BURMA The First Two Issues

A study of the first two issues of Burma with a strong emphasis on uses. The time frame is from the separation from India in 1937 until the Japanese Occupation in 1942.

In this exhibit you will see:

- · Rare and unique pre-production material including items not found in the Royal Collection.
- Numerous varieties including unlisted, unrecorded, and discovery copies.
- Covers selected to show a wide variety of uses including many showing difficult rates, routes, destinations, and markings.

Exhibit Plan:
Background
King George V Provisional Issue Frames 1-3
King George VI Issue Frames 3-5
Wartime Uses Frames 6-8

Many unusual items are shown. The most significant are double framed in dark red. Indicates discovery or research. Statements concerning rarity are in dark red.

Burma currency: 12 pies = 1 anna 16 annas = 1 rupee Some rates use the tola as the unit of weight rather than the ounce. 1 tola = .41 oz.

BACKGROUND

The British conquest of Burma began in 1825 and was completed in 1886. The conquered areas were made a part of India and placed under the Indian postal system.



B-5 Cancel Akyab, Burma 1856-1861



B-181 Cancel Toungoo, Burma 1856-1863



Rangoon, Burma-July 9, 1883. Carried on the *Thames* from Bombay to Suez, arrived July 30, 1883.

Back stamps: Sea Post Office-July 17 applied on board the ship.

New York Paid All-August 17, 1883

Newton Centre, Mass-August 18

There was a cholera epidemic at this time. The arrows point to slits in the envelope applied at Brindisi where the cover was fumigated with fumes of sulphur or chlorine. It is now known that mail had nothing to do with the spread of Asiatic cholera.

BACKGROUND - KING EDWARD VIII ESSAYS

George V died on January 20, 1936.

The decision had already been made to separate Burma from India in April of 1937.



Preliminary Edward VIII essays for Burma (unique)
Prepared by Security Printing India at Nasik upon the news of the death of George V.
Signed by Thomas Archer, Chief Artist Engraver at Nasik

Edward VIII announced his abdication on December 8, 1936.

That did not leave enough time to design and produce George VI stamps for Burma.

THE KING GEORGE V PROVISIONAL ISSUE

India Stamps Overprinted Burma

On December 8, 1936 the Burma government cabled the India Office, London, "Decision for stamps postponed until April 1937. Meanwhile Indian stamps overprinted will be used."

Burma was separated from India on April 1, 1937. Current definitive stamps of India received a lithograph **BURMA** overprint at Nasik, India. Nearly all George V denominations of India were overprinted. Few matched prevailing rates.

Chapter Plan:

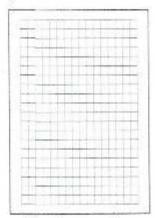
King George V Issue Stamps King George V Issue Surface Mail Uses King George V Issue Air Mail Uses King George V Official Stamps and Uses

KING GEORGE V ISSUE STAMPS

15 mm overprint on pies and annas stamps

3 PIES

All stamps except the 3 ½ annas were printed by typography. All pies and annas sheets, except the 4 and 6 annas, were printed in single panes 16 x 20 from existing Nasik plates.



No plate numbers Jubilee line on all but 3 ½ annas



First overprinted December 18, 1936 Interrupted jubilee line with square dots at each corner





Guide dot-column 7

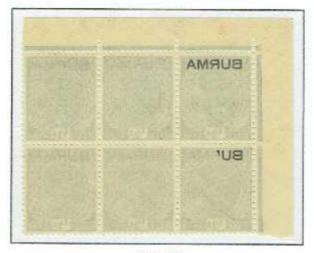


Multiple stars watermark

Inverted watermark



First overprinted December 17, 1936



Set-off



Side margin arrows Below rows 5, 10. 15



First overprinted December 5, 1936





Inverted watermark



First 1 anna plate - no side arrows below rows 5, 10, 15 (Neither did the 8 or 12 annas)



First overprinted December 7, 1946



Later plate with arrow



Inverted watermark





Broken B Variety
Position R 8/5
(See multiple to the right)







First overprinted December 18, 1936

The 3 annas was intentionally overprinted at the bottom of the stamp so as not to obscure the denomination at the top.



First overprinted December 22, 1936







Inverted watermark Inverted watermark Fake inverted overprint No genuine known

Guide cross Columns 7 and 10



The 3 ½ annas was the only value printed by lithography. It had no jubilee line in the sheet margin.





Broken M in BURMA



First overprinted January 6, 1937



Long R in BURMA



Inverted watermark

The 3 ½ annas also appears in a dull-blue shade which is more elusive.



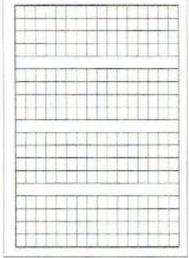
Both 3 1/2 annas shades on one cover

The 3 ½ annas stamp of India without overprint was issued in ultramarine only. India issued a King George VI 3 ½ annas stamp on December 15, 1937. Likely another George V printing for Burma only was needed after that.



First overprinted Dec 12, 1936





Four panes 16 x 4 separated by gutters.



Inverted watermark



Inverted watermark



Bistre



Set-off (6 annas)

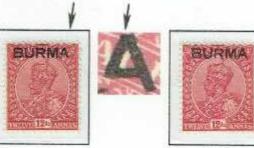
罗U貝斯A

BURMA



First overprinted December 22, 1936





Broken A in BURMA Position R 12/10





Yellow bistre (quite elusive)



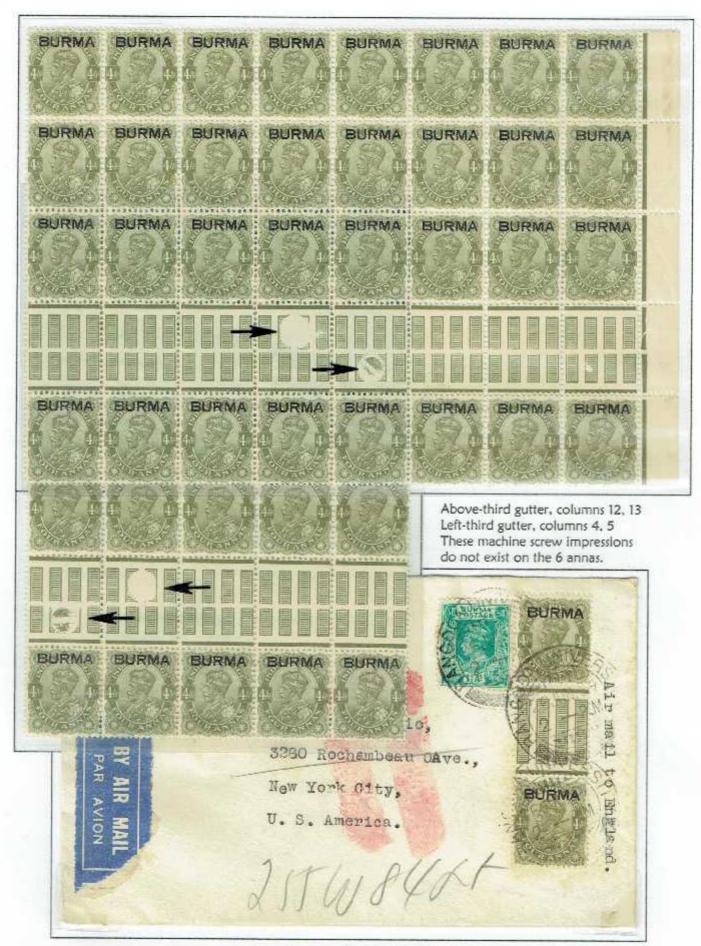
The 8 & 12 annas-no square corner dots.

First overprinted December 12, 1936

知可以例如

BURMA

(See the 12 annas official next frame)



Gutter pair on cover



Students of this issue have long recognized overprint differences on the pies and annas values of this issue. On some overprints the letters are 14 ½ mm tall and others the letters are 14 mm tall. To some this was proof that there were two different printings with different typefaces used. At least one writer asserts there were three printings.























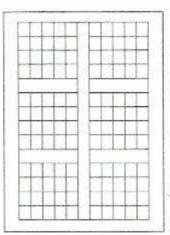


Recent students have come to different conclusions. This exhibitor has observed that the thin overprints perfectly superimpose over the thick overprints. The differences in thickness appear to be inking differences rather than typeface differences.

The rupees values received a 17 ½ mm **BURMA** overprint.

The one and two rupees were first overprinted on January 5, 1937.





Rupees sheet layout Six panes 5 X 4 Separated by gutters







Two cross gutter blocks existed per sheet



Inverted watermark



"Missing Pearl"

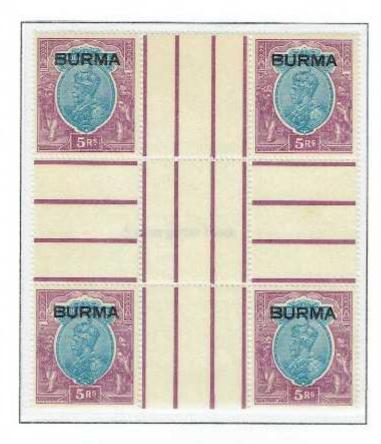


Position R 9/5

There was virtually no need for the high values initially as they were not valid for revenue usage.



Gibbons lists the 5 rupees vignette as ultramarine. The exhibitor has discovered that the vignette actually exists in two distinct shades.



First overprinted February 10, 1937



Ultramarine vignette



Greenish blue vignette

The lab at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum analyzed the inks for the exhibitor and found the elements used for the two shades were the same but the ultramarine had 51% more iron than the greenish blue.



The 10, 15 and 25 rupees were first overprinted April 23, 1937 (22 days after separation from India).



Inverted watermark Upright watermark not known

BURMA

Upright watermark
No larger multiples are known to the exhibitor.



Inverted watermark

KING GEORGE V ISSUE SURFACE MAIL USES

Certificate of Posting

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING SAMPLE POST TAG PRINTED MATTER

←Wakema-February 15, 1938 Receipt for mailing 2 letters

> A certificate of posting was available for ½ annas for every 3 articles or less.

Quoting from the Burma Post & Telegraph Pocket Guide of the day: "The object in granting a certificate of posting is to afford the public an assurance that letters, etc., entrusted to servants for posting have actually been posted."

> Sample Post to India Rangoon-May 31, 1938 Back stamped Cutch Mandavi-June 6, 1938 Sample packets - 1 ½ annas first 4 oz.

15.2.39. (4 6 in.)

1. N.K.V. velkynppa chettar Anl.

i.P. Alazapuri.

Kilasavalpatti P.O.

2) K.T.N.RM. Thenappa clettiar Aul.

Kilorassalpatti P.O.

Firm

T. N. Firm WAKEMA.

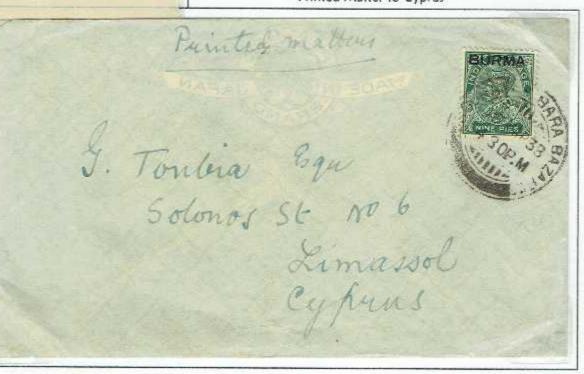


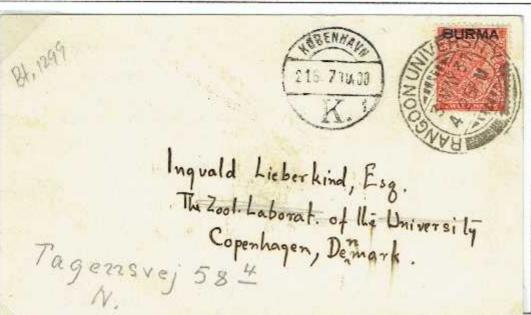


Printed Matter to Cyprus

→ Soratee Bara Bazaar March 16, 1938

Printed matter Foreign or domestic 9 pies first 2 oz





The UPU post card rate was 2 annas (as was the Commonwealth rate)

Rangoon University-May 31, 1937 Kobenhaven-June 21, 1937

A special 1 anna post card rate to India went into effect April 1, 1938.

Rangoon-October 26, 1938 Receiver-Cutch Mandavi-October 31, 1938

3 pies stamp used to uprate a 9 pies domestic rate card.

Mrs. John Cady

Franklin College

Franklin

Indiana

U.S. America

The UPU letter rate was 3 ½ annas for the 1st oz.

Rangoon University-August 14, 1937 PER REGISTERED FOST.





Messrs. ROWE & Co., Ltd.,

POST BOX 77,

154. BARR STREET,

Mys. Hoter House Cer dra

Fytche Agame

Rangeon

ROWE & Co., LTD., YENANGYAUNG. RANGOON.

Yenanguyaung Bazar-March 22, 1937; back stamped: Rangoon-March 24, 1937

I anna domestic postage 1st tola 1 + ½ anna each additional tola x 2 + 3 annas registration = 5 annas

Burma was to be separated from India on April 1, 1937 and India stamps overprinted BURMA were to be used beginning that date.

The stamps for Burma were distributed to post offices early but were not supposed to be prior to April 1, 1937.



Yenangyaung-June 10, 1937 1 anna postage 1st tola Hand stamp Rangoon Unpaid-June 11, 1937 Stamp of India circled and not accepted Front marked postage due 3 pies at origin Paquebot Mail





Mrs. D. M. Dermid, R.R. #4, Base Line, & 2 London, Ontario. Eanada.

Maymyo-May 17, 1937. Commonwealth letter rate 2 1/2 annas first oz.



Rangoon to India-July 4, 1937
Back stamped: Attangudi- August 4, 1937
Commonwealth rate 2 ½ annas
+ 3 annas registration

Paquebot Penang-May 6, 1937 Commonwealth rate 2 ½ annas Posted aboard the S.S. Hai Lee enroute to Penang, Malaya. The registration fee was 3 annas.

