

## A Selection Of Borneo Returned Mail

Returned mail from Austria to Sandakan 1904



Provenance; "Stolz", Spink September 2010

Sequence of cancellations and other marks;

Graz, Austria 13.3.04

Penang to Singapore Marine Sorter 16 AP 1904

Labuan 27 APL 04 arrival and 5 JUL 04 despatched

*Try North Borneo* in blue crayon at Labuan

Kudat 8 JUL 1904 arrival and 10 JUL 1904 despatched

*Try Sandakan* in red crayon at Kudat

Sandakan 11 JUL 1904



"UNCLAIMED" Sandakan I2, one date recorded 17.3.94



"RETURNED" unrecorded but most likely from Sandakan



"UNKNOWN" unrecorded but most likely from Sandakan

There are no similar instructional marks at Singapore or Penang.

Returned mail from Switzerland to Brunei 1930



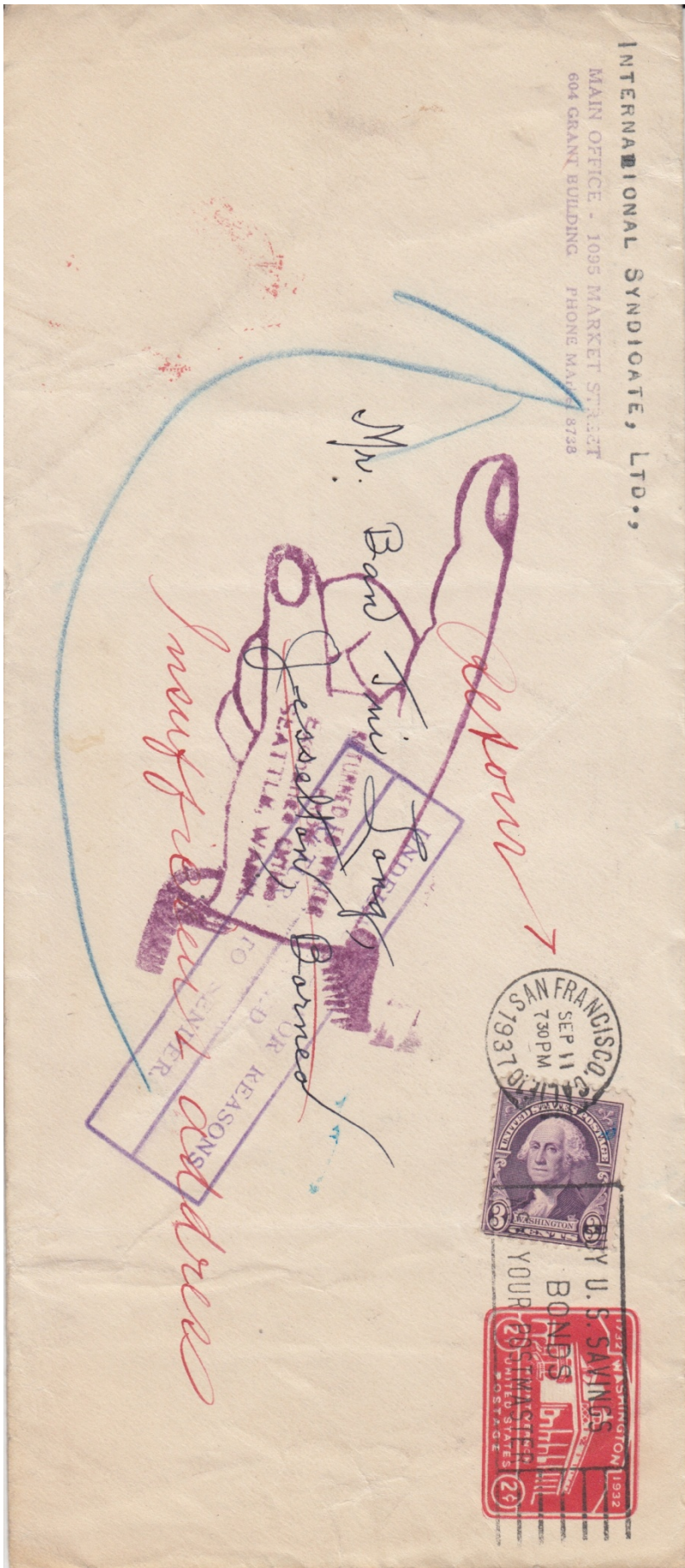
Multifranked  
and registered  
cover dated  
Basel 8.XII.30  
In manuscript;  
*Unknown*  
*Unclaimed*  
*Retour*



