

## BRUNEI 1894 to 1951

Brunei is a small sultanate in the northwest of the island of Borneo. This exhibit shows the development of postage stamps and mail services from the beginning of postal services in 1894 up until the definitives of 1947/51. This exhibit includes the whole of the Brunei River view design on stamps which went on sale in 1907 and was in continual use lasting 50 years until being invalidated on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1957. The exhibit shows the earlier postal service, the provisionals and then traces the one major definitive design of the Brunei River stamp through each of its value changes, colour changes, printing methodology changes and overprinting stages. It includes the Japanese occupation period in WW2.

The exhibit is structured as follows;

- Frame 1** The first post office and concessional printings. Design of the concessional stamps and the panes of each stamp with the transfer positions of the stamps mapped out and illustrated.
- Frame 2** The local concessional stamps with transfer positions is continued. The 1906 Provisionals of the Labuan stamps overprinted Brunei. This includes the Black overprint on the one cent of which only one sheet was overprinted. There are also examples of the "spur over B" of BRUNEI in the overprinted stamps.
- Frame 3** The first of the Brunei River view stamps were the 1907 definitives. There is a Die Proof of the vignette at the centre of the design and the colour trials from the De La Rue archives. There are a number of imperforate Die Proofs with and without duty plates. The 1907 Madagascar Specimens are included.
- Frame 4** The 1908 to 1916 Brunei River view definitives with a partially reconstructed 1908 Plate proof undenominated sheet of which only one sheet was printed. The Plate proof sheet of the 3 cents printed in blue with overprinted specimen as seen in the De La Rue archives. The 1908 Madagascar specimens are included.
- Frame 5** The 1916 colour changes when Brunei joined the UPU. The 1922 overprints for the Malay Borneo Exhibition with a complete set of overprint variations.
- Frame 6** The 1924 to 1937 definitives with examples of the reductions in pane size from 60 to 50 stamps per sheet. The change from wet to dry printing is shown, the RAF survey flights and the introduction of air mail routes. The 1941 Unissued stamps which were only used overprinted by the Japanese during their occupation of Brunei commencing in 1941.
- Frame 7** Japanese occupation of Brunei. The use of Japanese stamps in Brunei. The overprinting of Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak stamps for use in Brunei. Errors and omissions in overprinting and double overprints, examples of violet and rare red overprints and a two-colour double overprint. The rare \$3 on one cent black overprint is included.
- Frame 8** Post war reconstruction with the use of Australian stamps and British Military Administration stamps. The 1947 definitives which were the final series in the Brunei River view design stamps, with variations. The rare Blue Paris Exhibition folder of which only 50 were produced.

### Bibliography:

James Bendon: UPU Specimen stamps 1878 – 1961, ed 2015.

Journal of the Sarawak Specialist Society.

Ted Proud: Postal history of the British Colonies: Brunei, North Borneo et al.

Robson Lowe: Brunei; The History and a Plating study.

Brian Cave: The Postal stamps of Brunei 1895 to 1941.

Howard Lee: Brunei, Its Postage stamps and Cancellations.

Phil Collas: Postal History of the Australia Army during WW2.

Frank Walton: The De La Rue Collection

## First Post Office in Brunei at Brooketon

The first post office in Brunei was opened in 1893 at Brooketon, a mining town at the Rajah of Sarawak's colliery. The Rajah had a concession to mine coal in the area.

The post office was run by the Sarawak government and operated a monthly mail service on the Sarawak government ships to Kuching.

The earliest usage of a postage stamp used in Brunei is a Sarawak stamp cancelled BROOKETON 24 April 1894.

### 1893 to 1896



1895



1896

### 1895 Labuan stamps used in Brooketon



The 10 cents was the letter rate to Great Britain

### 1899 to 1907



1899



1900



1906



The post office continued to provide a regular postal service until it was closed in February 1907 by the order of the Rajah, Sir Charles Brooke. Brunei had opened a post office at Brunei Town in 1906 under the new British Resident and insisted on the Brooketon post office using Brunei stamps.

After some acrimonious correspondence the Rajah closed the Brooketon post office.

Brunei later opened a post office in the same location about a mile away and named it Muara, the name of the district.

## 1895 - 1906 Concessionary Postal service

The Sultan of Brunei granted to JC Robertson a concession to produce postage stamps. The first post office opened in Brunei Town run by the Sultan in July 1895.

The stamps were valid for prepayment within Brunei and to Labuan only. Brunei was not part of the Postal Union of Straits Settlements, Malaya States, Sarawak and North Borneo nor the UPU. Mail was sent from Brunei to Labuan in the Sultan's yacht and hence overseas. Labuan stamps were attached to each cover for forwarding overseas under UPU patronage.

Printed probably by Maclure, MacDonald and Co, Glasgow, Scotland  
Lithographed on unwatermarked paper, comb perf 13 ½, printed in sheets of 50.



