

CHAPTER FORTY

SPECIAL ISSUES 1998.

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

10 January 1998.

Rare Fruits (I).



For the purpose of this issue, "Rare fruits" were defined as those which were cultivated but which were not among the sixteen fruits produced in commercial quantities. There were about seventy such species of which five were considered to have commercial development potential. A total of about 370 fruits were believed to grow in Malaysia, most of the remainder being wild. This issue was announced in November 1996 for issue in November 1997, and moved to 25 October in January 1997. However, by July it had disappeared from the schedule. The final date appeared in the October 1997 schedule.

Designed by Eka IPR Agensi Sdn. Bhd., this issue comprised four counter sheets.

Counter sheets:

The four 28mm x 39mm stamps showed the following rare fruits of Malaya:

20s.: Marian Plum (Kundang, *Bouea macrophylla*);

30s.: Wild Mangosteen (Sentul, *Sandoricum koetjape*);

50s.: Pulasan (*Nephelium ramboutan-ake*);

RM1: Asam gelugur (*Garcinia atroviridis*).

They were printed in sheets of 50 by Southern Colour Print using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings included plate numbers (sideways - 1B seen on 20s.) and octagonal colour rings to left of the bottom row; Other positions were not recorded. The phosphor-coated paper had no watermark. It gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The comb perforations measured 13.6. The left and bottom margins were perforated through; Other margins were not recorded.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The light yellow-faced envelope of the pack featured four unnamed fruits.

The light green-faced first day cover, sold at 20s., featured Breadfruit (Sukun, *Artocarpus altilis*).

The special first day postmark included fruit.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.1.1	674	635	20s.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.1.2	675	636	30s.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.1.3	676	637	50s.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.1.4	677	638	RM1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.1.5	-	MFDC-220	First day cover (1-4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.1.6	-	MPP-220	Presentation pack (1-4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23 February 1998.

XVI Commonwealth Games (V) - 200 Days to Go.

To mark the 200 days-to-go point, this issue designed by CD Advertising Sdn. Bhd. comprised a single miniature sheet.

Miniature sheet:

The 120mm x 80mm miniature sheet contained a block of four 38mm x 28mm stamps showing the four Kuala Lumpur venues specially-built for the games (In addition, bowling took place at Petaling Jaya, Cycling at Shah Alam and Shooting at Langkawi):

20s.: Kompleks Renang - National Aquatic Centre;

30s.: Stadium Hoki - National Hockey Stadium;

50s.: Stadium Tertutup - Indoor Stadium;

RM1: Stadium Utama Bukit Jalil - Main Stadium.

The margin of the miniature sheet showed a variety of sports (badminton, hockey, gymnastics, hurdling, lawn bowls, rugby, water polo, shooting, weightlifting, lawn tennis, swimming, cricket, netball, cycling, ten-pin bowling).

It was printed by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. It normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright, but inverted watermarks exist. The perforations were applied in three strikes. Two downward facing E comb strikes measured 13.8 x 13.6. The bottom of the block was perforated by a single line measuring 14.2.



Variety:

A striking colour variation had been seen in the top bar above the block of stamps. Of the sheets seen, most have this in scarlet, but some have it in red-orange.

First day facilities:

There was no presentation pack.

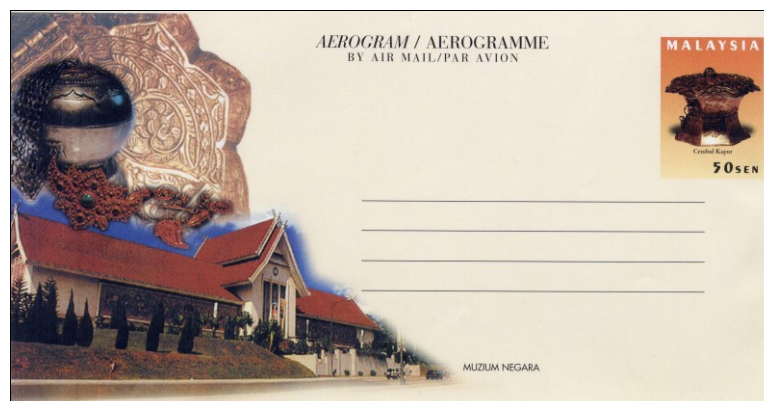
The first day cover, sold at 20s., featured part of a stadium viewed from above.

The special first day postmark included a similar image.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.2.1	-	-	20s. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.1a	-	-	- Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.2	-	-	30s. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.2a	-	-	- Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.3	-	-	50s. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.3a	-	-	- Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.4	-	-	RM1. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.4a	-	-	- Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.5	MS678	MC-221M	Miniature sheet (1-4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.5a	MS678w	-	- (1a-4a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.2.6	-	MFDC-221M	First day cover (1-4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 March 1998.

Aerogramme - National Museum.



The National Museum was originally proposed by Tunku Abdul Rahman to replace the Selangor Museum, destroyed by bombing on 10 March 1945. Designed by local architect Ho Kok Hoe, the plans were approved in 1958 and it opened on 31 August 1963.

This aerogramme was first announced in January 1998 for imminent issue. By an uncredited designer, this aerogramme was format B¹ on white unwatermarked paper with a cream overall printing on the printed side and rounded tabs.

The top (front) section contained a view of the front of the Muzium Negara and several artefacts. The 28mm x 38mm 50s. “imperforate stamp” showed a Cembul Kapur (a metal container for limes). There were four address lines.

The middle section had three lines for the return address, the POS Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur’98 Commonwealth Games Partner emblems and a view of the Kuala Lumpur city skyline by night.

The bottom section was blank. The aerogramme was sold for 50s.

