationery items is subject to variation within a print run, sometimes varying by several millimetres, due to wear on folding and cutting machinery, setting-up differences and other human factors. To add to the confusion, the same letter codes were used from the mid-1970s for a new series of registered envelopes of totally different sizes based to ISO standards! Actual measurements of individual items are given in the text where appropriate.

See section 10 for notes on aerogramme dimensions.

7. Perforations.

Descriptions of perforations are given using the usual method (holes per 2 cm), with all measurements by the author being taken using the later flexible version of the Stanley Gibbons Instanta perforation gauge and expressed as a decimal. The value given is an average of several measurements and individual stamps in a production run may typically vary ± 0.1 from the values given. Sheet margins described as “perforated through” have perforations extending to the edge of the counter sheet. Sheet margins described as “imperforate” have stamps perforated as normal but no perforations in the sheet margin itself. Sheet margins described as having “**extension holes**” are “imperforate” except that each row of perforations is extended by (usually) one hole into the adjacent margin.

Types of perforation used are:

Comb: The perforations in vertical and horizontal lines coincide at the corners of the stamp. Stamps thus perforated are usually cut using a cutter consisting of pins in a long horizontal line and short vertical ones, loosely resembling a hair comb and perforating three sides of each stamp at the first strike of the comb on the sheet. The cutter then indexes to the next row or column of stamps and the next strike of the perforator thus simultaneous finishes the fourth side of the first row or column. The sequence of cuts may be from the top of the sheet, the bottom, or from one side. The sequence of cuts can sometimes be detected by an imperforate selvage on the side of the sheet where the perforator began. The left and right hand ends of the comb sometimes have one or more extra pins which leave extension hole(s) in the adjacent margin. Unless otherwise stated, all comb perforators used perforated a single row of stamps at a time.

It will be appreciated that it would be very difficult to ensure that two successive strikes of the comb would be so exact that the holes from successive strikes would exactly coincide. The rows of pins forming the “teeth” of the comb are therefore normally one pin shorter in length than the length of the corresponding side of the stamp. The resulting gap is therefore often slightly wider or narrower than the normal pin pitch. (For the consequences of not taking this simple precaution, see the 1986 Definitive Issue 13.6 x 13.8 perforator!)

Die-cut: Self-adhesive stamps are usually printed as one side of a sandwich with the adhesive between the stamp and a backing sheet, usually card. The stamps are then cut out by a device resembling a pastry cutter which cuts through the layer containing the stamp and adhesive but leaves the backing paper intact. Stamps may be cut between or individually cut out. In the latter case, the waste paper between the stamps may be removed, making them easier to remove from the sheet.

Harrow: The perforator consists of a enough lines of pins to perforate the complete sheet in a single pass. This is often applied to miniature sheets, especially when there is only a single stamp to perforate.

Line: The perforator consists of a single line of pins, applied first one way across the sheet, then at right angles to the original pass. The holes at intersections may or (more usually) may not coincide at the corner of stamps.

Printed: For decorative reasons, the postage impressions on postal stationery are sometimes surrounded by a printed imitation of perforations, either as a printed line (usually in black) or by the omission of background colour printing.

See also the note under Section 5 “Paper” on “**Dimensional Stability**”.

8. Colours.

Wherever possible, colour references are to colours appearing in the Stanley Gibbons Colour Key and relate to the ink used as indicated by colour markings in the sheet margins, rather than the apparent colours viewed on the stamp. However, this is not possible in all cases, especially when describing the intermediate stages in the colour development of the 1948 Definitive Issue.

In the case of lithographic printing, there are four standard printing colours, known as yellow, magenta, cyan (a bright blue), and black, which terms are used where relevant. In standard four-colour lithography, any multi-coloured design is split by colour separation into these four elements. Sometimes additional colours are used to strengthen part of a design or to provide gold, silver or bronze finishes (although the author has seen a good approximation to gold achieved by four-colour lithography).

When listing the colours used, the usual practice in this book is to quote the sequence of colour markings in the plate numbers, starting from the nearest corner.

9. Flaws and other Printing Process Varieties.

I have endeavoured to collate all known information which has been published with regard to flaws and varieties on the issues covered by this book. A few general comments should, however, be borne in mind. Firstly, flaws are often the result of very fine dust or other waste material adhering to the plate or otherwise interfering with the stamp production process. The flaws may therefore be constant on all stamps, constant on certain stamps in every sheet, constant on certain stamps on one pane of a multi-pane printer’s sheet (and therefore not on every counter sheet) or transient (appearing sometime after production started and/or disappearing before the end of production). Lithography is particularly prone to transient “ring flaws” where a speck of dust adheres to the plate, takes the ink creating a dot on the stamp, then holds the surrounding paper away from the plate to create a white ring. Different authors have often expressed different views as to whether a particular flaw is constant, but I do not have the resources or facilities to check such statements. I have therefore listed all reported flaws, with sheet and pane positions where reported, but have made no attempt to sit in judgement between constant and transitory flaws.