Quantities of printing sent to Brunei:

1/2c	50,000	8c	10,000
1c	25,000	10c	10,000
2c	20,000	25c	1,000
3c	20,000	50c	1,000
5c	20,000	\$1.00	1,000

## The design of the 1895 Issue

It is not clear who designed and printed the stamps of the 1895 issue but it is probably Maclure, Macdonald and Co of Glasgow did the printing. The philatelic press in 1895 pointed out the similarity between the design of the Brunei stamps to the design of the postal stationary postcard issued by the Belgian Congo in 1889. The designer of the Belgium postcard is not known nor is the designer of the Brunei stamps.

More recently some essays for the 1895 issue have come to light in the auction of the Bill Toye collection. There is however little province known about these essays.



### The Half of One Cent Brown of the 1895 Issue

The 1895 Issue was probably printed in Glasgow by Maclure, MacDonald and Co. The 1/2 cent sheet in brown was from two printings of an estimated total of 2000 sheets of which 1000 sheets were sent to Brunei. The colours are brown, red-brown, dark brown and pale brown. The second printing showing differences in shading may be due to the ink mix. There are a number of design flaws which are consistent in the block: two fine lines between frame lines at left, one over ST of POSTAGE, the other to the left, and a small dot below the E of REVENUE (L1). Position R2/1 has a large circular spot which is reduce in the second printing (L2). The 6 transfer types to make up the stone as shown below.



L1



A



B



C



- A A B B A B A C B B
- B D C C C B E C E C
- A B C A E C D A D B
- A D C B A A B B C A
- C C D D D C A F F E

- A. Break in the curved coloured line below the left of the N of BRUNEI, U has a dimple at the foot.
- B. the solid background show s minute extension below the N of BRUNEI.
- C. The solid background bulges below RU.
- D. A blob on the left of the right panel containing the local script, small dots upper frame lines NE star.
- E. A swelling in the coloured outline above UN, extra dot and vertical dash in SW panel.
- F. Small dot in the white space below RU and a flaw in the NE corner of the vertically lined background, the inside of the frame line in NW corner has several breaks, top inner frame over the left of the E of BRUNEI is broken.



L2



D



E



F

The Half of One Cent Brown of the 1895 Issue: State 2 Second printing.

The 1895 Issue was probably printed in Glasgow by Maclure, MacDonald and Co. The 1/2 cent sheet in brown was from two printings of an estimated total of 2000 sheets of which 1000 sheets were sent to Brunei. The colours are brown, red-brown, dark brown and pale brown. This second printing showing differences in shading which may be due to the ink mix. There are two design flaws which are consistent in the block: two fine lines between frame lines at left, one over ST of POSTAGE, the other to the left, and a small dot below the E of REVENUE (L1). Position R2/1 has a circular spot which has been reduce in this second printing (L2). The 6 transfer types to make up the stone as shown below.



L1



L2



A



D



B



E



A A B B A B A C B B  
 B D C C C B E C E C  
 A B C A E C D A D B  
 A D C B A A B B C A  
 C C D D D C A F F E

A. Break in the curved coloured line below the left of the N of BRUNEI, U has a dimple at the foot.  
 B. the solid background show s minute extension below the N of BRUNEI.  
 C. The solid background bulges below RU.  
 D. A blob on the left of the right panel containing the local script, small dots upper frame lines NE star.  
 E. A swelling in the coloured outline above UN, extra dot and vertical dash in SW panel.  
 F. Small dot in the white space below RU and a flaw in the NE corner of the vertically lined background, the inside of the frame line in NW corner has several breaks, top inner frame over the left of the E of BRUNEI is broken.



F

C

## The 1 Cent Lake of the 1895 Issue

The 1895 Issue was probably printed in Glasgow by Maclure, MacDonald and Co. This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring 13 1/2 used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The 1 cent sheet in pale rose to deep lake was from a single printing of an estimated 1000 sheet printing of which 500 sheets were sent to Brunei. There were two design flaws which are consistent in the block; a dot or dash between the frames over the NW star and upper left corner extended (L1) and the frame SW of REVENUE is open at the corner (L2).

The transfers were arranged as below.



L1



A



B



C



ABCDDCEBAC  
DCBBABDBDA  
BBABCCADCD  
EFEABFABFC  
AAFDEACBDC

- A. Small dash right of centre lower frame, dot right of stamp opposite last E in REVENUE
- B. Tiny dot SE of numeral 1, large, coloured dot in shaded background left of EN of REVENUE
- C. A tiny dot in the white space below the left of the R of BRUNEI
- D. Break in the left side of sail
- E. dot right of stamp opposite the second E of REVENUE
- F. Other positions on which no constant flaws have been noted.



L2



D



E



F

### The 2 Cent Black of the 1895 Issue

The 2 Cent black of the 1895 issue was printed on unwatermarked paper. The 2-cent sheet in black had three printings of an estimated total of 800 sheets of which 400 sheets were sent to Brunei. The first printing was grey black and the second printing in black, there were three sheets also printed on ungummed paper. There is one design flaw which is a dot in the neck of the 2. There are 7 transfer types to make up the block, as shown below. There was a scratch on the plate at some stage and retouching to repair the plate has taken place. There are a number of retouches to repair the plate however some parts of the scratch can be still seen on the plate. The scratch affected positions 1,11,21,22,32,42 and 43 as illustrated.