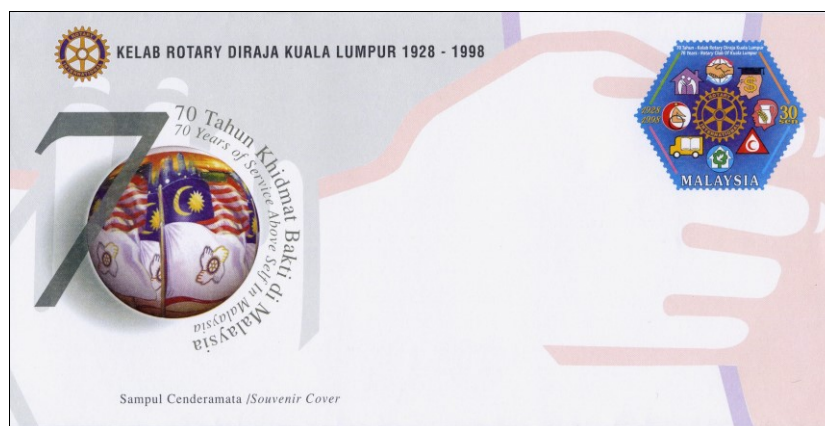
First day facilities:

The special first day postmark was an elevation of the National Museum frontage in an oval.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.3.1	-	AL24	50s. Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.3.1a	-	-	- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

28 March 1998.

Envelope - 70th Anniversary of the Royal Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur.



This was not announced until after the event and “a limited quantity was printed” according to Pos Malaysia’s Bulletin. However, the Rotary Club’s “Rotary Magazine” for June 1998 stated that copies had been sent to 1000 Commonwealth Rotary Clubs, 1000 Interact Clubs and all English-speaking Commonwealth heads of state! Standing Order account holders did not receive it, even when such covers had been specifically requested.

Designed by Peter Chua P. K., the 220mm x 110mm cover showed an anniversary emblem incorporating 70 and the flags of Malaysia and the Rotary Club. It was sold serviced at RM1. The design was chosen after a nation-wide competition. The 30s. “stamp” was hexagonal (40mm “across flats”) with a printed “perforation” and incorporated the Rotary Club emblem surrounded by symbols for the types of work in which it was involved.

They were printed by Security Printers (Malaysia) using off-set lithography. The unwatermarked white paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction but no after-glow under ultra-violet light. The printed “perforations” measured 11.7.

First day facilities:

The special first day postmark included the Rotary Club emblem.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.4.1	-	PE9	30s. Envelope.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.4.1a	-	-	- FDI postmark	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

11 April 1998.

Currency Heritage.



This issue featured gold coins of the only four Malay states known to have issued such coins. It was first listed in October 1997 for possible release as “Coins of Malaysia (Series 1)” in April 1998. By January 1998, it had been pulled-ahead to March and renamed “Currency Heritage”. It finally appeared in April as first announced.

Designed by The Sharper Image Sdn. Bhd. this issued comprised four counter sheets.

Counter sheets:

Each 38mm x 28mm stamp, showed the obverse and reverse of a single coin, with partial enlargements of the same coin:

20s.: An octagonal Mas coin of Sultan Zainal Abidin Shah II of Trengganu who reigned between 1793 and 1808;

30s.: A Kupang coin of Sultan Dhiauddin Mukarram Shah of Kedah (1661-1687). A Kupang was worth about a quarter of a Mas;

50s.: The octagonal Kupang coin of Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II of Johore (1597-1615), which was widely recognised in South East Asia for trade purposes;

RM1: A "Kijang" Kupang of Kelantan of 1400-1780. The name "Kijang" derives from the image of a Malayan barking deer, which had been adopted by the Bank Negara Malaysia as its emblem (shown on the 1979 issue).

They were printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10) by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography.² Sheet markings included 1A (x4) above and below columns 1 and 5 and SPM emblems (x4) to left and right of rows 1 and 10. The phosphor-coated paper gave a bluish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. It normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright, but inverted watermarks exist. The comb perforations measured 13.8 x 13.6 or 14.3.³ The former perforation appeared to be normal on the 20s., 50s. and RM1 and the latter normal on 30s. The bottom and right margins were perforated through on P.13.8 x 13.6 (other margins were not recorded), and all margins were perforated through on P.14.3.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured an old map of Malaya with five cast coins still attached to a star-shaped feed network, arranged as if arrows were bringing coins to Malaya.

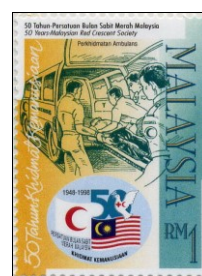
The first day cover, sold at 20s., featured a Trengganu "coin tree", fifteen cast pewter coins still attached to a tree-shaped feed network.

The special first day postmark included a coin tree.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.5.1	679	639	20s. P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.1a	679aw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.1b	679b	-	- P.14.3. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.1c	679bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.2	680	640	30s. P.14.3. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.3	681	641	50s. P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.3a	681a	-	- P.14.3. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.4	682	642	RM1. P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.5	-	-	First day cover (1b, 2, 3a, 4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.5a	-	MFDC-222	- (1b, 2, 3, 4).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.5.6	-	MPP-222	Presentation pack (1, 2, 3, 4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8 May 1998.

Golden Jubilee of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was established in 1863 and has a unique responsibility under international humanitarian law to protect the life and dignity of the victims of armed conflict (whether internal or international). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was established in 1919 following lessons learned in the Great War and coordinates the international activities of national member societies and organises humanitarian missions. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is one of 186 (in 2009) member National Societies of the IFRC.

As an alternative to the principal Red Cross symbol, the Red Crescent is the symbol used by national member associations for activities in Moslem countries; there is also the Red Lion and Sun for use in Iran, the Red Star of David for use within Israel and the Red Crystal for use where a neutral symbol is needed or (incorporating another symbol) where the member association has a symbol that is not internationally recognised. Although 33 members use the Red Crescent, Malaysia is one of only three to have changed its name to Red Crescent Society.

MRCS came into being when branches of the British Red Cross Society were formed early in 1951 to provide medical, health and welfare services during the Emergency. The Malayan (later Malaysian) Red Cross Society was formed after independence to continue this work and took its present name in 1975. The membership of the MRCS was "open to all in Malaysia, without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, station in life, religion or political

inclinations". This issue, which was only announced in April 1998, marked the combined Golden Jubilee of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in Malaysia.

Designed by Peter Chuah P. K., this issue comprised two counter sheets.

Counter sheets:

The two 28mm x 38mm stamps showed:

30s.: A flood rescue team in action on a boat with outboard motor in a flooded landscape;

RM1: A paramedic team loading a stretcher into an ambulance (RM1).

Both contained the event emblem incorporating the Red Crescent and Malaysian flags.

