

KEDAH AND PERLIS



FRONTISPIECE

*His late Highness, Sultan Sir Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, KCMG
(From the Straits and FMS Annual 1907-8)*

KEDAH AND PERLIS

THEIR STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY 1887-1941

D. R. M. HOLLEY

THE MALAYA STUDY GROUP

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FOREWORD

The Malaya Study Group is proud to have amongst its members philatelic professors of the stature of Rob Holley. He has spent his life in education and we can see here in his *magnum opus* the culmination of his non-professional life. There is of course a very close connection, and that is the excellence of the research and the organisation and presentation of information required to teach the pupil in the classroom or in this case the fellow philatelist about the stamps and postal history of Kedah.

Not since the pioneering publication of Dr F. E. Wood in *The London Philatelist* where he describes the stamps of Kedah in 11 pages, and the first Malaya Study Group publication on the stamps of the Federated Malay States by W. A. Reeves, where he describes those wonderful stamps in 75 pages, has a monograph of this type been written on Malayan stamps. Here is a work of nearly 500 pages for which we have long been waiting and which will now set the standard for similar works in the future.

Nor is this a book which will appeal only to the Kedah and Perlis enthusiast. It is a work which having taken more than 20 years' painstaking research and development, like a new aeroplane, innovates and provides new ways of looking at old problems. The author is fortunate perhaps in dedicating his interest to a series of stamp issues which exemplify the changing security printing processes of their time and in seeking to explain how and why the stamps look like they do he has given us an encyclopaedic commentary on the production of recess-printed stamps from the turn of the century until the Second World War. It may well be that this new commentary will supersede the standard works on the subject which Mr Holley has openly used and quoted from, namely Melville and Easton.

The social historian of this interesting colonial period will find detailed information here, while the postal historian will be inspired to search for the elusive postmarks, rates and routes which are described in depth.

As the current Chairman of the Group I would also like to place on record the Group's thanks to everyone who has helped Mr Holley to complete this work and get it published. To the author himself our thanks are inestimable.

In 1978 Mr Reeves said in the Federated Malay States monograph *'There is more to be learnt about these stamps'*. I expect there is more to be learnt too about the stamps of Kedah and Perlis but after this book not much!

December 1994

P. F. COCKBURN
Chairman of the Malaya Study Group

PREFACE

My interest in the pre-war stamps of Kedah began in 1965 when, as a relatively new collector living in Malaya, I was given copies of some of the articles and letters on the subject which had appeared in *Stamp Collecting* in the early fifties. When I returned to Britain I wrote to the then editor of this magazine, Kenneth Chapman, who took the trouble to send me the back-copies containing everything on the 'padi-sheaf' stamps – twice, as it happens, as the first batch of magazines was lost in the post. They contained a most lively correspondence on the origin of the 'padi-sheaf' varieties – full of ideas (some a little far-fetched), debate and controversy, as well as evidence of much detailed study and original research. I subsequently extended this research and, after some twenty-odd years, this book is the result.

Apart from gathering together what is known of the Siamese period and consulting existing records, my main aims have been to explain the varieties to be found on Kedah's stamps by examining the means that were used to print them between 1912 and 1941, and also to discover something of the postal system of which they formed a part. The second objective led me into extending my study to the state of Perlis, Kedah's tiny neighbour to the north, which used Kedah's stamps until she became a separate stamp-issuing authority in her own right in 1948.

Two interesting things emerged from my research. One was the apparent extent De La Rue & Co. utilised the skills and processes they had developed in letterpress printing, popularly known as typography, when producing stamps by the recess-engraved method, and the other was how the new ideas and technology developed by the Company in the 1920s and 1930s affected the stamps. Such matters are not found in the standard text books on philately and it needs to be emphasised that some of my statements on these subjects are not fact but deduction and as such, may need some revision in the future.

Not surprisingly, the emphasis has been on the 'padi-sheaves' of the Multiple Script CA issue as these have aroused the greatest controversy in the past. They retain their fascination for me up to the present day, not only because of the number of varieties that can be found, but also because of the puzzles that remain. I am sure this book is not the last word on the subject, indeed, the deeper I have researched the less certain I am of having found all the answers. It is a pleasing thought that perhaps generations hence when this work is just a footnote on the subject, collectors will still be studying Kedah's stamps and perhaps making discoveries of their own.

A Bibliography is included but it may not be comprehensive as my reading has been general, particularly for Chapter 2, 'The Historical Background'. I have not indicated every source of information in the latter as this somewhat academic practice does not seem appropriate in a work of this nature. As far as the rest of the book is concerned, I have relied a great deal on Part 2 of Dr Wood's *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya*. In fact, all the information it contains regarding the philately of Kedah has been included here. Apart from Wood, I have mainly used official records such as Advisers' Reports, Kedah Government Gazettes and the Crown Agents and De La Rue archives.

I would especially like to acknowledge my debt to the two books on stamp production entitled *Postage Stamps in the Making*, one by John Easton and the other by Fred. J. Melville upon which Easton's was based. (See the note on page xii.) They both deal in the greatest detail with the stamp printing methods of the past and how the problems which arose affected the stamps. Without them my research would have been very lacking in conclusions.

Part of the value of Melville's book lies in the material it contains as the result of the direct contact he made with the stamp printers themselves, amongst whom were some whose memories went back to the earliest days of postage stamp production in the nineteenth century. His example encouraged me to do the same in a very small way and thanks to the good offices of De La Rue & Co. I was fortunate enough to be able to consult men who had experience of printing recess-engraved stamps for the Company in the 1920s and 1930s. Personal memories are a notoriously fallible source of historical data of course, but I was given a considerable insight into the working methods and practical problems of stamp production in an era which seems now to have all but vanished.

It is hoped that the evidence of these craftsmen and, indeed, the whole of this book, will make a contribution to the knowledge and enjoyment of the stamps and postal history of Kedah and Perlis.

Southampton, September 1994

D. R. M. HOLLEY

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I would like to express my thanks to Keith Elliot, who not only contributed the material for the two chapters on his special interests, airmails and the stamps of the Malaya-Borneo Exhibition (and there is no-one better qualified to do so), but who was such an encouraging and resourceful counsellor on the various problems I encountered in writing this book; to the late Hugh Allen who helped research the early history; to the Kedah State Museum for data and permission to use several photographs; to Harold Carpenter for reproducing many of the illustrations; to Mike Jackson, FRPSL for much good advice at the typesetting and layout stages of the book; to John Davies of the British Library, Marcus Faux, the Crown Agents' Philatelic Archivist and ex-Chief Inspector of Colonial Stamps, Lionel Jones of the National Postal Museum, Ray Marshall of Thomas De La Rue & Company Ltd. and Jack Lee, Fred Osborne, Arthur Clements and Arthur Benham, former employees of that company, for their efforts in unearthing valuable and in many cases previously unpublished information. I am especially indebted to Gordon Peters and Andrew Norris who, over the years, have patiently answered my queries, checked facts and scripts, and given me ready access to their very fine collections. My thanks also to Graham Nelson, Ian Raybould and particularly Iain Dyce, FRPSL, as well as other members of the Malaya Study Group, for contributions and assistance in a variety of ways. Finally, to my wife, Diane, for whom the word 'Kedah' came to signify so many uncompleted domestic tasks and neglected duties, but who, until the coming of word processors, expertly sorted notes and typed, and re-typed, manuscripts.

D. R. M. H.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	v
PREFACE	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	viii
LIST OF COLOUR PLATES	xiv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xiv
POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE MAKING	xvii
CHAPTER 1: THE GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND	1
KEDAH	1
PERLIS	4
CHAPTER 2: THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
KEDAH BEFORE 1909	6
THE TRANSFER TO BRITAIN	14
PERLIS BEFORE 1909	15
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1909	16
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1909	19
SULTAN SIR ABDUL HAMID HALIM SHAH, KCMG	23
CHAPTER 3: THE SIAMESE POSTAL SYSTEM	28
CHAPTER 4: SIAMESE CURRENCY AND THE STAMPS AND STATIONERY USED IN KEDAH AND PERLIS	36
THE CURRENCY	36
THE STAMPS AND STATIONERY	37
CHAPTER 5: SIAMESE POSTAGE RATES	40
1883-1894	40
1885	40
1895-1903	41
INTERNAL POSTAGE RATES	41
FOREIGN POSTAGE RATES	41
1903	41
INTERNAL POSTAGE RATES	41
FOREIGN POSTAGE RATES	42
1904-1909	42
CHAPTER 6: THE SIAMESE POSTMARKS OF KEDAH AND PERLIS	44
ALOR STAR	44
KANGAR (PERLIS)	49
KUALA MUDA	51
KULIM	52
LANGKAWI	53
<i>Note 1. SATOOL</i>	54
CHAPTER 7: THE TRANSFER OF KEDAH AND PERLIS TO GREAT BRITAIN IN 1909	56
EXTRACTS FROM <i>THE POSTAGE STAMP</i>	60
CHAPTER 8: STAMPS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 'USED' IN KEDAH AND PERLIS BEFORE 1912	62
CHAPTER 9: THE STAMPS, CANCELLATIONS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FMS PERIOD 1909-1912	66
THE STAMPS	66
THE CANCELLATIONS	67
THE POSTAL HISTORY	70

CHAPTER 10: THE 1912 ISSUES ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA PAPER	71
PART I – THE CORRESPONDENCE	71
PART II – THE STAMPS	78
1. THE 'PADI-SHEAF'	78
THE METHOD OF PRINTING	80
2. THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING'	85
PLATE 1 OF THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VIGNETTE	88
3. THE 'COUNCIL CHAMBER'	91
'WET' PRINTING AND THE PROBLEM OF REGISTER	93
DATE OF ISSUE	94
PERFORATIONS	94
WATERMARK VARIETIES	95
PLATE FLAWS	96
USED IN PERLIS	97
PERAK STAMPS CANCELED IN KEDAH	97
CHECK-LIST	97
THE PRINTINGS	98
<i>Note 1</i> 'WET' AND 'DRY' PRINTING	101
<i>Note 2</i> ELECTROTYPING A RECESS DIE OR PLATE	103
<i>Note 3</i> THE PANTOGRAPH	104
<i>Note 4</i> LEAD-STRIKING	106
<i>Note 5</i> MULTIPLE IMPRESSIONS ON THE TRANSFER DIE	106
<i>Note 6</i> INCOMPLETE TRANSFER	107
<i>Note 7</i> THE FACING OF ELECTROTYPED PLATES	107
<i>Note 8</i> SUMMARY OF HOW THE 1912 PLATES WERE MADE	108
CHAPTER 11: THE 1919-21 ISSUES ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA PAPER	109
THE 'PADI-SHEAF' VALUES	109
THE NEW 'PADI-SHEAF' COMPOSITE DIE	111
THE 'MASTER PLATE'	115
THE WAR-TIME 'GREYISH' PAPER	117
PLATE FLAWS	119
USED IN PERLIS	119
THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES	119
PLATE FLAWS	121
USED IN PERLIS	122
CHECK-LIST	122
THE PRINTINGS	123
<i>Note 1</i> THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 1911 & 1919 DIE PROOFS	125
<i>Note 2</i> THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION USED FOR THE STAMPS MADE FROM THE 1919 COMPOSITE DIE	126
<i>Note 3</i> THE 'FEATHER-IN-HAT' FLAW	127
CHAPTER 12: THE 1919 50c/52 & 51/53 PROVISIONALS	128
THE "'C'" OF "CENTS" INSERTED BY HAND VARIETY	128
THE 'MISPLACED OVERPRINT' VARIETY	133
MINOR ERRORS	133
NUMBERS PRINTED	133
'SPECIMENS'	134
USED IN PERLIS	135
CHECK-LIST	135
<i>Note 1</i> TYPESETTING AND THE PROBLEM OF 'FALL-OUT'	135
<i>Note 2</i> THE MISPLACED OVERPRINT	136
CHAPTER 13: STAMPS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS USED IN KEDAH AND PERLIS IN 1919	138

CHAPTER 14: THE ISSUES ON MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA PAPER – THE ‘PADI-SHEAF’ VALUES	142
POSTAGE RATES CHANGES 1921–1941	142
THE VARIETIES OF DESIGN, SIZE AND PERFORATION	145
1. TYPE I AND TYPE II (<i>Commonly known as Die I and Die II</i>)	145
1 CENT – PLATE 2 (<i>Commonly known as Die II</i>)	150
2 CENTS – TYPE II (<i>Commonly known as Die II</i>)	153
PLATE RETOUCHES	156
2. VARIATIONS IN SIZE	158
ROTARY PRINTING	159
‘WET’ AND ‘DRY’ PRINTING	162
THE ABNORMAL SIZE VARIATIONS OF THE 1 CENT BLACK	166
3. DIFFERENCES IN PERFORATIONS	166
THE ‘PADI-SHEAF’ STAMPS AND THE CATALOGUE	170
MARGINAL ROUND BOSSES OF COLOUR	171
PLATE FLAWS	172
USED IN PERLIS	173
DE LA RUE DURING WORLD WAR II	173
CHECK-LIST	174
THE PRINTINGS	176
<i>Note 1</i> EXPANSION CAUSED BY THE CURVING OF THE PLATE	189
<i>Note 2</i> DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FLAT-BED AND ROTARY PRINTED STAMPS	190
<i>Note 3</i> VARIABLE PAPER SHRINKAGE	190
<i>Note 4</i> THE SIZE OF THE ‘COMPOSITE’ DIE	191
<i>Note 5</i> ENLARGEMENT ‘CAUSED’ BY THE TRANSFER PROCESS	192
<i>Note 6</i> DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ‘WET’ AND ‘DRY’ PRINTED STAMPS	194
<i>Note 7</i> ‘WET’ AND ‘DRY’ PRINTING – AN EXPERIMENT	195
<i>Note 8</i> PERFORATION GAUGES	196
<i>Note 9</i> COMPOUND PERFORATIONS	196
CHAPTER 15: THE ISSUES ON MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA PAPER – THE ‘MALAY PLOUGHING’ AND ‘COUNCIL CHAMBER’ VALUES	197
THE ‘MALAY PLOUGHING’ VALUES	198
PLATE 2 OF THE KEY PLATE	199
IMPROVEMENT IN THE BORDER PLATES	207
PERFORATIONS OF THE ‘MALAY PLOUGHING’ VALUES	209
WATERMARK VARIETIES	209
SHADES OF COLOUR	210
‘TINTED’ PAPER	211
‘CORRUGATION’ OF THE PLATE	211
MARGINAL BOSSES OF COLOUR	213
THE ‘COUNCIL CHAMBER’ VALUES	213
PLATE FLAWS ON THE LARGE-FORMAT VALUES	213
USED IN PERLIS	215
CHECK-LIST	215
THE PRINTINGS	217
<i>Note 1</i> ‘DIE 2’ OF THE ‘MALAY PLOUGHING’ VIGNETTE	224
<i>Note 2</i> VARYING THE PRESSURE ON THE PRINTING PRESS	224
<i>Note 3</i> REPAIR OF ELECTROTYPED PLATES	225
<i>Note 4</i> TINTED PAPER	225
CHAPTER 16: THE MALAYA-BORNEO EXHIBITION ISSUES	226
THE EXHIBITION	226
THE PHILATELIC ARRANGEMENTS	226
THE OVERPRINT ON THE ‘PADI-SHEAF’ VALUES	228
THE VARIETIES	231
THE OVERPRINT ON THE ‘MALAY PLOUGHING’ VALUES (‘BORNEO’ 14 mm)	232
ERROR – OVERPRINT INVERTED	238

SPECIMENS	239
USED IN PERLIS	239
FORGERIES	240
THE OVERPRINT ON THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES ('BORNEO' 15-15.5 mm)	240
THE CONSTANT VARIETIES	242
<i>Note 1</i> THE SALE OF THE MBE STAMPS IN KEDAH	245
<i>Note 2</i> STEREOTYPING	247
<i>Note 3</i> ERROR, OVERPRINT INVERTED, THE TEST FOR TWO SHEETS	248
CHAPTER 17: 1937 SULTAN HALIM SHAH PORTRAIT ISSUE	249
USED IN PERLIS	252
CHECK-LIST	252
THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS	252
CHAPTER 18: THE REVENUE STAMPS	256
1929 'COUNCIL CHAMBER' REVENUE ISSUE	256
1937 SULTAN HALIM SHAH PORTRAIT REVENUE ISSUE	257
CHAPTER 19: ESSAYS, PROOFS, COLOUR TRIALS, PRINTERS'	
 SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS	260
ESSAYS	260
1911	260
1929	262
1937	264
DIE PROOFS	264
1911	264
1919	269
1926	269
1929	271
THE PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY	271
COLOUR TRIALS	272
1911	272
1926-1941	273
THE PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY	273
PRINTERS' SAMPLES	274
PLATE PROOFS	275
1912	275
1922-36	275
SPECIMENS	276
SPECIMEN TYPES	278
CHAPTER 20: POSTAL STATIONERY	279
POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS	279
THE METHOD OF PRINTING	282
CHECK-LIST	286
SPECIMENS	286
ESSAYS/PROOFS	286
REGISTRATION ENVELOPES	288
THE METHOD OF PRINTING	291
CHECK-LIST	299
SPECIMENS	300
ESSAYS AND DIE PROOFS	301
OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATIONERY	303
<i>Note 1</i> THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS PRODUCED BY LITHOGRAPHY AND LETTERPRESS	306
THE DE LA RUE & CROWN AGENTS RECORDS	306
CHAPTER 21: AIRMAILS	311
SUMMARY OF EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT FROM MALAYA 1928-1938	314

AIRMAIL RATES TO THE UK	318
<i>Note 1: THE PERIOD AFTER THE JAPANESE INVASION OF MALAYA</i>	322
CHAPTER 22: POSTAGE RATES 1909-1941	323
CHAPTER 23: THE OPENING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POST OFFICES	334
<i>Note 1: PADANG TRAP POST OFFICE</i>	337
CHAPTER 24: THE POSTMARKS OF KEDAH AND PERLIS	339
PART I: THE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE POSTMARKS	339
PART II: THE POSTMARKS	345
CHAPTER 25: THE FIELD POST OFFICES 1939-1942	372
PART I: 1939-41 THE BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICE SP 503	372
LOCATION	372
STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION	373
PART II: 1941-42 THE INDIAN FPOs	374
<i>Note 1: THE AIF AND THE IAPS</i>	378
<i>Note 2: FIELD POST OFFICES OF THE IAPS</i>	378
<i>Note 3: POSTAGE RATES</i>	379
<i>Note 4: USE OF MALAYAN STAMPS BY THE IAPS</i>	380
<i>Note 5: THE IMPROVED BRANCH OFFICES</i>	380
APPENDIX 1: THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADVISERS TO GOVERNMENT 1905-1941	381
<i>Note 1: THE MUSLIM CALENDAR</i>	399
APPENDIX 2: THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1924-1941	400
APPENDIX 3: THE DE LA RUE RECORDS	417
1. THE DE LA RUE PRIVATE DAY BOOKS	417
1912 ISSUE ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA WATERMARKED PAPER	418
1919-21 ISSUE ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA WATERMARKED PAPER	420
PHOTOCOPIED EXTRACTS FROM THE DE LA RUE PRIVATE DAY BOOKS	422
2. <i>THE BANKNOTE</i> by THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO. (1971)	426
APPENDIX 4: THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS	428
1. THE CROWN AGENTS REQUISITION BOOKS	428
1921-41 ISSUE ON MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA PAPER (PRINTED BY DE LA RUE & CO.)	430
2. THE CROWN AGENTS' RECORDS OF PLATES AND DIES	437
(A) THE REGISTER OF DIES, PLATES, FORMES, Etc. (WORKING PLATES)	437
(B) THE REGISTER OF DIES, PLATES, FORMES, Etc. (DIES AND PUNCHES)	442
(C) THE PLATE ISSUE BOOK	445
3. REQUISITION ORDERS	452
4. THE CROWN AGENTS RECORD BOOKS	456
APPENDIX 5: POSTAL STATISTICS	457
POSTAL BUSINESS - KEDAH	457
POSTAL BUSINESS - PERLIS	458
1. KANGAR	458
2. PADANG BESAR	459
BIBLIOGRAPHY	461
INDEX	465

LIST OF COLOUR PLATES

Plate

- 1 The one-colour essays, A–D, prepared by De La Rue in 1911 for the first issue.
- 2 The two-colour essays, E–I, prepared by De La Rue in 1911 for the first issue.
- 3 The colour scheme for the first issue approved by the Crown Agents.
- 4 Alternative colour trials for the first issue.
- 5 Imperforate colour trials of the 1929 'Council Chamber' revenue issue.
- 6 Die/colour proofs of the 1937 Sultan Halim Shah Portrait issue.
- 7 1. Perforated colour trial of the 4 cents value; 2. Imperforate colour trials of the 1926 values;
3. Die/colour proofs of the 1937 Sultan Halim Shah revenue issue.
- 8 1. & 2. Die/colour proof and example of the unissued 8 cents red; 3. & 4. Die/colour proof
and example of the unissued 15 cents.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig

Page

Sultan Sir Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, KCMG	Frontispiece
1 Sultan Halim Shah with royal Siamese representative, Alor Star, 1897	8
2 The Raja Muda, Tungku Abdul Aziz	9
3 Kedah police force in 1900	10
4 Remembrance portrait, Alor Star, 1905, W. J. F. Williamson and Kedah dignitaries	11
5 Elephant race, Kedah	13
6 Balei Besar and Padang, Alor Star	14
7 British Adviser's residence, Alor Star	16
8 W. G. (Sir George) Maxwell	17
9 Masjid Zahir, Alor Star	19
10 Jalan Raja, Alor Star	20
11 Bull-fight in Alor Star	22
12 Balei Besar, Alor Star	25
13 Raja Syed Alwi of Perlis, and heirs	26
14 Travelling by elephants, Kedah	30
15 Prince Necorn Sawan Paribatra's departure from Kedah	32
16 Prince Necorn Sawan Paribatra in Changloon	32
17 Kedah River, Alor Star	33
18 Kedah River showing old P. & T. Office	35
19 Earliest known pre-paid mail item from Kedah, 27 October 1887	45
20 'Rejected die' issue cover with year of Kedah cancel, 1900, in manuscript	46
21 'AR' cover, Alor Star–Dutch East Indies, 1895	48
22 Balei Besar, Alor Star, 15 July 1909	56
23 Straits Settlements 1885 3 cents p/s card, used Alor Star	65
24 1912 'padi-sheaf' 8 cents	78
25 1912 'Malay ploughing' 50 cents	85
26 1911 die proof, 'Malay ploughing' vignette and frame combined	88
27 1912 'Malay ploughing' 10 cents	88
28 1912 'Council Chamber' \$3	92
29 1912 'padi-sheaf' 8 cents and 1921 'Malay ploughing' 25 cents, misplaced vignettes	94
30 1912 'padi-sheaf' values, 'flaw' varieties	96
31 Electrotyping recess dies and plates	104
32 4 cents printed from dual working plates	112
33 4 cents printed from the single working plate	112

34	1911 die proof, 'padi-sheaf' vignette and frame combined	113
35	1919 composite die proof	113
36	'Feather-in-hat' flaw	121
37	'50c/\$2' provisional, "C" of "CENTS" inserted by hand' variety	128
38	'50c/\$2' provisional, complete setting	130
39	ditto, Rows 1-3	131
40	ditto, Rows 4-6	132
41	'50c/\$2' provisional, misplaced overprints	133
42	Straits Settlements 1 cent used on cover Alor Star, 30 July 1919	138
43	Straits Settlements 1 cent and 3 cents used on cover Alor Star, 2 May 1919	140
44	1 cent brown (ii) and 1 cent black, corner blocks with marginal dots	145
45	Type I 'padi-sheaf', background lines of design	146
46	Type II 'padi-sheaf', background lines of design	146
47	1 cent black, Plate 1 (Type I)	151
48	1 cent black, Plate 2 (Type I)	151
49	2 cents, Type I (Plate 1)	154
50	2 cents, Type II (Plate 2)	154
51	5 cents, before retouching	157
52	5 cents, after retouching	157
53	1 cent black, two sizes	158
54	The 'screw-heads' in the margins	161
55	4 cents violet, large and small perforation holes	167
56	1 cent black, Printing 5, perforated by two different machines	168
57	1 cent black, Printing 8, perforated by two different machines	169
58	'Short-sheaf' flaw	172
59	6 cents re-entry	173
60	1 cent black, Printing 6, stamps 1-6 of top five rows of sheet	180
61	1 cent black, Printing 6, stamps 7-12 of top five rows of sheet	181
62	1 cent black, Printing 6, stamps 1-6 of bottom five rows of sheet	182
63	1 cent black, Printing 6, stamps 7-12 of bottom five rows of sheet	183
64	'Cracked plate' flaw, Plate 1, 'Malay ploughing' vignette	200
65	Plate 1 (Type I), 'Malay ploughing' vignette	203
66	Plate 2 (Type II), 'Malay ploughing' vignette	203
67	25 cents value, before and after refurbishment of duty-plate	208
68	40 cents value, before and after refurbishment of duty-plate	208
69	50 cents value, before and after refurbishment of duty-plate	208
70	'Corrugated lines' flaw	212
71	Retouched spike on hat of Malay ploughman	214
72	'Jawi character' flaw, \$1 duty-plate	214
73	'Value-tablet' flaw, 10 cents	214
74	MBE 'Padi-sheaf' overprint, the stereo	230
75	MBE 10 cents, Rows 1-4 of sheet	235
76	MBE 10 cents, Rows 5-8 of sheet	236
77	MBE 10 cents, Rows 9-12 of sheet	237
78	MBE 25 cents error, overprint inverted	238
79	MBE 25 cents ('BORNEO' 15-15.5 mm), top five rows of sheet	243
80	1937 'Sultan Halim Shah' 50 cents	249
81	'A' of 'KEDAH' lettering flaw, 1937 'Sultan Halim Shah' 12 cents	250
82	Postcard portrait, Sultan Halim Shah	251
83	1937 'Sultan Halim Shah' revenue stamps	258
84	1929 12 cents essay	262

85	1929 12 cents essay, modified version	263
86	1937 'Sultan Halim Shah' postage issue, 50 cents essay (DLR)	264
87	1937 'Sultan Halim Shah' revenue issue, \$500 essay (DLR)	264
88	1911 die proofs, vignettes and frames, 'padi-sheaf', 'Malay ploughing' & 'Council Chamber'	265
89	1911 die proofs, vignette and frame, 'padi-sheaf' and 'Council Chamber'	266
90	1911 die proof, 'Council Chamber'	266
91	1911 or 1926 die proof, 'Malay ploughing' frame	267
92	1911 die proof, 'padi-sheaf' vignette and frame combined	268
93	1911 die proofs, 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' vignette and frame combined	268
94	1919 die proof, composite 'padi-sheaf'	268
95	1926 die proof, 6 cents	269
96	1926 die proof, 12 cents frame	270
97	1926 die proof, 35 cents frame	270
98	1912 colour proof, 5 cents plate	275
99	Kedah page from DLR Proof Book	277
100	1912 1 cent postal stationery card	280
101	1912 3 cents postal stationery reply card	280
102	1925 2 cents postal stationery card	281
103	1912 1 cent and 3 cents postal stationery cards, impressed stamps, enlarged	283
104	Postal stationery cards, types of 'SPECIMEN' o/p	286
105	1911 Appendix sheet, colour essays/proofs of postal stationery cards	287
106	1912 10 cents registration envelope, Size G	288
107	1912 die proof, 10 cents frame	289
108	1925 12 cents registration envelope, Size G	289
109	1927 15 cents registration envelope, Size G	290
110	Type 1 registration envelope, impressed stamp, enlarged	294
111	Type 1a registration envelope, impressed stamp, enlarged	294
112	Type 2 registration envelope, impressed stamp, enlarged	294
113	Types 1 & 2 registration envelopes, variable positions of impressed stamps, enlarged	295
114	12 cents and 15 cents registration envelopes, impressed stamps	299
115	Registration envelopes, types of 'SPECIMEN' o/p	300
116	1912 essay, 10 cents frame, for 'REGISTRATION FEE' stamp	301
117	1925 die proof, 12 cents 'REGISTRATION FEE' stamp	302
118	1926 die proof, 15 cents 'REGISTRATION FEE' stamp	302
119	Proofs (pair), 12 cents 'REGISTRATION FEE' stamp	303
120	'OFFICIAL POST CARD', Type 1, obverse	304
121	'OFFICIAL POST CARD', Type 1, reverse	304
122	'OFFICIAL POST CARD', Type 2, obverse	305
123	KLM Fokker aircraft, the <i>LEEUWERIK (SKYLARK)</i>	311
124	Malayan airmail leaflet, 1934	312
125	Wreck of Australian Fokker aircraft, <i>SOUTHERN SUN</i>	313
126	KLM first flight cover, Singapore-Alor Star, 10 May 1933	315
127	Wearne Brothers' return flight postcard, Alor Star-Penang, 2 April 1938	316
128	KLM Fokker aircraft, the <i>HAVIK (HAWK)</i> , arriving at Alor Star	316
129	Imperial Airways Hercules aircraft, the <i>CITY OF CAIRO</i>	317
130	Imperial Airways 'Route Test' letter, first regular Malaya-UK service, 31 Dec. 1933	320
131	46c rate cover to UK, KLM Alor Star-Amsterdam service	320
132	56c rate cover to UK, KLM Alor Star-Amsterdam service	321
133	Registered airmail cover to UK via New Zealand, 20 December 1940	321
134	General Post Office, Alor Star	335
135	Railway Station, Padang Besar, Perlis	336

POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE MAKING

by FRED. J. MELVILLE / JOHN EASTON

Fred. J. Melville's *Postage Stamps in the Making* was originally written as a series of articles in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* before being published as a book in 1916. It was probably the most important and influential of his many works and he had been gathering information for it for some time, often by personal contact with the very men who had used the machinery and printing methods he described.

Melville died in 1940 and in 1946 the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain asked John Easton to make a revised and updated version of the book as a memorial to the author and the remarkable contribution he had made to philatelic literature during his lifetime. Easton was assisted in his task by being given access to information collected by Melville in preparation for a second volume which was never published. After adding several chapters of his own Easton published his book in 1949 using Melville's original title.

Easton was an experienced printer and philatelist in his own right and so brought a level of expertise to the subject of stamp production which few philatelic authors have been able to match either before or since. As a result, his book is considered to be one of the most authoritative of its kind and is certainly one of the most quoted. It needs to be remembered, however, that he omitted several of Melville's original chapters as well as abridging others and so much information fell by the wayside. This information could well prove vital in the future to those seeking a full account of some of the stamp printing processes of the past and, for this reason, it would be a pity if Melville's work came to be neglected or ignored as the result of an impression that it had been superseded by Easton's tribute.

Melville's book has an additional advantage, at least as far as Kedah is concerned, in that it has an immediacy and a particular relevance to the contemporary stamps of its day and, as it was written at about the time De La Rue were producing Kedah's first issue, it provides a most useful insight into the background of these stamps and the world of printing generally at that time.

Melville's curiosity and his determination to place the fundamentals of stamp printing on record were astonishing and it is a matter of regret he was not active in this respect in the latter period of his life during the inter-war years when rotary presses and dry paper began to be used in recess printing. These matters are of prime importance to the philatelic study of Kedah and it would have been invaluable to have been able to refer to the type of technical information he would surely have obtained, based, as it almost certainly would have been, on the experiences of the printers themselves.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

KEDAH

Kedah is situated on the north-west coast of West Malaysia facing the Malacca Straits. Inland it is bordered by the Siamese states of Songkhla and Patani while to the south are Perak and Province Wellesley, the boundaries being the Krian and Muda rivers. (The map shows how the latter territory was excised from Kedah in 1800 by its cession to the Honourable East India Company.) Its northern border is the River Sanglang which separates it from Perlis.

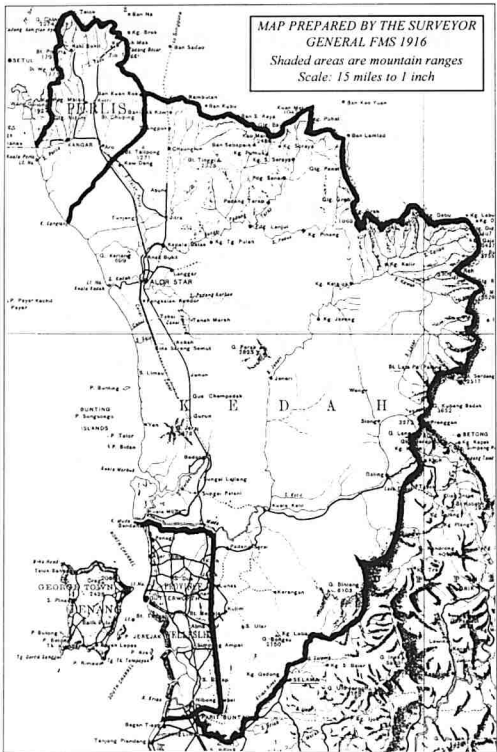
The State is a maximum 101 miles from north to south and 64 miles from east to west giving it an area of 3,660 square miles. This includes the 104 Langkawi Islands situated about 25 miles off the north-west coast. Behind a coastline of mudflats and mangroves is a cultivated interior, originally jungle, stretching to a mountainous region in the centre. The western extension of these mountains is formed by a large limestone outcrop which rises to a height of 3,978 feet near Gurun. Its Malay name is Gunong Jerai but it is more popularly known as the Kedah Peak and is clearly visible from Penang, where it has been a notable landmark for generations of tourists.

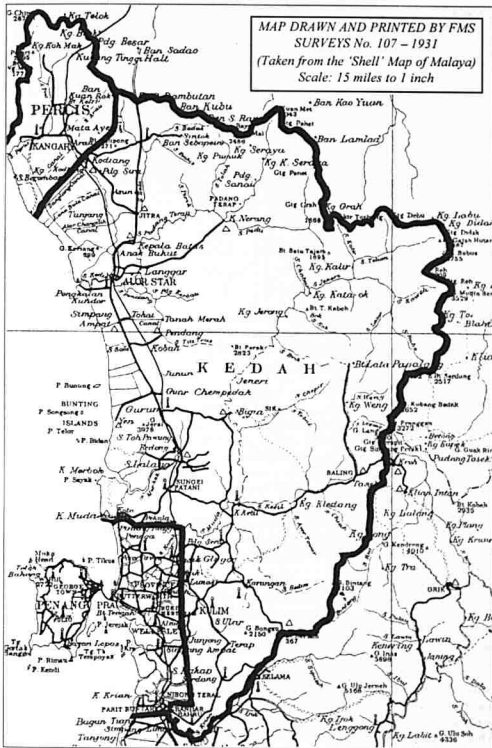
To the north of Gunong Jerai, up to the Perlis border, is a flat region (approximately 40 miles by 12), which is very suitable for rice-growing and has earned Kedah (with Perlis) the title of the 'Rice Bowl of Malaysia'. It produces over half of the country's home-grown rice supply, a fact given recognition in the design of Kedah's stamps. To the south is a higher area where rubber and tapioca are the main crops. There are two major river systems, the River Kedah and the River Muda, both of which run westwards into the Straits of Malacca. Neither is navigable very far from its mouth - in the case of the former, only the seven miles up to Alor Star.

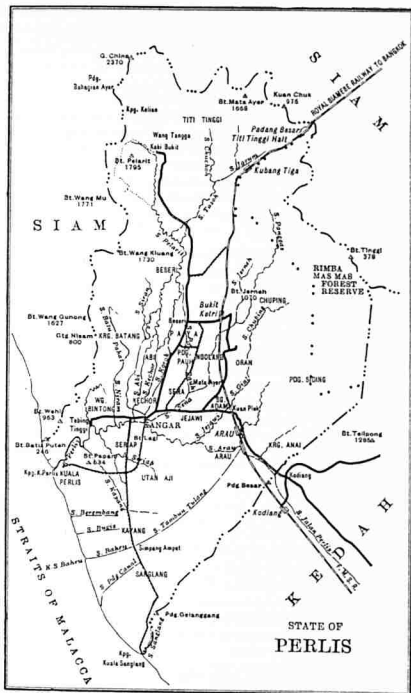
The annual rainfall is about 85 inches with a distinctly dry (or drier) season between January and April during the North-East Monsoon, and a wet season between August and November when the effect of the South-West Monsoon is felt. The mean maximum and minimum daily temperatures are about 89°F (32°C) and 73°F (23°C) respectively. There is little variation throughout the year and the climate is somewhat humid and monotonous.

The population in 1991 was just over one million, around 72% being Malay, 19% Chinese and 8% Indian. Noticeable, and perhaps surprising in view of Kedah's history, is the relative lack of people of Thai origin within the State although the distinctive facial characteristics of their former rulers can be seen in some of the Malay population.

The State is divided into ten administrative districts: Langkawi, Kubang Pasu, Padang Terap (Padang Terap), Kota Star (Kota Setar), Sik, Yen (Yan), Kuala Muda, Baling, Kulim and Bandar Bharu. Its principal town is the State capital Alor Star (Alor Setar) which has a population of approximately 60,000. It is the seat of government and the home of the Sultan. Other major towns are Sungei Patani, Kulim, Jitra and Baling.







REPRODUCED FROM THE ANNUAL PERLIS REPORT FOR 1937

NB - The scale of this reproduction is 5 miles to 1 inch

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

KEDAH BEFORE 1909

From the dawn of recorded history Kedah* has been subject to a succession of influences from neighbouring countries and cultures, largely as the result of either trade or military conquest. As early as the sixth or seventh century the influence was Indian, bringing with it Hinduism and Buddhism. In the fifteenth century the State fell under the sway of the powerful Malacca empire which ended in the imposition of Islam. In the eighteenth century she found herself at the mercy of Bugis invaders from the south. Before this, however, perhaps sometime in the thirteenth century, Kedah came under the periodic dominion of her powerful northern neighbour, Siam.†

By the eighteenth century this control had become symbolised in the form of a triennial tribute from Kedah of an ornamental plant fashioned in gold and silver known as the 'Bunga Emas' ('Golden Flower'). This was offered in token of Siamese overlordship but in times of political and military decline in Bangkok was often withheld. At others, such as the first half of the nineteenth century, it represented Kedah's status as a vassal state. Indeed, during part of this time, from 1821 to 1842, she was reduced to being a subject territory, not only conquered but occupied by Siam. This unhappy interlude was followed by a peaceful period during which the 'Bunga Emas' signified a somewhat looser allegiance, observed more in the name than the practice. Even so, although the life of the court and the affairs of the people were mostly governed by local custom and tradition, until the British assumed suzerainty in 1909 the State was always under the ultimate authority of the Siamese king. When a postal service began in the 1880s, for example, it was a Siamese system and the stamps used were those of his Siamese majesty. It was these interests and this authority with which the next wave of influence – European – had to contend.

Although she suffered at the hands of the Portuguese, Kedah was little affected during the initial periods of European settlement, first by the Portuguese in the sixteenth and then by the Dutch in the seventeenth century, as their influence was mainly in Malacca in the south of the country. However, the 1770s saw the arrival in Malaya of the British in the form of the Honourable East India Company which was seeking trade and a naval base where men-of-war could be repaired and supplied. The existing Sultan of Kedah saw, in the cession of Penang, an excellent opportunity of ridding himself of the baneful influence of both his northern and southern neighbours and opened negotiations (conducted initially from Kangar where he had taken refuge from the marauding Bugis) with a company officer, Francis Light. An agreement was reached and on 11 August 1786 Light hoisted the British

* The name 'Kedah' has a variety of spellings, several of which begin with the letter 'Q'. According to one source, the word itself means 'an enclosure for elephants', the name originating from the time when the State was the holding area for herds of elephants brought down from Siam for export.

† Siam changed its name to Thailand on 1 January 1940. In describing events before that date the former name is used, for events thereafter the country is referred to by its modern title.

flag over what the Company named at the time the Prince of Wales Island, in return for which the Sultan believed he had a promise of British assistance against his enemies.

A full account of these negotiations is contained in Sir Frank Swettenham's *British Malaya* which shows that the British initially accepted the condition of 'protection' for Kedah. Unfortunately, the Company was loath to involve itself in expensive military adventure, and when the nature and extent of its commitment became clear, the promise of assistance was withdrawn, whereupon the Sultan made an attempt to repossess Penang by force. When this failed he signed a treaty in 1791 ceding the island in return for an annual payment to him and his successors of 6,000 Spanish dollars. In 1800 a further cession of Kedah territory, this time a strip of about 150 square miles facing Penang (Province Wellesley), was made for an additional 4,000 dollars. (These payments eventually became the responsibility of the Straits Settlements Government and were still being made at the outbreak of the Second World War.) The prime mover in the latter transaction was Britain who needed to protect Penang from the Kedah-based pirates who were infesting the Prai shore.

From now on Kedah's fate depended on the self-interests of her two neighbouring powers, Britain and Siam, and when these coincided and she was unable to play one off against the other her fortunes declined. This occurred in the 1820s when, in the hope of fostering trade, the East India Company sought friendly relations with Siam at the very time when the latter, free at last from distracting wars with Burma, was looking to exert firmer control over her Malay provinces.

In 1821 the Sultan, Ahmad Tajuddin Halim Shah II, denied British support, was unable to resist an invading Siamese army and was forced to take refuge on Penang with thousands of his followers. Although the Governor of Penang refused a demand of the Siamese to surrender him, Tajuddin received no assistance from the British in his attempts to regain his territory. Indeed, following an Anglo-Siamese Treaty in 1826, Britain undertook to deny the Sultan's followers access to the Kedah shore, resulting in the frustration, by British blockade, of successive attempts by the Sultan to drive out the Siamese. In 1831 Tajuddin was forced to leave Penang to live in Malacca where he continued his campaign. However, after a final invasion attempt had been broken up by British gunboats he opened negotiations with the Siamese, who, tired of keeping a rebellious state in subjection, agreed to the restoration of his throne in 1842. Siamese troops and officials were withdrawn but dependency was maintained through the 'Bunga Emas' and, as a punishment, the State was reduced in size by the separation of Satool, Perlis and Kubang Pasu, although the latter was later restored on the death of its ruler. Kubang Pasu is an area roughly between the Perlis border and the town of Jitra which is its administrative centre today.

Relations between Kedah and Siam now entered a period of relative peace. Trade with Penang prospered and, apart from an attempt on the part of Kedah to seize the Krian district of Perak in 1843-4, which was settled by British pressure in Bangkok in Perak's favour, relations between Britain and Siam remained cordial also. (Disputes over territory in northern Perak continued until 1909, in fact, but without acrimony.) Aware of the danger of antagonising Siam and very conscious of the futility of relying on Britain in such circumstances, the Kedah royal family fostered friendly relations with Siam's rulers who, in turn, made few demands on her Malay possession.

Sir Frank Swettenham, in *British Malaya*, gives us this picture of the state in 1874:

Kedah had, by the efforts of its Malay Sultan and chiefs, attained to a degree of order and development which placed it far ahead of any of the States.

He goes on to say:

The Sultan (Ahmad Tajuddin Al-Mukarram Shah 1853–1879) was a just and upright man of intelligence, and his officers were full of good intentions; his chief minister was a man of real energy, and the people seemed happy and contented. The Siamese interfered very little in Kedah, and though the revenue raised must have been small, the country was not in debt.



Fig. 1 – Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah of Kedah (right) together with the representative of King Chulalongkorn Rama V of Siam (left) in front of the old Balei Besar, Alor Star, during the royal Siamese representative's visit to Kedah in 1897. (Courtesy of Muzium Negeri Kedah)

Of the capital he has this to say:

The chief village, a small but regularly-laid-out and tidily-kept place, called Alor Star, is some miles up the main river of the country. From this village ran a good road, with the river, bordered by houses and orchards, on one side, and a wide expanse of rice fields broken by islands of palm groves on the other... the country was highly cultivated within a radius of five to ten miles round Alor Star.

Until the turn of the nineteenth century Britain did little to further her interests in the northern states of Malaya as she was unwilling to disturb her friendly relations with Siam, although she continued to extend her influence in the centre of the country. Not only did

she wish to preserve her considerable trade in the region but, more importantly, she needed Siam's goodwill in resisting French encroachment in the peninsula, this being the period of major European rivalry in Africa and Asia. By diplomatic pressure, however, she ensured that no other nation obtained an economic foothold in the area and this blocking of land concessions for mining and plantation investment contributed to a decline in Kedah's state revenues before 1905.

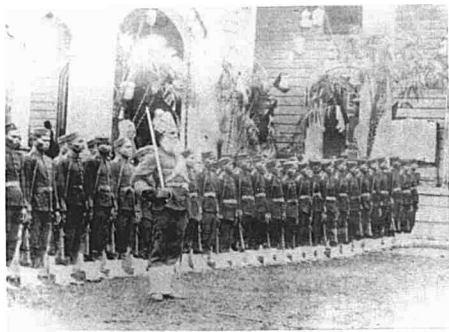


*Fig. 2 – The Raja Muda, Tungku Abdul Aziz.
(From the Straits and F.M.S. Annual 1907-8)*

Towards the end of the century an alteration in the balance of power in Europe began to exert a profound change in Anglo-French relations culminating in the Entente Cordiale of 1904. This made friendship with Siam less vital. Now a 'forward' policy in the northern states, always regarded as a legitimate area of British interest, became not only more

attractive but necessary, as other nations such as Germany and Russia were pressing to obtain concessions in the region. Germany, for example, had long wielded considerable influence in Bangkok and in 1899 and 1900 made several attempts to secure the Langkawi Islands. Fortunately, events inside the northern states, particularly Kedah and Perlis, began to make British involvement in their affairs more possible.

The happy state of Kedah's economy, described by Swettenham in 1874 had not lasted. In 1896 Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, who had come to the throne early in 1882 and was later to feature so prominently on Kedah's stamps, fell ill. The reins of government were taken over by his younger brother, the Raja Muda, Tungku Abdul Aziz. (Despite his title Tungku Aziz was not heir to the throne – that honour, at Siamese discretion, was still the eldest son's. It was Kedah's custom to devolve the title of Raja Muda on a brother who,



*Fig. 3 – The Kedah police force in 1900.
(Courtesy of Muzium Negeri Kedah)*

being of more mature years, would be better able to discharge the duties of the office.) The Sultan's illness was intermittent, making administration uncertain and, to add to the problems, there were considerable financial difficulties, leaving the State on the verge of bankruptcy.

The main reason for the decline in the State's financial fortunes was the feudal nature of its administration in which total power was vested in the Sultan who thereby controlled all state income and expenditure. Revenues were small as they largely relied on 'farms' which were concessions to merchants by the Sultan to administer a wide variety of economic

activities such as customs, gambling and trade, in exchange for annual dues. Owing to a lack of control and regulation these were very much subject to abuse and manipulation. The only other potential source of government revenue – land – was unproductive as there was no effective land-tax, the main reason being that the 'ra'ayat' (the general populace) were still able to exempt themselves by maintaining the feudal system of 'kerah' (forced labour) instead, which the Sultan preferred. By 1905 Kedah's revenue was barely \$800,000 per annum while her expenditure was over three times that amount. The main cause of this profligacy was the Sultan himself, who, having sole control of the exchequer, was able to spend without any form of check or regulation. Being extremely generous by nature, he took great pleasure in making lavish gifts and spending considerable sums on his wives and children, buying them jewellery and building them houses. He was also an inveterate



Sitting

Fig. 4 – A remembrance portrait taken in August 1905 during the replacement of W. J. F. Williamson as Kedah State Financial Adviser.

(Courtesy of Muzium Negeri Kedah)

Seated from left to right: Tunjku Ibrahim (later Regent of Kedah); Tunjku Abdul Aziz, Raja Muda; W. J. F. Williamson (Financial Adviser); Tuan Haji Ahmad (Chief Justice, Kedah); Enche Mohd. Ariffin (State Secretary, Kedah)

gambler, ran up large debts and borrowed imprudently, often from those Chinese merchants who held 'farming' concessions. The culminating extravagances were the expenses incurred in a series of royal marriages, especially those held in 1904 when the Sultan's eldest son and four other royal princes were married at considerable cost. The total state debt at this time was reported by Swettenham to be in excess of £2 million.

Faced with this crisis in 1905, the Raja Muda, acting independently of the Sultan, applied to Siam for a loan. This was granted by the Siamese on condition that Kedah accepted, until the loan was repaid, the services of a financial adviser who was to be appointed by the Siamese Government. Furthermore, this adviser had to be British. The latter, somewhat surprising demand, was the result of an Anglo-Siamese Declaration of 1902 under which

the Siamese had agreed, reluctantly, to the appointment of Residents or Advisers of British nationality to their Malay dependencies. Britain had insisted on this to ensure the Sultans followed a pro-British policy and, in particular, to prevent their granting foreign nationals land or trading concessions in their respective states. Such an apparent affront to Siamese sovereignty is an indication not only of the extra-territorial rights Britain enjoyed in Siam at this time but the tenuous nature of Siam's political control over her Malay provinces. Siam did manage to extract one concession, however – that the British officers should be appointed from her own service and not, as Swettenham suggested, from the Federated Malay States. As financial advisers they were to act in the same manner, although with fewer powers, as the Residents in the Federated Malay States in that their advice was to be followed on all financial matters except those touching Muslim religion and customs.

So it was that in 1905, W. J. F. Williamson, Financial Adviser to the Siamese Government, together with a loan of \$2.6 million at 6%, arrived in Alor Star to lay the foundations of a sound financial administration for the State. It was an important moment in the history of Kedah. It not only marked the end of a period of relative independence dating from the restoration of the sultanate by the Siamese in 1842, but also the beginning of Kedah's emergence into the modern era. The Sultan was now to lose his absolute control of the affairs of state in a process that was designed to make him, eventually, into a constitutional ruler on Western lines.

With an adviser came a number of other British officials to take charge of various departments, and some much needed reforms were instituted in the State. (For a list of names of Britons holding posts in Kedah in 1908 see the Kedah Annual Report for that year in Appendix 1.) In July 1905 the Sultan was required to establish a Kedah State Council which was headed by the able Raja Muda. Initially, this Council was made up of the Private Secretary to the Sultan, the Chief Judge and the State Treasurer (all Malay), and G. C. Hart who was now acting as the Financial Adviser. The latter was extremely tactful, aware both of the Sultan's sensitivity to his loss of status and that of the ruling Malays to the increased British influence his own presence represented. While Hart was able to work with the first President of the Council, the Raja Muda, all was well. Tungku Aziz was very conscious of the reforms that Kedah needed and was keen to modernise his state, and, while he was head of the Council, the new style of government prospered. Unfortunately, on the night of 31 May 1907, Tungku Aziz died in tragic circumstances when he took opium as a sedative and expired from its effects. He was very highly regarded by the Siamese Government and British officials in both Kedah and Penang, and his death was a sad loss to the State.

The State Council had been granted the broad powers necessary for the proper administration of the State and now set in motion a series of reforms that were to see the end of several institutions that had long been features of Kedah's feudal past. Steps were taken to secure the abolition of the archaic customs of 'forced-labour' (*kerah*) and 'debt-bondage' (although enactments to this end were not made until 1909 and 1910 respectively), revenue farms were reorganised and a Land Office established. An effective system of land rent was now possible, the importance of which was demonstrated when a decision to expand commercial agriculture, principally rubber, was taken. In 1906 Kedah possessed eight rubber estates but by 1910, aided by the boom in prices, the number had increased to over thirty, most of them located in the southern part of the State, and employing nearly 50,000

coolies. There was also some expansion of tin-mining although on nowhere near the same scale as rubber. The mines were mainly in the Kuala Muda and Kulim districts, particularly the latter, where they created some problems in the form of disputes over water-supply and secret society feuds. State revenue from tin rose from \$52,000 in 1906 to \$78,000 in 1911. A proper Public Works Department began to build and, just as importantly, maintain a number of public utilities. Road development lagged, however, although by 1908 there was a good metalled road linking Kulim with Province Wellesley.

Williamson's stay in Kedah was limited to the establishment and funding of the loan. It was G. C. Hart's task to ensure that state expenditure was now more broadly based and not, as it had been hitherto, used merely to enhance the lives of the Sultan, his family and court and the ruling class generally. Hart had his difficulties with the State Council after

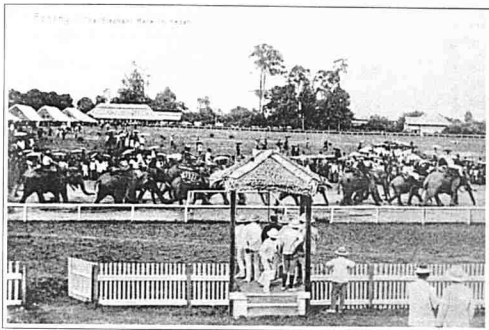


Fig. 5 – Elephants played a prominent part in Kedah's daily life at this time. This contemporary picture is, allegedly, of an elephant race.

the death of the Raja Muda and he was often accused by the Malay nobility of acting as a General Adviser rather than one whose advice should have been restricted to financial matters. However, this did not stop Captain Meadows Frost, the British Consul in Kedah, from considering that Hart was too lenient and easy-going, not making enough allowance perhaps, for the fact that the latter had to contend with the Kedah Malays' natural fears that Britain's ultimate aim was the absorption of their state into the Federated Malay States. With these difficulties added to those created by a sometimes irrational Sultan who was being encouraged in his obstructions by a royal court smarting from their loss of influence,

it was perhaps surprising that there was enough administrative progress made in the years up to the transfer to Britain in 1909 to make Kedah the most efficient government of the four northern Malay States.

THE TRANSFER TO BRITAIN

It now seemed only a matter of time before Britain assumed full responsibility for the protection and the administration of the northern states where her interests, both commercial and strategic, were becoming so substantial. Negotiations were opened with the Siamese Government and it soon became clear that Siam was by no means unwilling to dispose of her Malay possessions as she had evidently come to the conclusion that they were a source of weakness rather than of profit. Apart from being different from the Siamese

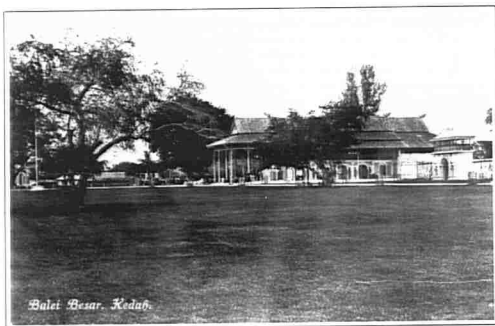


Fig. 6 – The Balei Besar, or Council Chamber, and Padang in Alor Star where the transfer ceremony took place.

in culture, religion and racial origin, the people had always resented their overlords to the north. Siamese officials in Kedah did not speak Malay or understand Muslim customs so that resentments were common. Furthermore, without a connecting railway, the very remoteness of the States had been a perennial source of administrative problems.

Agreement on the broad principles was reached on 10 March 1909 although the final details were not settled until 9 July when the Bangkok Treaty, which gave legal effect to the transfer, was signed by His Royal Highness, Prince Devawongse Veroprakar, Siamese Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Ralph Paget, British Envoy Extraordinary. The actual

hand-over did not take place until 15 July. The Siamese had every reason for satisfaction with the final terms of the treaty under which Britain acquired all rights of suzerainty (not sovereignty – Britain was never sovereign in the northern states), protection, administration and control of the States of Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Trengganu. Britain (in effect, the FMS Government) assumed the debts of the four states, granted a loan to Siam of £4 million at 4% interest to build a railway from Bangkok to the Malayan border, and surrendered her extra-territorial rights in the country. It was a regrettable fact, however, that like previous treaties affecting the status and future of the Malay States, the Bangkok Treaty was signed without the consent of the local rulers concerned. Nor indeed, were they ever consulted regarding any of its terms, despite strenuous efforts on their part both in Malaya and in London, a fact which caused considerable local resentment in all four states at the time. The *Penang Gazette* commented on 3 April 1909:

Kedah has been the shuttlecock of English and Siamese diplomacy since Captain Light landed in Penang; neither England nor Siam can claim, hitherto, to have treated the little state with even common decency and honesty.

The Sultan is alleged to have said:

My country and my people have been sold as one sells a bullock. I can forgive the buyer who had no obligations to me, but I cannot forgive the seller.

The legal rights assumed by Britain under the treaty, and which had been surrendered by the Siamese, were nominal and imprecise in the extreme and there was a prolonged period of uncertainty and, on the part of the Malays, suspicion, before these rights could be clarified and then codified in a separate treaty with each state in turn.

(For a contemporary British view of the transfer see the extracts from *The Postage Stamp* in Chapter 7.)

PERLIS BEFORE 1909

Perlis became a separate state during the period 1821–1842 when Kedah was reduced in size and influence before the restoration of Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin to his throne. Perlis was now ruled by Syed Hussein Jamalullail, son of an influential Arab trader who had married a daughter of Sultan Abdullah of Kedah before his death in 1804. Nearly 60 years after the separation, when relations between Siam and Kedah had been much improved, Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, acting in his capacity as High Commissioner for the provinces of Satool and Perlis, conferred the title of Raja on Syed Hussein's grandson, Syed Saffi. This title is held by the ruler of Perlis to the present day (1995). Despite many diplomatic attempts by Kedah to dislodge his family and re-absorb Perlis, Syed Saffi was succeeded by his son Raja Syed Alwi in 1905. He inherited an empty treasury and, like Kedah, had to negotiate a loan from Siam which was accompanied by a British Financial Adviser, A. H. Duke. He was succeeded by Captain Meadows Frost, formerly British Consul in Kedah, when the British assumed control in July 1909. Meadows Frost's post appears to have been a dual one in that he was also described as Assistant to Kedah's first Adviser, W. G. Maxwell.

Perlis's administration underwent radical changes after 1905 as a result of a number of senior British officers being appointed to its service. Her economy, however, was relatively untouched by either tin or rubber and, as a result, her transport and communications systems remained undeveloped. They are described by Amarjit Kaur in *Bridge and Barrier* (OUP 1985) at the date of transfer in 1909:

A road 12 miles in length ran from the Kedah frontier to the steamer landing-place for Kangar, just 3 miles beyond the town. Other minor earth roads connected the town to such tin mines as existed.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1909

Gordon Hart returned to India in 1909 (he had only been seconded by the Indian Government to Siam for service in Kedah in 1905) and Williamson took his place for a month until W. G. Maxwell, an FMS officer, arrived with the transfer of Kedah to Britain in July.

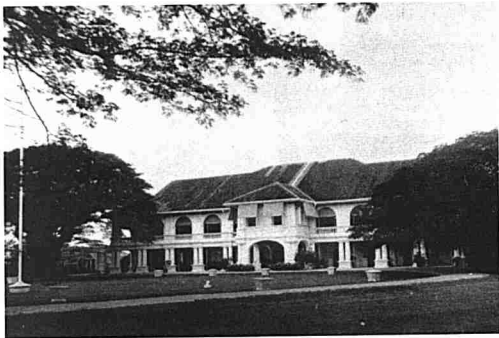


Fig. 7 – The British Adviser's Residence in Alor Star.

George Maxwell, later Sir George, for whom this was the first major appointment, was the son of the distinguished nineteenth century administrator, W. E. Maxwell. (His years of service in Malaya were 1891–1926 and he ended his career as Chief Secretary of the FMS.) After the transfer, his position carried the title of British Adviser rather than Financial Adviser. The significance was not lost on the Kedah State Council. There had long been local fears that Britain's aim was the ultimate absorption of the northern states into a general Malayan Federation in company with the Federated Malay States, and the British Residents

in Malaya seemed to assume that the transfer to British suzerainty was merely the first step towards such a federation. This was anathema to the Kedah ruling class, indeed to all levels of Malay society in the State. The relative freedom they had enjoyed under Siamese rule had created an independence of outlook which could never have tolerated the almost direct rule of the British authorities in the FMS. Although Maxwell, in his memoirs, claimed that he knew his position as British Adviser was not analogous to the powers of the British Residents in the FMS, some of his actions, at least in the eyes of the State Council, belied this belief. Eventually, relations between the Council and Maxwell became so bad that the former complained to Sir John Anderson, Governor of the Straits Settlements, listing as their grievances that Maxwell had insisted all official correspondence, including that of the Sultan, should go through the Resident-General of the Federated Malay States (for information), although he had conducted his European correspondence without reference to them; that he had removed the name 'Kedah' from official stationery; that he had also removed the distinguishing characteristics of Kedah's Crown from his personal seal; and that he flew the British flag above his residency although British law was not recognised anywhere in the State.



Fig. 8 - W. G. (later Sir George) Maxwell, 1871-1959.

Most of this seems very trivial at a distance of eighty or more years and, no doubt, could have been avoided with more sensitive handling on Maxwell's part, but in total it seemed to represent to the State Council the beginning of the erosion of their status, rights and privileges which they had been assured were guaranteed under the 1909 Anglo-Siamese Treaty. To the Malays this treaty had merely been the exchange of one titular master for another, they had not been prepared for, nor had they even contemplated, any change in their traditional ways of government.

Sir John Anderson was moved to come to Alor Star, in person, to settle the matter. Unfortunately his tact seems to have been of no higher order than Maxwell's, and at the second of his two meetings with the State Council its members walked out and instigated, the next day, a boycott of all local administration by Malay government officers. However, faced with a threat by the Governor to abolish the State Council, the 'rebellion' collapsed. Nevertheless, the point was made that any thought the British might have had of politically unifying their possessions in Malaya was out of the question at that time.

Kedah's dread of being drawn into the Federated Malay States made relations between the State Council and the Colonial Office somewhat delicate at times, and British insistence

in 1914 that the Regent, Tungku Ibrahim, become President of the State Council against his and the Council's wishes, is an example of the petty conflicts that could occur. This unease re-surfaced after the First World War when it became clear that the British were hoping that time, and such things as the spread of the FMS Railway into Kedah and Perlis and the cross-transfer of government officers between the Unfederated and Federated Malay States, had created a climate in which the Kedah Government would see amalgamation as being to their advantage. However, the basically Malay character of Kedah had always made this extremely unlikely. The State had never been disrupted and threatened by mass immigration as had the states of the FMS (apart, perhaps, from Pahang), and as has already been noted, the Siamese had made relatively little cultural impression. Maxwell, in his first administrative report as British Adviser, had remarked on this. The Muslim, not the Christian or Buddhist, calendar was used; Friday, the Muslim sabbath, was widely observed as a public holiday; the language of the major institutions – government, the courts and public offices, was Malay; and the great majority of the government servants at all levels were Malays. Sir John Anderson himself, in a letter to the existing Secretary of State in 1909, had commented on the latter point, and stressed how impossible it would be to effect any change if it threatened the entrenched position of the Malay elite with the Sultan at its head. (His letter contained the words: '... in regard to Kedah where there is a fully organised central administration composed of Malays, some of them, men of considerable ability and individuality ... They are very tenacious of power and privileges ...')

With the continued unlikelihood of Kedah ever agreeing to a change in its constitutional status the British Government ultimately came to accept the need to provide a statutory basis to the relations between the United Kingdom and her Northern Malay Protectorates. Hence, on 1 November 1923, with the final repayment of the 1905 loan to the FMS Government, a Treaty of Friendship between the two countries, signed in Singapore, eliminated the last traces of past suspicion and mistrust. Kedah's rights and privileges were legally defined but above all, the fear that she could be manoeuvred into a Federation was now finally laid to rest in the following clause:

His Britannic Majesty will not transfer or otherwise dispose of his right of suzerainty over the State of Kedah to another power and will not merge or combine the State of Kedah or her territories with any other state or with the Colony of the Straits Settlements without the written consent of His Highness the Sultan in Council.

A similar treaty of guarantee and protection between Perlis and Britain was signed on 28 April 1930 when Perlis finally settled its former Siamese debts after nearly 25 years.

As in the cases of the other two former Siamese Malay States, Kelantan and Trengganu, the British share in the administration of Kedah and Perlis up to the Japanese Occupation always remained considerably less than in the Federated Malay States. It was indirect rule – more a Malay administration with British guidance – than the largely British administration of the FMS.* This enabled the rulers to retain and exercise more independence and individual control over their finances, for example, than in any of the four states of Negri

* For example, it has been reported (in an obituary of Sultan Badlishah in the *Straits Budget* of 23 July 1958) that throughout its colonial history Kedah did not have a single British District Officer.

Sembilan, Pahang, Perak or Selangor. The British hardly interfered with the internal government of the States as long as order was maintained. As a result, the rulers were able to avail themselves of British advice as well as professional and technical assistance from the whole of the Malayan Civil Service, without ever surrendering any real measure of self-government. They were thus able to preserve the separate identity of their states in terms of their own State Councils, administrations and laws, as well as in many other aspects of everyday life.

This individuality was very evident, in the case of Kedah at least, in the design of its stamps. When the fears and forebodings of the Kedah State Council in 1911 are considered, its choice of local Malay subjects for the State's first set of stamps becomes particularly significant, even perhaps a little poignant.

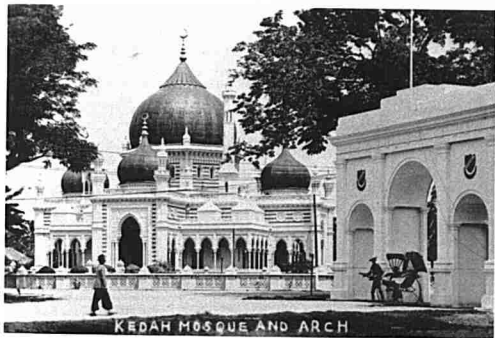


Fig. 9 – A ceremonial arch with the Masjid Zahir in the background. This Mosque, which faces the Balei Besar, was built in 1912 and is the premier place of worship in Kedah.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1909

The economic development of both Kedah and Perlis greatly accelerated after the transfer. In 1909 a road was begun linking Alor Star with Kangar. It branched off the old highway running north of Alor Star into Siam at Jitra. Eventually Kedah's roads were fully integrated with those of Province Wellesley and Perak to become part of the trunk system which ran

parallel with the main railway line up the western side of the country. The expansion of Kedah's road system can be traced by the following figures. By 1930 there were 375 miles of metalled and 114 miles of unmetalled roads in Kedah and Perlis, giving a mileage of 'roads per 100 square miles of area' of 11.8 compared to the FMS of 10.6 and Johore of 10. In terms of every 10,000 of population the figures were not quite so favourable, being 11.4 for Kedah, 17.1 for the FMS and 14.8 for Johore. Nevertheless they show that development was keeping broadly abreast of the rest of the country. In 1913 there were only 15 cars registered in Kedah but by 1930 this number had increased to 1,728. In Perlis the figures were nil and 73. It seems the old and the new modes of transport existed side by side, at least until the twenties, as the Census Report of 1921 records that there were no less than 14 elephant drivers still employed in Kedah – out of a total of 15 for the whole of Malaya.



Jalan Raja, Alor Star, Kedah.

*Fig. 10 – Jalan Raja, Alor Star, in the early 1920s.
The white building on the left is the 'Kedah Cinema'.*

Although during the first few years of the British administration both Kedah and Perlis were dependent, economically, on the rice cultivation of the rural Malay population, the spread of roads encouraged the steady expansion of rubber plantations and this led to a diversification and transformation of the financial basis of the economy. A Land Code was passed in 1914, by which time, with the admission of Indian labour from the Straits Settlements (authorised in 1910), 58,000 acres of rubber were under production, exports

being valued at \$1,323,608. By 1919 the acreage had increased to 112,192. Most of these new estates were owned by British firms or Straits-based Chinese towkays and were located in south Kedah with its easy access to Penang.

The growth of rubber planting lent impetus to the increased use of telephones and not only to estates. By 1909 all the major police stations were connected and lines had been extended to most of the various public buildings as well as the residences of the principal government officials. In 1910 the number of telephones rose from 26 to 51 with the larger estates contributing towards the cost of installation. By 1913 there were telephone lines connecting Kulim, Lunas, Padang Serai, Sungei Patani and Kuala Ketil. Through the Kuala Muda exchange there was a direct connection with the telephone exchange in Penang and by 1923 the number of telephone subscribers was 382. Eventually, telegraphic and telephone communication was established with all the other states of Malaya except Kelantan and Trengganu.

The railway reached Alor Star in October 1915, and on 1 July 1918 was linked with the Bangkok railway at Padang Besar on the Perlis-Siam border which was at last finally demarcated. With the need to follow a fairly straight route, the line bypassed Kangar and ran through Arau, 9 miles distant. A road was later built to link Kangar with the railway station just north of Arau, slightly nearer the capital.

Kedah and Perlis formally joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 January 1916, a year after the FMS, but both States had been enjoying the benefits of membership by virtue of being part of the local Postal Union since shortly after the handover to the British in 1909, and indeed before that, while still being administered by Siam. In 1934 the FMS and the SS formed the Malayan Postal Union with the object of administering their joint territories as 'a single postal area' (the description in the formal agreement). However, no reference has been found in any official document to indicate that Kedah or Perlis, or indeed any of the Unfederated Malay States, ever joined the MPU, either when it was formed or later. It seems there may have been the intention, or at least the hope, on the part of the FMS and the SS that this should occur as No. 26 of the Terms of Agreement of the MPU stated:

Any Malay State under British protection which may apply for membership of the Postal Union shall be admitted to membership thereof upon signing a form of adherence.

However, it further stated:

... and the Administration of such State shall comply with all the undertakings in this Agreement...

No. 6 of these undertakings stipulated:

Each Administration reserves the right to have and use its own distinctive issue of stamps provided that the word 'MALAYA' shall appear in Roman characters on all stamps issued for postal purposes.

As Kedah's stamps never conformed to the above requirement it has to be assumed that the two States remained outside the Union. Perhaps the Kedah State Council felt that, despite the 1923 Treaty of Friendship with Britain, too close an association of this nature with the FMS and the SS might dangerously compromise the guarantees they had received.

Nevertheless, the evidence of postal notices during this period suggests that the two States made every attempt to harmonise their post office rules and regulations with those of the Union, presumably in order to continue the advantages which uniformity had brought in the past. It might even have been a requirement of the Universal Postal Union that this harmonisation be maintained.

With economic development came the need for ancillary services and in 1923 a Government Savings Bank was established in Kedah. Economic advance went hand-in-hand with an increase in population. In 1911 the number of people living in Kedah was just under 246,000 (including 33,746 Chinese who were mainly associated with tin-mining; 6,074 Indians and 5,749 Siamese). By 1921 it had increased to 338,000 and by 1931 to 430,000. In Perlis the comparable figures were: 1911 – 33,000, 1921 – 40,000 and 1931 – 49,000. In 1911 there



Fig. 11 – A (reluctant) bull-fight in Alor Star, a picture probably taken in the 1920s.

were 86 Europeans resident in Kedah, in 1921 300 and in 1931 411, although the number in Perlis never reached double figures and only four were recorded in 1932. In the latter year, according to the Adviser's Report, there were nine towns in Kedah with a population exceeding 1,000, the largest being Alor Star with approximately 18,500, about half of them Chinese. (The total population of Alor Star in 1921 had been 11,500.)

The postal services, as would be expected, showed comparable development also. As a means of comparing the size of Kedah and Perlis's postal business with the remainder of

Malaya, the following table might be of interest. It is taken from *The Handbook of British Malaya* and refers to the year 1923.

Total number of articles posted and delivered:

Straits Settlements	34,154,215
Federated Malay States	22,054,385
Johore	4,764,721
Kedah/Perlis	1,989,307
Kelantan	281,257
Trengganu	64,768

Although the economy of both Kedah and Perlis, like Malaya as a whole, depended at this time on the world price of rubber and tin, it showed steady progress between the wars despite the slump of the early 1930s. In 1937 for example, Kedah had no debt and a surplus revenue of £900,000. This period of peace and relative prosperity came to an abrupt end in December 1941 with the Japanese invasion. This event was, ultimately, to have the most far-reaching consequences for both States, including their reversion to Thai rule for a time during the war. The period of the Japanese Occupation, however, is outside the scope of this study.

(For further details of the history of Kedah and Perlis from 1905 to 1941 see the extracts from the annual reports of the Advisers to the Kedah and Perlis Governments in Appendix 1. The report for 1905-06, in particular, gives an interesting contemporary sketch of Alor Star.)

SULTAN SIR ABDUL HAMID HALIM SHAH, KCMG

The ruler of Kedah at the time of its transfer to Britain in 1909, Sultan Sir Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, has a respected place in the history of the State. Not long after his succession in January 1882 (sources give his age variously as from fifteen to eighteen at the time), he made a visit to Bangkok to marry a Siamese wife, who became the mother of Y. T. M. Tunngu Abdul Rahman Putera, Al-Haj, first and famous Prime Minister of independent Malaya and Malaysia. Following this sign of an improvement in the relations between Siam and Kedah, the Sultan was appointed as the Siamese government's High Commissioner for the lost provinces of Perlis and Satool. Frequent petitions to the King by the Sultan to have these territories restored to his rule were ignored, however.

In the early years of his reign he travelled widely in the east and displayed a commendably progressive outlook. In 1885 he visited both Perak and Singapore to examine the systems of government there and to see what might be applied in Kedah, while both he and his brother, the Raja Muda, impressed Swettenham with their study and skill in English when the latter visited Kedah in 1889. The year before, the Sultan had taken personal command of an armed force which successfully quelled a riot amongst the Chinese tin miners in Kulim. His firmness in dealing with the ringleaders and ensuring that there was no repeat of the disturbances impressed the authorities in Penang. However, starting in 1896, he began to suffer periodic bouts of mental illness. There are numerous contemporary accounts of irrational behaviour and chronic loss of memory, with the result that affairs of state became impossible on a number of occasions. In 1900 and again in 1912 there were

unsuccessful attempts to establish a regency, and a year after the second occasion, when Maxwell wrote to the High Commissioner that the Sultan's sanity was in question, a medical report described him in these terms:

His memory is so defective that even if he reads or hears a short letter the contents pass from his mind as soon as the letter is finished ... He is unreasonable and often unreasoning. I consider that he is suffering from an incurable degeneration of the brain tissue which absolutely unfits him ... for taking part in the affairs of State ...

Following this his son Tungku Ibrahim was appointed as Regent. The Sultan's health broke down completely in 1936 and he died on 13 May 1943 having ruled for over 61 years. During his reign Kedah was transformed from being a feudal province under an autocratic ruler of almost medieval proportions, to a modern state with a constitutional ruler at its head. While it cannot be claimed this transformation was the work or even the wish of the Sultan and, indeed, may have resulted partly from the weaknesses of his rule, it was during his sovereignty that it occurred. It is therefore true to say that he presided over Kedah's emergence into the twentieth century, both literally and figuratively. He is commemorated in the name of Kedah's premier educational institution, the Sultan Abdul Hamid College, in Alor Star.

THE RULING HOUSE OF KEDAH



KEDAH – British Advisers

W. George Maxwell	1909–1914	W. Peel	1922–1923
L. E. Wolferstan (acting)....	1915	E. C. H. Wolff (acting).....	1923–1924
G. A. Hall (acting).....	1916–1919	W. Peel	1924–1925
M. S. H. McArthur	1919–1920	T. W. Clayton.....	1925–1932
F. J. Hallifax (acting)	1920–1922	J. D. Hall.....	1932–1939*
M. S. H. McArthur	1921–1922		

* Was serving in 1939. May have continued until 1941.

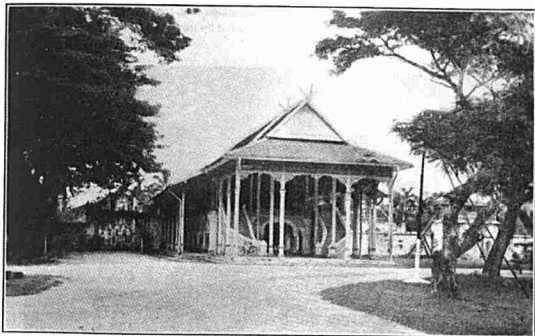


Fig. 12 – The Balei Besar, or Council Chamber, in Alor Star.

The bicycle at the front of the Balei in Fig. 12 appears somewhat incongruous and not a little disrespectful. Who might have had the temerity to treat the royal building in such a way? The following is an extract from one of a series of articles entitled 'Bygone Kedah' by local historian, James F. Augustin, which appeared in the *Penang Gazette* in 1973:

Even Sultan Abdul Hamid rode a bicycle. A European who visited Alor Star at this time (c. 1910), remarked, 'I saw the Sultan flash past mounted on a bicycle and closely followed by an attendant'.

As there is only one bicycle to be seen, presumably the attendant was on foot.

THE RULERS OF PERLIS

Jamalullail is the family name of the Perlis rulers.

Y. M. M. Syed Hussein Jamalullail (1839–1873)

Y. M. M. Syed Ahmad Jamalullail (1873–1897)

Y. M. M. Syed Saffi Jamalullail (1897–1905)

Y. M. M. Syed Alwi Jamalullail (1905–1943)

Y. M. M. Syed Hamzah Jamalullail (1943–45)
(Previous ruler's half-brother installed by the Japanese)

Y. M. M. Syed Putra Jamalullail (4.12.45)
(Official heir presumptive installed by the British)

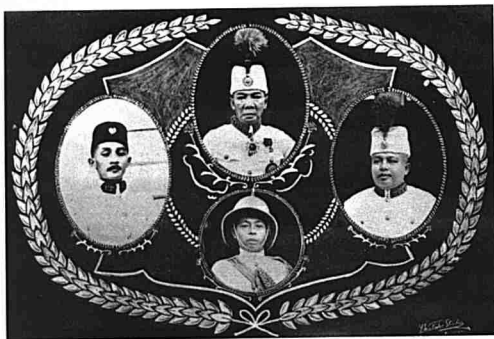


Fig. 13

- Top: His Highness Raja Syed Alwi ibni Almarhum Raja Syed Saffi Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis 1905 to 1943.
- Left: Syed Hamzah Jamalullail, who became Raja of Perlis during the Japanese Occupation 1943 to 1945. He abdicated when the British returned to Perlis.
- Right: Syed Hussain Jamalullail.
- Bottom: Syed Hassan Jamalullail, who was the heir to the throne but died earlier than his father, Syed Alwi. His son, His Highness Raja Syed Putra ibni Syed Hassan Jamalullail, is the present ruler of Perlis (1992).

PERLIS - British Residents

Capt. Meadows Frost.....	1909-1910	T. W. Clayton.....	1922-1923
A. Cavendish (acting).....	1910	J. W. W. Hughes	1923-1925
Capt. Meadows Frost.....	1910-1911	P. S. Williams	1925-1928
J. G. Richey (acting).....	1911 (dec.)	L. A. Allen.....	1928-1930
H. C. Eckhardt (acting)	1911-1913	M. C. Hay	1930-1932
G. M. Laidlaw (acting).....	1913	O. E. Venables	1932-1935
H. C. Eckhardt (acting)	1913-1920	C. R. Howitt	1935-1937
E. W. N. Wyatt.....	1920-1922	C. W. Dawson.....	1937-1939*

* Was serving in 1939. May have continued until 1941.

THE SIAMESE POSTAL SYSTEM

A Siamese post office first opened in Bangkok on 4 August 1883. Before that, mail to and from foreign countries had been handled, first by individuals such as Christian missionaries with contacts with the outside world and then, after 1856, by firms such as the Borneo Company acting as forwarding agents. Consuls of foreign governments also performed the same task: the British Consul, for example, undertook postal responsibilities for the benefit of both British and foreign nationals from the early 1860s, using first the stamps of India, and then from 1867 those of the Straits Settlements. These postal duties became so onerous that post offices had to be set up in the foreign legations, the British Consulate doing so in 1882. This office operated as a branch of Singapore and used the Straits Settlements stamps with the 'B' overprints.

Internal mail was carried privately or by special messengers using river and animal transport, often with the authority of the King or a local ruler. Letters preserved in the School of Oriental and African Studies in London show that mail was carried in and through Kedah at this time, much of it in the furtherance of trade or on the Sultan's business. For example, the *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (Vol. LIV 1981) records the existence of two letters from Sultan Muhammad Jiwa Muazzam Shah to Francis Light on trading matters.

Initially the postal arrangements were limited to Bangkok and its immediate environs but by 1884 a service had been extended along the Menam River as far as Chiangmai. After Siam became a member of the Universal Postal Union on 1 July 1885, there was a concerted move to establish a national system and a number of post offices opened in the provinces before the end of the year. With Siam joining the UPU the need for Consular Post Offices ceased and they closed.

It is recorded in *The Royal Siamese Postal Service, the Early Years* by Bonnie Davis that on 1 April 1886 mail lines were opened between Phuket and Penang and between Saiburi and Penang. Although today there is a small port called Saiburi in Southern Thailand on the eastern side of the Kra Peninsula about 60 miles north of Kota Bharu, there is no doubt that the Saiburi referred to above is Kedah. Its capital was then known by its Siamese name of Muang Saiburi (or Syburi) although locally the Malay name of Alor Star was used.* The statement in Davis is supported by the following item in the annual report of the Straits Settlements' postal department for the year 1886:

It may interest the mercantile community to learn that the Siamese Government is taking steps to establish postal communications between Penang and the principal ports in Siamese Territory on the West Coast of the Malayan Peninsula. The ports referred to are situated between Kedah and Kra.

* The word 'alor' means a canal and 'star' is the Anglicised spelling of 'setar' which is the name of a small tree. (The town has reverted to this spelling in recent years.)

Unfortunately subsequent reports make no further reference to the matter.

It would seem only natural that the close proximity of a modern and efficient post office like Penang with its thriving business community and well-developed links with the outside world would draw mail from the Siamese hinterland and so encourage the establishment of 'mail lines' there. A route for the transmission of mail is one thing, but the establishment of a post office is something quite different and there seems little justification for the following claim made by C. W. Fawdry in a short article on the early postmarks of Kedah and Kelantan in the *Stamp Review* of July 1939:

...on April 1st 1886, the Offices of Saiburi (Kedah) and Bhuket (Puket) entered into a direct exchange of letter mails with the Post Office in Penang.

Fawdry gives no source for this information but it would appear likely that it was the same as that used by Bonnie Davis and his use of the word 'Offices' was probably an erroneous assumption on his part.

The existence of mail created the need for a post office and the establishment of one in Kedah was not long delayed. The late Charles Stewart of the Thailand Philatelic Society was of the opinion that the first post office in the State was opened in Alor Star in 1887, sometime between the end of March or the beginning of April and 27 October. The latter is quite definite as it is the earliest recorded date of Kedah's first circular datestamp. (See Chapter 6, 'The Siamese Postmarks of Kedah and Perlis', and the postal stationery card in Fig. 19.)

Charles Stewart's belief is, to some extent, confirmed by the following extract from an official report entitled *The Siamese Postal System* printed in May 1888 and quoted by Bonnie Davis:

The number of inland letters, postcards, books, printed papers and samples conveyed during 1887-88 amounted to 25,620, the total length of the postal routes in the interior is 2,280 miles, and during the past year new branches have been opened at Quedah, Puket, Takuapa, Thabang and several other places on the West Coast.

'Quedah' was a quite common early spelling variation of Kedah.

Sir Frank Swettenham has provided a brief description of Alor Star in 1874 in his *British Malaya* (see Chapter 2, 'The Historical Background'). Situated on the south bank of the Sungei Kedah, the town was the site of the residence of the Sultan with Kota Star (Fort Star) on the opposite bank. It was just seven miles upstream from Kuala Kedah, the town at the river-mouth which was the principal port of the State. The river, almost certainly, would have been the route the early mail took when steamers began to use Alor Star as a regular, if not very frequent, port of call. This was probably sometime in the 1880s and, even in those days, vessels of some size were able to reach close to the centre of Alor Star. As a further indication of how the State was being drawn into the modern world at this time, a telephone line was laid between Alor Star and Kuala Kedah in 1887. Inland, communication was a lot more uncertain and the establishment of postal contact with the capital, Bangkok, must have presented considerably greater difficulties. The most likely route for a link would have been overland to Singora on the east coast of Siam (possibly via Kangar but more probably by the more direct route due north from Alor Star via

Changloon), and thence to Bangkok by sea. A report published in the *Bangkok Times* on 20 February 1892, quoted by Bonnie Davis, had this to say on the subject:

In the southern part of the kingdom considerable progress has already been made; a well-organised post office exists in Kedah, others are being opened in Patani and Singora – although considerable irregularity exists owing to the uncertain movements of the few steamers trading there, and on the west coast they are being established, although the petty rajahs impede the work considerably.

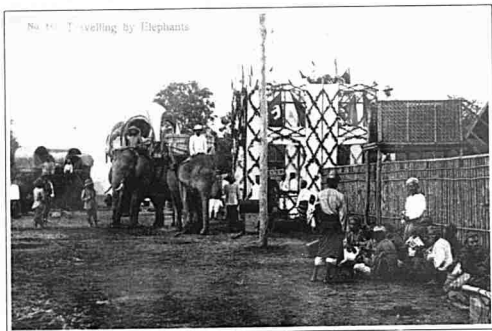


Fig. 14 – At this time elephants were the most reliable, and certainly the most prestigious, form of land transport in the northern states. This photograph was taken on the border of Kedah and Siam, probably around the turn of the century. It depicts a scene from an event which is explained by Figs 15 and 16.

Fred. J. Melville in his book *Siam, its Posts and Postage Stamps*, published in 1906, says in regard to the extension of the postal services to the Southern Provinces:

The year 1895 was not less notable than its predecessors for the betterments introduced in the Siamese postal service. Of these one of the most important was the establishment of a continuous service between Bangkok, Singora and Kelantan, a distance of over 500 English miles. Another service was established between Singora and Kedah.

The latter statement would appear to be referring to an announcement by the Siamese Postal Department in late October 1896 which claimed that three overland routes had been established from the east to the west coast of the Malay Peninsula including one between

Singora and Kedah. Without any real evidence it is difficult to estimate how speedy and reliable this route was at the time, but Sir Frank Swettenham, describing the area around Alor Star in 1874, had this comment on inland communications:

It was said, then, that the road extended for sixty miles towards the Siamese State of Senggora, in the north of the Peninsula, but the road probably became a mere cart-track as soon as it passed the limit of cultivated fields, and I can say, as the result of personal observation, that ten miles from Alor Star the bridges had either never been built or had disappeared.

It is very possible, of course, that things had improved by 1896 as the postal authorities were making strenuous efforts in this direction. An indication of this is contained in Peter Collins' article on Siam's 1887 stamp issue in *Stamp Collecting* of 13 May 1982 when he said that in 1894, Prince Bhanurangsi, the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, announced that the time for the delivery of mails between Bangkok and Chiangmai in the north (a distance of less than 400 miles) had been reduced from 30 to 15 days! In the same year the postal authorities also stated that there were no less than 133 inland post offices existing in the country at that time, although some of these may have been of an experimental nature and did not remain open for very long.

Some idea of the problems encountered by the ra'ayat (ordinary people) when travelling overland in Kedah at this time can be gauged from the following description of the experiences of travellers and postmen between Alor Star and the south of Kedah at the turn of the century. It is by James F. Augustin, a local historian and a former headmaster of the Sungei Patani English School, in an article 'Bygone Kedah' in *The Penang Gazette*, 1973.

In those days one travelled on the Wan Mat Saman Canal to Kota Sarang Semut, and if the tide was up, covered the distance to Guar Chemedak without delay. From here a path followed the Gurun River, through orchards. Two miles beyond Gurun it branched off, passing behind Bukit Ayer Nasi to Semeling [sic]. From Semeling the journey was continued by boat down the Merbok River and through the Sungei Trus to Kota Kuala Muda. At Permatang Bendahari, on the other side of the river, the Province (Wellesley) road started. Although biting dogs posed no danger to postmen in those days, the men were exposed to far greater perils. One man, in particular, had a hair-raising experience. As he trudged along a path skirting the foothills of Kedah Peak with his bag of mail slung over his shoulder, he heard a frightful roar and saw a tiger rushing towards him. With great presence of mind he suddenly opened the umbrella he was carrying in the face of the tiger which was so startled that it leapt into the jungle alongside the path. It was fully a quarter of an hour before the man could muster enough courage, go down on his knees to thank God for his providential escape, and proceed to Semeling.

In view of the difficult communications between Alor Star and the capital, Bangkok, it is not surprising that there were frequent complaints about the lack of postage stamps, particularly of small denomination, in country post offices, exacerbated it seems by the regulation that stamps had to come direct from Bangkok – imports from other parts of Siam being forbidden. Bonnie Davis quotes occasions in 1899 from the north of the country when foreign mail could not be routed through Burma as it had to be sent down to Bangkok to have the proper postage affixed, causing up to a month's delay. It seems some business

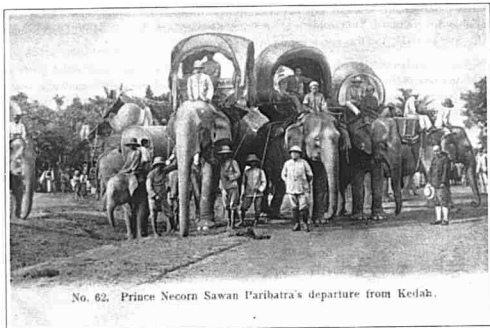


Fig. 15

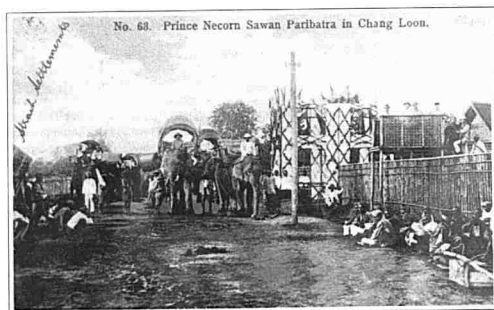


Fig. 16 – Changloon was near Kedah's northern border on the highway into Siam. This road was the main link with Siam from Alor Star until the coming of the railway through Perlis via Padang Besar in 1918.

firms ordered their own stamps sent up from Bangkok in an effort to overcome the problem. This was not always the answer either, as sometimes there was a chronic shortage of low value stamps in the main post office as well, especially in the nineteenth century. This was due, it seems, to the fact that stamp orders were made by the Treasury and not the post office, and the former tended to order similar quantities of each value, ignoring the fact that the demand for stamps franking the local rates was considerably greater than for the others. As the local rates were the lowest it was the 1 att and 2 atts stamps which were most often in short supply.

Sometime in 1894 a post office was opened in Kangar, the state capital of Perlis. This information is contained in a 'Notification of His Majesty's Postal Department' of 1894 quoted by Bonnie Davis:

The public is hereby informed that during the course of the last twelve months, the following Post Office has been opened in Siam: Perlis – on the overland route from Kedah to Singora, Malay Peninsula.

The first annual report, September 1905 – August 1906, of the newly-appointed Adviser to Government (q.v. in Appendix 1) had this to say about the postal service in Kedah at that time:

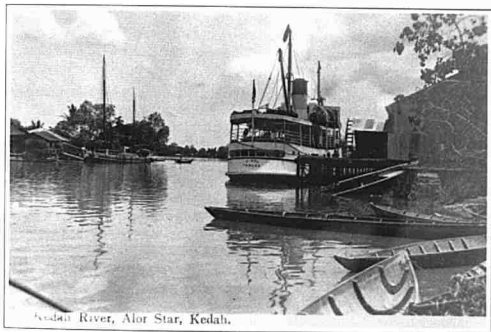


Fig. 17 – A Penang steamer at the quayside on the Kedah River, Alor Star. The Adviser's annual report for 1905–1906 stated: 'Two steamers run daily between Alor Star and Penang'.

The postal and telegraph service in Kedah is under the control of the Siamese Post and Telegraph Department. In the three states of Kedah, Perlis and Sitalo, there are 185 miles of telegraph line with four telegraph offices, two in Kedah, at Alor Star and Kuala Muda, and one at the headquarters of each of the other States. Proposals are now under consideration regarding the opening of post and telegraph offices at Kulim and Sungei Upeh, and post offices at Kuala Muda, and the Langkowie [sic] Islands. It is somewhat anomalous that a letter from Penang to Kedah, a distance of 50 miles, should cost 8 cents, about 2 1/2d, while one from Kedah to Penang costs 12 cents, or over 3d, it would be a good thing were this excessive rate reduced.

This extract contains an interesting reference to the fact that Straits currency (cents) appears to have been in contemporary use in Kedah. The foreign letter rate was 12 atts at this time and it seems that it was this rate which was being referred to when it was claimed a letter 'from Kedah to Penang costs 12 cents' – making a cent equivalent to one att. (Reference to the postage charges in Chapter 5 will confirm that this 'excessive rate' was reduced on 15 August 1907 when the rate to foreign countries was cut to 9 atts per tical.)

With the appointment of British advisers in 1905 and the availability of their annual reports, a much fuller picture of the postal services in Kedah and Perlis emerges. Not surprisingly, the postal system expanded during this period with new post offices being opened at Kuala Muda, Kulim and Langkawi in the latter half of 1907. Bonnie Davis in her *Royal Siamese Postal Service (the Early Years)* added the following information regarding the latter two offices: *The connection of both places was with Penang – in the case of Langkawi, by each available steamer, and in the case of Kulim, by daily trains.** Although development of the postal services may not have been as rapid as in the Federated Malay States at the time, it was not inconsiderable.

During the course of the transfer of Kedah and Perlis to Britain in July 1909, Siam made the whole of the States' postal and telegraph systems a farewell gift to the British Government, an act which a contemporary newspaper report described as 'handsome'. The administrations of both States were made the immediate beneficiaries of these gifts and they were thus provided with a solid basis for future development.

The Advisers' annual reports after the hand over to Britain are, strictly speaking, outside the scope of this chapter, but the following extracts from the report for the year 23 January 1909 – 12 January 1910 (q.v. in Appendix 1) throw interesting light on the postal system immediately prior to the transfer, in particular the way land communications were developing and the former dependence on water transport being reduced:

With the opening of the Perlis road, an overland bicycle mail service between Perlis and Kedah was instituted on the 21st October. There are two mail carriers, who meet four times a week at Kodingang, on the Kedah-Perlis boundary, and exchange mail-bags. The mail carriers were formerly postmen, and the mail service has been effected with only the extra initial cost of two bicycles. Mails between Kedah and Perlis were formerly

* Davis was not strictly accurate as far as Kulim was concerned as the town has never been sited on a railway although Bukit Mertajam, about 8 miles to the west, was linked by rail to Prai (Penang) as early as 1899. Presumably, the Kulim mails were carried daily to and from Bukit Mertajam by road.

sent via Penang. Those between Kedah and Langkawi, which also formerly went via Penang, are now sent via Perlis.

With the exception of the Perlis mail service, and a weekly service to Singora by mail runner, the mail service of Kedah goes through Penang Post Office, to and from which mails are sent every day by the Alor Star, Kuala Muda and Kulim Post Offices. Perlis and Langkawi mails are carried by a bi-weekly service of steamers.

As there is no mention that these postal arrangements were the result of any recent change, the implication must be that they were inherited from the Siamese administration. Changes there certainly were, however, during this period, and by the time Kedah issued its own stamps in June 1912, barely three years later, no less than six more post offices had been opened and, according to the Kedah Annual Report for 1910, pillar boxes had been installed in seven other places. The foundations for an increasingly modern postal system were being laid.

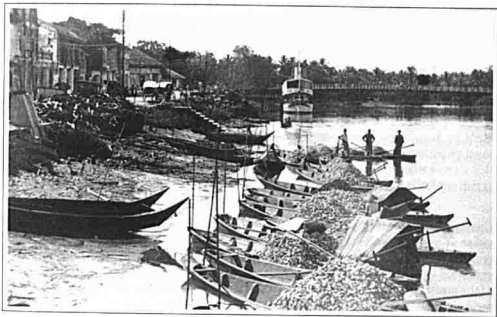


Fig. 18 – View of the Kedah River showing, behind the steamer, the Sultan Badlishah Bridge. Facing the steamer and partially obscured by the white-topped carts on the quay, is the old Post and Telegraph Office of Alor Star. (See the caption under Fig. 134 on p. 335.)



SIAMESE CURRENCY AND THE STAMPS AND STATIONERY USED IN KEDAH AND PERLIS

THE CURRENCY

When postage stamps were first issued in Siam in 1883 the basic unit of the monetary system was the baht or tical. The subsidiary coinage was based on the att, of which 64 made one tical. The coins in actual use were the following:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Tical value</i>	<i>In Atts</i>	<i>Metal</i>
Solot	$\frac{1}{128}$ of a tical	$\frac{1}{2}$ att	Bronze
Att	$\frac{1}{64}$ of a tical	1 att	Bronze
Sio	$\frac{1}{32}$ of a tical	2 atts	Bronze
Sik	$\frac{1}{16}$ of a tical	4 atts	Bronze
Fuang	$\frac{1}{8}$ of a tical	8 atts	Silver
Salung	$\frac{1}{4}$ of a tical	16 atts	Silver
Tical	1 tical	64 atts	Silver

So, the currency table was as follows:

2 solot	= 1 att	2 sik	= 1 fuang
2 atts	= 1 sio	2 fuang	= 1 salung
2 sio	= 1 sik	4 salung	= 1 tical

Confusion often arises from the fact that at this time the baht or tical could refer to a unit either of money or of weight. This was because the value of the tical was based upon a recognised bar of silver of standard weight. Until November 1902 Siam's currency continued to be based on the value of silver which fell steadily during the last thirty years of the nineteenth century. The resulting decline in the value of the tical was a contributory factor in the number of surcharges which appeared on Siam's stamps during this period. After November 1902 Siam went on the Gold Standard and in November 1908 the value of the tical was fixed by law at 13 ticals to the pound sterling. At the same time the subsidiary coinage was placed on a decimal basis – the tical being divided into 100 satangs instead of 64 atts as hitherto. This resulted in a coinage as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Tical value</i>	<i>In Satang</i>	<i>Metal</i>
Satang	$\frac{1}{100}$ of a tical	1 satang	Nickel
5 Satang	$\frac{1}{20}$ of a tical	5 satang	Nickel
10 Satang	$\frac{1}{10}$ of a tical	10 satang	Nickel
Salung	$\frac{1}{4}$ of a tical	25 satang	Silver
2 Salung	$\frac{1}{2}$ of a tical	50 satang	Silver
Tical	1 tical	100 satang	Silver

As can be seen, this meant the abolition or disappearance of a number of the old coins and a great simplification of the coinage generally.

To what extent Siamese currency was ever in use in Kedah and Perlis is uncertain but according to available sources it was very little or not at all. In the *Encyclopaedia of the Coins of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei 1400-1986* by Saran Singh (pub. 1986) there is a detailed history of the Kedah coinage. Until the seventeenth century it was that of conquerors and foreign merchants, thereafter local coins circulated side by side, first with Dutch silver and copper money, then, after around 1800, with the currency used in Penang. From the 1840s onwards, this included Singapore merchant tokens which had their value in 'keping' and served as small change. (Five keping were worth approximately one cent.) The basic unit of accounting appears to have been the Spanish silver dollar (8 reales) which, after 1887, must have had an equivalent value in Siamese currency in order that postage stamps could be purchased. (These dollars, amongst others, were also in circulation in the Straits Settlements until, according to Saran Singh, they were superseded by local one dollar silver coins on 31 August 1904.) There is evidence that by the time of the take-over by the British in July 1909, Straits currency was in primary use, in Kedah at least, with 1 att equalling 1 cent. (See the extract from The Adviser's Annual Report for 1905-6 on p. 34 of Chapter 3.) The coinage of the Straits Settlements was introduced officially into Kedah and Perlis on 15 July 1909 (Singh, p. 236).

THE STAMPS AND STATIONERY

Three values of the first Siamese issue of stamps in 1883 are known 'used' in Kedah although opinion varies as to whether this was the result of their being cancelled by favour at a later date or having been in contemporary use there. Certainly these stamps were valid long after the opening of the first post office in Alor Star in 1887, so it is possible that the other values of the set exist with Kedah postmarks.

It seems all subsequent issues were on sale in either or both of the two states of Kedah and Perlis, including those of the so-called 'Rejected Die' issue of 1899, the design of which did not meet with royal approval as the King did not like the head vignette. Some of the low values had already been distributed, however, and were used from a few of the remoter offices, such as Alor Star, which presumably did not receive the official notification of withdrawal in time to prevent their sale. As has been made clear in Chapter 3, communications in Siam at the turn of the century were very poor with no telegraph, railway or proper roads between the capital and the outlying towns.

The great number of surcharges on Siamese stamps were mainly caused by the need of the postal authorities to overcome the periodic shortages of low value stamps, the reasons for which are covered in Chapter 3, 'The Siamese Postal System'.

The following list of Siamese stamps recorded with Kedah and Perlis postmarks, which includes many of the surcharges, is not exhaustive but it is extensive enough to show that the postal service in the two States was more widely used than was once thought.

No Siamese stamp bearing the new currency in satangs has ever been recorded used in Kedah or Perlis.

STAMPS

- 1883 *Issue*
 1 att carmine
 1 sio red
 1 sik yellow
- 1887-91 *Issue (King facing front)*
 1 att green
 2 atts green & carmine
 3 atts green & blue
 4 atts green & brown
 8 atts green & yellow
 12 atts purple & carmine
 24 atts purple & blue
 64 atts purple & brown
- 1889-91 *Surcharges*
 1 att on 2 atts (Type 1, SG 20)
 1 att on 3 atts (SG 24)
 2 atts on 3 atts (Two types, SG 26 & 27)
- 1892 *Surcharges*
 4 atts on 24 atts (Both types, with and without stop, SG 33-36)
 With stop, variety - surcharge double (SG 36c)
- 1894 *Surcharges*
 2 atts on 64 atts
 (Two types, SG 39 & 44)
- 1894-95 *Surcharges*
 1 att on 64 atts
 (Both types, SG 46 & 47)
 2 atts on 64 atts
 (Both types, SG 48 & 49)
 10 atts on 24 atts
- 1896 *Surcharges*
 4 atts on 12 atts
- 1897 *Surcharges*
 4 atts on 12 atts
- 1898-99 *Surcharges*
 1 att on 12 atts (SG 53)
 2 atts on 64 atts
 3 atts on 12 atts
 (Both types, SG 57 & 58)
- 4 atts on 12 atts
 (Both types, SG 59 & 60)
 4 atts on 24 atts
- 1899 *Surcharges (14 February)*
 2 atts on 64 atts (SG 66)
- 1899 (*September*) *Issue (King facing left)*
 1 att olive-green
 2 atts grass-green
 3 atts red & blue
 4 atts carmine
 8 atts green & orange
 10 atts ultramarine
 12 atts purple & carmine
 24 atts purple & blue
 64 atts purple & chestnut
- 1899 (*October*) *Issue (the Rejected Die)*
 1 att green
 2 atts green & red
- 1904 (*January*) *Issue*
 1 att green
 2 atts red & blue
 3 atts deep green
 4 atts brown & pink
- 1905 (*December*) '*Wat Cheng*' *Issue*
 1 att green & yellow
 2 atts grey & violet
 3 atts green
 4 atts red & grey-black
 (red & sepia in SG Part 21)
 5 atts carmine
 8 atts olive-bistre & black
 12 atts blue
 24 atts brown
 1 tical bistre & blue
- 1907 *Issue*
 1 att on 24 atts
- 1908-09 '*Wat Cheng*' *Issue*
 3 atts grey & violet
 4 atts scarlet
 9 atts blue
 18 atts red-brown

POSTAL STATIONERY

1883	1 att Post Card	1901	10 atts Letter Card 12 atts Letter Card
1887	4 atts Post Card 4 atts Reply Paid Card	1906	2 atts /1½ atts Post Card (H&G 12b) 4 atts /1½ atts Post Card

H&G = Higgins & Gage *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World* 1971

SIAMESE POSTAGE RATES

Information about postage rates during the early years of the Siamese period seems somewhat sketchy. Most of the facts listed below are taken from *The Royal Siamese Postal Service (The Early Years)* by Bonnie Davis. Due to their complexity it is not possible to incorporate the rates into one single table as in Chapter 22.

A tical, as well as being a unit of currency, was also a weight equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

1883-1894

The following rates were used for the local Bangkok post when it began on 4 August 1883. They are listed because, although the service did not extend to Kedah, when a post office opened in Alor Star in 1887 the local tariff may have been similar.

Letters 2 atts for the first tical and 1 att for each subsequent tical or part
 Postcards..... Cards with a 1 att printed stamp were sold at the following rates:
 1 card - 1½ atts 3 cards - 4 atts 6 cards - 8 atts
 Printed Matter 1 att per sheet

1885

When Siamese membership of the UPU became effective on 1 July 1885 the following schedule of foreign rates was used:

	LETTERS (per tical)	POSTCARDS	PRINTED MATTER*	REGISTRATION	A. R.
UPU	12 atts	4 atts	3 atts	12 atts	6 atts
S. S. & China	8 atts	4 atts	2 atts	8 atts	6 atts
Sarawak/N. B.	8 atts	-	2 atts	8 atts	-
South Africa/ Australasia	24 atts	-	12 atts	12 atts	-
*each newspaper, bookpost/printed matter, sample, per 4 ticals					

There appear to have been no rates to other non-UPU countries in existence at this time. The rate to Australia was reduced to 12 atts on 1 October 1891 when that country joined the Universal Postal Union.

The rate to the Straits Settlements and China (including all neighbouring countries in Indo-China), as well as Sarawak and North Borneo, was raised to 10 atts per tical on 1 December 1894. This was due to a steady depreciation of the Siamese currency in the foreign rates of exchange.

1895-1903

Generally speaking there were very few changes in the postage rates in the 1890s. The following table, obtained from the 1895 issue of the *Directory of Bangkok and Siam* under 'Rules and Regulations of the Siamese Postal Department', shows that the internal rates had not altered at all since they were introduced and the foreign ones very little.

Internal postage rates

The problems of establishing a reliable postal service outside the main towns are shown by the fact that there was a two-tiered internal system, the local one operating within the state or province being cheaper than the one extending to the rest of Siam. The registration and AR fees varied according to the service - local, inland or foreign.

THE LOCAL POST (within State)

Letters	2 atts for the first tical and 1 att for each subsequent tical or part thereof.
Postcards	1½ atts
Printed Matter	1 att per 2 ticals
Registration	4 atts
AR	8 atts

THE INLAND POST (remainder of Siam)

Letters	4 atts per tical
Postcards	1½ atts
Printed Matter	1 att per 2 ticals
Registration	8 atts
AR	4 atts

Foreign postage rates

	LETTERS (per tical)	POSTCARDS	PRINTED MATTER*	REGISTRATION	A. R.
UPU	12 atts	4 atts	3 atts	12 atts	8 atts
SS / China Sarawak / NB	10 atts	4 atts	3 atts	8 atts	8 atts
Non-UPU	24 atts	-	-	-	-
*each newspaper, bookpost/printed matter, sample, per 4 ticals					

1903

In an article entitled 'Thai Postal Rates' in the July 1984 issue of *Thai Philately* Gary Van Cott gives the following postage rates for the beginning of 1903. His source is the *Directory of Bangkok and Siam* of that year. Lettercards are included for the first time.

*Internal postage rates**THE LOCAL POST (within state)*

Letters	2 atts for the first tical & 1 att for each subsequent tical or part thereof.
Postcards	1½ atts
Lettercards	3 atts
Registration	4 atts

THE INLAND POST (remainder of Siam)

Letters	4 atts per tical
Postcards	1½ atts
Lettercards	5 atts
Registration	4 atts

Foreign postage rates

	<i>UPU Countries</i>	<i>Neighbouring Countries*</i>
Letters per 15 gms (1 tical)	12 atts	10 atts
Postcards	4 atts	4 atts
Lettercards	13 atts	11 atts
Registration	12 atts	8 atts
AR	6 atts	6 atts

* *These consisted of Hong Kong, post offices in China, Cochín-China, Annam & Tonkin, Macao, SS, FMS, BNB and Sarawak.*

As is pointed out in Van Cott's article, the AR rates appear unduly low. No AR rates were given for the local and inland posts.

By 1903 depreciation of the Siamese currency had led to a declining revenue from overseas mail and so application was made to the UPU to revise the international gold centimes equivalents in local currency. This was done as follows:

25 centimes (foreign letters)	=	14 atts
10 centimes (foreign postcards)	=	5.6 atts
5 centimes (foreign printed matter)	=	2.8 atts

With UPU approval these rates were rounded up to 14 atts, 6 atts and 3 atts for the three international rates which came into effect on 1 May 1903. These were the first changes in the foreign rates for many years. At the same time the distinction between 'neighbouring countries' and the rest of the world was removed so that now all letters overseas were to be charged 14 atts, all postcards 6 atts and all printed matter 3 atts.

In the article quoted above Van Cott gives the registration fee for foreign mail as 14 atts, this figure being based on his examination of covers of the period.

No sooner had these new rates been set than the foreign exchanges began to move in Siam's favour – so much so, that by April of the following year, 1904, the foreign postage rates could be slightly reduced.

1904–1909

A rationalisation of the domestic rates enables the further changes that took place up to the handover of the northern states to Britain to be incorporated in a single table (*below*). The rates listed on 15 August 1907 were those obtaining when Britain became the suzerain of Kedah and Perlis on 15 July 1909.

As a postscript, the following extract is taken from the *Report on the Operations of the Postal and Telegraph Department of the Straits Settlements* for the year 1905:

It is certainly anomalous that a letter can be sent from this Colony (Straits Settlements) to Canada, a distance of over 10,000 miles, for a penny, whereas for the same letter from ... Penang to Kedah (a Siamese dependency) a distance of 24 miles, 2 pence (8 cents) is the postage; it seems still more anomalous when it is considered that 2 pence is about a quarter of a day's wages of an ordinary native working man in these parts;

SIAMESE POSTAGE RATES

in such circumstances it can hardly be a matter for surprise that natives often evade paying postage on letters when there is an opportunity of sending them by private hands.

Although this expresses a Penang viewpoint of the day, no doubt the the grievance was shared by Kedah residents who had to pay even more to send a letter from Kedah to Penang. With 1 att equalling 1 cent, a letter from Kedah to Penang (12 atts) cost the equivalent of almost 4 Imperial pence in 1905. It would seem likely that no opportunity was lost to avoid paying this postage too, in much the same way as was done by the Penang natives.

	1 April 1904	1 April 1906	15 August 1907
<i>Local Letters (within State)</i>	2 atts per tical	4 atts per tical	4 atts per tical
<i>Inland Letters (remainder of Siam)</i>	4 atts per tical	8 atts per tical	8 atts per tical
<i>Local Postcards (within State)</i>	1½ atts	2 atts	2 atts
<i>Inland Postcards (remainder of Siam)</i>	1½ atts	4 atts	4 atts
<i>Printed Matter (local and inland)</i>	1 att per 2 ticals	1 att per 2 ticals	1 att per 2 ticals
<i>Registration (local and inland)</i>	4 atts	12 atts	9 atts
<i>AR (local and inland)</i>	4 atts	12 atts	9 atts
<i>Foreign Letters (all countries)</i>	12 atts per tical	12 atts per tical	9 atts per tical
<i>Foreign Postcards (all countries)</i>	5 atts	5 atts	4 atts
<i>Foreign Printed Matter (all countries)</i>	3 atts per 50g	3 atts per 50g	2 atts per 50g
<i>Foreign Registration (all countries)</i>	12 atts	12 atts	9 atts
<i>Foreign AR (all countries)</i>	12 atts	12 atts	9 atts

THE SIAMESE POSTMARKS OF KEDAH AND PERLIS

The Siamese stamps and postal stationery recorded with each cancellation have been taken (with small amendments) from the article by Andrew Norris in The Malayan Philatelist, Vol. 34, p. 31.

ALOR STAR

Post office opened sometime between April and 27 October 1887.

The first type of Kedah cancellation known on Siamese issues consists of the word KEDAH in block capitals in a straight line approximately 17 mm long and 5 mm high, edged along the top and bottom by a row of short, vertical strokes. It is known only in black and is often very indistinct and distorted suggesting that it was made of rubber. For this reason it is almost impossible to separate the vertical strokes but there may be ten in each row. This postmark is now widely regarded as a fake. Even before information regarding its precise origin emerged there were doubts as to its authenticity for several reasons. It has never been found either on a cover or a piece and it is missing from one of the finest contemporary collections of Siam – the Row collection in the British Library. Its unique character, so totally unlike any other used in Siam, creates further doubts as to its origins. In an article 'Siam Used Abroad' which appeared in *Stamp Collecting* on 7 June 1984, Phaya Sin stated that a well-known philatelic dealer had admitted to producing it. Charles Stewart, the eminent collector of Thailand, expressed the same view. In a letter dated August 1982 he further stated he had seen a similar mark for Perlis which he also considered was a fake. However, in case the known examples of this 'postmark' turn out to be forgeries rather than fakes, i.e. were copied from a rare genuine example, it is listed here for record purposes.

TYPE 1 The first undeniably genuine cancellation used in Alor Star consists of a circle 28 mm in diameter with the word KEDAH in serif capitals, about 4 mm tall, curved round the top and the date in two lines at the foot, the year being given in the Christian era but with the last two numerals only. The postmark is completed by a star either side of the circle just below the




Type 1

centre (Type 1). Its first recorded use (27.10.87) is on a 4 atts postal stationery card addressed to Penang which is the earliest known example of a prepaid mail item from Kedah (Fig. 19).

The date of Type 1's latest definite use is 25.4.1900 with the year written in manuscript. It seems there was a problem in getting the datestamp to register '00' so this alternative means of recording the year was used (Fig. 20). Judging from the cover shown in Fig. 20 it seems that the practice was to add '1900' in manuscript to only one strike on every piece of mail, leaving any further strikes blank. A piece exists dated with just '19/7', so this might be the latest known use of Type 1. The Type 1 postmark is found on QV issues of Straits Settlements stamps.



Fig. 19

It has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery:

STAMPS

1883	1 att carmine; 1 sio red; 1 sik yellow
1887-91	All values
1889-91	1 att on 2 atts (SG 20); 1 att on 3 atts (SG 24) 2 atts on 3 atts - two types (SG 26 & 27)
1892	4 atts on 24 atts - both types, with and without stop (SG 33-36) 4 atts on 24 atts with stop, variety '4 atts' double (SG 36c)
1894	2 atts on 64 atts - two types (SG 39 & 44)
1894-95	1 att on 64 atts - both types (SG 46 & 47)

	2 atts on 64 atts – both types (SG 48 & 49)
	10 atts on 24 atts
1896	4 atts on 12 atts
1897	4 atts on 12 atts
1898–99	1 att on 12 atts (SG 53)
	2 atts on 64 atts
	3 atts on 12 atts – both types (SG 57 & 58)
	4 atts on 12 atts – both types (SG 59 & 60)
1899 (14 February)	2 atts on 64 atts (SG 66)
1899 (September)	1 att; 2 atts; 3 atts; 4 atts; 8 atts; 24 atts; 64 atts
1899 (October)	The Rejected Die. 1 att; 2 atts

POSTAL STATIONERY

1883	1 att Post Card
1887	4 atts Post Card
	4 atts Reply Paid Card

(As far as is known, Alor Star did not use a Type 2 postmark, an example of which can be seen under Kangar.)



Fig. 20 – Cover to Penang from Alor Star bearing an 1887 8 atts and two 1 att values of the 'rejected die' issue tied by two strikes of the Type 1 cancellation dated '31/3'. A third strike has the year '1900' in manuscript.



Type 3

TYPE 3 The second Type of postmark used at Alor Star is made up of a circle 25 mm in diameter with the word KEDAH in small (3 mm high) sans-serif capitals round the curve at the top, an abbreviated date in one line across the centre, again with the year in the Christian era but the last two numerals only, and an ornamental device at the foot (Type 3). The earliest and latest confirmed dates of this postmark are March 1901 and 20 May 1907, although it has been reported used until June 1907. It is known on KE VII issues of Straits Settlements stamps. This Type was also used at Perlis (Kangar) and Kuala Muda.

It has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery:

STAMPS

1887	12 atts; 24 atts
1898-99	1 att on 12 atts (SG 53) 3 atts on 12 atts (SG 58) 4 atts on 12 atts (SG 60) 4 atts on 24 atts
1899 (September)	All values
1904 (January)	1 att; 2 atts; 3 atts; 4 atts
1905 (December)	All values

POSTAL STATIONERY

1883	1 att Post Card
1887	4 atts Post Card
1906	2 atts/1½ atts Post Card
1901	12 atts Letter Card



Type 4

TYPE 4 The third and last type of canceller used in Alor Star during the Siamese administration is often referred to as the 'Swiss' or 'bi-lingual' type. It consists of an outer circle of 34 mm and an inner one of 19 mm divided by a horizontal 'bridge' extending to the outer circle and containing the date with the year in the Christian era expressed in full. Between the circles round the foot is written the word KEDAH and round the top the same word appears in Siamese characters (SYBURI). The top and bottom segments of the inner circle are each filled with ten vertical bars (Type 4). This postmark is typical of those in use throughout Siamese post offices at this time.

Its earliest recorded date is 21.7.1907 and its latest on Siamese stamps is 9.7.1909. It continued in use after the transfer of Kedah to Great Britain and so can be found on the stamps of the Federated Malay States. (Earliest and latest dates on FMS

are 19.7.1909 and 22.7.1911, the latter being its latest recorded use on any stamp.) It can also be found on King Edward VII issues of Straits stamps. The Type 4 mark is also known for Perlis (Kangar), Kuala Muda, Langkawi and Kulim.

It has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery:

STAMPS

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	1 att; 3 atts; 8 atts; 10 atts; 12 atts
1904 (January)	1 att; 2 atts
1905 (December)	All values except the 12 atts
1907	1 att on 24 atts
1908-09	4 atts; 9 atts; 18 atts

POSTAL STATIONERY

1906	2 atts/1½ atts Post Card
	4 atts/1½ atts Post Card

Alor Star's cancellers continued to use just the name of the State long after the post office ceased to be the only one in Kedah.

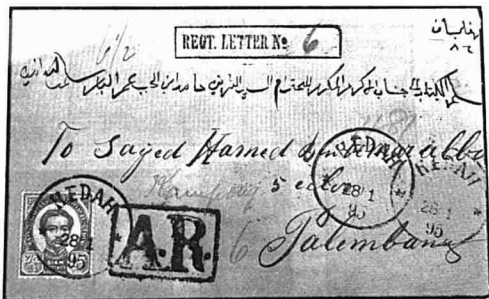


Fig. 21 – Types AR and R on a cover from Alor Star to the Dutch East Indies, 1895.



Type AR

TYPES AR, R, T & TP2 Three other postmarks have been recorded used, and a fourth may have been used, in Alor Star during the Siamese period. The three definite postmarks are Types AR, R and T, the first two of which are shown on a cover from Alor Star to the DEI on 28.1.1895 (Fig. 21), and were used again on a cover bearing FMS stamps to Penang dated 3.1.1911. Type R is also recorded on a cover dated 15.10.1908.

REGT. LETTER №

Type R

A single example of the third, a Type T ('T' in a triangle), has been recorded on a front addressed to Canada dated 18.7.1906.



Type T
18.7.1906

The fourth is a 'To Pay' postmark seen on a cover from India addressed to Alor Star and bearing a Type 3 arrival mark dated 27.1.1906. This is just one of a number of similar postmarks, all consisting of numerals, seen on covers addressed to Kedah from India during the last few years of the Siamese administration. All of the covers seen so far bear transit c.d.s's of Penang in ink of a similar shade to the numerals, and the suspicion is that these 'TP' marks were applied in Penang, particularly as the Penang post office was known to be using similar hand-stamps at this time. (Presumably Penang was doing this by agreement with the Kedah postal authorities although no record of any such arrangement has ever been found.) However, as this particular numeral, '2', has not been recorded for Penang so far, it is included as Type TP2 for Alor Star until further evidence is forthcoming.



Type
TP2
27.1.06

KANGAR (PERLIS)

Post office opened sometime in 1894.



Type 2

TYPE 2 The only example known of this mark is contained on p. 215 of *The Prakaipet Indhusophon Collection of Siam* where a part-strike is illustrated on a pair of 4 atts of Siam's second issue of April 1887. No date is visible. It is described as a 'vernacular' c.d.s. and is somewhat similar to a number of contemporary early provincial postmarks. It is a single circle 24.5 mm in diameter with the Siamese characters for Perlis across the centre of the top half. A small piece of another character which may be part of the date can be seen underneath.

Mention is made below of the curious fact that, although Kangar post office is recorded as having been opened in 1894, no postmark has been seen dated before 1904. This 'vernacular' Type, therefore, may eventually be shown to have been the one used during at least part of this early period.

TYPE 3 In view of the fact that the post office in Kangar was apparently opened as early as 1894 (see Chapter 3, 'The Siamese Postal System'), it is surprising that the earliest dated postmark recorded is 28.7.1904 on a Type 3 mark. Perhaps a much earlier date for Type 3, or even a Type 1, awaits discovery. It might well be, of course, that Type 2, illustrated above, was used for the whole of the period from 1894 to 1904, although, judging from its apparent rarity, this seems unlikely.

The latest date for a Perlis Type 3 on a Siamese stamp is July 1907 and, about this time, it appears to have been superseded by Perlis Type 4. The latter continued in sole use until after the transfer of Kedah and Perlis to Britain and then Type 3 was resurrected, the earliest date recorded being 27.2.1910. This may have been because, as it had no Siamese characters, it was acceptable to the British authorities. Both Type 3 and Type 4 can, therefore, be found on FMS issues, and incidentally, Straits as well. Type 3 continued to be used for many years (until 1923) to cancel Kedah's own stamps.

It has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery:

STAMPS

1887	12 atts; 24 atts
1897	4 atts on 12 atts
1899 (September)	All values except the 64 atts
1904 (January)	2 atts; 4 atts
1905 (December)	All values except the 1 tical

POSTAL STATIONERY

1901 10 atts Letter Card (the additional franking removed)

TYPE 4 The earliest known date of this postmark is 14.9.1907 and it would seem likely that it succeeded Perlis Type 3 sometime during the previous two months. It was replaced by the same mark during the FMS period, sometime after 18.12.1909, which is the latest date recorded so far. (Its latest date on a Siamese stamp is 18.7.1909, three days after the hand-over to the British.) Being in use for little more than two years it is somewhat scarce on Siamese stamps.

This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps:

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	8 atts; 10 atts
1904 (January)	1 att



Type 3



Type 4

1905 (December)	All values except 12 atts and 1 tical
1907	1 att on 24 atts
1908-09	4 atts; 9 atts

A 2 atts from either the 1899 (Sept) or 1904 issue also exists.

KUALA MUDA

Post office opened in latter half of 1907 but before 3 October.



Type 3

TYPE 3 This postmark has a similar history to the Perlis Type 3. It is recorded on a Siamese stamp on 3.10.1907 (very soon, presumably, after the opening of the post office – see the Kedah Administrative Report extract below) but within two months it had been superseded by a Type 4 mark and ‘disappeared’ during the currency of the latter. (Latest date known for the postmark during this period is 3.11.1907.) It re-surfaced during the FMS period, earliest date seen 24.2.11. This is surprisingly late because it is almost a year and a half after the latest date for Type 4, and it is highly likely a much earlier date awaits discovery. It was later used by the British administration, probably for the same reason given for the resurrection of Perlis Type 3. Its short use of only a month or two during the Siamese period makes it one of Siamese Kedah’s rarest postmarks.

This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps:

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	24 atts
1904 (January)	2 atts
1905 (December)	1 att; 2 atts; 3 atts; 5 atts; 8 atts



Type 4

TYPE 4 The earliest and latest known dates of this postmark are 30.12.1907 and 15.7.1909 (the last day Siamese stamps were on sale in Kedah) taking it precisely up to the period of the British administration. As with Perlis Type 4 it probably survived long enough to be used on FMS stamps but has not so far been recorded.

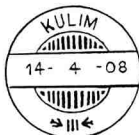
This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps:

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	8 atts; 10 atts
1905 (December)	All values except 12 atts and 1 tical
1907	1 att on 24 atts
1908-09	4 atts; 9 atts

KULIM

Post office opened c.7 December 1907.

TYPE 4A This further Type is known from only two of Kedah's post offices – Kulim and Langkawi. It is similar to the 'Swiss' Type 4 but is larger, having circles of 37 mm and 22 mm in diameter, with KULIM in sans-serif capitals around the upper ring and an ornamental device in the lower. It also has twelve vertical lines filling the segments of the inner circle instead of ten. This c.d.s. must have been in use when Kulim post office opened (earliest date known 14.12.1907 on the postal stationery card mentioned below) and continued at least until 18 September 1908 (latest date recorded) after when, it seems, it was replaced by the Type 4 postmark illustrated below.



Type 4A

This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery:

STAMPS

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	8 atts
1905 (December)	1 att; 2 atts; 4 atts; 5 atts; 8 atts
1907	1 att on 24 atts
1908-09	4 atts; 9 atts

POSTAL STATIONERY

1906 4 atts/1½ atts Post Card

The precise date Kulim post office was opened seems in doubt. In an article 'Siamese Post Marks in Cambodia, Laos and Malaya' by Charles Stewart in the July/August 1979 issue of the *Pemungut Setem Malaysia* is the statement: 'This c.d.s. [referring to Type 4A] was in use from the opening of Kulim Post Office 7th July 1907'. Phaya Sin in 'Siam Used Abroad' (*Stamp Collecting*, 7 June 1984) quotes the same date for the opening but does not give his source.

However, in the Administrative Report of the State of Kedah September 1906–February 1908 (q.v. in Appendix 1) is the statement: 'New offices were opened towards the end of the year (presumably 1907) at Kuala Muda, Kulim and Langkawi'.