Note the missing perforation pin holes below stamp 43.



A



Scratch between 1 and 43



B



- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| ABCDCEFEFF | A. Slanting projection into the vertically shaded background below N of BRUNEI; dot on underside of frame below BR.                          |
| GCAEFGADBC | B. a small dot on the heavy frame line below E of BRUNEI; A small dot between the frame lines right of the N of REVENUE.                     |
| CDFECBGADB | C. a dot below the top frame over the right of B of BRUNEI.  |
| BAEFFDEAGC | D. a dot below the top frame line over the U of BRUNEI.  |
| CDBGACDGED | E. colour nearly obscures the upper left serif of the R of BRUNEI; line of colour across top white frame of left panel of native letters.    |
|            | F. a coloured dash from top frame downwards over the B of BRUNEI.  |
|            | G. a dash in the NE corner joining the corner frame to the star; there is a black spot in the white space under the left of the R of Brunei. |



C



D



E



F



G

### The 3 Cent Blue of the 1895 Issue

The 1895 Issue was probably printed in Glasgow by Maclure, MacDonald and Co. This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring 13 1/2 used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The 3 cent sheet in blue was from a single printing of an estimated 800 sheet printing of which 400 sheets were sent to Brunei. There were two design flaws which are consistent in the block; a diagonal line rising out of the mountain (L1) and a short line over the left of the right hand palm (L2). There were 6 transfer types to make up the stone, with one position not identified. Other denominations have 10 transfers identified creating speculation that there could have been two stones prepared but one used. The transfers were arranged as below.



L1



A



B



C



DABCDABDEE  
ACCCEACCAC  
DEBAFEB-DA  
FCADEEBFDA  
AEAECBCECA

A. Two small dots in upper left angle of the star and white dot under left cents  
B. A colour flaw at the foot of NW corner star and dot in R of BRUNEI  
C. Coloured dot below NE of BRUNEI and under GE of POSTAGE  
D. Small bump on frame line below E of BRUNEI and two Frame breaks below E of REVENUE  
E. Dots of colour in N of BRUNEI and dots outside the frame SW corner and above BRUNEI  
F. A spot left of 3 and spot outside frame above I of BRUNEI and a coloured dot between the upper frames over the N of BRUNEI



L2



D



E



F

### The 5 Cent Blue - Green of the 1895 Issue PANE 1

The 5 Cent blue – green of the 1895 issue was printed using two panes. The example below is Pane 1 which is scarcer than Pane 2. The 5 cent sheet in blue – green was from two printings of an estimated total of 800 sheets of which 400 sheets were sent to Brunei. It is not known how many sheets were printed using pane 1 however the requirement for a second pane and the feeling from Robson Lowe that pane 1 sheets are scarcer would indicate less than half came from pane 1. The second printing showing little differences in shading. There are 10 transfer types to make up the stones, all 10 transfer types appear on pane 1 and 2 but in different positions as shown below.



A



B



C



D



E



PANE 1

PANE 2

FAGBFHDCFA  
 CDDEJKEGBH  
 FBCDEGDJKA  
 AHKJAFEBAE  
 CGDBJHDGCI

- A. The frame above the R of Revenue is joined to frame above, dot between the frame lines over E, stroke under S
- B. White flaw under the CE of right cents, left serif of U of BRUNEI slopes downwards.
- C. Dot between E &, three dots after &, diagonal stroke and dots over B of BRUNEI.
- D. Heavy dot on top inner line of SE panel.
- E. A dot between the frame lines below N of REVENUE.
- F. A central dot in NE star; two dots between frame lines above and to left of NE star.
- G. A coloured spot in O of POSTAGE. H. Breaks above R of REVENUE in frame line
- J. Three dots before R of REVENUE; stroke below t of left cents; K. A dot in upper right point of NW star.

FHGJDAKHF  
 HABFDCGECB  
 JKKHJFCEAB  
 ABDHFCEKGD  
 DGJKHAFCEB



F



G



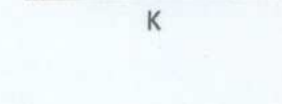
H



I



J



K

## The 5 Cent Blue - Green of the 1895 Issue PANE 2

The 5 Cent blue – green of the 1895 issue was printed using two panes. The example below is Pane 2 which is more readily available than Pane 1. The 5 cent sheet in blue – green was from two printings of an estimated total of 800 sheets of which 400 sheets were sent to Brunei. It is not known how many sheets were printed using Pane 2 however the requirement for a second pane was probably due to damage on Pane 1. The feeling from Robson Lowe was that Pane 2 sheets are easier to find would indicate more than half came from Pane 2. The second printing showing little differences in shading. There are 10 transfer types to make up the stones, all 10 transfer types appear on Panes 1 and 2 but in different positions as shown below.



