

# *The Malayan Philatelist*



*An issue that never was - 2014 Malaysian Motor Cars*

# The Malayan Philatelist

JOURNAL OF THE MALAYA STUDY GROUP

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## EDITORIAL:

From this issue, I have been asked to introduce a new regular feature, a "Society Headline News" section at the front of the Journal to bring to your attention important items that, it is felt, would hitherto have been "lost" in the Newsletter. It is not totally new, in that we have often in the past included some such headlines on an informal basis when necessary.

The present movement restrictions in force in many countries prevent us going out to meetings, but provide a wonderful opportunity for you to write that article, snippet or query that you have always meant to write, but have never had time for. Now's your chance! I have a number of items held over for the next issue, but I always need more to fill these hungry columns. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

There was a time when you could receive a national new issues programme with the confidence that this was what you would receive in the course of the year. These days, neither Malaysia nor Singapore seems able today to plan their new issue programmes even a matter of weeks ahead with issues appearing or disappearing without warning.

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

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

Cover picture: Issue prepared for use in 2014 but not issued. Image courtesy Mike Kingsland.

## SOCIETY HEADLINE NEWS

### UK MEETINGS & COVID-19:

Because the UK is in lock-down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are suspended until further notice. It is hoped that we will be able to resume meetings with the Worthing meeting in September. Further information should be available in time for the next issue.

### GROUP AUCTIONS - Message from Dominic Morris

A table of realisations for the March 2020 Auction is in this Newsletter. I believe that all members who participated in that auction, whether as buyer or seller, have been notified that, owing to coronavirus restrictions, there will be a delay in posting out successful postbidders' lots, paying in proceeds, returning unsolds and concluding the auction accounts to enable vendors to be paid. The expectation is that coronavirus restrictions will tighten further in the coming days and may not begin to be relaxed for several weeks. Please bear with us. I will post them out as a priority when able to do so.

Some time ago, Dr Michael Waugh announced his intention to retire from the role of back-end auction manager. In view of this and what may be prolonged restrictions for the coronavirus, it was agreed at the AGM, that for the time being, the Group would revert to one multi-vendor auction a year. This will be held on the same day as the AGM (i.e. March 2021). I expect to run both the front and back end of this auction.

The exceptions would be:

- i) if a named member provided an entire auction of his/her material, lotted and described (minimum 250 lots), which we would run in October 2021;
- ii) if a volunteer steps forward to run an October multi-vendor auction.

For the March 2021 Auction, please could would-be vendors let me have their requests to reserve spaces by the end of August; lot descriptions by October and the physical lots no later than end-November (to allow scans to be made of particularly tasty lots for the auction catalogue and/or website).

### THE MALAYA STUDY GROUP HAS BECOME A PATRON OF STAMP ACTIVE

Stamp Active is a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for young people in the UK. Organisations, and individuals, can become Patrons to support this work with money and stamps. Stamp Active runs:

- **Kids Zone**, at Stampex, held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London.
- **The Stamp Active Competition** for those interested in displaying their collections.
- **Stamp Active** is a resource programme for organisers of junior clubs with information and updates on the website.
- **Starter Packs** for the organisers of new school and junior stamp clubs.
- **Kidstamps**, a free postal club for young collectors between the ages of 5 and 19, providing stamps, activities and much more to make the hobby even more fun!
- **Workshops** for children interested in developing their competition entries.
- **Awards** for the young collector of the year and to organisers for outstanding service to youth philately.
- **National Youth Conference** for organisers of clubs.
- **Stamps In Schools**, sponsored by The Postal Museum, is an independent project run by Erene Grieve, which provides a fun-packed day of stamp collecting displays and activities for primary schools in the UK.

and, of course, their **Website**. To find out more about the activities of the Stamp Active Network, visit [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk)

### Donations to Stamp Active

Donations of stamps, particularly thematic stamps and first day covers, are very important in resourcing the Kidstamps free postal club, the Kids Zone at Stampex and much more. Stamp Active thanks everyone who helps in this way. Singapore and Malaysia produce colourful thematic stamps, sending to Stamp Active will help them and introduces our collecting areas to future collectors. Please send your donations, mentioning "The Malaya Study Group", to Peter Barham, Donations & Auction Manager, Stamp Active Network, 2E Broomwood Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JH

### NEW DIAMOND JUBILEE SOCIETY TIES AND SCARVES

New Leaping Tiger ties and scarves to celebrate our sixtieth anniversary are now available. For the fastidious, self-tie and clip-on bow ties are also available and a fabulous new design of scarf is ready for the ladies. Prices are £15 each for the ties and bow ties, or £25 for the scarf. Please help support and promote the society by buying yours and wearing it to any suitable occasion. Please contact Peter Cockburn to buy yours today!

### NEW AWARD-WINNING MSG PUBLICATION

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

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

**\*\* Awarded Revenue Society Research Medal 2019 \*\***



### NEW MSG WEBSITE

The Group's website <https://www.malayastudygroup.com> has recently been rebuilt and now welcomes visitors. There's a lot for you to see! As well as expanded reports of recent meetings and notice of forthcoming events of interest, there are indices for TMP and full colour versions of the same, provisional supplements to the Malaysia book for you to view and input to if you find errors or have additional information, and much more.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

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



**A THEORY OF STRIATED PAPER FORMATION****by Lin Yangchen & Robert Hisey**

*Figure 1. The 1941 Straits Settlements 2¢ on striated paper.*

Striated paper (Fig. 1) was born amidst the ravages of war in Europe and the bombing of De La Rue. Several Malayan issues were carried out on this unusual paper in the 1940s, and it has been described and catalogued for many years (see Ref.1). Yet, the actual mechanism of stria formation remained unexplored until recently.

Ref.2 was the first to observe that striae seemed to be absent in the ungummed edge of a sheet. This suggests that the striae may have been caused by the gum. Ref.4 proposed the possibility that the paper got crinkled along the grain when it was wetted during gumming and/or coating, and suggested further investigation.



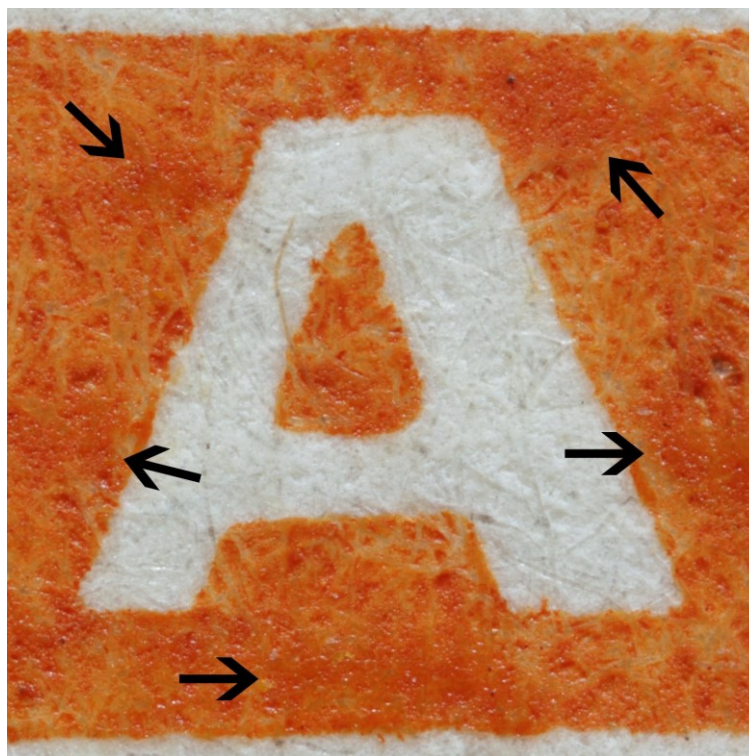
*Figure 2. Close-up of striated paper under transmitted light, showing randomly oriented fibres.*

We found that the grain runs vertically, parallel to the long edge of the stamp, by gently bending the paper with the fingers. So, the horizontal striations run across the grain, not along it. This suggests that the striations are unrelated to the grain.

We believe instead that the process of stria formation began with random cockling (wrinkling) of the freshly made paper as it was being dried. This arose from small-scale unevenness in the distribution of fibres and/or in moisture content. It is independent of the grain of the paper, being caused by factors such as fibre orientation (Ref.3). In striated paper, the fibres are randomly oriented (Fig. 2), so this incipient cockling was randomly oriented as well. The paper nevertheless has a grain; the grain arose not from fibre orientation but from directional drying in the papermaking machine.

When the paper was wetted again during gumming and/or coating, the random cockling was amplified. This would explain why the striated area of the paper appears to coincide with the gummed or coated area. During gumming or coating, the paper was wetted on only one side, generating a moisture gradient across the thickness of the paper. Ref.3 showed, using a mathematical model, that this kind of moisture gradient is an important driver of cockling, but, at this point, the cockling was still randomly oriented. One more step was needed to create the horizontal striations.

Gumming machines, in that period, dried the paper without tension, giving it the freedom to shrink in all directions, so this was unlikely to have produced the striations. Instead, it was probably subsequent calendering to flatten the cockled paper that finally did it. The rollers squashed the bumps in the paper into elongated areas of higher fibre density, parallel to the axis of the roller. These appear as faint dark stripes - the striations - when the gummed, unprinted part of the paper is held to the light.



