

## 5. Epilogue

## After Era Use

The **Money Order and Banking cancels** use tapered off in the late 1940s. Generally unseen for a few decades, The “M.O. & S.B.” cancels can be found on more recent mail if the canceling device remained and someone at the post office used it. Just as in earlier inconsistent practice lead to apparent multiplicity of uses these recent findings of after era use fit in the broader picture of the diversity of these cancels in use.



From: Mullaittivu 1972

Name means:

**Jasmine Island**

a remote fishing village

VIA AIR MAIL

4. 80

Mr. Gustav J. Lund,  
581, Fletcher Ave.,  
Oradell, NJ 07649,  
U.S.A.

VIA AIR MAIL



From: Ratnapura 1965

Central Ceylon

From: Trincomalee

To: Oradell, NJ USA

January 16, 1966

Twenty three years after last recorded use of an “M.O. & S.B.” cancel, this 4 Rp 80c Airmail envelope bears six strikes of Trincomalee “M.O. & S.B.” marking. This unrecorded strike replaced the earlier Trincomalee “M.O. & S.B.” last recorded use in 1943.



# The Money Order & Savings Bank Postmarks of Ceylon

## Introduction Money Order & Savings Bank Postmarks of Ceylon

Abbreviated as “M.O. & S.B.”, “M.O. & S.Bk” and “M.O.C.”, the purpose of the Money Order cancels seems clear: to be used on forms and mail related to the Ceylon postal money order business. In practice, the canceller appears to have a multiplicity of use. This exhibit looks at the different cancels themselves, and shows the varied use of these cancels. The exhibit explains how and why the cancels were used, and how that use changed over time. Presented chronologically by reign, and ordered by use, these postmarks were used in Ceylon from the 1890s until the 1950s.

### Exhibit Plan

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Victorian Era Use | 1 - 4  |
| 2. Edwardian Era     | 6 - 7  |
| 3. King George V     | 8 - 11 |
| 4. King George VI    | 12-15  |
| 5. Epilogue          | 16     |



Victorian  
Small Format



KGVI Large Format



Edwardian



King George V

### Highlights

- ♦ 2 New Locations of Use
- ♦ 5 Only Recorded Uses
- ♦ 4 Earliest Recorded Uses
- ♦ 9 Latest Recorded Uses
- ♦ 2 Original Research Items

### Historic Background

Ceylon postal Money Order service began on the island in the 1890s, special cancellers were made for some post offices, and were used sporadically. The cancels were generally found used from the smaller “village” post offices on the island. The format of the cancels vary, and their use was not uniform. Initially, the Victorian cancels use was more closely aligned with the money order function. From the Edwardian era on, the postmarks were used on a wider variety of mail types.

### Exhibit

Individual stamps accent the exhibit, showing the different formats of the cancels themselves; while main focus is the covers, showing the variety of uses. The exhibit describes why those different uses have occurred.

### Format

Marking information is **bolded**. Historic context is shown in *Arial italic*. Original research, unique item and Earliest, Latest and Only Recorded Uses are indicated with maroon underscoring. The exhibit order is chronological by monarchical reign on each page headings at the right, then by use on the headings left.

### Historical Background (tighten up xxx)

Ceylon has an extensive postal history because of its important location along shipping routes, and its successful trade of crops. Early mail was limited, but by 1890s, Ceylon found new wealth growing tea. The island rapidly developed an extensive postal network, relied on by growing businesses for inexpensive communications.

### References:

Primary Source: Edward B. Proud, *The Postal History of Ceylon*, 2006, Proud-Bailey Co. Exhibit date references are from here.

David Horry, *The Encyclopedia of Ceylon Postmarks, King George VI, 1937-1955*. By marking. Ceylon Study Circle, 2010.

J. N. A 77289 GOVT. PRESS, COLOMBO. P. O.—C 6 (L 12) 2/37

**CERTIFICATE OF ISSUE OF A MONEY ORDER.**  
[To be used for British and Foreign Money Orders (*Ordinary and Telegraphic*) and Inland Telegraph Orders.]

Office of Issue :—

**COLOMBO**      A 99445

payable at Pudumbottai      Rs.      c.

Amount of Order in Ceylon Currency	..	25	60
Commission ..	..	..	..
Telegraph Charges	..	..	..
Fixed Fee in the case of T. M. O.	..	..	..
Att Mail Fee ..	..	..	..

Date Stamp: 270C.

TOTAL COST OF THE ORDER: 25/60

Issuing Officer: [Signature]

Note.—This form is of no pecuniary value. It should be retained by the remitter and should accompany any inquiry respecting the Order to which it relates.

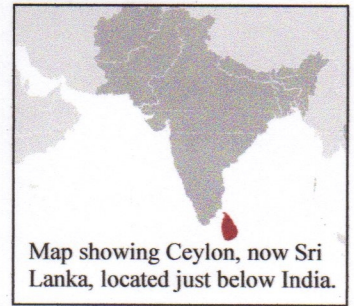
Money Order Certificate: Cancel: **Colombo M.O.C.**  
(Money Order Counter) from the Colombo GPO.