Missing and shifted colours and shifted perforations are by their very nature transitory and, in the case of mint examples, it is difficult to know which are genuinely-issued errors and which are “liberated” printer’s waste.

Flaws and similar varieties have not, in general, been included in the check lists following each issue. Perforation and watermark varieties, on the other hand, have been given check list entries.

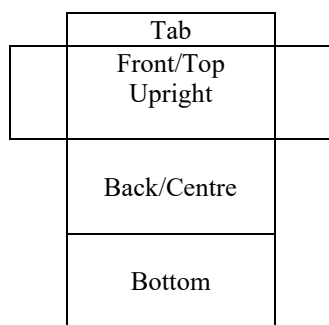
10. Aerogrammes.

Air letter forms were introduced to Malaya circa 1945 and can be found with BMA stamps. Initially the term used was “Light Air Letter”. “Aerogram” (first used in 1947 by Norway but rarely used elsewhere) or “Aerogramme” (first used in 1951 by Israel and subsequently widely adopted) became the official term for such postal stationery at the 13th UPU Congress (Brussels 4 May – 15 July 1952). Aerogrammes come in a variety of formats and it is useful to define some standard formats to enable easier descriptions in the later sections. Those usually found are as follows:

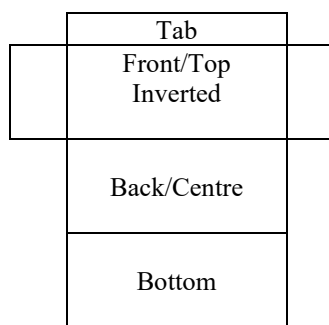
Format A:



Format B:



Format C:



Most early aerogrammes were Format A and most modern ones are Format B.

Unless otherwise stated, all aerogrammes have gummed tabs. These tabs are usually chamfered to avoid overlap at the corners. These may be sharply angular or rounded.

Many aerogrammes have a printed “**overlay**”. The lightweight paper used for aerogrammes is often semi-transparent, especially if white paper is used. The overlay (an overall plain or patterned printed colour over at least the

front and rear panels) is a device to reduce this transparency, and thus protect the writer's privacy, without the additional weight of thicker paper.

Some aerogrammes have **dimensions** which are equivalent to taking a sheet of A4 size paper and cutting away parts to make the tabs. These are referred to in the text as A4 size aerogrammes. Unfolded dimensions are the overall size of the form including tabs. Folded dimensions are generally the dimensions of the front panel.

11. Specimens.

When a new stamp issue is produced, the issuing authority must inform all affected parties that the issue exists and is official, and send a sample so that copies can be confirmed as genuine in the event of a query. In the case of a revenue stamp, this may be restricted to affected internal government departments only, but postage stamps and postal stationery must be sent to all member countries of the Universal Postal Union, the body which co-ordinates the world-wide acceptance of mail between countries, in accordance with the Berne Treaty, as well as to internal official departments and collections. Normally three copies of each item were supplied to each country. For postal stationery supplied in various sizes, only one size (usually the smallest) was normally supplied.

Such "specimens" were originally identified by overprinting the stamps with "SPECIMEN" (examples overprinted "ULTRAMAR", which is Portuguese for overseas, in addition to or in place of "SPECIMEN" have passed through the Portuguese postal authority for distribution to its colonial offices). Later, stamps were perforated with the same marking. After World War Two, application of the markings became the exception rather than the rules, but stamps and stationery were still distributed as specimens.

In the case of Malaya, the Crown Agents Requisition Books record distribution of specimens of all new issues and significant changes up to circa 1968 to some or all of the following recipients. The codes used vary over time.

GPO	Postal Services Department Malaya, for distribution to UPU countries. Where specimens are shown in the text as GPO 411+6 (for example), the 411 were for existing members of the UPU, whilst the six were reserves in case new members joined the UPU. If not used by the end of currency of the issue, they were to be returned to the Crown Agents for destruction by burning.
BM	British Museum (now British Library Philatelic Collections).
CA	Crown Agents (If one, for the reference collection. If two, second example was sent to the Chief Inspector of Stamps).
CB	Crown Agents Stamp Bureau.
CI or CommI or Com.Inst.	Commonwealth Institute. (CI may also have been used in some cases for Chief Inspector of Stamps)
CL or CRO Library	Colonial Record Office Library. (See also below)
CO	Colonial Office. On 23 April 1890, the Secretary of State for the Colonies instructed that copies of all postage and revenue stamps, post cards, embossed envelopes and newspaper wrappers issued in the colonies must be supplied to the Colonial Office. It later grew to include other postal stationery items. As "The Foreign & Commonwealth Office Collection", this collection was transferred to the British Library Philatelic Collections in 1992.
CSD	Unknown, but possibly Crown Agents Shipping Department.
Contractor	The printer, sometimes identified as:
BW	- Bradbury Wilkinson
DLR	- De La Rue
H	- Harrison
W&S	- Waterlow
HM	His/Her Majesty, i.e. the Royal Collection. The quantity to be supplied is often not specified in this case, but the standing instruction was to provide a plate block of four from each new printing.
II	Unknown.
MH	Malaya House.
PP or PJ or Ph Press or Phil Mags.	Philatelic Press (philatelic journals) publicity copies.

