

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT

SPECIAL ISSUES 1996.

Note: All illustrations in this chapter are reduced by 10% (50% for sheetlets and stationery) unless otherwise stated.

13 January 1996.

Launch of MEASAT-1 Satellite.



MEASAT stands for Malaysia East Asia Satellite, of which two Boeing 376HP geostationary communications satellites were launched for Binariang Sdn. Bhd. (renamed MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd. from 2001), to provide satellite television services from Malaysia to an area bounded by Beijing, the Philippines and Indonesia. MEASAT-1 (ordered in May 1994) and 2 (ordered in January 1995 and launched in November 1996) were built by Boeing Satellite Systems, El Segundo, California.

Rocket technology, and hence launch dates for satellites, were (and remain) unreliable, resulting in several postponements of this issue. It was originally announced in 1994 for issue on 30 October 1995, then in January 1995 it was postponed to December 1995; in July and October 1995, the issue date was 21 December; it then became 29 December, then 10 January 1996, then 12 January 1996. MEASAT-1 was eventually launched on 13 January by the European Space Agency from Kourou in French Guiana on an Ariane-4 rocket.

MEASAT-3 (a Boeing 601HP satellite) was launched from Baikonur in 2006 to replace the original two and more satellites were planned. The satellites were controlled from the Satellite Control Facility, Gunung Raya, Pulau Langkawi.

Designed by Nerve Centre Associates, this issue comprised three counter sheets and a miniature sheet.

Counter sheets:

The three 28mm x 40mm designs showed aspects of the MEASAT project:

30c.: Ariane-4 launch vehicle;

50c.: MEASAT's transmitting range over Eastern Asia;

RM1: MEASAT-1 and the Satellite Control Facility.

This issue was printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5) by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The printing plates contained at least three panes. Pane 1A was confirmed for 30c., 1B for 50c. and 1C for RM1, suggesting that the three values were produced simultaneously from a single plate set. The sheet markings included the pane numbers (x4) sideways to the right of R1/10 and to the left of R5/1, with coloured satellites (x4) to left of R1/1 and right of R5/10. The additional sheet markings consisted of the printer's name spread along the margin opposite R2/10 (SOUTHERN), R3/10 (COLOUR PRINT, DUNEDIN, NEW) and R4/10 (ZEALAND), and the story of the launch portrayed in line drawings anti-clockwise around the sheet. R4/10 showed blast-off, R2/10 showed first stage separation, R1/9 showed nose cone jettison, R1/5 and R1/6 showed satellite separation (satellite and second stage booster respectively), R1/2 showed the satellite lifting itself into final orbit. R2/1, R3/1 and R4/1 showed the satellite turning to position (pointing down, angled down and angled up respectively, while R3/10, R6/10 and R8/10 showed the satellite in position (with the body shell showing respectively only a double line, two additional lines and a single line). The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light and had no watermark. The comb perforations measured 13.6. All margins were perforated through.

Miniature sheet:

The 99mm x 70mm RM5 miniature sheet had a background showing stages of launch of MEASAT-1 on Ariane-4 and its transmitting range. The central 40mm x 28mm stamp, perforated 14.1 x 14.3, contained a hologram (the first on a Malaysian stamp) showing MEASAT-1 in orbit. For the first time, the sheets were numbered (the highest seen was 092484). The miniature sheet was voted "Best Stamp of 1996" in a PSM poll.



Variety:

The following varieties were reported:

Value	No.	Position	Variety
30c.	v1	All	A reprint of the 30c. was reported, in which the stamp had an overall pinkish tone. The bottom right dab shaped like a satellite was said to tilt to the left for the reprint whilst the original tilted to the right. ¹
RM5	v1	-	Sheet 092482 had the hologram out of synchronisation (top 40% appeared below bottom 60%) (numerically adjacent sheet 092481 was normal). ²
	v2	-	Sheet 092483 had hologram omitted completely (numerically adjacent sheet 092484 was normal). ²

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3.00. The envelope of the presentation pack featured the design used on the RM1 stamp.

The first day cover, sold at 20c., featured design used on the 50c. stamp.

The special first day postmark included MEASAT-1 and Earth.

A booklet featuring this issue was known to have been privately produced and was not an official Pos Malaysia product.³

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.1.1	595	576	30c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.1.2	596	577	50c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.1.3	597	578	RM1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.1.4	MS598	MC-197M	RM5 miniature sheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.1.5	-	MFDC-197	First day cover (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.1.6	-	MFDC-197M	- (4).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.1.7	-	MPP-197	Presentation pack (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12 February 1996

Aerogramme - National Parks (I) - Kuala Lumpur Butterfly Park and Commonwealth Games 1998.



The first of a new series of aerogrammes dedicated to National Parks was combined with more pre-publicity for the Commonwealth Games 1998. This aerogramme issue was announced by the Philatelic Bureau in January 1996, but not distributed to new issue customers.

Designed by The Sharper Image, this aerogramme was sold at 50c. and showed Kuala Lumpur Butterfly Park. The 38mm x 28mm "stamp" had a face value of 50c. and showed the Common Rose butterfly or *Pachliopta aristochiae* (since renamed *Atrophaneura aristolochiae*).

The aerogramme was in format B⁴, measuring 236mm x 318mm unfolded, 203mm x 102mm folded. The top panel had the tabs, "stamp", addressee (four lines) and illustration of Kuala Lumpur Butterfly Park, including an indoor waterfall. The centre panel had Wira and CG98 emblems, skyline view of KL and return address (3 lines). The bottom panel was blank.