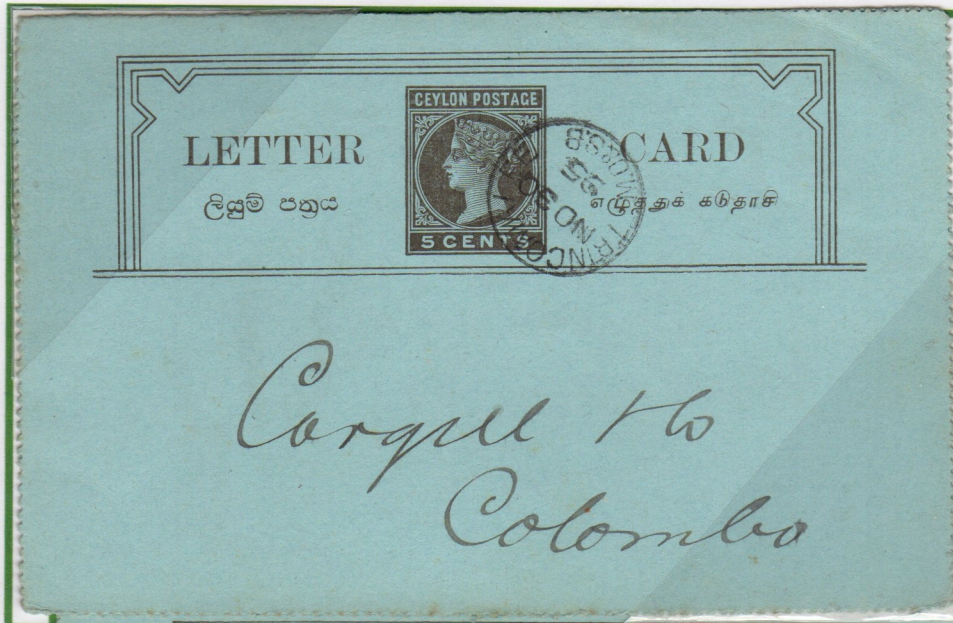
## 1. Victorian Era

## Sending a Postal Money Order

The opaque **Ceylon Letter Card** is found with the “**M.O. & S.B**” cancel for the reason that the sender could buy a money order at the post office, a **put money order inside**. The card stock, space for a note, and secure sealing worked well. These three Letter Cards each from different Ceylon towns were used to send Money Orders and were postmarked with Ceylon Money Order & Savings Bank cancels.



Map showing Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, located just below India.



From: Trincomalee To: Colombo  
November 30, 1895

Format: “**M.O & S.B**”  
Letter Card with Money  
Order of Rs. 173 to  
merchant Cargill

Rs 173

Company. Card backstamped Railway  
Post Office December 2, 1895.

Scan from Inside:

“Herewith Money Order for Rs. 80/10”

Herewith money order  
for Rs 80/10 of  
value payable here  
to Mr. K. P. Selva  
Srinivasan

From: Dickoya To: Colombo  
September 30, 1895

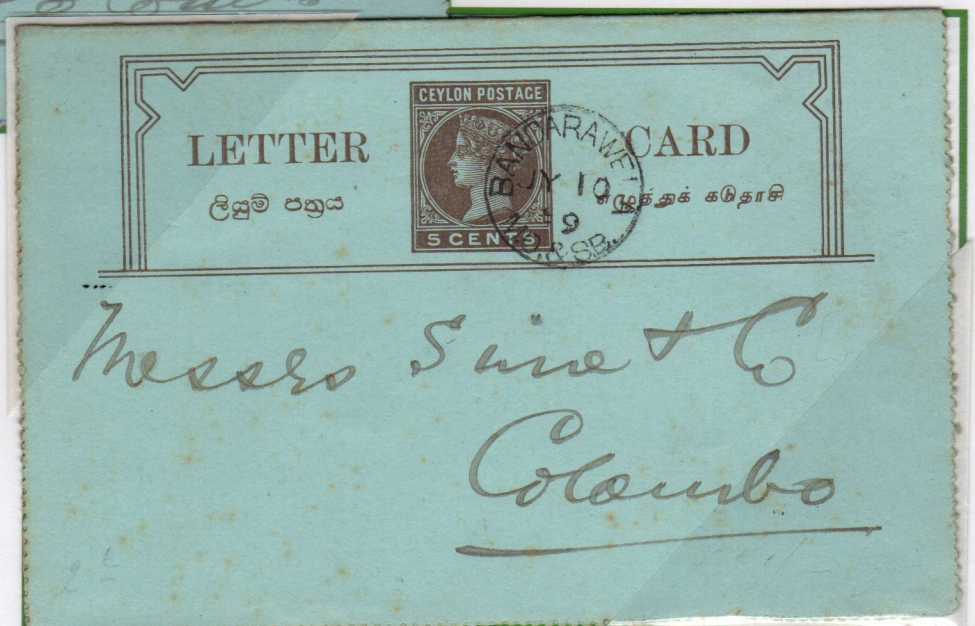
Format: “**M.O & S. B**”

**Latest Recorded Use.**



Colombo  
Herewith money order  
no 9944 for Rs 4/70  
being value of the  
V.P. Parcel forwarded

Scan of Inside: “To: Messrs Skrine &  
Co. Herewith Money Order no 9944  
for Rs 4/70 being value of the V.P.  
parcel forwarded ...”



