

CHAPTER SEVENTY-THREE
MALAYSIA POSTAGE DUES.

Note: All illustrations in this Chapter are reduced by 10% unless otherwise stated.

Postage due labels were not sold in mint state to the public at post offices, but could be purchased from the Philatelic Bureau at Kuala Lumpur.

15 August 1966.

First design - 1966 Postage Due Issue.



Following the parting of the ways between Singapore and Malaysia and the subsequent breakdown of the Malayan Postal Union, new postage due labels replaced those of the Malayan Postal Union. Although released officially in August, offices were able to use up stocks of existing MPU labels and it was reported ¹ that the new labels actually came into general use at all large post offices in the second half of November 1966.

This issue was in print for 20 years and, in consequence, there were numerous reprints resulting in significant technical differences. Unfortunately, the records in the public domain cover only the first two printings on this issue and we must therefore rely on reported and observed changes to build up a picture of this issue. It remained in use in offices as long as stocks lasted, which was until at least 1999 in some places, in parallel with the 1986 Postage Due Issue.

Design:

By an uncredited designer, the eight 21mm x 24mm values (1c., 2c., 4c., 8c., 10c., 12c., 20c., 50c.) show the denomination in a circle in a diamond.

Counter sheets:

They were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) by Harrison & Sons using single-colour off-set lithography. Special 8-set proofing plates were initially produced for each of the eight values. 100-set working plates were then produced, shown as "1A" in the Crown Agents print and die register but marked "A1" on the plate. The original 2c. plate was rejected as defective and had to be replaced. The initial printing colours used were:

1c. Rose;	8c. Blue-green;	20c. Red-brown
2c. Indigo;	10c. Bright blue;	50c. Brownish bistre.
4c. Apple Green;	12c. Reddish violet;	

Subsequent printings resulted in minor colour changes as recorded below.

Plates and sheet markings:

Plate A1 was used for all values with watermark and early printings of the no watermark issue. Sheet markings comprise the plate number below R10/9 and crossed guide marks above R1/1 and R1/10 and below R10/1 and R10/10. The 10c. no watermark exists in a darker shade with a circle superimposed on the bottom left cross lines (other positions were not recorded). The 1c. and 12c. watermarked plate A1 sheets have a large colour block above R1/9, just overlapping to above R1/10. This is absent on the 2c. A1 without watermark.

Plate 2A was used in 1980 for the 50c. issue without watermark. In this case, the plate was perforated from the right instead of the left. This was subsequently replaced by A2 (see below)

Plate A2 with simple crossed guide marks (without circles) was used in 1980 for the 10c. issue without watermark.

A different Plate A2 format with guide crosses with circles was later used for 2c., 8c., 10c. (a later printing in a distinct shade), 12c., 20c., 50c., and possibly for the 4c. The 12c. had a boxed colour square above R1/9, and the other values were probably likewise.

Perforations:

The comb perforations measure 14.8 x 14.2. On early printings, the left margin was imperforate and the other margins were perforated through. On later printings (by 1980), the left margin was normally imperforate, whilst the top and bottom margins showed a single extension hole. ² The right margin was normally perforated through. (The exception was 50c. 2A - see below)

Paper:

No less than four distinct papers were used for this issue. The changes of paper affect the apparent shades of the labels. In order of use, these were:

- O: The original paper initially had multiple PTM upright and was non-fluorescent (ordinary) paper.
- C: Chalk-surfaced non-fluorescent paper was for 1969 and 1971 reprints.

- S: This was changed in 1972 to fluorescent paper with watermarked sideways reading down and a highly-calendered surface finish giving a glazed appearance.
- N: The “no watermark” paper introduced in 1980 was also fluorescent, but can be differentiated in that the back of the mint label is less fluorescent than the 1972 paper.