Right →
Merchant Street-July 22, 1938 to
Tanganyika
Back stamps: AlexandriaJuly 27-1938
Mombassa-July 30, 1938
Tanga-August 2, 1938

2 1/2 annas postage + registration

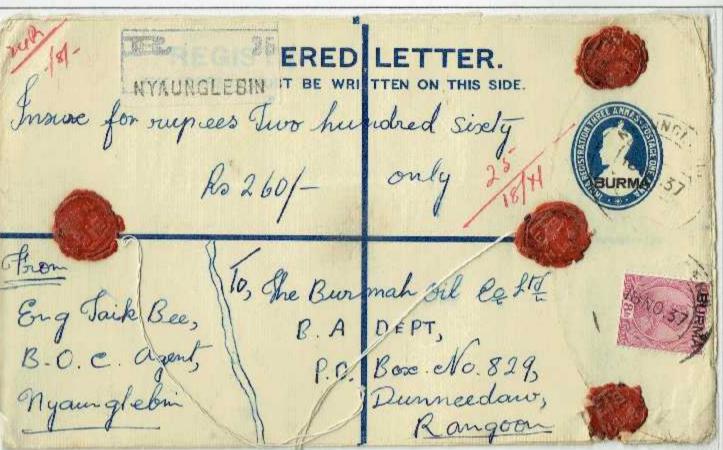




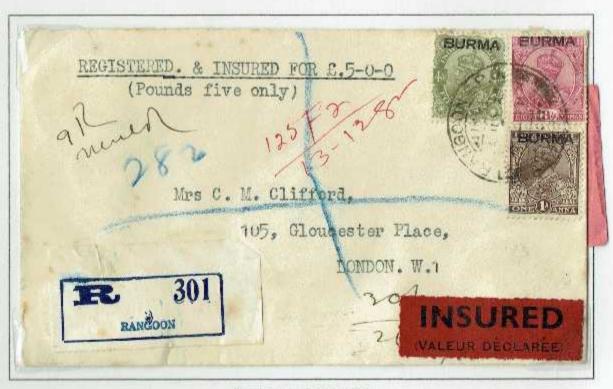
Scott Market Rangoon-February 28, 1938. London customs hand stamp reverse-Mach 26, 1938.

2 1/2 annas 1" oz. + 2 annas each additional oz. x 7 + registration = 1 rupee 3 1/2 annas

Customs fees paid by British postage dues. Large blue C written across the address per regulation.

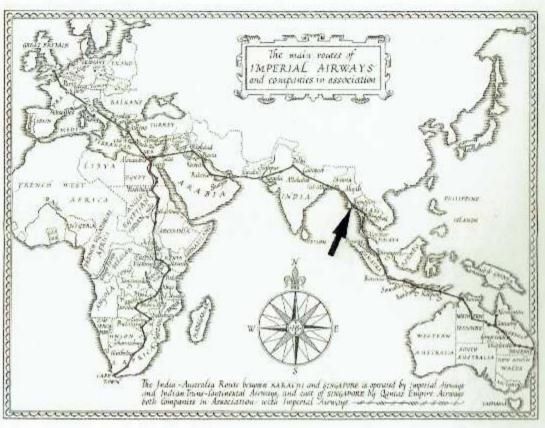


Nyaunglebin-November 8, 1937; back stamped: East Rangoon-November 19, 1937
Postage 1 anna first tola, 1 anna each additional ½ tola X 2, registration
Insurance first 100 rupees 3 annas, each additional 100 rupees or portion 2 annas X 2. Total 12 annas.



Rangoon, July 26, 1937
Postage 2 ½ annas first oz, registration, insurance 7 ½ annas

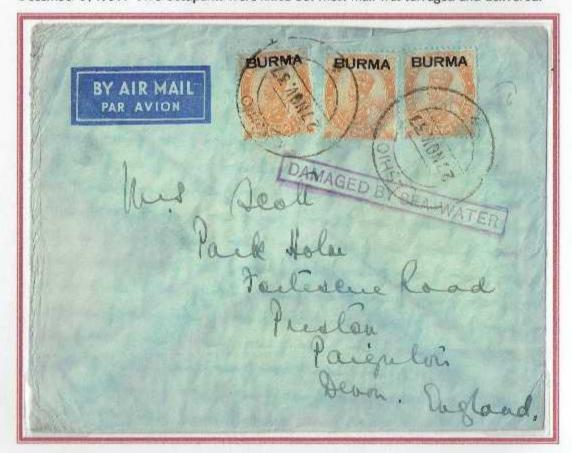
ING GEORGE V ISSUE AIR MAIL USES



In 1937 all air mail departed Burma on Imperial Airways.

The Crash of the Cygnus

The Imperial Airways flying boat Cygnus crashed on takeoff from Brindisi, Italy on December 5, 1937. Two occupants were killed but most mail was salvaged and delivered.



Lashio-November 27, 1937 Inclusive air rate to Great Britain-7 ½ annas 1* oz.



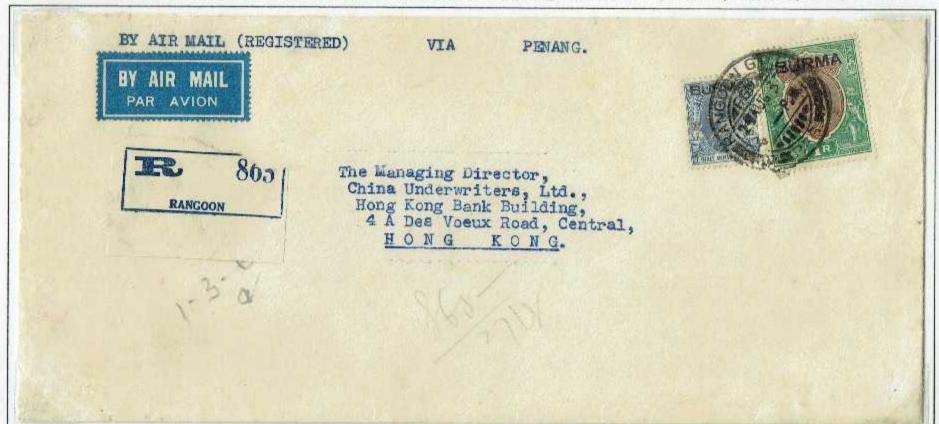
IMPERIAL AIRWAYS

Rangoon-June 19, 1937 – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.letter Empire postage 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ annas $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. + 2 annas each added oz. x 3 + 63 annas air fee (9 annas per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, x 7) + 3 annas registration = 4 rupees 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ annas

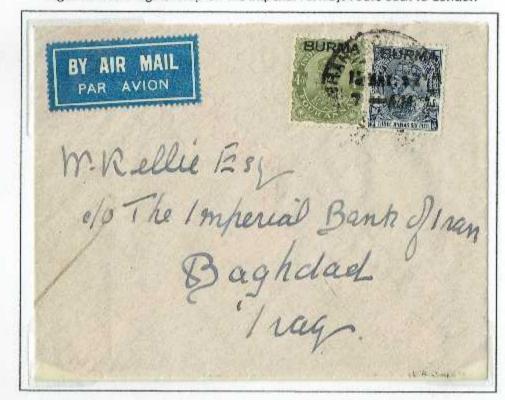


Hsumhsai-November 2, 1938. 9 1/2 oz. letter: 2 1/2 annas per 1/2 oz. x 19 = 47 annas (All up airmail rate effective Feb 23, 1938-no air label required)

Imperial Airways operated a weekly shuttle between Penang and Hong Kong to connect with the main Imperial Airways route.



Baghdad was a regular stop on the Imperial Airways route back to London



Rangoon-May 17, 1937 3 1/2 annas UPU 1st oz. + 4 annas air fee per 1/2 oz.

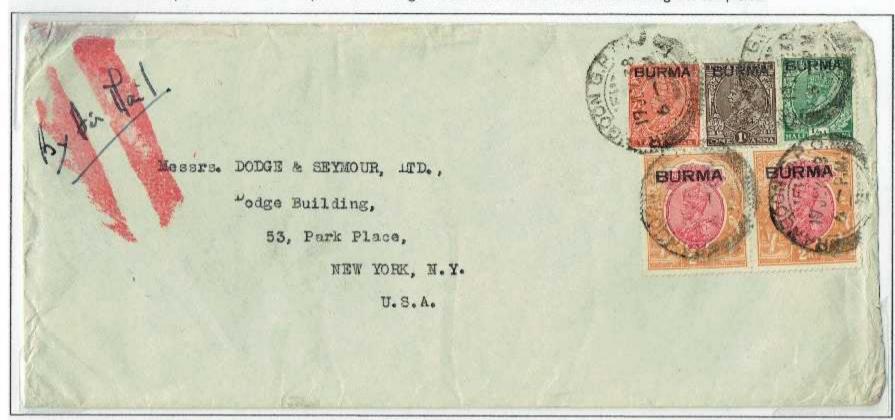
Rangoon-August 29, 1937 2 1/2 annas empire postage 1st oz. + 2 annas postage 2st oz. + 12 annas air fee (4 annas per 1/2 oz. x 3) + 3 annas registration = 1 rupee 3 1/2 annas

Rangoon July 14, 1937, Sydney receiver July 20, 1937 → Flow on Imperial Airways Atalanta to Singapore arriving July 15, 1937



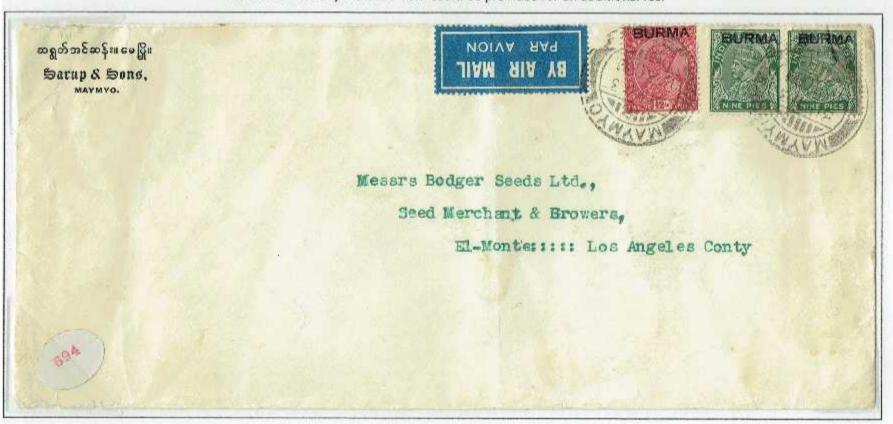
KGV ISSUE AIR MAIL USES-UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

The usual air mail routing to the United States was Imperial Airways to Great Britain and steamer from Southampton to New York. Any air mail marking or label was to be defaced when the air leg was completed.



Rangoon-July 19, 1938 - 4 ½ oz. letter. 3 ½ annas postage 1s oz. + 2 annas each additional oz. x 4. Air fee to Great Britain only – 6 annas per ½ oz. x 9. Franked 2 rupees 2 ½ annas (over paid 2 annas) By Air Mail defaced by two bars (jusqu'a marking) at Great Britain

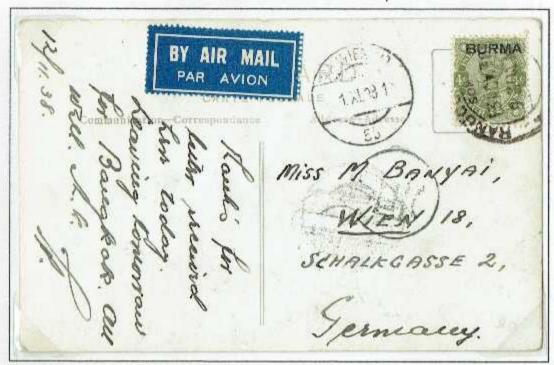
Air mail service beyond New York could be provided for an additional fee.



Maymyo-May 31, 1937
3 ½ annas UPU Ist oz. + 6 annas air fee to Great Britain + 4 annas air fee beyond New York to destination.

UNITED STATES AIR/SURFACE AND AIR/SURFACE/AIR AIR TO GERMANY AND SWEDEN VIA GREECE

Air to Greece and Surface to Germany



Rangoon-November 13, 1938. Greek transit mark and Vienna receiving mark on front.

2 annas post card rate + 2 annas post cad air fee Imperial Airways to Athens.

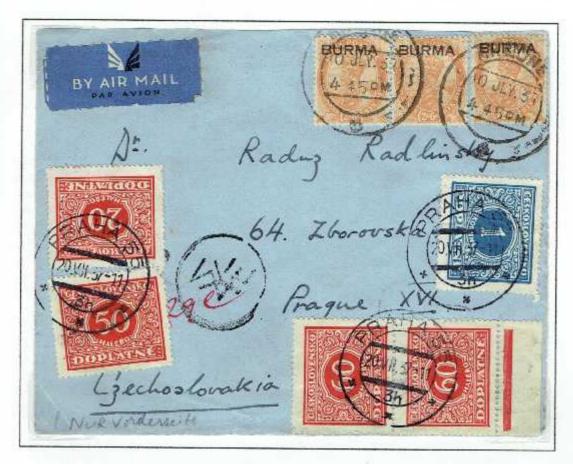
Air mail labels not normally defaced at Greece.

The Greece Germany Air Route



Rangoon-February 21, 1939

For a total air fee of 8 annas per ½ oz. + 3 ½ annas UPU 1* oz. mail could be routed Imperial Airways to Athens to connect with the Greece-Germany air route: Athens-Belgrade-Budapest-Vienna-Prague-Berlin Air mail label defaced at Berlin. Surface beyond to Sweden.



Rangoon-July 10, 1937 Greek transit mark on front Prague, Czechoslovakia-July 20, 1937 Short paid 2 annas Double the deficiency due: 4 annas = 290 haleru

Rangoon-January 17, 1938
Short paid 3 ½ annas
Double the deficiency due:
7 annas = 80 Swiss centimes
Swiss postage due canceled
Territet-January 24, 1938
Forwarded to Montreux
Second postage due canceled
Montreux-January 26, 1938



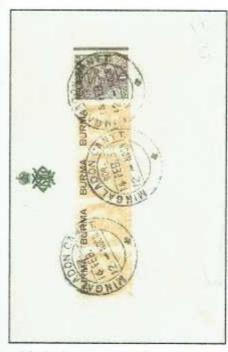
It appears a 3 ½ annas stamp had fallen off.

KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) was a faster, more expensive, but unadvertised alternative to Imperial Airways.



Rangoon G.P.O-May 11, 1938
3 ½ annas UPU postage first oz. + 1 rupee air surcharge (Instead of 6 annas) per ½ oz.





Marked postage due before stamps on the reverse were noticed.

Mingaladon Cantonment-February 14, 1938; 2 ½ annas Empire postage first oz. + 1 rupee air fee per ½ oz. (Via Imperial Airways the rate would have been 7 ½ annas inclusive first ½ oz.)

KLM had flown out of Rangoon since 1928 but was not allowed to carry Burma mails until December 3, 1937 It was finally permitted after complaints were received from firms who wished to use the faster service (by 2 days).