In the remainder of this book, the above codes will be quoted, as shown in the Requisition and Plate Books.

Other codes found in the Requisitions Books include:

A2	Crown Agents Stamp Bureau (later G10)	S3	Crown Agents Shipping Department
G3	Crown Agents – Department unknown.	A/F	Air freight
G9	Crown Agents Contracts Department	IPP	Insured parcel post
G10	Crown Agents Stamp Bureau (formerly A2)	PP	Parcel post

12. First Day Covers and Postmarks.

The covers given full listing herein are those sold through post offices as the official covers, unless otherwise stated. Official first day covers first appeared in the mid-1950s, but it was not until the 1960s that their use became virtually universal. Many privately-produced covers are therefore found in this transitional period and can be a rewarding collection in their own right. These are not listed unless there is a specific reason to do so (e.g. sold through or in conjunction with the Post Office). However, commemorative covers produced by the major philatelic societies to mark special events, often in co-operation with the postal authorities, are noted where known. Private covers are also known on a few later occasions where no official cover was produced.

Special rubber, (mostly) single-ring circular date stamp first day postmarks were introduced at main offices for all issues from the SEACOM special issue of 30 March 1967 incorporating the words KELUARAN (issue) above the date and HARI PERTAMA (day first) below. I refer to these as "KHP" marks. They were initially used at 54 offices in West Malaysia. Use was extended to East Malaysia with effect from the issue on 31 August 1967.⁵ Although most marks are to a standard design, aberrant marks appear. For example, East Malaysian marks had double outer rings. The font used is usually sans-serif, but the town and/or state names often have a light-serif font. These fonts often occur mixed on the same mark. Some marks use a heavy-serif font. It is suspected, but not confirmed, that the Kuala Lumpur Philatelic Bureau kept a set of marks for the state capitals to cancel state-related issues (such as royal occasions and definitive issues).

Examples are known of cover posted at an office without a "KHP" mark which has also received the "KHP" mark of the nearest bureau as a cachet (e.g. Bukit Glugor 2 October 1971 counterstamped by Penang GPO). The examples seen have all come from Penang in the period 1971-1973.

Being rubber, these marks wore out quickly and had to be replaced frequently. (One case is known of suspected deliberate distortion of a mark for visual effect.) Changes are therefore found in the fonts used. As in the case of the contemporary new postmarks used by Malaysia for ordinary mail, the month slugs used in these postmarks mostly used, from the start, the three-letter Malay abbreviation of the month instead of English where these differed.

English	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Malay	JAN	FEB	MAC	APR	MEI	JUN	JUL	OGO	SEP	OKT	NOV	DIS

However, as late as 1989 some "KHP" postmarks still used the English version, such as 18 OCT 1989 at Muar (Johore) compared with 26 OKT 1983 at Saratok (Sarawak). Unusually, postmarks from Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh are known with four-letter date "19 SEPT 1979". KL also used this variety for the 20 September issue of that year.

Offices known to have used these "KHP" first day cancellations are listed below with the earliest and latest dates seen by the author.

Marks announced as introduced on 30 March 1967:

Towns with asterisks in the date column are known to have been issued with marks but they have not been seen by the author.

State	Mark	Latest seen
Johore	BATU PAHAT / JOHOR	1Aug1973
	JOHOR BAHRU / JOHOR	30Apr1979
	KLUANG / JOHOR	11Dec1971
	MUAR / JOHOR	8Aug1997
	PONTIAN / JOHOR	*
	SEGAMAT / JOHOR	*
Kedah	ALOR SETAR / KEDAH	30Apr1979
	KULIM / KEDAH	*
	SUNGEI PATANI / KEDAH	*
Kelantan	KOTA BHARU / KELANTAN	30Mar1980
Malacca	ALOR GAJAH / MELAKA	*
	MELAKA / -	30Apr1979
Negri Sembilan	GEMAS / N.SEMBILAN	*
	KUALA PILAH / N.SEMBILAN	*
	PORT DICKSON / N.SEMBILAN	19Nov1977
	SEREMBAN / N.SEMBILAN	30Apr1979
	SEREMBAN NORTH / N.SEMBILAN	*
	TAMPIN / N.SEMBILAN	*
Pahang	BENTONG / PAHANG	*
	KUALA LIPIS / PAHANG	*
	KUANTAN / PAHANG	30Apr1979
	MENTAKAB / PAHANG	1Feb1974
	RAUB / PAHANG	*
	TEMERLOH / PAHANG	19Nov1977
Penang	BUKIT MERTA JAM / PENANG	5Aug1968