They were printed in sheets of 100 by Security Printers (Malaysia) using off-set lithography. Sheet markings were not recorded. The designs were bled into the sheet margins but not from stamp to stamp. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright on 30s. and inverted on RM1, but the RM1 (P.14.3 - see below) was also known with upright watermark. The comb perforations measured 13.6 x 13.8 or 14.3. Both were known on both values, but the former was normal on the 30s. and the latter on the RM1. Both side margins were perforated through on both perforations. Other margins were not recorded.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3 and contains the 30s. 13.6 x 13.8 and RM1 14.3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured the event emblem on a blue-print map of South East Asia.

The first day cover, sold at 20s., featured the event emblem.

The special first day postmark included the event emblem.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.6.1	683	643	30s. P.13.6 x 13.8. Wmk. U	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.1a	683a	-	- P.14.3. Wmk. U	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.2	684	644	RM1. P.13.6 x 13.8. Wmk. I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.2a	684a	-	- P.14.3. Wmk. I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.2b	684aw	-	- - Wmk. U	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.3	-	MFDC-223	First day cover (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.3a	-	-	- (1, 2a).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.6.4	-	MPP-223	Presentation pack (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

June 1998

Pos Ekspres.

(illustration not available at the time of going to press)

Pos Malaysia introduced a new service guaranteeing next day delivery if mail was posted in a special envelope by 4.30pm. This service was available from most major post offices. Further details of the envelope were not available, but it was probably one of the many large postal/courier stationery items available at modern post offices. In general, these have not been covered in this study due to lack of information or available material for study.

27 June 1998.

New Kuala Lumpur International Airport.



This issue marks the opening of a new Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at Sepang, Selangor, 65km south of KL. This replaces the airport at Subang opened in 1965. Construction began late in 1993 and was completed early in 1998. The stamp issue was first announced in October 1997 for possible issue in April 1998. By April it was quoted as simply "1998", finally appearing on 27 June, when commercial operations began. The airport, the world's second biggest (in 2003), was designed to handle 25 million passengers and one million tonnes of cargo per annum. It was served by two motorways and (since 2002) a dedicated rail link.

Designed by Peter Chuah P. K., this issue comprised three counter sheets and a miniature sheet.

Counter sheets:

The designs changed significantly during the period leading up to the issue. Initial publicity showed ground level (30s.), aerial (50s.) and interior (RM1) views of the main concourse, with a common inset of the control tower and a high-flying aircraft. Later publicity showed aerial or high level views on all designs.

As issued, the three 45mm x 35mm stamps retained an inset of the control tower but now showed:

30s.: A Boeing 747-4H6 on the ground with a two-car rubber-tyred people mover on the elevated Aerotrain tracked transit system in the foreground (with a three-car unit in the far distance entering the tunnel under the taxiways that links the two buildings);

50s.: The Satellite Building;

RM1: An Airbus 300 jet airliner climbing away from the main runway.

They were printed in sheets of 50 by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings included the usual 1A (x4) at top and bottom of the left and right columns and SPM emblem (x4) at left and right of the top and bottom rows. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper had watermark Multiple SPM upright. The comb perforations normally measured 12.2, with the perforation extending through all margins. All values are known perforated 12.5 x 12.6; this RM1 being more common than the version perforated 12.2.⁴

Miniature sheet:

As originally proposed, the sheet showed an aerial view of the central cross-shaped Satellite Building, with an inset portrait-format RM2 stamp showing the control tower head surmounted by a globe orbited in "nuclear" style by vapour trails.

As issued, the 119mm x 69mm RM2 sheet retains the same 28mm x 38mm stamp but the background picture showed the vista of the complete airport complex with control tower in the foreground, then the Main Terminal Building and beyond it a maze of taxiways with the Satellite Building to the top left.



The paper normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright, but exists with inverted watermark. The single stamp was perforated in two strikes; The top, bottom and left-hand side were perforated 14.3 in one [-shaped comb strike and the right-hand side 13.8 in a single line strike.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured a McDonnell Douglas MD11F plus the airport codes of 32 destinations served.

The first day cover, sold at 20s., featured an interior view.

The special first day postmark included the control tower with an aircraft circling the globe. Covers exist postmarked at the airport.

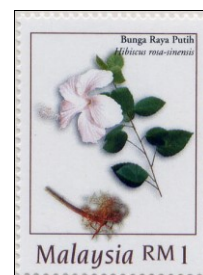
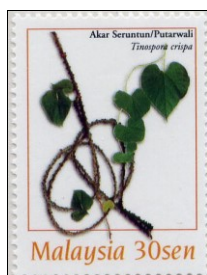
Private maximum card:

Philatelic Society of Malaysia issued a maximum card for use with this issue.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.7.1	685	645	30s. P.12.2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.1a	685a	-	- P.12.5 x 12.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.2	686	646	50s. P.12.2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.2a	686a	-	- P.12.5 x 12.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.3	687	647	RM1. P.12.2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.3a	687a	-	- P.12.5 x 12.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.4	MS688	MC-224M	RM2. M/S. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.4a	MS688w	-	- Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.5	-	MFDC-224	First day cover (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.5a	-	-	- (1, 2, 3a).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.6	-	MFDC-224M	- (4).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.7.7	-	MPP-224	Presentation pack (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18 July 1998.

Medicinal Plants (I).



Plants of all kinds play an important role in both traditional and modern medicine. This issue was first listed in October 1997 for possible release in August 1998, emerging slightly earlier than anticipated.

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

Counter sheets:

The four 28mm x 38mm designs showed plants which were used in traditional medicine:

20s.: Turkeyberry (Terung Pipit, *Solanum torvum*);

30s.: Putarwali (Akar Seruntun / Putarwali, *Tinospora crispa*);

50s.: Buddha Belly Plant (Jarak Bunting, *Jatropha podagrica*);

RM1: White Hibiscus (Bunga Raya Putih, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*).