Further detail is provided in a report by Bonnie Davis in her *Royal Siamese Postal Service (The Early Years)*:

In December 1907, the Post and Telegraph Department of Siam opened two new post offices in Kedah; at Langkawi Island and at Kulim.

More precise information comes from a Siamese postal stationery 4 atts on 1att provisional postal stationery card which was sold at a Robson Lowe auction in Bournemouth on 3.5.78. It was addressed to the UK, had a Type 4A postmark dated 14 December 1907, and bore the message: *'This is one of the first - if not the first - which has been sent to England from the Kulim Post Office, just opened a week ago'*. This dates the opening of the office to 7 December 1907 which accords with both Davis and the Kedah Administrative Report.



Type 4

TYPE 4 The earliest known date for Kulim's Type 4 is October 1908 and it continued in use at least until 30.5.1910. (It is known used on Siamese stamps up until the last day of the Siamese Administration on 15.7.1909.) It is, therefore, the only Siamese cancellation of Kulim to be found on FMS issues.

This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery;

STAMPS

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	8 atts; 10 atts
1905 (December)	4 atts; 5 atts; 24 atts; 1 tical
1907	1 att on 24 atts
1908-09	4 atts; 9 atts

The 'Wat Cheng' 3 atts (1905 or 1908-09 issues) also exists.

POSTAL STATIONERY

1906 4 atts/1½ atts Post Card

LANGKAWI

Post office opened in December 1907.



Type 4A

TYPE 4A This is the earliest postmark known for Langkawi. It is similar in style to Kulim Type 4A but has smaller circles (34 mm and 19 mm in diameter), a wider 'bridge' (about 10 mm, compared to Kulim's 9 mm) and longer shanks to the arrows forming part of the ornamental device in the lower ring. Its earliest recorded date is 16.2.1908 and the latest 6.8.1908 - a span of less than five months. However, on the evidence of the Kedah Administrative Report quoted above, a post office was opened in Langkawi in December 1907 and so the Type 4A postmark is likely to have been used from that date.

This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps:

1899 (September)	8 atts; 10 atts
1905 (December)	3 atts; 4 atts; 8 atts

TYPE 4 The earliest date for Type 4 is 23.11.1908 although an auction lot in the Stewart sale recorded one as early as 24.2.1908. The lot was not illustrated, however, and as this date falls within the known period of use of Type 4A confirmation is needed, as the description may have been in error. Type 4 continued in use after the transfer to Britain and its latest date is 30.3.1910. (Its last recorded use on Siamese stamps is 6 July 1909.) It is therefore found on FMS stamps.



Type 4

This cancellation has been recorded on the following Siamese stamps and postal stationery:

STAMPS

1887	12 atts
1899 (September)	8 atts
1905 (December)	2 atts; 3 atts; 4 atts; 8 atts; 24 atts; 1 tical
1907	1 att on 24 atts
1908-09	4 atts

POSTAL STATIONERY

1906 4 atts/1½ atts Post Card

The following statement is contained in the Kedah Adviser's Report for 1909-10 (q. v. in Appendix 1):

... the monthly cost of the Langkawi Post Office was \$87, whilst the average monthly receipts from the sale of stamps was only two or three dollars.

From this it would seem that little postal business was being done on the island at this time and Siamese Langkawi marks are scarce, particularly Type 4A.

Note 1: SATOOL

Satool (or Sitool or Satul or Setul), situated on the north-west border of Perlis, was part of Kedah until some time between 1821-42 when it was separated from the state after the Siamese invasion. (See Chapter 2, 'The Historical Background'.) In 1897 or 1898 (sources vary) it was incorporated, with Kedah and Perlis, into 'Monthon Saiburi' ('the administrative district of Kedah') with Sultan Halim Shah as its head. It seems this

was done more as a gesture of goodwill towards the Sultan than to improve administrative efficiency. The Sultan had repeatedly petitioned Bangkok for the return of Kedah's former territories, all of which requests had been rejected, and King Chulalongkorn was keen that these rebuffs should not impair the recent harmonious relations between Siam and Kedah.

When Satool's post office opened it was, therefore, under Kedah's administration and it is often included in studies of the state's postmarks during the Siamese period. When Kedah and Perlis were transferred to Britain on 15 July 1909 'Monthon Saiburi' was dissolved. Satool returned to Siam, and Perlis's independence was fully recognised under the Anglo-Siamese Treaty. Thus ended Sultan Halim Shah's dream of a reunited Kedah.

THE TRANSFER OF KEDAH AND PERLIS TO GREAT BRITAIN IN 1909

Although broad agreement on the transfer was reached on 10 March 1909, the final details were not settled until the Treaty of Bangkok was signed in the Siamese capital on 9 July. On that date Great Britain assumed full responsibility for the protection and administration of the four northern Malayan states including Kedah and Perlis.

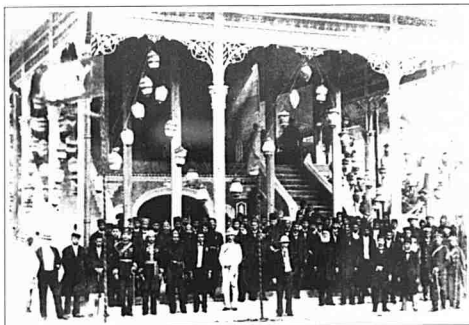


Fig. 22 – Sultan Abdul Halim Shah, his entourage and the Kedah Chiefs seen in front of the Balei Besar, Alor Star, during the ceremony to mark the transfer of Kedah's suzerainty from Siam to Great Britain on 15 July 1909.

(Courtesy of Muzium Negeri Kedah)

British administration did not actually commence until the day following the formal transfer proceedings which took place in each of the state capitals on 15 July. The ceremony in Alor Star was held in the Balei Besar or Council Chamber in the presence of Sultan Abdul Halim Shah (Fig. 22). This building was later to become very familiar to stamp collectors as it featured on the dollar values of the first Kedah definitive stamp issue. In Kangar the act of transfer was presided over by the Raja of Perlis.

Both ceremonies are described in the following contemporary accounts taken from the *Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle* of 19 and 20 July 1909, respectively.

Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle

Monday, 19th July, 1909.

THE TRANSFER OF KEDAH*(From Our Special Correspondent.)*

Alor Star, Kedah, July 16.

Following my telegrams I now forward a more detailed account of the ceremonies which took place here yesterday in connection with the transfer of Kedah from Siamese to British suzerainty.

Mr. Maxwell arrived at Alor Star in the F.M.S. launch 'RAPID' at noon. He was in plain clothing—solar topi, blue coat, white trousers, &c.,—and had no official escort of any description. At the wharf he was received by Mr. Williamson, Financial Adviser to Siam and Siamese plenipotentiary for the purposes of the transfer, who has been acting as Adviser here since Mr. Hart left for India. Mr. Williamson introduced him to various personages present beginning with Tunku Mahmud, brother of H.H. the Sultan and President of the State Council; the members of the State Council; Dr. A. L. Hoops, State Surgeon and Inspector of Prisons; and the other European and Malay Officials. There was a short exchange of compliments and then Mr. Maxwell inspected the guard of honour of fifty Sikhs drawn up under Mr. B.E. Mitchell, Commissioner of Police, and drove with Mr. Williamson to Bata Baka, the Adviser's residence, in a carriage placed at their disposal by the Sultan.

At the Balai Besar.

The formal ceremony of handing and taking over in the Sultan's presence was fixed for three o'clock in the afternoon at the Balai Besar, or chief Council Chamber, a handsome building near the palace. Here a large crowd had assembled, inside being all the principal officials, members of the royal house, and hajis; the only unofficial European present being your correspondent. Outside was a guard of honour and a large concourse of the people. Unfortunately, owing to a delay in making translations of the various documents, it was four o'clock before Mr. Williamson and Mr. Maxwell were able to start from the Government Offices and by this time His Highness the Sultan had arrived at the Balai Besar and taken his seat in the centre of a number of chairs

reserved for the members of the State Council. When he appeared all present rose, but he motioned them to be seated and waited the arrival of the procession with the despatches. His Highness is a spare, dignified-looking Malay and the reports we have heard of late regarding his mental and physical condition would appear to be greatly exaggerated, for he bore himself yesterday with perfect composure and ease, was most affable in his manner, and followed the proceedings with evident interest. Like all the other Malays present he was in plain European clothes—frockcoat, etc.—and did not wear any of his Siamese orders.

Shortly after His Highness's arrival the beating of drums announced that the procession with the despatches had left the Government Offices, situated a few hundred yards away. The documents themselves were borne under a yellow silk umbrella and carried by a high Court dignitary in a golden tray of exquisite Malay workmanship. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Williamson followed immediately after, the former in the uniform of the Straits Civil Service, and the latter wearing the full insignia of the second class of the order of the White Elephant, recently conferred upon him by the King of Siam. They were escorted by several of the principal European and Malay officials, the royal drumbeaters and banner-bearers, and various other persons, including the Malay who until a few years ago held the then important office of Lord High Executioner. During the progress of the procession the 'nobat', or religious band, emitted weird but not untuneful music. On its arrival at the Council Chamber the guard of honour presented arms, certain officials advanced to the bottom of the steps leading to the Hall of audience and Tunku Mahmud conducted the envoys with the despatches into the Sultan's presence. His Highness bowed, and the envoys seated themselves. Mr. Williamson on the Sultan's right with Tunku Mahmud and Mr. Maxwell on the left with Tunku Sulong, the Sultan's eldest son, while other high officials sat facing them, the golden tray with the letters being placed on a table covered with a cloth heavily embroidered

with gold. All present remained standing until the envoys were seated.

The Speeches.

The formal speeches and reading of documents then took place, each being first read in English by Mr. Williamson or Mr. Maxwell and then in a Malay translation by an official who placed a long strip of royal yellow silk across his left shoulder while reading, which he did in a rather inaudible voice.

Mr. Williamson first rose and said:—

"Your Highness,

"We are assembled here this afternoon to inaugurate an event of the utmost importance in the history of Kedah. Yesterday your Highness granted an interview to Phra Viset Phakdi, who had been specially commissioned by His Majesty the King of Siam to be the bearer of a Despatch to Your Highness from H.R.H. Prince Damrong, Minister of the Interior. In this Despatch you were informed of the signature and ratification of a Treaty between Siam and Great Britain, by the terms of Article I of which the Siamese Government has transferred to the British Government whatever rights of suzerainty, protection, administration and control they have hitherto possessed over the State of Kedah and the adjacent islands. The Despatch further intimated to your Highness that the British Government have appointed Mr. William George Maxwell to be the future Adviser to the State of Kedah and that Mr. Maxwell would arrive at Alor Star on the 15th July. Your Highness was likewise informed that I had been instructed by the Siamese Government to deliver to you a Despatch which will confirm to Your Highness the fact of the signature and ratification of the Treaty, and will furnish you with some particulars as to the future boundaries between Siam and the territories to the south of it.

"In my capacity as representative of His Siamese Majesty's Government on this occasion, I now beg to hand this Despatch to Your Highness, and with your permission I will read to you an English translation thereof."

In this Despatch Prince Damrong informed the Sultan of the conclusion of the Treaty of the coming transfer, and recapitulated the clauses defining the new frontier which, he said, followed permanent natural boundaries, an arrangement which should prove mutually

advantageous. In the closing sentences Prince Damrong said that it caused the King of Siam deep regret that the relations that had so long existed between Kedah and Siam were about to cease, and declared that it was only because His Majesty was convinced that the new arrangement would be for the benefit of Kedah that he had consented to it. The letter concluded with an expression of thanks for Kedah's loyalty to Siam in the past and hopes for her future prosperity.

After reading this Mr. Williamson said:—

"I now beg to introduce to your Highness Mr. Maxwell, the new Adviser, whose appointment has been officially intimated to you both by H.R.H. Prince Damrong and by H.E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements."

A Despatch from the Governor.

Mr. Maxwell then rose and spoke as follows:—

"Your Highness,

"Mr. Williamson has now intimated to Your Highness that the Siamese Government has by Treaty transferred to the British Government all rights of suzerainty, protection, administration and control whatsoever it possessed in the State of Kedah. I have now the honour to inform Your Highness that I am authorised to say that His Majesty the King of Great Britain accepts the transfer and that His Majesty is graciously pleased to extend his protection to Kedah.

"I am further instructed to inform Your Highness that the debt due to the Siamese Government by the Kedah Government has been paid off to Siam.

"The Despatch from H.E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements to Your Highness— which I now beg to hand to Your Highness— will inform Your Highness that I have been appointed to take over from Mr. Williamson the duties of Adviser to Your Highness.

"With Your Highness' permission I will now read an English translation of the Despatch."

In his Despatch, which was dated Government House, Singapore, July 10, the Governor, after the usual compliments, accredited Mr. Maxwell as British Adviser to take over from Mr. Williamson the duties of Adviser to the Sultan under the agreement between Siam and

Kedah and the duties and jurisdiction of Mr. Consul Frost in regard to British subjects.

His Excellency added that he hoped to pay his promised visit to Kedah on August 6, and looked forward with pleasure to making the Sultan's personal acquaintance.

After reading this Mr. Maxwell added:—

"I venture to take this opportunity of expressing a hope that the new era in the history of Kedah will be one of contentment and prosperity, and to assure Your Highness that my earnest desire is to assist Your Highness' Government in ensuring the progress and well-being of the State."

Signing the Transfer.

Mr. Williamson then again rose and said:—"Your Highness,

"Now that Mr. Maxwell has presented to you the Despatch from the Governor of the Straits Settlements, of which he was the bearer, the only formal business remaining to be done is the signing of the deed of transfer by myself and Mr. Maxwell as the representatives respectively of the Siamese and British Governments. With Your Highness' permission we will now proceed to this business. The deed will be signed in duplicate, of which the Siamese and British Governments will each retain one copy."

Courts for Europeans and British Subjects.

The transfer having been signed, Mr. Maxwell turned to the Sultan and said:—

"I have now to inform Your Highness that the jurisdiction of the Court of the British Consul will cease in Kedah; and that all cases which formerly came before that Court will now be tried in the ordinary courts of this State.

"I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to request that Your Highness may be pleased to grant me authority to sit in any case in which a European or British subject is concerned, and in which I may think that it is advisable that I should sit."

Sultan's Protest against New Frontier.

To this His Highness gave a ready assent, and then proceeded to express his thanks to Mr. Williamson and Mr. Maxwell. He said that there was, however, one matter which he thought required further consideration, and that was the new Kedah boundary line as defined in the Treaty. This boundary would deprive Kedah of territory which it had held since

time immemorial and he trusted that the British and Siamese Governments would respect the rights of Kedah in this matter. He concluded his speech with an expression of thanks to the British and the Siamese Governments and with renewed thanks to Mr. Williamson and Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Maxwell then asked the Sultan whether the 6th August (a Friday) or the 7th August (a Saturday) would be more convenient for the Sultan to receive the Governor. The Sultan replied that Saturday would be more convenient and Mr. Maxwell promised to inform his Excellency accordingly.

Coffee was then handed round and after a few minutes' general conversation His Highness withdrew and Messrs. Maxwell and Williamson drove off to Bata Baka.

As I wired you this morning, everything went off most smoothly; the weather was splendid, Mr. Maxwell made an excellent impression and I have found everywhere a desire to welcome and co-operate with the new regime.

The Malays regard as a happy augury the fact that there was recently found in the Sultan's Astana a photograph of Sir William Maxwell, Mr. Maxwell's father, seated in a chair while H.H. the Sultan is standing with his hand affectionately placed on Sir William's shoulder.

New F.M.S. stamps were introduced this morning in place of Siamese but the rates remain the same for the present, both for letters and telegrams. They are ridiculously high and will, it is to be hoped, be reduced in the near future to the same as rule in the Straits and F.M.S. A money order branch should also be established at the same time in order to give facilities for remitting money to the Colony and elsewhere; at present it has to be sent by hand, an expensive and not altogether safe system.

Alor Star, later.

I have just learnt that Siam has made Kedah a handsome farewell gift in the shape of the whole of the State postal and telegraph system, which on instructions from Prince Damrong was handed over by Mr. Williamson to Mr. Maxwell this morning. It comprises several post offices, something between 150 and 200 miles of line and a very complete set of instruments, etc.

Tuesday, 20th July, 1909.

THE TRANSFER OF PERLIS

(From Our Own Correspondent. Perlis. July 18)

Mr. Meadows Frost, the new British Adviser to Perlis, arrived here on Thursday last, the 15th inst. in the Seagull and was met on landing by Mr. A.H. Duke, until recently Adviser to the Raja and representative of the Siamese Government for the purposes of the transfer, and by a number of high Malay officials. There was a guard of honour of Sikhs at the landing-stage and of Malays at the Balai Besar to which Mr. Frost, who was wearing the Civil Service uniform, was escorted by those who met him. The Malays all wore plain European dress.

At the Balai Besar, Mr. Frost was introduced by Mr. Duke to the Raja of Perlis who was supported by his members of Council and all the leading merchants of the place, the hall of audience itself being profusely decorated

with bunting. Mr. Duke then presented Prince Damrong's letter, a translation of which was publicly read in Malay, following which Mr. Frost presented a letter from the Governor, introducing him as the Adviser and inviting His Highness to meet him in Kedah on the occasion of His Excellency's forthcoming visit.

The formal transfer was then signed and after some conversation the Raja withdrew and Mr. Meadows Frost and the leading Malays proceeded to Mr. Duke's house for luncheon.

On Thursday night the Raja entertained Mr. Duke to a farewell dinner. There were no speeches but in proposing the health of Mr. Duke His Highness expressed regret at his coming departure and gratitude for what he had accomplished for Perlis in the past.

Mr. Duke left by the Un Peng this morning; there was a guard of honour of Sikhs at his departure and the Raja and a number of the Tunkus came down to see him off.

EXTRACTS FROM THE POSTAGE STAMP

The Postage Stamp was a weekly magazine published by Pitmans and edited by Fred. J. Melville. These extracts cover the period May–August 1909 and offer a contemporary political view of the transfer as well as comment on the philatelic arrangements being made in Northern Malaya at the time.

Vol. 4, p. 61 – 8 May 1909

News is just to hand that the Anglo-Siamese Treaty, by which 15,000 square miles of territory is ceded by Siam to Britain, will be ratified in June next.

*It will be a matter of speculation whether this portion of Siam will be included in the Malay States, or for a time worked as a separate "branch".**

"Dabblers" in new issues should thus prepare themselves, and make arrangements for any prospective issue of provisionals that may make themselves into popular labels. In the meantime Siamese stamps postmarked in these parts have been looked after by a few far-seeing collectors.

* This statement illustrates the widespread assumption on the part of the British at the time that the absorption of the northern states into the rest of British Malaya was only a matter of time (see Chapter 2, pp. 16/17).

Vol. 4, p. 144 – 19 June 1909

The Foreign Office yesterday issued the text of the treaty signed at Bangkok on March 10th between Great Britain and Siam under the provisions of which Siam cedes to Britain all rights of suzerainty over the States of Kelantan, Trengganu, Kedah, Perlis and the adjacent isles.*

As regards the transfer to Great Britain of jurisdiction over the territories referred to, it is stated that, owing to their distance from Bangkok and the difficulties of communication, especially during the north east monsoon, it was impossible for Siam to control their administration effectively. The people are Malays and Mohammedans, like the natives of the States to the south which form the Federated Malay States. The administration of the States is at present self-supporting, and there is no reason to fear that it will become a burden either on the Federated Malay States or the British taxpayer.

The possession of the fine harbour of Langkawi is a matter of considerable importance in connection with the trade route to the Far East. Whilst enabling Siam to consolidate her power and render her administration effective in the northern part of the peninsula which remains to her, the transfer will lead to a great expansion of the trade and commerce which finds an outlet through the ports of the Straits Settlements, and the transfer of Kedah will greatly facilitate the carrying out in Penang of the recommendations of the Opium Commission.

Vol. 4, p. 252 – 21 August 1909

F.M.S. Stamps for British Siam.

It is understood that pending other arrangements (says the Straits Times, July 20) the Federated Malay States postage stamps will be used in those Siamese Malay States affected by the recent Anglo-Siamese Treaty.

The above statement is confirmed as far as Kedah is concerned, and the rates of postage which have been high will be reduced in Kedah, Kelantan and Trengganu to bring them into line with Federated Malay States postage rates.

* The use of the word 'signed' here is misleading. Today, a more appropriate term would be 'initialled' indicating that the main provisions of the treaty had been agreed. It is said that between 10 March and 9 July the treaty nearly foundered because the British negotiator, Ralph Paget, tried to extend it to include Satool and the Patani states.

STAMPS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 'USED' IN KEDAH AND PERLIS BEFORE 1912

Volume III of Robson Lowe's *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, under the heading for Kedah, contains the statement that 'King Edward VII issues of Straits Settlements, 1904-1911, were available.' Dr Wood, in his *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya* gives details of a report that Straits Settlements stamps were sold in Trengganu following the transfer of that state, with Kedah and Perlis, to the suzerainty of Britain and prior to the issue of its own stamps. Official correspondence has subsequently emerged showing that this sale was authorised, although for only a very brief period. In his *Straits Settlements Postage Stamps* under the heading 'King Edward VII Stamps Used Abroad', Dr Wood alludes to Straits stamps being found with Perlis cancellations. He remarks that he has no idea whether they were authorised for use in Perlis after the handover in 1909, but speculates that they were used side by side with FMS stamps from 1909 to 1912. He seemed unaware that Straits stamps also exist with Kedah cancellations before 1912 and stated that Kedah used only FMS stamps after the transfer to Britain.

In view of the foregoing it is not surprising that there is confusion over this matter and that an impression has been gained that Straits stamps were officially issued after 1909 in the same manner and for the same purpose as FMS stamps in some, if not all, of the former Siamese states. It must be said, however, that as far as Kedah and Perlis are concerned, no record whatsoever of this has so far been discovered in any official document relating to these states or the Federated Malay States or the Straits Settlements, nor does there appear to be any contemporary reference to such issue.

However, Straits stamps do exist with both Kedah and Perlis cancellations of this period, although the recorded examples reveal that only one bears a date after the transfer to Britain, and this needs to be confirmed, as it was in the sale of the 'Charles Stewart' collection of Siam (1984) and the precise date was not given in the lot description. Apparently Dr Wood did not consider the possibility that Straits stamps might have been used before the transfer took place and yet this is when Straits stamps were most often cancelled with Kedah and Perlis postmarks. It seems this use, if use it was, began to occur fairly early on in the history of the Kedah post office as Victorian issues exist with Kedah cancellations although they are rare. Unfortunately, few of the dates of these cancellations are on record. King Edward VII issues are more frequently found and are known with the cancellations of both Perlis and Kedah. Types 3 and 4 of Kangar and Types 1, 3 and 4 of Alor Star have all been recorded, the latest date being a Type 4 of Alor Star on 3.3.1909.

The most likely explanation for these cancellations is that they were applied on incoming mail from the colony, in particular Penang. Contemporary Straits stamps are quite common with the cancellations of various ports along the west coast of mainland Malaya in the last years of the nineteenth century and in the early years of the twentieth. It appears these were the result of letters being written on board the frequent steamers travelling between Penang and Singapore, franked with stamps which had either been brought on board with the

writers, or perhaps bought from the captains of such vessels, and then cancelled when posted at the next port of call. When the north-south railway in Malaya was completed in 1909 the incidence of such cancellations declined sharply and they are hardly known on King George V issues. Kedah probably treated uncanceled incoming mail in the same way. As previously mentioned in Chapter 3, the Annual Report of the Adviser to the Kedah Government for 1905/6 stated that *'Two steamers run daily between Alor Star and Penang'*. The same report for 1909/10 included the statement: *'Perlis and Langkawi mails are carried by a bi-weekly service of steamers'*.

However, this theory leaves one thing unexplained. The dates on the postmarks of the Straits stamps cancelled in the ports of the Federated Malay States indicate that the Kedah and Perlis cancellations should cease only when the railway advancing north in these States became the normal, everyday form of travel, and steamers no longer carried letter-writing passengers, but certainly not before. The railway did not arrive in Alor Star until October 1915 and did not begin to serve Kangar until 1918 – nine years after the takeover by the British in 1909, so these arrival cancellations should extend well into the British period. Yet Straits stamps with Kedah cancellations are almost unknown after 1909. It is not easy to find a convincing explanation for this, and the only one that appears to be feasible is that, with the hand-over to the British, the way of dealing with mail arriving with uncanceled Straits stamps was altered. Such mail should have received a paquebot cancellation of course but, as far as is known, none of the post offices of Kedah and Perlis ever possessed such a thing. In their absence, perhaps, after 1909, the Straits stamps were either left uncanceled or were defaced in some, so far, unidentified way. In the case of mail addressed back to Penang the stamps may have been obliterated by Penang's well-known 'oval-of-bars' cancellation which is thought to have been used to cancel 'loose' mail. It might be mentioned at this point that Siamese stamps bearing Penang and Singapore paquebot cancellations are quite common, with dates both before and after the handover to Britain. These, presumably, are the result of 'steamer' mail, (mail handed to the captain or written on board) going from Siam (including Kedah and Perlis) to, or via, the colony.

In an article in the *Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle* for Monday 30 August 1909, there is a reference to mail arriving from Kedah bearing Straits stamps. The main purpose of the article was to draw attention to the fact that letters were arriving from Kedah after the handover to the British still bearing Siamese stamps and that some of these were being taxed by the Penang post office. The article opened: *'We have seen letters franked with S.S. and F.M.S. stamps received from Alor Star, Kedah ...'* (see the end of Chapter 9, 'The Stamps, Cancellations and Postal History of the FMS Period 1909–1912').

This statement, which seems to be the only reference to the possible use of Straits stamps in Kedah on contemporary record, could be explained by an extension of the 'arrival mark' theory outlined above. Letters written on board steamers heading towards Kedah and Perlis and franked with Straits stamps, but addressed back to Penang, would have had to have been posted ashore where they would, presumably, have received a normal Kedah postmark and, to the casual observer back in Penang, been indistinguishable from a cover originating in either of the former Siamese states.

The lack of concrete evidence in the form of covers bearing Straits stamps with Kedah or Perlis cancellations (one postal stationery card exists – Fig. 23) means that a conclusive

explanation for these cancellations is impossible at present. However, the absence of any official record of the issue of Straits stamps in the two States, either before or after the hand-over, would indicate that the statement in the Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia* quoted at the beginning of this chapter has to be discounted. Whether Straits stamps were ever used unofficially in exceptional circumstances, such as local shortage, by firms or business houses in Alor Star and Kangar, would seem very unlikely. A proper postal authority existed in both States during the relevant period, and so the acceptance and cancelling of mail bearing Straits stamps in both the Alor Star and Kangar post offices over such a long period of time is hardly credible. It is perhaps possible that visitors from Penang may have used Straits stamps on odd occasions, such as after the local post office had closed, but this is not very different from the situation when steamers landed mail posted *en route* from the Colony. Evidence shows that, from earliest times, virtually all Kedah mail both inward and outward, was routed through Penang. It seems inevitable, therefore, that there were occasions when the odd postal item bearing Straits stamps slipped into the Kedah post, with the likeliest circumstances being, as stated above, when mail addressed to Kedah and Perlis or back to Penang, was posted on steamers going to the two states and then cancelled on the vessels' arrival in Alor Star and Kangar.

Straits Settlements stamps known 'used' in Kedah and Perlis before 1912 are as follows:

1883-91 Issue. Watermark Crown CA	2c pale rose. (Kedah)
1885	3c/32c magenta. (Kedah)
1892-99 Issue. Watermark Crown CA	1c green (Kedah 25.10.1901)
	3c brown (Kedah 1.4.99 & 25.10.1901)
	8c blue (Kedah)
1903-4 Issue. Watermark Crown CA	4c purple/red (Perlis 16.9.1904)
1904-6 Issue. Watermark Multiple Crown CA	1c deep green (o) (Perlis 3.3.1909)
	3c dull purple (o) (Perlis)
	8c purple/blue (c) (Kedah)
1906-11 Issue. Watermark Multiple Crown CA.	3c red (Kedah)
	4c dull purple (o) (Kedah Aug. 1908)
<i>o = ordinary paper c = chalk-surfaced paper</i>	8c blue (Kedah)

The only known Straits postal item with a Kedah cancellation of this period is shown in Fig. 23. It is an 1885 3 cents blue p/s card (ISCA 8) cancelled by an early example of a Type 1 Kedah postmark dated 1 September 1889. In the hope of gaining information regarding the provenance of this card, two translations of the Chinese writing were obtained:

1. *Dear Mr. Hong, Your letter was duly received yesterday. I have sent you 26 pounds of red pepper yesterday. The larger size ones are better than the smaller ones. I have paid \$4 for you. With kind regards, Chun Ho & Co.*
2. *Tin goods arrived yesterday ... the amount of 463 at ... yesterday sent the bag of red chilli ... weighing 26 katis should have been received the small chillies inside are bad ... so please don't buy the large chillies that are mixed ... priced at 20.15 the large chillies 80.10 ... now send at @4 ... please check and acknowledge
To: Ang Brothers From: Choon Hup (The red handstamp at bottom left.)*

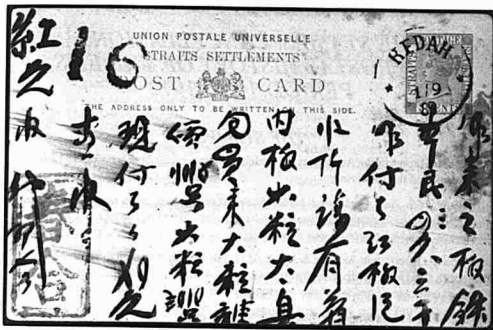


Fig. 23

The translator of No. 2 added the following by way of explanation: 'Old Chinese letters are normally without punctuation. It is written with a coded meaning and it was intended that only the sender and the receiver would understand it.'

It is thought that the reverse of the card is blank. Unfortunately, the above translations fail to provide conclusive evidence of either the card's origin or its destination. The simple address, 'Ang Brothers', might indicate it was for local delivery but where? If, as seems most likely, the card entered the post between Penang and Kedah (having been written in transit or been carried privately), or perhaps was posted on a steamer north of Alor Star heading south, Alor Star was quite obviously the first post office in which it was received, although this may not have been the writer's expectation. The handstamped number in black at top left is of interest as it may give the firmest clue as to the card's destination. It is most likely a postage due marking but where was it applied? Such postmarks have never been positively confirmed in Siam, let alone Kedah, whereas handstamps of a similar type are known to have been in contemporary use in Penang, although this particular value (16 cents) has not been recorded. Perhaps, then, the card was destined for delivery in Penang, but why should it have been taxed? Official correspondence of the period shows that the Penang post office was reluctant to tax bona fide mail entering the colony bearing its own stamps, but, clearly, some aspect of this card gave offence. Perhaps the message written on the address side of the card may have persuaded a postal clerk to regard it as a letter. The letter rate from Kedah at that time was 8 cents (8 cents) so the '16' may represent double this rate, although, no doubt, the addressee would have pointed out that he should only have been liable to double the difference $[(8c - 3c = 5c) \times 2 = 10c]$:

THE STAMPS, CANCELLATIONS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FMS PERIOD 1909-1912

THE STAMPS

The Annual Report of the Adviser to the Kedah Government 23 January 1909 to 12 January 1910 contained the following:

On the 16th July, Federated Malay States stamps were, as a temporary measure, supplied to the Treasury for immediate issue to the Post Office in place of the Siamese stamps, of which the issue was stopped.

The *Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle* of 16 July 1909 confirmed the above statement in a report, filed by 'Our Special Correspondent' in Alor Star, in which it was stated: 'New F.M.S. stamps were introduced this morning in place of Siamese...'

The use of the FMS stamps was not as temporary as might have been expected in view of the fact that the above-mentioned Adviser's Report also contained the following:

The issue of Kedah stamps has been approved by the Secretary of State, and designs for the new stamps are now under consideration by the State Council.

Despite this it was well over a year before the British Adviser, W. G. Maxwell, wrote to the Crown Agents (on 16 March 1911) to obtain designs and estimates for the new stamps (see Part I of Chapter 10, 'The Correspondence'). It was then a further fifteen months before they were issued, and they were not officially announced until the following statement appeared in the Adviser's Annual Report for the period 22 December 1911 to 10 December 1912:

The new Kedah stamps were issued on the 16th June 1912, in place of the F.M.S. stamps, which had, as a temporary measure, taken the place of the Siamese stamps.

This means that FMS stamps were sold in the post offices of Kedah and Perlis* for exactly two years eleven months, although it is more than likely that they were in use for slightly longer while stamps still held by the public on 16 June were used up on correspondence in the following days or weeks. A 1 cent stamp has been reported postmarked at Semiling on 1 August 1912 and may have been used in this way. How long the use of FMS stamps after 16 June was permitted by the authorities, and whether they were ever demonetised in Kedah and Perlis, does not appear to be on record.

The FMS stamps which have been seen bearing Kedah and Perlis postmarks dated within the period 16 July 1909 to 15 June 1912, dates inclusive, are as follows:

* The issue of FMS stamps in Perlis on 16.7.1909 has not been confirmed. In *SG Part 1 (1994)* is the following statement: 'Use of Siamese stamps in Perlis appears to have extended into early August 1909.'

1904-22 ISSUE. MULTIPLE CROWN CA WATERMARK

1c green	(Kedah & Perlis)
3c red	(Kedah & Perlis)
4c black and red	(Kedah & Perlis)
5c green and carmine/yellow	(Kedah)
8c grey and ultramarine (wmk upright)	(Kedah)
10c black and purple	(Kedah)
20c mauve and black	(Kedah)
50c black and orange-brown	(Kedah)
\$1 grey-green and green	(Kedah)
\$2 green and carmine	(Kedah)

The 1 cent was used for local postcards and printed matter, the 3 cents for local letters and the 4 cents for letters to the UK and Colonies. As a result, these are the values most usually seen bearing Kedah and Perlis postmarks. None is common and the higher values are rare, particularly the dollar stamps.

The FMS 1c green postal stationery card (H&G 1 and ISC 1) is known used in Alor Star, and the 3c red card (H&G 2 and ISC 3) and the 10c blue registration envelope (H&G 2 and ISC 2) have been seen with a Perlis postmark. It is likely that a full range of FMS postal stationery was on sale in Kedah and Perlis in conjunction with the stamps.

H&G = *Higgins & Gage Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World. (1971)*

ISC = *International Stamp & Coin Catalogue, Malaysia. (1990)*

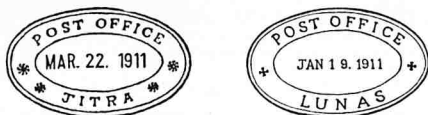
THE CANCELLATIONS

A further six post offices were opened in Kedah during the FMS period, making a total of eleven in existence by the time the first Kedah definitive set was issued in June 1912. These offices were: BALING, JITRA, LUNAS, SEMILING and YEN which opened in 1910, and SUNGEI PATANI, opened in 1911.

(The 'Siamese' cancellations of the five post offices open during the Siamese administration (ALOR STAR, KANGAR, KUALA MUDA, KULIM and LANGKAWI) which can be found on FMS stamps have already been listed, described and illustrated in Chapter 6, 'The Siamese Postmarks of Kedah and Perlis'. Details and dates of all the postmarks used in Kedah and Perlis, 1887-1941, are contained in Chapter 24, 'The Postmarks of Kedah and Perlis'.)

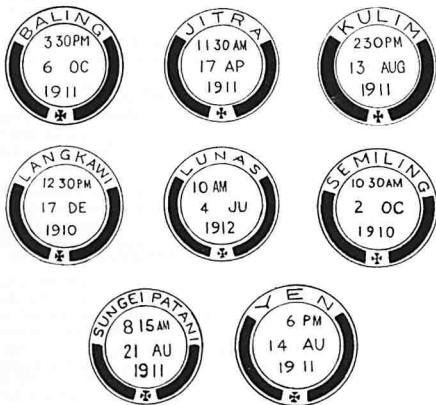
After the transfer to British suzerainty, colonial style cancellations of the type in contemporary use in the Federated Malay States were introduced. However, pending their delivery, at least some of the newly opened post offices used temporary rubber datestamps, oval in shape and probably of local manufacture (*Type 5*). These were of the usual triple-ring variety, two of the rings running closely parallel with each other round the outside of the oval. The words POST OFFICE filled the top curve and the name of the office was placed in the lower curve. Spaces were filled by ornamental devices, one either end of the oval, or in cases where the post office name was very short, such as Jitra, there were four such devices. The date, with the year in full, was in a straight line across the centre. So far, the only *Type 5* postmarks seen used on FMS stamps are Jitra and Lunas but others possibly

exist. Some examples of the Lunas Type 5 show dates which are very indistinct. The oval postmarks of this period are in purple or purple-black ink.



Type 5 postmarks seen on FMS stamps

The colonial style cancellations consisted of a double ring (the diameters of the circles varying between 30–33 mm and 21–22 mm) with the name of the post office round the top and heavy black bars filling the unused section, apart from a gap at the foot in which was placed a small ornamental cross. The time and date were arranged in three lines in the centre, the year being given in full (*Type 6*).



Type 6 postmarks seen on FMS stamps

A sub-type was used in Alor Star in which the double ring was slightly narrower (i.e. the inner circle was larger) and the time and date were arranged in a single line across the centre with the year (surprisingly in view of the lack of space) given in full (*Type 6A*). This type was used just in Alor Star and is the only 'colonial-style' Alor Star cancellation known on FMS stamps, as the earliest recorded date of Type 6 of this office is 26 June 1912, ten days after the withdrawal of the FMS stamps. It may have been used briefly during the FMS period and, indeed, a 3 cents red has been recorded with this cancellation but it was without the date and so may have been used after 16 June 1912.



*The only Type 6a
postmark seen on
FMS stamps*

As far as is known, Perlis and Kuala Muda did not use a Type 6 postmark during the FMS period (the latter office never used one), probably because they both already possessed cancellers which were without Siamese characters. These produced the Type 3 postmarks.

The following is a list of Kedah and Perlis postmarks which have been recorded on FMS stamps. It is very likely that others exist and these are shown in brackets. The dates given are the earliest seen of the postmarks first used during the FMS period.

ALOR STAR*	Type 4 (Type 6) Type 6A - 10.8.1911
BALING	(Type 5) Type 6 - 3.8.1911
JITRA	Type 5 - 1910 Type 6 - 17.4.1911
KUALA MUDA*	Type 3 (Type 4)
KULIM*	Type 4 Type 6 - 14.3.1910
LANGKAWI*	Type 4 Type 6 - 9.11.1910
LUNAS	Type 5 - 10.12.1910 Type 6 - 28.6.1911
PERLIS*	Type 3 Type 4.
SEMILING	(Type 5) Type 6 - 2.10.1910
SUNGEI PATANI	(Type 5) Type 6 - July 1911
YEN	(Type 5) Type 6 - 20.2.1911

* Post offices open during the Siamese period.

THE POSTAL HISTORY

Following are two extracts from the *Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle* which appeared soon after the transfer and which contain information on postal matters of the period. The words within curved brackets () are those of the *Pinang Gazette's* correspondent.

MONDAY, 26th JULY, 1909.

The rates of postage on parcels to Kedah and Kelantan, and on postal articles to Langkawi Islands, Perlis and Tringganu [sic] are published in the Government Gazette.

The parcels post to Kedah and Kelantan are: 3lbs. 20 cents; between 3lbs. and 7lbs. 40 cents; between 7lbs. and 11lbs. 60 cents.

The postage to Kedah, Kelantan, Langkawi, Perlis and Tringganu is: Letters: three cents for two ounces or under, and three cents for each additional two ounces or part thereof. On newspapers under three ounces, one cent. On post cards, one cent. These rates to come into force from August 1st.

(We note that no mention is made in the above of any reduction in telegram rates between the Colony and the new states.)

MONDAY, 30th AUGUST, 1909.

We have seen letters franked with S.S. and F.M.S. stamps received from Alor Star, Kedah. Some covers, with Siamese stamps on them, are allowed to pass through the post without being surcharged on delivery, but on others these adhesives are not recognised and addressees have had to pay the usual double postage. There apparently seems to be some uncertainty as to what should be done to covers franked with Siamese stamps but in justice to those who laid in a stock of these adhesives before the commencement of the new regime, they should be allowed to use them. As the British Government has taken over the liabilities of this State, amounting to thousands of pounds, it seems strange that there should be some trouble over a few cents for postage, especially as we hear that no official notice has ever been given that the Siamese stamps are obsolete in Kedah.

[Much information dealing with postal matters is contained in the Annual Reports of the Advisers to the Kedah and Perlis Governments 23.1.1909 – 12.1.1910 – see Appendix 1.]

* * * * *

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the Kedah Annual Report for 1912, announced the issue of the new Kedah stamps on 16 June 1912, an event which brought the FMS period to an end. The production of the first Kedah definitive set forms the subject of the next chapter.

THE 1912 ISSUES ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA PAPER

PART I – THE CORRESPONDENCE

In Volume 55 of the De La Rue Correspondence Files, housed at the National Postal Museum, are copies of the following three-way correspondence between the British Adviser to the Kedah Government, the Crown Agents and De La Rue & Co. Unfortunately, many of the letters are carbon copies and are not very clear. In the following transcriptions those words which are written as 'xxxx' are completely indecipherable, while those followed by a question mark in brackets have been conjectured and may not be correct.

*Letter from the British Adviser, Kedah, to the Crown Agents – 16 March 1911:**

Gentlemen,

Kedah Stamp Issues.

I have the honour to request that you will be kind enough to assist this Government in obtaining designs for, and estimates of the cost of, the new issue of Kedah stamps.

2. *The Kedah Government has decided to have three designs for its stamps, namely – a design showing a shock of padi for stamps of values from 1 cent to 8 cents, and for postcards; a design showing a Malay ploughing for stamps of values from 10 cents to 50 cents; and a design showing the Council Chamber for stamps of one dollar and upwards.*
3. *I enclose nine photographs of padi in shocks. None of them are [sic] however satisfactory, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will forward these photographs to some artist and ask him to prepare from them a suitable design. To my mind the shock of padi in the photograph marked 'A' is the most natural, but it is spoilt by part of the right side of the shock (?) being out of focus. The topmost (?) of three shocks xxxx the photographs is fairly good, but the exceptional (?) number of padi leaves sticking out at the top gives it a "wild" appearance. The shocks in the other photographs are too solid and "lumpy".*
4. *I enclose six photographs of single ears of padi which I hope will be of assistance to the artist in preparing the design.*
5. *Canada has a stamp showing a shock of wheat, and I would suggest that the general design of the Kedah stamp be somewhat like that of the Canadian stamp.*
6. *I also enclose a photograph of a Malay ploughing with a pair of bullocks. In this photograph unfortunately the shear of the plough is not as clearly shown as it might*

* It has never been explained why there was such a long delay (July 1909 to March 1911) before Kedah sought its own issue of stamps. The answer may lie in the minutes of the Kedah State Council meetings held during this period which are contained in Colonial Office files in the Public Record Office.

have been, and I should like the photograph touched up in this respect, and by the omission of the whole of the background and the foreground, thus leaving the figures only.

The photographer, it will be noticed, very foolishly did not take the picture of the man actually ploughing, and the photograph shows the shear resting on bare ground instead of being in a furrow.

7. This design will I think best be shown on an oblong stamp of the size of the C1 (?) stamps of the Federated Malay States.
8. The remaining photograph is that of the Council Chamber, and I think that no alteration in it is required. It also will probably be best shown on an oblong stamp.
9. Each stamp should show KEDAH at its foot, and the same word in Malay characters at the top. Attached and marked 'A' is the word as written in Malay. "Postage and Revenue" should be shown in the margin on the left hand side and the Malay translation of the same words (as shown in the slip marked "B" should be shown in the right hand margin. The figures will only show the English figures and letters thus "5 c" (?) "S2". The figures may be shown in all four corners or at the two lower corners only, according to the fancy of the designer. I enclose a rough sketch of a stamp marked 'C'.
10. I am afraid that I am not in a position to say what fee should be paid to the artist to whom the padi design is to be given. I shall be glad therefore if I may leave the matter entirely in your hands, on the understanding that the Government will pay any fee that you consider proper.
11. The State Council is anxious that the stamps should have artistic merit in every way and that they be equal in appearance to those issued some years ago by British North Borneo. I understand that the plates for those stamps (and in fact all artistic stamps) are engraved on copper, whereas the plates for ordinary stamps are printed.* It is possible of course that the cost of the copper plates may be prohibitive, and I shall be much obliged if you will obtain for me an estimate of the comprehensive (?) cost of fifteen copper plates and fifteen ordinary plates as follows: five plates of the padi design for 1 cent, 3 cents, 4 cents, 5 cents and 8 cents stamps; two plates of the padi design for 1 cent and 3 cents postcards; five plates of the plough design for 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents, and 50 cents stamps; and three plates of the Council Chamber design for \$1, \$2 and \$5 stamps.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant.

Adviser to Kedah Government.

* It is difficult to know what the Adviser meant by this statement. It appears he shared the general regard held at the time for recess-printing. Indeed, the process still has a reputation for producing beautiful (artistic) stamps. However, the words: "...the plates for ordinary stamps are printed" suggest that he may not have had a deep knowledge of the subject.

A memo dated 11 April 1911 and headed in m/s 'Kedah Stamps' was sent by the Crown Agents to De La Rue. The latter replied on 5 May 1911, typing their answer on the same memo sheet. It ran as follows (see Colour Plates 1 & 2):

We beg to enclose four designs lettered A, B, C, D, for stamps to be produced in one operation, and five designs lettered E, F, G, H, I, for stamps produced in two operations.

Design H has been prepared without any foreground or background to the plough, in accordance with the letter of the Government Adviser.

We would recommend that the work should be carried out by the copper-plate process, as the "Plough" and "Council Chamber" will not, in our opinion, lend themselves to reproduction so satisfactorily by the surface process. The cost of the necessary plates will be as under:

Copper-plate process.

In one operation to designs A, B, C, D.

Two original plates "Padi" and "Council Chamber"	£8 each	£16
One original plate "Plough"		£20
13 duty working plates: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 cents;		
\$1, 2, 3 [sic]	£14 each	£182
		<u>£218</u>

In two operations to designs E, F, G, H, I.

Two original plates "Padi" and "Council Chamber"	£8 each	£16
Two original blank duty plates	£8 each	£16
One original plate, "Plough"		£20
One original blank duty plate		£8
Three key plates	£14 each	£42
Thirteen duty plates	£14 each	£182
		<u>£284</u>

If stamps are printed by copper plate, the Post Cards would be printed by lithography, the necessary stones being supplied at our cost.

The cost of Dies and Plates by the surface process would be:

In two operations to design E, F, G, H, I.

Two original dies: "Padi" and "Council Chamber" to be used as working key dies	£45 each	£90
One original die "Plough" to be used as a working key die		£55
Three key plates	£20 each	£60
Thirteen border duty dies	£7 each	£91
Thirteen border duty plates	£9 each	£117
Two Post Card plates	£3 each	£6
		<u>£419</u>

The cost of dies and plates to produce the stamps by the surface process in one operation would, for the quantities probably required, be prohibitive, and we therefore have omitted our prices for this method.

It would take from five to six months to complete the plates.

We return the photographs etc. sent with your letter.

Letter from the British Adviser, Kedah, to the Crown Agents – 6 June 1911:

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter "4D/34/11 Kedah" of the 9th May, covering Messrs de la Rue and Co's letter of the 5th May and enclosing designs for the new issue of Kedah stamps.

- 2. The members of the State Council are extremely pleased with the artistic designs, and have selected the three marked E. H. and I. It is desired that, in accordance with Messrs de la Rue and Co's recommendation, the work be carried out by the copper-plate process in two operations, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will instruct Messrs de la Rue and Co. to put the work in hand forthwith.*
- 3. The denominations of stamps required are 1 cent, 3 cents, 4 cents, 5 cents and 8 cents in the "padi" design; 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents, and 50 cents in the "plough" design, and \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5 in the "Council Chamber" design. For postcards, the denominations required are 1 cent, 2 cents (for reply postcards), 3 cents, and 6 cents (for reply postcards), in the "padi" design.*
- 4. I believe that there is some general international understanding* with regard to the colouring of the various denominations of stamps or if not an international understanding one adopted by the various Malay States; and subject to the provisions of this understanding, if there be one, I shall be glad if you will authorise Messrs de la Rue and Co. to use their discretion with regard to the colouring of the stamps.*
- 5. I will forward by next mail the requisition for the actual number of each stamp required, and return you herewith, in accordance with your request, the nine designs forwarded with your letter. I shall be greatly obliged however if these designs may be sent back to me when they are no longer required by Messrs de la Rue and Co.*

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant.

Adviser to the Kedah Government.

The above letter was enclosed with the following memo by the Crown Agents and sent to De La Rue. The latter is in m/s and dated 4 July 1911:

Your memo of 5 May. We enclose a letter from the British Adviser of the Sultan of Kedah together with the designs returned with it and the original photographs. As the

* A reference to the international colour scheme of the Universal Postal Union

appearance of the stamps is the sole consideration and the state does not belong to the Postal Union the stamps may all be printed in two colours chosen to suit the subjects. The frames of the international values should however be green, red and blue. There seems to be no reason for departing from the practice of leaving the designs in your possession when the stamps are sent out.

De La Rue replied to the above memo on 5 July and typed their answer on the right hand side of the sheet as before:

Noted. We have retained a copy of the letter which we return herewith. We will put the plates in hand at once.

A memo from the Crown Agents to De La Rue on 25 July 1911 was headed 'Kedah Stamps and Postcards':

We would be glad if you would supply us with the interleaving. [There then followed a sentence which is indecipherable but which, judging from De La Rue's answer, was a query regarding the life of a plate.]

De La Rue replied on 31 July 1911:

<i>Requisition returned herewith for:</i>	480,000	stamps	1 Cent
	600,000	"	2 Cents
	300,000	"	3 Cents
	60,000	"	5 "
	60,000	"	8 "
	120,000	"	10 "
	30,000	"	20 "
	30,000	"	30 "
	18,000	"	40 "
	12,000	"	50 "
	12,000	"	\$1
	8,400	"	\$2
	8,400	"	\$3
	8,400	"	\$5
	20,000	Postcards	1 Cent
	5,000	"	2 Cents (reply)
	5,000	Postcards	3 Cents
	2,000	"	6 Cents (reply)

To be interleaved with blotting paper.

The cost of the order will be about £304.

Delivery to your inspector in six to seven months.

We have reason to believe that your indent for the 600,000 2-Cents stamps may be a clerical error in view of the letter from the colony under date June 6th wherein it was stated that the duties would be 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 cents, this latter scheme of duties conforming with that in use in neighbouring dependencies.

In regard to your question as to the life of a copper-plate, we have to report that such life depends very largely on the design and the delicacy of the engraving, as also upon

the ink used, but we consider a fair estimate, if the plate is not to be used after it has commenced to show signs of wear, would be about 25,000 pulls.†*

On appendix hereto we send for your approval specimens of the lettering proposed for the Post Cards.

The prices of the Post Cards will be as under:

20,000 1 Cent	5/9	per 1,000
5,000 1 " Reply	25/-	per 1,000
5,000 3 Cents	13/6	per 1,000
2,000 3 " Reply	36/-	per 1,000

A letter from De La Rue to the Crown Agents dated 16 Nov. 1911 (see Colour Plates 3 & 4):

Kedah – Reqn. 34/11.

On Appendix A we beg to hand you the colour scheme which we should recommend. On Appendix B we give you a variety of other colours, in case you wish to make any alterations. In a letter from the Colony covered by your memorandum of July 4th last, the duties given for the Padi series of stamps are 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 cents; whereas in the Requisition for Stamps under date July 25th last the duties quoted are 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 cents. We should be glad to know which is correct.

There now follows a series of memoranda from the Crown Agents to De La Rue, all of which bear the type-written answers from the printers on the right hand side of the memo sheet in the usual way.

From Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 23 November 1911:

We return the specimens of stamps and postcards approved. We have not yet heard whether 2 cents or 4 cents stamps are required. We have telegraphed again for instructions on this point.

From De La Rue to Crown Agents dated 24 November 1911:

Noted. We return duplicates of the schemes for filing.

From Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 9 December 1911:

Your memo of 16th ult. The 2 cents value is not required and the number of 4 cents stamps should be 300,000.

From De La Rue to Crown Agents dated 11 December 1911:

Noted.

From Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 27 February 1912:

The enclosed letter is sent to you for the necessary action. It should be quoted as the authority for the supply as the indent only asked for 300,000 3 cents stamps.

[This letter was not in the file.]

* Some inks were known to react with copper. See the last two paragraphs of Note 2.

† This statement is referred to in the section headed '2 Cents – Type II' in Chapter 14.

From De La Rue to Crown Agents dated 28 February 1912.

Noted. We have already printed the 300,000 ordered in July last. In reply to the last paragraph of the Adviser's letter, much depends on the quantity ordered. We consider from two to three months should be allowed for the processes of manufacture.

(It can be assumed that the Adviser's letter referred to above contained a supplementary order for 3 cents stamps. The De La Rue Private Day Books show that 2,604 sheets (312,480 stamps) of 3 cents were invoiced on 20 March 1912, and another 2,484 sheets (298,080 stamps) on 2 May 1912.)

From Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 13 March 1912.

In your memo of 31st July you promised delivery of the Kedah stamps in six to seven months. We took this to mean that delivery would begin at the end of January and be completed at the end of last month. We must now write to the British Adviser and give fresh dates.

From De La Rue to Crown Agents dated 14 March 1912.

We regret the delay that has taken place owing to the heavy pressure of work in our Engraving Department. The 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 cents have been delivered to your Inspector; the 10 and 20 cents will be delivered in a fortnight, and the 1 and 2 dollars in three weeks. We are doing everything possible to expedite the work but I fear it will take seven to eight weeks to complete the requisition.

From Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 13 June 1912.

Kedah. Registration Envelopes.

From De La Rue to Crown Agents dated 26 June 1912.

Requisition returned herewith for: REGISTRATION ENVELOPES.

45,000	10 cents,	G size
8,000	" "	H "
10,000	" "	H2 "

It will be necessary to produce these by lithography, and our price will be as under:

G size	29s. 6d. per 1,000.
H "	43s. 6d. " "
H2 "	39s. 6d. " "

It will also be necessary to make a 10-cent original border plate at a cost of £8. We enclose a proof of border with suggested alterations for your approval. We have omitted the letter C in the tablets containing the Arabic figures. The cost of the order will amount to about £115, including £8 for the plate and £3.3/- for interleaving the envelopes. Delivery to your Inspector in three months.

From Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 12 July 1912.

Your memo of 26th June. The design is returned approved, but the letter 'C' should be added in the tablets.

From De La Rue to Crown Agents dated 15 July 1912.

Noted.

PART II – THE STAMPS

The *Colonial Office Journal* of July 1912 (Vol. VI, p. 71) described the first definitive set of Kedah as one made up of three separate designs, each portraying a distinctive feature of the Malay character of the State. These bi-coloured designs, enhanced by the 'copper-plate' or 'recess-engraved' method of printing by Thomas De La Rue & Co., created a series of stamps which is commonly regarded as one of Malaya's finest, and certainly one of the most popular. The designs, as we have seen in Part I, were based on photographs sent from Kedah, and details of the work done by De La Rue before the final versions were selected are contained in Chapter 19. The three designs and their values are as follows:

1. THE 'PADI-SHEAF'



Fig. 24

A bunch of seeded rice-stems, usually referred to as a sheaf or 'shock' of padi (padi or paddy is the Malay word for 'growing rice') was used as the vignette for the five lower cents values which were of normal or 'postage' size and in 'portrait' (upright) format. Kedah's flat coastal plain has enabled it to become one of Malaya's most productive rice-growing areas and the eminent suitability of this design for the State saw it survive the Japanese Occupation to be repeated on the 1950-55 set after the war. The colours chosen for each value were:

1 Cent: Black (vignette) and Green (frame). Green was the Universal Postal Union colour required for the stamp franking foreign printed matter, the rate for which was 1 cent at this time.* As 1 cent was also the rate for local postcards ('local' meaning within the local Postal Union – see Note 1 in Chapter 22) Single and Reply Paid postal stationery cards were issued in this colour in 1912.

3 Cents: Black (vignette) and Red (frame). Red was the UPU colour required for the stamp franking foreign postcards, the rate for which was then 3 cents. Single and Reply Paid postal stationery cards were issued in this colour in 1912. Three cents also happened to be the rate (per 2 ounces) for local letters.

4 Cents: Rose (vignette) and Grey (frame). This was the rate (per ounce) for letters to the UK and Colonies – the 'Imperial' rate. (See Note 2 in Chapter 22.)

5 Cents: Green (vignette) and Brown or Chestnut (frame). This value had figured fairly regularly in Malaya's previous stamp issues and so was probably included on the grounds of general utility. Five cents also happened to be the rate for the second and subsequent steps of foreign letters (i.e. on foreign letters weighing over an ounce, each additional

* The UPU colour scheme was what the British Adviser was almost certainly referring to when he mentioned 'some general international understanding' in his letter to the Crown Agents on 6 June 1911, in Part I of the chapter. In a letter to De La Rue (dated 4 July 1911, and from the same correspondence) the Crown Agents implied that the reason Kedah did not need to have the whole of its 'international values' in the obligatory colours of green, red and blue, but just the frames, was that the State was not a member of the UPU. (Kedah and Perlis did not join the UPU until 1 January 1916.) It is an odd fact that Kedah never possessed a stamp entirely in blue, even after she joined. See Chapter 15.

ounce or part thereof cost 5 cents) but this would not be regarded as a rate of sufficient importance to merit the provision of a stamp.

8 Cents: Black (vignette) and Ultramarine or Blue (frame). Blue was the third and last of the UPU colours and was required for the stamp franking foreign letters, the rate for which was currently 8 cents (for the first ounce).

It will be noted that De La Rue followed the Crown Agents instructions regarding the choice of colours for the stamps: *'The frames of the international values should ... be green, red and blue'* to the letter.

The reason why black was chosen for no less than three of the vignettes of these values is contained in the following extract from *Postage Stamps in the Making* by John Easton:

The question of ink also raises a problem (in bi-coloured stamps), for the ink of the first printing has to be re-damped before the sheet receives its second printing. On the whole the blacks and sepias are less affected than the reds, yellows, or bright blues, and they are usually printed first. That is why so many stamp designs in two colours have a black or sepia vignette with a coloured frame; the vignette is printed first and is less likely to 'run'. When a stamp is printed in two bright colours it is generally found that one of them is inclined to 'run' and look smudgy. In some cases the colour of the first printing may have impregnated the paper during the second damping, and gives it a faint tint.*

Of the vignettes of the five 'padi-sheaf' values, only that of the 4 cents is printed in one of the suspect colours mentioned above – in this case rose, and opinion may vary as to whether it has actually tinted the front surface of the paper. On some stamps it can be quite pronounced while on others it is barely noticeable.

This tendency to tint the surface of the paper by some inks is discussed more fully in Chapter 15 when two 'Malay ploughing' values on Multiple Script paper show this feature quite clearly and, in the case of one of them, is so pronounced that it has led to the paper being described, erroneously, as 'greyish'. The same confusion occurs with the 21 cents and 25 cents of the 1919–21 issues (see Chapter 11).

Another more obvious effect of the 're-wetting' of the paper, and one which was not specifically mentioned by Easton, is the staining of the paper by the rose ink of the vignette which can be seen quite clearly as an outline of colour on the back of the 4 cents stamp, in contrast to the other 'padi-sheaf' values. The 1916 line perf. reprint of this stamp and a later issue – the 4 cents rose printed from dual plates, both have the same characteristic. (This staining may have been what Easton was referring to when he used the word 'impregnated' but he does not make this clear.)

These two effects, i.e. the tinting of the front of the paper and the staining of the back, both being the direct results of the paper having to be wetted (or re-wetted), may have been confused in the past. In order to avoid further misunderstanding in this and later chapters,

* Re-cess-printing required the use of 'wet' paper at this time. How the 'wetting' was done and why it was necessary is contained in Note 1 at the end of this chapter.

the word 'tinting' will be used to refer to the process described by Easton and 'staining' to the way the inked part of the design soaked through to the back of the stamp.

THE METHOD OF PRINTING

As mentioned in Part I of this chapter, the method of printing of the Kedah 1912 issue was the 'copper-plate' or 'recess-engraved' process, also often referred to as 'intaglio' or 'line-engraved' but, by the printers themselves, as DP or Direct Plate. To understand fully how the numerous varieties occurred in the later Kedah issues it is necessary to explain this printing method, its history and De La Rue's adaptation of it.

It was originally pioneered by Perkins, Bacon & Petch to print the early British and Colonial stamps. The overriding priority of the printers at that time was to produce stamps which were identical in every detail and so minimise the danger of forgery. This could best be ensured by producing a basic, but intricate, design of straight or curved lines in a medium which would lend itself to being duplicated, and then finding a way to reproduce that design faithfully many times on a plate durable enough to print hundreds of thousands of stamps. Perkins, Bacon & Petch achieved the first objective by engraving on steel, which was not a new idea, and the second by devising a mechanical means of transferring that engraving to a steel printing plate. This was an innovation on the part of Jacob Perkins, one of the firm's founders, and constituted a major advance in the techniques of stamp production.*

A description of the recess-engraved printing method is contained in every basic book on stamp-collecting and is explained more fully in the section on the 'Malay ploughing' stamps. It is sufficient here to give only a brief summary. It first involves the cutting of the design in a series of grooves or recesses on the surface of a small piece of smooth, soft steel which becomes the die. At this stage the design has to be 'reversed', i.e. as seen in a mirror. To print from this die, a very stiff, sticky ink is worked into the grooves of the design and then paper is pressed against the surface so that it squeezes into the recesses and picks up the ink. Being extremely dense the latter then rests on the paper in small mounds or ridges. Gradations of colour or shade are obtained by differences in the thickness of the ink deposited and the engraver can control these by varying the depth of the recesses. In order to ensure that the paper enters the recesses it has to be made soft and flexible by wetting and then pressed with considerable force.

The most important feature of the Perkins, Bacon & Petch printing method was the means used to transfer the design on the die to the plate because each reproduction had to be exactly the same. This was done by a transfer roller or rocker which was also made of soft steel. The transfer roller was basically a solid wheel, a little broader across the rim than the design which it was to reproduce, with two cylindrical necks either side. The diameter of the roller varied but was usually large enough to take six or seven impressions of the

* Printing from engraved copper plates had been known since the fifteenth century, from steel since the turn of the eighteenth. Copper, though excellent for reproducing pictures, was not so suitable for printing large numbers of stamps as it was much softer than steel and wore relatively quickly. Nevertheless it bequeathed one of the process's more popular names and this can be somewhat misleading today as, later, copper became involved in the printing of recess-engraved stamps in an entirely different way, i.e. by being used in the reproduction of plates by electroplating, a process dealt with later in this chapter.

design leaving sufficient space in between to prevent any part of a neighbouring impression being reproduced during the rocking process over the plate. The die was first hardened* and then the transfer roller was rocked back and forth across it until the soft steel of the roller had worked its way into all the recesses on the die and picked up the design in relief. The transfer roller had then to be hardened before being rocked again, this time onto a soft steel plate. The hard steel of the roller pressed out impressions on the plate which were exact replicas of the design on the die. (Although this is generally true of the design there is reason to believe that the transfer process may have fractionally enlarged the impression as a whole.) This process needed to be repeated as many times as the number of stamps required in the sheet before the plate was hardened and made ready to print. The method sounds simple but it required great expertise and extensive machinery.

In 1862 Perkins, Bacon's† contract for printing the early British Colonial issues for the Crown Agents passed, with the plates, to Thomas De La Rue & Co. This firm had made its name with letterpress printing (also known by the philatelic term 'typography'), a process in which they held a virtual monopoly, but in the opinion of John Easton, they faced considerable problems in fulfilling contracts for engraved issues at that time:

There is no evidence to show that de la Rue,‡ any more than Waterlow, were in a position to manufacture intaglio printing plates by means of the transfer roller. The Perkins process was still covered by patents, and the amount of work available at that time was probably insufficient to justify the installation of an elaborate plant. The earliest stamp for which de la Rue made a printing plate by the transfer roller process is apparently the 1895 Twopence Halfpenny issue of St. Vincent.

This was just 17 years before they printed the first Kedah issue, time enough to become fully proficient in the skills involved no doubt, but not to lose their preference for the letterpress process or their awareness, perhaps, of the economies that could be achieved by adapting techniques developed in producing stamps by that method to recess-engraved printing. Although De La Rue used the 'Perkins, Bacon' process to produce all the dies and four of the six original plates for the three designs of the 1912 Kedah issue, the plates for the actual printing were manufactured by a method they had been using for some considerable time in the production of letterpress printed stamps – electrotyping.

In 1912 the use of electrotyping in the making of intaglio plates was not new but it was extremely unusual. Even today, it is so little associated with the recess process that it is never mentioned in the sections describing intaglio printing in text books on philately. Indeed, the only mention of such use in philatelic literature found by the author, apart from a few incidental references in Easton which will be dealt with later, is the following statement on page 104 of Fred. J. Melville's *Postage Stamps in the Making*:

* The die or plate was placed in a solution of sodium cyanide and heated in a furnace to 1,500°F. It was then cooled in an oil bath.

† Perkins, Bacon & Petch became Perkins, Bacon & Co. in 1852.

‡ The spelling used by the Company until it was incorporated on 1 July 1898.

Apart from the Perkins process and etching, electrotyping is the only other method of multiplying dies to form plates known to have been used for stamp printing in itaglio.

Even this statement does not specifically mention 'multiplying plates' from a master but it must be assumed that this process is implicit in the wording, and the step would, indeed, be an obvious one once a die had been duplicated by electrotyping. In quoting examples of line-engraved stamps printed from electrotyped recess plates prior to 1916 Melville gives just two: the 'King Bomba' stamps of Sicily (1859) and the stamps bearing the standing Helvetia from Switzerland (1882). To which can now be added the stamps of Kedah (1912), although, with the availability of the De La Rue records, it is likely more will be added to the list eventually.*

As stated earlier, electrotyping was a technique commonly employed in letterpress printing, both for the duplicating of dies and also plates. On page 162 of *Postage Stamps in the Making*, in connection with the letterpress printed issues of Great Britain, Melville states:

In the majority of cases, and in all modern issues† extending to large numbers, stamps are not printed direct from the plates first laid down, at any rate without a further preparation in the way of protection. In Great Britain, for example, the first perfect plate laid down for any denomination becomes a master plate which may be duplicated by electrotyping in one operation.

In view of this, perhaps it is not surprising that De La Rue decided to follow the same procedure when duplicating the Kedah working plates despite the fact that they were not using letterpress. Electrotyping was tried and tested, it was being used extensively for other contracts, and it was a process with which their staff were obviously familiar. They continued to use it in printing Kedah's stamps until 1926 with results which, though acceptable, did not, and probably could not, compare in quality with orthodox recess-printing from steel plates. In this, and later chapters, evidence of this lack of quality in the stamps themselves will be presented. The Company's decision to use electrotyping must have been taken for reasons of economy, security-printing being then, as it is today, a highly competitive business with unit costs depending on numbers printed, and the Kedah contract was not a large one. The reasons it was abandoned in 1926 in favour of the 'Perkins, Bacon' method of laying down steel plates will be examined in Chapter 14 where it will be shown that technical developments within the Company itself, in recess-printing, were exposing the limitations of electrotyped plates.

The evidence on which the above conclusions are based is contained in the Crown Agents Registers for 'Working Plates' and 'Dies and Punches',‡ both of which are reproduced in Appendix 4. These Registers are inventories of the dies and plates made by the printers under contract to print stamps, banknotes, postal stationery and other security documents

* Easton also spoke of electrotyped recess plates being used on the 'Four-platen Power Press' in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, so it is likely more examples will be found among the stamps produced by this press.

† Modern in 1916, that is.

‡ 'Punches' is the printers' term for the transfer dies, otherwise known as roller or rocker dies, so-named, it is assumed, because they 'punched out' the design on the plate.

for the Crown Agents. On the 'Dies and Punches' Register for Kedah are listed the dies prepared on Requisition No. 34/1911 for the 1912 issue. Below four of these dies is written: 'Roller Punches from above' which is taken to mean that these are the transfer rollers taken from the dies to make plates in the 'Perkins, Bacon' method of recess-printing. The four dies are the vignettes for each of the three designs and the undesignated border die for the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, and it must be assumed from this that the original plates made from these dies were of steel. The remaining two dies – for the borders of the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' stamps – do not have 'punches' listed for them, which suggests that the original plates produced from them were not of steel but were made by some other process. What this process might have been will be dealt with in the sections on these values later in this chapter.

On the Crown Agents 'Plates' Register for Kedah are listed the six plates prepared from the above dies. Two of the plates which, on the above evidence, must have been made of steel (the vignette and border of the 'padi-sheaf') are described as such. That the other two (the vignettes of the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber') are not must be an oversight on the part of the Crown Agents employee(s) responsible for maintaining the register, in view of the fact that the dies from which they were prepared had 'punches' made from them. As expected, there is no mention of the remaining two plates (the borders for the 'Malay ploughing' and the 'Council Chamber') being made of steel. All six plates are described as 'Original' and were not the ones used for the actual printing. These, known on the Crown Agents Register as the 'working' plates, were duplicated from the originals, which thus acted as 'masters'.

There needed to be no less than seventeen working plates – three to provide the key plate for each of the three different designs, and fourteen to provide the border for each of the fourteen different values in the set. For some reason, impossible to explain, only thirteen of the seventeen are listed on the Register of Working Plates. These are the three key plates, the five border plates for the 10 cents to 50 cents of the 'Malay ploughing' values, the four border plates for the dollar values, but only one of the border plates for the 'padi-sheaf' design, the 8 cents, and that was struck off with a note to say that it was destroyed in 1930. (This mysterious deletion is discussed in Appendix 4.) De La Rue certainly prepared five border plates for the 'padi-sheaf' design, one each for the 1 cent, 3 cents, 4 cents, 5 cents and 8 cents values, as they are all listed in the De La Rue Private Day Books (q.v. in Appendix 3).

How were these working plates made? In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it must be concluded that they were duplicated from the original plates by electrotyping, as stated earlier, a method widely used by De La Rue in letterpress printing. Easton first mentions why this method was used:

Instead of incurring the expense of manufacturing ... printing plates with the transfer roller, one plate only is made and it is then used as a master for a number of electroplates produced from a wax or lead impression ... (In Note 2 is a description of the main stages of preparing a recess plate by electrotyping with accompanying diagrams.)

Easton adds:

These electroplates are chromium-plated, which enables them to be used as many times as a steel plate without showing signs of wear. If they should begin to wear the chromium face can be floated off and the plate refaced. The chances of varieties developing on an electroplate are slight. It is unlikely that a defective electroplate would be chromium-plated, and the chromium face itself is too hard for the plate to suffer minor damage in printing.†*

As the border plates made by this process were undenominated the figures of value needed to be added at some stage, presumably after the electrotyping and before the chromium plating. How this was done will be dealt with later in this section.

Finally, Easton expresses the following reservations about electroplates compared with steel plates:

Such a plate is bound to have its defects. In the first place the definition is not as sharp as a steel to steel direct transfer, even with lead moulding, and secondly, the growth of the copper may not pick out the whole detail of the troughs as originally engraved. Finally a copper shell is not really strong enough to stand the great pressure of an engraving press for any length of time.

The implications of all these statements will be discussed in later chapters, particularly in relation to the differences between Plate 1 and Plate 2 of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette and also Dies 1 and 2 of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps on Multiple Script CA paper. As will be seen, the failure of these plates to withstand the stresses of a long working life also played an interesting part in producing varieties on the later issues.

To sum up the printing of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, no better words could be used than Dr Wood's in Part II of his book *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya*, in the section on 'Kedah':

These stamps were recess-printed by De La Rue & Co. from line-engraved key and duty plates at two operations. The ... 'Sheaf of Padi' was used as the vignette for the 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 cents. This vignette formed the key plate and was used for all the above values together with the appropriate duty plate which supplied the frame for the vignette.

To which might be added that the key and duty plates were duplicated by electrotyping from the original steel plates which had been laid down by transfer rollers taken from recess-engraved steel dies. (Dr Wood preferred the term 'duty plate' to 'border plate' but the two, in the case of Kedah's stamps, are synonymous.) A summary of how the 1912 'padi-sheaf' working plates were made is contained in table-form in Note 8.

The figures of value were almost certainly drawn on the working border plates by means of a pantograph which was a mechanical aid used quite widely in the engraving of recess-printed stamps. Although it could engrave up to ten separate figures of value

* For information on the subject of the coating of electrotyped plates by De La Rue see Note 7.

† Evidence will be presented to show that Easton's confidence in these electroplates may, in the case of Kedah, have been a little misplaced.

simultaneously, slight variations in the positions of the figures in the value-ovals inevitably occurred, and these are particularly noticeable on the 1 cent value. (A description of a pantograph and how its use can be detected is contained in Note 3.)

The 'padi-sheaf' values were printed on white paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA in sheets of 120 (10 rows of 12) with guide marks for both key plates and border plates in the middle of each margin. Two thin continuous lines, about 3 mm apart and some distance from the edge of the stamps, surrounded the sheet, these being printed from the border plate. Sometimes the sheets were so closely trimmed that these marginal lines were cut off.*

The size of the stamps (i.e. the design) printed from the dual working plates is a relatively constant 18.5 mm by 22.25 mm, although some are nearer 18.25 mm in their width, which dimensions are approximately the size of the proofs pulled from the master die. This might seem surprising as at this time De La Rue were using 'wet' printing methods which meant the sheets shrank as they dried after being put to the press for the final time. This being so, it might be expected that the stamps would be smaller than the die from which the stamp impressions on the plate were made. The explanation for this is that the proofs were also printed on 'wet' paper or thin card which, having expanded as it was soaked, then reduced again as it dried, so it is not until De La Rue began to print their recess stamps on relatively dry paper (c.1933) that we can have some firm idea of the actual size of the die.† This subject is dealt with more fully in Chapter 14 when the effects of shrinkage and 'stretch' of the paper are considered in relation to the different sizes of 'padi-sheaf' stamps on Multiple Script CA paper. (For a fuller description of 'wet' printing see Note 1.)

2. THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING'



Fig. 25

A design depicting a Malay ploughing a rice-field was used as the vignette for the higher cents values: 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents, and this formed the key plate (Fig. 25). The design was taken from a photograph of Mat Jaffar, the Penghulu (headman) of Anak Bukit near Alor Star, with his team of two bullocks. According to James F. Augustin, writing in the *Penang Gazette* in 1973, the photograph was taken by a Mr Bodom who had a studio in Northam Road, Penang, in the early 1900s. As the British Adviser's letter to the Crown Agents of March 1911 noted,

* The precise purpose of these lines is not at all clear. The idea that they might have been placed there to protect the plate is not tenable. Most collectors will be familiar with the 'Jubilee' lines which De La Rue used for the first time on the plates made for the series of GB stamps they produced for the Golden Jubilee of 1887 – hence their name. These were printed from raised lines of metal, at the same height as the printing surface of the letterpress plate, which were designed and placed to give protection at those points where the strain from the inking rollers was greatest – at the edge of the stamp impressions. The Kedah plates, on the other hand, were recessed, and so the double marginal lines were not produced from ridges of metal but from incised grooves which could offer no protection, even if such was needed, to an intaglio printing surface. The likeliest purpose of the lines was to deface the marginal paper in order to prevent its fraudulent use.

† The paper or card for the proofs was placed overnight in what was called the 'damp book' for use in the morning. The 'damp book' had heavy zinc covers and contained sheets of absorbent paper to hold the water. The author has been told it made an excellent job of impregnating the card in preparation for the recess dies.

the photograph was not entirely to the State Council's satisfaction – Mr Bodom having failed to show Mat Jaffar actually engaged in ploughing – and De La Rue's engraver was asked to make certain adjustments.

The methods used to prepare the working key and frame (or duty or border) plates for the 'Malay ploughing' stamps were the same as for the 'padi-sheaf' stamps except for one important difference. Although the original key plate for the vignette was of steel and laid down by a transfer roller taken direct from the master die, as evidenced by the existence of a 'roller punch' listed on the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches, the original frame plate was not. Not only is it not described as 'steel' on the Plates Register but there is no 'roller punch' for it under the die on the Dies and Punches Register. The absence of a 'roller punch' indicates that another method was chosen to make it. The one that might have been expected to be used was electrotyping straight from the die, this procedure being essentially the same as that employed to duplicate the original plates described in the previous section. It is explained in Stanley Phillips' *Stamp Collecting* (Eighth Edition 1965) as follows:

If electrotyping is employed to secure reproductions of the die, the latter is first used to make a wax mould. On this a thin shell of copper is deposited electrically, which, when removed, is found to reproduce faithfully the lines and ridges of the die. When as many of these reproductions as necessary have been made, they are suitably strengthened and can be locked or joined together to make our printing plate.*

As De La Rue were known to have used this straightforward electrotyping process for manufacturing plates it might be reasonable to assume that this was the method they would employ to make the original 'Malay ploughing' frame plate. However, it seems more likely that they used another technique born of their experience in letterpress printing. Easton describes it as follows:

The die of a stamp is a very small subject to electrotype separately by the method described ... It was De La Rue's practice to take as many separate lead moulds from the die as there were to be units of the printing-plate and clamp them together in a special chase, building them round with solid metal furniture.

Easton may have wished, for reasons of confidentiality, to avoid going into detail when describing the precise way De La Rue took these lead moulds from the die but the method is fully covered in the Stamp Centenary Number of the *De La Rue Journal* which was published a few years later. This description is contained in Note 4. The Company claimed that a 'perfect reverse impression' of the die was obtainable by this method which they called 'lead-striking'. The advantage of using moulds made by 'lead-striking' was that they were robust enough to be clamped together in 'plate' form before electrotyping, thus saving the time and tedium in making individual electrotypes from the die. From the resulting electrotyped plate, which formed the original, another plate was made, also by electrotyping, and this served as the working or printing plate in exactly the same way as

* Stanley Phillips' use of the word 'faithfully' here may be misleading as there is no reason to believe that electrotyping a die was any more efficient than electrotyping a plate. Phillips was, however, referring to a die engraved in relief which would not present the same problems as a recess die.

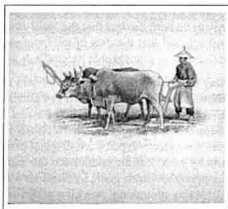
had been done for the 'padi-sheaf' working plates. (A step-by-step explanation of this process, with diagrams, is contained in Note 2.) The reason why De La Rue chose to make the original border plate of the 'Malay ploughing' design (and also, incidentally, the 'Council Chamber' design) by this means while using a transfer roller for the 'padi-sheaf' border is not totally clear, but it is almost certainly to do with the fact that the 'padi-sheaf' frame plate was 120-set while the others were 60-set, and that the dies of the latter were larger and therefore the lead moulds made from them more manageable to handle.*

So, to sum up the method used to print the 'Malay ploughing' stamps, it can be said that the five values featuring this design were recess-printed from line-engraved key and duty plates at two operations. The 'Malay ploughing' was used as the vignette and formed the key plate, while the frame for the vignette was supplied by the duty plates which were all of a common design. Both the key and duty plates were electrotyped from original plates, which, in the case of the key plate had been made by a transfer die taken from the master die, while the duty plate (i.e. the border or frame plate) had been made by 'lead-striking' and electrotyping. A summary of how the 1912 'Malay ploughing' working plates were made is contained in Note 8.

As with the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, in the course of the manufacture of these duty plates the figures of value would have been engraved on them by a pantograph but, it seems, this was not done so successfully. A number of breaks and flaws occur in the value tablets on several of the 'Malay ploughing' stamps, but particularly on the 10 cents and 21 cents, and these are typical of faults produced by a pantograph. As mentioned earlier, a description of the use of a pantograph in the engraving of stamps will be found in Note 3, including how it creates these defects. One of the problems of using a pantograph was keeping its etching needle in touch with the plate during the engraving and, when it lost contact, small breaks in the design occurred. At the end of Chapter 15 in a section on flaws to be found on the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' stamps of the Multiple Script CA issue, is a description of an extensive break in the frameline surrounding the left-hand value tablet near the top of the numeral '1' of the 10 cents value. This is only one, perhaps the biggest, of a large number of similar breaks to be found in this frameline on a whole range of 10 cents printings from both the Multiple Crown and Multiple Script CA issues. These are thought to be the result of their being engraved by a pantograph.

* Using printing plates made up of electrotypes had an advantage not possessed by the steel plates of orthodox recess-printing or, incidentally, plates made by electrotyping from lead moulds. It was that in the event of one of the electrotypes (referred to by some philatelic writers as 'cliches' although not by Easton) becoming damaged it was a relatively simple matter to cut out the defective unit and replace it with a new one. However, this would certainly not have been possible with any of Kedah's printing plates at this time as they had been duplicated from the 'originals' by electrotyping, so they were not made up of separate units but solid cast in one piece under a copper shell. On the other hand, general surface wear on this type of plate could be easily repaired and how this was done is described and illustrated in Chapter 15.

PLATE I OF THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VIGNETTE

Fig. 26 - *The Proof*Fig. 27 - *The Stamp*

The quality of the working key plate of the 'Malay ploughing' design must have been a disappointment to De La Rue as it is a poor representation of the design compared to the proofs from the master die (Figs 26 & 27). The printers charged considerably more for the making of the 'Malay ploughing' key plate than for either of the other two: £8 each for the 'padi-sheaf' and 'Council Chamber' key plates, and £20 for the 'Malay ploughing' plate. This is in accordance with the estimates (see Part I of this chapter) so perhaps some problem involving extra expense was anticipated. (See the Crown Agents 'Register of Dies and Punches' and the preamble in Appendix 4.)

Comparison between the stamps printed from the 'Malay ploughing' key plate and proofs from the master die of the vignette reveal extensive weaknesses in the former, particularly in the shading at various points around the edge of the design. A description of these will be found in Chapter 15 which deals with the 'Malay ploughing' values printed on Multiple Script paper, during the lifetime of which De La Rue produced a new plate made from the old master die showing a much better reproduction of it.

How did the loss of detail occur during the preparation of the working key plate? There were a number of stages in the process. The first was the making of the original plate from the master die using the transfer or roller die or, as the Crown Agents called it, the 'punch'. (The printers always referred to it, somewhat confusingly, as 'the cylinder'). This was, in the words of John Easton, 'the maid-of-all-work' in the printing of line-engraved stamps. As was stated earlier, the crucial operations were the rocking of the 'punch' or transfer roller, first over the die and then over the plate. This rocking was done under increasing pressure and for anything up to a hundred or more times. If it was inadequately done the full details of the design would either not be taken up by the transfer roller from the die, or if that was satisfactorily completed, would not be transferred to the plate. As the vignette weaknesses are common to all the stamps they can hardly have occurred when the transfer

die was rocked over the plate as that would mean the same inadequacies being repeated on every one of sixty separate operations. It would seem much more likely to have occurred when the roller or transfer die was rocked over the master die. The poor transfer resulting from this operation would then be unavoidably reproduced on all the impressions on the plate by the roller.

This theory has been much advocated in the past as an explanation for the poor appearance of the key plate impression but a thorough examination of the evidence and lengthy discussions with a former employee who spent many years in the 'transfer' department (the department responsible for the laying down of plates by the use of transfer dies) of both De La Rue & Co. and Waterlow & Sons Ltd leave no doubt that inadequate rocking could not possibly be the cause of the weak impression.

When describing the transfer or rocker die earlier in the chapter mention was made of the fact that the diameter of the roller was large enough to take up to six or seven impressions of the design from the original die. The purpose of these multiple impressions was to enable the printers to obtain as faithful an impression of the die as was humanly possible when making the individual stamp impressions on the plate. There seems to be some divergence of opinion regarding the precise way the stamp impressions on the roller ensured this was done and Note 5 explains the issues involved. But, whichever point of view is accepted, there is no escaping the fact that the greatest pride was taken by the printers in seeing that the fine work of the engraver was reproduced on the stamps.

Transferring engravings by this means was a routine task, probably performed thousands of times in the course of a year, and it should not have presented any particular problem to printers of De La Rue's experience, even allowing for the fact that this was not the process with which they were most associated, and despite evidence that the transfer department of De La Rue & Co. in 1912 may not have been as keen or as expert as it was in the 1920s. (The reasons for this are explained in Chapter 14.) Such things as 'Incomplete Transfers' are known in recess-printing but, as is explained in Note 6, it is thought that these occurred not when the transfer die was being rocked over the master die but when the plate was being laid down. A large number of impressions were needed on these occasions, and in view of the amount of work involved in eliminating a faulty or inadequate impression, lapses on the part of the printers during this part of the printing process were more likely and understandable.

As it happens, only one impression was made on the transfer die used to make the 'Malay ploughing' key plate in 1912. (See under the folio heading 'Size or Set' in the Register of Dies and Punches in Appendix 4, 'The Crown Agents Records'.) This may not mean it was the only one taken, however, as, according to the testimony of the printers in Note 5, other roller dies may have been used and discarded although this was not a frequent occurrence.

Colour trials exist for all three designs of the 1912 set (see Colour Plates 3 & 4) and as those featuring the 'Malay ploughing' show the vignette much as it is in the die proof, they may provide further evidence that the single impression on the 1912 transfer die was a faithful reproduction of the original. These trials have void value tablets so it is not clear whether they were taken from the dies or the unfinished original plates. If the latter then this must be conclusive evidence that the loss of detail did not occur when the die impression

was transferred to the original plate and that, therefore, the roller die must have taken an accurate reproduction of the master.*

If the weaknesses on the 'Malay ploughing' vignette were not caused by poor take-up on the transfer die how did they occur? There can be little doubt that they were created during the final part of the plate-manufacturing process, i.e. the duplicating of the working plate from the original. This part of the operation was very susceptible to loss of quality as it involved electrotyping. The first step in electrotyping, as described earlier, was the taking of the wax or lead mould, and a potential failing is easily envisaged here in that some of the smaller recesses could fail to be reproduced by the medium being used for the mould. In Easton's words: *'In the first place the definition is not as sharp as steel to steel direct transfer, even with lead moulding ...'* Then came the process of 'growing' the copper shell on the mould with the possibility of the electrolytic deposit not forming in some of the minor recesses. Easton's statement about this stage: *'... and secondly the growth of the copper may not pick out the whole detail of the troughs as originally engraved'* seems to sum up the deficiencies of the Plate 1 'Malay ploughing' vignette extremely well. Although, perhaps, we shall never know with absolute certainty how the somewhat sorry appearance of the original 'Malay ploughing' key plate came about, on the evidence we have at present, there does not seem to be much doubt that it occurred at some stage during the electrotyping of the working plate. When the time came in 1926 for this plate to be scrapped, it must have been a considerable relief to the printers. Indeed, its poor quality might even have been a factor in the decision to replace it. This subject is touched on again in Chapter 14 when further evidence of the inadequacy of electrotyping is considered, and in Chapter 15 when the production of Plate 2 is described.

* * * * *

Apart from the 10 cents, which was the value of the basic registration fee, there did not appear to be any particular significance in the choice of values or colours for these stamps, although four out of the five vignettes were in the colours of black or sepia which John Easton stated were the least likely to 'run' when the paper was re-dampened for the printing of the duty plates. The odd value out in this respect is the 10 cents which has its vignette in blue (a suspect colour) and its frame in sepia, which Easton noted as reliable. The vignette does not appear to have stained the paper in the same way as that of the 4 cents described earlier in the chapter. Does this mean, perhaps, that the frame, unusually according to Easton, was printed first? That this happened in the case of the 30 cents is highly likely, as copies of this stamp exist with the back stained and the front 'tinted', in quite pronounced ways, by the rose-coloured ink of the duty frame, but, so far, it has been impossible to tie

* It has been suggested that the colour trials were produced from a specially made plate composed of only four to six or so units and that this was done some time before the original and working plates were prepared. If so, the above conclusions would still apply. On the other hand, although such miniature plates are known to have been made for other territories there must be considerable doubt that they ever existed for Kedah as no record of them has been found and no sheets printed from them ever seem to have come to light, although the reason for this, it has again been suggested, is that they were all cut up and the 'stamps' used (after 1922) as printers' samples. It needs to be said, however, that the printers' samples with the 'Malay ploughing' design seen by the author were from the finished electrotyped plate.

these stamps to any particular printing. Dr Wood also mentioned the existence of the 50 cents value with the same characteristics.

The design of the 'Malay ploughing' values formed an oblong 30 mm by 25 mm, the longer side being at the top and bottom, and the *Colonial Office Journal*, referred to previously, described the stamps as being of 'revenue' size and in horizontal format (or in the term more used today 'landscape'). They were printed in sheets of 60 (12 rows of 5) on paper with the watermark sideways and with the top of the crown pointing to the left. Guide marks and marginal lines occur as in the 'padi-sheaf' values.

In the Crown Agents Plates Register there is a brief note in the 'REMARKS' column opposite the entry for the five denominated working 'Malay ploughing' plates which states: '30 & 10 cts curved.' From this it must be assumed that these two border plates were adapted for rotary printing by being curved to fit round a cylinder, although why just these two were chosen it is impossible to say. There is no other reference to any other of the large-format plates being curved in any of the Crown Agents or De La Rue records, although there are several mentions of various 'padi-sheaf' values on Multiple Script paper being printed by rotary plates. In Chapter 14 the subjects of curved plates and rotary printing, and the effect these may have on the printed stamp, are discussed at some length. In this section, the significance of marks resembling 'screw-heads' in the margins of those stamps described as 'rotary' is explained. These are thought to have been made from the heads of screws which were used to attach the plates to the cylinders, and similar marks have been seen on marginal blocks of just the 10 cents and 30 cents of the 1912 issue. On these values, however, the 'screw-heads' are at the top of the sheet, whereas on the sheets of the Multiple Script 'padi-sheaves' which are the subject of Chapter 14, the marks are to be found at the bottom. There seems to be no discernible difference between the 10 cents and 30 cents values and the other 'Malay ploughing' values on the Multiple Crown paper – certainly they are no bigger as stamps printed from plates that have been curved are often reported to be – so adapting these two plates, if indeed they were, was successfully accomplished with no effect on the stamps themselves.

The colour of the paper provides some minor varieties. According to Wood the 10 cents and 20 cents values are known on paper of a cream colour – thought to be from early printings – as some Specimen stamps are found on similar paper. That being so, it is not surprising that all the 'Malay ploughing' values have been confirmed to exist on this cream paper. Late printings of these values are on paper of a distinct greyish-blue tone. This is probably the temporary paper described in the *Colonial Office Journal* of October 1918 and used as a result of wartime conditions. (For a fuller explanation of the use of this paper see Chapter 11). Wood reported a late printing of the 40 cents with the duty plate in reddish-purple, thought now to be the printing of 27 May 1919.

3. THE 'COUNCIL CHAMBER'

An engraving of a prominent building in Alor Star, known as the BALEI BESAR or COUNCIL CHAMBER, which is situated near the Istana (Sultan's palace), provided the design for the four separate dollar values (Fig. 28). The Balei Besar was an impressive wooden structure built in 1898 and incorporating certain features of Siamese architecture. It was an



Fig. 28

interesting choice of subject as it had been the scene of the ceremony which brought Kedah under British suzerainty following the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909. (See Chapter 7.) The steps leading to the Audience Chamber in which the signing took place can be seen in the engraving. This design provided the vignette and formed the key plate, while the duty plates made up the frame in separate colours for each value in the same way as for the 'Malay ploughing' design.

The methods used to produce both the original and the working key and duty plates were exactly the same as for the 'Malay ploughing' stamps, i.e. the original key plate was made by a transfer roller straight from the master die, as a 'punch' is listed for it on the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches, although, once again, it is not described as being of steel on the Register of Working Plates. The original duty or border plate, on the other hand, must have been made by some alternative method, almost certainly 'lead-striking' and electrotyping as in the case of the 'Malay ploughing' original plate. Both of the 'Council Chamber' original plates were then used as bases for moulds when the working plates were made by electrotyping. The figures of value were added to the duty plates by means of a pantograph before they were chromium-plated. Slight variations in the position of the right-hand value tablet on the S1 stamp indicate a pantograph was used but there is none of the flaws in these parts of the design that are such a feature of the 'Malay ploughing' stamps. (Note 8 summarises the methods that were used to make the 'Council Chamber' working plates.)

The evidence that these were the methods used is once again to be found in the two Crown Agents Registers, the one for the dies lists 'Original Flat Die Council Chamber' and 'Original Flat Die Council Chamber. Border Duty Blank' with, as mentioned above, 'punches' for just the former. The plate register lists 'Original Plate Council Chamber' and 'Border Duty Blank' directly underneath, both 60-set.

One of the most surprising features of these stamps is the fact that there appears to have been no apparent loss of definition or quality in the printing of the vignette as occurred in the 'Malay ploughing' values. A close comparison between proofs from the vignette die and the printed stamps shows that just a very few of the finest lines on the die have not reproduced. For example, two extra vertical lines on the second column at the extreme left of the design are discernible on the proof but not on the stamps. The reason why the 'Council Chamber' should remain relatively unaffected by the electrotyping is probably lost in the intricacies of the process – sometimes there was a considerable loss of quality, sometimes there was very little. Easton in his explanation expressed the uncertainty of it in his statement: '... may not pick out the whole detail ...'

It will be noticed that the figures of value on the dollar values are in white relief against a solid coloured background, while those of the 'Malay ploughing' are 'shadowed' against a lined background. By contrast the figures of value on the 'padi-sheaves' are in solid colour picked out on white. White lettering required the background to be cut away by the engraver, leaving the letters themselves as part of the surface of the die to be wiped clean of ink before printing. Each of the three Kedah designs employed this idea in their designs. For example, all their inscriptions are in white in panels of colour. According to Easton:

'White lettering was the accepted rule in all the early designs printed by Perkins Bacon, no doubt in accordance with the principle that there should be as much colour on the stamp as possible. 'Quite possibly De La Rue's engravers considered that this principle was worth continuing particularly for stamps of revenue-size and in cases where only one or two colours were being used.

The dollar value stamps were of the same size and format as the 'Malay ploughing' values and were also printed in sheets of 60 (12 rows of 5 stamps each). The watermark was sideways as before, with, apart from one or two exceptions, the top of the crown pointing to the left. The guide marks and marginal lines were similar to those of the lower values.

One point of difference, however, was the choice of coloured papers for the \$1 and \$3 values, yellow for the former and blue for the latter. The precise reason for the adoption of these so-called British Colonial coloured papers by the Crown Agents is not totally clear but seems to have had no other purpose than to add distinction to their stamps. It so happened that no sooner had Kedah's first order been supplied than a problem arose in 1913 when the mill supplying the coloured papers closed down and the Crown Agents had difficulty in renewing the contract elsewhere. Fortunately for Kedah they adopted a policy of giving priority to orders from clients using stamps printed by the recess-engraved process and so reserved their existing stocks for this purpose (the *Colonial Office Journal*, 1913). The reason for this was not one of sentiment. Recess-printing required unsurfaced paper, the colour of which could not be disguised. Letterpress, on the other hand, was a process that could employ, indeed was particularly suitable for, paper which was chalk-coated, and this chalk could be shaded in ways which matched the coloured papers fairly well. Collectors of De La Rue's letterpress printed stamps of this period will be familiar with the paper varieties that resulted from this subterfuge.

'WET' PRINTING AND THE PROBLEM OF REGISTER

Illustrated in Fig. 29 are examples of stamps of the 1912 issue with their vignettes badly misplaced. Poor registration is an obvious problem with bi-coloured stamps where the sheet has to be put to the press in two separate operations, but the difficulties were compounded at this time by the necessity for 'wet' printing. This was the term used to describe the way the paper used in recess-printing had to be dampened in order to make it soft and malleable enough to be forced into the individual recesses of the design on the plate so that it could pick up the ink. A fuller description of this process is contained in Note 1.

The normal practice in producing bi-coloured stamps was for the first colour to be printed and then the sheets were dried. Before they were given their second printing they had to be wetted again. The problem was ensuring the sheet expanded by the same amount the second time as it had done the first. Sometimes the sheet expanded unevenly, i.e. there was greater expansion or contraction in one part of the sheet than in another. Finally, there was always the problem of laying the sheet down the second time in exactly the same position that it had been in the first.



Fig. 29

Attempts were made to adjust the designs of stamps to offset these problems of register. Vignetting (leaving the central design without a border and fading the lines of the edge of the design into nothing and, by so doing, creating a visible white gap between the central design and the frame), was an obvious and commonly used method, but sometimes the same thing was done with the inside edge of the frame instead. (Basically, all three of the Kedah designs are examples of the second alternative although both the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' vignettes have general lines of shading around the bases of their designs with rather imprecise outer limits.) By these means a vignette that was off-centre could still be clear of the frame and be acceptable. When all the problems of printing bi-coloured stamps on wet paper are considered it is not surprising the printers had to exceed the printing orders of their clients to make allowance for 'waste'. (See pp. 428 & 431-36 of Appendix 4, 'The Crown Agents Records'.)

DATE OF ISSUE

In view of the extract from the Kedah State Report for 1912, quoted at the end of the last chapter, in which 16 June 1912 is given for the issue of the first Kedah definitive set, it is interesting to examine the alternatives presented by contemporary sources in trying to establish this date. Mr R. F. Healey in his article on 'Kedah' in the *Stamp Collectors' Monthly Journal* (March 1922) gives the tentative date for the 'padi-sheaf' values as February 1912, and the other values, except for the \$3, as April or July. The \$3 is given the definite date of 14 September 1912. Contemporary journals report the 'padi-sheaf' values variously from May (*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*) to July or August (Whitfield King's *Monthly List*). All the other values are dated by one source or another as appearing between June and August, except for the \$3 on which there seems some agreement that it was not issued until September 1912. The reasons for this variety of dates by different journals are now lost in time but some might be explained by the fact they could have been reporting the appearance of Specimen copies supplied from London.

PERFORATIONS

Initially, the 'padi-sheaf' values were perforated by a comb machine and the others by a line machine. Later reprints varied this pattern somewhat in that the 'padi-sheaf' values appeared perforated line and the \$1 comb. The line perforation gives a measurement of 14.1 and the comb 13.8 or 9 by 14.1. Using an Instanta perforation gauge these might both be fairly described as 14 as is given in the catalogues. The differences are worth noting, however, as the measurements described above are constant enough to identify a perforation as line or comb where this might otherwise be in doubt, and because a range of varieties can be established in later issues using these perforation differences to distinguish them.

One of the features of Kedah stamps is the number of perforation varieties they provide – a natural consequence of the problems the printers faced when trying to perforate sheets of stamps which had shrunk by variable amounts after printing. These varieties are mostly in the 'padi-sheaf' values of the Multiple Script CA issue which are the subject of Chapter 14.

WATERMARK VARIETIES

Watermark varieties exist on the 10 cents and \$1 values both of which have the top of the crown pointing to the right instead of to the left (as viewed from the front of the stamp). Only one copy of the 10 cents has been reported so far – a used example dated 1915. This is likely to have been the result of an odd sheet of paper being inverted accidentally rather than, as frequently happened later, a whole printing being produced on paper which had been fed through the press, presumably deliberately, the other way round. Although in these latter cases the stamps constitute an inverted watermark (i.e. in relation to the first stamps issued in 1912) this could cause confusion, and so in the list of varieties appended here and henceforward all stamps are described as one assumes De La Rue intended to print them, be it with the top of the crown pointing to the left or to the right, and the terms 'Watermark Inverted' and 'Watermark Reversed' are reserved for the sheet or sheets which were fed into the press in error, i.e. the 'wrong' way round compared to the rest of the printing.

'Reversed Watermark' varieties occur when the paper is passed through the press the 'wrong' side up and the stamp is printed on the side which would normally have been gummed. This has the effect of reversing the order of the letters 'CA' of the watermark so that on the 'Crown Left' stamp they read downwards when viewed from the front and upwards from the back. Such a variety exists in the \$1 value which from 1912 to 1922 was the subject of four separate printings, each one of which, it is believed, differed to the others in some way. Remarkably, three of these printings produced 'Watermark Inverted' varieties, and in one case 'Watermark Reversed' errors as well, not only on the normal stamp but on some stamps where the watermark was already inverted.*

A few line perforated \$1 stamps on pale yellow paper have been found with a very poorly printed vignette, the ink having failed to adhere to the paper in varying degrees, giving them a very distinctive speckled appearance. Seemingly scarce, this stamp has been assigned to Printing 3 as it was very small – only 90 sheets (5,400 stamps). Despite its scarcity it is known with its watermark inverted although so few stamps from the printing exist there must be some doubt which is the basic stamp and which is the 'Watermark Inverted' variety. Its existence seems to have been unknown to Dr Wood who reported a 'Crown Right' stamp only with comb perforation. This was almost certainly the 'Watermark Inverted' variety of the well-known 'Crown Left, Comb' stamp on pale yellow paper also mentioned by Dr Wood and which he believed, correctly, came from the last indent on Multiple Crown paper reported by the *Crown Agents Bulletin* for the third quarter of 1922.

* The author has been told that one of the commonest causes of watermark varieties was a supervisor examining the top sheet of a pile of paper and then replacing it incorrectly, i.e. top to toe (inverted watermark), upside down (reversed watermark), top to toe and upside down (inverted and reversed), or, if the sheets were square, replacing it after a right-angled turn, thus creating a sideways watermark error, generally regarded as the most desirable of all the watermark varieties.

Another fact worth recording is that the first printing of the \$1 stamps in 1912 is on a noticeably thin paper which not only shows its watermark more clearly but also bends more readily between forefinger and thumb (especially when without gum) than do any of the stamps from the other printings. This paper is yellow as opposed to the pale yellow used subsequently, although it appears to have faded to pale or even white on some stamps. It is also the paper on which the Specimens were printed.

The *Colonial Office Journal* of July 1919 (Vol. XIII, p. 49) reported new printings of the 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents, 50 cents and \$1 but there was no mention of despatch. The list of printings at the end of this chapter indicates that this report was referring to Printing 2 of all of these values apart from the 50 cents for which this was Printing 3.

A watermark variety exists on the \$3. Lot 2018 in the catalogue of the sale of the 'J. A. Naylor' collection of Malaya and North Borneo by Harmers of London on 14 April 1983, comprised the following: '1912 \$3 black and blue on blue, a part o.g. copy showing the watermark variety 'A' in one of the 'CA's missing, a little wrinkled, fine...'

It is not known on what position in the sheet this error occurred, nor can it even be stated with certainty that it is constant, as a similar variety on the 25 cents value with the Multiple Crown CA watermark does not exist on every sheet. It is a temptation to assume that both watermark errors had their origin in the same defective dandy-roll on the paper-mould, but it needs to be borne in mind that the \$3 paper is blue and the 25 cents white, and, according to the *Colonial Office Journal*, the mill supplying the coloured papers closed down in 1913 while the 25 cents was not printed until 1921. This does not preclude a common origin, of course, as the dandy rolls were kept in the custody, and under the supervision of, the Inland Revenue Department, and were not owned by the mills. (See the section 'The "Malay ploughing" Values' in Chapter 11, where an explanation for the 25 cents variety not being constant is suggested.)

PLATE FLAWS

Fig. 30



Defective
NE value
tablet



Defective '4'
and 'c'



Defective '4'

A number of flaws exist on the 'padi sheaf' values of this issue mainly in the form of broken and malformed figures and broken frame-lines. Three are illustrated in Fig. 30 and interested collectors may wish to try to establish their sheet positions and discover whether or not they are constant.

USED IN PERLIS

All the original 1912 set on Multiple Crown paper have been confirmed as being used in Perlis apart from the \$2, although this value must certainly have been on sale also. The dollar stamps are rare but this is only to be expected in view of the fact that, even in Kedah, genuinely cancelled copies of these values are quite scarce. Whether all the later reprints were on sale in the State has not yet been established. Of the line-perforated 'padi-sheaf' stamps (the 1916 reprints), all are known used in Perlis, apart from the 5 cents, but they are much more elusive than their comb-perforated predecessors. The blue shade variety of the 8 cents (Printing 3 of 4.8.1916) has been seen with a Perlis postmark but none of the later printings of the 'Malay ploughing' values, such as those on 'greyish' paper for example, has been positively identified as having been used in the State.

The only Perlis office open during the currency of the Multiple Crown issues was Kangar which was using the small single-ring Type 3 mark bearing just the state name throughout this period. This is the only Perlis postmark which is likely to be found on the Multiple Crown issues as it was not superseded until 1923.

PERAK STAMPS CANCELLED IN KEDAH

It ought to be mentioned here that a few Perak 1892-95 2 cents rose stamps (SG 62) have been found with the Kuala Muda Type 3 postmark dated in November 1913. The chance that they served a genuine postal need or were the subject of some sort of provisional issue seems fairly remote as the Kedah postal authorities saw no need of a 2 cents stamp in their range of values at this time. Neither does it seem likely that these postmarks are arrival cancellations as the 2 cents rose had been superseded in Perak eighteen years before. The third alternative, that this usage was the result of some irregularity on the part of a postal official or a member of the public is the most probable.

CHECK-LIST

1 Cent	Black and Green. Comb. Black and Green. Line.
3 Cents	Black and Red. Comb. Black and Dull Red. Comb. Black and Red. Line. Black and Dull Red. Line.
4 Cents	Deep Rose and Grey. Comb. Rose and Dark Grey. Line.
5 Cents	Green and Chestnut. Comb. Green and Brown. Line.
8 Cents	Black and Ultramarine. Comb. Black and Deep Ultramarine. Line. Black and Blue. Line.

- 10 Cents Blue and Sepia. Crown Left. Line. Cream Paper.
As above. Inverted Watermark.*
Blue and Sepia. Crown Left. Line. Greyish Paper.
'Value-tablet' flaw (R2/4).
- 20 Cents Black and Green. Crown Left. Line. Cream Paper.
Black and Green. Crown Left. Line. Greyish Paper.
- 30 Cents Black and Rose. Crown Left. Line. Cream Paper.
Black and Pale Rose. Crown Left. Line. Greyish Paper.
Black and Pale Red. Crown Left. Line. White Paper.
- 40 Cents Black and Purple. Crown Left. Line. Cream Paper.
Black and Reddish-Purple. Crown Left. Line. Greyish Paper.
Black and Purple. Crown Left. Line. White Paper.
- 50 Cents Brown and Blue. Crown Left. Line. Cream Paper.
Red-Brown and Deep Blue. Crown Left. Line.
Red-Brown and Deep Blue. Crown Left. Line. Greyish Paper.
- \$1 Black and Red/Yellow. Crown Left. Line. Thin paper.
Black and Red/Pale Yellow. Crown Left. Line.
As above. Reversed Watermark.*
As above. Inverted Watermark.*
As above. Inverted and Reversed Watermark.*
Black and Red/Pale Yellow. Crown Left. Line. Poorly printed vignette.
As above. Inverted Watermark.*†
Black and Red/Pale Yellow. Crown Left. Comb.
As above. Inverted Watermark.*
- \$2 Green and Brown. Crown Left. Line.
- \$3 Black and Blue/Blue. Crown Left. Line.
As above. 'A' missing from 'CA' in watermark.
- \$5 Black and Red. Crown Left. Line.

THE PRINTINGS

In the following section an attempt is made to match the printings of the 1912 Multiple Crown issue as listed in the De La Rue Private Day Books with the check-list of varieties above. This is a somewhat simpler task than a similar exercise with the issue on Multiple Script paper because of the relatively small number of both the printings and the varieties. On the other hand no claim to a hundred per cent accuracy is made and further research of dated postmarks will probably lead to amendments.

* These varieties are thought to be the result of errors. Numbers existing in each case are likely to be small.

† This variety can only be distinguished from the 'Black and Red/Pale Yellow, Crown Right, Line' stamp, i.e. the 'Inverted Watermark' variety of the stamp above, by the poor printing of its vignette.

If reference is made to the full record of the printings (to be found in Appendix 3, 'The De La Rue Records') it will be noticed that the printers quite often completed a requisition for a stamp in two stages, sometimes several months apart. These are, of course, separate printings but are probably not distinguishable owing to their following so closely after each other. There may be a quite spectacular exception to this, however, in the case of the 8 cents ultramarine where a change in the shade of ink thought to have been used between Printings 2 and 3 makes differentiation very simple indeed. Where different printings were released within weeks of one another postmarks are unlikely to be of much help in identifying them unless a very early example is found. Specimens, on the other hand, are very useful in that they always appear to have been taken from the first printing.

It needs to be borne in mind that the dates in the Day Books are probably those when the invoices were sent by the company to the Crown Agents. They are likely to be a few days, at least, after the dates the stamps were despatched to Kedah. The last values of this issue to be printed in 1912, judging from these dates, were the 30 cents, 40 cents, \$3 and \$5, for which entries were made in the Day Books dated 2 May 1912. As the whole set was issued on 16 June 1912 some estimation of the time lapse between despatch and the first day of use can be made.

The first printings of the 1 cent to 8 cents values were perforated by a comb machine but all the subsequent printings were line. The other values, i.e. those of 'revenue' size, were perforated line with the notable exception of the \$1 which exists with a comb perforation.

The 1919 printings, and one or two later, seemed to have been on the war-time paper described as being 'greyish' with the watermark being difficult to see, at least on the lower values.

Ascribing stamps to some printings, particularly in the 1919-21 period, is not easy, so it is useful to remember that different values on the same requisition order, and therefore printed at the same time, are likely to be on the same paper and perforated by the same type of machine. There was the odd exception to this as occurred on Req. No. 127/20. (Dates of Requisition Orders and details of the different stamp values printed on them can be obtained from Appendix 3, 'The De La Rue Records'.)

1 CENT BLACK & GREEN

PRINTING 1	20.3.13	Black and Green. Comb.
PRINTING 2	25.5.16	Black and Green. Line.
PRINTING 3	4.8.16	<i>The same as Printing 2.</i>

3 CENTS BLACK & RED

PRINTING 1	20.3.12	Black and Red or Dull Red. Comb.
PRINTING 2	2.5.12	<i>The same as Printing 1.</i>
PRINTING 3	9.6.16	Black and Red or Dull Red. Line.
PRINTING 4	6.7.16	<i>The same as Printing 3.</i>

As the Specimens seen are of the red shade and they were taken from Printing 1 the latter must have been of this shade, but this assumption may not be totally correct as ink can vary during a printing run. The same may be true of Printings 3 and 4.

4 CENTS ROSE & GREY

PRINTING 1	20.3.12	Rose and Grey. Comb.
PRINTING 2	9.6.16	Rose and Grey. Line.

5 CENTS GREEN & CHESTNUT

PRINTING 1	20.3.12	Green and Chestnut. Comb.
PRINTING 2	25.5.16	Green and Brown. Line.

8 CENTS BLACK & ULTRAMARINE

PRINTING 1	20.3.12	Black and Ultramarine. Comb.
PRINTING 2	25.5.16	Black and Deep Ultramarine. Line.
PRINTING 3	4.8.16	Black and Blue. Line.

Printings 2 and 3 are the exceptions that prove the rule, i.e. although only a little over two months separate them they are very easy to tell apart. Indeed the contrast in the shade of ink used is so considerable that the black and blue variety is worthy of catalogue status. It is quite scarce, which is not surprising as it was comprised of only 26 sheets (3,120 stamps).

10 CENTS BLUE AND BROWN

PRINTING 1	18.4.12	Blue and Brown. Crown Left. Line. Cream paper.
PRINTING 2	18.3.20	Blue and Brown. Crown Left. Line. Greyish paper.

20 CENTS BLACK & GREEN

PRINTING 1	18.4.12	Black and Green. Crown Left. Line. Cream paper.
PRINTING 2	17.6.19	Black and Green. Crown Left. Line. Greyish paper.

In The Malayan Philatelist, Vol. 2, p. 13, a 20 cents stamp of this issue is reported perforated comb. It is assumed this is a mis-identification. A perfectly regular line perforation can appear much like a comb.

30 CENTS BLACK & ROSE

PRINTING 1	2.5.12	Black and Rose. Crown Left. Line. Cream paper.
PRINTING 2	27.5.19	Black and Pale Rose. Crown Left. Line. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 3	18.3.20	Probably the same as Printing 2.
PRINTING 4	19.5.20	Probably the same as Printing 3.
PRINTING 5	6.5.21	Black and Pale Red. Crown Left. Line.

Printing 3 was small, 5,220 stamps, and Printing 4 was even smaller, 780 stamps.

40 CENTS BLACK & PURPLE

PRINTING 1	2.5.12	Black and Purple. Crown Left. Line. Cream paper.
PRINTING 2	27.5.19	Black and Reddish-Purple. Crown Left. Line. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 3	3.2.21	Probably Crown Left. Line. White paper.

50 CENTS BROWN & BLUE

PRINTING 1	2.5.12	Brown and Blue. Crown Left. Line. Cream paper.
PRINTING 2	25.5.16	Red-Brown and Deep Blue. Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 3	27.5.19	The same as Printing 2 but on greyish paper.
PRINTING 4	17.1.21	?

\$1 BLACK & RED/YELLOW

PRINTING 1	18.4.12	Black and Red/Yellow. Crown Left. Line. Thin paper.
PRINTING 2	27.5.19	Black and Red/Pale Yellow. Crown Left. Line. Error: Watermark Reversed. Error: Watermark Inverted. Error: Watermark Inverted and Reversed.
PRINTING 3	3.2.21	Black and Red/Pale Yellow. Crown Left. Line. Vignette poorly printed. Error: Watermark Inverted.
PRINTING 4	4.7.22	Black and Red/Pale Yellow. Crown Left. Comb. Error: Watermark Inverted.

Printing 3 was quite small – 90 sheets (5,400 stamps). It is believed the stamps of this printing have a very poorly-printed vignette giving it a speckled appearance.

The general lack of used, dated copies of this value make the positive identification of Printings 2 & 3 far from certain. This lack of postally used stamps is slightly surprising because there appeared to be a considerable demand for the \$1 during this period. The three separate printings between May 1919 and July 1922 provided a total of no less than 43,080 stamps, on top of which the \$1/\$3 provisional was produced earlier in 1919. One can only assume most of these stamps were needed for revenue purposes.

\$2 GREEN & BROWN

PRINTING 1	18.4.12	Green and Brown. Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	3.2.21	The same as Printing 1.

\$3 BLACK & BLUE/BLUE

PRINTING 1	2.5.12	Black and Blue/Blue. Crown Left. Line.
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\$5 BLACK & RED

PRINTING 1	2.5.12	Black and Red. Crown Left. Line.
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Note 1: 'WET' AND 'DRY' PRINTING

'Wet' printing was the means used in recess-printing to ensure that the paper took the ink from the plate efficiently. The paper needed to be forced into the grooves on each stamp impression and this required considerable pressure by the press. This pressure caused various engineering and technical problems, amongst which was excessive wear of the plate. So, until these had been overcome, the paper had to be made as malleable and flexible as possible by thoroughly dampening it with water. Methods of wetting the paper included passing it under various forms of automatic sprinklers, or dipping it in a tank and then

squeezing the surplus water out in a hydraulic press. After soaking, the edges of the pile were prevented from drying out by being covered with wet sacks, and this was done by the 'feeders' (the girls whose task it was to load the sheets) even while the paper was waiting by the presses. The 'wet' paper caused the printers many problems such as paper creasing, and the operatives taking the sheets off the presses also had to ensure that the interleaving was accurately registered between the printed surfaces, or the damp paper picked up impressions from the sheets above and below them in the pile. Every second printed sheet of stamps or banknotes was turned over so that only one sheet of interleaving was needed for every two printed sheets. (This left interleaving which was 'printed' on both sides, albeit in reverse, and, in the case of banknotes, produced highly desirable waste, every sheet of which had to be accounted for and destroyed.) All this was done under the eagle eye of the Crown Agents' inspectors, but, despite the difficulties, the printers took great pride in what they called 'getting the most out of the plate', i.e. obtaining a finished article which not only did justice to the stamp impressions but the craftsmanship which had created them.

The shrinking of the paper as it dried after printing caused De La Rue a number of other problems. These will be dealt with in Chapter 14 but there is some mention of them in the extract from a De La Rue booklet entitled *The Banknote* contained in the last section of Appendix 3, 'The De La Rue Records'. This extract also contains a brief explanation of the technical improvements which eventually enabled the printers to abandon 'wet' printing, although these improvements were not made until after the period of use of the stamps on Multiple Crown CA paper. Interesting varieties of size occurred in the 'padisheaf' stamps as the result of De La Rue's change from 'wet' to 'dry' printing methods.

It should be pointed out, perhaps, that 'wet' and 'dry' are relative terms, and that even the 'dry' paper was not without some water content. A note in the Scott Catalogue of the USA on the change from 'wet' to 'dry' printing in 1953 by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing when producing American stamps by the recess-engraved method, actually quantifies the moisture content of the 'dry' paper (5–10%) compared to the 'wet' (13–35%). However, as the Bureau found it necessary to change to a different type of paper for 'dry' printing these figures may not be applicable to the paper used by De La Rue in the thirties. As far as is known, De La Rue did not change the type of paper they used when they began to print Kedah stamps by the 'dry' method. However, evidence will be presented in later chapters, including testimony from the printers themselves, that even after giving up the 'wet' method, De La Rue never produced recess-printed stamps on totally dry paper.

That is not to say that such a thing is impossible, apparently. The following is an extract from *The Foundations of Philately* by W. S. Boggs and A. M. Strange:

Among the recent developments in the art of line engraving has been the perfection of printing from line engraved cylinders on absolutely dry paper. This is the Stalins-Ingedi Process in use at several stamp printing plants ... The inventor of this process is M. Gaston Stalins, a Belgian, who founded the Institut de Gravure ...

The transfer roll is used to enter the subjects directly on solid steel rollers, thus obviating the necessity of preparing plates and bending them to fit rollers, a process which as we have seen usually results in some distortion of the design.

No date is given for Stalins' invention but Boggs' and Strange's book was published in 1955.

Note 2: ELECTROTYPING A RECESS DIE OR PLATE

Easton describes electrotyping in detail but it is sufficient here to give only a brief outline. After an impression was moulded from the die or the plate in a medium such as wax or lead (if the mould was made of wax it needed to be coated with blacklead so that it would take the electrolytic deposit) it was then suspended in a vat of a suitable solution such as copper sulphate and subjected to the normal electroplating process. It took from five to eight hours for the copper shell to be laid over the design (which was now in relief) to the required thickness. He goes on to say:

The surface of the copper shell which was next to the mould becomes the printing surface of the plate into which it is next converted. This surface will show the type, or the design of the die, in negative, exactly corresponding to the original ... The copper shell is carefully cleaned and then backed with a metal alloy composed of lead, tin and antimony ... Molten metal is then poured over the back of the tinned shell, and when it has cooled the manufacture of the printing-plate, in its rough state, is finished. The plate is then cut and trimmed to shape, hammered up and flattened to an even surface, planed to a standard thickness and bevelled at the edges.

Electrotyping can be used to reproduce a die or a plate. The diagrams contained in Fig. 31 illustrate the steps involved in producing separate electrotypes from a steel die which were then, in Stanley Phillips' phrase, 'suitably strengthened and ... locked or joined together to make our ... plate'. (It needs to be remembered, as is explained in the main text, that, probably, De La Rue did not make their electrotyped 'original' plates in this way, preferring their own patent procedure, which they called 'lead-striking', instead. The last part of this procedure still required some electrotyping, however. See Note 4.) In Kedah's case this first plate was regarded as the 'original' from which were made the working plates, again by electrotyping, following precisely the same steps shown in the diagrams.

1. The master die was engraved as a mirror image and the 'original' plate would have looked the same. This has been indicated on the diagram by the left of the printed stamp (L) being shown on the right of the die and vice versa.
2. The mould reproduced the design in relief and the right way round, i.e. not as a mirror image. It was this operation which provided the first opportunity for some loss of detail in the design.
3. The surface of the copper shell next to the mould was used as the printing surface of the plate. The 'growing' of the copper shell was the second stage when some loss of fine detail was possible.
4. The copper shell was removed from the mould and then backed with a metal alloy. This formed the electrotype.
5. In order to demonstrate the 'end' process, i.e. the printing of a stamp, the electrotype is represented here as a 'working' plate from which a 'pull' is being taken on paper.
6. The stamp or stamps are finally printed the 'right way round'.

Note. The large arrows indicate that the top section of one diagram has been inverted to become the bottom section of the next.

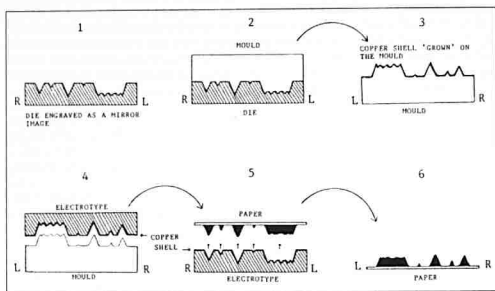


Fig. 31

In the above diagram (Fig. 31), an unprotected plate is being used for the printing but, in practice, the plate would have been faced before this part of the operation took place, except, perhaps, for the pulling of proofs. Although these copper plates would have worn very quickly without their hard coating of chromium (or nickel), particularly when exposed to the pressures involved in recess-printing, the original reason for plating them was somewhat different. The following is an extract from page 162 of Fred. J. Melville's *Postage Stamps in the Making*:

The protection which an electrotyped plate requires is primarily a protection against damage from chemical reaction set up by certain inks with the copper shell of which the surface of an electrotype plate is composed. Some colours, e.g. ultramarine and vermilion, cannot be satisfactorily printed from copper; they set up a corrosive action which effectually changes the colour, and at the same time ruins the plate.

Note 3: THE PANTOGRAPH

Most collectors will be familiar with a pantograph, or at least the version which is sold as a child's toy. It is an instrument for mechanically tracing a picture or pattern from a given figure, but enlarged or diminished in a particular ratio. L. N. and M. Williams in *Fundamentals of Philately* describe it as follows:

... consists of an arrangement of steel rods coupled to form a pointed parallelogram, on one extended arm of which is a stylus or tracing needle, while a cutting needle or diamond is attached to the juncture of one long and one short side of the parallelogram.

By moving the stylus along the grooves of a specially engraved large copy of the design, the engraver, through the medium of the pantograph, cuts the design, proportionately reduced, on the die that is in contact with the diamond.

From this it will be seen that the pantograph was hand-operated as the engraver actually guided the tracing needle over the subject to be reproduced, and, although it was possible for ten identical copies to be drawn at once by separate cutting needles arranged over a column of ten subjects on a plate, when the process was repeated in the next column minute differences were almost bound to occur, as the human hand cannot reproduce two 'drawings', even if they are tracings, which are absolutely identical. It is extremely unlikely, however, that these variations in the shape of the actual engraving can be detected by the naked eye as they are too small and, perhaps, obscured by ink-spread during printing, but differences in the actual position of the figures of value in the ovals can be discerned (although not measured by any means available to the average collector) as long as one particular dimension between the figure of value and the inner frame in the same oval of each stamp is examined with enough persistence.

The value of the pantograph in stamp designing or engraving is obvious. Not only can it be used for making small copies of original large drawings of stamps but also for actually engraving plates used in line-engraved printing. It is particularly suited to reproducing parts of a stamp design which need to be identical, such as ornamental devices on a border or figures of value in opposite corners of the design. It is often used to repeat on the left-hand side of the stamp, for example, a design on a border which has already been engraved on the right-hand side. Marginal inscriptions which might be too long for the transfer roller are also often left to the pantograph.

Pantograph engraving is done with an etching needle which is drawn across the metal and so does not remove any steel but simply displaces it. This will produce a burr or roughened edge to the engraved line. The engraver's burin, on the other hand, is pushed through the metal and removes a sliver, leaving a less-pronounced burr. If a sharp, clear impression is required all these burrs must be scraped or polished away although the engraving lines produced by the pantograph may be left with a slightly rougher edge. However, when the subsequent printing is done on unsurfaced paper, as is the case with Kedah's stamps, the difference between the two is, almost certainly, impossible to detect.

The pantograph was a most useful tool for the engraver but had a drawback. Easton explains it in the following way:

Care must be taken to keep the point 'P' level with the pencil or etching needle touching the paper or plate; otherwise there will be gaps in the design, and this is the cause of some of the varieties in stamps of which the plates or stones have been worked upon by the pantograph.

As is explained in the main text, this tendency of the etching needle to lose contact with the plate is thought to have been the cause of a number of gaps that can be found in the outlines of the ovals in the value tablets of some 'Malay ploughing' values.

Note 4: LEAD-STRIKING

The passage in the Stamp Centenary Number of the *De La Rue Journal* which describes the unique method the Company evolved to make lead moulds from a steel die is as follows:

Thomas De La Rue developed a method of lead striking for letterpress stamps which placed this Company far ahead of any of its competitors. The method used was to take the original die engraved on a piece of steel about 1/2 in. thick and to shape this by careful hand work so that it fits exactly inside a heavy metal 'ring'. The inside of the 'ring' is exactly the size and shape of the perforated stamp. After fitting and hardening, the original is placed face up in the bottom of this 'ring' in a fly press. Weighed pieces of lead are prepared and each in turn is placed in the 'ring' above the original, the fly press is operated, and the lead is forced down on to the original. A perfect reverse impression of the engraving is thereby produced, and the fact that the lead is confined within the walls of the 'ring' ensures that each mould produced is exactly the same shape and size as its fellows. After a little trimming for removal of burrs, the leads are arranged on a perfectly flat metal chase and locked into position. The chase is then lowered into an electrolytic bath ...