State	Mark	Latest seen
Perak	BUTTERWORTH / PENANG	15Sep1973
	NIBONG TEBAL / PENANG	*
	PULAU PINANG / - ⁶	6Feb1976
	BAGAN SERAI / PERAK	2Jul1973
	BATU GAJAH / PERAK	*
	IPOH / PERAK	19Sep1979
	IPOH TIMOR / PERAK ⁷	1Aug1973
	KAMPAR / PERAK	*
	KUALA KANGSAR / PERAK	*
	PARIT BUNTAR / PERAK	30Mar1980
	SITIAWAN / PERAK	*
	TAIPING / PERAK	1Jun1985
	TANJONG MALIM / PERAK	28Mar1971
	TAPAH / PERAK	*
TELUK ANSON / PERAK	1Feb1974	
Perlis	KANGAR / PERLIS	30Apr1979
Selangor	BANTING / SELANGOR	*
	JLN. OTHMAN, P. JAYA / SELANGOR ⁸	10Jul1980
	JLN. T. ABD. RAHMAN K. L. / SELANGOR	16Nov1970
	KELANG / SELANGOR	20Nov1976
	KUALA LUMPUR / SELANGOR ⁹	1Feb1974
	PETALING JAYA / SELANGOR	1Feb1972
	PELABOHAN KLANG / SELANGOR ¹⁰	14Sep1985
	PUDU K. LUMPUR / SELANGOR	28Mar1971
	SENTUL K. LUMPUR / SELANGOR	20Feb1971
	Trengganu	DUNGUN / TRENGGANU
	KEMAMAN / TRENGGANU	7Dec1978
	KUALA TRENGGANU / TRENGGANU	1Feb1971

Marks announced as introduced on 31 August 1967:

Towns with asterisks in the date column are known to have been issued with marks but they have not been seen by the author.

State	Mark	Latest seen
Sabah	JESSELTON / SABAH ¹¹	8Sep1967
	LABUAN / SABAH ¹²	31Oct1974
	SANDAKAN / SABAH	7Jul1977
	TAWAU / SABAH	7Dec1993
Sarawak	BINTULU / SARAWAK ¹³	8Aug1982
	KUCHING / SARAWAK	2 Sep1980
	LIMBANG / SARAWAK	*
	LUTONG / SARAWAK	8Aug1982
	MIRI / SARAWAK	17Aug1976
	PADUNGAN / SARAWAK	21Aug1982
	SARIKEI / SARAWAK	*
	SIBU / SARAWAK	9Nov1980
SIMANGGANG / SARAWAK	*	
Selangor	KAJANG / SELANGOR	29Aug1968

Marks introduced later for one-day only special use:

Note: Kuala Lumpur special marks are normally seen used alongside the standard Kuala Lumpur bureau KHP mark, with the special mark used as a cachet or, if two strikes are required (for example, the stamps are well spaced out and cannot be cancelled by the single bureau strike), to cancel some of the stamps:

Date used	State	Mark
6Apr70	Pahang	SETESHEN SATELIT BUMI / KUANTAN
15May71	Selangor	BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA / KUALA LUMPUR ¹⁴
13Sep71	Selangor	PERSIDANGAN PARLIMEN KE-17 KOMANWEL / KUALA LUMPUR ¹⁴
11Dec71	Selangor	SUKAN SEAP KE-6 / KUALA LUMPUR ¹⁵
31Jan72	Selangor	PERSIDANGAN PATA / KUALA LUMPUR
31Jan72	Perak	BANGUNAN KERAJAAN PERAK / IPOH ¹⁶
1Feb72	Selangor	BANDARAYA / KUALA LUMPUR ¹⁷
17Aug73	Kedah	PULAU LANGKAWI / KEDAH ¹⁸
9Jun74	Kelantan	KETEREH / KELANTAN ¹⁸
1Aug74	Johore	JAMBORI MALAYSIA / JOHOR BAHRU

Date used	State	Mark
8May75	Pahang	PEKAN / PAHANG
22Sep75	Federal Territory	STADIUM MERDEKA / al-quran / KUALA LUMPUR
7Dec78	Selangor	KOMPLEKS PKNS SHAH ALAM / SELANGOR

Marks introduced later for general use at unknown dates:

State	Mark	Earliest seen	Latest seen	
Federal Territory ¹⁹	BUKIT BINTANG / KUALA LUMPUR	1Sep1974	28Feb1976	
	BUKIT DAMANSARA / KUALA LUMPUR ²⁰	21Aug1978	21Aug1978	
	GOMBAK / KUALA LUMPUR ²¹	6Feb1976	6Feb1976	
	JLN. BALAI POLIS / KUALA LUMPUR	15Mar1978	15Mar1978	
	JLN. BRICKFIELDS / KUALA LUMPUR	31Aug1982	31Aug1982	
	JALAN DUTA / KUALA LUMPUR	8Aug1977	10Jul1980	
	JLN. GURNEY / KUALA LUMPUR	14Feb1981	1Jul1983	
	JALAN IPOH / KUALA LUMPUR	14Feb1981	14Feb1981	
	JLN. PANTAI BARU / KUALA LUMPUR	25Apr1974	7Jul1977	
	JINJANG / KUALA LUMPUR	30Sep1978	30Sep1978	
	KUALA LUMPUR / - ²²	1Feb1974	26Jan1984	
	KUALA LUMPUR / HARI PERTAMA ²³	26Jun1996	26Jun1996	
	LABUAN / WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN ²⁴	30May1984	17Nov1990	
	M.A.R.A. / KUALA LUMPUR	1Aug1974	1Aug1974	
	MEDAN TUANKU / KUALA LUMPUR	22Oct1975	16Dec1994	
	MINDEF / KUALA LUMPUR ²⁵	17Jun1981	15Jul1983	
	PERSIDANGAN PATA / KUALA LUMPUR	31Jan1972	31Jan1972	
	PUDU / KUALA LUMPUR	14Jan1977	14Jan1977	
	STESYEN KERETAPI / KUALA LUMPUR	31Oct1974	1Jun1985	
	SUKAN SEAP KE-6 / KUALA LUMPUR	11Dec1971	11Dec1971	
SUNGEI BESI / KUALA LUMPUR	21Aug1978	20Sep1979		
TAMAN TUN DR. ISMAIL / KUALA LUMPUR	10Apr1982	10Apr1982		
WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN / LABUAN ²⁶	31Aug1988	31Aug1988		
Kedah	BEDONG / KEDAH	8Aug1977	8Aug1977	
Kelantan	KUALA KRAI / KELANTAN	8Aug1977	8Aug1977	
	RANTAU PANJANG / KELANTAN ²⁷	10Apr1982	10Apr1982	
Malacca	KEM TERENDAK / MELAKA	31Aug1980	2Sep1980	
Negri Sembilan	MANTIN / N. SEMBILAN	28Mar1971	28Mar1971	
Pahang	BUKIT FRASER / PAHANG ²⁸	10Apr1982	26Jun1996	
	GENTING HIGHLANDS / PAHANG	7Feb1994	7Feb1994	
	TANAH RATA / PAHANG	22Sep1975	22Sep1975	
Penang	AYER ITAM / PULAU PINANG	31Aug1973	1Feb1984	
	BATU FERRINGHI / PULAU PINANG	14Jan1977	14Jan1977	
	GELUGOR / PULAU PINANG	14Sep1985	14Sep1985	
	JALAN MAXWELL / PULAU PINANG	11Dec1971	11Dec1971	
	JELUTONG / PULAU PINANG	15Sep1973	31Aug1981	
	LAPANGAN TERBANG / PULAU PINANG	9Dec1985	9Dec1985	
	PENANG HILL / PULAU PINANG	1May1975	1May1975	
	PERAI / PULAU PINANG	14Sep1985	14Sep1985	
	PITT STREET / PULAU PINANG	6Apr1970	24Oct1970	
	PULAU PINANG / PULAU PINANG	1Mar1975	21Mar1981	
	PULAU TIKUS / PULAU PINANG	18Sep1971	15Jul1978	
	TANJONG BUNGAH / PULAU PINANG	14Jan1977	31Oct1998	
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA / P. PINANG ²⁹	10Jul1978	21Aug1978		
Perak	BANGUNAN KERAJAAN PERAK / IPOH ³⁰	16Apr1984	16Apr1984	
	JALAN PASIR PUTEH / IPOH, PERAK	4Jan1979	4Jan1979	
	KUALA SEPATANG / PERAK	1Jun1985	1Jun1985	
	S. A. SEMANGGOL / PERAK	1Jul1983	1Jul1983	
Sabah	KOTA KINABALU / SABAH ³¹	8Apr1968	4Nov1985	
	Sarawak	BALINGIAN / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	8Aug1982
		BARAM / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	30May1984
		BATU KAWA / SARAWAK ³²	2Aug1993	2Aug1993
		BATU NIAH / SARAWAK	2Dec1989	2Dec1989
		BATU 7 KUCHING / SARAWAK	24Oct1995	24Oct1995
		BAU / SARAWAK	17Aug1976	25Oct1986
		BEKENU / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	25Oct1986
BINATANG / SARAWAK		8Aug1982	8Aug1982	