*Figure 3. Close-up of striated paper under reflected light, with arrows pointing at darker-coloured patches that are part of the striations. This letter "A" is the first letter "A" of the lower-right stamp in Fig. 1.*

During printing, these denser parts of the paper were less compressible and therefore experienced higher pressure from the printing plate, resulting in more ink being deposited and a deeper colour (Fig. 3). The fibres are less visible in these areas. The effect is more obvious when the shade is of intermediate brightness such as orange (2 cents), pale magenta (10 cents) or grey (6 cents). The assumption is that the paper was gummed before printing. Letterpress printing, unlike intaglio, did not require the paper to be damp, so the paper could be pre-gummed.

Why only this paper? Because it is both thin and dense. Dense paper is more susceptible to cockling, because the fibres are more closely packed and have less space to expand horizontally when wetted. Thinness then allows for relatively fine-scale cockling. Striated paper is only about 85µm thick compared

with the 105 to 150µm of chalky paper, according to our measurements of several stamps using a micrometer screw gauge.

## References

1. Barker, W. H. 1996. Trengganu: the printings of the postage stamps, 1921–1941. TMP 37/5–35.
2. Brown, G. 2019. Letter to the Editor: Striated Paper. TMP 60/39.
3. Lipponen, P., Leppänen, T., Kouko, J. & Hämäläinen, J. 2008. Elasto-plastic approach for paper cockling phenomenon: on the importance of moisture gradient. *International Journal of Solids and Structures* 45:3596-3609.
4. Norris, A. 2019. Striated paper. TMP 60/64–65.

## FIRST COLONIAL POSTAL ORDERS - STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (PART 1)

by Francis Podger

Following Richard Hale's article "Straits Settlements - the 3 Cents Overprints" in TMP March 2014 (55/1), I researched information on the Straits Settlements Postal Order issues but, as I have been doing other work, I had not done much with the information. This was until Mac McClaren, in preparing an article for Gibbons Stamp Monthly on the overprinted stamps of the Straits Settlements, asked a question that related back to Richard's article, and to give some further colour, I provided some additional information on the preparation of Postal Orders, specifically the proposal on the commissions to be charged. This then made me put together this information for publication.

## Introduction

With the availability of the Imperial Postal Orders, in 1884, the then Straits Settlements Acting Postmaster General, Noel Trotter, decided that it would be beneficial for the Colony to have the same scheme. As is seen from the De La Rue records held at the Postal Museum, these Straits Settlements Postal Orders were the first specifically produced for the Colonies by De La Rue, but were not without problems on pricing and design following their issue. Unfortunately, all the proof/specimen material referred to in appendices has been removed from the De La Rue correspondence.

*(I hope as we move through this article, to be published in 3 parts, MSG members will be willing to share images of any material that they own by sending scans to the Editor.)*

## Request for Postal Orders for the Straits Settlements

On 14 May 1884, the Acting Governor of the Straits Settlements, Cecil Smith, wrote to the Earl of Derby at the Colonial Office requesting the production of Postal Orders for the Colony

*My Lord*

*The Acting Postmaster General has recommended that this Government should introduce Postal Orders similar to those in uses in the United Kingdom.*

*2. I brought the proposal before the Executive Council and it was unanimously agreed that it would be of considerable advantage in this Colony.*

*3. Should your Lordship see no objection therefore, I would ask that the Crown Agents may be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for having printed and sent out-*

*3,000 of \$1*

*1,000 of \$2*

*1,000 of \$3*

*1,000 of \$4*

*1,000 of \$5*

*4. It is proposed to charge a commission of one per cent per dollar with a minimum charge of two cents, and the commission on each Order should be provided on it.*

*5. It is suggested that the Orders should be printed in blue, but it would be as well that the form colour etc. should be left to the discretion of the Crown Agents.*

*6. When the Orders are received, regulations regarding their use will be published, the imperial regulations being taken as a guide.*

This was obviously agreeable to the Colonial Office as, on 26 June 1884, the Crown Agents passed the Government's letter to De La Rue for their "information and guidance" and requesting that De La Rue "will furnish us with a design for these Postal Orders and an estimate of their cost" along with asking how soon the order could be executed, with usual request for a design and an estimate.



### Preparation of Designs for Postal Orders

On 2 July 1884, De La Rue returned the requisition responding:

*"We enclose a design which we have prepared for the proposed Postal Orders, together with a design for the watermark. The watermarking we should propose to effect by our new patent process, as illustrated by the enclosed piece of paper bearing the watermark "Thos. De La Rue & Co., London, Patent, May 1884"; and in the hope many other Colonies may require Postal Orders, we would provide the necessary dandy roll free of charge.*

*The cost of the die for the poundage stamp would be £50 and that of the printing plate £35.*

*We should propose to band the Postal Orders in packets of 25 and then to parcel them in 500's.*

*The present requisition is a very small one and the lowest price at which we could undertake to supply the 7,000 Orders so banded and parcelled would be 75/- per thousand.*

*The requisition would take a fully 16 to 18 weeks to complete.*

*We have not had time to make copies of the designs, so we must ask you to be good enough not to part with them."*

The Crown Agents replied on 15 July 1884 to De La Rue's proposal. In the reply, Mr Blake of the Crown Agents stated that they

*"...are disposed to take advantage of this being the first demand for Postal Orders, to create a standard Die and Plate for the production of such orders, which could be made applicable by the use of overprinting, to meet the demands for Postal Orders from the Colonies which may hereafter reach us."*

The Crown Agents went on to ask

*"In these circumstances, we should be glad if you would inform us whether we are correct in understanding that the design which you have submitted to us is suitable for the general use which I have indicated, and that it could be made applicable to any Colony by the provision of a distinguishing tablet bearing the name of such Colony.*

*We should also be glad to know at what cost such distinguishing tablets could be supplied, and that we have correctly understood that the value and duty can be expressed upon each order by overprinting without the necessity of providing plates.*

*We would also wish to be furnished with a schedule of prices at which you would be prepared to print Postal Orders in large or small quantities from a Standard Die and Plate."*

Mr Blake finished by saying

*"I would add that having regard to varying currencies existing in the Colonies, we think it will be desirable to substitute the word "Duty" for "Poundage" upon the Stamp".*

On 17 July 1884, De La Rue responded to the Crown Agents:

*"In reply to your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> inst., respecting the Postal Orders for the Straits Settlements, we beg to say that it appears to us you have come to a correct understanding in the matter.*

*The distinguishing tablets which would have to be inserted at the top of the Orders would cost for each Colony say £3.*

*We must kindly ask you to excuse our furnishing a scale of prices for the Orders themselves until the order under discussion has been executed, so we may have full experience of the work and the cost thereof before going further into the matter. We should then be in a position to give you a definite scale of prices.*

*With regard to your last paragraph, we beg to remind you that the word "poundage" means, in this connection, the duty upon each pound sterling, so that we think the word "duty" might hardly be considered sufficient expressive of what is meant."*

### Approval of Postal Order Designs

On 2 August 1884, the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue informing them that *"...we approve your design for the Postal Orders indented for by the Government of the Straits Settlements, and accept the estimate of the cost of supplying the necessary die and printing plates and the number of Postal Orders to be produced therefore,"* as provided in their letter of 2 July 1884. The Crown Agents finished *"The design is returned, and I have to request that the order may be at once proceeded with."* and adding that *"...orders shall be given for the supply of the watermarked paper for the Postal Orders, so soon as we are informed by you that the necessary dandy roll is in the hands of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Turner & Co."* [Mess<sup>rs</sup> Turner & Co, being the paper-makers for the Crown Agents]



On 6 August 1884, De La Rue acknowledged this and said that they would immediately put in had the printing plate and dandy roll. However, they noted:

*"As Mr De La Rue has explained to Mr Blake, our tender for the Orders included the supply of the watermarked paper."* and going on to say *"We have to ask that you would be kind enough to write to the Secretary of the Board of Inland Revenue to request him to instruct his officer at Roughway Mills to receive when completed the "C.A. Postal Order Dandyroll", and to supervise the production of all paper which is made from that roll."*

On 11 August 1884, the Crown Agents confirmed:

*"...that the Board of Inland Revenue have given the necessary instructions to the Officer in charge at Roughway Mills to take into his custody the new dandy-roll you are preparing and to exercise control in the usual way over the manufacture of the watermark paper for Postal Orders."*

On 18 December 1884, De La Rue wrote to the Crown Agents requesting confirmation of commission rates:

*"We are now in a position to proceed with the overprint plates for the Straits Settlements Postal Orders, but, upon referring to your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> June last, and the correspondence therein enclosed, we find that it is not specifically stated what commission is to appear in the stamp for the various rates of Orders. We gather, however, from the fourth paragraph of Mr Cecil C. Smith's letter, that the commission is to be one per cent per dollar, with a minimum charge of 2 Cents. We conclude, therefore, the commission for the five duties will be as under, but shall be glad of a confirmation of this at your convenience: -*

<u>Duty</u>	<u>Commission</u>
1 Dollar .....	2 Cents
2 " .....	2 "
3 " .....	3 "
4 " .....	4 "
5 " .....	5 " "