Cancellations sequence;  
Basel 8.XII.30  
Singapore Registration 31 DE 1930  
Brunei 7 JAN 31  
Singapore Registration 9 MR 1931  
Basel 4.IV.31 Postlager (will call)  
Basel 4.IV.31 Brieftrager (mail carrier)  
In manuscript;  
*Undelivered*  
*Unknown*

Brunei did not have any Instructional Marks handstamps until the 1970s

Returned mail from USA to Jesselton 1937



Sent San Francisco SEP 11 1937

Arrival backstamp Jesselton 21 OCT 1937

Manuscript at Jesselton;

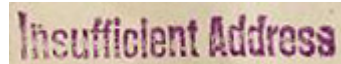
*Retour*

*Insufficient address*

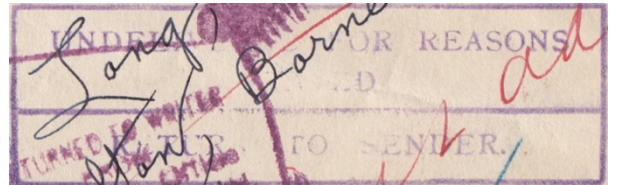
Backstamp Dead Letter Office Singapore  
4 NO 37, Proud D2



Unrecorded backstamp, probably  
Singapore

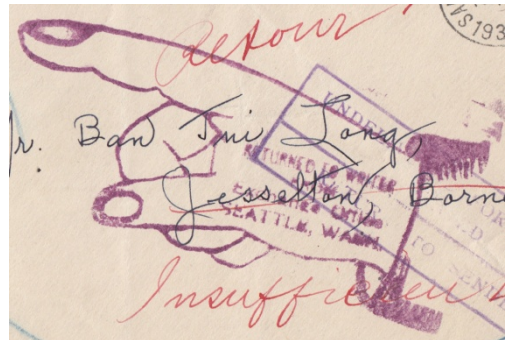


Singapore I17



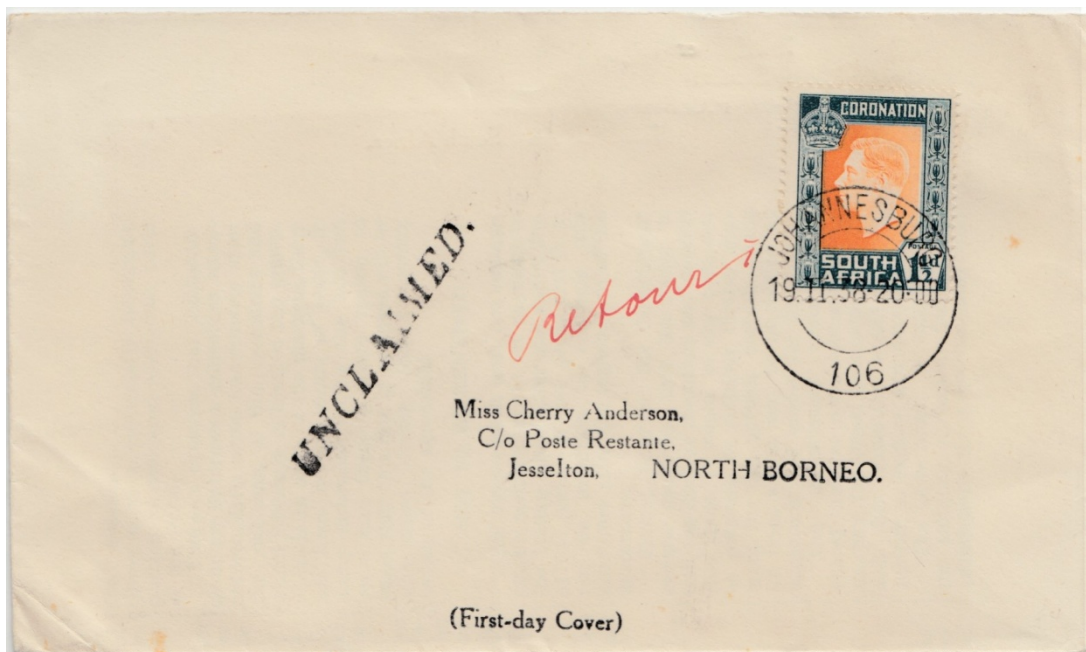
*Undelivered For Reasons Stated*  
*Return To Sender*