From: Bandarawela

To: Colombo

July 10, 1899

Format: “**M.O & S. B**” Postal receiving office over 160 miles from Colombo.

**Earliest Recorded Use.**



## 1. Victorian Era

## Using Postal Banking Services

Post card correspondence informs us of early banking serviced used at the post office.



← From: Colombo Courts  
To: Savings Bank Branch  
General Post Office, Colombo  
October 18, 1895  
Banking service correspondence.

"When I come to tomorrow morning to the General Post Office to make the withdrawal..."

48 Belmont Street  
Colombo 18 Oct/95.  
I write to remind you of the Stock Certificate. Please have it ready to-day. I posted an application for a withdrawal to-day, and when I come to-morrow morning to the General Post Office to make the withdrawal, if you have the Stock Certificate ready, I can take it.  
Please excuse troubling  
Chas. Van Der Straeten

Post card reverse at 70%.

T.M.O.—No. 1.

This Form is of no pecuniary value. It should be retained by the Remitter, and should accompany any enquiry respecting the order to which it relates.

### Certificate of Issue of a Money Order.

To be used for { 1. Telegraph Money Orders (Inland and Foreign).  
2. Ordinary Money Orders, payable in the Countries named below.\*

Stamp of Issuing Office NORWOOD O.D. 13 04 1905	No. of Order	7882	Amroati
	Payable at	India	Peray
	Amount	1	15-6
	Commission		6
	Telegraph Charge		
	Supplementary Fee (Foreign Telegraph Orders only)		
	Total	1	16 0

Postmaster's Signature

\* In the case of a remittance to any of the undermentioned places no Order is handed to the remitter for transmission to the payee. The Order by means of which payment is made is issued in the country of destination.

Aden	Finland	Luxemburg
Austria, and its Agencies in Turkey and the Levant	Formosa and Pescadores Is.	Montenegro
Belgium	Germany (and German Possessions and Agencies)	Netherlands (Holland)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece [abroad]	Norway
British Central Africa	Holland (Netherlands)	Portugal (with Madeira and Azores)
Bulgaria	Hungary	Roumania
Chili	Iceland [not Ceylon]	Salvador
Congo Free State	India and its Agencies (but Japan (and Japanese Agencies in China & Korea)	Servia
Danish West Indies	Korea	Siam
Denmark (with Faroe Is.)	Liberia	Sweden
Dutch East Indies		Switzerland
Egypt		Tunis
		Uruguay

### ← Commonwealth Postal Form for Money Orders:

- ♦ Telegraph Money Orders
- ♦ Ordinary Money Orders



Kalatara

December 31, 1894  
"M.O & S.B" on 1 Rp bisected Telegraph.

Telegraph and Banking  
A linked service offering.



Ceylon locally made  
Telegraphs with "M.O & S.B". The "Typeset Issues" of Ceylon.



## 1. Victorian Era

## Use & Types of Cancels

While the **purpose of the Money Order cancels** seems clear: to be used on forms and mail related to the postal money order business. In practice, the canceller appears to have a **multiplicity of use**. The two cards shown are ordinary mail, interestingly receiving this cancel. Why? It is likely **the cancel was the Postmaster's chop**.

The cancels also **differ in type**, "Galle Money Order Office" and "Rakwana M.O. & S. Bk" and "M.O. & S.B." with and with periods.



From: Galle To: Panadura November 22, 1897  
**"Galle Money Order Office"** 24 mm cds. A larger port city in Ceylon,  
 Galle's Money Order Office cancel is the only one of its kind.

### Contrasting Cancels by Size



Small Format  
20 mm "Thimble"



Medium Format  
24 mm

### Contrasting Cancels by Wording



↑ Money Order  
Office



"M.O. & S.B.K." →



"M.O. & S.B."



"M.O & S.B"



From: Rakwana To: Pettah Market, Colombo June 19, 1903  
**"M.O & SB.K"** marking. The K added to distinguish banking more  
 clearly as the abbreviation for the markings use. **Only Recorded Use.**



# 1. Victorian Era

## Domestic Correspondence

### The Turning Point:

The Money Order cancel is increasingly found at the end of the Victorian era **being used on a variety of types mail**. This multiplicity of use shown on three covers: all 1898-1899, all domestic mail.