In reply, on 29 December 1884, the Crown Agents agreed with De La Rue's *"...understanding of the rates of commission to be charged in respect of the several duties of Postal Orders in course of preparation...."*

### Postal Orders Printed

Finally, after more than 6 months, on 23 February 1885, the invoice for supply of the Postal Orders as per the requisitioned quantities is recorded in the De La Rue Day Book. The page headed February 1885 shows:

February 23    The Crown Agents for the Colonies

#### General Postal Order Die & Plate

*Taking a transfer from the original Colonial Queen's Head Die, highly finishing this die equal to the original & engraving thereon the approved design & lettering "Postal Order" . . . . .*

50    -    -

*Preparing design, engraving & making a printing plate for Postal Orders*

35    -    -

£ 85    -    -

February 23    The Crown Agents for the Colonies

#### Straits Settlements Postal Orders & Post Cards

*Engraving a tablet plate for postal orders*

*"Straits Settlements" . . . . .*

3    -    -

*3000 Postal Orders 1 Dollar*

*1000        "        2        "*

*1000        "        3        "*

*1000        "        4        "*

*1000        "        5        "*

*7000*

@ per M    75/-    26    5    -

*10,250 1 Cent Inland Post Cards*        "    9/-    4    13    3

*Case lined with tin.*        6    6

*Future supplies to be charged upon the reduced scale.*        £ 34    3    9

*See our letter to c.as of 23/2/85*

On the same day, acting on the Crown Agents verbal orders, De La Rue handed over a specimen of a One Dollar Straits Settlements Postal Order and appended a scale of prices at which:

*"....we should be prepared to supply Postal Orders to any Colony, provided they were printed from the same plate as the accompanying specimen. This would necessitate there being no alteration in the blue wording, excepting the name of the Colony, which could be varied at a cost of £3 for each Colony for the necessary tablet pieces. All the lettering in black can be changed without difficulty, provided of course that such wording be adopted as would fall within the prescribed places." De La Rue went on to note that "....the Postal Orders are of the very highest quality, and that they are provided on our new Patent watermarked paper."*

The scale of prices attached was

Postal Orders for the Crown Colonies

*Estimate for Orders printed on De La Rue's Patent Watermarked Paper from the Crown Agent's General Postal Order printing plate, in blue, and overprinted and numbered in black. The Orders to be banded in 25's and packed in parcels of 1,000.*

*When Ordered by any Colony, as under:*

<i>A batch of various duties of 3,000* to 5,000 Orders</i>					.....	£2.	17.	0	<i>per thousand</i>
"	"	"	"	" 5,000 to 10,000	"	....	2.	10.	0
"	"	"	"	" 10,000 to 15,000	"	....	2.	4.	0
"	"	"	"	" 15,000 to 20,000	"	....	1.	18.	0
"	"	"	"	" 20,000 and above	"	....	1.	15.	0

*\*A batch not less than 3,000 to be ordered at a time."*

Although, for completeness, it should be noted that this list has been crossed out and the words added "*For fresh estimate see our letter to CA of Oct 30 85*". (This was due to an objection to the costs from the Straits Settlements Government.)

On 24 February 1885, De La Rue wrote to the Crown Agents providing their invoice and expressing:

*"....our great regret for the delay which has taken place in executing the Requisition, but it has really been quite unavoidable, for we had to modify the engraving plates very frequently before we could get them to yield good impressions upon the special paper used for the Postal Orders. The final result, however, will we are convinced give satisfaction, for we cannot but feel that the Orders have been turned out in the best manner."*

De La Rue went on to note:

*"This batch of Postal Orders has cost us a great deal more than we estimated, but we have charged them at the price quoted by us, viz. 75/- per thousand. We are, however, glad to say we shall be prepared to execute future requisitions at the scale of prices set forth in our letter of yesterday."*

### **Distribution of Postal Orders in the Straits Settlements**

The postal Orders were received in the Straits Settlements and distributed within the Colony, and, in the Straits Settlements Government Gazette of 1885, the following Notification was made:

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION - No. 270.

The following Regulations made by His Excellency the Officer Adminstrating the Government in Council, under "The Post Office Ordinance, 1879" are published for general information.

By His Excellency's Command

A. M. SKINNER,

*Acting Colonial Secretary*

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

*Singapore, 13th May, 1885*

REGULATIONS

MADE BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTRATING THE GOVERNMENT  
IN COUNCIL,

UNDER

**"The Post Office Ordinance, 1879," (No. X of 1879)**

1. On and after the 1st June, 1885, Postal Orders for \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$5, respectively, may be issued and paid at all the Post Offices in the Straits Settlements at which Money Order business is transacted.
2. A commission of one cent per dollar with the minimum rate of 2 cents shall be charged on Postal Orders issued.
3. If a Postal Order be “crossed” by two diagonal lines across its face payment will only be made through a Banker, and if the name of a Banker is added, payment will only be made through that Banker.
4. After a Postal Order has once been paid, to whomever it is paid, the Government will not be liable for any further claim.
5. If any erasures or alterations be made, or if the order is cut, defaced, or mutilated, payment may be refused.
6. The Officer in charge of a Post Office may delay or refuse the payment of an Order, but he must at once report his reasons for doing to the Postmaster-General.
7. After the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue, a Postal Order will be payable only on payment of a commission equal to the amount of the original commission, with the addition (if more than three months have elapsed since the said expiration) of the amount of the original commission for every further period of three months which has elapsed and for every portion of any such period of three months over and above every complete period.
8. The commission thus paid must be affixed in Postage Stamps to the order.

A. P. TALBOT,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary*  
COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Singapore, 7th May, 1885

In the Postmaster General’s Report for 1885 on the functioning of the Post Office, published in February 1886, it was recorded that, from 1 June 1885 to 31 December 1885, 572 Straits Settlements Postal Orders had been issued at a total sum of \$1,791.

This is not the end of the story, and there were challenges raised to this issue of the Postal Orders and this will be covered in Part 2 of this Article in a future TMP.

My thanks to Richard Hale, Mac McClaren and Andrew Norris for the inspiration to get this recorded and to the Staff at The Postal Museum for their support.

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## PHOTOMECHANICAL PRINTING OF COLOUR POSTCARDS: 5. PHOTOCHROME

by Tom Anderson

Printers sought to extend the halftone process in order to produce multicolour images without the need for colouring by hand. The solution was to use filters that isolate different parts of the colour spectrum <sup>1</sup>, in combination with halftone screens for each colour that were rotated at different angles for optimal spacing of the dots. The first relief halftone in three colours was made by the printer William Kurz in 1893, after reputedly spending over \$200,000 in developing the technology <sup>5</sup>. Such cards may be described as “photochromes” and before proceeding any further I wish to clarify the definition of this term as there is considerable confusion in the literature. It should not be confused with “photochrom” (without the last “e”) which refers to prints, derived from black and white negatives, in which colouring is achieved by manually working on the stones or plates <sup>4</sup>, e.g. by stippling or spatter. My preferred definition for photochrome (with the “e”, and which is consistent with that on stated on the excellent website of the Metropolitan Postcard Club of New York: [www.metropostcard.com](http://www.metropostcard.com)) is for printed photomechanical images made according to the tricolour process used by Kurz, with no need for manual work on the plates (although some retouching is possible).

My chosen card is by an unknown publisher (the letters “YS” appear in the stamp box on the verso) that is inscribed “Malay’s Musical Instrument” and which shows an ensemble of musicians playing gamelan music (Figure 1). It is postal unused, but I have seen other cards in the same series that date to the early

1920s. The card exhibits a range of colour, but is, in fact, printed using just three inks: blue, magenta and yellow. The starting point in its production was to use a black and white negative, from which a black and white photo was produced, probably blown up and printed rather faint. This photo was then coloured in artistically by hand, in as many colours as were desired and in considerable detail. The resulting colour picture was then re-photographed three times using filters to separate into the three printing colours. It is possible that halftone screens were used during this re-photographing, although probably unlikely in this case because exposures through a halftone screen and colour filter together are lengthy. A two-step process was probably carried out instead in which continuous-tone separation negatives were made first, followed by the production of halftone negatives<sup>7</sup>. Three plates, coated with bichromated gelatin, were then exposed to the negatives and subsequently printed in relief, as in the standard halftone process<sup>2</sup>.