Printing history:

1. Crown Agents Requisition G&P/Malaya/5/68127/1.

This order, placed late in 1965, requested sheets of 100 labels for delivery as follows:

	1c.	2c.	4c.	8c.	10c.	12c.	20c.	50c.
Malaya	3000	3500	3500	2500	6500	2000	3000	2000
Sabah	450	450	300	300	300	250	200	150
Sarawak	450	450	300	300	300	250	200	150
CA Bureau	1500	750	750	100	100	100	100	100

900 specimens were ordered for distribution to GPO (469 + 6), CA (1), CB (1), BM (1), CI (1), MH (1), H (1), HM and G10 Publicity (balance).

Black and white photographic essays were approved by the Crown Agents Inspector of Stamps on 28 February 1966 “subject to ensuring that the stamps are printed to the correct size, i.e., “.95” by “.8” (inches) perf to perf”. Harrison colour proofs were submitted on 30 March 1966. All were approved with two exceptions. The 2c. in yellow and the 20c. in mauve were rejected. They were resubmitted in indigo and brown-purple respectively and approved on 20 April 1966.

Shipment took place on 13 May 1966 and 14 July 1966.

Notes:

They were released on 15 August 1966 and put into use locally immediately, as stocks of Malayan Postal Union postage dues were withdrawn in Malaysia offices at the close of business on the previous day. In theory, mixed frankings of MPU and Malaysia postage dues should not occur.

2. Crown Agents Requisition G&P/Malaya/8/56503/1.

This was a 1968 order for 470 sheets of 20c., supplied on 25 February 1969.

Notes:

Brown-purple shade on chalk surfaced paper. The paper resulted in a sharper image and distinctive shades for this and all subsequent values affected. Crown Agents Stamp Bureau released this printing on 22 April 1969.

3. Subsequent reprints with Crown Agents releases:

No further reprints are recorded up to the point in 1969 when the available detailed Crown Agents requisition/printing records cease. Subsequent releases included the following:

3.1. Crown Agents Release 1 June 1971:

A reprint of 8c., 10c. and 50c., plus additional stocks of 20c. on chalk surfaced paper was released by the Crown Agents on 1 June 1971.

3.2. Crown Agents Release 23 May 1972:

A reprint order for 470 sheets of 8c., 1160 10c., 680 20c., and 440 50c. was reported by Crown Agents in 1972.³ This printing had watermark sideways reading down and was given a Crown Agents release on 23 May 1972.

3.3. Crown Agents Release December 1980:

The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau announced that a reprint of the 2c., 8c., 10c., “30c.” (error for 20c.) and 50c. values without watermark took place in December 1980, being released by Crown Agents in that month. The 2c. from Plate A1 had a distinctive black shade. The 8c. reverted to its original blue-green colour. The 10c. introduced plate A2. The 20c. continued the shade of the 1972 printing. The 50c. was printed in brownish-bistre from a plate more-conventionally numbered “2A”.

4. Subsequent reprints without Crown Agents release:

With the introduction of their respective Plates A2 after 1980, the 2c. reverted to indigo and the 8c. to the Turquoise of its 1972 printing.

The 4c. without watermark must have been printed before 1986 but only was first seen in September 1998. The shade was slighter more yellow than the original printing. Mr. R. E. Hale reported (GSM Dec2001) that only 12 mint examples were found circa 1999 by Mr. A. Teh Leam Seng at the Ulu Langat Post Office, in Selangor. No used examples are known.

The 8c. was printed from a new plate A2 in the turquoise-green used for the sideways watermark issue.

The 10c. was reprinted in the duller shade used for the sideways watermark issue, either from a new plate reusing the number A2 or with the previous A2 plate modified by the addition of circles to its guide crosses.

The 12c. without watermark appeared circa 1984. This used a new A2 plate and had a distinctive shade described as “reddish-lilac”.

The 20c. appeared from plate A2.

The 50c. appeared from a plate “A2”, which may have been the earlier “2A” plate amended.