↑ From: Avisawella To: Colombo  
November 13, 1899

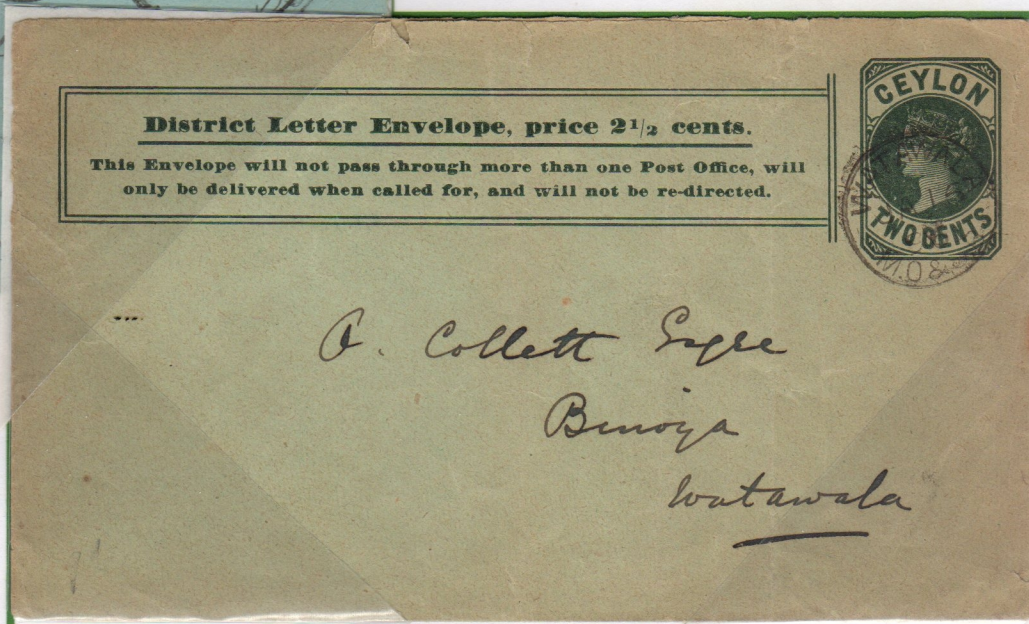
Two strikes of the “**MO&S.BK**” postmarks on cover front from the small town of Avisawella.

The change from “**M.O & S.B**” to “**M.O & S.BK**” the “**K**” to distinguish the abbreviation as **Bank**.



↑ From: Bandarawela To: Colombo  
July 10, 1899

Format: “**M.O & S.B**” and marked “**Balance P.O.**” (purchase order)  
From a village receiving office over 160 miles from Colombo.



From: Watawala To: Watawala January 16, 1898  
Format: “**M.O & S.B**” At a 2 cent rate and ½ cent for the envelope, the District Letter could also securely mail a money order locally.



## 1. Victorian & Edwardian Eras

## Foreign Correspondence Use

### Providing Needed Service:

The post office provided banking services to many towns in remote island locations.



From: Diyatalawa

To: Holland

October 22, 1904

Censored cover with three Diyatalawa "M.O & S.B" cancels & manuscript cancel.

Rate: 15 cent foreign letter.

*The town of Diyatalawa served as an isolated POW camp in the Boer War.*



Edwardian Cancel:  
Double Ring Format

From: Balangoda

To: South India

May 2, 1902

Format: Double Ring "M.O & S.B" 2 cent rate wrapper rate extended to India.

Remote Balangoda, located 83 miles from Colombo.



## 2. Edwardian Era

## Correspondence Use

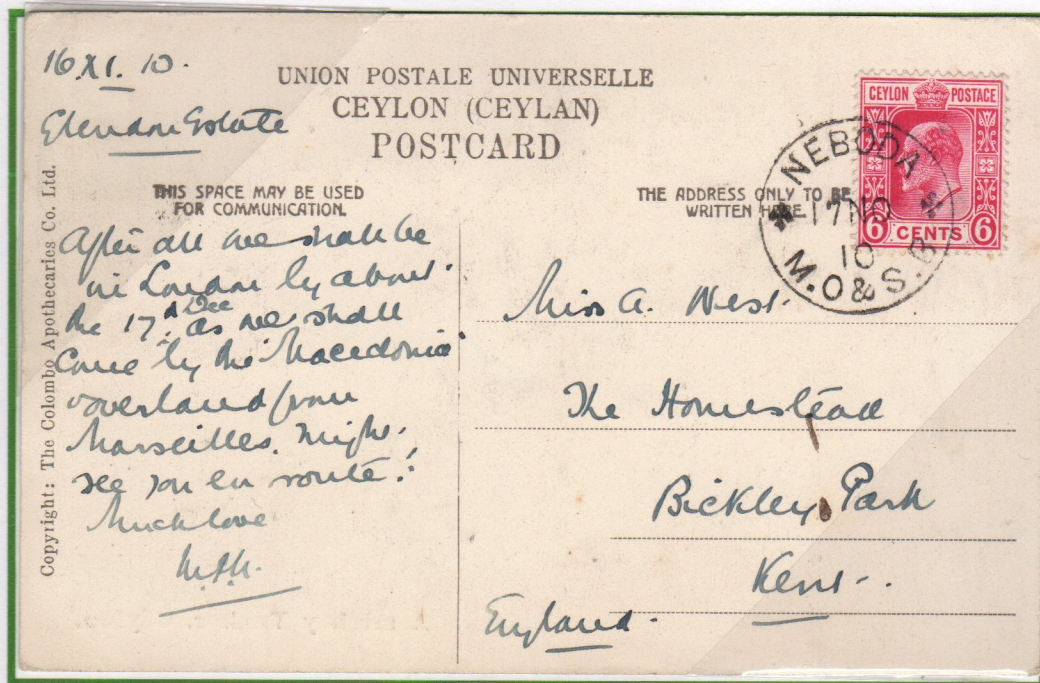
The Edwardian Era brings in new cancel formats and uses of the cancelling device on the mail.