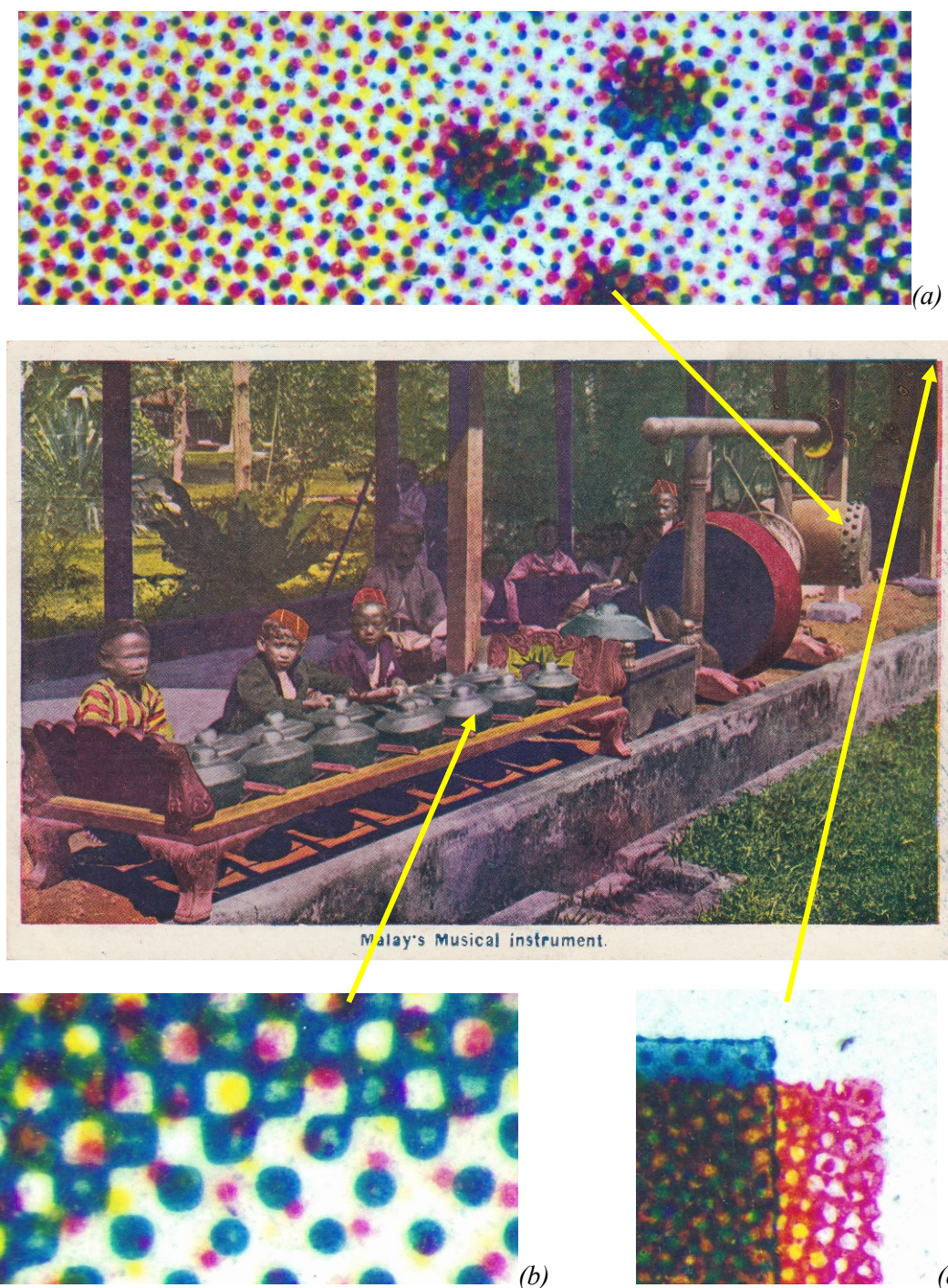


Fig. 1. Postcard, "Malay's Musical instrument." (actual size), with magnified sections: (a) beduk drum, 20x; (b) bonang gong, 60x; (c) top right corner, 20x.



The three colour grids can be seen in the top right corner of the card (Figure 1c), illustrating how the subtractive primaries give rise to darker colours where the inks overlap <sup>1</sup>. The rotation of the halftone screens leads to the distinctive rosette patterns of dots (Figure 1a) that the eye sees as a range of colours. The printing is relief halftone (from a raised surface): the halftone dots are characteristically hollow as the ink squishes around the perimeter (Figure 1b). Note how this enlarged section generates a grey colour from the combination of the blue, magenta and yellow inks.

The word “gamelan” in Javanese means to beat or strike and the instruments all belong to the percussion family. The music was brought to Malaysia by Javanese immigrants in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. There are two types of gamelan in Malaysia, gamelan Johor and gamelan Trengganu. I suggest that the card shows the former given that most of the cards in this series show scenes from nearby Singapore. Gamelan music is performed at weddings and other ceremonial events, as well as to accompany the wayang kulit (traditional puppet play) and dancing.

Three of the main gamelan instruments are shown prominently in the card, the bonang, gong agung and beduk. Each is described in Lee Elaine’s excellent book “Ethnic Musical Instruments of Malaysia” <sup>3</sup>. The melody is produced by the bonang which consists of two rows of small gongs, each with its own pitch, resting on a wooden frame. It produces a strong resonating sound and the enactment of a perfect melody symbolises, in accordance with Islam, a life of harmony within a complex world <sup>6</sup>. Further back, coloured red and black, is the gong agung which is the largest of the gongs, reaching a diameter of about a meter. It provides a strong beat to support the rhythm of the music and is considered to be the soul or spirit of the gamelan. Farthest back, in light brown, is a beduk (Figure 1a) which is a large wooden drum that generates a distinctive heavy tone that can be heard some distance away. The beduk is also used for religious purposes, hung in front of mosques by the Muslim community and beaten to announce the commencement of prayers.

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3. Elaine, L. (2006). Ethnic Musical Instruments of Malaysia. Win Publication Sdn. Bhd., Subang Jaya, 120 pp.
4. Gascoyne, B. (1986). How to Identify Prints. Thames and Hudson, London, 208 pp.
5. Pankow, D. (1997). Tempting the Palette: A Survey of Color Printing Processes. Rochester Institute of Technology, 56 pp.
6. Rahman, M.K.A (2012). Sinkritisme dalam wayang wong Johor. Universiti Sains Malaysia, 177 pp.
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wayne Menuz writes:

### PENANG 2 OVERPRINTS

I appreciate the comment by Michael Waugh in the previous TMP, page 13, regarding the number of days mail would take from Straits Settlements to London. He is correct that there is a typo in my article about the Straits Settlements 3c post card surcharged two cents in 1891. In it, I stated “mail from the Straits Settlements took an average of 15 days”. His comments suggest the average at the time was “around 26 days”. I have a copy of “The Post Office Handbook” published by the UK July 1, 1889 (It was updated and republished twice a year, but that is the edition nearest November 1891 I have, but it will serve the purpose). One of its many tables is titled “Approximate time occupied in the course of post from London to certain places abroad”. The Penang time is stated as “24 days”, and Singapore as “26 days”. Another table states that mail from the Straits Settlements was scheduled to arrive weekly, every Monday. It also says that mail by German packet arrived monthly, on a Friday. Letters and post cards, of course, could be placed into the mails in the colony on any day of the week, and would be date-stamped, but had to await the ship departure date, which could add up to 6 days to the dispatch-arrival interval. This accounts for the varying length of time evidenced on items in collectors’ hands today.

The point of the original comment was show that the “London Gang” had sufficient time to learn about the surcharge, and then clandestinely make their “essays” and “errors” before being arrested on December 23, 1891. The surcharged cards were released on November 15. If a mail packet left that day from Penang, it would have reached London by December 10, and if it left up to 6 days later, it would have been mid-

December at the latest. That provided up to two weeks for the “London Gang” to learn about the cards. E.E.A. Marcks is the only person known to have immediately sent information (using the “2” surcharge type of cards) to convey the message to many stamp dealers in Europe and America, that they were rare (and he had them for sale). The earliest Penang datestamp on his mailed cards in collector hands today of which I am aware is November 15.

My article’s statement of “15 days” is, as already noted, a typo, and should have stated an average of “25 days”. However, the article’s contention that there was sufficient time for the “London Gang” to learn of the three surcharge types, including the “rare” types in red and black with just the numeral “2” (as touted by the cards sent by E.E.A. Marcks) remains valid.

**Fah-Onn Liao** writes:

### LABUAN REGISTRATION LABELS

I wonder whether members can offer any information on the Labuan blue white registration labels that were used during the Straits period? I have 2 registration covers with different labels. From a limited survey of Labuan registration covers, it seems that the label with serif letters was in use between 1912 and 1941 whereas the label with sans-serif letters was limited to between 1930 and 1936 as shown in the table below. In the later label, the sans-serif lettering for Labuan are thicker, longer in total length and also placed closer to the top frame line.



1924 cover



1931 cover

#### Labuan registration labels

Serif	Sans Serif
11 OC 1912	20 NO 1930
20 DE 1912	27 AU 1931
31 OC 1918	9 AP 1936
13 AP 1923	
10 MY 1923	
9 MY 1924	
29 SP 1924	
19 AU 1925	
3 AU 1932	
6 DE 1939	
20 OC 1941	

**The Editor** comments:

Presumably, Labuan obtained its labels in this period from or via GPO Singapore. These types correspond closest to Singapore Types A3 and A5 (but without letter prefix), which appear to have alternated in use over this period. Does any member have more examples to fill-out the table?

## THE QUESTION BOX

### Q287/1: Postmark query “JLN BALAI PO ...”

Richard Hale asks:

What is the full name on this Selangor chop?

A287/1: The Editor replies:

This office is Jalan Balai Polis, Kuala Lumpur. I think the postmark read “JLN BALAI POLIS, K. LUMPUR / SEL.”