USA Retour pointing finger handstamp



*Returned To Writer From Exchange*  
*Office SEATTLE, WASH.*

Returned mail from South Africa to Jesselton 1938



Johannesburg 19.11.38 and Jesselton backstamp 9 APR 38

Jesselton I10 *UNCLAIMED.* and *Retour* in manuscript

Returned mail from Kuala Belait to Tawau 1950



Kuala Belait 10 OC 50 2c underpaid for 12c rate

Manuscript *Return to Sender* and *Unknown at Borneo Abaca* and *T Acts*

Backstamps Jesselton 11 OCT 50, Labuan 21 OCT 50 and Kuala Belait 22 OC 50

The receiver was not willing to pay the charge and had the letter returned

Returned mail from East Germany to Jesselton 1960



Cover to Mr Edvard Simpson!

Sent Leipzig 17 2 60 returned Glauchau 22. 4. 60

Instructional Marks Jesselton I11 *RETOUR* and I12 *UNKNOWN*



Backstamp Jesselton 29 FE 60 Glauchau 22. 4. 60

Unidentified non serif *RETOUR*? Jesselton ? Leipzig

Manuscript *RTO* for Return To Origin

Returned mail from West Germany to Jesselton 1960/61



Airmail registered cover from Euskirchen 21.10.60



Jesselton arrival 27 OC 60 and returned 17 FE 61

*RETURN TO SENDER* box instruction cachet unmarked

Singapore transits 26OCT60 and faint despatched date 25FEB61

German returned date marks unclear

Returned registered mail from Singapore to Tenom 1962



Sent Singapore 31MAR62  
Transit backstamp Jesselton 1 AP 62  
Arrival backstamp Tenom 4 AP 62  
Manuscript at Tenom;  
*Unknown at Chungwha School Box 10*  
**RETOUR**  
*Unclaimed*  
*Unknown*  
Returned backstamp Tenom 10 MY 62  
Transit backstamp Jesselton 13 MY 62  
Arrival backstamp Singapore 29MAY62  
The earliest Returned Mail handstamps  
in Tenom was in the 1970s

Returned mail from GB to Beluran Sabah 1974



Backstamps;



Uncommon  
Beluran cancel



Sandakan

Manuscript; *Try Dist. Office, Please return to sender overleaf shown*  
Unboxed RETURNED TO SENDER instructional cachet marked unknown

It was probably applied at nearby Sandakan

Returned mail from GB to Mempakul Sabah 1974

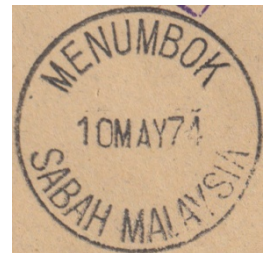


Manuscript;

UNKNOWN

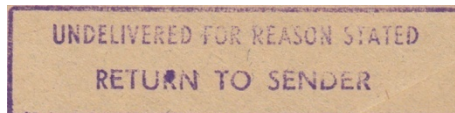
Please Return to  
Sender PTO

Backstamp;