They were printed by Mercury Walsh using standard four-colour off-set lithography. It was printed on low-fluorescence white paper without watermark. A version on thicker, glossy, paper had been reported but was not produced in this form.⁵ The "stamp" had no simulated perforation.

First day facilities:

The special first day postmark included the CG98 emblem.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.2.1	-	AL17	Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.	Mint	Used
96.2.1a		- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

21 March 1996.

Unstamped Cover - Indonesia '96.



This cover was issued to mark the World Philatelic Youth Exhibition 1996 (Indonesia'96), held at Bandung, Indonesia from 21 to 30 March 1996, which coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Bandung Sea of Fire, the burning of part of the town on 24 March 1946 in the face of the advance of British and Dutch troops during the post-war reoccupation of the occupied territories. An Indonesian war of independence had begun on 17 August 1945 when the Japanese occupying authorities had unilaterally announced Indonesian independence.

Designer, printer and price were not recorded. The cover showed the Indonesia'96 emblem plus stamps from the Commonwealth Games (II), LIMA, MEASAT, United Nations 50th Anniversary, Clouded Leopard and Keris issues. The cover was 218mm x 109mm. It was printed on white paper. The paper gave no ultra-violet reaction. There was no watermark.

First day facilities:

This cover was sold serviced with a pair of 20c fungi stamps. The special postmark showed the smiling boy from the Indonesia'96 emblem and contained the date "21-30 March 1996" allowing its use throughout the exhibition.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.	Mint	Used
96.3.1	-	Cover.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.3.1a		- Event postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unissued (25 March 1996).

Centennial of the Olympic Games.

An issue was announced in November 1995 for issue on 25 March 1996, but it had disappeared from the listing by the time the April Bulletin was put together, early in 1996.

6 April 1996.

Pitcher Plants.



Designed by Peter Khang Howe Ket, this issue comprised two counter sheets with se-tenant pairs. First announced in November 1995, the issue date was originally intended to be 2 April. It was then postponed to 6 April.

Counter sheets.

The four 28mm x 38mm stamps showed various carnivorous Pitcher Plants. They form two se-tenant pairs showing:

30c.(A): *Nepenthes sanguinea*;

30c.(B): *Nepenthes macfarlanei*;

50c.(A): *Nepenthes rajah*. *Nepenthes rajah* was named for Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak;

50c.(B): *Nepenthes lowii*. *Nepenthes lowii* was named after Sir Hugh Low.

They were printed in sheets of 50 stamps in 25 pairs by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings included 1A (x4) above and below the left and right columns and SPM emblems (x4) to left and right of the top and bottom columns. Other sheet markings were not recorded. The phosphor-coated paper gave a bluish fluorescence and weak yellow-green afterglow under ultra-violet light. The watermark was Multiple SPM upright. The comb perforations normally measured 13.6 x 13.8 (30c) or 14.3 (50c.), with all margins perforated through, but both perforations exist for both values.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3.00. The envelope of the presentation pack featured *Nepenthes bicalcarata*.

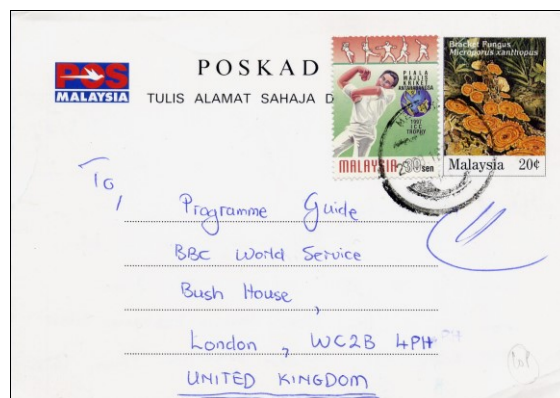
The first day cover, sold at 20c., featured *Nepenthes villosa*.

The special first day postmark included an unidentified pitcher plant.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.4.1	599	580	30c.(A). P.13.6x 13.8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.1a	599b	-	- P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.2	600	581	30c.(B). P.13.6 x 13.8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.2a	600b	-	- P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.3	599a	-	Se-tenant pair (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.3a	599ba	-	- (1a-2a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.4	601	582	50c.(A). P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.4a	601b	-	- P.13.6 x 13.8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.5	602	583	50c.(B). P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.5a	602b	-	- P.13.6 x 13.8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.6	601a	-	Se-tenant pair (4-5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.6a	601ba	-	- (4a-5a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.7	-	MFDC-198	First day cover (3, 6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.4.8	-	MPP-198	Presentation pack (3, 6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

May 1996.

Postcard - Definitive (Fungus).



(Additional stamp affixed for overseas use)

This postcard was issued in May 1996 to replace the 1992 "clock tower" issue as the definitive postcard. Designer, printer and price were not recorded.

It bore the POS Malaysia emblem in colour in the top left-hand corner. In the centre was "POSKAD" above "TULIS ALAMAT SAHAJA DI SINI" in black. The 20c. Bracket Fungus stamp (see issue 95.2) was reproduced in full colour at the top right. The remainder of the card was blank.

The card was 148mm x 105mm. It was printed on white card, chalky glazed on the printed side, matt on the back. The card gave a blue-white fluorescence without after-glow under ultra-violet light. There was no watermark.

