

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

2005 DEFINITIVE ISSUE.

It was reported ¹ that a definitive series, featuring fish, to replace the 1986 Definitive Issue was designed for issue circa 1992, but that its release was prevented by objections from the Sultan of Johore with regard to the positioning of his portrait.

It was then announced in January 1996 that release of the new issue would take place in the following August, but, by April, it had been further postponed to October (state issues) and December (national issues). The issue was subsequently postponed indefinitely. By November 1997, it was, once again, no longer mentioned in Pos Malaysia publicity.

In the 2004 New Issues programme, a definitive issue of birds was promised for 10 August 2004, but this was again postponed to 30 October and then forgotten. It was also announced that state issues would be abandoned and only Federal definitives would be produced in future. 1986 Definitive Issue stamp reprints were subsequently restricted to Federal Territory stamps for use in all states.

Finally, in May 2005, the stamps described below were produced, ostensibly as a new definitive issue for use in all states to the exclusion of all preceding issues. However, only small sheets primarily for the philatelic market were initially produced. Such was the stock position (not helped by continuing reprints of the 1986 Definitive Issue stamps) that it was not until the end of 2005 that the stamps came into widespread use in post offices. So far, only five values are known to have been reprinted in large counter sheets for general use.

In a reversal of the 2004 policy, it was announced in January 2007 that a series of floral State definitives would be issued on 26 November 2007. Although the issue was delayed by a month, it appeared before the end of the year, theoretically rendering the lower four values of the 2005 Definitive Issue redundant. Despite this, reprints continued to be made until the postage rate changes of 2010 removed the need for these values. Even after this, the RM5 was reprinted in 2015 and the 20s. stamp was reprinted as late as 2018!

Note: As the stamps described are valid for postage, all illustrations in this chapter are reduced by 10% unless otherwise stated.

14 May 2005.

2005 Definitive Issue - Birds of Malaysia.



Designed by HudaCorp Sdn. Bhd., this issue initially comprised eight counter sheetlets. Large counter sheets were subsequently produced of some values.

Small counter sheets:

The eight 25mm x 30mm stamps featured birds as follows:

20s.: Spotted Dove (Tekukur, *Streptopelia chinensis*);

30s.: Ochraceous Bulbul (Merbah Beringin, *Alophoixus ochraceus*);

40s.: Long-tailed Parakeet (Bayan Nuri, *Psittacula longicauda*);

50s.: White-rumped Shama Thrush (Murai Batu, *Copsychus malabaricus*);

75s.: Yellow-bellied or Olive-backed Sunbird (Kelicap Bukit, *Nectarinia jugularis*²);

RM1: Emerald Dove or Green-winged Pigeon (Punai Tanah, *Chalcophaps indica*);

RM2: Blue-tailed or Banded Pitta (Pacat Bukit, *Pitta guajana*);

RM5: Green Imperial Pigeon (Pergam Besar, *Ducula aenea*).

The stamps were initially printed for release in sheetlets of 20, comprising two panes of 10 (5 x 2) separated by an imperforate, horizontal gutter bearing the name of the stamp issue in Bahasa and English on a background based on the foliage that surrounds the bird. The other sheet markings were those normally associated with a contemporary special issue: 1A (x4) above and below columns 1 and 5, colour dots (x4) to left and right of rows 1 and 4, issue date below column 2 and Pos Malaysia emblem below column 3. The decorative effect extended from the gutter into the sheet margins.

They were printed by PKN using standard four-colour off-set lithography, probably using multi-pane plates. The phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper had watermark Multiple SPM inverted (reports were received that sideways watermarks existed, but no evidence of such varieties has been seen). The comb perforations measured 13.6 x 14.1. All sheet margins were perforated through. The comb had six extension holes at the top, but this was usually masked by guillotining.

First day facilities:

There was no presentation pack.

The cover, sold at 30s., featured an unidentified bird.

The special first day postmark included the Bulbul.

The folder was sold at RM5.