Menumbok

cancel



Backstamp Boxed Return To Sender cachet

The Mempakul Post Office ceased operations in the 1920s

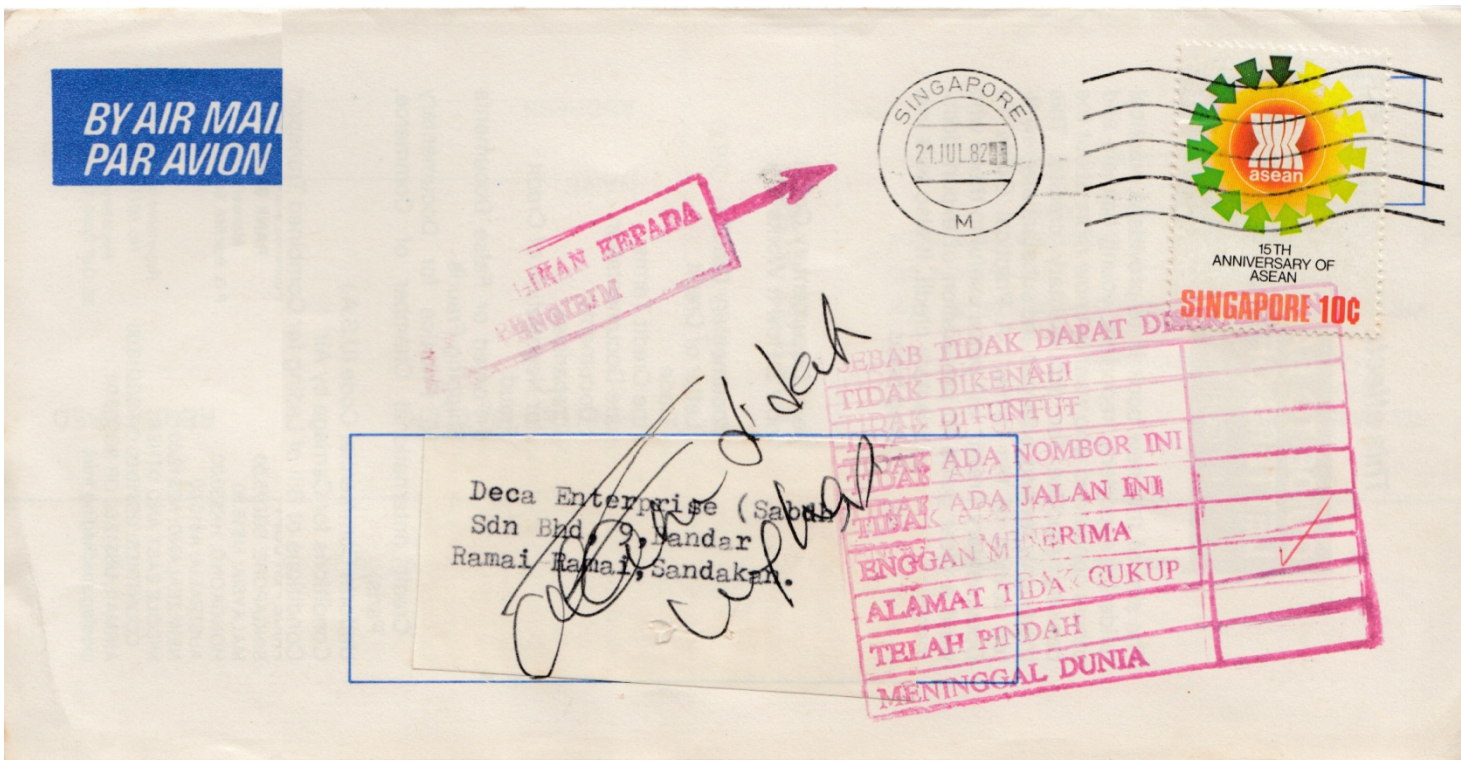
Returned mail from GB to Papar Sabah 1974



Back message;  
*Return to sender*  
*unknown*  
Backstamp;  
  
Papar

Boxed return mail cachet in indigo with a mid horizontal dividing line

Returned mail from Singapore to Sandakan Sabah 1982



Part folded long envelope sent Singapore 21 JUL 82 backstamp Sandakan 70G082  
Manuscript across address in Malay *Alamat tidak lengkap* for incomplete address  
Boxed red return mail cachet indicated **ALAMAT TIDAK CUKUP** for insufficient address  
Red box with pointer with **MEMBALIKAN KEPADA PENGIRIM** for return to sender