KGV ISSUE OFFICIAL STAMPS

Overprinted BURMA SERVICE at Nasik for use on official mail. SERVICE measured 13 ½ mm on the pies and annas values.



First overprinted Dec 18, 1936



First overprinted Dec 15, 1936



Inverted watermark



Inverted watermark-BPA Cert
Unlisted by Gibbons at the
time it was discovered by the
exhibitor. First listed 2003.



First overprinted Dec 15, 1936



First overprinted Dec 18, 1936



First overprinted Dec 18, 1836

3 PIES TO 2 1/2 ANNAS



The exhibitor has discovered a broken first **E** of **SERVICE** at position R 12/2 on the 1 anna. (Also discovered at the same position on the 8 and 12 annas. See the row below.)



First overprinted Dec 18, 1936

BURMA

SERVICE

BURMA

SERVICE

BURMA

SERVICE

BURMA

SERVICE

BURMA

SERVICE

BURMA

SERVICE



First overprinted December 23, 1936





Yellow-bistre



Bistre First overprinted December 22, 1936



First overprinted December 23, 1936



Gutter 2, columns 4, 5 Machine screw impression



First overprinted December 12, 1936



Gutter 2, columns 12, 13 Machine screw impression

BURMA BURMA BURMA BURMA BURMA BURMA BURMA







BURMA

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The one and two rupees stamps were first overprinted **BURMA SERVICE** on January 5, 1937. **SERVICE** measured 19 ½ mm.



Inverted watermark-BPA Cert First listed by Gibbons 2012



Fake overprints



Inverted watermark







The 5 rupees and 10 rupees were first overprinted BURMA SERVICE on May 5, 1937 (34 days after separation).

No 15 rupees or 25 rupees were overprinted for official use.



The two distinct shades of the 5 rupees vignette discovered by the exhibitor on the regular stamp are also found on the official stamps.



Greenish blue vignette



SERVICE 5R

Greenish blue vignette



Ultramarine vignettes







In some cases stamps of India were overprinted **BURMA** and **SERVICE** in one operation. In other cases stamps previously overprinted **BURMA** were given a **SERVICE** overprint in a second operation. It is not always easy to tell the difference.



Sideways shift or doubling of SERVICE →
Printed in two steps as there is no doubling of BURMA







Faint SERVICE overprint in the gutter Printed in two steps as there is no faint BURMA overprint in the gutter. If one or the other overprints is worn it would indicate a two step overprint. One would expect the overprints to be equally worn in a one step operation.



BURMA worn



SERVICE worn





It is possible to identify some one step overprints.

A method to conclusively separate all one step and two step overprints has never been found.

Offsets







4 annas with partial offsets both words.

Offsets of both BURMA and SERVICE indicate a probable one step overprint.



Overprints sloping

← downwards left to right →





Both words sloping left to right by the same amount. Words are 12 mm apart aligned along the right edge.



Both words sloping left to right by the same amount. Words are 13 mm apart aligned along the left edge.

Stamps with the words BURMA and SERVICE both sloping to the same degree must come from a one step overprint as it would be unlikely the words would slope the same amount from two different overprinting operations.

The 4 annas and the 6 annas were printed from plates with 4 panes 16 X 4 separated by gutters. The other values were printed from plates 16 X 20. Thus it has been reasoned that two different beds were needed in one step overprints depending on the sheet layout thus the differences in the <u>spacing</u> and <u>alignment</u>.

The exhibitor has observed that the alignment of **BURMA** and **SERVICE** can change progressively within the same sheet. This complicates the assertions of the long standing and highly respected study* that has stated that one step overprints show a consistent spacing and alignment of the words **BURMA** and **SERVICE**.





The study asserted that on the 320 stamp sheets A lined up over the E on one step overprints.

That alignment is found on the right side of this multiple but not the left.

Going left to right: BURMA shifts further left. SERVICE also shifts left but not as quickly.



BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA
SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE
BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA
SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE
BURMA	BURMA	THE WHAT PASSED WAS DISC.	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA	BURMA
SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	I SERVICE	SERVICE						



The study asserted that on the 256 stamp sheets the B lined up over the S on one step overprints.

That alignment is found on the left side of this multiple but not the right.

Going left to right: BURMA shifts very slightly right, SERVICE shifts right at a faster rate.



Summons to witness under Section 37 of the Burma Income-tax Act.

O L 123

OR SO from

RM SO from

Income Tax Officer,

Thatrawaddy.

Tharrawaddy-September 13, 1938. Back stamped: Okpo-September 19, 1938. Postage-I anna first tola



Nepal was not a part of India and not part of the empire but did have a special relationship with both India and Great Britain.



Taunggyi-August 1937; back stamped: Nepal-September 5, 1937 2 ⅓ annas empire rate to India applied



Rangoon Cantonment-January 31, 1938

Back stamps: Raxaul-February 4, 1938; Jogbani Purnea-February, 1938

3 ½ annas UPU rate applied even though Nepal did not join until 1956

Raxaul and Jogbani are Indian towns on the border

Likely crossed the border in diplomatic pouch.



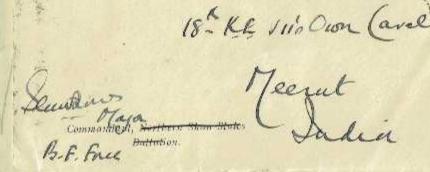
By Air Mail.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



SQUADRON LEADER BAILY,

AIR MINISTRY & BUILDINGS DEPARTME ROYAL AIR FORCE, FAR EAST, SINGAPORE.

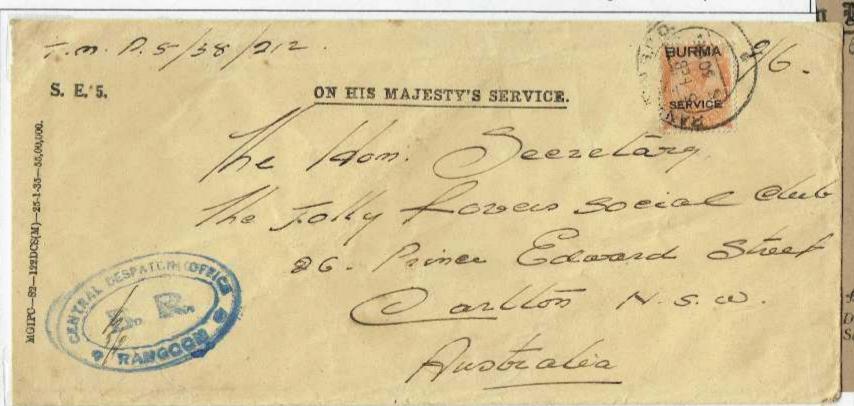


On this Majesty's

Lashio-September 25, 1938; backstamped: Meerut-October 2, 1937 Empire mail-2 ½ annas 1st oz.

L' Col Lawrence Twick

Merchant Street Rangoon-February 14, 1939-4 oz. letter 2 ½ annas postage 1st oz. + 2 annas postage extra oz. x 3 + 4 annas air fee per ½ oz. x 8 + 3 annas registration = 2 rupees 11 ½ annas





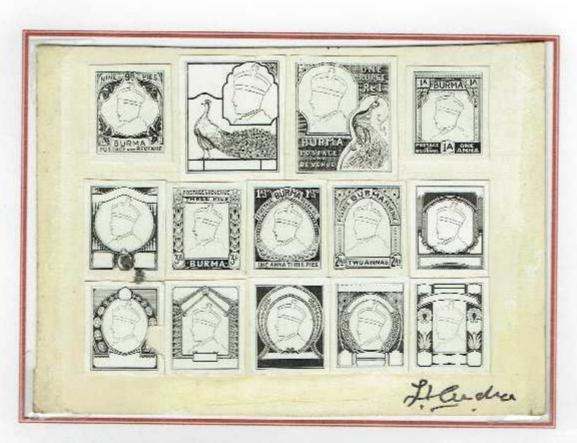
THE GEORGE VI ISSUE

After King Edward VIII announced his abdication on December 8, 1936 work began on designing King George VI stamps for Burma. The stamps were to be printed in India. It was not feasible to have the new stamps ready in time for Burma's April 1, 1937 separation from India; hence the provisional **BURMA** overprints on India stamps in the previous section. Although India itself was able to issue King George VI stamps on August 23, 1937 it took Burma until November 15, 1938.

Chapter Plan
Designing the KGVI Stamps
King George VI Issue Stamps
King George VI Issue Uses
King George VI Official Stamps and Uses
Additions to the King George VI Issue

Designing the King George VI Stamps

The First King George VI Essays



Rough stamp-size sketches for King George VI Burma stamps from early 1937.

Crowned effigy of King George VI had been decided but details of insignia had yet to be agreed upon.

Signed by Thomas Archer, Chief Artist Engraver, Security Printing India at Nasik, India.

(unique)

COMPOSITE PORTRAIT OF KING GEORGE VI WITH CROWN SENT TO THE KING FOR HIS APPROVAL

Composite portrait made by A.G. Bull, principal of the London County Council School of Photo Engraving, using the official approved portrait by Bertram Park.



Sent to the India Office in London on January 15, 1937. Notification received on January 22, 1937 of the King's approval for the use of this portrait on stamps. When approval was received the photograph was sent to Nasik so work could begin on the stamp design.

The King's robes include the Order of the Star of India and the Order of the Indian Empire.

PROPOSED DESIGN PIES VALUES PORTRAIT AND FRAME REJECTED

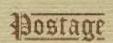
On February 14, 1938 seven cards of essays for proposed Burma designs were sent to the Burma Office in London. All were signed by the Officiating Artist Engraver, Ernest Archibald and the Officiating Mater, Captain R.C.G. Chapman. They were returned on March 9, 1938.

India had already issued their first George VI stamps on August 23, 1937. The portrait on the India stamps was used on all these essays for Burma even though it was already known it was not suitable because the King was wearing Indian orders. The plan was to use Burma related ornamentation in the frame designs. The frame design on the essays on this card was also rejected.



1937 KGVI stamp of India







Stamps

PROPOSED DESIGN

SIX PIES

THREE PIES





SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

NINE PIES





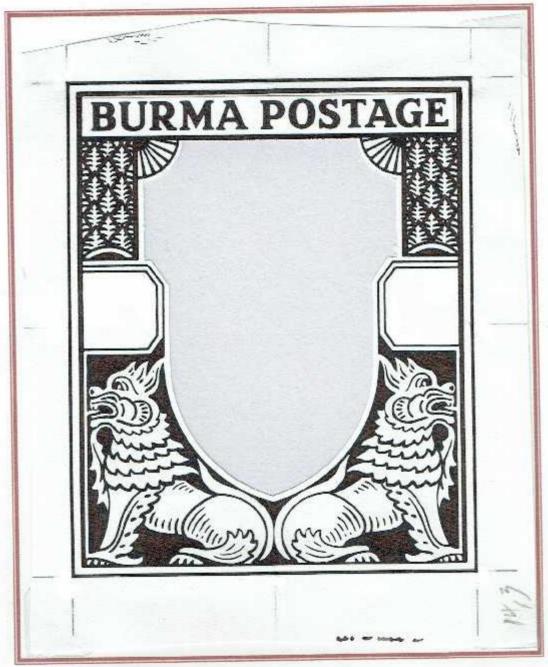
Offg. Artist Engraver.

Offg. Master, Security Printing, India.

Another frame subject was considered.

King framed by Chinthes mythological lions.

The entrances to all pagodas in Burma are guarded by Chinthes statues.



Drawing in ink for a Chinthes frame design for the low value stamps.

Drawn six times the size of the eventual stamps as was customary.

BURMA POSTAGE is a separate panel pasted on.

Unique

PROPOSED DESIGN PIES VALUES CHINTHES FRAME ACCEPTED

None of the seven cards which were sent at this time or single essays exist in the archives of the India Office Library and Records in London, nor in the Royal Collection.

This message sent with the cards acknowledged the problem with the King wearing Indian orders on stamps for Burma.

India to London: "I enclose a number of specimens of preliminary design for the new postage...be submitted for His Majesty's approval...in the meantime the Governor of Burma is anxious to know whether the King will be willing that his effigy on the stamps should be shown...with perhaps the collar of the Garter...is observed in the specimens now submitted...his majesty wearing the collars of the Order of the Star of India and the Indian Empire. These orders cannot...appropriately be shown on the new Burma stamps."







Stamps

PROPOSED DESIGN FOR

SIX PIES

THREE PIES





SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

NINE PIES





Offg. Artist Engraver.

Rly Chekman Capi, RE Offg. Master, Security Printing, India.

PROPOSED DESIGN ANNAS VALUES ELEPHANT FRAME REJECTED

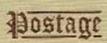


King framed by elephants

Even though India had acknowledged the portrait would have to be modified London still expressed their concern.

London to India: "You say that the Master, Security Printing has suggested that, pending the introduction of Burmese Orders, The King's portrait should be shown in the stamps wearing a plain ermine cloak, with the collar of the Order of the Garter, if desired. We observe...that on the specimen stamps presented His Majesty is shown wearing the collars of the two Indian Orders."







Stamps

PROPOSED DESIGN

TWO ANNAS

ONE ANNA





SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

FOUR ANNAS





Offg. Artist Engraver.

Regchapmicage: 20.

Offg. Master, Security Printing, India.

PROPOSED DESIGN ANNAS VALUES - DRAGON FRAME ACCEPTED

Shading Problem



King framed by Nagas Mythological dragons

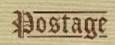
The portrait on the Indian stamps had another problem even before the stamps were printed. London to India-May 7, 1937: "The unduly pronounced whiteness of the ear cannot really be justified.... Please telegraph in view of the above you are arranging for design to be altered by addition of suitable shading to the ear, in which case we will postpone submission pending receipt of further proofs."

India to London-May 10, 1937: "We are arranging necessary alterations of designs." India to London-May 31, 1937: "New stamps...the defect discussed in our correspondence as been removed. The results if viewed under a glass is not, in our opinion, entirely satisfactory but we are assured that this is about as good as we can hop to get with the etching process to which we are at present confined."



Compare the ear shading with the essay next frame page 3 for a new KGVI head.







Stamps

PROPOSED DESIGN FOR

TWO ANNAS

ONE ANNA





SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

FOUR ANNAS





Ennest-Anetibald.
Offg. Artist Engraver.

Rly Chefra Capt. RE Offg. Master, Security Printing, India. The King framed by a peacock-the national emblem of Burma.







SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL



Ennest Archibald.
Offg. Artist Engraver.