This plate was then used as the original from which any number of undenominated working plates could be made by electrotyping.

It will be noticed that the passage refers to 'lead-striking' as a technique developed in the printing of letterpress (typographed) stamps but it is thought that the Company was able to use it to make recess-plates equally well.

Note 5: MULTIPLE IMPRESSIONS ON THE TRANSFER DIE

When referring to the reason for the above John Easton states:

It is usual to take more than one impression of a die on the transfer roller, with the idea of selecting the best for making the plate.

However, a former De La Rue employee widely experienced in this process was of the opinion that great efforts were made to ensure that all the impressions on a transfer die were identical. The reasons he gave were:

- (i) The impressions on the transfer die were raised and therefore vulnerable to damage, particularly before the die had been hardened, and a second or third impression was an insurance against this.
- (ii) More than one impression might be needed if a number of plates had to be laid down.

He therefore considered it was absolutely essential that all the impressions on the transfer die were, to all intents and purposes, exactly the same. If one impression developed a fault then another could be used without any noticeable variation or loss of quality. Each impression represented a great deal of time and effort (anything from 1–2 hours work) and so they were not made lightly on the off-chance that one might prove better than another. The printers were able to check the progress of their work by rolling the transfer die over

a specially prepared sheet of lead (a soft metal such as lead was necessary because the roller was still in a softened state, while a 'pull' on paper was impossible because the design was in relief and at variable heights) and the trial impression then compared to the original. So keen were the printers to make sure the design was perfect that every line of raised metal on the transfer die was cleaned with an indiarubber before the trial impression on the lead sheet was made. The laying down of the plate was not so painstaking, of course, although it customarily took about a week to make a 400-set plate.

The explanation for this divergence of opinion regarding the reason and purpose of the multiple impressions on the roller might be that craftsmen's working practices, even in the same company, probably varied over a period of many years. In either case an inadequate transfer impression should never have been, nor ever needed to be, used.

Note 6: INCOMPLETE TRANSFER

L. N. and M. Williams in *The Fundamentals of Philately* describe the term 'Incomplete Transfer' as follows:

This term is used to designate a line-engraved stamp exhibiting a variety in which lines that should have appeared in colour are entirely or partially absent, resulting from insufficient rocking of the transfer relief in depth.

The instances referred to above are the occasional poor impressions which appear on a recess plate. These were much more likely to occur in view of the number of rockings necessary when a plate was being laid down. Each impression had to be meticulously aligned by hand by the movement of the plate under the fixed transfer roller, and their elimination, if the impression was unsatisfactory in any way, was extremely time-consuming. It involved the burnishing out of the poor impression and the hammering up and re-levelling of the plate before it was re-aligned and the new impression made. In Easton's words: '... it was a tiresome business ...'. In these circumstances it is not surprising that an occasional 'incomplete transfer' occurred and was not remedied. It has to be said, however, that none has been identified on Kedah's stamps, as yet.

Note 7: THE FACING OF ELECTROTYPED PLATES

As explained in Note 2, although the original reason for coating the electrotyped plate was to protect the copper shell from the chemical reaction of certain inks, it also served the vital purpose of protecting the relatively soft copper from wear. It appears that when the first Kedah stamps appeared in 1912 De La Rue were using nickel rather than chromium for the facing. Melville wrote in 1916:

As we have already indicated, the facing of copper plates with steel has been superseded in stamp manufacturing at De La Rue's ... by nickelling ... As a coating nickel requires more than ordinary care to secure perfect adhesion to the plate. Oxidation of the latter, even in the smallest degree, renders the nickel coating liable to strip off.

This 'stripping' was not entirely restricted to nickelled plates it seems, as it could, on occasions, occur on chromed plates. What effect this had on the stamps is nowhere described but might have been much the same as when the plating wore.

When De La Rue changed from nickel to chromium to protect their plates is not known. It is doubtful if it is significant from a philatelic point of view but, according to Easton, nickelled plates could not be refaced and De La Rue were refurbishing their plates by this method as early, perhaps, as 1921. (See the section headed: 'Improvement In The Border Plates', in Chapter 15.)

Apparently, the chromium facing had no effect on the design itself. The following is from *The Foundations of Philately* by W. S. Boggs and A. M. Strange, published in 1955:

The chrome coating is about 35/100,000 of an inch thick and is primarily applied to the surface of the plate. Little of the coating goes in the lines, so that the thickness of the lines, or the appearance of the engraving is unaffected by the chrome plating. A plate may be re-chromed when necessary and continued in use.

Note 8: SUMMARY OF HOW THE 1912 PLATES WERE MADE

	DIE	MANUFACTURING PROCESS	ORIGINAL PLATE (MASTER)	MANUFACTURING PROCESS	No.	WORKING PLATE (PRINTING)
PADI-SHEAF						
Vignette	Steel	By transfer die	Steel	Electrotyping	1	Electrotyped
Frame	Steel	By transfer die	Steel	Electrotyping	5	Electrotyped
MALAY PLOUGHING						
Vignette	Steel	By transfer die	Steel	Electrotyping	1	Electrotyped
Frame	Steel	Lead-striking & Electrotyping	Electrotyped	Electrotyping	5	Electrotyped
COUNCIL CHAMBER						
Vignette	Steel	By transfer die	Steel	Electrotyping	1	Electrotyped
Frame	Steel	Lead-striking & Electrotyping	Electrotyped	Electrotyping	4	Electrotyped
FINAL STEPS: (1) The working frame plates were denominated by a pantograph. (2) All the working plates were chromium- (or nickel-) plated.						

THE 1919-21 ISSUES ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA PAPER

On 1 January 1918 some comprehensive changes occurred in both the local and overseas postage rates of the local Postal Union of which Kedah was a member. Details of these can be found in Chapter 22, 'The Postage Rates 1909-1941', but they need to be summarised here because of the changes they caused to the Multiple Crown CA stamp issue.

The local postcard and all the printed matter rates (local, imperial and foreign) were increased from 1 cent to 2 cents. A new value of 2 cents was therefore needed, and, under the requirement of the UPU colour scheme, the stamp franking foreign printed matter had to be green, or primarily green. The postage on imperial and foreign postcards was raised to 4 cents and, as the UPU colour for the latter rate was red, a colour change was now needed to the existing stamp. The rate for foreign letters was raised from 8 cents to 10 cents and, for local letters, from 3 cents to 4 cents. The former required no alteration to the existing range of stamps in either value or colour. This was because there was already a 10 cents stamp with its vignette in blue serving the registration fee which, oddly enough, was not altered at this time. The rise in the local letter rate also entailed no change as, at 4 cents, it could share the stamp needed for foreign postcards. In addition to these changes, new colours had to be found for the 1 cent and 3 cents values, if they were going to be retained, as their existing colours of green and red respectively would clash with the new 2 cents and 4 cents stamps.

THE 'PADI-SHEAF' VALUES

As was mentioned in the previous chapter, a decision was now taken to produce the lower values in one colour only, presumably on the grounds of cost. In January 1919 the *Colonial Office Journal* (Vol. XII, p. 184) announced that 2 cents green and 4 cents red values were about to be printed and these were the first of the mono-coloured stamps.

The *Colonial Office Journal* of April 1919 stated:

New single working plates have been made for the 2 cents and 4 cents. A small supply of the 4 cents in red has been supplied from the old plates.

In the July 1919 *Colonial Office Journal* (Vol. XIII, p. 49) it was stated that the 2 cents green, 4 cents red and 21 cents claret had been despatched. Dates in the De La Rue Day Books for these three values are 17.4.1919 for the 4 cents from the old plates (i) and the 2 cents, and 27.5.1919 for the 21 cents and the 4 cents from the single working plate (ii). These are thought to be when invoices were sent by De La Rue to the Crown Agents for the stamps and plates, but may also be the approximate dates they were despatched. It seems that the 4 cents (i) was sent to Malaya nearly six weeks before the 4 cents (ii).

The philatelic press of the period had difficulty in recording these events. *The Philatelic Magazine* of 15 August 1919, p. 278, reported that Mr L. Andree, writing on 22 June 1919, had sent them the 2 cents green and the 4 cents carmine. In the same magazine of 1 October

1919, p. 354, it was stated that Mr Andree, writing on 18 August, had reported that the 2 cents green and 4 cents red had been issued on that day, as well as the 1 cent brown and 21 cents purple. This causes some confusion as to the actual month the 2 cents green was issued but the stronger evidence points to the earlier date although this may only refer to a Specimen copy being despatched by the Crown Agents in the UK. The same could be true of the 4 cents but the former date is now accepted as the issue date of the stamp printed from the two plates, the latter being the likely date of issue of its successor printed from the new single working plate. With despatch dates of 17.4.1919 and 27.5.1919, however, it may be possible to find dated copies of both stamps before 22 June and 18 August 1919 respectively, particularly in the case of the latter.

The printing numbers of the two types of 4 cents as recorded in the De La Rue Day Books (q.v. in Appendix 3, 'The De La Rue Records') show that there were eight times as many printed of the 4 cents red (ii) as the 4 cents rose (i) (767,880 to 96,240). However, the stamp printed from the dual plates is readily available both mint and used today, in fact it seems hardly less common than that from the single working plate. A large number of the former exists with its vignette in a darker shade of lake-red even though there was only the one printing, so it seems that the printers experienced the sort of problem with their ink that is explained in Chapter 15 (pp. 210-11) – a new batch having to be mixed part of the way through the printing. This is despite the fact that the size of the printing was described by the *Colonial Office Journal* quoted above, as being 'very small', which, indeed, it was, relatively speaking. It will be noticed that the vignette of both shades can be seen quite clearly from the reverse of the stamp, the result of the ink from the vignette having stained the paper during the printing of the duty plate, in the manner described in the previous chapter.

The 1 cent, 3 cents and the 4 cents rose (i) were each printed from the plates that had been used for the equivalent values of the 1912 set. This is evident from the De La Rue Day Books in which there is no record of De La Rue charging for a new plate when any of these three values were first invoiced in 1919.

The reason the initial printing of the new 4 cents value was taken from the old dual working plates was, presumably, the pressure of time. Obviously there would be some delay before the new 4 cents single working plate could be prepared and there was an urgent need in Kedah of a stamp of this value to frank the new 4 cents rates, particularly the one for local letters. Difficulty was being experienced all over Malaya in this respect but the problem was especially acute in Kedah as the existing range of stamps contained no 2 cents which could be used in lieu.

There is, however, a small mystery here. With the introduction of the new 2 cents rates there was a fairly urgent need for a stamp of that value also. A new single working plate was produced for it, as, being a new value, a fresh plate would have been needed anyway, and it would have been pointless making a new duty plate to go with the old key plate when this and all the old duty plates were about to be scrapped. What is interesting, however, is that the 2 cents was despatched at the same time as the 4 cents from the old plates. It seems, therefore, that there was enough time to make a new plate for the 2 cents but not for the 4 cents. It is a pity that the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book was not being kept during this period (or it has not survived) as light might have been thrown on the circumstances in

which a new plate was made for one value but not the other. Clearly, as stated above, the need to relieve the shortage of 4 cents stamps in Kedah was a primary consideration but De La Rue must have been extremely busy in April 1919 if, after having gone to the bother of making a 'master plate' from which a working plate was electrotyped for the 2 cents, they did not have the time to duplicate another from it for the 4 cents. (In Chapter 13, 'Stamps of the Straits Settlements Used in Kedah and Perlis in 1919', the measures which were being taken in the two States at this time to deal with this shortage are described.)

According to C. L. Harte-Lovelace in 'A Philatelist in his Anecdotalog' (*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, September 1928), for some years in the 1920s SG *Part 1* catalogue listed a 2 cents green from dual working plates, having mistakenly assumed, presumably, that the values reported by Mr Andree in June 1919, the 2 cents and 4 cents, were both produced in this way. The confusing circumstances of the issue of these two values makes an initial listing of the 2 cents stamp understandable but its scarcity must have puzzled later editors!

THE NEW 'PADI-SHEAF' COMPOSITE DIE

Examination of the Crown Agents Registers and the stamps printed from the new single working plates shows four things:

1. The old vignette and frame master dies used for the 1912 'padi-sheaf' stamps had been pressed into service again for the making of a new composite die.
2. This composite die had then been modified in a number of ways.
3. A 'master plate' had been made from this new die by a transfer die.
4. Undenominated plates for each 'padi-sheaf' value had been electrotyped from this 'master plate' with the figures of value being added by a pantograph in the way the old dual working plates had been.

There can be little doubt that the two original 'roller punches' used for the 1912 'padi-sheaf' values had been combined to cut the new composite, undenominated master die as there is no record of second punches on the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches (q.v. in Appendix 4) for either the 'padi-sheaf' vignette or frame die. Furthermore, both of the originals are given as '1-set', meaning there was only one transfer die on the roller. Therefore an alternative transfer die was not available for selection, even if such a thing was likely in any case. (The reasons why alternatives were not available or did not need to be used even if they were, are contained in Note 5 at the end of Chapter 10). The new composite die is listed on the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches as: 'Original Flat Die Padi. Border Duty Blank.' Date of receipt: Req. No. 125/1918. Cost: £8.

The stamps printed from this die showed that the shading surrounding the padi-sheaf had been trimmed back to create a clear space around the vignette, and this was most clearly to be seen at the top and bottom of the padi-sheaf (*Figs 32 & 33*). This sacrifice of some of the vignetting was understandable in view of the reason for its presence in the first place, i.e. to allow the printer some margin of error in registration when producing a stamp at two operations. (See Chapter 10). The combined printing stones and plates to print the original registration envelopes and postal stationery cards in 1912 had had similar

modifications made to them when the two parts of the 'padi-sheaf' design were combined for the impressed stamps. (See Chapter 20.)



Fig. 32 - 4 cents (i)



Fig. 33 - 4 cents (ii)

In addition, the padi-sheaf itself also presented a slightly different appearance and several explanations have been forthcoming to account for this, including a claim that the vignette (as distinct from the vignetting) received the attentions of the engraver when the background was being cleared. The precise differences between the two padi-sheaves have never been clearly established although most writers on this issue have referred, one way or another, to the 'greater sharpness' of the padi-sheaf printed from the single working plate. This 'greater sharpness' is immediately obvious as soon as stamps from the two plates are compared. However, care needs to be taken when drawing conclusions based on small differences in the design of any recess-engraved stamps, but particularly these, for the following reasons:

- (1) As mentioned above, both the dual and single working plates were made by electrotyping. A description of this process is contained in Chapter 10 and reasons given there to show that this process can fail to reproduce, on the working plate, small details of the original engraving on the die.
- (2) The design on individual recess-engraved stamps can vary in small ways due to such things as variable inking during printing and the unevenness of unsurfaced paper, and these are described in the section dealing with Plate 2 of the 'Malay ploughing' key plate in Chapter 15 (q.v.).

For these reasons it is advisable that groups of stamps of each type are used for comparison purposes rather than just single examples.



Fig. 34 - Proof of 1911 'combined' dies. (This proof was in the Wood Sale, Lot 467. It was subsequently trimmed. The centre is in black, the frame red.)



Fig. 35 - Proof of 1919 composite die (in black).

Having made due allowance for the above considerations, however, it is quite obvious that there are significant differences between the two padi-sheaves. In particular, the leaves and stalks protruding around the edge of the padi-sheaf from the single working plate, perhaps most noticeably on the left, show a much plainer outline as if they had been re-cut or deepened and this view is confirmed by comparison of the proofs taken from the composite die with those from the original 'padi-sheaf' die of 1911. Unfortunately, most collectors will only be able to do this by using photographs of the proofs but, even these show the heightened definition of the ends of the padi-leaves (*Figs 34 & 35*). On the photographs the apparent re-cutting is best seen on the fronds which protrude some distance from the sheaf at about 8 o'clock and slightly above 9 o'clock, but the proofs themselves show that the outlines of nearly all the protruding leaves right round the padi-sheaf are, if not thicker, certainly sharper and more deeply engraved. All this would suggest that a deliberate attempt was made to accentuate the padi-sheaf against its background after the background itself had been cleared of some of the vignetting.

Before examining this statement the other possible explanations for the differences in the appearances of, first, the die proofs, and, secondly, the stamps, need to be considered. In Note 1 at the end of this chapter are the reasons why, although slight differences in the appearance of proofs pulled from even the same die were possible, particularly when damp paper or card was used (as it was thought to have been at this time), they could not be of the nature and magnitude of those shown in *Figs 34 & 35*.

Similarly, in Note 2, an examination of the various processes that were used to produce (a) the composite die itself and the 'original' or 'master' plate made from it, and (b) the

'working' plates and the stamps printed from them, leaves no doubt that the greater emphasis in the outer padi-leaves of the stamps from the single working plates cannot be attributed to these factors.

So, with no alternative explanation available, the conclusion must be that the thickening of the outlines of the leaves on the proofs and the stamps themselves were the result of the recesses on the new die being deepened by the engraver. It must be admitted that there seems to be no obvious reason why a deliberate attempt should have been made to alter the padi-sheaf as there does not appear to have been any official dissatisfaction with the old die. Indeed, the reaction of the Kedah State Council to the designs was one of pleasure (see the letter from the British Adviser dated 6 June 1911 in Part I of Chapter 10) and there was no appreciable loss of quality in the padi-sheaves on the stamps themselves, compared with the proofs from the original die. Furthermore, the *Colonial Office Journal* of October 1919 (Vol. XIII, p. 116) makes no mention of an alteration to the padi-sheaf when it described the change in design as follows:

The 4 cents printed from the new single working plate is easily distinguishable from the stamps in two workings, the shading being cut away, thus showing a plain white margin round the central portion of the design.

Nevertheless, there now seems no doubt at all that there was an attempt by the engraver to 'improve' the padi-sheaf by sharpening the outline of the leaves, and, indeed, making another alteration (described below), using his burin. It must have been done with the greatest of care as, apart from the alteration just referred to, there appear to be no extra lines or engravings of any sort whatsoever. In contrast, the mass of detail in the centre looks remarkably similar, and it is this similarity which adds conviction to the idea that there was alteration on just the periphery of the vignette. As explained in Note 1, an overall difference might suggest some printing factor at work, a variation in only one part of the design requires another explanation.

The one alteration about which there can be no doubt is the adjustment made by the engraver to the appearance of the main body of the padi-sheaf on the right-hand side, not by the deepening of any recesses, but the complete removal of the feathery ends of two, or possibly more, ears of rice. This was done between 3 and 4 o'clock on the padi-sheaf and can be checked by drawing an imaginary line between the furthestmost ends of the projecting leaves at these two points on stamps printed from the dual working and single working plates. On the stamps from the dual working plates the ends of the ears touch this line, but on those printed from the single working plate there is just space where the ears formerly were. This modification is confirmed by comparison of the proofs from the respective dies. Quite clearly this part of the original engraving was scraped off in the furtherance of the desire by the engraver to create more space round the padi-sheaf, although it might be claimed that, by so doing, the sheaf was made to appear a little imbalanced. It is probably impossible to be positive on the point, but it seems also that, after the scraping-off was completed, the engraver may have tidied up the 'loose ends' of the remaining ears of padi at this point by adding a touch or two with his burin.

It is somewhat curious that no mention of any of these alterations to the padi-sheaf was ever made in any catalogue or listing, including that of Dr Wood in Part II of his *The*

Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya, until, in recent years, a brief reference to the differences in the appearance of the two padi-sheaves has appeared in the *SG Part I* catalogue. Under illustrations of the two vignettes is the statement (referring to the one produced from the composite die): 'Centre more deeply etched with sharp image.' The word 'centre' here refers to the stamp, that is, the padi-sheaf itself, and not the centre of the padi-sheaf which, as stated above, does not show any alteration.

There has been much written, over the years, of new dies and re-engraved dies to explain the major differences in the various parts of the design of Kedah's stamps. Nearly all of these differences, however, as will be shown, were caused by the changes De La Rue made in the methods used to produce the stamps. It is a little ironical, therefore, that on the one occasion the printer seems to have set out to change the appearance of a design using his burin, his work received such scant attention. It is also, perhaps, a further irony that the greater emphasis the printer gave to the design by these re-engravings looks so similar to the differences created by De La Rue's most notable change of printing method – their switch from electrotyped to steel working plates in 1926. (See Chapters 14 and 15.)

THE 'MASTER PLATE'

Mention must be made of the fact that the undenominated 'master plate' made from the composite die is not listed on the Crown Agents Register of Working Plates. The lack of any record of its existence in either the Crown Agents or the printers' records might, in the absence of any other evidence, give some cause for doubt that it was ever made at all, but it must have existed or otherwise so much of the subsequent history of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps printed from single working plates, and also many of the Crown Agents records themselves, become inexplicable.

The evidence from the Crown Agents records pointing to the existence of a 'master plate' is dealt with in detail in Chapter 14 and will not be repeated here, but there is also evidence from the stamps themselves which show that a 'master plate' must have been made from the composite die which was then used to make the working plates.

It is small but crucial, and consists of two separate features on the plate and can be seen, therefore, only on a whole sheet of stamps or the relevant parts of it.

The first is two small specks of colour which can be found off the top left-hand corner of the design of the stamp on R1/2 on a number of 'padi-sheaf' values. Amongst these are the 2 cents green on Multiple Crown CA paper, and the 1 cent brown, 1 cent black, 3 cents green, 4 cents violet and 5 cents on Multiple Script CA paper. The only satisfactory explanation for these flaws appearing on so many values in exactly the same position on the sheet is that they had a common origin on a 'master plate'.

The second feature is the position of stamp R9/11 on the sheet, which is 0.25 mm lower than the rest of the row on at least the following five values – the 1 cent black, 2 cents green, 3 cents green, 4 cents violet and 5 cents orange-yellow, all on Multiple Script CA paper. This stamp is only one of a number of stamps on the plate which are a little out of alignment (the manoeuvring of the plate that was needed under the transfer die to register each stamp impression was difficult to achieve without error despite, in Easton's phrase, '*meticulous hand measurements*'). All these mis-alignments must also surely exist, and in

the same sheet positions, on the other values printed from the single working plates before the introduction by De La Rue of the 'secondary die' method to produce the 'padi-sheaf' stamps in 1926.

If there was a 'master plate' and it was not held by the Crown Agents, then where was it kept? The only conclusion must be that De La Rue retained it in their possession and this would explain why no record of it can be found in the De La Rue Private Day Books which are almost certainly a record of the company's invoices on their customers, including the Crown Agents, for work undertaken on their behalf. The 'original' master plates of the 1912 issue, both steel and electrotyped, were handed over to the Crown Agents and kept under their supervision, and, as might be expected, the Day Books show that the Crown Agents were charged for them. In which case, why was an exception made with the 'master plate' of the composite die? A tentative answer to this question is made in Chapter 14 and, at the same time, an account is given of the important part played by the 'master plate' in the history of the 1 cent black on Multiple Script paper.

The 'master plate' must have been of steel as a 'roller punch' is recorded underneath the 1919 composite die on the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches. Being an 'original' plate it was then used as a master to duplicate (by electrotyping) the five plates which, together, printed eight different stamps (new values or colours) in the course of the next seven years. Having been duplicated from an undenominated master, the 'working' plates needed figures of value which must have been added by a pantograph before the plates were chromium-plated. These methods were the same as those used to produce the dual working plates of the 1912 issue but the results were not quite so pleasing, mainly, perhaps, because the stamps were mono-coloured.

Before leaving the subject of the 'master plate' mention needs to be made of the weaknesses that can be found in some of the background lines of the design of the stamps produced from it. A number of these are thin and broken, the result, it must be assumed, of the loss of detail associated with electrotyping, as the proofs from the composite die show no evidence of them at all. These characteristics of the stamps from the 'master plate' are considered again in more detail, and illustrated, in Chapter 14, when the differences between the so-called 'Die I' and 'Die II' stamps are described and explained.

The stamps themselves (the design only, ignoring the border and perforations) now measure 18.75 mm by 22.75 mm which is about 0.25 mm more, both horizontally and vertically, than those printed from the dual working plates. However, as the printers were still using 'wet' paper in their production of recess-engraved stamps these measurements are not necessarily a reliable indication of an increase in the size of the new die owing to paper shrinkage – the stamps printed from both key and duty plates having to be wetted twice, those from the single working plates only once. In point of fact the sizes of the proofs pulled from the dies do confirm these differences, the measurements being 18.5 by 22.25 mm (the 1912 border die) and 18.75 by slightly under 22.5 mm (the composite die). This might be considered surprising in that, one being made from the other, they might be expected to have been the same. These measurements are somewhat approximate, however, and it must be remembered that, as was noted earlier, pulling proofs, despite the high quality of materials used and the degree of care taken, was not an exact science. In addition, the fact that proofs as well as stamps were printed 'wet', and therefore subject to shrinkage,

is a complicating factor. Nevertheless it does seem that the 1918 die was fractionally larger than the 1912 original and the difference can only be attributable in some way to the transfer process. Admittedly, this is a somewhat contentious issue and is dealt with more fully in Notes 4 & 5 at the end of Chapter 14 but at present there is evidence that the rocking of the transfer roller, either when taking the design from the master die or when transferring it to a new die, had a slightly magnifying effect. This tendency of the transfer die to enlarge is considered again in Chapter 14 when the differences in size between the Type I and Type II (the so-called Die I and Die II) stamps are considered.

All the stamps printed from the single working plates were in unbroken sheets of 120 (10 rows of 12). Single guide marks are to be found in the middle of each margin and two marginal lines surround the sheets.

The *Colonial Office Journal* of April 1919 stated that a 1 cent was being printed in chocolate and, as mentioned earlier, this was described by Mr Andree in *The Philatelic Magazine* of October 1919 as being issued in August of that year. (It was printed, according to the De La Rue records, in May 1919.) A new colour was needed for the 1 cent because the old colour, green, had been used for the 2 cents value. Brown was the colour chosen because there was a desire for uniformity with the Federated Malay States which changed to a 1 cent brown at this time. As stated above, it was printed from the old key and duty plates as was the other stamp which had to change its colour – the 3 cents. The latter change was necessary because the colour of the former stamp's duty plate, red, was needed for the 4 cents. The new 3 cents was issued in purple and was first reported in the *Crown Agents Bulletin* of 31 March 1920 (when it was described as 'purple-brown'), but was probably not issued until later that year when *The Philatelic Magazine* of 9 September 1920 reported its receipt. (The De La Rue records show that it was printed in two stages in March and May.) It is somewhat surprising that the printers had not produced a single working plate for the 3 cents by 1920 but neither this value, nor the 1 cent, were printed by this method until the new paper with Multiple Script CA watermark was brought into use. It is even more surprising, perhaps, that the 3 cents was not allowed to lapse as had been done with the 5 cents and 8 cents, as it served no particular postal use at all. On the other hand, its demise would have left the public with the use of only three lower cents values. In any event, the 3 cents seemed to be in little demand and is, as a result, somewhat scarcer in used condition today than the other 'padi-sheaf' values of this issue. The same can also be said of its successor, the 3 cents purple on Multiple Script paper.

THE WAR-TIME 'GREYISH' PAPER

All but two of the new monochrome stamps (the 3 cents purple and the later shade, red, of the 4 cents from the single working plate) have been confirmed printed on paper with the greyish tinge similar to that referred to in the last chapter, although the tinge is not always easy to see on used copies. It resulted, as before, from difficulties of supply occurring during, and immediately after, the war. The *Colonial Office Journal* of January 1919 (p. 184) contained the following note on the subject:

For the past three years the C.A. white watermarked papers have been manufactured at a mill not specially adapted for such papers, and the paper has not been so uniform in substance or so white in colour as papers hitherto used by the Crown Agents for

postage stamps. The supply has now been undertaken by the mill which previously supplied the watermarked papers. The paper from the mill is extremely white and very uniform in substance. The papers used have considerable influence on the colours of the stamps, and the change of mill will no doubt be apparent as the stamps come into use.

An additional feature of this paper is that the watermark is even more difficult to see than on the normal Multiple Crown CA paper which is notorious in this respect, especially when it is chalk-coated. The greyish paper seems to have been mainly used in the 1919 printings, at least of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, as the Specimen copies are found with it, and it is conceivable that it was also used for the 3 cents purple although the balance of evidence is against it, as this stamp did not appear until 1920. Dr Wood was of the opinion that it was printed on the greyish paper which he described as 'bluish-grey', but he added: '*the purple dye has stained the paper so much that it is difficult to say for certain*'. (Dr Wood, in his use of the word 'stained', was referring to what was described in Chapter 10 as the 'tinting' of the front surface of the paper.) There must be some doubt, however, whether the 3 cents does exist on the war-time paper as not only has it never been positively confirmed, but the Day Books show that the three other values of this issue which were reprinted on the same requisition in March – the 1 cent brown, 4 cents rose (ii) and the 21 cents – were not on the greyish paper, though it had been used for earlier printings of these stamps, with the possible exception of the latter. Uniformity as regards paper, size and perforation is a noted feature of other multiple-value requisitions, so an exception for the 3 cents on this occasion seems unlikely. On the other hand two 'Malay ploughing' values of the 1912 issue (10 cents and 30 cents) reprinted on the same requisition have been reported on the greyish paper although these stamps, being of larger format, might be expected to have been printed on a different batch of paper to that used for the 'padi-sheaf' stamps.

The *Crown Agents Bulletin* of 30 September 1920 announced new printings of the 1 cent, 2 cents and 4 cents. These were probably on the new white paper referred to in the *Colonial Office Journal* quoted above, as these three values exist on both the greyish and normal paper. A paler shade of green exists for the 2 cents on both the greyish and white papers. The 4 cents red stamp printed from a single working plate is found on just the white paper. The new monochrome 'padi-sheaf' values were all perforated comb 13.8 or 13.9 by 14.1.

The 1 cent brown and the 4 cents rose (single working plate) both exist with an inverted watermark and the 1 cent brown and 3 cents purple are known with the watermark both inverted and reversed. The 3 cents stamp has also been reported on a number of occasions (including by Dr Wood) with just an inverted watermark but it has not been positively confirmed in this state and it is possible that the additional fact that the watermark was also reversed may have gone unnoticed on these occasions. The 3 cents is also found with the sheaf of padi much displaced.

PLATE FLAWS

On R10/1 of the 4 cents red (single working plate) is a most distinctive flaw. A small part is missing from the bottom of the stalks of the padi-sheaf together with part of the dotted shading round the inside of the frame and including a small section of the inner line of the frame itself. This flaw should also exist on the 4 cents rose as it was printed from the same plate, but it has not been reported so far. On the other hand, if it occurred as the result of surface damage or wear of the plate (and it is much more likely to be an example of the former rather than the latter), it may not have occurred until after the latter stamp was printed.* It has been confirmed on Printings 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the 4 cents violet on Multiple Script paper. In the Check-list it is described as the 'short sheaf' flaw and an example of it is shown in Fig. 58 in Chapter 14.

USED IN PERLIS

All the 1919-21 'padi-sheaf' issues have been recorded with a Perlis postmark although the 3 cents is by no means common, and the 4 cents printed from dual plates is extremely scarce. Indeed, if some had not been used by L. K. Seng when manufacturing his philatelic covers (bearing a mixture of Kedah and Straits stamps) and sending some from Kangar in the latter part of 1919, it might even be considered rare used in Perlis. There is no lack of the 4 cents printed from the single working plate, however.

THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES

Two new values with the 'Malay ploughing' design, 21 cents and 25 cents, were issued at this time. The first was announced in the *Colonial Office Journal* of April 1919 when it was stated that a new duty plate was in preparation for a 21 cents value printed in purple. (The invoice was actually sent at the end of May.) In July 1919, in the same publication, it was recorded that a 21 cents claret had been despatched. Confusion as to the exact colour of this stamp was thus immediately created and has persisted in leading catalogues. Even today (1994), *SG Part I* and the *International Stamp Catalogue* of Malaysia give its colour as purple although copies of the same stamp bearing the MBE overprint are described as being mauve and purple. The latter would seem to be the most widely accepted and the most accurate, being the same as for the later printing of the stamp on Multiple Script CA paper.

In *The Philatelic Magazine* of 1 October 1919 it was stated that Mr L. Andree had reported the date of issue of the 21 cents as 18 August 1919. Dr Wood considered that this first printing may have been on the greyish paper although tinting by the ink made it difficult to see. However, although issued at a time when this paper was in common use, and on the same requisition order as other 'Malay ploughing' values printed on it (the 30 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents of the 1912 issue), the existence of the 21 cents on greyish paper still needs to be confirmed. A reprint announced in the *Crown Agents Bulletin* of 30 September 1920, was certainly on white paper.

* The term 'damage' is being used in a general sense here as this flaw, being what is called a 'white area' on a recess plate, was probably caused by some substance filling the recesses of the stamp impression at this point. Ink which was not removed during the washing of the plate after the previous printing and then hard-dried has been suggested as a possibility.

The 21 cents value was apparently issued for use on telegrams, the rate for which was three cents a word with a minimum of seven words. Johore introduced a similar value at this time and for the same purpose, although the Straits Settlements had been using it since 1910. De La Rue's records show that there were no less than three separate requisitions and printings of this stamp during 1919 and 1920 totalling 90,900 stamps, so there must have been a considerable demand for it. As it is thought that the circular datestamp used on telegrams was the same as that used on mail, there should be no lack of these stamps in used condition today. Such is not the case, however, and the explanation for this may lay in a statement by C. L. Harte-Lovelace in an article 'A Philatelist in his Anecdote' in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of August 1928. He had written to the Kedah Post Office with a view to their releasing stamps taken from telegraph forms onto the market at considerable discounts:

The Kedah authorities sent me down some specimens to see if they would be any good to collectors. The stamps had been cancelled with the usual postmark, but afterwards had had a roller dipped in violet ink applied to them, and I had to tell them that in that condition they were useless.

It appears that the reason violet ink was used to deface these stamps was to prevent their being pilfered from the forms by clerks and was done on the direction of the auditors.

The other 'Malay ploughing' value issued at this time, a 25 cents in blue and purple, was announced in a *Crown Agents Bulletin* of December 1920 (although it was described as being 'blue and lilac') and was confirmed as being currently in use by *The Philatelic Magazine* of 2 June 1921. (It was invoiced on 3.2.21 but was probably printed sometime in January.) It seems that this stamp had no precise postal function to fulfil but the Straits Settlements, Johore and Trengganu all carried a 25 cents value at the time and the Kedah authorities may have considered it necessary after the dropping of the old 5 cents value. Although there appears to have been only one printing of the 25 cents on Multiple Crown CA paper, the purple of the duty plate is found in two distinct shades, one being much lighter than the other. (For an explanation of how this and other shades on Kedah stamps may have occurred, refer to the section in Chapter 15, 'Shades of Colour'.)

Both the 21 cents and 25 cents were printed from the old key plate and new duty plates, which were electrotyped in the same way as the earlier 'Malay ploughing' values, in unbroken sheets of 60 with the usual guide marks and marginal lines. These two 'revenue-sized' stamps have the same dimensions as the 'Malay ploughing' values of the 1912 set. They were both perforated 14 by a line machine and had the Multiple Crown CA watermark sideways with the top of the crown pointing to the left. The 21 cents, however, is known with the top of the crown pointing to the right. This is another interesting variety similar to the 10 cents described in the previous chapter, in that it appears to be an accidental reversal of the paper when fed into the press, and not the result of an entire printing. It is, therefore, quite a scarce stamp.

At least one watermark variety exists on the 25 cents. Lot 1135 of the sale of 'Malaya and States, Part 2' by Robson Lowe Ltd, on 20 April 1977, comprised the following:

25 cents. blue and purple, a mint block (5x6) from the top of the sheet, one stamp with error of watermark 'Crown and C' for 'Crown and CA'.

On page 367 of Vol. III of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia* is listed the following:

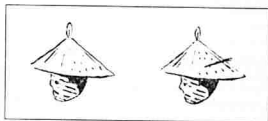
(b) *Error of watermark: 25 cents. 'C' of 'CA' below crown omitted (No. 22 in sheet).*

Confirmation of the existence of the latter item has not been obtained and it is possible the entry in the Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia* may be an erroneous reference to the variety on the block in the 1977 auction. Certainly its sheet position, R5/2, would place it on this block of 6 rows of 5 stamps. On the other hand, both varieties could exist, as both are known on the 1908-20 1 cent green of Brunei printed on the same paper. If there is a watermark deficiency on R5/2 of the 25 cents, it is not constant, as the author has seen a complete sheet of this value on which the watermark of this stamp was normal, as indeed were those of all the stamps on the rest of the sheet. From this, it would seem that the cause of this variety – the falling off, or the bending back, of one of the letters on the dandy roll – must have occurred either at some stage during the manufacture of the batch of paper used for this stamp, or it affected only part of the batch.* Finally, it needs to be pointed out that, theoretically at least, this variety could exist on all the 'revenue-sized' values of this issue. The 'A' missing has already been recorded on the \$3. (See Chapter 10.)

PLATE FLAWS

A number of varieties can be found on the 21 cents and 25 cents values, particularly the latter which has so many marks and dots in the blue colour of the vignette that it is possible to plate the stamp. (See Chapter 16, 'The Malaya-Borneo Exhibition Issues'.) Two are worthy of mention and they are both on the vignette plate:

Fig. 36



- (i) On R9/5 there is an extra horizontal line protruding from the right-hand side of the hat of the ploughman on the 25 cents value. For convenience, this will be referred to as the 'feather-in-hat' flaw (Fig. 36). It has not been found on the 21 cents as yet and was not on a whole sheet of this stamp seen by the author. On the other hand, there were three printings of the 21 cents and, as they appear to be all the same in terms of shade, perforation and watermark, it is possible that this sheet was from an early printing and that the flaw does exist on a later printing. If not, the damage to the vignette plate must have occurred between the last printing of the 21 cents on 5.11.20 and the date of the

* The dandy roll was a revolving cylinder covered with wire cloth to which were attached brass or wire devices, such as crowns or letters, at the desired intervals. These devices were pressed against the wet paper as it passed and 'thinned' it to create the watermark. It is possible, of course, that the web of the paper was large enough to produce sheets unaffected by the deficient part of the dandy roll. Even where the missing 'A' did occur a number of factors would make it unlikely that it would be in the same position on every sheet. For one thing the height (or length) of the sheet would have to be exactly equal to the circumference of the dandy roll.

only printing of the 25 cents – 3.2.21. The feather has also been found on the 10 cents, 20 cents, 21 cents, 25 cents and 40 cents on Multiple Script paper and doubtless exists on the other 'Malay ploughing' values printed from Plate 1 of the vignette after 5.11.20. (A possible cause of this flaw is given in Note 3.)

- (ii) On R10/4 there are what could be retouches on the key plate, consisting of a double cluster of dots about 3 mm to the left of the front feet of the ox in the foreground, on both the 21 cents and 25 cents. Although they have the appearance of retouches it is not easy to see what imperfections could have drawn the printer's attention to this part of the design in the first place. These dots probably exist on subsequent 'Malay ploughing' values printed from this vignette plate and, possibly, on previous ones also.

On R5/5 of one sheet of the 25 cents seen by the author there is a vertical wedge of ink in the same colour as the vignette about 5 mm high and 0.5 mm wide between the ploughman and the oxen. It gives the ploughman the appearance of holding two ploughshares and is quite distinctive. It has not been possible to confirm it as being constant or that it is present on other values printed from the same vignette plate, and so it has not been listed.

USED IN PERLIS

A few copies of the 21 cents value have been recorded with a Perlis postmark but, to date, none of the 25 cents. One may eventually come to light, but, if not, then this could be the only Kedah stamp with a face value of 50 cents or less which was never issued in Perlis (the MBE stamps excepted). The only Perlis postmark which has been found on the 1919–21 issues is the single-ring Type 3 cancellation of Kangar.

CHECK-LIST

N.B. The paper is white unless stated otherwise.

- 1 Cent Brown. Comb. Greyish paper. (i)
 As above. Watermark Inverted.
 As above. Watermark Inverted and Reversed.
 Light-Brown and Brown. Comb. Greyish paper. (i)
 Brown. Comb. (i)
- 2 Cents Green. Comb. Greyish paper. (ii)
 Pale Green. Comb. Greyish paper. (ii)
 Green. Comb. (ii)
 Pale Green. Comb. (ii)
- 3 Cents Purple. Comb. (Greyish paper?) (i)
 As above. Watermark Inverted and Reversed.
- 4 Cents Rose. Comb. Greyish paper. (i)
 Lake-Red and Rose. Comb. Greyish paper. (i)
 Rose. Comb. Greyish paper. (ii)
 As above. Watermark Inverted.
 Red. Comb. (ii)
 'Short Sheaf' flaw (R10/1).

- 21 Cents Mauve and Purple. Crown left. Plate 1. Line.
As above. Watermark Inverted.
 'Extra Dots' flaw (R10/4).
- 25 Cents Blue and Purple. Crown left. Plate 1. Line.
As above. Watermark Variety. 'A' missing from 'CA'.
 Blue and Red-Purple. Crown left. Plate 1. Line.
 'Feather-in-Hat' flaw (R9/5).
 'Extra Dots' flaw (R10/4).

(i) Key and duty plates used. (ii) Single working plate used.

THE PRINTINGS

As with the 1912 Multiple Crown issue the record of printings contained in the De La Rue Private Day Books has been matched with the varieties listed in the above checklist. Details of the printings themselves will be found in 'The De La Rue Records' in Appendix 3. The notes which precede these records and also those which accompany the section 'The De La Rue Printings' at the end of Chapter 10 will help to interpret the following information. In particular it needs to be noted that the dates given are probably those on the invoices sent by De La Rue & Co. to the Crown Agents for their printing work, and may post-date despatch to Malaya by a few days or so.

The information used to identify each printing has been obtained from a number of sources, principally dated postmarks. The latter has its limitations, the main one being that an early date will exclude a stamp from being from a late printing but the reverse, i.e. a late date disqualifying a stamp from being from an early printing, is obviously not true. Much still remains to be done and further research will probably mean that adjustments to this listing will be necessary.

One of the most noticeable features of the 1919-21 Multiple Crown issue is the use of the paper with a 'greyish' tone almost certain to be the result of a change in the source of supply brought about by the First World War. This paper was thicker than that previously used and the watermark more difficult to detect. It was mainly used in 1919 but it also crops up in 1920. Another feature is the return of a comb machine to perforate the 'padi-sheaf' values after a line machine had been invariably used during the war for the reprints of the 1912 Multiple Crown issue. A line machine continued to be used for the 'Malay ploughing' values.

As mentioned earlier, it has been found that where a number of different values were all printed at the same time and on the same requisition order there was, almost invariably, similarity in the main characteristics of the paper and the perforating machine used. This has been useful in dating some printings in the absence of adequate postmark evidence.

N.B. The paper is white unless stated otherwise.

1 CENT BROWN

PRINTING 1	27.5.19	Brown. (i). Comb. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 2	16.7.19	Light-Brown and Brown. (i). Comb. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 3	18.3.20	Brown. (i). Comb.
PRINTING 4	19.5.20	<i>The same as Printing 3.</i>
PRINTING 5	5.11.20	<i>The same as Printing 4.</i>

The shade of the first printing has been identified by the 'Specimens'.

2 CENTS GREEN

PRINTING 1	17.4.19	Green. (ii). Comb. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 2	27.5.19	Green or Pale Green. (ii). Comb. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 3	17.6.19	<i>The same as Printing 2.</i>
PRINTING 4	5.11.20	Green or Pale Green. (ii). Comb.

The 'Specimens' are from the first printing.

3 CENTS PURPLE

PRINTING 1	18.3.20	Purple. (i). Comb. (Greyish paper?)
PRINTING 2	19.5.20	<i>The same as Printing 1.</i>

It is unlikely these two printings were on different paper and, for the reasons given in the text, it is not thought this stamp exists on the greyish paper.

4 CENTS ROSE (i)

PRINTING 1	17.4.19	Rose or Lake-Red and Rose. (i). Comb. Greyish paper.
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4 CENTS RED (ii)

PRINTING 1	27.5.19	Rose. (ii). Comb. Greyish paper.
PRINTING 2	17.6.19	<i>The same as Printing 1.</i>
PRINTING 3	18.3.20	Red. (ii). Comb.
PRINTING 4	19.5.20	<i>The same as Printing 3.</i>
PRINTING 5	5.11.20	<i>The same as Printing 3.</i>

21 CENTS MAUVE & PURPLE

PRINTING 1	27.5.19	Mauve and Purple. Crown Left. Line. Error. Watermark Inverted.
PRINTING 2	18.3.20	<i>The same as Printing 1.</i>
PRINTING 3	5.11.20	<i>The same as Printing 2.</i>

This stamp has been reported on greyish paper but it has not been confirmed (Dr Wood was uncertain owing to the tinting problem) and the 'Specimens' are on white paper. Greyish paper was in use by De La Rue in 1919 and re-prints of the 30 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents values of the 1912 issue on the same requisition order were undoubtedly on the war-time paper. Is the 21 cents the exception which proves the rule?

25 CENTS BLUE & PURPLE

PRINTING 1 3.2.21 Blue and Purple or Blue and Red-Purple. Crown
Left. Line.

This stamp has been reported on greyish paper but this appears to be another case of confusion with paper tinted by the ink, probably the blue. There is no evidence that the printers were using the war-time paper for Kedah's stamps as late as 1921. The backs of all examples seen by the author have been white.

Dr Wood reported this stamp in two shades of purple. It is a matter of opinion whether two different mixtures of ink were used for these stamps or whether the shades are the result of varying thicknesses of the purple ink.

**Note I: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
1911 & 1919 DIE PROOFS**

Although the pulling of proofs was sometimes left to junior employees a great deal of care was taken. Only paper and card of the finest wove and quality was used in order to ensure the most faithful reproduction.* A former De La Rue employee who was often called upon to pull proofs, although unfortunately not for Kedah, has described to the author the care with which the inking was customarily done.

The die was warmed and the ink, sometimes almost solid and likened to an 'Oxo cube', was worked into the recesses from all angles by hand using an implement called a 'dubber'. The engravers (by all accounts gentlemen of standing and authority who were even permitted, on occasion, to work at home) demanded this level of careful attention and would have accepted nothing less. With priority of this order given to ensuring high quality it is difficult to see how any really significant differences could be caused by these factors.

On the other hand, despite all this, proofs of the composite die have been seen which give slightly different measurements (up to 0.25 mm on the height). This may be due to differential shrinkage in the paper or card as it is thought proofs were printed 'wet' at this period in common with the stamps. It is possible that these size differences were due to such variables as ink, the thickness and hardness of the paper and, particularly, pressure of the press while the proofs were being pulled, so it has to be accepted that other differences may also be possible. What is certain is that these differences must be uniform in character throughout the proof, some parts of the design cannot be accentuated by over-inking while others remain unaltered, or one half of the proof be indented more deeply in the paper than the other half. In other words, the peripheral rice-stems cannot be made to appear more obvious while the rest of the padi-sheaf looks the same. It also needs to be pointed out that the author has been able to make a comparison between several proofs pulled from both dies and all of those from the combined die showed the same differences and in the same degree.

* The paper and card for recess dies needed to be softer than for relief dies. What was called 'India' paper was frequently used.

**Note 2: THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION USED FOR THE STAMPS
MADE FROM THE 1919 COMPOSITE DIE**

To what extent can the differences in the appearance of the padi-sheaf on the stamps made from the 1911 original die compared to those made from the 1919 composite die be traced to some factor in the latter's production?

In Chapter 10 the various steps necessary for the preparation of the 'Malay ploughing' working key plate were fully described and these are exactly the same as those used for the 'padi-sheaf' single working plate. There were two main stages: (1) The preparation of the 'original' plate by the use of a transfer die or 'punch' taken from the composite master die, and (2) the making of the 'working' plate from this 'original' plate by electrotyping.

Could the differences have been created by the 'punch' of the 'padi-sheaf' master die that was used to make the composite die in 1919 being rocked more firmly than when it was used to make the 'original' plate in 1912? A glance at the outer leaves on the proofs from the 'padi-sheaf' master die show that they are substantially the same as they appear on the 1912 stamps, (in other words, there had been no loss of detail when the stamps were produced, the die was as the stamps made it appear) and no transfer die could subsequently make the master die's recesses appear deeper than they actually were – only shallower or thinner through imperfect 'take-up', or, to use the correct expression, an 'incomplete transfer' being taken. (The term 'incomplete transfer' is explained in Note 6 at the end of Chapter 10.) The insistence of the pre-war employee in De La Rue's transfer department, mentioned in Note 5 at the end of Chapter 10, that extreme care was habitually taken to ensure that the latter did not occur, comes to mind.

After the engraver had completed his work on the composite die a transfer die was taken from it to lay down the new single working 'original' plate. The Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches lists this 'punch' directly underneath its die and describes it as 'Roller Punch from above' 4-set. Could the differences have been created by this transfer die being rocked more firmly than its predecessor? The answer is the same as before: a transfer die cannot accentuate the recesses, i.e. reproduce something which isn't there. If this transfer die showed more emphasis in certain parts of the design of the padi-sheaf then the engraver must have been responsible for it by adding something to the original die.

What are the chances that the differences in the padi-sheaves could have been created during the second of the two preparation stages – the duplicating of the 'working' plates from the 'master plate' by electrotyping? A full description of this process is given in Chapter 10 and will not be repeated here but it is worth being reminded of John Easton's comment on it when he said that:

... the definition is not as sharp as a steel to steel direct transfer ... and ... the growth of the copper may not pick out the whole detail of the troughs as originally engraved.

Loss of detail seems almost to have been the hallmark of electrotyped recess plates and, according to Easton, this was only to be expected when considering the limitations of the process. The increased definition of the ends of the leaves, on the other hand, is the reverse of a loss of detail, and so this part of the printing process could not conceivably have been responsible for the change in the appearance of the padi-sheaf.

When all the above is considered it must be concluded that the differences in the 'padi-sheaves' as they are described in the main text of the chapter cannot be attributed to the means of production used for the stamps.

Note 3: THE 'FEATHER-IN-HAT' FLAW

The origin of the 'Feather-in-hat' flaw is a scratch on the plate large enough to take and retain the ink. Such scratches can be caused by a number of things such as a slip from the tool of the engraver when he was examining and touching-up the plate or from a piece of abrasive material being drawn across the plate while it was being inked or polished. Another common cause is described in *The Foundations of Philately* by W. S. Boggs and A. M. Strange:

In other instances a tiny bit of foreign substance such as a hair or a splinter of metal gets on the plate, and under the great pressure used in printing may be impressed in the plate and leave some mark on it which appears in the printed stamp.

THE 1919 50c/\$2 & \$1/\$3 PROVISIONALS

Sometime early in 1919, probably during March, shortages occurred of the 50 cents and \$1 values. These shortages were met by surcharging the \$2 stamp 'FIFTY CENTS' and the \$3 stamp 'ONE DOLLAR'. The printers were Ribeiro & Co. of Penang. The surcharges were type-set using thick Roman capitals in two lines with square blocks of black ink covering the original figures of value. The setting was one of 30 (6 rows of 5 stamps) and was applied to the sheets of 60 stamps in two operations. It has been stated in the past, in connection with these overprints, that the dollar values of the 1912 set were printed in sheets of 30 and that therefore the settings of these surcharges covered the sheet in one operation, but this is incorrect. What seems to have occurred is that the printer divided the sheet horizontally across the middle and then applied the overprint to each half-sheet in turn. The resulting lack of any complete sheet of stamps bearing the overprints then led to the wrong assumption about the sheet make-up. Reasons to support this explanation are given below. It is thought the same square blocks of ink in the same setting were used to obliterate the figures of value on both provisionals. The evidence for this is to be found in the fact that the north-east corner of the left-hand block is missing on R3/1 of the settings on both stamps.

THE "C" OF "CENTS" INSERTED BY HAND' VARIETY



Fig. 37 – The postmark on this strip has been faked.

A well-known error exists on the 50 cents value (shown on the centre stamp of the strip of three in Fig. 37). It seems that a number of sheets were printed with the 'C' of 'CENTS' missing on R6/4 of the setting. This means that it occurs twice on a sheet, on stamps 29 and 58. The printer made good these deficiencies using, it is said, a handstamp containing a single 'C' from the same fount of letters as had been used for the overprint. Detection of this error is not a problem as the handstamp was obviously difficult to register correctly, with the result that the inserted 'C' is nearly always slightly misplaced and is sometimes poorly inked or slurred.

Much of what is known regarding these stamps comes from an article written by C. L. Harte-Lovelace in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in September 1928 entitled 'A Philatelist in his Anecdote'. In this article Harte-Lovelace describes his experiences in obtaining examples of these provisionals. After hearing about them from the manager of the Empire Hotel in Kuala Lumpur who had been shown some proofs by an employee of Ribeiro & Co., Harte-Lovelace wrote to seven different officials in an effort to purchase a supply. He claims that the post office were not inclined to see these stamps 'wasted on collectors' before the shortages were made good from the UK. Eventually, on 9 August 1919, he received an official letter stating that 'only 3600 of the Kedah 50c on \$2 and 4800 of the \$1 on \$3 were issued'. Apparently he was offered the remainder then in their hands which was 730 of the higher value which he declined. However, he must have bought a number of the stamps as he goes on to say (in connection with the 50 cents on \$2 stamp and the missing 'C' error):

The stamps were surcharged in sheets of six rows of five. In my supply about half the sheets had the error and half were normal, so I cannot say whether the omitted 'C' was an error in the original setting, afterwards corrected on discovery, or whether the letter dropped out during the course of printing. The latter is far the most likely, as the surcharge is type-set. I have heard of the stamp with the 'C' entirely missing, but have never seen a copy.*

Harte-Lovelace refers to 'sheets of six rows of five' in his possession but these clearly could not have been complete sheets as De La Rue's Private Day Books make it quite clear that Kedah's dollar values were printed in sheets of 60. The following may well be a simple explanation for this misconception.

It is almost certain that the printer 'registered' the sheet for overprinting by placing it to the top and, somewhat unusually, to the right, and this would require the removal of the top and right-hand margins. The sheet would then have had to be divided across the middle to enable the lower half of the sheet to be overprinted in the same way. It seems all the top margins may have been removed without exception as no block with a top margin attached has ever been recorded, and this might help to explain Harte-Lovelace's mistake in thinking that he was in possession of complete sheets. If he was unaware of the sheet's actual size when he received his consignment, it would have been relatively simple to overlook the marginal mark (seen at the bottom of the left-hand margin of the block of 30 illustrated in Fig. 38) which would have alerted him to the fact that he had been given only half-sheets, especially as all the blocks looked as if their top margins had been removed, whereas, in reality, this only applied to the top halves. An erroneous assumption which is then placed on record, often takes a long time to dispel. Dr Wood, who quoted Harte-Lovelace's report on these provisionals extensively, may have been deceived by it. If so, he was not the last.

Reference has been made above to the printers' mark at the bottom-left corner of the block of the 50c/\$2 value illustrated in Fig. 38. It is the 'northern arm' of a cross that was placed half-way down the side margins of the sheets, presumably to aid alignment. It shows that the block is the upper half of the sheet with the top margin removed, and not the lower half

* An explanation of how this error might have occurred is contained in Note 1 at the end of this chapter.

with its bottom margin removed. The block illustrates the complete setting of the surcharge from which it can be seen that the overprint does not 'fit' the stamp. The latter is 33.75 mm wide measured from perforation to perforation while the overprint varies from 33 mm to 34.25 mm. The majority of the surcharges are 33.25 mm wide which has the effect of making the setting 'creep' to the left. Taking the left-hand column as near 'normal' as it ever gets, then the overprint becomes progressively more misplaced to the left going across the block from left to right. On the left-hand column the right-hand square of ink centrally covers the oval tablet. On the right-hand column the right-hand square of ink leaves the figure '2' half-exposed. The vertical spacing is hardly any better. In the top row the squares of ink are correctly positioned as regards height. By the bottom row they have strayed into the bottom margin of the stamp, although this is partly due to the setting being a little askew, probably as a result of this half-sheet being registered slightly askew.

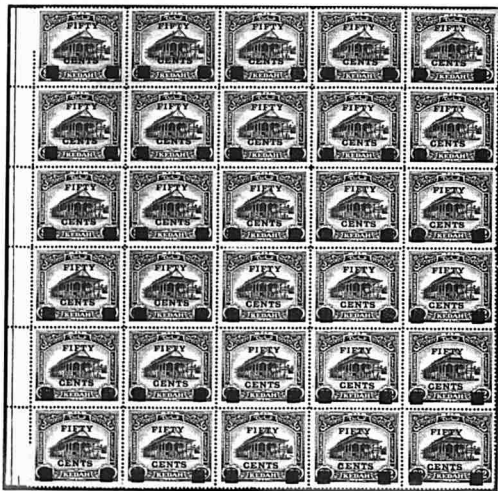


Fig. 38 - The top half of a sheet illustrating the complete setting (reduced). This block is shown full-size in Figs 39 & 40.



Fig. 39 – Rows 1–3 of the setting (actual size)



Fig. 40 - Rows 4-6 of the setting (actual size)

THE 'MISPLACED OVERPRINT' VARIETY.

An interesting example of a misplaced overprint exists on the 50c/S2 value. It is mentioned on page 367 of Vol. III of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia*, where it is described as a stamp with 'Surcharge misplaced to right, "Y" and "S" outside frame'. This variety provides virtual confirmation that the half-sheets were registered for surcharging in the manner described above.



Fig. 41

Illustrated in Fig. 41 are three examples showing the misplacement in varying degrees to the right, the first two being similar to the description in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia*, i.e. the 'Y' of 'FIFTY' and the 'C' of 'CENTS' just outside the frame of the stamp, and the third has the 'Y' and 'S' just within the frame. Although, at first glance, the variable positions of these overprints make it appear as though there must have been more than one half-sheet misprinted, this is almost certainly not the case. The reasons for this statement are contained in Note 2 at the end of this chapter together with the likely explanation of how the misplacement occurred and a theory to account for the printer's mistake, in the light of what evidence is available.

MINOR ERRORS

The half-sheet illustrating the complete setting enables three other minor errors to be identified and positioned. On R2/3, there is a break in the top horizontal of the second 'F' in 'FIFTY'. On R5/2, the upright of the 'T' of 'CENTS' is damaged just above the serif so that it appears to have a 'waist'. On R6/1, the bottom left-hand serif of the 'T' in 'CENTS' is missing. As far as is known all three of these flaws are constant. No varieties have been reported on the \$1/S3 stamp apart from the missing corner on the obliterating square of ink on R3/1, mentioned earlier.

NUMBERS PRINTED

The numbers printed and issued of these provisionals have never been finally established. The official letter to Harte-Lovelace quoted above (Dr Wood said this was from the Superintendent Posts and Telegraphs although in his article Harte-Lovelace makes no mention of who it was from), stated that 3,600 of the 50 cents and 4,800 of the \$1 had been issued, although the roundness of these figures suggests that 'printed' might have been a more apt, and perhaps the intended word, for 'issued'.

Dr Wood in his own book *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya* states that Mr Andree, in a letter to *The Philatelic Magazine* of 26 February 1920, said that he had inspected the actual printer's docket of stamps surcharged for the Government of Kedah and that only 3,600 stamps of the \$1 were surcharged, i.e. the same number as the 50 cents. Printers under contract to the Crown Agents were allowed to exceed their printing orders to allow for wastage. Could this be the explanation for the discrepancy in the number printed of the \$1, or was the official letter wrong? There is quite often a variation in 'numbers printed' and 'numbers issued' of a stamp, with the latter being, sometimes, much smaller than the former, but there seems no way the differences between the Harte-Lovelace and Andree figures can be reconciled. Perhaps R. E. Darnton, writing in *Stamp Collecting* on 27 October 1945, who gave issue totals of 3,598 for the 50 cents and only 3,184 for the \$1, provides an acceptable compromise. Unfortunately the latter gave no source for his information but his figures would mean that a considerable number of the \$1 (416 or 1,616, depending on whether Andree's or Harte-Lovelace's figures are accepted) remained unsold, and the former figure is not inconsistent with the letter Harte-Lovelace received from the Post Office offering him 'the remainder then in their hands, namely 730 of the \$1 on \$3'. 730 could have been whittled down to 416 after this letter was written.

If it had been intended that these provisionals were to be used for postal purposes it would have been more logical to surcharge a greater number of the 50 cents than the \$1 and certainly not the other way round. On the other hand, Harte-Lovelace stated: '*They were mostly used for revenue purposes.*' He does not specifically say this was the reason they were overprinted in the first place and he provides no grounds to support his statement – the author has certainly seen only the odd copy of either value fiscally cancelled. However, if Harte-Lovelace's statement is true, and they were intended for revenue use, then the authorities may well have anticipated that there was likely to be a bigger demand for the \$1 and overprinted a larger number of that value as a result. In Appendix 3, 'The De La Rue Records', is a record of the number of stamps supplied of the Multiple Crown CA set where it can be seen that there were no less than three printings of the \$1 around this time (27.5.19, 3.2.21 and 4.7.22) totalling 43,080 stamps. This is a large number to be needed in a relatively short period (cf. the 12,300 stamps of the previous printing on 18.4.12), from which it must be deduced there was a considerable contemporary demand for this value. As postally used copies of this stamp are not as common as might be expected from these figures, it has to be assumed the demand was for revenue purposes – perhaps licences of some sort.

The two provisionals seem equally plentiful mint and are much commoner mint than used (the \$1, particularly, is very elusive with a contemporary Kedah postmark) and so it would appear that the majority eventually ended up in private hands. Harte-Lovelace's belief that the postal authorities did not wish to 'waste them on collectors' may have been unfounded, or perhaps the latter managed to out-manoeuvre the authorities – a not unusual occurrence.

'SPECIMENS'

Although these provisionals do not exist with a SPECIMEN overprint it seems that copies of both were distributed to member countries of the Universal Postal Union for this purpose. The evidence for this came to light recently.

In 1991 a quantity of stamps overprinted SPECIMEN from a number of different countries, including Malaya, came onto the philatelic market. These stamps had been cancelled by a triple-ring handstamp in red ink. Around the top of this handstamp were the words: POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES and around the bottom: MADAGASCAR, with small asterisks in between. Across the centre were the words: COLLECTION/DE/BERNE in three lines. Many of the stamps were in strips of three. It would appear that they had been sent by the Universal Postal Union in Switzerland to the postal administration of Madagascar where they had been mounted on ledger pages, cancelled as a security measure, and retained as a check against postal forgeries in the usual way. Amongst the Malayan stamps were a quantity from Kedah including strips of three of the two 1919 provisionals. In contrast to the others, these had not been overprinted SPECIMEN. From this it must be assumed that both stamps had been distributed to all the member postal administrations of the UPU as the regulations of this body required. Whether this distribution was made directly from Malaya or from the UPU in Berne is not known, but the latter seems much more likely.

USED IN PERLIS

The Kangar cancellation on the strip shown in Fig. 37 dated 8 October 1919, has been faked, probably by the genuine handstamp, Type 8A of Kangar, being back-dated. This handstamp was not brought into use until early in 1931 and was certainly not in existence in 1919. (See Kangar's postmarks in Chapter 24.) The 8 October 1919 was a Saturday, and it is a matter of some regret, perhaps, that the date chosen for the back-dating was not a day later, the Sunday. However, the 50c/\$2 provisional has been reported with a genuine Perlis cancellation (the small, single-ring Type 3 of Kangar) and, if its existence is confirmed, it must be an extremely rare stamp. There is no record of its companion, the \$1/\$3 value having been used in Perlis. Few of these provisionals appear to have been used for postal purposes anywhere, and their apparent absence from Perlis is not surprising.

CHECK-LIST

50 Cents on \$2 Green and Brown

Variety: 'C' of 'CENTS' inserted by hand. (R6/5).

Variety: Damaged second 'F' in 'FIFTY'. (R2/3).

Variety: Damaged 'T' in 'CENTS'. (R5/2).

Variety: Broken serif on 'T' in 'CENTS'. (R6/1).

Variety: Missing corner from obliterating square. (R3/1).

Variety: Surcharge misplaced a minimum 1cm to the right.

\$1 on \$3 Black and Blue on Blue

Variety: Missing corner from obliterating square. (R3/1).

Note 1: TYPESETTING AND THE PROBLEM OF 'FALL-OUT'

John Easton in *Postage Stamps in the Making* gives a detailed description of how a typeset 'forme' is made up by the compositor using a metal box for each line, known as a 'composing stick', which is open at one side and fitted with a sliding end. The types are

placed in this box and when the line is complete they are wedged between the fixed side of the stick and the sliding side which is then tightened by a screw. He goes on to say:

This building-up of types and rules requires justification, which is the printer's term for inserting spacing material in such a way that the type and rules which are the component parts of a piece of multiple setting are arranged in their exact positions, and are packed together so tightly in the composing stick that there can be no 'give' either horizontally or vertically.

If a page, or job, of type is not properly justified some types may fall out after the job has been locked up into a chase before printing. Sometimes a loosely set job will survive the test of locking-up; it is not likely, however, to survive the test of the inking-roller and impression. As a result the roller, which is coated with a gelatine composition, picks out a loose type while it is applying the ink, and the sheet is printed without it. This is not always noticed by the machine minder, particularly in a short run of twenty or thirty sheets, and the error is constant throughout the impression.

As the 'C' of 'CENTS' was omitted on only some of the half-sheets of the 50c/\$2 provisional the inking-roller may well have been responsible for the letter's removal and, as Harte-Lovelace says, it is likely that it was lost near the end of the overprinting run.

Note 2: THE MISPLACED OVERPRINT

The different positions of the overprint illustrated in Fig. 41 are not the result of more than one half-sheet being mis-printed but the erratic setting up of the type-set forme. Not only does the forme not 'fit' the sheet, as described in the main text, but the relative positions of the overprint vary from stamp to stamp. On some examples the words of the surcharge are a whole 'letter's width' further to the right (e.g. R1/3, R3/4, R4/4). Furthermore, the relative position of the two words of the overprint, 'FIFTY' and 'CENTS', also varies. In columns 1, 3 and 5, the 'Y' of 'FIFTY' and the 'S' of 'CENTS' are more or less in line. In columns 2 and 4 the 'S' is a millimetre or so to the right of the 'Y'. But even this is not constant. In the third and fourth rows of column 4, the 'Y' and 'S' are in much the same positions as they are in columns 1, 3 and 5. A misplacement on one of the stamps where the 'S' and 'Y' were not in line must have resulted in a variety where just the 'S' was outside the frame of the stamp, although it does not appear to have been recorded as yet.

The question arises as to exactly how the misplacement occurred. The right-hand stamp of the three in Fig. 41 almost certainly provides the answer, as it is the only recorded example of this surcharge with its right-hand margin still attached. As stated in the main text, the top and right-hand margins of each half-sheet had to be removed to ensure correct 'register' for the surcharge. If the right-hand margin was not removed then the surcharge would have been displaced to the right by an amount equal to the width of the margin. The width of the margin on the illustrated copy, measured from the centre of the perforation holes to the right-hand edge, is 10.5 mm. When the half-sheet containing this copy was registered for overprinting this margin would have had the effect of misplacing the overprint 10.5 mm to the right *vis-à-vis* the stamps. If the overprint on the illustrated example could be moved 10.5 mm back to the left it would place the right-hand block of obliterating ink into a normal position, i.e. into exactly the position it occupies in the right-hand column on the

illustrated half-sheet. Alternatively, if the 'normals' as shown in Figs 39 & 40 were moved 10.5 mm to the right then, among their various misplacements, would be those shown in Fig. 41. The example on the left in Fig. 41 is known to be Stamp 11 on the half-sheet, i.e. the first stamp in Row 3, because it has the missing corner of the left obliterating block. If the overprint on the normal example of this stamp on the half-sheet was moved 10.5 mm to the right it would exactly match its variety in Fig. 41. The stamp in the middle of the three in Fig. 41 could be any stamp on the half-sheet where the 'Y' and 'S' are roughly in line and 10.5 mm from the misplacement, e.g. any stamp in Columns 1 and 3 apart from those with a recognisable variety. The copy described in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia* was, presumably, an example from these two columns.

It is interesting to speculate how the printer came to make his mistake and the fact that the first stamp in Fig. 41, which comes from the first column of the sheet, does not have a left-hand margin attached to it could be significant. Perhaps the half-sheet on which the misplaced overprint occurred was inverted in relation to the others when the sheets all had their right-hand margins removed prior to overprinting, and this would have resulted in it losing its left-hand margin instead. Then, as this half-sheet was put to the press the inversion could have been noticed and corrected but the right-hand margin left intact, so creating the misplaced varieties.

STAMPS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS USED IN KEDAH AND PERLIS IN 1919

On 1 January 1918 the inland letter rate and the imperial and foreign postcard rates of the local Postal Union, which included Kedah, were all raised from 3 cents to 4 cents. The resulting demand for 4 cents stamps, especially to frank local letters, was considerable and there was a shortage, not only in Kedah but throughout Malaya apart, it seems, from the Straits Settlements. The shortage did not manifest itself in Kedah for over a year and it is a little puzzling why there was no reprint of the Kedah 4 cents by De La Rue in the meantime. In fact the records show that there was no reprint of the 4 cents value between June 1916 and April 1919. Perhaps the printers were experiencing the well-known wartime problems of a lack of skilled labour and materials, although no record has been found of an order being placed. It may well have been that there was an original intention on the part of the

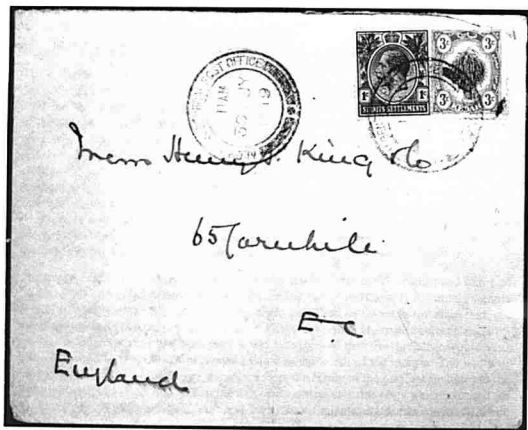


Fig. 42

Kedah authorities to meet the shortage by overprinting. Such a course of action is an obvious solution in situations where a rate change creates surplus quantities of stamps, in this case, the newly-redundant value of 3 cents. Indeed, according to C. L. Harte-Lovelace in 'A Philatelist in his Anecdotalage' published in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of September 1928, a quantity of Kedah 3 cents were surcharged 4 cents. He implies this was done by the printers, Ribeiro & Co. of Penang, at the same time as they produced the 50c/\$2 and \$1/\$3 provisionals. It seems that they had already overprinted a similar 4 cents surcharge for the Federated Malay States for the same reason and purpose. Evidently there were second thoughts, and neither of the 4c/3c provisionals were issued, probably because raising the value of a stamp by overprinting invites the risk of forgery. They appear to have been destroyed, most efficiently it seems in Kedah's case, as no examples have subsequently filtered onto the market as happened with the FMS provisionals.

The shortage of 4 cents stamps was met, instead, by borrowing the current Straits Settlements 1 cent black and 4 cents red stamps on Multiple Crown CA paper (SG 194 & 198) which were placed on sale at all (presumably) the post offices of Kedah and Perlis as and when they were required, pending the arrival of the new issue from the Crown Agents. No doubt the 1 cent was needed to augment local supplies of that value in making up the new 4 cents rate with the redundant Kedah 3 cents (*Fig. 42*). The earliest Kedah postmark known on a Straits stamp during this period is 15 March 1919, which was recorded by Dr Wood on a 4 cents red and, as the new mono-coloured 4 cents rose 'padi-sheaf' stamp printed from the dual working plates is reported in Kedah by June of that year, it is extremely probable that the shortage and the period of sale of the Straits stamps existed roughly between these two dates. It must be assumed that the reason the new Kedah 4 cents was produced from the old dual working plates was the need for haste, the postal authorities being unwilling to accept further delay while a single working plate was prepared, although, as was shown in Chapter 11, this delay would have been minimal.

The use of Straits stamps in Kedah continued until late in the year although the covers and pieces that exist bearing dates after 30 June have an increasingly philatelic appearance. The authorities were presumably reluctant to de-monetise stamps bought in good faith during the shortage period and it is not until November that covers franked with Straits stamps were taxed. This indulgence was well utilised by a Penang dealer, L. K. Seng, who had a considerable number of covers with mixed Kedah and Straits franking sent from nearly all the main offices of Kedah and also Kangar, chiefly during October.

Not all the stamps and pieces dated after the end of June are the result of philatelic usage. Dr Wood records a commercially used 1 cent black used in Kulim as late as 13 August, and the cover shown in *Fig. 42*, though addressed to a dealer, has a Straits 1 cent with a Kedah 3 cents apparently commercially used at Alor Star on 30 July 1919.

A single lot in the sale of the Alan Richardson collection (Robson Lowe, 20 April 1977) contained nine covers with mixed franking used from August to December, in the words of the description: '*mostly, apparently, commercially used*'. This lot also contained a Kedah 10 cents registration envelope bearing a Straits 4 cents used from Semiling to Penang on 11 June 1919. Another lot contained a block of fifty of the Straits 1 cent value cancelled at Alor Star on 9 July 1919.

Various other Straits values are recorded as having been used in Kedah during this period. Dr Wood mentions that *The Philatelic Magazine* of 15 August 1919, stated that Mr L. Andree had informed them that from 10 to 16 June both the 4 cents (colour unspecified) and 5 cents Straits had been used in Kedah. It was also reported that the 1 cent green, the 10 cents purple on yellow, and the 10 cents blue had been received with Kedah postmarks. For many years *SG Part 1* contained a note that the Straits 3 cents and 4 cents purple as well the 1 cent and 4 cents red were authorised for use in Kedah.* No record of official sanction for any of these stamps has ever been found and there was none in either the Wood or Richardson collections. Furthermore, it is difficult to see what purpose would have been served by borrowing 3 cents stamps when there was already a surplus of this value in the two States. (Unless, of course, the stock of 3 cents had been seriously depleted by the 4 cents surcharge described earlier.) Reference to the 3 cents and 4 cents purple stamps was dropped from the *SG 1991 Part 1* catalogue.

Illustrated in Fig. 43 is what appears to be a commercial cover addressed to the UK, postmarked in Alor Star on 22 May 1919, and franked by a 1 cent black and a 3 cents red of the Straits Settlements. It seems that neither of these stamps was acceptable in Kedah as they were both highlighted in pencil and left uncanceled. A tax mark was applied to the cover indicating that it was regarded either as unpaid or underpaid but, regrettably, the

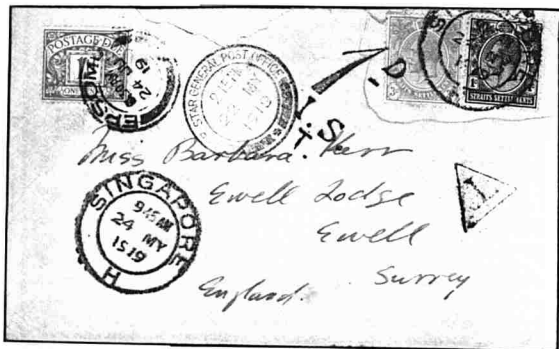


Fig. 43

* The author has seen just one example of the Straits 4 cents purple 'used' in Kedah during this period. It was with a Kedah 3 cents and both stamps were tied to a piece by a Semiling 'Type 6' cancellation dated 27.6.19.

amount of tax due was omitted. After the stamps were cancelled in Singapore a postage due charge of 1d was raised in the UK. With the imperial letter rate at 4 cents the postage due should have been 8 cents (double 4 cents), equivalent to 1½d. The fact that the full tax was not charged suggests that postage due was levied in respect of just the 3 cents value and that it was only this stamp which had no official sanction. It may be that this deduction is faulty as, in the absence of instruction from Kedah in the form of the postage due charge in international gold centimes, it is difficult to see how the postal clerk in the UK could have judged the validity of either of the Straits stamps.

C. L. Harte-Lovelace, writing in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in September 1928, already quoted, said that an official letter to him dated 9 August 1919 (he does not say from whom) regarding the use of Straits stamps in Kedah at that time, mentioned only the 1 cent and 4 cents red as authorised for use. He further stated, in reference to the 3 cents and, by implication, other values:

I doubt if this value was really officially used, though in some small country post office it might have been allowed 'par complaisance'.

Dr Wood stated that he understood the shortage of stamps in 1919 to be the greatest in Alor Star.

THE ISSUES ON MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA PAPER – THE 'PADI-SHEAF' VALUES

In 1921 the Crown Agents adopted a paper with a Multiple Crown Script CA watermark and by the end of the year this paper was being used for nearly all their Commonwealth clients. It found general favour with collectors, the outline of the watermark being clear and distinct even on chalk-surfaced paper and on the uncoated paper used for the recess-engraved stamps it was outstanding.

The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly of 9 July 1921 reported the issue of the 2 cents and 4 cents on the new paper, while *The Philatelic Magazine* of 8 September 1921 reported the 1 cent brown, and on 22 September, the 3 cents purple. This completed the issue of the 'padi-sheaf' values in existing colours on the Multiple Crown Script CA paper which was destined to last in Malaya for 36 years.

The 1 cent brown and 3 cents purple had been printed from single working plates in the same way as the 2 cents green and 4 cents red. There was time for only two printings of the 1 cent brown (on one requisition order) and one of the 3 cents purple, before they were both replaced by stamps in new colours – a 1 cent black in 1922 and a 3 cents green in 1924. There were just two printings of the 4 cents red (again on the same requisition order) before it was replaced in 1926 by a 4 cents violet. Most of the reasons for these changes, and the other re-arrangement of colours and values which took place in the Multiple Script CA issues up to the time of the Japanese Occupation, are to be found in further alterations in the postage rates.

POSTAGE RATES CHANGES 1921–1941

The first of these alterations took place almost at the same time as the introduction of the new paper, on 1 October 1921, when all the printed matter rates went up again, this time to 3 cents, so requiring a stamp of this value in green. This was shipped by the Crown Agents between 16 January and 28 February 1924, and *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of 24 May 1924 reported its receipt. A reprint was despatched on 21 May 1925, but was made redundant by the printed matter rates reverting to 2 cents once more on 1 January 1926.

One presumes the 3 cents was now withdrawn and replaced by the old 2 cents green which post offices must have placed in store when the 3 cents was issued. Not surprisingly, the 3 cents green was not reprinted again until the foreign printed matter rate was restored to 3 cents on 25 January 1941. The Crown Agents Requisition Book shows that a reprint was made at this time but a note in the margin states that the consignment was 'not shipped' owing to the Japanese invasion. Had it been issued it might have provided an interesting variety when compared to the old 1925 stamp, as there is evidence that it was printed from a new plate. To what extent the 3 cents green was used from 1926 to 1941 must be left to collectors interested in dated postmarks to establish, but it was not approved post office practice to have two stamps of different values in the same colour on sale at the same time,

and Crown Agents records show that the 2 cents green was being regularly reprinted from 1926 to 1940. The 3 cents green can be found quite frequently on covers in the 1930s but these often look as though they have been specially prepared. It might be instructive to discover which of the two stamps, the 2 cents green or the 3 cents green, was being used during 1941. If the post office still had them in stock, it should have been the 3 cents.

Also on 1 October 1921, the foreign postcard rate went up to 8 cents, and this should have meant the provision of a stamp of this value in red. There is no record of it ever having been ordered, however, at least, not in the 1920s, the reason being that this rate was another which was reduced in the postal rate changes of 1 January 1926, in this case to 6 cents.* A 6 cents red (or, as it turned out, carmine) was stated by the *Crown Agents Bulletin* of January–March 1926 to be on order, and it was despatched by the Crown Agents soon afterwards – on 21 April 1926. (The Crown Agents requisition for the 6 cents states quite clearly that it should be 'Colour Red as present 4 ct stamp'. See Order Form dated 7.1.26 in Appendix 4, 'The Crown Agents Records'.)

With the order for a 6 cents red came the necessity to change the colour of the existing 4 cents red, and a replacement in violet was despatched between 28 January and 4 March 1926, made from the old plate. (The requisition form for this stamp, prepared by the Crown Agents, shows that it was ordered in the colour of 'blue purple, as Straits Settlements 4ct stamps'. See the Order Form dated 9 December 1925, in Appendix 4, 'The Crown Agents Records'.) Its receipt was recorded, with that of the 6 cents carmine, in *The Philatelic Magazine* of 13 November 1926. The latter required a new plate and this was made by a different method to the one used hitherto, indeed, to the 6 cents falls the honour of being the first Kedah 'padi-sheaf' stamp printed directly by a steel plate – the old 'master plate' being apparently scrapped, or rather put into cold storage. The old plate format of unbroken sheets of 120 with the two usual marginal lines well away from the stamps was retained.

It would seem that the 6 cents was not greatly used because it was not reprinted until 1940, (being despatched between 24 April and 17 May of that year), this being the stamp which is listed and described in *SG Part I* (1994) as the 'Die II' variety. It was made redundant soon after its arrival by the increase in the foreign postcard rate to 8 cents again on 25 January 1941, and the order for a stamp in this new value in red was announced in the *Crown Agents Bulletin* of July–September 1941. This order was met but never delivered by the Crown Agents – it being another casualty of the war in the Far East – but a proof and a copy of the stamp in the 'padi-sheaf' design exists in the British Library (see Colour Plate 8).

Other rate changes which were purely domestic and not governed by UPU regulations were an increase in the local letter rate from 4 cents to 5 cents on 16 January 1922, and a rise in the imperial letter rate from 6 cents to 8 cents on 1 January 1932. There would be a big demand for a stamp to frank local letters and the *Crown Agents Bulletin* of January–March 1922 announced that a single working plate for a new 5 cents had been prepared, a

* There is a very strange entry in the Crown Agents 'Register of Dies, Plates, Formes etc.' which records the destruction of an 8 cents plate in 1930. However, this would appear to have been the border-plate used for the original 1912 8 cents stamp and not a new plate ordered in the 1920s and then destroyed as redundant after the rate reduction of 1 January, 1926. Nevertheless, the entry is something of a mystery and it is discussed in the introduction to 'The Crown Agents Records of Plates and Dies' in Appendix 4.

consignment in yellow being shipped by the Crown Agents on 30 June 1922. Its receipt was reported by *The Philatelic Magazine* on 2 December of the same year but, judging from postmarks, this stamp had been issued by October or even earlier. The rate on local letters was another to be reduced on 1 January 1926, when it returned to 4 cents for exactly six years before being restored to 5 cents on 1 January 1932. As a result, the 4 cents violet was regularly reprinted between 1926 and 1932 and the 5 cents just as regularly thereafter.

In May 1936 a new value, an 8 cents grey, announced as being on order by the *Crown Agents Bulletin* of January–March 1936, was somewhat belatedly printed, presumably in response to a need for a stamp to frank imperial letters. It was despatched from London on 29 May and reported by *The Philatelic Magazine* on 13 November 1936. This stamp served many purposes in its relatively short life. Apart from being used for the surface rate to the UK and Colonies, it franked the new domestic airmail service begun in 1937, the popular 'All-Up' Empire Airmail scheme of 1938–39, and the local letter rate after its increase to 8 cents on 8 April 1940. It was, no doubt, even pressed into use on foreign postcards after January 1941 although, strictly speaking, its colour of grey was not in accordance with the UPU requirement for this rate.

The stamp itself was printed from a plate made up in the same way as the 6 cents but, although in the same sheet format – 120 stamps in 10 rows of 12, had no marginal lines. However, below the last stamp but one in the bottom row there was a small, thick figure '1' with a short, straight serif at the top to indicate the plate number.

The other rate changes which took place during this period could be accommodated by existing values.

Not all the colour and value modifications were the result of rate changes or UPU regulation. The change of the 1 cent from brown to black may have been in accordance with an agreement within the local Postal Union to maintain a uniformity of colour for stamps of the same value in the Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States.*

(The 1 cent black was notified by the Crown Agents in the third quarter of 1922, despatched on 26 October and recorded in *The Philatelic Magazine* the following 20 December.)

Why black was chosen for this denomination is not known. Interestingly, it remained the distinguishing colour of Malaya's one cent stamps until the advent of the 'multi-coloured' issues of the mid-1960s. The 1 cent black was printed from the same plate as the 1 cent brown as can be seen by the existence of identical dots situated in the same place in the margin of the sheets of both stamps about a centimetre south-west of the bottom left-hand corner of R10/1 (*Fig. 44*). Any doubt on the matter can be resolved by reference to the De La Rue Private Day Books where there is no mention of the cost of another plate when the first printers' invoice was submitted for the new 1 cent stamps. As will be seen later in this chapter, there is no more interesting stamp in any of the Kedah issues than the 1 cent black and with nine separate printings it gives ample scope for study.

* No record of such an agreement has been found although a number of writers have referred to it. There was a general movement towards greater uniformity within the local Postal Union at this time including a scheme for the co-ordination of the postal services of the SS and FMS which came into being on 1 October 1926. This co-ordination was supervised by a secretary for postal affairs with headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

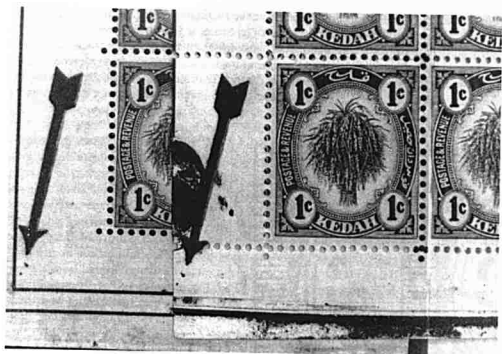


Fig. 44 - Corner blocks of the 1 cent brown (ii) (left) and the 1 cent black showing identical dots on the margins, indicating they were printed from the same plate.

THE VARIETIES OF DESIGN, SIZE AND PERFORATION

A feature of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps of this issue is the number and diversity of the varieties that can be found in most of the values. These are easily identified and have aroused the curiosity of, and provided considerable interest for, collectors in the past. The explanation for their existence forms the basis of this chapter. They can be divided into three groups:

1. Varieties caused by differences in the design, principally in the figures of value, these mainly being the stamps which have been referred to in the past as Die I or Die II but for which the terms 'Type' or 'Plate' are more appropriate.
2. Varieties in the size of the stamps.
3. Varieties in the perforations of the stamps.

All these varieties were created as the result of changes made by De La Rue in the methods they used to print the stamps during their lifetime of 20 years, 1921-41.

1. TYPE I AND TYPE II

(Commonly known as Die I and Die II)

(In this and following sections, the terms Die I and Die II will be used to avoid misunderstanding, but in the course of this chapter reasons will be given to show why Type I and Type II should be regarded as more accurate and, therefore, preferable.)

Close examination of the stamps printed from the single working plates produced from the 'master plate', starting with the 2 cents green on Multiple Crown CA paper issued in June 1919, reveals a considerable number of weaknesses in the design, particularly in the horizontal background lines around the edge of the frame. These are fairly general but, for comparison purposes, attention is drawn to the 3rd, 22nd and 27th lines down from the top

right-hand corner of the border (Fig. 45). On some stamps these lines are present but are very thin and broken, on others they are almost missing altogether. The generally poor quality of the printing of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps reproduced from the 'master plate' has already been mentioned in Chapter 11 as well as the reasons for it – the lack of definition and clarity typical of stamps printed from electrotyped plates. (For a description of how electrotyped plates were made and an explanation for their deficiencies, see Chapter 10.) These defects were certainly not present on the composite die itself as can be seen from its proofs (see Fig. 35 in Chapter 11). The 6 cents carmine value, however, issued in 1926, had a much 'cleaner-cut' appearance overall, with the background lines unbroken and the other weaknesses

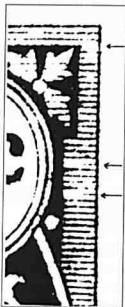


Fig. 45

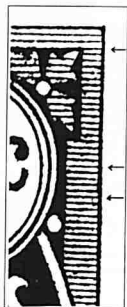


Fig. 46

noted above almost completely eliminated (Fig. 46). Apart from this (and some retouching in the background of the oval frame which will be dealt with later) the design remained exactly the same. The explanation for the improvement in the definition of the background lines lies in a change De La Rue made in 1926 in the method of making their plates.

In this year, for some reason yet to be fully explained, the Company decided to abandon the practice of electrotyping from a 'master plate' and revert to the 'Perkins, Bacon' way of making recess plates, i.e. by rocking a steel transfer die over a steel plate. This method, which is the one more normally associated with recess-printing, required a different means of denominating the stamps. Previously a pantograph had been used after the plate had been made, but now the figures of value were engraved by hand on a secondary die, from which a second transfer die was taken to lay down the working plate. There can be no doubt that this was the method used as Die proofs of this 6 cents secondary die were amongst the De La Rue archive material auctioned in the late seventies. They were dated 29.1.26 and marked 'Approved 1/2.26' (see Fig. 95 in Chapter 19). The Crown Agents Die Register records the receipt of a 6 cents die on Reqn. No. 495 in 1925 together with its 'roller punch' and the Register of Working Plates lists the 'S.W. (single working) Plate 6 cents.'

This change of printing method is the key to the creation of the so-called Die II stamps. The better quality of the new 6 cents value, i.e. the more faithful reproduction of the die, was hardly noticed at the time, and this stamp did not receive a lot of attention from philatelic writers until its 1940 reprint appeared, and since then, ironically, it has been the shade, perforation and size of this reprint which has aroused interest and not the fact that it was produced by a different method and from a steel plate. Various explanations were provided then, and later, to explain the reprint's different appearance, such as the master die being re-engraved or, more commonly, that a new transfer roller had been rocked more firmly over the master die and thus picked up a more faithful reproduction of the design. The 're-rocked' theory sounded plausible when it was made (a similar claim was made to explain the difference in the appearance of the vignette of the Plate 2 'Malay ploughing' key plate) and has been the one most often repeated since, but the probable reason for its long-acceptance is the fact that there has seemed to be no better alternative. It certainly fitted the available evidence, although this consisted, almost entirely, of the stamps themselves. An added factor was that, for many years, it was assumed that all the 'padi-sheaf' stamps had been made by secondary dies after their figures of value had been engraved by hand and then the plates made by a roller or rocker die. If this had been the case then the different appearance of the 6 cents would only have been explicable by the existence of a second die.

What are the implications of the above for the continuation of the use of the term Die II to describe the 1940 6 cents stamp? Firstly it has to be pointed out that both the original 1926 printing of this value and the 1940 reprint (according to the Crown Agents records, the only two printings of this stamp) were both produced from the same plate* and the differences between them are, as noted above, only of shade, perforation and size – the nature and causes of which will all be examined later. The above question, therefore, needs to be re-phrased: to what extent can the 1926 6 cents and the other stamps produced subsequently by the same method of secondary dies, be accurately described as Die II?

Even if it is granted that there was no new master die to make the 6 cents it might be claimed that the term 'Die II' is justified if a different transfer die was used to make the secondary die than the one used to make the original 'master plate'. However, if there was a new transfer die there is certainly no record of it on the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches. The only one listed there for the composite 'padi-sheaf' die prepared for the single working plates is the 'roller punch' which was originally made to lay down the 'master plate' on Requisition No. 125/18 (1918). This is listed as a '4-set' punch which is taken to mean it had four transfer dies on its roller. It is technically possible, of course, that a different one of these to the one selected in 1918 was used in 1926 for the 6 cents. If so, and there seems no way of verifying the fact, it would not make a scrap of difference as, according to the evidence presented in Chapter 10 (testimony from the printers that they took the greatest of care to make each impression on the roller a 'perfect' replica of

* Apart from the official records of these stamps, which speak for themselves, there is the evidence of identical re-entries on stamps in the same positions on sheets from both printings. These re-entries are described later in the chapter and are also included in the Check-list.

the die), there is no human way of distinguishing between the multiple impressions on a 'roller punch'.*

If a new transfer die was not used to make the 6 cents plate, or another was used which was exactly the same, what was the cause of this stamp's improved appearance? There seems little doubt that it was because a steel plate was used instead of an electrotyped one. The electrotyping process cannot produce results to equal those obtained from the action of 'steel on steel'. In Chapter 10 is the statement by Easton when describing an electrotyped plate:

... the definition is not as sharp as a steel to steel direct transfer, even with lead moulding, and secondly the growth of the copper may not pick out the whole detail of the troughs as originally engraved.

As was said in Chapter 10 in connection with the vignette of Plate 1 of the 'Malay ploughing' stamps, this seems to sum up perfectly the deficiencies of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps printed from the electrotyped plates made before 1926.

Why De La Rue made the change to steel plates is not known for certain. Could it have been at the behest of the Crown Agents? If so no mention was made of it on the order form for the 6 cents stamps (see Appendix 4). Nor do the De La Rue correspondence files of this period (housed at the National Postal Museum) contain anything on this subject. It would be nice to think that it was done simply to improve the quality of the stamps, as some of them printed in the early 1920s certainly left something to be desired. The conclusion must be, however, that the Company was obliged to make the change following the new techniques which they were introducing in the printing of recess-engraved stamps. These new techniques were the direct result of an injection of enthusiasm and skill which occurred in the Company in the early twenties. It is described in the extract from the De La Rue booklet *The Banknote* in the last section of Appendix 3 as follows:

1922 was a momentous year for the Company of De La Rue. That year saw the influx of many young men, some of whom had had banknote printing and engineering experience in the competing firm of Waterlow & Sons, and others who had no experience at all but had a burning zeal to apply new ideas to old skills.†

* It may be recalled that Easton states: 'It is usual to take more than one impression of a die on the transfer roller, with the idea of selecting the best for making the plate.' However, even if this were true, it does not affect the argument as, if the transfer die to make the 'master plate' in 1919 was the best, then another, and inferior, one would hardly have been selected in 1926 to make the secondary die for the 6 cents. It is possible that, in the intervening years, the original one could have been damaged, so that one of the others on the roller had to be used. On the other hand, few would argue with the statement that the 6 cents has a more exact, and therefore better, overall appearance than the earlier 'padi-sheaf' stamps. It could hardly be labelled 'inferior'.

† The circumstances of the recruitment of certain ex-Waterlow's employees in the years following 1922, including senior men such as Bernard Westall, a future managing-director of De La Rue and founder of Westall House for retired employees of the company, make an interesting story but which is outside the scope of this work. Amongst other staff recruited at this time were the head and other members of Waterlow's transfer department (which was responsible for the laying down of steel plates) and these men may have had some influence on the new prominence given to these printing methods by De La Rue in 1926.

This 'new blood' resulted in improved printing methods being devised within the Company leading to the change from flat-bed to rotary printing and the giving up of the troublesome business of printing on 'wet' paper which had caused so many problems in the past. A new press was developed called the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press which was capable of exerting a much greater pressure than before. (This press had a very considerable influence on the printing methods of the Company and so will be dealt with more fully later in this chapter.) The pressure of this new press almost certainly created the need to produce plates which were significantly stronger than the electrotyped plates. Easton's comment in Chapter 10, regarding the disadvantages of electrotyped plates, sums this up:

Finally a copper shell is not really strong enough to stand the great pressure of an engraving press for any length of time.

It is also true that, generally speaking, rotary printing required plates of larger size which could be fitted properly to the cylinder. It therefore must have been to the Company's advantage to produce plates that were specially made for this purpose rather than to continue electrotyping them from the old 'master plate' and then having to adapt them. It has to be admitted that the plates for the new 6 cents and the other values made subsequently from secondary dies were the same set size (120) as those of the old 'single working' plates, although evidence exists (to be considered later) which suggests that they did not require the special measures to fix them to the rotary cylinder that had been necessary hitherto for the old plates. The subject of adapting plates for use on a rotary press is dealt with in more detail in the later section 'Rotary Printing'.

It is a pity that a definite answer to the question of why, in 1926, De La Rue made such a fundamental change in the way they made their 'working' recess plates remains tantalisingly out of reach. At the present moment the best that can be said is that it was probably linked to the technological advances being made within the Company at this time. The development of the new Rotary Recess Press brought such enormous economic advantages to the Company that the extra cost of making steel plates instead of electrotyped ones must have been of little consequence.

When another new value with a 'padi-sheaf' design was required in 1936 – the 8 cents grey – the same transfer die that was used for the 6 cents was employed again to make the 8 cents secondary die, as the background lines are exactly similar to those on the 6 cents. (This is confirmed by the proof of the 8 cents secondary die, with completed value tablets, in the Philatelic Collections of the British Library.)

Is there a better, i.e. more accurate, term than 'Die II' to describe these stamps? If there was no re-engraved master die, or a second master die, and no new transfer die was used either, then the use of the word 'die' to explain the contrast between the stamps produced from electrotyped and steel plates seems wholly inappropriate. The differences were created simply by the plate being made in a different way and the figures of value engraved by a different method. The original die from which they were both taken was one and the same and remained unaltered. Whether the fact that a secondary die was used to make the plates for the 'Die II' stamps (a very different thing to a second 'die') can, in itself, justify the use of the term must be left to the individual to decide. (If all the 'padi-sheaf' stamps had been made using secondary dies there would certainly have been no mention of a

second die although two dies would have been used – the original and each denominated secondary die.) As will be seen later in the chapter, the Crown Agents succumbed to this temptation in answer to a query about the 2 cents stamp after the war, possibly for the sake of expediency. However, despite the use of the expressions 'two dies' and 'the second die' by the Crown Agents on this one occasion there does seem a much better term to use than 'Die' when classifying the 6 cents stamp and the other values produced by the same method, and that is 'Type'. 'Type' has the advantage of being familiar to collectors and its meaning of 'characteristic example' (of a particular stamp-printing method), seems to make it singularly apt. There is a return to this subject of classification in the section on the 2 cents Type II.

Added confirmation that secondary dies were used for the new plates produced after 1926 can be obtained by examining their figures of value. These are too uniform in both their position in the ovals and in the strokes of the engraving of the figures themselves, for a pantograph to have been used.

The numerous reprints of the 'padi-sheaf' values that occurred between 1921 and 1940 were all made from their original respective plates with two notable exceptions, the so-called 'Die II' stamps of the 1 cent black and the 2 cents green.

1 CENT – PLATE 2

(Commonly known as Die II)

Probably earlier, but certainly by May 1938, there appeared a reprint of the 1 cent black which showed marked differences in the figures of value. The '1' now had square-cut, instead of slightly rounded, corners and the serifs were more pronounced. The 'c' was larger and not so closed-up (*Figs 47 & 48*). On the other hand, the presence of the weak horizontal background lines showed that this was still a Type I stamp, and that the plate that had produced it had been made from the old 'master plate'. It quite definitely had not been produced by a steel plate laid down from a new denominated secondary die, the method which had been used since 1926 starting with the 6 cents. This was a little surprising to say the least, and trying to find an explanation for it presented quite a problem. It has always been assumed by writers on this issue that secondary dies existed for all the 'padi-sheaf' values and that the new figures of value on the 1 cent were obtained by scraping the old ones off the secondary die and engraving new ones, hence the occasional use of the term of 're-drawn' die, from which a second plate for the value was made. If there was no secondary die, however, but only a 'master plate', how were the figures of value altered? The idea that all the figures of value on the 1 cent plate could have been scraped off and new ones engraved with a pantograph is not tenable. The amount of work in removing no less than four figures of value from each impression of a 120-set plate would be prodigious and quite unnecessary when the means of making a new plate was available and in current use, i.e. by a new secondary die. Furthermore it might also be questioned why just the figures of value dissatisfied the printers as they look no worse than the rest of the design on a plate which by 1936 or 1937, admittedly, had been in use for a number of years but was still producing presentable stamps, or, at least, stamps which were no worse than those of the early 1930s. So, what were the answers to this double conundrum of, firstly, why was the old plate replaced? And secondly, why was it not replaced by the current method of making a secondary die?



Fig. 47 - Plate 1 (Type 1)



Fig. 48 - Plate 2 (Type 1)

The answer to the first question is that evidence has come to light that Plate 1 was damaged, and damaged so badly that its further use became uneconomic. This damage was initially not apparent on the stamps themselves, and even on blocks it was extremely difficult to detect. It was not until a whole sheet was discovered that it was seen with any degree of certainty. This sheet not only contained abnormally large stamps but stamps of several other sizes also and some which were not perfect rectangles. Additionally, it had been perforated by two different line machines indicating that the damage had been severe enough to make this process a problem as well. A study of dated postmarks on used copies of these stamps then revealed that they were from the last printing from Plate 1 (Printing 6 on the list), and this led to the reasonable conclusion that it must have been the damage which enforced the scrapping of the plate. Later in this chapter a suggestion is made as to how this damage occurred but it is as well to recall here the statement by John Easton quoted earlier when talking of the limitations of electrotyped plates. It also needs to be borne in mind that Printing 6 was the first that had been made 'dry' from the old plate. As we have seen earlier, 'dry' printing required greatly increased pressure from the press. Perhaps the 1 cent was the first casualty of subjecting plates designed for 'wet' printing from a flat-bed press to the stresses of 'dry' printing from a rotary one. (Although it needs to be remembered this was by no means the first time the 1 cent plate had been used on a rotary press.) If so, it may not have been the last.

This matter is referred to again in the next section 'Variations in Size' while the details and illustrations of the sheet (Figs 60-63) and an examination of its importance in explaining the varieties existing on the 1 cent black, are included in the section 'The Printings' at the end of this chapter.

The answer to the second question of why a secondary die was not used to make Plate 2 was even more elusive, especially as it seemed that De La Rue were reverting to a printing device, electrotyping using the 'master plate', which had been discarded over ten years before. One might even have been forgiven for thinking that by 1937 the 'master plate' had been destroyed. Yet, clearly, it had been used because the tell-tale weaknesses in the background lines were still present. It has to be admitted that the explanation for this rather strange action on the part of the printers is conjectural, and that there is never likely to be any proof, as the whole matter is an internal one to De La Rue. But in the absence of any indication that there was a special request by the Crown Agents or the Kedah Government, or a change of printing policy on the part of the Company, it must be concluded that the 1 cent plate was replaced by De La Rue in the way it was simply as a matter of expediency, i.e. it was the cheapest and quickest means at their disposal to rectify a mistake of their own making. (As stated above, a possible explanation of how the damage occurred to the plate is contained in the section referred to above: 'The Printings'. If this, or anything like it, is correct, then it would undoubtedly have been the responsibility of De La Rue to replace the plate at their own expense.) Had the plate needed to be replaced as the result of wear, or a demand from the Crown Agents, the Company would probably have been able to charge the Crown Agents for it and the means chosen might have been different. If it had been the result of a deliberate change of printing policy then, when the need came to replace the 2 cents plate in 1940, the same procedure would have been used instead of the secondary die method which was adopted at that time.

The 'master plate' was available for De La Rue to use because, apparently, they had kept it in their possession. This suggestion was made in Chapter 11 and it is not possible to be certain of the reasons why it occurred. The De La Rue Private Day Books show that the Crown Agents were never invoiced for the plate, the Crown Agents Register of Working Plates show that they never put it on charge, and the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book shows that it was never drawn by the printers. (The latter was not likely to have happened anyway, of course, as it was not a working plate.) All of this might prompt the question: Did it ever exist? But if it did not, how were the single working plates of the 1 cent (brown and black), 2 cents (Type I), 3 cents (purple and green), 4 cents (red and violet) and 5 cents, ever made? No die is listed for any of these values, nor has any die proof been found. In Chapter 11 other evidence is provided by the stamps themselves in the form of flaws which must have originated in a 'master plate'. The only conclusion to be drawn from all this evidence, admittedly some of it somewhat negative, is that De La Rue must have regarded the 'master plate' simply as part of their 'tools-of-trade' which assisted them in the manufacture of the denominated working plates, and that it was legitimate to retain it. In this, it must be assumed, the Crown Agents acquiesced. Perhaps the fact that the plate was undenominated was a consideration, but it has to be admitted that the undenominated 'master plates' of 1912 were handed over to the Crown Agents and retained by them. This subject surfaces again in the next section when the implications of the variations in the sizes of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps are considered.

Dr Wood recorded the existence of Plate 2 for the 1 cent before the Japanese Occupation, and this was confirmed in 1952 by the Crown Agents, who also stated there had only been one die for this value. A letter on the subject from the Crown Agents to Mr F. E. Metcalfe of the Commonwealth Stamp Co. (quoted in *Stamp Collecting* of 11 July 1952) stated that:

'One die only was prepared for the 1 cent stamp and from this Die, two plates were made.' The Crown Agents Plate Issue Book records a '1 cent Plate 2' being issued to De La Rue to fulfil a requisition order for a reprint of 1 cent stamps in July 1937.

The new 1 cent was printed in the same sheet format as before – 120 (10 rows of 12). A square figure '2' (4 mm x 4 mm) appeared on the margin below the second stamp from the corner, whereas the old plate had been un-numbered, as had been all the plates until the 8 cents in 1936.

Its date of issue has been the subject of some confusion in the past and may not be absolutely certain now. Dr Wood had this to say on the subject:

the [Crown Agents] Bulletin for January–March 1940, reported the despatch of the 1 cent 'C.P.2' which evidently meant that a new Plate 2 had been provided for this value.

This report, surprisingly late in view of the fact that the stamp had been first printed nearly three years before, presumably refers to the consignment of the 1 cent black despatched by the Crown Agents on 1 March 1940 (Printing 9 in the list), the last before the Japanese Occupation. Why the Crown Agents were so late in announcing this stamp is a mystery. They could hardly have been in ignorance of Plate 2's existence as they had recorded its withdrawal and return to their keeping for the earlier reprints (Printings 7 & 8). The Crown Agents inspectors, also, in view of their pervasive presence in De La Rue's printing works, could hardly have been unaware of the circumstances of the old plate's demise.

At one time it was thought that the March 1940 printing had been the only one from Plate 2 and so there were good reasons for thinking that the bulk of the issue had fallen into the hands of the Japanese to be overprinted. When copies, mainly used, began to emerge it was catalogued quite highly as it was generally considered to be a scarce stamp. Such is not the case, however. It has been confirmed postmarked as early as May 1938, and July 1938 is now most commonly given as its date of issue. The Crown Agents Plate Issue Book shows that there were no less than three printings from Plate 2, the first being despatched as early as 27 August 1937, so the likelihood is that this stamp exists used just as long after this date as it would take for its sea passage from Britain and its distribution, although, in view of the lack of earlier postmarks, there may have been some delay in its issue. The realisation of its existence in numbers has led, in recent years, to its catalogue valuation being much reduced. Difficulties in distinguishing it from the original stamp probably account, partly at least, for wrong impressions gained in the past. (The total number of stamps printed from Plate 2 is 535,680 – see Printings 7, 8 and 9 in Appendix 4, 'The Crown Agents Records'.)

2 CENTS – TYPE II

(Commonly known as Die II)

In 1940, for some reason yet to be discovered, the 2 cents plate which had been in use since 1919, was replaced by one which had obviously been made from a secondary die. This stamp possessed horizontal background lines which were precisely and unmistakably similar to those of the 6 cents carmine and the 8 cents grey. The figures of value, having been newly engraved, were markedly different to those on the old plate. The main difference was in the drops of the figures which were round instead of oval while the 'c' which



Fig. 49 - Type I, Plate 1



Fig. 50 - Type II, Plate 2

followed the figure was longer and thinner (Figs 49 & 50). Oddly enough, no proof of this new 2 cents secondary die seems to exist. The new plate must have been considerably larger than the old one because, apart from the design being a little larger (a point dealt with in detail in the next section), the spacings between the stamps were now 2.5 mm instead of the previous 1.75 mm.

The *Crown Agents Bulletin* for April-June 1940 reported the despatch of this 2 cents printing, which actually took place between 19 April and 17 May, there being a note in the *Crown Agents Requisition Book* as follows: '120,000 very urgently required. To be despatched by parcel post'. The latter was presumably quicker than by normal shipment so these stamps might bear postmarks dated as early as the beginning of June. The right-hand bottom corner of the sheet showed a tall thin figure '2' (4 x 2 mm) on the margin below the second stamp from the corner. The maker's imprint 'Thomas De La Rue & Company, Limited, London' extended from half way along column 5 to half way along column 8 in the bottom margin. There were no marginal lines on the sheet which was made up of 120 stamps, in, it is assumed, the same format as that of the 2 cents Type I. According to Volume III of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia* the sheet was now made up of two panes of 60 (10 rows of 6). If this is so, it is a unique departure from all the other "padi-sheaf" values, and in the absence of any corroborating evidence (no stamps with gutter margins have ever been recorded for example) it must be discounted.

It was somewhat ironical that De La Rue had gone to the trouble to make a secondary die and a new plate for a stamp which became redundant with the postage rate changes of 25 January 1941, a large proportion of the consignment falling into the hands of the Japanese to be overprinted. It is a scarce stamp mint and there was a plate block of four in the Wood collection which may be unique.

Both the Crown Agents and the De La Rue records fail to throw any light on why a new plate was prepared for the 2 cents in 1940 or why it was decided to make it using the secondary die method that had been employed for the 6 cents and 8 cents previously, rather than resurrect the 'master plate' again as had been done when a new plate was required for the 1 cent. The original plate had not shown any real evidence of wear, judging from the stamps. It is possible that it met with some calamity when it was last used for a reprint on 2.6.39, in much the same way as the 1 cent Plate 1 had in 1935 but, if so, the stamps do not reveal what it might have been as those of Printing 6 of the 1 cent do. Unfortunately, the De La Rue Private Day Books for the period during which the Type II stamp was produced are missing, but the De La Rue correspondence files contain a copy of what appears to be the quotation, dated 12.4.40, for reprints of the 2 cents, 6 cents and 8 cents values on Requisition No. 1749/1. This contains no mention of the cost of a new 2 cents plate, so perhaps the Crown Agents may not have ordered it. If, therefore, De La Rue produced it of their own volition, as they had done with Plate 2 of the 1 cent, then the appropriate conclusion might be drawn, (that Plate 1 had failed to withstand the pressures of the new printing press) but this still leaves the question of why the 'master plate' was not used to replace it in view of the fact that this course of action was, presumably, a cheaper alternative.

Unless some more information comes to light it will have to be assumed that the old 2 cents plate became the second casualty of the considerable pressure exerted by the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press for which, it has to be repeated, it was not originally designed. It had given good service. Records show that it had been used for a minimum of eleven printings, starting with the original one in 1919, and produced over three million stamps.* The wonder of it is that more of the electrotyped plates, especially those which had to provide the stamps in high demand such as the 4 cents and 5 cents for example, did not succumb in the same way. Perhaps the Japanese invasion of Malaya saved them.

The stamp printed from Plate 2 adds a slight complication to finding the correct terminology to distinguish and classify the stamps produced by secondary dies from those previously produced from electrotyped plates. Classifying the 6 cents and 8 cents as Type II poses no difficulty as neither value has a Type I counterpart anyway, but the 2 cents value not only has a Type I stamp which is different, but is different in two ways – in its figures of value and its background lines. To take account of this, therefore, the Die I 2 cents should be described as 'Type I, Plate 1' and the Die II 2 cents as 'Type II, Plate 2'. The stamps are thus separated on two counts: (i) TYPE: Their general appearance in terms of the clarity of the design and (ii) PLATE: The shape of their figures of value. Although strictly accurate,

* The exact total is 3,199,320 which represents 26,661 sheets or 'pulls' from the plate. In Part I of Chapter 10, in the correspondence between the Kedah Adviser, the Crown Agents and De La Rue & Co. leading up to the 1912 issue of stamps, is a letter from the printers to the Crown Agents in answer to a query about the life of a copper-plate. De La Rue's reply stated: *The life of a copper-plate ... if the plate is not to be used after it has commenced to show signs of wear, would be about 25,000 pulls*.' On this evidence, after Printing 6 had been completed in June 1939, the 2 cents plate had just about reached the end of its normal working life. On the other hand, it needs to be pointed out that the 5 cents plate had printed 56,161 sheets by then and the 4 cents was to produce even more, a massive 58,358 sheets between 1919 and 1940, and both these plates, like the 2 cents, had been electrotyped.

this does seem rather cumbersome, however, and mention of the plate, in the circumstances, somewhat superfluous.

No doubt there will be some who will point to the different 'versions' of the die these two stamps represent and prefer to continue calling them Die I and Die II. Indeed, the letter from the Crown Agents to the Commonwealth Stamp Company in 1952, mentioned in the previous section, had this to say about the 2 cents:

Two dies were made of the 2 cents stamp, the second die being used, in 1939, to make Plate 2, which was first put to press in 1940.

It has to be said, however, that there is no record of such a die in any of the Crown Agents records although, admittedly, for this period, the records are somewhat incomplete. Neither has a proof been recorded for a second die, and the stamps themselves, as shown above, bear no evidence of having been printed from a separate die apart from the figures of value. (It needs to be emphasised, again, that a secondary die is *not* the same thing as a second die in the sense being used here.) The conclusion must be that this statement by the Crown Agents was a quick and convenient way of explaining the introduction of secondary dies, first used for the 2 cents in 1940, and that they were saying, in effect, that two separate means had been employed to make the 2 cents value.

PLATE RETOUCHES

As sometimes happened with recess-printed stamps, the printers retouched some of the 'padi-sheaf' plates, i.e. made minor adjustments or repairs to the individual stamp impressions on the plate by hand. On the electrotyped plates, these must have been done before the plates received their chromium-plating.

Some particularly interesting examples of these can be found on the 5 cents value, most notably in the solid background of the oval frame containing the inscriptions, particularly around the Jawi word for Kedah at the top of the stamp, which was strengthened by considerable amounts of cross-hatching, each stamp being different. In Fig. 51, which shows a stamp before retouching, the original lines of engraving can be seen running parallel with the edge of the oval. In Fig. 52, a retouched example, these parallel lines have been crossed and recrossed, mainly at right-angles.

One can only hazard a guess as to the reason for this. It can hardly be as the result of the plate needing repair as every stamp seems to be affected. It may be that the printer felt the stamps needed more 'body'. The yellow ink used in the first printing was certainly a little weak and lacking in depth, giving the stamp a somewhat pale, insipid look. The cross-hatching would have the effect of increasing the amount of ink in those areas and so slightly intensifying the colour. All the stamps on the plate appear to have received some attention so the amount of work must have been considerable. Perhaps the fault did lay with the choice of ink for the first printing and this is the reason why most of the subsequent printings used brighter shades which, at times, were more orange than yellow. It is only the stamps of the first printing in June 1922, including the 'Specimens', which do not show the retouching. From this one can assume that the retouching took place during the period between the first and second printing, the latter appearing in December 1922. This means that the chromium-facing on the plate would have had to have been floated off, the



Fig. 51 - Before retouching



Fig. 52 - After retouching

retouching done, and the plate re-coated – a great deal of work. The unretouched stamp is not particularly scarce – the first printing being of 4,157 sheets, almost half a million stamps.

Other values showing similar retouching are the 2 cents Type II, and the 6 cents. In both cases, however, unlike that of the 5 cents, the retouching is identical on each stamp indicating that it was not done on the separate impressions of the working plate. The explanation for this is that, in each case, it was the secondary die which received the printer's attention, further proof, if such was necessary, that the plates for these two values were made directly from steel dies and not the 'master plate'.

The third 'padi-sheaf' value produced from a secondary die, the 8 cents grey, shows no sign of retouching. Perhaps the printers felt the grey ink needed no strengthening.

It might also be mentioned that some 'padi-sheaf' values printed from the 'master plate' show retouches in the figures of value, most noticeably on the 2 cents Type I, the 4 cents violet and the 5 cents. Individual differences make it clear these were done on the working plates but may have been produced by the pantographed outline of the figures of value being filled in by hand-engraving.

2. VARIATIONS IN SIZE

Perhaps the feature of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps on Multiple Script CA paper that has most intrigued collectors in the past is the different sizes to be found in many of the values. There are two basic sizes, one measures 18.75 mm by 22.5 mm and the other 19.25 mm by 22.75 mm. In the smaller size quite a range of variation exists. The horizontal measurement of the design varies from 18.5–18.9 mm and the vertical measurement from 22.25–22.5 mm. The larger size too, is subject to variation – from 19.1–19.4 mm in the width and from 22.5–22.8 mm in the height. What is most noticeable about the large stamps, however, is that far fewer of them vary from the 'norm', most being exactly 19.25 mm by 22.75 mm.

In addition to the two main sizes of stamp described above is an even larger size found for, what is thought to be, just one printing of the 1 cent black from Plate 1. The dimensions of this stamp are an exceptional 19.25 mm by 23–23.5 mm (Fig. 53). The explanation for these unusually large vertical measurements has been given in the previous section, i.e. they were the result of damage to the plate during printing.

Fig. 53 – The stamp on the left is the extra large 19.25 x 23.5 mm. The other measures 18.75 x 22.5 mm.



In relative terms the differences in these sizes are not very great, but when the large and small stamps are put side by side the contrast is really noticeable and not always just because of the sizes. The smaller stamps can occasionally be rather lacking in definition and, under a glass, the lines of the design appear somewhat indistinct and the ink 'smudgy'. The larger stamps, on the other hand, are clearer and bolder, with the individual lines, particularly in the areas of solid shading, easier to pick out.

The size differences attracted a fair amount of comment in articles in the philatelic press both during and after the Second World War, particularly around 1951/52, and a great number of theories were advanced to explain them, the most extraordinary being a multiplicity of dies in different sizes, but other explanations involving different positions of the design on varying sizes of transfer rollers and printing cylinders were also discussed at length. There is no doubt, however, that, assuming the die is not altered, the only two ways in which recess-engraved stamps can vary significantly in size are: (i) by the dimensions of the stamp impressions on the plate changing, and (ii) by the paper on which the stamps have been printed stretching or shrinking.* The former can occur when the shape of the plate is changed by curving it to fit around a printing cylinder, and the latter

* As was mentioned in Chapter 10 and will be dealt with later in this one, the stamp impressions on the plate may be fractionally larger than the die, possibly because of the nature of the transfer process, but this is not a case of the stamps varying in size.

frequently occurred as a natural consequence of the wetting of the paper which was formerly necessary in recess-printing. There are no lack of examples of both in the printing of line-engraved postage stamps around the world, and there is no doubt that both processes were part of De La Rue's working practices in the period during which the stamps of Kedah were produced, 1912 - 1940. However, apart from one exception, the balance of evidence points strongly to De La Rue's change from 'wet' printing to 'dry' printing as the sole cause of the size varieties in the 'padi-sheaf' stamps.

In the following two sections are summaries of the evidence that exists to show to what extent De La Rue used these processes in the production of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps and how the stamps themselves were thus affected, in the light of the information that is generally available on each subject in philatelic literature. It has to be admitted that the evidence is somewhat meagre and the information little better. The evidence has largely been found in brief references in the Crown Agents and De La Rue records and observable differences in the stamps themselves and in their marginal markings. The subject of curving plates has been almost totally ignored by most books dealing with stamp printing and that of 'wet' and 'dry' printing is usually only touched upon in a very generalised way. The main source of hard facts has been notes in stamp catalogues dealing with stamp issues of other countries and these are sketchy to say the least.

ROTARY PRINTING

It is not necessary to give a detailed description of the advantages of rotary printing over flat-bed printing, it being sufficient to say that the former is very much faster and considerably more cost-effective. Nor is there a need to more than briefly mention the technical differences between the two. In simple terms, the commonest form of flat-bed printing involved the plate passing between two cylinders, known as pressure rollers or rolling presses, mounted one above the other. The rotary press retained these vertically mounted cylinders but the plate was now fixed to, and revolved with, the lower one, known as the printing cylinder, which meant that the plate had to be curved. Modifying the old plates so that they could fit round the printing cylinder appears to have been a cheaper alternative to making new ones, although, it seems, even new plates had to be curved with the stamp impressions already in place as, at this time, the methods used to lay down a recess plate required it to be flat. (By the Second World War, or soon after it, transfers could be made direct to the cylinder.) There were various ways in which the curving could be done but the one favoured by De La Rue, according to Easton, was passing the plate between rollers of different sizes moving at differing speeds.

Curving a plate can enlarge the dimensions of its stamp impressions by roughly the same amounts as the differences between the two basic sizes of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps given above, and this fact may have been responsible for faulty conclusions being drawn in the past. The enlargement is caused by the outer side of the flat plate (the side bearing the stamp impressions) being stretched as the metal accommodates the larger circumference of the outside measurement of the curve. The amount of this enlargement will depend on a number of factors and these factors are dealt with in Note 1 at the end of this chapter.

Two important points need to be borne in mind when considering this question. The first is that curving a plate need not enlarge a stamp at all if the inside of the plate contracts

sufficiently, a fact which seems to have been ignored by writers on this matter in the past.* Secondly, if enlargement does occur, only one dimension of the stamp will be affected, i.e. the side of the stamp following the curve of the cylinder, as this is the only direction the flat plate will have to stretch (or contract) in the curving process, the other dimension remaining unaltered. This is one of the reasons why a change from flat-bed to rotary printing, which almost certainly took place during the lifetime of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, cannot be regarded as the primary cause of the size variations, as the latter exist on both measurements of the stamps. There is an extremely small possibility that it was responsible for the very largest of the 1 cent stamps as their increase in size is on one dimension only (the height), but this seems very unlikely in the light of current information which indicates another, very different cause.

The stamps themselves and the available records also suggest that the change from flat-bed to rotary printing had nothing to do with the different sizes, as postmarked copies of the large-sized stamps do not begin to appear in Kedah until 1933, nearly ten years after the De La Rue and Crown Agents records indicate the alteration in printing method took place. The evidence in the records comes from two sources. The first is the booklet *The Banknote* published by De La Rue in 1971, an extract from which is contained in Appendix 3. This booklet was mentioned in the section 'Type I and Type II' and describes the new ideas and fresh skills brought into the Company in 1922 leading, in the next few years, to the development and construction of a press known as the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press, which, almost certainly, was used to print Kedah's recess stamps at this time. This press was in use in the 1920s and would have needed curved plates. The second is the brief notes by which the clerks identified the plates in the Crown Agents Plate Issue Books (q.v. in Appendix 4, 'The Crown Agents Records') when they were released to De La Rue to fulfil orders for reprints of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps. Border-plates, or, in the case of the 'padi-sheaves', 'combined' plates, were usually identified just by their duty but often the clerk added a helpful note, amongst which was sometimes the single word 'rotary'. Four values were annotated in this way: 1 cent (in 1924), 3 cents (in 1925), 5 cents (in 1925) and 4 cents (in 1926). There were no further references to a rotary 'padi-sheaf' plate after 1926, perhaps because, by then, conversion had been completed and there was no need to re-state the fact. Some 'padi-sheaf' plates (2 cents, 6 cents and 8 cents) were never described as 'rotary' but it is doubtful if there is any significance in this as, judging from the folio headings, there was no need for the clerks to mention whether the plates were rotary or not. (In any case, the latter two were almost certainly never used flat.) What emerges from these entries is that comparison of the stamps printed before and after the above dates show no difference in size whatsoever. If De La Rue had curved the plates they had found a way of doing so without enlarging the stamp impressions in any way.

* All the references to this subject in philatelic literature have been made on the apparent assumption that the plates involved were made of steel, whereas most of the Kedah plates used by De La Rue before the Second World War were electrolytically and therefore made, according to Easton, of an alloy of lead, tin and antimony. Whether these plates behaved similarly to steel when curved is not known but, being softer, it is more than possible they did not. For example, it has been put to the author that the excess metal on the compressed inner surface of the plate being curved could be much more easily 'lost' if it was made of soft alloy than if it was made of steel. This may well be the explanation for the fact that De La Rue were apparently able to curve their Kedah plates without affecting the stamps at all.

The marginal markings of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps support the evidence from the records. On the selvedge of those stamps printed after the dates given in the 'rotary' notes above, can be found large, somewhat smudged marks of colour which, in the clearest examples, appear to be the impressions of 'screw-heads' (Fig. 54). These are not to be confused with the bosses of colour added to the central guide-marks noted by Dr Wood and described more fully later in the chapter. These 'screw-heads' have been found on blocks of the 1 cent black, 2 cents Type I, 3 cents green, 4 cents violet and 5 cents. They occur at the bottom of the sheets only, sometimes at the corners of the pairs of horizontal lines which run round the outside of the sheets, or sometimes a few millimetres above. These 'screw-heads' have been confirmed by a former pre-war employee in the printing department of De La Rue (unfortunately not in the section printing the recess-engraved stamps) as the visible parts of screws used to secure the plate to the printing cylinder. They do not exist at the top of the sheet but here another change is evident in the marginal markings of the stamps with the 'screw-heads'. The pairs of lines, mentioned above, which run up the sides of the sheet 'fade out' just above the top row of stamps and the pair running along the top of the sheet are missing altogether.

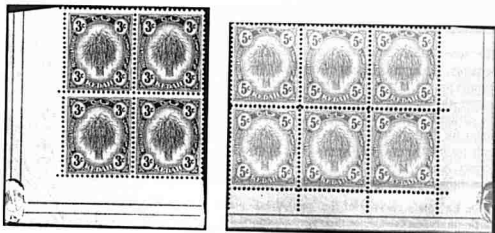


Fig. 54 - The 'screw-heads'.

The above-mentioned employee suggested an explanation for this change to the author. It seems that the printing cylinder was recessed at points on its circumference so that the top and the bottom of the plate could be inserted under 'gripper-rods' located there and held securely during printing. However, the adapted plates were not large enough to stretch between these two points which meant that only the top of the plate could be held in this way. The bottom would have had to be attached by some alternative method, most likely by screws driven directly into the cylinder. Two tapered shoulders would have been needed on the cylinder, just in front of the recesses containing the 'gripper-rods', in order to 'throw' the inking rollers, which revolved round the cylinder, clear of the recesses. The significance of the lines either side of the sheet petering out instead of ending abruptly now becomes apparent. As the inking rollers encountered the shoulders they would have been eased

gently away from the cylinder, rather than lifted off suddenly. The rollers would have been thrown clear of the top of the plate and, by so doing, avoided inking the double 'border of rules' which printed the two parallel lines along the top of the sheet.