First day facilities:

So far as was known, there was no first day facility for this card.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.5.1	-	-	Postcard.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18 May 1996.

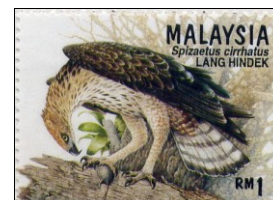
Birds of Prey - Eagles.



SPM Printing



SCP Printing



This set was announced in November 1995 and issued to coincide with the 9th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition, China '96, held in Beijing from 18 to 24 May 1996. It was an attractive set, showing the birds in their natural habitat. The issue was notable for the variety of perforation combinations used and for having been reprinted.

Designed by Teh Yew Kiang (new to stamp design and primarily a wildlife artist), this issue comprised four counter sheets and a miniature sheet.

Counter sheets:

The four 38mm x 28mm stamps showed various Malaysian birds of prey in natural poses:

20c.: Brahminy Kite (Lang Merah, *Haliastur indus*);

30c.: Crested Serpent Eagle (Lang Berjambul, *Spilornis cheela*);

50c.: White-bellied Sea Eagle (Lang Laut, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*);

RM1: Changeable Hawk-Eagle (Lang Hindek, *Spizaetus cirrhatus*).

This issue was originally printed in sheets of 50 by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings included 1A (x4) above and below left and right columns, with SPM emblem (x4) at left and right of top and bottom rows. The design extended into sheet margins. The paper was normally Harrison phosphor-coated (blue fluorescence, yellow-green after-glow) with bluish gum (H Paper - see Chapter 17). Several values are known on Tullis Russell (TR) paper with whiter fluorescence and greenish-cream gum.⁶ The comb perforations measured 14.3 (all values) or 13.8 x 13.6 (except 20c). The watermark was normally Multiple SPM upright, but some values exist with inverted watermark.

Miniature sheet:

The 100mm x 70mm miniature sheet was sold at RM2.00. It showed Blyth's Hawk-Eagle (Lang Hantu, *Spizaetus alboniger*). Both the 28mm x 38mm RM2 stamp and the background showed the same eagle and the sheet bore the China '96 exhibition emblem. The sheet was known perforated:

A: 13.6 x 13.8 (left) closed with a 14.3 bar at right;

B: 14.4 (3 sides) closed with a 13.8 bar at right;

C: 13.6 x 13.8 closed with a 13.8 bar at right.

As for the counter sheets, the paper was normally Harrison, but the miniature sheet is also known on Tullis Russell paper.



First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3.00. The envelope of the presentation pack featured an unidentified eagle.

The first day cover, printed by Rota Envelopes and sold at 20c., featured the Changeable Hawk-Eagle.

The special first day postmark included Eagle's head. Covers were known serviced at the exhibition with a special cachet.

SCP 20c. Reprint:

By late December 1996, the 20c. stamp had been reprinted (unannounced) to meet a need for this basic rate stamp for use on millions of local greetings cards to cover Christmas, Christian New Year, Chinese New Year and Hari Raya. It was not unusual in Malaya for pictorial or commemorative stamps to be used as short-term definitives to cover for shortages of

current definitive issues. In this period, the hiatus over the long-delayed issue of the next definitive issue would probably have meant deliberately low stock levels. Mint copies of this stamp will be comparatively scarce, as the issue was unannounced and most copies will have been used for their intended postal purpose. No firm issue date was established.

Somewhat surprisingly, the reprinting contract went to a different printer, Southern Colour Print. The 39mm x 28mm stamps were printed in four panes (1A, 1B, 1C, 1D), each of 50 stamps (5 x 10) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The bird was a less-rich brown and the water appeared bluer than the SPM printing. The background screening dots were omitted or less prominent. The Bahasa name "LANG MERAH" was longer on the new printing. The plate numbers appeared at top and bottom of the left and right-hand columns and circular colour dots to right and left of the top and bottom rows. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light and was described as having "white" gum. The comb perforations measured 13.6. All margins of all panes were perforated through. There was no first day of issue facility.

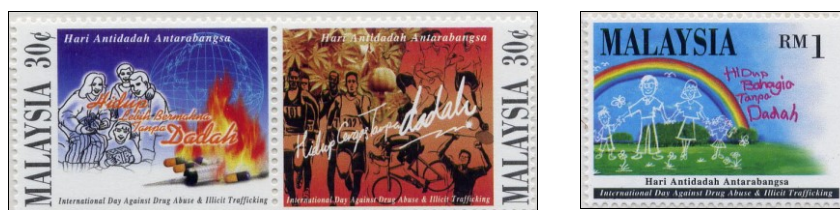
"Collector's Choice" Pack - Birds:

Circa 2000, a "Collector's Choice" pack of bird stamps was sold by Pos Malaysia for RM7 under the slogan "Your last chance to purchase these mint stamps". The pack contained the 1996 Birds of Prey set (20c. SPM P.14.3 Wmk. U., rest 13.8) and 1997 Highland Birds.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.6.1	603	584	20c. SPM printing. Wmk U. P.14.3. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.2	607c	-	- SCP printing. No Wmk. P.13.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.3	604	585	30c. Wmk U. P.13.8 x 13.6. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.3a	-	-	--- TR paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.3b	604aw	-	- Wmk I. P.13.8 x 13.6. TR paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.3c	604b	-	- Wmk U. P.14.3. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.4	605b	586	50c. Wmk U. P.13.8 x 13.6. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.4a	605	-	- Wmk U. P.14.3. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.4b	-	-	- Wmk U. P.?. TR paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.5	606b	587	RM1. Wmk U. P.13.8 x 13.6. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.5a	606	-	- Wmk U. P.14.3. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.5b	-	-	--- TR paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.5c	606aw	-	- Wmk I. P.14.3. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.6	MS607	MC-199M	RM2 m/s. P.13.6 x 13.8/14.3. Wmk. U. H paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.6a	MS607b	-	- P.14.3 (3 sides) 13.8 (right). Wmk. U. H paper. ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.6b	-	-	--- TR paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.6c	MS607bw	-	-- Wmk. I. ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.6d	MS607a	-	- P.13.6 x 13.8. Wmk. U. TR paper. ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.6e	MS607aw	-	-- Wmk. I. TR paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.7	-	-	First day cover - (1, 3, 4, 5a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.7a	-	-	- (1, 3, 4a, 5a).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.7b	-	MFDC-199	-- Serviced at exhibition.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.8	-	-	-(6).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.8a	-	MFDC-199M	-- Serviced at exhibition.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.9	-	MPP-199	Presentation pack (1, 3, 4a, 5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.6.10	-	-	Collector's pack.	<input type="checkbox"/>	-

26 June 1996.

International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking.



This issue marked the 10th U.N. "Day" dedicated to this subject under the auspices of the United Nations International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT). The issue was originally announced in November 1995 for 23 June, but finally postponed three days.

Designed by CD Advertising Sdn. Bhd., this issue comprised two counter sheets, one having se-tenant pairs.

Counter sheets:

The three 38mm x 28mm stamps showed:

30c.(A): Happy family watching drugs burn;

30c.(B): Cannabis plants, opium poppy and sports, including football, athletics, cycling and Badminton;

RM1: A family and rainbow.

They were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings included 1A (x4) above R1/1 and below R10/10 and SPM emblems to left of R1/1 and to right of R10/10. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The watermark was Multiple SPM sideways reading down. The comb perforations for both values measured 13.8 x 13.6 or 14.3 - the latter was more common.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3.00. The envelope of the presentation pack featured a family and the world.

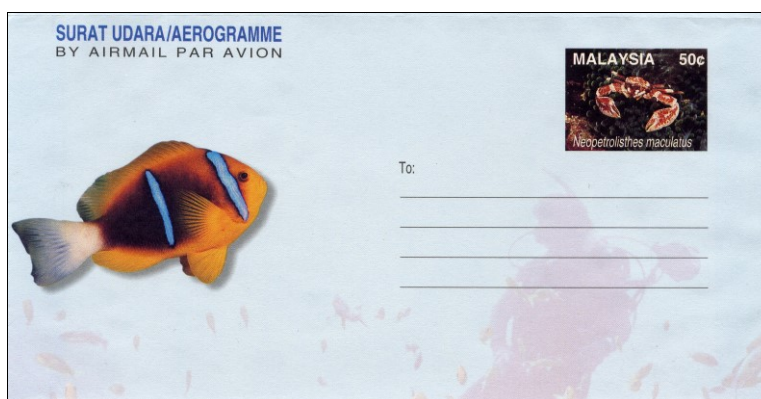
The first day cover, sold at 20c., featured a family, the world and a drug package.

The special first day postmark included a syringe on a capsule on a cross on the world.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.7.1	608b	589	30c.(A) P.13.8 x 13.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.1a	608	-	- P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.2	609b	590	30c.(B) P.13.8 x 13.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.2a	609	-	- P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.3	608ba	-	Se-tenant pair (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.3a	608a	-	- (1a-2a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.4	610b	-	RM1. P.13.8 x 13.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.4a	610	591	- P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.5	-	MFDC-200	First day cover (3, 4a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.5a	-	-	- (3a, 4a).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.7.6	-	MPP-200	Presentation pack (3a, 4a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 July 1996.

Aerogramme - National Parks (II) - Malaysian Underwater Scenery.



Designed by The Sharper Image, this aerogramme was sold at 50c. The 38mm x 27mm 50c. "stamp" showed a Porcelain Anemone Crab (*Neopetrolisthes maculatus*).

They were printed by Mercury-Walch using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The aerogramme was in format B⁴, measuring 236mm x 316mm unfolded, 205mm x 103mm folded. The design was overlaid on a feint background of a Scuba diver over a coral reef spread over the whole aerogramme. The top panel carries the address lines and a False Clown Anemonefish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*, Inggü). The middle panel had three return address lines, three fish and a panel showing reef life.

It was printed on white paper, which gave a blue fluorescent reaction without after-glow under ultra-violet light. There was no watermark. The "stamp" had no simulated perforation.