### The Postmaster's Chop:

Postcard & letters did received the "M.O & S.B" cancel. This happens when mail is presented at the counter, and the customer served by the postmaster.



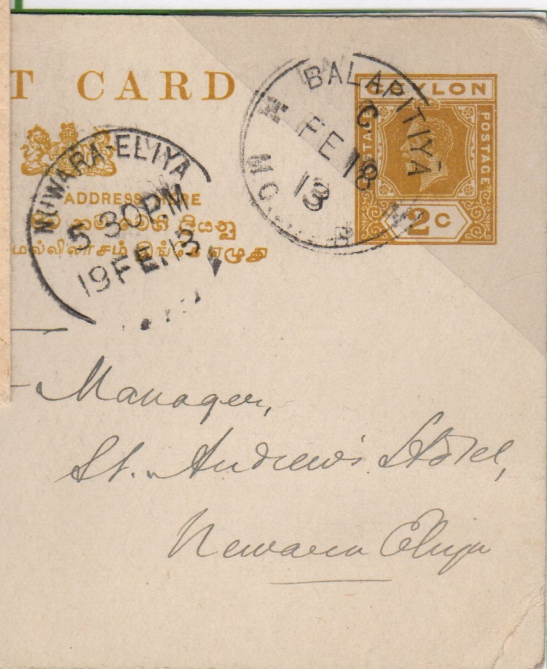
Edwardian Telegraph  
Kankasantura July 26, 1909



From: Neboda To: Kent, England November 17, 1910  
Format: **Fleuron 25 mm** "M.O & S.B" marking used on travel post card to Kent, England. Rate: 6 cent foreign postcard. Card produced locally by Colombo Apothecaries Co. Ltd., split back Universal Postal Union format.



← From: Point Pedro To: Jaffna  
November 6, 1912  
Local missionary related mail.  
Rate: 5 cent domestic letter.



From: Balapitiya To: Nuwara Eliya →  
November 6, 1912  
Local post card, correspondence to local hotel. Rate: 2 cent domestic card.



### 3. King George V

### Registered Mail Service

A new use for the "M.O. & S.B." cancels is found frequently starting in the KGV is on **Registered Mail**. Why? This is a special service often completed in conjunction with money order services or by the postmaster.



From: Kandy To: Bombay March 8, 1919  
 Format: "Kandy Saving Bank" Missionary Registered letter, using war era issues. Rate: 21 cent:  
 6 cent extension rate to India and 15 cents Registered Fee.

**Earliest Recorded Use. Predates Known Use by Five Years.**



From: Cinnamon Gardens  
 To: England  
 January 14, 1919

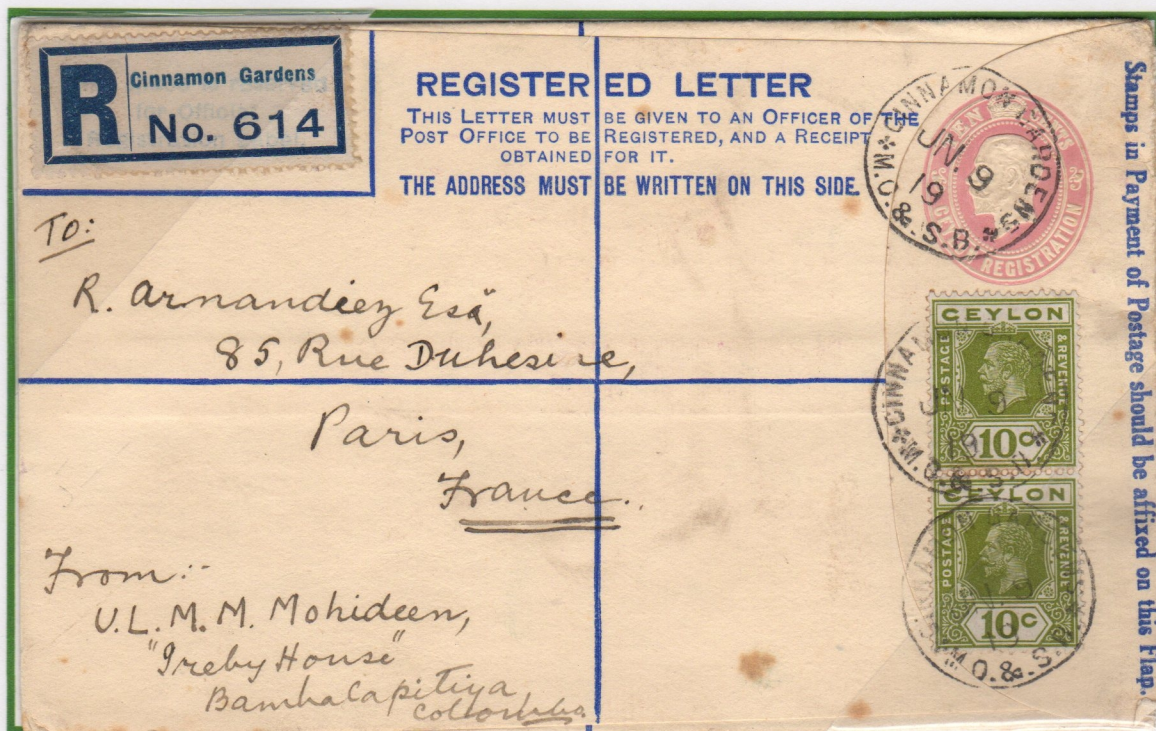
Format: Four "M.O. & S.B." cancels with Cross Side fleurons.  
 Rate: 9 cent foreign letter to England & 15 cents Registration.  
 Paid mixed franking with 1918 War Tax overprinted stamps.