All the foregoing points to the fact that, for the above-listed values, the sheets with the 'screw-heads' were rotary-printed, and those lacking the 'screwheads' were produced by the flat-bed process. All this evidence comes neatly together in two bottom corner blocks of the 3 cents green seen by the author. The first was in the green shade of the first printing that took place from 16.1.24 to 28.2.24 and the margins showed no signs of the 'screw-heads'. In the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book the plate which printed this block is described simply as 'Single Wkg' (single working). The second block, which was in the light green shade of the second printing of 21.5.25, showed the 'screw-heads' very clearly. A note in the Plate Issue Book dated 9.4.25, when the 3 cents plate was issued to the printers for this reprint, describes it now as 'Rotary. Plate'. So, it would seem that sometime between 1924 and 1925, this plate was curved. For Printing 1 it was in De La Rue's possession from 3.1.24 to 22.1.24 (19 days). For Printing 2 it was issued and returned on 9 and 15 April 1925 (6 days). Despite this fairly firm evidence that the 3 cents plate was adapted to rotary printing sometime between these two printing dates, there seems to be no discernible difference between the stamps, apart from the shade of ink used. (See Note 2 at the end of this chapter.)

The 'screw-heads' do not exist on the margins of the 6 cents and 8 cents values and, almost certainly, those of the 2 cents Type II (Plate 2) were without them also, although a large enough part of a sheet of this value has never been seen for this fact to be verified.* The reason why the Type II stamps are without the screwheads has already been mentioned in the earlier section of this chapter: 'Type I and Type II'. It is, almost certainly, that the plates for these values were purpose-made to fit round the printing cylinder so that both ends (or both sides) fitted under the 'gripper-rods', thus avoiding the need for retaining screws. As these plates were the same 'set' size (120) as the electrotyped plates, one pair of margins, at least, must have been extremely large to enable this to be done.

If De La Rue's curving of the 'padi-sheaf' plates in the 1920s had no effect, perhaps surprisingly, on the size of their recess-printed stamps, the same can certainly not be said of the company's introduction of 'dry' printing in the 1930s.

'WET' AND 'DRY' PRINTING

The reason why the paper used to print stamps by the recess-engraved process had to be thoroughly damp and how this was achieved has already been covered in Chapter 10 and in Note 1 at the end of it. Briefly it was because when the paper was dry it was too stiff to be forced into the recesses of the design. Wetting the paper made it softer and more malleable, enabling pressure from the cylinder to squeeze it into even the smallest recesses on the plate and pick up the ink. The absorption of the water naturally made the paper expand. At the moment of printing, the 'stamp' would have, by necessity, to equal the size and shape of the impression on the plate, but as the paper dried it shrank and thus the stamp

* The largest block seen by the author was of 30 stamps (stamps 3-7 of rows 5-10 with the bottom margin attached) bearing the Japanese Occupation 'Dai Nippon 2602' overprint.

was reduced in size.* It usually did not reduce by equal amounts on each dimension, however, and the reason for this is given in Note 3 at the end of this chapter. Basically, it is because machine-made paper expands and shrinks less in the direction of its weave (the way it comes off the machine) than against its weave. The greater difference between one dimension than the other on the two sizes of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps is typical of what would be produced by the differential shrinkage characteristic of machine-made paper.

In the extract from the De La Rue history of banknote printing contained in the last section of Appendix 3, 'The De La Rue Records', referred to earlier, is a description of the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press which was brought into use around the mid-twenties. This press and its capabilities was mentioned in the section 'Type I and Type II'. It was known amongst De La Rue's employees as the 'mangle' - a nickname which might have been conferred either because of its appearance, or its destructive potential, or both. Its main feature consisted of two cylinders around one of which was wrapped the plate. The cylinders were mounted one above the other and set in a heavy frame. It was extremely solid in construction and, like the domestic implement after which it was named, it could exert a great deal of pressure on the plate - up to several tons at the point of contact between the two cylinders. Eventually, this greater pressure was utilised by the printers to devise a way for the 'mangle' to print stamps and banknotes from recess plates on dry, or almost dry, paper, a revolutionary improvement for which De La Rue received, not only the credit, but a considerable amount of extra business.

The benefits of this innovation were considerable. Hitherto the presses had been relatively slow-working as, following the wetting and printing (which in the case of bi-coloured stamps had to be done twice with the paper being dried in an electrically-heated flue after each occasion) there was further delay while the gum was applied. The paper then had to be re-dried yet again before the sheets were perforated. With the new press the paper could usually be pre-gummed which meant that no drying at all was necessary after the printing stage. Not only was the process much faster but the many complications caused by variable paper shrinkage were also eliminated.

The De La Rue extract, mentioned above, speaks of: *'The Company's first efforts to print dry were in the late 1920s and early 1930s ...'* but most writers on the subject put the date of the first 'dry' printings between 1933 and 1935 and this may be when De La Rue actually began using this method to produce stamps commercially. The former year is certainly when, judging from dated postmarks, the first large 'padi-sheaf' stamps began to be issued in Kedah (earliest confirmed date so far is a printing of the 5 cents on 27.11.1933).

Postmark evidence shows that nearly all the 'padi-sheaf' stamps issued after 1933 were 'dry' printed. However, both Plate 1 and Plate 2 of the 1 cent stamps exist in the small and large sizes, i.e. both were printed by the 'wet' and 'dry' methods. As Plate 2, on the evidence of the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book, was not first used until 15.7.37-12.8.37 (these are the dates the plate was held by De La Rue), which is four years after 'dry' printing of the

* The pressure of the press during printing also stretched the paper by a very small amount but this was of little significance as it would be nullified by shrinkage. Even with 'dry-printing' it did not appear to enlarge the stamp by an amount that could be measured by any means at the disposal of the average collector.

Kedah 'padi-sheaves' commenced, then quite obviously there was recourse to the 'wet' printing method after 1933. The evidence of postmarks makes it certain that this 'wet' printing of the 1 cent Plate 2 took place on 18 August 1938 (Printing 8 on the 1 cent list). What is significant is that this is the date the only other value which appears to have been 'wet' printed during the 'dry' period was also produced. This is the 'small-sized' perf. 13.8 Line variety of the Type 1 2 cents green. No dated postmark earlier than December 1938 has been found on this stamp and so, unless earlier marks come to light, it must be assigned the August 1938 date (Printing 6 on the 2 cents list) given in the Crown Agents Requisition Book. The latter shows that these two values were the only 'padi-sheaf' stamps printed on that requisition order.

As far as can be ascertained these printings are the only 'wet' ones that occurred after De La Rue switched to 'dry' printing for the 'padi-sheaves' and it would be interesting to know the reason for them. Catalogues show that De La Rue continued with 'wet' printing for other countries well into the 1940s at least, possibly for contractual reasons, and so 'wet' presses were certainly in regular use at this time. The cause of the single Kedah instance may have been one of operational necessity or, perhaps, the result of an error. Presumably 'wet' and 'dry' printings required separate presses and possibly a 'dry' press was not available when the order for the 1 cent and 2 cents stamps had to be completed, or a 'wrong' press was used. (This subject is touched on again in the section headed 'The Printings' at the end of this chapter.)

In view of their origin, it is surprising that the smaller 'padi-sheaf' stamps are as uniform as they are. On the other hand, as the larger stamps are supposed to have been printed on dry paper it is perhaps surprising to find any variation amongst these at all. The explanation for the latter could possibly be that paper-stretch during printing is as variable a factor as shrinkage, but is much more likely to be that the word 'dry' in this context is a relative term, and that even the so-called 'dry' paper had to be dampened a little by the printers to give it some flexibility, thereby making it liable to some very small amount of shrinkage. This was confirmed to the author by the printers who categorically stated that recess stamps could not be successfully printed on totally dry paper and described the measures they were forced to take to ensure it did not dry out completely, such as covering it with damp sacks while it was waiting to be fed into the press. (See the moisture-content figures provided by Scott's Catalogue for the printing of US line-engraved stamps quoted in Note 1 at the end of Chapter 10. This note also provides evidence that modern developments in recess printing have made the use of absolutely dry paper possible.)

With the introduction of 'dry' printing and the virtual elimination of paper shrinkage, a much better idea of the size of the die should now have been possible as, logically, it should have been the size of the larger stamps – 19.25 x 22.75 mm, the reasoning being that the 'dry' printed stamps were equal to the impressions on the plate which, in turn, must have been equal to the dimensions of the die that had, directly or indirectly, made them. This is broadly true but a number of technical factors need to be taken into consideration and these are dealt with in Notes 4 and 5 at the end of this chapter.

Only with the 4 cents violet are there stamps with intermediate sizes which cause problems of classification, but even with this value there is no difficulty in separating stamps with a horizontal measurement of less than 19 mm ('wet' printed) from those with a horizontal

measurement of over 19 mm ('dry' printed). No claim is made that these size varieties have any real philatelic significance apart from the fact that they can help, when taken in conjunction with other factors such as shade of ink and perforation differences, of separating different printings. An attempt to do this using information taken from the Crown Agents Requisition Books has been made in the section headed 'The Printings' at the end of this chapter.

All the values exist in the smallest size, i.e. 18.75 mm by 22.5 mm, with the exception of the 8 cents which was not issued until after 1935 when wet printings for the Kedah 'padi-sheaves' mainly ceased. All those values reprinted after 1935 – the 1 cent black, 2 cents green, 4 cents violet, 5 cents yellow and 6 cents carmine – also exist in the larger size although in the case of the 6 cents it is slightly bigger still – 19.5 mm by 22.75 mm. The other Type II values, the 2 cents reprint and the 8 cents, are also of this size. This means that the stamp impressions on the Type II (steel) plates were slightly larger than the impressions on the Type I (electrotyped) plates (by approximately 0.25 mm on the horizontal measurement) and that this had been obscured by paper shrinkage when the first stamp printed from a secondary die appeared in 1926 with the issue of the 6 cents carmine. In fact, a finely drawn rule shows that the 1926 6 cents stamps are fractionally larger than the other 'small' values (on average that is, as like all the others, they are not constant owing to variable paper shrinkage).

This may be puzzling when it is remembered that the same transfer die (taken from the composite master die) was used to produce both the 'master plate' and the secondary dies of the Type II stamps which should make them, at least on the face of it, the same size. However, the stamp impressions on the steel plates of the Type II values were the result of an extra transfer process compared to those on the electrotyped plates of the Type I stamps, i.e. the Type II stamp impression underwent one transfer process when the secondary die was made from the transfer die and a second when the denominated secondary die was used to lay down the printing plate; while the Type I stamps were involved in only one transfer process – when the 'master plate' was made from the composite die. There is evidence (contained in Note 5) that some aspect of the transfer process seemed to enlarge the new image and this might provide the explanation for the different sizes of Types I and II, as, if this did occur, the impressions on the Type II plates would have been enlarged twice, those on the Type I plates only once.

It has to be admitted that there is no incontrovertible evidence which shows that the two basic sizes of 'padi-sheaf' stamps were caused by the change from 'wet' to 'dry' printing. This is mainly because, as can be seen in Note 6, there is no inherent characteristic in the stamps themselves by which the two can be separated, and which is reasonably detectable by the human eye, apart from size but, as has been made clear, size differences can have more than one origin. However, on balance, there cannot be much doubt that it was the cause. In Note 7 are details of an experiment undertaken by the author to show that the small-size 'padi-sheaf' stamps could, when made thoroughly wet, have been equal in size to the larger ones. A selection of 'small' stamps were soaked in water and their amount of expansion and subsequent contraction measured. The results, though not in any way a proof, show that the idea is entirely within the realms of possibility.

THE ABNORMAL SIZE VARIATIONS OF THE 1 CENT BLACK

The 1 cent black can be found with several much bigger vertical dimensions than the normal large-size stamps. Some are as large as 23.5 mm but they can be anything from 23–23.5 mm. Judging from dated postmarks, they all appear to have come from the same printing – Printing 6 dated 19.12.35 – which, remarkably, also produced stamps of normal size. Even more remarkable is that these extra-large stamps exceed what must have been the vertical dimension of the stamp impressions on the plate (22.75 mm) and therefore the size of the die. Small sizes can be explained by paper shrinkage but sizes larger than the original stamp impressions need another explanation altogether.

The first thought, exceptional paper-stretch, was rejected because of the amount of expansion that would have been necessary. In a note in the section headed 'The Printings' at the end of this chapter is an account of how this mystery was solved by the discovery of a single sheet (illustrated in Figs 60–63) containing all the various sizes of the extra-large stamps. As has already been explained in the section '1 Cent – Plate 2', Plate 1 became distorted during use causing not only a number of the stamp impressions to be enlarged vertically, but also misshaping them enough to make them less than perfect rectangles. This created problems of perforation requiring the use of two different machines on the same sheet. Significantly, the plate was not used again, being replaced by Plate 2 when the 1 cent was next reprinted in 1937.

3. DIFFERENCES IN PERFORATIONS

The 'padi-sheaf' values exist with an unusually large number of perforation varieties, these being the direct result of the problem of perforating sheets of stamps which had shrunk by variable amounts after 'wet' printing. This problem persisted during the whole of the time De La Rue were printing line-engraved stamps using 'wet' paper. John Easton had this to say on the subject:

The variation in the paper when dried is so considerable that it is at times necessary to sort out the printed and dried sheets into as many as seven sizes in order to make sure of perforating them correctly.

In De La Rue's *The Banknote*, an added complication is mentioned:

*... the plate layout had to be made bigger than the required finished print size to allow for paper shrinkage ...**

When reading of the difficulties the printers had in this respect, and the sheet wastage which had to be allowed for during the perforating operation, one can only imagine what their reaction might have been to one suggestion in an article on the 'padi-sheaf' stamps that the Company deliberately shrank the sheets to fit their perforating machines!

* Speaking of the 'dry-printing' period of the 1930s the printers told the author that, even at that time, the plate lay-out had to be about 0.5 mm bigger than the required print size. This does not seem a great deal spread over the entire height of the sheet but was a complicating factor for the transfer department to cope with in what was already a complex procedure. It is also further evidence that even the 'dry' paper contained enough moisture to cause a small amount of shrinkage.

Both line and comb machines were used on the 1 cent black, 2 cents Type I, 4 cents violet, 5 cents and 6 cents. So far, the 1 cent brown, 3 cents green and 4 cents red have been found only with a comb perforation and the 2 cents Type II, 3 cents purple and 8 cents only with a line. A comb machine was used on the early issues in the twenties, the later issues and reprints almost invariably appearing with line. The exception is the 3 cents purple which, though it was issued in 1921, has been found perforated only by a line machine.

The range of perforation differences on the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, using an *Instanta* gauge, is from 13.7 to 14.2. These differences are barely large enough to register on the divisions on the left-hand side of the *Instanta* and so the latter have to be ignored. Measuring to within one tenth of a perforation presents difficulties, however, as it has been found that different *Instanta* gauges, even of the modern clear plastic type, give slightly different readings - up to 0.2 on a single measurement, and the warning given in Note 3, 'Variable Paper Shrinkage', that differences in room humidity can affect measurements, must also be taken into account. (See also Note 8.) With these considerations in mind it is recommended that when collectors are identifying perforations they concentrate on the differences in the measurements rather than the precise measurements themselves. In other words, whether an individual stamp measures 13.8 by 14.2 or 13.5 by 13.9, depending on the gauge or room conditions, matters not at all. What is important is that the stamp has a compound perforation and can be placed in a particular category as such.

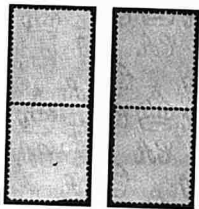


Fig. 55

There seems to be only one set of measurements for the comb perforation, 13.8 by 14.2 (measuring the top of the stamp first) although this may vary by a tenth either way on some stamps, depending, no doubt, on the degree of paper shrinkage. It could be that there was only one type of comb machine used. On the other hand three separate measurements have been found for the line perforation: 14.2, 13.8 and a compound 14.2 by 13.8. (The reason for compound perforations is given in Note 9.) It might be a mistake, however, to make any kind of assumption about the number of line machines used, as De La Rue appear to have had, not only machines with different gauges, but also machines with the same gauge but different sizes of perforating pins. In Fig. 55 are two pairs of the 4 cents violet. One



Fig. 56

has holes large enough to make the 'teeth' appear almost pointed, while the other has holes which are so small that they cause 'pulling' of the perforations. Both have a measurement of 13.8.

A further indication of the difficulty experienced by the printers in perforating the smaller ('wet' printed) stamps is the existence of compound varieties which show that different machines were used to perforate the same stamp. The 1 cent black (Plate 1) has been reported perforated line 13.8 by 13.8 by 14.2 by 13.8 (measuring the top of the stamp first) and this type of variety was confirmed by F. R. B. Summers, in an article in *Stamp Collecting* dated 31 August 1951, entitled 'Still More Light on the Kedah Rice Sheaf Issue'. In this article Mr Summers recorded seeing a block of the line perforated 1 cent black from Plate 1, having just one horizontal line of perforations measuring 14 and all the remaining lines



Fig. 57

13.7. This block was obviously from Printing 6, the last from Plate 1, during the course of which the plate was damaged and produced sheets similar to the one illustrated in Figs 60-63. This sheet contained not only the extra-large stamps but also other stamps of varying sizes, some of which were perforated by two different line machines. Blocks from the top eight rows of this sheet (as long as they included the eighth row) would give perforation measurements similar to the ones described by Mr Summers above. (See the later section headed 'The Printings'.)

Illustrated in Fig. 56 is a 1 cent black from Printing 5 which, although it measures 13.8 line on all four sides, must have been perforated by two different machines. The one responsible for the vertical sides had pins with a diameter of 1 mm, while the pins on the one used for the horizontal sides had a diameter of 0.8 mm. The difference in the width of the 'teeth' of the two sets of perforations can be clearly seen.

A similar example of a 1 cent stamp with a constant measurement but which has obviously been perforated by two different machines is illustrated in Fig. 57. It is from Printing 8, the late 'wet' printing from the new 1 cent plate (Plate 2) dated 18.8.38. The return of wet paper and paper shrinkage for this printing meant the return also of the printers' old problem when perforating the sheets. This stamp has wide 'teeth' and small holes top and bottom and narrow 'teeth' and large holes on the sides though, again, the line perforation measures 13.8 on all four sides. Certainly, both variations and similarities of perforation must be treated with caution in helping to identify stamps from different printings.

THE 'PADI-SHEAF' STAMPS AND THE CATALOGUE

The question of the worthiness of catalogue status for the 'padi-sheaf' varieties identified above has often been raised in the past. The perforation variations are indeed small and it is not surprising that they have been ignored by all but the specialists, and the difference between line and comb perforation has never been deemed worthy of anything more than a footnote mention in the standard catalogues. The size variations, on the other hand, although apparently fairly slight, are much more obvious when the stamps are compared side by side, and the listing of the most prominent of these would be justified, particularly as there are precedents in other Commonwealth countries such as Grenada. Failing that, there at least seems sufficient grounds for a footnote to be made on similar lines to that after the 1924-37 issue of Brunei.

Shade of ink is a criterion which has appealed to catalogue editors when varieties are contemplated, and the one stamp which is at present not listed but which may have grounds for inclusion in this regard is the 5 cents orange from the printing of 27.11.33. This stamp offers a strong contrast to the original 1922 printing in size and perforation, but, above all, shade of ink, as it is much more orange than yellow. (The existence of a number of other stamps from different printings with 'intermediate' shades might be a problem here, however.) These grounds appear to be exactly the same as those which gained catalogue recognition for the 1940 reprint of the 6 cents carmine-red which, with its large size owing to 'dry' printing, a change to line perforation and its striking variation in shade of ink, was a popular and long-awaited addition to the Kedah lists. When it was eventually included, however, it was on the one claim which had no real basis in fact – that it was produced from a different die to that of its predecessor. As we have seen, it was not produced by a different master die, or a second transfer die, or a second plate, or even a modified second plate. Its only grounds for inclusion, therefore, is as a colour shade of the 1926 stamp which, on the evidence presented, should also be described as 'Type II'. At present (1994) the listing for the 6 cents in *SG Part I* is ambiguous, to say the least, as it states that the 1926 stamp is from Die I. If, by that, is meant it was produced by the first of the dies made for the 6 cents, it is, strictly speaking, true. Also, if what is inferred is that it was produced by the same master die as the other 'Die I' stamps then that is true too. But if either of these meanings is intended, how can the 1940 stamp be described as 'Die II' when it was produced, not only by the same die, but by the same plate? That is not to say the inclusion of the 6 cents reprint is not justified, but if a catalogue user ever attempts to find a difference between the design of the two he will seek in vain. However, of all the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, this is perhaps the hardest, and one of the most satisfying, to find with a postmark dated before the Japanese Occupation.

Before leaving the 5 cents value, a claim for listing the original printing of June 1922 might be made on the grounds that it is the only stamp printed from the plate in its original condition, i.e. before it was retouched. The retouching can be seen quite clearly in Fig. 52 in an earlier section of this chapter.

The 1 cent black is another anomaly because there are no grounds whatsoever for it to appear in a catalogue as a 'Die II' stamp, unless the word 'Die' is used in the loosest of senses. The die that was used in the production of both Plate 1 and Plate 2 was one and the

same, and certainly never re-drawn. The only difference between the two plates is in the 'outline' that was used by the pantograph when the new figures of value were engraved. Consequently, there seems no better way of describing the two varieties than 'Type I, Plate 1' and 'Type I, Plate 2'. However, in a page of varieties of 1 cent stamps the one that would stand out most prominently would be the largest of those produced from the last printing from Plate 1 (Printing 6), the 'outside' 19.25 mm x 23.5 mm stamp. As can be seen in Fig. 53, it stands supreme even to the naked eye. On the other hand, explaining the grounds for its inclusion might tax even the most resourceful catalogue editor.

Having excluded the 1 cent black from the list of Type II values this leaves only the 2 cents which can fairly claim to exist printed from the two different types of plates: Type I: Electrotyped, and Type II: Steel. The 8 cents grey also needs to join the Type II stamps as it, too, was produced from a steel plate laid down from a secondary die. As is obvious from the illustration on Colour Plate 8, the 8 cents red was produced from the same plate as the 8 cents grey and so, had it been issued, would have joined it as a Type II stamp. Yet another unissued stamp, the 3 cents green of 1941, might have made the fifth on the list. In the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book, under Requisition No. 1840/1, a 3 cents green plate described as 'SW No. 1' (Single Working Plate No. 1) was drawn and returned by De La Rue on 6.11.41. The Crown Agents Requisition Book shows that 252 sheets of this stamp were actually printed, though never shipped, owing to the Japanese invasion of Malaya. The original printings of the 3 cents green in 1924/25 were never described as being from Plate No. 1 and the margins were certainly not thus inscribed, so possibly this was a new plate and if so, was almost certainly made of steel from a new secondary die. Unfortunately no copies seem to have survived.

Mention has already been made of the letter from the Crown Agents to Mr F. E. Metcalfe of the Commonwealth Stamp Co., Liverpool, regarding 'padi-sheaf' dies. There were, indeed, two letters on the subject, and Mr F. Bentley Kettle who, having claimed to have personally inspected their contents, summarised the facts from them in a letter to *Stamp Collecting* of 11 July 1952, as follows:

- (1) *One die only was prepared for the 1 cent stamp and from this die two plates were made.*
- (2) *Two dies were made of the 2 cents stamp, the second die being used, in 1939, to make Plate 2, which was first put to press in 1940.*
- (3) *One die only existed for the 6 cents value.*

The Crown Agents' reference to two dies for the 2 cents has already been dealt with in the section on this stamp earlier in the chapter.

MARGINAL ROUND BOSSES OF COLOUR

Chapter 15 contains a note regarding the small round bosses of colour which can be found attached to the guide marks in the margins of sheets from later printings of some 'Malay ploughing' values. These also occur on the 1 cent printed from Plate 1 (see Figs 60-63) and, perhaps, exist on sheets of other late-printed 'padi-sheaf' stamps. Dr Wood's description of the location of these bosses on the margins is included in the note (q.v.). He was

of the opinion that they were of some use to the printers but could offer no explanation as to their purpose. Regrettably, the De La Rue printers consulted by the author were unable to throw any light on the matter.

PLATE FLAWS

The following constant flaws can be found and it is very likely there are others. Care should be taken in looking for blemishes, as recess-printing was notorious for producing minor vagaries of inking, the majority of which are not constant.

1 CENT BLACK

- (1) Later printings from Plate 1 show a worn part on the inner line of the oval with a black dash across it just below the first character of the Jawi word for 'Kedah' on R3/11 (stamp No. 35 on the sheet).
- (2) On Plate 2 the 'c' in the bottom right-hand value oval has an elongated tail on R3/6 (stamp No. 30 on the sheet).

4 CENTS RED & 4 CENTS VIOLET

- (1) The damage to the base of the stalks of the padi-sheaf described in Chapter 11, known as the 'short-sheaf' flaw and shown in Fig. 58, has been found on R10/1 (stamp No. 109) of both the 4 cents red and the 4 cents violet. (It has not been found on Printing 3 of the latter but this is not surprising in view of its apparent rarity. However, as the flaw exists on Printings 4, 5 and 6 it must surely exist on Printing 3 also.) In Chapter 11 a possible explanation was given for this type of flaw. In contrast to a scratch or crack on the plate which left a coloured mark on the stamp, this is a white area created when

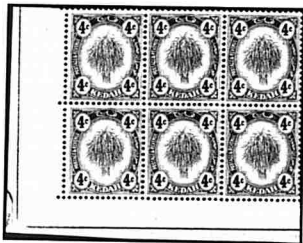


Fig. 58 – The 'Short-Sheaf' Flaw. Part of the bottom of the stalks and a small part of the vignetting, including a section of the inner frame line, are all missing on the lower left stamp.

the recesses of the stamp impression became clogged. Dried ink from a previous printing could have been the culprit although normally plates were thoroughly washed before being returned to the Crown Agents.

6 CENTS CARMINE

- (1) Extra lines giving a doubling effect to the tops of the '6' and the 'c' can be seen in the value ovals of several stamps on the sheet, notably on R10/8 (stamp No. 116) where it exists in all four ovals, and on R10/1 (stamp No. 109) where it is most noticeable in the top right oval. A typical example is shown in Fig. 59. These appear to be simple re-entries and occur when the impression from the transfer roller has been re-aligned and then 're-entered' onto the plate without the original entry having been entirely removed.



Fig. 59

USED IN PERLIS

All the 'padi-sheaf' values printed on Multiple Script paper are known used in Perlis, indeed, those which were needed to pay the local postage rates during this period, such as the 2 cents, 4 cents, 5 cents and 8 cents, are fairly common. Whether every one of the printings of all thirteen different values, colours and types can be found with Perlis postmarks must be in some doubt, however, as the distribution of each consignment from London by the General Post Office in Alor Star would almost certainly have depended on local demand, and from the smaller offices (those other than Alor Star, Kulim and Sungei Patani), particularly, indents for new supplies must have been relatively few and irregular. Printings 8 and 9 of the 1 cent black (the small- and large-size stamps from Plate 2), the Type II 2 cents and the 1940 reprint of the 6 cents have all been recorded with a Perlis postmark.

There were two post offices open in Perlis during the period of use of the Multiple Script paper although one, Padang Besar, was only a railway agency. The cancellations they were using at this time may be seen in Chapter 24, 'The Postmarks'.

DE LA RUE DURING WORLD WAR II

On the night of 29/30 December 1940, in the course of an incendiary attack on London during the Second World War, De La Rue's printing works at Bunhill Row were very nearly destroyed, together with the greater part of the plant and equipment. This, as the Stamp Centenary Number of the Company's *Journal* records:

... was a set-back that might have proved fatal had it not been for the generous co-operation of competitors and printers in similar lines of business. Waterlows, Harrisons, and Bradbury Wilkinson came to the rescue with outstanding stamp orders ...*

As De La Rue were not printing any Kedah stamps at the time of the raid one presumes no plates were lost, they being held by the Crown Agents in their Bunhill Row safes, as were

* To this list can be added Williams Lea & Co. Ltd, London. (Article in *Geosix*, April 1984.)

the dies. As far as Kedah is concerned, the main casualty appears to have been the loss of some, at least, of De La Rue's records, including the 'Private Day Books' for the period January 1938 to May 1941, although it cannot be said with certainty that the raid was the cause of their disappearance, or, in the case of the 1941 books, their failure to be maintained.

The only stamps produced for Kedah subsequent to the raid and before the Japanese Occupation were consignments of the 3 cents green and 8 cents red which were printed in November and October, respectively, of 1941. Neither of these values was issued because of the Japanese invasion of Malaya. A single copy of the 8 cents is in the Crown Agents archive material held in the British Library. This appears to have been printed from the same plate as the 8 cents grey but there is no way of knowing whether it was produced by De La Rue or one of their 'competitors'. As Kedah's higher values, 10 cents to \$5, were being printed by Waterlow at this time, they would not have been affected by the raid. However, Waterlow's premises were also damaged in the blitz when it is thought proofs of the two 1937 sets (the 'postage' set and the 'revenue' set) were destroyed. (See Chapter 19.)

CHECK-LIST

In listing the varieties of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps according to size and perforation (and also mainly in chronological order of issue) there is no claim to comprehensiveness. Other perforation varieties may exist in some values, especially Type I of the 2 cents green. Only three stamps have been listed on grounds of shade of ink alone, the 1 cent in a deep shade of black, a 3 cents pale green and a 5 cents orange. One or two others are mentioned but only where they are obvious, even on used stamps, e.g. the 6 cents carmine-red. In these cases the stamps have some other means of identification.

TYPE I (Printed from ELECTROTYPED plates)

1 Cent Brown		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
		<i>As above.</i> Watermark Inverted.	
		<i>As above.</i> Watermark Inverted and Reversed.	
1 Cent Black	Plate 1	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
	Plate 1	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
			Deep Black.
	Plate 1	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2
	Plate 1	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	Plate 1	19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 13.8*
	Plate 1	19.25 mm x 23 mm	Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8*
	Plate 1	19.25 mm x 23.25-23.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8*
	Plate 1	Later Printings. 'Worm Oval' (R3/11).	
	Plate 2	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	Plate 2	19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	Plate 2	19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.2
	Plate 2	'Elongated tail on C' (R3/6).	

* These three varieties are all from the same printing.

MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA - THE 'PADI-SHEAF' VALUES

2 Cents Green	Plate 1	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
	Plate 1	18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	Plate 1	19.25 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	Plate 1	19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.1 x 13.8
3 Cents Purple		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2
	<i>An inverted wmk on this stamp has been reported but not confirmed.</i>		
3 Cents Green		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.1
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.1. Pale Green.
4 Cents Red		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.1
	<i>As above. 'Short Sheaf' flaw (R10/1).</i>		
4 Cents Violet		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
	<i>As above. 'Short Sheaf' flaw (R10/1).</i>		
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	<i>As above. 'Short Sheaf' flaw (R10/1).</i>		
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2
	<i>As above. 'Short Sheaf' flaw (R10/1).</i>		
		19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 13.8
	<i>As above. 'Short Sheaf' flaw (R10/1).</i>		
5 Cents Yellow		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2. Not Retouched.
	<i>As above. Watermark Inverted.</i>		
	<i>As above. Watermark Reversed.</i>		
	<i>As above. Watermark Inverted and Reversed.</i>		
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2. Retouched.
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 13.8
		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Line perf. 14.2
		19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 13.8. Orange.
		19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.2
	19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 13.8	
	19.25 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8. Yellow-Orange.	

TYPE II (Printed from STEEL plates)

2 Cents Green	Plate 2	19.5 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.1
6 Cents Carmine		18.75 mm x 22.5 mm	Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
	<i>As above. 'Doubled 6 and c' re-entries (R10/1 and R10/8).</i>		
		19.5 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.2. Carmine-Red.
	<i>As above. 'Doubled 6 and c' re-entries (R10/1 and R10/8).</i>		
8 Cents Grey	Plate 1	19.5 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14.2
	Plate 1	19.5 mm x 22.75 mm	Line perf. 14 x 14.2

THE PRINTINGS

The varieties of the 'padi-sheaf' values listed below were originally identified in the 1960s. When, twenty years later, the Crown Agents Records were made available for public inspection and dates of the printings of these stamps could be obtained, the opportunity was taken to match one against the other by means of their dated postmarks. Several interesting points emerged. Firstly, it appeared that De La Rue switched from using comb to line perforating machines for most of the 'padi-sheaf' values about 1925 or 1926. The second was that, as expected, the 'large' stamps (19.25 mm x 22.75 mm), thought to be the result of 'dry' printing, began to appear at the very time when writers spoke of De La Rue extending their use of this method. The third point was rather unexpected. It was that some 'small' stamps (18.75 mm x 22.5 mm) of the 1 cent and 2 cents values, i.e. those produced by the old 'wet' printing methods, were being used, and therefore presumably issued, as late as 1938. The last two points have already been dealt with in the main text of this chapter.

As the change from 'wet' to 'dry' printing is almost certainly to have been the main factor in the creation of the varieties of size of the 'padi-sheaf' values, as indeed it was in the stamps of many other territories, it is a pity the standard books on philately have so little to say on the subject. A claim in one article on Kedah stamps in 1952 that De La Rue changed from 'wet' to 'dry' printing during the period from 1933 to 1935 clearly cannot be correct in view of the fact that SG *Part 1* lists 'narrow' stamps, the result of 'wet' printing by the Company, for some Commonwealth countries long after that date – the 1943 10s of Grenada being just one example. The most authoritative source on this subject is De La Rue's booklet *The Banknote* (see Appendix 3). This publication, though dealing mainly with the printing of banknotes, throws interesting light on the changes De La Rue were making in printing methods at this time. In particular, mention is made of the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press. This machine solved the problem of how to exert sufficient pressure between plate and paper to enable the use of dry paper for recess printed stamps. It was so successful that '*... there came a period when a new machine was erected every two weeks until 44 machines were printing nearly a quarter of a million sheets of print every day.*' In view of this it is perhaps surprising that the older, and less cost-effective, 'wet printing' flat-bed presses were retained. There may have been particular reasons for this such as the need, in order to fulfil certain contracts, to continue with particular inks and papers which could only be used in 'wet' printing.

When using the following tables it is recommended they be regarded only as starting points for further research and not as established facts or collectors' check-lists. Many sections are somewhat speculative as a great deal of the evidence on which the ascriptions have been made has been provided by postmarks, some of which have been indicated where they appear to be of particular importance or interest. Postmarks, however, have one very serious drawback as a research tool in that although an early postmark can prove that a stamp was not part of a late printing the reverse is certainly not true.

Before any collector thinks of building upon the start made below he should bear in mind the following points. Firstly, it is very unlikely that every printing of stamps produced an identifiable variety. Indeed where printings followed closely after one another it is very

likely that the stamps they produced were indistinguishable, although one or two exceptions to this have been found. Secondly, differences in perforation or shade of ink do not, in themselves, offer proof of a different printing. As has been noted earlier in the chapter, even a single sheet may provide stamps of two different perforation measurements, and later on it will be seen that there can be considerable shade variation in the ink used in the course of just one printing. However, at one time during this research it was assumed that although there might be variations in perforation and shade in a single printing, size at least, would be constant. This was proved to be spectacularly wrong when different sizes of stamps were found, not only in one particular printing, but on a single sheet of 1 cent stamps.

The dates given are when the printings were despatched from London by the Crown Agents. The earliest date of issue should therefore be at least a month later. In some cases they might be considerably later, depending upon operational requirements.

The records giving the dates of despatch have proved useful in that they list the different values printed at the same time under one requisition order. These, it might be reasonably assumed, would be similar in terms of size and perforation and, indeed, this has proved to be the case. This similarity has been of assistance in identifying some printings and also raised the possibility that there are some varieties still undiscovered.

The De La Rue Day Books make it clear that where there are two dates entered against a requisition number in the Crown Agents records it usually indicates that the order was completed by the printers in two separate instalments. This, in effect, means two separate printings, the separation of which using postmarks is almost impossible coming so soon after one another. They also may not have been either despatched or issued separately on every occasion.

In view of the doubt in separating flat-bed and rotary printings any references to the subject in the *Crown Agents Plate Issue Book* are included with the printing to which each reference applies. (*The Crown Agents Plate Issue Book* is abbreviated to 'CAPI Book' in the lists.)

1 CENT BROWN

PRINTING 1 14.5.21-20.6.21 Type I. Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm
 Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2
 Error: Watermark Inverted.
 Error: Watermark Inverted and Reversed.

1 CENT BLACK All printings are Type I.

PRINTING 1 26.10.22 Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.7
 or 13.8 x 14.2. Light black, similar in shade to all
 remaining printings except the next one. Similar
 stamps seen used as late as 1933 but these may
 have come from Printing 4.

- PRINTING 2 16.1.24–28.2.24 (Two separate printings.) Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2. In a distinctive shade of intense black. Under a glass one of these printings (or both) can be seen to be of very poor quality, the ink not adhering to the paper properly. Seen used as late as June 1934 but these may also have come from Printing 4.
- PRINTING 3 14.1.25 Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 14.2. Earliest seen used July 1925 but a line stamp has been reported, though not confirmed, with a 1924 pmk, so this printing might be one from that year. (CAPI Book notes: '23–29.12.24 Rotary Plate').
- PRINTING 4 11.2.26 As the stamps seen used 1926–1934 appear similar to Printings 1 & 2 (including the comb perforation) they presumably came from this printing which must have been identical to 1 and/or 2.
- PRINTING 5 28.4.33 Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 13.8. Earliest postmark seen 7.8.34 and as late as 23.11.39 at Alor Star.
- PRINTING 6 19.12.35 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 13.8. Earliest postmark seen October 1936. AND Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 23.25–23.5 mm. Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8. Earliest postmark seen 13.7.36 AND Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 23 mm. Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8. Earliest postmark seen December 1936.
- PRINTING 7 27.8.37–13.9.37 Plate 2. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 13.8. Earliest postmark seen May 1938. (CAPI Book notes: '15.7.37–12.8.37. Pl. No. 2').
- PRINTING 8 18.8.38 Plate 2. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 13.8. Earliest postmark seen December 1938. (A 'wet' printing.)
- PRINTING 9 1.3.40 Plate 2. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.2. Earliest postmark seen: 18.8.40. (CAPI Book notes: '22–24.1.40 Pl. 2').

Printing 4 is interesting, if the above postmark evidence can be relied upon, in that, although it cannot be positively identified, it is likely to have been of stamps perforated comb, which is surprising after the printers had used a line machine the year before. Much needs to be done with Printings 1–4 as, apart from the one which was line-perforated, they are difficult to distinguish.

Printing 8 is one of the only two instances when it is thought that De La Rue used 'wet' printing for Kedah stamps after changing to 'dry'.

Initially, Printing 6 presented an unusual problem. Lengthy identification of varieties and then dates on postmarks left a printing apparently composed of stamps of such disparate characteristics that the idea they could have all been produced together seemed impossible. Not only did this printing apparently include some normal 'dry' printed stamps (19.25 mm x 22.75 mm) but the group of exceptionally tall stamps that ranged from anything between 23 mm and 23.5 mm in height. These large stamps posed two very puzzling questions. Firstly how could such enormous stamps occur? Secondly how could a single printing produce so many different sizes all together and at the same time?

Paper-stretch (the 'flattening' of the paper as it passed between the cylinders of the press) was rejected as an explanation owing to the amount of enlargement. The idea that it was caused by the curving process seemed a lot more likely as the increase in height of the largest stamps (0.75 mm) was about what could be expected when a plate the size of the 1 cent was curved. (See Note 1 at the end of this chapter.) Furthermore, the fact that the horizontal measurement (19.25 mm) of the extra-large stamps was identical to that of the normal, 'dry' printed ones, was consistent with the fact that when a plate is curved only one of its dimensions is enlarged. But the second question seemed unanswerable. How could the enlarged plate produce stamps of such variable height? There was an additional complication. Some of the stamps of the printing were of normal 'dry' printed size - 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. If this curving had taken place, it must have been done in the middle of the printing, after some stamps had been produced. This possibility seemed extremely remote.

The problem appeared to be unanswerable until the author was given the opportunity to examine a complete sheet (120) of the 1 cent (*Figs 60-63*). Upon measuring the individual stamps on this sheet it was found, astonishingly, that they varied from the 'normal' size (22.75 mm) to the largest of the large (23.5 mm) in their vertical dimension. The distribution of these differences was not haphazard. The top part of the sheet was composed of the smaller stamps but size increased further down; by Row 5 it had enlarged to 23 mm, and by the time the bottom row was reached it was 23.5 mm. The horizontal dimension of all the stamps on the sheet was a constant 19.25 mm. In other words, every size of stamp making up Printing 6 was present *on the same sheet*. On measuring the perforations it was found that the bottom two rows were perforated 14.2 x 13.8, the remainder 13.8, both line. This made Row 8, of course, 13.8 x 13.8 x 14.2 x 13.8. The perforating holes of the bottom two rows extended to the edges of the sheet; the holes of the other eight rows terminated three holes into the margins, so, clearly, different machines had been used. Stamps with these perforations had been noted before, now the reason for them had been revealed. It was to accommodate sheets which contained stamps of varying size and which could only be perforated successfully if the distances between the rows of perforating pins could be varied.

The problem of perforating the sheet had been further compounded by the fact that the plate was not square, it having sagged in the centre to the point where the middle of the bottom line was 1.5 mm lower than the two ends and the centre of the top line about 0.5 mm lower. This had the effect of creating very wide bottom margins (between the design of the stamp and the perforations) at the ends of the bottom row and the perforations almost cutting into the design in the centre. It also produced stamps which were not perfect rectangles, some of those on the bottom rows being 0.25 mm or more taller on one of their sides than the other.

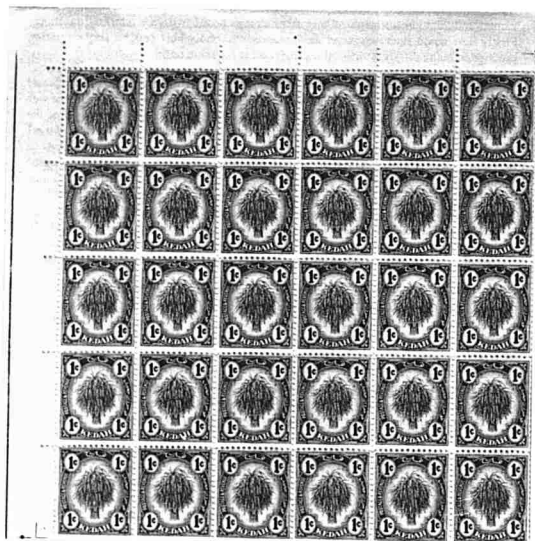


Fig. 60—Stamps 1-6 from the top five rows of a sheet from Printing 6 of the 1 cent black. The illustration is full size. Note the absence of marginal lines at the top and the tapered line at left. (See 'Rotary Printing' in this chapter)

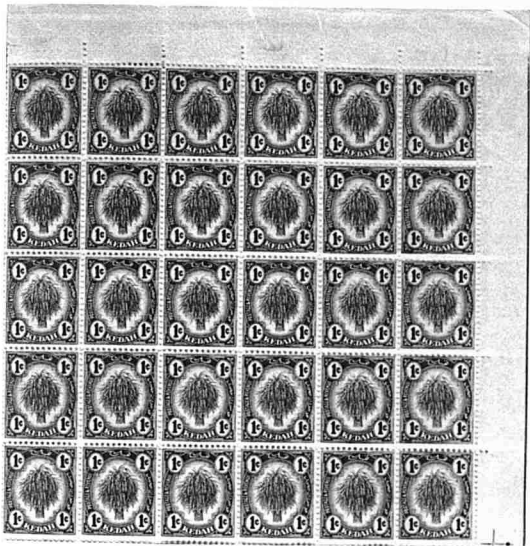


Fig. 61 - Stamps 7-12 from the top five rows of a sheet from Printing 6 of the 1 cent black. The illustration is full size. Note the absence of marginal lines at the top and the tapered line at right. (See 'Rotary Printing' in this chapter)

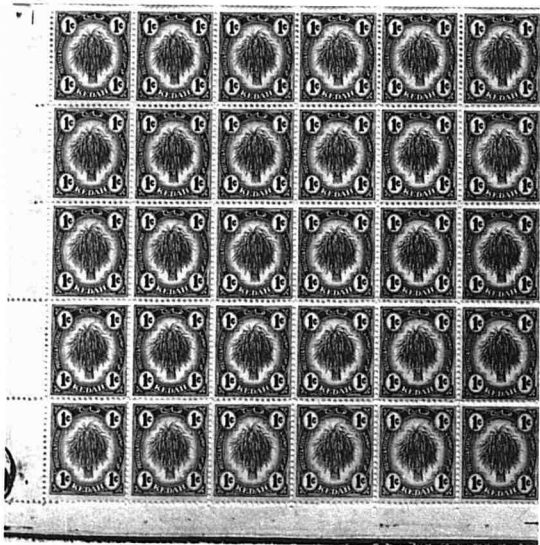


Fig. 62 – Stamps 1–6 from the bottom five rows of a sheet from Printing 6 of the 1 cent black. The illustration is slightly enlarged, magnifying the stamps by approximately 0.5 mm on each dimension. This distorts the perforation measurements so that 14.2 x 13.8 becomes 13.9 x 13.5. Note the 'screw-head' at bottom left. (See 'Rotary Printing' in this chapter)

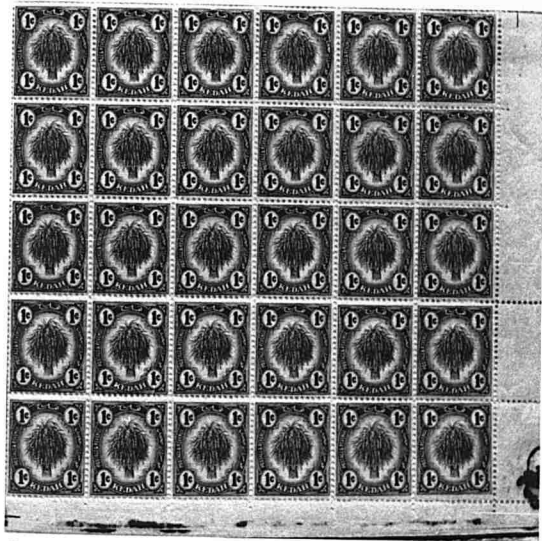


Fig. 63 - Stamps 7-12 from the bottom five rows of a sheet from Printing 6 of the 1 cent black. The illustration is slightly enlarged, magnifying the stamps by approximately 0.5 mm on each dimension. This distorts the perforation measurements so that 14.2 x 13.8 becomes 13.9 x 13.5. Note the 'screw-head' at bottom right. (See 'Rotary Printing' in this chapter)

What could be the explanation for a plate composed of stamp impressions of a maximum height of 22.75 mm producing stamps varying in height up to 23.5 mm? Initially it was thought it could only be that the plate had become distorted, perhaps while it was being curved and stretched to fit round a cylinder, hence the magnitude of the distortion and the fact that it had occurred in one direction only. This stretching could have become irregular if there had been contraction of the metal on the inside of the curve on one part of the plate and on the outside of the curve on the other. That this sheet had certainly been printed from a rotary plate was indicated by the tell-tale 'screw-heads' in the margins either side of the bottom, and the absence of frame-lines along the top. (See the section 'Rotary Printing' in the main text of this chapter.)

However, a significant piece of evidence pointed to the fact that this explanation, almost certainly, was not the correct one and this was the note on rotary plates written in the Crown Agents Plate Issue book (see Appendix 4) and described in the section 'Rotary Printing' earlier in this chapter. The Crown Agents Plate Issue book recorded the issue and return of the plates from the Crown Agents to De La Rue for the printing of each order of stamps. The 1 cent plate was drawn by De La Rue 23-29.12.24 to produce Printing 3 in the above list. In the column reserved for the 'Key Plate No.' is written: 'Single Wkg. Rotary. Plate.' If the 1 cent plate could be described as 'Rotary' in 1924, the year when it was probably adapted, it certainly did not need to be curved again in 1935.

If the plate was not damaged when it was being curved, in what other way could such a distortion occur? It so happened that the De La Rue records contained another very possible explanation although, admittedly, no direct evidence can be presented to support it. In the main text of this chapter several references have been made to the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press – a technically-advanced machine developed by the Company in the mid-twenties which greatly speeded up the printing of banknotes and stamps. It was given the name of the 'mangle' by the De La Rue employees of the time. This machine was capable of exerting much greater pressure on the plate than had been possible hitherto using the old presses. It was this pressure which ultimately led to De La Rue being able to perfect a way of printing recess stamps on dry paper. At the same time, however, it created a problem for the printers which is described in the following passage from De La Rue's booklet *The Banknote*:

Having learned how to print stamps on dry paper the Company next turned its attention to printing DP banknotes dry. Similar solutions to the problems of dry printing stamps were applied to dry printing banknotes. But additional difficulties arose because of the larger sheets of banknotes, and also because banknote paper is harder and thicker than stamp paper. This meant that extra pressure was required and there were occasions when a machine would get 'stuck on pressure'. With much excitement a large crowbar would then be inserted in the flywheel and many willing hands would ease the heavy cylinder off pressure.*

There is no mention of what damage might have occurred to the plate while the press was 'stuck on pressure' but it seems the 'mangle' may not have been inaptly named!

* DP stands for Direct Plate, the term used by printers for the recess-printing process.

Pre-war De La Rue employees in the Company's recess-printing department confirmed these events to the author and agreed, after examining the sheet of 1 cent stamps from the distorted plate, that the above circumstances might have caused damage of this nature. Unfortunately, they were unable to explain exactly how the damage in this particular instance occurred without seeing the plate. It also needs to be borne in mind that it was the greater pressure needed for the printing of banknotes that periodically caused the machine to seize up, an event less likely to occur with the lower pressure required to print stamps. On the other hand John Easton's statement, quoted earlier in the chapter, about the frailties of electrotyped plates is recalled: '*... a copper shell is not really strong enough to stand the great pressure of an engraving press for any length of time*'. So, it could be that the 1 cent plate was a casualty of 'dry' printing, and Easton's statement suggests that it might not have been the only plate which was brought to the end of its working life by the 'mangle'. Regrettably there was no recollection, on the part of the printers, of the Rotary Press jamming during the printing of stamps although the possibility was not excluded. The suggestion that the distortion might have occurred when the plate was being re-curved, either to accommodate a different sized cylinder or to remove 'springiness' in the plate (a known problem), was sceptically received.

In the absence of any other evidence, the possibility that the extra-large 1 cent stamps were caused by the printing press jamming 'on pressure' must remain just that - a possibility only, but if, indeed, this is the explanation, then not one single 'size' variety of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps was caused by De La Rue curving Kedah's printing plates.

How the damage was caused is relatively unimportant compared to what happened as a result of the damage, and this was of some significance in the history of the 1 cent stamp. Printing 6 in December 1935 was the last from Plate 1 so it can be assumed that the damage and the problems it created for the printers, particularly for those whose task it was to perforate the sheets printed from it, forced them to replace it in the way described in the chapter, thus creating the stamp ever since referred to as 'Die II'.

(It is possible the same situation may have arisen in 1926 with Plate 1 of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette, and the sequence of events leading to the making of Plate 2 for these stamps is described in Chapter 15.)

2 CENTS GREEN

This value includes a 'wet' printing dated in August 1938, well into the 'dry' period. It was printed and despatched with a consignment of the 1 cent black, mentioned above, which was also a 'wet' printing, these being the only two known after the introduction of 'dry' paper for the printing of the Kedah 'padi-sheaves'.

Printings 1-7 are Type I.

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|
| PRINTING 1 | 6.5.21-14.5.21 | Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.7 or 13.8 x 14.1 or 14.2. Seen used until December 1933. |
| PRINTING 2 | 28.1.26-4.3.26 | Similar to Printing 1? |

PRINTING 3	2.5.29	Similar to Printing 1?
PRINTING 4	5.9.34	Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.5 mm (or 22.6 mm). Line perf. 13.8. Seen used from 29 Aug. 1935 to May 1939.
PRINTING 5	8.5.36	Similar to Printing 4?
PRINTING 6	18.8.38-24.8.38	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 13.8. Dated postmarks seen: Nov. '38 to 11.5.41. ('Wet' printing.)
PRINTING 7	2.6.39	Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.1 x 13.8. Earliest seen 19.12.39.
PRINTING 8	19.4.40-17.5.40	Type II. Plate 2. Size: 19.5 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.1. (CAPI Book notes: '9-15.4.40 Pl.2').

3 CENTS PURPLE

PRINTING 1	20.6.21	Type I. Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 14.2.
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3 CENTS GREEN Both printings are Type I.

PRINTING 1	16.1.24-28.2.24	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.1.
PRINTING 2	21.5.25	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.1. Pale Green. (CAPI Book notes: '9-15.4.25 Rotary Plate.')

4 CENTS RED (CARMINE)

PRINTING 1	14.4.21-6.5.21	Type I. Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.1.
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4 CENTS VIOLET All printings are Type I.

PRINTING 1	28.1.26-4.3.26	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2. (CAPI Book notes: 'Single Wkg. 22-23.12.25'. Also: 'S.W. Rotary. 1-13.1.26'). The Crown Agents Plate Issue Book makes it clear that both parts of this printing had been completed by 13.1.26 but the final consignment was not made until 4.3.26.
PRINTING 2	23.12.27	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 13.8. Earliest postmark seen: July 1929.
PRINTING 3	20.12.29	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8. Only dated copy seen: Nov. '31.
PRINTING 4	22.5.31	Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line perf. 14.2.

- PRINTING 5 29.10.37 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 13.8.
- PRINTING 6 1.3.40 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.2. In a deeper shade of violet. The perforating holes of this printing are larger than the average, making the teeth appear slightly pointed.

There are a number of intermediate sizes in this value.

Only two copies of the stamp listed for Printing 3 have been confirmed and, as the only dated example was postmarked November 1931, this stamp could be Printing 4 or, more likely, a variant of it. The Crown Agents records show that Printing 3 was a large one (7,919 sheets) so there is no reason why it should be so scarce. If the small, line perf. 14.2 x 13.8 stamp is simply a variety of the perf. 14.2 stamp and not a separate printing in itself, then Printing 3 may have been the same as Printing 2.

5 CENTS YELLOW

All printings are Type I.

- PRINTING 1 30.6.22 Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2. Unretouched Plate.
Error. Watermark Inverted.
Error. Watermark Reversed.
Error. Watermark Inverted and Reversed.
- PRINTING 2 15.12.22 Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2. Retouched Plate.
- PRINTING 3 21.5.25 Same as Printing 2. Some stamps of this printing may show a paler shade of yellow. (CAPI Book notes: 'Rotary. Plate. 15-16.4.25').
- PRINTING 4 19.4.32 Plate 1. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Line. There may be no less than three perforation varieties in this printing: perf. 13.8, perf. 14.2 and perf. 14.2 x 13.8.
- PRINTING 5 13.5.32 This printing is indistinguishable from the previous one although any one of the three perforation varieties listed under Printing 4 may be exclusive to Printings 4 or 5. Printing 5 was three times the size (in numbers of stamps) as 4.
- PRINTING 6 27.11.33-7.12.33 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 13.8. This is the earliest 'dry' printing confirmed on Kedah stamps. It could almost be described as orange. Earliest postmark: Dec. 1935. (Much earlier presumably exists.)
- PRINTING 7 6.12.35 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.2.

- PRINTING 8 29.10.37 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 13.8. This stamp is similar to that of Printing 6 except that it is yellow.
- PRINTING 9 2.6.39 Plate 1. Size: 19.25 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.2 x 13.8. Has a slight orange tone.

6 CENTS CARMINE

- PRINTING 1 21.4.26 Type II. Size: 18.75 mm x 22.5 mm. Comb perf. 13.8 x 14.2.
- PRINTING 2 24.4.40-17.5.40 Type II. Size: 19.5 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.2. This printing is in a very distinctive shade which has been variously described as carmine-red, red and rose-red.

8 CENTS GREY

- PRINTING 1 29.5.36 Type II. Plate 1. Size: 19.5 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14.2.
- PRINTING 2 3.1.39. No identification possible.
- PRINTING 3 19.4.40-17.5.40 Type II. Plate 1. Size 19.5 mm x 22.75 mm. Line perf. 14 x 14.2.

Printing 2 may be similar to Printing 1 or Printing 3. The stamp with the compound perforation is not very easy to identify and so its printing dates have not been convincingly established.

Although none of the 'padi-sheaves' had plate numbers before the issue of the 8 cents grey in 1936, the term 'Plate 1' has been used in the above lists to avoid confusion.

Note 1: EXPANSION CAUSED BY THE CURVING OF THE PLATE

Various catalogues make reference to the enlargement that can take place to stamp impressions when a flat plate is curved round a cylinder. Very little appears to have been published on this subject and few precise figures have been quoted in any source, perhaps because there are so many variables in the process. Although a lengthy investigation on the author's part eventually led to the conclusion that, almost certainly, none of the size variations in Kedah's stamps resulted from De La Rue curving the plates, collectors may be interested in the following, particularly the explanation of the variables involved when a plate is 'stretched'.

The first of these variables is the position of the design on the cylinder itself. The bending of a plate may expand its outside surface (the side bearing the stamp impressions) but only in one direction, i.e. the side following the curve of the cylinder. So, if the vertical dimension of the stamp follows the curve when the plate is fitted to the cylinder, then this is the side which may show the expansion, the other remaining unaltered.

The second variable is the extent to which the inside of the plate contracts as the metal is stretched. This may depend on the method used to achieve the bending or perhaps the composition of the plate itself (in De La Rue's case it is thought rollers were used and the plates, initially, were made of an alloy of lead, tin and antimony; after 1926 they were of steel) and so there is no way an allowance can be made for it in any calculation. In the example quoted below it is assumed, for simplicity's sake, to be nil. In the case of Kedah's stamps it appears as though it might have been 100%, as the available evidence shows that all the adapted plates, with the small possibility of an exception in the case of the 1 cent, were curved without any enlargement of the stamps at all.

The third variable is the size of the stamp and the fourth is the thickness of the plate.

Assuming that the plate will be roughly the size of the sheet of stamps (including its margins) and that the basic stamp of the 'padi-sheaf' values (from perforation to perforation) is 21 mm x 26 mm approximately, then, with a sheet format of 10 rows of 12 stamps plus margins equal to, say, two extra stamps on each dimension, the sheet size will be 21 x 14 = 294 mm in width by 26 x 12 = 312 mm in height. If the plate is curved vertically round the cylinder (i.e. the stamp from top to bottom follows the curve of the cylinder) then the circumference of the cylinder will have to be 312 mm and this will equal the inside measurement of the curved plate. The diameter of a circle of 312 mm is: 312 divided by pi (3.142) = 99.3 mm. Assuming the plate to be 3 mm thick (there seems no reliable data on this but steel plates were kept as thin as possible to facilitate hardening) then the diameter of the circle equal to the cylinder with the plate attached will be 99.3 + 6.0 mm = 105.3 mm. The circumference of this circle will therefore be: 105.3 x pi = 330.85 mm which will be equal to the outside measurement of the plate. Thus the outside of the plate will have to be 18.85 mm (330.85 mm - 312 mm) longer than its inside which means that the outer side will have to expand during bending by that amount without cracking (assuming no contraction of the inner surface takes place at the same time). This expansion averages out at 1.57 mm per stamp (18.85 divided by 12).

This figure will vary with the thickness of the plate and the size of the stamp of course, i.e. a stamp with twice the above vertical measurement and thus having only five rows in

its sheet format will have to show twice the expansion. It needs to be pointed out, however, that plates were often only big enough to fit round part of a cylinder, in which case the amount of expansion per stamp would have to be multiplied by the proportion of the cylinder's circumference covered by the plate. Assuming, in the above example, that the plate was stretched to fit round only half of the cylinder, then the 1.57 mm expansion would have to be divided by two = 0.785 mm. L. N. and M. Williams in *Fundamentals of Philately* state that expansion was in the order of 1 mm in 20 mm but give no evidence or examples to support this. If, as is likely, these figures have been gained empirically from stamps, then, in the above example where the amount of expansion has been calculated to be a little less, the thickness of the plate has probably been underestimated.

It is a curious fact that no book or article on this subject consulted by the author made the point that curving a plate could be done without altering the dimensions of the outside surface in any way, if the inside surface contracted sufficiently. Perhaps this was considered to be of no interest, as philatelists look for varieties and varieties are the result of change and not the lack of it. There seems fairly conclusive proof now, however, that De La Rue found a way of curving their flat-bed plates without stretching the outside surfaces at all.

Note 2: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FLAT-BED AND ROTARY PRINTED STAMPS

It is claimed, in *Fundamentals of Philately* by L. N. and M. Williams, that recess-engraved stamps printed from a curved plate can be lighter in shade compared to their predecessors printed from the plate when it was flat, given that the ink remains constant in all respects. This is due to the fact that when a plate's surface is stretched it has the effect of lessening the depth of each recess and, as the depth of these recesses is responsible for the intensity of colour of recess-engraved stamps, then rotary-printed stamps should be lighter. It is a fact that Printing 2 of the 3 cents green is of a lighter shade than Printing 1, and that the former, according to the evidence, was printed after the plate was adapted for rotary-printing. On the other hand Printing 2 was fifteen months after Printing 1 and the chances of the ink remaining the same over that period seems remote. Also, of course, there is no evidence that the 3 cents plate was stretched at all while it was being curved, what change there was, presumably some contraction, occurring on the inside of the plate.

It is a pity that apart from the somewhat slender difference described above there seems to be no other way of distinguishing between Kedah's stamps printed by the flat-bed and rotary methods. One such means, a difference in the type of paper used, exists for US stamps printed by the two methods, but no different types of paper have been recorded in the *Crown Agent Bulletin* or the specialist magazines for Kedah. Papers giving two different reactions in a UV lamp have been discovered amongst the 'Malay ploughing' issues, however, (see 'The Printings' at the end of Chapter 15) and this line of research might yield some useful information in the future.

Note 3: VARIABLE PAPER SHRINKAGE

Paper shrinkage is a complicated subject, depending, as it does, on the nature of the paper itself and the way it is made. When wetted, paper fibres expand more across their diameter

than in their length, so paper where the fibres are more or less lengthways, as they are when machine-made, will expand and contract more across the weave (or across the machine) than in the direction of the weave. This certainly helps to explain why the large-size 'padi-sheaf' values are 0.5 mm wider on their horizontal measurement and only 0.25 mm taller on their vertical measurement – the weave of the paper on which they were printed running parallel with the longer (vertical) dimensions of the stamps. This can be demonstrated by wetting the back of a used stamp. The fibres on the back expand, those on the front do not, at least, not initially. This one-sided expansion makes the stamp curl and the 'tunnel' of the curl will run in the direction of the weave, that is, parallel with the longer dimension of the stamp. This is because the stamp expands more laterally than it does vertically and this increase in the horizontal dimension can only be accommodated by the stamp curling into a vertical 'tunnel'.

Man-made paper, on the other hand, is more likely to have its fibres arranged randomly and will therefore expand and contract more or less equally both ways. A complicating factor is the size (a gelatinous solution used to glaze the paper's surface) which is added during its manufacture. This makes the paper less absorbent and so affects the degree of expansion and contraction. A paper which is heavily sized will expand and contract less than one which is not, although their composition may be, in other ways, the same.

All this is of little importance to a philatelist, of course, as he is only interested in the finished product – the stamp – but it must be remembered that the dimensions of a stamp laying on a collector's table will depend on its moisture content, and very small variations will occur in measurement according to the humidity of the room, amounting to as much, it has been calculated (*The American Philatelist*, February 1987, p. 131), as one-fourth of a perforation in two centimeters, which is the standard unit used by a gauge. Collectors in centrally-heated homes take note.

The essential thing to bear in mind when considering the subject of paper expansion and shrinkage in relation to the 'padi-sheaf' stamps is that machine-made paper expands differentially in its two dimensions, and it is this which provides such a definite pointer to 'wet' and 'dry' printings being the origin of the different sizes, rather than a change to rotary printing. (There is much other evidence, of course, which is contained in the main text of this chapter.)

Although paper stretches more across its weave than with its weave it is doubtful if its texture or fibre composition affects paper-stretch in the same way as it does paper-expansion and shrinkage. Paper-stretch is created by the pressure exerted by the press during printing and it is possible that it increased both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the sheets of 'padi-sheaf' stamps in equal amounts. These expansions were very small, however, not enough to be really measurable on an individual stamp.

Note 4: THE SIZE OF THE 'COMPOSITE' DIE

The proofs from the composite die (18.75 x 22.5 mm approximately) from which the impressions on the 'master plate' were made, are roughly the same size as the small-size ('wet' printed) stamps. A similar thing was found in the case of the stamps printed from dual plates. (See Chapter 10.) This is not surprising in view of the fact that both proofs and

stamps were printed on 'wet' paper, or, more usually in the case of the proofs, card, but with the advent of 'dry' paper and the virtual elimination of paper-shrinkage, the true size of the die should now be seen and might, in the circumstances, be expected to be the size of the larger stamps: 19.25 x 22.75 mm. However, whether it was exactly this size may be open to some doubt for the following reasons: (i) the transfer process from the composite die to the 'master plate' using the roller die may have fractionally enlarged the stamp impression (*see* Note 5), (ii) as noted in the main text, the considerable pressure of the printing presses stretched the paper as the plate and paper made contact and so 'spread' the design, and (iii) as the paper being used was not totally dry there might still have been a very small amount of shrinkage.

The author has discussed this matter at some length with a former De La Rue printer who was of the opinion that while all three of these could have happened, indeed the second certainly did occur, none of them was on a scale that would make a measurable difference to the size of the stamp, so the large stamps (19.25 x 22.75 mm) must have been the approximate size of the composite die. It needs to be said, however, that there is empirical evidence that some aspect of the transfer procedure, perhaps the rocking action, did seem to enlarge the new dies that were made during the lifetime of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps – the 1919 composite die and the secondary dies of the Type II stamps – by an amount which can be measured. (This evidence is contained in Note 5 following.) No mention of this has been found in any philatelic work on recess-printing and it has to be admitted that, at the present time, it must be regarded as a theoretical possibility only. However, as mentioned in the main text, it could provide the explanation for the fact that the Type II stamps are fractionally wider than the Type I stamps.

Note 5: ENLARGEMENT 'CAUSED' BY THE TRANSFER PROCESS

This enlargement, if such took place, is not a matter which can be resolved satisfactorily. It is nowhere mentioned in philatelic literature, and the De La Rue employee consulted on the subject was reluctant to admit it could occur, at least, when plates were being laid down, apart from about 0.1 mm per stamp which, as he said, is hardly measurable using the normal means available to a stamp collector. (There is no possibility that the printer could have underestimated the enlargement he spoke of as it was an everyday, and, according to him, irritating occurrence which he was constantly having to allow for when laying down plates.) However, he was unwilling to commit himself in the case of a new die being made from a master die. The author presents the following evidence relating to the dies made for the 'padi-sheaf' stamps and then leaves the issue open with the question: If this is not the explanation then what can account for the differences in the sizes between the 1912 and 1919 stamps and the difference in the horizontal measurement between the Type I and Type II stamps reproduced from the composite die?

The evidence needs to be looked at in the light of the possibility, at least, that enlargement could occur during the many rockings which were necessary (anything from a couple of dozen to a hundred or more) when the design was transferred from the master die onto the transfer roller and then from the roller to a new die. In a way it would, perhaps, be a little surprising if the roller came down in exactly and precisely the same position during every rocking motion. If there was even the minutest movement during the course of this

procedure it is difficult to see how some enlargement could be avoided, in which case it would most probably be in the direction the transfer die was being rocked. Easton says in this connection:

As a rule the design of the die is reproduced lengthwise on the transfer roller, but if it contains a number of horizontal lines it will be reproduced broadwise, so that these horizontal lines are rolled in the same direction as the roller moves over the plate in the process of rocking.

The 'padi-sheaf' design contains a background of horizontal lines so, presumably, would be an example of a stamp reproduced 'broadwise' onto the transfer die. It would necessarily have to be rocked in the same way over the secondary die, and, from this, one would expect the horizontal dimension of the stamp impression to show the greatest enlargement each time the transfer process took place. What evidence is there to show that this is what happened in the production of the various 'padi-sheaf' dies?

Unfortunately proofs are not a totally accurate guide to the size of dies as they can sometimes differ owing to the variable printing factors of ink, hardness of paper and the pressure applied when the proof is pulled. Also, of course, it is almost certain that all the recess proofs up to the early 1930s were pulled onto 'wet' paper or card which would then shrink as it dried. Measurements taken from several different proofs indicate, however, that those pulled from the composite die were larger than those from the 1912 master die - by 0.25 mm on the width (18.75 mm to 18.5 mm) and under 0.25 mm on the height (just under 22.5 mm to 22.25 mm). It is acknowledged that variable shrinkage of the paper may account for these differences but, on the other hand, the stamps themselves are also these two sizes (1912 - 18.5 x 22.25 mm, 1919 - 18.75 x 22.5 mm).

The average differences between the stamp impressions on the electrotyped plates (Type I) and those on the steel plates (Type II), as measured from 'dry-printed' stamps of both groups, are 0.25 mm on the width (19.25 mm to 19.5 mm) and nil on the height (22.75 mm). Both sets of stamp impressions must reflect the sizes of the transfer dies which made them, but why should these be different if they were made by the same transfer die? As was explained in the main text, the transfer die which laid down the 'master plate' for the Type I stamps had undergone only one rocking process - when it was taken from the composite master die; the transfer dies which laid down the plates for the Type II stamps were the end result of two rocking procedures, the first one being when the transfer die was made from the composite master die, and the second when a new transfer die was taken from the secondary die after the figures of value had been engraved. Stamp impressions from the latter could thus have been doubly 'enlarged' compared to only one 'enlargement' in the case of the former.

These measurements, which must be very approximate indeed, especially those taken from stamps, are what might be expected if all the 'padi-sheaf' impressions were reproduced 'broadwise' on their transfer dies and the maximum enlargement occurred in the direction each transfer die was rocked.

If the composite die and the secondary dies were not enlarged in the manner described above then the basic differences in size between the stamps made from them cannot be satisfactorily explained. The stamps produced from the original 1912 'dual' dies were, on

average, 18.5 x 22.25 mm ('wet' printed); those produced from the electrotyped plates made from the 1918 composite die were 18.75 x 22.5 mm ('wet' printed) and 19.25 x 22.75 mm ('dry' printed); while those from the secondary dies made from the composite die and produced from steel plates were 19.5 x 22.75 mm ('dry' printed). Neither the variable shrinking or the stretching of the paper, nor the curving of the plates can totally account for all of these differences. They are only truly explicable if the sizes of the dies which made their respective plate impressions were different and, given the fact that all the dies had a common origin in the original two master dies, then these size differences need some explanation.

*Note 6: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 'WET' AND 'DRY'
PRINTED STAMPS*

In view of the slight doubt concerning the precise causes of size differences in stamps printed from the same plate it is unfortunate there are no reliable or accepted ways to distinguish between recess-engraved stamps which have been 'wet' and 'dry' printed.

In Chapter 10 the problem of colour 'run' during 'wet' printing was discussed but this occurred only when bi-coloured stamps were being produced and in cases where one of the inks was not 'fast'. It does not arise with the monochrome 'padi-sheaf' stamps of the 1930s although Easton mentions that ink being printed on 'wet' paper sometimes did not give as satisfactory results as it did on 'dry', a thin 'slip' sometimes having to be placed between each printed sheet to prevent the ink from smudging, although some inks were better than others. (In conversation with the author, pre-war De La Rue employees said that such 'slips' were always used and explained how every other sheet was turned over so that only one 'slip' was needed for every two sheets.) Reference has been made in the main text to the fact that some small-size ('wet' printed) 'padi-sheaf' stamps have a slightly indistinct appearance (this is quite marked with one printing of the 1 cent black) and this could well be an example of what Easton was referring to. Also, earlier in the chapter, it was noted that the individual lines of engraving in the areas of solid shading on the small-size stamps are somewhat indistinct and have a 'smudgy' appearance. This could be the result of the fibres of the stamp compacting during shrinkage and so bringing the lines closer together, in some cases to the point of making them almost indistinguishable.

L. N. and M. Williams in *Fundamentals of Philately* have this to say about the way in which stamps printed by the 'wet' and 'dry' methods may be distinguished:

Also, to a greater or less extent, the paper at the back of the stamp is indented in the coloured lines of the design because the paper has been forced by pressure into the recesses of the printing base.

The word 'base' here refers to the plate. They go on to say:

Generally speaking it is true to state that in line-engraved stamps resulting from dry printing the distortion (meaning indentation) of the paper apparent is greater than in such stamps resulting from wet printing. The reason for this is that with dry printing the stamps are printed on to paper already gummed, and the indentations are not, as in wet printing, lessened by the subsequent processes. In wet printing the stamps are

printed on to dampened paper, that is, usually, ungummed and the printing ink has to dry before the paper is gummed; incidentally the paper, too, dries; the gumming again dampens the paper, and this, because of the expansion of the fibres of which the paper is composed, lessens the amount of apparent indentation.

It has to be admitted that the difference described above must be very difficult to see and, of course, can only be detected on mint stamps. Used stamps which usually have been wetted twice more, cannot show any of the indentations described above. Even with mint stamps, however, the differences in the depth of these indentations could hardly be regarded as reliable indicators of 'wet' or 'dry' printing.

Note 7: 'WET' AND 'DRY' PRINTING - AN EXPERIMENT

If the two basic sizes of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps are the result of those from 'wet' printings shrinking and those from 'dry' printings retaining their size, more or less, then it should be possible to make the former enlarge to the size of the latter by dampening them in the same way, or at least to the same extent, as is described in Chapter 10. This would mean they would have to expand approximately 0.4 - 0.5 mm on the horizontal measurement and about half of that on the vertical measurement.

Twenty-five of the small-size stamps (five each of the 1 cent black, 2 cents, 4 cents violet, 5 cents and 6 cents) were selected at random, measured and then soaked for several hours in cold water. The surplus water was removed and the stamps were then re-measured. The average expansion in the horizontal measurement was found to be 0.408 mm, within the range anticipated, and in the vertical measurement 0.146 mm, slightly less than the figure consistent with the expansion theory. No attempt was made to obtain an even spread of stamps from different printings in the above sample which, admittedly, was very small. Some values gave different results to others. For example, the average expansion for the 1 cent value was 0.47 mm and 0.21 mm respectively, both measurements being above the averages for the sample as a whole. The 6 cents gave the highest average for the horizontal measurement of all the values - 0.49 mm but the lowest average for the vertical measurement - 0.12 mm. These variations might be expected from different batches of paper.

Seventeen out of the twenty-five stamps in the sample returned to within 0.05 mm of their original size after being dried, eight were within 0.1 mm and one (a 6 cents) dried out 0.2 mm larger in its horizontal dimension than it had been before. Without specialist tools measurement cannot be 100% accurate, of course.

It might also be mentioned that during the measuring that was necessary for this experiment it was found that some used stamps seem to be 0.1 mm larger across the centre of the design than they are across the top or bottom. No explanation can be found for this, unless it is the result of the variable expansion or contraction that sometimes occurred in just certain parts of a sheet during the various wettings and dryings involved in the printing process and which was mentioned in Chapter 10.

It is not claimed that anything can be proved by such a simple experiment as that described above, but it demonstrates that the 'paper shrinkage' explanation for the different sizes of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps is perfectly within the bounds of possibility.

Note 8: PERFORATION GAUGES

A report from the USA (*Linn's Stamp News*, 29 April 1991, p. 50) describes inaccuracies in measuring perforations using Stanley Gibbons' thick, yellow gauge sold in the fifties. In the 3 June 1991 issue of the magazine the explanation for these inaccuracies was given. It was that the plastic used in the manufacture of the yellow gauges had shrunk, giving measurements of up to a quarter of a perforation below normal. This article contained a claim by the manufacturers that gauges made after 1974 are accurate. However, as stated in the chapter, this claim is not supported by the author's experience. Slightly differing measurements of the same stamp using different *Instanta* gauges have been obtained. Therefore, when measuring the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, collectors would be well advised to always use the same gauge.

Note 9: COMPOUND PERFORATIONS

In Note 3 the variable expansion and shrinkage of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps when they were wetted during printing was explained by the fact that machine-made paper has the majority of its fibres running in the direction of the weave (i.e. as it comes off the machine) and that paper fibres expand more across their diameter than in their length. This arrangement of the fibres also gives the paper differing strengths in its two dimensions, it being approximately 40% stronger in the direction of the weave than across the weave. Machine-made paper is therefore more difficult to tear crossways (across the fibres) than lengthways (with the fibres). To offset this difficulty printers often provide more pins (per 2 cm) when perforating the cross-weave dimension of the stamp. Most of the line compound perforations of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps (Printing 3 of the 8 cents grey being the exception) conform to this formula, the higher number of holes on the stamps with the 14.2 x 13.8 perforation measurements being on their horizontal (shorter) dimensions which cross the weave of the paper. The comb compound perforations (13.8 x 14.2), on the other hand, do not, the larger number of holes being on the longer sides of the stamps which run with the weave of the paper. It may or may not be significant that the majority of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps are perforated line.

THE ISSUES ON MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA PAPER – THE ‘MALAY PLOUGHING’ AND ‘COUNCIL CHAMBER’ VALUES

The \$3 was the first stamp on the Multiple Script CA paper to be issued in Kedah when a reprint was reported in the *Crown Agents Bulletin* for the first quarter of 1921. As was noted in Chapter 14, the new watermark was extremely easy to see, a fact which collectors had every reason to appreciate when identifying its varieties on these issues in the course of the next 20 years. The \$3 was the only value in the first requisition for 1921 which was supplied on the new paper, the remainder being on paper with the old Multiple Crown watermark, but, by the end of the year, the Script was being used for all values, the only exceptions being the 30 cents, which was not issued until the following year, and the \$1, for which a reprint was not necessary until 1924.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of 9 July 1921 reported the issue of the 10 cents, 40 cents, \$2, \$3 and \$5, and *The Philatelic Magazine* of 22 September 1921 did the same for the 20 cents and 25 cents. The 30 cents was mentioned in the *Crown Agents Bulletin* for the fourth quarter of 1922, despatched by the Crown Agents on 15 December 1922, and recorded in *The Philatelic Magazine* on 27 January 1923. The \$1 was reported in the *Bulletin* for the fourth quarter of 1923 and was despatched by the Crown Agents between 16 January and 28 February 1924, although no mention was made of its issue until the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of 24 May 1924. This value completed the set on the paper with the Multiple Script CA watermark. The appearance of two of the values was not recorded in contemporary journals. These were the 21 cents, which Wood said was sent out in the first quarter of 1921, and the 50 cents, which seems to have been missed altogether. Wood may have been in error as regards the 21 cents as the consignment he mentioned in the first quarter of 1921 was almost certainly the last on MCA paper, as this was invoiced by De La Rue in November 1920. The De La Rue Private Day Books show that the Crown Agents were not invoiced for the Script 21 cents (and, incidentally, the 50 cents on Script paper at the same time) until May 1921, and later records show that the printers' invoices and Crown Agents' despatch dates were usually separated by only a few days. How the 50 cents came to be missed is a mystery. Whitfield King's *Monthly List* of May 1928 reported the stamp (together with the \$2 and \$3) with the top of the crown of its watermark pointing to the right, but Dr Wood states that he had already reported the existence of this stamp in *The Philatelic Magazine* of 17 October 1925. This demonstrates the problems collectors had in establishing the issue dates of stamps before official records became available.

The 'revenue-sized' stamps probably offer less scope for study than the 'padi-sheaves' but provide a large number of easily identifiable varieties. One of the reasons for this is that they were the subject of an unusually large number of printings, owing to the fact, we are told (by Cheah Ah Soo in *The Malayan Philatelist*, Vol. 2, page 24), that the aged Sultan Halim Shah wanted to have his portrait on a new set of stamps but kept rejecting designs as unsuitable. The numbers of each printing were therefore small in anticipation of the

issue of the portrait set which did not, in fact, appear until 1937. This is borne out by the Crown Agents Requisition Books which record the total number of sheets despatched in each order. Between 1922 and 1937, in a total number of 24 printings of the 10 cents, 25 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents, only two exceeded a thousand sheets (60 stamps per sheet). Some printings were as low as around a hundred sheets, although most of these were in 1936-37 when the Portrait set was imminent. Exceptions were the 12 cents and 35 cents values which were supplied in 1926 in printings of over six thousand and two thousand sheets, respectively. Not surprisingly, there was no need of a reprint of either before the Japanese Occupation.

THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES

Being of higher face-value than the 'padi-sheaves', the 'Malay ploughing' stamps were less affected by changes in rates and only two of the latter resulted in the issue of new values. On 1 October 1921, the rate for foreign letters was raised from 10 cents to 12 cents which meant a new stamp in the UPU colour of blue. This was reported by the *Crown Agents Bulletin* as being on order in the first quarter of 1926 but not despatched from the UK until 13 August 1926, receipt being acknowledged by *The Philatelic Magazine* on 13 November of the same year. There seems to be no reason why there should have been such a delay after the rate change (nearly five years) before this stamp made its appearance. It has been suggested that it might have been because a new key plate was being contemplated for the 'Malay ploughing' vignette, for such there was when this and another new value, the 35 cents, were issued. This seems unlikely as will be shown later in this chapter. It could also hardly have been that the authorities were waiting for existing stocks of the 10 cents to be used up, as this stamp was regularly reprinted throughout this period. As will be seen below, the Crown Agents made no order for 12 cents stamps until 7 January 1926, the Kedah public thus being left for almost five years without a stamp to frank their foreign letters.

It is also a curious fact that Kedah went 15 years without a stamp to pay for the existing registration fee. In 1926, when rates were generally coming down, the fee for registration was increased from 12 cents to 15 cents, and from then until the Japanese Occupation, Kedah managed without a stamp of this denomination, although a 15 cents registration envelope was issued in 1926.

A surprising feature of the 12 cents was that it turned out to be in dark blue instead of blue. Indeed, it was in such a dark shade of blue that Dr Wood called it indigo, a description which has persisted in *SG Part I* today (1994). In Appendix 4 will be found a copy of the original requisition, dated 7.1.26, from the Crown Agents to De La Rue in which the order for the 12 cents is worded thus: '12 ct. Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour, dark blue, black centre, pattern as present 10 ct postage and revenue stamp)'. The '10' has been written in manuscript. So it seems that the intention of the Crown Agents was that the colour should be as it was printed. The reason that it had to be in a distinctively dark shade seems obviously linked to the decision to retain the 10 cents in its old colours, the vignette of which was bright blue. Judging from the number printed and used of the latter it was an important and popular value, but its colours could have been changed, thus enabling the 12 cents to perform its international function in a more appropriate shade. There seems no

obvious reason why the Crown Agents now wished to see the frame of the stamp, rather than the vignette, in dark blue, unless it was for the reason given below, but it has to be said that Kedah's choice of colours for her stamps franking the foreign letter rate throughout the pre-war period poses a number of questions.

In the letter to De La Rue from the Crown Agents dated 4 July 1911, dealing with the colour choices for the original 1912 set, which is contained in Part I of Chapter 10, it was stipulated that '*As ... the state does not belong to the Postal Union the stamps may all be printed in two colours chosen to suit the subjects. The frames of the international values should however be green, red and blue.*' This instruction was, in fact, observed in 1912 and the colour arrangement of the 12 cents is in accordance with it. On the other hand, Kedah was a member of the Universal Postal Union by 1926, having joined on 1 January 1916, so, presumably, should now have been subject to the obligation of providing a stamp to frank the foreign letter rate wholly in blue. This divergence with UPU regulations was taken a step further in 1937 when the 12 cents stamp printed by Waterlow & Sons as part of the Portrait set was issued without any blue at all, the colours being black and dark violet. This somewhat casual attitude towards the requirements of the UPU international colour scheme needs some explanation as it would appear to have emanated from the Crown Agents or, at least, to have been sanctioned by them.

On 1 September 1921, the telegraph rates were raised from 3 cents and 9 cents per word to 5 cents and 15 cents per word respectively, for ordinary and urgent telegrams. As a result, a new stamp to pay for the minimum charge for a telegram, 7 words - 35 cents, was needed. It was reported as being on order by the *Crown Agents Bulletin* in the first quarter of 1926 and despatched on 28 May 1926, being reported by *The Philatelic Magazine* on 13 November at the same time as the other new 'Malay ploughing' value, the 12 cents. The colours of the new 'telegraph' stamp, purple and purple (there being no discernible difference between the vignette and the frame), were in contrast to its predecessor, the 21 cents, in which the colour of the vignette, mauve, was distinctively different to the purple of the frame. When the Crown Agents ordered the 35 cents they stipulated that its colour should be 'plum - as present 21 ct stamp'. (See the Requisition dated 7.1.26, in Appendix 4.) The confusion over the colour(s) of the telegraph stamps, first noted in Chapter 11, was thus compounded.

The issue of the 35 cents meant the lapse of the 21 cents and, like the 20 cents value, it was not reprinted after its initial issue on Multiple Script CA paper in 1921. Whether the 21 cents was actually withdrawn from sale with the appearance of the 35 cents is not known but it exists on covers with postmarks dated during the currency of the latter. These may be the work of philatelists, however. The 20 cents was probably considered an unnecessary extra value in view of the retention of the 25 cents but, judging from the commercial covers seen, it must have continued on sale, probably until stocks were exhausted.

PLATE 2 OF THE KEY PLATE

The 12 cents and 35 cents, for which new duty plates had to be provided, were the first of the 'Malay ploughing' values to be printed from a new key plate made of the vignette. This was noted as being Plate 2 in the *Crown Agents Bulletin* for the first quarter of 1927.

The deficiencies of the old key plate have already been described in Chapter 10 and the possible reasons discussed for its poor quality. The stamps it produced did not do justice to the original master die and the wonder is that it was accepted at all in 1912. It later began to show signs of wear or even damage.



*Fig. 64 – The 'Cracked Plate' flaw,
Plate 1, 'Malay ploughing' vignette.*

These signs took the form of lines, most noticeable on the 10 and 20 cents, but existing on nearly all the 'Malay ploughing' values printed from it. The most prominent of these was on R7/4 (No. 34 on the sheet) which started in front of the foreleg of the rear ox and then turned upwards to enter the body of the foremost animal before emerging from behind the shoulder and arching across its back (Fig. 64). It then turned downwards at a right-angle before crossing the adjoining stamp on the right and running into the sheet margin. It has been confirmed on the 10 cents, 20 cents, 21 cents, 25 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents, and almost certainly exists on the 30 cents as well, all these values being printed towards the end of the life of the plate. It has often been referred to as the 'cracked plate' flaw, but whether it was caused by a scratch or an actual crack in the plate cannot be stated with absolute certainty, although the available evidence suggests the latter. According to Easton in *Postage Stamps in the Making*, cracks could occur 'due to a weakness in the manufacture of the steel from which the plate was made or, in the case of rotary printing, to a defect caused in the operation of bending the plate'.

It needs to be remembered, of course, that Plate 1 was not made of steel having been produced by electrotyping – and so was probably an alloy of a number of metals – but Easton's second cause is likely to have been equally valid for these plates also, especially in view of the fact that a copper shell was not as strong as a steel plate. Evidence that the cracks in Plate 1 may have started through wear but then been made worse by the plate being curved is provided by the following sequence of events based upon entries made in

1926 in the Crown Agents Plate Issue book.* The extracts from this book relating to Kedah are contained in Appendix 4.

On 9 February 1926 Plate 1 of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette was issued to De La Rue. A note stated: *'To be curved for Rotary M/C'*. M/C is the normally accepted abbreviation in engineering for 'machine' or 'machining'. The plate was returned on 16 February. Between 26 February and 4 March the new 12 cents border plate was in use at the printers, a note stating: *'Spec. taken. New Duty.'* The same thing then happened for the 35 cents border plate, the issue and return dates being 3 and 5 March respectively, and a note stated: *'All Specs. taken. New Duty.'* On 4 March the 'Malay ploughing' plate was again drawn by De La Rue and returned two days later on the 6 March. All this was what normally occurred when duty and vignette plates were needed together to complete a printing, both would be drawn about the same time. The odd thing about this sequence, however, is that 12 cents and 35 cents stamps printed from Plate 1 of the 'Malay ploughing' key plate are unknown. So, although the stamps were apparently printed, they were never issued, and one can only speculate why. Perhaps the old plate did not take kindly to being curved (although it certainly seemed to survive the curving process), or the image of the 'old' vignette went ill with the borders printed from the brand-new 12 and 35 cents duty plates. Whatever the reason, these stamps must have been destroyed and a decision taken to replace the old key plate with a new one.

On 8 March Plate 1 was drawn again, and this time a note stated that it was *'To line out New Key Plate No. 2'*. Presumably the printers wanted to copy the registration markings and keep the same layout as on the old plate. This was the first occasion when the clerk described it as *'Plough No. 1'*. Hitherto it had always been referred to simply as *'Plough'*. On 9 March Plate 1 was returned and on 19 March *'Plough No. 2'* was issued. (Although from now on this plate was regularly issued and used, it was, unaccountably, never listed on the Register of Working Plates.) It was retained by De La Rue for 5 days and then returned, only to be drawn again 29 June - 7 July, surprisingly, three months later. A note at this time stated: *'Reprint'*. The saga had not finished, however, as the 12 cents plate was drawn 16-20 July and a note ran: *'Spec taken. New duty.'* There was no mention of the 35 cents plate and neither the 12 cents or 35 cents plates ever left the Crown Agents' safes again. The 35 cents stamps were despatched on 28.5.26, the 12 cents on 13.8.26, although they were on the same requisition order: No.495.

It is difficult to interpret this series of events as, according to these entries, it would appear that the 35 cents was never actually printed in conjunction with the 'Plough' Plate 2 as it

* This book is a record of the plates drawn from the Crown Agents by the printers when requisition orders had to be met. The names of both the issuing employee of the Crown Agents and the printers' representative accepting the plate were noted. The plates were kept under lock and key by the Crown Agents in De La Rue's extensive works in Bunhill Row, EC1. An article in *Geostix*, April 1984, contains a letter from Mr Marcus Faux of the Crown Agents in which he says: *'We controlled the whole printing operations; indeed, we had a staff of some dozen Inspectors and about twenty Women Stamp Examiners domiciled in De La Rue's Star Works. All printing material, i.e. dies, rollers and plates were kept by us in our safes on De La Rue's premises.'* At the end of the day's work while a printing was taking place, the plates were removed to these safes or the presses were chained. The supervision of the CA inspectors was very thorough, even to the point of examining the sheets as they came off the presses.

was never in the hands of the printers after Plate 2 was made. This clearly cannot be, as the 35 cents is only known with the Plate 2 vignette, and the explanation must be that the Issue Book is in error and that it was the 35 cents duty plate and not the 'Plough No. 2' vignette plate that was drawn 29.6.26-7.7.26. This is partly confirmed by the note 'Reprint' after it, a word taken to mean that the 35 cents duty plate was being used to replace the original printing from Plate 1 of the vignette which had been destroyed.

Regrettably, despite this glimpse into the events surrounding the production of the second vignette plate, we are no nearer knowing the precise reason Plate 1 was replaced, but it may have been that the 'cracks' widened when the plate was curved and these became increasingly evident in the course of the printings of the 12 and 35 cents, making it necessary to destroy these stamps and replace the key plate. Easton makes the point:

... cracks in the surface of the printing plate, which will be indiscernible when they first occur but will deteriorate as printing progresses until they become a distinct line or series of lines.

Cracks in the plate were irreparable but scratches were a different proposition. Scratches on the plate could probably have been removed by replacing its chromium facing. (See the section 'Improvement in the Border Plates' later in this chapter.) The fact that this was not done is strongly suggestive that these lines were not just scratches but evidence of cracks in the plate itself.

The most interesting thing to emerge from these events is the firm indication that Plate 2 of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette was made of steel in contrast to its predecessor. Mention has already been made in Chapter 14 of an apparent decision by De La Rue in 1926 to make future Kedah working plates out of steel and abandon the policy, followed since the first issue in 1912, of making them by electrotyping. A start had been made with the new 6 cents carmine in April and, as will be seen later, was continued with the duty plates for the new 12 cents and 35 cents 'Malay ploughing' values. It cannot be proved that Plate 2 was made of steel, but the remark: 'To line out New Key Plate No. 2' suggests that the markings that were necessary to assist the printer in aligning the rows of impressions from a transfer roller were about to be undertaken. If another plate was simply going to be duplicated by electrotyping from the old original plate then no marking out would have been required as the wax mould would have done all that was necessary.

Unfortunately, and inexplicably, as mentioned earlier, this plate was never listed on the Crown Agents Plate Register where the word 'steel' might have been used to describe it and thus confirm its composition.

It is almost certain that the change to steel plates by De La Rue in 1926 is the explanation for the difference in appearance between the vignettes of Plate 1 and Plate 2, (Figs 65 & 66), but, before looking at these differences, a word of warning is necessary. When making comparisons between recess-printed stamps it must be remembered that the individual impressions on a plate have been made either by separate 'rockings' of the transfer die or separate strikes of lead from the master die (or even, perhaps, by separate electrotypes made from the master die), and some of these must inevitably vary, if only minutely. Furthermore, under or over-inking of the plates, or imperfect 'take-up' by the paper during printing, can cause tiny variations also. The ink used in printing line-engraved stamps is



Fig. 65 - Plate 1 (Type I), 'Malay ploughing' vignette.



Fig. 66 - Plate 2 (Type II), 'Malay ploughing' vignette.

a stiff, sticky paste which is so thick that it is difficult to stir. It leaves ridges or mounds on the paper which can be clearly seen by the naked eye or even, in pronounced cases, felt by the fingers. Minute 'spreads' of this ink on the relatively rough, unsurfaced paper used by De La Rue for these stamps could lead to noticeable variations in the design. Examples

of this may be seen by examining the 'N' of 'REVENUE' in the 'padi-sheaf' values. On some stamps the diagonals leave and join the uprights in positions which, at times, make the 'N' appear almost like an 'H'. Failure to appreciate how this can occur led to some extraordinary claims being made by writers on the 'padi-sheaf' stamps in the 1950s. Therefore, when making comparisons between the stamps printed from the two plates it is advisable to take a representative sample from each group and then to observe the general differences between them, rather than to concentrate on one particular line in order to see whether it is present or not. Distinguishing between the two 'Malay ploughing' vignettes and separating the stamps printed from them presents no problem, however, as the differences are considerable and unmistakable.

Overall, the stamps from Plate 2 are markedly clearer than those from Plate 1, with each line of the design standing out in bolder relief. On a few examples some lines of parts of the design such as the hindquarters and rear leg of the nearer ox, the hat and 'apron' of the ploughman and the shading on the ground, particularly under the bellies of the oxen, appear almost as if they have been added. Close examination reveals that they have simply been made more prominent, and that the bolder lines and dots are all replicated in the stamps from Plate 1, though much fainter. It is true that some of the less obvious engravings on Plate 2 may not be found on every Plate 1 stamp as those on the latter may have simply faded into nothing. But what has never been proved, despite intense study, is that there are burin cuts by the engraver on Plate 2 that cannot be found on any stamp printed from Plate 1.

As the differences between the two are all of depth and emphasis they are entirely consistent with the fact that, in the case of Plate 1, the stamps were printed from a plate made by electrotyping and, in the case of Plate 2, they were printed by a steel plate that had been laid down from a steel transfer die. The reasons are identical to those given in Chapter 10 when the poor quality of Plate 1 was being discussed, and in Chapter 14 when the sharper appearance of the Type II of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps was being explained. They are summed up in John Easton's statement about stamps printed from an electrotyped plate:

In the first place the definition is not as sharp as a steel to steel direct transfer, even with lead moulding, and secondly the growth of the copper may not pick out the whole detail of the troughs as originally engraved.

There has been no lack of alternative theories to explain the differences over the years, all of them making the erroneous assumption that the original vignette plate had been made by the usual recess method of a transfer die. One, the idea that the transfer die to make Plate 2 was rocked more firmly over the master die and so picked up the design in finer detail, has already been considered in Chapter 10 (in the section headed 'Plate 1 of the "Malay ploughing" Vignette') and reasons given why, in the author's view, this must be incorrect.

Another much-argued idea has been that the master die was re-engraved and another transfer taken from it to lay down Plate 2. (This theory received brief acceptance in the 1991 SG *Part I* catalogue when the two plates were described as 'Die 1' and 'Die 2' although these terms were later amended to 'Plate 1' and 'Plate 2' and a subsequent further amendment added 'Type I' and 'Type II'.) No record of such a die exists in the Crown Agents Register of Dies and Punches (q.v. in Appendix 4) and no proof of any such die

has ever been recorded. In Note 1 at the end of this chapter the evidence that has been presented to support the idea of a new master die is considered in more detail and reasons given why it is regarded as unacceptable.

It has also been claimed that quite noticeable variations can be obtained in the appearance of recess-engraved stamps by altering the tension or pressure on the press during printing. (See Note 2.) While this seems perfectly possible, and may, indeed, be the explanation for the example quoted in the Note, the circumstances of the production of the Kedah 'Malay ploughing' stamps, taking place as they did over a long period of time, make this explanation extremely improbable, and it can be discounted.

It might be said that there is a basic contradiction in referring throughout this chapter to the 'Malay ploughing' stamps produced after the change to steel plates as 'Plate 2' and the 'padi-sheaf' stamps produced by a similar method as 'Type II'. This is true up to a point. Strictly speaking, the two key plates of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette should be designated as 'Type I, Plate 1', and 'Type II, Plate 2', but that seems quite unnecessary as they are not different on two counts, Type and Plate, as is the 2 cents green. It seems immaterial whether the differences between the two are classified as being under Type or Plate and, the latter, as it is commonly in use, is a perfectly satisfactory way of describing them.

It might be argued that the terms 'Die I' and 'Die II' are justified on the grounds they show different representations of the die, albeit the same die. This may be acceptable to some, but it seems quite pointless, as well as inaccurate, to refer to a 'Die II' when one never existed. The differences between the two vignettes, which admittedly are considerable, came about coincidentally in the course of their production, and their classification as 'Plate 1' and 'Plate 2' is therefore a statement of fact, whereas that of 'Die I' and 'Die II' has no basis in fact whatsoever. Had the Crown Agents been questioned on the matter at the time, their answer might well have been similar to the one they gave for the 1 cent value: 'One die only was prepared, and from this die two plates were made.'

The new 'Malay ploughing' key plate had Plate No. 2 – a sans-serif figure 5 mm high by 3 mm wide – placed sideways to the left of, and below, the key plate guide mark on the bottom margin. On the actual sheet it is printed below, but just touching, the words 'LA RUE &' of the imprint. The other 'Malay ploughing' values printed from Plate 2 had the same figure '2' as for the 12 and 35 cents in the bottom margin low down beneath the middle stamp of the last row. Unfortunately, owing to the habit of the printers of reducing the size of the sheet margins, these figures are not often seen and usually, even when they are, only a vestige can be picked out.

Dr Wood was of the opinion that all subsequent printings of the 'Malay ploughing' values after the issue of the 12 cents and 35 cents were from Plate 2 and of this there can be no doubt (there is no further mention of 'Plough 1' in the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book after 1926), starting with the 10 cents and 30 cents which were despatched together between 14 February and 8 March 1927, and confirmed as being from Plate 2 by the *Crown Agents Bulletin*. These values, therefore, and the 25 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents, can be found from both plates. The 20 cents and 21 cents, which were not reprinted after 1921, exist from Plate 1 only, while the 12 cents and 35 cents are naturally to be found only from Plate 2.

The timing of the production of the new 12 and 35 cents values, in 1926, meant that they were the first (and the last) of the 'Malay ploughing' values to be printed from working border plates made of steel. As stated in Chapter 14, the decision taken at this time to make Kedah's recess-engraved plates in this more orthodox way was probably due to the fact that the electrotyped plates were not designed to withstand the tremendous pressure exerted by the new De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press introduced around 1924. One might have expected therefore, that, if they were to have been used on this press, or the 'mangle' as it was called, the new plates would have had to have been curved, and the stamps they produced, together with those from the new key plate, 'dry' printed. It has to be said, however, that although the first of these statements is almost certainly true, there is no evidence to support either. There is no mention of the 12 cents and 35 cents plates being curved in the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book and the stamps printed from them are not larger than the other 'Malay ploughing' values, which they most certainly would have been if they had been 'dry' printed. However, it may be recalled that the Plate 1 'Malay ploughing' key plate had been replaced after it had been drawn from the Crown Agents: *'To be curved for Rotary M/C'* so the likelihood is that the new plates were adapted for rotary printing also, even if the 'Malay ploughing' values continued to be 'wet' printed, as it seems, in all probability, they were.

The method used to produce the new border plates was essentially the same as the one used for the Type II 'padi-sheaf' values. Secondary dies for each were made using a 'punch' taken from the original border die. This transfer die must have been made in 1926 as one was not already in existence owing to the fact that the 1912 'original' border plates for the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' values had been made by lead-striking and electrotyping and not by the transfer process. This transfer die or 'punch' is another not listed in the Crown Agents Dies and Punches Register because, presumably, judging from the De La Rue Private Day Books, it was never charged to the Crown Agents. Once the secondary dies had been engraved with their respective figures of value, border plates were then laid down from them. Proofs pulled from these dies showing the new figures of value were amongst the De La Rue archives sold by auction in the 1970s. They were dated 29.1.26 and both marked 'Approved 1/2.26' (see Figs 96 & 97 in Chapter 19). The denominated border dies and their 'Roller Punches' are listed in the Crown Agents Dies and Punches Register.

Proof, if such is still needed, that these two values were produced from plates laid down from transfer dies and not made from the old 'master plate' by electrotyping, is the existence of some 12 cents stamps bearing 're-entries', details of which will be found in the Check-list at the end of this chapter. 'Re-entries' occurred when an existing impression on the plate had to be burnished out for some reason, such as mis-alignment, and a new one made in its place. If the old impression was not completely removed, it would leave traces behind which would then be reproduced as part of the design of the new impression. This often had the effect of 'doubling' a line or lines of the design and such things are typical, and not uncommon, features of recess-engraved stamps printed from steel plates made by the transfer process.

The sheet format of the new 12 cents and 35 cents duty plates had to be identical to that used for the other 'Malay ploughing' values (sheets of 60 in 12 rows of 5) as, of course, they had to be used in conjunction with the vignette plate, and there were the usual

guide-marks on both the key and duty plates and the two marginal lines on the duty plates. A new feature, however, was the appearance of the imprint 'THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY LIMITED LONDON' below the middle stamp of the bottom row, placed 2-3mm below the outer of the two marginal lines. This was printed in the same colour as the duty plate.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE BORDER PLATES

There is no evidence that De La Rue ever considered making new duty plates for the existing 'Malay ploughing' values to go with the brand new key plate, but this does not alter the fact that the frames of the Plate 2 stamps (and in the case of the 25 cents, a later printing from Plate 1) have an altogether cleaner, crisper look about them. This is especially noticeable in the background lines which are in clearer relief, in the ovals containing the figures of value and the individual lines of engraving in the areas of solid colour (Figs 67, 68 & 69).

This improvement can hardly be attributable just to some variation in a printing component such as the ink or, perhaps, some subtle change in technique on the part of the printers. It did not come before time, however, as the duty plates were producing some quite shoddy work by the early 1920s, particularly in the value tablets. A number of the latter already showed the 'breaks' associated with pantograph engraving but, later, these breaks became more numerous, until, in the case of some 25 cents stamps from the first printing on Multiple Script CA paper, the figures of value hardly had any proper background at all. The improvement is so marked when comparison is made with the 1932 printing (Printing 2) that it is certain that the border plates were repaired or, to use a more appropriate word, refurbished, sometime in the interim. It is possible that the improvement was made during the course of the 1921 printing (Printing 1) as some of the stamps from this printing show no wear at all (Fig. 67).

The way in which electrotyped recess-plates of this period could be repaired or 'refurbished' was relatively straightforward and is described by John Easton as follows:

These electroplates are chromium-plated, which enables them to be used as many times as a steel plate without showing signs of wear. If they should begin to wear the chromium face can be floated off and the plate refaced.

This was not a difficult process by all accounts, as all that was required was a relatively short immersion in a vat of acid followed by further immersion for a few hours in another vat containing the appropriate electrolytic or electroplating solution. The only damage which could not be repaired by this means was that caused by a severe knock which penetrated the chromium and affected the plate itself.*

It is the opinion of a former De La Rue employee who worked for many years on a Rotary Recess Printing Press, the 'mangle', using electrotyped plates ('electros' as they were

* There was a means by which some electrotyped plates which had sustained even this kind of damage could be repaired. It is believed, however, that these plates were made by a different method to the one De La Rue used for the Kedah plates. The method and the means of repair are briefly mentioned in a footnote in Chapter 10, but, in case subsequent research reveals that any of the Kedah plates were made in this way, the processes are dealt with more fully in Note 3 at the end of this chapter.



Fig. 67 – 25 cents value, before and after refurbishment of duty plate
(cf. the duty tablets).



Fig. 68 – 40 cents value, before and after refurbishment of duty plate
(cf. the inscription panels).

In these three examples, the refurbished plate is on the right.



Fig. 69 – 50 cents value, before and after refurbishment of duty plate
(cf. the inscription panels).

called), mainly for printing banknotes but also for stamps, that refacing the plates was a fairly common occurrence. He recalled examining them before work commenced each day, often by the light of a lamp, for signs of the copper shell showing through the chromium plating, and returning any offenders to the plating department for treatment in the 'acid bath', as it was known. They came back as good as new. As was to be expected, the Crown Agents inspectors took the keenest interest in every aspect of the whole operation.

There seems little doubt that this re-plating process was used to restore some, perhaps all, of the 'Malay ploughing' duty plates during the course of the 1920s and 1930s. Identical positional blocks from different printings of any particular value showing the 'old' and 'new' states of the duty plate might yield useful information on this matter in the future and help to pinpoint the actual printing before, or during, which the re-plating took place. Comparing individual stamps is not of much use as the surface damage or wear is unlikely to have been evenly spread across the plate, and some stamps may not have been affected by it at all.

PERFORATIONS OF THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES

There are few of the perforation varieties in these large-format stamps that exist in the 'padi-sheaf' values. This is possibly due to the fact that the stamps hardly vary at all in size. The maximum variation noted between stamps of different value, printing or plate is 1 mm, the average being about 0.25 mm or less. Either very little paper-shrinkage took place in the course of their printing, or more probably, for some reason De La Rue did not use 'dry' printing methods in their production at any time. If they had, then even larger size variations than in the 'padi-sheaf' stamps would have been inevitable.

With no problems of variable size to deal with, it would appear that there was little need for a variety of perforating machines. However, De La Rue did use both comb and line machines to perforate the large-format stamps, the comb machine giving measurements on the *Instanta* between 13.7 and 13.9, and the line machine a constant measurement of 14.2 with three exceptions. The 35 cents, issued in 1926, was perforated 13.8 x 14.1 by a line machine and this measurement recurred rather unexpectedly in two other values issued in 1933. These were the reprints of the \$5 dated 28.4.33, and the reprint of the 40 cents dated 17.7.33. As the comb perforation seems to be invariably around 13.8 and the line, with all other values and printings, a constant 14.2, the three exceptions are worth mentioning, if only to assist positive identification between comb and line perforations, which is not always a simple business with single stamps. Oddly enough, in contrast to the 'padi-sheaf' values, the early and late printings of the large-format values were usually perforated line and the intervening ones comb.

WATERMARK VARIETIES

The watermark on the large-format values continued to appear sideways on the Multiple Script CA paper. As a general rule the early printings showed the watermark with the top of the crown pointing to the left. (As explained in Chapter 10, the watermark is described as viewed from the front of the stamp.) Whitfield King's *Monthly List* of May 1928 reported the 50 cents with the crown pointing to the right (together with the \$2 and \$3) but, as Dr Wood pointed out in his *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected Stamps of Malaya*,

he had made the same report in *The Philatelic Magazine* of 17 October 1925. This would appear to be the first record of what is, in effect, an inverted watermark on Multiple Script CA paper, although there had been several earlier examples on paper watermarked Multiple Crown. Both the new values issued in 1926, the 12 and 35 cents, had the watermark pointing to the right and thereafter, it seems, this was the norm with most, at least, of the reprints. Could there be any significance in this reversal? It has been suggested it marked a change from using paper in sheets to rolls (on the web) and that this, in turn, was a sign of a change from flat-bed to rotary printing. The latter clearly cannot be so as the evidence produced in Chapter 14 points to rotary printing being introduced in 1924 or even earlier. There is also no proof that rolls of paper were ever used in the printing of Kedah's stamps – at least, not directly. In De La Rue's *The Banknote* is a description of the operation of the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press. This was introduced in the early 1920s to print banknotes, and, by implication, stamps, by rotary action for the first time. Part of the description is as follows: *'The sheets of paper are fed to the machine and taken off by hand, but the machine itself is driven by an electric motor.'* There is no ambiguity, the paper was in sheets. The likelihood is, however, that this paper was originally made up in rolls and then guillotined into sheets. If this is so then the explanation for the change in the watermark could simply be that the rolls were now supplied to the printers with the paper wound in the opposite direction, i.e. from left to right instead of right to left, and this would have the effect, when it was guillotined, of pointing the crown of the watermark in the opposite direction *vis-à-vis* the stamp. In other words, although the change in the direction of the watermark after 1926 might indicate some alteration in a working method on the part of the printers, this may not be so.

Mention might be made here of a notable watermark variety which occurs on the 10 cents value. The first printing on Script CA paper was a 'Plate 1, Crown Left, Line' stamp. At least one sheet of this paper was passed through the press both inverted and turned over so that the printing occurred on the 'wrong' side of the paper. The effect of this was not only to create a 'Crown Right' variety of a 'Plate 1, Line' stamp which is unique amongst the 'Malay ploughing' values, but also a 'reversed watermark', i.e. the 'C' and the 'A' reading upwards when viewed from the front of the stamp or downwards when viewed from the back.

SHADES OF COLOUR

An impressive list of varieties of the 'Malay ploughing' stamps can be produced by different combinations of the three variables of plate, perforation and watermark. If shade of printing ink is added, the list becomes even longer. The latter, however, has always presented a problem, not only to the collector, but to the printer and the catalogue editor as well. Differences of shade have always been regarded by the philatelist as evidence of different printings but this need not always be the case. In *Postage Stamps in the Making*, John Easton has this to say on the subject:

Wide variations in shade can be obtained with the same ink if varying thicknesses of ink are used. A scarlet red, for example, may be converted into a weak pink tint solely by using insufficient ink during the printing of the sheets ... Several shades may occur in one impression if the ink is mixed several times, especially when the printer has

blended his own colour from several standard inks, but on the whole a difference in shade may be taken as representing the difference between one printing and another from the same plates.

A note on the extent to which shade of ink has been used to identify separate varieties of this issue is contained at the beginning of the Check-list at the end of this chapter.

'TINTED' PAPER

Mention was made in Chapter 10 of how line-engraved printing could lead to the tinting of the surface of the stamps when 'wet' paper was used. (This is not to be confused with the colour staining that also occurs with this printing method and which was also described and explained in Chapter 10.) The 'Malay ploughing' values of the Script issue provide two notable examples of tinting – some 30 cents stamps thought to be from a printing dated in January/February 1924 and some 40 cents stamps from the first printing on Script paper in May 1921. In the former case the tinting came from the red (or rose) ink used for the printing of the frame plate; in the latter from the black ink of the vignette giving a grey tint to the paper. This grey tint has led to previous writers describing the paper as grey and thus confusing it with the 'greyish' paper used for some values of the 1912 and 1919–21 issues. Tinted paper is usually one-sided, the reverse showing something like the paper's original colour. The author has seen marginal blocks of the 40 cents where faint lines of the black ink have marked the extremity of the tinted area almost like a tide mark, and beyond which the border has been untouched. The same tinting occurs on the 30 cents although in this case it has a rosy hue as it came from the ink used for the frame. The most noticeable feature of these stamps is not so much the tint, as a rather 'washed' look to the red (or rose) parts of the stamps which is most distinctive.

Whether this tinting occurred at the time these colours were printed or when the paper was dampened for the printing of the second colour cannot be stated with absolute certainty. Easton said it occurred when the paper was re-wetted but the lack of staining (the coloured part of the design showing through to the back of the stamp) which often accompanied tinting is puzzling. (Neither the 30 cents or 40 cents stamps show this staining.) Possibly the paper was not drained adequately before printing the first colour (*see Note 1* at the end of Chapter 10 where the 'wetting' process is described) so that there was sufficient surface water left on the stamps to absorb some colour from the first ink as it was applied and thereby create a tinted 'wash'. This certainly was the opinion of Fred. J. Melville in his *Postage Stamps in the Making* (1916) and he was somewhat caustic about collectors who liked to claim the discovery of a new 'toned' paper whereas, in reality, all they had found was simply a paper which had been too wet when the impression was taken (*see Note 4*). Either way, two interesting varieties were created for the collector to search for.

'CORRUGATION' OF THE PLATE

In the chapter on the stamps of Kedah in his book *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya*, Dr Wood drew attention to what he called 'a curious condition of the duty plate' of the 20 cents, which, in his words:

... produced faint parallel bands of green colour across the space occupied by the vignette and in parts of the duty-plate itself. It has been stated that it is most noticeable

on the second stamp in the second row (No.7) on some sheets. It has been suggested that it may have been caused by slight corrugation of the plate coupled with imperfect wiping before printing.

Dr Wood's use of the word 'bands' in this extract is confusing but it is assumed he was referring to what might be more accurately described as 'lines' of colour, in this case green, which can be seen running diagonally across the north-west quarter of the 20 cents shown in Fig. 70. Other green lines running in the opposite direction, i.e. south-east to north-west, have been recorded on the same value, while similar lines have been reported on a 10 cents stamp, except that, as they came from the ink of the duty plate, they were brown. Stamps showing the same condition are known from other territories – a KGV Bahamas ½d having been quoted as an example.



Fig. 70

What Dr Wood meant by 'corrugation' is not very clear but if he was inferring the plate could become uneven enough to trap surplus ink while it was being wiped it is difficult to see how it could produce an acceptable stamp on a flat sheet of paper. Easton offers another explanation. It seems that wiping the plate during the printing of line-engraved stamps without drawing the ink out of the recesses at the same time was a very skilled operation. In former days it often had to be done by the printer polishing the plate, using his bare hand covered with what was called 'whiting'. Then, when modern improvements speeded up the process to the point where hand-wiping had to be abandoned in favour of an American cloth* wound on a spindle the following could occur:

The cloth moves with a rapid vibrating motion across the plate and leaves a thin scum of ink on the plate which still has to be wiped clean by hand. The scum of ink lies in a wavy pattern which may form a background to the stamps if the hand polishing is carelessly done.

Whether this 'wavy pattern' is the 'corrugation' first noticed and remarked on by Dr Wood may never be known for certain but it seems a strong possibility. On the other hand, printers who had worked on the De La Rue Rotary Printing Press and who were consulted by the author were somewhat sceptical. Perhaps the suggestion offended their professional pride, but it needs to be remembered that the 20 cents value was printed in 1921 some years before the advent of the Rotary Printing Press.

* These were known as 'calicoes' by the printers. By the 1930s there were four on each press, two to remove the worst of the ink, the remaining two to polish the plate. The American cloth had to be regularly removed and laundered.

MARGINAL BOSSES OF COLOUR

Mention has already been made in Chapter 14 of what Dr Wood described as 'the addition of a small round boss of colour to guide marks of the duty-plates on the margins' on a number of late printings of both the 'padi-sheaf' and 'Malay ploughing' stamps. He went on to say:

I have found it on the top and bottom margins of the 10 cents and the bottom margins of the 40 cents and 50 cents. It probably occurs on the side margins as well and also on other values. This small round boss of colour is attached to the upright guide mark, about 1mm above in the case of the top margin and 1mm below in the case of the bottom margin, where the crossbar forms the angle with the upright. I have noticed this same condition on the fairly recent printings of the stamps of Brunei where it is also found on the side margins as well as the top and bottom. What it signifies I have no idea but it evidently means something to the printers.

The precise purpose of these bosses of colour is still unknown as the De La Rue printers consulted by the author were unable to offer any solution.

THE 'COUNCIL CHAMBER' VALUES

The dollar values with the familiar picture of the 'Balei Besar' or 'Council Chamber' were printed on the Multiple Script CA paper in essentially the same manner as their predecessors on the Multiple Crown paper, and the details of the stamps were similar, although the colours of the \$5 were described by Dr Wood as black and carmine instead of black and red. This may have been true of the early printing or printings but later ones matched the colour of the 1912 stamp fairly well. The coloured papers, yellow for the \$1 and blue for the \$3, continued to be used with no discernible variation. The sheet format was the same (60 stamps, in 12 rows of 5) and the guide marks and marginal lines were as before.

The method of production remained unaltered and there appeared to be no need of a new key plate as there was with the 'Malay ploughing' values. There is a little variation in the size of the dollar values as there is with the other 'revenue-sized' stamps and, although the later printings of all the values were fractionally larger, the difference can hardly be attributable to a change from 'wet' to 'dry' printing methods or a change to rotary printing. The first printings of the dollar values had the top of the crown of the watermark pointing to the left, and the stamps were perforated by a line machine. Whitfield King's *Monthly List* of May 1928 reported the \$2 and \$3 with the top of the crown pointing to the right. It could also have stated that they were now perforated by a comb machine as they most certainly were. The \$1 and \$5 values were later issued with the top of the crown of the watermark pointing to the right, the former with a comb perforation, the latter still line but by two different machines, one giving a measurement of 13.8 by 14.1 which it shared with two other stamps, the 35 cents and a 1933 printing of the 40 cents.

PLATE FLAWS ON THE LARGE-FORMAT VALUES

As with the issue on Multiple Crown CA paper there are plenty of flaw varieties on the Multiple Script for those who wish to search for them. Indeed, as often happens with line-engraved stamps, there are so many blemishes on the 10 cents value used for the MBE

overprints, that the sheet can be 'plated' by this means, which is extremely helpful to those who may wish to position constant errors on these overprints (see Chapter 16). The majority of the flaws on the basic stamps are so minor that they are of no interest in themselves. The most noticeable ones are the lines associated with the wear that took place on the old key plate of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette, but these have been described earlier.



Fig. 71 - Normal Hat (left) and Retouched Spike (right) on hat of Malay ploughman.



Fig. 72 - 'Jawi character' flaw, \$1 duty plate.



Fig. 73 - 'Value tablet' flaw, 10 cents.

On R1/5 of Plate 2 of the 'Malay ploughing' design there is a small re-entry or retouch on the vignette which distorts the spike on the ploughman's hat (Fig. 71). Although it has been seen on only the 10 cents, 12 cents and 30 cents so far, no doubt it exists on the other values printed from Plate 2. If this flaw is the result of a re-entry it would constitute further proof that the Plate 2 key plate was made of steel and laid down by a transfer die.

On the duty plate of the \$1 value there is a flaw which joins the bottom of the right-hand Jawi character to the frame (Fig. 72). Details of the sheet position are not known but, if it is constant, it could be found on the other dollar values as well, unless it occurred when the \$1 duty plate was being electrotyped from the master.

On the frame plate of the 10 cents there is a very obvious break in the oval frame of the value tablet to the left of the top of the '1' (Fig. 73). It has been confirmed on several

different printings of this value, including the stamp bearing the MBE overprint, and also on the Multiple Crown CA 10 cents. It occurs on R2/4. This flaw has already been described in Chapter 10 and is only one, but possibly the largest, of no less than nineteen similar breaks or gaps in the line surrounding the oval value tablets that have been seen on a single sheet of the 10 cents. Most of these are probably constant and are typical of engraving done by a pantograph when the etching needle loses contact with the plate for want of fine adjustment.

A number of quite obvious re-entries exist on the frame plate of the 12 cents, notably at the corners of one or two stamps, where pronounced 'doubling' of both the vertical and horizontal lines demonstrate the typical re-entry characteristics which occur when the roller die is re-aligned over a previous impression that has not been completely removed. Not surprisingly there are other re-entries on the same stamps, such as a doubling of some lines of the scrolls on either side of the top of the design. Once again, sheet position or positions are unknown.

Mention has already been made in Chapter 11 of the 'Feather-in-Hat' flaw found on R9/5 of Plate 1 of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette. It has been confirmed on the 10 cents, 20 cents, 21 cents, 25 cents and 40 cents values on Multiple Script CA paper so far.

USED IN PERLIS

As was stated in Chapter 14 in connection with the 'padi-sheaf' stamps on Multiple Script CA paper, all the values with the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' designs must have been used in Perlis although, apart from the \$1, of which a fair number of copies have been recorded, the dollar values are not known with Perlis cancellations. It is by no means certain that Padang Besar, being only an agency, held stocks of the dollar stamps.

Of the 'Malay ploughing' values, all are known with Perlis cancellations although just a single copy has been recorded of the 21 cents (SG 32). Only the odd one or two examples are known of the 20 cents (SG 31) also, and these were used in Padang Besar in the 1920s. As this stamp is common used in Kedah, the fact that it has not been reported so far with a Kangar postmark suggests that it may never have been on sale there or, if it was, only in very small quantities. As in the case of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps, it is unlikely that all the many and different printings of the 'Malay ploughing' values were on sale in Perlis as they may not have been needed there during the period each one was in current stock in the GPO, Alor Star, especially in view of the fact that the size of some of the printings was very small.

CHECK-LIST

A considerable number of shades have been reported over the years on the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' stamps of the Multiple Script CA issue, but only the more obvious ones are listed below. Most of these shades are on the frame plates, but where the key plate is in a colour other than black, variations have been recorded here also. Even the black of the vignette has been reported in grey-black, but this was probably due to under-inking, as described by Easton earlier.

Where the word 'shades' in brackets appears in the Check-list without any attempt at definition, it means either there is a variation within a single printing which cannot be described

satisfactorily, or there are shades amongst two or more printings which cannot be identified and separated. Where a shade can be tied to a particular printing it is listed and described as a separate variety. Separate printings of the 10 cents and 25 cents values have been identified using an Ultra Violet Lamp. It might be profitable to extend this line of study in the future.

10 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Blue and Sepia (shades).

As above. Watermark Inverted and Reversed.*

'Cracked plate' flaw (R7/4 of Plate 1).

'Feather-in-Hat' flaw (R9/5 of Plate 1).

Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb. Blue and Reddish-Brown.

As above. Blue and Sepia.

Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Blue (shades from pale to deep blue) and Sepia.

As above. Blue (shades) and Sepia. Vignette is fluorescent blue under UVL.

'Hat Spike' retouch (R1/5 of Plate 2).

'Value-tablet' flaw (R2/4).

'Corrugated brown lines' flaw.

- * This stamp is the result of a sheet or sheets of the 'Plate 1, Crown Left, Line' stamp being put to the press inverted and the wrong way up. It is scarce but blocks of 20 (bottom 4 rows), 10 (top 2 rows) and 4 were known to exist in 1992.

A 'Plate 2, Crown Left, Comb' Blue and Sepia stamp has been reported but not confirmed. Such a stamp does not have a place in the known printing 'pattern', i.e. no Plate 2 stamp with the crown of its watermark facing left has been confirmed, and its existence must be in doubt.

12 Cents Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb. Black and Dark Blue.

'Hat Spike' retouch (R1/5).

'Corner' re-entry.

'Scroll' re-entry.

20 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Black and Yellow-Green.

'Cracked plate' flaw (R7/4).

'Feather-in-Hat' flaw (R9/5).

'Corrugated green lines' flaw.

21 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Mauve and Purple.

'Cracked plate' flaw (R7/4).

'Feather-in-Hat' flaw (R9/5).

25 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Blue and Purple.

'Cracked plate' flaw (R7/4 of Plate 1).

'Feather-in-Hat' flaw (R9/5 of Plate 1).

Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb. Light-Blue and Purple.

As above. Deep-Blue and Purple.

Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Blue (shades) and Purple (shades).

As above. Blue and Purple. Vignette is fluorescent blue under UVL.

- 30 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Comb. Black and Rose.
As above. Black and Carmine-Rose with surface-tinted paper.
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb. Black and Deep Rose.
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Black and Deep Carmine.
 'Hat Spike' retouch (R1/5 of Plate 2).
- 35 Cents Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Purple.
- 40 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Black and Purple.
As above. Black and Purple with surface-tinted paper.
 'Feather-in-hat' flaw (R9/5 of Plate 1).
 Plate 1. Crown Left. Comb. Black and Purple.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb. Black and Purple.
 'Cracked plate' flaw (R7/4 of Plate 1).
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb. Black and Purple.
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Black and Purple. Perf. 13.8 x 14.1.
- 50 Cents Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Brown and Blue.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb. Brown and Blue.
 'Cracked plate' flaw (R7/4 of Plate 1).
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb. Brown and Blue.
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Deep Brown and Blue.
 Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Brown and Blue.
- \$1 Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Black and Red/Yellow.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Line. Black and Red/Yellow.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb. Black and Red/Yellow.
 'Jawi character' flaw.
- \$2 Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Green and Light Brown.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb. Green and Deep Brown.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb. Deep Green and Deep Brown.
- \$3 Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Black and Blue/Blue.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb. Black and Blue/Blue.
- \$5 Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Black and Carmine.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Line. Black and Red.
 Plate 1. Crown Right. Line. Black and Red. Perf. 13.8 x 14.1.