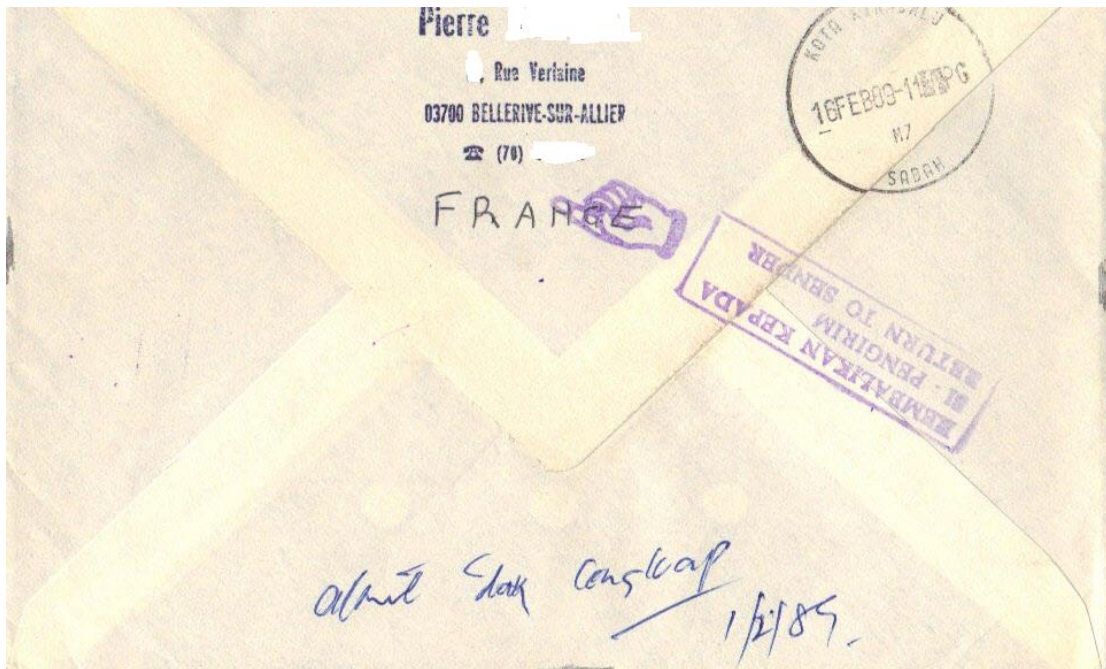
Returned mail from France to Kota Kinabalu Sabah 1989



Posted 17-1-89 from France addressed to a fictitious person and address

Boxed return mail cachet in indigo both in Malay and English

Smaller box with *RETURN TO SENDER* in Malay and English and finger pointer



Manuscript *Alamat 'tak lengkap* for incomplete address dated 1/2/89

Backstamp Kota Kinabalu 16FEB89 presumably date of despatch

Sender did not realise that Jesselton had changed to Kota Kinabalu in 1967

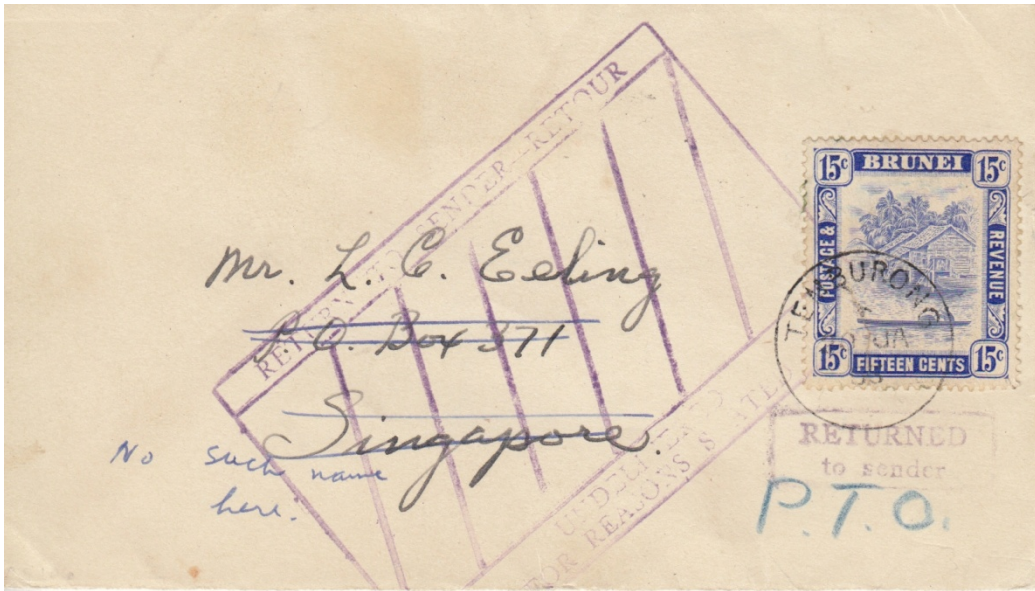
Clearer boxed pointer cachet with *Membalikan Kepada Pengirim/Return To Sender*