They were printed in sheets of 50 by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography under order number P.2003 and packed between card in parcels of 500 sheets. At least 13,500 sheets of 30s. and 1500 sheets of RM1 stamps were known to have been packed on 27 and 28 May 1998 respectively, but this probably represents a small fraction of the printing.⁵ Sheet markings included 1A (x4) above the first and last columns and colour SPM emblems to the left and right of R1. The phosphor-coated (Harrison?) paper gave a bluish fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The 20s. is known with a thicker gum application that made it appear to be "green gum" paper, but it does not give the brighter fluorescent reaction associated with Tullis Russell paper. The paper had watermark Multiple SPM upright, although announced as unwatermarked; one value has been reported with inverted watermark.⁶ The comb perforations normally measured 13.6 x 13.8 (20s., 30s.) or 14.3 (50s., RM1), but the 50s. also exists 13.6 x 13.8. The top margin was perforated through. Other margins were not recorded.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3.50. The envelope of the pack featured a clump of Putarwalia creeper.

The first day cover, sold at 20s., featured the white hibiscus.

The special first day postmark included a length of Putarwalia creeper.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.8.1	689	648	20s. P.13.6 x 13.8. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.2	690	649	30s. P.13.6 x 13.8. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.3	691	650	50s. P.14.3. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.3a	691aw	-	- Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.3b	691b	651	- P.13.8 x 13.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.3c	-	-	- Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.4	692	-	RM1. P.14.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.5	-	MFDC-225	First day cover (1-4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.8.6	-	MPP-225	Presentation pack (1-4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 August 1998.

Aerogramme - XVI Commonwealth Games (VI).



This was the first of a pair of aerogrammes issued to mark the KL98 Games.

By an uncredited designer, this aerogramme was sold at 50s. and showed various sports. The top section contains the stamp and athletes high-jumping, running, weightlifting, hurdling, throwing the javelin and cycling. The centre section showed badminton, rugby and lawn tennis, with inserts of a float in the annual KL Malaysia Floral Fest and Pulau Singa, Langkawi. The 40mm x 26mm PPI had a face value of 50s. and showed Stadium Tertutup Malawati, Shah Alam.

Printing details were not recorded. The aerogramme was in format B¹, measuring 231mm x 316mm unfolded, 200mm x 100mm folded. It was printed on white paper with a shaded light green printed overlay. The low-fluorescence paper gave no significant ultra-violet reaction. There was no watermark. The “stamp” had no simulated perforation.

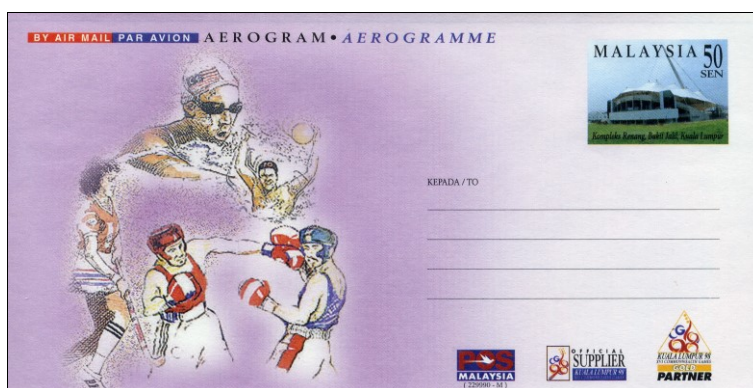
First day facilities:

The special first day postmark included a sprinter.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.9.1	-	AL25	Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.9.1a			- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 September 1998.

Aerogramme - XVI Commonwealth Games (VII).



The second of the two aerogrammes was in a similar format, but was easily distinguished by its pink background instead of green.

By the same uncredited designer, this aerogramme was sold at 50s. and showed various sports. The top section contains the stamp and athletes swimming, playing water polo, hockey and boxing.. The centre section showed rifle shooting, ten-pin bowling, cricket and netball, with inserts of a scuba diver and reef life at Pulau Sipadan, Sabah and the 17th Century Kota Malawati Lighthouse at Kuala Selangor. The 37mm x 27mm “stamp” had a face value of 50s. and showed National Aquatic Centre, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur.

Printing details were not recorded. The aerogramme was in format B¹, measuring 235mm x 315mm unfolded, 204mm x 102mm folded. It was printed on white paper with a shaded light pink printed overlay. The fluorescent paper no significant ultra-violet reaction. There was no watermark. The “stamp” had no simulated perforation.

First day facilities:

A special first day postmark was provided but details were not recorded..

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.10.1	-	AL26	Aerogramme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.10.1a			- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

11 September 1998.

XVI Commonwealth Games (VIII).

This was first announced in October 1997 for issue on 11 September 1998, the opening day of the Games.

Designed by Peter Chuah P K for CD Advertising Sdn. Bhd., the issue comprised a sheetlet, plus special products.

Sheetlet:

The 160mm x 140mm RM8 sheetlet of sixteen different 32mm x 27mm designs showing different sports:

20s.(A) Weight-lifting	20s.(B) Badminton	30s.(A) Ice hockey.	30s.(B) Hockey
20s.(C) Netball	20s.(D) Rifle shooting	30s.(C) Cycling.	30s.(D) Lawn bowls.
50s.(A) Gymnastics (Rings)	50s.(B) Cricket.	RM1 (A) Swimming.	RM1 (B) Squash.
50s.(C) Rugby football.	50s.(D) Athletics.	RM1. (C) Boxing.	RM1. (D) Ten-pin bowling.



The sheets were printed by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright, but it exists inverted. There were at least two perforation variants:

A: Four strikes of a downward-facing 13.8 x 14.1 comb finished by a 13.8 bottom line, to avoid perforating through the bottom margin.

B: Four strikes of a downward-facing 14.3 x 14.9 comb finished by a 13.8 bottom line.

Type A appeared to be the “normal”, but Type B appeared to dominate the CTO examples coming to the UK. It was reported that sheets were being broken up in post offices and the stamps sold separately to clear excess stocks.⁷

First day facilities:

There was no presentation pack (see “Portfolio” below).

The first day cover, 252mm x 178mm, sold from 5 September at 80s., featured the flags of the 70 participating nations and a triumphal arch.

The special first day postmark included a relay runner. Covers exist postmarked at the stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Portfolio:

Also sold at RM20 from 11 September was a 300mm x 210mm numbered “limited edition portfolio” containing a 255mm x 180mm souvenir cover, featuring the Malaysia and CG98 flags and relay baton, with a first day cancelled miniature sheet.