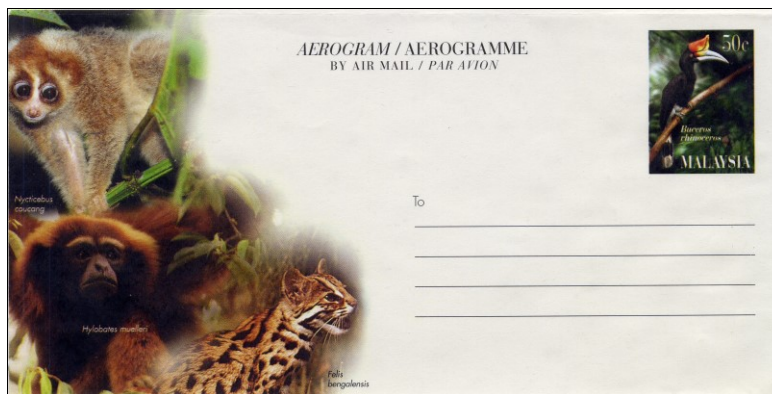
First day facilities:

The special first day postmark included an angel fish.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.8.1	-	AL18	Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.8.1a	-	-	- First day postmark	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

12 August 1996.

Aerogramme - National Parks (III) - Mulu National Park.



Another aerogramme in the National Parks series was released without warning on 12 August 1996.

Designed by The Sharper Image, this aerogramme was sold at 50c. and showed Mulu National Park, Sarawak. The 28mm x 38mm “stamp” had a face value of 50c. and showed the Sarawak or Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*).

They were printed by Mercury-Walch using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The aerogramme was in format B⁴, measuring 236mm x 316mm unfolded, 207mm x 102mm folded. The design was spread over the top and middle panels showing animals - Slow Loris (*Nycticebus coucang*), Müller’s Bornean Gibbon (*Hylobates muelleri*), Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis*) - and the rock pinnacles of Gunung Api on a cream background. The bottom panel was blank.

It was printed on white unwatermarked paper with a cream printed overlay. The paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction without after-glow under ultra-violet light. The “stamp” had no simulated perforation.

First day facilities:

The special first day postmark included a tree.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.9.1	-	AL19	Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.9.1a			- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

27 September 1996.

Booklet - Butterflies of Malaysia.



A last-minute addition to the programme was this booklet, containing ten stamps of five different designs. This booklet was released to coincide with the Istanbul '96 World Philatelic Exhibition (27 September to 6 October) and bore the emblem of that event on the cover.

Designed by Peter Chuah P. K., the five 25mm x 30mm 30c stamps each showed a different butterfly:

- 30c (A): Blue Triangle or Common Bluebottle (*Graphium sarpedon*);
- 30c (B): Royal Assyrian (Assyrian Di-Raja, *Terinus terpander*);
- 30c (C): Pallid Faun (*Melanocyma faunula*);
- 30c (D): Raja Brooke’s Birdwing (Kepak burung Raja Brook, *Trogonoptera brookiana*);
- 30c (E): Painted Jezebel (*Delias hyparete*).



(booklet cover illustration reduced 33%)

The booklet cover measured 86mm x 50mm folded, 162mm x 50mm unfolded, and showed a hibiscus flower and Common Rose swallowtail butterfly (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*). The contents, mounted by the top selvedge at the left of the cover, was a portrait format pane of ten stamps folded below rows 2 and 4, arranged in the booklet as follows:

TOP	B	D	E	C	A	BOTTOM
	A	C	E	D	B	

They were printed by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper was without watermark. The comb perforations measured 14.5 x 14.1.

First day facilities:

No first day service was provided. A privately-produced first day cover showed butterflies. A Bureau postmark was also issued, showing a single butterfly. Covers were serviced at the exhibition with a special postmark.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.	Mint	Used
96.10.1	611	30c (A).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.2	612	30c (B).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.3	613	30c (C).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.4	614	30c (D).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.5	615	30c (E).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.6	611a	Se-tenant strip of five (1-5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.7	SB5 ¹⁰	SB88 Booklet (two 6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.8	-	MSBF-4 First day cover.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.10.8a	-	- used at exhibition.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 October 1996.

The Kuala Lumpur Tower.



This 421-metre telecommunications tower atop Bukit Nanas was, at the time of construction, the third highest in the world, after the Canadian National Tower in Toronto and the Ostandkind Tower in Moscow. First announced in November 1995 for 1 July 1996, this issue was postponed three months, presumably due to a delay to the official opening of the building.

Designed by Akitek Akiprima Sdn. Bhd. (counter sheets) or The Sharper Image (miniature sheet), this issue comprised three counter sheets and a miniature sheet.

Counter sheets:

The three 38mm x 28mm stamps showed various views of the Tower:

30c.: The Tower in landscape;

50c.: Architect's drawings;

RM1: The Tower Head and a night cityscape.

They were printed in sheets of 50 by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings were not recorded, but pane 1B is known for the 30c. The phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish-white fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light and had no watermark. The comb perforations measured 13.6.

Miniature sheet:

The miniature sheet, designed by The Sharper Image, was 70mm x 100mm and showed the tower and a cross section of the Tower Head. The paper used exhibits a bluer-white fluorescence than the sheet stamps. The 28mm x 38mm RM2 stamp incorporating the Tower Head was perforated 13.6.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured the Tower Head.

The first day cover, sold at 20c., featured the Tower Head.

The special first day postmark also included the Tower Head. An additional, undated, three-ring cachet "KUALA LUMPUR / TOWER" was applied to covers posted at the tower.

Private maximum card:

For this issue, PSM commissioned from The Sharper Image a maximum card ("1/96") showing an aerial view of the tower against the setting sun.