Reychapman Capt. RE Offg. Master, Security Printing, India.

RUPEES VALUES PROPOSED DESIGN - FRAME ACCEPTED 1 AND 2 RUPEES

This frame has a different peacock design than that on the previous page.

The top right hand stamp has a penciled oval suggesting a change in the design of the head. If a smaller oval were used then less of the robes would show and the Indian Orders would not be visible.





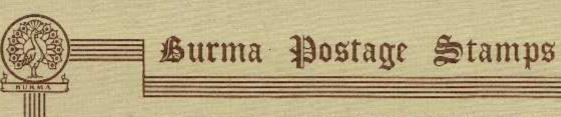




SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Ennest Archibald
Offg. Artist Engraver.

Ally Chepman Capt. Re. Offg. Master, Security Printing, India. King George VI and two guardian Nats.















SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL



Ennest Archibald

Offg. Artist Engraver.

Reychafen caft. RE.

Offg. Master, Security Printing, India.

Technicians at Security Printing India were not satisfied with the portrait used on the first George VI stamps of India. Work had already begun on a new portrait even before the proposed Burma designs were sent to London in February. The new portrait was also envisioned for eventual use on the stamps of India.



Photographic essay for a new George VI head with Indian orders on the robe. Compare the ear shading with the first Indian head in the previous frame page 15.

Standard practice at Nasik for stamps printed by offset lithography was to have original artwork made up of composite photographs of line drawings, six times the size of the stamp.

Right:

Caxton House 2-1-38

Dear Mr. Archer.

Could you come over sometime this morning to discuss photogravure.

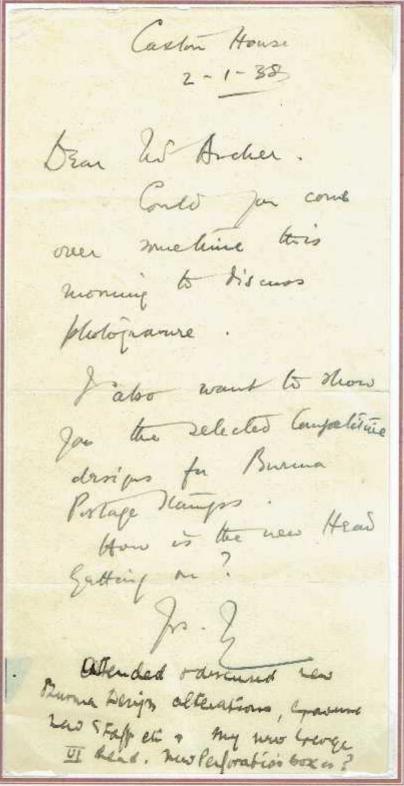
I also want to show you the selected Competitive designs for Burma Postage Stamps.

How is the new Head getting on?

Archer's note:

Attended & discussed new Burma Design alterations, gravure, new staff etc, & my new George VI head. New Perforation boxes?

Inter office memo
By Sir Desmond Fitzmaurice
Master, SPI, on January 2, 1938 to
Thomas Archer, head artist engraver



The mention of competitive designs in the memo refers to a Government sponsored competition for four pictorial stamps which had been announced on August 23, 1937. The contest ran until the end of November, 1937.

SHADING ESSAYS FOR THE NEW GEORGE VI HEAD

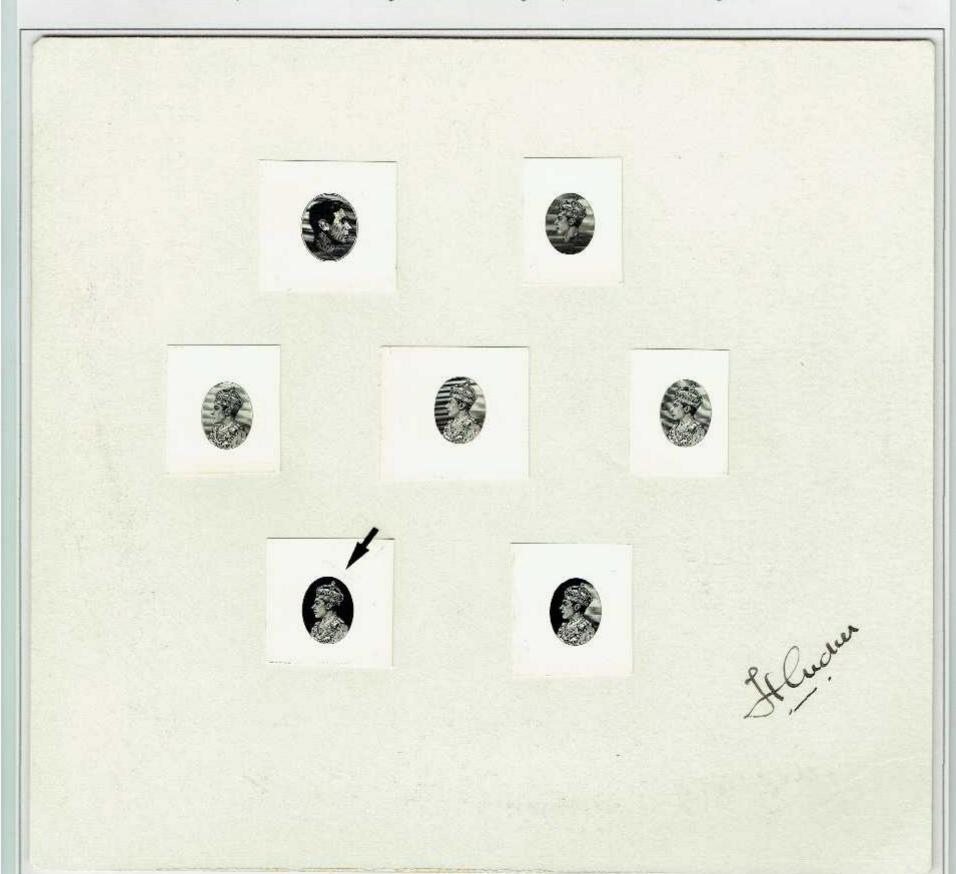
Six profile left portraits with various shading backgrounds.

Also one profile right without crown in case a decision would be made to use an uncrowned effigy similar to other colonies...

Four profile left portraits show the King wearing Indian orders as a new head was going to be needed for India as well as Burma.

One profile left portrait shows only a bust of the King with no robes.

The profile left with solid background was chosen. Signed by Thomas Archer, Artist Engraver.



ACCEPTED DESIGN PIES VALUES

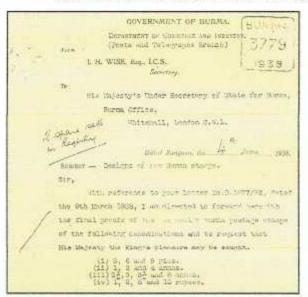
A new proposed design set of cards was sent from Rangoon on June 4, 1938. "I am directed to forward herewith the final proofs of the design Burma postage stamps." They were dispatched by mistake as a parcel on a steamship and not received in the Burma Office in London until July 19.

They were submitted to the King on July 29. Since all designs were eventually approved these specimens are actually proofs. If they were removed from the cards they could not be distinguished from the issued stamps.

All cards with the accepted designs were signed by the Artist Engraver. Thomas Archer, and the Master, Sir Desmond Fitzmaurice.

Another set of these cards exists in the archives of the India Office Library and Records.

Reduced scan of photocopy from official files --





PROPOSED DESIGN FOR

SIX PIES

THREE PIES





SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

NINE PIES





Hencher Artist Engraver. D. I munice

Master, Security Printing, India.

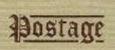
ACCEPTED DESIGN ANNAS VALUES THE ORDER OF THE GARTER

The accepted designs had the new King George VI head designed by Archer. For Burma he is wearing the collars of the Order of the Carter instead of the Order of the Star of India and the Indian Empire.



The Order of the Garter was the most senior and oldest British Order of Chivalry founded by Edward III in 1348. It had nothing to do with Burma but at least it had nothing to do with India.







Stamps

PROPOSED DESIGN FOR

TWO ANNAS

ONE ANNA





SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

FOUR ANNAS

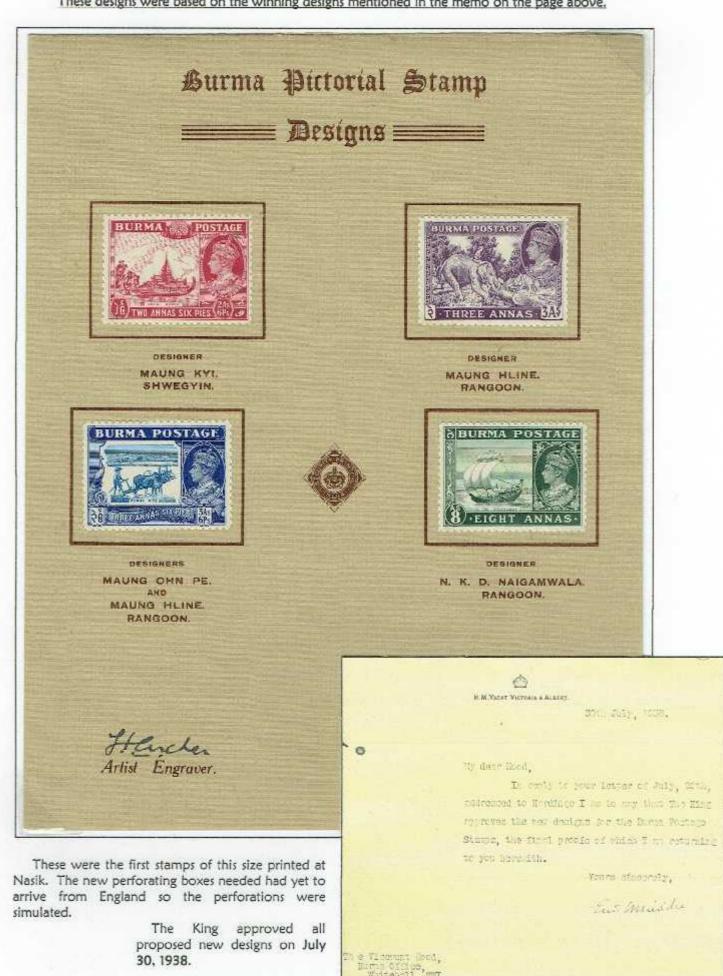




Harcher Artist Engraver. D. Emmice

Master, Security Printing, India.

No pictorials had been submitted with the first essays submitted to London on February 14, 1938. These designs were based on the winning designs mentioned in the memo on the page above.



Reduced scan of photocopy of the

note from official files

Notice of Royal approval for all the designs was received in Burma on August 3, 1938.



FIVE RUPEES



DESIGN F.



SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

TEN RUPEES



Master, Security Printing, India.

Huchen Artist Engraver

KING GEORGE VI ISSUE STAMPS

PIES VALUES, SMALL SIZE ANNAS VALUES

The first stamps designed for Burma were issued on November 15, 1938.

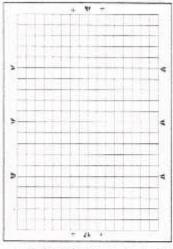
Lithographed on elephants head watermarked paper at Nasik, India.

Printing dates and quantities issued have not been made available.





Elephants Head Watermark



Perforated 13 1/2 X 14, sheet size 16 x 20







The differences in color intensity in this issue result from differences in the amount of ink taken up by the paper rather than differences in pigment.









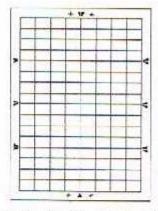
Top margin

Bottom margin



Missing arrow column 9. Note the presence of the guide cross.

Discovered by the exhibitor



Sheet size 8 x 16, perforated 13







Farmer Plowing Set-off (seldom found on this issue)



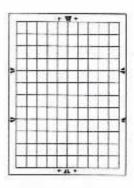


Reddish Lilec Shade



"Maryland" Forgery-perf 11, wrong paper and shade First appeared 2002





Sheet size 10 x 12 Perforated 13 1/2





King George VI framed in the tail of a peacock, the national emblem of Burma





King George VI and two guardian Nats which are beings superior to man but not the equal of a Brahma. They were once men and are now reaping the reward of their prowess or virtue.

The 15 and 25 rupees denominations of the previous issue were not repeated. There was almost no need even for the 5 and 10 rupees values at this time. That would change in a couple of years.

Specimen Overprint



Overprinted in Lisbon onto UPU specimens supplied for Portuguese colonies.

Cancelled Overprints









First recorded in 1999. None reported since.

Overprinted one at a time by a metal hand stamp. The overprint was almost certainly applied at the printers, as on the back of the 5 rupees is partial offset of the 1 rupee caused by stacking.

The purpose was probably to provide specimens of work to potential customers.

PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED DUPLICATE VARIETIES

The exhibitor has discovered identical examples of the stamps below which may at first glance appear to be printing varieties.







Spot on neck













Defective frame











Spot on neck



Cut above ear







ST II





Exta color by P - one other reported Broken tail







CABINA C





Feather on shoulder - three others reported

Extra color by B - one other reported

PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED DUPLICATE VARIETIES

Q

Identical examples of a variety discovered by the exhibitor indicate a constant variety. The fact that a variety has not been previously reported or position known may indicate it was short lived before being repaired.







Dot between Three and A







Drooping E









Short down stroke R of RICE - one other reported









Shaded space between ox and plough - one other reported









Line through B





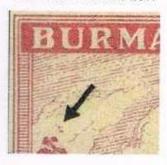


Broken leaf position R 11/5 mentioned in the literature.

Medallion flaw position R 14/3. First listed Gibbons 2011.



Birds over trees Position R 15/3 First listed Gibbons 2011





Very difficult to find on cover





Extra trees position R 11/8. First listed Gibbons 1992.





Tick bird position R 9/5. First listed Gibbons 2011





Torn sail-mentioned in the literature, position unknown



Doubled frame line not listed on regular stamp SERVICE stamp with double frame listed Murray Payne 2004

KING GEORGE VI ISSUE USES

DOMESTIC MAIL - EXPRESS AND AIR

Express Delivery service was available. Surface mail could be transmitted like ordinary mail to the post office of destination and then transmitted to the nearest Government Telegraph Office for immediate delivery like a telegram.



Rangoon-February 20, 1941

Postage 1 anna per tola plus 2 annas express delivery fee.

Use of the recommended Express Delivery label available at no charge.

Domestic Air Mail was uncommon although it was advertised. → There was no internal air service. One anna more on your inland letter makes it fly.

From the 1937 postal guide, p 17.





Service was available between Akyab and Rangoon on the Imperial Airways route London to Singapore.