THE PRINTINGS

As with the 'padi-sheaf' values an attempt is made in this section to link the printings taken from the De La Rue Private Day Books and the Crown Agents Requisition Books, mainly the latter, and match them with the varieties in the above Check-list. Certain problems, not encountered before, made this task difficult. Firstly, as mentioned at the beginning of the chapter, there were a great many printings of these stamps, far more than one would normally expect. This was due, it seems, to the search for, and imminent expectation of, a portrait set to replace the large-format values. Secondly, although none of the 'Malay

ploughing' values is scarce used, they certainly do not exist in the same numbers as the 'padi-sheaves' and this is a big drawback when trying to establish periods of use of a stamp using postmarks. The dollar stamps are difficult to find at all with genuinely dated postmarks and so much remains to be done with these values at the present moment.

The majority of the printing dates are from the Crown Agents Requisition Books and these record the actual days the requisitions were despatched, normally by freight, but where early delivery was required, by parcel post. In the latter case the stamps might have been ready for issue in Malaya about a month after despatch but freight would naturally take longer. How much longer would depend on shipping schedules but, on average, it would be certainly faster than is usual today owing to the greater number of sailings.

Where the Crown Agents give two dates for despatch this is now known to be usually occasions when the printers completed a requisition order in two instalments. These are, in effect, two separate printings but separation of them by means of postmarks is virtually impossible, particularly as there is no guarantee that they were issued separately. As has been made clear in the main text, however, separate printings, even when only a few days apart, could well result in significant shade differences, and, indeed, on occasion, perhaps paper differences as well. Where this may have occurred, it has been noted.

As the Crown Agents records do not begin until 1922 the early printing dates of the Multiple Script CA issue are taken from the De La Rue Private Day Books and are indicated as follows: (DLR). These dates are thought to be when De La Rue submitted their invoices to their customers and may therefore be several days after the date of despatch.

Where postmarks are insufficient to help assign printing dates the following guidelines have been used. The Crown Left watermark almost certainly preceded Crown Right and there can be no doubt Plate 1 preceded Plate 2. By and large, early and late perforations were line and those issued in between, that is, in the late 1920s and the early 1930s, were comb. It has been assumed that in a single printing of stamps there was uniformity of watermark and perforation although there is no guarantee of this. There is one other helpful guideline. Different values ordered on the same requisition order and printed at the same time are likely to have been printed on the same paper, i.e. with the watermark pointing the same way, and be perforated by the same machine, i.e. line or comb. Although, once again, there can be no guarantee of this, postmark evidence has been found in contradiction with it on only the odd one or two occasions. (The main one was Requisition No. 127/20, which was despatched in the first quarter of 1921 and included the first stamp on Multiple Script paper, the \$3 value, the remainder of the requisition being on Multiple Crown paper.) The likelihood of it being true has been most useful in resolving alternatives and it has also suggested the existence of further varieties so far undiscovered. These have been mentioned in the notes following the lists of printings of each value. Even when all this is taken into consideration, however, the following table cannot be regarded as established fact. Further research will inevitably lead to revision, not least perhaps in the number of varieties.

The De La Rue and Crown Agents records in their entirety can be found in Appendices 3 and 4, respectively.

Where no colours are given in the following lists it is to be assumed the printing is in the colours given in the heading.

10 CENTS BLUE & SEPIA

PRINTING 1	6.5.21 & 14.5.21 (DLR)	Blue and Sepia (shades). Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Error. Watermark Inverted & Reversed.
PRINTING 2	14.2.27 - 8.3.27	Blue and Reddish-Brown. Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 3	9.8.32	Blue and Sepia. Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 4	5.9.34	Blue (shades from pale to deep blue) and Sepia. Plate 2. Crown Right. Line.
PRINTING 5	8.5.36	The same as Printing 4.
PRINTING 6	10.2.37 - 24.2.37	Blue (shades) and Sepia. Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Vignette is fluorescent blue under UVL.

The *Crown Agents Bulletin* reported Printing 2 as being from Plate 2.

The reversed watermark (Crown Right) variety is from the 1921 printings but is an error, i.e. a rogue sheet or sheets, and not a separate printing.

There may be a difference in the shade of blue between Printings 4 and 5 but it has not been possible to separate them so far.

Printing 6 (or that part of it printed on 10.2.37) is similar to Printings 4 and 5 apart from its UVL reaction.

Printing 6 was identified because it gives the same UVL reaction as a 25 cents stamp printed on 10.2.37. (See note under the 25 cents printings.) This printing was very small - only 125 sheets.

12 CENTS BLACK & DARK BLUE

PRINTING 1	13.8.26	Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
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20 CENTS BLACK & GREEN

PRINTING 1	14.5.21 (DLR)	Plate 1. Crown Left. Line.
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21 CENTS MAUVE & PURPLE

PRINTING 1	14.5.21 (DLR)	Plate 1. Crown Left. Line.
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25 CENTS BLUE & PURPLE

PRINTING 1	14.5.21 (DLR)	Plate 1. Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	9.8.32	Light Blue and Purple. Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 3	27.5.35	Deep Blue and Purple. Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.

PRINTING 4	13.5.36-10.6.36	Blue (shades) and Purple (shades). Plate 2. Crown Right. Line.
PRINTING 5	10.2.37	The same as Printing 4 except the vignette is fluorescent blue under UVL.

A 1935 postmark has been reported on the 'Plate 2, Crown Right, Line' stamp but not confirmed.

Printing 5 is similar to Printing 4 apart from its reaction under the UVL.

Printing 5 of the 25 cents and Printing 6 of the 10 cents were produced on the same day, and the vignettes of both give the same reaction under the UVL. As they are both blue it is likely they were printed together in one run, the batch then being divided to receive their respective frames. This is made even more likely by the fact that the printings of both stamps were very small - 125 sheets of the 10 cents and 94 sheets of the 25 cents.

30 CENTS BLACK & ROSE

PRINTING 1	15.12.22	Plate 1. Crown Left. Comb.
PRINTING 2	16.1.24-28.2.24*	Black and Carmine-Rose. Plate 1. Crown Left. Comb. Surface-tinted paper.†
PRINTING 3	14.2.27-8.3.27	Black and Deep Rose. Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 4	27.12.33	The same as Printing 3.
PRINTING 5	8.5.36	Black and Deep Carmine. Plate 2. Crown Right. Line.

* This printing was completed on the same requisition order as some 40 cents and 50 cents stamps and at the same time. Both of the latter were from Plate 1, on paper with the crown pointing to the right and perforated by a comb machine. Is it possible a 30 cents with these characteristics exists and awaits discovery? The above list suggests not, but it is possible that, as Printing 2 was done in two batches, one may have been of a Crown Right stamp, the other of the 'surface-tinted' variety listed above.

† An explanation for these 'tinted' papers has been given in the text. This tint has a reddish tone and so is thought to have come from the ink used in the printing of the frame plate. It gives a slightly 'washed' look to the stamps, even mint.

The *Crown Agents Bulletin* recorded Printing 3 as being from Plate 2 which means the first two printings must have been of Plate 1 and both, unusually, appear to have been comb instead of the more customary line.

The 1936 printing is assigned to the 'Plate 2, Crown Right, Line' stamp on very little postmark evidence indeed, as it is a very scarce stamp used. This must be due to the fact that it was not in use for much more than a year before it was replaced by the Waterlow Portrait 30 cents in late June 1937. There was also no specific airmail rate at that time which might have ensured a 30 cents stamp was more widely used.

35 CENTS PURPLE

PRINTING 1	28.5.26	Plate 2. Crown Right. Line.
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40 CENTS BLACK & PURPLE

PRINTING 1	6.5.21 (DLR)	Plate 1. Crown Left. Line. Some have a 'tinted' surface.*
PRINTING 2	15.12.22	Plate 1. Crown Left. Comb.
PRINTING 3	16.1.24-28.2.24	Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 4	9.8.32	Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 5	19.7.33	Plate 2. Crown Right. Line. Perf. 13.8 x 14.1.
PRINTING 6	5.9.34	Probably the same as Printing 5.

- * These stamps appear to have been tinted from the ink used in the printing of the vignette. Being black this has produced a grey tint reminiscent of the greyish paper used just after the end of the First World War. This has led to confusion in the past. These stamps are not printed on the greyish paper, use of which finished not later than 1920. The backs of these stamps are the normal white.

Unless the 'Plate 1, Crown Left, Comb' (Printing 2) stamp is an inverted watermark variety of Printing 3, and not a separate printing of its own, the first three varieties can be assigned to the first three printings on the following principles: the 'Specimen' is a 'Plate 1, Crown Left, Line' stamp and so this variety belongs to Printing 1; chronologically, the 'Crown Left' watermark (Printing 2) should precede the 'Crown Right' watermark (Printing 3), although neither has been seen postmarked early enough to make this certain. The 'Plate 2, Line' stamp is known used before September 1934 and so was probably the subject of both the 1933 and 1934 printings.

50 CENTS BROWN & BLUE

PRINTING 1	6.5.21 (DLR)	Plate 1. Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	16.1.24-28.2.24	Plate 1. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 3	9.8.32	Plate 2. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 4	5.9.34	Deep Brown and Blue. Plate 2. Crown Right. Line.
PRINTING 5	8.5.36	Brown and Blue. Plate 2. Crown Right. Line.
PRINTING 6	10.2.37	Probably the same as Printing 5.†

- † The stamps from this printing were not in use very long, being superseded by the Waterlow Portrait 50 cents at the end of June 1937.

Assuming the first two varieties can be directly linked to the only printings of this value before Plate 2 was brought into use in 1926, it leaves the last two to be ascribed to the four printings of the 1930s. As the 'Plate 2, Comb' stamp is known postmarked as early as 1932 it must have been the printing of that year. The 'Plate 2, Line' stamp is known used in 1935 and must have been the subject of the next printing in 1934. If the late printings of the 50 cents were perforated in the same way as the other 'Malay ploughing' values, then the last two printings must be line also. They were, incidentally, both very small, being 6,120 stamps and 8,940 stamps respectively.

\$1 BLACK & RED/YELLOW

PRINTING 1	16.1.24-28.2.24	Crown Right. Line. AND Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	28.1.26-4.3.26	Crown Right. Line.
PRINTING 3	9.11.27	The same as Printing 2.
PRINTING 4	2.5.29	Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 5	27.6.29	The same as Printing 4.

This stamp, like its Multiple Crown predecessor, is something of a mystery. Normally the first printing of the 'large-format' values was 'Crown Left, Line' but the \$1 was issued almost three years after the other values when the norm was 'Crown Right, Comb'. All the other stamps printed on the same requisition order and at the same time as this stamp (40 cents, 50 cents, \$2 and \$3) were 'Crown Right, Comb'. However, the 'Specimen' is a 'Crown Right, Line' stamp and, as the Specimens are normally taken from the first printing, this variety is therefore assigned to Printing 1. On the evidence of all the other 'large-format' values, the 'Crown Left' paper was not used after 1924 and so it would be highly doubtful to assign the \$1 on this paper to any other than Printing 1, even bearing in mind that the yellow paper of the \$1 value might make it a case apart. This leaves two possible ways the 'Crown Left' \$1 stamp could have come about. The first is that the two separate instalments (43 days apart) which, together, go to make up Printing 1 in 1924, could have each been made on a different batch of paper, one on 'Crown Left' and the other on 'Crown Right'. The second is that the 'Crown Left' stamp could be an inverted watermark variety of the 'Crown Right' stamp, i.e. it was produced as a result of a sheet or sheets being fed into the press the wrong way round during the course of any one or more of the first three printings. This should make it scarcer than it has generally been reported to be although opinion varies on the matter. A copy postmarked before 28.1.26 would at least assign it to Printing 1. Perhaps one awaits discovery.

Another strange aspect of the \$1 value is that although there were no less than seven separate printings on five different requisition orders they were all in the 1920s, which means all the postmarks dated in the 1930s are of little help in making printing assignments. (Mention was made in Chapters 10 and 12 of the large number of Multiple Crown \$1 stamps issued in the years 1919-22. Judging from the printings of the Script CA \$1, it seems demand for this value continued into the early 1930s and then declined. Possibly the \$1 was needed for some revenue purpose which ended about this time.) The 'Crown Right, Comb' stamp is ascribed to the 1929 printings on the following evidence: Being so close together they were likely to be on the same paper and with the same perforation; the stamp seems to be the commonest of the three varieties and Printings 4 and 5 were, together, more than four times larger than any other single printing (126,960 stamps); comb was the usual perforation at the time; it is the stamp most often seen postmarked in the 1930s; and, finally, a \$2 printed at the same time as Printing 5 was also 'Crown Right, Comb'. This leaves the 1926 and 1927 printings to be of the 'Crown Right, Line' stamp. Following so closely, one after the other, they are likely to have been the same. Furthermore, a \$5 printed at the same time as Printing 2 is also 'Crown Right, Line'.

\$2 GREEN & BROWN

PRINTING 1	6.5.21 (DLR)	Green and Light Brown. Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	16.1.24-28.2.24	Green and Deep Brown. Crown Right. Comb.
PRINTING 3	27.6.29	Deep Green and Deep Brown. Crown Right. Comb.

Properly used, dated copies of this stamp are difficult to come by. As the Specimen is a 'Crown Left, Line' stamp it is assumed this is the first printing. Printing 2 was of the 'Crown Right, Comb' stamp as it was printed at the same time as a \$3 with these characteristics which could not have been produced at any other time. Printing 3 was probably of the same variety, as 'Crown Right, Comb' is typical of the late 1920s, and a \$1 printed on the same requisition order is also 'Crown Right, Comb'.

\$3 BLACK & BLUE/BLUE

PRINTING 1	3.2.21 & 14.2.21 (DLR)	Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	6.5.21 (DLR)	The same as Printing 1.
PRINTING 3	16.1.24-28.2.24	Crown Right. Comb.

It is somewhat strange that after five printings in three years there was apparently no further need of a reprint during the remaining seventeen years of this stamp's lifetime. However, as will be seen from the DLR and CA records, the early printings were very small, and about 60% (1,520 stamps) of the 1921 printings were either overprinted SPECIMEN or consigned to dealers. The matching of the only two known varieties of the \$3 to the three printings has been done on logic not postmarks.

\$5 BLACK & CARMINE

PRINTING 1	6.5.21 (DLR)	Crown Left. Line.
PRINTING 2	28.1.26-4.3.26	Black and Red. Crown Right. Line.
PRINTING 3	27.6.29 *	
PRINTING 4	28.4.33	Black and Red. Crown Right. Line. perf. 13.8 x 14.1.
PRINTING 5	6.12.35	Probably Crown Right. Line.

- * \$1 and \$2 stamps printed at the same time as this printing were 'Crown Right, Comb'. Does this mean a \$5 variety exists with these characteristics?

The extreme scarcity of dated copies of this stamp, complicated by the fact that so many examples bear bogus cancels, make allocation to printings extremely difficult. Presumably the \$5 followed the usual pattern of being initially printed on 'Crown Left' paper, while the 'Crown Right, Line' stamp has been assigned to Printing 2 as it is thought that a \$1 with the same characteristics was reprinted at this time.

The surprisingly large number of reprints of this value may have been the result of its use for revenue purposes, although it must be remembered the size of each printing was relatively small, the largest being the last one - 15,000 stamps. There were no printings after 1935 as the Waterlow Portrait \$5 was issued at the end of June 1937.

Note 1: 'DIE 2' OF THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VIGNETTE

Illustrated and described in Lot 504 of the Robson Lowe auction of the De La Rue archive material in Tokyo on 15/16 February 1980 was a proof of the complete design of the 'Malay ploughing' stamp (apart from blank value tablets) with the centre in black and the frame in red. This vignette had all the characteristics of a Plate 2 stamp and yet was clearly dated in manuscript '5 Oct 1911'. If these Plate 2 characteristics existed on the original master die, then, clearly, they were not created by re-engraving in 1926. Although a letter exists from De La Rue which acknowledges the existence of a 'second vignette (Die 2)' and states *'that the ground work and the highlights of the oxen have been re-engraved, also the detail on the farm-worker's hat and lower dress has been considerably re-worked'* it has to be stated that the letter post-dates the period of production of Plate 2 by sixty years, and was written after the company's records had been dispersed, probably by someone with no personal experience of the stamps in question. There is also the further point that no proof of a re-engraved 'Malay ploughing' vignette has ever come to light, which must be significant in view of the fact that the De La Rue archives have become public. The fact that such a proof has not been discovered does not mean that it does not exist but, in the circumstances, its absence must be a very telling factor in the argument.

Note 2: VARYING THE PRESSURE ON THE PRINTING PRESS

The method of printing line-engraved stamps required considerable pressure being placed on the recess-plate to force the paper into the grooves of the design so that it could pick up the ink. The normal way this was done, before the coming of rotary plates, was by overlaying the sheet of dampened paper by a lambswool or felt blanket and then passing the 'sandwich' (plate, paper and blanket) on a travelling bed through two large cylinders, called the 'rollers' or 'rolling presses', which could be adjusted to apply tremendous pressure (up to many tons). A theory has been advanced that an accentuation or a strengthening of the vignette design on the Labuan 'Crown' issue of 1902-03 was obtained in this way - by a tightening of the press when most of the first printing was made in 1902, and then its loosening by the printers, Waterlow & Son Ltd., before the last two values, the 50 cents and \$1, were produced in 1902 and a whole range of values reprinted in 1903.

It cannot be denied that the contrast in the appearance of 'State I' and 'State II' of these stamps bears a strong similarity to the differences typical of Plates 1 and 2 of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette. But while it is accepted that a single printing may show a strengthening or enhancing of a design in this manner it would be stretching credulity to imagine this could be the answer in Kedah's case, where there were a large number of printings made of five different values stretching over the course of eleven years (1926-37), every one of them strongly contrasting to an even greater number of printings spread over the previous fourteen years (1912-26), the change occurring at the precise moment a second plate was brought into use.

Note 3: REPAIR OF ELECTROTYPED PLATES

If the electrotyped printing plate was made up of individual electrotypes, which were separate electrotyped reproductions of the master-die, clamped together and then chromium-plated, even severe damage caused by such a thing as a knock could be repaired by, first, floating off the plating, then cutting out and replacing the offending electrotype or types (often, but erroneously, called clichés), and, finally, re-chroming the plate. No trace of the original damage or the repair was left by this method.

All the evidence, however, which is contained in the main text of Chapter 10, is that De La Rue did not make the electrotyped working plates of Kedah in this way but duplicated them in one unit from a steel or electrotyped original. This method is explained in Note 2 at the end of Chapter 10. It involved the forming of a copper shell as an electrolytic deposit over a mould taken from the original plate. This shell was then removed and backed by a molten alloy. The metal base of these plates, therefore, was not made up of individual electrotypes but was solid cast, so there were no separate units which could be replaced. Damage to the copper shell of these plates could not be repaired, but if the damage was of a relatively minor nature and restricted to the protective chromium surface added to the plate, an effective repair could be made. The manner in which this was done is described in the main text of this chapter. It simply required the removal of the old facing in an acid bath and the re-chroming of the plate. There is evidence that this was not an unusual occurrence in De La Rue's printing works in the 1920s and 1930s when the electrotyped plates began to show signs of wear.

Note 4: TINTED PAPER

On page 118 of *Postage Stamps in the Making* by Fred. J. Melville, under the heading of 'Imaginary Toned Papers', is the following:

The wetting of the paper occasions apparent differences in the appearance of the colours. If the paper be too wet when the impression is taken, the colour is apt to impart a tone to the whole of the paper; and similarly, if the plate is not thoroughly wiped and polished, some of the ink left on the surface of the plate will impart its colour to the paper. These obvious points are mentioned, not with the idea of justifying the length to which some collectors would carry the business of finding varieties of 'toned paper' and 'tinted paper', but more with the object of showing the lack of importance which attaches to such tones when due either to the wash from the plate or to the spread of the natural colour of the stamp.

THE MALAYA-BORNEO EXHIBITION ISSUES

THE EXHIBITION

The Malaya-Borneo Exhibition was held at Singapore on a site between Shenton Way and the harbour, about a mile from the city centre. The Exhibition was opened on Friday, 31 March 1922, by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, who called at Singapore during his Eastern tour to India and Japan. The purpose of the Exhibition, reputed to be the idea of the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Laurence Guillemard, and considered at the time to be the largest of its type ever held in a British Colony, was to draw attention to the produce, culture and industry of Malaya and the Borneo Territories. Many exciting and artistic displays were organised including one in which 'the inhabitants of Kedah introduced audiences to the elegance and romanticism of their traditional dance-drama' (Patricia M. Seaward 'The Malaya-Borneo Exhibition of 1922' in *The Singapore Philatelist*, 1982). A host of interesting items were brought to Singapore from all over Malaya and British Borneo and the *Straits Times* reported that the exhibits from Kedah and Brunei were particularly beautiful. A large number of animals, including a 27ft python, were sent from Trengganu to form a zoological exhibit. An old steam car, registration number: FMS 1, was placed on display. The agricultural exhibits included samples of oils, drugs, paper pulp, paper, peat products, alcohol, tapioca, sweet potatoes, lalang and improved types of padi. A gymkhana and other sporting events were arranged in honour of the Prince's visit. Prices of admission to the Exhibition varied from 10 cents for children to \$5 for a season ticket to the ground or grandstand. The Exhibition closed on 17 April 1922, having remained open a week longer than was originally planned owing, it is said, to popular demand. It is reported by Patricia M. Seaward that over three hundred thousand people visited the Exhibition.

THE PHILATELIC ARRANGEMENTS

A small committee was formed to run the Stamp Section of the Exhibition under the chairmanship of Mr C. O. Hajedorn. The committee included Mr A. van Cuylenberg and Mr Page Beckitt and was assisted in the Federated Malay States by Mr C. L. Harte-Lovelace of Seremban. A philatelic competition was organised during the Exhibition and some fine collections were shown, with prizes being awarded in nine separate sections.

It was not until 18 March 1922 that the Secretary of State for the Colonies authorised the overprinting of postage stamps to advertise the Exhibition. The territories which agreed to issue stamps with this overprint were the Straits Settlements, Brunei, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu and North Borneo. The stamps were to be placed on sale for the duration of the Exhibition and then all remainders were to be destroyed. It was the intention of the authorities to issue the stamps before the Exhibition opened but in a series of articles on the subject in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, January-April 1929, Harte-Lovelace said that none was ready before the 31 March and many not even by then. He went on to say:

On the opening day only the Straits Settlements and North Borneo overprinted stamps of all denominations, and Trengganu up to the \$1 value were on sale; Brunei appeared next, Kedah and Kelantan much later, and, indeed, so far as I could determine, were never actually on sale at the Exhibition at all, though orders could be and were placed with the officials for them. However, the overprinted stamps were on sale at every post office in each particular country issuing them, until the 17 April, 1922, when the stock remaining was returned to Headquarters and ultimately destroyed.

On what evidence Harte-Lovelace based his statement that the stamps were on sale in every post office of the participating territories is not known. The Kedah Adviser's Report for September 1921 - August 1922 stated: 'A number of Kedah postage stamps were surcharged as 'Malaya-Borneo Exhibition' and sold both at Alor Star Post Office and at the Exhibition grounds ...'

An interesting letter exists addressed to Dr Wood from an official in Alor Star, dated 11 April 1922, which states: 'The stamps are not on sale in Kedah and he [referring to the Postmaster General] has never seen them.' This letter and an assessment of all the evidence regarding the sale of the stamps in Kedah is contained in Note 1.

The *Straits Times* of 1 April 1922 contained the following details of arrangements for the purchase of the Exhibition stamps:

Sale of Exhibition Stamps.

We are asked to say that Exhibition stamps can be purchased on the Exhibition grounds. Brunei stamps can be bought in the Arts and Crafts section Godown T. British North Borneo stamps can be bought in the B. N. B. kiosk. S.S. stamps can be bought at any post office including the Exhibition post office. Trengganu, Kedah and Kelantan stamps can be bought at the General Committee's office from Tuesday April 4, until Saturday, April 15. From Tuesday, April 4, all the above sets, except the Straits Settlements, can be purchased (1) at the General Committee's office, (2) at the Information Bureau, (3) at the Stamps Section godown. No Exhibition stamps have been issued for the F.M.S., Johore or Sarawak.

The paper went on to say that sets of the stamps could be obtained from the organising secretary, the minimum acceptable order being three sets. In its report of the opening day at the Exhibition it had this to say about the heavy demand for the Exhibition stamps:

The motor section, stamp section, arts and crafts section are all attractive venues for the visitor. It may interest some people to know that at 5 p.m. yesterday the stamp section had no stocks of certain of the Malay States to sell, and the special exhibition stamps were in such great demand that it was feared none would be left in a couple of days.

Judging from the statement by Harte-Lovelace, the only 'Malay States' stamps available on the first day of the Exhibition were those of Trengganu up to the \$1 value and so it must have been stocks of these which ran short.

Stamps could not be purchased after the Exhibition closed but orders sent by post before 17 April, though they might be received afterwards, were met.

Of the stamps' period of validity after the Exhibition, Harte-Lovelace in his 1929 articles had this to say: *'The stamps were not demonetised and are good for postage or revenue today, or at any rate were so when I left the East in November, 1925.'* Covers bearing examples of the overprints are known into the 1930s but would appear to be the work of philatelists, perhaps using up stamps which had become toned and, therefore, of little value.

THE OVERPRINT ON THE 'PADI-SHEAF' VALUES

The original overprint for the 'postage' sized stamps of Kedah, 1c (Multiple Script), 2c (Multiple Crown), 3c & 4c (Multiple Script) of the 'padi-sheaves', Straits Settlements (all values from 1c to \$5) and Trengganu (all values from 2c to \$3) was set up as a type-set block of twelve (2 rows of 6). (The larger stamps, sometimes referred to as being of 'revenue' size, required a separate setting.) From this block ten stereotypes were produced, five for each half of the sheet, which were used to make up the forme for the complete sheet of 120 stamps (*Fig. 74*) (see Note 2). Several constant varieties were introduced into the original type-set block of 12 and these varieties, therefore, appear ten times on each sheet. Additional random varieties were introduced into the forme during the make-up or during overprinting, and these varieties appear only once in the sheet.

Two settings of the overprint were made and are referred to as Settings I and II. The 'padi-sheaf' values of Kedah were overprinted by Setting II only, while, as mentioned above, owing to their size, the 'Malay ploughing' values required a special setting altogether. Setting II was used to overprint the stamps of the Straits Settlements and Trengganu as well as Kedah but the order in which these issues were printed was, almost certainly: Kedah, Trengganu and Straits Settlements. This conclusion is based on the fact that a known Setting II variety (the 'Damaged "EXH"') has never been found on Kedah and so may not exist, but has been found on two values of Trengganu and on all the Setting II values of the Straits Settlements. The letters of identification for the varieties are those allocated by Dr Wood and follow through Setting I to Setting II, although some later discoveries have required new letters.

As stated earlier, only Setting II of the overprint was used for the Kedah 'padi-sheaves' and it was set up to cover a complete sheet of 120 stamps. The fact that this setting was also used to overprint the Straits Settlements and Trengganu stamps caused the printers a problem as there was a basic difference between the full sheets of Kedah and those of the other two territories. The 'padi-sheaves' were arranged in unbroken format of 120 (12 rows of 10), whereas the Straits Settlements and Trengganu sheets were of 240 stamps divided into four panes of 60 by inter-paneau gutters. Despite this, the Kedah sheets were the same width as the others due to the fact that the 'padi-sheaf' stamps were slightly wider and exactly made up for the vertical gutter. This gutter required that a modification had to be made in the spacing of the overprints on the plate after the Kedah sheets had been completed, assuming the order of overprinting was as described above. The setting for the Kedah sheets was given a 9 mm gap between the two centre columns of the sheet compared to the 15 mm needed for the Straits Settlements and Trengganu. (How the plate could be modified is explained in Note 2 referred to above.) This measurement is taken from the last 'O' of 'BORNEO' on one stamp to the 'B' of 'BORNEO' on the next. The spacing between the stamps in the remaining columns was a uniform 6 mm for all three territories. The difference in

the width of the 'padi-sheaf' stamps led to some small lateral displacement of the overprint on the Kedah sheets which became progressively greater working outward from the centre. However, quite large lateral shifts in the overprint exist, far bigger than might be expected from the greater width of the Kedah stamps, even to the point where part of the overprint falls off the intended stamp. With the passing of the years there is never likely to be a proper explanation for these and there could be many causes. For example, the printer, under the pressure of the urgency of the occasion, may have aligned to the left or right whereas he needed to align about the centre. Or, the misplacements might have been the result of a few sheets being overprinted before it was noticed that the forme needed to be adjusted to take account of the fact that the Kedah sheets were without gutters.

Vertically the Kedah sheets measure 243 mm, i.e. from the top border of the top row to the bottom border of the bottom row, whereas those of the Straits Settlements are 240 mm, but it seems no adjustment was felt necessary to accommodate this difference. However, it goes some way to accounting for the large numbers of vertically misplaced overprints on the 'padi-sheaf' stamps. The two full sheets seen by the author were reasonably centred considering the problems, the most noticeable shifts in these sheets being the top row of the overprint coming low and the bottom row of the overprint high. This was only to be expected in view of the 3 mm difference in height described above.

Various new varieties were introduced with Setting II of the overprint and exist only once in the setting. The gaps in the identifying letters allocated to these varieties are due to the fact that the missing letters had already been allocated to varieties previously found on Straits Settlements or Trengganu stamps but which are not applicable to Kedah. Consideration was given to using consecutive letters for the varieties on Kedah but this was rejected for two reasons: firstly, out of regard to Dr Wood's studies and identifications and, secondly, because collectors of Malaya are, in many cases, already aware of established varieties with long-standing identifying letters.

Normal	Variety Y Damaged 'R' in 'BORNEO'	Variety A Oval last 'O' in 'BORNEO'	Variety B Thin first 'I' in 'EXHIBITION'	Normal	Normal
1 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	2 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	3 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	4 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	5 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	6 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.
7 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	8 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	9 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	10 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	11 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.	12 MALAYA- BORNEO EXHIBITION.
Normal	Variety C Raised stop	Variety Z Damaged 'R' and raised 'IBITION'	Normal	Normal	Variety D Small second 'A' in 'MALAYA'

Fig. 74 - An enlarged reproduction of the stereo, composed of 12 units, used to make up the forme for overprinting the 'padi-sheaf' stamps.

THE VARIETIES

A. THE ORIGINAL SETTING

In Fig. 74 is the original setting from which the ten stereotypes were made to make up the forme for the plate to overprint the complete sheet of 120 stamps. It contains the following six constant varieties in the order they appear on the setting:

Variety Y – Damaged 'R' in 'BORNEO'. On Stamp 2 and therefore on Stamps 2, 8, 26, 32, 50, 56, 74, 80, 98 & 104 of the sheet.

Variety A – Oval last 'O' in 'BORNEO'. On Stamp 3 and therefore on Stamps 3, 9, 27, 33, 51, 57, 75, 81, 99 & 105 of the sheet.

Variety B – Thin first 'I' in 'EXHIBITION' and broken cross-bar in second 'A' of 'MALAYA'. On Stamp 4 and therefore on Stamps 4, 10, 28, 34, 52, 58, 76, 82, 100 & 106 of the sheet.

Variety C – Raised stop. On Stamp 8 and therefore on Stamps 14, 20, 38, 44, 62, 68, 86, 92, 110 & 116 of the sheet.

Variety Z – Damaged 'R' and raised 'IBITION'. On Stamp 9 and therefore on Stamps 15, 21, 39, 45, 63, 69, 87, 93, 111 & 117 of the sheet.

Variety D – Small second 'A' in 'MALAYA'. On Stamp 12 and therefore on Stamps 18, 24, 42, 48, 66, 72, 90, 96, 114 & 120 of the sheet.

Note. On Variety B, the first 'I' in 'EXHIBITION' can vary in its width, some examples 'tapering' more than others. The base of the letter is nearly always of normal width with the tapering becoming greater near the top.

B. THE ADDITIONAL VARIETIES

E X M M B B A

Variety M *Variety N* *Variety O* *Variety P* *Variety S* *Variety W* *Variety X*

Variety J – No stop. On Stamp 5 of the sheet.

Variety M – Short top bar to 'E' in 'BORNEO'. On Stamp 3 of the sheet.

Variety N – Defective 'X' in 'EXHIBITION', and damaged 2nd 'A' in 'MALAYA'. On Stamp 15 of the sheet.

Variety O – Defective 'M' in 'MALAYA'. On Stamp 109 on the sheet.

Variety P – Defective 'M' in 'MALAYA'. On Stamp 92 on the sheet.

Variety S – Damaged 'B' in 'EXHIBITION'. On Stamp 17 on the sheet.

Variety W – Damaged 'B' in 'BORNEO'. On Stamp 67 on the sheet.

Variety X – Damaged 2nd 'A' in 'MALAYA'. On Stamp 19 on the sheet.

There is another minor variety on stamp No. 28 of the sheet. The apex of the first 'A' of 'MALAYA' has been 'beheaded' by small breaks near the top of the diagonals of the letter.

SETTING 2 SHOWN AS A COMPLETE SHEET											
1	Y 2	AM 3	B 4	J 5	6	7	Y 8	A 9	B 10	11	12
13	C 14	ZN 15	16	S 17	D 18	X 19	C 20	Z 21	22	23	D 24
25	Y 26	A 27	B 28	29	30	31	Y 32	A 33	B 34	35	36
37	C 38	Z 39	40	41	D 42	43	C 44	Z 45	46	47	D 48
49	Y 50	A 51	B 52	53	54	55	Y 56	A 57	B 58	59	60
61	C 62	Z 63	64	65	D 66	W 67	C 68	Z 69	70	71	D 72
73	Y 74	A 75	B 76	77	78	79	Y 80	A 81	B 82	83	84
85	C 86	Z 87	88	89	D 90	91	CP 92	Z 93	94	95	D 96
97	Y 98	A 99	B 100	101	102	103	Y 104	A 105	B 106	107	108
D 109	C 110	Z 111	112	113	D 114	115	C 116	Z 117	118	119	D 120

*THE OVERPRINT ON THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES
('BORNEO' 14 mm)*

A separate setting was required for the four 'Malay ploughing' values, 10 cents (Multiple Script CA), 21 cents, 25 cents and 50 cents (all Multiple Crown CA). The reason for this was the revised spacing required to accommodate the larger stamps. The setting, curiously enough, was constructed without altering the basic layout of the first four columns of the setting for the smaller stamps. That is to say, Varieties A, B, C, Y & Z all appear in the same position as on the 'padi-sheaf' stamps. Dr Wood believed that the setting for the larger stamps was produced by cutting up blocks from the setting on the smaller stamps into their component parts and then arranging these with spacing to fit the larger sized stamps and the different make-up of the sheet. The last vertical column, however, was poorly arranged as the lining-up of the rows horizontally is quite straight until the last stamp. Row 7 is the most marked example of this and shows the overprint on the last stamp (No. 35 on the sheet) some 1.5 mm lower than the remainder of the row (*Figs 75-77*).

Two additional varieties were introduced during the setting up or the overprinting of the stamps:

Variety MM – Damaged 'E' in 'EXHIBITION'. On R8/1 (No. 36 on the sheet).

Variety OO – Damaged 'M' in 'MALAYA'. On R7/4 (No. 34 on the sheet).

E

M

Variety MM

Variety OO

1	C 2	Z 3	4	B 5
6	Y 7	A 8	B 9	10
11	C 12	Z 13	14	15
16	Y 17	A 18	B 19	20
21	C 22	Z 23	24	C 25
26	Y 27	A 28	B 29	30
31	C 32	Z 33	OO 34	35
MM 36	Y 37	A 38	B 39	40
41	C 42	Z 43	44	45
46	Y 47	A 48	B 49	50
51	C 52	Z 53	54	A 55
56	Y 57	A 58	B 59	60

There is a minor variety on stamp no. 56, but as this cannot be seen with the naked eye, it is not included in the list. It consists of a small nick on the inside of the last 'O' of 'BORNEO', positioned at about 10 o'clock.

The following table is a record of the varieties to be found on each of the eight different stamps bearing the 'Short' overprint.

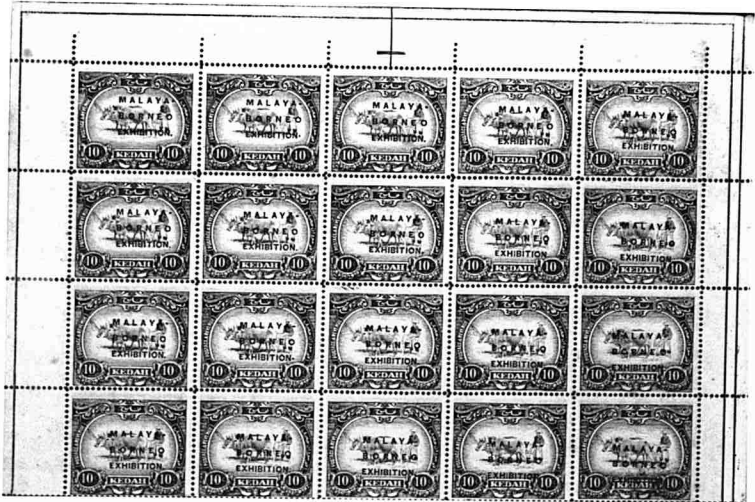
		1c	2c	3c	4c	10c	21c	25c	50c
A	Oval last 'O' in 'BORNEO'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	Thin first 'I' in 'EXHIBITION', and damaged second 'A' in 'MALAYA'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	Raised stop	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D	Small second 'A' in 'MALAYA'	✓	✓	✓	✓				
J	No stop	✓	✓	✓	✓				
M	Short top bar of 'E', with variety A	✓	✓	✓	✓				
MM	Damaged 'E' (ploughman design)					✓	✓	✓	✓
N	Damaged 'X' with variety Z	✓	✓	✓	✓				
O	Damaged 'M' (No. 44)	✓	✓	✓	✓				
OO	Damaged 'M' (No. 34) (ploughman design)					✓	✓	✓	✓
P	Damaged 'M' (No. 44)	✓	✓	✓	✓				
S	Damaged 'B' in 'EXHIBITION'	✓	✓	✓	✓				
W	Damaged 'B' in 'BORNEO'	✓	✓	✓	✓				
X	Damaged second 'A' in 'MALAYA'	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Y	Broken loop of 'R' in 'BORNEO'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Z	Broken legs of 'R', and raised 'IBITION'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ = Known to exist									

On the following three pages:

P. 235 Fig. 75 – Rows 1–4 of the 10 cents value

P. 236 Fig. 76 – Rows 5–8

P. 237 Fig. 77 – Rows 9–12







ERROR – OVERPRINT INVERTED

The 25 cents exists with the overprint inverted (*Fig. 78*). Dr Wood in *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya* attributes Harte-Lovelace with the information that a sheet of this variety was bought at a Kedah post office. This is popularly thought to have been Bagan Samak but corroboration is lacking and there must also be very real doubt that the MBE stamps were ever sold in any post office other than the GPO at Alor Star.



Fig. 78 – MBE 25 cents error, overprint inverted

It seems the first record of the error is contained in the article by C. L. Harte-Lovelace (*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, February 1929) in which he states:

During the Exhibition a sheet of the 25 cents with inverted overprint (the first printing, of course) was bought from a Kedah post office by a non-collector; he presented a block of 4 to the Prince of Wales and another block of 4 to be divided among the Philatelic Committee of the Exhibition. Unfortunately I was not in Singapore when the division took place, and did not get a share, but I bought one from another Committee member who had been more successful, and I have it still. I have lately seen the greater part of the sheet in a London dealer's hands, but so far as I know this important error has never yet been recorded.

Writing in *The Stamp Lover* in May 1953, a long-time collector of Kedah, Mr A. Richardson, described a display he gave of the stamps of the State during which he exhibited the following:

Pages 68 and 69 – 25 cents M.B.E. (inverted and complete sheet; unique).

This creates the initial impression that there may have been more than one sheet of the inverted overprint as, if Richardson had possessed a complete sheet and one had been broken up in Singapore, then obviously there must have been two originally. However, there is more than a little ambiguity in Richardson's statement as it is not certain he was actually displaying a complete sheet or simply referring to one – probably the one in Singapore. The whereabouts of the second sheet, if it ever existed, is unknown today – it certainly was not in Richardson's collection when it was sold in 1977 by Robson Lowe. If it was broken up sometime after 1953, it might be possible to establish the fact by comparing the relative positions of the overprint on individual examples of the inverted overprint – any variation would demonstrate that they came from different sheets. The means to do this is available and is explained in Note 3 at the end of this chapter. It needs

to be said that a number of attempts have been made to establish the existence of a second sheet and failed, and the chances of there ever having been one seem extremely remote.

Forgeries of the inverted overprint are known, including one with a Bagan Samak postmark. Another, which was extremely cleverly done, appeared in the sale of the Alan Richardson collection (Lot 1159). The auctioneer's description was as follows:

25c blue and purple, variety overprint inverted, a horizontal mint pair [59-60], one stamp with additional variety no stop after 'EXHIBITION'. This no stop variety does not occur on the normal setting so this may be from printers waste or clandestinely overprinted.

SPECIMENS

In Chapter 12 which deals with the 1919 50c/\$2 and \$1/\$3 provisionals, mention was made of the existence of copies of these stamps which had apparently been in the possession of the Post & Telegraph Department, Madagascar, serving as Specimens although they had not been so overprinted. Amongst a number of other Kedah issues from the same source was a set of the MBE stamps ('BORNEO' 14 mm long) which were also without the SPECIMEN overprint but which had obviously been performing the same function for the Madagascar Postal Administration. They had been cancelled by a triple-ring handstamp in red ink, around the top of which were the words 'POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES' and around the bottom 'MADAGASCAR'. Across the centre were the words: 'COLLECTION/DE/BERNE' in three lines. They were in strips of three and had been mounted on a ledger page where, it would seem, they had formed part of Madagascar's reference collection of stamps approved and distributed by the Universal Postal Union in Berne.

It has to be assumed that all countries which were members of the UPU in 1922 received similar allocations of the MBE overprints. In a fourth and final article on these issues in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, April 1929, C. L. Harte-Lovelace said that Dr Wood had told him that he had been informed '*that after the close of the Exhibition overprinted stamps were sent to dealers who had posted their orders in London prior to the 17 April 1922, and also to the Postal Union at Berne.*'

USED IN PERLIS

At the beginning of this chapter the Adviser's Report for September 1921 to August 1922 was quoted in which it was stated that the the MBE stamps were '*sold both at Alor Star Post Office and at the Exhibition grounds*'. A reasonable inference from this would be that they were not available anywhere else which would mean that they were not on general sale in Kedah or Perlis. They have been seen with the cancellations of other post offices, however, (including the forged 'Sungei Patang' - see Sungei Patani's postmarks in Chapter 24) but these are probably of philatelic origin, there being evidence in the form of covers bearing the entire set of overprints to show that collectors were aware that these stamps were likely to be scarce in used condition in view of the brief period they were on sale.

It therefore seems very doubtful that the MBE overprints were ever on sale in Kangar Post Office. (Padang Besar was not opened until 1923.) Certainly there is no record of any value

with the overprint bearing a properly-dated, contemporary Perlis postmark. The only Perlis cancellation that has been recorded on these stamps is Type 8A of Kangar back-dated to 7 and 8 April 1922, presumably by favour. In Chapter 12 it was noted that this cancellation, suitably back-dated, was also used on the 50c/\$2 value of the 1919 provisionals. The earliest bona fide recorded date of the Type 8A postmark is 11.2.31 so its apparent use in 1919 and 1922 must have been the result of some irregularity. The canceller in use in Kangar Post Office in 1922 was the small single-ring Type 3 mark bearing just the state name. (See Kangar's postmarks in Chapter 24.)

FORGERIES

Forgeries exist on this issue but are fairly crude and should not deceive those who are familiar with the genuine overprint. One, on a used 1 cent value, has a postmark dated in 1920. Several of the 'Malay ploughing' values are known with forgeries including a 20 cents, and even a copy of the \$1 'Council Chamber' has been recorded. It is fortunate for collectors that some forgers were either extremely careless or imbued with too fertile an imagination.

THE OVERPRINT ON THE 'MALAY PLOUGHING' VALUES ('BORNEO' 15-15.5 mm)

Three of the 'Malay ploughing' values, the 21 cents, 25 cents and 50 cents (all Multiple Crown CA), exist in a different fount of type and with the word 'BORNEO' between 15 and 15.5 mm in length—often referred to as the 'Long' overprint. Of the issue of these stamps, Dr Wood, in Part II of his book *The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya*, had this to say:

When stamps with the overprint printed in Type II (the 'Long Overprint') began to make their appearance in Malaya they were thought to be forgeries. Mr Harte-Lovelace, however, sent a specimen to the Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs, Kedah, pointing out the differences and asking if they were forgeries or printed by the Government. The reply was that some big orders had come in from certain London dealers which had been posted before the close of the Exhibition and to fill these the Government had to print a further supply of the 21c, 25c and 50c values.

He went on to say that the stamps did not appear to have ever been on sale either in Kedah or the Exhibition and so, from this, it may be assumed that they were never available for commercial use. Used copies of all three values are known but are very scarce and usually bear postmarks dated well after the close of the Exhibition. They must, almost certainly, have been cancelled 'par complaisance' or be the result of philatelic use. As stated earlier, as far as is known, neither set of overprints (the 'Long' or the 'Short') was ever demonetised.

As all remainders of both types of overprints were destroyed after the late orders had been met and no record was kept of the varieties or their positions in the sheet, the setting of the 'Long' overprint was unknown at the time, although it quickly became apparent that none of the varieties of the previous overprint was present. It was also clear, from the

number of blots and lines of ink on the overprints, that the new setting had been poorly and, probably, hurriedly made.

Dr Wood records that Messrs Bright & Son reported in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of 28 April 1923 that certain minor varieties existed either three or six times in the sheet of 60. Dr Wood presumed from this statement that the setting was one of 20 (4 rows of 5) repeated three times.

Further evidence to support Dr Wood's theory comes from photographs of three remarkable blocks of the first five rows of a sheet of each value. A study of the blocks shows that the overprint on the first row is virtually identical to that on the fifth row. Furthermore, the size of the gap between the overprints on the fourth and fifth rows is constant on all three blocks. This indicates that the overprint was applied in a forme in which the basic setting, presumably a stereo, was repeated three times to cover a sheet of 60 at one operation. Further proof of the size of the setting and positions of the constant varieties in the sheet has been provided by plating individual stamps in the remaining seven rows of the sheet not contained in the blocks.

The plating has been carried out with the aid of a complete sheet of the unoverprinted 25 cents stamps of the Multiple Crown issue. The three duty plates (21 cents, 25 cents & 50 cents) and the vignette plate which is common to all three values show many fine lines and dots extraneous to the design which were made by scratches or marks on the plate that 'took' the ink. By considering these lines or dots on the vignette and locating them on the complete sheet it is possible to plate any single stamp with or without the overprint. Many of the lines or dots used to achieve this plating are on the edges of the vignette, sometimes overlapping the design of the duty plate. In the 25 cents and 50 cents values where the vignette is in blue and brown respectively, this does not hinder observation as the colours contrast with the duty plate. This, however, is not the case for the 21 cents stamp where the two plates are printed in virtually the same ink making the plating marks very difficult to see. It has been possible to plate every 25 cents and 50 cents stamp examined to date but only about half of the 21 cents. Using this information, no less than 97 overprinted stamps of the three values have been positioned, 60 of these occurring in the lower seven rows not covered by the blocks referred to earlier.

Finally, tribute must be paid to Dr Wood for his early presumption regarding the make-up of the forme used to overprint these stamps which has been proved, beyond question, to be correct. The setting was one of 20 in four rows of five repeated three times to cover the sheet (see Fig. 79). There was a considerable number of constant varieties in the setting (see the table below).

THE CONSTANT VARIETIES

Note: Lower case letters have been used to avoid confusion with the capital letters used for the '14 mm' overprint.

Variety a – Dropped 'X' in 'EXHIBITION'	EXH
Variety b – Large, thick 'O' in 'EXHIBITION'	ION
Variety c – Small 'Y' in 'MALAYA'	AYA
Variety d – Dotted short second 'I' in 'EXHIBITION'	BiT
Variety e – Small, weak 'I' in 'EXHIBITION'	IBITION
Variety f – Dotted short first 'I' in 'EXHIBITION'	HiB
Variety g – Small, weak 'E' in 'EXHIBITION'	EXH
Variety h – Large break in upright of 'R' in 'BORNEO'	R
Variety j – Broken cross-bar of last 'A' in 'MALAYA'	A
Variety k – Broken cross-bar of second 'A' in 'MALAYA'	A
Variety l – Raised 'B' & 'O' in 'BORNEO'	BORNEO
Variety m – Weak left leg to second 'A' in 'MALAYA'	A
Variety n – Break in left upright of first 'A' in 'MALAYA'	A

**THE CONSTANT VARIETIES IN THE SETTING OF
THE 'LONG' OVERPRINT**

Some stamps bear more than one variety.

	g	n		a m
j	h	bl		
k	a b	d		
a j	c d g	e j		b f

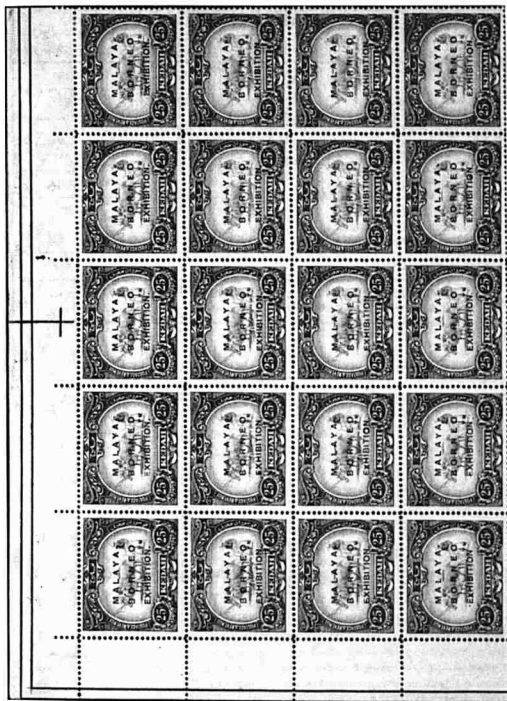


Fig. 79 – Rows 1–4 of a sheet of the 25 cents showing the 'Long' overprint ('BORNEO' 15–15.5 mm long). These four rows make up the basic setting of 20 units (4 rows of 5).

DATE OF ISSUE, NUMBERS ISSUED AND NUMBERS SOLD			
	<i>Date of Issue</i>	<i>No. issued</i>	<i>No. sold</i>
1c brown (Script)	April 1922	48,000	18,181
2c green (Crown)		48,000	15,387
3c purple (Script)		48,000	15,245
4c deep carmine (Script)		48,000	14,711
10c blue & sepia (Script)		18,000	10,302
21c mauve & purple (Crown)		8,633*	7,866*
25c blue & purple (Crown)		8,536*	7,769*
50c brown & blue (Crown)		8,125*	7,358*
* The quantities shown for the 21c, 25c and 50c values include both the 'Short' and 'Long' overprints, as no separate records were kept.			

Note 1: THE SALE OF THE MBE STAMPS IN KEDAH

The following is a letter dated 11 April 1922 from, presumably, a government official in Kedah to Dr F.E. Wood, on the subject of the MBE stamps.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT.

<p style="text-align: center;">Official-Memo.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">لوفيسينيل</p> <p>Excuse books "Kedah" & "Kedah" off stamps.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13 10</p>	<p>From _____</p> <p>To <u>Alor Star</u> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11th April '22</p>
--	--

Dear Wood,

Your letter followed me here. I have asked the Postmaster General here all about the stamps. He tells me that you should write at once to the "Organising Secretary" of the show at Singapore & ask that the stamps be sent to you or reserved for you. The stamps are not on sale in Kedah & he has never seen them. He tells me that he doubts whether any will be left for sale in Kedah as some huge orders have, to his knowledge, been received. Perhaps it would be well if you asked someone in Singapore to get them for you, as there may be some wangling.

A transcript of this letter reads as follows:

Dear Wood,

Your letter followed me here. I have asked the Postmaster General here all about the stamps. He tells me that you should write at once to the 'Organising Secretary' of the show at Singapore & ask that the stamps be sent to you or reserved for you. The stamps are not on sale in Kedah & he has never seen them. He tells me that he doubts whether any will be left for sale in Kedah as some huge orders have, to his knowledge, been received. Perhaps it would be well if you asked someone in Singapore to get them for you, or there may be some wangling.

The remainder of the letter deals with personal matters. The signature is indecipherable.

The Kedah Adviser's report (quoted in the main text) states that the 'Malaya-Borneo Exhibition' overprints were definitely sold in Alor Star Post Office but, from this letter, it would seem that it could not have been before 12 April 1922 at the earliest. If, then, as Mr Harte-Lovelace stated, the stamps were 'on sale at every post office in each particular country issuing them, until the 17 April, 1922', their period of availability in Kedah must have been extremely brief indeed, although they were valid, it seems, for years afterwards. It could well be, however, that Harte-Lovelace was quoting what the Organising Committee intended rather than what actually took place. Although a member of the committee, he was living in Seremban and may not have been in touch with all the day-to-day arrangements in Singapore and certainly not in Kedah. Some of his statements about events at this time may have to be treated with some reserve.

Piecing together the evidence on where, when, and for how long, the stamps were on sale produces the following possible sequence of events:

Kedah stamps were on sale at the exhibition grounds but only some time after the exhibition opened. (In Harte-Lovelace's words 'much later'.) The stamps were sent up to Kedah as soon as they became available but had not arrived by the 11 April. They were put on sale in Alor Star Post Office but not distributed to other post offices, although this was the original intention, perhaps because time was so short. The period of issue may thus have been for only a few days. There must be some doubt about this, however, as the possibility cannot be excluded that the PMG in Alor Star was given permission to extend the sale of the stamps beyond the 17 April in view of the fact that the Kedah public had been given so little time to buy them.

There is one further matter to consider. The statement in the letter: *'he doubts whether any will be left for sale in Kedah as some huge orders have ... been received'* creates the possibility that not all values were sent to the State. It is known that, although quantities of the 1c-10c values were unsold and destroyed, there were not enough of the 21c, 25c and 50c values to meet the late orders from London, which is the reason why the 'Long' overprint was made. It could be that all supplies of the three higher values were retained in Singapore to meet the 'huge' orders, or perhaps just nominal quantities of them were sent to Kedah.

No attempt seems to have been made to establish the earliest Kedah postmark known on MBE stamps but it must be remembered that they were almost certainly bought in Singapore by visiting members of the Kedah public, taken or sent back home, and used. In this category, at first glance, might be included those bearing the earliest mark known to the author - a complete set of the 'short' overprints postmarked in Sungei Patani on 16 April 1922. On the other hand, the cancellation on these stamps is the Type 8 cds of the post office, the earliest confirmed date of genuine use of which is 23 June 1927. This would indicate that these stamps were not only cancelled by favour but that the canceller was probably back-dated at the same time. The same thing can be said of another set 'used' in Sungei Patani a day later, on 17 April 1922. This time the cds is a Type 10 mark, the first bona fide record of which is 1 July 1933. It seems that the back-dating of postmarks in

order to enhance the value of already scarce stamps was not an uncommon practice in Kedah before the Second World War.

The earliest cover seen by the author is one registered to Penang bearing, amongst its franking, twenty copies of the 1c value, the first two columns of the sheet in fact. This cover was sent by the Superintendent of Posts & Telegraphs in Alor Star on 26 April 1922, clear proof that the stamps were available there on this date. If a cover bearing the overprints and dated during the period of the exhibition is ever discovered then interesting new light could be thrown on philatelic events in the State at this time.*

Note 2: STEREOTYPING

There seems little doubt that the MBE plate was made by stereotyping, a method used in the nineteenth century in surface-printing stamps. By 1922 it had been largely superseded by electrotyping which, although a more involved process and dearer than stereotyping, produced a sharper impression. This factor is not such a consideration when making overprints on stamps and so stereotyping continued to be used for duplicating a setting of an overprint or a surcharge. It could only be used where the design of the original was in relief. The stages were as follows:

1. A mould, made either of plaster or papier mache, was impressed in intaglio from the original. For the MBE overprints, the original was the type-set block of 12 units illustrated in the main text in Fig. 74. This block has sometimes been referred to as the 'forme' but the term is not strictly accurate in this context, as the block, by itself, did not comprise the final form in which the sheet was overprinted. Papier mâché was likely to have been the medium used for the MBE mould as it could be used over and over again, plaster moulds normally being broken as they were separated from the casts.
2. Molten metal (an alloy of lead, tin and antimony similar to that used to back the copper shell in electrotyping but to a different formula) was poured into the mould which, when set, formed a duplicate of the original. This metal duplicate was known as a 'stereo' or 'stereotype'.
3. To make the MBE plate ten stereos were made, probably from the same mould, and then fixed to a wooden or metal base. Dr Wood refers to this as the 'forme', which is the proper use of the word according to the dictionary definition: 'a body of type composed and locked in a chase ready for printing', except that, in this instance, the type was solid cast in one piece and not separate units locked into position as was that of the forme for the 1919 50c/\$2 and \$1/\$3 provisionals. (See Note 1 at the end of Chapter 12.)

Mention was made in the chapter of the MBE plate being modified to accommodate the different formats of the Straits Settlements and Kedah sheets, and Dr Wood spoke of the plate being cut up and the component parts being reassembled to make the overprinting

* The author has seen a cover addressed to a philatelic dealer in the UK franked 6 cents (1 cent x 2 & 4 cents) and postmarked in Alor Star 13 April 1922. The stamps were not MBE overprints.

plate for the 'revenue' sized stamps. On page 155 of Fred. J. Melville's *Postage Stamps in the Making* the method used to divide stereotyped plates is described:

When a number of moulds have been dealt with together and the stereos require to be separated, the large cast is cut up into its several parts on a flat table through which is driven a circular saw. The same machine may also be used on occasion for cutting out a portion of a plate which is defective at the outset or becomes damaged in the course of use.

**Note 3: ERROR, OVERPRINT INVERTED,
THE TEST FOR TWO SHEETS**

It has been suggested that there may have been a second sheet of the inverted overprint. This seems highly unlikely in the light of current evidence but the means of checking whether two given examples of the error may have come from different sheets is available and is described below.

It is known that the position of the overprint varies from stamp to stamp on the sheet but the relative positions of these overprints must remain constant. As the entire sheet of the unoverprinted 25 cents value has been plated by virtue of the extraneous lines and dots that exist, mainly on the border plate but also on the vignette plate, then the overprint itself can also be plated, including the inverted error. A difference in the relative positions of two inverted overprints on identified copies of the basic stamp when compared to the same stamps on a sheet of the normal overprint would prove that they had come from different sheets. For example: Stamps A and B bearing the inverted overprint could be identified by reference to a plated sheet of the basic stamp and shown to be, say, stamps 23 and 45 on the sheet. As an entire sheet of the overprinted 10 cents value exists, (see Figs 75, 76 & 77), the relative positions of the overprint on stamps 23 and 45 can be ascertained, and if those of the inverted overprints on stamps A and B do not correspond then they must have come from different sheets. As stated in the main text, attempts to do this so far have failed.

Of course, it is possible that two examples of the inverted overprint on the same stamp in the sheet might appear one day, and this would provide incontrovertible evidence of two sheets. The chances of this occurring, however, (leaving aside the problem of recognition) would seem to be very slight indeed, even if two sheets of the error were known to exist.

1937 SULTAN HALIM SHAH PORTRAIT ISSUE

In 1937 appeared the long-awaited set portraying Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah printed by Waterlow & Sons (Fig. 80). There had been talk of such an issue as far back as 1930 but proposals had been abandoned, according to James F. Augustin writing in the *Penang Gazette* in 1973: 'because there was an objection that the used stamps were likely to be unwittingly trod upon, and thrown on the ground and thereby be regarded as an insult to the Ruler'. Even after the decision had been taken to produce a portrait set it is said that the Sultan rejected a number of designs as unsuitable* and it is somewhat ironic that the stamps were not issued until after the onset of the final stage of the Sultan's illness from which he never recovered. Sultan Halim Shah lived until 1943, but may not have been able to appreciate the pleasure given by a design which combined dignity and beauty in equal measure and has had an enduring appeal for collectors. It proved to be a more than worthy successor to the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' designs.



Fig. 80

The set replaced the 'revenue-sized' stamps, 10 cents – S5, of the previous issue, apart from the 35 cents value which was not renewed. Now upright in format, the size of the stamps gave the engraver the maximum opportunity to create a finely-proportioned portrait of the Sultan in full state regalia within an ornamental surround. The latter bore a remarkable resemblance to the decorative border on De La Rue's 'Malay ploughing' stamps, considering it was the work of, presumably, a new engraver and, certainly, different printers. Among the most striking similarities were the flowing leaves surmounting the portrait, the name tablet at the bottom of the stamp and the 'fruit and leaf' motif underneath the value tablets. Perhaps the engraver was working to instructions – the similarities can hardly have been coincidental.

No reason has ever been advanced why the contract for the printing of the higher value Kedah definitives passed from De La Rue & Co. to Waterlow & Sons – whether it was at

* Stated by Cheah Ah Soo in an article in *The Malayan Philatelist*, Vol. 2, p. 48. If these designs ever existed, they do not appear to have survived.

the request of the Kedah Government, or on the advice of the Crown Agents, or the result of submitted designs and a competitive tender. De La Rue essays exist which bear a more than passing resemblance to both the postage and the revenue issues of 1937. Perhaps the Crown Agents supplied photographs to interested printers. (See Figs 86 and 87 in Chapter 19.) Whatever the reason and however it happened, Waterlow's liberal use of De La Rue's original design must have an explanation.

The stamps were recess-printed at two operations from head and duty plates. (See the die/colour proofs on Colour Plate 6.) In contrast to the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' designs, there was no vignetting on the border die. They were printed in sheets of 60 (10 rows of 6) on white paper watermarked Multiple Crown Script CA and perforated 12.5 by a line machine. Messrs. Waterlow and Sons' imprint appeared in the middle of the bottom margin of the sheet. The *Crown Agents Bulletin* of 1 March 1937 reported that the stamps were on order and the *Bulletin* of the third quarter of the same year reported their despatch. (The Crown Agents Requisition Book shows that the date of despatch of all values was 21 May 1937.) The supplement to *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of August 1937 stated that they had been issued in July although SG *Part 1* has given 30 June for many years now, and this seems to be generally accepted, although no confirmation of this date has been found. It was certainly not later (Fig. 82), although so-called 'first day covers' exist dated 1 July 1937.

The colours of the set duplicated those of their predecessors, apart from slight differences in shade, on all values apart from the 12 cents and 30 cents. The frame of the former stamp was changed to a very dark violet, an interesting departure from the dark blue of the 'Malay ploughing' 12 cents, while the vignette of the latter was printed in green instead of black. The change in the 12 cents meant that it now no longer conformed in any way to the UPU international colour scheme, a requirement of which was that the stamp franking the foreign letter rate should be blue (see Chapter 15). When this rate was increased to 15 cents on 25 January 1941 and a stamp of this value in the same design was required, the colours of black and dark violet were retained. (See the die/colour proof and the 15 cents stamp itself on Colour Plate 8. These are in the Philatelic Collections of the British Library.)

The *Crown Agents Bulletin* for the third quarter of 1941 announced the new 15 cents duty, and an entry in the Crown Agents Requisition Book records that these stamps were actually despatched 14.11.41 – 26.11.41, although they were never issued before, or overprinted during, the Japanese Occupation and it has to be assumed they never left the UK. All the original values of the set were reprinted on three separate occasions before the Japanese Occupation, apart from the 30 cents and 40 cents which were reprinted twice only. No varieties of perforation or watermark have been recorded although a late printing of the \$5 was in a lighter, brighter shade of red than the original.

A variety has been reported on the 12 cents value (*The Malayan Philatelist*, Vol. 11, p. 84) which shows a white line joining the serifs of the legs of the 'A' of 'KEDAH' (Fig. 81). It is not known whether this variety is constant or, if so, what position it can be found on the sheet.

A dot in the Sultan's plume has been reported on R5/4 of the head plate. It has been seen on the 50 cents, \$1 and \$5 values.



Fig. 81



Fig. 82 – A contemporary portrait of Sultan Halim Shah in slightly different pose to that on the stamps. The 10 cents stamp on the card has been tied by an Alor Star cancellation (Type GPO 3) dated 30.6.37, which may be the first day of issue.

It is possible that quantities of some values were looted from post offices during the confused conditions of the Japanese invasion of 1941/42 and mint sets are quite common. On the other hand, the Crown Agents records (q.v. below) show that considerable numbers were allocated to dealers (a minimum of 1,800 sets). Complete sets are known with all values bearing an identical postmark dated after the war, obviously having been cancelled by favour, although they were probably valid for postage within the state, at least for a while during the BMA period. E. W. Proud in *The Postal History of British Malaya*, Vol. 2, p. 73, states that the pre-war stamps of Malaya of a value of \$5 or over (presumably those stamps in current use in the period immediately preceding the Japanese Occupation and also those which had not been demonetized by that date), were invalidated on 24.1.46, and the remaining values by 9.4.48. It is not known whether these regulations applied to Kedah, but it is likely that they did. On p. 368 of Vol. 3 of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia* is the statement that the Sultan Halim Shah \$5 was demonetized on 11 January 1946.

USED IN PERLIS

It has never been finally established whether, after the issue of the Portrait set, existing stocks of the 10 cents value and above continued to be sold until they were exhausted or they were immediately withdrawn from sale. The latter is the likelier alternative, in which case it is probable that the last day of sale of the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' stamps was Tuesday 29 June 1937, and all values of the Portrait set were issued in Perlis (and Kedah) with effect from 30 June 1937. All the 'cents' values are known with a Perlis postmark, the 10 cents and, surprisingly, the 12 cents, being the commonest, while the 30 cents and 40 cents are probably the scarcest.

Only the \$5 of the 'dollar' values has been recorded used in Perlis so far (Kangar August 1939) but, with the higher-value stamps in wider use than ever before owing to the need to frank the war-time airmail postage rates, particularly those of the Clipper service, it is almost certain that the other two also exist.

CHECK-LIST

10 Cents	Ultramarine and Sepia.	\$1	Black and Green.
12 Cents	Black and Dark Violet.	\$2	Green and Brown.
25 Cents	Ultramarine and Purple.	\$5	Black and Carmine-red.
30 Cents	Green and Scarlet.		Black and Scarlet-red
40 Cents	Black and Purple.		
50 Cents	Brown and Blue.		

Details of proofs, colour trials and Specimens of this issue can be found in Chapter 19.

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

The following are the details of the printings of the Sultan Halim Shah issue taken from the Crown Agents Requisition Books. These records are believed to be complete. The books themselves are dealt with in Appendix 4.

The dates for the issue of the key and duty plates by the Crown Agents to the printers, Waterlow & Sons Ltd, were included in the Requisition Books and so these are given also. They can be verified by reference to the relevant extracts from the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book which are contained in the same Appendix. It will be noted that each duty plate was returned as soon as the individual value was completed, while the key plate was retained until the entire requisition order was filled.

Where two dates are given in the 'Date of Despatch' column it usually means that the printing of the order was done in two separate instalments by Waterlow's and that each batch was sent separately.

In their records the Crown Agents combined the number of stamps allocated to dealers with the Specimens. According to the De La Rue Private Day Books, the number required for Specimens at this time was about 416, so, to obtain dealers' numbers, this figure must be subtracted from the total in the last column. The number allocated to dealers is included in the 'No. of Sheets Despatched' column but the Specimens are not.

1937 SULTAN HALIM SHAH PORTRAIT ISSUE

REQ. NO.	DUTY PLATES		NO. SHEETS ORDERED	NO. IN SHEET	NO. SHEETS DESPATCHED	DATE OF DESPATCH	GPO SPECIMENS & DEALERS & REMARKS
	ISSUED	RETURNED					
DUTY: 10 CENTS							
1337	27.4.37	28.4.37	750	60	811	21.5.37	8400
1442/2	20.10.37	21.10.37	1000	60	1100	3.2.38	See below*
1593/2	3.1.39	6.1.39	1000	60	1028	11.1.39	Despatch in time to arrive about 21.2.39
1726/2	5.2.40	8.2.40	1500	60	1473	1.3.40	Despatch on or after 10.2.40
DUTY: 12 CENTS							
1337	20.4.37	21.4.37	500	60	494	21.5.37	8400
1442/2	11.10.37	12.10.37	333+20/60	60	364	15.10.37	See below*
1560/2	8.8.38	11.8.38	1000	60	1000	12.8.38	Very urgently required
1804/1	30.1.41	4.2.41	1000	60	1096	18.2.41	
DUTY: 25 CENTS							
1337	27.4.37	29.4.37	750	60	786	21.5.37	8400
1442/2	20.10.37	21.10.37	750	60	825	18.2.38	See below*
1674/2	5.6.39	8.6.39	1500	60	1543	22.6.39	
1804/1	31.1.41	4.2.41	1500	60	1617	18.2.41-25.2.41	
DUTY: 30 CENTS							
1337	22.4.37	23.4.37	500	60	490	21.5.37	8400
1442/2	11.10.37	12.10.37	333+20/60	60	364	15.10.37	See below*
1674/2	6.6.39	9.6.39	750	60	760	22.6.39	Urgently required
DUTY: 40 CENTS							
1337	28.4.37	29.4.37	500	60	467	21.5.37	8400
1442/2	12.10.37	13.10.37	333+20/60	60	364	15.10.37	See below*
1804/1	3.2.41	7.2.41	200	60	292	25.2.41	
DUTY: 50 CENTS							
1337	21.4.37	22.4.37	750	60	750	21.5.37	7200
1442/2	20.10.37	25.10.37	750	60	825	18.2.38	See below*
1726/2	6.2.40	8.2.40	1000	60	979	1.3.40	
1804/1	24.1.41	4.2.41	2000	60	2034	25.2.41	

CHAPTER 17

REQ. NO.	DUTY PLATES		NO SHEETS ORDERED	NO. IN SHEET	NO. SHEETS DESPATCHED	DATE OF DESPATCH	GPO SPECIMENS & DEALERS & REMARKS
	ISSUED	RETURNED					
DUTY: \$1							
1337	24.4.37	28.4.37	500	60	542	21.5.37	4800
1442/2	7.2.37	8.2.37	500	60	550	18.2.38	See below*
1674/2	7.6.39	9.6.39	750	60	781	22.6.39	
1804/1	23.1.41	4.2.41	2000	60	2032	18.2.41-25. 2.41	
DUTY: \$2							
1337	23.4.37	23.4.37	200	60	150	21.5.37	3600
1442/2	8.2.38	9.2.38	100	60	110	18.2.38	See below*
1593/2	3.1.39	6.1.39	500	60	550	11.1.39	Despatch in time to arrive about 21.2.39
1840/2	5.11.41	10.11.41	500	60	515	14.11.41-26 .11.41†	Required as soon as possible
† Despite these despatch dates, there is considerable doubt this printing was ever shipped. A consignment of the new 15 cents stamps, printed and supposedly sent at the same time, almost certainly did not reach Malaya.							
DUTY: \$5							
1337	23.4.37	23.4.37	200	60	217	21.5.37	1800
1442/2	8.2.38	10.2.38	200	60	220	18.2.38	See below*
1726/2	2.2.40	6.2.40	250	60	275	1.3.40	
1804/1	24.1.41	4.2.41	500	60	626	18.2.41-25.2 .41	
DUTY: 15 CENTS (Printed but not issued)							
1840/2	31.10.41	10.11.41	1300	60	1300	14.11.41-26 .11.41	New Duty. 18000‡
‡ This seems an extremely high figure but a similar number of the 8 cents red was allocated in the same month. It is very doubtful that the 15 cents stamps were ever sent to Malaya. They were certainly not issued to dealers.							
* After Requisition No. 1442/2 there was a note in the 'Remarks' column as follows: '12c, 30c & 40c to be despatched by Parcel Post as soon as possible. Remainder requested in Kedah about 1st March 1938.'							

KEY PLATES		
REQ. NO.	KEY PLATE	
	ISSUED	RETURNED
1337	20.4.37	7.5.37
1442/2	11.10.37	14.2.38
1560/2	8.8.38	11.8.38
1593/2	3.1.39	14.1.39
1674/2	5.6.39	16.6.39
1726/2	2.2.40	20.2.40
1804/1	23.1.41	7.2.41
1840/2	31.10.41	10.11.41

THE REVENUE STAMPS

1929 'COUNCIL CHAMBER' REVENUE ISSUE

All of Kedah's postage stamps could be used for fiscal purposes by virtue of the fact that they were inscribed 'Postage & Revenue' (in both English and Jawi Malay). Many so-called 'used' dollar values seen today appear to have had manuscript marks in ink or crayon removed and then been 'postmarked' using a forged datestamp (see Chapter 24), and these manuscript markings were probably the result of the stamps being put to some revenue use. However, certain government departments had need of revenue stamps of a high face value, e.g. the Land Office to pay the tax on land transfers or the State Treasury to pay death duties, and in 1929 three high-value revenues with the 'Council Chamber' design were ordered from De La Rue.

On Colour Plate 5 can be seen an Appendix, dated 10 October 1929 and headed 'Kedah Reqn. 736', bearing imperforate colour trials of these stamps. The sheet is marked 'Appd. for colour', initialled and dated 10.10.29 in manuscript. The design of these trials is exactly similar to that of the 'Council Chamber' postage and revenue stamps except that the borders of the frame contain the single word 'REVENUE' – in English on the left and in Jawi Malay on the right. Also the figures of value are in colour against a white background instead of in white against an oval of colour as on the postage stamps. The colours appear to be:

\$25 Black and Dark Red.

\$100 Black and Indigo or Slate.

\$250 Black and Green.

In the De La Rue Private Day Books is a record of an invoice to the Crown Agents, dated 28 October 1929, for: *'One original border duty plate for Revenue Stamps: £10-13-4d. Three Working duty plates 25, 100 & 250 Dollars each £15: £45'*, also 168 sheets of the \$25, 107 sheets of the \$100 and 108 sheets of the \$250 at a total cost, including the interleaving, packing and postage, of £28-16-4d, making a grand total of £84-9-8d.

The Crown Agents Requisition Books contain the following entries regarding these stamps:

REQN. NO.	NO. OF SHEETS ORDERED	NO. IN SHEET	NO. OF SHEETS DESPATCHED	DATE OF DESPATCH	REMARKS
Duty: \$25					
736	166	60	168	25.10.29	New Issue
Duty: \$100					
736	100	60	107	25.10.29	New Issue
Duty: \$250					
736	100	60	108	25.10.29	New Issue

The Crown Agents Die Register records the acceptance of 'Original Border Duty Dies \$25, \$100, \$250'. In the remarks column alongside this entry has been written: '1 Die delivered cracked \$250' and 'Transfer taken from \$ duty Blank Die'. The register also lists the 'punches' (roller or rocker transfer dies) for all three values, against which has been written: '\$25 2 set Duty Blank'. The Plate Register lists the 'Council Chamber' Border Duty Plates for the three values. Unfortunately the folio of the Plate Issue Book for 1929 is missing (if it ever existed) but one suspects that the 'Council Chamber' vignette plate normally used for the postage stamps was employed to print the revenues in conjunction with border plates laid down from composite dies made up from the blank border die and each of the three duty dies. This is partially confirmed by a proof of the \$25 border die described in Chapter 19.

It is only in recent years that used copies of these stamps have come to light, indeed, for some time it was thought that they had never been issued. Presumably they were replaced by the Sultan Halim Shah Portrait Revenue Issue in 1937 in the same way as is thought to have occurred with the postage stamps.

1937 SULTAN HALIM SHAH PORTRAIT REVENUE ISSUE

In 1937 three revenue stamps bearing a portrait of Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah were printed and despatched by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. The values and colours seem to have duplicated the 'Council Chamber' set of eight years before (Fig. 83).

- \$25 Black and Dark Red
- \$100 Black and Slate
- \$250 Black and Green

The dark red of the \$25 has been described as maroon and the border of the \$100 as indigo.

The most immediately noticeable feature of these stamps is their size, the design of which measures 22.25 mm vertically and 19.25 mm horizontally, compared to the 29.75 x 25.25 mm of the Portrait definitives. They are thus approximately the same size as the 'padi-sheaf' stamps and it is curious that of the two Waterlow issues of 1937 the postage stamps were of dimensions sometimes referred to as 'revenue-size', and the revenue stamps were in the size normally associated with postage stamps.

The design of the portrait of the Sultan was almost identical to that on the postage stamps but was a different engraving. It portrayed the Sultan in full regalia but, being smaller and against a slightly darker background, it produced a less pleasing effect. The shape of the vignette was upright rectangular, apart from the top edge which arched slightly upwards, compared to the upright oval of the definitives. The side borders of the frame contained the word 'REVENUE' – in English on the left and Jawi Malay on the right, while the top and bottom borders contained the word 'KEDAH', the English being on the bottom as on the postage stamp. The figures of value were in ovals in all four corners of the design. Being smaller than the postage stamp the border was not so ornamental but its general style, as well as that of the portrait, suggested that both issues were the work of the same engraver.



Fig. 83

(These illustrations are slightly larger than actual size, amounting to about 1.5 mm on the width of an individual stamp.)



The stamps were recess-printed at two operations from key and duty plates on white paper watermarked Multiple Script CA and perforated 12.5 by a line machine. (See the die/colour proofs on Colour Plate 7.) The sheets were 120-set but large enough blocks have not been recorded to say with certainty what the format of the sheet was, although it is likely to have been 10 rows of 12. It is not known whether there were any marginal inscriptions but there were certainly no marginal lines.

The Crown Agents Requisition Book contained the following entries concerning this revenue issue:

THE REVENUE STAMPS

REQ. NO.	DUTY PLATES		NO. OF SHEETS ORDERED	NO. IN SHEET	NO. OF SHEETS DESPATCHED	DATE OF DESPATCH	REMARKS
	ISSUED	RETURNED					
Duty: \$25							New Issue. Specimens required: CA.1 C.O.1 C.I.1 CSD.6 W & S 7
1338	8.4.37	8.4.37	50	120	55	13.4.37	
Duty: \$100							
1338	8.4.37	8.4.37	50	120	55	13.4.37	
Duty: \$250							
1338	8.4.37	9.4.37	50	120	55	13.4.37	

It is not known what the initials in the REMARKS column signify but they may be government departments which needed to have reference copies of revenue stamps that were to be used in government service.

No used examples of these stamps have been recorded and so it cannot be stated definitely that they were ever issued. It is possible that the mint copies in existence may have been the result of looting in the confused conditions of the Japanese invasion in December 1941, but the fact that these stamps had not been destroyed by that date supports the presumption that they were currently in use. The \$25 value is known with a Japanese Occupation overprint, popularly but probably erroneously known as the 'War Tax' chop, and was used as a revenue stamp during this period.

With a despatch date of 13.4.37 the stamps were likely to have been brought into use around the end of May or the beginning of June, so they possibly preceded Waterlow's postage and revenue issue by a few weeks.

The other Crown Agents records add little to our knowledge of these stamps. The Plate and Die Registers do not extend to 1937 and the Plate Issue Book merely records the issue and return dates of the duty plates and the return of the key plate on 9 April 1937.

(For details of essays and die and colour proofs of this issue see the relevant sections of Chapter 19.)

ESSAYS, PROOFS, COLOUR TRIALS, PRINTERS' SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS

ESSAYS

1911

On 16 March 1911, the Adviser to the Kedah Government requested De La Rue for designs showing a sheaf (or shock) of padi for the values up to 8 cents, a Malay ploughing for the values 10 cents – 50 cents and the Council Chamber (or Balei Besar) in Alor Star, for the dollar values. Suitable photographs were sent, together with instructions regarding the lettering and figures of value, the details of the designs being left to the printers. (This letter is contained in Part I of Chapter 10.)

It appears De La Rue prepared two sets of artists' make-ups, each essay mounted separately on a piece of card dated 5 May 1911 in the top right corner and each set lettered A to I. Both sets were identical apart from some variation in the colours on the 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber' designs. With the exception of one of the two essays lettered 'G', one set was mounted in sunken card, presumably for protection in transit, and sent, via the Crown Agents, to the British Adviser in Kedah for approval by the Sultan and the State Council. On 4 July De La Rue received a letter from the Adviser, via the Crown Agents, expressing the State Council's pleasure with the designs and approving E, H & I. The equivalent essays in the set held by De La Rue were ticked. (The set retained by De La Rue is shown on Colour Plates 1 & 2. The extra essay marked 'G' is not included but was listed and illustrated in the catalogue of the sale of the De La Rue material by Robson Lowe in April 1977. Whether this essay was sent out to Kedah in 1911, or another sunk-mounted essay lettered 'G' exists, is not known. The memo, dated 5 May 1911, from De La Rue to the Crown Agents accompanying the essays sent to Kedah for the State Council's consideration, which is contained in the introduction to Chapter 10, makes it quite clear a 'G' was included in the set.)

The 'padi-sheaf' essays were in the value of 2 cents, the 'Malay ploughing' 20 cents and the 'Council Chamber' \$5. The De La Rue memo referred to above states that the four designs lettered A, B, C and D were for stamps to be produced in one operation, and the five designs lettered E, F, G, H and I were for stamps to be produced in two operations, i.e. two colours. (See Part I of Chapter 10.)

The details of these composite essays which were made up of photographs and hand-painting are as follows:

The set retained by De La Rue

- A Padi-sheaf in the accepted design, hand-painted in red. Size of card: 84 x 80 mm.
- B Padi-sheaf, also in red, enlarged to 25 x 30 mm. The design is somewhat similar to the accepted design but the vertical sides of the frame are straight, giving a modified shape

to the padi-sheaf which is narrower. There are additional floral and leaf adornments around the outside of the frame. The value tablets, which have a shaded background, are of a similar shape to the frame. Size of card: 84 x 80 mm.

- C Malay ploughing in black (vignette) and slate (although De La Rue regarded A-D as being in one colour) similar to the accepted design but there is more detail in the foreground of the vignette and a background of vegetation extending to the frame. Size of card: 84 x 80 mm.
- D Council Chamber in brown similar to the accepted design but with slight differences in the surround of the building. Size of the card: 84 x 80 mm.
- E Padi-sheaf similar to A but with the vignette in black. Card ticked in red in bottom right-hand corner. Size of card: 89 x 114 mm.
- F Padi-sheaf design similar to B but with the vignette in black. Size of card: 89 x 114 mm.
- G Malay ploughing in black (vignette) and violet similar to C except for very minor differences in the ground of the central design. Size of card: 89 x 114 mm.
- G As above but in brown (vignette) and green. Size of card: 84 x 79 mm.
- H Malay ploughing in black (vignette) and red-brown in the accepted design. Card ticked in red in bottom right-hand corner. Size of card: 89 x 114 mm. This was the design without any foreground or background to the plough which was prepared in accordance with the special instructions from the British Adviser. (See the letter from the Adviser dated 16.3.1911 in Part I of Chapter 10.)
- I Council Chamber in black (vignette) and blue in the accepted design. Card ticked in red in bottom right-hand corner. Size of card: 89 x 114 mm.

The sunken set sent to Kedah

- A Padi-sheaf in red approximately in the issued design, some hand-painting in red to the background of the frame. Size of card: 90 x 100 mm.
- B Similar to 'B' above and enlarged to 25 x 30 mm with hand-painting to the frame. Size of card: 79 x 84 mm.
- C As 'C' above but in brown instead of slate. Size of card: 97 x 89 mm.
- D As 'D' above but described as being in black and slate. Size of card: 97 x 88 mm.
- E As 'E' above. Size of card: 77 x 84 mm.
- F As 'F' in black and red. Size of card: 89 x 114 mm.
- H As 'H' above but in black (vignette) and maroon and mauve. Size of card: 84 x 77 mm.
- I As 'I' above but in black (vignette) and brown-red. Size of card: 84 x 77 mm.

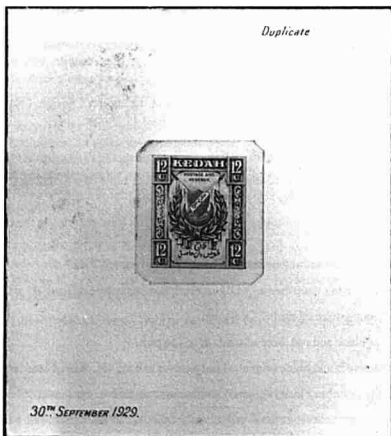
E, H and I are not ticked but have 'Appd.' in manuscript in the bottom left-hand corner, written, presumably, in Kedah.

The ten essays retained by De La Rue, together with much of the other archive material held by the company, were offered in the Robson Lowe Sales Nos. 4161–62 in 1977 but were withdrawn, it is thought because of a dispute over ownership. Some were subsequently re-offered in Robson Lowe's sales Nos. 4201–02 in 1977 in London, Sale No. 4466 in Tokyo, 1980, and Sale No. 4789–91 in London, 1983. Those items not auctioned were presumably sold by private treaty. The three die-sunk essays selected by the Kedah State Council were offered in Lot 4163 of Robson Lowe's sale of the F. E. Wood collection on 15 December 1964. They bore traces of soiling, possibly as a result of being in the tropics.

1929

In the Robson Lowe catalogue for the sale of the De La Rue archive material of 20 April 1977 was an artist's composite photographic and hand-painted essay for a new design for a Kedah stamp. It was in vertical format and depicted the Kedah state coat-of-arms with 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE' at the top and the same in Jawi at the bottom. This vignette was enclosed by a frame composed of two ornamental columns, a rectangular duty tablet at each corner containing '12' over the letter 'c' and completed by the state name across the top (Fig. 84). It was predominantly slate in colour picked out in Chinese white and pale

Fig. 84

Duplicate

blue with a sepia coat-of-arms. It was mounted on thick white card measuring 102 x 112 mm, dated 30 September 1929, and marked 'Duplicate'.

The catalogue also contained an artist's drawing of the same design, enlarged to 70.5 x 83 mm but slightly modified (notably in the length of the spears forming part of the coat-of-arms which pierced the value tablets) on thick white card measuring 167 x 178 mm, to which was affixed, in the lower left corner, a 1922 S1 perforated sample overprinted SPECIMEN (*Fig. 85*). The colours of this essay were black, Chinese white and light brown.

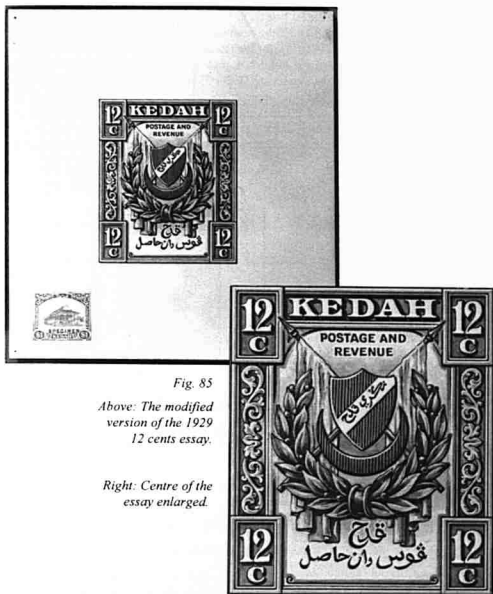


Fig. 85

Above: The modified version of the 1929 12 cents essay.

Right: Centre of the essay enlarged.

1934 FMS & SS Survey Dept essays

Photo-lithographic essays of the 5 cents exist in black, green and yellow, printed in blocks of four on chalk-surfaced, unwatermarked and ungummed paper. The reason for their production is unknown but one suggestion is that they were done to demonstrate the work of the Government Survey Department which was producing a large number of essays around 1934 in connection with the separate state issues for the Malayan Postal Union formed in that year. Kedah did not join the Union.

1937

In the Robson Lowe sale of the De La Rue archive material was a photograph of a 50 cents essay (*Fig. 86*) measuring 26 x 30 mm, the head and regalia of the Sultan being approximately similar to that used by Waterlow for the issued stamps, while the head was similar to that on the revenue essay shown in *Fig. 87*. A photograph of the latter essay was also in the same lot. It was described as measuring 19.5 x 23 mm and had a value of \$500. The head was similar to that on Waterlow's issue of revenue stamps but showed little of the Sultan's regalia. The portrait and frame were oval in format in contrast to the upright rectangular design (with top arched) of the issued stamp. The value tablets at the top were oval and those at the bottom rectangular compared to the issued stamp on which they were all oval.



Fig. 86



Fig. 87

DIE PROOFS

Details of the known proofs of the impressed stamps on the postal stationery are contained in Chapter 20.

1911

I. In black on glazed cards or surfaced paper:

Lot 464 of the F. E. Wood sale in 1964 contained the following (all in black):

- a. A proof of the 'padi-sheaf' vignette with guide lines but no date.
- b. Two proofs of the 'Malay ploughing' vignette, one of which was on surfaced wove paper with very faint guide lines close to the vignette; the other was on ordinary wove

paper with guide lines spaced from the vignette. The former had fuller shading than the latter as if the pull had been taken under greater pressure, but both showed much more detail than on the issued stamps. It has been suggested that these are progressive proofs as there is some additional shading on the second one – to the left of the top of the inner leg of the foremost bullock. This shading is also present on the stamps.

- c. A proof of the frame of the 'Malay ploughing' design (value tablets void) with clear guide lines and dated 2 Oct. 1911.
- d. Proofs of the 'Council Chamber' vignette and the frame (value tablets void), both with clear guide lines.

All these proofs are illustrated in Fig. 88.

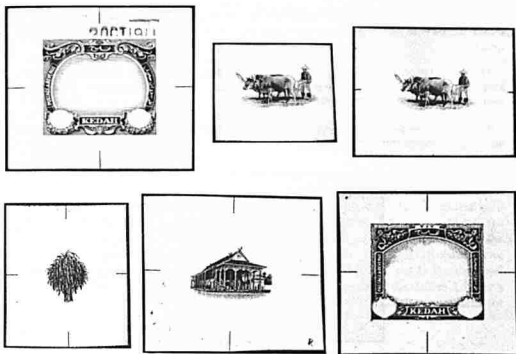


Fig. 88 – 1911 die proofs, 'padi-sheaf' vignette and separate vignettes and frames for 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber'.

Separate vignettes and frames (without value tablets) in black for all three designs were offered in the sale of the De La Rue archive material. Of these, the 'Malay ploughing' vignette may have been the one described and illustrated by Dr J. S. Cheah in a 1982 article in *The Singapore Philatelist* in which case it would appear to be a duplicate of the first of those shown in Fig. 88. Four of the archive proofs are illustrated in Fig. 89.



Fig. 89 – 1911 die proofs, separate vignettes and frames for the 'padi-sheaf' and 'Council Chamber'.

An additional proof of the 'padi sheaf' on thin wove paper measuring 33 x 34 mm and dated '22.8.11' in pencil at the top was listed and illustrated by Dr J. S. Cheah in his 1982 article.

An additional proof of the frame of the 'Council Chamber' design (74 x 50.5 mm) is without side inscriptions as well as value tablets and is marked 'Before repairing die'. (Illustrated by Dr J. S. Cheah in his 1982 article.)

Another proof without side inscriptions and value tablets exists. It measures 65 x 44 mm and has no manuscript markings (*Fig. 90*). It is printed on thick wove paper.

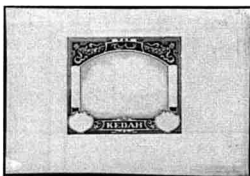
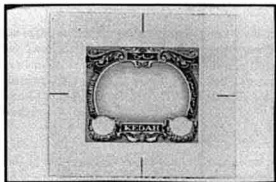


Fig. 90 – 1911 die proof, 'Council Chamber' frame without side inscriptions and value tablets.

Additional proofs exist of the vignette (45 x 42 mm) and the frame (42 x 36 mm) of the 'Council Chamber' design, both dated '27.9.11'. (Reported by Dr J. S. Cheah in his 1982 article.)

An additional proof of the frame of the 'Malay ploughing' design, measuring 50 x 44 mm and with clear guide lines, has slightly fuller vignetting than the others, most noticeably at the top. This may be due to a stronger impression of the die being taken. It is printed on cream paper similar to that used for the 1926 values, which suggests that it could be



*Fig. 91 – 1911 or 1926 die proof,
'Malay ploughing' frame.*

connected with those issues. It is possible that it is a proof of the secondary die made for either the 12 or 35 cents, and taken before the figures of value were engraved (*Fig. 91*).

Amongst the 1912 proofs offered in the sale of the De La Rue archive material (Lot 1116) was one of the complete design of the padi-sheaf, apart from the value tablets, which was described as being on surfaced paper. This is, in fact, a proof of the 1919 composite die. As far as is known, there are no 1912 proofs of the three designs with vignette and frame combined in black.

Finally, a die proof of the frame of a 10 cents value in the same format as the padi sheaf was offered in the sale of the De La Rue archive material. It was in black on glazed card measuring 42 x 51 mm and had 'TEN CENTS' either side and '10c' in the value tablets. (*See Fig. 107* in Chapter 20.) This design was later adopted for the impressed stamp on the registration envelope and so might be regarded as a die proof of the latter. Robson Lowe included it as a rejected essay for the 1912 Multiple Crown Issue, but as the marginal inscriptions do not conform with the general instructions contained in the British Adviser's letter of 16 March 1911, (*see Part I* of Chapter 10) it is unlikely to have been prepared for the postage stamps.

2. In colour on plain paper:

Proofs exist of the vignettes and frames combined of all three designs but still without the value tablets, each with the centres in black and the frames in red. One of each was amongst the De La Rue archive material and all of these were ticked in the top right corner. The one of the 'padi-sheaf' design was affixed by one corner to glazed card (40 x 49 mm) and marked 'G.A.R. Aug. 22 1911' (*Fig. 92*). The one of the 'Malay ploughing' design was dated '5 Oct. 1911', and the one of the 'Council Chamber' design was dated '29.9.11'. The first and third of these proofs were offered in the sale (Lots 1117 and 1122) but the 'Malay ploughing' proof in the sale (Lot 1120) was not dated and ticked and so must have been a duplicate. Similar proofs were sold as a lot (No. 467) in the Wood sale, the one of the 'Council Chamber' design being initialled lower right (*Fig. 93*). (The 'padi-sheaf' proof from this lot is illustrated in Chapter 11, *Fig. 34*.)



Fig. 92 - 1911 die proof,
'padi-sheaf' vignette and
frame combined.



Fig. 93 - 1911 die proofs, 'Malay ploughing' and 'Council Chamber'
vignettes and frames combined.



Fig. 94 - 1919 die proof,
composite 'padi-sheaf'.

1919

At least seven proofs exist of the undenominated master die of the 'padi-sheaf' design used to make the new single working 'master plate'. At least two of these are in black on glazed paper and four others on plain paper. (One of the latter is shown in Chapter 11, Fig. 35.) Two are dated '3.1.19' in manuscript and one is further marked 'Created from a 2 colour stamp' (Fig. 94). They show the characteristics of a Type II stamp. (A description of how this die was made can be found in Chapter 11.)

1926

Proofs exist of the 4 cents in violet and the 6 cents in ultramarine on plain wove paper. (The 4 cents is not a die proof, but a colour proof, as the values from 1 cent to 5 cents inclusive, printed from the single working plate, were not made from denominated dies but from a 'master plate'. This value is often seen grouped with the 6 cents, however, and is included here for information. The ultramarine 6 cents is a die proof and those in carmine or red are probably colour proofs taken from the die. The 6 cents was the first 'padi-sheaf' stamp produced from a denominated die.) The 6 cents die proof is affixed to card (71 x 88 mm) dated '29.1.26' and marked 'Approved 1/2/26' (Fig. 95). It is thought at least one duplicate exists of this.

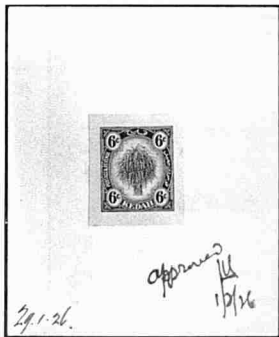


Fig. 95 - 1926 die proof, 6 cents.

Die proofs of the 12 cents and 35 cents frames in ultramarine (with the value tablets) exist on plain wove paper, affixed to card, 88 x 70 mm and 88 x 71 mm respectively, dated '29.1.26' and both marked 'Approved 1/2.26' (Figs 96 & 97).

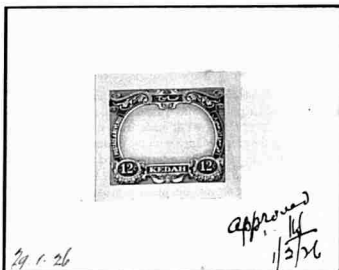


Fig. 96 - 1926 die proof, 12 cents frame.

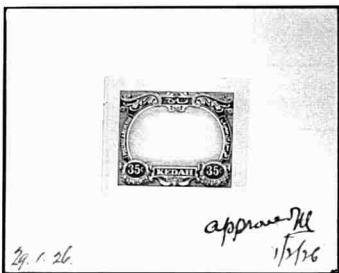


Fig. 97 - 1926 die proof, 35 cents frame.

Two duplicates exist of the 12 cents dated '19.1.26' and '20.1.26', and a duplicate of the 35 cents also exists dated '25.1.26'. All the above were in the De La Rue archives as were two undated duplicates of the 12 cents and 35 cents in ultramarine which were offered in the April 1977 sale (Lots 1170 and 1173).

The 12 cents and 35 cents were the only 'Malay ploughing' stamps to be produced from denominated border dies.

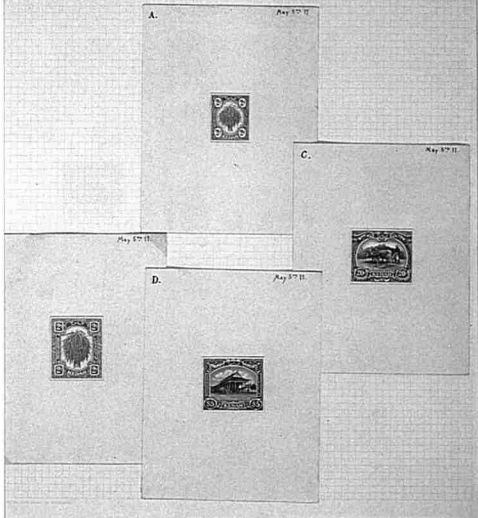
KEDAH

0001701

On March 16, 1911 the Adviser to the Kedah Government called for design showing a shock of padi for 1-3 cents stamps, a Malay ploughing for the 10-50 cents, and the Council Chamber for 11 upwards. Appropriate photographs were supplied, leaving the designs to us.

Our submission of May 5th shows A, B, C and D for recess printing in one colour and, on the following page, E, F, G, H and I in two colours.

On July 4th the Crown Agents forwarded a letter from the Adviser dated June 6th expressing the State Council's extreme pleasure with the artistic designs, of which they chose A, H and I. In their covering letter the Crown Agents left the colour scheme to us to suit the subjects, but with frames in green, red and blue for the international values, remarking that the designs might remain in our possession when the stamps were sent out.



*The one-colour essays, A-D, prepared by De La Rue in 1911 for the first issue.
(From the De La Rue archives. Reproduced by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)*

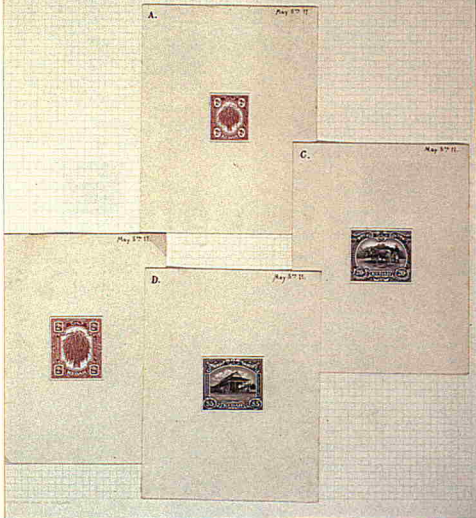
KEDAH

0001701

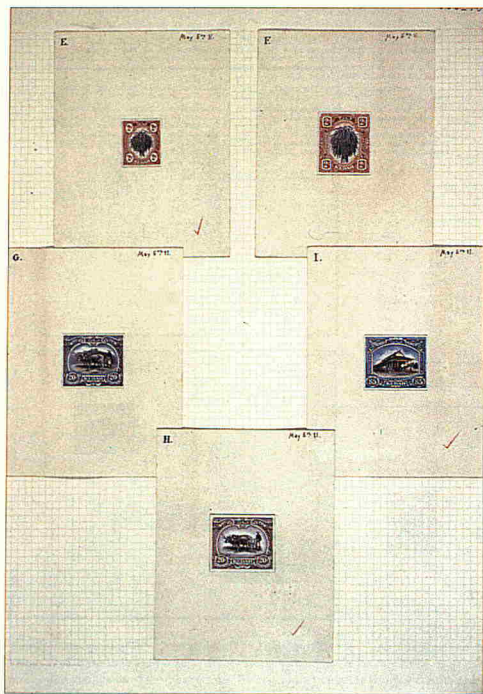
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The one-colour essays, A-D, prepared by De La Rue in 1911 for the first issue.
(From the De La Rue archives. Reproduced by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)

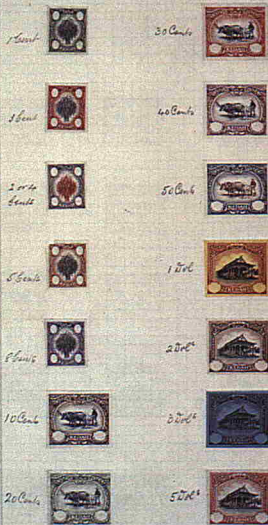


The two-colour essays, E-I, prepared by De La Rue in 1911 for the first issue.
 (From the De La Rue archives. Reproduced by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)

A. Colour Scheme for the initial issue of July 1912, approved by Sir William Mercer on the 22nd November, 1911.

16th Nov^r 1911.
Kedah,
Reg. 34, 11

Appendix A.



K.A.
11. 11

Approved
W.M.M. 22. 11. 11

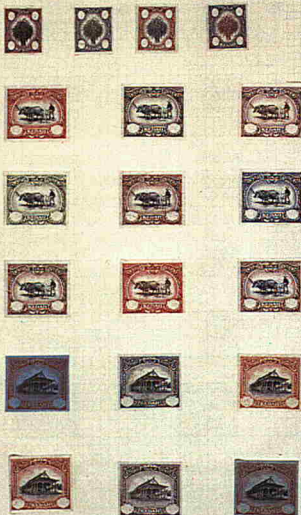
The colour scheme for the first issue approved by the Crown Agents.
(From the De La Rue archives. Reproduced by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)

S001737

Alternative colour schemes
for the initial issue
of July 1911

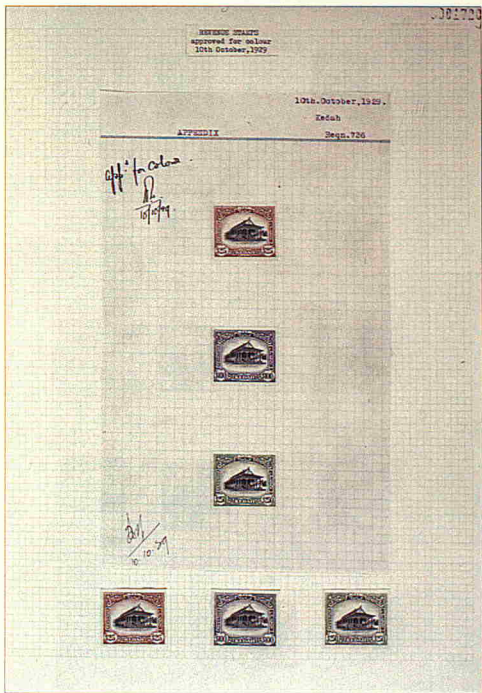
*M^{rs} N^o 11.
Kodak Co.*

Appendix B.



*2/1
7" 11*

*Alternative colour trials for the first issue.
(This Appendix was subsequently divided into several pieces.)
(From the De La Rue archives. Reproduced by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)*



*Imperforate colour trials of the 1929 'Council Chamber' revenue issue.
(From the De La Rue archives. Reproduced by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd.)*



Die/coulour proofs of the 1937 Sultan Halim Shah Portrait issue.
 (From the former Crown Agents archives. Reproduced by permission of the
 British Library.)

1.



2.



3.



1. Perforated colour trial of the 4 cents violet.

2. Imperforate colour trials of the 1926 values - 6 cents, 12 cents & 35 cents.

3. Die/colour proofs of the 1937 Sultan Halim Shah revenue issue.

(From the former Crown Agents archives. Reproduced by permission of the British Library.)

1.



2.



3.



4.



1. & 2. Die/colour proof and example of the unissued 8 cents red.

3. & 4. Die/colour proof and example of the unissued 15 cents.

(From the former Crown Agents archives. Reproduced by permission of the British Library.)

1929

In Lot 715 of the F. E. Wood sale in 1964, amongst a large number of revenue stamps, was a proof of the denominated border die of the \$25 value of the 'Council Chamber' revenue stamps. It was on what appeared to be glazed card measuring 58 x 42 mm. Similar proofs may exist for the \$100 and \$250 values.

THE PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

In addition to the above, the following proofs exist in the Philatelic Collections of the British Library which were formerly part of the Crown Agents archives:

Proofs of Waterlow & Sons

1. Similar to the issued stamps of the 1937 Portrait set but no duties and marked in manuscript: 'Approved for Dies and Colours 6/2' and initialled (*Colour Plate 6*).
2. Borders only, with duties, of each value of the 1937 Portrait issue in black and marked: 'App. for duty tablets 25/2'.
3. Similar to the issued stamps of the 1937 Portrait revenue set (small-format) but no duties and marked in manuscript: 'Approved for Dies and Colours 6/2' and initialled. Against the proof with the frame in maroon (or dark red) has been written \$25, in green \$500 and in slate \$100 (*Shown on Colour Plate 7 without the annotation.*).
4. Borders only, with duties, of each value (\$25, \$100 & \$500) of the 1937 Portrait revenue issue in black and marked: 'Appd. for duty tablets 25/2' and initialled.

NOTE. Waterlow & Sons' own proofs of the two 1937 sets for Kedah are presumed to have been destroyed in the bombing during the Second World War but part, at least, of the company's records survived. Extracts from these were printed by Christie's Robson Lowe in a publication entitled *The Die Proofs of Waterlow & Sons*. The section on Kedah contained the following:

1937

There must have been an essay set as the entries refer to both large and small 'KEDAH'. All entries were endorsed 'Stamp Die'.

	Large KEDAH	Small KEDAH	
Vignette	15447	15448	17.11.36
Duty	15449	15450	17.11.36
	<i>The latter was presumably the master die.</i>		
Duty	15560-15568	15569-15571	9/10.2.37

As nine values were issued presumably the large KEDAH values were the postage set engraved 'POSTAGE & REVENUE'. The small KEDAH design may have been for revenue stamps only.

The last two statements are confirmed by the proofs in the British Library.

COLOUR TRIALS

1911

On Colour Plate 3 can be seen a sheet measuring 189 x 330 mm headed '*Appendix A*' and bearing the complete set of the July 1912 stamps in issued colours from unfinished plates (value tablets void) but with the values written alongside. (These trials were the ones recommended by De La Rue and accepted by the State Council. See Part I of Chapter 10.) The trials are imperforate on paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA (the direction of the watermark varies). The sheet is dated '*16th Novr. 1911*' and further marked at foot '*Approved*', initialled and dated '*22.11.11*'. Other initials and a date of '*17.11.11*' appear in the lower left corner while a typed note at the top of the sheet states '*Colour Scheme for the initial issue of July 1912, approved by Sir William Mercer on the 22nd November, 1911.*'

On Colour Plate 4 can be seen a similar sheet headed '*Appendix B*' bearing a number of examples of the July 1912 issue in unadopted colours, there being four of the padi-sheaf, nine of the Malay ploughing and six of the Council Chamber. (A letter from De La Rue contained in Part I of Chapter 10 makes it clear that these trials were offered to the Kedah State Council as alternatives to those on '*Appendix A*'.) The trials are without value tablets, are imperforate and on paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA. The sheet is dated '*16th Novr. 19__*' (the last two digits of the year having been cut away). Similar initials and a date of '*17.11.11*' appear in the lower left corner, as on '*Appendix A*', and a typed note at the top of the sheet states: '*Alternative colour schemes for the initial issue of July 1912*'.

Both these sheets were in the De La Rue archives and were sold in Robson Lowe's sale in Tokyo in 1980 although the '*Appendix B*' sheet was divided into three, each piece bearing the colour trials with a common design, and sold as separate lots. At least two of these pieces are known to have been further subdivided since the sale. A piece bearing the middle horizontal row of three of the nine 'Malay ploughing' trials shown on Plate 4, and another bearing the bottom three of the 'Council Chamber' design, have been recorded. The latter does not bear the date which can be seen at bottom left on Plate 4 so it has to be assumed this has been cut away.

A lot in the sale of the De La Rue archive material was comprised of sixteen colour trials in unissued colours – five of the 'padi-sheaf', five of the 'Malay ploughing' and six of the 'Council Chamber' design. None of the colours was specified but this, presumably, was not '*Appendix B*' as the numbers given of each design do not tally with those on the sheet.

Another lot in the same sale was comprised of the complete set of fourteen imperforate colour trials in the issued colours. It was said three were slightly creased but there was no mention of an '*Appendix A*', so these, presumably, were a duplicate set, of which there may have been at least two made in 1911.

Amongst the colour trials known to have existed before the De La Rue archive sale were three in Robson Lowe's sale of the F. E. Wood collection in 1964, all of them of the 'Malay ploughing' design on Multiple Crown CA paper, and different to the ones shown on '*Appendix B*': Dark green and light green; Bright blue and brown; Dark green and brown.

Others which have been reported in this design are: Black and brown; Dark green and blue.

Of the 'padi-sheaf' design the following is known in addition to those shown on 'Appendix B': Green and purple.

Of the 'Council Chamber' design the following are known in addition to those shown on 'Appendix B': Orange and black; Black and red/green; Black and carmine/green.

Others of all three designs are likely to exist.

1926-1941

The following exist imperforate:

1. The 6 cents in carmine on piece marked '22/2/26' on reverse and annotated: '*Not approved. To be a little lighter.*'.
2. The 6 cents in carmine on piece marked in manuscript '*Appd for colour 1/3/26*'.
3. The 8 cents in grey-black (see note under next section) imperforate on piece (75 x 36 mm) marked in manuscript: '*Appd. 25/3__*', the year having been cut away. Although this item is dated 25 March 1926 on its mounting, this would appear to be an error. The year is likely to be 1936.
4. The 12 cents in black and indigo affixed to piece (84 x 48 mm) marked in manuscript '*Approved 24/2/26*'.
5. The 35 cents in purple affixed to piece also marked in manuscript '*Approved 24/2/26*'.

All the above were in the Robson Lowe sale of the De La Rue archive material.

THE PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

In addition to the above, the following colour trials exist in the Philatelic Collections of the British Library which were formerly in the Crown Agents archives.

DE LA RUE

1. An Appendix dated 28 Dec. 1925 (Reqn. 491) bearing a perforated example of the 4 cents violet and marked in manuscript: '*Appd. for colour*', initialled and dated. (Colour Plate 7)
2. An Appendix dated 22.2.1926 (Reqn. 495) bearing imperforate examples of the 6 cents, 12 cents and 35 cents. Against the latter two values is written in manuscript: '*Approved for colour.*' Against the 6 cents is written: '*Not approved. The colour should be nearer to the existing 4c.*' They are initialled and dated 24/12/26 (Colour Plate 7). The shade of carmine of the 6 cents is similar to that of the 1940 reprint.
3. An Appendix B dated 27.2.1926 (Reqn. 495) bearing an imperforate trial of the 6 cents value and marked in manuscript: '*Approved for colour.*' It is initialled and dated '1/3/26'. The shade of carmine of this item is similar to that of the issued stamp.

4. An Appendix sheet headed '10th October 1929, Kedah, Reqn. 736' bearing imperforate examples of the 'Council Chamber' revenues similar in design to the issued postage stamps apart from the inscription on the left side of the frame which reads 'REVENUE' instead of 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE'. The colours are: \$25 Black and Red; \$100 Black and Indigo; \$250 Black and Green. The sheet is marked in manuscript: '*Appd. for colour 10/10/29*' and initialled. A similar sheet from the De La Rue archives is illustrated on Colour Plate 5.
5. An Appendix dated 23rd March 1936 (Reqn. No.1265) bearing an imperforate example of the 8 cents grey* and marked in manuscript: '*Approved. 25/3.*'
6. A sheet headed '*De La Rue Req. 1840/1*' bearing an imperf. example of an 8 cents red in the 'padi-sheaf' design, marked in manuscript: '*Approved. 18/10/41*' and initialled (Colour Plate 8). This stamp was not sent to Malaya owing to the Japanese Occupation.

WATERLOW & SONS

1. A sheet headed '*Waterlow. Kedah. 1840/2 2/10/41*' bearing an imperforate example of an unissued 15 cents in black and indigo in the 1937 Portrait design, marked in manuscript: '*Approved. 3/10/41*' and initialled (Colour Plate 8). There are despatch dates of 14/26.11.41 in the Crown Agents records for this stamp but there must be some doubt that it was actually shipped to Malaya owing to the Japanese invasion.

PRINTERS' SAMPLES

De La Rue appear to have been given permission, in about 1922, to use proofs pulled from their working plates as samples of their work. They were printed on unwatermarked paper in colours not used for the issued stamps and were produced both perforate and imperforate, the former being generally regarded as the scarcer of the two. They are sometimes mis-described as colour trials.

The De La Rue archive sale contained a number of these printers' samples most of which were overprinted SPECIMEN. All were ungummed and unwatermarked.

NOTE. The information and illustrations in this chapter regarding the different SPECIMEN types have been mainly obtained from the book *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies* (1976) by Marcus Samuel.

SPECIMEN

SPECIMEN TYPE DSI
15.75 x 1.75 mm

SPECIMEN

SPECIMEN TYPE DS3
14 x 2.75 mm

* When there are differences in the descriptions of shades of colour trials which otherwise appear to be duplicates, allowance must be made for the variable ways individuals see colours and describe them.

1. 5 cents Brown. (Those seen are from the retouched plate and also show the weaknesses on the 3rd, 22nd and 27th lines down from the top right-hand corner of the design, typical of a Type I stamp. See Chapter 14.) On thin card and imperforate.
 - (a) Without SPECIMEN o/p. (Blocks of four are known). This seems to have been regarded as a plate proof pulled from the new plate made for the 5 cents yellow in 1922. However, the fact that it is on unwatermarked paper and from the retouched plate, which was probably not used until the second printing, points to it being a printers' sample and not a plate proof.
 - (b) With SPECIMEN o/p. (Samuel Type DS1) (A block of 6 known.)
 - (c) With SPECIMEN o/p. (Samuel Type DS3)
2. 20 cents Green and Purple. (Has also been described as blue/green and purple/brown.) Printed from Plate 1 on thick paper.
 - (a) Imperforate with SPECIMEN o/p. (Samuel Type DS1) (Blocks of four are known.)
 - (b) As (a) but perforated 14 comb.
3. \$1 Red and Green. On thick paper.
 - (a) Imperforate with SPECIMEN o/p. (Samuel Type DS1) (Blocks of four are known.)
 - (b) As (a) but perforated 14 comb.

The number of these samples in existence is unknown but five, including a block of four, of the 5 cents brown were sold in the Robson Lowe sale of the F. E. Wood collection in 1964.

PLATE PROOFS

1912

In the De La Rue archive was an imperforate block of four of a plate proof of the 5 cents in green and chestnut on ungummed paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA. It was marked in pencil on the reverse: '*July 1912 colour proof*'. It was also described as having a slight diagonal crease (Fig. 98). This block was later trimmed and divided horizontally into two pairs. At least one other single exists. This appears to be the only plate proof of the 1912 set in existence.

1922-36

In the Robson Lowe sale of the F. E. Wood collection in 1964 were plate proofs of the 4 cents violet (a corner pair) on paper watermarked Multiple Script CA, and the 8 cents grey - a single example on unwatermarked paper.

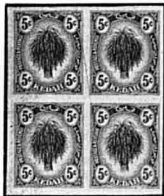


Fig. 98 - 1912 colour proof, 5 cents plate

SPECIMENS

- 1912 Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D12)
 In red: 1 cent, 3 cents, 5 cents, 8 cents.
 In black: 4 cents.
- Vertical overprint (reading downwards) (Samuel Type D12a)
 In black: All values 10 cents to \$5.
- All the above can be seen, reduced, in Fig. 99.
- 1919-21 Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D12)
 In black: 1 cent brown, 2 cents green, 3 cents purple, 4 cents rose.
- Vertical overprint (reading upwards) (Samuel Type D12a)
 In black: 21 cents, 25 cents.
- All the 'padi-sheaf' values are printed on the greyish paper with the possible exception of the 3 cents. All the above can be seen, reduced, in Fig. 99.
- 1921-24 Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D12)
 In black: 1 cent brown, 2 cents green, 3 cents purple, 4 cents red.
- Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D16)
 In black: 30 cents, \$1.
- Vertical overprint (reading upwards) (Samuel Type D12a)
 In black: 10 cents, 20 cents, 21 cents, 25 cents, 40 cents, 50 cents, \$2, \$3, \$5.
- 1922-36 Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D12)
 In black: 5 cents yellow.
- Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D16)
 In black: 3 cents green, 4 cents violet, 6 cents, 35 cents.
- Horizontal overprint. (Samuel Type D16)
 In red: 1 cent black, 12 cents.
- Perforated in an arc. (Samuel Type D20)
 8 cents grey.
- All the above can be seen, reduced, in Fig. 99.

(The SPECIMEN overprints which exist on the printers' samples will be found in the earlier section headed 'Printers' Samples'.)

Fig. 99 (on opposite page) - The Kedah page from the De La Rue Proof Book.

Fig. 99 shows the 1912, 1919–21 and 1922–36 Specimens on the Kedah sheet from the De La Rue proof book which has been cut into four pieces. These bear manuscript annotations in ink giving dates and details of plate make-up.

- 1937 Portrait issue. Perforated diagonally, lower left to upper right.
(Samuel Type W8)
All values: 10 cents – \$5.

These Specimens are known in strips of three.

SPECIMEN TYPES

TYPE D12 14.5 x 2.5 mm **SPECIMEN**

This is the commonest of the SPECIMEN overprints used by De La Rue from June 1884 to 1922. The forme was of sixty impressions arranged in 10 rows of 6, and so designed that the overprints fell horizontally on stamps of normal 'postage' size in 'portrait' format. The forme included one unit with a broken 'M' in 'SPECIMEN'.

TYPE D12a 13.5 x 2.5 mm **SPECIMEN**

The forme of this overprint was arranged to cancel stamps of the larger 'revenue' size. It was in use from 1897 to 1922.

TYPE D16 15.5 x 1.75 mm **SPECIMEN**

This replaced Type D12 for stamps of the normal 'postage' size. Its period of use was 1922–1928.

TYPE D20



De La Rue used this perforation from 1936 to 1940. According to Samuel, a large number of dangerous forgeries are known but none is recorded for Kedah. It has 65 holes.

TYPE W8 23 x 4 mm **SPECIMEN**

This was the first Waterlow perforation brought into use for UPU Specimens and lasted from 1928 to 1944. Forgeries exist but are not known for Kedah. It has 70 holes.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Kedah is not a rich field for the collector of postal stationery. In the years 1912 to 1941 only six types of cards and five registration envelopes were issued. There were no postal envelopes, letter cards or newspaper wrappers.

POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS

In the De La Rue Private Day Books (q.v. in Appendix 3) are entries for 20 March 1912 which are taken from what is thought to be the first invoice sent by the printers to the Crown Agents for the production of postal stationery for Kedah. The invoice was for Single and Reply Paid postal stationery cards in the two values of 1 cent and 3 cents (*Figs 100 & 101*). The former were printed in green, including the impressed stamps, and were for use within Kedah and the local Postal Union, a list of the territories of which will be found in Chapter 22. The colour matched the border of the 1 cent adhesive as this was the value which was needed to frank foreign printed matter and which, under the UPU Colour Scheme, had to be green. The size of the cards (the Reply Paid folded) was 74 x 120 mm, considerably smaller than that of the 3 cents but typical of those produced for local use in Malaya until the 1920s.

The 3 cents cards, produced for overseas use, were printed in red, including the impressed stamps, as this was the requirement for foreign postcards under the UPU Colour Scheme. The size was 89 x 140 mm (the Reply Paid folded). The style of lettering was very different from that on the 1 cent cards. The impressed stamps on both values were in the same design as the adhesive stamps but were, of course, mono-coloured.

The date of issue of these cards is not known but they are likely to have appeared at the same time as the stamps – 16 June 1912. They were invoiced by De La Rue with the 'padi-sheaf' stamps and so it must be presumed they were despatched and issued at the same time.

The De La Rue Day Books show that the initial printing of the 3 cents Single and Reply Paid cards was the only one made, giving totals of a little over five thousand for the former and two thousand for the latter. There were reprints of each of the 1 cent cards in April 1916 and, in the case of the Single card, it was quite large compared to the original printing – 207,000, giving totals of nearly 228,000 for the Single card and a little over 11,000 for the Reply Paid card. (See the De La Rue records on p. 307.)

The rate for Empire and Foreign postcards went up to 4 cents on 1 January 1918 and that for Foreign postcards doubled to 8 cents on 1 October 1921. On 1 January 1926 the Foreign rate went down to 6 cents and remained at that figure until 25 January 1941 when it returned to 8 cents. The rate for Empire postcards remained at 4 cents throughout this period. No cards of these denominations for Empire or Foreign use were ever produced in Kedah. (The Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States both produced a 4 cents red card, while the former also ordered an 8 cents in the same colour although it was never issued.) The

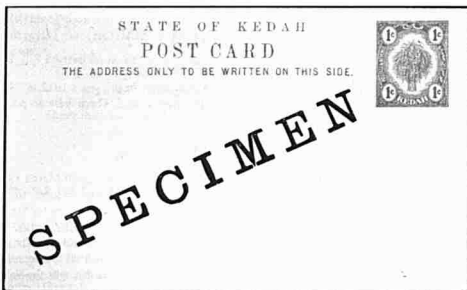


Fig. 100 - 1912 1 cent Single card.

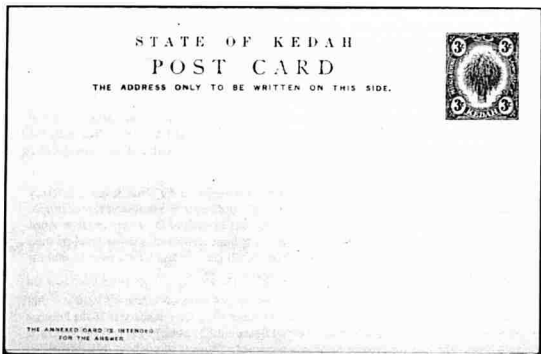


Fig. 101 - 1912 3 cents Reply Paid card.

Kedah authorities presumably felt that all these rates could be adequately covered by existing cards with additional adhesives.

The rate for local postcards went up to 2 cents on 1 January 1918 but a card of that denomination did not appear until 1925 when one in the new colour of brown was issued (*Fig. 102*). (This was the first 'local' card to be printed in the same size as the one for overseas use.) It could not be printed in green as a stamp of that colour was now required to frank foreign printed matter, the rate for which had been raised to 3 cents in 1921. Brown was now 'available' as it was no longer needed for the 1 cent stamp which had been changed to black in 1922 by agreement within the local Postal Union.

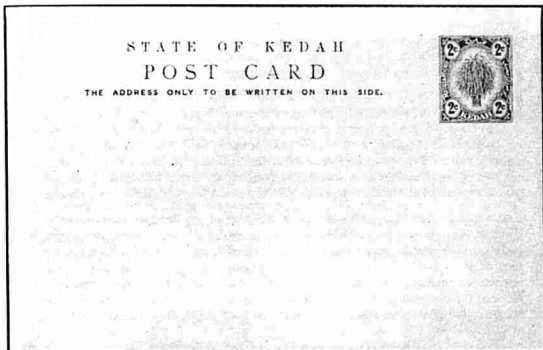


Fig. 102 - 1925 2 cents Single card.

Why the issue of the 2 cents card in brown was delayed until 1925 is not clear as similar cards had been issued by the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States in 1922 and 1923 respectively.

It was somewhat ironic that no sooner had this 2 cents card appeared than, at the beginning of 1926, the foreign printed matter reverted to 2 cents which meant the re-issue of a stamp of that value in green. A 2 cents stamp in green and a card of the same value in brown would not have been good postal practice and so when a reprint was needed of the local card it was changed to green, probably rather hurriedly as the printed matter rate became

2 cents on 1 January 1926 and the 2 cents card in green was despatched by the Crown Agents on the 22nd of the same month.*

There was only one printing of the 2 cents brown card and it was superseded after less than eight months use (August 1925 to March 1926 approximately). There must be a strong probability that unsold stocks were withdrawn on the arrival of the 2 cents green card.

Apart from the fact that the impressed stamp on the 2 cents green card was somewhat clearer (a point returned to later), the brown and green cards were exactly the same in size, style of lettering and format.