No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.11.1	616	592	30c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.11.2	617	593	50c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.11.3	618	594	RM1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.11.4	MS619	MC-201M	RM2 miniature sheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.11.5	-	MFDC-201	First day cover (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.11.6	-	MFDC-201M	- (4).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.11.7	-	MPP-201	Presentation pack (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Taipei '96 Stamp Exhibition (21 October 1996):

The Taipei '96 Asian International Stamp Exhibition was held from 21 to 27 October 1996. The miniature sheet was specially reprinted with the exhibition emblem incorporated at the bottom right-hand corner for sale at exhibition, where it was sold without premium (i.e. at RM2). In all other respects, the Taipei sheets were identical with the normal versions.

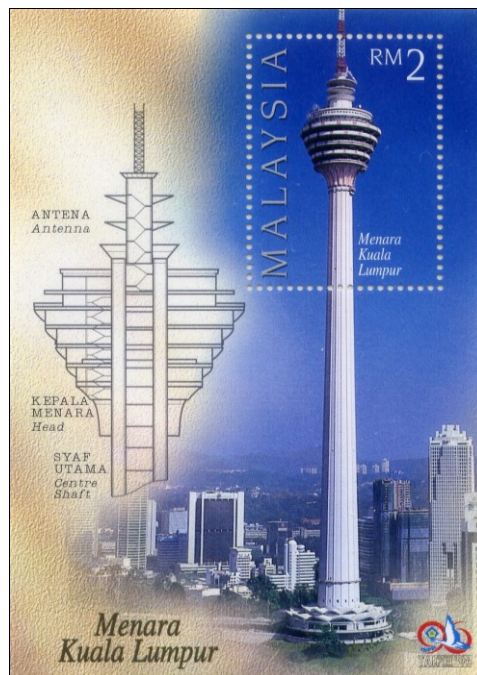
11



(enlarged detail)

First day facilities:

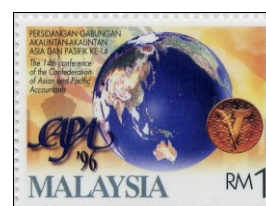
An exhibition cachet featuring the event emblem was applied to sheets affixed to the normal first day cover. The sheet is also known on a first day cover posted at Sibu, Sarawak on 21 October, but with an ordinary postmark.



No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.12.1	MS622	MC-203M	RM2 miniature sheet. Taipei '96.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.12.2	-	MFDC-203M	First day cover (1).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7 October 1996.

14th Conference of the Confederation of Asian & Pacific Accountants.



Malaysia was a founder member of CAPA in 1957 and holds the Secretariat. The meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 9 October. The issue was announced as late as September 1996.

Designed by The Sharper Image Sdn. Bhd., this issue comprised two counter sheets.

Counter sheets:

The two 38mm x 28mm stamps showed:

30c.: A moon kite adapted from Malaysian flag;

RM1: Asia and Australasia from space.

They were printed in sheets of 100 by Enschedé using off-set lithography. Sheet markings were not recorded. The phosphor-coated paper gave a bluish fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light, without watermark. The comb perforations measured 13.8 x 14.3.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured an abacus, coin and moon kite.

The first day cover, sold at 20c., featured an abacus, calculator, coin and moon kite.

The special first day postmark included the CAPA'96 emblem (which also appeared on the stamps) in a diamond.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.13.1	620	596	30c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.13.2	621	597	RM1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.13.3	-	MFDC-202	First day cover (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.13.4	-	MPP-202	Presentation pack (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12 October 1996.

Aerogramme - National Parks (IV) - Endau-Rompin National Park, Johore.



The Endau-Rompin National Park was the second to be established in Peninsular Malaya and extends from the valley of the Sungei Endau in Johore northwards to the valley of the Sungei Rompin in Pahang.

Designed by The Sharper Image, this aerogramme was sold at 50c. and showed rapids on a river in Johore (possibly the Sungei Endau itself), together with Cup Fungus (*Cookeina tricholoma*), Peacock Fern (*Selaginella willdenovii*), Small-lipped Spathoglottis (*Spathoglottis aurea*). The 35mm x 25mm “stamp” had a face value of 50c. and showed a Green-crested Lizard (*Calotes cristatellus*).

They were printed by Mercury-Walch using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The aerogramme was in format B⁴, measuring 236mm x 316mm unfolded, 205mm x 102mm folded. It was printed on cream-surfaced, white paper, with blue gum on the tabs. The paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction but no phosphor reaction under ultra-violet light. There was no watermark. The “stamp” had no simulated perforation.

First day facilities:

The special first day postmark included *Selaginella willdenovii*.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.14.1	-	AL20	Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.14.1a	-	-	- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

21 October 1996.

Miniature Sheet - Taipei'96.

See issue 96.12 above.

29 November 1996.

Official Opening of the National Science Centre.



The National Science Centre was set up under the Sixth Malaysia Plan to promote interest in science, particularly in young people who may become scientists. Features outside the Centre included a hydroponic farm, herbal garden and a cascade. Inside there were an aquarium, displays on the environment and scientific principles, a special children’s centre, a “Future World” display, a Hall of Fame on scientists and inventors. There were also a multi-media library and auditoriums.

Originally announced in January 1995 for issue in July 1995, this stamp issue was listed in March 1995 as “date to be announced”. It was again announced in January 1996 for issue in October, then pulled ahead in March to 15 July 1996. In April it became “sometime in July”. In September, it was put back to 29 November 1996, when it finally appeared, over a year late (presumably due to delays in opening the Centre).