### 3. King George V

### Registered Mail Service

Registered mail shown used with postal stationery envelope and merchant mail cover.



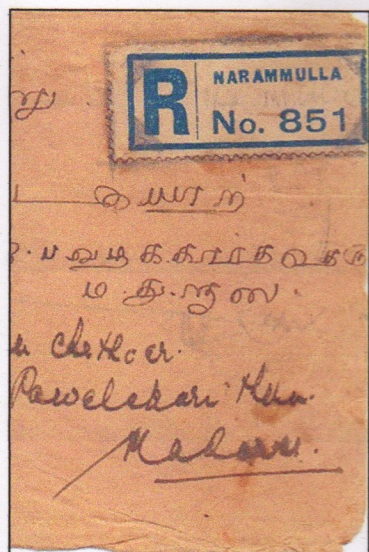
From: Cinnamon Gardens

To: Paris, France

June 9, 1919

Format: Three "M.O. & S.B." postmarks, note the smaller cross side flourisants, adjusted for spacing with longer city name.

Rate: 30 cent: 15 cent foreign letter and 15 cents Registered fee.



Registration from Reverse



From: Narammulla

To: India

November 26, 1926

Format: Four "M.O. & S.B." postmarks, canceling stamps & security on merchant mail.

Rate: 21 cent: 6 cent extension rate to India and 15 cents Registered fee.



### 3. King George V

### Commercial Mail Service



Two examples of Commercial Mail receiving the "M.O. & S.B." cancels, examples of the inconsistent use of the marking evident in the George V era.

From: Vaddukoddai,  
Northern Ceylon  
To: Branford, Ct, USA  
October 30, 1928

Wrapper from Jaffna College,  
Vaddukoddai, northern Ceylon.  
Redirected.



↓ Scan of Stamped Reverse:  
Puttalam MO&SB



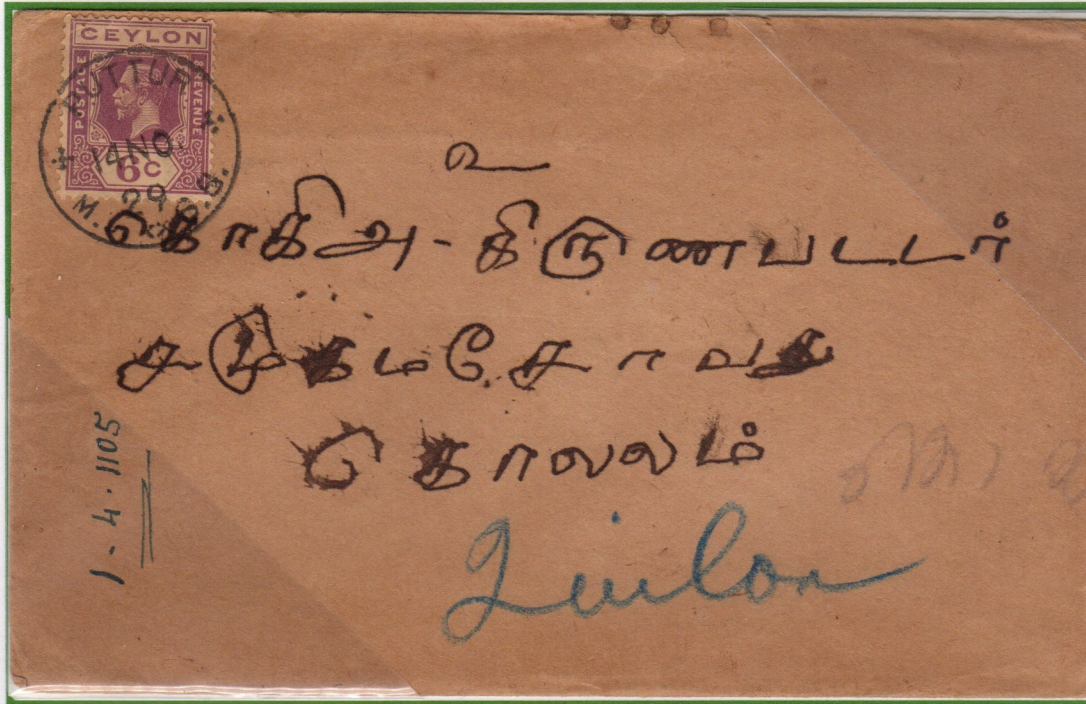
↑From: Puttalam To: Karaikudi, S. India July 17, 1926  
From Ceylon, Commercial Mail Envelope and Letter, order for goods Rs 750.  
Rate: 6 cent extension rate to India.



### 3. King George V

### Foreign Mail to India

Two examples of mail sent to India receiving the “M.O. & S.B.” cancels, examples of the **inconsistent use of the marking** evident in the George V era. In addition, **inconsistent formatting of the cancels themselves**.