CHECK LIST / SUMMARY (1966 Postage Due Issue)

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.	Value	Colour	Paper	Wmk.	Plate	Released	Mint	Used
66P.1.1	D1	D1	1c.	Rose.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.2	D2	D2	2c.	Indigo.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.2a	D17	D13	2c.	Black.	N	N	A1	Dec1980	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.2b	-	-	2c.	Indigo.	N	N	A2	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.3	D3	D3	4c.	Apple-green.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.3a	-	-	4c.	Apple-green.	N	N	A1?	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.4	D4	D4	8c.	Blue-green.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.4a	D4a	D4a	8c.	Bright blue-green. ⁴	C	U	A1	1Jun1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.4b	D12	D9	8c.	Turquoise-green.	S	SD	A1	23May1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.4c	D18	D14	8c.	Blue-green.	N	N	A1	Dec1980	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.4d	-	-	8c.	Turquoise-green.	N	N	A2	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.5	D5	D5	10c.	Bright blue.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.5a	D5a	D5a	10c.	Bright blue. ⁵	C	U	A1?	1Jun1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.5b	D13	D10	10c.	Dull ultramarine.	S	SD	A1?	23May1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.5c	-	-	10c.	Bright blue.	N	N	A2 ⁶	Dec1980	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.5d	D19	D15	10c.	Dull ultramarine.	N	N	A2 ⁷	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.6	D6	D6	12c.	Reddish violet.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.6a	D19a	D16	12c.	Reddish-lilac.	N	N	A2	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.7	D7	D7	20c.	Red brown.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.7a	D7a	D7a	20c.	Brown-purple.	C	U	A1	22Apr1969	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.7b	D7Eb	D7b	20c.	Bright red-brown. ⁸	C	U	A1	1Jun1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.7c	D15	D11	20c.	Pale chocolate.	S	SD	A1	23May1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.7d	D20	D17a ⁹	20c.	Pale chocolate.	N	N	A1	Dec1980	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.7e	-	D17	20c.	Red brown.	N	N	A2	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.8	D8	D8	50c.	Brownish bistre.	O	U	A1	15Aug1966	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.8a	D8a	D8a	50c.	Olive-bistre.	C	U	A1?	1Jun1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.8b	D16	D12	50c.	Pale olive-bistre.	S	SD	A1?	23May1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.8c	D21	D18	50c.	Brownish-bistre.	N	N	2A	Dec1980	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66P.1.8d	-	D18a ¹⁰	50c.	Olive-bistre.	N	N	A2	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provisional use of postage stamps for postage due.

During a shortage of postage due labels at Kuala Nerang, Kedah, on 5 May 1982, a 30c. 1979 Federal definitive postage stamp was used as a receipt for postage due on an unstamped local (15c.) letter. ¹¹

Similar occurrences may have occurred elsewhere.

15 September 1986.

Second Design - 1986 Postage Due Issue.



Designed by Kathy Wong, the new set of labels initially comprised five 21mm x 25mm values (5c., 10c., 20c., 50c., \$1; the last being the highest value issued), and showed the denomination in a frame. The background to the value was a circle containing a mesh of overlapping concentric arcs. The existence of this issue was not initially made known to collectors.

Counter sheets:

They were normally printed in counter sheets of 100 (10 x 10) by Security Printers (Malaysia) using two-colour off-set lithography, the background to the value and part of the frame design being in a lighter colour than the frame as shown in the table below. Shades varied slightly, but whether this was attributable to production variation within a printing or between printings has not been established in the absence of any formal printing release process. A version of the 5c. with significantly darker background was, at the time, attributed by one dealer ¹² to the first printing.

Value	Frame	Background
5c.	Cerise	Rose-lilac
10c.	Brownish-black	Pale olive-grey

Value	Frame	Background
20c.	Dull vermilion ¹³	Cinnamon
50c.	Deep turquoise-green	Turquoise-blue
\$1.	Ultramarine	Cobalt

The only sheet markings were 1A (x2) above and below columns 1 and 10 and the SPM emblem (x2) to left and right of rows 1 and 10. The paper was originally unwatermarked. The comb perforations measured 12.0 x 11.8.