Designed by The Sharper Image Sdn. Bhd., this issue comprised three counter sheets.

Counter sheets:

The three 38mm x 28mm designs all showed the distinctive geodesic dome of the Centre, together with:

30c.: A molecular model of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA);

50c.: An atom;

RM1: An external view of the Centre.

They were printed in sheets of 100 by Southern Colour Print using off-set lithography. Sheet markings were not recorded. The phosphor-coated paper gave a white fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light, without watermark. The comb perforations measured 13.6.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured the Dome and a seascape.

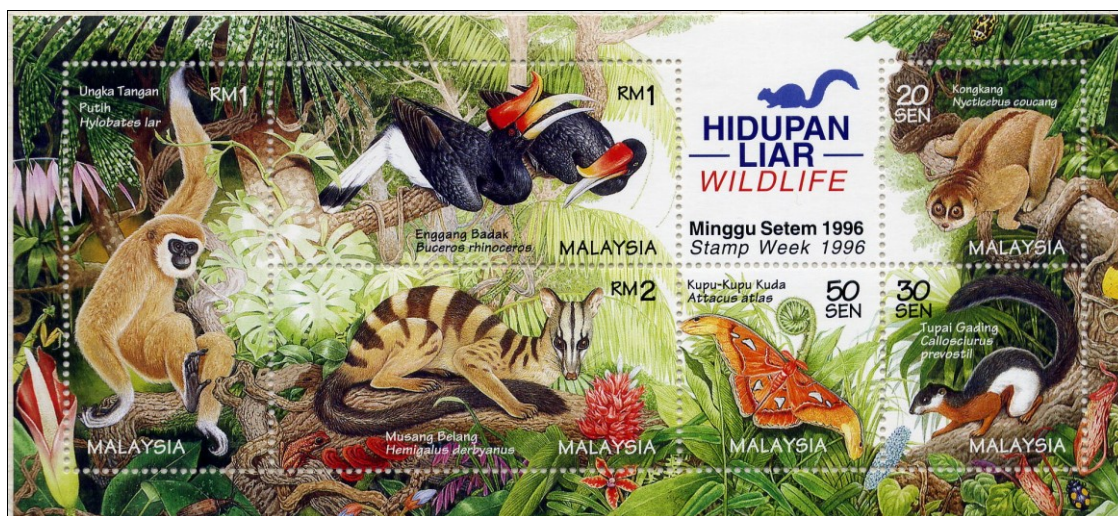
The first day cover, sold at 20c mint, featured the Dome, seascape and sextant.

The special first day postmark included an atom.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.15.1	623	599	30c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.15.2	624	600	50c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.15.3	625	601	RM1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.15.4	-	MFDC-204	First day cover (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.15.5	-	MPP-204	Presentation pack (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unissued [Proposed for 1996].**Sailing Boats.**

This issue was announced in November 1995 for issue in November 1996, but was deleted from the schedule towards the end of 1996.

2 December 1996.**Stamp Week (I) - Wildlife.**

Announced in September 1996, this six-stamp miniature sheet was sold for RM5 (face value) to mark the first national Stamp Week (2 to 7 December 1996), an "open day"-type event at the Dayabumi Complex in Kuala Lumpur organised to promote the hobby jointly by Pos Malaysia and the Philatelic Society of Malaysia. This issue marked a move back to the use of "sen" instead of "cent" or "¢" on stamps.

Designed by Teh Yew Kiang, each stamp of the 164mm x 75mm miniature sheet showed a different element of Malaysian wildlife.

20s.: Slow Loris (Kongkang, *Nycticebus coucang*) (30mm x 30mm);

30s.: Prevost's Squirrel (Tupai Gading, *Callosciurus prevostii*) (30mm x 30mm);

50s.: Atlas Moth (Kupu-Kupu Kuda, *Attacus atlas*) (30mm x 30mm);

RM1 (A): Lar or White-handed Gibbon (Ungka Tangan Putih, *Hylobates lar*) (30mm x 60mm);

RM1 (B): Rhinoceros Hornbill (Enggang Badak, *Buceros rhinoceros*) (60mm x 30mm);

RM2: Banded Palm Civet (Musang Belang, *Hemigalus derbyanus*) (60mm x 30mm).

They were printed by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish-white fluorescence and yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light, without watermark. The comb perforations measured 14.1. This sheet was voted "Best Stamp Issue of 1996" in a PSM poll.

First day facilities:

The first day cover, sold at 30s., featured forest vegetation forming an extension of the sheet design and stamps.

The special first day postmark included a squirrel emblem similar to that used on the miniature sheet.

There was also a Stamp Week cachet including a stamp. This was used to tie miniature sheets to first day covers.

CTO Sheets handstamped on the rear with a “With Compliments” cachet in purple or black incorporating the words “NOT FOR SALE” were given to visitors on organised visits to the Bureau in 2006. Many such sheets were cancelled and broken up by the Philatelic Bureau for use as postage receipts. ¹²

A “limited edition” “litho print of the sheetlet” was sold at RM15. This comprised a colour print of the original artwork (less lettering) on a presentation folder in a cream, laid envelope showing a bamboo forest with birds. This folder has been seen adapted as a presentation pack for the miniature sheet, but it is not known whether this was done officially or privately.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.16.1	-	-	20s. (from miniature sheet).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.2	-	-	30s. (from miniature sheet).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.3	-	-	50s. (from miniature sheet).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.4	-	-	RM1 (A) (from miniature sheet).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.5	-	-	RM1 (B) (from miniature sheet).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.6	-	-	RM2 (from miniature sheet).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.7	MS626	MC-205M	Miniature sheet (1-6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.8	-	MFDC-205M	First day cover (7).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.16.9	-	-	Litho print in envelope.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hong Kong '97 Stamp Exhibition (12 February 1997).