No Reply Paid cards were ever produced in either 2 cents brown or 2 cents green. The Single card of the latter was reprinted regularly (on no less than seven occasions) before the Japanese Occupation, and the total number produced was just under a million. It would be reasonable to assume, therefore, that it was in regular use from 1926 to 1941. On 8 April 1940 the local postcard rate went up to 4 cents but there is no evidence in the De La Rue, Crown Agents or Kedah Post Office records that a card of that value was planned. Elsewhere in the local Postal Union, inland cards were surcharged 2 cents.

Mint copies of both the Single and Reply Paid 1 cent cards exist with a 1 cent black definitive added, either to the left or below the impressed stamp, suggesting they were sold in this state by the post office to meet the increase in the rate to two cents. As this increase occurred on 1 January 1918 and the 1 cent black was not issued until 1922 it is likely that cards uprated with a 1 cent brown stamp also exist. The 'uprating' of postal stationery cards by the post office authorities using this method, pending the arrival and issue of new stock, was fairly general in Malaya at this time and may have been the practice in Kedah also.

Commercially used postal stationery cards of Kedah of any denomination are not very common today due to a low survival rate, reflecting, perhaps, limited contemporary interest on the part of collectors between the two World Wars. There is no mention in the printers' records of a new issue supply to dealers of any Kedah postal stationery item – card or registration envelope – a further indication of low collector demand during this period. None of the mint cards is particularly scarce. Philatelically-used cards, sometimes overfranked and addressed to dealers in Germany, are encountered from time to time.

THE METHOD OF PRINTING

In Part I of Chapter 10 is a memorandum dated 5 May 1911 from De La Rue to the Crown Agents in which the former expressed their intention regarding the postal stationery cards: *'If stamps are printed by copper plate, the Post Cards would be printed by lithography, the necessary stones being supplied at our cost'*.

The explanation for this linking of the methods of copper-plate (recess) engraving and lithography is not immediately evident. It may be that, with the technology then available, the type of card used for postal stationery was too hard and unyielding to 'draw out' the

* Adherence to the UPU colour scheme led to complex changes in the colours and values of domestic stamps and postal stationery at times, especially when the value of the currency was changing. This was probably one of the reasons why it was eventually abandoned.

ink from a recess plate successfully,* or at least De La Rue regarded it as being so. On the other hand, it might simply have been a matter of cost as it was relatively easy and fairly cheap to take lithographed transfers from a recess-engraved die.† Had the adhesive stamps been produced by letterpress (or 'the surface process' as De La Rue described it in the same memorandum) then the Company stated that the cards would have been printed by this method also, the non-absorptive nature of postal stationery card being well suited to it.

The Kedah State Council's choice of recess-printing as the method to print the stamps (taken, it would seem from the correspondence, on grounds of cost and the recommendation of the printers) was not a propitious one as far as the postal stationery cards were concerned, as the standard of the lithographic printing of the latter was poor and can have given little satisfaction to those involved.

It may not be fair to compare the 'padi-sheaf' adhesives with the impressed stamps on the 1 cent and 3 cents cards as lithography cannot be expected to produce work of a quality to compare with recess-printing. Nevertheless it has to be said that the stamps on the 1912 postal stationery cards are but travesties of the adhesives. On many of the former the individual lines of the design have thickened and spread to the point where they have coalesced, and the design itself has totally disappeared in parts (*Fig. 103*). However, enough can be discerned to say, with reasonable certainty, that the origins of the impressed stamps were the dies that were used in the production of the adhesives. (If a separate die had been prepared for the cards there would have been little point in including '& REVENUE' around its border.) Also, judging by the clear space around the 'padi-sheaf', that, at some stage during the preparation of the lithographic stone, some of the vignetting was cut away as was to be done in 1918 with the die prepared for the single working plate of the 'padi-sheaf' adhesives, and probably for the same reasons. Vignetting is a device used in the production of stamps from dual working plates to obviate poor 'registration'. If the two parts of the design are to be combined on one plate and printed at one operation, as occurred with the postal stationery cards, then the purpose of vignetting is lost. (In Chapters 10 and 11 the subject of vignetting is dealt with in more detail.)

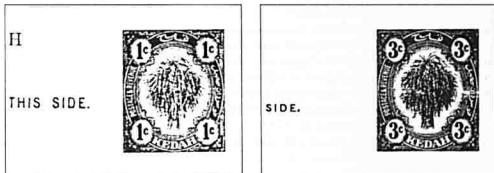


Fig. 103 – The impressed stamps of the 1912 1 cent and 3 cents cards, enlarged.

* By 1937 this was certainly not true. In this year the impressed stamp on the 2 cent green card of Kelantan was recess-printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.

† They were just as easy to take from a die engraved in relief apparently.

As lithography was also one of the printing processes used for the registration envelopes a brief description of it here is necessary. Lithography is a surface-printing process in which, at that time, the design was traced onto a piece of smoothly-polished limestone in greasy ink. The stone surface was then wetted. As water and grease do not mix, any ink subsequently applied to the stone then adhered only to that part covered by the design. Damp paper, or in this case card, was then pressed against the surface of the stone and so received an impression of the design. A design could be drawn straight onto a printing stone but as this had to be done in reverse (i.e. as a mirror image) it was more usual to draw it in lithographic ink on special transfer paper which was then transferred direct to the stone. The designs were normally drawn by hand on the transfer paper, but, where an engraved die in the desired design already existed, a transfer could be obtained from it by taking a 'pull' in the normal way. However, this print had to be in the same greasy ink that was used to transfer the design onto the stone and, although the die was usually warmed over a hot-plate to enable the ink to flow properly, it was not easy to produce an impression which could compare to that obtained when normal printing ink was used. (This may have been one of the reasons why the design of the impressed stamps on the cards lacks the definition/quality of the adhesives.) This transfer was then used to reproduce the design straight onto the stone. In the case of a stone being produced to print a whole sheet of stamps it was customary for a number of transfers to be obtained. These were then arranged onto a small stone of, say, five or ten units, from which a number of transfers were then taken to build up the requisite number of impressions on the printing stone. Where these transfers were drawn separately by hand they formed different 'types' which could easily be identified on the sheet of stamps, but in cases where they were all obtained by pulls from the same die they should have been the same. However, when they came to be transferred to the printing stone identifiable variations could occur and, as these were likely to be all different, they would form 'varieties' as distinct from 'types'.

It is not known how many units composed the printing stone for the Kedah postal stationery cards or whether more than one transfer was taken to make the stone. In either case, the stamp impressions on the cards are so poor that identifying any different 'varieties', as can be done on the registration envelopes, is impossible. Some improvement is noticeable on the 2 cents brown cards produced in 1925 but these were printed from a new stone. Even so, the impressions on the 2 cents cards are not as clear as they might have been, with many of the background lines of the design having 'spread'. It was not until the issue of the cards in the new colour of 2 cents green in 1926 that the quality of the printing could begin to compare with the adhesive stamps or the contemporary postal stationery cards De La Rue were producing by the letterpress method for, say, the Straits Settlements.* 1926 was the year De La Rue were improving the standard of the printing of Kedah's adhesive stamps by adopting steel working plates (see Chapters 14 and 15). Furthermore, the middle 1920s marked the beginning of a period of innovation and technological progress within the Company, and this may have made itself felt in a general search for improvement in the Company's products at this time, including the postal stationery cards.

* If readers wish to compare the two they are recommended to consult the later section in this chapter on the printing of the registration envelopes, and Note 1 at the end, where the observable differences between stationery printed by lithography and by letterpress are described.

Some Specimen cards of the 2 cents green, seen by the author, demonstrate this improvement, the background lines of the design being more easily discernible although, in this case, the improvement must be attributable to the ink or the card that was used as, presumably, the 2 cents green cards were printed from the same stone as the 2 cents brown. Some 2 cents green cards used about the time of the beginning of the Second World War fail to show this lack of clear definition but, presumably, these came from later printings and, therefore, are likely to have been the result of wear and deterioration in the impression on what was probably, by then, an old stone.

A new lithographic stone was taken on charge by the Crown Agents in April 1931. By then there had been four printings (one brown, three green) from the old stone so the new one, it is assumed, was its replacement. There were five printings taken from this second 2 cents stone so perhaps by the time of the Japanese Occupation this one needed replacing also. The 2 cents cards, both brown and green, were in the size, format and lettering of the 3 cents, the small size which had been produced for 'local' use being discontinued after the 1916 reprint of the 1 cent cards. In this respect Kedah was following the example of the rest of Malaya and the Straits Settlements.

As no separate dies had to be prepared to print Kedah's postal stationery cards, the De La Rue archive material contained little relating to them. Indeed, there was only one item and this was a colour trial for the original 1 cent and 3 cents cards, details of which will be found after the Check-list.

The De La Rue and Crown Agents records reveal very little information which could throw light on the printing of the cards. The De La Rue Private Day Book has no record of the production of plates or stones, which is not surprising in view of the Company's statement in their memo to the Crown Agents of 5 May 1911 '*... the necessary stones being supplied at our cost.*' Thus no invoice would have been necessary and so no entry was needed in the Day Book. Nor does the Crown Agents Register of Dies, Plates, Formes, contain any mention of stones held on charge, apart from one single reference to a 2 cents stone, mentioned above, and described as: '*Number 1, Process: Litho, Description: Litho Stone 2 cents. Received on 24.4.31.*' There is no record in the Plate Issue Book of the release of any stones to De La Rue for the printing of postal stationery cards between January 1921 and October 1941 (the period for which records are available) although there were nine separate printings of 2 cents cards during that time. It is possible that these records were kept on a separate Folio page which is missing, but the explanation is more likely to be that, as none of the stones was ever charged to the Crown Agents, De La Rue retained them in their possession, apart from the one listed in 1931. (Why an exception was made in this case is a mystery.) A suggestion has been made that De La Rue were subcontracting the printing of their postal stationery at this time and that this might account for the lack of information in the records. The pre-war employees of De La Rue consulted by the author had no memory at all of postal stationery being produced at the Bunhill Row works.*

* This may not be significant. Apparently, in the interests of security, De La Rue personnel were not encouraged to enter printing departments other than their own. In fact, they were stopped from doing so by doormen. This prevented them from acquiring a detailed knowledge of the firm's overall activities - presumably the intention. However, an employee working in the office failed to remember any paperwork dealing with postal stationery.

CHECK-LIST

- 1912 1. 1 cent green on cream. 3 x 4.75 in. (74 x 120 mm)
 2. 1 cent + 1 cent green reply card on cream. 3 x 4.75 in. (74 x 120 mm)
 3. 3 cents red on yellowish. 3.5 x 5.5 in. (89 x 140 mm)
 4. 3 cents + 3 cents red reply card on yellowish. 3.5 x 5.5 in. (89 x 140 mm)
- 1925 5. 2 cents brown on buff. 3.5 x 5.5 in. (89 x 140 mm)
- 1926 6. 2 cents green on buff. 3.5 x 5.5 in. (89 x 140 mm)

N.B. These dimensions vary within a millimetre or so on either dimension.

SPECIMENS

Cards Nos. 1-5 exist overprinted SPECIMEN in black, the word running diagonally upwards from left to right, in large seriffed letters 8.75 mm x 93 mm (Type 1 in Fig. 104).

Card No. 6 exists overprinted SPECIMEN in black, the word running diagonally downwards from left to right at a steeper angle than before, in large seriffed letters 9.5 mm x 63 mm (Type 2 in Fig. 104).

S P E C I M E N

S P E C I M E N

Fig. 104 - Type 1 (top) and Type 2

ESSAYS/PROOFS

In the Robson Lowe sale of the De La Rue archive material in 1977 was the following auction lot:

Proof. Folded and soiled 'Appendix' sheet dated '31st July 1911' with small green postcard and large red postcard (crease) with green and red area respectively where stamp would be represented by coloured wash the sheet marked 'Approved W.H.M. 22.11.11'.

This piece is illustrated in Fig. 105.

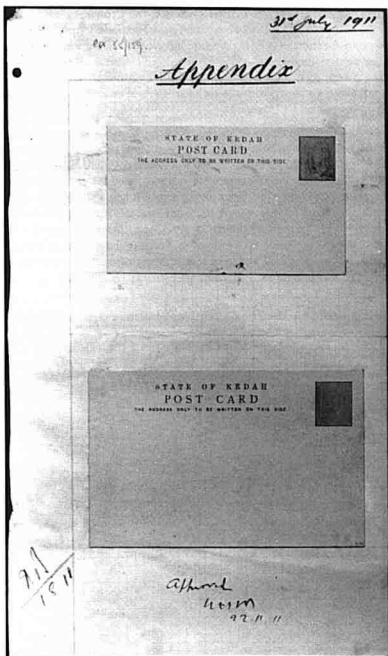
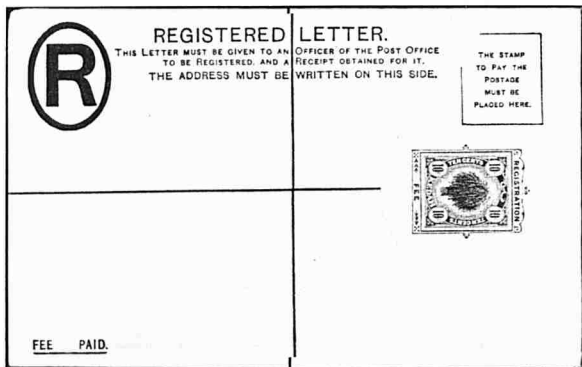


Fig. 105 - 1911 Appendix sheet, colour essays/proofs of the postal stationery cards

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

In the correspondence between the British Adviser, the Crown Agents and De La Rue concerning the first issue of Kedah's stamps and postal stationery (q.v. in Part I of Chapter 10) there was no mention of any registration envelopes until a memo from the Crown Agents to the printers on 13 June 1912, almost fifteen months after the correspondence began. It would seem that their provision had been overlooked. On 26 June De La Rue replied to this memo giving their prices for three sizes of envelopes and expressing their intention to produce them by lithography.

De La Rue made no entry in their Private Day Book for Kedah registration envelopes until 30 October 1912 when an invoice for a sum of £119-10s was submitted to the Crown Agents for the production of 45,000 'G'-sized, 8,000 H-sized and 10,000 H2-sized envelopes, as well as their packing in ten separate cases. This sum included the cost of an item described as: 'One Original 10 Cents Stamp Border plate', price £8, and also the cost of overprinting 404 copies of the G-sized envelopes with the word 'SPECIMEN'. All the envelopes bore an impressed stamp in blue similar to the basic 'padi-sheaf' design, except for the fact that the oval frame showed the value 'TEN CENTS' in words on both sides of the stamp which was surrounded by an additional ornamental border enclosing the words 'REGISTRATION' at the top and 'FEE' at the bottom (*Fig. 106*).



*Fig. 106 – 1912 10 cents registration envelope, Size G.
This is a Type 2 envelope (stamp and lettering both litho.).*

It has never been explained why this stamp was in the 'padi-sheaf' design and not in the 'Malay ploughing' design of the postage stamp of equivalent value. In the Robson Lowe sale of the De La Rue archive material in 1977 there was a die proof of the frame of a 10 cents value in black on glazed card similar to the registration stamp in that it had 'TEN CENTS' in words on either side of the oval but was without the 'REGISTRATION/FEE' border (Fig. 107). Robson Lowe included it under the essays for the 1912 Multiple Crown issue. It was not dated and so whether it was a rejected essay for this issue which was later adopted for the registration envelope, or was a die proof of the latter, is not very clear. As the wording in the oval frame is contrary to the specific instructions of the British Adviser - *"Postage and Revenue" should be shown in the margin on the left hand side and the Malay translation of the same words should be shown in the right hand margin* (see Part I of Chapter 10) - it is unlikely that it was prepared for the adhesive stamps.



Fig. 107 - 1912 die proof, 10 cents frame

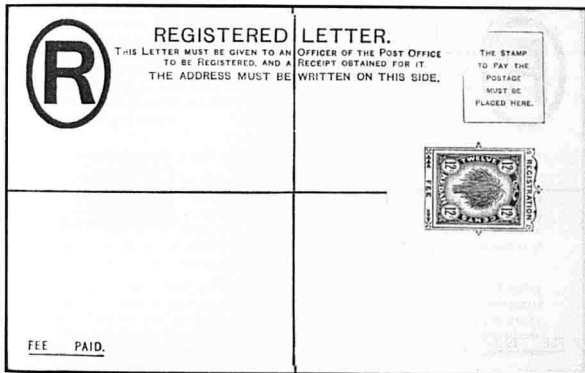


Fig. 108 - 1925 12 cents registration envelope, Size G.

No issue date of the registration envelopes is on record but, with a despatch date as late as October, it is doubtful if they appeared much before the end of 1912, if then. There were two reprints of the G-sized envelope in 1916.

The registration rate was raised to 12 cents on 1 October 1921 and a G-sized envelope of that value was despatched by the Crown Agents on 4 June 1925 and so was presumably issued sometime in the latter half of that year (*Fig. 108*). It was almost still-born, however, as the registration rate went up again, this time to 15 cents, on 1 January 1926. (All the other rate changes which took place on that day were downwards.) A 15 cents envelope was despatched in February/March 1927 and was probably issued as soon after then as transit to Malaya would permit (*Fig. 109*).

Apart from the minor differences in the impressed stamps which occurred as the result of the printing method used, and which will be dealt with later in this chapter, there was one major alteration in the design of the 12 cents and 15 cents stamps compared to the 10 cents. Instead of having the value repeated in words round both sides of the oval frame it was now inscribed only once, with the 'TWELVE' or 'FIFTEEN' on the left and 'CENTS' on the right. The reason for this change is contained in the following letter from De La Rue to the Crown Agents dated 28 March 1925:

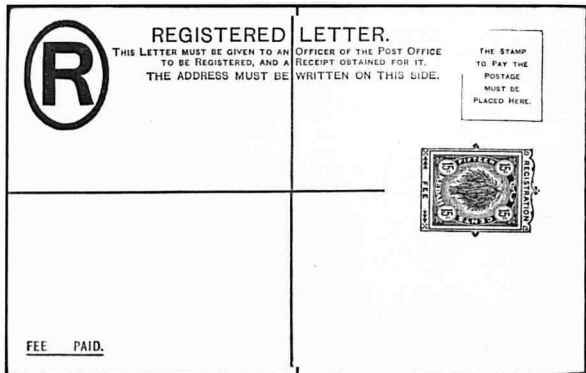


Fig. 109 – 1927 15 cents registration envelope, Size G.

Gentlemen,

G/Kedah 4471.

We beg to return copies of Requisition herewith.

We also have the pleasure to submit for your approval a sketch for the new 12 Cents Registration Envelopes Stamp Plate. The present 10 Cents design has been followed as closely as possible, the duty in words round the border being expressed once only, the space available being too cramped for the double wording.

We shall also be glad to know if the present colour, i.e. blue, is to be used for the printing.

The Crown Agents replied on 2.4.25 acknowledging the sketch and expressing their approval of the alteration in the design and the continuation of blue for the printing of the stamp.

The registration rate did not change again before the Japanese Occupation and the 15 cents envelope was reprinted regularly (seven times) during this period. On each occasion, however, the reprint was of the G-sized envelope. Indeed, there was no reprint or a new issue of any H-sized or H2-sized envelope after the initial one in 1912. There seems to have been very little demand from the public in Malaya for these two sizes, and with printing figures of eight and ten thousand respectively, their scarcity today, used or unused, is not surprising. The 12 cents envelope also, is not often met with used as it had a comparatively short life of about two years. It is not known whether it was sold after the issue of the 15 cents envelope or, if so, whether it was 'up-rated' by the post office by the addition of adhesives of the requisite value. The same can also be said of the 10 cents envelope although quite a few of the latter have been seen used well after the end of the period of the 10 cents rate, but not bearing stamps which, by themselves, would have up-rated the envelope.

THE METHOD OF PRINTING

As mentioned earlier, for some reason it was decided that the stamp on the registration envelope would feature the sheaf of padi, although, at 10 cents, it was the equivalent to the lowest value stamp in the 'Malay ploughing' design. This meant the preparation of a new die for the border, as the one used for the adhesive stamps and the cards had 'POSTAGE & REVENUE' in English and Jawi Malay around the oval. A proof of this die, which is in red, is shown in Fig. 116, and the details are given after the Check-list.

De La Rue had indicated in their memo to the Crown Agents on 26 June 1912 that they intended to print the registration envelopes by lithography. This turned out to be only partly true. Certainly the impressed stamps on all the 10 cents envelopes were printed by lithography but the lettering and blue lines etc. were printed by a mixture of two methods. On some it was lithography but, on others, letterpress was used. The 12 cents and 15 cents envelopes were printed entirely by letterpress.

Letterpress, or 'typography' as it is often known, was the printing method most widely used by De La Rue and they produced most of Malaya's stamps by this means. It is the

reverse of recess-printing or intaglio. With the latter process the design is incised and those parts of the surface which are left untouched appear blank and colourless on the stamp. In letterpress the 'blank' parts of the design are cut away leaving the design in relief. (This is why this type of engraving is often referred to as 'en epargne' which means 'in relief'.) It is these raised portions of the die which, when duplicated on the plate, make the actual printing surface. As a result, the characteristic features of letterpress are very slight indentations of the design on the paper made by the raised portions of the printing surface, and very small extrusions of ink, mainly to be found on the edges of the bigger masses of colour. These occur when the ink is trapped between the flat surfaces of the printing plate and the paper and is squeezed out sideways. The indentations can usually be seen on the reverse of the paper if it is put up at an angle to the light. Sometimes, however, the pressure of the plate has not been sufficient to make this indentation, while in other cases it can be seen clearly without even turning the paper over to the back. The extrusions of ink are sometimes very obvious in that they 'flood' over the edges of the design, but they can also be totally absent. The variable factors here appear to be the absorptive quality of the paper and how heavily the plate is inked. In the 1912 envelopes there is no difficulty in identifying the parts of the lettering printed by letterpress but both the 12 cents and 15 cents envelopes present a problem, particularly the impressed stamps, which show hardly any indentation and no extruded ink.

To print the 10 cents impressed stamps it is assumed that a transfer was made from the new 10 cents border die using the method described in the section on postal stationery cards, and this was combined with one taken from the master die of the padi-sheaf and a printing stone was prepared. No details of the printing units on this stone have been found in the available records or how many separate transfers were made. However, the better definition and greater clarity of the impressed stamps on the envelopes, compared to the cards, has allowed the identification of two major 'types' and one sub-type. Others may exist. Strictly speaking, these 'types' should be described as 'varieties' as it is believed they are the result of individual differences which occurred as the die transfer was laid down on the printing stone but, in the circumstances, 'types' seems a more convenient term. All the types show the vignetting well cut back from the 'padi-sheaf', as in the case of the postal stationery cards, so, after the two transfers were combined, the lithographic printer must have taken steps to give the sheaf of padi more room. The differences in the three types identified so far are as follows:

TYPE 1 (Fig. 110)

This has a sharper and more positive appearance than Type 2. It is not surprising that it has been described as 're-engraved'. Its main distinguishing characteristics are:

1. The vignetting is much more pronounced than on Type 2 and appears to have been cut away from around the ends of the protruding padi leaves in a very obvious way.
2. The outline of the leaf-like ornament attached to the south-west corner of the top right-hand value tablet is continuous although on the odd example there are very tiny breaks.
3. The padi-sheaf fronds are firmer and unbroken compared with those on Type 2. This has the effect, in one or two places, of making them appear longer.

4. The horizontal lines of shading around the edge of the design are firmer than on Type 2 and only a few are broken.
5. The colour is blue.

The lettering on the envelopes of this type has been printed by letterpress. It is fractionally thicker than the lithographed lettering, but in all other respects, apart from the colour (blue as opposed to dark blue), is identical to that on the envelopes which have been totally lithographed.

All the G-sized envelopes of this type seen so far have a small blue dot between the 'V' and 'E' of 'GIVEN' in the wording of the instructions. This dot exists very faintly on the 12 cents envelopes and on some of the 15 cents envelopes. It also exists on the registration envelopes of other territories printed by De La Rue, including some of those for the Federated Malay States. This dot, therefore, is restricted to envelopes which have their lettering printed by letterpress but is not a feature of all of them.

TYPE 1a (Fig. 111)

This is almost exactly similar to Type 1 apart from the following:

1. The vignetting is less pronounced but, overall, is more like Type 1 than Type 2.
2. There is a major break in the outline of the ornament mentioned in (2) above which is exactly similar to that on Type 2.

This sub-type is of similar overall appearance to Type 1 and its lettering is also printed by letterpress. Only two examples have been found so far, both on H2-sized envelopes. It is conceivable that Type 1a could be the 'second state' of Type 1, i.e. could be the result of Type 1 wearing.

TYPE 2 (Fig. 112)

This type has a slightly 'worn' appearance and various parts of the design seem not to have printed very well, particularly the vignetting. The slightly clearer space around the padi-sheaf which this creates has the effect of setting the latter off in a not unpleasing way. The most noticeable differences compared to Type 1 are:

1. The vignetting around the padi-sheaf is fainter and 'fades away' to almost nothing at various points around the oval.
2. The outline of the ornament described in (2) above shows a large and very clear break. The two ends of the broken line do not taper to nothing as might occur with wear.
3. Some of the outer fronds of the padi are broken and thin and this has the effect of making them appear as though they do not extend as far outwards as on Type 1.
4. The horizontal lines of shading around the edge of the design are indistinct in places and broken.
5. The colour is dark blue, in fact it could almost be described as navy blue.

The lettering on these envelopes, including the instructions, the large 'R', the oval and the 'FEE PAID' at bottom left, have all been printed by lithography in the same shade of ink as

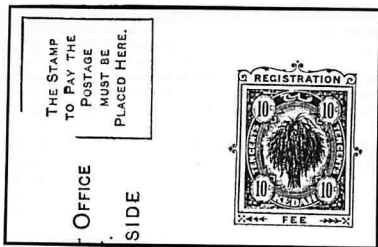


Fig. 110

Type 1

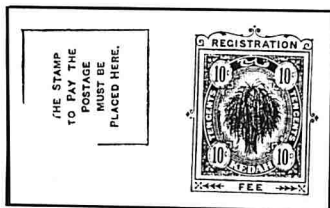


Fig. 111

Type 1a

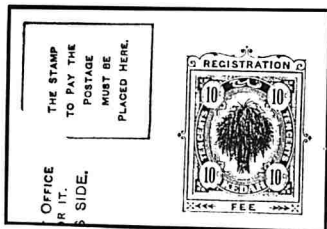


Fig. 112

Type 2

the stamp. All the lithographic printing on these envelopes is easy to identify as it shows typical lithographical 'features' – no indentation of the surface of the envelopes and a flat, even inking with no extrusions. The edges of the design and the lettering also lack the 'straight-edged' look typical of letterpress.

As the impressed stamps on the Type 1 and Type 1a envelopes were lithographed and the lettering printed by letterpress, it follows that the two parts of the printing (stamps and lettering) were applied to the envelopes separately. Not surprisingly, the relative positions between them vary. This can be verified by measuring the distance between the impressed stamp and the box containing 'THE STAMP TO PAY THE POSTAGE MUST BE PLACED HERE.' Also, by placing a rule across the 'spur' either side of the outer frame of the impressed stamp and running it to the edge of the box, the position of the latter relative to the stamp can be checked. It varies quite considerably. (On the Type 2 envelopes, where it is thought the stamp and the lettering were printed together, the position of the stamp places the 'spur' 1 mm to the right of the left-hand vertical of the box. See Fig. 113.)

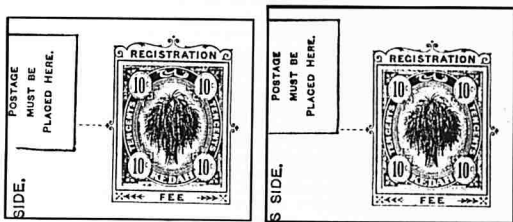


Fig. 113

TYPE 1 showing the variable position of the stamp.

TYPE 2 showing the 'normal' position of the stamp.

The two basic types, 1 and 2, must owe their origin to there being two different printing stones – Type 1 coming from a stone which printed just the impressed stamp on envelopes already bearing the letterpress printed lettering, and Type 2 coming from a stone which printed the lettering of the envelope as well as the impressed stamp. This would preclude, therefore, the possibility of Type 2 being the result of progressive wear of Type 1, although the nature of the differences between the two would make this highly unlikely anyway. What could be the explanation for these differences when the impressions on the two stones were made from the same die?

Transfers taken from the same master dies (frame and vignette) should, and almost certainly were, identical, but when these transfers were laid down on the printing stone minor varieties could be created. These were caused by a variety of factors such as minute

variations in pressure or uneven inking of the stone. The differences could be partially eliminated by the printer but only at the risk of creating others. John Easton, in *Postage Stamps in the Making*, describes the process as follows:

Much work, similar to that carried out in the engraver's examination of the intaglio printing plate, is done on the printing stone by the lithographic artist. He touches up broken lines, draws in missing parts of the design which have failed to transfer, and makes minor alterations. These he usually performs with a greasy pencil, or fine brush. His power of creating varieties is limitless.

It would appear from this that there was ample opportunity for varieties to occur when the two separate registration padi-sheaf and frame transfers were laid on the printing stones. As stated above, it is certain that at least two must have been made to print the registration envelopes in view of the fact that two sorts of envelope exist – one with its lettering letterpress printed and the other with it lithographed. Although it is possible that the two parts, i.e. the stamp and the lettering, of the completely lithographed envelopes could have been applied separately this is not borne out by the relative positions between them which is constant. This excludes the possibility that all the impressed stamps were printed from one stone and the lithographed lettering added separately. It is possible that there was a third stone which printed the Type 1a stamp on envelopes already bearing the letterpress printed lettering, but no justification for more than two can be found.

Why the Kedah registration envelopes were produced in two different ways can only be surmised but it is a fact that the letterpress printed lettering of the Kedah envelopes is similar to that on contemporary registration envelopes of the Federated Malay States and also on some of the Straits Settlements. (As witnessed by the dot between the 'V' and 'E' of 'GIVEN' in the wording of the instruction at the top of the envelope.) It is very probable that it is also similar to that on envelopes of other territories for which De La Rue held the postal stationery contract. It looks, therefore, as though it may have been De La Rue's practice to prepare a general stock of undenominated envelopes, printed by letterpress, which later had an impressed stamp added of whatever design and value was required to fulfil an order. Perhaps this general stock was used up during the printing of the Kedah envelopes, making it necessary to resort to a stopgap measure of preparing another printing stone, bearing not only another 10 cents stamp, but the envelope lettering to go with it.

So far Type 1 envelopes have been confirmed in all three sizes – 'G', 'H' and 'H2'. Type 2 has been confirmed only on Size 'G' though reported on 'H2' also. This report appears in TMP Vol. 30/19 and there must be some doubt regarding its accuracy as, judging from the illustrations in the article, the Type 2 alleged to have been sighted on 'H2' could well have been a Type 1a instead. However, if Type 2 does exist on 'H2' then both types must have been created in 1912 as there was only the one original printing of this size of envelope. If, on the other hand, Type 2 is found to exist only on the 'G' size then it is possible it was produced during the 1916 reprints as none has been found used earlier than 1.8.19. Type 1a has been seen only on 'H2' envelopes so far, so these may have been the last to be printed, perhaps at a time when the Type 1 stone was beginning to show signs of wear. Much, therefore, hinges on the accuracy of the report that a Type 2 stamp exists on an 'H2' envelope. If it does not (and attempts to substantiate the report have failed) then the evidence points to the following sequence of events:

One stone, Type 1, was prepared in 1912 to print all three sizes of envelope which already had their lettering pre-printed by letterpress. Before the final batch of 'H2' envelopes was completed the stone began to show the signs of wear described under Type 1a. In 1916 a second stone, Type 2, was made which printed not only the stamp but the lettering also, on just some 'G-sized' envelopes which were blank. This stone would have been unable to print sizes 'H' and 'H2' envelopes because the layout of the lettering would have been too small, but this was immaterial, as reprints of these two sizes were not required.

It must be emphasised that this is an empirical theory only, and needs to be tested against further evidence. The existence of a Type 2 stamp on a 'G-sized' Specimen, or on any 'H' or 'H2' envelope, or the discovery of a Type 2 envelope used before 1916, would mean the necessity for its complete revision.

There is no mention of a 10 cents printing stone on the Crown Agents Plates Register. The reason for this may well be that the Crown Agents were never invoiced for it, i.e. it was made at De La Rue's own expense, as evidence exists which seems to suggest that the Crown Agents only took on charge and kept in their possession dies, plates and stones which they had actually paid for. However, the die for the 10 cents stamp is listed on the Crown Agents Dies Register under Requisition Order 59/12 and described as follows:

Reg. Envelopes. Number: 1. Process: Litho. Description: Original Flat Die 10 cts. Used with 'Padi' Key for Litho Transfers. Size or Set: 1. Cost: £8. Remarks: Border Duty.

An undated pencilled note in the 'Remarks' column, which has obviously been added later, states: '*Obsolete*'.

This description tallies with an entry in the De La Rue Private Day Book, dated 30.10.12, except for the use, in the latter, of the word 'plate' instead of 'die'. This confusion may have arisen from the fact that it was De La Rue's custom to make a single charge for the die and plate combined, and that, on this occasion, the plate was listed on the invoice but retained by the printers, and the die was handed over to the Crown Agents.

The Crown Agents Register describes the 12 cents and 15 cents dies rather differently. The process is now referred to as 'Surface' and not 'Litho' ('surface' was the term De La Rue normally used for letterpress) and the dies are actually described as: 'Type High Electro'. The 12 cents die, received in 1925, cost £7; the 15 cents, received in 1926, only £3. If the 12 cents and 15 cents impressed stamps were now produced by letterpress from an electrolytically plated (and the evidence from the envelopes supports this), it would seem that De La Rue were now producing both parts of the envelope by this printing method. However, both the impressed stamp and the lettering of the 12 cents envelope have a slightly different appearance to the letterpress printed part of the 10 cents envelopes. An interesting feature of these 12 cents envelopes, and perhaps not unexpected in view of the fact that the whole of the envelopes are letterpress printed, is that both parts of the design appear to have been printed together. This is indicated by the constant relative positions between the two. On the other hand, the two different parts of the 15 cents envelopes seem to have been printed separately, judging from their widely varying relative positions, and yet they have, by all appearances, been letterpress printed also. Unfortunately too few of both envelopes have been seen by the author to make these statements with absolute certainty as, although the varying positions of the design of the 15 cents envelopes certainly exist,

it must be remembered that there were no less than seven separate printings of the 15 cents, and it is possible that the method of production may have changed during their period of use.

If the above statements can be substantiated, however, it would mean that, for the 12 cents, De La Rue used blank envelopes and not some on which the lettering had already been printed. If this is true then the fact that the lettering of the 12 cents envelopes bears a vestige of the dot between the 'V' and 'E' of 'GIVEN' (described above) may have a significance which, probably, only a De La Rue printer involved in their production would be able to explain. Similarly, the presence of the dot on only some of the 15 cents envelopes (there appear to be no other differences between the two) might have an interesting explanation, and may be indicative of some change in the means of production, at some stage, during the lifetime of this envelope. Clearly, much remains to be done before the full story of how De La Rue produced their registration envelopes can be told.

Close examination of the impressed stamps on the 12 cents and 15 cents envelopes show very great similarities to the 10 cents, and, indeed, to the adhesives, but besides the vignetting, dealt with below, and the inscriptions in the surrounding ovals already described, there are enough differences in the borders to show that new border dies were made for them.* These differences are mainly to be found in the corners of the design. The lines of shading, for instance, which cross the tri-foliar ornaments in the extreme corners, do not extend to the edges as they do on the adhesives. There are also subtle differences in and around the four value ovals which could best be summarised by the statement that the ovals on the adhesives look as though they have been superimposed onto the basic design whereas, on the impressed stamps, they seem part of the original engraving.

The padi-sheaf, on the other hand, looks as though it was taken from the original 1911 die for all three value envelopes. This is shown by the presence of the feathery ends of the padi leaves between the ends of the stems protruding at three and four o'clock on the sheaf. These were eliminated on the 1918 'composite' die (see Chapter 11, p. 114). The 1911 die may have been used for the letterpress 12 cents and 15 cents stamps by producing a line block from it, which was an etching on zinc of a photograph of a proof pulled from the die.

Proofs of the 12 cents and 15 cents border dies were in the De La Rue archive material sold by Robson Lowe in 1977 (*Figs. 117 & 118*). A further pair of 12 cents proofs are shown in Fig. 119. The latter were printed by the letterpress process.

Before leaving the subject of the 12 cents and 15 cents envelopes attention needs to be drawn to the different overall impression that the 12 cents stamp gives compared to the 15 cents which is mainly noticeable in the vignetting (*Fig. 114*). That of the 12 cents is a return to the more delicate style of Type 2 of the 10 cents envelope, while that of the 15 cents appears to have received major attention from the engraver, with the result that it ceases to be vignetting at all in the proper sense of the word. It is now no longer thin and broken lines fading away from, or into, a central feature, so leaving an intentionally imprecise gap between the latter and the frame of the stamp. Instead, the uniform boldness

* This is certain in any case, as the 10 cents impressed stamps were lithographed and the 12 cents and 15 cents printed by letterpress.



Fig. 114 - The impressed stamps from the 12 cents and 15 cents registration envelopes.

of the lines makes them seem more like an extension of the design of the frame. This 'crowds' the padi-sheaf and so fails to give it the prominence which is such an attractive feature of the adhesive stamps.

There has been no report of any significant variety in either the 12 cents or 15 cents impressed stamps so, presumably, only one plate was used for each although the 12 cents plate must have included the lettering of the envelope if both stamp and lettering were produced together. There is no record in the Crown Agents Requisition Books of the release to the printers of a plate of any denomination to produce the registration envelopes. From this it must be deduced that De La Rue retained all the plates or stones in their possession, very much as it seems they did, with one exception, in the case of the postal stationery cards.

CHECK-LIST

Sizes: G: 3.75 x 6 in. (94 x 150 mm)
 H: 5 x 8 in. (127 x 202 mm)
 H2: 4 x 8.75 in. (102 x 225 mm)

These sizes are approximate, particularly so in the case of the Imperial measurements.

- | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| 1912 | 1. | 10 cents blue on white | (Size G) | Type 1. | Litho./Letter |
| | 1a. | 10 cents dark blue on white | (Size G) | Type 2. | Litho |
| | 2. | 10 cents blue on white | (Size H) | Type 1. | Litho./Letter |
| | 3. | 10 cents blue on white | (Size H2) | Type 1. | Litho./Letter |
| | 3a. | 10 cents blue on white | (Size H2) | Type 1a. | Litho./Letter |
| 1925 | 4. | 12 cents blue on white | (Size G) | Letter | |
| 1927 | 5. | 15 cents blue on white | (Size G) | Letter | |

The following envelope has been reported (TMP, Vol. 30, p. 19):

10 cents dark blue on white (Size H2) Type 2. Litho

This envelope would be No. 3b on the above list but there is doubt about its existence.

Key: Litho. = Stamp & Lettering printed by Lithography.
 Litho./Letter. = Stamp printed by Lithography/Lettering printed by Letterpress.
 Letter. = Stamp & Lettering printed by Letterpress.

SPECIMENS

Envelope No. 1 (G-size) exists overprinted SPECIMEN in large seriffed letters, 9 x 93 mm, in black. The overprint has been applied diagonally downwards from left to right on the back of the envelope (the flap being on the right). (Type I in Fig. 115.) The back is otherwise blank apart from the blue lines.

There is no record of Envelopes Nos. 2 and 3 (H-size & H2-size) having been overprinted SPECIMEN. No SPECIMEN overprint has yet been found on Envelope No. 1a (not to be confused with Type 1a), which is another indication that it may have come from either of the two 1916 reprints.

Envelope No. 4 exists overprinted SPECIMEN in large seriffed letters, 9 x 93 mm, in black. The overprint has been applied diagonally downwards from left to right on the back of the envelope (the flap being on the right). (Type II in Fig. 115.) Opinion varies as to whether this is similar to Type I. The back is otherwise blank apart from the blue lines.

Envelope No. 5 exists overprinted SPECIMEN in large seriffed letters, 9 x 93 mm, in black. The overprint has been applied diagonally downwards from left to right, in a steeper angle than before, on the back of the envelope (the flap being on the left). If the flap is placed to the right the SPECIMEN becomes inverted. (Type III in Fig. 115.) This may also be similar to Type I. The back is otherwise blank apart from the blue lines.

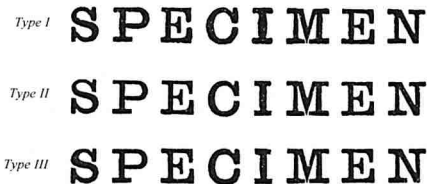


Fig. 115

ESSAYS AND DIE PROOFS

In Robson Lowe's 1977 sale of the De La Rue archive material were the following three lots:

1. Essay. 10c in red without centre, essay made from 1912 sheaf of rice design with hand-painted '10' value tablets and 'REGISTRATION/FEE' surround, with alternative '10c' value tablet drawn alongside, the whole on card (89 x 115 mm) marked '26 June 1912 The stamp will be printed in blue' and 'Approved but add 'c' W.H.M. 12/7/12' (Fig. 116).

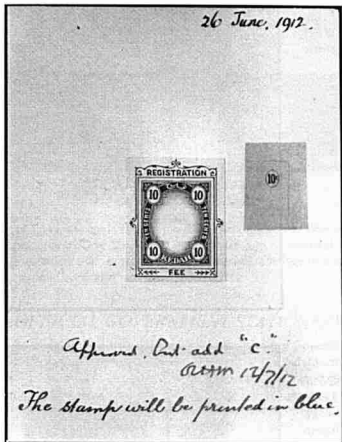


Fig. 116 – 1912 essay, 10 cents frame, for 'REGISTRATION FEE' stamp.

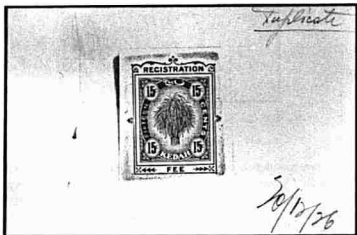
(The correspondence in Part I of Chapter 10 includes a memo about this essay from De La Rue to the Crown Agents dated 26 June. It contains the following statement: 'We enclose a proof of border with suggested alterations for your approval. We have omitted the letter C in the tablets containing the Arabic figures.' The 'suggested alterations' must have been the alternative '10c' value tablet mentioned above.)

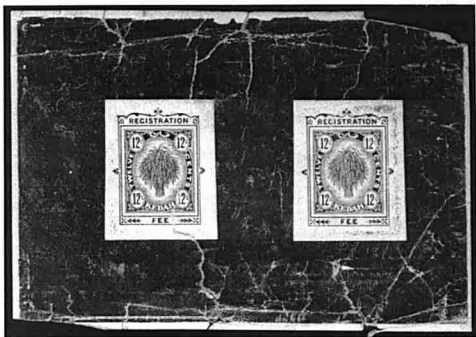
2. Proof. 12c die proof inset into thick card (85 x 91 mm) marked '27.3.25 Design appd. 1/4/25' (Fig. 117).
3. Proof. 15c die proof in black on glazed card (92 x 60 mm) marked 'Duplicate', and dated '20/12/26', the '5' in each of the four value tablets is painted in, two pinholes at left away from design (Fig. 118).

Fig. 117 – 1925 die
proof, 12 cents
'REGISTRATION FEE'
stamp.



Fig. 118 – 1926 die
proof, 15 cents
'REGISTRATION FEE'
stamp.





*Fig. 119 – Proofs (pair), 12 cents
'REGISTRATION FEE' stamp.*

In 1991 a pair of 12 cents proofs came on to the philatelic market. They were printed by letterpress, in red, side by side, 2 cm apart, and appeared to be identical (*Fig. 119*). It is very difficult to establish their exact status. They showed evidence of much damage and may, at one time, have been split into three parts.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATIONERY

Mention must be made of the post cards used by the Kedah State Government for official correspondence by government departments. They are of a separate category from the postal stationery listed above in that they were not on sale to the public, nor did they bear impressed stamps to pay the cost of the postage, as the government departments which used them enjoyed the privilege of free franking. No official record of their production or issue exists but it seems likely that they were printed locally, possibly by the Government Printing Office.

The address side bore the state crest in black enclosed by the words: 'OFFICIAL/POST CARD/KEDAH GOVERNMENT' (*Fig. 120*).

At the top of the reverse (*Fig. 121*) was the following instruction in parentheses: '[*This card must only be used for official correspondence and by Officers authorised to frank.*.]'

The remainder of the printing on the reverse was probably added by the government department using the card. The only examples recorded were used by the General Post

Office at Alor Star requesting the payment of telephone subscriptions, and were set out 'pro-forma' for this purpose. Running diagonally across the card from lower left to top right was the following instruction in red: 'See that you get a numbered receipt on printed form.'



Fig. 120 - 'OFFICIAL POST CARD', Type 1, obverse.

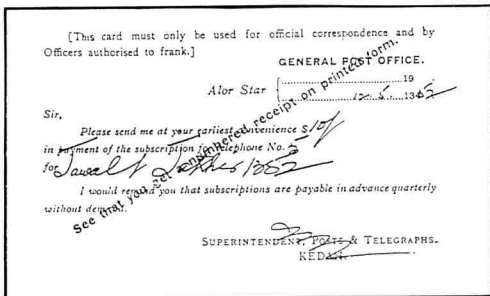


Fig. 121 - 'OFFICIAL POST CARD', Type 1, reverse.

Of interest was the space left for the date which could be written according to either the Christian or Muslim calendar: '.....19...' or '.....134(5)...'. Presumably the former was for use to addressees outside the State, the latter to those within the State.

It was not uncommon for government printing offices producing stationery of this type to record the number printed and the date of each indent on the cards. This information can be seen at top left of the front. Hence '7,000--4-48' is thought to indicate a printing of 7,000 cards in the 4th month (Rabialakhir—roughly equivalent to September) of the Muslim year 1348 (1929).

A second type of card has been recorded (*Fig. 122*). Type 1 measures 155 x 91 mm, Type 2 is 157 x 94 mm and there are also considerable differences in the state crest. On Type 1 the length of 'POST (CREST) CARD.' on the front is 68 mm, on Type 2 it measures 72 mm. On Type 1 'THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE' measures 71 mm, on Type 2 it is 66 mm. However, the reverse of the Type 2 card is identical to that of Type 1 apart from trifling differences in the spacing and positions of a few letters and the fact that the three printed digits of the Muslim year are '135' instead of '134'.

Three separate printings of the cards have been identified and it is likely there are others:

1. 7,000--4-48 (1929) TYPE 1
2. ? --7-54 (1935) TYPE ?
3. 1,500--9-56 (1937) TYPE 2



Fig. 122 - 'OFFICIAL POST CARD', Type 2, obverse.

Note 1: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS PRODUCED BY LITHOGRAPHY AND LETTERPRESS

Identifying the differences between postal stationery cards produced by the two printing methods of lithography and letterpress can be difficult as they are both 'surface' processes. Indeed, if the Kedah 2 cents cards (lithographed) are placed side by side with the Straits Settlements 2 cents cards (letterpress) of the 1920s period, the two become almost impossible to separate unless the following points are borne in mind:

1. Letterpress, in which the plate has a raised printing surface, often makes an indentation on the back of the card (seen by placing it at an angle to the light), but if the pressure of the plate is insufficient, this may not occur. Lithography, on the other hand, never makes an indentation as no part of the printing surface of the stone is raised.
2. Letterpress usually leaves a rim of extruded ink around the edges of the design (often seen better in the lettering but a 10x glass is required) as a result of it being squeezed outwards between the flat surfaces of the plate and the paper. Lithography does not leave traces of extruded ink but may, perhaps through over-inking, create a rim of 'heightened' colour which can often be seen round the edges of the curved parts of the design. It seems almost as if the surplus ink clings to the withdrawing stone momentarily and is thus gathered and thickened. The lines of colour so formed can look very much like extruded ink. The figures of value on some of the Kedah 2 cents brown cards show very good examples of this.

THE DE LA RUE & CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

The following data on the printings of Kedah's postal stationery has been obtained from two sources. The De La Rue Private Day Books were used for the years 1912-22, and for the remainder of the pre-Japanese Occupation period, 1922-41, the source has been the Crown Agents Requisition Books. The former are thought to be a record of the invoices De La Rue & Co. sent to their customers for work they had undertaken, while the latter are a record of the requisitions for stamps, banknotes and stationery made by the Crown Agents on printers on behalf of colonial governments. Both sources have had to be used because Requisition Books before 1922 do not exist, and there is a gap in the De La Rue Private Day Books from January 1938 to May 1941. No point would be served by reproducing identical records from both sources for the period 1922-38 but additional information from the Day Books has been included in the Crown Agents section where it is relevant.

The dates in the De La Rue Day Books have very little significance as they are either when the invoices were made out, when they were sent, or even when they were entered in the Day Books, none of which has particular importance for collectors. Where it has been possible to match the invoice dates with the the despatch dates in the Crown Agents Requisition Books they usually post-date the latter by several days. The Crown Agents Requisition Books, on the other hand, record the actual dates each consignment was sent to Malaya, the date of issue in Kedah being, presumably, as soon afterwards as transport permitted. Sea-mail took a little over three weeks before the Second World War, but freight was thought to be slower. The latter is confirmed by frequent requests by the Kedah

P O S T A L S T A T I O N E R Y

Government, in times of urgency, for stationery to be sent by parcel post. In these cases issue might well have occurred within a month of despatch but, where ordinary freight was used, it might be considerably longer.

From these records it is confirmed that De La Rue & Co. were the only printers of Kedah postal stationery before the Japanese Occupation.

POSTCARDS

THE DE LA RUE RECORDS

DATE	REQ. NO.	DUTY	SIZE	NO. SUPPLIED	SPECIMENS	DEALERS
20.3.12	34/11	1 Cent	—	20,840	404*	—
20.3.12	34/11	1 Cent (Reply)	—	5,145	404*	—
20.3.12	34/11	3 Cents	—	5,230	404*	—
20.3.12	34/11	3 Cents (Reply)	—	2,085	404*	—
13.4.16	16/16	1 Cent	—	207,001	—	—
13.4.16	16/16	1 Cent (Reply)	—	6,060	—	—
* The Specimens are extra to the totals in the 'No. Supplied' column.						

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

REQ. NO.	DUTY	NO. ORDERED	SIZE	NO. SUPPLIED	DATE OF DESPATCH	REMARKS
Postcards Single Inland						
447	2 cents	25,000	As Straits	25,790*	4.6.25	New duty brown. GPO Specimen.
<i>* A De La Rue invoice of 5.6.25 charged for an additional 411 cards overprinted SPECIMEN.</i>						
491	2 cents	50,000	5.5 x 3.5 in.	52,310*	22.1.26	Change of colour. GPO Specimen.
<i>* The DLR invoice for these, dated 29.1.26, charged for an additional 413 overprinted SPECIMEN.</i>						
563	2 cents	100,000	—	105,250	14.2.27/8.3.27*	
<i>* De La Rue submitted only one invoice for these cards, dated 17.2.27. This suggests that the whole requisition was printed together and that the two despatch dates do not indicate, as they frequently did with stamps, that the printing was done in separate batches.</i>						
716	2 cents	50,000	—	52,000	2.5.29	
860	2 cents	100,000	—	103,450*	28.5.31/5.6.31	
<i>* De La Rue submitted two invoices for these cards. The first, dated 2.6.31, was for 48,000, and the second, dated 5.6.31, was for the balance of 55,450. There was no charge for, or reference to, a new plate on either invoice. However, the Crown Agents Plate Register records the receipt of a 'Post Cards Litho Stone 2 cents' on 24.4.31.</i>						
1084	2 cents	100,000	—	104,210	18.5.34/24.5.34	
1274	2 cents	100,000	—	103,500	23.4.36/8.5.36	
1420	2 cents	200,000	—	204,980	20.8.37/3.9.37	
1726/1	2 cents	200,000	5.5 x 3.5 in.	208,250	28.2.40	PCs to be banded in 10s, bundled in 250s, packets of 2000. Despatch after 10.2.40. Pay after 10.2.40

POSTAL STATIONERY

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

THE DE LA RUE RECORDS

DATE	REQ. NO.	DUTY	SIZE	NO. SUPPLIED	SPECIMENS	DEALERS
30.10.12	59/12	10 Cents	G	44,596	404	—
30.10.12	59/12	10 Cents	H	8,000	*	—
30.10.12	59/12	10 Cents	H2	10,000	*	—
9.6.16	16/16	10 Cents	G	24,000	—	—
30.8.16	16/16	10 Cents	G	26,000	—	—
<i>* No Specimens were invoiced for the H and H2 sized envelopes.</i>						

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

REQ. NO.	DUTY	ORDERED	SIZE	SUPPLIED	DATE DESPATCHED	REMARKS
447	12 cents	20,000	G	20,500*	4.6.25	New duty, colour blue. GPO Specimen.
<i>* A DLR invoice for these envelopes, dated 5.6.25, charged for a further 411 overprinted SPECIMEN. It also listed: 'Making a printing plate for 12 cents Regn. Envs.' at a cost of £7.</i>						
563	15 cents	50,000	G	51,250*	14.2.27/8.3.27	New duty. GPO Spec. Required urgently.
<i>* DLR submitted two invoices for these envelopes. The first, dated 8.3.27, charged for 30,000 and a further 421 overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. It also listed: 'One printing plate for 15 cents regn. envs.' at a cost of £3. The second, dated 12.3.27, was for the balance of 21,250 envelopes.</i>						
810	15 cents	15,000	G	15,825	15.8.30	
908	15 cents	30,000	G	31,925	7.1.32	Banded: 25s. Parcelled: 250s.
1084	15 cents	15,000	G	15,400	27.7.34	Ditto
1231/1	15 cents	30,000	G	31,050	17.1.36/28.2.36	Ditto
1442/1	15 cents	25,000	G	26,750	4.2.38	Reqd in Kedah c. 1.3.38.
1723/1	15 cents	30,000	G	31,200	17.11.39/27.11.39	Urgently required.
1840/1	15 cents	30,000	G	31,650	26.11.41/12.12.41*	Reqd as soon as poss.
<i>* De La Rue submitted 3 invoices for this printing dated 10, 11 and 16 December 1941 for 10,000, 10,000 and 11,650 envelopes respectively. The cost was 60/9d per thousand.</i>						

In the Crown Agents Records the note in the 'Remarks' column of the Postcards Section against Requisition No. 491 stating 'Change of colour', is obviously a reference to the change of colour of the inland postcards from brown to green. This means there was only one printing of each of the 3 cents red Single and Reply Paid cards and the 2 cents brown Single card. The total printing numbers of the former two items, 5,145 and 2,085 respectively, are remarkably low in view of the fact that these cards were the only ones ever specifically produced for overseas use. The Postcards Sections confirm there were no 2 cents brown or 2 cents green Reply Paid cards printed.

The list of printings of the registration envelopes shows there were no H- or H2-sized envelopes produced of the 12 cents and 15 cents values which means that the initial printings of 8,000 and 10,000 respectively of these sizes of the 10 cents were sufficient to meet the postal requirements for these items during the whole of the period 1912-41.

There was only one printing of the 12 cents envelope which was in use for less than two years. Although it may have continued to be sold, and possibly up-rated by the addition of a 3 cents stamp after the issue of the 15 cents envelope, used examples are relatively scarce.

There is no mention in either set of records of postal stationery supplied to dealers, from which it must be assumed none was made. The lack of interest in stationery in the inter-war years, at least in Britain, is well-known and must account for the relatively low survival rate of used cards and envelopes, even of those items in common use at the time.

The total numbers of stationery items supplied, though not necessarily sold, is as follows:

POSTCARDS

1 Cent Green	227,841 + 404 Specimens
1 Cent Green (Reply)	11,205 + 404 Specimens
3 Cents Red	5,230 + 404 Specimens
3 Cents Red (Reply)	2,085 + 404 Specimens
2 Cents Brown	25,790
2 Cents Green	933,950

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

10 Cents	Size G	94,596 + 404 Specimens
	Size H	8,000
	Size H2	10,000
12 Cents	Size G	20,500
15 Cents	Size G	235,050

AIRMAILS

Kedah played a key role in the development of airmails in Malaya as the State provided the location for the second airfield to be constructed in the country, the first being the RAF Base at Seletar, Singapore. (The third one was at Taiping in Perak.) The airfield was built at Alor Star, being sited about six miles to the north of the town at Kepala Batas.

Alor Star developed as a major airfield following selection by KLM to be their place of call on mainland Malaya, the experimental flight to prove its facilities being made on 18 October 1930. The construction of the airfield commenced in 1929 and KLM began a regular service from Alor Star on 3 April 1931.



*Fig. 123 – A Fokker Mk. XII, registration letters PH-AFL, the Leeuwerik (Skylark), which was delivered to KLM on 9 January 1931. Her first return flight from the Far East was the inaugural inclusion of Alor Star in the KLM schedule on 3 April 1931. She crashed at Brilon on 6 April 1935.**

* Pictorial History of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines by Roy Allen.

The airfield was included in the route of the two Imperial experimental flights to Australia in April and May 1931 and a number of notable pioneer solo fliers of the time also landed there. Alor Star continued to be a major airfield in the handling of civilian air transport until the year ending April 1937, when the number of landings dropped dramatically. The

INCLUSIVE POSTAGE RATES		FROM		MALAYA		TO	
	Letters Per First ½ oz. etc.	Postcards etc.					
Siam	15	8					
Burma	15	8					
India	20	9					
Iraq	37	21					
Palestine	38	19					
Egypt	38	19					
All countries in Europe	47	26					
UNITED KINGDOM	43	24					
United States of America	47	26					
Sudan	48	24					
Uganda	63	34					
Kenya	63	34					
Tanganyika	63	34					
Rhodesia	73	34					
Union of South Africa	83	39					

The British Airmail leaves Singapore every Sunday at midday and arrives in London on the following Wednesday week at midday. The return Mail leaves London the following Saturday at midday arriving at Singapore the next Tuesday week, an inclusive 24 days.

CLOSING TIME FOR MAILS

SINGAPORE Sunday	10.00 a.m.
Malacca Saturday	5.45 p.m.
Port Dickson Saturday	5.60 p.m.
KUALA LUMPUR Sunday	7.30 a.m.
Seremban Saturday	6.30 p.m.
Klang Saturday	5.00 p.m.
Port Swettenham Saturday	5.00 p.m.
PENANG Sunday	7.00 p.m.
Ipoh Sunday	12.45 p.m.
Taiping Sunday	10.00 a.m.
Teluk Anson Saturday	3.30 p.m.
ALOR STAR Sunday	3.00 p.m.
Fraser's Hill Saturday	2.15 p.m.
Sungei Patani Sunday	4.15 p.m.
Johore Bahru Saturday	4.45 p.m.

The times shown are the actual closing times at the Central Post Offices.

ARRIVAL DAYS.

Siam Monday	Morning	1 day
Burma Monday	Afternoon	1 day
India (Calcutta) Tuesday	Afternoon	2 days
.. (Karachi) Thursday	Morning	3½ days
Iraq Friday	Afternoon	5 days
Palestine Saturday	Afternoon	6 days
Egypt Saturday	Afternoon	6 days
Europe Sunday	Afternoon	7 days
LONDON Wednesday	Midday	10 days

A connection is made in Cairo with the Air Mail for Africa which leaves Cairo every Sunday and arrives at Cape Town the following Saturday, Mails from Singapore to Cape Town thus arrive in 14 days.

Fig. 124 - The first Malayan airmail leaflet, SP1, published by Imperial Airways, printed in Singapore and issued in February 1934.

NOTE. Letters posted in Alor Star for the UK had to be sent to Penang where they were bagged with the mail from the rest of Malaya before being returned to Alor Star for despatch. The closing time for mails in Alor Star, therefore, had to be 4 hours earlier than Penang. Sungei Patani, being nearer Penang, was able to close its mails 1½ hours after Alor Star.

new airfields at Kuala Lumpur and Penang were found to be more convenient and so, first Imperial Airways (1935) and a year later KLM, ceased to use Alor Star as a scheduled stop.

During 1934 an emergency landing ground was constructed at Sungei Patani. This field continued to be improved during the years that followed and served as a useful support airfield for Alor Star.

Airmails despatched from Alor Star were always assembled and bagged at the GPO in Penang before being transferred to Alor Star to catch the next scheduled flight (Fig. 124).

During the period of operation of Alor Star as a major airfield for civilian transport there was only one serious incident and this concerned the prestigious Australian National Airways Christmas flight which crashed there on 26 November 1931. The Australian



Fig. 125 – The stricken Fokker aircraft, Southern Sun, lying in a Kedah rice-field after it crashed on take-off from Alor Star airfield on 26 November 1931.

Fokker aircraft *Southern Sun* piloted by G. U. Allan was completely wrecked but the mail was salvaged (Fig. 125). The great Australian pioneer flier, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, came to the rescue and picked up the mails on 5 December to fly them on to the UK by

16 December 1931. One of the passengers aboard the *Southern Sun* was Colonel H. C. Brinsmead, the Australian Controller of Civil Aviation. He had survived the crash with minor injuries and readily accepted an offer from Captain Wiersma, skipper of the next KLM aircraft to call at Alor Star, to give him a lift to Europe. Wiersma also offered to take the mails but this was declined as the prestige to be gained by Australian National Airways was too precious to surrender. However, Wiersma in his Fokker PH-AFO, crashed on take-off from Don Muang airport in Bangkok. He and four others lost their lives, with the unfortunate Colonel Brinsmead being seriously injured. Mail salvaged from this crash does not appear to have been cacheted apart from a few items recorded from countries other than Malaya.

SUMMARY OF EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT FROM MALAYA 1928-1938

- 1928 (6/10) Mail accepted to be shipped by sea to connect with the Marseilles-London service.
- 1928 (7/11) Acceptance of Malayan airmails by KLM. Flown from Medan to Amsterdam after shipment from Penang to Medan.
- 1929 (27/7) Acceptance of Malayan airmails by Imperial Airways for inclusion in the Karachi-London service. The mail was shipped from Penang to Calcutta by sea, then by train from Calcutta to Karachi.
- 1929 Commencement of construction of airfield at Alor Star.
- 1930 (Feb.) Inauguration of KNILM (Koninklijke Nederland Indies Luchtvaart Mattschappij) Singapore-Palembang-Batavia service.
- 1930 (18/10) KLM carried out experimental flight to Alor Star to assess its suitability as a regular staging airfield.
- 1930 (Oct.) KLM commenced a regular fortnightly service from Medan to Amsterdam.
- 1931 (3/4) KLM included Alor Star in their regular fortnightly service for the first time in Fokker PH-AFL.
- 1931 (Apr/May) Imperial Airways called at Alor Star on their first and second experimental flights to Australia.
- 1931 (25/4) KLM Amsterdam-Australia experimental flight landed at Alor Star.
- 1931 (October) KLM commenced weekly service from Batavia-Amsterdam.
- 1931 (26/11) Australian National Airways Christmas flight. *Southern Sun* crashed at Alor Star.
- 1931 (4/12) KLM Fokker PH-AFO with Colonel Brinsmead on board crashed on take-off from Don Muang airport in Bangkok. Five people killed and Brinsmead seriously injured.
- 1931 (5/12) Kingsford-Smith in Fokker *Southern Cross* landed in Alor Star to pick up the Christmas mails salvaged from the *Southern Sun*.
- 1933 118 landings made at Alor Star during the year ending April 1933.
- 1933 (10/5) First acceptance at Singapore by KLM. Local mail accepted for Alor Star. Covers for Alor Star given special cachet in green (Fig. 126).

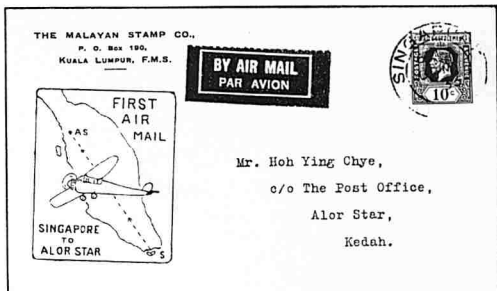


Fig. 126 – A privately produced cover carried on the first KLM flight Singapore–Alor Star. Cachet in green. Postmark: Singapore 10 May 1933.

- 1933 (31/12) Imperial Airways introduced regular Malaya–UK service.
- 1934 237 landings made at Alor Star during the year ending April 1934.
- 1934 Emergency landing ground completed at Sungei Patani.
- 1934 (Feb.) H. H. Tungku Mahmud attended Durbar at Singapore, flying there and back from Alor Star by Imperial Airways.
- 1935 (15/4) Imperial Airways first called at Kuala Lumpur.
- 1935 Alor Star selected as a check-point for those taking part in the MacRobertson Air Race to Australia.
- 1935 347 landings made at Alor Star during the year ending April 1935.
- 1935 (June) KLM service using Alor Star became twice-weekly.
- 1935 (Sept.) Imperial Airways increased services to twice-weekly but ceased to use Alor Star from 29 September.
- 1936 428 landings made at Alor Star during the year ending April 1936.
- 1936 KLM made decision to discontinue use of Alor Star.
- 1936 Alor Star became second airfield in Malaya to have full radio communication system. (Seletar was the first.)
- 1937 250 landings made at Alor Star during the year ending April 1937.
- 1937–1938 Alor Star now chiefly used by the Royal Air Force. Landings made in the year to April 1938 fell to 195.
- 1938 (2/4) Wearne Bros. Air Service made a first flight from Penang to Alor Star and returned on the same day (Fig. 127).

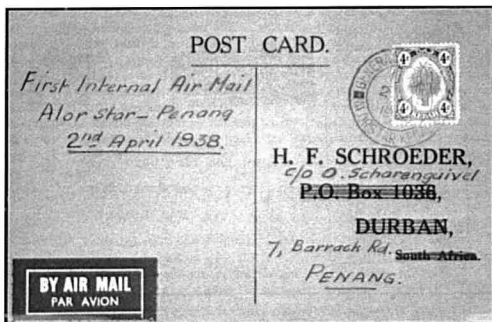


Fig. 127 – A postcard carried on the return leg of Wearne Brothers' first internal flight from Penang to Alor Star on 2 April 1938. The rate, 4 cents (envelopes were 8 cents), was the same as the one currently being charged on Wearne's existing daily service between Singapore and Penang. On 6 April 1938, Wearne Brothers made an experimental flight from Penang to Kota Bharu in Kelantan.



THE AIR LINER HAVIK ARRIVING AT ALOR STAR

Fig. 128 – Illustration taken from *Over My Shoulder* by Bernard Martin (Duckworth 1935). The photograph dates from the early 1930s. The Havik (English name Hawk), a Fokker MK XII, was sold to British Airways Ltd on 3 October 1936.



Fig. 129 – A De Havilland 66 Hercules, G-EBMW, the City of Cairo, which flew on the Imperial Airways first experimental flight to Australia in April 1931, landing at Alor Star on route. It flew from Karachi to Kupang in the Dutch East Indies where it crashed due to a fuel shortage. The mails were picked up and flown to Australia by Charles Kingsford-Smith in his Fokker aircraft Southern Cross.

AIRMAIL RATES TO THE UK

While it is possible that the stamps of Kedah can be found on covers to all countries of the world, it is not feasible to include lists of the rates to every country in a book not dealing exclusively with airmails, and so only those to Britain are given. These will account for the bulk of the covers which exist, as the majority of airmail correspondence from Kedah and Perlis was addressed to the UK due to the expatriate community being mainly British.

When covers are checked against the following tables two factors need to be considered. Firstly, only the basic rates are shown, i.e. air fees per half ounce and surface rates per ounce, so the calculation of multiple rates can be complex, particularly when the 8 cents surface rate was introduced in 1932 and each additional ounce was only 4 cents. Secondly, account must also be taken of additional fees such as registration, notice of receipt (otherwise known as Advice of Delivery or AR) and insurance.

All the tables have been compiled from actual covers seen and not from reported changes in rates which can at times be misleading.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS – MALAYA TO UK			
RATE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	NOTES
6 + 12 = 18c	6.10.28	22.10.29	Accelerated Marseilles–London. 12c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
6 + 20 = 26c	27.7.29	24.11.31	Accelerated Karachi–London. 20c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
6 + 42 = 48c	28.4.31	22.5.31	UK–Aust. Experimental Flights. 42c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
6 + 25 = 31c	8.12.31	24.12.31	Increased Karachi–London fee. 25c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
8 + 25 = 33c	28.7.32	3.11.33	Increased surface rate on Karachi–London service. 25c Air Fee + 8c surface rate.
8 + 35 = 43c	30.12.33	24.3.34	Regular S'pore–London Service. 35c Air Fee + 8c surface rate.
40c	6.4.34	10.11.34	All-inclusive airmail rate.
25c	16.11.34	26.2.38	All-inclusive airmail rate.
8c	28.2.38	2.9.39	Empire All-up airmail rate.
55c	4.9.39	8.5.41	Wartime inclusive airmail rate.
50c	11.5.41	7.2.42	Reduction of above rate.
Air Fee / Rate per half ounce; Surface Rate per ounce			

A I R M A I L S

KLM – MALAYA TO THE UK			
RATE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	NOTES
6 + 120 = \$1.26	6.11.28	No later dates recorded	First Acceptance at Medan. \$1.20 Air Fee + 6c surface.
6 + 50 = 56c	7.10.30	6.8.31	Via Medan; later via Alor Star. 50c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
6 + 40 = 46c	20.8.31	30.11.31	Reduced Air Fee. 40c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
6 + 50 = 56c	2.12.31	31.12.31	Increase in Air Fee. 50c Air Fee + 6c surface rate.
8 + 50 = 58c	5.1.32	30.3.33	Increase in surface rate. 50c Air Fee + 8c surface rate.
8 + 45 = 53c	12.4.33	28.3.34	Reduced Air Fee. 45c Air Fee + 8c surface rate.
55c	3.4.34	28.3.36	All-inclusive airmail rate.
60c	9.4.36	28.3.39	All-inclusive airmail rate.
55c	4.4.39	9.9.39	Reduced inclusive airmail rate.
70c	12.9.39	20.11.39	Wartime inclusive airmail rate.
Air Fee / Rate per half ounce; Surface Rate per ounce			

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS – MALAYA TO THE UK			
RATE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	NOTES
\$1.20	23.4.37	–	By sea to Hong Kong or Manila. Air to, and in, USA. Sea to UK.
\$2.40	1.7.40	2.12.40	By air throughout via Hong Kong.
\$1.80	22.7.40	23.8.40	By air to, and in, USA. By sea to UK.
\$1.40	12.6.40	–	By sea to Manila. By air to, and in, USA. By sea to UK.
\$2.60	20.12.40	23.4.41	By air throughout via New Zealand.
\$1.90	30.12.40	15.4.41	By sea to Manila. Then by air throughout to UK.
\$1.30	Feb. 1941 (Postal Notice)	Not seen	By sea to Manila. By air to, and in, USA. By sea to UK.
\$1.95	10.5.41 (1 flight only)	–	By air throughout. Inaugural flight from Singapore.
\$2.00	24.5.41	29.11.41	By air throughout.
\$1.50	6.8.41	21.11.41	By air to, and in, USA. By sea to UK.
Rate: per half ounce			

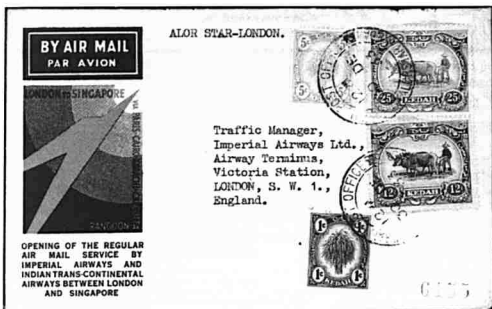


Fig. 130 - A 'Route Test' letter carried on the Imperial Airways flight which introduced the Company's regular Malaya-UK service on 31 December 1933.



Fig. 131 - An example of the KLM 46c rate from Perlis to the UK. This cover was probably carried on the last flight at this rate, which was the lowest ever charged by KLM for their Alor Star-Amsterdam service. Postmark: Kangar 30 November 1931.



Fig. 132 - Letter sent from Alor Star to the UK via the Alor Star-Amsterdam service during the one month period of the re-introduction of the 56 cents rate in December 1931. Flown aboard the Fokker Mk. FXII, PH-AIE, Ekster (Magpie), on 16 December 1931.

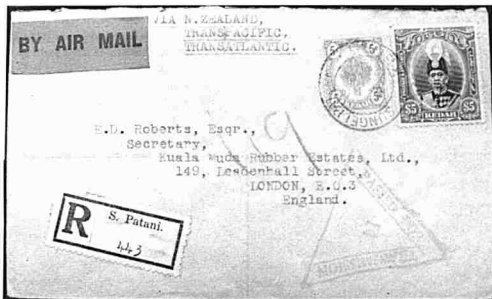


Fig. 133 - Registered airmail cover from Sungei Patani, 20 December 1940, to the UK at double the \$2.60 rate via New Zealand (30 cents on reverse). Flown by Qantas to Australia, TEAL (Tasman Empire Airways Ltd) to New Zealand, PAA Trans-Pacific to San Francisco, US internal airlines to New York and PAA Trans-Atlantic to Lisbon. Finally, by British air service to Bristol. A rare example of the Kedah 'Halim Shah' \$5 on cover.

*Note 1: THE PERIOD AFTER
THE JAPANESE INVASION OF MALAYA*

The Japanese invasion of Malaya occurred on the night of 7/8 December, 1941. All scheduled airmail flights from Malaya probably ceased on the invasion although KLM flights had almost certainly ended some time before, and it is known that the last clipper left Malaya on 30 November 1941. It is unlikely, therefore, that airmail covers from Kedah can be found dated after the end of the first week in December.

Resistance in Kedah was brief and the State was abandoned on the 15 December and this date marks the end of the period when mail of any description can be said to have originated in the State. Covers bearing Kedah stamps may exist dated after the 15th but, strictly speaking, they cannot be regarded as Kedah mail.

After the invasion, irregular flights from Malaya continued under increasing difficulty until the last civilian aircraft left Singapore early in the morning of 4 February, 1942.* These flights might have carried mail and it is possible, therefore, that covers from Kedah dated up to 15 December may have travelled by air. However, some form of corroboration such as an arrival mark will be needed to establish the fact.

* The Air Ministry account of British Civil Aviation 1939-1944, *Merchant Airmen*, HMSO 1946.

POSTAGE RATES 1909-1941

The commonest postage rates, i.e. those most often encountered by collectors, have been incorporated into a single table for easy reference. This has necessarily required a simplification of what is a very complex subject – hence the need for explanatory notes, amongst which have been included the sources of the information given in the table. Where possible, an official source such as a government document is quoted, or failing that, a semi-official publication such as a current newspaper.

Before 1924 (the date of the earliest Kedah Government Gazette in the Public Record Office) the information has usually had to come from a territory other than Kedah, such as the Straits Settlements or the Federated Malay States. However, these territories were members of the local Postal Union* which Kedah and Perlis joined on 1 August 1909, and one of the objects of this Postal Union was to achieve uniformity of postage rates, both within the Union and to destinations outside it. Rate changes in one territory, therefore, should have been applicable throughout the Union.

In 1934 the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States formed the Malayan Postal Union which was designed to administer their joint territories as a single postal area. Kedah and Perlis did not join this Union but, it is thought, harmonised their postal regulations and postage rate changes with it. It is possible that the dates on which these changes took effect may not have always coincided. This was due to the fact that the State Councils, through their independent postal administrations, had the right to approve all alterations, and this could have led to delay in their ratification and implementation. It seems there may have been an instance of this in Kedah in 1941.

* Not to be confused with the Malayan Postal Union formed in 1934.

POSTAGE RATES 1909-1941: LETTERS, REGISTRATION & AR					
	Local Letters <i>Note 1</i>	Imperial Letters <i>Note 2</i>	Foreign Letters <i>Note 3</i>	Registration	AR <i>Note 4</i>
1 Aug. 1909 <i>Note 6</i>	3 cents per 2 oz or part thereof	8 cents for first oz & 5c for each add. oz or part thereof	8 cents for first oz & 5c for each add. oz or part thereof	10 cents	5 cents
1 Sept. 1909 <i>Note 7</i>	<i>As above</i>	4 cents per oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
1 Jan. 1918 <i>Note 8</i>	4 cents for first 2 oz & 2c for each add. 2 oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	10 cents for first oz & 6c for each add. oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	10 cents <i>Note 9</i>
1 Oct. 1921 <i>Note 10</i>	<i>As above</i>	6 cents per oz or part thereof	12 cents for first oz & 6c for each add. oz or part thereof	12 cents	12 cents
16 Jan. 1922 <i>Note 11</i>	5 cents for first 2 oz & 1c for each add. oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
1 Jan. 1926 <i>Note 12</i>	4 cents for first 2 oz & 2c for each add. 2 oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	15 cents	<i>As above</i>
1 Jan. 1932 <i>Note 13</i>	5 cents for first 2 oz & 1c for each add. oz or part thereof	8 cents for first oz & 4c for each add. oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
2 Mar. 1938 (Stage 2 countries) <i>Note 14</i> 1 Aug. 1938 (Stage 3 countries) <i>Note 15</i>	<i>As above</i>	8 cents per 1/2 oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
2 Sept. 1939 <i>Note 16</i>	<i>As above</i>	8 cents for first oz & 4c for each add. oz or part thereof <i>Note 17</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
8 Apr. 1940 <i>Note 18</i>	8 cents for first 2 oz & 1c for each add. oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
25 Jan. 1941 <i>Note 19</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	15 cents for first oz & 8c for each add. oz or part thereof	<i>As above</i>	15 cents for foreign countries only <i>Note 20</i>

POSTAGE RATES 1909-1941

POSTAGE RATES 1909-1941: POSTCARDS & PRINTED MATTER					
	Local Postcards <i>Notes 1 & 21</i>	Imperial Postcards <i>Notes 2 & 21</i>	Foreign Postcards <i>Notes 3 & 21</i>	Local & Imperial Printed Matter	Foreign Printed Matter
1 Aug. 1909 <i>Note 6</i>	1 cent	3 cents	3 cents	1 cent per 2 oz or part thereof	1 cent per 2 oz or part thereof
1 Sept. 1909 <i>Note 7</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
1 Jan. 1918 <i>Note 8</i>	2 cents	4 cents	4 cents	2 cents per 2 oz or part thereof	2 cents per 2 oz or part thereof
1 Oct. 1921 <i>Note 10</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	8 cents	3 cents per 2 oz or part thereof	3 cents per 2 oz or part thereof
16 Jan. 1922 <i>Note 11</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
1 Jan. 1926 <i>Note 12</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	6 cents	2 cents per 2 oz or part thereof	2 cents per 2 oz or part thereof
1 Jan. 1932 <i>Note 13</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
2 Mar. 1938 (Stage 2 countries) <i>Note 14</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
1 Aug. 1938 (Stage 3 countries) <i>Note 15</i>					
2 Sept. 1939 <i>Note 16</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
8 Apr. 1940 <i>Note 18</i>	4 cents	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
25 Jan. 1941 <i>Note 19</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	8 cents	<i>As above</i>	3 cents per 2 oz or part thereof

Note 1

'Local' means all the territories in the Postal Union of Malaya and the Straits Settlements which, up to the formation of the Malayan Postal Union in 1934, comprised the following:

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (SINGAPORE, PENANG, MALACCA, PROVINCE WELLESLEY, the DINDINGS (until February 1935), LABUAN, the COCOS or KEELING ISLANDS and CHRISTMAS ISLAND).

FEDERATED MALAY STATES (NEGRI SEMBILAN, PAHANG, PERAK (including the DINDINGS after February 1935) and SELANGOR).

UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES (JOHORE, KEDAH, KELANTAN, PERLIS and TRENGGANU including KEMAMAN).

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO, SARAWAK and BRUNEI.

Note 2

'Imperial' means the UNITED KINGDOM and all the territories making up the BRITISH POSSESSIONS and PROTECTORATES which, though subject to slight variation during this period, in 1918, for example, comprised the following: (Taken from a list published by the postal department of the Straits Settlements in 1918.)

ADEN (inc. PERIM)

ASCENSION

ASHANTI

AUSTRALIA (incl. NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, VICTORIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, BRITISH NEW GUINEA (PAPUA), LORD HOWE ISLAND & NORFOLK ISLAND)

BAHAMAS

BANKS ISLANDS

BARBADOS

BASUTOLAND

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

BERMUDA

BRITISH BECHUANALAND

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

BRITISH GUIANA

BRITISH HONDURAS

CANADA

CAYMAN ISLANDS

CEYLON

CHINA (WEI-HAI-WEI only)

CYPRUS

EGYPT

FALKLAND ISLANDS

FANNING ISLAND

FIJI
 FRIENDLY (or TONGA) ISLANDS
 GAMBIA
 GIBRALTAR
 GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
 GOLD COAST
 HONG KONG
 INDIA
 INDIAN AGENCIES at BAHREIN, GUADUR & MUSCAT
 INDIAN AGENCIES in FRENCH INDIA
 INDIAN AGENCIES IN MESOPOTAMIA
 JAMAICA
 LEEWARD ISLANDS (ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, MONTSERRAT, NEVIS,
 ST KITTS & VIRGIN ISLANDS)
 MALTA
 MAURITIUS
 MOROCCO, BRITISH AGENCIES in LARACHE, CASABLANCA, FEZ,
 MARRAKESH, RABAT, MAZAGAN, MOGADOR, SAFFI, TANGIER,
 TETUAN
 NEWFOUNDLAND
 NEW HEBRIDES
 NEW ZEALAND (inc. COOK ISLANDS)
 NORTHERN NIGERIA
 NYASALAND PROTECTORATE
 RHODESIA
 ST HELENA
 SAMOA
 SEYCHELLES
 SIERRA LEONE
 SOLOMON ISLANDS (BRITISH)
 SOMALILAND (BRITISH)
 SOUDAN
 SOUTH AFRICA, UNION OF (inc. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NATAL, ORANGE
 FREE STATE, TRANSVAAL)
 SOUTHERN NIGERIA
 TOBAGO
 TORRES ISLANDS
 TRINIDAD
 TRISTAN DA CUNHA
 TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
 UGANDA
 WINDWARD ISLANDS - GRENADA, GRENADINES, ST LUCIA & ST VINCENT
 ZANZIBAR

The former German territories (NEW GUINEA, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO & MARSHALL ISLANDS) were subject to separate rates.

Note 3

The Foreign rate applied to all countries not mentioned in either NOTE 1 or NOTE 2.

Note 4

AR or Avis de Reception (Notice of Receipt, otherwise known as Advice of Delivery) could be applied for by the sender either at the time of posting or after the time of posting, the cost of the latter sometimes being double the cost of the former. The rates given are in respect of the former, commoner, service. (See the 'Kedah Government Gazette' for 1925-26 in Appendix 2.)

Note 5

The Printed Matter rate is not to be confused with the Newspaper rate although sometimes they were the same.

Note 6

The following sources refer:

1. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISER TO THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT
23.1.1909-12.1.1910.

On the 1st August 1909, the postal charges to addresses within the local Postal Union of the Straits Settlements (the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, Sarawak, Brunei and British North Borneo) were reduced to 3 cents (.84 pence), and reciprocity by the Colony and the Federated Malay States was effected on the same day.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT OF
THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR 1910.

The chief event of the year was the reduction of postage to Kelantan, Trengganu, Kedah and Perlis, consequent on the transfer of these states to British protection. The reduction which took effect on the 1st August 1909, applied to all classes of postal matter, the new rates being the same as those in force in the inland service of the Colony.

It has to be assumed that the current postage rates of Siam were in operation until 1 August 1909.

E. B. Proud in his *The Postal History of British Malaya*, Vol. 3, p. 69, states that the letter rate from Kedah to all UPU countries, except for those in the local Postal Union referred to above, was 8 cents on 1 August 1909.

There appears to be no official record of when the foreign rates of the local Postal Union of the Straits Settlements were adopted in Kedah and Perlis. As 1 att equalled 1 cent (Straits) the Straits Settlements rates should have been the same as the Siamese rates as both the local Postal Union and Siam were members of the UPU, and each member's foreign rates were fixed at the local equivalents of 5, 10 and 25 international gold centimes. However, in July 1909 each of the Siamese foreign rates were 1 cent more than their Straits'

counterparts, i.e. printed matter was 2 atts compared to 1 cent, postcards 4 atts compared to 3 cents and letters 9 atts compared to 8 cents. Some downward adjustment was therefore necessary to the Siamese rates to bring them into line with those of the local Postal Union, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that this adjustment occurred at the same time as the local rates of the Postal Union of the Straits Settlements were extended to Kedah and Perlis, i.e. 1 August 1909.

At this time and for the next month, the UK and Colonies were included among the UPU countries to which the foreign rates for all classes of postal matter applied, the concessionary penny postal rate not having yet been agreed. (See Note 7.)

Judging by the extract from the *Pinang Gazette* of 30 August 1909, quoted in Chapter 8, regarding the continued use of Siamese stamps in Kedah after the transfer it is evident there was some degree of confusion in postal matters at this time.

Note 7

The following source refers:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISER TO THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT 23.1.1909–12.1.1910.

The postal charge to the United Kingdom and to the Colonies and places to which the penny postal rate applies was reduced to 4 cents (1.12 pence) on the 1st September, but reciprocity was not effected by the United Kingdom until the 1st February, 1910.

Note 8

The Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle of Thursday 27 December 1917 printed the following under the heading 'Increased Postal Rates':

An order of the Governor-in-Council published in Friday's 'Gazette' makes the following rates of postage applicable from January 1918:

Letters for FMS, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including Kemaman), B. N. B., Sarawak and Brunet – 4 cents up to 2 ozs, 2 cents for each additional 2 ozs or part.

For the UK and British possessions – 4 cents for each oz or fraction.

For former German New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and Marshall Islands – 4 cents per half oz or part.

For all other places – 10 cents for 1 oz, 6 cents per additional oz or part.

*Postcards: local – 2 cents; foreign – 4 cents.**

* For some reason no mention was made of the Imperial postcard rate. However, a table of the rates of postage chargeable on correspondence posted in the Straits Settlements, issued by the postal department of the Straits Settlements in 1918, gave this rate as 4 cents, an increase of 1 cent over what it had been hitherto.

*Printed papers (inc. newspapers and books): 2 cents up to 4 ozs, 2 cents for anything above.**

Commercial papers: 10 cents for 10 ozs, 2 cents for each additional 2 ozs.

Patterns and Samples: 4 cents up to 4 ozs, 2 cents for every additional 2 ozs.

"Blind Literature" for the UK: up to 18 ozs, 2 cents per 2 ozs, over 18 ozs up to 6 lbs, 20 cents.

International Reply Coupons issued by the Straits 12 cents; foreign coupons purchased at 10 cents, except those of enemy origin.

Note 9

Reported in E. B. Proud's *The Postal History of British Malaya*, Vol. 1, p. 121.

Note 10

The Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle of Thursday 29 September 1921 printed the following under the heading 'Increased Postal Rates':

A Straits Government Gazette notifies changes in rates of postage to take effect from 1st October as under:

- (a) Letter rate to foreign countries – 12 cents for first oz, each succeeding oz 6 cents.*
- (b) Letters to places in British Empire except S.S., F.M.S., Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, B.N.B., Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman – 6 cents per oz.*
- (c) Current letter and postcard rates will continue for the present to apply to letters and postcards to the places excepted in (b) i.e. S.S., F.M.S. etc.*
- (d) Postcards to (1) foreign countries increased to 8 cents, (2) to places in the British Empire with exceptions as in (b) i.e. S.S., F.M.S. etc. 4 cents.*
- (e) Printed papers to be 3 cents for every 2 ozs except that the rate of postage on newspapers, printed and published within the S.S., any British Possessions or Protected States in Malaya and on newspapers registered at the GPO London and posted in the S.S. and which are addressed to places in the S.S., F.M.S., Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, B.N.B., Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman, remains as at present.*

* It appears there was some confusion here between the printed papers rate and the special rate for local newspapers. The table of rates referred to in the previous paragraph (issued by the postal department of the Straits Settlements in 1918) gave the printed papers rate as being 2 cents per 2 ozs while adding a footnote to this effect: *The rate of postage on Newspapers published locally or on any publication registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, London, and posted locally, addressed to any place in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Brunei, Sarawak, British North Borneo, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis or Trengganu (including Kemaman), is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding four ounces and 2 cents for every additional two ounces, provided that the postage on a single such Newspaper shall not exceed 4 cents.*

- (f) *Samples up to 4 ozs to be 4 cents and each additional 2 ozs to be 3 cents.*
- (g) *Commercial papers up to 10 ozs to be 12 cents, each additional 2 ozs 3 cents.*
- (h) *Literature for the blind per pound 2 cents.*
- (i) *Registration fee 12 cents.*
- (j) *Advice of Delivery 12 cents.*
- (k) *Minimum tax on shortpaid correspondence received from any country with exceptions as in (b) to be 8 cents.*

Note 11

The following source refers:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR 1922.

The local letter rate was raised from 4 cents to 5 cents for the first two ounces from 16th January, 1922.

Note 12

The following source refers:

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 16 DECEMBER 1925 (q.v. in Appendix 2).

Note 13

The following source refers:

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 19 DECEMBER 1931 (q.v. in Appendix 2).

Note 14

The following source refers:

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 16 APRIL 1938 (q.v. in Appendix 2).

Note 15

The following source refers:

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 17 SEPTEMBER 1938 (q.v. in Appendix 2).

Note 16

The following source refers:

All-Up Airmail by John C. W. Field (A 'Popular Pamphlet' reprinted from *The Aero Field* produced by Francis J. Field Ltd.):

The All-Up Scheme was suspended on the outbreak of hostilities in September 1939. The Empire Air Mail Scheme, for example, was replaced on 2nd September, 1939, by a surcharged airmail service at the uniform rate of 1s 3d per half-ounce.

Note 17

The following source refers:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT OF MALAYA 1939:

Consequent on the suspension of the Empire Air Mail Scheme the despatch by surface transport of first-class mail matter addressed to countries which previously participated in the scheme was resumed – the former rates of postage, viz, 8 cents for the first ounce and 4 cents for each additional ounce being re-introduced.

Note 18

The following source refers:

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1940–41 (q.v. in Appendix 2).

Note 19

The following source refers:

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1941–42 (q.v. in Appendix 2).

The President of the State Council hereby fixes the following rates of postage to countries or places outside the British Empire, Egypt and French India (Foreign Countries) with effect from 25th January, 1941:

<i>Letters</i>	<i>Not exceeding 1 ounce in weight</i>	<i>15 cents</i>
	<i>Each additional ounce</i>	<i>8 cents</i>
<i>Postcards</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>8 cents</i>
	<i>Reply Paid</i>	<i>16 cents</i>
<i>Printed Packets</i>	<i>Not exceeding 2 ounces in weight</i>	<i>3 cents</i>
	<i>Each additional 2 ounces</i>	<i>3 cents</i>
<i>Advice of Delivery</i>	<i>Applied for at time of posting</i>	<i>15 cents</i>
	<i>Applied for later</i>	<i>20 cents</i>

Unfortunately, the date given in this source for the commencement of these rates, 25 January 1941, conflicts with that given for the same changes within the territories of the Malayan Postal Union. For example, the following notification is from a newspaper bought in Taiping, Perak, in late December 1940:

POSTAL RATES UP

Postage charges to destinations outside the British Empire will be slightly increased, from January 1st, 1941. The main increases are:

<i>Letters</i>	<i>from 12 to 15 cents</i>
<i>Postcards</i>	<i>from 6 to 8 cents</i>
<i>Printed Packets</i>	<i>from 2 to 3 cents</i>
<i>Commercial Packets</i>	<i>from 12 to 15 cents</i>
<i>Sample Packets</i>	<i>from 4 to 6 cents</i>
<i>Insured Boxes</i>	<i>from 40 to 60 cents</i>
<i>Advice of Delivery</i>	<i>from 12 to 15 cents</i>

The postage charges to Empire destinations remain unchanged, and a notice showing the complete range of postage charges to all destinations is now on view at every post office.

The date of 1 January 1941 seems widely accepted by other authorities, e.g. E. B. Proud in *The Postal History of British Malaya*, Vol. 2, p. 81, gives 1 January for the change in the Federated Malay States and in Vol. 3, pp. 65, 69, 71 & 72, the same date for the change in the Unfederated Malay States, including Kedah and Perlis.

Reference was made at the beginning of this chapter to the fact that Kedah and Perlis, in recognition of the advantages that a uniformity of postal regulations and practice throughout Malaya had brought in the past, harmonised their postage rates with those in the Malayan Postal Union but that new rates required formal adoption by their independent postal administrations. It is possible, therefore, that the above discrepancy of dates arose as the result of a delay on the part of the Kedah and Perlis Governments to ratify the 1941 changes.

Note 20

It needs to be emphasised that this rate did not apply to destinations covered by the Local and Imperial rates, the AR fee for which remained at 12 cents. This was the first time during the period of this study that separate AR rates occurred, and the separation, and indeed the same rates, were still in existence as late as 1971.

Note 21

All the postcard rates are for Single postcards, the rate for Reply Paid postcards being, in all cases, exactly double the single rates.

THE OPENING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POST OFFICES

As must often be the case in developing countries, Kedah's posts expanded hand-in-hand with her transport and communications systems, although the course of their expansion differed slightly to that of the rest of Malaya. Elsewhere in the country the difficult inland terrain meant that the earliest movements of goods and people had to be by water, i.e. round the coasts and along the navigable rivers and, initially, the first Europeans were forced to follow the same pattern, building their early roads and railways beside the rivers to the sea. Kedah's experience was slightly different in that she had a flatter coastal plain than the other states and so overland travel was easier, and also, by the time European administration and investment reached her, the initial phase of road and railway building to the coast had passed. It had been replaced by the second phase – the laying down of an integrated transport system running along the western side of the country which, when the British became the suzerains of Kedah and Perlis in 1909, they were anxious to see extended into their new acquisitions to the north.

At the time of the British take-over, however, most of the communications in both Kedah and Perlis still depended on water. Siam had made no investment in railways in either state and there were few roads. Bangkok had granted a concession for a railway to be built from Singora to Alor Star in 1891, and there was also a proposal in the same year to build a line from Kulim to Prai.* Both projects failed to come to fruition. So, apart from travel on foot, bicycle or elephant, transport was mainly by boat, although in this respect Kedah was better situated than most Malayan states in that she possessed a wide network of canals. These were the result of a heavy tropical rainfall and an extensive coastal plain and had been built originally for drainage, but they were put to good ancillary use for the movement of goods and people. They were particularly numerous in the centre and north, the main one being the Wan Mat Saman Canal which ran parallel with the coast south of Alor Star.

In view of this, it is not surprising that, of the five post offices in Kedah established under the Siamese administration, no less than four depended mainly on water-borne communications and so were to be found either on the coast – Kuala Muda (opened in 1907) and Langkawi (1907), or on navigable rivers – Alor Star (1887) and Kangar (1894). Only in southern Kedah where there were road links to Province Wellesley was there an inland office – Kulim (1907). This reliance on water continued, to some extent, after the transfer to Britain in 1909, with post offices opening in 1910 at Yen on the coast, and at Semiling, a mining centre on the River Merbok. (At this time steam launches ran daily between Semiling and Sungei Patani via a canal which joined the Merbok and Muda Rivers.) Also, by October 1914, an office had opened bearing the name of Padang Trap (without the 'e') which could have been located either at the small settlement of that name on the Padang Terap River, or at Padang Lanjut, five miles downstream, at the confluence with the River

* *Bridge and Barrier* by Amazjit Kaur.

Seduk. In 1916 another office opened at Bagan Samak, a convenient landing place on the River Krian.



Fig. 134 – The General Post Office, Alor Star, which is situated today on the corner of Jalan Penjara Lama and Jalan Raja, about a block from the Kedah River. It was completed in 1928–29. Its predecessor, according to James F. Augustin, a local historian and a former headmaster of the Sungei Patani English School, was a timbered two-storey building beside the river, situated between the present Sultan Badlishah Bridge and the Magistrate's Court. (See Fig. 18 on p. 35)

By this time, however, the British were forging ahead with a policy of expanding Kedah's economy, particularly in the planting of rubber, and this had enforced a change in the way transport was being developed. Now roads and railways were everywhere reducing the dependence on water. In 1910 Lunas, and in 1911 Sungei Patani, opened in the south following better road links with Province Wellesley, and in 1910 a post office was established at Baling on the eastwards extension of this road system into Siam. In the north the desire to bring Perlis and Kedah together more effectively saw a road branch off at Jitra towards Kangar and an office open at the former in 1910. The Kedah Adviser's Annual Report of January 1910 spoke of arrangements being made for the opening of a post office at Changloon on the old elephant road into Siam. This had always been the main route out of Kedah to the north and was some way eastwards of Perlis. However, with the severance of political ties with Siam and the road link with Perlis now assuming more importance, the post office in Changloon never materialised and, indeed, was not opened until well after the Second World War.

Metalled roads began to be constructed in the interior. In the north, one was built to link Alor Star with Padang Lanjut and an office was certainly in existence at the latter by 1924. Whether the opening of this office was the cause of the closure of the mysterious Padang

Trap further up the river or whether this name was how Padang Lanjut was first known has not been established. No official record has been discovered of the opening or the closing of Padang Trap and only a small number of its postmarks have come to light (See Note 1). Further south, Kuala Ketil, on the road to Baling, opened in 1918, and 1920 saw the establishment of an agency at Sik on another loop of rural road.

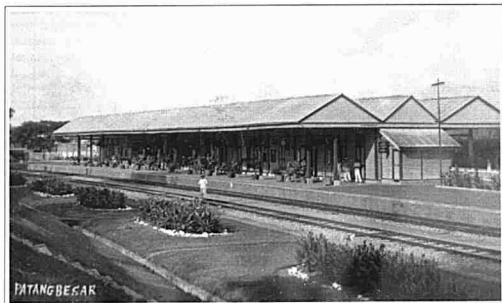


Fig. 135 – The railway station at Padang Besar, Perlis. The post office at Padang Besar was a railway agency. Railway agencies were normally located in the station with the station-master combining his duties with those of a postal agent. Despite this, Padang Besar was heavily used – in 1930 it handled no less than 44,286 letters, including 2,738 registered. (See Appendix 5.)

In the far south the road system which developed in the hinterland of Province Wellesley led to post offices being opened at Padang Serai (1918), Serdang (1928), Bandar Bharu (1931) and Karangan (1932). Bandar Bharu was a 'new town' (bandar – town, bharu – new) which grew up four miles or so from Bagan Samak where a ferry took the road from Serdang across the Krian River to Parit Buntar in Perak. This road had bypassed Bagan Samak, situated a little further up the river, presumably because of the problems of building in a low-lying area. The post office at Bagan Samak, or agency as it may have become by that time, closed and its handstamps possibly transferred to Bandar Bharu, in a way symbolising the passing of the old Kedah with its water-borne transport and the coming of the new based on the motor car and the railway. Today (1991) Bagan Samak is little more than a hundred or so houses, mostly attap, and although it has its own agency again, continues to be overshadowed by its larger upstart neighbour.

(The expansion of the road system can be seen by comparing the 1916 and 1931 maps of Kedah in Chapter 1.)

The railway was built simultaneously with the roads and its route north roughly followed the course of the main trunk road. It thus consolidated the link between Kedah and Perlis and also had its own effect on the development of the postal system. It led to the rapid development of Sungei Patani in the south, the opening of a railway agency at Gurun (1918) and the closing of the river-sited post office at Semiling, whose business passed to the new stop on the railway at Bedong (1920) five miles away.

With the decline in importance of coastal passenger traffic, Kuala Muda, once an important post office, was reduced to the status of an agency, although when this occurred is not known. The railway also had an important influence in opening up northern Perlis and a railway agency was established at Padang Besar (1923). Even as late as 1971 Padang Besar's serving post office was Alor Star, and not Kangar which was much nearer, because of the convenience of the railway.

In the space of little more than a quarter of a century, 1909–1941, a new direction had been given to the development of the transport and communications systems of Kedah and Perlis, resulting not only in a large increase in the number, but also a change in the distribution of their post offices.

Note 1: PADANG TRAP POST OFFICE

There can be little doubt that Padang Trap Post Office (Trap without the 'e') was set up in Padang Terap District Office. The reason for this is that although it had the words 'Post Office' in its temporary rubber datestamp (TRD), Padang Trap was almost certainly not a post office but a postal agency and it was customary in pre-war Kedah for agencies to be run either by a clerk in the local district office or by the master of the local railway station. (There is a statement in the Kedah Annual Report for 1930–31 that 'postal business is transacted by District Office Clerks', and there is other evidence also.)

However, the precise location of the Padang Terap District Office, at least in the early days, is by no means certain. The only information in official records is the following statement contained in the Adviser's Annual Report for 30 November 1913 – 18 November 1914:

Special services completed in 1332 were . . . Telephone line from Poko Sena to Padang Lanjut, where the District Office of the District is now established.

Padang Lanjut is in Padang Terap District and the word 'the' before 'District Office' makes it fairly clear that this office was the only one in the District at this time. The earliest date of the Padang Trap TRD is 5 October 1914. Could it have opened in, or have been operating from, Padang Lanjut by this date? Either is possible, the alternatives depending on whether the District Office had been newly set up in Padang Lanjut or had just moved there in 1914. The latter is slightly the more likely of the two as otherwise the District would have been without any proper administration for the five years since the hand-over to the British and this seems questionable. If a district office had been in existence earlier it may, in view of the need for a fairly central position, have been in the settlement of Padang Trap itself which is a few miles upstream from Padang Lanjut. If the telephone was the reason the District Office had now been sited in Padang Lanjut (a natural inference to make in view

of the instant access to Alor Star this presumably brought) then it seems even more likely there had previously been a district office elsewhere and it had moved. If so and a postal agency had already been opened in the District Office by that time, then perhaps the TRD accompanied the District Officer in his move to Padang Lanjut and continued in use there until the coming of that office's first permanent datestamp.

Is it possible Padang Trap Post Office could have opened in Padang Lanjut if the District Office had been newly established there in 1914? This probably depends on how the District Office was known at this time. Being the only one in the District it could well have used the name Padang Terap, and not that of the local settlement, Padang Lanjut. Being based in the District Office the Postal Agency might then have adopted the name of the District also (but dropping the 'e' which in this usage is silent in Malay). There are precedents for such a situation. In the early days of the British Administration in Malaya, though admittedly not in Kedah, it sometimes occurred that the first post office in a district used the district name in its postmark rather than that of the town in which it was sited. Marks such as Kinta, Krian and Larut in Perak come to mind. Subsequent cancellations of these offices used the local place-names and this obviously happened in Padang Lanjut because, as we know, this office's first permanent datestamp used its own name.

According to the Kedah Government Gazette of 1925-26, Padang Lanjut Post Office changed its name to Kuala Nerang on 1 May 1926, the result of the town itself being re-named. This means that if either of the above theories regarding the origin and siting of Padang Trap Post Office is correct then Kuala Nerang has the unique distinction of using different place-names in each of its first three cancellers.

Much remains to be learnt about this office. The discovery of a Padang Lanjut TRD for example, or any Padang Lanjut postmark dated before 3 May 1916 (the latest known of Padang Trap), or a mark from Padang Trap dated in 1913 or earlier, would indicate almost certainly an agency did once function there. The mystery of the complete lack of any official record of a post office or agency opening in either Padang Trap or Padang Lanjut remains, while the 8½ year gap between the last recorded date of Padang Trap and the earliest (and only) known date of the permanent Padang Lanjut handstamp (24.11.1924) highlights another strange aspect of this office: if Padang Lanjut was the administrative centre of Padang Terap District,* why are its postmarks so scarce?

* The administrative centre of Padang Terap District is still Kuala Nerang (Padang Lanjut) and it probably has been since 1914. It is a curious fact, however, that the FMS Surveys map of Kedah of 1931 (q.v. on page 3) shows Padang T(e)rap in a typeface similar in style to the other district capitals. Although as far as is known Padang Trap is not a major settlement today, and even as late as 1971 did not have its own post office or agency, there must have been some reason for the Surveyor General to have given it such an exalted status in 1931. Was he using an out-of-date record that it was the site of the District Office and therefore the administrative capital of the District?

THE POSTMARKS OF KEDAH AND PERLIS

PART I

THE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE POSTMARKS

The main purpose of this identification system is to enable Kedah's postmarks to be recognised and used without the inconvenience of having to refer constantly to a text. The postal cancellations (excluding those used on registered mail and one or two others unique to Alor Star) have been reduced to ten basic types and numbered in the approximate chronological order of their use. Each of these has readily apparent differences which make them easy to separate and recognise.

A few cancellations, however, although basically similar to a main type, possess sufficient differences to be given a sub-type classification, e.g. Type 6 and Type 6A. One of these, Type 8A, is a postmark of major importance as it was in widespread use in a number of offices a decade or so after the main type. Within these types are further variations which are so small as not to justify a sub-type classification and so are given a serial number in the chronological order of their use, e.g. 8A(1), 8A(2) and 8A(3).

Some postal cancellations, obviously intended for use only in Alor Star, have not been included amongst the ten basic types. They fall into two main groups. The first has 'GENERAL POST OFFICE', and the second, which was presumably used to cancel registered mail, has either 'REGISTERED', 'REGISTRATION' or 'REGISTERS' included in its wording. They have been classified as Type GPO and Type REG respectively, with serial numbers to separate the variations, again in the approximate chronological order of use.

The remaining postmarks, the majority of which are not cancellations, have been given types which are descriptive either of their basic purpose, e.g. Type REC for the RECOMMANDE marks used by several offices, or of where they were in use, e.g. Type MO, for a cancellation used in a Money Order Office or Branch.

(For detailed descriptions of Types 1-6A see Chapters 6 & 9.)



TYPE 1 Known used only at Alor Star.



TYPE 2 The 'vernacular' type known only for Kangar (Perlis). Only one example recorded so far.

TYPE 3 Known used at Alor Star, Kangar and Kuala Muda.



TYPE 4 Known used at Alor Star, Kangar, Kuala Muda, Kulim and Langkawi.



TYPE 4A Known used only at Kulim & Langkawi.



TYPE 5 In purple or black. Varies in size and shape and number of 'ornaments' within the rings but always has three ovals, 'POST OFFICE' round the top and the name of the office round the bottom. Known used at Bedong, Jitra, Lunas, Padang Serai and Padang Trap.



TYPE 6 Double ring with black bars and a cross at the bottom. The time and date are in three lines across the centre although the time is sometimes omitted. Known used at 17 offices.





TYPE 6A Identical to Type 6 but the time and date are in one line across the centre. Known used only at Alor Star.



TYPE 7 An unusual type, reminiscent of the Siamese period, with triple rings and a 'bridge'. Known used only at Alor Star.



TYPE 8 Double ring with the name of the office at the top and the state name at the foot separated by a dot on either side. Time and date in three lines across the centre. The only difference from Type 8A is a larger inner circle giving a narrower gap between the rings, 4–4.5 mm compared to 5–5.5 mm for Type 8A. Known used at Jitra, Kangar, Kuala Ketil, Kuala Muda, Kuala Nerang, Kulim, Lunas, Padang Besar and Sungei Patani, mainly in the 1920s.



TYPE 8A As Type 8 but with rings 5–5.5 mm apart compared to the 4–4.5 mm of Type 8. Widely used (recorded at 18 offices), mainly in the 1930s.



TYPE 8B Similar in main characteristics to Type 8 but the time and date are in one line across the centre and the postmark is larger. Known used only at Alor Star and is probably an adaptation of Type 6A.

TYPE 9 Similar to Type 8A except short, black bars instead of dots separate the names of the office and the state. Known used at Bagan Samak, Bedong, Gurun, Kulim, Padang Serai, Serdang, Sungei Patani and Yen.



TYPE 10 A distinctive type owing to its small size. Often used as a receiving mark. The outer ring is noticeably thicker than the inner ring. Known used at Alor Star, Kulim, Padang Serai and Sungei Patani.



TYPE GPO 'General Post Office'. Cancellations using this term, either in words or as initials, are known only for Alor Star.



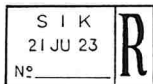
TYPE REG 'Registered'. This type and its variants were used only at Alor Star for registered mail and all contain the words either 'Registered', 'Registration' or 'Registers' and 'Alor Star'.



TYPE AR 'Avis de Reception'. Known boxed and with or without period(s). Used at Alor Star, Gurun, Kuala Ketil, Kuala Muda, Kulim (2), Sungei Patani and Yen.

A.R

TYPE R Boxed 'Registration' cachet. Known used at Alor Star (two types), and fifteen other offices. It seems certain all offices were supplied with at least one cachet of this type, except a few later ones which opened after labels were introduced.



RECOMMANDÉ

TYPE REC 'Recommande'. Applied to registered mail. Known used at Alor Star, Bedong, Gurun, Kuala Ketil and Kulim.



TYPE BEE 'British Empire Exhibition'. Used to advertise the exhibition in London in 1924. Known for Alor Star, Kulim and Sungei Patani.

KEDAH
EXHIBITION

TYPE KE 'Kedah Exhibition'. May have been used to publicise an exhibition of arts, crafts and agricultural products in the State in 1926. Appears to be incomplete. It may have been intended to include the date and venue of the exhibition in the right-hand side of the box. Seen for Alor Star, Kulim and Sungei Patani.

On Postal Business only

TYPE PC 'Postal Cachet'. Only two different postal cachets recorded to date; used at Alor Star and Sungei Patani.

فرتجوشن تانم ۲ من بارغ ۲ فرتوكاشن دان بنانغ ۲ قدح
Kedah Agri-Horticultural & Livestock Exhibition
باكي مجتوكن ذي ملايا فيتربوتيك فان
In aid of THE MALAYA PATRIOTIC FUND
دالور ستر ند 29, 30 جنادالاول دان 1 جمادالآخر 1359
At Alor Star on 5th, 6th & 7th July, 1940

TYPE SL 'Slogan'. The only one recorded to date was used at Alor Star and Sungei Patani.



TYPE T 'Taxe'. For use on outgoing unpaid or underpaid postal items. Known used at Alor Star, Bagan Samak, Kulim, Padang Serai, Sungei Patani and Yen.

TO PAY
_____ CENTS

TYPE TP 'To Pay'. For use on incoming unpaid or underpaid postal items. Known used only at Alor Star and Kulim.

TYPE TP2 & TP4 'To Pay 2 or 4 cents'. TP2 is listed under Alor Star but there is a strong probability that it is not a Kedah mark at all but was applied in Penang. (See Chapter 6, 'The Siamese Postmarks of Kedah and Perlis'.)

4

TYPE DLO 'Dead Letter Office'. Known only for Alor Star.



TYPE MO 'Money Order Office' or 'Branch'. Known only for Alor Star. Seen on stamps but not confirmed as postal cancellations.



TYPE SB 'Savings Bank'. Known only for Alor Star. Seen on a stamp but not confirmed as a postal cancellation.



TYPE F Forged or faked postmark. Seen for Alor Star, Bandar Bharu, Kuala Nerang, Kulim and Sungei Patani. Most do not show the time or date. Mainly seen on higher value stamps which have usually been cleaned or bear traces of MS cancellations and/or crayon marks.



PART II
THE POSTMARKS

INTRODUCTION

1. All the postmarks in this and the previous chapters, except Type SL, have been drawn by hand and so strict accuracy is impossible. The letters and figures of each postmark, therefore, including the spacing between them, are only roughly correct. For the same reason, and the fact that handstamps thicken and 'spread' due to wear and over-inking, no dimensions have been given, although drawings are approximately to actual size.
2. The dates under each illustration have been taken from postmarks. They have not all been personally verified by the author and there may be some inaccuracy owing to the difficulty, extreme in some cases, of identifying particular types, especially where only a part of the strike could be seen.
3. Under the heading 'RECORDS' for each post office or agency, the official source for the information on its opening/closing and change of status is given, followed by the date the source was written or published, where known. The source 'AR' refers to the Annual Report of the Adviser to the Kedah Government (q.v. in Appendix 1), and 'KGG' to the Kedah Government Gazette (q.v. in Appendix 2).
4. The words 'Post Office' when used in the official sources referred to above or in a postmark, do not always conform to the modern use of the term. Sometimes the 'Post Office' was in a district office where the 'Postmaster' was the district officer or a clerk, or in an office on a railway station where the postal duties were performed by the Station Master. Such places, today, would be described as postal or railway agencies.

ALOR STAR (General Post Office)

State capital of Kedah. Administrative centre of Kota Star District. Seat of Sultan and Government. Situated on main railway.

RECORDS: *During the past year new branches have been opened at Quedah. (The Siamese Postal System – an official report published in Siam May 1888.)*

Post office opened sometime between April and 27 October 1887.



There is strong evidence this mark is bogus.
See Chapter 6.



Type 1
27.10.1887 – 25.4.1900



Type 3
March 1901 – 20.5.1907



Type 4
21.7.1907 – 22.7.1911



Type 6
26.6.1912 – 25.4.1919



Type 6A
10.8.1911 – 1.12.1925



Type 7
31.12.1918 – 30.11.1921
Known in blue



Type 8A(1)
18.1.1929 – 29.4.1937



Type 8A(2)
14.12.1938 – 5.6.1941



Type 8A(3)
4.7.1940 – 6.1.1941



Type 8(B)
3.2.1925 – 2.10.1928



Type 10
14.10.1919 – 3.6.1926

THE POSTMARKS OF KEDAH & PERLIS



Type GPO(1)
19.5.1919 - 20.11.1927
Known in blue



Type GPO(2)
4.4.1922 - 28.8.1936



Type GPO(3)
5.2.1936 - 3.12.1941



Type REG(1)
7.11.1926 - 21.5.1930



Type REG(2)
13.9.1928 - 13.7.1929
Inner ring faint & broken



Type REG(3)
2.7.1931 - 2.11.1939

Type REG(4)
24.10.1933
- 21.8.1941
Flat top to
ampersand, cf.
Type REG(3)



Type REG(5)
13.3.1936

REGT. LETTER No

Type R(1)
28.1.1895 - 3.1.1911

ALOR STAR
16 DEC 13
No _____ R

Type R(2)
29.6.1912 - 2.10.1928

ALOR STAR
20 SEP 19
No _____ R

Type R(3)
17.12.1916 - 25.2.1928
Alor Star was using
registration labels by
17.2.1934.

RECOMMANDÉ

Type REC
3.5.1926 - 23.10.1929



Type AR(1)
28.1.1895 - 3.1.1911

A.R

Type AR(2)
11.2.1919 - 14.12.1937



Type DLO
5.3.1928 - 4.9.1940
*Struck in blue-black on
latter date*



Type MO(1)
6.6.1925 - 16.10.1928
*Seen on stamps but not
confirmed as a postal
cancellation.*



Type MO(2)
16.6.1937
*Seen on stamps but not
confirmed as a postal
cancellation.*



Type SB
Feb. 1929
*Seen on a stamp but not
confirmed as a postal
cancellation.*

TOPAY
_____ CENTS

Type TP
30.8.1915 - 19.4.1939

2

Type TP2
27.1.1906

4

Type TP4
23.11.1919 - 16.1.1924



Type T(1)
18.7.1906



Type T(2)
22.5.1919 - 17.11.1919



Type T(3)
16.3.1930 - 5.5.1938

فرتتجو قطن تانم ٢ من بارخ ٢ فرتوكلشن دان بنانغ ٢ قدس
Kedah Agri-Horticultural & Livestock Exhibition
باكي مبيتوكن ذي ملايا فيتر بوتيك فان
In aid of THE MALAYA PATRIOTIC FUND
دالور ستر قد 29, 30 جمادالاول دان 1 جمادالآخر 1359
At Alor Star on 5th, 6th & 7th July, 1940

Type SL
3.7.1940

UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED. RETURN
TO SENDER AT ADDRESS SHOWN ON COVER

Type PC(1)
7.8.1932

On Postal Business only

Type PC(2)
19.7.1922



Type KE
1926



Type BEE
18.7.1923 - 16.10.1924



19.7.1922
 Seen as a cachet.
 Similar to Type 10 but
 slightly smaller.



23.6.1941
 Recorded on a Kedah
 stamp but not as a
 postmark.



12.7.1938 – 5.7.1941
 Recorded on Kedah
 stamps but may not be a
 postmark or from Kedah.

FORGED POSTMARKS



Type F(1)



Type F(2)



Type F(3)

Types F(1) and F(2) may be
 adaptations of the same mark.



Type F(4)

BAGAN SAMAK (Post & Telegraph Office)

On the Sungei Krian in Bandar Bharu District.

RECORDS: *A post office (agency) was opened at Bagan Samak, Bandar Bharu District, during the year. (AR 1916).*

Regular postal and telegraph business were established at the Bagan Samak P.O. on 10.4.1921. (AR 1921).

May have reverted to an agency before it closed. Closed c. 1931 and office transferred to Bandar Bharu (q.v.).

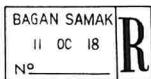
Bagan Samak was a landing place on the lower reaches of the Sungei Krian when transport in the area was mainly water-borne. Later, a new settlement called Bandar Bharu ('New Town') grew up lower down the river opposite Parit Buntar in Perak, and Bandar Bharu Post Office replaced Bagan Samak. Proud (*The Postal History of British Malaya*, Vol. 3) states: *Name changed to Bandar Bharu by 1929 officially. However, old datestamps continued to be used until 1931.* The AR 1931 (q.v. in Appendix 1) suggests Bandar Bharu may not have superseded Bagan Samak until sometime in the first half of 1931 but before 18 May. Bandar Bharu may, therefore, have used Bagan Samak's datestamps for a short period, probably until its own were available.



Type 6
6.2.1917 – 27.1.1927



Type 9
25.5.1927 – 2.6.1931



Type R
11.10.1918 – 7.7.1923



Type T
16.5.1921

BALING (Post & Telegraph Office)

Administrative centre of Baling District.

RECORDS: *A post office (agency) opened in the year (1910) at Baling. (AR January 1911).*

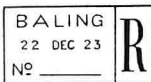
A telegraph office was opened at Baling during the year. (AR 1915).



Type 6
3.8.1911 – 27.1.1925



Type 8A
11.2.1930 – 7.3.1941



Type R
15.11.1923 – 27.1.1925

BANDAR BHARU (Post & Telegraph Office)

Administrative centre of Bandar Bharu District. Superseded Bagan Samak.

RECORDS: None.

May have used Bagan Samak's datestamps briefly in 1931. See note under Bagan Samak.



Type 8A
29.10.1931 – 1.10.1941



Type F

BEDONG (Post & Telegraph Office)

Situated on the main railway in the district of Kuala Muda. Superseded Semiling Post Office.

RECORDS: *The P. & T. Office at Semiling was closed, a new P. & T. Office being opened at Bedong on 1st January 1920. (AR 1920)*

See note under Semiling.



Type 5
12.3.1920 – 18.6.1920



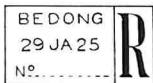
Type 6
13.8.1920 – 30.8.1927
Also seen without the time.



Type 9
23.12.1927 – 8.6.1934



Type 8A
5.10.1934 – 19.11.1941



Type R
10.12.1920 – 11.1.1928



Type REC
8.6.1927 – 11.1.1928

GURUN (Post & Telegraph Office)

Situated on the main railway in the district of Kuala Muda.

RECORDS: *A post office (agency) was opened at Gurun Railway Station. (AR 1918)*

From 1.7.1927 a regular postal and telegraph office has been opened at Gurun. The Railway Allowance Office has ceased from that date. (KGG July 1927)



Type 6
20.2.1919 – 17.6.1925



Type 9
5.7.1927 – 10.4.1935
*Had no time on former
of these two dates.*



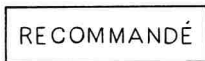
Type 8A
14.7.1935 – 13.10.41



Type R
24.2.1919 – 5.7.1927

A.R

Type AR
17.4.1919 – 27.3.1920



Type REC
5.7.1927

JITRA (Post & Telegraph Office)

Administrative centre of Kubang Pasu District.

RECORDS: *A post office (agency) opened in the year (1910) at Jitra. (AR January 1911)*

A Telegraph and Money Order Branch was opened at Jitra. (AR Oct. 1918)

A new post office building at Perlis Road, Jitra, was completed during the year and was opened for business on 26.1.1930. (AR May 1930)



Type 5
1910 - 22.3.1911



Type 6
17.4.1911 - 14.4.1924



Type 8
21.7.1925 - 14.4.1930



Type 8A
11.11.1931 - 7.10.1941

KANGAR (Post & Telegraph Office)

State capital of Perlis and seat of government.

RECORDS: *During the course of the last twelve months, the following post office has been opened in Siam: Perlis. (Notification of His Siamese Majesty's Postal Department 1894.)*



Type 2
'Vernacular Cancel'
No date known.



Type 3
28.7.1904 - July 1907
(On Siamese)
27.2.1910 - 14.5.1923
(On FMS & Kedah)



Type 4
14.9.1907 - 18.12.1909



Type 6
9.6.1923 - 17.12.1923



Type 8
30.4.1924 - 1.1.1931



Type 8A(1)
11.2.1931 - 24.12.1937
Seen on Kedah stamps dated in 1919 & 1922 which are considered bogus.



Type 8A(2)
2.3.1938 - 25.10.1941



Type R
5.11.1914 - 1.10.1919
Kangar was using registration labels by 30 November 1931.

KARANGAN (Post Office)

In the district of Kulim.

RECORDS: *Has established a post office at Karangan to come into operation on 19th May 1931. (KGG June 1931)*



Type 8A(1)
8.10.1931 - 29.11.1937



Type 8A(2)
5.3.1938 - 12.11.1941

A registration label has been recorded for Karangan on 8 October 1931 so it is extremely unlikely that this post office was issued with a Type R handstamp.

KUALA KETIL (Post & Telegraph Office)

In the district of Baling.

RECORDS: *A district post office (agency) was opened at Kuala Ketil. (AR October 1918)*

A telegraph and money order business was established at the Kuala Ketil Post Office on 12th May 1919, when the sub-district office there was abolished. (AR 1919)



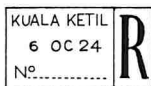
Type 6
6.10.1919 – 15.4.1924



Type 8
24.5.1924 – 18.8.1934



Type 8A
22.9.1934 – 11.11.1941



Type R
7.6.1920 – 7.9.1927

A.R

Type AR
7.6.1920 – 12.5.1921

RECOMMANDÉ

Type REC
7.9.1927

KUALA MUDA (Agency)

In the district of Kuala Muda. Serving post office: Sungei Patani.

RECORDS: *A new office was opened towards the end of the year (1907) at Kuala Muda. (AR February 1908)*

In July (1909) there was a post and telegraph office at Kuala Muda. (AR January 1910)

Reduced to a Postal Agency. Date unknown.



Type 3
3.10.1907 - 3.11.1907
(On Siamese)
24.2.1911 - 3.5.1922
(On FMS & Kedah)



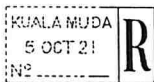
Type 4
30.12.1907 - 15.7.1909



Type 8
14.11.1925 - 27.9.1930



Type 8A
18.12.1930 - 24.8.1941



Type R
Reconstruction 5.10.1921
Kuala Muda was using
registration labels by
18.12.1930.

A.R

Type AR
5.10.1921

KUALA NERANG (Agency)

Administrative centre of Padang Terap District. Serving post office: Alor Star. Originally Padang Lanjut (Agency).

RECORDS: *On and after 1st May 1926, the post office (agency) now known as 'Padang Lanjut' will be called 'Kuala Nerang'.* (KGG 1925)

Padang Lanjut may have opened c. 1914 in the local District Office using the name of the district, Padang T(e)rap, in its postmark as illustrated below. Alternatively, there may have been a postal agency open at Padang Trap (q.v.) whose datestamp was later used in Padang Lanjut.

See Padang Trap and Note 1 in Chapter 23.



Type 5
5.10.1914 – 3.5.1916



Type 6
24.11.1924



Type 8
30.10.1927 – 5.2.1938
Also known without the time.
A forgery of this postmark is known.

KULIM (Post & Telegraph Office)

Administrative centre of Kulim District.

RECORDS: *A new office was opened towards the end of the year (1907) at Kulim. (AR February 1908)*

Probably opened on 7 December 1907. (See Chapter 6.)



Type 4A
14.12.1907 - 18.9.1908



Type 4
Oct. 1908 - 30.5.1910



Type 6
14.3.1910 - 17.5.1925



Type 10
4.6.1923 - 4.1.1927



Type 8
11.3.1925 - 2.8.1936



Type 8A
25.8.1936 - 1.12.1941



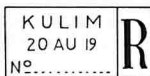
Type 9(1)
16.7.1929 - 19.1.1933



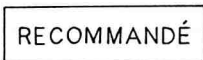
Type 9(2)
8.5.1928 - 8.2.1936



Type 9(3)
30.9.1936 - 29.11.1941



Type R
11.7.1910 – 8.7.1926
Kulim was using
registration labels by
16.7.1929



Type REC
8.7.1926



Type AR(1)
16.7.1929



Type AR(2)
22.8.1939



Type T
8.4.1939 – 18.6.1939



Type TP
25.9.1931 – 29.3.1940



Type BEE
20.9.1923 – 16.8.1924



Type KE
24.6.1926



Type F

LANGKAWI (Post Office)

Langkawi is the largest of a group of islands 18 miles due west of the coast of Perlis. The post office is situated in Kuah, the largest settlement on the island, which is the administrative centre of the Langkawi District.