A



B



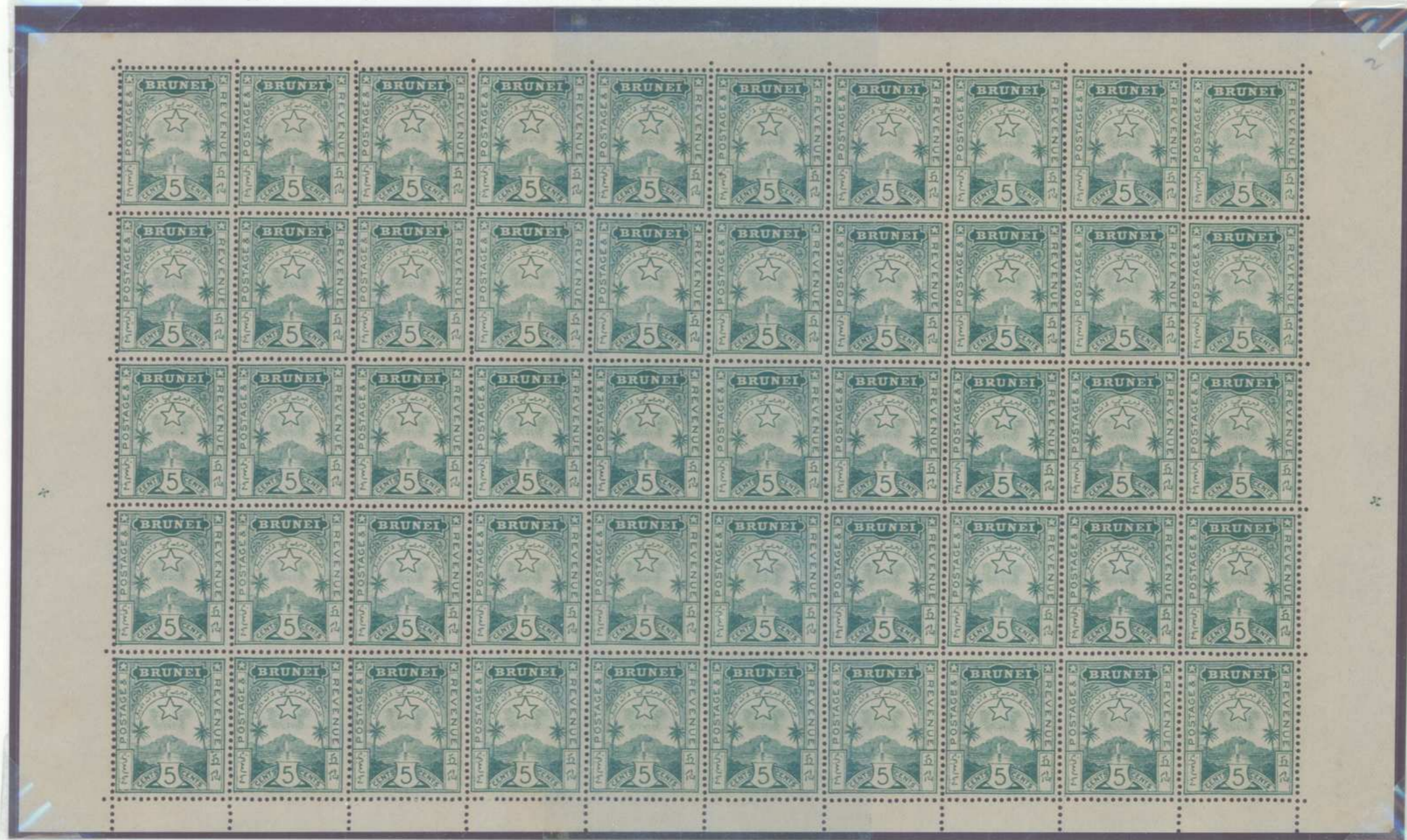
C



D



E



PANE 1

PANE 2

FAGBFHDCFA  
 CDDEJKEGBH  
 FBCDEGDJKA  
 AHKJAFEBAE  
 CGDBJHDGCJ

A. The frame above the R of Revenue is joined to frame above, dot between the frame lines over E, stroke under S  
 B. White flaw under the CE of right cents, left serif of U of BRUNEI slopes downwards.  
 C. Dot between E &, three dots after &, diagonal stroke and dots over B of BRUNEI.  
 D. Heavy dot on top inner line of SE panel.  
 E. A dot between the frame lines below N of REVENUE.  
 F. A central dot in NE star; two dots between frame lines above and to left of NE star.  
 G. A coloured spot in O of POSTAGE. H. Breaks above R of REVENUE in frame line  
 J. Three dots before R of REVENUE; stroke below t of left cents; K. A dot in upper right point of NW star.