Returned mail within Brunei 1976

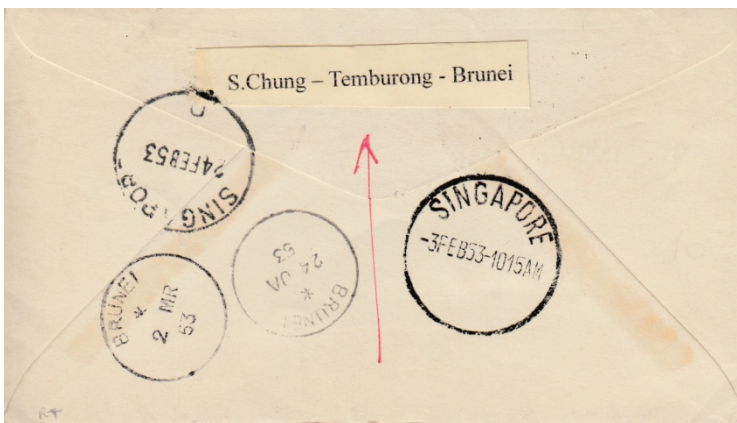


Posted Bandar Seri Begawan 13 NOV 1976 without return address  
 Double ring Dead Letter Office Brunei date stamp 18NOV1976  
 Boxed Return To Sender cachet and marked Unknown

Returned mail from Temburong Brunei to Singapore 1953



Posted;  
 Temburong 10 JA 53  
 At Singapore;  
 Manuscript  
*No such name here*  
 Small box RETURNED to sender  
 Large box RETURN TO SENDER-RETOUR  
 UNDELIVERED FOR REASONS STATED



Singapore  
 3FEB53  
 24FEB53  
 Brunei  
 24 JA 53  
 2 MR 53

Returned mail from Kuala Belait Brunei to USA 1947



Registered cover sent Kuala Belait 4MR47 multifranked to a total 70c

This implies a light air letter rate of 55c+15c reg fee, K. Belait typed label

**AIR TO LONDON ONLY** unrecorded for Brunei but exactly like Sandakan AM8

At New York; *not at add. given, Try 22 E 17 St.* and retour cachet in violet



Cancellations and backstamps;

Kuala Belait 4MAR47

Brunei 6MR47

Singapore Registration 17 MR 1947

New York REG'Y 4 5 1947 (April 5 1947)

New York APR 4 1947

Singapore 15 JU 1947

Returned mail from Serian to Simanggang Sarawak 1978



Posted on TPO 1 on 10 JY 78 lacking 15c adhesive for airmail rate incurring *T. 30c*

Radio station unwilling to pay the charges and letter returned

Boxed *Return To Sender* cachet marked unclaimed and dated 11 JUL 1978

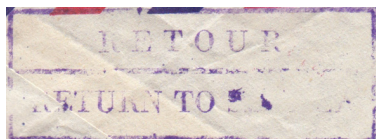
Manuscript *Redirect to MPO 1 Kuching 3/3/79* after 7 months

Serian postmark 6 MR 79



Backstamps Simanggang 28 JY 78, DLO Kuching 21 FE 79 x 2 and Serian 3 MR 79

White resealing strip left side of front cover *Opened by Dead Letter Office Sarawak*



RETOUR RETURN TO SENDER



Reconstructed DLO Kuching cds

## Addendum

This cover was I think, originally in John Roberts collection.

A brief note is enclosed with the cover and is shown as follows;

Cover without adhesives for 15 cents. Taxed 30 cents. Posted on T.P.O. 1  
10 JUL 1978. at top left (front) Simanggang receipt 28 JY 78 (back)  
Radio Station refused letter as they wouldn't pay 30 cent tax.  
They sent letter back to Kuching, where it was opened by a young lady, who  
read the address inside and wrote it on the flap of the envelope.  
Samarahan is not at Serian where envelope was backstamped. Serian crossed  
out and c.d.s. of 3rd. March 79 added. 3/3/79 endorsement added and  
BATU 32 BAKI

The name Kuching D.L.O c.d.s added by the young lady at Kuching  
who also added the white "Opened by Dead Letter Office Sarawak"

A second Kuching D.L.O. cds added a further indistinct D.L.O. c.d.s.

Boxed RETOUR/RETURN TO SENDER probably added at Simanggang

I think the Simanggang 28 JY 78 cds was the date that the letter was sent to Kuching.

It arrived originally on 11 July 78, refused and was cancelled with the retour cachets.

Both these cachets are unrecorded in the Sarawak Journal. Fascinating series of events.