State	Mark	Earliest seen	Latest seen
	BINTANGOR / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	DALAT / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	25Oct1986
	DARO / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	JALAN ASTANA / SARAWAK	13Jan1996	13Jan1996
	JULAU / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	KABONG / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	KANOWIT / SARAWAK	1Jan1994	1Jan1994
	KAPIT / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	8Aug1982
	KEM PENRISSEN / SARAWAK	30Oct1995	30Oct1995
	KENYALANG PARK / SARAWAK ³³	1Jul1983	15Nov1984
	KPG. PINANG JAYA / SARAWAK ³⁴	2Dec1989	2Dec1989
	KUCHING APO / SARAWAK	16Sep1983	16Sep1983
	LINGGA / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	LUNDU / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	MINI POS SAUJANA CARPARK / SARAWAK ³⁵	26Sep1995	26Sep1995
	MUARA TUANG / SARAWAK	16Sep1983	16Sep1983
	MUKAH / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	8Aug1982
	NG MEDAMIT / SARAWAK	16Sep1983	25Oct1986
	NIAH / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	15Jul1983
	PENRISSEN CAMP / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	PETRA JAYA / SARAWAK	21Aug1982	25Oct1986
	POS MINI JALAN GREEN / KUCHING	26Sep1995	26Sep1995
	POS MINI PINANG JAYA / SARAWAK	13Jan1996	13Jan1996
	POS MINI SEKAMA / SARAWAK	1Sep1999	1Sep1999
	POS MINI SIBURAN / SARAWAK	13Jan1996	13Jan1996
	PUSA / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	ROBAN / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	SARATOK / SARAWAK	31Aug1981	25Oct1986
	SATOK / SARAWAK ³⁴	1Jan1992	1Jan1992
	SEBAUH / SARAWAK	8Aug1982	26Oct1983
	SEBUYAU / SARAWAK	24Jul1999	19Feb2000
	SEKAMA / SARAWAK	2Aug1993	2Aug1993
	SERIAN / SARAWAK	15Jul1983	25Oct1986
	SIMANGGANG1 / SARAWAK	7Dec1978	7Dec1978
	SIMANGGANG2 / SARAWAK	26Jan1979	8Aug1982
	SIMPANG TIGA / SARAWAK	31Aug1981	31Aug1981
	SONG / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	SRI AMAN / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	7Nov1991
	SUNDAR / SARAWAK	25Oct1986	25Oct1986
	TABUAN JAYA / SARAWAK ³⁴	1Jan1992	1Jan1992
	TAMAN BDC KUCHING / SARAWAK	2Dec1989	2Dec1989
	TEBAKANG / SARAWAK	25Apr1985	25Apr1985
	UPLAND / SARAWAK	1Jul1983	1Jul1986
	U.P.M. BINTULU / SARAWAK	2Dec1989	2Dec1989
	WISMA SAPERKAS / SARAWAK	2Dec1989	2Dec1989
Selangor	BATANG BERJUNTAI / SELANGOR	24Oct1970	28Mar1971
	BUKIT BINTANG K.L. / SELANGOR	20Oct1971	1Feb1974
	JALAN BALAI POLIS K.L. / SELANGOR	1Feb1971	1Feb1971
	JLN. BRICKFIELDS K.L. / SELANGOR. ³⁶	1Aug1973	31Aug1973
	JALAN GURNEY K.L. / SELANGOR	15May1971	11Dec1971
	JLN. PANTAI BHARU / K. LUMPUR SEL.	6Dec1969	6Dec1969
	JALAN SEMANGAT, P. J. / SELANGOR	31Aug1970	31Aug1970
	JALAN SEMANGAT, P. JAYA / SELANGOR	24Oct1970	24Oct1970
	JLN. SEMANGAT P. JAYA / SELANGOR	20Feb1971	10Jul1980
	JLN. SULTAN P. JAYA / SELANGOR ³⁷	22Sep1975	1Jan1990
	KELANA JAYA / SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN ³⁴	17Jun1994	17Jun1994
	KG. TUNKU PTG. JAYA / SELANGOR	17Aug1976	18Oct1989
	KOMPLEKS PKNS SHAH ALAM / SELANGOR	7Dec1978	7Dec1978
	M.A.R.A. K.LUMPUR / SELANGOR	16Dec1970	16Dec1970
	RAWANG / SELANGOR ³⁸	6Apr1970	6Apr1970
	SEMENYIH / SELANGOR	31Aug1982	30Oct1982
	SEKSYEN 17 PTG. JAYA / SELANGOR	18Oct1976	7Nov1991
	SEKSYEN 20 PTG. JAYA / SELANGOR	7Mar1987	6Apr1987
	SETAPAK K. LUMPUR / SELANGOR	31Aug1970	20Feb1971
	SETAPAK, K. L. / SELANGOR ³⁹	16Dec1970	16Dec1970

State	Mark	Earliest seen	Latest seen
	SHAH ALAM / SELANGOR	30Apr1979	30Apr1979
	SUNGAI BESI / SELANGOR ⁴⁰	2Jul1973	2Jul1973
	UNIVERSITI K. LUMPUR / SELANGOR	2Oct1971	11Dec1971
Trengganu	PAKA / TRENGGANU	28Nov1978	28Nov1978

Decorative first day postmarks became available for some issues at least from the Philatelic Bureau at Kuala Lumpur Postal Head Quarters by 10 July 1978. Special postmarks are known for all issues after 2 September 1980.