From: Puttur To: Quilon, Southern India November 14, 1929  
This postmark in use for twenty years, 1928 through 1948.



↑ Punduloya  
“M.O. & S.B.”  
October 17, 1926.  
**Double Ring Format**



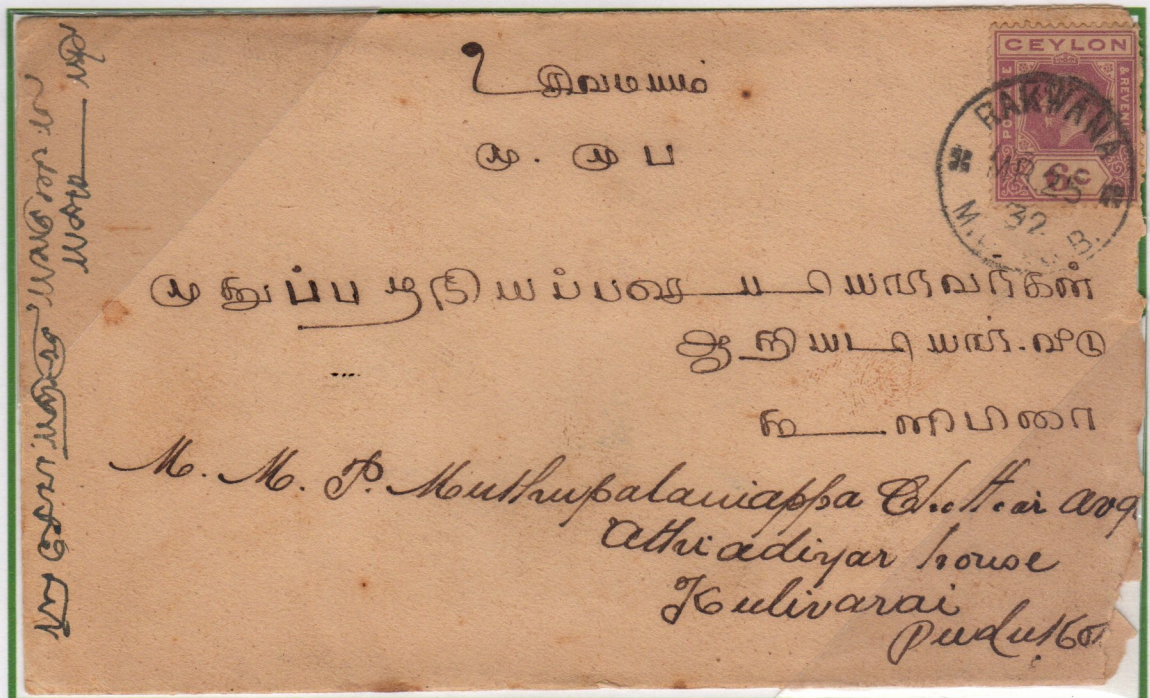
**Strikes on Multiples of the 6 cent extension rate to India.**

← From: Neboda February 4, 1925  
Three strikes on three color franking.

Galaha “MO & SB” →  
**Earliest Recorded Use.**  
No periods on abbreviations.



↑ Baddegama  
“M.O. & S.B.”  
**Earliest Recorded Use**  
October 26, 1933.



From: Rakwana To: Kulivarai, Southern India March 25, 1932  
Large Floursant format marking. Second format of “M.O. & S.B.” postmarks in Rakwana.  
Rate: 6 cent extension rate to India. **Earliest Recorded Use.**



### 3. King George V

### Registered Mail Service

Supporting the concept that the “M.O.&S.B.” marking may have been the **smaller post office’s Postmaster’s chop** is given supporting evidence with this Yatiyantota **receiving marking**, below, which is used with the processing of an unclaimed Registered letter.

From: Gampola  
To: Yatiyantota  
September 22, 1937

**Yatiyantota**  
“M.O.&S.B.”  
as **Receiving Mark**  
on October 9, 1937  
15 days Unclaimed  
Handstamped Retour.  
Reclame Claimed.



Chenkaladi  
August 15, 1935  
Marking without  
fleuron →



Kotahena  
April 9, 1936  
Earliest Recorded Use



Scan of Reverse:  
“M.O. & S.B.” at seal.  
Marking with fleuron

From: Grand Pass To: Glasgow, Scotland September 14, 1937  
Registered letter with two Grand Pass MO&SB postmarks, and one on reverse.



## 4. King George VI

## Special Services, Money Orders

The post office continued to provide Money Orders, here are wartime examples of money order use & and a use of the cancel as a datestamp for processing of mailbags, a sign off a Postmaster would make.

WWII Ceylon Airgraph, below:

**"I have sent you a Airmail Money Order"**

— Colombo, Ceylon 1945.

The addressee should be written on large as possible in **BLACK** letters wholly within this panel as—

The address must **NOT** be typewritten.

Messrs. FRANCIS J. FIELD LTD.  
SUTTON  
COLDFIELD  
ENGLAND.

570263

Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Name and Address: O. ARINERAKKA,  
75TH. LANE,  
ZIMBIRIGASTIYA,  
COLOMBO, CEYLON.