Album:

Finally, a special album was sold at RM85 from the same day. Hard-backed in a slip case, both displaying CG98 medals, the album contained the complete set of issues 1994 to 1998. It contained the reprints of the 1994 and 1995 issues, the normal versions of the 1996 and 1997 triplets and 1998 miniature sheet, and the P.13.8 x 14.1, watermark upright version of this sheetlet.

Private maximum cards.

The Philatelic Society of Malaysia unofficially issued four maximum cards for use with this issue. The four designs showed Kuala Lumpur venues as follows:

1. National Sports Complex;
2. National Stadium;
3. National Hockey Stadium;
4. National Aquatic Centre.

The cards were designed by Peter Chua P.K. and printed by Security Printers (Malaysia). PSM serviced each card with one of four different stamps from the sheetlet, producing a total of 16 card/stamp combinations.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.11.1	693	-	20s.(A). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.1a	693bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.1b	693c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.2	694	-	20s.(B). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.2a	694bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.2b	694c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.3	695	-	20s.(C). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.3a	695bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.3b	695c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.4	696	-	20s.(D). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.4a	696bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.4b	696c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.5	697	-	30s.(A). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.5a	697bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.5b	697c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.6	698	-	30s.(B). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.6a	698bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.6b	698c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.7	699	-	30s.(C). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.7a	699bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.7b	699c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.8	700	-	30s.(D). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.8a	700bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.8b	700c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.9	701	-	50s.(A). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.9a	701bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.9b	701c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.10	702	-	50s.(B). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.10a	702bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.10b	702c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.11	703	-	50s.(C). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.11a	703bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.11b	703c	-	- P.14.3/13.8 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.12	704	-	50s.(D). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.12a	704bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.12b	704c	-	- P.14.3/13.8 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.13	705	-	RM1 (A). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.13a	705bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.13b	705c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.14	706	-	RM1 (B). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.14a	706bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.14b	706c	-	- P.14.3 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.15	707	-	RM1. (C). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.15a	707bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.15b	707c	-	- P.14.3/13.8 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.16	708	-	RM1. (D). P.13.8 x 14.1. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.16a	708bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.16b	708c	-	- P.14.3/13.8 x 14.9. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.17	693a	MC-226M	Sheetlet (1-16).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.11.17a	693bwa	-	- (1a-16a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.17b	693ca	-	- (1b-16b).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.18	-	MFDC-226M	First day cover (17).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.18a	-	-	- (17b).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.19	-	-	Portfolio.	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
98.11.20	-	-	Souvenir cover (from portfolio).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.11.21	-	-	Album.	<input type="checkbox"/>	-

21 September 1998.

Envelope - XVI Commonwealth Games (IX) - Closing Ceremony.

(illustration not available at the time of going to press)

A 254mm x 178mm souvenir cover, pre-printed with a 130mm x 142mm RM5 “miniature sheet” showing Bukit Jalil Stadium, was sold at RM5. The 31mm x 43mm “stamp” showed the CG98 emblem. The illustration showed an impression of the closing ceremony above a picture of Buckingham Palace, in front of which was shown the ceremony held there on 9 March 1998 when H.M. Queen Elizabeth II presented the Games Baton to Malaysian sportsman Dato’ Punch Gunalan in the presence of Tan Sri General (Retired.) Hashim Ali, Chairman of the organising committee. Designer and printing information was not recorded.

First day facilities:

This envelope was not issued to standing order account holders, being mainly sold at the ceremony, and is consequently very scarce.

A special cancellation showing Wira was used together with a cachet with fireworks and drawing attention to the next games at Manchester in 2002.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.12.2	-	PE10	RM5 Envelope.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.12.2a			- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

9 October 1998.

Envelope - World Post Day.



Designed by Peter Chuah P.K., a 220mm x 111mm souvenir cover was sold at RM2. Printed by Security Printers (Malaysia) by off-set lithography it bore a diamond-shaped (35mm sides) RM2 “stamp” showing letters circling the globe, ship, Douglas DC-10-30 jet airliner and a train (with an unbelievable number of wheels!).

The illustration showed a globe surrounded by seventeen Malaysian stamps and five envelopes. The printed “perforation” was 17.7.

First day facilities:

A special postmark showing the UPU Berne Monument was used at bureaux.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.13.1	-	PE11	RM2 Envelope.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.13.1a			- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

31 October 1998.

Modernisation of Rail Transport.



By 1998, there were three electric railway systems operating in Kuala Lumpur. Keretapi Tanah Melayu (Malayan Railway) was rapidly electrifying the metre-gauge main line railway and introducing commuter services under the brand name "KTM Komuter". Phase 1 of an extensive scheme had opened on 3 August 1995. In addition, there were two light rail (tram/metro hybrid) systems. STAR (Sistem Transit Aliran Ringan) opened on 7 December 1996 and provided mostly north-south services with pairs of fairly convention articulated twin-sets. After delays which had a knock-on effect on release of this issue, PUTRA (Projek Usahasama Transit Ringan Automatik) opened on 1 September 1998 and provided east-west services using Canadian "Skytrain" driverless trains with linear motor propulsion.

Announced originally in November 1996 for issue in September 1997, by December the stamps had been postponed to October 1997. By January 1997, the issue had been omitted from the programme. This was again listed in October 1997 for possible issue in December 1998. By January, it was October 1998. It finally appeared on 31 October 1998 following the successful launch of the first phase of PUTRA.

Designed by Peter Chuah P.K. this issue comprised three counter sheets.

Counter sheets:

Three slightly-stylised 38mm x 28mm designs by Peter Chuah PK showed trains of the three systems against a background of famous KL buildings;

30s.: PUTRA train (built 1998 by Bombardier), with Istana Budaya (National Theatre), unidentified building, Bangunan Tabung Haji, Standard Chartered Tower, Petronas Twin Towers;

50s.: STAR train (built 1995-1996 by Evans Deakin Industries, Australia) with Dayabumi Complex, Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Maybank Tower, KL Tower and unidentified building;

RM1: KLM Komuter Class 82 (built 1996 by Union Carriage, South Africa) with unidentified building, National Science Centre, Kuala Lumpur station, National Mosque.

They were printed in sheets of 50 by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings were not recorded. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright, but inverted watermark exists on the 30s. and was reported on the 50s. The comb perforations normally measured 13.8 x 13.6 (50s.) or 14.3 (30s., RM1). The 30s. also exists 13.8 x 13.6, while the 50s. exists 14.3. The left margin was perforated through on both perforations and the right margin on 14.3. Other margins were not recorded.