Akyab-June 7, 1939 1 anna inland postage per tola plus 1 anna domestic air fee.

BOOK POST - DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AIR MAIL SAMPLE POST TO SIAM

HOOK POST

— Rangoon Cantonment March 8, 1941 Foreign book post 9 pies fist 2 oz.

Messrs Hoare & Co..

37, Fleet Street

LONDON

ENGLA

Diocese of Rangoon.

Rangoon-June 29, 1939 → Domestic book post 9 pies first 5 tolas PER BOOK POSICION BURE CASSURANCE COMPANDED CO

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION

Sample Post

R. W. Fothorgill Esq. 305

Messes. The International Sian Rice

Con, Ltd.,

BLACKWOOD PALLI & CO., LTD., P. O. BOX 828 RANGOON, BURMA Bangkok.

Burma joined the empire air first oz. (including Ireland)



Thonze-July 26, 1939; 1 oz. letter-2 1/2 annas x 2



Scott Market (Rangoon)-Nov 15, 1938; 1/2 oz. letter-2 1/2 annas Back stamped: Alexandria, Egypt-November 19,1938 Receiving hand stamp: November 23, 1938



UPU postage-3 1/2 annas first oz.

Short paid at Rangoon.

Swiss postage due-April 8, 1939

Mr A Van Der Ham

Schiedrams churcy 212

8p. Kyld Farsen!
Markehillet II:
Capenhagen, Vandon

· Lurogra

Haardinger

Holland

Above: Rangoon-December 29, 1938

Rangoon-December 6, 1938

Denmark.

1AIL TO THE UNITED STATES



Rangoon-November 28, 1938 3 ½ annas UPU postage 1st oz.



Secretariat Rangoon-December 9, 1938
3 ½ annas UPU + 6 annas air fee
Short paid 2 annas
Double the deficiency due
4 annas = 29 centimes



Overprinted by typography at Nasik for use on official mall. Not released until April 1, 1939.



Quality control on the overprints was quite high with virtually no varieties to be found. There is a broken E at the lower left that can be found on the 3 pies and 6 pies shown and on the 9 pies and 2 annas at position R 19/2.







Medallion flaw position R 14/3







Unusual comb perforation variety. Extra perforations in selvage.

Q Discovered by the exhibitor.









The overprint on the larger size stamps was done by lithography. The 3 and 3 ½ pictorials were not overprinted for official use.

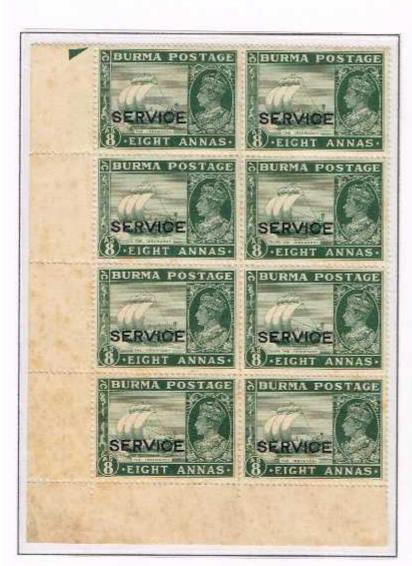




"Birds in clouds" variety R 15/3



Worn overprint



Normal perforations and arrow in the margin



Arrows point to a "Torn Sail" variety and an unexplained perforation variety in the margin. Also missing arrow between rows 8 and 9 in the margin.

The unusual block above right was found in the same storage book described on the next page. It is speculated to be from a very early printing before arrows were adopted.

SERVICE







Frame lines doubled Murray Payne first listed 2004



10 Rupees block of 24 - largest known multiple

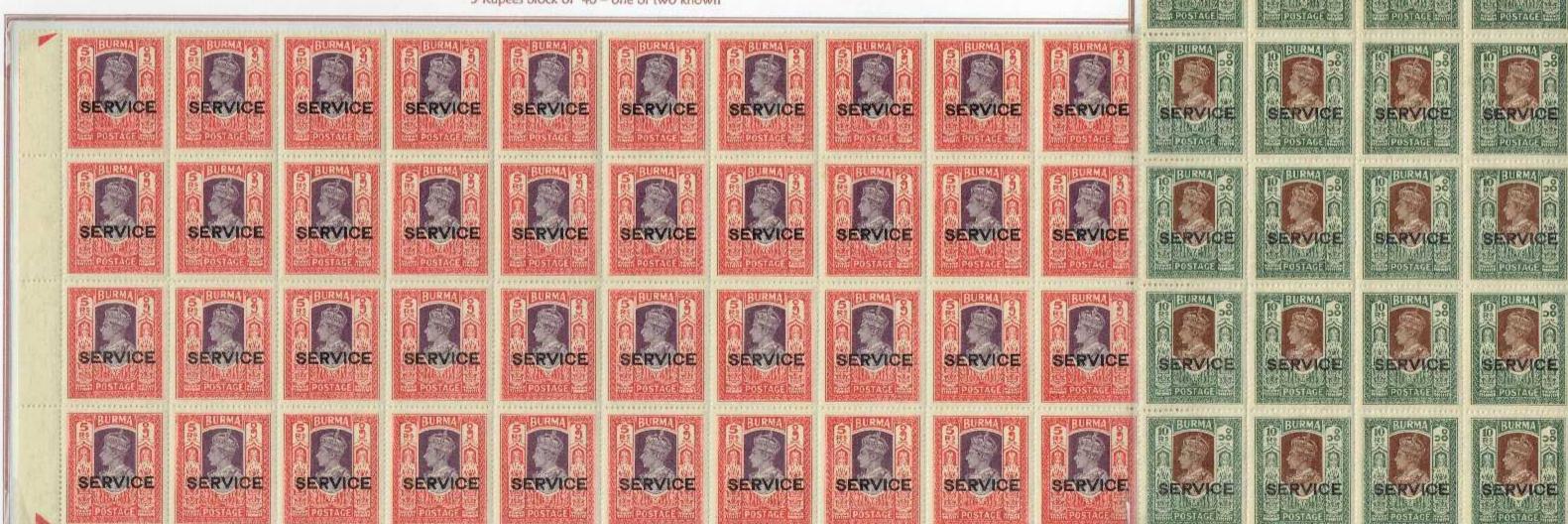
SERVICE

SERVICE

SERVICE



5 Rupees block of 40 - one of two known



The block of 40 and the block of 24 are from an original official storage book of Post Office stock. During the 1942 Japanese invasion it managed to stay out of Japanese hands. The book eventually made its way to England soon after the end of World War II.



Back stamped: Kyaiklat-March 14, 1940

1 annas postage per tola x 2 plus 3 annas registration

Rangoon-September 29, 1941
2 ½ annas empire postage 1^{rt} oz. + 2 annas postage 2nd oz. + 3 annas registration

ADDITIONS TO THE KGVI ISSUE POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY OVERPRINT



May 6, 1940
Two annas six pies value overprinted and surcharged **ONE ANNA** by lithography at Nasik.



Broken bar over TWO Position R 14/8





From the Mauritania specimen archive.
Unique



"Birds in clouds" variety position R 15/3

POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY OVERPRINT ON COVER

Seldom found on commercial mail.





Rangoon-May 18, 1940 Empire rate-2 1/2 annas first oz.

The postage on newspapers was lowered to 1 pie up to 5 tolas making it the cheapest newspaper rate in the world and a new stamp was issued on August 1, 1940.



Orange red



Orange



Koonjan-January 2, 1941
Kamayut Delivery-January 3, 1941
Only surviving example on wrapper known to the exhibitor. Ex Davis.

The 1938 issue was originally produced by lithography. The economical plates wore out quickly. For more durable plates the workhorse 1 anna value was changed to typography (letterpress) in 1941.





Litho



Litho



Туро

The two versions differ noticeably in the thickness of the outer frame line.

The litho version has no jubilee line in the sheet margin.





WARTIME USES

This chapter shows uses from the time World War II started until Burma was totally occupied by the Japanese. Rates and routes were changed by necessity. Many of the higher value stamps issued in 1937 and 1938 are not known used on cover until this period. Attention is called to rare rates, routes, and markings as appropriate.

Chapter Plan:

Surface Mail

Horseshoe Route Air Mail

Commonwealth Air Mail

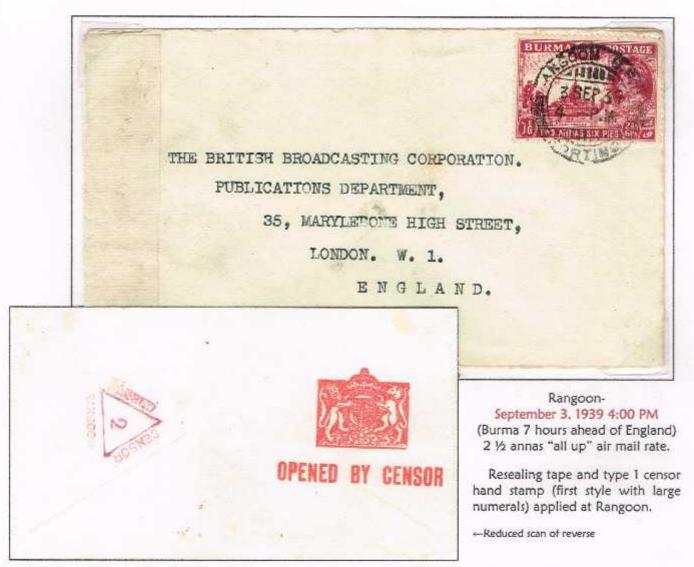
China and Trans-Pacific Air Mail

Non Commonwealth Air Mail

War Comes to Burma

The Beginning of World War II

Britain declared war on Germany at 12:00 AM September 3, 1939. Under the Defence of Burma Act censorship on mail leaving the country was introduced immediately. Within a few hours of war's being declared the first civilian censors were appointed in Rangoon.



Commonwealth "all up" airmail scheme abandoned the next day.

Air mail continued to be available at a much higher price.

Mogok-April 6, 1940 Triangle handstamp and resealing tape

applied at Rangoon. Circular hand stamp applied at Egypt.



On September 4, 1939 the 2 1/2 annas first oz. surface rate was restored to Britain and the Commonwealth

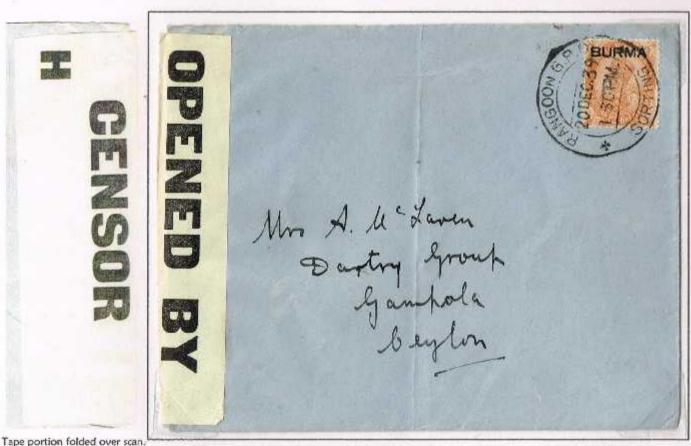
Censorship was applied randomly to 10% of commonwealth mail leaving Burma.

CENSOR

Akyab-October 30, 1939 → Less than 5 examples of the Akyab censor handstamp are known. This is the latest use.



Rangoon-December 14, 1939; Mauritius receiving hand stamp-February 3, 1940 2 1/2 annas first oz. commonwealth postage Overpaid at the UPU rate of 3 1/2 annas first oz. Triangle censor handstamp applied at Rangoon Oval censor hand stamp applied at Mauritius.



Rangoon-December 20, 1939. Resealing tape applied at Colombo, Ceylon. Previously unreported censor tape discovered by the exhibitor.

Will be listed as Ceylon type 3H by the CCSG.

GENERAL MERCENIES.

A . ROYAL STREET.

PORT LOUIS. MATRITIUS.

Rangoon-February 1, 1940 Resealing tape applied at Bombay, India

9 Sharia EL Kamel Mohamad Zamalek





The UPU rate 3 ½ annas 1st oz. remained unchanged.

Virtually all UPU mail was censored.

Akyab-February 24, 1940

PASSSED CENSOR no town name Only known used at Akyab. Less than 5 examples known (CCSG)

Rangoon-November 23, 1939 Mailed to Algeria No charge for forwarding.

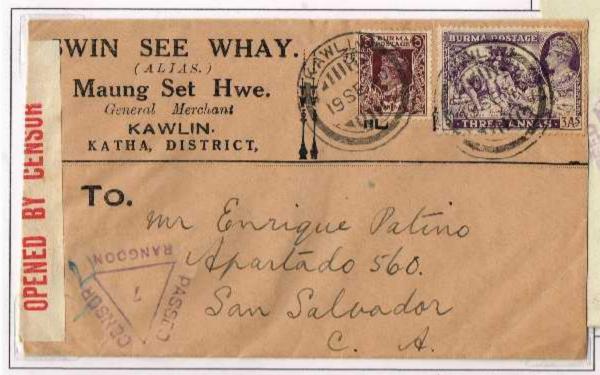




← Bhamo-November 19, 1939 3 ½ annas-Letter rate first oz

PASSED CENSOR
MANDALY (Mandalay
censor station closed
December 1939.)
Less that 5 examples
known (CCSG), One of
two per WWII expert
Chris Miller.

In April 1940 new censor hand stamps were introduced with smaller numerals.



Kawlin-September 19, 1940; back stamped: San Salvador-November 25, 1940 3 1/2 annas postage first oz.-overpaid 1/2 anna U Hpu,
Imperial College of Tropi
Agricult
Trinidad,
South America.

Rangoon-January 10, 1941 to Trinidad 2 ½ annas commonwealth first oz.





Rangoon-October 4, 1940 3 ½ annas postage first oz.

Triangle censor hand stamp applied at Rangoon MARINE-CENSUUR

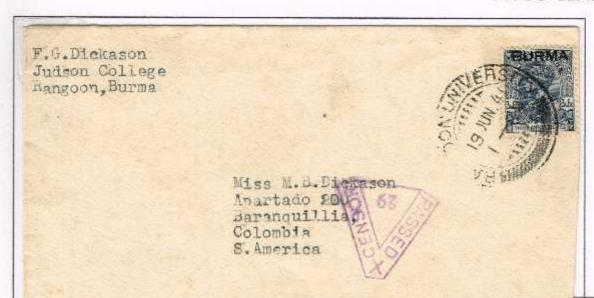
Straight line censor hand stamp applied at the Dutch Naval post office at Batavia DER
NEDERLANDEN
RANGOON
P.O. Box 119

Mailed from the Dutch consulate in Rangoon



Seal on reverse of Mitsul Bussan Kaisha (One of Japan's largest trading companies)





In March 1941 a new censor hand stamp was introduced that did not give the location of the censor but the **X** at the top of the triangle indicated the censor was at Rangoon.