## JOHORE 1949 10c MAGENTA

by Susan McEwen

The 10c. was in use, as local letter and forces airmail rate, from 1949 to 1959. Vast numbers of the 10c. were printed. Shades vary from dark to light with many printings from several printing plates.

The proof 10c. in the Crown Agents Proof file, in the British Library Philatelic Collections, is dated 1949 and is very dark implying that the dark shades of the magenta were printed early.

The Stanley Gibbons catalogue “Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840 – 1970” 2020 issue has changed the status of what was Johore SG139aa.

Previously listed as “10c. magenta imperforate (pair)” it is now “The 10c. magenta imperforate (pair) formerly listed as no. 139aa is now considered to be of proof status”.



*Imperforate block on watermarked gummed paper, endorsed “pale print”*

This block and its sibling block in a slightly different shade are believed to be the items that were listed by SG as Imperforates. This has a pencil note “pale print”; the other has a note “deep print”. However, they are probably ink trials on stamp paper. Both are marginal from the left-hand side with side margin. They have gone from being highly catalogued items sought after by the “SG number collectors” to being proofs, unnumbered by SG but all the more interesting to philatelists.

Two blocks are known, but, if you know of others, please contact the Editor. It is rumoured that the other block has been split into 2 vertical pairs, but are unseen as pairs by this writer as yet.

*[For a detailed discussion of the colour changes in the 1948 Definitive Issue, see Chapter 7 in Volume 1 of the Group’s handbook “Malaysia and the Federation of Malaya”. Ed.]*

## KEDAH 10c. REGISTRATION ENVELOPES COLOUR AND SIZE VARIATION by Len Stanway

I do not normally concern myself with regards to colour variations on registration envelopes, as they were not subject to the same production conformity stringency that applied to postage stamps and they were also subject to more pronounced tropicalisation effects. However, former member Alan Teh Leam Seng has provided examples of the Kedah 10c. envelope showing pronounced differences in both colour and size. The upper (mid blue) envelope was used at Sungei Patani on 3 March 1922 and the lower (dark blue) one at Kulim on 29 May 1924. The size of the one used in 1922 seems to have been exaggerated by folding around thicker contents, but still seems to be 2-3mm longer than the other.

There were two printings of this envelope, in 1913 and 1916, at which time De La Rue were having major problems with both paper and ink supplies. Can any member with copies dated nearer the time of printing advise whether it is possible to link these characteristics to a particular printing?





## SINGPEX 2019 CINDERELLAS

by Richard Hale

These self-adhesive labels were handed out at Singpex as entrance tickets. No postal value and no good for postage but very attractive.



## POSTMARK MISCELLANY

by Terry Russell



A couple of queries:

1. This is somewhat out of my era but was there ever a French postal presence in "Singapor"?  
*Andrew Norris replies: The "Singapor" is the name of a French Messageries Maritime Ship, as far as I know, used for mail posted on board. Usually one gets "Ligne N", but this is an early mark and I think it is quite rare. Put it this way - I would be happy to find same! Especially with the name complete and dated.*
2. I believe this to be a hitherto - unrecorded TRD of Jerantut. The 'ERA' is pretty clear & there appear to be the lower portions of J, N, T & U. 'POST OF' is discernable at the base. The other candidate could be Beranang D1 but if Ted's example is accurate the letters here are seriffed, on this they are sans-serif. Added to which the 1c green would not be contemporaneous with the opening of this P.O. (1926)

Any thoughts?



## LAX PRACTICES ON MAIL DAYS IN 1866

by Gordon Peters

The attached letter to the Editor of the Straits Times in 1866 was found among the papers of the late Derek Clayton and highlights how easy it would be to steal another person's mailbag at the GPO.

*From the Straits Times, September 1st.* A

## THE POST OFFICE.

THE practice at the Post Office here from time immemorial has been to deliver over letters to the native peons of the Mercantile houses on their merely shouting out the name of the Firm they represent and passing up a bag for the reception of the dispatches. It is certainly remarkable that this practice has never been attended, as far as we have learnt, by any evil consequences, for it must be apparent to all, that nothing would be easier than for an unauthorised person to receive the letters of any Mercantile firm in the place, provided he took care that his application was made in the absence of the real servant. It is impossible that such peons can be personally known to the Post Office delivering clerks, besides, on mail days the crowd around the Office is ordinarily so great as to prevent the applicants being seen—the clerks being merely guided by the voice. That this system has been allowed to continue so long must be laid to the blame of the Merchants themselves even more than to the Post Office authorities, but yet the remedy lies with the latter. The recent institution of special delivery tickets is in itself a safeguard to those houses who choose to pay for them; but a safeguard should be provided for all;—a badge of some sort should be given to the servants of those whose business with the Post Office is extensive, and in other cases letters should only be delivered upon the written requisition of those to whom they are addressed. We have been led to make these remarks by an incident illustrative of the evil that may result from the present unguarded manner of letter delivery, which is related in the Hongkong *Daily Press* in the following words.

"In the *Government Gazette* of Saturday there appears a Post Office notice to the effect that in future, coolies sent to the Post Office for letters on the arrival of the mails must be provided with some authority from their employers. It is wonderful that this provision has not been found necessary long before now. When Hongkong was a very small place the coolies belonging to the different houses became known by sight at the Post Office and it was impossible in many ways that any one could successfully personate another. Now however it is almost as absurd for the Post Office to give up an important bagful of letters to a Chinaman who shouts out the name of European firm, as it would be to pay away money at a bank on the same principle. Up to Friday, however, it has so happened that no accidents have occurred. The idea of applying for somebody else's letter had never entered the imagination of the Hongkong thief but the new invention was practically applied for the first time on the arrival of the *Behar*. A coolie mixing with the crowd at the Post Office shouted "Geep," and by that simple stratagem obtained possession of all Messrs. Gibb, Livingston's letters. The wonderful part of the matter is that his motive was not that of an ordinary thief. It must have been a spirit of revenge and not necessity which on this occasion had been the mother of invention. The coolie no sooner obtained the letters than he walked with them to the Prava and threw them into the harbour. It did not occur to him apparently that any bystander would think this a singular mode of dealing with correspondence on a mail day, but as it happened a gentleman who was passing noticed the proceeding, took a boat and recovered most if not all of the letters. It is well for us all that the Post Office has determined to adopt a new rule in future or the ingenious coolie who applied for Messrs. Gibb's letters would assuredly find imitators before long. In future it is proposed to save time that the houses should provide themselves with a metal badge to be worn by the coolie they send for letters, and a pattern of the proposed badge is on view at the Post Office."



## AN ATTRACTIVE COVER WITH A STORY

by Peter Cockburn



This cover, posted in Singapore on 11 November 1941 to Lloyd's Bank, Lyme Regis, was pre-paid \$2 made up with three 15c 1941 issue stamps (printed by Harrisons), a \$1, 50c. and 5c. of 1937. It was passed by Censor 111 without the Town Name and sent by Pan American Airways, via the Pacific and Atlantic, by air throughout. It arrived in Lyme Regis and was redirected on 2 December to Bristol, where it was again redirected to Dulverton, Somerset, collecting a machine cancellation of Bristol dated 3 December 1941 and the slogan "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS".

On the reverse is the imprint of The Straits Steamship Company. The addressee Mrs Doris Eileen Ironside Bax was the mother-in-law of H.J.C.K. Toms, then Marine Superintendent, who stayed behind in Singapore in 1942 and was interned and spent time building the notorious River Kwai railway. He survived and re-joined the company, becoming Chairman of the Straits Steamship Company on 1 January 1947 on the retirement of F.S. Gibson, who was also interned but spent most of his time at Changi. The Ironside Bax family has an illustrious history, but that is for another day.



## SELANGOR MOSQUE FLAW

by Richard Hale

This is a plate flaw on the Selangor 30c. striated paper. An extra dot in the right panel on Row 8/10. I do not think I have reported this one before.



## NEW ISSUES COLUMN - 111

by Len Stanway

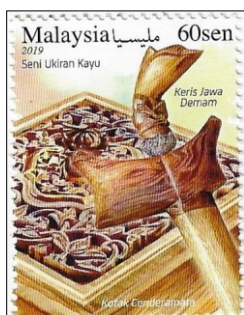
## Introduction

The 20 January edition of the Malaysia New Issue Programme listed no less than 17 new issues - excessive by any standards. The programme is subject to constant change, which is why I have not reproduced it here.

This column covers new issues during the period from December 2019 to February 2020.

4 December 2019.

Carvings and Craftmanship in Malaysia.