Proofs in the public domain:

Imperforate colour separation proofs (frame, background and combined) of all five values exist in the public domain on the original paper (see below).

Production history:

With a service life of over twenty years, this issue will have been subject to many printings. Study of this material has enabled the following classification, not necessarily in order of issue:

1. Original fluorescent paper with matt gum (no watermark):

The unwatermarked paper originally used was a glossy, white, low-fluorescent-surfaced one without after-glow. The gum was of the invisible, matt type. The degree of fluorescence viewed from the back varied, later printings appearing to be more fluorescent. The sheet markings were as close as possible to the corner of the sheet. The left margin of the 100-set counter sheet was imperforate, the perforator starting here and moving to the right, perforating through the other three sides.

2. Non-fluorescent-coated paper with matt gum (no watermark):

Counter sheets of 50 (10 x 5) of the 10c. and 20c. exist, reputedly printed during a paper shortage. The paper used was easily recognisable as it had a non-fluorescent coating, appearing black under ultra-violet light. Viewed from the rear, the paper was cream, rather than white, while the front of the label had a semi-glossy surface resembling chalk-surfaced paper. The sheet markings were centred relative to the adjacent label, instead of being as close as possible to the corner of the sheet. The perforation gauge and gum were unchanged, but the perforator started from the right instead of the left and thus the right margin only was imperforate.

The 5c., 50c. and \$1 on a similar non-fluorescent coated paper with matt gum exist, but it is not yet possible to confirm whether they too came from 50-set counter sheets.

3. Non-fluorescent-coated paper with gloss gum (no watermark):

The 5c. is also known on a similar non-fluorescent coated paper with a textured gloss gum not otherwise known on this issue, the back of which has a brighter fluorescence and the paper appears whiter. It may also be attributable to a 50-set printing. If so, it was a very early one as this copy has been in the author's collection since late 1986 or early 1987.

4. Phosphorised, watermarked Harrison paper:

In 1999, two values ¹⁴, the 10c. and 20c., appeared on Multiple SPM upright watermarked, Y/G phosphor-coated Harrison paper, as used for the contemporary definitive stamps, with blue fluorescence, yellow-green after-glow and gloss gum in sheets of 100 (10 x 10). Both values are known with watermark inverted. The colour of the 20c. from this printing continued the trend of this value through successive reprints towards yellow and now matched "yellow orange" on the SG Stamp Colour Key, although the marginal markings indicated that no change had taken place with regard to the ink colours used. The pane numbers remained 1A and it would seem likely that the original 100-set plates remained in use. The 20s. had a horizontal guide line in the right margin between rows 5 and 6. The left sheet margin was imperforate; the others being perforated through.

5. New plates and Tullis-Russell paper:

A further development in 2004 was the creation of new plates for the 10c. and 20c., coupled with a change to Tullis Russell paper, as also used for contemporary definitives, with upright watermark, greenish-white high fluorescence and yellow-green afterglow. The new plates had unchanged label designs (incongruously retaining "c" as unit of value), although the labels appeared lighter, especially the 20c. where a lighter ink shade was used. They remained 100-set, but the SPM emblems were replaced by the PKN emblem. 1A (x2) remained above R1/1 and below R10/10, but "2004/01" appeared above R1/10 and below R10/1. Perforations remained unchanged. The top left and bottom left corners of the sheet showed plate-marking scratches that had not been erased. The absence of similar lines at the right of the sheet may indicate a two-pane printer's plate, but this seems unlikely given the limited volumes required.

1987 Foreign Due Charge:

From 2 January 1987, all underpaid items from outside Malaysia were subject to an additional 50c. postage due tax on top of the charge for unpaid postage. The introduction of this charge was not given official publicity, either to customers or staff, and this resulted in both complaints to the press from "overcharged" customers and the failure of staff to collect the full charge on some items.