FHGJDAKHF  
 HABFDCGECB  
 JKKHJFCEAB  
 ABDHFCEKGD  
 DGJKHAF CBB



F



G



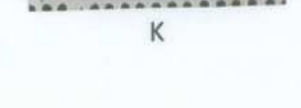
H



I



J



K

### The 8 Cent Purple of the 1895 Issue

This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring 13 1/2 used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The 8-cent sheet was printed in purple from a single printing of an estimated 400 sheet printing of which 200 sheets were sent to Brunei. There is one design flaw which is consistent in the block: a dot in the head of the R of BRUNEI (L1). There are five transfer types which were arranged as below.



L1



A



B



C



D



E

ABCD CEDCCB  
EBBDCAAEBB  
ECEBADBDEB  
ACBAEDADCE  
BBEBB ECACB

- A. There is a bulge on the inside of the left leg of the N of BRUNEI.
- B. There is a small, coloured excrescence attached to the underside of the top frame above the B of BRUNEI: a dot NE of central star: a white spot on mountain at sea level.
- C. Swelling on the upper serif of the B and the top of the E of BRUNEI dips down to the right: a hollow in the top frame over EI and a break in the inner base frame below the N of the left CENTS
- D. There is a coloured excrescence on the outside of the left frame just below the NW star
- E. The S of the left CENTS is broken in the centre: there is a coloured dot on the base of the outer frame under the S of right CENTS

### The 10 Cent Scarlet Vermillion of the 1895 Issue

The 1895 issue was probably printed in Glasgow by Maclure, MacDonald and Co. This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring 13 ½ used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The 10 cent sheet in scarlet vermillion was from a single printing of an estimated 400 sheet printing of which 200 sheets were sent to Brunei. There is one design flaw which is consistent in the block: a spot of varying size in the vertically shaded background below NE of BRUNEI (L1). There were 5 transfer types to make up the stone with two having an affinity. The stamps below are in their positions or are indicated on the grid. The transfers were arranged as below.