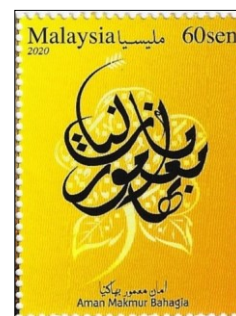
This issue promoted Malaysian handicrafts and the work of the National Craft Institute, Sabah Handicraft Centre and Sarawak Craft Council. Originally planned for 19 December, then 19 November. Designed by Reign Associates, this issue comprised three counter sheets, a process sheet and a miniature sheet. The counter sheet stamps showed: 60s: Malayan wood carving (Jawa Demam Kris and souvenir box); 80s.: Sarawak ceramics (Two pots); RM1: Sabah bamboo basketry and weaving (Wakid and Takinan). They were printed in sheets of 20 (5 x 4) by Southern Colour Print using offset lithography. Sheet markings were 1A (x4) to left of R3, colour dot to right of R3, Pos emblem below R4/3, with other emblems below R4/2 and R4/4, tools to left and right of R2 and R4. The unwatermarked, 102gsm Tullis Russell TR8

OBA-free PVS-Gummed stamp paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 13.5 x 13.6. A se-tenant process sheet was used for making up pre-serviced first day covers. The 80mm x 100mm miniature sheet showed metalwork (a necklace and work in progress) and contained a 46mm x 90mm RM5 stamp. The necklace was embossed. Paper was as counter sheets. Perforation was 14.5 x 14.1. There was no presentation pack. The first day cover, sold at 50s., featured a pot decorator at work. The special first day postmark included a floral decoration. The folder was sold at RM6.

6 February 2020.

Calligraphy (II).

This issue is themed on graphical expression of the words Peace, Prosperity and Happiness in the appropriate language. Designed by Reign Associates, this issue comprised three counter sheets, a process sheet and a miniature sheet. The 30mm x 40mm counter sheet stamps showed: 60s.: Jawi Khat text in the form of a Hibiscus flower; 80s.: Tamil Calligraphy in the form of a peacock; RM1: Chinese Calligraphy and Rat. They were printed in sheets of 10 by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour offset lithography. Sheet markings included pane numbers (1A seen) in left margin. The unwatermarked, 102gsm Tullis Russell TR8 OBA-free PVA-Gummed stamp paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light, but this is largely obscured by the dense printing ink. The comb perforations measured 13.5 x 13.7. A se-tenant process sheet was used for making up pre-serviced first day covers. The 90mm x 60mm miniature sheet had a single 84mm x 46mm RM3 stamp featuring the three stamp designs. Perforated 14.1 x 14.5. Paper as counter sheets. There was no presentation pack. The first day cover, sold at 50s., featured calligraphic tools. The special first day postmark included calligraphic tools. The folder was sold at RM6.



## 2. NEW ISSUES - SINGAPORE

2019.

Unstamped postcards - Iconic Landmarks.

Towards the end of 2019, Singapore Post issued a set of five 120mm x 160mm unstamped postcards with a metallised finish showing stylised views of (A) Esplanade - Theatres By The Bay, (B) Gardens By The Bay, (C) Jewel Changi Airport, (D) Marina Bay Sands, (E) Singapore Flyer. They were sold banded in sets of 5 for \$6.



**8 January 2020.****Zodiac Series (XXV) - Year of the Metal Rat.**

This issue started a new cycle of twelve issues. Metal Rat people combine amicable, hardworking creativity with optimism and adaptability. Mostly designed by Lim An-Ling, this issue comprised two counter sheets, a miniature sheet, a booklet, two unstamped postcards and three MyStamp sheets. The miniature sheet was designed by Andy Koh. The 37mm x 26mm designs portrayed: 1<sup>st</sup> Local: Seated rat facing right; \$1.40: Seated rat facing left. They were printed in sheets of 10 (2 x 5) by Southern Colour Print using five-colour offset lithography (standard

plus gold). Sheet markings were descriptive text in top margin, colour dots (x5) above R1/1 and below R5/2, pane number (1A, 1H seen for 1<sup>st</sup> Local, 1A, 1E for \$1.40) to left and right of R1 and R5, "Printer: / Southern Colour print" to left of R2/1, Singpost emblem to left of R4/1, "Designer: / Lim An-Ling" to right of R4/2, barcode (8 888993 852026 for 1<sup>st</sup> Local, 852033 for \$1.40) below R5/1. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 14.4 x 14.6. The 1<sup>st</sup> Local was also issued in a self-adhesive \$3 booklet of ten stamps in five horizontal pairs. It carried barcode 8 888993 842010. The paper gave no UV reaction, so the stamps were overprinted with a yellow-green fluorescent phosphor frame. The stamps were die-cut 9.9. The 120mm miniature sheet with a background design of rats was printed by Cartor by offset-lithography, ornately laser die-cut with the stamp design and text hot stamped using gold foil. It contained a 45mm square \$10 stamp showing ornate characters in a serpentine circle. It gave no UV reaction, so the stamp was overprinted with a yellow-green fluorescent phosphor frame. It was perforated 13.4 and sold for \$18.80 in a card folder with a pack of ten hongbaos in a matching style. It was perforated 13.4. The folder carried barcode 8 888993 852040. Two matching 160mm x 120mm unstamped postcards based on the stamp designs showing rats in pink (A) or white (B) were sold at \$3 the pair in a plastic envelope with barcode 8 888993 822203. A new offering was a red envelope containing the two postcards and a sheet of each value (the example seen had a 1H 1<sup>st</sup> Local and 1E \$1.40 sheet). It was sold at \$18.50 with barcode 8 888993 791202. A further 240mm x 180mm Happy Occasions MyStamp sheet in the series started in 2016 with three 1<sup>st</sup> Local and three \$1.10 stamps was also issued in a hard-back folder. It was accompanied by a 203mm circular sheet containing two \$1.10 stamps. It was sold for \$21.80. The "economy" 210mm x 148mm Happy Occasions MyStamp sheet with six 1<sup>st</sup> Local and eight \$1.10 stamps was also issued. It was sold for \$12. The plastic presentation pack was sold at \$4.15 with barcode 8 888993 800201. The first day cover, printed by Besley & Pike with barcode 8 888993 810200 and sold at 50c., featured Chinese characters for Rat. The special first day postmark included a rat.

**11 January 2020.****200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Singapore Police Force.**

Formed in May 1820 with 12 men led by Francis James Bernard, SPF now has 15,000 staff, a mix of officers, civilian staff and National Servicemen supplemented by volunteers and reservists. Designed by Wong Wui Kong, this issue comprised six counter sheetlets. The 41mm x 30mm designs portrayed: 1<sup>st</sup> Local: Keeping our Citizens Safe and Secure (police car and officers); 60c.: Connecting With Our Community (cycle officers); 70c.: Safeguarding Our Borders (patrol boat, motor cycles and paramilitaries); 90c.: Protecting our Nation (armoured police van and officers); \$1.15: Inspiring Our Future Generations (motorcyclists and children); \$1.40: Saluting Our Pioneers (Volkswagen Beetle police car and contemporary officers). They were printed in sheets of 10 (2 x 5) by Secura Singapore using standard offset lithography. Sheet markings included colour dots (x4) above and below both columns, pane numbers (1A seen for all) to left and right of R1 and R5, "Printer: / Secura Singapore Pte Ltd" to left of R2/1, Singpost emblem to right of R2/2. The unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper gave a yellow-green fluorescent reaction but negligible after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 12.8. The plastic presentation pack was sold at \$7.75 with barcode 8 888993 800225. The first day cover, printed by Besley & Pike with barcode 8 888993 810224 and sold at 50c., featured cycle officers with family. The special first day postmark included the SPF emblem.



24 January 2020.

Steamboat.



For the second year running, Singpost issued a Reunion Food miniature sheet as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. The Steamboat used for family reunions is a Chinese fondue using a heated bowl of hot broth in which individual small pieces of food could be cooked and then consumed. Designed by Andy Koh, this issue comprised a single miniature sheet. The 120mm x 78mm sheet incorporated a 45mm square \$8 stamp. The sheet showed a family gathered around the Steamboat. They

were printed by Cartor using offset lithography with hot gold foil stamping. The unwatermarked paper gave no reaction under ultra-violet light, so the stamp was overprinted with a yellow-green fluorescent phosphor frame. The perforations measured 13.4. There was no presentation pack. The first day cover, printed by Besley & Pike with barcode 8 888993 810217 and sold at 50c., featured a Steamboat and foods that could be cooked in it.

### 3. UPDATES ON PAST ISSUES - MALAYSIA

**Unissued [27 May 2014].**

**Malaysian-made Cars.**

This issue of four values and a miniature sheet was prepared for use, but not issued. It was planned for issue on 27 May 2014, but did not appear and it was subsequently deleted from the programme. Mike Kingsland reports that examples have appeared on the market in Malaysia.

### 4. UPDATES ON PAST ISSUES - SINGAPORE

**1 April 2015.**

**2015 MyStamp – Singapore 50.**

Towards the end of 2019, as part of the Hello Kitty 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary promotion by Sanrio, Singapore Post issued two postcards on a Sending Love theme featuring (A) Hello Kitty posting a letter, (B) Assorted characters posting letters. They were sold in a pack with a se-tenant pair of MyStamps with matching label designs: 1<sup>st</sup> Local (A) matching card A, 60c.(A) matching card B. The pack was sold for \$4.50.

**2019**

**2019 Goldfish Definitive Issue**

The first reprint was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Local 1RP 2020B 1A-1F, released on 24 January 2020, followed by 20c. 1RP 2020B 1A-1F on 7 February. 1<sup>st</sup> Local booklet 1RP 2020B appeared on 14 February.