First day facilities:

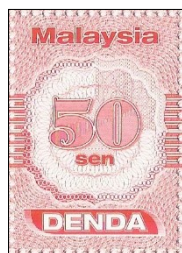
No first day facilities were provided. However, covers bearing the set of labels exist cancelled by favour.

CHECK LIST / SUMMARY (1986 Postage Due Issue)

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
86P.1.1	D22	D19	5c. No wmk. Fluorescent paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.1a	-	-	- No wmk. Non-fluorescent paper, gloss gum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.1b	-	-	- No wmk. Non-fluorescent paper, matt gum (50-set?).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.2	D23	D20	10c. No wmk. Fluorescent paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.2a	-	-	- No wmk. Non-fluorescent paper, matt gum (50-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.2b	D28	D24	- Wmk. U. H paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.2c	D28w	-	- Wmk. I. H paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.2d	-	-	- Wmk. U. TR paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.3	D24	D21	20c. No wmk. Fluorescent paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.3a	-	-	- No wmk. Non-fluorescent paper, matt gum (50-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.3b	D29	D25	- Wmk. U. H paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.3c	D29w	-	- Wmk. I. H paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.3d	-	-	- Wmk. U. TR paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.4	D25	D22	50c. No wmk. Fluorescent paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.4a	-	-	- No wmk. Non-fluorescent paper, matt gum (50-set?).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.5	D26	D23	\$1. No wmk. Fluorescent paper (100-set).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86P.1.4a	-	-	- No wmk. Non-fluorescent paper, matt gum (50-set?).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Early 2012.¹⁵

Third Design - 2012 Postage Due Issue.



Without any announcement, Malaysia introduced a new postage due label, larger than the previous design. The 50s. value in red was released in early 2012 to meet the need for a stamp to cover the 50s. minimum charge for postage due. It was understood that a complete range of values were produced, but would not be released until old stock had been used up. However, no other values have been seen at the time of writing and only one used example has been reported, dated 24 November 2012.

The designer is not recorded.

Counter sheets:

The 25mm x 35mm counter sheet 50c. stamps showed the value on an engine-turned background.

They were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) by Percetakan Keselamatan Nasional using bi-colour (scarlet and vermilion) offset lithography. Sheet markings were Pos emblem above R1/1, printing number (01/2012) above R1/10, 1A (x2) to left of R1/1 and right of R10/10, colour dots (x2) to right of R1/10 and left of R10/1. 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 upright. The comb perforations measured 12.1. All margins were perforated through.

First day facilities:

None.

CHECK LIST / SUMMARY (2012 Postage Due Issue)

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
12P.1.1	D30	-	50c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES

¹ Reported in Sarawak Journal 20/91.

² Checked on no watermark version: 2c. A1 all, 2c. A2 left, right, bottom, 4c. left and 8c. A1 all, 8c. A2 left, right, bottom, 10c. A2 left, right, bottom, 12c. A2 all, 20c. A1 left, right, bottom, 20c. A2 left, right, bottom, 50c. A2 left, right, bottom.

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- 3 Crown Agents Gazette reported in PSM 3/6/6 July-August 1972.
4 Originally described in GSM August 1971 and PSM 3/1/13 as deeper bluish green.
5 Originally described in GSM August 1971 and PSM 3/1/13 as deeper bright blue.
6 Plate without circles on its guide crosses.
7 Plate with circles on its guide crosses. This may have been a new plate or the previous plate amended.
8 Originally described in GSM August 1971 and PSM 3/1/13 as similar to brown-purple.
9 ISC described three shades as red-brown (D17), brown-purple (D17a) and bright red-brown (D17b).
10 ISC described three shades as brownish-bistre (D18), olive bistre (D18a) and bistre (D18b).
11 Reported by Mr. Lim Poo Cheng in PSM 14/2/13.
12 M. & N. Haworth.
13 The 20c. exists from a very early printing with a much rosier shade than used on all later printings.
14 The listing of the 50c. and \$1 in the March 2000 MSG Auction was erroneous.
15 Earliest seen by author is 24 November.