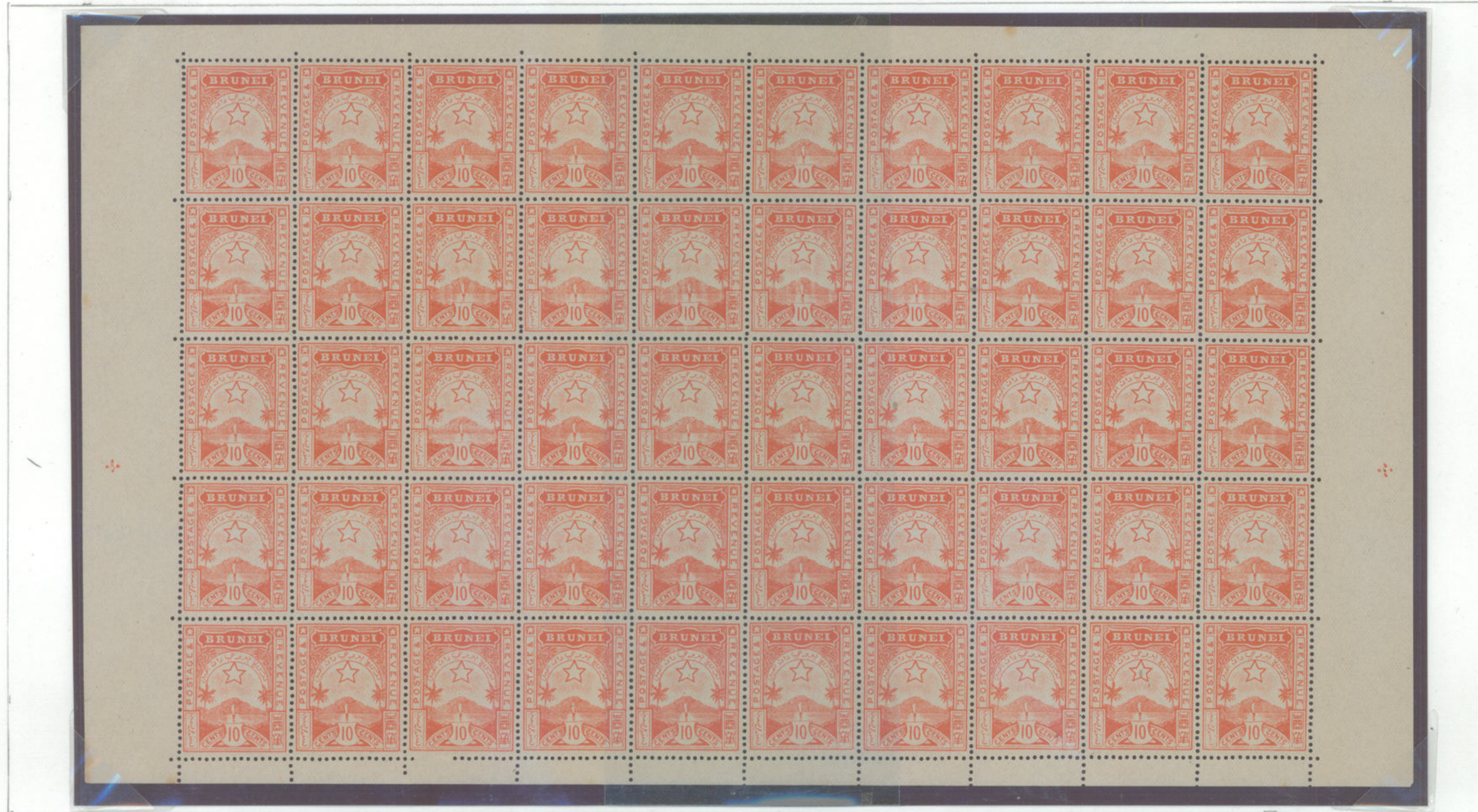
L1



A



B



C



D



E

AAABCDEED  
AECABDABDA  
CBADCEDCCA  
DAABCDADCB  
ACDDCDDCE

A. A break in the left frame, left of the middle of the star in the NW corner  
B. A curvaceous line through the background over EI of BRUNEI, a dot in the lower right point of the star  
C. A coloured bulge on the base of the top frame over the NE star, a coloured spot in O of POSTAGE  
D. A small bulge in background below NE of BRUNEI, minute dot in white space over N of BRUNEI  
E. The top right of N mitred as in type D but the small bulge and the dot over N is missing

### The 25 cent Turquoise of the 1895 Issue

This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring  $13 \frac{1}{2}$  used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The 25 cent sheet in turquoise printing of an estimated 40 sheet printing of which 20 sheets were sent to Brunei. This and the 50 cent and one dollar are relatively scarce. There is one design flaw in the in the block, which is a dot between A.G of POSTAGE (L1). There were 5 transfer types to make up the stone. The stamps below are indicated in their positions on the sheet. The transfers were arranged as listed below.



AB BCCBAACA  
DCADACBADB  
CADCBCBAAA  
CBEABDCADB  
EACCDCEBAA

- A. Has a coloured excrescence on the outside of the solid colour under the left of the U of Brunei: a swelling on the underside of the ornamental frame below the E of Brunei; break in thin horizontal line in C of left CENTS (not in all).
- B. small spike of colour inside the central star in the middle of the lower left outline; a semi break in the heavy ornamental frame below the tail of the R of Brunei;
- C. a coloured dot between the left frames over the G of POSTAGE: a nick in the coloured outline left of the base of the B of BRUNEI.
- D. A coloured blob in the lower margin outside the stamp, joining the frame below the T of the left CENTS.
- E. Triangular projection on the upper frame 3.5 mm from the right; three dots to left and below 25.

### The 50 Cent Apple Green of the 1895 Issue

The 1895 Issue was probably printed in Glasgow by Maclure, MacDonald and Co. This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring 13 1/2 used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The 50 cent sheet in apple green was from a single printing of an estimated 40 sheet printing of which 20 sheets were sent to Brunei. There is one design flaw which is consistent in the block: a small dot in the left leg of the N of BRUNEI (L1). There were 5 transfer types to make up the stone. The transfers were arranged as below.