Philatelic bureaux were opened progressively in all the State capitals. Kuala Lumpur and Singapore had philatelic bureaux by 1961. The latter ceased to stock Malaysia stamps in the late 1960s. Further bureaux were opened at Johor Bahru (by 8 April 1968), Kota Bharu (by 8 April 1968), Kota Kinabalu (by 8 April 1968), Kuching (by 8 April 1968), Pulau Pinang (by 8 April 1968), followed by Kuantan (by February 1981) and Subang International Airport (by February 1981). Alor Setar, Ipoh, Kangar, Kuala Terengganu, Malacca, Seremban and Shah Alam opened in January 1983. These were issued with the decorative FDI hand stamps, but all are usually (but not always) scarce compared with the KL Bureau cancellation. As far as can be determined, KHP postmarks are still used when covers are posted at an office which does not have a philatelic bureau, but few such covers are seen after the early 1980s. The latest dated KHP postmark seen so far is 19 February 2000.

13. Presentation packs.

Presentation packs were introduced in 1989 and normally consist of an envelope, resembling a first day cover, containing a folder in which stamps are retained by a single-welded plastic strip mount. The envelopes may occasionally be found used as unstamped postal stationery.

14. Designers.

The designers listed in Index Four are credited with having designed stamps for Malaya since 1948. Ascribing designers to issues is complicated by a number of factors. Sometimes, the basic design is produced by one artist but then elaborated by another artist or adapted into a stamp by a graphic designer. Some artists operate under a trading name or carry out work under contract to an agency. Other issues are assumed to have been designed by designers on the staff of, or under contract to, the printer. The listing is produced in good faith based on a variety of published sources.

15. Catalogue Numbers used in this book:

The normal numbering system used in this book is as follows.

65.1.2

where 65 indicates an item issued in 1965, 1 indicates the first issue of that year and 2 indicates the second item listed for that issue. (65.1 would thus be a reference to the issue as a whole.)

As with all systems, there are exceptions. These are indicated by a suffix letter after the date. These are used to indicate an issue, such as a definitive series that is listed separately and spans a range of years or a special item outside the normal listings of stamp issues. The suffixes used are:

- D Definitive issue (e.g. 65D.1.1);
- E Etiquettes;
- F First flight covers;
- N Railway newspaper stamps.
- P Postage Due;
- R Revenue stamp;
- U VIP Presentation folders not forming part of a specific issue;
- Y Year Packs and Annual Albums.

Varieties are numbered separately as v1, etc. If there are varieties that appear on stamps of more than one state, as on, for example, the 1965 Definitives, such varieties are numbered k1, etc. (k for Key).

It is intended by the author that these should be suffixed to the number of the stamp concerned as required. Thus, 1965 Definitive stamp 65D.3.4 with both state variety v12 and key variety k3 could, if desired, therefore be quoted as **65D.3.4.k3v12**.

Where it is possible to do so, correlation is given to the catalogue numbers used by major catalogues as follows:

- ISC Standard Stamp Catalogue of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, 29th (2013-2015) Edition, and the Standard Catalogue of Malaysia - Singapore - Brunei Revenue Stamps & Postal Stationery, 1st (2003-2005) Edition, International Stamp and Coin Agency, Kuala Lumpur.
- SG Stanley Gibbons Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore Stamp Catalogue, 2017 Edition.

As required, references are also made to:

ASP	Singapore Postage Stamps Catalogue. CS Philatelic Agency. 4 th Edition 2015.
Barefoot	South East Asia Revenues. J Barefoot Ltd. 1 st Edition 2006.
CW	The Commonwealth Catalogue Queen Elizabeth Stamps. The Commonwealth Stamp Company. 1961 Edition.
H&G	Higgins & Gage World Postal Stationery Catalog, Section 12.
Kessler	Kessler's Catalogue of Aerograms, Volume II, Aerogram Catalogue Publishing Co., Inc.