Varieties:

The following varieties have been reported:

Value	No.	Position	Variety
50s.	v1	R1	Top edge perforation level with bottom of text at top and offset half a hole to the right. ⁸

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3.50. The envelope of the presentation pack featured a STAR train.

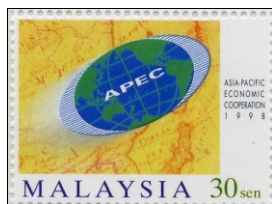
The first day cover, sold at 20s. featured the front ends of the three units.

The special first day postmark included a stylised train on a viaduct.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.14.1	709	652	30s. P.14.3. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.1a	709aw	-	- - Wmk. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.1b	709b	-	- P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.1c	709bw	-	- - Wmk. I. ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.2	710b	653	50s. P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.2a	710	-	- P.14.3. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.2b	710aw	-	- - Wmk. I. ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.3	711	654	RM1 P.14.3. Wmk. U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.4	-	MFDC-227	First day cover (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.4a	-	-	- (1b, 2, 3).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.14.5	-	MPP-227	Presentation pack (1-3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14 November 1998.

APEC Conference.



The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) was established by twelve countries in 1989 at the initiative of Australia as a forum for economic and trade co-operation and enhancement in response to the sweeping political changes taking place in Europe. The Secretariat was set up in 1993 in Singapore and by 2000 there were twenty-one member economies (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, Singapore, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, USA and Vietnam). Malaysia had the chairmanship in 1998 and this issue marked a meeting in Kuala Lumpur. This issue was first listed in October 1997 for possible release in November 1998 and hardened to 3 November in April 1998 before reverting to "sometime in November" in July. It finally appeared on 14 November.

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

Counter sheets:

The two 38mm x 28mm stamps showed:

30s.: APEC emblem over a map of Asia;

RM1: APEC emblem, business people at work stations and in conference, computer equipment and the Petronas Twin Towers.

They were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. Sheet markings included 1A (x4) above and below columns 1 and 10 and SPM emblems (x4) to left and right of rows 1 and 10. The phosphor-coated paper gave a blue-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. The paper normally had watermark Multiple SPM upright, but inverted watermarks exist. The comb perforations measured 14.3 or 13.8 x 13.6. All margins were perforated through in both values.

First day facilities:

The presentation pack was sold at RM3. The envelope of the presentation pack featured the APEC emblem on a background of the names of the participating countries.

The first day cover, sold at 20s., featured the emblem and a globe.

The special first day postmark included a globe.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.15.1	712b	655	30s. P.14.3 x 14.2. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.1a	712bw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.1b	712	-	- P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.1c	712aw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.2	713b	-	RM1. P.14.3 x 14.2. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.2a	713	656	- P.13.8 x 13.6. Wmk U.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.2b	713aw	-	- - Wmk I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.3	-	MFDC-228 ¹¹	First day cover (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.15.4	-	MPP-228	Presentation pack (1-2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28 November 1998.

Stamp Week (III) - Insects.



This was first listed in October 1997 for possible issue in December 1998. Stamp Week 1998 (again jointly promoted by Pos Malaysia and Philatelic Society of Malaysia) was settled on 5 to 13 December. However, it was then changed to 28 November to 6 December.

Designed by Peter Chuah P. K., this issue comprised a miniature sheet, which was also released as an “uncut press sheet”, and a Stamp Week souvenir cover.

Miniature sheet:

The 165mm x 75mm miniature sheet contains five large stamps. The sen values were 30mm x 40mm, while the Ringgit values were 44mm x 28mm. The insects portrayed were:

20s.: Rhinoceros beetle (*Xylotrupes gideon*);

30s.: Emperor Cicada (*Pomponia imperator*);

50s.: Giant Leaf Insect (*Phyllium pulchrifolium*);

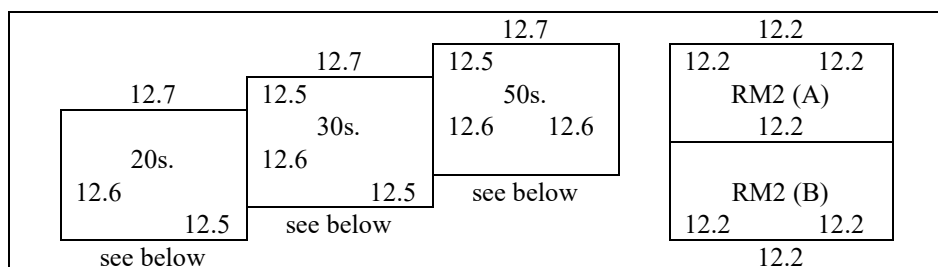
RM2 (A) (top): Flower Mantid (*Hymenopus coronatus*);

RM2 (B) (bottom): True Katydid (*Macrolyrastes corporalis*).

They were produced in printer's sheets of, probably, sixteen miniature sheets by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography. (See “Uncut press sheets” below for further description.)

The phosphor-coated paper of the majority of issued sheets had a smooth greenish gum and gave a bright bluish-white fluorescent reaction (on both sides) and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light (“TR paper”). By contrast, the uncut example seen and some issued sheets give a much bluer front fluorescent reaction, but was non-fluorescent on the rear, and the gum was mottled with a blue tint (“H paper”). In both cases, the paper normally had watermark Multiple SPM sideways reading down¹², but both H¹³ and TR papers also exist without watermark.¹⁴

The miniature sheet was perforated in no less than eight operations. The result was wide positional variation between individual sheets. The diagram (right) shows the perforation measurements of each element of the sheet. It should be noted that parts of the side of individual



stamps were often not the same measurement. T-junctions on the lower values can result in horizontal rows cutting into the side of the adjacent stamps. It was reported that most sheets were badly perforated. While most of the perforations were constant, the perforations of the bottom of each of the cent values varied. The most common combination of the bottom perforations of the 20s., 30s. and 50s. respectively was 12.7, 12.7, 12.2. Also known were versions with all three values perforated 12.7 or all perforated 12.2. Known combinations of perforation and paper are listed in the table below.