RECORDS: *A new office was opened towards the end of the year (1907) at Langkawi.*
(AR February 1908)

The work of the post office was handed over to a clerk in the district office.
(AR 1909-10)

Post Office status later restored. Date unknown.



Type 4A
16.2.1908 - Aug. 1908



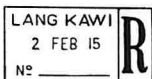
Type 4
23.11.1908 - 30.3.1910



Type 6
9.11.1910 - 14.10.1926



Type 8A
July 1930 - 29.6.1941



Type R
21.1.1913 - 3.1.1921

LUNAS (Post & Telegraph Office)

Situated in the district of Kulim.

RECORDS: *A post office opened in the year (1910) at Lunas. (AR January 1911)*



Type 5
10.12.1910 - 19.1.1911



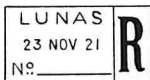
Type 6
28.6.1911 - 4.11.1921



Type 8
24.8.1922 - 11.11.1929



Type 8A
6.2.1931 - 1.10.1941



Type R
24.12.1920 - 23.11.1921

PADANG BESAR (Agency)

Situated on the border between Perlis and Thailand on the main railway. Railway Agency
1923-1941. Serving post office: Alor Star.

RECORDS: None.



Type 8(1)
19.6.1923 - 18.8.1925
In December 1923 the
positions of the day and
month were reversed.



Type 8(2)
9.12.1926 - 23.12.1926
Also seen as above on
19 May & 15 Sep. 1926.
Seen 1 - 9 July 1925
with 8AM across centre.



Type 8(3)
11.4.1932 - 11.12.1932



Type 8A
2.11.1933 - 10.9.1941

Padang Besar was using registration labels by 21.4.1932.

PADANG LANJUT - See KUALA NERANG

PADANG SERAI (Post & Telegraph Office)

In the district of Kulim.

RECORDS: *A post and telegraph office was opened at Padang Serai on 1st Muharram, 1337. (7th October 1918) (AR September 1919)*



Type 5
18.10.1918 – 5.6.1920



Type 6
4.7.1920 –
11.6.1926



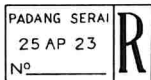
Type 10
8.7.1920 – 8.8.1921



Type 9
1.7.1926 – 9.3.1935



Type 8A
17.9.1935 – 30.5.1941



Type R
25.4.1923



Type T(1)
8.10.1920



Type T(2)
5.11.1925

PADANG TRAP (Agency)

Former administrative centre of Padang Terap District (?). Serving post office: Unknown.

RECORDS: None. See KUALA NERANG. Also Note 1 in Chapter 23.



Type 5
5.10.1914 - 3.5.1916

SEMILING (Post & Telegraph Office)

In the district of Kuala Muda, about five miles from Bedong.

RECORDS: *A post and telegraph office opened in the year (1910) at Semiling. (AR January 1911)*

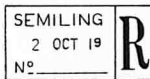
The post and telegraph office at Semiling was closed, a new post and telegraph office being opened at Bedong on 1st January 1920. (AR 1920)

Semiling was the landing place on the Sungei Merbau which was the point of entry from Penang into the Kuala Muda District of Kedah and was the administrative centre of this district in the early years of the 20th Century. Semiling Post Office was closed and its postal business was transferred to Bedong while the administration was moved to Sungei Patani, both occurring because of the newly built railway. (The Postal History of British Malaya, Vol. 3, E. B. Proud.)

Semiling Post Office probably closed on Wednesday 31 December 1919.



Type 6
2.10.1910 - 20.11.1919



Type R
11.6.1919 - 7.11.1919

SERDANG (Post & Telegraph Office)

In the district of Bandar Bharu, south Kedah.

RECORDS: *On 20.6.1928 a post and telegraph office was opened at Serdang. (KGG 1928)*



Type 9
9.10.1928 – 9.12.1937



Type 8A
14.12.1937 – 21.11.1941

SIK (Agency)

Administrative centre of Sik District. Serving post office: Gurun.

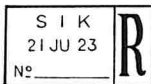
RECORDS: *A district post office (agency) was opened at Sik on 29th January 1920. (AR 1920)*



Type 6
3.6.1921 – 21.7.1923



Type 8A
6.10.1924 – 21.8.1937



Type R
3.6.1921 – 21.6.1923

SUNGEI PATANI (Post & Telegraph Office)

Administrative centre of Kuala Muda District and situated on main railway.

RECORDS: *A post office was opened at Sungei Patani. (AR December 1911)*

One new post and telegraph office (Sungei Patani) was opened during the year. (AR December 1912)



Type 6(1)
July 1911 – 29.11.1922
Seen in blue Sep. 1922 –
1.11.1922



Type 6(2)
21.8.1923 – 12.1.1931



Type 8
23.6.1927 – 2.2.1933



Type 9
17.9.1927 – 6.9.1934



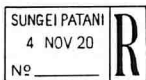
Type 10
1.7.1933 – 8.6.1934



Type 8A(1)
6.9.1934 – 4.9.1941



Type 8A(2)
10.9.1934 – 6.12.1941



Type R
8.11.1919 - 15.8.1927



Type AR
12.10.1937 - 28.9.1940



Type T
23.4.1934

UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED. RETURN
TO SENDER AT ADDRESS SHOWN ON COVER

Type PC
28.6.1933



Type BEE
21.8.1923 - 19.5.1924



Type KE
17.8.1926

فرتجوقشن تانم ۲ من بارغ ۲ فرتوكاشن دان بنانغ ۲ قدح
Kedah Agri-Horticultural & Livestock Exhibition
باكي مجتوكن ذي ملايا فتر بوتيك فان

In aid of THE MALAYA PATRIOTIC FUND
دالور ستر ند 29, 30 جمادالاول دان 1 جمادالآخر 1359
At Alor Star on 5th, 6th & 7th July, 1940

Type SL
20.6.1940 - 23.6.1940



Type F
Listed in The Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks by Derek Worboys (ed. by Roger B. West). The datestamp itself is now in the museum of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

YEN (Agency)

Administrative centre of Yen District. Serving post office: Gurun.

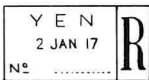
RECORDS: *A post office (agency) opened in the year (1910) at Yen. (AR January 1911)*



Type 6
20.2.1911 - 2.5.1924



Type 9
26.7.1928 - 3.5.1940



Type R
2.1.1917 - 29.12.1921



Type AR
21.9.1919 - 10.9.1934



Type T
28.11.1919

THE FIELD POST OFFICES 1939–1942

PART I: 1939–41. THE BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICE SP 503

LOCATION

On the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 precautions were taken to protect the anonymity of British service mail. A series of Field Post Office numbers starting at 500 was allocated to Singapore with instructions to have the datestamps for them made locally. In order that they should not become confused with the main series of FPO numbers when military units and field post offices reached a total of 500 (as indeed happened in 1941), the prefix 'S.P.' was given to them. It is claimed that 'S.P.' denoted 'SINGAPORE'.* There was no intention that the datestamps should be used exclusively on the island, but wherever there was the greatest need in Malaya as a whole. As far as is known, six 'SP' numbers were used. These, and the states in which they were initially assigned, are thought to be as follows. (As no official record is available, these placings have been based on the evidence of stamps and covers.)

SP 501 (two types)	Singapore	SP 504	Kelantan
SP 502	Penang	SP 505	Selangor
SP 503	Kedah	SP 506	Perak

Enough covers exist bearing Kedah stamps cancelled with the SP 503 handstamp to link it with the State and there is evidence to suggest the Field Post Office was located at the forward RAF airbase at Alor Star where, in September 1939, No. 62 RAF Squadron flying Blenheim bombers was stationed.† There was another forward RAF airfield in Kedah, at Sungei Patani, where No. 21 RAAF Squadron, flying Brewster Buffaloes, and No. 27 RAF Squadron, flying Blenheims, were stationed. Personnel from these units used the civilian post office and most of the service mail bearing the Sungei Patani post office cancellation also bears 'R.A.F./CENSOR/40', '47' or '86' cachets, whereas all the covers seen or recorded by the author with the SP 503 c.d.s. bore the 'R.A.F./CENSOR/68' cachet (in red). Presumably the unit using this censor mark was not based at Sungei Patani and so, from this, it may be assumed that FPO SP 503 was allocated, at least for a time, to the airbase at Alor Star.



Seen only in red.

* At various times the following alternatives have been suggested: 'Singapore Post', 'Special Post', and, most commonly, 'Service(s) Post'. The full stops after both the 'S' and the 'P' suggest two words, but these may have been added in error by the maker of the handstamps.

† The RAF airbase was located at the civilian airfield. Lt-Gen. A. E. Percival in *The War in Malaya* writes: *The role of the forces in Kedah – was to protect the aerodrome at Alor Star. The former, unfortunately, like the aerodrome at Kota Bharu in Kelantan, had been converted from a civil aerodrome and had thus been sited without any consideration whatever being given to its defence.*

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

Nothing is known of the structure of the SP offices but it is likely they were staffed by service personnel. Very little is known for certain about their function either but the one located in Singapore was almost certainly a general service post office serving not only units of the British Army, Navy and Air Force, but those of other British Commonwealth forces as well until such time as their own postal service became operational. This explains why mail from all three British services, Australian and New Zealand vessels, and also Australian and Indian military units has been found bearing the SP 501 mark. This FPO did not deal with all of the mail from these sources, however, as it can also be found with Singapore GPO cancellations. SP 502 may have performed a similar function in Penang as it has often been found with naval censor markings, but on a reduced scale. The role and location of the others have not been finally established, but as all their postmarks are scarce to rare they were obviously not located where they could be widely used.

It is also not known what arrangements were in existence at this time for incoming service mail to these offices, or to what extent the SP offices were involved in the delivery of it. As the mail was probably handled centrally by the military authorities after having been received from the civilian post office, perhaps the '501' office in Singapore acted as a 'base' post office and was responsible for its onward despatch. SP 503 could have played a similar role in the distribution of inward service mail in Kedah both before and after the setting up of the Indian Army Postal Service, but there is no evidence to support this and it seems much more likely that this mail went directly to units, possibly via the civilian post offices.

Although it looks as though SP 501 continued handling most of the rest of the service mail in Singapore after the Indian Army Postal Service assumed control of the military post in 1941, this is not likely in the case of SP 503 in Kedah as, almost certainly, the civilian post offices continued to perform this function. The evidence for this is that mail from service units is known used from Alor Star post office during the currency of the SP 503 datestamp. It is believed that military mail, as long as it had been censored correctly and contained nothing of military significance, could be posted at a civilian post office although civilian postal rates had to be used. SP 503 continued to function after the Indian Army Postal Service was set up as the latter dealt only with army mail.

Volume 3 of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia*, page 484, states that FPO SP 501 opened on 22 September 1939. No dates have been recorded for the others and those given for the SP 503 datestamp have been obtained from postmarks.



1.3.1940 - 25.11.1941
This postmark is quite scarce.

PART II: 1941-42. THE INDIAN FPOs

Much of the information in this section has been obtained from the following sources:

1. *Indian Army Post Offices, Locations and Movements 1939-1947* by Brigadier D. S. Virk AVSM.
2. *History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Volume 3, 1931-1947* by Edward B. Proud.

Reference to these sources is made in the text by [1] or [2].

Up until February 1941 the responsibility for handling the mail to and from service units in Malaya was in the hands of the British field post offices and the civilian post office (as outlined in Part I). This was possible because (a) the numbers of service personnel were of manageable proportions and (b) units were within reasonable reach of civilian post offices and a well-developed, efficient postal system. However, the deterioration in the political situation in the Far East led to a considerable increase in the Commonwealth military forces in the country (in particular the formation of the 11th Division in October 1940 [2]) and the establishment of more extensive, and specifically military, postal facilities was deemed necessary. As the forces were of predominantly Indian origin it was considered appropriate that the Indian Army Postal Service should provide them. The only exception to this were the Australian Imperial Forces, the first contingent of which arrived in Malaya on 18.2.41, and they made their own postal arrangements. (The connections between the AIF and the IAPS are described in Note 1.)

In Proud [2] is the following statement:

After discussions with HQ Malaya Command . . . and the military authorities at Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Major Mehta issued departmental orders for the functioning of his FPOs with effect from 15th February 1941.

This was exactly one year before the surrender of Singapore to the Japanese Army. However, there is evidence that at least one FPO in Kedah (FPO 31) may have been in use before this date. Mail from Indian Army units before the FPOs became operational went via the civilian post office at local postage rates.

(For a brief description of the role and function of field post offices in the Indian Army Postal Service, see Note 2.)

The circumstances under which the Indian field post offices in Malaya were forced to operate were unusual in that they were required to use the stamps of the state in which they were located and also to charge current Malayan postage rates, apart from a few concessions. (For details of these concessions see Note 3.) Normally, Indian Army post offices used Indian stamps and applied Indian postage rates wherever they were serving. The official explanation for the fact that Malayan, as opposed to Indian, stamps had to be used was because of 'the Malayan currency prevalent here' [2]. The real reason is more likely to have been that the Malayan postal authorities were not prepared to forgo any further postal revenue on top of the concessions they had already made. One of the stumbling blocks was that some states had greater numbers of troops on their territory than others, and if service personnel had not used local stamps, these states would have lost an undue amount of postal revenue, which was not considered equitable when the troops were there

for the defence of the country as a whole. Whatever the reason, the Indian Army Postal Service was put to a great deal of inconvenience as the result of it. (See Note 4.) All military airmail covers sent from Kedah during this period seen by the author were franked by the State's definitives.

Two Section Base Post Offices (Nos 3 and 4) and four Field Post Offices (including FPO 31) were sent from India in December 1940. FPO 31 was allocated to the 6th Infantry Brigade which, as part of the 11th Infantry Division, was sent straight to Tanjong Pau near Jitra in North Kedah in January 1941. [2]

In March/April 1941 further formations arrived from India in the shape of the 15th and 22nd Brigades which together made up the 9th Division. Six FPOs (including Nos 36 and 47) arrived with them to serve these and other newly-created formations in Malaya. FPO 36 was given to HQ 11th Division when it moved to Sungei Patani in April 1941, while FPO 47 was allocated to 15th Division which was also deployed around Sungei Patani the following month. In early September 1941 FPO 60 arrived with 28th Infantry Brigade and was reported on 8.12.41 to be in Alor Star [2], although no example of its postmark within the State has been seen so far.

The build-up of military forces was so great that there was a pressing need for additional FPOs and local measures had to be taken to supplement the twelve that had already been sent from India. The details of how this was done are contained in Note 5: The Improvised Branch Offices. These new FPOs were designated by adding letters after existing numbers and by this means FPO 30C came into existence. It used two cancellers, the first being a temporary type. Both were typically 'Indian' in appearance with a wide 'bridge' extending to the outer ring and with vertical bars in the segments. FPO 30C started life in Arau, Perlis around July 1941 [1]. It is not known what unit it served but it may well have been part of the 'quick-action' force assembled to implement OPERATION MATADOR which was the plan to deal with a possible Japanese landing in Southern Thailand.

Military mail with postmarks of civilian post offices dated after the Indian Army Postal Service became operational is known.

The Japanese invasion of Malaya began during the night of 7/8 December 1941, successful landings being made at Songkhla and Patani in Southern Thailand, and Kelantan. Columns of invading troops rapidly advanced on Kedah along the Singora road from the north and the Kroh-Patani road from the east. Alor Star aerodrome was bombed on 8 and 9 December after which it was evacuated, as was the one at Sungei Patani on the 10th.

Perlis was abandoned as indefensible soon after the landings and the land battle for Kedah began on the 11th at Jitra. Resistance there was brief and Alor Star was captured on the 13th. On the 15th Gurun fell, and Kedah was finally overrun when the defending forces withdrew across the River Muda into Province Wellesley during the night of 15/16 December.

FPO 30C

Improvised Branch Office. Raised July 1941.

PERLIS Arau

July – December 1941.

The subsequent history of this FPO is unknown but both Virk and Proud record it as being destroyed or captured by 14.2.42.



12.9.1941 – 26.9.1941



23.11.1941 – 29.11.1941

These 'Indian' type cancellers (or canceller as, despite the apparent differences in the postmarks, the second might be a modified version of the first) may have been adapted in the Crown Workshop, KL. (See Note 5.)

Both '30C' postmarks are rare.

FPO 31

Raised at Lucknow 7.12.40. Embarked Calcutta 29.12.40. Arrived Penang 4.1.41. Attached to 6 Infantry Brigade (11 Infantry Division).

KEDAH	Tanjong Pau (Jitra)	24.1.41 – June 1941
	Alor Star	June 1941
	Tanjong Pau (Jitra)	July 1941 – 6.12.41
	Thai border	7.12.41
	Gurun area	14.12.41

6 Brigade HQ was destroyed on 14.12.41 and reformed as the 6/15 Brigade on 16.12.41. It is not known what happened to the FPO although Virk records it as being captured at Singapore.

This postmark is known, dated 24.1.41, on a cover franked with Kedah stamps, although Indian FPOs were not declared to be officially operational until 15.2.41. It seems this FPO may have found it expedient to open several weeks before this date.

This is one of the commonest of the IAPS postmarks of Kedah.



24.1.1941 – 6.12.1941

FPO 36

Raised Bolarum (India) 12.2.41 Embarked Bombay 7.3.41. Arrived Singapore 17.3.41. Attached to 11 Infantry Division. Operational in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur March/April 1941.

KEDAH	Sungei Patani	4.4.41 - 11.12.41.
	Gurun	13.12.41 - 14.12.41

Operational later in Perak, Selangor, Johore and Singapore. Recorded as being captured or destroyed by 14.2.42.



4.4.1941 - 14.12.1941

This is the commonest of the IAPS Kedah postmarks.

FPO 47

Raised at Secunderabad (India) 14.2.41. Embarked Bombay 17.3.41. Attached to 15 Brigade (9 Division). Operational in Perak May 1941.

KEDAH	Sungei Patani	11.5.41 - 8.12.41.
	Jitra-Gurun area	10.12.41 - 13.12.41.

15 Brigade merged with 6 Brigade on 16.12.41. Operational later in Perak, Selangor, Johore and Singapore. Virk records its capture on 14.2.42.



11.5.1941 - 8.12.1941

This postmark is quite scarce.

FPO 60

Raised at Secunderabad 30.6.41. Embarked India 23.8.41. Arrived Port Swettenham 3.9.41. Attached to 28 Infantry Brigade.

KEDAH Alor Star 8.12.41.

Operational later in Perak, Selangor, Johore and Singapore. Recorded as captured or destroyed by 14.2.42. Only one example of its postmark has been recorded and that was on a Selangor 25 cents stamp dated 7 January 1942.

NB Kedah stamps bearing other FPO cancellations are almost certainly 'travellers', i.e. stamps carried by troops retreating south who then used them on letters posted in other field post offices.

Stamps of other states bearing the cancellations of the FPOs listed above are probably the result of their being used in the FPOs after they were evacuated from Kedah following the Japanese invasion, and all the dated copies seen so far confirm this.

Note 1: THE AIF AND THE IAPS

Those interested in the postal service of the AIF are referred to *The Postal History of the Australian Army During World War II* by P. Collas, MBE, FRPSL. (Pub. RPS of Victoria 1986.)

Although outward mail from Australian Army personnel occasionally passed through Indian Army FPOs in Malaya and received their postmarks, the quantity was small and was of no significance. Collas states that where Indian and Australian units were in the same vicinity their mail was carried in each other's vehicles from time to time as a matter of convenience but, apart from that, the FPOs operated entirely independently.

He also says that some Australian '... transport companies were temporarily attached to British units, and as a consequence functioned outside the normal Australian areas. One such unit, for instance, was variously operating in the States of Perak, Penang and Kedah. Nevertheless, mail from these detached units generally passed through Australian PO's although there were occasional exceptions.'

Note 2: FIELD POST OFFICES OF THE IAPS

The sole purpose of the field post offices was to provide a postal service for troops in operational conditions in the field. This meant they had to be fully mobile and those which were attached to fighting formations were constantly on the move. They worked under the jurisdiction of specified base post offices with which they exchanged mail and held accounts. The normal allocation of field post offices was one per brigade or higher field formation and they were usually located at HQ. They received and sorted incoming mail from their section base post office but they had no delivery function. Their responsibility in this respect was limited to a 'window-service' to representatives from individual units who handed over their outgoing mail at the same time. The staff numbered about six and

were volunteers loaned by the civilian postal administration of the country of origin who were then given some basic military training.

Note 3: POSTAGE RATES

As stated in the main text, the military rates were basically the same as those currently in use in the civilian post office and these are contained in Chapter 22 'The Postage Rates 1909-1941'.

The principal concessions were the granting of free surface mail to Empire destinations (including the UK) for postcards and letters (the latter to a maximum weight limit of 4 oz), and the reduction of the airmail rate to India and Australia from 55 cents (later 50 cents) to 25 cents per half ounce.

Various dates have been given for when these concessions were granted, from '*shortly after the beginning of the war*' to March 1940, but it seems the authority for them had been established as early as 6 December 1926. In the Kedah Government Gazette for the year 1926-27 appeared the following notice under the Post Office Enactment 1333 Section 2b(ii):

The State Council hereby makes the following rule to take effect from the date of publication in the Gazette (December 6th, 1926):

Letters not exceeding 4ozs in weight, and postcards emanating from British, Dominion or Colonial troops, from foreign attaches and from civilians employed by or accompanying the army in the field, will be carried free. Parcels will be prepaid, and a fee will be charged for the registration of postal matter. All such matter, except registered correspondence, will be carried at the senders' risk.

(See Appendix 2.) The principle that national administrations should not derive postal profit from 'foreign' troops sent to defend the country has been, and is, widely accepted.

Although this notice does not make the point specifically, it seems the statement in the above regulation regarding registered mail was later interpreted to mean that the total postage on registered items would be excluded from the concession, i.e. not only would the registration fee be charged, but the surface postage also. Three registered sea-mail letters to India charged at 23 cents have been recorded (8 cents per 1 oz surface rate, plus 15 cents registration fee). Two more have been recorded at 27 cents (8 cents for the first ounce and 4 cents for the second ounce or part thereof, plus 15 cents registration fee).

It will be noted that the notice made no mention of concessions on airmail rates but in 1926 this is hardly surprising. When the airmail concessions were granted is not known.

It has been claimed (by G. Wade in 'Postal Services Afforded to Australian Imperial Forces in Malaya, 1940-42', *The Malayan Philatelist*, Vol. 22, p. 31) that the concessionary airmail rates applied to the first half ounce only, letters over that weight being charged at normal, civilian rates. Although this article was written with specific reference to mail from the Australian Imperial Forces in Malaya, the concessionary rates were granted by the Malayan Postal Administration, and so the exceptions must have applied to all the territories within the scheme. The few covers recorded from this period by the author which,

by their franking showed they were over half-an-ounce, do not confirm that this particular exception, if it existed, was enforced. It is known, however, that it applied in the years following the Second World War.

To what extent official mail from military units enjoyed free franking is not known. Evidence from the few such covers that exist is not conclusive either way.

Note 4: USE OF MALAYAN STAMPS BY THE IAPS

One Deputy Assistant Director Postal Services (DADAPS) Far East described the situation in Malaya thus:

We have the F.M.S. (Federated Malay States) consisting of Selangor, Perak, Pahang, and Negri Sembilan States, the Straits Settlements – Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan, Christmas and Cocos Islands and the Unfederated, Kedah and Perlis, Johore, Kelantan, North Borneo and Sarawak. Except for F.M.S. and S.S., the others have their own stamps and systems and are very jealous of their privileges. I cannot send a mail bag from Singapore to Johore without due formality and permission and the posting of an airmail letter in Alor Star with a 25 cents F.M.S. stamp would provoke a minor war. [2]

Note 5: THE IMPROVISED BRANCH OFFICES

The necessary manpower for these offices was raised by dividing the existing FPOs and reducing the staff at the Base Post Offices. In Proud [2] is an extract from the diary notes, dated 15 June 1941, of the Assistant Director Postal Services (Lt.-Col. Lincoln Gorden) responsible for making these arrangements:

The first essential for a Post Office is stamps and seals. 3 spare sets, meant for Egypt apparently, are available here. I interviewed Mr. Gillans, Controller of Posts, Singapore, and arranged for these sets of stamps and seal [sic] to be cut for my purpose in the Crown Workshop, Kuala Lumpur and for new sets to be made.

The 'new sets' of locally made cancellers for use in the improvised offices were apparently similar to the standard type issued to Malayan post offices at this time. They had two rings enclosing the FPO number round the top and an unbroken bar round the bottom, and the date in two lines in the centre. They have been referred to as the 'Malayan' type but, as far as is known, none was used in Kedah or Perlis.

The only improvised branch office set up in Kedah and Perlis was FPO 30C which was located, it is thought, in Arau. It was the only FPO in the two States to use two cancellers (or two versions of the same one), the first being a temporary type, but both were 'Indian' rather than 'Malayan' in style. For this reason they (or it) may have been among the 'spare sets' referred to in the diary extract above.

THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADVISERS TO GOVERNMENT 1905-1941

Following are extracts from the annual reports of the advisers to the governments of Kedah and Perlis between the years 1905-1941. The extracts are either of philatelic or postal interest or have some relevance to the latter in that they shed light on the life and development of the two States during this period. The year 1905 marked the appointment of British Advisers to Kedah and Perlis by the Siamese Government for the first time as a condition of the granting of loans to ease the financial crises in the two States. An examination of the events leading up to these appointments is contained in Chapter 2, 'The Historical Background'.

The annual reports are contained in the Public Record Office at Kew, London. They vary in their length and depth of interest - postal matters being dealt with in greater detail in the earlier reports than occurred later. The postal statistics they contain are presented in continuous form in Appendix 5 so that comparisons between the years may be made. To avoid undue length, only representative examples of extracts dealing with matters of peripheral interest, such as the development of roads and the telephone service, have been included.

Except for the first two, the reports are based on the Muslim year, the beginning and end of which do not correspond with the Christian year, and a number of dates are also given in the Muslim calendar. In most cases the Christian equivalents have been provided by the writers, but where this has not occurred, conversions have been made using the list of Muslim months and days in Note 1 and the dates in the headings of the reports.

Words in square brackets [] are by the author.

YEARLY REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE OF KEDAH SEPTEMBER 1905 - AUGUST 1906

The new-comer arriving in Alor Star will be struck with the evidence of progress and air of general prosperity about the town. The Public Offices and Court are contained in a well-built block of buildings of considerable architectural merit. In front of them is a large open plot of neatly trimmed turf; the Balai Besar, or Hall of Audience, which is now used as the Council Chamber, also overlooks this square, and is a building of graceful lines built after an old Malay design. The roads are well shaded and on the whole well kept, and the wharves, though sadly in need of extensions and repairs are always busy. Two steamers run daily between Alor Star and Penang, and the river is thronged with traffic. The shops and houses in the town, as well as the private houses of the Malays and of the higher classes, are solidly built of brick, and Penang can show few finer mansions than that of H.H. the Raja Muda, some 3 miles out of the town.

The postal and telegraph service in Kedah is under the control of the Siamese Postal and Telegraph Department. In the three states of Kedah, Perlis and Sitool, there are 185 miles of telegraph line with four telegraph offices, two in Kedah, at Alor Star and Kuala Muda,

and one at the headquarters of each of the other States. Proposals are now under consideration regarding the opening of post and telegraph offices at Kulim and Sungei Upeh, and post offices at Kuala Muda, and the Langkowie [sic] Islands. It is somewhat anomalous that a letter from Penang to Kedah, a distance of 50 miles, should cost 8 cents, about 2½d, while one from Kedah to Penang costs 12 cents or over 3d, it would be a good thing were this excessive rate reduced. There is a telephone system in Alor Star with a total mileage of 75 miles, connecting 18 offices, houses and police stations.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE STATE OF KEDAH SEPTEMBER 1906 – FEBRUARY 1908

(An 18 month period so that annual reports can in future coincide with the Mohammedan Calendar according to which all accounts are kept.)

Che Ibrahim, who has been Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs for the past ten years, held the position throughout the period covered by this report.

New offices were opened towards the end of the year at Kuala Muda, Kulim and Langkawi making a total of six post offices in all, four in Kedah, one in Perlis and one in Situl.

The total amount of correspondence despatched from these offices aggregated 30,942 and the amount received 54,626. The sum of \$956.07 was collected from bearing letters, and \$2,760.99 from the sale of stamps and postcards.

The foreign rates of postage from Kedah have been reduced during the year under report; a letter of one ounce that formerly cost 12 cents or slightly over 3d, can now be sent for 9 cents or about 2½d.

135 miles of new telegraph line were constructed, 90 of which were for the purpose of connecting Penang with Bangkok through a duplicate line.

The delivery of telegrams in Kedah by means of bicycles was introduced by His Excellency Phya Sukhom during his visit to this office in the middle of the year, and has proved a most satisfactory innovation.

European officers in Kedah at this time are:

G. C. Hart	Adviser.
J. G. Richey	Assistant Adviser.
Dr. Hoops	State Surgeon.
P. F. Joyce	Chief Inspector of Police, Alor Star.
J. McDonough	Personal Assistant to the President of the State Council.
J. J. Flenoy	State Veterinary Surgeon.
F. P. Clarke	Superintendent of Mines.
J. Gorman	State Engineer.
A. G. Ward	Senior Assistant Auditor-General.
B. E. Mitchell	Commissioner of Police.
? Spears	Chief Inspector of Police, South Kedah.

[There is no report for the year 1908–1909 in the Public Record Office.]

The following extract from the ANNUAL REPORT ON THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1908 is relevant to Kedah:

In the month of December an agreement for the exchange of postal parcels between Siam and this Colony was signed, and came into force on the 1st January, 1909.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISER TO THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT 23 JANUARY 1909 - 12 JANUARY 1910 (AH 1327) with THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISER TO THE PERLIS GOVERNMENT

At the date of the transfer of suzerainty in July there were in Kedah a post and telegraph office at Alor Star; a post and telegraph office at Kuala Muda; a post office at Langkawi, and a post office at Kulim.

[The remainder of this report has been reproduced from a photocopy of the original.]

In Perlis there was a post and telegraph office at the principal town, which is known in the post and telegraph guides as Perlis, but of which the correct name is Kanga.

The telegraph lines of the system consisted of :

- 31 miles of duplicate wires between Alor Star and the Singora frontier ;
- 45 miles of duplicate wires between Alor Star and Kuala Muda ;
- 34 miles of single wire between Alor Star and Perlis ;
- 21 " " Perlis and the Setul frontier ;
- A cable under the Merbok river ;
- Three cables under the Muda river.

With the transfer of suzerainty the entire postal and telegraphic system in Kedah and Perlis was presented with royal generosity by the Siamese Government to the British Government, and by the British Government to the Kedah Government.

The advantage gained by the Kedah Government in the acquisition of the posts and telegraphs is, quite apart from the intrinsic value of the property, enormous, for the facilities for free communication by letter and telegram, on Government service, has greatly expedited all Government correspondence. Under the former system all letters and telegrams of the Kedah Government were liable to the same charges as letters and telegrams of members of the public. Each department was given a vote for "stamps and telegrams," and as the amount allowed was not large, and as the postal and telegraphic rates were high, considerable economy was necessary, with the result that telegrams were rarely sent, and letters were apt to accumulate until several could be sent to the same address in one envelope. The direct saving, too, is very considerable. The sum of the votes for "stamps and telegrams" in the estimates for the year under review amounted

to \$4,585, representing payments by the Kedah Government to the Royal Siamese Posts and Telegraphs Department. In the estimates for the current year these items, with the introduction of the franking system, disappear.

Lists of officers entitled to frank letters and telegrams:

- (a) Throughout the Colony, the Federated Malay States and Kedah;
- (b) Throughout the Colony and Kedah; and
- (c) Throughout Kedah;

have been prepared after consultation with the Colony and the Federated Malay States. Franking privileges have been afforded to certain officers of the Colonial and the Federated Malay States Services.

On the 16th July, Federated Malay States stamps were, as a temporary measure, supplied to the Treasury for immediate issue to the Post Office in place of the Siamese stamps, of which the issue was stopped. The issue of Kedah stamps has been approved by the Secretary of State, and designs for the new stamps are now under consideration by the State Council.

The minimum postal charge in Kedah was formerly 8 cents for a letter to an address in Siam or any of its dependencies, and 9 cents for a letter to any other address in the Postal Union, including, of course, the Colony and the Federated Malay States. The telegraph rates were 8 cents per word to addresses in Siam and its dependencies, the Colony and the Federated Malay States.

On the 1st August, 1909, the postal charges to addresses within the local Postal Union of the Straits Settlements (the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, Sarawak, Brunei and British North Borneo) were reduced to 3 cents (.84 pence), and reciprocity by the Colony and the Federated Malay States was effected on the same day.

The postal charge to the United Kingdom and to the Colonies and places to which the penny postal rate applies was reduced to 4 cents (1.12 pence) on the 1st September, but reciprocity was not effected by the United Kingdom until the 1st February, 1910.

The telegraphic rate to the Colony, the Federated Malay States and Johore was reduced on the 1st October to 3 cents per word, with a minimum charge of 21 cents, and reciprocity was effected on the same day.

The forms, registers and records of the Royal Siamese Posts and Telegraphs Department are in Siamese characters, and with the view of introducing English forms, and, wherever possible, the international forms, the Kedah Government applied to the Colonial Government for

the services of an officer to inspect and report upon the department. Mr. G. G. Wilson, Acting Assistant Postmaster-General, Penang, was the officer selected, and, after a careful and exhaustive inspection of the various offices, he submitted a valuable report.

In accordance with Mr. Wilson's recommendation, Mr. H. F. Gomez, the Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs, was retired, and a successor appointed in Mr. S. Asirvadam of the Colonial Postal Department.

The number of clerks in the Alor Star Post Office was reduced from six to four in November, and in the same month the postmaster at Langkawi was retired. Under the former administration the monthly cost of the Langkawi Post Office was \$87, whilst the average monthly receipts from the sale of stamps was only two or three dollars. The work of the post office was handed over to a clerk in the district office, who has executed the postal duties, in addition to his former duties, quite satisfactorily.

Arrangements are being made to open post offices in the district offices at Changlun, Jitra, Yen and Baling.

Telegraphic communication was extended to Kulim from Bukit Mertajam on the 1st January, 1910, and has proved a boon to the public and to the Government. This was the only extension to the telegraph system during the year.

With the opening of the Perlis road, an overland bicycle mail service between Perlis and Kodah was instituted on the 21st October. There are two mail carriers, who meet four times a week at Koding, on the Kedah-Perlis boundary, and exchange mail-bags. The mail carriers were formerly postmen, and the mail service has been effected with only the extra initial cost of two bicycles. Mails between Kedah and Perlis were formerly sent *via* Penang. Those between Kedah and Langkawi, which also formerly went *via* Penang, are now sent *via* Perlis.

Arrangements were made in December for the delivery of parcels by postmen. The system had formerly been the post office sent a notice to the addressee notifying a parcel's arrival and requested him to call for it.

With the exception of the Perlis mail service, and a weekly service to Singora by mail runner, the mail service of Kedah goes through Penang Post Office, to and from which mails are sent every day by the Alor Star, Kuala Muda and Kulim Post Offices. Perlis and Langkawi mails are carried by a bi-weekly service of steamers. No records of the number of postal articles carried have been kept.

The total number of telegraphic messages forwarded, received and transmitted in the State during the year was 14,102.

Details are shown in the following statement :

Station.	No. of Messages Forwarded.	No. of Messages Received.	No. of Messages Transmitted.	Remarks.
Alor Star	2,715	2,298	6,952	Open only twelve days
Perlis	561	631	..	
Kuala Muda	412	429	..	
Kulim	56	48	..	
Total	3,744	3,406	6,952	

Alor Star is a transmitting station for telegrams from and to Puket (Tongkah), Trang, Setul, all in Monthon Puket in Siamese territory, and also, when overland communication between Penang and Bangkok is difficult (when, that is to say, the resistance on the wires is high owing to local causes, such as fallen branches or broken poles) transmits the messages which, when communication is easy, are transmitted at Singora.

The past annual returns of the department have been closed at the end of the Siamese year (31st March, 1909). The returns which are now before me cover a period from the beginning of the Siamese year (Sok 128) down to the end of the Muhammadan year (12th January, 1910), and, therefore, extend over a little less than 8½ months.

During this period the receipts of the department were \$5,357 (posts \$2,514, telegraphs \$2,843), or about \$630 per mensem. As, however, these figures include the takings on letters and telegrams addressed to places outside the State, upon which the department has to account to other postal and telegraphic administrations, they do not represent the true revenue of the department. The introduction of the franking system, and the reduction in the postal and telegraphic rates, were responsible for some diminution in the receipts as compared with the previous year, when the takings were \$4,558 for posts and \$5,660 for telegraphs, or an average monthly receipt of \$850. That the diminution is not greater is, I think, matter for congratulation.

The expenditure for the same period was \$11,317 (salaries \$10,567, other charges \$750), or an average of \$1,331 per mensem, as against an average of \$1,640 per mensem for the preceding year. These figures do not represent the total cost of the department, for all postal and telegraphic appliances, instruments, stationery, etc., were supplied from Bangkok.

The telegraph posts have in the past always been supplied by forced labour, and delivered gratis to the Royal Siamese Posts and Telegraphs Department by the Kedah Government. With the abolition of forced labour, it was decided to use iron instead of wooden posts, and an order has been sent to England.

The Kedah Government has had for some years an effective telephone system wholly apart from the Siamese telegraph system but using the same posts. The police stations at Kepala Batas (8 miles), Jitra (12 miles), Changlun (21 miles), and Sedau (43 miles, now in Siamese territory), all north of Alor Star, and Kota Serang Semut (10 miles), on the south, are connected by telephone.

There are telephones in the various public buildings and the quarters of the principal Government officials. The telephone exchange, which is open day and night, has 26 connections.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 13 JANUARY 1910 - 1 JANUARY 1911 (AH 1328)

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraph Department for the year under review was \$7,777 against an estimate of \$5,075.

The new offices opened in the year were a post and telegraph office at Semiling, and post offices at Baling, Jitra, Yen and Lunas. There are now 5 post and telegraph offices and 5 post offices in the state. The first pillar boxes in the state were erected during the year at Kodiang, Kepala Batas, Simpang Ampat, Kota Sarang [sic] Semut, Padang Serai and Sungei Seluang.

Statistics based on the Postal Convention of Rome show that the approximate number of letters, postcards and packets posted and delivered during the year was 211,560. No statistics were taken in former years.

A money order system was first introduced in the state in March. There are now in force an inland money order service, money order services with the Straits Settlements and with the Federated Malay States direct, and money order services with India, Ceylon and the U.K. through the intermediary of the S.S. Post Office. The money order service to India is particularly appreciated by the public.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 2 JANUARY 1911 - 21 DECEMBER 1911 (AH 1329)

A Post Office was opened at Sungei Patani, and mails are carried between that place and Baling by runners twice a week.

Insurance for parcels sent from or to the Post Office at Alor Star came into existence during the year.

The money order service was extended, and there are 7 post offices where money orders can be obtained.

Approximately 321,000 letters etc. passed through the post. There were 1,935 parcels received or despatched.

A large proportion of the correspondence and telegrams being, of course, on Government Service, does not contribute anything to the revenue.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 22 DECEMBER 1911 – 10 DECEMBER 1912 (AH 1330)

One new Post and Telegraph Office (Sungei Patani) was opened during the year. There are now 7 P. & T. Offices and 4 Post Offices in the state.

The new Kedah stamps were issued on the 16th June 1912, in place of the FMS stamps, which had, as a temporary measure, taken the place of the Siamese stamps. There was a large demand for these stamps from philatelists whose orders amounted to nearly \$19,000.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 11 DECEMBER 1912 – 30 NOVEMBER 1913 (AH 1331)

The statistics of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the past five years are shown in synoptic form in Appendix J to this report. [See Appendix 5.] There is but little increase in the numbers of telegrams, but this is accounted for by the success of the telephone trunk lines and local services, which direct much work from the telegraph offices. In respect of the development of work in the other branches of the department the figures are remarkable.

A system of insurance on parcels has been in force for some years. It was decided during the year to extend the system to letters exchanged with the Straits Settlements.

The "Cash-on-delivery" parcels system was put in force between Kedah and the Straits Settlements at the beginning of the year, and 137 parcels were received in the State under this system. No parcels were posted in the State.

The following special services were completed during the year:

1. Telegraph and telephone lines from Sungei Patani to Kuala Ketil (12 miles). This is an instalment on the long-deferred communication with Baling. Owing to the Perak Government's difficulty in settling upon the Baling-Kuala Ketil road trace, it was impossible to do any work during the year on the line between Kuala Ketil and Baling.
2. A telephone line connecting Semiling and Gurun (seven miles).
3. A telephone line connecting Alor Star and Langgar (six miles).
4. A telephone line connecting Pendang and Kota Sarang Semut (four miles).
5. Provisional telephone trunk line between Alor Star and Kuala Muda.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 30 NOVEMBER 1913 – 18 NOVEMBER 1914 (AH 1332)

There was a considerable decrease in the number of postal articles, excluding parcels and registered articles, posted and delivered in 1332. The Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs, does not assign any reason for this, the number, however, was higher than in 1330. Between 1330 and 1331 the increase was unusual. Increased business was done in parcels, registration and insurance.

The "Cash-on-delivery" system, introduced in 1331, is evidently appreciated. 337 parcels (in 1331, 137) bearing trade charges for \$4,085.99 were received in the State for delivery.

Money order transactions again increased, in two years the volume has doubled.

Telegrams received and despatched were less, attributable to the telephone.

Special services completed in 1332 were:

1. Telephone line, Langgar to Poko Sena Police Station.
2. Telephone line from Poko Sena to Padang Lanjut, where the District Office of the District is now established.

[Other minor improvements were listed.]

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 19 NOVEMBER 1914 – 8 NOVEMBER 1915 (AH 1333)

A Telegraph Office was opened at Baling and Postal Order business introduced during the year.

The railway to Alor Star was opened by H.H. the Sultan on 1st October. It is thought unlikely that any great development of Alor Star will result from it. On the other hand, the new town of Sungei Patani in South Kedah, shows remarkable growth.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 9 NOVEMBER 1915 – 27 OCTOBER 1916 (AH 1334)

A Post Office was opened at Bagan Samak, Bandar Bharu District, during the year.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 28 OCTOBER 1916 – 17 OCTOBER 1917 (AH 1335)

The railway extension north of Alor Star was opened in October as far as Ketri in Perlis.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 17 OCTOBER 1917 – 6 OCTOBER 1918 (AH 1336)

A telegraph line was constructed between Lunas and Padang Serai with a view to opening a post and telegraph office at the latter place.

Stamps to the value of \$4,756 were sold for various licences.

A post office was opened at Gurun railway station, a telegraph and money order branch at Jitra, and a district post office at Kuala Ketil. From 1st January mails were despatched to and from Baling by mail car by arrangement with the Federated Malay States Government.

A temporary post office is being built at Padang Serai.

Connection with Bangkok by railway was established on 1st July. Through trains at present leave Alor Star and Bangkok three times a week.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 7 OCTOBER 1918 – 25 SEPTEMBER 1919 (AH 1337)

A post and telegraph office was opened at Padang Serai on 1st Muharram, 1337. Telegraph and money order business was established at the Kuala Ketil Post Office on 12th May 1919, when the sub-district office there was abolished.

The post office at Bedong was well advanced by the end of the year.

[AH 1 Muharram 1337 is 7 October 1918 in the Christian era.]

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 26 SEPTEMBER 1919 – 14 SEPTEMBER 1920 (AH 1338)

A district post office was opened at Sik on 29th January 1920; the post and telegraph office at Semiling was closed, a new post and telegraph office being opened at Bedong on 1st

January 1920. A direct mail service of closed mails between Alor Star and Taiping, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore came into force on the same date.

The Bedong post office is completed.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 15 SEPTEMBER 1920 – 3 SEPTEMBER 1921 (AH 1339)

The telegraph and telephone lines from Kulim to Bandar Bharu were completed on 9.4.21. The telephone line to Sanglang was completed on 15.7.21.

Regular postal and telegraph business were established at the Bagan Samak P.O. on 10.4.21.

A direct mail service between Kedah and India came into force on 1.7.21.

The telegraph rates over the Malayan Telegraph System were raised from 3 and 9 cents to 5 and 15 cents respectively for ordinary and urgent telegrams on 1.9.21.

A total of 25½ miles of new roads were completed and opened for traffic during the year, including the road from Sungei Patani to Kuala Ketil.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 4 SEPTEMBER 1921 – 22 AUGUST 1922 (AH 1340)

A number of Kedah postage stamps were surcharged as "Malaya-Borneo Exhibition" and sold both at Alor Star Post Office and at the Exhibition grounds during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The account had not been adjusted at the close of the year.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 23 AUGUST 1922 – 13 AUGUST 1923 (AH 1341)

A savings bank was introduced for the first time. 396 deposits totalling \$15,327 were made.

Net increase of 33 in the number of subscribers to the Telephone Exchange, the total at the end of the year being 382.

The receipts for the P. & T. Dep. for the year totalled \$76,248 as against \$95,751 in 1922. The decrease was due to the fact that the value of stamps sold to philatelists in 1922 was \$26,000 as against \$3,000 in 1923.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 14 AUGUST 1923 – 1 AUGUST 1924 (AH 1342)

Mr. S. Abirvadani was in charge of the Dep. throughout the year, excepting for a period of 1½ months during which Che Md. Arshad, Assistant Superintendent, acted as Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs.

A Treaty between the British and Kedah Governments was signed at Singapore on 1st November 1923.

A very successful show was held at Anak Bukit in order to collect exhibits for the British Empire Exhibition. These included specimens of Langkawi marble, models, weapons, fabrics, walking sticks and similar exhibits.

In July exhibits from Kedah gained many awards at the Agri-Horticultural Show in Kuala Lumpur.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 2 AUGUST 1924 – 21 JULY 1925 (AH 1343)

From 18.2.1343 London closed a direct mail to Kedah but would not agree to direct mails to Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim. After 6 months the old system of sending Kedah mails via Penang was reverted to.

[AH 18.2.1343 is 19 September 1924 in the Christian era.]

[A separate report for Perlis was issued this year for the first time and contained the following extract:]

The following volume of correspondence was dealt with at Kangar Post Office:

Letters	61,022
Reg. Articles	3,612
Parcels	775

At Padang Besar Railway Station 22,230 letters were handled, 689 reg. articles and 76 parcels. Telegrams were dealt with by the Railway Telegraph Office.

[The subsequent postal statistics for these offices are contained in Appendix 5.]

The Post Office, Kangar, belongs to the Kedah Government, and efforts are being made to improve the telephone system which was handed over to the Kedah Government in 1925. Telephonic communication with Alor Star, Kedah, can be had by means of Police lines.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 22 JULY 1925 – 11 JULY 1926 (AH 1344)

A new telephone line was completed from Alor Star to Alor Janggus and from thence to the Marine Police Station at Kuala Kedah.

On 1st January 1926 the new postage rates on correspondence within the Malayan Postal Union came into force. The principal changes were the reduction from 5 cents to 4 cents of the initial rate of postage on letters and an increase from 12 to 15 cents in the fee for registration.

The Wan Mat Saman Bridge which crosses the Kedah River at the entrance to Alor Star was completed by the end of the year at a total cost of \$130,000 and was opened by His Highness the Sultan on 14.7.26.

[From 1927 onwards the Annual Reports were printed by the Kedah Government Press at Alor Star. Hitherto they had been printed either at Singapore or Kuala Lumpur.]

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 12 JULY 1926 – 30 JUNE 1927 (AH 1345)

A metallic telephone circuit from Alor Star to Kedah Peak and connected to Gurun Police Station was completed on 10.12.26.

No building of great importance was finished during the year, but satisfactory progress was made with the P.O. Alor Star.

A railway bridge on the Colony side of Pinang Tunggal, the boundary station – collapsed owing to the heavy December rains and there was an interruption in railway communications between Prai and Sungei Patani for a few weeks.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 1 JULY 1927 – 19 JUNE 1928 (AH 1346)

Two out-station Post offices were completed by the P.W.D.

[These were not specified but were probably Gurun and Serdang.]

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 20 JUNE 1928 – 8 JUNE 1929 (AH 1347)

There are 13 Post Offices staffed by officers of the Department and 6 places at which postal business is transacted by Railway Station Masters and others.[*] The Postal Service in Perlis is also controlled by the Department.

No new telephone circuit was installed, but the Kulim and Bagan Samak line was tapped at Serdang for the new Post Office.

The ports of Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Langkawi (Kuah) are visited by small vessels belonging to the Straits Steamship Company, Penang, and there is a considerable coasting trade of motor boats, junks etc. Penang is the connecting port for ocean-going steamers.

The FMS Railway main line from Penang to Siam runs through Kedah from the south to the north and passes through both Sungei Patani and Alor Star. All stations are connected by road with the main roads, except Junun, and provision is being made in the 1930 Estimates for a road connecting Junun Station with the main road.

367 miles of metalled and 102 miles of unmetalled roads were upkept during the year. Of the metalled roads, the greater portion is asphalted.

252 miles of canals were maintained. These are chiefly drainage canals, but, with the rivers, are considerably used for communication purposes.

Amongst buildings completed, one of the most important was the new Post Office at Alor Star. [A photograph of this building is contained in Chapter 23.]

[The Perlis Report contained the following extract:]

There are 36½ miles of metalled roads in the State and 7 miles of unmetalled roads. About 22 miles of path were also maintained.

The Perlis River is largely used as a highway between Kangar and the fishing village of Kuala Perlis. Junks from Penang are able to sail up as far as Kangar during Spring Tides.

The chief ports are at Kangar about 5 miles up the Perlis River and Kuala Sanglang on the sea coast. Small motor boats run fairly frequently to the Kedah River and to Setul in Siam.

There are 6 Europeans living in the State.

* It is surmised the former were: Alor Star, Baling, Bedong, Gurun, Jitra, Kangar, Kuala Ketil, Kulim, Langkawi (assuming its downgrading to agency which took place in 1909–10 had been temporary only), Lunas, Padang Serai, Serdang and Sungei Patani, and the latter: Bagan Samak, Kuala Muda (assuming its reduction to agency status had taken place by 1929), Kuala Nerang, Padang Besar, Sik and Yen. This does also assume, however, that a declining Bagan Samak had ceased to be a post office by this time.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 9 JUNE 1929 - 28 MAY 1930 (AH 1348)

There are 13 Offices in Kedah at which officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are employed and 5 Offices at which postal business is transacted by District Office clerks.[*]

A new Post Office Building at Perlis Road, Jitra, was completed during the year and was opened for business on 26.1.30.

[The Perlis Report contained the following:]

There are 4 Europeans living in the State.

The F.M.S. Railway main line from Penang to Siam runs through Perlis from the South to Padang Besar in the North, and passes through Arau where His Highness the Raja lives. Kangar, the capital of the State, is situated 6 miles by road from Arau railway station.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 29 MAY 1930 - 18 MAY 1931 (AH 1349)

Fourteen P.O.s staffed exclusively by P. & T. officers, 4 offices in which the postal business is transacted by District Office Clerks, and one Postal Agency operated by the F.M.S. Railways Station Master at Padang Besar dealt with the posting and delivery of 2,937,350 postal articles during the year.[†] The decline in postal business was no doubt due to the financial and economic depression prevailing throughout the year.

A new Post Office building at Karangan, Kulim District, was completed during the year, ready to be opened for business at the beginning of 1932. With the erection of 3 public posting boxes at Kuah, Merbau Pulas and Tunjang, the number of these boxes exclusive of those at Post Offices and Postal Agencies now amount to 24. The Insured Box Service provided for by the 1929 London Agreement was introduced in Kedah during the year, and was operated from the three chief offices at Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim.

Improvements in the mail services to Kulim and Sungei Patani were effected by the closing of direct mails to these places from Negapatam, India, and from Kuala Lumpur. By the alteration of the time-table of the Intan-Bukit Mertajam motor rail service and through exchange of direct bags between Penang and Kuala Ketil and Baling, the residents of Lunas, Padang Serai, Kuala Ketil and Baling were able to reply to correspondents on the same day as letters were received. This opportunity was also provided by a similar alteration in the mail service between Serdang and Bagan Samak. An additional weekly mail to Kuala Nerang was commenced during the year, and stencilled bags were introduced for mails exchanged between the Penang and Kedah Post Offices, thus considerably reducing the weight of mails.

* This mysterious reduction in the number of agencies from six to five may have been an omission on the part of the Resident. Judging from the way the report for the following year separates Padang Besar from the others, this agency was probably the one to have been overlooked. It would have been incorrect to include it as one of the 5 in any case, as its business was not 'transacted by District Office clerks' but by the Station Master.

† The likeliest explanation for the increase by one in the number of post offices, and the reduction by one in the number of postal agencies, is the closing of Bagan Samak and the opening of Bandar Bharu in its stead. The implications of this can be found in Chapter 24, 'The Postmarks of Kedah and Perlis'.

With the opening of the Aerodrome at Alor Star, and after an experimental flight on 18.10.30 the Dutch Royal Mail Company commenced to deliver at Alor Star a mail bag for British Malaya from Europe on alternate Fridays and to receive a British Malayan mail bag for Europe on alternate Saturdays. The small Kedah correspondence for this service was closed at Penang with the Penang bags. Mails forwarded by this air service were delivered in, and received from, Europe within 10 days of posting. This Company also made an experimental Amsterdam-Australia flight which landed at Alor Star on the journey on 25.4.31.

The Imperial Airways made two experimental England-Australia flights during the year, the first landing at Alor Star on its journey and delivering mails for British Malaya on 16.4.31. Owing to a subsequent mishap to this flight at Kupang, Netherlands East Indies, the return journey from Australia was made by an Australian Airways aeroplane, which also brought the second experimental mail from England arriving at Alor Star on 7.5.31. All of the first Malayan Air-mail by this route was forwarded to Singapore, but at the request of the Secretary for Postal Affairs, a separate bag for North Malaya was closed in London for the second flight and was distributed from Alor Star. Mails carried by these flights were delivered and received within 12 days of posting.

An Air-mail service to South America via Penang to Marseilles was also commenced on 2.1.31 but little use was made by Kedah correspondents of this service.

Some decrease in the number of telegrams transmitted occurred, this being chiefly due to the re-routing of Kelantan traffic via Kuala Lumpur.

The Alor Star-Langkawi wireless service was instituted and maintained satisfactorily, and 8 temporary licences for the use of wireless receiving apparatus were issued during the year.

The FMS telephone rates were introduced during the year.

The main levelling and drainage of the Aerodrome at Kepala Batas, six miles from Alor Star, was completed, and a landing 'L' was conditioned. Work was well in hand towards conditioning the remainder of the area at the end of the year. Fifty-six aeroplanes made satisfactory landings and departures, and the aerodrome was regularly used by the Royal Dutch Air Mail Company's fortnightly service, and by both the Imperial Airways experimental England-Australian flights.

The aerodrome at Kepala Batas was used by Sir Geoffrey Salmond's Indian flight in November 1930, by Royal Air Force aeroplanes on several occasions, by the Imperial Airways aeroplanes and by the Dutch Air Mail.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 19 MAY 1931 - 6 MAY 1932 (AH 1350)

There were 411 Europeans (0.1% of total) living in the state. Nine towns have a population exceeding 1,000. Largest is Alor Star with 18,568, about half being Chinese.

There are now 15 Post Offices and 5 Postal Agencies. [A post office had been opened at Karangan on 19 May 1931.]

The Dutch Royal Air Mail Company maintained the regular service between Batavia and Amsterdam calling at Alor Star en route. From October 1931 the fortnightly service was converted into a weekly service. A special Amsterdam-England Air Mail flight by the Australian National Airways 'Southern Sun' arrived with 36 bags of mails from Australia on 25th November 1931, but unfortunately the aeroplane crashed when taking off the next day. Mails were also carried by a special Australian Air Mail on its return to Australia 15.1.32.

The aerodrome of Kepala Batas (Alor Star) was maintained and the drainage improved. This aerodrome is now regularly used by the weekly Dutch Air Mail.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 7 MAY 1932 – 25 APRIL 1933 (AH 1351)

No. of Europeans living in state: 427.

There are 15 Post Offices and 5 Postal Agencies in the state. The Dutch Royal Air Mail Company maintained the regular weekly service between Batavia and Amsterdam, calling at Alor Star en route. From 25th July 1932 parcels were admitted to the Singapore-Netherlands India Service and from 12th September 1932 postcards were admitted to practically all Air Mail Services.

The Alor Star Aerodrome is now more than adequate for all present requirements. Altogether 118 landings were made, including those made by the weekly Dutch Air Mail, which used the Aerodrome regularly.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 26 APRIL 1933 – 15 APRIL 1934 (AH 1352)

There are 15 Post Offices and 5 Postal Agencies in the state.

The Dutch Royal Air Mail Company maintained a regular weekly service between Batavia and Amsterdam calling at Alor Star en route. From 1st January 1934 Imperial Airways commenced a regular service between London and Singapore calling at Alor Star to pick up mails from Northern Malaya. A combined air mail and postage charge was introduced during the year for air correspondence to Great Britain and countries served by the British Post Office.

Telegraphs. There was again a small decline in the volume of telegraphic business, the number of telegrams received, forwarded and transmitted being 42,016, 41,808 and 37,830 respectively. The abolition (with one or two exceptions) with effect from 26th April 1933 of the franking privileges previously enjoyed by Government departments probably accounted to some extent for this reduced traffic.

The Alor Star Aerodrome was maintained in satisfactory condition and drainage was improved. Altogether 237 landings were made. The weekly Dutch Air Mail used the Aerodrome regularly throughout the year. The first Imperial Airways machine on the regular London-Singapore weekly service instituted during the year landed on 18th December 1933 and, in all, 32 landings were made by the Company's aircraft. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and Mr. Charles Ulm and his associates visited the Aerodrome during their respective record-breaking flights from England to Australia.

An emergency landing ground at Sungei Patani was completed during the year and was first used by a flight of 3 Royal Air Force aircraft belonging to No. 100 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron, who landed and spent the night there on 3rd April 1934.

Sir Basil Blackett KCB KCSI, the commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to enquire into the question of Malayan currency, reached Alor Star, where he spent the night, by air on the 17th November and left Malaya, again by air, from Alor Star on the 7th December.

His Highness Tunku Mahmud attended the Durbar in Singapore on 3rd February 1934 and returned by Imperial Airways to Alor Star on the next day, the journey taking a little less than 4 hours.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 16 APRIL 1934 - 4 APRIL 1935 (AH 1353)

There are 15 Post Offices and 5 Postal Agencies in the State. Imperial Airways Limited and the Royal Dutch Air Mail Company (K.L.M.) maintained their regular weekly services calling at Alor Star both eastward and westward bound throughout the year. In November 1934 Medan in Sumatra became a regular port of call for the aircraft of the K.L.M. and the weekly feeder service between Alor Star and Medan hitherto maintained by K.N.I.L.M. was consequently discontinued.

Commencing from 28th November 1934 flat combined postage and air mail fee rates of 25 cents per ½ ounce on letters and 15 cents on postcards despatched by Imperial Airways to places in G.B. and N.I. were adopted and these rates were later extended to places within the British Empire which are served by the GPO London. The reduced fees have already stimulated a considerable increase in the use of air mails to Great Britain.

The Aerodrome at Alor Star was maintained throughout the year at a cost of \$7,993. 347 landings were made during the year.

The Aerodrome was selected by the MacRobertson Air Race Committee as an official "checking point" for the England-Melbourne Air Race, and 5 of the 8 competitors who finished the course within the time limit laid down, landed at Alor Star.

The Aerodrome remained serviceable throughout the year despite the abnormal rainfall of 54" from July to October. It was decided, however, that, to ensure absolute safety in all weathers, a metalled runway should be constructed and work was commenced towards the end of the year. The finished runway, which is sited diagonally across the Aerodrome due SW-NE will be 1020 yards long including end ramps and 120 yards wide.

The Emergency Landing Ground at Sungei Patani was maintained in good condition and enjoyed a fair degree of popularity, a total of 28 landings being made during the year. The Penang Flying Club gave a series of passenger-flights on 26th and 27th January, 1935, and the opportunity was taken by a large number of persons of all races to experience their first flight.

The State sustained a severe loss on 30th April 1934 when the long illness of His Highness Tunku Ibrahim proved fatal. His Highness had been Regent of the State since 1914. On 7th March 1935 the State was again shocked to learn that His Highness Tunku Mohamed, the Raja Muda and Heir Apparent, had passed away in Singapore after a brief illness. On

21st March 1935 His Highness Tunku Badlishah was installed as Raja Muda and Heir Apparent.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 5 APRIL 1935 – 23 MARCH 1936 (AH 1354)

There are 15 Post Offices and 5 Postal Agencies in the State.

The Imperial Airways Air Mail services maintained their weekly service up to 3rd September 1935 and after that date an additional service was added, a regular twice-weekly service to and from Malaya thus becoming available. Their planes, however, ceased to call at Alor Star for the delivery and receipt of mails from 29th September 1935.

The K.L.M. (Dutch) Air Service continued to call at Alor Star to land and receive mail throughout the year. An additional service was also added to this weekly service from 12th June 1935. Air mail correspondence from Kedah to Europe and other countries to the West circulate by way of Penang; that to Australia and other countries to the East via Singapore.

The total road mileage upkept during the year was 560 miles of which 400 miles consisted of metalled roads.

The artificial runway at the Aerodrome at Alor Star consisting of a "filled" strip of 1,020 x 120 yards of which the central 40 yards is surfaced in asphalt macadam, was all but completed. 428 landings were made during the year.

During the year Alor Star was omitted as a regular port of call from the schedule of Imperial Airways Ltd, and the Royal Dutch Airlines contemplate a similar step next year. The R.A.F. used the Aerodrome on several occasions and it was also used by squadrons on inter-command flights.

The Emergency Landing Ground at Sungei Patani was maintained in good condition and improvements were made to the landing marks. 16 landings were made during the year.

[The Perlis Report contained the following:]

The Post Office at Padang Besar Railway Station in which the Station Master acts as Post Master deals only with urgent business direct with Kedah.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 24 MARCH 1936 – 13 MARCH 1937 (AH 1355)

Only 3 urban centres have a population of more than 5,000. Of these Alor Star, with its estimated population of 24,621, may be said to be a Malay town and Sungei Patani and Kulim Chinese centres of population.

There were 15 Post and Telegraph Offices, one Telegraph Office (at the Kepala Batas Aerodrome), and 5 Agencies in the State. The K.L.M. (Dutch) Air Service ceased to call at Alor Star early in the year.

The aerodrome at Alor Star is not in regular use by either Imperial Airways or the Royal Dutch Airlines now. The number of landings was 250 as against 428 the previous year. There were 52 landings made at the Emergency Landing Ground, Sungei Patani.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Sir Shenton Thomas, when flying to England by Imperial Airways, called on 26th April at the Alor Star Aerodrome where His Highness the Regent and others were assembled to say good-bye.

The Straits Steamship Company's vessel the "Kedah" visited Langkawi with a party of tourists at Christmas, 1936.

[The Perlis Report contained the following:]

Perlis is well served with roads of which there are almost 37 miles metalled. There are also 10 miles of unmetalled road and 24 miles of bridle paths. There is, however, no direct route by road through to Siam other than through Kedah territory via Jitra and Kodiang. Good progress is being made on the new road to Kuala Perlis.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 14 MARCH 1937 – 2 MARCH 1938 (AH 1356)

There are an estimated 631 Europeans living in the state. There were 15 Post and Telegraph Offices, one Telegraph Office (at the Kepala Batas Aerodrome), and 5 Agencies in the State.

The aerodrome at Alor Star is now chiefly used by the Royal Air Force. Imperial Airways and Royal Dutch Airlines made several landings for refuelling purposes. The number of landings was 195. There were 27 landings at the Emergency Landing Ground at Sungei Patani, of which 20 were light planes from Penang Flying Club and 7 were R.A.F. bombers.

The Regent, His Highness Tunku Mahmud died on November 5th and he was succeeded a week later by the Raja Muda, His Highness Tunku Badlishah.

[The Perlis Report contained the following:]

There were 7 Europeans living in the state during the year.

There are 89 miles of canals and rivers, which provide an extremely useful subsidiary transport system especially for goods which cannot stand a high overhead charge, such as padi.

THE ANNUAL REPORT . . . 3 MARCH 1938 – 20 FEBRUARY 1939 (AH 1357)

There were 15 Post and Telegraph Offices, one Telegraph Office (at the Kepala Batas Aerodrome), and 5 Agencies in the State.

The aerodrome at Alor Star is now chiefly used by the R.A.F.. Apart from this, 25 private planes and 9 planes carrying mails used the aerodrome for refuelling purposes. The number of landings was 126. There were 24 landings at the Emergency Landing Ground at Sungei Patani and these were mainly made by planes from Penang Flying Club.

[The Kedah Annual Report for 21 February 1939 – 9 February 1940 (AH 1358) is missing. The Perlis Report contains the postal statistics for Kangar but not Padang Besar. See Appendix 5.]

[The reports for 1940–41 are typed, not printed, and fragmentary only. They contain no information regarding the Post and Telegraph Departments of either state.]

Note 1: THE MUSLIM CALENDAR

To convert dates in the Muslim calendar to their equivalents in the Christian era, the following table of Muslim months and days needs to be used in conjunction with the dates in the headings of the reports:

Muharram	30 days	Rejab	30 days
Safar	29 days	Shaaban	29 days
Rabialawal	30 days	Ramadan	30 days
Rabialakhir	29 days	Shawal	29 days
Jemadialawal	30 days	Zulkaedah	30 days
Jemadilakhir	29 days	Zulhijjah	29 days

Being based on 12 lunar months the Muslim year has only 354 days and so begins about 11 days earlier each year in relation to the Christian (or Gregorian) calendar. This has the effect of making it retrogress through the seasons roughly once every 32½ years.

The intercalary day is added to the last month but not every fourth year as in the Christian calendar. The lunar years are divided into cycles of 30, in 11 of which Zulhijjah is made up to 30 days.

Ramadan, the ninth month, is observed throughout the Muslim world as a period of fasting.

THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1924-1941

The following are extracts dealing with postal matters taken from Kedah Government Gazettes published during the years 1924-1941 (AH 1343 to AH 1360), and which are at present (1994) housed in the Public Record Office in Kew, London. It is not certain whether 1924 was the first year the Gazette was published or whether that year was the first the Public Record Office was sent copies. Efforts to trace Gazettes published before this date have failed.

The Gazettes' main purpose was to give statutory effect to a wide variety of notices and regulations applicable to Kedah Government servants and the public at large. They were, therefore, both the Government's official organ and the State Council's principal means of publishing statutory instruments. The postal regulations they contained applied to the state of Perlis also.

Kedah being a Muslim state, the Gazettes were published in accordance with the Muslim year, the beginnings and ends of which do not correspond to the Christian year. Fortunately the dates of the postal notices were given in both calendars.

There were no postal notices or anything of postal interest in the Gazettes for the years 1924-25 and 1934-1938, and so there are no extracts or headings for these years.

Words in square brackets [] are by the author.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1925-26 (AH 1344)

Post Office Rates - Revisions.

On and after 5th September 1925, the items appended hereunder are revised as indicated below.

A.R. or A.P.	Application at time of posting.	Application after time of posting.
Advice of Delivery	12 cents	24 cents
Advice of Payment	12 cents	24 cents

No. 139/44

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS

CHARGES ON CORRESPONDENCE NOT FULLY PAID

No. 165. The State Council has been pleased to make the following rules regarding the charge on correspondence not fully paid:

On and after the first day of October 1925 (13-3-44)

1. Any letter or single postcard upon which no part, or a part only, of the postage payable thereon is prepaid shall be charged with double the amount of the deficient postage.

2. Any outgoing reply paid postcard, printed packet, commercial packet, or sample packet upon which the postage payable is not fully prepaid shall be detained and returned, or given up to the sender.
3. Notwithstanding anything herein contained, any outgoing postal article upon which no part, or a part only, of the postage payable thereon is prepaid may -
 - (a) where in the opinion of the Superintendent P. & T. such postal article has been posted with the evident intention of avoiding prepayment of postage; or
 - (b) where the postal article is addressed to a country or place with reference to which the Superintendent P. & T. may give directions to that effect,
 be detained and returned or given up to the sender.
4. Any incoming printed packet, commercial packet, or sample packet upon which the postage payable is not fully prepaid shall be detained and returned to the country of origin or be delivered to the addressee charged with double postage, as the Superintendent P. & T. may, in his discretion, direct.
5. The fine upon a postal article, not being a parcel, upon which no part, or part only, of the postage payable thereon is prepaid shall be calculated as follows:

(a) Outgoing Postal Articles

Deficiency in cents.	For delivery in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including Kemaman), North Borneo, Sarawak or Brunei.	For delivery in any other country or place.
	Fine.	Fine.
	Cents.	Centimes.
1	4	10
2	4	10
3	6	15
4	8	20
5	10	20
6	12	25
7	14	30
8	16	35
9	18	40
10	20	45
11	22	45
12	24	50

(b) incoming postal articles:

- (i) where no part of the postage is prepaid . . . double the prepaid rate, where the postage is insufficiently prepaid . . . double the deficiency

Provided that the minimum fine shall in all cases be 4 cents.

- (ii) In cases where the deficiency is not expressed in Straits Settlements currency by the country of origin, fines shall be calculated according to the following equivalents:

4 cents	as the equivalent of	10 centimes or less.
6	"	11 to 15 centimes.
8	"	16 to 20 "
12	"	21 to 25 "
14	"	26 to 30 "
16	"	31 to 35 "
18	"	36 to 40 "
20	"	41 to 45 "
24	"	46 to 50 "

6. Nothing in this Regulation shall apply to an insured letter which even if unpaid or insufficiently prepaid must be delivered free of all postal charges except that if redirected it shall be chargeable on delivery with the difference (if any) between the postage prepaid on the first transmission and the postage chargeable if it had been originally addressed to the new destination. (No 400/44.)

Dated at Alor Star, this 22nd day of Rabialawal, 1344.

S. Asirvadam,
Superintendent, P. & T., Kedah

[For rates of postage from 1 January 1926 see Fig. 136 on page 403.]

Change of Name of Post Office.

On and after 1st May, 1926 (18-10-44), the Post Office now known as 'Padang Lanjut' will be called 'Kuala Nerang'. (2723-34)

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1926-27 (AH 1345)

THE POST OFFICE ENACTMENT, 1333. RULES UNDER SECTION 2B (II).

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2b (ii) of the Post Office Enactment, 1333, the State Council hereby makes the following rules to take effect from the date of publication in the Gazette:

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

1. A certificate of posting may be obtained in respect of any article for which an official receipt is not granted, subject to the following conditions:

Dec. 16]

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

No. 186.—From 1st January, 1926, the following rates of postage will be brought into force:—

ITEM.	RATE.	REMARKS.
LETTERS		
Foreign	12 cents first oz. 6 cents each succeeding oz.	No change.
Imperial	6 cents per oz.	No change.
Local*	4 cents first 2 ozs., 2 cents each additional 2 ozs.	Reduction 1 cent first 2 ozs. and 1 cent each succeeding even oz.
POSTCARDS		
Foreign	6 cents Single, 12 cents Reply	Reduction 2 cents Single and 4 cents Reply.
Imperial	4 cents Single, 8 cents Reply	No change.
Local*	2 cents Single, 4 cents Reply	No Change.
PRINTED PAPERS		
Foreign, Imperial and local*	2 cents per 2 ozs.	Reduction 1 ct. per 2 ozs.
COMMERCIAL PAPERS		
Foreign, Imperial and local*	12 cents first 10 ozs., 2 cents each additional 2 ozs.	Reduction 1 cent per 2 ozs after first 10 ozs.
SAMPLES		
Foreign, Imperial and local*	4 cents first 4 ozs., 2 cents each additional 2 ozs.	Reduction 1 ct. per 2 ozs after first 4 ozs.
MIXED PACKETS		
Foreign, Imperial and Local* containing Commercial papers	12 cents first 10 ozs., 2 cents each additional 2 ozs.	Reduction of 1 cent per 2 ozs after first 10 ozs and 4 ozs respectively.
Excluding above but containing samples	4 cents first 4 ozs., 2 cents each additional 2 ozs.	
NEWSPAPERS		
Foreign, Imperial and local*	2 cents per 2 per ozs.	Reduction 1 ct. per 2 ozs.
Local (Printed and published in Malaya etc.)	2 cents per 5 ozs.	Minimum weight per rate increased; maximum charge abolished.
LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND	2 cents per 2 lbs.	Reduction of 2 cts per 2 lbs
REGISTRATION FEE	15 cents	Increase 3 cents.
INSURANCE FEES (including registration).	30 cents first £12 of insured value. 15 cents each succeeding £12 of insured value.	Reduction of 5 cents per £12 of insured value after first £12

* By local is to be understood the Administrations of the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu, Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo. [No. 699/44].

Dated at Alor Star, this 30th day of Jemadialawal, 1344.

S. ASIRVADAM,
Superintendent, P. & T., Kedah.

- (a) The certificate of posting written in ink on a slip of paper or in a book must be presented to an Officer of the Post Office, together with the articles to be posted.
 - (b) The certificate must present an exact copy of the addresses on the articles to which it relates, and must have a postage stamp or stamps affixed in payment of the fee to be charged, viz., two cents for each article.
2. The officer on duty will compare the addresses on the articles with the certificate; and, if they are correct, will obliterate the postage stamp or stamps and impress the date-stamp upon the certificate. The certificate will then be returned to the person who presented it.
 3. A postal article in respect of which a certificate of posting is issued cannot be registered nor will it be checked in the Post, but will be treated as if it had been posted in a letter box. In the event of loss, damage, or delay, the certificate shall confer no title to compensation. Such certificate shall not be deemed to furnish a proof of the nature of the contents of the postal article to which it relates.

The Post Office Enactment 1333.

Rule under Section 2b(ii).

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2b(ii) of 'The Post Office Enactment 1333', the State Council hereby makes the following rule to take effect from the date of publication in the Gazette [December 6th, 1926]:

Letters not exceeding 4ozs in weight, and postcards emanating from British, Dominion or Colonial troops, from foreign attaches and from civilians employed by or accompanying the army in the field, will be carried free. Parcels will be prepaid, and a fee will be charged for the registration of postal matter. All such matter, except registered correspondence, will be carried at the senders' risk.

Post Office Enactment, 1333 – Notification Under.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 1a(ii) of the Post Office Enactment 1333 the State Council hereby authorises the Superintendent Posts and Telegraphs to adopt and use in Kedah all or any of the regulations comprised in the Straits Settlements Post Office Regulations and Guide for the time being in force.

Post Office Notice

The following reply coupons can be purchased or exchanged for a single rate postage stamp or stamps at any Post Office in the states of Kedah and Perlis.

COUPON	SELLING PRICE	CASHING PRICE
International Reply Coupon*	20 cents	12 cents
Imperial Reply Coupon†	10 cents	6 cents

* Exchangeable in any country comprised in the Postal Union.

† Exchangeable only in countries comprised in the British Empire.

[Published in the Kedah Government Gazette of 2 May 1927.]

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1927-28 (AH 1346)

Gurun Post Office.

From 1.1.1346 (1.7.1927) a regular Postal and Telegraph Office has been opened at Gurun. The Railway Allowance Office has ceased from that date.

[Published in the Kedah Government Gazette of 30 July 1927.]

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1928-29 (AH 1347)

Serdang Post Office.

On 1.1.1347 (20.6.1928) a Post and Telegraph Office was opened at Serdang in the District of Bandar Bahru, South Kedah.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1929-30 (AH 1348)

Post Office Notification

Imperial Airways

**Fortnightly Air Mail Service To London Taking Correspondence For Europe
And North America.**

No. 187. - A fortnightly connection with the Imperial Airways service from Karachi to London has now been arranged and commencing with the Mails forwarded from Penang on Friday the 30th August, 1929, by the British India Contract Mail steamer for Calcutta and fortnightly thereafter postal articles (except Parcels and Insured Letters) will be accepted for transmission to Great Britain and Ireland and via London to Europe and North America.

Postal articles should be prepaid at the usual postage rates and must bear in addition postage stamps to cover the AIR MAIL FEE OF 20 CENTS PER HALF OUNCE OR PART THEREOF. If the Air Mail fee is not fully prepaid correspondence will not be included in the Air Mail bag.

Air Mail articles may be registered but may not be insured.

In order to facilitate the selection of Air Mail articles for special treatment in the post, they should be conspicuously superscribed in the top left corner "BY AIR MAIL, KARACHI - LONDON". They should bear in addition whenever practicable the Blue Air Mail Label which may be obtained free of charge at any Post Office.

The Indian Post Office has stated that this connection at Karachi has been made possible by the acceleration of the mail trains between Lahore and Karachi; but has pointed out that the connection depends upon the punctual arrival at Lahore of the Calcutta train after a run of 1,000 miles. It is stated however that the connection should normally be made.

The time occupied in transit is 16 days.

Endeavours are being made to secure a weekly connection with the Karachi London Air Mail service and if successful a further announcement will be made.

Dated at Alor Star, this 11th day of Rabialawal, 1348.

Che Mohamed Arshad Bin Osman
Superintendent, Posts & Telegraphs, Kedah.

[Published in the Kedah Government Gazette of 31 August 1929.]

Post Office Notification**KARACHI-LONDON AIR MAIL SERVICE.****CORRESPONDENCE FOR EGYPT, PALESTINE AND IRAQ NOW ACCEPTED
FOR TRANSMISSION BY AIR MAIL.**

No. 709. - By arrangement with the Indian Post Office correspondence for Egypt, Palestine and Iraq will now be accepted for transmission by Air Mail service operating between Karachi and London.

An acceleration in delivery of from four to five days for correspondence for Egypt and Palestine and of two days for correspondence for Iraq will be obtained by taking advantage of this service.

The Air Mail fee for correspondence for Egypt and Palestine is 15 cents per HALF OUNCE and for correspondence for Iraq 10 cents per HALF OUNCE. In addition the ordinary postage rates must be prepaid. These rates are 6 cents per ounce for correspondence for Egypt and Palestine; and 12 cents for the first ounce and 6 cents for each additional ounce or part thereof for correspondence for Iraq.

The superscriptions of this correspondence should be as below:

CORRESPONDENCE FOR	SUPERSSCRIPTION
Egypt.....	"By Air Mail, Karachi-Egypt".
Palestine	"By Air Mail, Karachi-Palestine".
Iraq	"By Air Mail, Karachi-Iraq".

Dated at Alor Star, this 25th day of March, 1930.

Che Mohd. Arshad bin Osman,
Superintendent, Posts & Telegraphs, Kedah.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1930-31 (AH 1349)
The Post Office Enactment 1333.

Order Made by the State Council Thereunder.

Clubbed Packets

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(a) of the Post Office Enactment, 1333, the State Council has determined that the postage payable on each letter contained in a clubbed packet posted after the 31st March 1930 at a Post Office in the State of Kedah for delivery in China shall be six cents for each ounce or part thereof.

(S.C. 3220/48)

Post Office Notification.

Weekly Air Mail Service between Singapore and Palembang and Batavia.

Correspondence can now be accepted by the above Air Mail Service. A weekly air mail will be forwarded from Singapore to Palembang and Batavia every Wednesday morning.

Correspondence should be pre-paid at the usual postage rates, namely 12 cents for the first ounce and 6 cents for each additional ounce or part of that weight, and should bear, in addition, stamps to cover the air mail fee of 12 cents PER HALF OUNCE or part of that weight.

Correspondence for inclusion in this weekly air mail should reach Singapore not later than every Tuesday evening, and should be clearly inscribed "BY AIR MAIL".

Parcels and insured articles are not accepted.

Dated at Alor Star, this 11th day of June 1930.

Dutch Air Mail Service To Europe.

No. 393. - Commencing on Saturday October 18th 1930 and thence afterwards on every alternate Saturday, a Dutch aeroplane is due to leave Medan for Europe and the opportunity will be taken to forward an air mail from Malaya to Amsterdam to contain correspondence for Great Britain, Europe generally and North America. The air mail will be despatched from Penang on alternate Tuesday afternoons to Medan and correspondence for inclusion in this mail must therefore reach Penang not later than 3 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays, commencing from Tuesday 28th October, 1930.

2. Letters, postcards, printed, commercial and mixed packets may be sent by this air mail and may be registered but cannot be insured. Parcels are not accepted.
3. Every packet intended for transmission by this Air Mail besides conforming to the ordinary postal regulations should bear a special Blue Air Mail Label (obtainable at all Post Offices) affixed to the top left-hand corner of the packet and the packet should in addition be inscribed distinctly "By Air Mail Medan-Amsterdam".
4. The Air Mail fee for this service is 50 cents per half-ounce in addition to the ordinary postage and (if the packet is registered) registration fees. If the air mail fees are not fully prepaid in stamps the packet will not be forwarded by Air Mail.
5. The flight is expected to take 10 days from Medan to Amsterdam.

Dated at Alor Star, this 6th day of Jemadalakhir, 1349 (29.10.1930).

Che Mohd. Arshad Bin Osman,
Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs, Kedah.

Insured Box Service

On and from 1st January 1931 a new service of insured boxes will be introduced between Alor Star, Kulim and Sungei Patani in Kedah and the following countries:

[There follows a fairly comprehensive list of countries under the headings of 'British Empire' and 'Foreign Countries'. The territories comprising the former as it existed in 1918 are contained in Note 2 of Chapter 20, 'Postage Rates 1909-1941'. Those not found in this list will automatically come under the heading of the latter.]

The insured box service is designed to provide for the transmission in the letter mails of articles of gold and silver, precious stones, platinum, jewellery and other articles of a like nature which are prohibited from transmission in registered or insured letters.

The postage on insured boxes is 8 cents per 2 ozs, with a minimum charge of 40 cents.

General Post Office
Alor Star
27th December 1930.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1931-32 (AH 1350)

The Post Office Enactment 1348.

Establishment of Karangan Post Office.

In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 4(2) of the Post Office Enactment 1348, the President of the State Council has established a Post Office at Karangan in the District of Kulim to come into operation on 1st Muharram 1350 (19th May 1931). (SC2832/45)

[Published in the Kedah Government Gazette of 6 June 1931.]

Post Office Notification

Weekly Air Mail Service Singapore-Palembang-Batavia and Singapore-Medan.

No. 182. - The Weekly Air Mail Service between Singapore and Batavia via Palembang will from 5th August, 1931, be extended to serve Medan.

Air mails will be closed at Singapore for Palembang, Batavia and Medan and correspondence for inclusion in these mails must reach Singapore by Thursday evenings (for Palembang and Batavia) and Tuesday evenings (for Medan).

Parcels and Insured Articles are not accepted.

Correspondence should be superscribed "By Air Mail Singapore-Palembang", "Singapore-Batavia" or "Singapore-Medan" as the case may be and bear the usual blue air mail label.

The air mail fee is reduced with effect from August 1st 1931 to five cents per half ounce which is, additional to the ordinary foreign rate of postage.

Che Mohd. Arshad Bin Osman,
Superintendent Posts and Telegraphs, Kedah.

General Post Office,
Alor Star.
20th Rabialawal, 1350.

Post Office Notifications

**Increase In Air Fees On Air Mail Correspondence To
Netherlands East Indies And Europe.**

No. 372. - With effect from Wednesday, December 2nd, 1931, the air mail fees on correspondence will be increased as shewn hereunder:

Air Section	Air Line	Correspondence for	Revised Air Fee per 1/2oz
Singapore-Netherlands East Indies	Dutch	Netherlands East Indies	10 cents
Alor Star-Amsterdam	"	Holland and Europe generally except British Isles	50 cents
Alor Star-Asterdam London	"	British Isles and North America	50 cents
Karachi-Athens	British	Greece, Albania & Czechoslovakia etc.	25 cents
Karachi-Brindisi	"	Italy and Sicily, Switzerland etc.	25 cents
Karachi-Paris	"	France, Belgium etc.	25 cents
Karachi-London	"	British Isles, Lettonia [sic] and Lithuania.	25 cents

General Post Office,
Alor Star, 22.7.50 (3.12.31).

Che Mohd. Arshad Bin Osman
Superintendent, Posts & Telegraphs, Kedah.

Dutch Air Mail Service To Europe.

Service To Siam, Burma, India, Iraq, Palestine And Egypt.

No. 373. - Air mail correspondence by the homeward bound aircraft of the Netherlands East Indies-Europe Dutch Air service can now be accepted for the following places:

Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Allahabad, Baghdad and Cairo as well as to Amsterdam and London.

The conditions governing the despatch of correspondence to Europe by the present services will apply generally to air mail correspondence for Siam, Burma, India etc. which must reach Penang not later than Friday evening each week.

The air mail fees which are additional to the usual postal charges and the manner in which correspondence is to be superscribed for the various destinations are shewn hereunder:

Correspondence for	Superscription	Air mail fee per 1/2 ounce.
Siam	Alor Star-Siam (Bangkok)	5 cents.
Burma	Alor Star-Burma (Rangoon)	10 cents.
Calcutta, Eastern and Southern India	Alor Star-India (Calcutta)	10 cents.
Bombay and Western India	Alor Star-India (Allahabad)	15 cents.
Iraq	Alor Star-Iraq (Baghdad)	30 cents.
Palestine and Egypt	Alor Star-Egypt (Cairo)	35 cents.

Che Mohd. Arshad Bin Osman
Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs,

Kedah.General Post Office,
Alor Star, 22.7.50 (3.12.31).

[Published in the Kedah Government Gazette of 19 December 1931.]

Rates of Postage.

In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 13(1) of the Post Office Enactment, 1348, the President of the State Council has fixed the following rates of postage with effect from 1st January 1932:

Letters addressed to any place in Kedah, the Straits Settlements, the F.M.S., Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis, Brunei, Sarawak and B.N.B.:

For each letter 5 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ozs.

1 cent for every additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Letters addressed to any place in the U.K., N.I. and all parts of the British Empire (inc. Egypt and Sudan):

For each letter 8 cents for any weight not exceeding 1 oz.

4 cents for every additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Receipts and statements of accounts may be admitted at printed matter rate in open covers for which the rate of postage shall be 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ounces. (S.C. 2590/50)

The Telegraphs Enactment 1348

From 1st January 1932 the charges for telegrams to any place in Malaya shall be as follows:

Ordinary 40 cents for first 10 words and 4 cents for each additional word.

Urgent double the ordinary rates i.e. 80 cents for first 10 words and 8 cents for each additional word.

[The following notice was published in the Kedah Government Gazette of 12 March 1932.]

Post Office Notification.

Extension Of Air Mail Services Via Cairo To The Sudan, Belgian Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern & Southern Rhodesia And South Africa.

No. 539. – Commencing with the mail to be closed at Penang on Friday evening the 4th March, 1932 (25th Shawal, 1350) for connection at Alor Star with the homeward bound aircraft of the Dutch Air Mail Service, correspondence for the above-mentioned countries will be despatched to connect at Cairo with the Imperial Airways Service operating between London and Cape Town.

The conditions governing despatch by the Dutch Air Mail of correspondence to Siam, Burma, India etc. will apply generally to air mail correspondence for places in Africa, and all such correspondence must be forwarded to Penang for onward despatch in the Cairo air mail bag.

The air mail fees, which are additional to the usual postal charges, and the manner in which correspondence is to be superscribed are shewn hereunder.

Correspondence for	Superscription	Air mail fee 1/2 ounce
The Sudan	Alor Star-Sudan	45 cents
Kenya	Alor Star-Kenya	60 cents
Uganda	Alor Star-Uganda	60 cents
Tanganyika	Alor Star-Tanganyika	60 cents
Belgian Congo	Alor Star-Belgian Congo	60 cents
Northern Rhodesia	Alor Star-Northern Rhodesia	70 cents
Southern Rhodesia	Alor Star-Southern Rhodesia	70 cents
South Africa	Alor Star-South Africa	80 cents

Che Mohd. Arshad Bin Osman
Superintendent, Posts & Telegraphs, Kedah.

General Post Office,
Alor Star
28th Shawal 1350 (7th March 1932).

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1932-33 (AH 1351)

Clubbed Packets

In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 13 (1) of the Post Office Enactment 1348 the President of the State Council has fixed the postage payable on each letter contained in a clubbed packet posted after 30th September 1932 at a Post Office in the state of Kedah for delivery in China at 8 cents for each ounce or part thereof.

Gazette Notification No. 21 of 11th Muharram 1349 (8th June 1930) is hereby cancelled.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1933-34 (AH 1352)

The Post Office Enactment 1348.

Clubbed Packets

In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 13(1) of the Post Office Enactment, 1348, the President of the State Council has fixed the postage payable on each letter contained in a clubbed packet posted on or after 1st November 1933 at a Post Office in the state of Kedah for delivery in China at 12 cents for each ounce or part thereof.

Gazette Notification No. 487 of 22nd October 1932 is hereby cancelled.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1938-39 (AH 1357)

[The following notice was published in the Gazette of 16 April 1938.]

ENACTMENT No. 80 (POST OFFICE)

RATES OF POSTAGE

No. 104. - In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 13 (1) of Enactment No. 80 (Post Office), the President of the State Council has fixed the following rates of postage, with effect from 2nd March, 1938 (29th Zulhijjah, 1356):

(i) Letters addressed to any place in Kedah, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis, Brunei, Sarawak and British North Borneo:

for each letter 5 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ounces.

1 cent for every additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Receipts and statements of accounts may be admitted at printed-matter rate in open covers for which the rate of postage shall be 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ounces.

(ii) Letters addressed to any place in the undermentioned territories 8 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof:

Aden	Mauritius
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	Newfoundland
Basutoland	Nyasaland Protectorate
Bechuanaland Protectorate	Palestine
Burma	Rhodesia (Northern)
Canada	Rhodesia (Southern)
Egypt	Seychelles
Eire (Irish Free State)	South Africa (Union of)
Great Britain	South West Africa
India (including British Indian Post Offices on Persian Gulf, in French India and Tibet but excluding Portuguese India)	Swaziland
Ireland (Northern)	Tanganyika Territory
Kenya (Colony and Protectorate)	Transjordan
	Uganda Protectorate
	Zanzibar Protectorate

(iii) Letters addressed to any place in the undermentioned territories:

8 cents for any weight not exceeding 1 ounce and 4 cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof:

Ascension	British Guiana
Australia (including New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, also British New Guinea (Papua, Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island)	British Honduras
Bahamas	British Somaliland
Banks Islands	Cameroons (British Sphere)
Barbados	Cayman Islands
Bermuda	Ceylon
Bismarck Archipelago (New Britain, New Hanover, New Ireland, Admiralty Island)	Cyprus
	Ellice Islands
	Falkland Islands
	Fanning Island
	Fiji Islands
	Gambia
	Gibraltar
	Gilbert Islands

Gold Coast Colony	St. Helena
Hong Kong	Samoa (British)
Jamaica	Sierra Leone
Leeward Islands	Solomon Islands (British)
Malta	Togo (British Sphere)
Morocco (Tangier British Post Office only)	Tonga (or Friendly) Islands
Nauru Island and Dependencies	Torres Islands
New Hebrides	Trinidad and Tobago
New Zealand (including Cook Islands)	Tristan Da Cunha
Nigeria	Turks and Caicos Islands
Norfolk Island	Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent)
Pitcairn Island	

Notifications No. 377 dated 31st December, 1931 (20th Shaaban, 1350) and No. 1013 dated 25th February, 1933 (29th Shawal, 1351), are hereby cancelled. (S.C. 3648/56)

[The following notice was published in the Gazette of 17 September 1938.]

ENACTMENT NO. 80 (POST OFFICE)

RATES OF POSTAGE

No. 579. – In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 13 (1) of Enactment No. 80 (Post Office), the President of the State Council has fixed the following rates of postage with effect from 1st August, 1938 (4th Jemadilakhir, 1357):

(i) Letters addressed to any place in Kedah, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis, Brunei, Sarawak and British North Borneo:

for each letter 5 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ounces,
1 cent for every additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Receipts and statements of accounts may be admitted at printed-matter rate in open covers for which the rate of postage shall be 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ounces.

(ii) Letters addressed to any place in the undermentioned territories 8 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof:

Aden
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan
Australia (including New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia; Bismarck Archipelago (New Britain, New Ireland, New Hanover and Admiralty Islands), Lord Howe Island, Mandated Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, Norfolk Island and Papua).
Basutoland
Bechuanaland Protectorate
Burma
Canada
Egypt
Eire (Irish Free State)

Fiji Islands
 Great Britain
 India (including British Indian Post Offices on Persian Gulf, in French India and Tibet but excluding Portuguese India).
 Ireland (Northern)
 Kenya (Colony and Protectorate)
 Mauritius
 Newfoundland
 New Zealand and its dependencies (including Cook Islands, Fanning Island and Pitcairn Island), and the Mandated Territory of Western Samoa.
 Nyasaland Protectorate
 Palestine
 Rhodesia (Northern)
 Rhodesia (Southern)
 Seychelles
 South Africa (Union of)
 South West Africa
 Swaziland
 Tanganyika Territory
 Transjordan
 Uganda Protectorate
 Western Pacific:
 Gilbert and Ellice Islands;
 New Hebrides (including Banks & Torres Islands);
 Solomon Islands;
 Tonga.
 Zanzibar Protectorate

[For two additions to this list see the extract from the Kedah Government Gazette for 1939-40 (AH 1358) below.]

(iii) Letters addressed to any place in the undermentioned territories:

Ascension	Jamaica
Bahamas	Leeward Islands
Barbados	Malta
Bermuda	Morocco (Tangier British Post Office only)
British Guiana	Nigeria
British Honduras	St. Helena
British Somaliland	Sierra Leone
Cameroons (British Sphere)	Togo (British Sphere)
Cayman Islands	Trinidad and Tobago
Ceylon	Tristan Da Cunha
Cyprus	Turks and Caicos Islands
Falkland Islands	Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent).
Gambia	
Gibraltar	
Gold Coast Colony	

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1939-40 (AH 1358)

[The only item of interest in this Gazette is the addition of the following two territories to those in the list under No. 579 (ii) in the Gazette of the previous year - 1938-39 AH 1357.]

Hong Kong
Iraq (including Kuwait)

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1940-41 (AH 1359)

ENACTMENT NO. 80 (POST OFFICE)

Rates Of Postage Under.

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 13 of Enactment No. 80 (Post Office) the President of the State Council hereby fixes the following rates of postage in substitution for those notified in paragraph (1) of Notification No. 579 published in the Gazette of 17th September, 1938 with effect from 8th April, 1940 inclusive.

Letters addressed to any place in Kedah, the Straits Settlements, the F.M.S., Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis, Brunei, Sarawak and B.N.B.:

For each letter 8 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ozs.
1 cent for every additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Receipts and statements of accounts may be admitted at printed matter rate in open covers on which the rate of postage shall be 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 2 ounces.

For each outgoing single postcard 4 cents
For each outgoing reply paid postcard . . . 8 cents

ENACTMENT NO. 120 (TELEGRAPHS)

Rates For Inland Telegrams

The President of the State Council makes with effect from 8th April 1940 the following rule prescribing rates chargeable for Inland Telegrams in substitution for the existing rates:

Inland Telegrams: The charge for telegrams received for despatch to any place in Malaya shall be as follows:

Ordinary: 60 cents for the first 10 words and 6 cents for each additional word.
Urgent: \$1.20 for the first 10 words and 12 cents for each additional word.

KEDAH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 1941-42 (AH 1360)

The Emergency Regulations.

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Emergency Regulations, and of all other powers thereunto him enabling, the President of the State Council hereby makes the following order:

No person shall post any postal article intended for any destination outside the Colony, the F.M.S. and the Malay States of Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perlis which either:

- (a) does not shew clearly on the outside thereof the name and address of the sender; or
- (b) shews the address of the sender as "Poste Restante".

Officers of the Postal Department and any person authorised in that behalf by the Superintendent shall detain any postal article in respect of which this order is contravened and shall dispose of such article in accordance with the instructions of the Superintendent.

ENACTMENT No. 80 (POST OFFICE)

CLUBBED PACKETS

No. 77. – In exercise of the powers vested in him by Section 13 (1) of Enactment No. 80 (Post Office) the President of the State Council has fixed the postage payable on each letter contained in a clubbed packet posted on or after the 15th February, 1941 (18th Muharram, 1360) at a Post Office in the State of Kedah for delivery in China at 15 cents for first ounce and 8 cents for each additional ounce.

Gazette Notification No. 1250 of 30th Rejab, 1352 (18th November, 1933) is hereby cancelled.

(S.C. 2290/52)

RATES OF POSTAGE UNDER

No. 78. – In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 13 of Enactment No. 80 (Post Office) the President of the State Council hereby fixes the following rates of postage to countries or places outside the British Empire, Egypt and French India (Foreign Countries) with effect from 25th January, 1941 (26th Zulhijjah, 1359):

Letters	Not exceeding 1 ounce in weight	15 cents
	Each additional ounce	8 "
Postcards	Single	8 "
	Reply Paid	16 "
Printed Packets	Not exceeding 2 ounces in weight	3 "
	Each additional 2 ounces	3 "
Commercial Packets	Not exceeding 10 ounces in weight	15 "
	Each succeeding 2 ounces	3 "
Samples	Not exceeding 4 ounces in weight	6 "
	Each succeeding 2 ounces	3 "
Literature for the Blind	Each 2 pounds or part thereof	2 "
Insured Boxes	Not exceeding 8 ounces in weight	60 "
	Each additional 2 ounces	15 "
Registration Fee		15 "
Insurance Fee (Additional to registration fee)	Each \$200 of insured value	35 "
Advice of Delivery	Applied for at time of posting	15 "
	Applied for later	20 "

THE DE LA RUE RECORDS

1. THE DE LA RUE PRIVATE DAY BOOKS

When, in the 1970s, De La Rue & Co. disposed of their archives the records came into the possession of the National Postal Museum where they were microfilmed and made available for public use. They are extremely voluminous (in excess of 450 volumes) and mostly relate to the company's dealings with their clients. Of particular value to philatelists are the 'Private Day Books' which contain what appear to be manuscript transcriptions of the company's invoices for printing work done for these clients, principally the Crown Agents. The latter acted on behalf of the Kedah Government for the whole of the period 1912-41, during most of which time De La Rue were sole holders of the Kedah contract. (It was not until 1937 that responsibility for the high-value stamps passed to Waterlow & Sons.) The Day Books therefore provide a record of most of the stamps and postal stationery issued in Kedah and Perlis before the Second World War, including the plates prepared in their production. Unfortunately they are not complete, as there are no entries for the period between January 1938 and May 1941. This may have been the result of the bombing of the De La Rue works in December 1940 and the subsequent dislocation it caused.

Fortunately, another source is available – the Crown Agents Requisition Books – which are a detailed account of the orders the Agents made on the various printers under contract to them. They were among the Crown Agents records which were deposited with the British Library in the 1980s and so became available for research. As they mainly duplicate the information in the Private Day Books reproducing both is unnecessary but they are able to fill the 1938-41 break in the latter. Regrettably, they do not begin until 1922, some 10 years after the issue of the first Kedah stamps.

With these gaps in both the De La Rue and Crown Agents records it is impossible to cover the entire period of the Kedah issues, 1912-41, using just one source, a change-over from one to the other being necessary at some point. This being so, the De La Rue records have been used until the date of the first entries in the Crown Agents Requisition Books in 1922, and then the latter until 1941, supplemented by information in the Day Books not provided by the Requisition Books. The Crown Agents data is given separately in Appendix 4.

A result of this change-over, unavoidable wherever it came, is the division of the records of the stamps on Multiple Script CA paper into two, due to the fact that the first few printings of this issue occurred in 1921 and are therefore to be found only in the De La Rue records. To minimise this inconvenience, the Private Day Book entries dealing with the printings on Multiple Script CA paper have been included in Appendix 4 with the Crown Agents records. Although this arrangement has meant separating the De La Rue records, the advantage of having all the information on a particular issue in one place is regarded as sufficient justification.

The entries in the De La Rue Private Day Books are in chronological order but it is not clear whether the dates refer to those on the invoices or when the ledger entries were made, or even, perhaps, when the invoice was sent. The first alternative seems the most likely

and it is reasonable to assume that these dates are going to be a few days, at least, after the despatch of the consignments of stamps or stationery to which they each refer. This was found to be so where the De La Rue and the Crown Agents records overlap – the dates in the Day Books usually post-dating the despatch dates in the Requisition Books by anything from a day or two to two weeks. Examples of this can be seen in the Crown Agents records where the dates De La Rue submitted their invoices compared to the Crown Agents despatch dates are shown in a number of cases.*

De La Rue often fulfilled a requisition order for a stamp in two separate printings, sometimes days apart but, not unusually, months. The reason for this is not known but there may have been technical or operational reasons why an extensive requisition could not be completed in one 'run'. These must be regarded as separate printings although in many cases, being printed so soon after one another, the stamps were probably almost identical in their main characteristics and impossible to separate.

The Day Books usually give the number of stamps in each printing as well as the number of sheets, but where the former is missing it has been calculated for uniformity's sake. The Day Books also provide the number of stamps needed for distribution to the UPU countries as Specimens and, after about 1921 with the adoption of the Multiple Script CA paper, the number of stamps required for dealers. This may mean either that dealers were not supplied before 1921 or, up until that time, it was the Crown Agents who did so. The Crown Agents Records either fail to provide this information at all or give a total figure for both allocations. It will be noted that stamps set aside as Specimens and for dealers were only required from the first printing of each value or colour. (This has made the mint stamps of all except the first printing of each new issue relatively scarce.) When using these extracts it must be remembered that the number in the 'SPECIMENS' column is extra to the total under 'STAMPS'.

NOTE. The De La Records dealing with Kedah's postal stationery will be found in the chapter dealing with that subject, Chapter 20.

1912 ISSUE ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA WATERMARKED PAPER

DATE	REQ. NO.	SHEETS	NO. IN SHEET	STAMPS	SPECIMENS	DEALERS
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DUTY: 1 Cent Black & Green

20.3.12	34/11	3,942	120	473,040	404	—
25.5.16	16/16	2,145	120	257,400	—	—
4.8.16	16/16	338	120	40,560	—	—

* In an article in *Geostx*, April 1984, is a letter from Marcus Faux, the Crown Agents' Philatelic Archivist, in which he states: *Made up into packages of 500 sheets, stamps were packed into cases under our supervision. The quantities so packed were noted by De La Rue's staff who then supplied an invoice. These figures were noted in their 'Day Book' with shipment normally approximately two weeks later. The Crown Agents' 'Day Book' contained the figures given in their requisition orders to De La Rue. Mr Faux's statement 'shipment normally approximately two weeks later' is not in accord with the dates noted above but his 'shipment' and the Crown Agents' 'despatch' may not necessarily mean the same thing.*

THE DE LA RUE RECORDS

DUTY: 3 Cents Black & Red

20.3.12	34/11	2,604	120	312,480	404	—
2.5.12	34/11	2,484	120	298,080	—	—
9.6.16	16/16	1,000	120	120,000	—	—
6.7.16	16/16	1,453	120	174,360	—	—

DUTY: 4 Cents Rose & Grey

20.3.12	34/11	2,509	120	301,080	404	—
9.6.16	16/16	1,575	120	189,000	—	—

DUTY: 5 Cents Green & Chestnut

20.3.12	34/11	479	120	57,480	404	—
25.5.16	16/16	169	120	20,280	—	—

DUTY: 8 Cents Black & Ultramarine

20.3.12	34/11	492	120	59,040	404	—
25.5.16	16/16	226	120	27,120	—	—
4.8.16	16/16	26	120	3,120	—	—

DUTY: 10 Cents Blue & Sepia

18.4.12	34/11	2,099	60	125,940	404	—
18.3.20	128/19	613	60	36,780	—	—

DUTY: 20 Cents Black & Green

18.4.12	34/11	511	60	30,660	404	—
17.6.19	11/19	538	60	32,280	—	—

DUTY: 30 Cents Black & Rose

2.5.12	34/11	508	60	30,480	404	—
27.5.19	11/19	273	60	16,380	—	—
18.3.20	128/19	87	60	5,220	—	—
19.5.20	128/19	13	60	780	—	—
6.5.21	9/21	334	60	20,040	—	—

DUTY: 40 Cents Black & Purple

2.5.12	34/11	304	60	18,240	404	—
27.5.19	11/19	246	60	14,760	—	—
3.2.21	127/20	164	60	9,840	—	—

DUTY: 50 Cents Brown & Blue

2.5.12	34/11	186	60	11,160	404	—
25.5.16	16/16	105	60	6,300	—	—
27.5.19	11/19	369	60	22,140	—	—
17.1.21	127/20	342	60	20,520	—	—

DUTY: 51 Black & Red/Yellow

18.4.12	34/11	205	60	12,300	404	—
27.5.19	11/19	297	60	17,820	—	—

APPENDIX 3

3.2.21	127/20	90	60	5,400	—	—
4.7.22*	294	331*	60	19,860	—	—

DUTY: S2 Green & Brown

18.4.12	34/11	137	60	8,220	404	—
3.2.21	127/20	39	60	2,340	—	—

DUTY: S3 Black & Blue/Blue

2.5.12	34/11	135	60	8,100	404	—
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DUTY: S5 Black & Red

2.5.12	34/11	141	60	8,460	404	—
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1919-21 ISSUE ON MULTIPLE CROWN CA WATERMARKED PAPER**DUTY: 1 Cent Brown**

27.5.19	11/19	147	120	17,640	378	—
16.7.19	11/19	840	120	100,800	—	—
18.3.20	128/19	659	120	79,080	—	—
19.5.20	128/19	227	120	27,240	—	—
5.11.20	79/20	1,132	120	135,840	—	—

DUTY: 2 Cents Green

17.4.19†	125/18	409	120	49,080	378	—
27.5.19	11/19	500	120	60,000	—	—
17.6.19	11/19	1,379	120	165,480	—	—
5.11.20	79/20	1,132	120	135,840	—	—

DUTY: 3 Cents Purple

18.3.20	128/19	522	120	62,640	385	—
19.5.20	128/19	56	120	6,720	—	—

DUTY: 4 Cents Rose (i)

17.4.19	125/18	802	120	96,240	378	—
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* The Crown Agents Requisition Book shows that this printing was despatched on 30 6 22 and that the original order had been for 20,000 stamps, equivalent to 333^{20/60} sheets.

† DLR charged for 'Making an Original plate for Postage size Stamps duty blank' (£8) and a 2 cents 'Working Plate' (£14) on this invoice. The description of the former as an 'Original plate' is confusing because no such plate was ever entered onto the Crown Agents Plates Register and so, presumably, was ever taken into their possession. A die with this description will be found on the Register of Dies and Punches, however, this being the composite one made to produce the new single working plates. It is believed that the reason De La Rue used the word 'plate' instead of 'die' on the invoice is that they made only a single charge for the manufacture of a die and the 'original' plate laid down from it, in this case £8, and so it was probably immaterial whether this charge was shown as being for the die or for the plate. What is certain is that, on this occasion, it was the die that was handed over and the plate retained. This was the 'master plate' from which a whole series of denominated working plates were made later, the 2 cents listed above being the first of them. De La Rue kept this plate in their possession with interesting consequences when Plate 2 of the 1 cent black came to be made. (See Chapter 14.)

T H E D E L A R U E R E C O R D S

DUTY: 4 Cents Red (ii)

27.5.19*	11/19	500	120	60,000	—	—
17.6.19	11/19	2,571	120	308,520	—	—
18.3.20	128/19	265	120	31,800	—	—
19.5.20	128/19	36	120	4,320	—	—
5.11.20	79/20	3,027	120	363,240	—	—

DUTY: 21 Cents Mauve & Purple

27.5.19†	11/19	194	60	11,640	378	—
18.3.20	128/19	408	60	24,480	—	—
5.11.20	79/20	913	60	54,780	—	—

DUTY: 25 Cents Blue & Purple

3.2.21‡	127/20	893	60	53,580	400	—
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NOTE: The De La Rue Records dealing with the postal stationery are contained in Chapter 20.

* DLR charged for a new 4 cents 'Working Plate' on this invoice.

† DLR charged for a new 21 cents 'Border Duty Plate' on this invoice.

‡ DLR charged for a new 25 cents 'Duty Plate' on this invoice.

*PHOTOCOPIED EXTRACTS FROM
THE DE LA RUE PRIVATE DAY BOOKS*

Following are photocopies of the entries made in the De La Rue Private Day Books for part of the original 1912 issue of Kedah stamps and the postal stationery cards. As was explained at the beginning of this Appendix, these entries are almost certainly a record of the invoices sent by the printers to the Crown Agents and indicate just those items for which the latter were charged. Listed are the costs of (i) preparing the plates, (ii) the first printing of most of the fourteen values of the first set, including the 'Specimens', (iii) the initial consignment of postcards, and (iv) the necessary packing for all the foregoing. There is no mention of the cost of the dies. However, the Crown Agents' 'Register of Dies, Plates, Formes, Etc.' (q.v. in Appendix 4) makes it clear that this was included in the price of the plates.

Attention is drawn to the first photocopy (Ledger Sheet 155) which shows the entries dealing with making the plates for the 'padi-sheaf' values dated 20 March 1912. Amongst them is the item: 'Making 5 Working duty plates 1, 3, 4, 5 & 8 Cents' each costing £14, total cost £70. These are the plates which, apart from the 8 cents, were never entered on the Crown Agents' 'Register of Working Plates', the puzzling nature of which is discussed in Appendix 4.

155

March 1912		Stamps	885 7 2
16/01 20	<u>The Crown Agents for the Colonies</u> <u>Kedah Reg^o No 4111</u> <u>Postage Stamps</u>		
16/01 21	<u>Preparing an Original Padi plate</u>	8	
	<u>Preparing an Original duty plate with</u> <u>the duty left blank</u>	8	
	<u>Making a Working Padi plate</u>	14	
	<u>Making 5 working duty plates</u> <u>1, 3, 4, 5 & 8 Cents</u>	70	
03	<u>1912 Stamps 1 Cent 120 = 475000 Stg.</u> <u>Specimens 406</u> <u>475000</u>	56	4 5
		156	4 5
		898	8 6

April 1912

Banco 2767 1 5

Apr 18	<u>The Crown Agents for the Colonies</u> <u>Madras Regⁿ 22 34/11</u> <u>Postage Stamps</u>			
C1	<u>Preparing an Original Rough plate</u>		20	
C1	<u>" " " Duty plate work</u> <u>the duty left blank</u>		8	
C1	<u>Making a working Rough plate</u>		14	
C1	<u>Making 5 working duty plates</u> <u>10 20 30 40 + 50 Cents each 214/1</u>		70	
C1	<u>Preparing an Original Council Chamber plate</u>		8	
C1	<u>" " " Duty plate work</u> <u>the duty left blank</u>		8	
C1	<u>Making a working Council Chamber plate</u>		14	
C1	<u>" " 4 working duty plates</u> <u>1, 2, 3 + 5 Dollars each 214/1</u>		56	
C5	<u>2099 Sheets 10 Cents + 60 = 125,940 Saps</u> <u>Specimens 404 "</u> <u>126,344 "</u> $\frac{10}{100} \frac{1}{2}$		20	1
C5	<u>511 " 20 Cents + 60 = 10660 "</u> <u>Specimens 404 "</u> <u>11,064 "</u> $\frac{10}{100} \frac{1}{2}$		11	7 9
C5	<u>205 " 1 Dollar + 60 = 12300 "</u> <u>404 "</u> <u>12704 "</u> $\frac{(1000)}{(100)} \frac{1}{10}$		8	5
		<u>Ed for</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>12 10</u>
		<u>Banco</u>	<u>2767</u>	<u>1 5</u>

173

April 1912

Stamps 2767 15

	Kedah Reg. 5524/11 Cont ^d	Sub for ^d	207 12 10
C 8	137 Sheets 2 Shells = 60 = 8220 Stamps Specimens 404 <u>8624</u>	no no	157
C 10	160 Sheets + interleaving 2952 Sheets with Blotting 100 Sheets	no no	16 10
C 26	Overprinting Specimens the Stamps required for distribution among the Countries in the Postal Union 1 Kind	no no	3 6
	Base lined this 175	no no	4 9
			8 2
			<u>246 15 5</u>

2. THE BANKNOTE by THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO. (1971)

The following is an extract from a booklet published by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd in 1971. As the title *The Banknote* suggests, it is primarily concerned with the history of banknote production by the Company but has some relevance to the printing of their stamps by the recess process in the 1920s and 1930s. As it was produced for the information and training of new employees it mainly had an 'in-house' circulation and so its contents may not be generally known. De La Rue's permission to reproduce this extract is gratefully acknowledged.

Of particular interest are the references to the advances being made in rotary printing in the 1920s which corroborate the notes on rotary plates in the Crown Agents Requisition Books of the period. Mention of the '*improvement in metal strength and engineering practice*', which enabled the use of machines exerting much greater pressure, explains how the Company was able to be amongst the first to use dry paper when printing stamps from recess plates in the 1930s. The dating of the first experiments by the Company in using dry paper to the '*late 1920s and early 1930s*' is earlier and more precise than that provided in stamp journals.

Above all it provides an internal glimpse of what was, obviously, a fertile period in the history of the Company and helps to explain why there were so many changes in the way they printed Kedah's stamps between the two World Wars.

N.B. DP = Direct Plate. This is the printers' term for recess-printing.

1922 was a momentous year for the Company of De La Rue. That year saw the influx of many young men, some of whom had had banknote printing and engineering experience in the competing firm of Waterlow & Sons, and others who had had no experience at all but had a burning zeal to apply new ideas to old skills. One of the most important products of the following years was the introduction and improvement of the De La Rue Rotary Recess Printing Press, affectionately known as the "mangle".

This machine solved the problem that had been bothering the printing engineers for years, namely, replacing the flat printing plate with a cylinder to hold a pre-curved printing plate, making contact with the impression cylinder which had been developed years before. This machine can be considered a breakthrough; it was so successful that banknote printing orders began to pour in to De La Rue and there came a period when a new machine was erected every two weeks until 44 machines were printing nearly a quarter of a million sheets of print every day.

The Bank of England became interested in this machine and in 1927, after exacting trials, bought De La Rue machines for printing British banknotes. Eventually the Bank bought 28 of these "mangles" and many thousands of millions of 10/- and £1 British banknotes were produced on them. The machines are still in use in 1971. From 1927 onwards De La Rue also supplied the Bank with the ink to print these notes.

The De La Rue "mangle" is essentially two cylinders mounted in a heavy frame. One cylinder holds the curved plate and the other cylinder holds the paper; at the line of contact between the cylinders several tons of pressure are exerted. An inking roller picks up ink from the ink duct and presses it into the engraving; a rubber blanket

removes most of the surplus ink from the plate surface and three rows of cloth wipers polish the plate. The sheets of paper are fed to the machine and taken off by hand, but the machine itself is driven by an electric motor. In earlier years the paper had to be damped in order to make it soft enough to press into the engraving but before and after World War II there had been so much improvement in metal strength and engineering practice that increased pressure between the cylinders made it possible to use dry paper.

The fame of the De La Rue "mangle" spread far and wide, and many State printers approached the Company to buy machines and print banknotes. A number of machines were sold and with them the Company also offered expert personnel to train local printers on how to get the best results. Some of these "mangles" are still printing nearly half a century after they were erected and the Company still supplies ink, printing plates and other consumable materials required by the machines.

The use of dry paper for printing DP was another De La Rue breakthrough. The Company's first efforts to print dry were in the late 1920s and early 1930s on pre-gummed stamp paper. Hitherto, DP stamps were printed on damp ungummed paper, dried, and then passed through a gumming machine, dried again and then sent forward for perforating. The problems of register were enormous because paper stretches when wet and it never dries to the same size as it was before. The reader can imagine the difficulties; for example, the plate layout had to be made bigger than the required finished print size to allow for paper shrinkage; further allowances had to be made if double printings were involved, and finally, the finished sheet had to fit the perforating comb. The introduction of dry printing caused some of these problems to disappear.*

Having learned how to print stamps on dry paper the Company next turned its attention to printing DP banknotes dry. Similar solutions to the problems of dry printing stamps were applied to dry printing banknotes. But additional difficulties arose because of the larger sheets of banknotes, and also because banknote paper is harder and thicker than stamp paper. This meant that extra pressure was required and there were occasions when a machine would get "stuck on pressure". With much excitement a large crowbar would then be inserted in the flywheel and many willing hands would ease the heavy cylinder off pressure. The additional pressure also had the effect of spreading the print. This factor brought its own problems of register, which involved careful calculations of the relative size of plate, print and paper.

* It is assumed that this term refers to the two printings which were necessary for bi-coloured stamps.

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

1. THE CROWN AGENTS REQUISITION BOOKS

At a time when the Crown Agents records were not available to the public, Mr Marcus Faux, a former employee, very kindly supplied the following extracts from the Crown Agents Requisition Books. During the 1980s, after rumours that they were going to be destroyed, these records came into the possession of the British Library where they are now held by the Philatelic Collections Section and can be consulted on request.

Entries in the Requisition Books for Kedah begin in 1922 and the first five books cover the period up to the end of 1941. They contain a record of the requisitions by the Crown Agents on Messrs De La Rue & Co. Ltd, London, and Waterlow & Sons Ltd, London, for all Kedah postage and revenue stamps and postal stationery printed during this period. The earliest entries are dated in June 1922 and deal with an order for 5 cents stamps in the new colour of orange, and the last of the stamps on Multiple Crown CA watermark paper, a printing of the S1. This means that, apart from this order, no information at all is available from this source regarding the issues on Multiple Crown CA paper, and, as the earliest printings on Multiple Script CA paper took place in 1921, printing details of some of the values of this set are incomplete also. Fortunately it has been possible for these gaps to have been filled from the De La Rue Private Day Books and in order that all the information about the Script CA issue can be grouped together, the entries from the De La Rue Private Day Books concerning these stamps have been included in this section.

In extracting the information from the Crown Agents Requisition Books some of the headings on the folios have been omitted in order to simplify the tables and avoid pointless repetition. These headings and the information they provide are: 'COLONY' (always 'Kedah' of course), 'DESCRIPTION' (Postage & Revenue stamps, postcards, registered envelopes etc.), 'NO. OF STAMPS' (these can be calculated by reference to the 'NUMBER OF SHEETS' and 'STAMPS PER SHEET' columns) and the 'DATE DUE'. The latter was the date by which the Crown Agents' order had to be completed by the printers but seems of relative unimportance compared with the date of despatch which has been given. In the Requisition Books these despatch dates are followed by the number of sheets in the consignment although there is no separate heading for this information on the folios. As these figures seem of major importance to philatelists they have been included and placed near to the number of sheets ordered so the two may be compared. As will be seen, they rarely match. Where the number of stamps ordered involved the provision of part-sheets this is not surprising but, very often, the number supplied exceeds the number ordered by, in a few cases, as much as a hundred or more sheets. The reason for this is that the printer could not be sure how many sheets would be extracted by the checkers as unsuitable and subsequently destroyed as 'wastage'. He therefore printed in excess of the number ordered. If a large number of sheets were withdrawn on grounds of quality, then the number despatched was less than that ordered, but this appears to have occurred less frequently in the case of Kedah than the reverse, i.e. few sheets discarded, leaving the number despatched in excess of those ordered.

In quite a few cases there are two dates given for despatch, which in the Requisition Books are separated by a line. The precise meaning of these double dates was not very clear until the De La Rue Day Books were consulted and these showed that the printers quite often completed a requisition for a stamp in two stages, sometimes as much as two or three months apart. To avoid delay these part-requisitions were despatched separately. In effect, they must constitute separate printings but they are not listed as such in the sections headed 'Crown Agents Printings' at the end of Chapters 10, 11, 14 & 15, as their dates of issue to the post offices in Kedah must have been so close together that trying to identify and date them using postmarks would be almost impossible. In any case, being produced so soon after one another it must be extremely unlikely that they are distinguishable. This may not be true, of course, in times of shortage and austerity such as war-time, when the quality control of materials is more difficult. From a philatelist's point of view, the first date of the two would seem to be the most significant in that it offers the best guide to establishing the date of issue of, perhaps, an identifiable variety resulting from a new printing. It would be a mistake, however, to assume that there were two printings in every case where a requisition of stamps is shown to have two despatch dates. Sometimes a single invoice from De La Rue indicated the requisition may have been printed in a single run but the despatch of part of it delayed. On at least one occasion also (the 6 cents in 1926), there were two invoices sent by De La Rue but only one despatch date is given.

The dates of issue of the plates to the printer in the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book are not very helpful in establishing whether a single requisition for a stamp was printed in more than one batch. It seems the plates were issued for each requisition and kept until the order was completed, which could take a single day or as long as a month or more. Two examples may be quoted. The first requisition (No. 382) for the Multiple Script CA \$1 was despatched in two consignments on 16.1.24 and 28.2.24. The border plate was drawn by De La Rue on 10.1.24 and returned on 12.2.24, during which time there is evidence that it may have been used at least twice on two separate batches of paper. (See 'The Printings' in Chapter 15.) Requisition No. 491 of the 2 cents green, on the other hand, was despatched in two batches on 28.1.26 and 4.3.26, yet the plate for this printing was drawn and returned by De La Rue on the same day - 8.1.26 - and, almost certainly, must have been used only once during that time.

There are differences in the interpretation that can be placed on the information contained in the 'NO. OF SHEETS DESPATCHED' column. One view is that these quantities refer just to the number of sheets despatched to the colony or territory and that those retained for the Crown Agents Bureau (for distribution to collectors and the trade) need to be added. The other view is that the quantities in this column are the combined total, i.e. the number which would have to be invoiced to the relevant territory for payment. The manner in which the quantities for dealers are recorded in the 'REMARKS' column, often in parentheses, suggests that the latter view is more likely and this is confirmed from the De La Rue records.* Where

* Further confirmation is contained in a letter (1992) from the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau to the Curator of Philatelic Collections, British Library, in which it is stated: *'The quantities requisitioned are the quantities asked for by the Country (colony) plus the quantities required by the Crown Agents making the total quantities to be ordered for printing by a printer. The quantities despatched include the quantities shown in the remarks column for the Bureau and specimen needs.'*

information from the De La Rue Day Books is relevant to this matter it is noted but De La Rue were only asked to make allocations to dealers when a new value or colour was produced. It is possible the Crown Agents made similar allocations from other printings but, if they did, they made no references to them in their Requisition Books.

The 'REMARKS' column contains two recurrent themes, most references to which have been omitted to avoid tedious repetition. One is the provision the Crown Agents made to prevent gummed surfaces adhering in Malaya's damp climate, so virtually every requisition for stamps is followed by 'Sheets interleaved with blotting paper' and those for registration envelopes by 'Interleaved with wax paper'. The other fairly common remark is a reference to the need to complete the order 'urgently'. Whether this was a routine instruction on the part of the Kedah authorities to avoid delay or whether they constantly found themselves unexpectedly running short of stamps cannot be ascertained, but only the most extreme requests for urgency have been included. Some of these requests must have been genuine, however, as recourse was quite often made to parcel post to expedite delivery, this, presumably, being speedier than normal shipment. In every case where there was a request for parcel post (and it was presumably used) it has been noted.

1921-41 ISSUE ON MULTIPLE SCRIPT CA PAPER
(PRINTED BY DE LA RUE & CO.)

THE DE LA RUE RECORDS

(It must be remembered when using these extracts from the De La Rue Private Day Books that the number in the 'SPECIMENS' column is extra to the total under 'SHEETS', whereas the 'DEALERS' figure is included in this total.)

DATE	REQ. NO.	SHEETS	NO. IN SHEET	STAMPS	SPECIMENS	DEALERS (SHEETS)
DUTY: 1 Cent Brown						
14.5.21*	9/21	2,648 ⁶⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	317,820	401	148 ⁶⁰ / ₁₂₀
20.6.21	9/21	1,641	120	196,920	—	—
DUTY: 2 Cents Green						
6.5.21	9/21	2,594	120	311,280	401	94 x 120
14.5.21	9/21	1,524	120	182,880	—	—
DUTY: 3 Cents Purple†						
20.6.21	9/21	2,529 ³⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	303,530	401	84 ³⁰ / ₁₂₀
DUTY: 4 Cents Carmine						
14.4.21	9/21	12,069 ¹⁰⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	1,448,380	401	69 ¹⁰⁰ / ₁₂₀
6.5.21	9/21	1,238	120	148,560	—	—

* DLR charged for a new 1 cent working plate on this invoice.

† DLR charged for a new 3 cents working plate for this stamp in May 1921.

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

DUTY: 10 Cents Blue & Sepia

6.5.21	9/21	2,114 ^{30/60}	60	126,870	401	114 ^{30/60}
14.5.21	9/21	1,231	60	73,860	—	—

DUTY: 20 Cents Black & Green

14.5.21	9/21	1,739 ^{20/60}	60	104,366	401	105 ^{20/60}
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DUTY: 21 Cents Purple & Purple

14.5.21	9/21	1,608 ^{20/60}	60	96,506	401	105 ^{20/60}
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DUTY: 25 Cents Blue & Purple

14.5.21	9/21	1,659 ^{10/60}	60	99,556	401	102 ^{10/60}
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DUTY: 40 Cents Black & Purple

6.5.21	9/21	169 ^{0/60}	60	10,146	401	95 ^{0/60} *
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DUTY: 50 Cents Brown & Blue

6.5.21	9/21	502 ^{40/60}	60	30,160	401	77 ^{40/60}
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DUTY: S2 Green & Brown

6.5.21	9/21	79 ^{5/60}	60	4,745	401	35 ^{5/60}
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DUTY: S3 Black & Blue/Blue

3.2.21	127/20	17	60	1,020	400	—
14.2.21	127/20	18 ^{40/60}	60	1,120	—	18 ^{40/60} †
6.5.21	9/21	35	60	2,100	—	—

DUTY: S5 Black & Red

6.5.21	9/21	482 ^{0/60}	60	2,882	401	14 ^{2/60}
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THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

REQ NO.	NO. OF SHEETS ORDERED	NO. IN SHEET	NO. OF SHEETS DESPATCHED	DATE OF DESPATCH	REMARKS
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DUTY: 1 Cent Black

310	2,500	120	2,513‡	26.10.22	Change of colour to black.
382	2,500	120	2,612§	16.1.24/28.2.24	
440	2,500	120	2,595	14.1.25	

* Dealers were allocated more than half of this printing, a fact which should make it a fairly common stamp mint.