### 5. POSTAL RATES – SINGAPORE

**Rates effective from 2 December 2019:**

Category	Step	Old (\$)	New (\$)	Increase (\$)
Local Standard Regular Letters, Postcards, Printed Papers (C5, C6, DL up to 6mm thick)	Up to 20g	0.30	<b>0.30</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 40g	0.37	<b>0.37</b>	Unchanged
Local Standard Large Letters, Postcards, Printed Paper (C4 up to 14mm thick)	Up to 100g	0.60	<b>0.60</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 250g	0.90	<b>0.90</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 500g	1.15	<b>1.15</b>	Unchanged
Local Non-Standard Regular Letters, Postcards, Printed Paper	Up to 40g	0.60	<b>0.60</b>	Unchanged
Local Non-Standard Large Letters, Postcards, Printed Paper	Up to 100g	0.90	<b>0.90</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 250g	1.15	<b>1.15</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 500g	1.70	<b>1.70</b>	Unchanged

Category	Step	Old (\$)	New (\$)	Increase (\$)
Local Small Packet (untracked) (up to 324mm x 229mm x 65mm up to 2kg)	Up to 100g	0.90	<b>0.90</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 250g	1.15	<b>1.40</b>	+35c.
	Up to 500g	1.70	<b>1.80</b>	+10c.
	Up to 1kg	2.50	<b>2.70</b>	+20c.
	Up to 2kg (max)	3.30	<b>3.50</b>	+20c.
Local Small Packet (tracked)	Up to 250g	-	<b>3.20</b>	New
	Up to 500g	-	<b>3.80</b>	New
	Up to 1kg	-	<b>4.20</b>	New
	Up to 2kg	-	<b>4.80</b>	New
Registration Fee (Singapore)	Each item	2.20	<b>2.24</b>	+4c.
Registration Fee (International)	Each item	2.20	<b>3.60</b>	+\$1.40
Surface Letters, Printed Paper to all countries except Malaysia & Brunei	Up to 20g	0.50	<b>0.50</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 50g	0.70	<b>0.70</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 100g	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	Unchanged
	Additional 100g	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	Unchanged
Surface Postcards to all countries except Malaysia & Brunei	Each item	0.30	<b>0.30</b>	Unchanged
International Airmail	Up to 20g	0.50	<b>0.70</b>	+20c
Zone 1 (Malaysia & Brunei) Letter or Printed Paper	Up to 50g	0.70	<b>0.90</b>	+20c
	Up to 100g	1.10	<b>1.30</b>	+20c
	Additional 100g	1.10	<b>1.10</b>	Unchanged
	100g	2.50	<b>2.50</b>	Unchanged
Zone 1 Small Packet	250g	3.90	<b>3.90</b>	Unchanged
	500g	5.20	<b>5.20</b>	Unchanged
	additional 100g	1.10	<b>1.10</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 20g	0.70	<b>0.80</b>	+10c
Zone 2 (Asia & Pacific, except Japan, Australia, New Zealand)	Additional 10g	0.25	<b>0.25</b>	Unchanged
	100g	3.20	<b>3.20</b>	Unchanged
Zone 2 Small Packet	250g	6.80	<b>6.80</b>	Unchanged
	500g	12.00	<b>12.00</b>	Unchanged
	additional 100g	2.50	<b>2.50</b>	Unchanged
	Up to 20g	1.30	<b>1.40</b>	+10c
New Zone 3 (Rest of world, including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, America, Europe, Middle East)	Additional 10g	0.35	<b>0.35</b>	Unchanged
	100g	4.70	<b>4.70</b>	Unchanged
Zone 3 Small Packet	250g	9.85	<b>9.85</b>	Unchanged
	500g	17.00	<b>17.00</b>	Unchanged
	additional 100g	3.50	<b>3.50</b>	Unchanged
	Each item	0.40	<b>0.60</b>	+20c
Airmail Postcards to Malaysia & Brunei	Each item	0.60	<b>0.70</b>	+10c
Airmail Postcards except Malaysia & Brunei	Each item	0.60	<b>0.70</b>	+10c
Aerogramme	Each item	0.60	<b>0.70</b>	+10c

From 4 to 25 January 2020, a Festive Postal Rate applied for international mail. The over 20g up to 50g Zone 1 international rate was reduced from 90c. to 80c. The up to 40g Zone 2 and 3 rates were reduced from \$1.30 or £2.10 to 80c.

## 6. POSTAL RATES – MALAYSIA

### Domestic rates effective from 1 February 2020:

According to Pos Malaysia, a recent UPU Extraordinary Congress in Geneva authorised an increase in the last mile delivery cost of up to 30% for small parcels up to 2kg. Malaysia states that 95.5% of mail is posted by “commercial entities”, which include corporations, private organisations, governmental institutions and non-profit organisations. From 1 February, the basic rate for domestic letter postage by individuals will remain at 60s., but commercial entities will have to pay a minimum of RM1.30, an increase of 70s. The registration fee for personal mail will rise from RM2.20 to RM2.40, while commercial entities will pay RM3.10. Private letter box fees will increase from the RM50 still paid by private individuals to RM200 for commercial entities!

**NEWSLETTER No.250**  
**(see also Society Headline News)**

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (UK):**

COVID-19 permitting, the 2020-2021 programme will be as follows:

2020	19 September	Worthing; Members' displays.
	17 October	London; Displays.
	14 November	London; Members' displays.
	12 December	London; Members displays on a Christmas theme.
2021	23 January	London; Committee meeting, followed by Displays.
	27 February	London; Displays.
	20 March	London; AGM, followed by proposed Spring Auction.
	May	Leicester; Members' displays
	19 June	London; Displays.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

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

**Membership Applications:**

The Group is pleased to report that it has received applications for membership from Martin A. Robinson (Southampton, UK), Mark Alderson (Australia), Tham Junean (Selangor, Malaysia), Richard Whitehouse (Staffs, UK). If any member knows good reason why an applicant should not be a member of the Group, please contact Martin Roper immediately.

**Membership Confirmed:**

The Group is pleased to confirm the membership of John Rooke (Midlothian, UK). In addition, we welcome back David Spivack (California, USA).

**Albums Closed:**

We have been informed of the sad passing of members Roger Baker (UK) and Michael Masters (UK), and of former long-term member Bob Newbold (Australia).

**Resignation:**

We regret to have to announce the following resignations: Colin Stuart (UK), Neil Chadwick (UK), Koid Boon Sek (Malaysia), Christopher Sloan (UK).

**Lapsed Members:**

We regret to have to announce that the membership of the following persons has lapsed: Gilbert Chang Yik Chieh (Malaysia).

**E-mail returned:**

The following members are requested to inform the Membership Secretary of their new e-mail addresses: David Nimmo (UK), Bill Pain (UK).

**Change of Officer contact details:**

The programme card contained an incorrect e-mail address for Martin Roper. The correct one is shown on the back page of this issue.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are tendered to all members who have recently been successful in competition, including those who have other areas of interest in which they are successful. Recent examples include:

Alan Chong displayed The Progression of Postal Services in Singapore 1945-1965 in the Postal History Class of the Four-Nations Stamp Exhibition in KL on 29-31 March 2019 and won Gold with Special Prize.



Francis Podger was awarded the Revenue Society Research Medal in November for his Straits Settlements Revenues book.

If you see any MSG members on Palmares lists that have not been previously mentioned (or if you have entered a competition), please let the Editor know!

### **THE “MALAYA POSTAL STATIONERY TO 1936” BOOK – FURTHER APPEAL FOR HELP by Len Stanway:**

Many thanks to those that responded to previous requests for help. The remaining need is for “Earliest Recorded Dates” for all items. Members’ observation lists would be welcome. Something to fill those long hours of COVID-19 lock-down?

### **MEETING REPORTS based on reports by Mike Padmore (unless otherwise stated):**

#### **18 January 2020 Spink, London - Members’ Displays - Postmarks & Postal Markings (report by Dominic Morris)**

9 Members and one guest were present. Michael Waugh displayed “100 years of cancellations”, starting with a pre-stamp letter from Singapore in 1849 with a cachet labelled “Bearing” (for Baring’s Bank); material relating to the Boxer Rebellion; Siam (including the Gimlette correspondence) and stamps cancelled in Kelantan pre-1909; a rare (possibly unique) cover with violet and gold Austro-Hungarian Consulate stamps, bearing the Hapsburg eagle, addressed to the Duke of Parma; WWI censorship, 1930s slogan machine cancels; and WW2 censorship (ex-Wade).

Andrew Norris showed a disputed Batu Arang cover; and Japanese Occupation postmarks and cancels used in the BMA period.

Gordon Peters showed, for the first time ever displayed, the ex-Shirley Cannicott Penang and FMS with a scarce Poste Restante postmark “Antwerp” or “Paris”, and a 1948 Singapore Electoral Roll cancel not recorded in Proud.

Len Stanway showed covers from a range of Singapore post offices, including Paquebots and a large range of registration labels and handstamps.

Peter Cockburn showed registration labels that have been handstamped or changed in manuscript to identify the office of sending, which may not be the one to which it was originally issued.

Susan McEwen showed Japanese Occupation cancels for Penang (with instructional mark “Postage not collected”), Malacca (manuscript cancels for Kuala Sungei Bahru not recorded in Proud), Trengganu, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Perak and Singapore.