Variety:

The following variety exists:

No.	Variety.
v1	A major perforation error, where the perforator strike to perforate the top of the 30s. of an all-P.12.7, TR paper sheet was applied upside down, cutting through the RM2 values.

Uncut press sheet:

The printer's sheet contained several (probably four) panes of four miniature sheets. Some imperforate printer's sheets were cut into panes of four sheets and sold by bureaux as “uncut press sheets” for RM40. It has been reported that 10,000 were produced, but sheet numbers seen are much lower. Dealers subsequently cut the sheets into four and sold the individual quarters as imperforate miniature sheets, but they were not issued in this form. As the printer's sheet markings (not normally seen on normal miniature sheets) are not symmetrically distributed around the sheet, each miniature sheet can be “plated” as to its position in the uncut sheet.

The uncut sheet had text “21.8.98 TM2:(PKN33323)33323-BB” in black at the left of the top margin. At the centre of the top margin was an ellipse over a guillotining guide cross with “m” in the bottom left segment, “y” in the top left, “c” in top right and “k” in bottom right. In the top right corner of the sheet were grey-scale and colour stripe test markings. Colour squares (x4) were below each miniature sheet in column 1 and at bottom right in column 2. The bottom margin included a sheet number at the left (highest seen 001611 on Harrison paper and 001670 on TR paper). Sheets in the bottom row showed a guide cross at the centre of the outer margin with the top left quadrant filled with red and the bottom left with yellow. Guillotining guide marks show that the printed design was larger than the issued miniature sheet to allow for variation in cutting position.

A pane from the left of the sheet was illustrated in the Pos Malaysia Bulletin with 1A (reversed (x4) to left of the pane.

The imperforate sheets appeared on both papers with watermark sideways reading down.

First day facilities:

There was no presentation pack. The large first day cover, sold at 30s., was designed to absorb the miniature sheet into a composite design with two unidentified moths on foliage.

The special first day postmark included a Bee. There was also a Stamp Week triangular cachet showing a Flower Mantid. Special postmarks were used for each day of Stamp Week, each featuring a different insect:

Day	Postmark	Day	Postmark
28 November 1998	Bee	3 December 1998	Wasp
29 November 1998	Butterfly	4 December 1998	Moth
30 November 1998	Ladybird	5 December 1998	Insect unidentified
1 December 1998	Insect unidentified	6 December 1998	Stag beetle
2 December 1998	Beetle		

In conjunction with Royal Selangor Marketing Sdn. Bhd., Pos Malaysia sold a "Premier Edition First Day Cover" at RM20. Numbered in a series of 10,000, the special cover incorporated a reproduction of the RM2(A) stamp in pewter.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.16.1	-	-	20s. Bottom P.12.7. TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.1a	-	-	- Bottom P.12.2. H paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.1b	-	-	- - TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.1c	-	-	- - H paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.1d	-	-	- - TR paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.2	-	-	30s. Bottom P.12.7. TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.2a	-	-	- Bottom P.12.2. H paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.2b	-	-	- - TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.2c	-	-	- Bottom P.12.7. H paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.2d	-	-	- - TR paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.3	-	-	50s. Bottom P.12.2. TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.3a	-	-	- Bottom P.12.7. TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.3b	-	-	- Bottom P.12.2. H paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.3c	-	-	- Bottom P.12.7. H paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.3d	-	-	- - TR paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.4	-	-	RM2 (A). TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.4a	-	-	- H paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.4b	-	-	- - No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.4c	-	-	- TR paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.5	-	-	RM2 (B). TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.5a	-	-	- H paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.5b	-	-	- - No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.5c	-	-	- TR paper. No wmk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.6	MS714a	MC-229M	Miniature sheet. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.6a	MS714	-	- (1, 2, 3a, 4, 5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.6b	MS714b	-	- (1a, 2a, 3b, 4a, 5a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.6c	-	-	- (1b, 2b, 3, 4, 5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.6d	MS714c	-	- (1c, 2c, 3c, 4b, 5b).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.6e	-	-	- (1d, 2d, 3d, 4c, 5c).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.7	-	MFDC-229M	First day cover. (6).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.7a	-	-	- (6a).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.7b	-	-	- (6c).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.7c	-	-	- (8a).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.16.8	footnote	MC-229PS	Uncut printer's sheet of four. H paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
98.16.8a	-	MC-229P ¹⁵	Single imperf sheet (taken from above).	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
98.16.9	-	-	Uncut printer's sheet of four. TR paper. Wmk SD.	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
98.16.9a	-	-	Single imperf sheet (taken from above).	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
98.16.10	-	-	Premier Edition First Day Cover (6c).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

5 December 1998.**Souvenir Cover - 50th Anniversary of Malaysia Youth Council.**

(illustration not available at the time of going to press)

A 220mm x 111mm souvenir cover, designed by Peter Chuah P. K. and pre-printed by Security Printers (Malaysia) by off-set lithography with a 32mm x 29mm RM2 "stamp", was sold at RM2. The cover showed the event emblem. The "stamp" showed the Malaysian Youth Council headquarters complex at KL.

First day facilities:

The first day of issue postmark both showed the event emblem.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.17.1	-	PE12	RM2 Envelope.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.17.1a			- First day postmark.	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

12 December 1998.

XVI Commonwealth Games (X) - Glorious Moments.

Sheet 1.



Sheet 2.



(illustrations reduced 33%)

This issue celebrated Malaysia's medal winners at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, where Malaysia won ten Gold, fourteen Silver and twelve Bronze medals. It was originally planned to issue them on 5 December, but issue was delayed by a week. In the rush to issue these sheets, the country name was omitted from the stamp designs, rendering them contrary to UPU regulations! The Malaysian flag appears on each stamp instead.

Designed by Peter Chua P.K., this issue comprised two miniature sheets.