(20s. sheet - illustration reduced 50%)



Reprints - Large Counter Sheets:

A local correspondent reported that the issue was initially sold only through philatelic bureau, on official instructions, pending exhaustion of stocks of the 1986 Definitive Issue. When new stocks of definitive stamps were eventually needed, the new issue would be reprinted as standard sheets of 100. This proved to be the case. The stamps from counter sheets exhibit minor differences in positioning of the bird relative to the inscriptions when compared to the initial sheetlets.

Initial counter sheet format:

The first "production" printing (30s. 2005/1) was first reported in Penang on 17 November 2005. This was printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) with unillustrated margins. Sheet markings were 1A (x4) above and below columns 1 and 10, colour dots (x4) to the left and right of rows 1 and 10, printing number above column 9, Pos Malaysia emblem below column 5. The watermark was Multiple SPM upright, instead of inverted. The paper was otherwise unchanged. The perforation was unchanged, with all margins perforated through. The perforator used was the one also used for later issues of the 1986 Definitive Issue medium and high values, which remained in production in parallel for several years.

The 20s. 2005/1 in the same format subsequently made a belated appearance, being first seen by the writer in April 2007, some two years after printing.

Revised counter sheet format:

The omission of the cumulative column totals found on previous definitive issues must have caused concern among staff, and the subsequent 2005/2 printing of the 30s. had a revised format of sheet markings. This new format became standard and had 1A (x4) to the left of R1/1 and right of R10/10, colour dots (x4) to the right of R1/10 and left of R10/1, Pos Malaysia emblem above column 5, and cumulative column totals in the bottom margin. The 20s. followed suit from its next (2006/1) printing.

The 50s. counter sheet appeared early in 2006 with the revised format from the start. The RM1 was also first reprinted in 2006, followed by the RM5 in 2007. At the time of writing, the 40s., 75s. and RM2 had not yet appeared in large sheets, and it was unlikely that they would do so, as the 40s. was made redundant by the 2007 Definitive Issue state values, and the RM2 by the later 2007 Definitive Issue national series. The 75s. remained a valid postal rate at the time of writing, but only for non-standard mail.

"No watermark" varieties and fluorescent markings:

Stamps from printings 20s. 2009/1, 30s. 2009/2 (part) and 2009/3-5 were on a low-fluorescence ordinary paper without watermark. The 30s. from 2009/2 and 2009/5 had a repeated Pos bird emblem overprinted in yellow-fluorescent phosphor as used on some special issues, but the remainder did not have this marking.

New Pos Emblem:

As explained in Chapter 35, Pos Malaysia adopted a new unboxed emblem in July 2008, but some 2009 printings had the old emblem above R1/5. The new emblem was applied from:

20s.: All 2009 printings;

30s.: Part of the way through 2009/2, at the change from original to unwatermarked paper;

50s.: All 2009 printings;

RM1: Part of the way through 2009/1.

New watermarked paper:

A new watermarked paper with a whiter appearance, a slight increase in fluorescence, and a richer, dark cream/brownish gum was adopted in 2009. The new paper came into use from 20s. printing 2009/2, 30s. printing 2009/6, 50s. printing 2009/1 and RM1 printing 2009/2. The earliest RM5 seen on the new paper was from 2010/2, but earlier printings may exist.

Varieties:

The following varieties have been reported:

Value	No.	Position	Printing	Variety
20s.	v1	R6/3-8	2007/4	Yellow omitted, possibly caused by foreign matter entering the press between the yellow offset print roller and the sheet. The remainder of the sheet was normal. ³
	v2	R1-10/2-3	2007/4	The perforator strike that would have perforated column 3 was missed. Column 2 was imperforate at right. Column 3 was perforated at right only. Remainder of sheet was normal. ³
	v3	R6/2-8	2007/4	Yellow doubled or overinked on R6/3-8, the reverse of v1. Possibly the foreign matter in v1 adhered to the print roller and affected quality on subsequent sheet(s). Remainder of sheet was normal except for a partial effect on the right-hand side of R6/2. ³
30s.	v1	?	?	Perforation misplaced downward, passing through "Malaysia". ⁴

CHECK LIST / SUMMARY (2005 Definitive Issue)**Key: Papers:**

B	Brown gum paper.	NS	No watermark - security overprint.
N	No watermark - no security overprint.	TR2	Original paper (see Chapter 16).