A second version of the miniature sheet was issued on 12 February 1997 at the Hong Kong '97 11th Asian International Stamp Exhibition (12 to 16 February) incorporating the event emblem to the left of the squirrel emblem. In all other respects, the sheet was as issue 96.16 above.



First day facilities:

This sheet exists cancelled to order with the Stamp Week cachet used on the original sheet’s first day cover, which presents something of an anachronism! The litho print folder (96.16.9) has been seen adapted as a presentation pack for the miniature sheet, but it is not known whether this was done officially or privately.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.17.1	MS635	MC-208M	Miniature sheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.17.2	-	MFDC-208M	First day cover (1).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unissued [11 December 1996]

50th Anniversary of UNICEF.

Announced in the November 1995 Bulletin and scheduled for issue on 11 December 1996, this issue to mark the Golden Jubilee of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund disappeared from the listings in the April 1996 Bulletin.

21 December 1996.

XVI Commonwealth Games (III).



The third issue in this pre-event publicity series was announced in January 1996 for 10 September 1996, but postponed, first to November (in September 1996), then to December.

Designed by CD Advertising Sdn. Bhd., this issue comprised two counter sheets with se-tenant triplets.

Counter sheets:

The two se-tenant pairs of 40mm x 30mm stamps, each with an interposed 40mm x 20mm label, showed:

30s.(A): Sprinter (top);

Label: Mascot Wira in various poses (weight lifter, gymnast on pommel horse, shooting, cyclist);

30s.(B): Hurdler (bottom);

50s.(A): High jump;

Label: As 30s.

50s.(B): Javelin.

They were printed in sheets of 10 vertical triplets (20 stamps) (5 x 2 triplets) by Southern Colour Print using five-colour off-set lithography (standard plus lavender). Pane numbers seen included 1A for 30s., 1B for 50s. and 1C for both values.¹³ Sheet markings included five colour dots to the left and right of the bottom and top row and 1A (x5) above and below columns 1 and 5. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescence and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 12.1. All margins were perforated through.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured a stopwatch.

The first day cover, sold at 20s mint, featured weight lifter, runner, swimmer, cyclists.

The special first day postmark included XVI.

“Collector’s Choice” Pack - Commonwealth Games:

See issue 97.17.

Private booklet:

A booklet featuring this issue was known to have been privately produced by Meko Offset Printing Sdn. Bhd. of Penang and was not an official Pos Malaysia product. This company had a licence from the Games organising committee to produce CG98 branded products. Sold for RM3, it contained a horizontal strip of five 30s. gutter pairs, with margins attached, attached by the left margin and folded to fit the 105mm x 57mm (folded) cover.¹⁴



No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.18.1	627	602	30s.(A).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.18.2	628	603	30s.(B).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.18.3	¹⁵	-	Se-tenant triplet (1,2 plus label).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.18.4	629	604	50s.(A).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.18.5	630	605	50s.(B).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.18.6	¹⁶	-	Se-tenant triplet (4, 5 plus label).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
96.18.7	-	MFDC-206	First day cover (3, 6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96.18.8	-	MPP-206	Presentation pack (3, 6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES

- ¹ Reported by Mr. Khor Seow Loon on 16 December 1997. Not seen by author.
- ² Offered by Premier Philatelic Auction Pty Ltd, Australia, in 1 September 2001 auction and by Zeboose Aug2022.
- ³ Reported in PSM 30/1/27.
- ⁴ For aerogramme formats, see Section 10 of Chapter 3 in Volume 1.
- ⁵ Mr. A. Teh found one in a batch of ten purchased at Johore Bahru Post Office. Examination suggests that the aerogrammes were packed in a plastic pack, from which plasticiser leached into the adjacent sheet(s) causing this phenomenon.
- ⁶ 50c. reported by Mr. N.G. McClaren.
- ⁷ Misleadingly described in S.G. catalogue as P.14 all around.
- ⁸ Misleadingly described in S.G. catalogue as P.14 all around. Not seen by author.
- ⁹ Reported by the late Mr. P. Setchell.
- ¹⁰ S.G. listed the booklet pane, removed from its cover, as 611a.
- ¹¹ It was reported that a number of Tower miniature sheets were similarly provided for the Hong Kong '97 stamp exhibition 12 to 16 February 1997, where it was put on sale and sold out on the first day. The author has no evidence to substantiate this.
- ¹² Black cachet shown by "itsupp" on MSG Forum website 15 August 2010.
- ¹³ It is likely that 30s. 1B and 50s. 1A existed but were not reported.
- ¹⁴ Reported in PSM 30/1/26. Illustration supplied by Mr. N.G. McClaren.
- ¹⁵ S.G. Catalogue refers to vertical pairs, i.e. from rows 2 and 3, as 627a.
- ¹⁶ S.G. Catalogue refers to vertical pairs, i.e. from rows 2 and 3, as 629a.