Date: 12.2.45

DEAR SAM,  
I HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR AIRGRAPH DATED 22.1.45. AND TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE SENT YOU A AIR MAIL MONEY ORDER FOR 10s TO COVER COST OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR TWO YEARS TOWARDS "AEROFIELD". I HAVE NOT RECD. MAGAZINE AS YET BUT WILL SEND YOU AN ORDER ON RECEIPT OF SAME.

THANKING YOU,  
YOURS FAITHFULLY,  
*[Signature]*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1944

This space should not be used.

WAYBILL

for Mails  
attached  
from

Postmark

To (Station)

J. N. A 7263

Post (M) 1

via

Despatched at... M...

For Station

Mail  
Bags

Parcel  
Bags

Tin Roll  
Bags

Store  
Bags

Store  
Baskets

News paper  
Bags

Empty  
Bags

Boxes

TOTAL

Attaching Officer :

A back room function: "Waybill for Mail" with "M.O. & S.B." Application of Postmaster's chop on an outgoing mail bag.

↓ Scan of Reverse (at 45%)  
Confirmation of mail bags submitted.

CEYLON

25c

15 JA 38

CEYLON

20c

15 JA 38

H. Col. A.W. Beard, R.E., I.A.,  
Royal Hotel,  
NAINI TAL  
INDIA

R Havelock Town  
No. 748

P.M. Kayla KA 27/806 2486  
To reply of the Contractor is  
Announced hereunder the 16/10/45  
H. Col. A.W. Beard  
Royal Hotel  
Naini Tal  
19/45

5 mails  
Submitted  
18/10/45  
18/10/45

← "M.O. & S.B." Havelock Town postmarks. Rate: paid: 20 cent foreign letter & 25 cent Registration.

From: Havelock Town

To: Naini Tal, India

January 15, 1938



## 4. King George VI

## Money Order Forms

J. N. A 37920 GOVT. PRESS, COLOMBO. P. O.—C 6 (L 12) 2/31  
**CERTIFICATE OF ISSUE OF A MONEY ORDER.**  
 (To be used for British and Foreign Money Orders (Ordinary and Telegraphic) and Inland Telegraph Orders.)  
 Office of Issue:—

SUB-POST OFFICE

No 086513

Payable at

*Trinjakuda*

Rs. 0.

Amount of Order in Ceylon Currency

200.00

Commission

4.00

Telegraph Charges

1.25

Fixed Fee in the case of T. M. O.

1.0

Air Mail Fee

1.0

TOTAL COST OF THE ORDER

205.25



Issuing Officer.

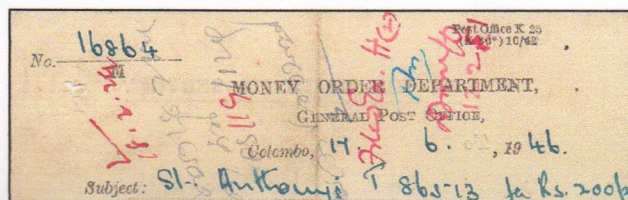
Note.—This form is of no pecuniary value. It should be retained by the remitter and should accompany any inquiry respecting the Order to which it relates.

Inconsistent and inappropriate of the money order cancels continues during the reign of KGVI. Here the most logical forms to receive the money order cancels do not have the “M.O. & S.B.” marking.

### Post Office

### Money Order Department Forms

- ◆ Certificate of Issue of a Money Order
  - ◆ Money Order Tracking Form sent OHMS
- Partial of reverse shown below, reduced.



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

To

Mr. T. P. Velayudhan

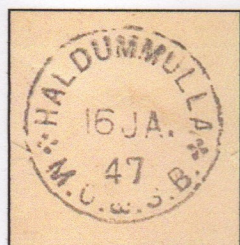
C/o. Cargo Bank Despatch

Kochchikade

Colombo

↑ Certificate of Issue of a Money Order from the a Colombo GPO sub post office, St. Anthony's. December 3, 1945.

In contrast: Domestic letter with “M.O. & S.B.”  
 From: Haldummulla January 16, 1947  
 Five strikes on front. Scan of strike on reverse. ↓





Registered O.H.M.S. sent post free and an Airmail cover are two examples of mail sent with "M.O. & S.B." cancels from very small towns, where they likely receiving services from the postmaster, thus the "M.O. & S.B." postmarks.

← From: Atchuveley To: Batticaloa  
August 31, 1946

Registered domestic letter with tracking strike on front, and two "M.O. & S.B." on reverse at sealing lines. Sent OHMS, post free.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

→ note the spelling with the postal Mark

Registered



AIR

TORCHSTREAM BOOKS,

50 ALEXANDRA ROAD,

LONDON.

S. W. 19.



From  
W. M. A. WICKRAMASINGHA  
POST OFFICE  
KANDY  
CEYLON

↑ From: Naula To: London  
August 14, 1947

Sent via Airmail, "M.O. & S.B." marking front, stamp and cancels on envelope sealing lines. Franking 75 cent Airmail to England on reverse, below.



F.S. Thambayaya  
Principal  
G.T.C. (Women)  
Batticaloa