Miniature sheets:

Both sheets were 159mm x 125mm. They showed:

- Miniature sheet #1, face value RM2: The Badminton Team winners (Ong Ewe Hock, Yong Hock Kin, Wong Choon Hann, Cheah Soon Kit, Yap Kim Hock, Choong Tan Fook, Lee Wan Wah) in a group photograph with team officials on a single stamp 128mm x 81mm.
- Miniature sheet #2, face value RM4.20: Individual photographs of named Gold medal winners on nine stamps, (32mm x 27mm, except RM1 64mm x 27mm) plus two labels:

Label CG98 emblem	RM1 Rhythmic Gymnastics team Thye Chee Kiat, Carolyn Au-Yong, El Regina Tajuddin, Sarina Sundara Rajah		Label Wira
50s.(A) Tenpin Bowling - Men's Doubles Kenny Ang, Ben Heng	50s.(B) Tenpin Bowling - Men's Singles Kenny Ang	30s.(A) Shooting - Women's Individual Air Rifle Nurul Huda Bahrain	30s.(B) Boxing - 48kg Category Sapok Biki
50s.(C) Badminton - Men's Doubles Lee Wan Wah, Choong Tan Fook	50s.(D) Badminton - Men's Singles Wong Choon Hann	30s.(C) Athletics - Men's 50km Walk G. Saravanan	30s.(D) Weightlifting - 69kg Clean & Jerk Muhamad Hidayat Hamidon

They were printed by Security Printers (Malaysia) using standard four-colour off-set lithography from a composite plate containing the two designs. Sheet markings were removed in manufacture.

The phosphor-coated paper gave a greenish-white fluorescent reaction and a yellow-green after-glow under ultra-violet light. It had watermark Multiple SPM sideways reading up, upright, inverted or no watermark. The use of a composite plate indicates that both sheets should exist in all watermark versions, but not all have been reported at the time of writing (see listing below).

The perforations on this issue were also complex, as an attempt appeared to have been made to use a combination of operations to perforate two different formats of miniature sheet using the same set of perforating heads. As the heads did not all have the same gauge, even where they were intended for the same operation, some #1 sheets had mixed perforations down the side of the stamp. For ease of reference, the perforation combinations were designated as follows:

Perf. Type.	Stamp Gauge:
A	14.5 (top) / 13.8 (bottom) x 14.1 (1 only).
B	13.8 x 14.1.
C	13.8 x 14.1 (top third) + 14.8 (rest) (1 only).
D	13.8 x 14.1, bottom row 14.5 at foot (2 only).
E	13.8 x 14.1, top row 14.5 at top (2 only).

#1 sheets appeared to have been perforated in up to five operations using the #2 perforators minus the intermediate vertical elements (Type A was thus Type E with the inner elements removed). All appeared to be performed by three strikes of a downward-pointing comb (or parts thereof), followed by a closing bottom line.

“Imperforate proof sheet”:

An “imperforate proof sheet”, similar to the previous “uncut press sheet”, offered for sale by Pos Malaysia, contained two of each design, confirming that they were printed on the same printer's plate. Sheet markings were SPM emblems (x4) in top margin at left, elliptical “target” with crosshairs and “cymk” at top centre, colour squares (x4) at top right, colour squares and sheet number at bottom left, target at bottom centre, SPM emblems at bottom right. The side margins contained the issue title in English and Bahasa and mascots performing sports. The highest sheet number seen was 000409.

First day facilities:

The two large (249mm x 177mm) first day covers, one for each sheet, were sold for RM12 in a “portfolio” presentation pack, entitled “The Glory of Achievement”.

First day cover #1 featured the gold medal and scenes from the Games.

First day cover #2 featured gold, silver and bronze medals and other scenes from the Games.

The special first day postmark included the CG98 emblem. The covers also received a “Malaysia Boleh” (Malaysia can!) cachet incorporating the Malaysian flag.

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.18.1	MS715b	MC-230M ¹⁶	Miniature sheet #1. Wmk SU. P.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.1a	MS715	-	-- P.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.1b	MS715a	-	-- P.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.1c	MS715c	-	- No wmk. P.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.1d	-	-	- Wmk. SU. Imperf.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.2	MS716c	-	Miniature sheet #2. No wmk. P.E.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.2a	MS716cb	-	-- P.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	S.G.	I.S.C.		Mint	Used
98.18.2a	MS716ca	-	- - P.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.2b	MS716a	-	- Wmk U. P.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.2c	MS716bw	-	- Wmk I. P.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.2d	MS716	-	- Wmk SU. P.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.2e	-	-	- Wmk. SU. Imperf.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.3	-	-	First day cover #1 with M/S #1 (P.A., no wmk).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.3a	-	-	- (P.B., no wmk).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.4	-	-	First day cover #2 with M/S #2 (P.B, No Wmk).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.5	-	MFDC-230M	Portfolio with both FDCs. #1 (P.B., no wmk), #2 (P.B. no wmk).	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
98.18.6	-	MC-230PS ¹⁷	Imperf proof sheet (1d twice, 2e twice).	<input type="checkbox"/>	-

98.18.1d and 98.18.1e are reserved for #1 sheets with watermark upright and watermark inverted respectively, which should exist but which have not been reported.

NOTES

- ¹ For aerogramme formats, see Section 10 of Chapter 3.
- ² 20c. was reported by Mr. N. G. McClaren with grey in place of black, possibly a weak printing.
- ³ Mr. G. P. T. Peters reported in TMP48/15 a used 20c. 14.0 x 14.3. This was probably the result of shrinkage during soaking-off.
- ⁴ 50s. reported mint by Mr. M. Kingsland June 2016.
- ⁵ Information taken from surviving packing labels.
- ⁶ 50s. P.14.2 Wmk.I reported by Mr. M. Kingsland Jun2016. P.13.6 x 13.8 Wmk.I reported by Mr. P. Treadwell.
- ⁷ Reported by Mr. Khor Seow Loon in correspondence 21Dec1998.
- ⁸ Reported by Meng Koon (SPFB).
- ⁹ Reported by M&N Haworth
- ¹⁰ Offered by M&N Haworth Sep1999.
- ¹¹ I.S.C. lists a cover with an additional APEC cachet as MFDC-228a.
- ¹² Rushstamps reported a "watermark sideways inverted" variety in February 2018, but this has not been verified.
- ¹³ Shown to me by Mr. Lim Ken Beng.
- ¹⁴ A sheet claimed to have an upright watermark was offered for sale in the MSG Auction in July 2001, but the author was unable to verify this.
- ¹⁵ I.S.C. also listed the imperforate sheet on FDC as MFDC-229P.
- ¹⁶ I.S.C. allocated a single number for a pair of sheets of any type(s).
- ¹⁷ I.S.C. listed a half sheet (one of each design) as MC-230P.