Rangoon University to Colombia-June 1941 3 ½ annas first oz.

Rangoon-July 11, 1941

Newspaper wrapper UPU Newspaper rate-9 pies per 2 oz.





EAC perfin inverted

Rangoon-April. 1941. 3 ½ annas UPU rate. Resealing tape and type 3 censor hand stamp applied at Rangoon. Censored and resealed at London. To Lisbon where collected by the Red Cross. Probably POW mail.

The difficult type 3 handstamp from Akyab is shown in frame 7, row 1, double page. The difficult type 3 handstamp from Lashio is show in frame 8, row 1, double page.

On at least two occasions mail from Burma to the British Isles was intercepted by the Germans.

The letters were censored in Berlin and after much delay were sent to Portugal where they were turned over to the British. The letters were then censored in London before final delivery.



Reduced scan of rear

August 5, 1940 → 2 ½ postage 1st oz. Back stamped: Lisbon-May 27, 1941 Dublin-July 17, 1941



Over 11 months in transit

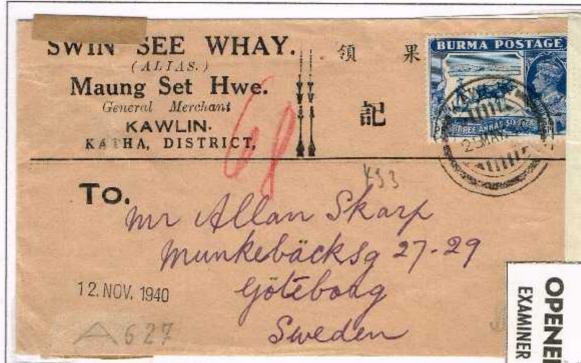


Over 20 months in transit



Reduced scan of front

Kalaw-April 5, 1941 2 ½ annas 1st oz.+ 3 annas registration Back stamped: Lisbon-October 20, 1942 London-December 14, 1942



On August 9, 1940 Denmark and Norway were invaded by the Germans. Sweden was surrounded but allowed to remain neutral.

Mail to Sweden had to go through Germany and it could not avoid their censorship.

Kawlin-May 25, 1940; 3 ½ annas postage 1st oz.

Censor tape applied by the British in London and then by the Germans in Berlin.

This was normal. The cover was not intercepted like those on the previous page.



Reduced scan of reverse

Germany invaded Belgium on May 10, 1940. The Belgium Army surrendered 18 days later.



Rangoon-May 4, 1940; 3 ½ annas postage 1° oz.
The letter was still in transit when the invasion started.
When it arrived back in Calcutta it was stamped SERVICE SUSPENDED RETURNED TO SENDER.
Back stamped: Rangoon-September 27, 1940
Rangoon D.L.O.-September 27, 1940

The commonwealth "all up" air mail scheme had been cancelled on September 3, 1939. New higher commonwealth air mail rates went into effect September 4, 1939

The new air mail post card rate was 6 annas.



Rangoon-November 29, 1939 to Scotland

The new air mail letter rate was 14 annas per ½ oz.



Bhamo-January 19, 1940 to Hong Kong

PASSED CENSOR RANGOON, with period after Rangoon is seldom seen.

Used with numeral 7 has not been previously reported.

The sender, Central Aircraft Mfg, was in charge of assembling planes and recruiting pilots for the "Flying Tigers" to aid the Chinese in their fight against the Japanese.

IRELAND, MULTIPLE WEIGHT AIR MAIL TO CANADA

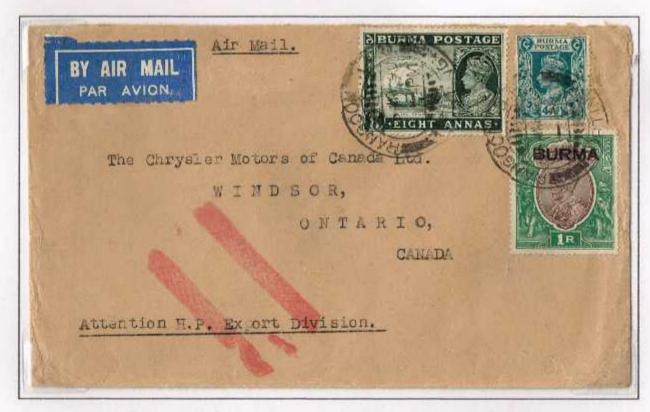


Mandalay Railway Mail Service (Sub Record Office)-November 6, 1939

14 annas per ½ oz. commonwealth air mail rate

No censorship until Gaelic resealing tape applied by the British at Liverpool.

Neutral Ireland was postally isolated by the British who censored their mail.



Rangoon-March 16, 1940. 14 annas per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. x 2 = 1 rupee 12 annas Attempt to bar out the airmail label, surface England to Canada.

15 RUPEES ON COVER



Rangoon June 1, 1940

13 ½ oz. letter-14 annas per ½ oz X 27 = 378 annas or 22 rupees 12 annas Reduced scan of front shown below



Messrs. MACGREGOR & COMPANY, (TEAK) LTD.,

No. 6, Laurence Pountney Hill,

CANNON STREET,

LONDON, E. C. 4.

On September 4, 1939 the air surcharge to much of Europe including Turkey via Imperial Airways tripled from 6 annas to 1 rupees 2 annas per ½ oz. The total for a ½ oz. letter including the 3 ½ annas UPU postage for the first oz. thus became 1 rupee 5 ½ annas.

Rangoon- July 15, 1940 Back stamped: Galata-August 16, 1940

Burma resealing tape and triangular censor hand stamp

Egyptian circular censor hand stamps



The 1 rupee air surcharge to Europe via KLM before the war was much higher than the 6 annas surcharge via Imperial Airways. When the Imperial Airways surcharge was raised the KLM surcharge became cheaper as it was not raised.



- EAC-East Asiatic Company perfins

Rangoon-December 11, 1939

3 ½ annas postage 1s oz. + 1 rupee air fee ½ oz.

Hand stamp endorsement for KLM as well as written. Covers that were not endorsed KLM would be flow by Imperial Alrways.

Burma resealing tape and triangular censor hand stamp.

The Germans attacked Holland on May 10, 1940. Holland surrendered on May 15, 1940.



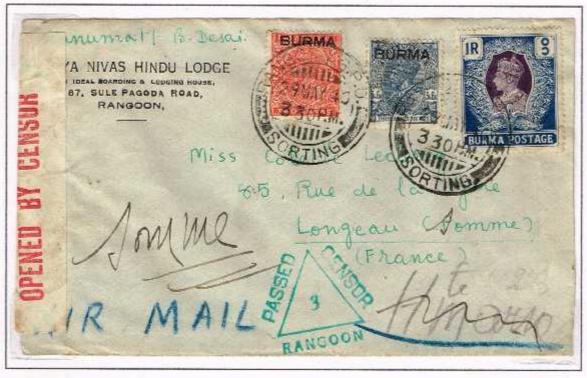
Rangoon-April 29, 1940. Back stamped: Rangoon Unpald-January 2, 1941
Franked correctly for KLM: 1 rupee air fee ½ oz. plus 3 ½ annas first oz. No endorsement requesting KLM.
Mail was sent BOAC without any endorsement requesting otherwise.

Short paid for BOAC: 1 rupee 2 annas air fee ½ oz. plus 3 ½ annas first oz.

Marked Foreign Postage Due 3 annas-double the 1 ½ annas deficiency.

The red 29c postage due, applied in Rangoon, was written after the typewritten Postal service to Holland suspended slip was affixed. It is possible this never left Rangoon or else it was not marked postage due until it was returned.

Germany invaded France on May 12, 1940



The 1 rupees 2 annas air surcharge to Europe also applied to mail flown by air to England and then carried by steamer to New York.



Churchill Road (Rangoon)-May 13, 1940; air label correctly not barred out.

3 ½ annas postage 1s oz. + 1 rupee 2 annas air fee ½ oz. to England + 4 annas air fee beyond New York.



Beginning February 8, 1940 the following all air route became available: Imperial Airways to Marseilles, France; Air-France to Lisbon, Portugal; and Pan-American Airways to New York.

The air fee was 2 rupees 6 annas per ½ oz. + UPU postage 3 ½ annas first oz.

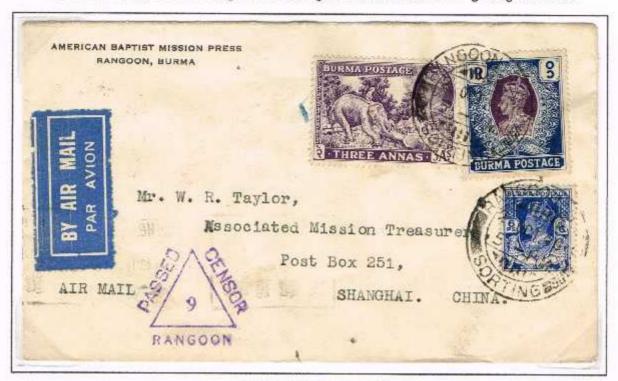
The Pan Am service had been available since June 1939. It appears that Imperial Airways had never before made the Burma Post and Telegraph Department aware of this all air option.

The endorsement **VIA FRANCE** was required for this routing.

This service ended in June 1940 with the fall of France.

Rangoon-March 26, 1940

Imperial Airways/BOAC to Bangkok connecting with their shuttle to Hong Kong via Hanoi.



Rangoon-October 2, 1940
3 ½ annas postage 1st oz. + 1 rupee air fee per ½ oz.

On October 31, 1939 a weekly service was introduced: Rangoon to Hong Kong via Lashio, Kunming, and Chunking by Chinese National Aviation Corporation-CNAC. Used only for airmail to central and western China at this time. That would change (next frame).



Lashio-November, 1940

1 rupee 2 1/2 annas inclusive rate per ½ oz.

Lashio, in northern Burma, had its own censor handstamp. Less than 5 examples known-CCSG.

WARTIME AIR MAIL USES THE HORSESHOE ROUTE

When Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940 the air route across the Mediterranean Sea was no longer available.



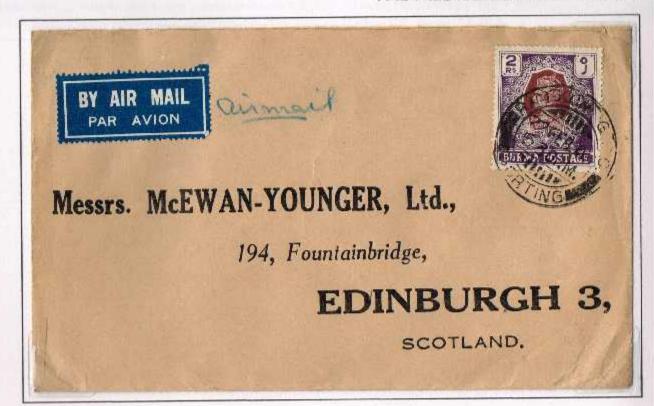
A new route to England was established. Mail was flown as far as Durban in South Africa. It then went by sea up the West African coast to England.

At first the 14 annas per ½ oz. rate still applied. In early June 1940 the rate raised to 1 rupee per ½ oz.

This rate and route remained in place until the fall of Rangoon in 1942



Akyab-March 13, 1942. Resealing tape applied at Akyab. **DHA** hand stamp applied at Calcutta The code letter **Y** in the type 3 triangular censor hand stamp indicates it was applied at Akyab. Fewer than 5 examples of this hand stamp are known per the CCSG.



Rangoon-February 22, 1941 2 rupees - up to 1 oz. letter



Maymyo Alexandra Barracks-June 7, 1940

This would not have arrived at the Mediterranean before it was closed.



Rangoon-May 31, 1941 10 rupees - up to 5 oz letter The earliest recorded commercial use of the 25 rupees stamp.



Rangoon-July 10, 1940 1 rupee per ½ oz. X 85 = 85 rupees

One of two known covers with two 25 rupees in the franking.

This is the larger total franking of the two.

(Exhibitor's published census)

Another 25 rupees cover is shown in this frame bottom row.



No. 6, Laurence Pountney Hill,

CANNON STREET,

LONDON, E.C.4.

Destinations east of Burma were not affected by the closing of the Mediterranean. The 14 annas per ½ oz. rate remained.



Rangoon-September 18, 1940. Addressee docketing-September 25, 1940.
14 annas per ½ oz. X 2
Departed Rangoon September 19 arriving Sydney September 24.



Rangoon-February 8-1941. Back stamped: Singapore Registration-February 10, 1941.

14 annas per ½ oz. X 2 plus 3 annas registration

Departed Rangoon February 9 arriving Singapore February 10.

Singapore triangle censor hand stamp-CCSG type 6C not previously reported with numeral 1.

Mail to Africa and the Middle East was not affected by the Mediterranean closing.

Rates to those points did not change.



Rangoon-July 23, 1941 14 annas per ½ oz. to Kenya; Egyptian censor marks



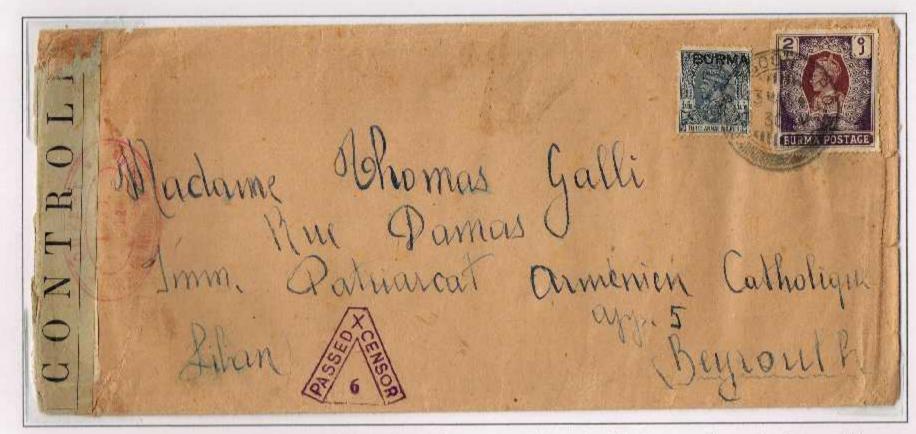
Rangoon-September 12, 1941

Back stamped: Calcutta-September 18, 1941; Calcutta DLO- Sept 18, 1941; Tel Aviv Registered-October 26, 1941 14 annas per ½ oz. to Palestine plus 3 annas registration

Pink resealing tape applied at Rangoon. Brown tape, wax seal, and triangle hand stamp applied at Caclutta.