NOTES

- 1 Announcement by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister's Office 29Jan1967.
- 2 The author has seen covers to 8Feb1966 (National Monument).
- 3 Founded in 1833 as the "Agents-General for the Crown Colonies", this body was responsible for all official purchasing on behalf of all Crown Colonies and retained contracts with many countries after their independence from the United Kingdom. It became the "Crown Agents for the Colonies" in 1863 and the "Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations" in 1954.
- 4 Reported in Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin 338 dated 1Mar1961.
- 5 Reported in Sarawak Journal 20/153.
- 6 Without state name. See also PULAU PINANG / PULAU PINANG.
- 7 Announced as Ipoh East.
- 8 This office was transferred from Federal Territory to Selangor 1Jan1979, together with Jalan Sultan (Petaling Jaya), Jalan Semangat (Petaling Jaya), Seksyen 17 PJ, Seksyen 20 PJ, Kg Tunku (Sungei Way) and Lapangan Tebang (Subang). Some or all covers posted on 10Jul1980 were postmarked 0Jul1980 in error.
- 9 Numerous handstamps were used, several being used simultaneously on each occasion. Initially, a heavy serif font was utilised, seen used 30Mar1967 to 7Sep1970. It exists struck in purple on 30Mar1967. Sans-serif/light-serif marks in large font have been seen used from 8Sep1967 to 1Feb1972, with a smaller font version being used in parallel from 7Sep1970 or earlier. A mark used from at least 24Oct1970 to 1Feb1974 had the town name in a condensed sans-serif font and the state name in a light-serif font - Two versions with different spacing at the top and different fonts at the bottom were in use in mid-late 1973. From 1Feb1974, the KL mark was normally without a state name at foot, following creation of the Federal Territory (q.v.), but both versions exist on 1Feb1974 covers.
- 10 Announced as Port Swettenham. Date of name change unknown, but may have predated introduction of these marks.
- 11 Replaced by Kota Kinabalu.
- 12 Replaced by Federal Territory mark.
- 13 "HARI PERTAMA" in small serif capitals in two lines. "KELUARAN" in same font.
- 14 Dates in smaller than usual font.
- 15 Included games emblem at left and right. Date in extremely small letters. Known used with both Kuala Lumpur and Universiti K. Lumpur marks.
- 16 Perak Government Building.
- 17 Known used both at Kuala Lumpur bureau and Bukit Bintang.
- 18 Opening day of new post office building.
- 19 Commenced 1Feb1974. State name not normally shown on postmarks. Most of these would previously have had Selangor marks.
- 20 Office opened 5Jul1978. The 21Aug1978 mark and possibly earlier ones included an error "PERMATA" (jewel or gem) in place of "PERTAMA" (issue).
- 21 The 6Feb1976 postmark was incorrectly set, showing "-6 1976 FEB" instead of "-6 FEB 1976".
- 22 At least three cancellers with different fonts (condensed, normal and small) were in use between at least 1Sep1974 and 6Feb1976. These may have been the Selangor marks with state name removed. This use of multiple cancellers appears to have been typical of Kuala Lumpur throughout the KHP period.
- 23 "HARI PERTAMA" normally appears as a single line below the date. On this postmark, it appears curved at the foot of the postmark.
- 24 Double ring. 38mm mark with "LABUAN" with serifs used to Mar1986. 42mm sans-serif mark used from 14Apr1986 issue to 1Sep1987. A mark was then used with wording reversed (q.v.). A 38mm serif mark was reintroduced by 17Nov1990.
- 25 "MinDef" was the abbreviation for Ministry of Defence, which maintained a postal office for staff. The office is believed to have been opened in 1974. Unlike all other such postmarks, the MinDef postmark retained the English abbreviations for months (e.g. 21AUG1982 instead of 21OGO1982).
- 26 42mm serif double ring cds.
- 27 10Apr1982 issue was postmarked "10APR1981" in error.
- 28 26Jun1996 was a double ring cds.
- 29 The 10Jul1978 and one other issue had "SAIN" instead of "SAINS". Corrected for 21Aug1978 issue. Reported by Mr Khor Seow Loon in PSM 11/2/9.
- 30 Perak Government Building.

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- ³¹ Formerly Jesselton. Double ring cds seen 8Apr1968 to 16Dec1970; single ring 1Feb1971 to 8Aug1982, 31Aug1982; double ring used 15Jun1983, 15Jul1983, 16Sep1983, 26Jan1984; single-ring 23Jun1984, 29Oct1984, 15Nov1984 (scalloped); double-ring 15May1985, 1Jun1985, 9Jul1985, 4Nov1985. From Feb1974, "SABAH" changed from widely-spaced to condensed font, then by 1Sep1974 to normal font. All-condensed font used 8Aug1982. Wide-spaced SABAH 31Aug1982. For 5Aug1985, 14Sep1985, then from 9Dec1985, Kota Kinabalu received decorative first day marks.
- ³² Single ring with boxed date.
- ³³ 1Jul1983 was single ring. 15Nov1984 was an unusually large double ring.
- ³⁴ Double ring.
- ³⁵ This office was on the roof of a multi-storey car park in Kuching. It opened 3Jul1995.
- ³⁶ Office and State name in a serif font.
- ³⁷ This office was transferred from Federal Territory to Selangor 1Jan1979.
- ³⁸ Illustrated in PSM 11/2/9 as the outer ring had been distorted (deliberately?) into a cog-wheel shape.
- ³⁹ Was this used for one issue only? There may have been two cancellers at Setapak simultaneously.
- ⁴⁰ Later Federal Territory - Note change of spelling from Sungei Besi.