L1



A



B



C



D



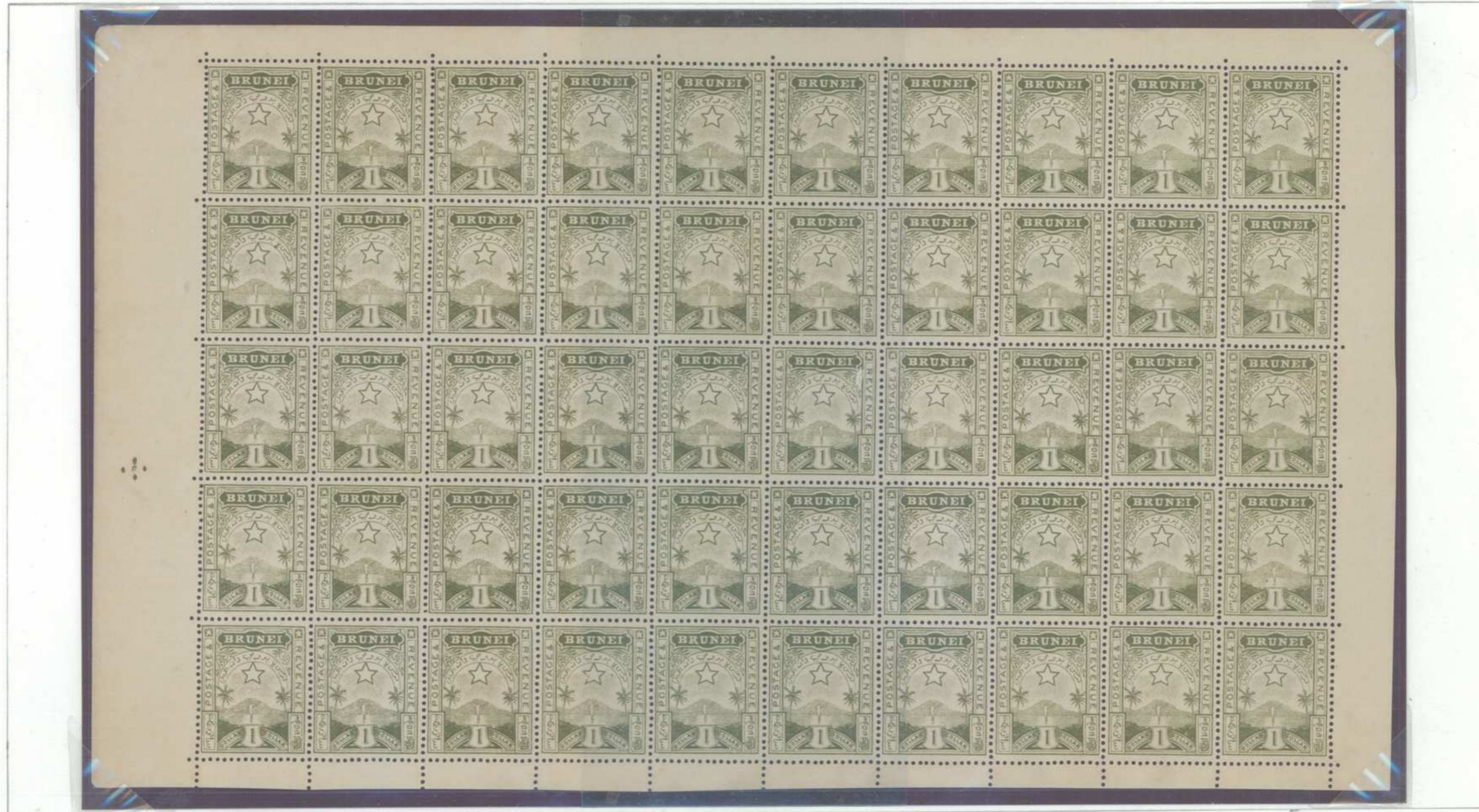
E

ABCADBCDCD  
EECAADCDBD  
ACADCBBACA  
ADBADBDCDC  
CBADCCAACD

A. A coloured dot on the upper frame 3.5mm from the NW corner. Tiny dot in centre of NE star  
B. a triangular white patch in the rockery over the 't' of the left cents  
C. A small projection of the solid background below the N of BRUNEI  
D. Two projections on the ornamental frame line below the B of BRUNEI, coloured dot between the frame lines over the U of REVENUE: two minute projections on the upper side of the base frame line under the 5  
E. A tiny projection on the top frame over the I of BRUNEI; break in the curved panel containing the Jawi inscription below the U of BRUNEI

### The ONE Dollar Olive of the 1895 Issue

This was printed on unwatermarked paper and a Harrow comb measuring 13 1/2 used to perforate the sheet in one pass. The One Dollar sheet in olive to dark olive was from a single printing of an estimated 40 sheet printing of which 20 sheets were sent to Brunei. There is one design flaw which is consistent in the block: a spot of varying size in the vertically shaded background below NE of BRUNEI (L1). There were 5 transfer types to make up the stone with two having an affinity. The half sheet below is columns 6 to 10, the right-hand side of the sheet. The transfers were arranged as below.



ABCBBAA BCA  
 BDABAABBCD  
 BDBABECADA  
 CDBCECDACE  
 EAAEDCBAAC

A. Tiny dot in the right leg of the N; tiny dots below E and & between frames: a dash below the & in POSTAGE & panel: small white flaw in solid background opposite the lower serif of the B of BRUNEI.  
 B. A coloured spike on top frame above N of BRUNEI, the top left of N of REVENUE is higher; break in base frame left.  
 C. A break in top frame 3mm from NW corner.  
 D. A rat tailed R in BRUNEI and lower left serif of the letter I; the solid background has a swelling SE of the I; there are dots above and to the right of & and a dash below the left of N of REVENUE.  
 E. There is a dash between solid background and ornamental frame below RU of BRUNEI and a swelling under B.

## Parker and Pead mass mailing 1895

The Parker and Pead mass mailing of covers were posted in Brunei Town on 22 JUL 1895. Parker was a philatelic dealer and Pead was his clerk. Brunei was not in the UPU at this time. The only agreement for the use of the Provisionals was to Labuan. Local postage was 5 cents to Labuan. The postal rate from Labuan to the United Kingdom was 10 cents with the registration fee of 8 cents. This is why these covers all have 18 cents of Labuan postage stamps on them. Originally there were some 400 covers posted of which about half have been sighted in surveys over the past 20 years based on their registration number. There are very few commercial covers from this period.



## Rare 1898 Commercial Postcard

This postcard was sent from Brunei on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1898 to London. The postcard is the reply part of an 1893 Type PC4 Labuan postcard with the reply crossed out by the sender. It has been uprated with a 1 cent Labuan stamp and the 2 cent Brunei Star and Crescent issue of 1895. The stamps are the correct rate of 2 cents local rate and 4 cent UPU postcard rate to England. The Brunei stamp is postmarked 28<sup>th</sup> January 1895, the Labuan postmark is dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 1895. The London arrival date stamp of 7.00 AM on 14 MR. 98 appears on the front of the postcard. The cover is rare with few commercial usages recorded of the Brunei Star and Crescent issues. It was sent from James Miller, Commission Agent based in Brunei.