Nobody at the Rangoon censor office knew Polish. The pink tape reads OPENED BUT UNCENSORED and Passed to Calcutta for Censorship. Per the CCSG this is the only recorded use of this label at Rangoon.

THE HORSESHOE ROUTE



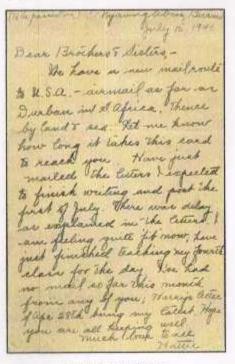
Rangoon-March 13, 1941; Back stamped: Beyrouth-March 31, 1941. 3 ½ annas postage 1st oz. plus air fee 1 rupee per ½ oz. x 2 = 2 rupees 3 ½ annas Triangle censor hand stamp applied at Rangoon. Resealing tape and oval censor hand stamp applied in the French Levant.

Beiruit not a stop on the horseshoe route. The closest was Tiberius in Palestine. In 1941 the Free French took Lebanon from the Vichy Government.

Quoting from the postcard below: "We have a new mail route to U.S.A-airmail as far as Durban in S. Africa, thence by land & sea."



Rangoon University-July 13, 1940
8 annas inclusive postcard rate (A 3 annas stamp had fallen off after the air label was barred out.)



Reduced scan of front



Rangoon-February 8, 1941. 3 ½ annas postage 1st oz. plus air fee per ½ oz. 1 rupee 4 ½ annas. Endorsed "VIA BUSRAH". The routing requested was the horseshoe route as far as Basra, Iraq connecting with BOAC to Tehran, Iran; Aeroflot to Moscow; Swedish airline A.B.A. to Stockholm.



Rangoon University-July 13, 194 0
3 ½ annas postage 1st oz. plus 1 rupee 4 ½ annas air fee per ½ oz.

CHINA AND TRANS PACIFIC AIR MAIL VIA BANGKOK

The following all air service to the United States was available: BOAC from Rangoon to Bangkok and flying over Indochina to Hong Kong connecting with the weekly Pan American Airways service to San Francisco.



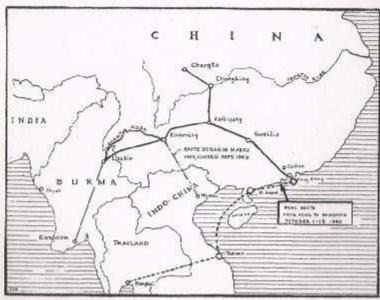
Rangoon-June 26, 1940 2 rupees ¾ annas airmail postcard rate inclusive

H. K. HUNT JUDSON COLLEGE UNIVERSITY P. O. RANGOON, BURMA BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION

Rangoon University-June 3, 1940 The seldom used rate of 4 rupees 1 34 annas inclusive. No air service in the United States.

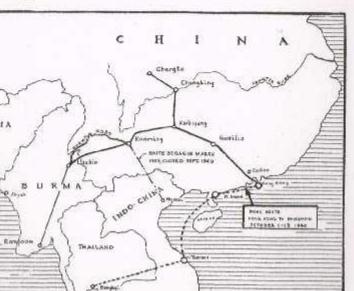
The Bangkok-Hong Kong shuttle operated by BOAC was discontinued October 15, 1940 due to Japanese diplomatic pressure on the Vichy French government to

America was introduced: CNAC to Hong Kong via Lashio, Kunming, and Chungking connecting wit the weekly PAA service to San Francisco.



curtail fly overs of French colonies in Indochina.

In October 1940 a new all air service to North



CNAC Route Map 1940

Rangoon-October 5, 1940

Back stamps:

Honolulu- October 25, 1940 Philadelphia-October 28, 1940 Bridesburg, PA-October 29, 1940

Flown on the "China" clipper Departed Hong Kong-October 16, 1940 Arrived San Francisco-October 27, 1940



Reduced scan of front

The air fee on the CNAC route was higher.



Rangoon-October 12, 1940 5 rupees 13 annas per 1/2 oz. inclusive to the United States

THREE KGV TEN RUPEES ON COVER



5 rupees 13 annas per 1/2 oz. X 6 + 3 annas registration = 35 rupees 1 anna

LOWER RATES

The BOAC problems flying to Hong Kong presented CNAC the opportunity to became the main air line to all of China.

In November, 1940 the CNAC rate to China was lowered from 1 rupee 2 1/2 annas per 1/2 oz. to 13 annas per 1/2 oz inclusive.

Rangoon-November 25, 1940 Back stamped: Kunming-December 2, 1940

At the time the CNAC rate to China was lowered the Inclusive trans Pacific rate to the United States via CNAC was lowered from 5 rupees 13 annas to 4 rupees 5 annas per 1/2 oz. 1



15 RUPEES ON COVER



Rangoon-May 7, 1941 2 ½ oz. letter - 4 rupees 5 annas postage & air fee combined per ½ oz. X 5 = 21 rupees 9 annas

A cheaper alternative to the trans Pacific route:

Rangoon University -> April 1, 1941 Back stamped: Victoria, Hong Kong Triangle censor hand stamp at Rangoon NOT OPENED BY CENSOR at Hong Kong 13 annas 1/2 oz inclusive air rate to China. Surface beyond.



Toungoo-November 14, 1941 Victoria, Hong Kong-Nov 28, 1941

Censor hand stamps applied at Rangoon (55) and Hong Kong (20)

Rangoon -August 9, 1941 Back stamped: Vancouver-September 13, 1941 Montreal-September 25, 1941

1 rupee combined postage & air fee 1/2 oz. + 3 annas registration.

Opened twice and resealed Hong Kong.

"Censor's Office Hong Kong" wax seals applied. Less than five examples of Hong Kong wax

seals known-CCSG.



Kong and surface to Commonwealth points was 1 rupee per ½ oz. This was identical to the fee for horseshoe route air mail that went surface beyond Durban.

Rangoon

November 13, 1941
Back stamped:
Victoria, Hong Kong
November 21, 1941

NOT OPENED BY CENSOR applied at Hong Kong.



AIR MAIL SERVICES TO GREAT BRITAIN REDUCED RATE TO CHINA

TWO OCEAN AIR MAIL VIA SINGAPORE

Beginning in May 1941 the weekly Pan American Airways service to San Francisco alternated between Hong Kong and Singapore. Mail was carried by BOAC to Singapore to catch the Pan American flights departing there. The same rates applied.



Meiktila-Jiuly 4, 1941 Two ocean postcard 1 rupee 7 ½ annas

Censor mark Z applied at Lashio

Triangle censor mark applied Hong Kong

TWO OCEAN AIR MAIL

The rate for two ocean mail to the U.K. via CNAC to Hong Kong., Pan American to Lisbon via the U.S., and BOAC to England was 5 rupees 14 annas inclusive per ½ oz.



Maymyo-April 23, 1941

CHINA
On July 22, 1941 the rate to China via CNAC was reduced to 7 ¼ annas per ½ oz. plus postage.



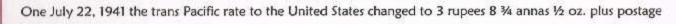
Rangoon-August 2, 1941. 7 ¼ annas air fee per ½ oz. plus 3 ½ annas UPU postage 1* oz.

Back stamped: Embassy of the United States of America Chungking-August 6, 1941

Whereabouts of addressee unknown-returned to sender. Back stamped: Rangoon-November 11, 1941

15 RUPEES ON COVER

REDUCED TRANS PACIFC AND TWO OCEAN AIR MAIL THE LAST TRANS PACIFIC/TWO OCEAN FLIGHT



Rangoon-September 27, 1941. Back stamped: New York-October 17, 1941
 Flown on the "China." Departed Hong Kong October 9, 1941; arrived San Francisco October 16, 1941

Postage 1^x oz. = 3 ½ annas

2 annas postage each additional oz. X 2 = 4 annas Registration = 3 annas Air fee 56 ¾ annas per ½ oz. X 5 = 280 ¾ annas

Total 291 ¼ annas = 18 rupees 6 ¼ annas

VIA CLIPPER

(¼ anna overpayment)

25 RUPEES ON COVER

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION BURMA

Messrs. DODGE & SEYMOUR LTD.,

Dodge Building,

53, Park Place,

NEW YORK, U.S.A.



Rangoon-October 31, 1941 --

3 ½ oz. letter
Postage 1st oz. = 3 ½ annas

2 annas postage additional oz. X 3 = 6 annas Air fee 56 ¾ annas per ½ oz. X 7 = 397 ¼ annas

Total 406 ¾ annas = 25 rupees 6 ¾ annas

One of seven reported 25 rupees commercial usage covers

(Exhibitor's published census)

On July 22, 1941 the rate on Two Ocean air mail to England was reduced to 3 rupees 13 annas per ½ oz. plus postage.

THE LAST TRANS PACIFIC FLIGHT

Rangoon-November 18, 1941 Back stamps: Honolulu December 4, 1941 New York-December 7, 1941

1 1/2 oz. letter

Postage 1^{st} oz. = $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas Postage 2^{nd} oz. = 2 annas

Registration = 3 annas Air fee 61 annas per ½ oz. X 3 = 184 annas

Total 191 ½ annas = 11 rupees 14 ½ annas

Censor tape applied at London.

Although not planned as such the last trans-Pacific flight was flown by the clipper "China" which departed Singapore on November 30, 1941 and arrived in San Francisco on December 6, 1941.



← Endorsed for service via Hong Kong

Beginning October 16, 1941 the weekly PAA service to San Francisco no longer alternated between Hong Kong and Singapore. Mail from Burma flew on BOAC Rangoon to Singapore. Beginning October 24, 1941 Qantas flew the Rangoon to Singapore leg due to a shortage of BOAC crews.

If this actually went to Hong Kong there was a twice weekly shuttle to Manila to catch the Pan Am flights from Singapore.

Letters not mailed in time to catch the Nov 30, 1941 last flight from Singapore would have expected to catch the next scheduled flight. The *Philippine* left from San Francisco on December 3 for Singapore and was the next expected clipper.

Lashio →
December 1, 1941
3 ½ as postage
3 Rs 8 ¾ as air fee

Lashio (Z) type 3
Censor hand stamp.
Less than 5 examples
known (CCSG)
Resealing tape
applied at Lashio.

Resealing tape also applied at San Francisco. (examiner 1539) San Francisco censor station opened December 13, 1941.



On December 3, because of the tense situation in the area, the BOAC/QANTAS route changed to become Rangoon to Port Blair to Sabang to Penang to Singapore, bypassing Bangkok.



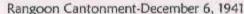
Route bypassing Bangkok



Rangoon-December 1, 1941, Censor resealing tape applied at Rangoon and San Francisco (Examiner 1549)

The listed but seldom seen two ocean rate to Portugal and neutral Europe: 3 ½ annas postage 1st oz. + 4 rupees 10 annas air fee ½ oz.





The listed but seldom requested routing Air to the USA and surface to the UK: 3 rupees 8 ¼ annas inclusive per ½ oz. Chichester forwarding postmark-March 16, 1942 (100 days later)



Rangoon-December 6, 1941

Censor hand stamp and resealing tape applied at Rangoon. Resealing tape also applied at San Francisco (Examiner 1618). 3 oz. letter: 3 ½ as postage 1st oz. + 2 as postage each extra oz. x 2 + air fee ½ oz. 3 Rs 8 ¾ as X 6. Total = 21 Rs 12 as

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. At the time of the attack it was already December 8 in Burma. The Philippine clipper had just left Wake Island for Manila when the attack began. It returned to Wake and eventually arrived in San Francisco on December 11.



← Rangoon-December 8, 1941

Postage 1^a oz. = 3 ½ annas

Air fee ½ oz. 56 ¾ annas X 2 = 113 ½ annas

Total = 117 annas or

7 Rs 5 as

Japan invaded Hong Kong and Malaya on Dec 8, 1941. They invaded southern Burma on December 11.

The covers below, posted shortly after the start of the Pacific war, were optimistically endorsed and/or franked for trans Pacific service. The service never resumed,



Experimental P.O. R-21 (Ist American Volunteer Group-"The Flying Tigers")-December 9, 1941
Postage 1" oz. 3 ½ annas + registration 3 annas + air fee ½ oz. 56 ¾ annas = 3 rupees 15 ¼ annas
Back stamps: San Francisco-February 5, 1942; Washington D.C.-February 8, 1942



Rangoon-December 12, 1941

Postage 1st oz. 3 ½ annas (empire rate not applied) + air fee ½ oz. 56 ¾ annas = 3 rupees 12 ¼ annas Resealing tape applied both at Rangoon and San Francisco (Examiner 1667).

It had long been thought that covers such as these would have had to travel west on the Horseshoe Route to Durban to reach destination.

They actually traveled east across the Pacific as demonstrated by the censor tape being applied at San Francisco on the right cover and those on the previous page plus the back stamps on the left cover. They could have gone by air as far as New Zealand and then by sea.

The 13th Indian Brigade was sent to Burma in March 1941.



FPO 38-December 4, 1941: back stamped: Bereilly-December 9, 1941 2 annas postage first tola plus 1 1/2 annas air fee per tola.

Base P.O. Burma was raised on July 21, 1941. It was Army Post Office Headquarters Rangoon, not to be confused with Rangoon Army Headquarters.





Rangoon Army Headquarters-April 29, 1941 (Proud earliest date-May 3, 1941) Back stamped: Madras-May 13, 1941: 2 annas postage 1st tola to India

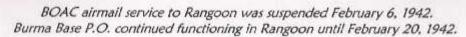
> When the 13th Indian Brigade was sent to Taunggyi in the Shan Hills it was accompanied by FPO 38 which functioned like civil post office under the Burmese Postal Department until there was an Indian Base Post Office.