† It appears the whole of this printing was consigned to dealers. Used copies might, therefore, be extremely scarce, or even non-existent.

‡ According to the DLR records 125 of these sheets were for dealers and so were not interleaved with blotting paper. An extra 413 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. No new plate was invoiced.

§ DLR charged for all of these sheets on one invoice dated 25.2.24.

APPENDIX 4

495	4,000	120	4,212	11.2.26	
987	1,000	120	986	28.4.33	
1236	1,500	120	1,386	19.12.35	
1420	1,000	120	1,000	27.8.37/13.9.37*	
1560/1	1,500	120	1,357	18.8.38	Very urgently required.
1726/1	2,000	120	2,107	1.3.40	

The Crown Agents records make no distinction between Plates 1 and 2 for the 1 cent black except in the Plate Issue Books.

DUTY: 2 Cents Green

491	4,000	120	4,072	28.1.26/4.3.26†	
716	4,166 ⁸⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	4,300	2.5.29	
1114	2,500	120	2,505	5.9.34	
1274	2,500	120	2,472	8.5.36	
1560/1	2,500	120	2,219	18.8.38/24.8.38	Very urgently required. Despatch by parcel post.
1674/1	3,500	120	3,555	2.6.39	Urgently required.
1749/1	3,500	120	3,736	19.4.40/17.5.40	120,000 very urgently required. To be despatched by parcel post.

The Crown Agents records make no distinction between Plates 1 and 2 for the 2 cents green apart from a note in the Plate Issue Book.

The De La Rue Private Day Books for the period January 1938 to May 1941 are missing so it is not known if the Crown Agents were charged for Plate 2 of this stamp, or how many Plate 2 (Type II) stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN', or what allocation was made to dealers, if any.

DUTY: 3 Cents Green

382	1,666 ⁸⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	1,763‡	16.1.24/28.2.24	New colour green. 60,000 3c urgent.
447	2,500	120	2,750	21.5.25§	
1840/1	250	120	252	Req. by 29.11.41	Not shipped.

* These stamps were the first to be printed from Plate 2. DLR charged for them on two separate invoices. The first, dated 28.8.37, was for 807 sheets, the second, dated 21.9.37, was for the remaining 197. On neither invoice was there a charge for the production of Plate 2.

† DLR submitted only one invoice for these stamps dated 3.2.26.

‡ According to the De La Rue records 600 of these sheets were invoiced on 19.1.24, of which 100 sheets were allocated to dealers and an extra 415 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The remaining 1,163 sheets were invoiced on 25.2.24. Neither invoice mentioned a new plate.

§ DLR records show that these stamps were invoiced on 5.6.25.

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

DUTY: 4 Cents Violet

491	8,000	120	8,747*	28.1.26/4.3.26	Change of colour GPO & Dealers (14,400).*
611	8,000	120	7,870	23.12.27	
762	8,000	120	7,919	20.12.29	Urgently required.
860	8,333 ⁴⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	8,553	22.5.31	
1442/1	2,500	120	2,421	29.10.37	
1726/1	2,500	120	2,642	1.3.40	

DUTY: 5 Cents Yellow

294†	4,166 ⁸⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	4,157	30.6.22	Change of colour orange single colour
310	4,166 ⁸⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	4,112	15.12.22	
447	4,166 ⁸⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	4,506	21.5.25‡	
919	1,666 ⁸⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	1,691	19.4.32	To be despatched by parcel post
919/2	5,000	120	4,858	13.5.32	Early delivery req.
1049	8,333 ⁴⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	8,445	27.11.33/7.12.33	120,000 to be despatched by parcel post asap
1231/1	10,000	120	10,000	6.12.35	
1442/1	8,333 ⁴⁰ / ₁₂₀	120	8,436	29.10.37	
1674/1	10,000	120	9,956	2.6.39	

DUTY: 6 Cents Carmine

495	8,000	120	8,052§	21.4.26	New duty. Dealers (14,400) + GPO.
1764/1	2,500	120	2,418	24.4.40/17.5.40	120,000 very urgently required. To be despatched by parcel post.

* DLR records show that 120 of these sheets (14,000 stamps) were allocated to dealers and an extra 416 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The figure of 14,400 mentioned in the note in the Crown Agents Requisition Book is therefore an approximate figure only. There was no mention of a new plate on the DLR invoice for these stamps.

† De La Rue charged the Crown Agents £21 for a new 5 cents working plate on the invoice, dated 4.7.22, for this requisition. They also charged for the overprinting of 407 Specimens extra to the number of stamps despatched.

‡ The DLR records show that the invoice for these stamps was submitted on 5.6.25.

§ DLR submitted two invoices, both dated 19.5.26, for these stamps. The first was for 1,030 sheets. The second was for 6,120 sheets (including 120 for dealers) and an extra 422 stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. This leaves 902 sheets unaccounted for. Presumably these appeared on a third invoice (untraced). The second invoice also included a charge of £21 for a 6 cents printing plate.

DUTY: 8 Cents Grey

1265	2,000	120	1,954*	29.5.36	Colour change. GPO Spec. & 12,000 Dealers
1593/1	1,500	120	1,360	3.1.39	†
1764/1	10,000	120	10,247	19.4.40/17.5.40	120,000 very urg. required. To be despatched by parcel post.

DUTY: 8 Cents Red

1840/1	13,000	120	14,210‡	Required by 29.11.41	Colour change. GPO Spec. & Dealers 18,000. Not shipped
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DUTY: 10 Cents Blue & Sepia

563	1,600	60	1,624	14.2.27/8.3.27§	
943	500	60	547	9.8.32	
1114	750	60	794	5.9.34	Parcel post urgently required
1274	500	60	500	8.5.36	
1346	125	60	125¶	10.2.37/24.2.37	#

DUTY: 12 Cents Black & Indigo

495	6,000	60	6,364B	13.8.26	New duty. Dealers (9,600) + GPO.
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* The DLR invoice (dated 3.6.36) shows that 100 of these sheets (12,000 stamps) were allocated to dealers and an extra 416 stamps were perforated 'SPECIMEN'. The invoice also included a charge of £21 for 'preparing new die and printing plate'. This would be the secondary die.

† A note stated: 'To arrive by 21.2.39. Payment not to be made before 1.2.39.'

‡ DLR submitted two invoices for these stamps. The first, dated 31.1.42, was for 5,500 sheets. The second, dated 4.2.42, was for 8,713 sheets, of which 150 sheets (18,000) were for dealers and another 3 sheets (360 stamps) were perforated 'SPECIMEN'. It would appear that these were all destroyed as none is known apart from the single copy in the Crown Agents Record Books. There was no mention of a new plate so these stamps must have been printed from the one prepared for the 8 cents grey. This second invoice included a small discount which allowed for the fact that the stamps were 'printed on paper gummed in the reel'. It is not known what this phrase signifies.

§ DLR invoiced the Crown Agents for the whole of this printing of 1,624 sheets as early as 17.2.27. This may indicate that they were all printed together and that the two despatch dates were not the result of the printing being done in two batches.

¶ DLR submitted two invoices for these stamps. The first, dated 12.2.37, was for 73 sheets. The second, dated 25.2.37, was for the balance of 52 sheets.

A note stated: 'Required in Kedah about 15.3.37. Printing not to be commenced before 31.12.36.'

B The DLR invoice (dated 18.8.26) shows that 160 of these sheets (9,600 stamps) were allocated to dealers and an extra 422 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The invoice also included a charge of £21 for a new 12 cents border plate.

DUTY: 25 Cents Blue & Purple

943	500	60	537	9.8.32	
1176	500	60	458	27.5.35	
1274	333 ^{20/60}	60	334	13.5.36/10.6.36	
1346	100	60	94	10.2.37	*

DUTY: 30 Cents Black & Rose

310	166 ^{40/60}	60	263	15.12.22	
	Also a 2nd order for 110†				
382	833 ^{20/60}	60	846‡	16.1.24/28.2.24	10,000 urgent.
563	800	60	811	14.2.27/8.3.27§	
1049	333 ^{20/60}	60	360	27.12.33	
1274	200	60	208	8.5.36	Urgently required.

DUTY: 35 Cents Purple

495	2,000	60	2,146¶	28.5.26	New duty. Dealers (7,200) + GPO.
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DUTY: 40 Cents Black & Purple

310	166 ^{40/60}	60	168	15.12.22	
382	833 ^{20/60}	60	862#	16.1.24/28.2.24	
943	100	60	110	9.8.32	
999	250	60	254	19.7.33	
1114	333 ^{20/60}	60	349	5.9.34	Parcel post urgently required.

DUTY: 50 Cents Brown & Blue

382	1,666 ^{40/60}	60	1,736B	16.1.24/28.2.24	
943	500	60	550	9.8.32	
1114	750	60	800	5.9.34	Parcel post urgently required.
1274	100	60	102	8.5.36	
1346	166 ^{40/60}	60	149	10.2.37	+

* A note stated: 'Required in Kedah about 15.3.37. Printing not to be commenced before 31.12.36.'

† The DLR records make it clear these sheets were for dealers. An extra 416 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'.

‡ According to DLR records 250 of these sheets were invoiced on 18.2.24, and the remainder (596 sheets) on 25.2.24.

§ DLR invoiced the Crown Agents for all 811 sheets as early as 17.2.27 suggesting that, on this occasion at least, two despatch dates do not indicate the printing was done in two separate batches.

¶ According to DLR records 120 of these sheets (7,200 stamps) were allocated to dealers and an extra 422 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. A charge of £21 was made for a 35 cents border plate on the same invoice.

DLR charged for all these sheets on one invoice dated 25.2.24.

B DLR charged for all these sheets on one invoice dated 25.2.24.

+ A note stated: 'Required in Kedah about 15.3.37. Printing not to be commenced before 31.12.36.'

DUTY: S1 Black & Red/Yellow.

382	500	60	468*	16.1.24/28.2.24	New wmk.
491	400	60	397	28.1.26/4.3.26†	
611	400	60	413	9.11.27	Urgent Very urgently required.
716	500	60	496	2.5.29	
717	1,500	60	1,620	27.6.29	

DUTY: S2 Green & Brown.

382	333 ^{20/60}	60	345‡	16.1.24/28.2.24
717	833 ^{20/60}	60	834	27.6.29

DUTY: S3 Black & Blue/Blue.

382	333 ^{20/60}	60	337§	16.1.24/28.2.24
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DUTY: S5 Black & Carmine.

491	160	60	176	28.1.26/4.3.26¶
717	166 ^{40/60}	60	167	27.6.29
987	250	60	239	28.4.33
123/1	250	60	250	6.12.35

NOTE:

1. The Crown Agents Records dealing with the 1937 Halim Shah portrait issue are contained in Chapter 17.
2. The Crown Agents Records dealing with the revenue stamps are contained in Chapter 18.
3. The Crown Agents Records dealing with the postal stationery are contained in Chapter 20.

* According to the DLR records 50 of these sheets were allocated to dealers and an extra 415 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The remainder were all on one invoice dated 25.2.24. The Crown Agents Plate Issue Book shows that the S1 border plate was in DLR's hands for over a month (10.1.24-12.2.24) suggesting the stamps were printed in more than one batch. For the implication of this see 'The Printings' at the end of Chapter 15.

† DLR submitted one invoice only for these stamps dated 3.2.26.

‡ DLR charged for all of these sheets on one invoice dated 25.2.24

§ DLR charged for all of these sheets on one invoice dated 25.2.24.

¶ DLR submitted two invoices for these stamps. The first, dated 3.2.26, charged for 112 sheets. The second, dated 4.3.26, was for the balance of 64 sheets.

2. THE CROWN AGENTS' RECORDS OF PLATES AND DIES

All dies and plates made for the printing of stamps and postal stationery ordered and paid for by the Crown Agents on behalf of their clients were the responsibility of the Crown Agents and held by them. They were listed on a 'Register of Dies, Plates, Formes, Etc.', kept in secure storage and had to be accounted for at all times. When stamps or postal stationery were due to be printed the requisite plates were drawn and signed for by a representative of the printers, and the whole operation overseen by an employee of the Crown Agents who was personally responsible for the plates' safe return. These details were recorded in a ledger usually referred to as the 'Plate Issue Book'. While the plates were in the hands of the printers they continued to be supervised by representatives of the Crown Agents. At the end of the day the plates were either removed from the presses and kept under lock and key, or the presses were immobilised. Finally, all waste from each printing had to be accounted for and destroyed under the watchful eye of an employee of the Crown Agents. Once again these details were recorded over the signatures of those who were present and accountable.

In this Appendix are photocopies of the folios in the 'Register of Dies, Plates, Formes, Etc.' and the 'Plate Issue Book' which are relevant to Kedah. Most of the photocopies have had to be retouched to make them readable but, owing to a reduction in size, a few details may still not be clear. Nevertheless, photocopying has been preferred to making transcripts as it not only preserves the flavour of the originals but avoids losing potentially important information through human error or having to construe illegible handwriting.

(A) THE REGISTER OF DIES, PLATES, FORMES, Etc. (WORKING PLATES)

These folios show the Kedah plates taken on charge by the Colonial Stamp Department of the Crown Agents. They are listed in a somewhat confusing order but comprise the following:

- (i) An 'Original Steel' plate for the 'Padi' design, and an 'Original Plate' for each of the 'Plough' and 'Council Chamber' designs. In the main text an assumption is made that the latter two were also of steel, although there is no mention of the fact. The reason for making this assumption is that on the Register of Dies and Punches are listed 'Roller Punches' directly under the dies from which these plates were made. 'Roller Punches' (a printers' term for what are otherwise known as roller, rocker or transfer dies) are used only on steel plates.

These original plates were used as the 'masters' to make the working key plates. Two of them – the 'Padi' and the 'Council Chamber' cost £8 each while the 'Plough' cost £20, the price, in each case, including the cost of the dies from which they were laid down. There appear to be no obvious reasons why the 'Plough' plate and die should cost so much more than the other two, but the charges are in accordance with the estimates contained in a letter from De La Rue to the Crown Agents (q.v. in Part I of Chapter 10). In this letter the estimate for the 'Plough' plate was higher than the others in all the quotations for the various printing methods. Did De La Rue anticipate a

problem with this design? If so, it was presumably with some aspect of the engraving of the die. It was this plate which produced the poor vignette and was replaced in 1926.

- (ii) A 'Working Key' plate for the vignette for each of the three designs. These were made, it is believed, by electrotyping from the original plates and cost £14 each.
- (iii) A 'Border Duty Blank' plate for the frames of the three designs. These formed the 'master plates' from which the border or duty working plates for each value were made. The 'Padi' border plate is described as being of steel, and the 'roller punch' by which it was made is listed on the Register of Dies and Punches. The other two are not described as being made of steel and there are no 'roller punches' listed for them on the Register. It is thought, therefore, that these two plates were made by another method, namely 'lead-striking' (see Chapter 10). The price of all three was £8 each which included the cost of the dies from which they were made.
- (iv) Finally are listed the denominated working plates to print the frames for the three designs, five for the 'Plough' stamps – 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents – and four for the 'Council Chamber' stamps – \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5. Unaccountably, the denominated border plates for the 'Padi' stamps are not mentioned apart from the 8 cents and this was destroyed on 31.7.1930 – apparently on the authority of a letter from the British Adviser in Kedah. The first mystery here is why the other four plates are not listed because the De La Rue Private Day Book (q.v. in Appendix 3) shows that they were certainly charged, and therefore presumably delivered, to the Crown Agents in March 1912. The second mystery is why just the 8 cents plate was destroyed. In Fig. 99 on page 277 is illustrated a Specimen copy of the 8 cents black and ultramarine on the Kedah sheet of the De La Rue Proof Book, or Progressive Works Record as it is called, against which a note states: *'Die and plate obsolete. Destroyed July 1930.'* The British Adviser's letter might provide the reason for the destruction of this plate but why was this action delayed until 1930? The 8 cents had become redundant four years before, on 1.1.26, with the reduction of the foreign postcard rate from 8 cents to 6 cents. In any case the 8 cents plate was dual working, whereas all the other lower cents plates were by now single working and, if further consignments of 8 cents stamps had been required, then a new single working plate would, almost certainly, have been made for them. But the other four 1912 plates were equally redundant, why were they not also destroyed? Or had this occurred and no record of it remains as they had not been entered on the Register? Against this possibility, however, is the fact that there is no mention of their destruction on the Kedah sheet of the Proof Book referred to above. No satisfactory explanation for the puzzle of the missing 'Padi' border plates presents itself.

The cost of these denominated working plates was £14 each, £6 more than the original plates, the reason being, presumably, that they had to have their figures of value engraved by a pantograph and then be chromium-plated. On the other hand it is thought electrotyping was a cheaper process than the laying down of a steel plate and the charge for the original plate included the cost of the die.

This completes the plates listed on Requisition 34 of 1911. On subsequent requisitions are listed the single working plates in the 'Padi' design for 1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents, 4 cents and

5 cents. The undenominated 'master plate' from which these were made is not listed. (The reasons for this and the implications are discussed in Chapters 11 and 14.) A plate for the 6 cents is also listed, and it is believed that this is the first 'Padi' working plate to be made of steel laid down by a transfer die or 'punch' in the way normally associated with recess printing. Its price is given as £21, exactly the same as for the last three 'Padi' plates electrotyped from the 'master plate'. For various reasons, however, this may not tell us anything about the actual comparative costs of making plates by these two different methods.

Border plates for the four new 'Plough' values – 21 cents, 25 cents, 12 cents and 35 cents – are also listed, the first two costing £17-10s each, the last two £21 each. The first two, like their predecessors, were electrotyped and had their figures of value engraved by a pantograph, the last two were the first and last 'Plough' border plates to be made of steel from denominated secondary dies. One glaring omission from this list is Plate 2 of the 'Plough' vignette. This was the steel replacement for the 1912 electrotyped plate and is the one described as 'Plate 2' in the 1992 SG *Part 1* catalogue. The omission on the part of the Crown Agents is strange as the Plate Issue Book records the manufacture, regular issue and use of a Plate 2 'Plough' during and after 1926.

Finally, are listed the border plates for the three revenue values of 1929. These plates were used in conjunction with the 'Council Chamber' key plate to print the revenue stamps. These are the last entries for plates on the Register. Whether a decision was taken that it should not be maintained, or a later Register was destroyed when De La Rue's premises were bombed in December 1940, is not known. The former is thought to be much the more likely.

The second sheet records the new stone prepared in 1931 for the 2 cents green postal stationery card. Regrettably, the stones from which the first cards were printed in 1912, and also the original 2 cents stone, have all not been entered on the Register.

Attention is drawn to the MS note at the side of the denominated 'Plough' border plates: '*30 & 10 cts curved*', the implications of which are discussed in Chapter 10.

working plates
REGISTER OF DIES, PLATES, FORMES, Etc., HELD ON CHARGE IN THE COLONIAL STAMP DEPT.

REGION	DAYS IN CHARGE	PROCESS	DESCRIPTION	SIZE ON SET	COST	DATE OF RECEIPT	WHERE DEPOSITED		REMARKS	DISTRIBUTION AND AUTHORITY
							Safe	Overhead		
Postage & Revenue	1	opper Red	Original Steel "Padi"	120	-	Apr 20 '71	Y 6			
	7	---	Border Duty Blank formes	120	-	---	X 6		Original Steel Pad to Comp.	
	1	---	Original Plate Blough	60	-	---	Y 6			
	1	---	Border Duty Blank formes	60	-	---	Y 6			
	1	---	Original Plate Council Chamber	60	-	---	Y 6			
	1	---	Border Duty Blank formes	60	---	---	Y 6			
"Padi"	1	---	working Plate 8 cents	120	£ 11	---	Y 6		Original 217 20 Cent. Royal Governor's Office No 2 in 36 216 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	
	1	---	--- Key "Padi"	120	£ 14	---	Y 6			
	5	---	Border Duty Plates			---	Y 6			
"Blough"		---	No. 20, 30, 40, 50 cents	60	£ 70	---	Y 6	17 P	217 20 cent	
	1	---	working Key Blough	60	£ 11	---	Y 6	17 P		
	11	---	Border Plates ?							
Council Chamber		---	No. 1, 2, 3, 5	60	£ 56		Y 6			
	1	---	working Key Council Chamber	60	£ 14		Y 6			
"Padi"	1	---	--- Plate "Padi" 20 cents	120	£ 14	Apr 19		17 P	Single working	
	31	---	--- 12 cents	120	£ 14	---		17 P	one flat in cap	
"Blough"		---	21 & 25 cents	60	£ 35	---	Y 6			
"Padi"	1	---	S. 10 Plates 5 cents	120	£ 21	290		17 P		
	2	---	working Plate 19 3 cents	120	£ 22	---		17 P	Single working	
"Blough"	2	---	Border Duty 12 & 35 cents	60	£ 12	98 5		17 P		
"Padi"	1	---	S. 10 Plate 6 cents	120	£ 21	---		17 P		
Council Chamber	3	---	Border Duty Plates 25, 100, 200	60	£ 45	27 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Y		Revenue Stamp	

REGISTER OF DIES, PLATES, FORMES, Etc., HELD ON CHARGE IN THE COLONIAL STAMP DEPT.

AGENCY	DIE NUMBER	PROCESS	DESCRIPTION	SHEETS ON SET	COST	DATE OF RECEIPT	SHEETS DEPOSITED		REMARKS	DIRECTION AND AUTHORITY
							Safe	Outward		
<i>Post Cards.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>litho</i>	<i>litho Stone 2cents</i>		<i>-</i>	<i>20-4-31</i>		<i>R</i>		

(B) THE REGISTER OF DIES, PLATES, FORMES, Etc.
(DIES AND PUNCHES)

This folio is complementary to that of the Working Plates in that, apart from those plates produced from a 'master', each original plate can be matched to its own die. The costs of the dies for the 1912 issue were combined with those for the original plates, and the Crown Agents clerk chose to record them against the entries for the dies on this Register rather than on the one for the plates. It is on this folio, therefore, that the disproportionate cost of the original 'Plough' plate can be seen. The 'roller punches' (the rocker or transfer dies used to transfer the designs from the master dies to the plates or secondary dies) are also listed on this Register, immediately under the dies from which they were made. The costs of the 'punches' were obviously included with those of the master dies. It will be noted that no 'roller punches' are listed for the undenominated border dies of the 'Plough' and 'Council Chamber', from which it must be deduced that the plates made from these dies were produced by some other method, probably De La Rue's own patent process called 'lead-striking'. (See Chapter 10.)

The description for the item listed as 'Original Flat Die Padi' on Requisition 125/18 is misleading, as it is the same as for the first item on the folio which is the die for the 'Padi' vignette used for the key plate of the 1912 issue. The die on the later requisition is the composite one used to produce the new single working 'Padi' plate in 1919. This is indicated by the remark 'Border Duty Blank' next to it and the requisition number. It was this die from which the 'master plate' was made which produced the 1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents, 4 cents and 5 cents working plates listed on the Working Plates folio. No secondary dies were necessary for these values and so, naturally, none is shown on this Register. The first denominated 'Padi' die listed, indeed the only one as it seems this register was not maintained after the early thirties, is the one for the 6 cents value, this being the first 'Padi' stamp produced from a single working steel plate made from a denominated secondary die. This method of production is confirmed by a 'roller' listed directly below it. The two denominated dies for the borders of the only 'Plough' stamps produced by the same means, the 12 cents and 35 cents, are thus the only ones listed on the register and they, as expected, also have 'roller punches' below them. The other 'Plough' stamps and all the 'Council Chamber' values were printed from working plates which, as explained above, were electrolytically produced from the original plates and not made directly from secondary dies.

It will be noticed that there is only one transfer die ('roller punch') listed for each of the 'Original Flat Die Plough' and 'Original Flat Die Padi Border Duty Blank'. If second transfer rollers were made from these master dies which were 'rocked more firmly to reproduce the lines of the die more faithfully' and then used to produce the so-called 'Die II' stamps, they have not been listed.

The 'SIZE OR SET' column is of interest. It would be expected that the 'set' for the dies of recess-printed stamps would always be '1', i.e. there was just the single die. That is true for all the master dies but the 'roller punches' show '1', '2' or '4'. This figure represents the number of master die transfers taken onto the roller die, the conflicting reasons for which are discussed in Chapter 10.

The die for the border of the 10 cents registration envelope is listed at a cost of £8. A transfer from this was used in conjunction with a transfer from the 'Padi' vignette die to make up the impressed stamp for the lithographed 1912 issue of registration envelopes. The later 12 cents and 15 cents envelopes were printed by letterpress, the cost of the die for the stamp on the latter being very modest indeed - only £3.

(C) THE PLATE ISSUE BOOK

This section is comprised of photocopies of the six folios relevant to Kedah in the Crown Agents Plate Issue Book which record the issue and return of plates to the printers for the period January 1924 to November 1941. Between these dates the entries are complete, but records prior to 1924 do not appear to exist. Detailed comment on the information they contain which throws light on the printing of the stamps is dealt with in Chapters 14 and 15. No similar records for the printing of the postal stationery have been traced.

On the first folio will be found (in the second column headed 'Key No.')

the descriptions of various 'padi' plates as being 'rotary'. The importance of these entries is discussed in Chapter 14.

On the second folio will be seen the sequence of events leading to the production of 'Plough' No. 2, the significance of which is described in Chapter 15, while on the fifth folio, against Requisition No. 1420, is the first mention of the 1 cent 'Pl. No. 2', the special circumstances of the production of which are covered in Chapter 14.

Amongst the last entries before the Japanese invasion of Malaya are those which record the printing of the various unissued stamps – the 15 cents 'portrait' issue by Waterlow, and the 3 cents and 8 cents 'padi-sheaf' stamps printed by De La Rue.

Description of Stamp	PLATE				ISSUED			RETURNED			Face No.	Made by No.	Specimens	Remarks
	Key No.	Date	No.	To	No.	Date	No.	To	Date					
P+R	Large Key	3073	120	Redman	57	3-1-24	Postman	57	23-1-24	552	Embossed	Specimen	Colors change.	
"	Large Key	1 Ct.	120	Postman	57	5-1-24	Postman	57	22-1-24	"	Embossed	No spec.		
"	Home	3 1/2	60	"	57	9-1-24	Postman	57	12-2-24	"	"	"		
"	Home	50ct	60	"	57	9-1-24	Postman	57	12-2-24	"	Embossed	"		
"	Home	1 1/2	60	Postman	57	10-1-24	Postman	57	12-2-24	"	Embossed	Specimen	N.W.P.	
"	Home	2 1/2	60	Postman	57	10-1-24	Postman	57	12-2-24	"	Embossed	No spec.		
"	Duty only	40ct	60	Postman	57	19-1-24	Postman	57	12-2-24	"	Embossed	"		
"	(Large)	30ct	60	"	57	19-1-24	Postman	57	12-2-24	"	"	"		
Postage Return	Large Key	1 Ct.	120	Ridd	57	23-9-24	Ridd	57	29-9-24	440	Embossed	"		
"	"	3 Ct.	120	"	57	9-4-25	"	57	15-4-25	447	"	"		
"	"	5 Ct.	120	Ridd	57	15-4-25	"	57	16-4-25	"	"	"		
Postage Return	Large Key	4 Ct.	120	Barred	57	21-10-25	Barred	57	21-11-25	491	"	Specimen	Temp - slow chg.	
Postage Return	Small (Barred)	-	60	Thomson	57	20-8-26	Thomson	57	8-1-26	491	"	"		
"	Small (Barred)	2 Ct.	120	Thomson	57	1-1-26	Thomson	57	15-1-26	491	"	"		
"	"	#1	60	Thomson	57	8-1-26	Thomson	57	15-1-26	"	"	"		
"	Post	2 Ct.	120	Thomson	57	8-1-26	Thomson	57	8-1-26	"	"	"		
"	"	35	60	Thomson	57	12-1-26	Thomson	57	16-1-26	"	"	"		

1	2	3	4	5
1				
1				

PLATE ISSUE

446

APPENDIX 4

129.

Redal.

Description of Station	PLATE			ISSUED			RETURNED			Reqs. No.	Made up By	Specimens	Remarks
	Key No.	Date	Net.	To.	By.	Date.	By.	To.	Date.				
Postage Revenue	S.W. Tax	1.08	120	Thorn	L ²	20-1-26	Thorn	ALL	22-1-26	795	No Billing	None	
"	General Chk	-	60	Thorn	L ²	29-10-26	Thorn	L ²	2-2-26	-	For Ret. Int.		
"	-	\$.5	60	Thorn	L ²	1-2-26	Thorn	L ²	3-2-26	-			
"	Plough	-	60	Thorn	L ²	7-3-26	Thorn	L ²	18-2-26	-	To be covered for Ret. %		
"	-	12.24	60	Thorn	L ²	26-2-26	Thorn	L ²	4-3-26	-	Bookings spec taken	New Duty	
"	-	38.46	60	Thorn	L ²	3-3-26	Thorn	L ²	5-3-26	-	and duty all spec taken	New Duty	
"	Plough	-	60	Thorn	L ²	4-3-26	Thorn	L ²	6-3-26	-	-		
"	S.W.	6.24	120	Thorn	L ²	4-6-26	Thorn	L ²	9-3-26	-	No Billing all spec taken	New Duty	
"	Plough N ^o 1	-	60	Kay	L ²	8-3-26	Kay	L ²	9-3-26	-	To be covered for Ret. %		
"	Plough N ^o 2	-	60	Thorn	L ²	17-3-26	Thorn	L ²	20-3-26	-			
"	Plough N ^o 2	-	60	Thorn	L ²	29-6-26	Thorn	L ²	7-7-26	-	Report		
"	-	120.	60	Thorn	L ²	16-7-26	Thorn	L ²	20-7-26	-	Bookings spec taken	New Duty	
Postage Revenue	S.W.	60.	120.	Thorn	L ²	23-9-26	Thorn	L ²	25-9-26	-	Report - - -		
Postage Revenue	Plough N ^o 2	100.	60	Thorn	L ²	30-11-26	Thorn	L ²	21-1-27	568			
"	"	300.	60	Thorn	L ²	11-1-27	Thorn	L ²	11-1-27	-			
"	General Chk	31.	60.	Marrish	L ²	10/10/27	Marrish	L ²	15-10-27	611	Walker	L.S. 1	No other
"	200	11 cts.	120	"	611	17-11-27	"	L ²	25-11-27	-	Boyer	L.S. 1	No other

447

Ketch

130.

Description of Stamp	PLATE				ISSUED			RETURNED			Happ. No.	Made up for	Specimens	Remarks
	Key No.	Date	Net	Ta.	Dr.	Date	By.	Ta.	Date					
P4-R	S. W. 200	200	120	Hansen	W.S.	3-4-29	Hansen	W.S.	5-4-29	716	Minty	b. 1	New album.	
--	Council Chamber #1		60	Hansen	W.S.	5-2-29	Hansen	W.S.	16-4-29	---				
P4-R	Council Chamber #1	\$1	60	Hansen	W.S.	11-5-29	---	---	20-6-29	717	Cutshing	Topics		
--	---	\$2	60	---	---	21-5-29	---	---	1-6-29	---	Minty	S.S. 1	new album	
--	---	\$5	60	---	---	21-5-29	---	---	22-7-29	---	Helmer	b. 1	---	
Revenue cancelled blank	\$25		60	Hansen	W.S.	1-10-29	Hansen	W.S.	18-10-29	718	Mohler	all specimens	new issue	
--	"	\$100	60	Hansen	W.S.	2-10-29	Hansen	W.S.	19-10-29	---	Gross	---	---	
--	"	\$25	60	---	---	18-10-29	---	---	22-10-29	---	Helmer	---	---	
P4-R	S.W.	400	120	Hansen	W.S.	2-11-29	Hansen	W.S.	7-12-29	762	Cutshing	b. 1 & 2		

PLATE ISSUE

No. in lot	Description of Stamp.	PLATE						ISSUED				RETURNED				Specimens
		Key No.	Dist.	Set.	To	By	Date	Key Plate		Dist. Plate		Made up by				
								To	Date	To	Date					
860	RAH	S. W.	1006	120	Kerrin	off	70-10-21	off	27-10-21	Wester	None					
919	---	S	5	120	---	WS	23-3-21	WS	1-10-21	"	CI. 1. CSD 6					
919 1/2	---	S. W.	5	120	---	WS	20-6-21	WS	26-10-21	Brown	None					
912.5	---		1006	60	---	WS	20-6-21	WS	19-7-21	Wester	CI. 1. CSD 6					
		Perigl	25	60	---	WS	20-6-21	off	11-7-21	Wester	---					
			40	60	---	WS	---	WS	---	Wester	---					
			50	60	---	WS	---	WS	---	Wester	---					
987	RAH	S. W.	1001	120	"	off	28-3-21	off	29-3-21	Wester	---					
		Constitution	75	60	---	off	19-3-21	off	20-3-21	Wester	CSD 6					
999	RAH	Plough	4006	60	---	---	7-7-21	---	20-6-21	Wester	None					
1049	---	S. W. 1st N.	5006	120	---	off	16-11-21	---	20-12-21	Brown	---					
		Plough	3006	60	---	---	13-12-21	off	8-12-21	Wester	CI. 1. CSD 6					
1114	---	S. W.	206	120	---	---	21-8-20	---	22-8-20	Langley	CSD 6					
		Plough	1006	60	---	---	22-8-20	---	25-8-20	Langley	None					
			4006	60	---	---	25-8-20	---	28-8-20	Wester	---					
			5006	60	---	---	27-8-20	---	20-8-20	Wester	---					
1146	---	Plough	2506	60	---	---	9-5-20	---	2-5-20	Langley	---					
1231/1	---	S. W.	5006	120	---	---	11-11-20	---	15-11-20	Wester	---					
		Constitution	75	60	---	---	15-10-20	---	15-10-20	Wester	---					
1236	---	S. W.	1001	120	---	---	29-11-20	---	4-12-20	Wester	---					
1265	---	R ¹	906	120	---	---	29-4-20	---	4-7-20	Wester	all - 1000					
1274	---		2	120	---	---	6-10-20	---	6-10-20	Wester	---					
			10	60	---	---	22-10-20	off	4-4-21	Wester	---					
			25	---	---	---	23-10-20	---	2-5-21	Wester	None					
			30	---	---	---	---	---	19-7-21	Wester	---					
			50	---	---	---	20-10-20	---	5-7-21	Wester	---					
1326	---		1006	60	Kerrin	---	8-12-20	off	17-12-20	Wester	---					
			25	---	---	---	14-12-20	---	15-12-20	---	---					
			50	---	---	---	14-1-21	---	26-1-21	Wester	---					

Exhibition No.	Description of Stamp	PLATE					ISSUED				RETURNED				Made up to	Specimens
		Lit. No.	Imp.	Fol.	To	By	Date	Key Plate		Dist. Plate		To	Date			
								To	Date	To	Date					
1338	Revenue		\$25	120	Brown	618	6 + 17			618	6 + 17	J. Hunt	C.O.C. CA E.S.D. WAL			
			\$100	---	---	---	---			---	---	---				
			\$500	---	---	---	---	618	9 + 17		9 + 17	---				
			1000s	60	---	---	---	27 + 17	7 + 17		28 + 17	Flay				
1337	Rev.		12	---	---	---	20 + 17			---	2 + 17	Tanner	Cell - seal			
			25	---	---	---	27 + 17			---	27 + 17	---				
			30	---	---	---	22 + 17			---	22 + 17	Flay				
			40	---	---	---	25 + 17			---	29 + 17	Tanner				
			50	---	---	---	2 + 17			---	22 + 17	Flay				
			\$1	---	---	---	2 + 17			---	28 + 17	---				
			\$2	---	---	---	22 + 17			---	22 + 17	Tanner				
			\$5	---	---	---	22 + 17			---	22 + 17	---				
			1000s	120	Brown	618	17/17			618	17/17	Langley		Rev. 22. 24		
			400s	120	---	---	---	2 + 17			26/17	Weller				
	500s	---	---	---	---	29 + 17			29 + 17	Weller						
1442/2	---		12	60	Brown	618	11 + 17		618	12 + 17	Weller					
			30	---	---	---	11 + 17			---	Weller					
			40	---	---	---	12 + 17			---	12 + 17	---				
			1000s	---	---	---	20 + 17			---	20 + 17	J. Hunt				
			25	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---				
			500s	---	---	---	---	---		---	25 + 17	---				
			\$1	---	---	---	7 + 17			---	8 + 17	---				
			\$2	---	---	---	---	---		---	9 + 17	---				
			\$5	---	---	---	3 + 17	618	17/17	---	10 + 17	---				
			1200s	60	---	---	16 + 17	---	17/17	---	11/17	Langley				
1560/2 /1	---		100	120	Brown	618	2 + 17		618	2 + 17	Weller					
			200s	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Weller					
1593/2 /1	Rev.		1000s	60	Brown	618	13/17		618	14/17	Weller					
			\$2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Weller					
			\$5	120	Brown	618	17/17		618	17/17	Weller					

Execution No.	Description of Stamp.	PLATE							ISSUED				RETURNED				Date up to	Specimen
		Key No.	Qty.	Set.	To	By	Date	To	Date	To	Date	To	Date	To	Date			
																Key No.		
1674/1	PrR	SW	266	120	hamer	Sp								Sp	17/7/99	Burton	100	
			565												17/7/99	London		
1674/2	PrR		30	60	ham	Cal	1/2	Cal	1/2	Cal	1/2	Cal	1/2	Cal	1/2	London		
			30				1/2								1/2	London		
			31				1/2								1/2	London		
1726/2			1000				1/100								1/100	J. Hunt		
			80				1/100								1/100	V. Hunt		
			85				1/100								1/100			
1726/1		SWR	104	100	hamer	Bury	1/100							Bury	1/100	Wobley	100	
		SWR	400													J. Hunt	100	
1749/1		SWR	200											London	1/100	London	100	
		SWR	8											London	1/100	London		
		SWR	6											London	1/100	London		
1804/1		No 1	12	60	hamer	SWR	1/100							SWR	1/100			
			25				1/100											
			40				1/100											
			50				1/100											
			31				1/100											
			35				1/100											
1840/2		No 1	1500	60			1/100											
		No 2	300				1/100											
1840/1		SW No 1	300	120	hamer	Coatell	1/100							Coatell	1/100	Coatell	100	
			8				1/100								1/100	Coatell	100	
4/2A		SW No 1	1	100			1/100											
			2	100			1/100											
			3	100			1/100											
			4	100			1/100											
			6	100			1/100											
			8	100			1/100											

1/100 SW 1 100
 1/100 SW 2 100
 1/100 SW 3 100
 1/100 SW 4 100
 1/100 SW 6 100
 1/100 SW 8 100

3. REQUISITION ORDERS

In this section are photocopies of three orders from the Crown Agents to De La Rue for Kedah stamps and postal stationery in 1925 and 1926. They have been selected as 'samples' to show the style and form requisitions took at this time. In the main, these orders yield no information which is not more usefully recorded elsewhere, but these particular ones show interesting examples of the colour requirements of the Crown Agents and how they were specified. The originals are in the De La Rue archives in the National Postal Museum.

The one dated 7.1.26 includes orders for the new values of 6 cents, 12 cents and 35 cents, the first stamps for Kedah to be produced from steel plates. As can be seen, the Crown Agents made no specific conditions regarding their production, so the reason De La Rue abandoned the use of electrotyped plates in favour of steel cannot be found here.

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

All communications on this subject must
 state the name and rank, and, where
 known, the name and position of the
 Crown Agent for the Colonies.
 Telegrams: CROWN, LONDON.
 Telephone: VICTORIA, 1730.

SHIPPING OFFICE.
 Address: 125, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.
 Telegrams: FREELAND, STOCK, LONDON.
 Telephone: AVEWICK, 3318.

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 99

OFFICE OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,

4, MILLBANK,
 LONDON, S.W. 1.

21st March, 1925.

Gentlemen,

We request you to execute, in the terms of your running contract, the order specified below:—

Packages must be addressed—

Ref. No. G/ Kedah 447/1.
 Indent No. 29 a-43.
 Dept. or Account Treasury.
 Inspector.—Crown Agents

Req.	O. H. M. S.	
447		
C ↗ A	A ↗ K	
		Penang.
No.		

The date for delivery should be given here 7 weeks

Item	Quantity	Duty	Description	Table	Rate	Cost
1	300,000	3 ct.	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour green as usual).	C. 2.	2/- $\frac{1}{2}$	30. 12. 6.
2	500,000	5 ct.	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour Orange as usual).	"	1/10 $\frac{1}{2}$	47. 7. 11.
3	25,000	2 ct.	Kedah Postcards (Inland) (Colour of stamp, brown, & size as Straits Settlements)		13/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	16. 7. 1.
4	20,000	12 cts	Kedah Registered Envelopes, size "G" registration fee .174 $\frac{1}{2}$		60/9	60. 15. -
			411 copies each of 2 cts post- cards and 12 cts Registered Envelopes marked "specimen" to be provided.			8. 8.
			Original 12 Cents Regtn. Env. Stamp Plate			7. 0. 0.
Insert cost of articles specified on continuation sheet (if any)						
TOTAL						£ 162. 11. 2.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

* Correspondence on this order must
 bear the name and title of the
 agent and must be addressed to the
 Crown Agents for the Colonies,
 4, MILBANK, LONDON, W. 1.
 Telephone: CROWN, LONDON.
 Telegrams: VICTORIA 1730.
 SHIPPING OFFICE,
 125, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C. 3.
 Telephone: 1521. AND: 1700A, LONDON.
 Telegrams: 492444, 1212.

OFFICE OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,

4, MILBANK,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

9th December, 1925.

Gentlemen,

We request you to execute, in the terms of your running contract, the order specified below:—

Packages must be addressed—

Regd.	O. H. M. S.
491	
C ↑ Δ	A ↑ K
	Penang.
No.	

Ref. No. G/Kedah 491/1.

Indent No. 29 - 44.

Dept. of Account Treasury.

Inspector—Crown Agents

The date for delivery should be given here 6 weeks

Quantity	Duty	Description	Table	Rate	Cost
1 480,000	2 ct.	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps, colour green.	C. 2.	1/10 ¹ / ₄	45. 10. 0.
2 960,000	4 ct.	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps, (colour blue purple, as Straits Settlements 4 ct. stamps)	"	1/9 ¹ / ₂	86. 0. 0.
3 24,000	1	Postage & Revenue Stamps.	C. 5	14/8 ¹ / ₈	17. 12. 3.
4 9,600	1/2	" " " "	"	24/4 ⁵ / ₈	11. 13. 10.
5 50,000	2 ct.	All stamps to be interleaved with blotting paper as usual.		1/6 ¹⁰⁰ / ₈ nts.	9. 8. 4.
		Postcards size 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" colour green.		9/11	24. 15. 10.
		* Item 2 is required urgently.			
		A colour proof of the 4 cents stamp is to be submitted to the Crown Agents for approval before printing is commenced.			
		NOTE:— 416 copies of 4 cents stamps overprinted specimen, and 413 specimen 2 cts postcards, to be provided.			
		<small>(Insert cost of articles specified in continuation above if any)</small>			
GH/St.			TOTAL	£	195. 8. 11.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS

36

All communications of this nature must bear the name and no. in given column, and must be addressed to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Telegrams: CROWN, LONDON.
Telegrams: H.C. ORLA 7730

SHIPPING OFFICE:

Address: 130, Leadenhall Street, E.C. 3.
Telegrams: FREELAND, STOVAL, LONDON.
Telegrams: AFRICA, 1311.

OFFICE OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,

4, MILBANK,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

7/1/26.

71
127

Gentlemen,

We request you to execute, in the terms of your running contract, the order specified below:—

Packages must be addressed—

Reg. 435	O. H. M. S.
C ↑ A	A ↑ K
/1	PENANG
No.	

Ref. No. G/ Kedah 495/1

Indent No. 34 - 44

Dept. or Account Treasury

Inspector.—Crown Agents

The date for delivery should be given here 9 weeks

Item	Quantity	Duty	Description	Table	Rate	Cost
1	480,000	1 ct.	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour black as usual)	G.2.	1/10 ¹	45. 10. 0.
2	960,000	6 "	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour Red as present 4 ct stamp)	"	1/8 ¹	86. - -
3	360,000	12 "	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour dark blue, black centre, pattern as present 4 ct postage (and revenue stamp)	G.5	4/10 ¹³ / ₁₆	88. 4. 4.
4	120,000	35 "	Kedah Postage & Revenue Stamps (Colour plum - as present 21 ct stamp)	"	5/5 ¹ / ₁₆	32. 10. 7.
			ALL stamps to be interleaved with blotting paper		1/6s.11s.	15. - -
			Coat of necessary dies and plates:—			
			6 cts. stamps }		£21 each	63. - -
			12 " " }			
			35 " " }			
			Proofs of the original dies as well as Colour proofs of the 6, 12, and 35 stamps to be submitted to the Crown Agents for approval before printing is commenced.			
			NOTE: 416 copies of each of 6 cts., 12 cts., & 35 cts. stamps overprinted specimen to be provided.			8. 2.
			TOTAL		£	330. 13. 1.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

4. THE CROWN AGENTS RECORD BOOKS

The Crown Agents archives include their Record Books. These contain a representative example from each order of stamps in a new value or colour which the Crown Agents made on behalf of their clients. Notable amongst these for Kedah are the De La Rue 1929 'Council Chamber' revenue stamps. There are also copies of an 8 cents carmine in the 'padi-sheaf' design, printed by De La Rue, and a 15 cents black and indigo in the 'portrait' design, printed by Waterlow & Sons, both produced late in 1941 but not despatched owing to the Japanese invasion of Malaya. (See Colour Plate 8.) It is likely that there were other examples of the last two stamps in their respective printers' archives but they have not been traced. If they did not survive the war it is possible the Crown Agents' copies are unique.

The Record Books are held in the Philatelic Collections Section of the British Library and may be inspected on application to the Curator.

POSTAL STATISTICS

The following information has been taken from the annual returns of the Kedah Post and Telegraph Department which were included in the Advisers' Annual Reports. As these reports, and the statistics they contain, are based on the Muslim year which does not correspond to the Christian year and is not of 365 days length (*see* Note 1 at the end of Appendix 1), these statistics are probably of only limited value. They can do little more than provide a rough picture of the volume of postal business and indicate its general trends during this period. This being so, and as the Muslim year is not familiar in the Western world, the nearest Christian equivalent is given instead. It is hoped that the loss of strict accuracy thus caused will, in the circumstances, be acceptable.

No figures were given for the war years 1940 and 1941 apart from Kangar for 1940.

There are some postal statistics in the Advisers' Report for the eighteen-month period 1906-1908 (q.v. in Appendix 1), but these include returns for the post office of Satool which was being administered by Kedah at the time, but which reverted to Siamese administration on the transfer to Britain in 1909. (*See* the note at the end of Chapter 6.)

POSTAL BUSINESS - KEDAH

The figures for 1909-1924, both years inclusive, are for the postal business of all the post offices of Kedah and Perlis combined, but from 1925 onwards they are for the offices of Kedah only, those for Perlis being given separately.

Up to and including 1928, the figure in the first column includes all postal articles, but from 1929 onwards it is exclusive of registered items and parcels.

	Approx. no. of articles passed through the post	No. of Reg. Articles		No. of Parcels		Revenue \$
		Received	Despatched	Received	Despatched	
1909	*	*	*	No service		7,563
1910	211,560	4,762	4,278	1,047	225	7,777
1911	312,072	7,601	6,794	1,648	287	16,565
1912	436,899	10,755	8,971	2,295	311	†40,099
1913	509,891	13,456	12,372	3,551	530	26,561
1914	474,614	14,283	13,540	4,240	678	27,476
1915	636,844	13,432	12,577	3,994	763	*
1916	831,389	17,293	16,083	4,598	814	*
1917	921,024	20,503	19,741	5,200	1,154	*
1918	1,086,384	26,154	22,272	5,769	1,769	*

* No record.

† This figure includes, according to the Adviser's Annual Report for the year, a total of almost \$19,000 worth of orders from philatelists for the first issue of Kedah stamps.

1919	1,295,658	30,441	30,065	7,172	2,776	*
1920	1,648,660	37,164	36,860	9,117	3,279	*
1921	1,650,519	40,705	39,211	10,142	3,358	*
1922	1,578,577	42,012	41,669	10,312	3,606	*
1923	1,889,446	43,368	42,846	10,054	3,593	*
1924	2,308,020	45,583	45,882	10,389	3,362	*
1925	2,295,735	47,546	49,417	13,092	4,753	*
1926	2,540,642	52,920	52,693	14,744	5,088	*
1927	3,184,974	62,651	59,140	16,833	5,889	*
1928	3,276,169	65,117	65,494	17,072	5,707	*
1929	3,605,290	67,065	64,714	17,652	5,512	*
1930	3,708,913	71,472	69,768	18,579	5,790	*
1931	2,937,350	66,764	65,858	15,122	5,003	*
1932	2,678,455	60,044	61,053	12,772	4,370	*
1933	2,421,848	57,342	59,623	10,860	3,483	*
1934	2,498,548	57,300	58,636	11,095	3,032	*
1935	2,968,433	60,373	59,802	11,881	3,418	*
1936	3,083,678	61,109	59,508	12,126	4,260	*
1937	3,233,126	61,750	61,660	12,323	3,992	*
1938	3,579,693	64,467	62,230	13,618	4,579	*
1939	3,604,341	66,587	66,647	14,302	4,914	*

The Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs for 1930-31 attributed the decline in postal business which began in that year to the world recession. Being a producer of primary goods, mainly tin and rubber, the recession had a considerable effect on Malaya.

POSTAL BUSINESS - PERLIS

In 1925 a separate Adviser's Report for Perlis was submitted for the first time. It contained figures showing the volume of postal business at Kangar Post Office and 'Padang Besar Railway Station'. The latter office opened sometime in 1923 and was a railway agency for the period up to the Japanese Occupation.

Although the reports do not specifically say so, the figures in each column for both Kangar and Padang Besar are almost certainly combined totals, i.e. for postal articles received and despatched.

1. KANGAR

	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Registered Articles</i>	<i>Parcels</i>
1925	61,022	3,612	775
1926	54,119	3,091	707
1927	60,593	3,628	1,114

* No record.

† The apparent decline in business for this year is explained by the fact that the statistics for Kangar and Padang Besar have been extracted for the first time.

POSTAL STATISTICS

1928	88,335	3,816	1,162
1929	92,729	3,806	840
1930	101,725	3,801	1,069
1931	77,740	3,550	653
1932	73,918	*1,366	661
1933	91,913	4,087	929
1934	76,128	4,233	1,016
1935	96,564	4,143	1,131
1936	104,260	4,081	1,005
1937	130,195	4,533	980
1938	137,033	4,465	1,124
1939	126,750	5,214	1,255
1940	130,130	5,672	1,023

2. PADANG BESAR

1925	22,230	689	76
1926	25,883	941	22
1927	33,033	1,064	58
1928	34,762	1,708	55
1929	39,897	1,955	52
1930	41,548	2,738	39
1931	34,801	2,346	45
1932	18,938	2,333	81
1933	28,431	2,208	31
1934	31,642	1,799	40
1935	35,243	2,179	54
1936	28,665	1,977	46
1937	32,628	2,164	70
1938	32,877	2,005	67
1939	25,142	1,626	45
1940		No figures given	

Postal business at both Kangar and Padang Besar, as in Kedah, was badly affected by the world trade recession of the 1930s, Padang Besar particularly so. Business there in 1932 was less than half that of 1930 and never recovered to the 1930 figure before the Second World War. It might well be, however, that the returns for this period were affected in some way by the manner in which the Station Master discharged his duties described by the Adviser to the Perlis Government in his report for the year April 1935 to March 1936:

The Post Office at Padang Besar Railway Station in which the Station Master acts as Post Master deals only with urgent business direct with Kedah.

What this statement means precisely is almost impossible to say, but one senses an overworked official who may not have thought his remuneration was commensurate with

* The abnormally low number of registered articles for this year appears to have no obvious explanation.

his dual role. In Chapter 24, 'The Postmarks of Kedah and Perlis', under Padang Besar, may be found some extraordinary examples of misplaced slugs in the railway agency's canceller. Was someone trying to make a point?

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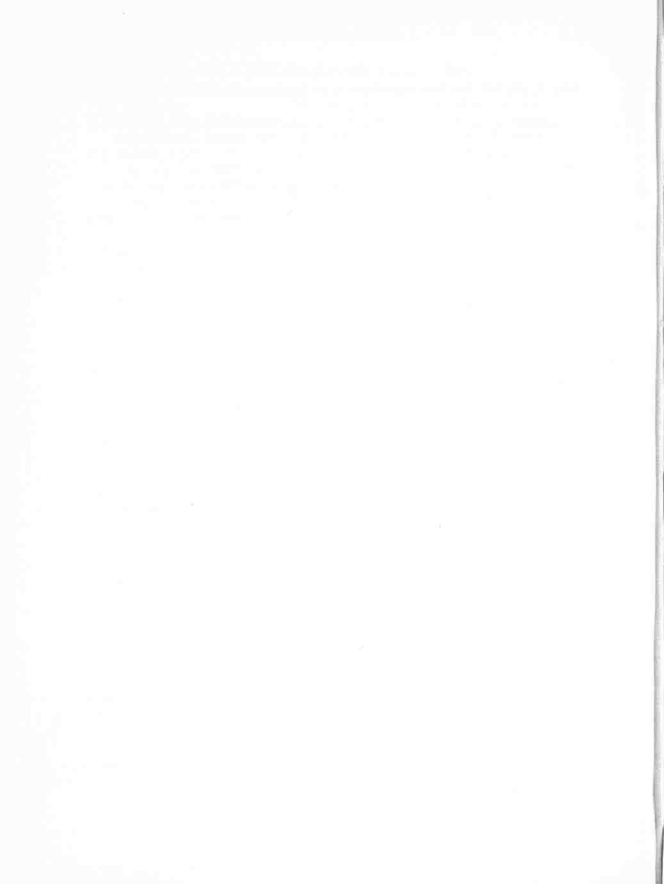
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INDEX

- ABDUL AZIZ, Tungku, (Raja Muda), see Royal Family (Kedah)
- ABDUL HAMID HALIM SHAH, Sultan, see Sultans
- ABDUL RAHMAN, Tungku, 23
- ADMINISTRATION, British, Kedah compared with FMS, 18-19
- ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS, Kedah, list of, 1; Baling, 352, 358, Bandar Bharu, 351, 352, 368; Kota Star, 345; Kuala Muda, 13, 353, 354, 359, 367, 369; Kubang Pasu, 7, 355; Kulim, 13, 357, 361, 364, 366, 393; Langkawi, 363; Padang Terap, 337-8, 360, 367; Sik, 368; Yen, 371
- ADVISERS
- Kedah, 289, 381; first appointment by Siamese, 11-12; difficulties of, 13; disagreement with Malays, 16-17; list of, 25; correspondence with CA, 71-4
- Kedah (Reports of), 52, 54, 63, 66, 70, 227, 246, 328, 329, 335, 337, 345, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 358, 359, 361, 363, 364, 366, 367, 368, 369, 371, 381-99; description of Alor Star in 1905, 381-2
- Kedah (Residence of), 57, 59, picture, 16
- Perlis, 60, 381, 459; first appointment by Siamese, 15; list of, 27
- Siamese Financial, first appointment by Siamese in Kedah, 11-12; difficulties of, 13; first appointment by Siamese in Perlis, 15
- AERO FIELD, THE, 331-2
- AGENCIES, RAILWAY, see Railway
- AIRCRAFT, see Airmails
- AIRFIELD/PORT, see town name
- AIRMAILS
- Aircraft, Fokker: Southern Cross, 314, 317; Southern Sun, 314, 395, picture 313; PH-AFL (Skylark), picture, 311; PH-AFO, 314; PH-AIE (Magpie), 321; PH-AIH (Hawk), picture, 316. De Havilland: G-EBMW (City of Cairo), picture, 317
- 'All-Up' Scheme, 331-2
- Australian National Airways, 312, 314, 394, 395. Aircraft: Southern Cross, 314, 317; Southern Sun, 313, 314, 395. Crash at Alor Star, 312-4, 395. Pilots: Allan, G. U., 313; Kingsford Smith, Sir Charles, 313, 314, 317, 395; Ulm, Charles, 395
- Brinsmead, Colonel H. C., 314
- British Air Service, 321
- British Airways Ltd, 316
- Empire Air Mail Scheme, 332
- Field, John C. W., *All-Up Airmail*, 331-2
- Imperial Airways, 311, 312, 314, 315, 317, 320, mail arrangements for experimental flights, 394; use of Alor Star airfield 1934 to 1936, 395-7; extension of service to Africa, 410. Aircraft: De Havilland G-EBMW (City of Cairo), 317. Rates: to UK, 318, 396, 405-6; via Karachi, 405-6, 408-9; to Africa, 410-11. Route test letter, 320
- KLM, 312, 314, 315, 320, 321, 322; mail arrangements/use of A. Star airfield 1930 to 1937, 394-7. Aircraft: Fokker PH-AFL (Skylark), 311; PH-AFO, 314; PH-AIE (Magpie), 321; PH-AIH (Hawk), 316. Pilots: Wiersma, Capt., 314. Rates: to UK, 319, 408-9; to Europe, 407, 408-9
- KNILM, 314; rates to DEI, 406-7, 408
- MacRobertson Air Race, 315, 396
- Malayan leaflet, 312
- PAA, Clipper Service, 252, 322; rates to UK, 319
- Penang Flying Club, 396, 398
- Penang to Marseilles Service, 394
- Queensland and Northern Territory Air Service (QANTAS), 321
- Royal Air Force, 315, bases in Kedah/censor cachers, 372; use of A. Star airfield, 394, 397, 398; use of S. Patani airfield, 396, 398
- Tasman Empire Airways Ltd (TEAL), 321
- US internal airlines, 321
- Wearne Bros. Air Service, 315, 316
- ALLAN, G. U. (pilot), 313
- 'ALL-UP' SCHEME, 331-2
- ALOR JANGGUS, 391
- ALOR STAR, 1, 17, 19, 31, 37, 246, 247, 334, 338, 375, 376, 378, 386, 387, 388, 389, 391, 392; description (in 1874), 8, 29; picture of a road in, 20; railway reaching, 21; population, 22; derivation, 28; pictures of quayside, 33, 35; transfer ceremony, 56, 57-9; mail to & from, (up to 1909), 63-5, (1909 to 1912), 70; cover bearing Straits stamps, 140-1; description in 1905, 381-2
- Airfield, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 317, picture, 316; use as RAF airbase, 372, 375; preparation of runway & use 1930 to 1939, 394-8
- Postmarks, (to 1909), 44-9, 62, 346-9, (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 346-8, (1912 to 1941), 247, 346-50; fake, 44, 345; forgeries, 350
- Post Office, 35, 40, 64, 65, 173, 215, 304, 312, 334, 337, 360, 365, 373, 387, 391, 392, 393, 394, sale of MBE stamps in, 227, 238, 239, 246, 390; pictures, 35, 335; location of early office, 35, 335; reduction of staff in, 385
- AMERICAN PHILATELIST, THE, 191
- ANAK BUKIT, 85, 390
- ANDERSON, Sir John, (Governor of SS), 17, 18
- ANGLO-SIAMESE Declaration (1902), 11-12

- Treaty (1826), 7
- ANNAM (& TONKIN), 42
- ANNUAL REPORTS, see Advisers or Straits (Postal Department)
- ARAU, 4, 21, 375, 376, 380, 393
- ARCHIVES, see Crown Agents & De La Rue
- AUGUSTIN, James F., *Bygone Kedah*, 25, 31, 85, 249, 335
- AUSTRALIA, 40, 311, 314, 315, 317, 321, 379, 395, 397
- AUSTRALIAN
Armed Services, 372-3, 378
Imperial Force (AIF), 374, 378, 379
National Airways, 312, 314, 394, 395
- BADLISHAH, Sultan, see Sultans
- BAGAN SAMAK, 336, 351, 392, 393
Postmarks (1912 to 1941), 239, 351, 352
Post Office, 238, 335, 351, 352, 392, 393; closure of, 336
- BAHAMAS (stamps), 212
- BALEI BESAR, see Council Chamber
- BALING, 1, 336, 387, 388, 389, 393
District, 352, 358
Postmarks, (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 352, (1912 to 1941), 352
Post Office, 335, 352, 385, 387, 392
- BANDAR BHARU, 390; establishment of, 336, 351; district, 351, 352, 368; postmarks, 352; postmark forgery, 352; Post Office, 336, 351, 352, 393
- BANGKOK, 4, 6, 7, 23, 30, 31, 33, 55, 386, 389;
German influence in, 10; beginning of postal system, 28
Airport (Don Muang), 314
Post Office, 28
Treaty 1909, 14-15, 17, 55, 56, 60-1, 92
- BANGKOK TIMES, 30
- BECKITT, Page, (MBE Committee), 226
- BEDONG
Postmarks, 353
Post Office, 337, 353, 367, 389, 390, 392
- BICYCLES, 25, 34, 334, 382, 385
- BODOM, Mr. (photographer), 85-6
- BOGGS, W. S. & STRANGE, A. M., *The Foundations of Philately*, recess printing on dry paper, 102; chrome-facing a plate, 108; marks on the plate, 127
- BOLARUM (India), 377
- BOMBAY, 377
- BORDERS, Kedah-Perlis, 1, 4, 34, 59; Kedah-Siam, 1, 376; Perlis-Siam, 4, 21, 54, 365
- BORNEO, British, 40, 41, 42, 226, 326, 380
Stamps, 72, 227
- BORNEO CO. (forwarding agents), 28
- BOSSES (of colour), see Marginal Markings
- BOXES
Insured, 393, box service, 407-8
- Pillar, 35, 387, 393
- BOYCOTT (of Kedah admin.), 17
- BRADBURY WILKINSON & CO. LTD, 173, 283
- BRIDGE, Sultan Badlishah, 35; Wan Mat Saman, 391
- BRIGHT & SON (dealers), 241
- BRINSMEAD, Colonel H. C., 314
- BRISTOL, 321
- BRITAIN (UK), 21, 42, 56, 153, 310, 313, 318, 321, 326, 329, money order to (from Kedah), 387, 396
Relations with Kedah, 6-8, 16-19
Relations with Siam, 7-10, 11-12, 14-15
- BRITISH, 334
Administration, Kedah compared to FMS, 18-19
Advice, 19
Air Service, 321
Airways Ltd, 316
Armed Services, 372-3, 378
Consul (in Kedah), 13, 59; (in Bangkok), 28
Government, 18, 58-9, 70, 383
Library, 44, 143, 149, 174, 250, 271, 417, 428, 429, 456
Possessions & Protectorates 1918, list of territories in, 326-7
- BRUNEI, 226, 326
Stamps, 121, 170, 213, 227
- BUDDHISM, 6, 18
- BUGIS, 6
- BUKIT MERTAJAM, 34, 385, 393
- BULLFIGHT, picture of, 22
- BUNGA EMAS (Golden Flower), 6, 7
- BUREAU OF ENGRAVING & PRINTING (Washington), 82, 102
- BURMA, 7, 31
- CACHETS, Postal, 343
Censors (RAF), 372, (Naval), 373
- CALCUTTA, 314, 376
- CALENDAR
Christian, 305, 381, 399, 457
Muslim, 18, 305, 381, 382, 386, 400, 457, table of months, 399
- CALICOES (for cleaning plate), 212
- CANADA, 42, 49
- CANADIAN
Stamps, 71
- CANALS (Kedah), 334, 392; Wan Mat Saman, 31, 334; (Perlis), 398
- CANCELS, see under place name and Forgery
- CARRIERS, MAIL, see Runners
- CARS, 20
- 'CASH-ON-DELIVERY', 388
- CATALOGUES
Higgins & Gage (catalogue of world p/s 1971), 39, 67
ISC, Malaysia, 67, 119
Scott, USA, 102

- Stanley Gibbons *Part 1*, 66, 115, 119, 140, 143, 170, 198, 204, 250; *Part 21*, 38
- CENSOR CACHETS, (RAF), 372, (Naval), 373
- CERTIFICATE OF POSTING, 402, 404
- CEYLON, 387
- CHANGLOON (Changlun), 30, 32, 387
Post Office, 335, 385
- CHEAH AH SOO (Articles in *The Malayan Philatelist*), 197, 249
- CHEAH, Dr J. S. (Article in *The Singapore Philatelist*), 265-6
- CHIENGMAL (Siam), 28, 31
- CHINA, 40, 41, 42
- CHINESE
In Kedah, 1, 21, 22, 23; In Perlis, 4
- CHRISTIAN
Calendar, 305, 381, 399, 457
Dates, 44, 47
Missionaries, 28
Religion, 18
- CHRISTMAS ISLAND, 326
- CHROMIUM-PLATING, see Printing
- CHULALONGKORN, King of Siam, 8, 55, 58
- CHUPING, 4
- CLIMATE, 1, 4; effect of heavy rain, 391, 396; see also Monsoon
- CLUBBED PACKETS, 406, 411, 416
- COCHIN-CHINA, 42
- CHUPING, 4
- CLIMATE, 1, 4; effect of heavy rain, 391, 396; see also Monsoon
- CLUBBED PACKETS, 406, 411, 416
- COCHIN-CHINA, 42
- COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS, 326
- COLLAS, P., *Postal History of Australian Army WWII (AIF/AAPS)*, 378
- COLLINS, Peter, (Article in *Stamp Collecting*), 31
- COLONIAL OFFICE, 17
Files, 71
Journal, 78, 91, 96, 110, 117, 119, closure of mill supplying coloured paper, 93, 96; new single working plates, 109; change of design on 1919 composite die, 114; reason for 'greyish' paper, 117-18
- COLOUR (of stamps), see Printing (Ink)
- COLOUR TRIALS, see Printing (Trials)
- COMMISSION, Opium, 61
- COMMONWEALTH STAMP CO., 152, 156, 171
- COPPER-PLATE, see Printing (Recess)
- CORRUGATION (of plate), 211-12
- COUNCIL CHAMBER, 8, 19, 91-2, pictures, 14, 25, 56; transfer ceremony in, 56-9; description of, 381; see also Stamp Design
- COUNCIL, KEDAH/PERLIS STATE, see State
- COUPONS, Reply, 330, 404
- CROSS-HATCHING, 156-7
- CROWN AGENTS, 66, 134, 142, 148, 150, 152, 153, 155, 173, 177, 197, 198, 199, 205, 250, 256, 279, 282, 285, 288, 291, 297, 306, correspondence Kedah Adviser/DLR, 71-7; letter re 2 dies for 2c, 156; letter on 'padi-sheaf' dies, 171; reply to DLR re 12c reg. stamp, 290-1
- Archives, 271, 273-4
- Bulletin, 96, 117, 118, 119, 120, 144, 153, 154, 190, 197, 198, 199, 205, 220, announcement of unissued 8c red, 143; announcement of unissued 15c, 250
- Dies & Punches Register, 257, 285, 420, 437, 442-4, entries for reg. envs., 297
- Inspectors, 75, 102, 153, 209
- Plate Issue Book, 177, 429, 437, 445-51, replacement of 'Malay ploughing' Plate 1 by Plate 2, 201-2
- Plates Register, 257, 285, 297, 420, 437-41
- Record Books, 456
- Requisition Books, 154, 250, 417-18, 420, 428-36, records of Halim Shah issue, 252-5; records of Revenue stamps, 256, 259; records of p/s cards, 308; records of reg. envs., 309
- Requisition Orders, 143, 198, 199, 452-5
- CROWN WORKSHOP, K.L., 376, 380
- CURRENCY
Dollars (Spanish), 7, 37
Gold Standard, 36
Keping (local tokens), 37
Siamese, 36-7, 40, 42; Ticals, 40
Straits, 34, 37
- CURVING (plates), see Printing (Plates)
- CUYLENBERG, A. van, (MBE Committee), 226
- CYLINDER (Printing & Impression), see Printing
- DAMP BOOK, 85
- DANDY ROLLS, 96, 121
- DARNTON, R. E. (Article in *Stamp Collecting*), 134
- DATE OF ISSUE, 1912 set, 94; 1919 to 1921 issues, 109-10, 119-20; Mult. Script 'padi-sheaves', 142-4; Mult. Script 'large' values, 197-8; MBE issues, 226-7; p/s cards, 279; p/s reg. envs., 290
- DAVIS, Bonnie, *The Royal Siamese Postal Service, the Early Years*, 28-31, 33-4, 40, 52-3
- DEAD LETTER OFFICE (Alor Star), 344
- DEBT-BONDAGE, 12
- DECLARATION, Anglo-Siamese (1902), 11-12
- DE LA RUE & CO. LTD., correspondence
Kedah/C.A., 71-7; delay in first Kedah issue, 77; early history & electrotyping in recess printing, 81-2; making 1912 'padi-sheaf' plates, 82-5; 'jubilee' lines/defacing margins, 85; making 1912 'Malay ploughing' plates, 86-7; lead-striking, 86, 106; 'Transfer' Department, 89, 126, 148; curving plates, 91, 159-62, 201; coloured papers, 93; multiple impressions on transfer die, 106-7; 'nickelling' plates, 107-8; dual working plates for 1919 4 cents, 110-11; 1919 composite die, 111-2, 126; pulling proofs, 125; secondary dies/steel working plates, 146-50; staff recruitment in 1922, 148; plate 2 of 1c black, 150-3; change to rotary printing, 159-163, 426-7; 'wet' and 'dry' printing in 1930s, 162-4; perforating Multiple Script

- 'padi-sheaves', 166-9; bombing of premises, 173-4, 417; rotary press problem, 184-5, 427; printing 'Malay ploughing' 12c & 35c, 201-2; re-chroming/repair electrotyped plates, 207-9, 225; contract loss to Waterlows, 249-50; proofs as samples, 274; security in works, 285; letter to CA re 12c reg. stamp, 290-1; production of reg. envs., 291, 296-8; printing banknotes, 426-7
- Archives, 206, 224, 260, 262, 264, 265, 267, 270, 272, 273, 274, 275, 285, 289, 298, 417, sales of, 262
- Journal, 86, description of lead-striking, 106; bombing of premises, 173-4
- Private Day Books, 256, 279, 285, 288, 417-25, 428-31, entries for reg. envs., 297; records for p/s cards, 307; records for reg. envs., 309; supplementary information in CA records, 431-6
- Publication, *The Banknote*, 102, 160; staff recruitment in 1922, 148; plate layout problem caused by paper shrinkage, 166; no. of rotary presses in use, 176; rotary press problem, 184-5; paper in sheets/tolls, 210; extract from, 426-7
- Rotary Recess Printing Press, 207, 212, effect of, 149, 155; need of curved plates for, 160, 206, description of, 163, 426-7; no. in use, 176, 426; problem, 184-5, 427; use of paper on, 210; use in printing banknotes, 426-7
- DEMONETISATION (stamps), Siamese, 63, 70; FMS, 66, MBE issues, 228, 240; 1937 Portrait issue, 251
- DESIGN, see Stamp
- DIE, Master/Rocker/Roller/Secondary/Transfer, see Printing
- DIES & PUNCHES REGISTER, see Crown Agents
- DINDINGS, 326
- DIRECT PLATE (DP), 80, 426-7
- DISTRICT OFFICES/OFFICERS, 18, 337-8
- DISTRICTS, see Administrative Districts
- DOLLARS (Spanish), 7, 37
- 'DRY' PRINTING, see Printing ('Wet' & 'Dry')
- DUBBER (use in inking of proofs), 125
- DUKE, A. H. (adviser to Raja of Perlis), 15, role in transfer ceremony, 60
- DUTCH, 6
- DUTCH EAST INDIES, 48, 49, 317
- EAST INDIA COMPANY, 1, 6-7
- EASTON, John, *Postage Stamps in the Making*, choice of inks for vignettes, 79-80, 90; first use of transfer roller by DLR, 81; making electroplates & advantages/disadvantages, 83-4, 103, 126, 148, 149, 151, 185, 204; lead-striking, 86; white lettering, 92-3; pantograph varieties, 105; multiple impressions on the transfer die, 106; making a re-entry, 107; 'nickelling' plates, 108; typesetting, 135-6; curving a plate, 159; composition of electrotyped plates, 160; problems of paper shrinkage, 166; rocking of transfer die, 193; inking 'wet' paper, 194; cracks in plate, 200, 202; rechroming electrotyped plates, 207; shades of ink in recess printing, 210-11; handwiping of plates, 212; re-touching lithographic stones, 296
- EGYPT, 380
- ELECTROTYPING/ELECTROTYPES, see Printing
- ELEPHANTS, 6, 13
- Drivers, 20
- Transport, 30, 32, 334, 335
- EMPIRE AIR MAIL SCHEME, 332
- EMPIRE HOTEL, K.L., 129
- ENTENTE CORDIALE, 9
- ENVELOPES, Registration, see Postal Stationery
- ESSAYS, see Printing
- EUROPE, 314, 394, 397
- EUROPEANS: in Kedah, 22, 394, 395, 398; list of officers 1906 to 1908, 382; in Perlis, 22, 392, 393, 398
- EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS, see Journals
- EXHIBITION
- 1922 Malay Borneo, 226, 390
- 1924 Agri-Horticultural, K.L., 390
- 1924 British Empire, 343, 390
- 1926 Kedah, 343
- EXTRA-TERRITORIAL RIGHTS (Britain *vis-à-vis* Siam), 12
- FAKE, straight-line Siamese cancel, 44, 345
- FALL-OUT (of type), 135-6
- FARMS (revenue), 10, 11, 12
- FAUX, Marcus, (Crown Agents), 201, 418, 428
- FAWDRY, C. W. (Article in *Stamp Review*), 29
- 'FEATHER-IN-HAT' FLAW, 121-2, 127, 215
- FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 12, 13, 15, 34, 42, 63, 144, 226, 323, 326, 380, 384, 389; absorption of Kedah into, 13, 16-18, 21, 60-1; road system compared to Kedah, 20; postal business compared with Kedah, 23; money order service to (from Kedah), 387
- Postal Stationery, 279, 281, 293, 296, used in Kedah/Perlis, 67, 320
- Stamps, 72, 139, used in Kedah/Perlis, 47-51, 53-4, 59, 61, 62, 63, 66-70; demonetisation of, 66
- Surveyor General's maps, 2-4, 338
- FIELD, John C. W., *All-Up Airmail*, 331-2
- FIELD POST OFFICES, (SP501-506), 372-3; (FPO 30C), 375, 376, 380; (FPO 31), 374, 375, 376; (FPO 36), 375, 377; (FPO 47), 375, 377; (FPO 60), 375, 378; Section Base Post Offices, 375, 378, 380
- FIRST DAY COVERS, 1937 Portrait issue, 250, 251
- FLAT-BED PRINTING, see Printing
- FLAWS, see Printing (Varieties)
- FLYING CLUB, PENANG, 396, 398

FORCED LABOUR (Kerah), 11, 12, 386

FOREIGN

List of territories, 328

Postage Rates, 324, 325

FORGERY, straight-line Siamese cancel, 44, 345; inverted MBE o/p, 239; Sungai Patang, 239, 370; MBE issues, 240; cancellations 1912 to 1941, 128, 135, 240, 344, 350, 352, 360, 362

FORME, see Printing

FOUNDATIONS OF PHILATELY, see Boggs & Strange

FUNDAMENTALS OF PHILATELY, see Williams, L. N. & M.

GAZETTE, Kedah Government, 323, 328-9, 331,

332, 338, 345, 354, 357, 360, 368, 379, 400-16

GEOSIX (Journal of George VI Society), 173, 201, 418

GERMANY, 10, 282

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, 111, 120, 129, 139, 141, 226, 238, 239, 250

GIBBONS, Stanley, see Catalogues & Journals

GOLD STANDARD, 36

GOVERNMENT (Kedah)

Gazette, see Gazette

Press, 391

Printing Office, 303, 305

Survey Dept., 264

GOVERNORS OF STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 58, 59

Sir John Anderson, 17, 18

Sir Laurence Guillemard, 226

GRENADA, 170, 176

GRIPPER-RODS, 161, 162

GUILLEMARD, Sir Laurence, (Governor of SS), 226

GUNONG CHINA (Perlis), 4

GUNONG JERALI (Kedah Peak), 1

GURUN, 1, 31, 375, 376, 377, 388, 391

Postmarks, 354

Post Office, 337, 354, 371, 392, 405

Railway Station, 354

GURUN, River, 31

HAJEDORN, C. O. (MBE Committee), 226

HALIM SHAH, Abdul Hamid, Sultan, see Sultans

HARRISON & SONS LTD, 173

HART, G. C. (Financial Adviser in Kedah), 382, relationship with Raja Muda, 12, problems of, 13; return to India, 16, 57

HARTE-LOVELACE, C. L.

A Philatelist in his Anecdote, 111, 226; use of 1919 21c on telegrams, 120; 1919 provisionals, 129, 133-4, 136, 139, 141.

The Malaya-Borneo Exhibition Stamps, 240; dates of issue, 226-7, 246; validity, 228; inverted o/p, 238; sent to UPU, 239

HIGGINS & GAGE (catalogue of world p/s 1971), 39, 67

HINDUISM, 6

HONG KONG, 42

HOOPS, Dr A. L. (State Surgeon), 57, 382

IMPERIAL

Airways, see Airmails

List of territories covered by, 326-7

Postage Rates, 324-5; see also Airmails (Imperial Airways)

IMPRESSION CYLINDER, see Printing (Cylinder)

IMPRINTS, see Marginal Markings

INCOMPLETE TRANSFER, see Printing (Die)

INDIA, 16, 49, 57, 226, 375, 378, 379, 390, 393,

money order service to (from Kedah), 387

INDIAN

Armed Services, 373, 378

Army Postal Service (IAPS), 373, 374-80

Stamps, 28

INDIANS (in Kedah), 1, 20, 22

INDO-CHINA, 40

INK, see Printing

INKING (of proofs), 125

INKING-ROLLER, 136, 161-2, 426

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, 96

INSPECTORS, CROWN AGENTS, 75, 102, 153, 209

INSTANTA (perforation gauge), 94, 167, 196

INSURANCE, for parcels, 387, 388; for letters, 388

INSURED BOXES, 393

Box Service, 407-8

INTAGLIO, see Printing (Recess)

INTAN, 393

INVERTED WATERMARKS, see Watermark

ISC CATALOGUE, Malaysia, 67, 119

ISLAM, see Muslim

ISTANA (palace), 91

JAPAN, 226

JAPANESE INVASION/OCCUPATION, 23, 274, 322, 374, 378, revenue o/p, 259; battle for Kedah/Perlis, 375

JITRA, 1, 7, 19, 335, 375, 377, 387, 389, 398

Postmarks (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 355; (1912 to 1941), 355

Post Office, 335, 355, 385, 392, 393

JOHORE, 20, 326, 377, 378, 380, postal business compared with Kedah, 23

Stamps, 120, 227

JOURNALS

Aero Field, The, 331-2

American Philatelist, The, 191

Colonial Office Journal, see Colonial Office

De La Rue Journal, see De La Rue

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, 94

Geosix (Journal of George VI Society), 173, 201, 418

Gibbons Stamp Monthly, 111, 120, 129, 139,

141, 226, 238, 239, 250

Kedah Government Gazette, see Gazette

- Linn's Stamp News*, 196
Malayan Philatelist, *The*, 44, 197, 249, 250, 296, 299, 379
 Monthly List (Whitfield King), 94, 197, 209, 213
Pemungut Setem Malaysia, 52
Philatelic Magazine, *The*, 210, (Dates of issue) 1919 to 1921 'padi-sheaves', 109, 117, 1919 to 1921 'Malay ploughing', 119, 120; Mult. Script 'padi-sheaves', 142, 144; Mult. Script 'Large' values, 197, 198, 199; printing nos. 1919 provs., 134, 140
Singapore Philatelist, *The*, 226, 265, 266
Stamp Collecting, 44, 52, 134, 152, 168, 171
Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, 142, 197, 241
Stamp Collectors' Monthly Journal, 94
Stamp Lover, *The*, 238
Stamp Review, 29
 'JUBILEE' LINES, 85
 JUNUN, 392
- KAKI BUKIT, 4
 KANGAR, 4, 6, 16, 19, 29, 56, 63, 64, 139, 335, 392, railway bypassing, 21, 393; the transfer ceremony, 60
 Postal Statistics, 458-9
 Postmarks, (to 1909), 49-51, 62, 356; (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 356; (1912 to 1941), 97, 122, 135, 240, 320, 356, faked cancels, 128, 135, 240, 356
 Post Office, 64, 240, 337, 356, 391, 392, opening of, 33, 334, 356
 KARACHI, 314, 317
 KARANGAN
 Postmarks, 357
 Post Office, 336, 357, 393, 408
 KAUR, Amarjit, *Bridge and Barrier*, 16, 334
 KEDAH
 Peak, 1, 31, 391
 River, 1, 29, 33, 35, 335, 391, 392
 KELANTAN, 15, 18, 21, 30, 61, 70, 226, 283, 316, 326, 328, 375, 394, postal business compared with Kedah, 23; aerodrome in Kota Bharu/use of SP504 in, 372
 Postal Stationery, 283
 Stamps, 227
 KEMAMAN, 326
 KEPALA BATAS, 311, 387, 394
 KEPING (local currency), 37
 KETRI, 389
 KINGSFORD SMITH, Sir Charles, 313, 314, 317
 KINTA, 338
 KLM, see Airmails
 KNILM, see Airmails
 KODIANG, 34, 387, 398
 KOTA BHARU, 28, 316
 Airfield, 372
 KOTA SERANG SEMUT, 387, 388
- KOTA STAR, 29
 District, 345
 KRA PENINSULA, 28
 KRIAN
 District, 7
 Post Office, 338
 River, 1, 335, 336, 351
 KUAH, 392, 393
 KUALA KEDAH, 29, 391
 KUALA KETIL, 21, 388, 390, 393
 Postmarks, 358
 Post Office, 336, 358, 389, 392
 KUALA LUMPUR, 144, 315, 374, 377, 390, 391, 393, 394
 Airfield, 312
 Crown Workshop, 376, 380
 Empire Hotel, 129
 KUALA MUDA, 21, 31, 34, 386, 388
 District, 13, 353, 354, 359, 367, 369
 Postmarks, (to 1909), 51, 359; (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 359; (1912 to 1941), 97, 359
 Post Office, 35, 52, 334, 337, 359, 392
 KUALA NERANG, 338, 393
 Postmarks, 360, forgery, 360
 Post Office, 338, 360, 392, 402
 KUALA PERLIS, 4, 392, 398
 KUALA SANGLANG, 392
 KUBANG PASU, see Administrative Districts
 KULIM, 1, 21, 23, 139, 334, 385, 386, 390, 391, 392, 393, mail link with Penang, 34
 District, 13, 357, 361, 364, 366, 393
 Postmarks, (to 1909), 52-3, 361; (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 361-2; (1912 to 1941), 361-2; forgery, 362
 Post Office, 35, 173, 334, 361, 392, 393, Kulim mails, 34; date of opening, 52-3
 KUPANG (DEI), 317, 394
- LABUAN, 326
 Stamps, 224
 LAMP, Ultra-Violet, 190, 219, 220
 LAND
 Code, 20
 Office, 12, 256
 Rent, 12
 Tax, 11
 LANGGAR, 388, 389
 LANGKAWI ISLANDS, 1, 4, 10, 35, 61, 70, 363, 390, 392, wireless service, 394, 398
 District, 363
 Postmarks, (to 1909), 53-4, 363; (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 363; (1912 to 1941), 363
 Post Office, 34, 52-4, 334, 363, 392, reduction to agency, 385
 LARUT, 338
 LEAD-STRIKING, see Printing
 LEAFLET (Airmail), see Airmails

- LETTERPRESS (Typography), see Printing
- LIBRARY, British, see British
- LICENCES, 389, 394
- LIGHT, Francis, 6, 15, 28
- LINE-ENGRAVED, see Printing (Recess)
- LINES
 Coloured on 'Malay ploughing' 20c, 211-12
 'Jubilee', 85
 Marginal, 85, 161-2
- LINN'S STAMP NEWS, 196
- LISBON, 321
- LITHOGRAPHY, see Printing
- LOANS, Britain to Kedah, 15, 18; Britain to Perlis, 15, 18; Britain to Siam, 15; Siam to Kedah, 11-12, 13, 15, 18; Siam to Perlis, 15, 18
- LOCAL
 List of territories covered by, 326
 Postage Rates, 324, 325
 Postal Union, 21, 78, 138, 279, 282, 328-9, move towards uniformity in, 144, 281; object of Union, 323; list of territories in, 326
- LONDON POSTAL AGREEMENT (1929), 393
- LUCKNOW, 376
- LUNAS, 21, 389, 393
 Postmarks, (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 364; (1912 to 1941), 364
 Post Office, 335, 364, 392
- MACAU, 42
- MACROBERTSON AIR RACE, see Airmails
- MADAGASCAR (Postal Administration), 135, 239
- MADAME JOSEPH FORGED POSTMARKS, THE
 by Derek Worboys, 370
- MAGAZINES, see Journals
- MAILS
 Direct, Alor Star-Taiping, KL, & Singapore, 390; Kedah-India, 390; London-Kedah, 391; India & KL-Kulim & Sungei Patani, Penang-Kuala Ketil & Baling, 393
 Service, from Kedah, 34-5, 385
- MALACCA, 6, 7, 326
 Empire, 6
 Straits, 1, 4
- MALAY
 Character of Kedah, 18
 Chiefs and nobility, 8, 13, 18, 57, houses of, 381
 Language, 18
 People, in Kedah, 1, 18, 22, ra'ayat, 11, 31; in Perlis, 4
 States, see Federated, Unfederated & name of state
- MALAYA, 142, 144, 155, 170, 174
- MALAYA-BORNEO EXHIBITION, 226, 390
- MALAYAN
 Civil Service, 19
 Leaflet, 312
 Philatelist, *The*, see Journals
- Post & Telegraph Dept., 332
 Postal Union, 264, 323, 326, 332, 333, 391, formation of, 21-2
- 'MALAY PLOUGHING', see Stamp Design
- MANUSCRIPT (dates on stamps), 45-6
- MARGINAL MARKINGS
 Bosses of colour, 161, 171-2, 213
 Imprints, 2c (Type 2), 154; 'Malay ploughing' 12c & 35c, 207, 1937 issue, 250
 Lines, 85, 161-2
 Screw-heads, (1912 issue), 91; Mult. Script 'padi-sheaves' 161-2
 Stamps, (1912 issue), 85, 91, 93
 Stamps, (1919 to 1921 issue), 117, 120
 Stamps, (Mult. Script issue), 6c, 143; 8c, 144; 1c (Plate 2), 153; 2c (Type 2), 154; Plate 2 'Malay ploughing' vignette, 205; 12c & 35c, 207; 'Council Chamber values', 213
 Stamps, (1937 issue), 250
 Stamps, (1937 Revenue issue), 258
- MARGINS, Defacing of by DLR, 85
- MASTER DIE, see Printing (Die)
- MASTER PLATE, see Printing
- MATADOR, Operation, 375
- MAT JAFFAR (ploughman), 85-6
- MAXWELL, W. E., 16, 59
- MAXWELL, W. G., 15, 18, 24, 25, 66, relationship with Kedah Malays, 16-17; picture, 17; transfer of Kedah, 57-9
- MEADOWS FROST, Captain, (Consul/Kedah & Resident/Perlis), 13, 15, 27, 59, 60
- MEDAN, 314, 396
- MELVILLE, Fred J.
 Siam, Its Posts and Postage Stamps, 30
 The Postage Stamp, 60-1
 Postage Stamps in the Making, use of electrotyping in recess printing, 81-2; use of master plate, 82; reasons for facing electrotyped plates, 104; 'nickelling' of plates by DLR, 107; 'imaginary' toned/tinted papers, 211, 225; dividing stereotyped plates, 248
- MENAM, River, 28
- MERBAU PULAS, 393
- MERBOK, River, 31, 334, 367, 383
- METCALFE, F. E. (Commonwealth Stamp Co.), 152, 171
- MITCHELL, B. E. (Commissioner of Police), 57
- MONEY ORDER OFFICE/BRANCH, in Alor Star, 344; description of system, 387; use of system, 388; in Jitra, 389; in Kuala Ketil, 389
- MONSOON, 1, 61; see also Climate
- MONTHLY LIST (Whitfield King), see Journals
- MOSQUE, Masjid Zahir, 19
- MOUNTAINS
 Gunong China (Perlis), 4
 Kedah Peak (Gunong Jerai), 1, 31, 391
- MUANG SAIBURI (Alor Star), 28

- MUDA, River, 1, 334, 375, 383
- MUSEUM
Kedah State (Muzium Negeri), 8, 10, 11, 56
National Postal, 71, 148, 417, 452
- MUSLIM
Calendar & Year, 18, 305, 381, 382, 386, 400,
457, table of months, 399
Religion & Customs, 6, 12, 14, 18, 399
- NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM, see Museum
- NAYLOR, J. A., (sale of collection), 96
- NEGAPATAM, 393
- NEGRI SEMBILAN, 19, 326
- NEW YORK, 321
- NEW ZEALAND, 321
Armed Services, 373
- NORTH BORNEO, see Borneo
- OPERATION MATADOR, 375
- OPIUM COMMISSION, 61
- OVERPRINTS, 1919 4c/3c, 139; MBE, 226-48
- OXIDATION (of plate), 107
- PADANG BESAR, 4, 21, 32, 215, picture of railway
station, 336
Postal Statistics, 459
Postmarks, (1912 to 1941), 365, 460
Post Office, 240, 336, 337, 365, 391, 392, 393,
397, role of station master, 459-60
- PADANG LANJUT, 334, 335, 337-8
Postmarks, 360
Post Office, 335-6, 360, 402, link with Padang
Trap, 337-8, 360
- PADANG SERAI, 21, 387, 389, 393
Postmarks, (1912 to 1941), 366
Post Office, 336, 366, 389, 392
- PADANG TERAP
District, see Administrative Districts
River, 334, 360
- PADANG TRAP, 337-8
Postmarks, 360, 367
Post Office, 334, 335-6, 360, 367, where sited,
337-8
- PADI-SHEAF, see Stamp Design
- PAGET, Ralph, (British Envoy, Siam), 14, 61
- PAHANG, 18, 19, 326
- PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS (PAA), see Airmails
- PANTOGRAPH, see Printing
- PAPER
Blue, 93
Cream, 91
Difficulty of supply 1913, 93
Differences machine/man-made, 191, 196
Greyish, 79, 91, 99, 119, 123, 124, 125, descrip-
tion & explanation, 117-18; confusion with
'tinted' paper, 211, 221
'India', 125
Pale Yellow (1912 \$1), 96
Shrinkage, 162-3, 190-1, 195
Stained, confusion with 'tinted', 79-80, 118
'Stretch', 163, 164, 179, 191
Thin, (1912 \$1), 96
Tinted, 119, confusion with 'stained', 79-80,
118, explanation & examples on 'Malay
ploughing' Script issue, 211, 220, 221, 225
Use in sheets/rolls, 210
White, 85, 118, 119, 123, 124, 125
Yellow, 93
- PAQUEBOT (postmarks on Siamese stamps), 63
- PARCELS, rates of postage, 70; exchange of, 383;
delivery of, 385; insurance for, 387, 388; 'cash-on-
delivery' parcels from Straits, 388; admission to
airmail service, 395
- PARIT BUNTAR, 336, 351
- PATANI (Siam), 1, 30, 61, 375
- PEMUNGUT SETEM MALAYSIA, 52
- PENANG, 1, 6, 7, 12, 21, 23, 28, 33, 34, 61, 85,
139, 314, 326, 367, 374, 376, 378, 381, 386, 391,
392, 393, 394, 397, Kedah mails through, 35;
Penang currency used in Kedah, 37; unequal post-
age rates to/from Kedah, 42-3, 382; Penang 'To
Pay' marks on Kedah mail, 49; part played in
Straits stamps used in Kedah, 62-5; use of SP502
in, 372, 373
Airport, 312, 315, 316
Flying Club, 396, 398
Post Office, 29, 35, 49, 63, 65, 312
- PENANG GAZETTE (extracts from), 66, 85, 249,
comment on transfer, 15; Sultan as cyclist, 25; per-
ils facing postmen, 31; description of transfer, 56-
70; treatment of Kedah mail with SS stamps in
Penang, 63, 70; postage rates, 329-31
- PENDANG, 388
- PENGHULU (Headman), 85
- PERAK, 1, 7, 19, 23, 326, 338, 377, 378, stamps
'used' in Kuala Muda, 97; use of SP506 in, 372
- PERCIVAL, A. E., Lt.-Gen., *The War in Malaya*,
Alor Star airfield, 372
- PERFORATIONS
Compound, 196
Gauges, 94, 167, 196
Stamps, (1912 issue), 94-5, (1919 to 1921 is-
sue), 118, 120; (Mult. Script) 'padi-sheaves',
167-9, 'Malay ploughing', 209, 'Council
Chamber', 213, (1937 issue), 250; (1937
Revenue issue), 258
- PERIODICALS, see Journals
- PERKINS, BACON (& PETCH) & CO., 80, 81, 82,
83, 93, 146
- PERKINS, Jacob, 80
- PERLIS, River, 4, 392
- PHAYA SIN (Article in *Stamp Collecting*), 44
- PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, *THE*, see Journals

PHILLIPS, Stanley, *Stamp Collecting*, electrotyping a die, 86

PHUKET (Siam), 28, 29, 386

PILLAR BOXES, 35, 387, 393

PINANG TUNGGAL, 391

PLATE ISSUE BOOK, see Crown Agents

PLATES, see Printing

PLATES REGISTER, see Crown Agents

PLATING, see Printing (Chromium-plating)

POKO SENA, 337, 389

POLICE (stations in Kedah), 21, 387, 391

POPULATION, Alor Star/Kedah, 1, 22, 394, 397; Perlis, 4, 22

PORT SWETTENHAM, 378

PORTUGUESE, 6

POSTAGE DUE, 65, 70, 400-2, 1919 cover, 141

POSTAGE RATES
 Airmail, Imperial to UK, 318, 396, 405-6; via Karachi, 405-6, 408-9; to Africa, 410-11; KLM to Europe, 407, 408-9; KLM to UK, 319, 408-9, KNILM to DEI, 406-7, 408; PAA to UK, 319
 Civilian, 324-5, 400, 403, 410, 411-15, 416
 Clubbed Packets, 406, 411, 416
 Forces, 379-80, authority for free carriage of mail, 404
 Siamese, 40-3, 328-9, 382, 383, 384

POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE MAKING, see Easton/Melville

POSTAL
 Agreement London (1929), 393
 Cachet, 343
 Convention Rome, 387
 Museum (National), 71, 148, 417, 452
 Service, 6, compared to other states, 22-3; under the Siamese, 34-5; gift from Siam to Kedah, 59; description 1905 to 1906, 381-2; from Kedah, 385; improvement in Kedah, 393
 Slogan, 343
 Statistics, 22-3, 387, 388, 457-9
 Union, see Local, Malayan & Universal

POSTAL STATIONERY
 FMS, 67, 279, 281, 293, 296; used in Kedah/Perlis, 67, 320
 Kedah (Cards), cost, 76, issue of, 279, 281-2; totals & nos. printed, 279, 307, 310; scarcity, 282; uprating, 282; method of printing, 282-5; vignetting on impressed stamps, 283; Specimens, 285, 286; proofs/colour trials, 286-7; printings, 307-8
 Kedah (Official Postcards), 303-5
 Kedah (Registration Envelopes), cost 77; 10c env. used with Straits stamp, 139; die proof of impressed stamp (without surround), 267, 289; (with surround), 291, 301; dates of issue, 290; change of design for 12c & 15c envs., 290-1; scarcity, 291; uprating 291;

use of litho for, 291, 292; vignetting on impressed stamps, 292; 'types' of 10c impressed stamps, 292-7; positions of 10c stamp, 295; production of 12c & 15c envs., 297-9; comparison of 10c with 12c & 15c stamps, 298; Specimens, 300; proofs 12c & 15c stamps, 302-3; printings 309; nos. printed, 310

Kelantan, 283

Siamese, 29, 39, 45-8, 50, 52-4

Straits (Cards), 279, 281, 306; used in Kedah, 64-5

Straits (Registration Envelopes), 296

POSTCARDS, admission for airmail, 395

Official (Kedah), 303-5

POSTMARKS, explanation of types, 339-44; see also under place name and Forgery

POSTMEN, 34; dangers faced by, 31; delivery of parcels by, 385

POST OFFICE (Kedah)

Department, 120, revenue/expenditure 1909, 386; revenue 1910, 387; revenue 1922 to 1923, 390

Regulations, adoption of Straits for use in Kedah, 22, 323, 333, 404; for 1941/42 Emergency, 415-16

PRAI, 34, 334, 391

Shore, 7

PRAKAIPET INDHUSOPHON (collection), 49

PRESS, see De La Rue (Rotary)

PRINCE OF WALES (HRH), 226, 238, 390

Island, 7

PRINTING

Chromium-plating, 84, 92, 116, original reasons for, 104; change from 'nickelling', 107-8; chromium thickness, 107-8; re-chroming, 207-9

Cylinder, printing, 91, 159, 161, 162, 426; impression, 426

Die (Master), 80, 147, hardening of, 81; making the composite die, 111-15; 're-drawn' die, 150; size of 'padi-sheaf' composite die, 164, 191-2; 'Malay ploughing' 204-5; see also Proofs

Die (Rocker or Roller), see Die (Transfer)

Die (Secondary) for 'padi-sheaves', 146-50, 152, 153-6, 157; possible 'enlargement' of, 192-4; for 12c & 35c border plates, 206; see also Proofs

Die (Transfer), 80-1, 82-3, 86, 87, 88-90, 92, 126, 202, 206; incomplete transfer, 89, 107, 126; multiple impressions on, 106-7; taking 'proofs' from, 106-7; use in making 1919 'composite' die, 111; 'magnifying' effect of, 117, 191-2, 192-4; use in making 12c & 35c border plates, 206; use in producing 1929 Revenue issue, 257; see also Recess

- 'Dry', see 'Wet' & 'Dry'
- Electrotyping/electrotypes, 111, 112, 116, 120, 126, 146, 148, 149, 152, 155, 156, 162, 200, 202, use in recess printing, 81-2; use in making 1912 plates, 83-4, 86-7, 92; duplicating a die, 86; advantages of, 87; cause of weakness in 'Malay ploughing' Plate 1, 90; description of electrotyping, 103-4; life of an e. plate, 155; cause of weakness in Type I 'padi-sheaves', 116, 146, re-chroming an e. plate, 207-9; repair of an e. plate, 225; comparison with stereotyping, 247; e. plates for 12c & 15c impressed stamps, 297
- Essays, 1911, 260-2, 1929, 262-3; Survey Department, 264, 1937, 250, 264
- Flat-bed, 149, 151, 159, 160, 162, 176, 210, differences between flat-bed & rotary printed stamps, 190, descr. of flat-bed printing, 224
- Forme, 135, 241, for MBE issues, ('padi-sheaves'), 228-32, 235-7; ('Malay ploughing' 14 mm), 232-3; ('Malay ploughing' 15-15.5 mm), 240-3; for Specimens, 278
- Ink, colour scheme for Kedah, 76, 272-3; choice of colours for vignettes, 78-79, 90; tinting, 79-80, 90-1, 118, 119, 211, 220, 221, 225; staining, 79-80, 90-1, 118, suitability for recess stamps, 80, 202-4, shade of 1919 4c rose, 110; colours of 1919 21c, 119; strengthening colour of 1922 5c, 156; shades on Mult. Script 'padi-sheaves', 170, 174; causes of shades, 210-11; lines of colour on 'Malay ploughing' 20c, 211-12; shades on Mult. Script 'Malay ploughing' & 'Council Chamber' values, 215-6; colour proofs (4c & 6c), 269; colour trials, (1929 Revenues), 256, (1911), 272-3, (1926 to 1941), 273-4, (p/s cards), 286-7
- Lead-striking, 86, 92, 103, 108, description, 106
- Letterpress (typography), 81, 86, 93, 106, description and characteristics of, 291-2; lettering on 10c reg. envs., 293, 295; use in production of 12c & 15c reg. envs., 297-8, p/s cards printed by l. and litho compared, 306
- Lithography, link with recess, 73, 282-3; use on p/s cards, 283-5; description, 284; use on reg. envs., 291, 292; 'types' of 10c impressed stamps and causes of, 292-7; p/s cards printed by l. and letterpress compared, 306
- 'Master plate', (1919 'padi-sheaf'), 111, 143, 147, 149, 155, 157, 269, proof of existence from stamps, 115-16; retention by DLR, 116, 152, 420, how made from composite die, 126; deficiencies of working plates made from it, 146; use for Plate 2 of 1c, 150, 152
- Pantograph, 84-5, 92, 111, 116, 146, 150, 157, 171, 207, 215, faults of, 87; description, 104-5
- Plates, life of, 75-6, 155; hardening of, 81; making the 1912 plates, 81-5, 86-7, 92, 108; destruction of 1912 8c plate, 83, 143, 277, 438, marginal lines on, 85, 161-2; 'Malay ploughing' Plate 1, 88-90; curving of 1912 10c & 30c, 91; white lettering on, 92-3; oxidation of, 107; reason for continued use of dual working (for 1919 4c), 110-11; making 1919 'master plate', 111-17, 126-7; 'white' area on a plate, 119, 172-3; scratches on, 121-2, 127, 202; retouching plates, 122, 156-7; change to steel plates, 146-50, 202, 204, 439, 442; curving, 91, 158, 159-62, 179, 189-90, 201, 206; differences in stamps from flat-bed & rotary, 190; 'Malay ploughing' Plate 2, 199-205, 224; cracked 'Malay ploughing' Plate 1, 200, 202; differences in stamp impressions on plate, 202-4; cause of 're-entries' on plate, 206; re-chroming an e. plate, 207-9; lines of colour on 'Malay ploughing' vignette, 211-12; wiping the plate, 212, 426-7; repair of electrotyped, 225, making 1929 revenue plates, 257; proofs, 274, 275, electrotyped for 12c & 15c impressed stamps, 297; see also Chromium-plating, Varieties & 'Master plate'
- Proofs, use of 'wet' paper for, 85; 'Malay ploughing' vignette die, 88; use in comparing 1911 & 1919 'padi-sheaf' dies, 113; the printing of, 125, 12c & 35c border dies, 206; 1911 dies, 264-8; 1919 die, 268-9, 1926 dies, 269-70, 1929 revenue die, 271; 1937 dies, 271; plate, 274, 275, 10c die (without surround), 267, 289, 10c die (with surround) for reg. envs., 291, 301, 12c & 15c dies for reg. envs., 302-3
- 'Punches', see Die (Transfer)
- Recess, cost compared to letterpress, 73-4; life of plates, 75-6, 155; alternative terms, 80; description, 80-1, 88-90; shades of ink, 80, 210-11; making the 1912 plates, 81-5, 86-7, 92, 108; white lettering, 92-3; making the 1919 'master plate', 111-17, 126-7; 'white' area on a plate, 119, 172-3; retouching plates, 122, 156-7; change to steel plates, 146-50, 202, 204, 439, 442; retouching secondary dies, 157; differences in stamp impressions on plate, 202-4; cause of 're-entries', 206; wiping the plate, 212, 426-7; flat-bed printing, 224; making the 1929 revenue plates, 257
- Re-entries, on 6c, 173; on 12c, 206, 214, 215
- Retouches (on plates), 122, 156-7, 170, 214; (on secondary dies), 157
- Rotary (printing/plate) curving of 1912 10c & 30c plates, 91; larger size of rotary plates, 149; change to rotary printing, 159-62, 163,

- 426-7; rotary press problem, 184-5, 427; differences between flat-bed & rotary printed stamps, 190; curving Plate 1 'Malay ploughing' vignette for rotary printing, 201; curving of 12c & 35c plates, 206
- Samples (printers'), 90, 274-5
- Stereo, MBE issues, ('padi-sheaves'), 228, 230-1; ('Malay ploughing' 15-15.5 mm), 241-3
- Stereotyping, 247-8
- Trials (colour), 89-90, 1929 revenues, 256; 4c & 6c, 269; 1911, 272-3; 1926 to 1941, 273-4; p/s cards, 286-7
- Typesetting, problem of 'fall-out', 135-6; to make MBE 'padi-sheaf' stereo, 228, 230
- Varieties, 1912 'padi-sheaf' plate, 96; 1919 'padi-sheaf' plate, 119; 1919 'Malay ploughing' plate, 121-2, 127; Mult. Script 'padi-sheaves', 172-3; Mult. Script 'Malay ploughing' & 'Council Chamber' values, 213-5; 1937 Portrait issue, 250; 'Malay ploughing' 10c value tablet, 87, 214-15; 'Feather-in-hat', 121-2, 127, 215; 'Short-sheaf', 119, 172-3
- Vignette, choice of inks for 1912 'padi-sheaf', 79; 'Malay ploughing' Plate 1, 88-90; 'Council Chamber', 92; 1919 'padi-sheaf', 111-15; 'Malay ploughing' Plate 2, 199-205, 214
- Vignetting, purpose of, 94; alterations to 1919 'padi-sheaf', 111-12; lack of on 1937 border die, 250; on impressed stamps of p/s cards, 283; on impressed stamps of reg. envs., (10c), 292, (12c & 15c), 298-9
- 'Wet' & 'Dry', effect on different inks, 79; tinting of paper during 'wet' printing, 79-80, 211, 225; problem of register, 93-4, 427; explanation of, 101-2; printing of proofs, 85, 125; effect of change from 'wet' to 'dry' on 'padi-sheaves', 158-9, 162-5; the late 1938 'wet' printings, 163-4; effect on different papers, 190-1; differences between 'wet' and 'dry' printed stamps, 194-5; an experiment, 195; 'Malay ploughing' values 'wet' printed, 206
- PRIVATE DAY BOOKS, see De La Rue
- PROOFS, see Printing
- PROUD, E. W.
The Postal History of British Malaya, Vol. 1, 330; Vol. 2, 251, 333; Vol. 3, 328, 351, 367
History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Vol. 3, 374, 375, 376
- PROVINCE WELLESLEY, 1, 13, 19, 31, 326, 334, 335, 336, 375, acquisition of by E. I. Company, 7
- PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, London, 71, 323, 381, 400
- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Kedah), 13, 392
- 'PUNCHES', see Printing
- PYTHON, 226
- QUEDAH (Kedah), 6, 29
- QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY AIR SERVICE (QANTAS), 321
- RAJA MUDA, see Royal Family (Kedah)
- RAJAS (Perlis), 4, table of, 26; picture, 26
- Syed Alwi, 15, 26, 393, role in transfer ceremony, 56, 60; picture 26
- Syed Hussein, 15, 26
- Syed Saffi, 15, 26
- RAILWAY
 Agencies, 320, 321, 337, 345, 354, 365
 Kedah, Bangkok to Malaya, 15, 21; FMS, 18, 19, 392, 393; Kulim link, 34; completion, 21, 63, 389; connection with opening of post offices, 337; reaching A. Star, 389
 Perlis, 4, 18, 21, 32, reaching Ketri, 389
- RATES, see Postage
- RECESS, see Printing
- RECORD BOOKS, see Crown Agents
- RECORD OFFICE, Public, London, 71, 323, 381, 400
- RE-ENTRIES, see Printing
- REGISTRATION ENVELOPES, see Postal Stationery
- RELATIONS, Britain-Siam, 7-10, 11-12, 14-15; Kedah-Siam, 6-15, 61; Britain-Kedah/Perlis, 6-7, 16-19
- REPLY COUPONS, 330, 404
- REQUISITION (Books and Orders), see Crown Agents
- RETOUCHES, see Printing
- REVENUE
 Kedah PO Dep., 386, 387, 390
 Kedah State, 9, 11, 13
 Stamps, 256-9, 271, use of \$1 for, 101, 134, 222
- REVERSED WATERMARK, see Watermark
- RIBEIRO & CO., PENANG, (Printers), 128, 129, 139
- RICE-GROWING, 1, 4, 20, 78
- RICHARDSON, Alan, (Collection), 139, 140, 238, 239
- RIVERS
 Gurun, 31
 Kedah, 1, 29, 33, 35, 335, 391, 392
 Krian, 1, 335, 336, 351
 Menam (Siam), 28
 Merbok, 31, 334, 367, 383
 Muda, 1, 334, 375, 383
 Padang Terap, 334, 360
 Perlis, 4, 392
 Sanglang, 1
 Seduk, 334-5
- ROADS
 Kedah, 13, 19-20, compared to other states, 20; development of, 335-6, 390, 392, 397
 Perlis, 16, 21, 392, 398, compared to other states, 20

- ROBSON LOWE LTD**
Encyclopaedia, Vol. 3, 62, 64, 154, 251; 25c watermark error, 120-1; 1919 provisionals, 133, 137; date of opening SP501, 373
 Sales, 53, 120, 238, 260, 262, 264, 271, 272, 273, 275, 289
- ROLLER/ROCKER DIE**, see **Printing (Die)**
- ROME POSTAL CONVENTION**, 387
- ROTARY**, (press), see **De La Rue**; (printing/plate), see **Printing**
- ROW COLLECTION (of Siam)**, 44
- ROYAL AIR FORCE**, 315, bases in Kedah/censor cachets, 372; use of A. Star airfield, 394, 397, 398; use of S. Patani airfield, 396, 398;
- ROYAL FAMILY (Kedah)**, 7, 24, 57; see also **Sultans**
 Tungku Abdul Aziz (Raja Muda), 9, 10, 11, 13, 23; picture of, 9; death of, 12; house of, 381
 Tungku Abdul Rahman, 23
 Tungku Ibrahim (Regent), 11, 18, 24, death of, 396
 Tungku Mahmud (Regent), 57, 315, 396, death of, 398
 Tungku Mohammad, death of, 396
- ROYAL FAMILY (Perlis)**, 15, 26; see also **Rajas**
- ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON**, 370
- RUBBER-GROWING**, 1, 12-13, 16, 20-1, 23, 335
- RUNNERS/CARRIERS, Mail**, 34-5, 385, 387, dangers faced by, 31
- RUSSIA**, 10
- SAIBURI/SYBURI (Kedah)**, 28, 29, 47, 54
- SALE (MBE bases in Kedah)**, 245-7
- SALMOND, Sir Geoffrey**, (Indian flight), 394
- SAMPLES (Printers')**, see **Printing**
- SAMUEL, Marcus**, *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies*, 274
- SAN FRANCISCO**, 321
- SANGLANG, 390**
 River, 1
- SARAWAK, 40, 41, 42, 326, 380**
 Stamps, 227
- SATOOL, 4, 15, 23, 34, 61, 381, 382, 386, 392, 457**
 separation from Kedah, 7; administration by Kedah, 54-5
- SATUL**, see **Satool**
- SAVINGS BANK (Alor Star)**, 22, 344, 348, 390
- SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL & AFRICAN STUDIES, London**, 28
- SCOTT CATALOGUE, USA**, 102
- SCRATCHES**, see **Printing (Plates)**
- SCREW-HEADS**, see **Marginal Markings**
- SEAWARD, Patricia M.** (Article in *The Singapore Philatelist*), 226
- SECONDARY DIE**, see **Printing (Die)**
- SECRET SOCIETIES**, 13
- SECRETARY OF STATE (for the Colonies)**, 18, 226
- SECUNDERABAD (India)**, 377, 378
- SEDAU (Siam)**, 387
- SEDUK, River**, 334-5
- SELANGOR, 19, 326, 377, 378**, use of SP505 in, 372
 Stamps, 378
- SELETAR (airfield)**, 311, 315
- SEMILANG, 31, 66, 139, 334, 388**
 Postmarks, (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 367; (1912 to 1941), 140, 367
 Post Office, 334, 367, closing of, 337, 353, 367
- SENG, L. K.**, (Penang dealer), 119, 139
- SERDANG, 336, 393**
 Postmarks, 368
 Post Office, 336, 368, 392, 405
- SEREMBAN, 226, 246**
- SETUL**, see **Satool**
- SHADES (of ink)**, see **Printing (Ink)**
- SHORTAGE (of stamps)**, see **Stamp Shortage**
- 'SHORT-SHEAF' FLAW**, 119, 172-3
- SIAM, 4, 23, 40-3, 44, 60-1, 328, 334, 335, 398**, influence over Kedah/Perlis, 6-15, 61; Kedah's postal system under Siam, 28-35
- SIAMESE**
 Anglo-Siamese Declaration (1902), 11-12
 Borders, (with Perlis), 4, 21, 54, 365; (with Kedah), 1, 376
 Currency, 36-7, 40, 42; ticals, 40
 Financial Advisers, first appointment in Kedah, 11-12; difficulties of, 13; first appointment in Perlis, 15
 Government, 11, 12, 14, 28, 381, 383
 Loans, (to Kedah), 11-12, 13, 15, 18; (to Perlis), 15, 18
 People (in Kedah), 14, 22
 Postage rates, 40-3, 328-9, 382, 383, 384
 Postal Service up to 1887, 28-9
 Postal Stationery, 29, 39, 45-8, 50, 52-4
 Post Office & Department, 28-31, 33-4, 53, 386
 Relations with Britain, 7-10, 11-12, 14-15
 Stamps, 6, 37-8, 44-54, 63, 66, 70, 329, shortage of, 31-3, 37; bearing Penang/Singapore Paquebots, 63; demonetisation of, 63, 70
- SIDEWAYS WATERMARK**, see **Watermark**
- SIK**
 District, 368
 Postmarks, 368
 Post Office, 336, 368, 392
- SIKHS**, 60
- SIMPANG AMPAT, 4, 387**
- SINGAPORE, 18, 23, 62, 141, 312, 314, 315, 316, 326, 377, 378, 380, 390, 394, 396, 397**, use of S. merchant tokens in Kedah, 37; MBE Exhibition in, 226, 238, 245, 246; last flight from, 322; use of SP501 in, 372-3; capture by Japanese, 374, 376
 Controller of Posts, 380
 Post Office, 28, 373
- SINGAPORE PHILATELIST, The**, see **Journals**

- SINGH, Saran, *Encyclopaedia of the Coins of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei 1400-1986*, 37
- SINGORA (Siam), 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 334, 375, 386
- SITOOOL, see Satool
- SIZE (of stamps) 1912 issue, 85, 91, 93; 1919, 116-17, 120; Mult. Script 'padi-sheaves', 158-9, 164-5; causes of 'padi-sheaf' differences, 158-9; differences Types 1 & 2, 165; extra-large 1c black, 166, 179-85; Mult. Script 'Malay ploughing' & 'Council Chamber' values, 209, 213; 1937 revenue issue, 257
- SLOGAN, Postal, 343, 349, 370
- SONGKHLA (Siam), 1, 375
- SOUTH AFRICA, 40
- SOUTH AMERICA, 394
- SOUTHERN CROSS, 314, 317
- SOUTHERN SUN, 313, 314, 395
- SPECIMENS, 1919 provisionals, 134-5; 1922 5c, 156; MBE issues, 239; 1937 issue, 252-4; on Printers' Samples, 274-5; main issues 1912-37, 276-8, types, 278, p/s cards, 286; reg. envs., 300; numbers for UPU countries, 418-21, 430-6
- STAINING, see Printing (Ink)
- STAMP COLLECTING, see Journals
- STAMP COLLECTORS FORTNIGHTLY, see Journals
- STAMP COLLECTORS MONTHLY JOURNAL, see Journals
- STAMP DESIGN, wishes of State Council, 19, 71-2, 74, 114; 1912 issue, 78, 85-6, 91-2; 'Malay ploughing' Plate 1, 88-90, lettering & figures of value, 92-3, vignetting, 94; 'padi-sheaf' changes on 1919 die, 111-15; cross-hatching on 1922 5c, 156-7; 'Malay ploughing' Plate 2, 199-205, 224; Waterlow Portrait set, 249-50; 1929 & 1937 revenues, 256-7; stamps on p/s cards, 283; stamps on reg. envs., 298-9
- STAMP LOVER, THE, see Journals
- STAMP REVIEW, THE, see Journals
- STAMP SHORTAGE, Siamese, 31-3, 37; 1919, 110, 138-9
- STANLEY GIBBONS, see Catalogues & Journals
- STATE
- Council (Kedah), 21, 57, 66, 86, 283, 323, 332, 379, 400, formation & composition of, 12; relations with Adviser, 13, 16-18; wishes for stamp design, 19, 71-2, 74, 114
 - Council (Perlis), 323
 - Museum (Muzium Negeri), 8, 10, 11, 56
 - Treasury (Kedah), 256
- STEAMERS (Penang-Kedah/Perlis), 29, 34, 35, 63, 65, 381, 392, pictures 33, 35, the 'Kedah' in Langkawi, 398
- STEREO, see Printing
- STEREOTYPING, see Printing
- STEWART, Charles, (Thailand collector), 29, 44, 52
- Collection, 54, 62
- 'STRAITS BUDGET', 18
- STRAITS OF MALACCA, 1, 4
- STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 18, 20, 21, 37, 40, 41, 42-3, 61, 144, 226, 285, 323, 326, 328, 329, 380, comparison of postal business with Kedah, 23; money order service to (from Kedah), 387; insured letters to (from Kedah), 388; 'cash-on-delivery' parcels from (to Kedah), 388
- Currency, 34, 37
 - Government, 7
 - Government Gazette, 330
 - Governors, 17, 18, 58, 59, 226
 - Postal Department (Reports), 28, 42, 328, 329, 330, 331, 383
 - Postal Stationery, cards, 279, 281, 306; used in Kedah, 64-5; reg. envs., 296
 - Stamps, 28, 45, 47, 48, 50, 62-5, 70, 119, 120, 143, 227, 228, 247
- STRAITS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, 392, 398
- STRAITS TIMES, 226, availability of MBE issues, 227
- SULTANS, table of, 24
- Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, frontispiece, 8, 12, 13, 15, 389, 391, illness of, 10, 23-4, 249; profligacy of, 11; life, 23-4; cycling, 25; head of 'Monthon Saiburi', 54-5; transfer of Kedah, 56, 57-9; desire for portrait issue, 197, 249
 - Abdullah Mukarram Shah, 6-7
 - Ahmad Tajuddin Halim Shah, 7, 15
 - Ahmad Tajuddin al-Mukarram Shah, 8
 - Badlishah, 18, 397, 398
 - Muhammad Jiwa Muazzam Shah, 28
- SUMMERS, F. R. B. (Article in *Stamp Collecting*), 168-9
- SUNGEI PATANG (forged postmark), 239, 370
- SUNGEI PATANI, 1, 21, 321, 334, 337, 367, 375, 377, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393
- Airfield, 312, 315, 372, 375, construction & use, 396-8
 - Postmarks, (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 369; (1912 to 1941), 246, 369-70; forgery, 370
 - Post Office, 173, 246, 312, 335, 359, 369, 372, 387, 392, 393
- SUNGEI SELUANG, 387
- SURVEYOR GENERAL (FMS maps), 2-4, 338
- SWETTENHAM, Sir F. A., 7, 10, 11, 12, 23, description of Kedah and Alor Star in 1874, 8, 29, 31
- TAIPING, 311, 390
- TANJONG PAU, 375, 376
- TAPIOCA, 1
- TASMAN EMPIRE AIRWAYS LTD (TEAL), see Airlines
- TELEGRAMS (Telegraphs), 34, 381-2, 383, 385-6, 387, 388, 389, 390, 394, 395, rates, 70, 384, 390,

- 410, 415; use of the 21c for, 120; use of the 35c for, 199
- TELEPHONES, 29, 337, 382, 388, 390, 391, 392, 394, growth of system, 21; system in 1909, 387
- TEMPORARY RUBBER DATESTAMP (TRD), 67-8, 337-8
- THAILAND, see Siam
- THAILAND PHIL. SOC., 29
- THOMAS, Sir Shenton, (High Commissioner), 398
- TIN-MINING, 4, 13, 16, 22, 23
- TINTING, see Printing (Ink)
- TOKENS (merchant currency), 37
- TRANG (Siam), 386
- TRANSFER DIE, see Printing (Die)
- TRANSFER TO BRITAIN (Kedah & Perlis), 14-15, 34, 56-61
- TRAVEL (in Kedah), 31, pictures, 30, 32
- TREASURY, KEDAH STATE, 256, 350
- TREATY
 - Anglo-Siamese 1826, 7
 - Bangkok 1909, 14-15, 17, 55, 56, 60-1, 92
 - Entente Cordiale, 9
 - Kedah, T. of Friendship 1923, 18, 21, 390
 - Perlis, T. of Friendship 1930, 18
- TRENGGANU, 15, 18, 21, 61, 62, 70, 226, 326, 328, comparison of postal business with Kedah, 23
- Stamps, 120, 227, 228
- TRIALS, Colour, see Printing
- TUNGKUS, see Royal Family (Kedah)
- TUNJANG, 393
- TYPOGRAPHY (Letterpress), see Printing
- TYPESETTING, see Printing
- ULM, Charles, (pilot), 395
- ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP, 190, 219, 220
- UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES, 18, 21, 144, 326, 380
- UNION, Local Postal, Malayan Postal & Universal Postal, see Local, Malayan & Universal
- UNITED STATES, airlines, internal, 321; stamps, 102, 190
- UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, 41, 42, 143, 144, 328, 329, Kedah & Perlis joining, 21-2; Siam joining, 28, 40; Australia joining, 40; colour scheme of, 74-5, 78-9, 109, 198-9, 250, 279, 282; Specimens of 1919 provisionals, 134-5; MBE Specimens, 239
- 'UP-RATING', p/s cards, 282; reg. envs, 291, 310
- 'VALUE-TABLET' FLAW (Malay ploughing 10c), 87, 214-15
- VAN COTT, Gary, *Thai Postage Rates*, 41-3
- VARIETIES, see Printing
- 'VERNACULAR' CDS (Perlis), 49-50, 356
- VIGNETTE/VIGNETTING, see Printing
- VIRK, Brig. D. S., *Indian Army Post Offices, Locations and Movements 1939-1947*, 374, 375, 376, 377
- WADE, G. (Article in *The Malayan Philatelist*), 379
- WAR, First World, 18, 123, 221; Second World, 7, 158, 159, 160, 173-4, 271, 306, 335, 372, 380, 459
- WATERLOW & SONS, LTD, 81, 89, 199, 264, 278, 417, 428, loss of staff to DLR, 148, 426; events during WWII, 173, 174; production of 1902 to 1903 Labuan issue, 224; production of 1937 Portrait issue, 249-50, 252-4; production of 1937 Revenue issue, 257-9; extract from *The Die Proofs of*, 271; 15c Portrait colour trial, 274
- WATERMARK
 - Mult. Crown, 1912 issue, 91, 93; \$1 inv. & rev., 95-6; 'A' missing (on 1912 \$3), 96; (on 1921 25c), 120-1; dandy-rolls, 96, 121; 1919 'padi-sheaves' inv. & rev., 118
 - Mult. Script, 'padi-sheaves' inv. & rev., 174-5; 'Malay ploughing', 209-10; 10c inv. & rev., 210, 216, 219; 'Council Chamber', 213, 222
- WEARNE BROS., see Airmails
- WESTALL, Bernard, (of De La Rue), 148
- 'WET' PRINTING, see Printing
- WILLIAMS LEA & CO. LTD, LONDON, (printers), 173
- WILLIAMS, L. N. & M., *Fundamentals of Philately*, description of pantograph, 104-5; incomplete transfer, 107; effect of curving a plate, 190, stamps from flat-bed & rotary plates, 190; 'wet' & 'dry' printed stamps, 194-5
- WILLIAMSON, W. J. F., (Financial Adviser, Kedah), 11, 12, 13, 16, transfer of Kedah, 57-9
- WOOD, Dr F. E.
 - Straits Settlements Postage Stamps*, 62
 - The Postage Stamps of the Native Protected States of Malaya*, 62, 91, 95-6, 114-15, 118, 119, 125, 129, 133, 134, 139, 140, 141, 161, 197, 198, 205, 209, 228, 229, 238, 239; method of production 1912 issue, 84; 1c Plate 2, 152-3; marginal bosses of colour, 171-2, 213; 'corrugation' of the plate, 211-12; letter regarding MBE stamps in Kedah, 227, 245-7; forme for the MBE 'Malay ploughing' values, 232, 247-8; MBE 'long' o/p, 240-1
 - Collection, 140, 262, 264, 267, 271, 272, 275
- WORBOYS, Derek, *The Madame Joseph Forged Cancels*, 370
- YEN
 - District, 371
 - Postmarks, (1909 to 1912), 67-9, 371; (1912 to 1941), 371
 - Post Office, 334, 371, 385, 392