Watermark:

I	Inverted watermark.	U	Upright watermark.
N	No watermark.		

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.	Value	Paper	Wmk.	Printings	Mint	Used
05D.1.1	1264	1063	20s.	TR2	I	Initial, 2007/3. ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.1a	1264aw	-	20s.	TR2	U	2005/1, 2006/1, 2007/1-4 ⁶ , 2008/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.1b	1264b ⁷	-	20s.	N	N	2009/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.1c	-	-	20s.	B	U	2009/2, 2013/1, 2015/4, 2016/1, 2017/1, 2018/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.2	1265	1064	30s.	TR2	I	Initial, 2007/4-5, 2008/3,6,9. ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.2a	1265aw	-	30s.	TR2	U	2005/1-2, 2006/1-10, 2007/1-9, 2008/1-9, 2009/1-2. ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.2b	1265ba	-	30s.	NS	N	2009/2, 2009/5 ¹⁰ .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.2c	1265b	-	30s.	N	N	2009/2-4. ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.2d	-	-	30s.	B	U	2009/6-11, 2010/1-2, 2013/1. ¹²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.2e	-	-	30s.	B	I	2009/8-9, 2010/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.3	1266	1065	40s.	TR2	I	Initial.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.4	1267	1066	50s.	TR2	I	Initial, 2008/1. ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.4a	1267w	-	50s.	TR2	U	2006/1-3, 2007/1-7, 2008/1-2. ¹⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.4b	-	-	50s.	B	U	2009/1-3. ¹⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.5	1268	1067	75s.	TR2	I	Initial.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.6	1269	1068	RM1	TR2	I	Initial, 2009/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.6a	1269w	-	RM1	TR2	U	2006/1, 2007/1, 2008/1, 2009/1. ¹⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.6b	-	-	RM1	B	U	2009/2, 2010/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.7	1270	1069	RM2	TR2	I	Initial.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.8	1271	1070	RM5	TR2	I	Initial.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.8a	1271w	-	RM5	TR2	U	2007/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
05D.1.8b	-	-	RM5	B	U	2010/2 ¹⁷ , 2015/1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.	Value	Paper	Wmk.	Printings	Mint	Used
05D.1.9	-	MFDC-332	First day cover (1-8).				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES

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- 1 Reported by Mr. N. G. McClaren in TMP36/45.
 - 2 This bird is now classified as *Cinnyris jugularis*.
 - 3 Reported by Mr. Hussein bin Mohd Nor March 2011.
 - 4 Block 4 x 3 shown (Melvin Tam Chee Hwa, SPFB).
 - 5 2007/3 reported by Mr. I. Choong in The Malaysian Philatelist, Vol. 1, 2010.
 - 6 2007/2-3 not seen by the author.
 - 7 S.G. also lists NS as 1264ba, not seen by author.
 - 8 2007/4-5, 2008/3, 2008/6 reported by Mr. I. Choong in The Malaysian Philatelist, Vol. 1, 2010. 2008/9 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 9 2008/9, 2009/2 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 10 2009/5 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 11 2009/2, 2009/4 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 12 2009/6-7 reported by Mr. J. Hawes. 2010/1 reported by Mr. C. Wong.
 - 13 2008/1 reported by Mr. I. Choong in The Malaysian Philatelist, Vol. 1, 2010.
 - 14 2008/2 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 15 2009/1 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 16 2008/1, 2009/1 reported by Mr. J. Hawes.
 - 17 Mr. C. Wong reported in May 2011 that, while 2010/1 should exist, it had not been found to his knowledge.