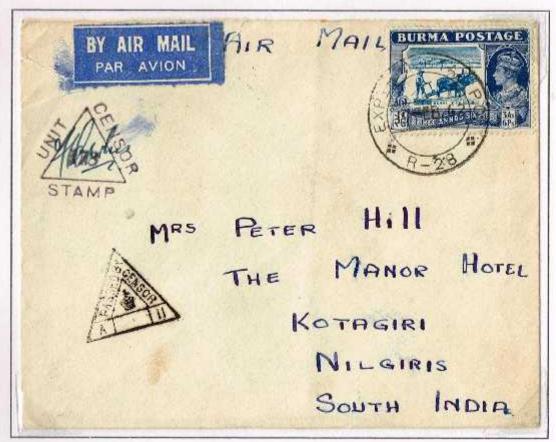
† Base P.O. Burma February 3, 1942

Base P.O. Burma → February 2, 1942 RAF-Censor-32 R.A.F Headquarters Rangoon

'he Royal Air Force in Burma and no postal facilities of their







Experimental P.O. R-28 February 10, 1942 Back stamped: Kotagiri-March 21, 1942 Calcutta censor hand stamp 2 annas postage first tola plus 1 1/2 annas air fee per to

Indian Section No. 5 Base Post Office arrived in Rangoon on January 11, 1942 and was responsible for the sorting and distribution of mails to and from the Indian FPOs in Burma. It operated at the Army Headquarters independently of Burma Base P.O., but their date stamps had been lost in transit. The Burma Posts & Telegraph Department supplied the Indian unit with an EXPERIMENTAL P.O. R-28 hand stamp.

Even though Burma Base P.O. had already left Rangoon this postal section did not leave until March 6, 1942. The Japanese occupied the city on March 7, 1942.

As Rangoon was about to fall and afterwards the only mail in and out of Burma was by air. In late December 1941 CNAC had begun a weekly service Lashio to Calcutta. The rate to India became 10 annas air fee per tola plus 2 annas postage per tola.

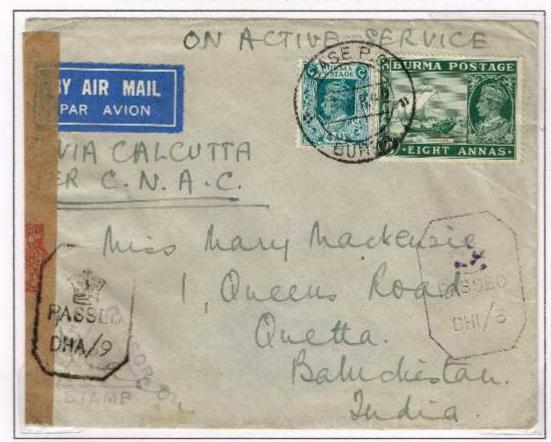


Reduced scan of front

Lashio-March 1, 1942
Back stamped:
Calcutta-March 7, 1942
Resealing tape and triangular censor hand stamp applied at Calcutta.



When Rangoon was abandoned Base P.O. Burma relocated to Maymo and reopened on March 1, 1942.



Base P.O. BurmaMarch 23, 1942
Back stamped:
Quetta-April 4, 1942
Censor hand stamps:
15th Motor Battery
(Unit Censor Stamp 186)
Calcutta (DHA/90)
Quetta (DHI/3)

After the fall of Rangoon the only commonwealth air mail service was CNAC to Calcutta connecting with the BOAC/Qantas service on the horseshoe route. The rate to anywhere in the commonwealth became 1 rupee 10 annas. Censorship activities were transferred to Mandalay and the same hand stamps were used.



Maymyo-March 23, 1942

Durban receiving mark on reverse-April 18, 1942; Durban forwarding postmark on front-April 18, 1942



Mandalay-March 25, 1942
CNAC to Calcutta then by sea to Australia
After the fall of Singapore on February 15, 1942 the horseshoe route no longer flew east of Calcutta.

Mandalay was bombed on April 3, 1942. The censorship staff left soon after.

By mid April many post offices in northern Burma were no longer functioning. CNAC still carried mail to Calcutta using fields at Lashio, and Myitkyina.

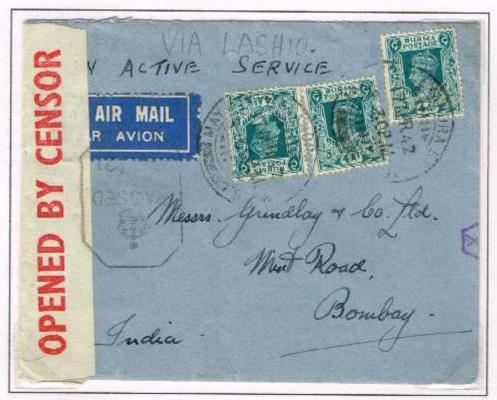
Calcutta G.P.O.-April 14, 1942 Back stamped: Great Eastern Hotel Calcutta-April 8, 1942



Scan of back stamp



Unknown origin. Franked for CNAC to Calcutta and BOAC to Durban, South Africa from where it would go by sea to Bermuda. Not placed in the mail stream until the Great Eastern Hotel where it was postmarked on the rear as the cierk was unsure of the validity of the Burma stamps and thus circled them in pencil. The Calcutta G.P.O. accepted the Burma stamps and canceled them. Censor hand stamp applied at Calcutta. Resealing tape applied at Calcutta and at New York (Examiner 6440).



Part of the censor hand stamp (X) used previously at Rangoon and then at Mandalay is visible.

Per the CCSG this is the latest known use at Lashio.

Maymyo Alexandra Barracks (133 miles from Lashio)-April 17, 1942

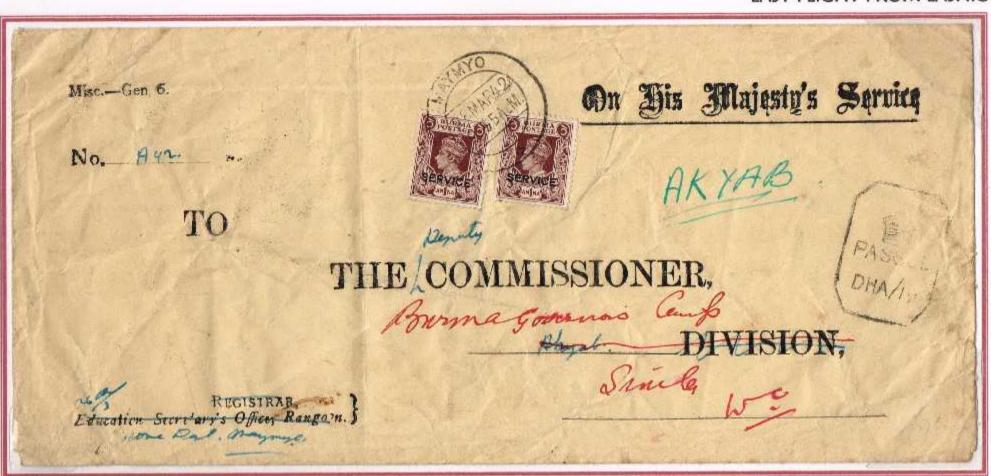
Back stamped Bombay-April 28, 1942. Resealing tape and DHC/21 censor hand stamp applied at Bombay.



in Esien, Yunnan abruary 20, 1942

(from the enclosed letter)

Written in China but put in mall stream at Lashio-March 2, 1942 CNAC to Calcutta, BOAC to Durban, surface to United States. Censored at Lashio (Z) and Calcutta Far East Translation (F4) Less than five examples of both censor marks are known-CCSG.





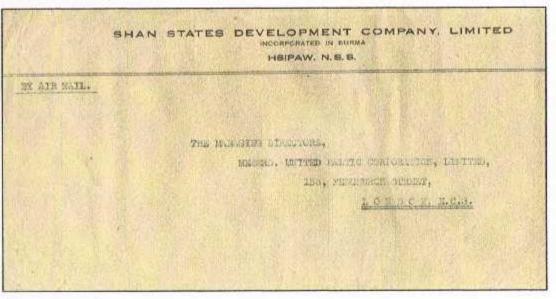
Maymyo- March 28-1942

1 anna surface rate per tola x 2. Unable to reach Akyab as British abandon city May 5, 1942.

Rerouted to India. DHA/19 Calcutta censor hand stamp.

Back stamped: Simla (India)-July 20, 1942. Burma Government in Exile set up in Simla. Not delivered in Akyab until after the war. Akyab Dely back stamp-December 19, 1945.

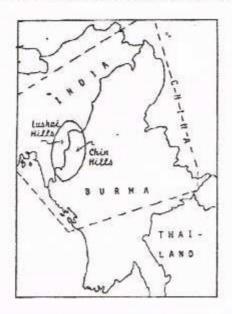
 \leftarrow Hsipaw (32 miles from Lashio)-April 26, 1942 1 rupee 10 annas per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. x 6 = 9 rupees 12 annas



† Reduced scan of front

Lashio fell to the Japanese on April 29, 1942

After May 1942 nearly all of Burma was under Japanese control. One area still under British control was the Chin Hills district in extreme western Burma on the Indian border.

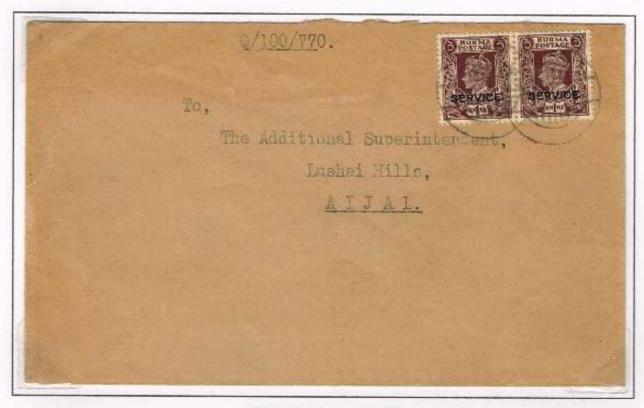




Backstamp on cover below

A postal service was established between Fort White, Haka, and Tiddim via Falam in the Chin Hills and Aijal in the Lushai Hills district of India. The 170 mile distance was covered by bare footed runners in relays. Mail runners had to sleep in 14 camps established along the extremely mountainous route.

The mail service was for government use only. Burma **SERVICE** stamps were to be used.



Falam-September 8, 1942 Back stamped: Aijal, Lushai Hills-September 16, 1942

This was amongst the last batch of mail where normal SERVICE stamps were available.

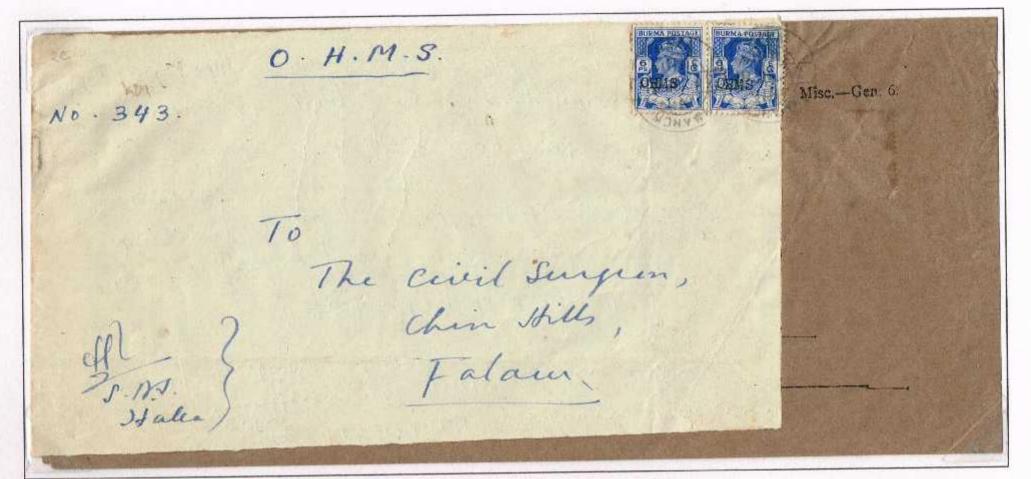
CHIN HILLS PROVISIONALS

Eventually the Chin Hills area ran out of urma Service stamps and had no way to order new ones. Ordinary Burma stamps were then authorized to be overprinted **D.H.M.S.** by typewriter or hand stamp to adicate their official nature.

The cover to the right was originally sent rom Falam to Haka. It is back stamped July 5 1942. It was then resealed with a plain heet of paper and sent back to Falam.

One of 3 known re-used Chin Hills tovers and one of 10 known covers from take.

Discovered by the exhibitor after the Chin Hills cover census was published in 1983 in the Burma Peacock. It is now listed in the 2008 census in the Burma Fantail.



Haka-July 19, 1942; back stamped: Falam-July 21, 1942



Falam-September 10, 1942; back stamped: Aijal, Lushai Hills-September 18, 1942

RE-USED COVER FROM HAKA FALAN BOTH OVERPRINTS ON ONE COVER

OHMS
Typewritten overprint

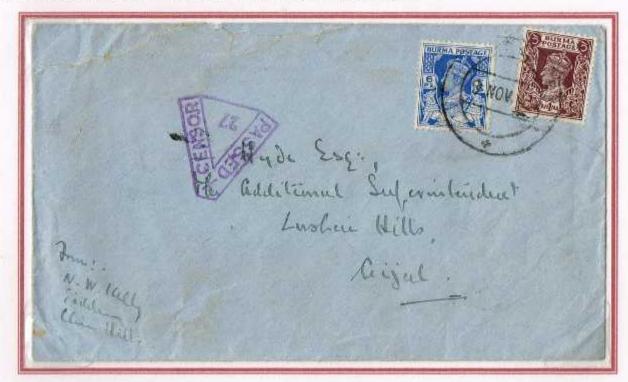
OHMs

OHMS

Violet hand stamp overprint over typewritten overprint (Separated for illustration)

One of three known I anna covers with this overprint.

NLY FORT WHITE COVER TO INDIA HIN HILLS PROVISIONALS LATEST RECORDED USE



Fort White-November 9, 1942. Censor hand stamp applied at Falam.

Back stamped: Falam-November 10, 1942; Aijal, Lushai Hills (India)-November 19, 1942

This cover is one of six known used from Fort White during this period. It is the only one known used to India. The other five are local use. It is the only one known with no SERVICE or provisional overprint.

The censor hand stamp on both of these covers was originally used in Rangoon.

OHMS

1 Diagonal violet hand stamp overprint



Falam-December 4, 1942; back stamped: Tiddim-December 12, 1942 Censor hand stamp applied at Falam. Last recorded use of a provisional overprint. After this no more Burma stamps were available.

EPILOGUE

Falam and Haka fell to the Japanese in November 1943. Fort White and Tiddim held out until March 1944.

The Burma Government in Exile that operated in Simla, India during the Japanese occupation used stamps of India.



Headquarters-March 17, 1944 Back stamped: London-April 3, 1944

During the early part of the Japanese occupation of Burma of the 1937 issue and the 1938 issue were overprinted with a peacock in order to obliterate the King's portrait.





Overprinted at Myaungmya

The peacock overprints however are the story of another exhibit.