Nick Hervey showed a post-war Sitiawan registered postal stationery cover to H.L. Barnett, who was a civil servant in the Agriculture Department (interned in Changi 1942-45); his wife Jean was evacuated on S.S. “Kuala” which was bombed by the Japanese; she swam to shore then was rescued by S.S. “Tanyjng Pinang” which was also bombed; she spent several days on a raft and then drowned, swimming from the raft to nearby islands. A very courageous lady.

Andrew Norris showed Raub pre- and post-war with original mark; the post office burnt down in 1896 then M/S Kuala; then new steel mark which is scarce, used only for short period under Selangor management, then thirdly a steel mark when Pahang took it back.

#### **15 February 2020 Spink, London - Locally Printed Provisionals & Overprints.**

Attendance (7 plus 1 guest) was somewhat depleted at this meeting due to illness and adverse weather affecting peoples’ travel arrangements. However, the members present enjoyed some lively discussion on the material present in the single round. Len Stanway lead with three frames of modern Malaysian material, beginning with two complete sheets clearly illustrating the two different settings of the 1964 10 cents surcharged 8 cents MPU postage due. Next up was the 1981 Singapore 10 cents on 4 cents overprint. Len noted how the postal authorities had released this issue unannounced, after discovering a cache of unsold 4 cents stamps in their warehouse, although FDCs later appeared (presumably with backdated postmarks!).

He then displayed a series of SAM issues from 1997 onwards, asserting that the print-on-demand function of the machines qualified their output as locally produced overprints! Almost 1000 machines had been brought into service to date. Len noted that the S5XX series had attractive fonts but their printers were inclined to errors and their innards were later replaced. The policy had been to cascade older machines to new offices, though in 2018, there was a complete overhaul of the policy and new machines were introduced across the board. From this point, tracking the exact location of SAMs had become increasingly difficult because they withdrew the website list of machines. He presented examples on the various issues of

underlying labels: 1997 – Sunny Singapore, 2000 – Healthy Living, 2003 – Tourist Attractions (with errors including roll in upside down and missing letters), 2007 – Garden City, 2008 – Destination Singapore, 2013 – City In A Garden, 2015 – Singapore Golden Jubilee of Independence, 2017 – Waterfront. This remains the standard issue, since when selected machines in the foyer of the new GPO only have received special issues: 2017 – Opening of GPO, 2018 – Pot Pourri, 2018 – Chinese New Year Zodiac (plus some more cent that Len could not show).

Mike Padmore followed with three frames of local surcharges on FMS and Protected States tigers and elephants, beginning with the 4 cents overprints of 1899, with a number of varieties (alas, not including the black overprint on the Negri Sembilan 8 cents). This included a pane of the 4 cents on 5 cents blue which prompted some discussion about how the various varieties showing individually displaced or albino “Four”s and “cents”s were created. The conclusion was that this could only have happened either if one row of text was displaced by precisely the width of a stamp or if two formes were in use, one for each word. However, this latter solution failed to explain why the gap between the two words was always absolutely uniform, in every issue, with not even the slightest variation in the vertical gap between words, as might reasonably be expected if two separate formes were in use. A mystery that cannot be fully explained!

The one cent and three cent Perak surcharges of 1900 followed, showing almost all varieties. Mike pointed out that the “short n in cent” variety mentioned by Wood was, in fact, a “damaged e and n”, caused by some object striking the forme. Many individual stamps bore cancels dated earlier than Gibbon’s earliest recorded dates, in the case of one 3 cents on \$2, almost three months earlier. He observed that it is generally accepted that the dollar issues were only issued during a very short window. However, there is ample evidence that these overprinted stamps were still in use much later; in the case of the 3 cents on \$1, as late as 1904. There was some discussion of the Three cents Revenue Only overprint on \$5 and the complete absence of examples with revenue cancels. Len Stanway suggested that this was because it was intended for use on receipts, which were flimsy documents with a short life span, and therefore few if any had survived. These were followed by Selangor one and three cent overprints.

Mike’s final frame displayed J and Judicial overprints from Selangor and Perak. Len observed that the latter were, in fact, interlopers as they were the only Judicials overprinted by De La Rue in London. The frame was concluded by the FMS Judicial overprints. Mike suggested a sequence for the different coloured overprint varieties of the FMS issues but this and the exact number produced remains a matter for conjecture.

Stewart Murray had emailed scans from Ottawa (being the only alternative as he was unable to be present in person) of four examples of Straits postcards and covers bearing late Nineteenth Century surcharges. One was a follow up to Andrew Norris’s article about the “2” overprints on the 5 cents blue postcard; used some 23 years after it was produced and in Singapore, not Penang. Another was a 1884 THREE CENTS on four cents brown postcard also used in 1914. Both were philatelic and addressed to the same person in Germany, but handsome examples none the less. One of the covers was the earliest known usage of a Straits Registered Envelope in KL and franked with Straits issues; a strip of five 1c on 2c rose overprints plus a 5 cents blue.

Gordon Peters displayed two frames plus a couple of pages, beginning with an example of the 1981 Singapore overprint on a FDC, produced by the Kreta Ayer Stamp Society. He pondered on why the postal authorities had thought it pertinent to inform philatelic societies of this otherwise unannounced issue. He then displayed the full range of Johore surcharges of 1903-4, produced because of a change in postal rates. This included many in blocks and on cover. He noted that the bars on 3 cents/4 cents yellow and 10 cents/4 cents green were drawn by hand; an arduous task for some poor clerk. That varieties exist with bars omitted is therefore hardly surprising! Other varieties shown included small “n” and small “c” on the 3 cents/4 cents and large “1” in the 10 cents/4 cents.

Gordon then closed the meeting with the 10 cents/8 cents postage dues including an example on an unfranked postcard from India. He also noted that there was a variety, with the “e” misprinted as a “c”.

### **March 2020 - Annual General Meeting and Auction.**

11 Members were present. The meeting agreed to cancel the April meeting in light of the present health emergency. See also Chairman’s message under Society Headline News. Realisations were:

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	400	28	105	52	85	82	30	120	25	166	15	202	40	234	15
2	82	29	40	53	105	84	18	121	105	168	20	203	76	235	10
4	30	31	120	54	52	86	100	122	135	169	52	205	15	237	15

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
5	55	32	80	55	115	87	62	123	110	170	140	206	23	240	15
8	220	34	20	58	20	88	210	125	10	173	20	207	20	241	35
10	140	35	330	59	115	89	320	127	40	174	10	208	12	242	34
11	50	36	15	60	29	90	50	129	100	175	24	209	10	244	50
12	16	37	13	61	12	94	76	134	24	176	12	211	46	245	20
13	130	38	21	63	70	98	42	136	15	177	15	212	200	246	16
15	50	39	17	65	24	99	10	138	15	178	15	217	15	248	26
16	165	40	21	68	30	100	12	139	15	179	21	218	21	250	15
18	76	41	62	69	80	102	120	141	20	181	54	219	12	252	20
19	56	42	20	71	100	103	27	143	10	184	16	221	31	253	155
20	60	43	50	72	90	104	10	149	60	187	75	222	41	255	14
21	52	44	52	73	25	105	18	157	25	190	75	223	20		
22	70	45	21	74	42	107	75	158	23	191	16	225	12		
23	105	46	260	75	42	108	110	159	21	192	17	226	25		
24	560	48	155	76	25	111	30	160	40	194	10	227	15		
25	10	49	40	77	28	113	150	162	15	195	30	228	86		
26	20	50	85	78	100	118	62	163	50	196	30	230	25		
27	155	51	80	80	40	119	62	165	25	201	25	233	27		

### MEMBER ACTIVITIES:

“Outreach” is a very popular concept in modern life and is a vital part of promoting the society to potential new members. Many members help publicise the group by displaying their collections around their countries or abroad to other societies or in competition. If you are displaying or have recently displayed, or know of someone who has, please let us know the details so that such efforts can be recognised.

Jeff Gunston was interviewed on ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission) National radio on Sunday 16 February talking about Stamp Collecting. He did manage to get a few words in on a couple of Malayan stamp issues and the Malayan Union stamps saved from the incinerator at the last moment, which the presenter found incredibly interesting.

Michael Waugh displayed “Airmails from Siam” and “Early Postal History to and from Straits Settlements” on 29 February at RPSL as part of the “Gems of Asian Philately” group display.

Len Stanway displayed “The Survey Department and Genesis of the Malaya Key Type” to Basildon society on 17 March.

### MEMBER SPEAKER LIST:

As outlined in the last issue, MSG plans to establish and maintain a list of MSG members willing to give displays to local societies in the UK (initially at least), to be used if/when societies contact the Group seeking a speaker. If you would like to be included in this list, please supply the Editor with your name, telephone number, e-mail, the subject(s) of your display(s), duration (whole/part meeting) of each display, the area to which you are willing to travel and whether you will expect the local society to provide expenses. So far no one has come forward - there must be **someone** out there willing to give displays!

### SOCIETY CASUAL SHIRT

If members wish to further publicise the Group by wearing a white polo shirt with the leaping tiger and MSG title, these may be ordered from Len Stanway at £14 plus postage and packing (£3 in UK). Sizes S, M, L, XL are available.

**MALAYA STUDY GROUP**

Founded 1959 by the late Howard J. Selzer.

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**Annual Subscription:**

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

**Publications dates:**

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