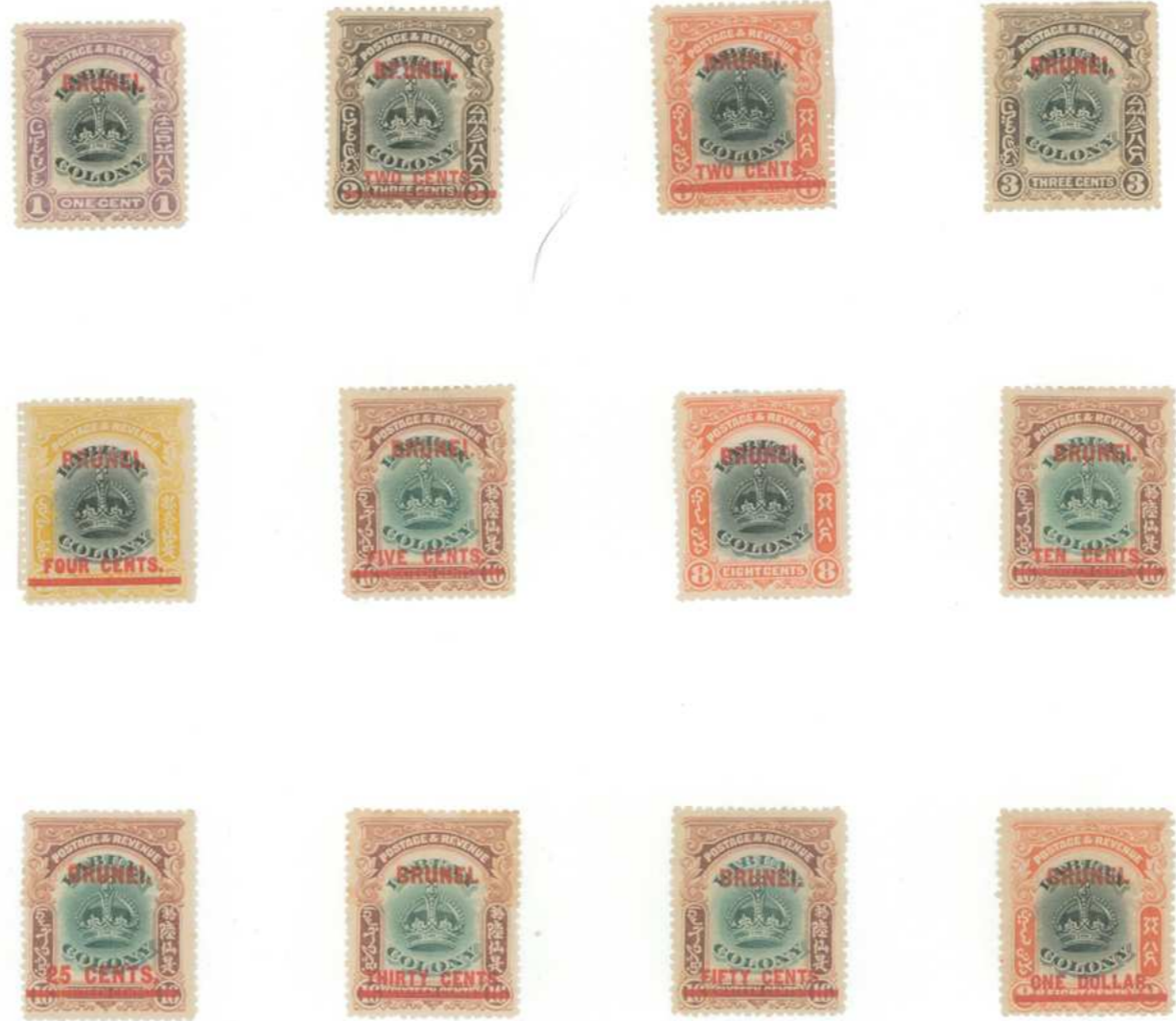
Sir,  
 W.B.W.  
 Please send to me your illustrated catalogue. If I were to buy several hundred <sup>of your pens</sup> what would be your charge?  
 Yours truly,  
 James Miller,  
 Commission Agent.  
 Brunei,  
 Borneo.  
 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 98.

## The 1906 Provisionals – Overprints of BRUNEI on Labuan

Under a new treaty signed by Sultan Hashim Jalil-ul-alam Akamudin on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1895 Brunei agreed to the Protection of Britain and a British Resident was appointed. The first Resident was Mr Malcolm Stewart Hannibal McArthur an official from the Malayan Civil Service. He was appointed "the Agent and Representative of his Britannic Majesty's Government under the High Commissioner for the British Protectorate in Borneo". He was to live in Labuan, which had moved from the British North Borneo Company to the Crown. The Assistant Resident Mr FAS McClelland lived in Brunei. The Resident Mr MHS McArthur established the Postal System in Brunei on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1906.



Upper left block of 16



Imprint block

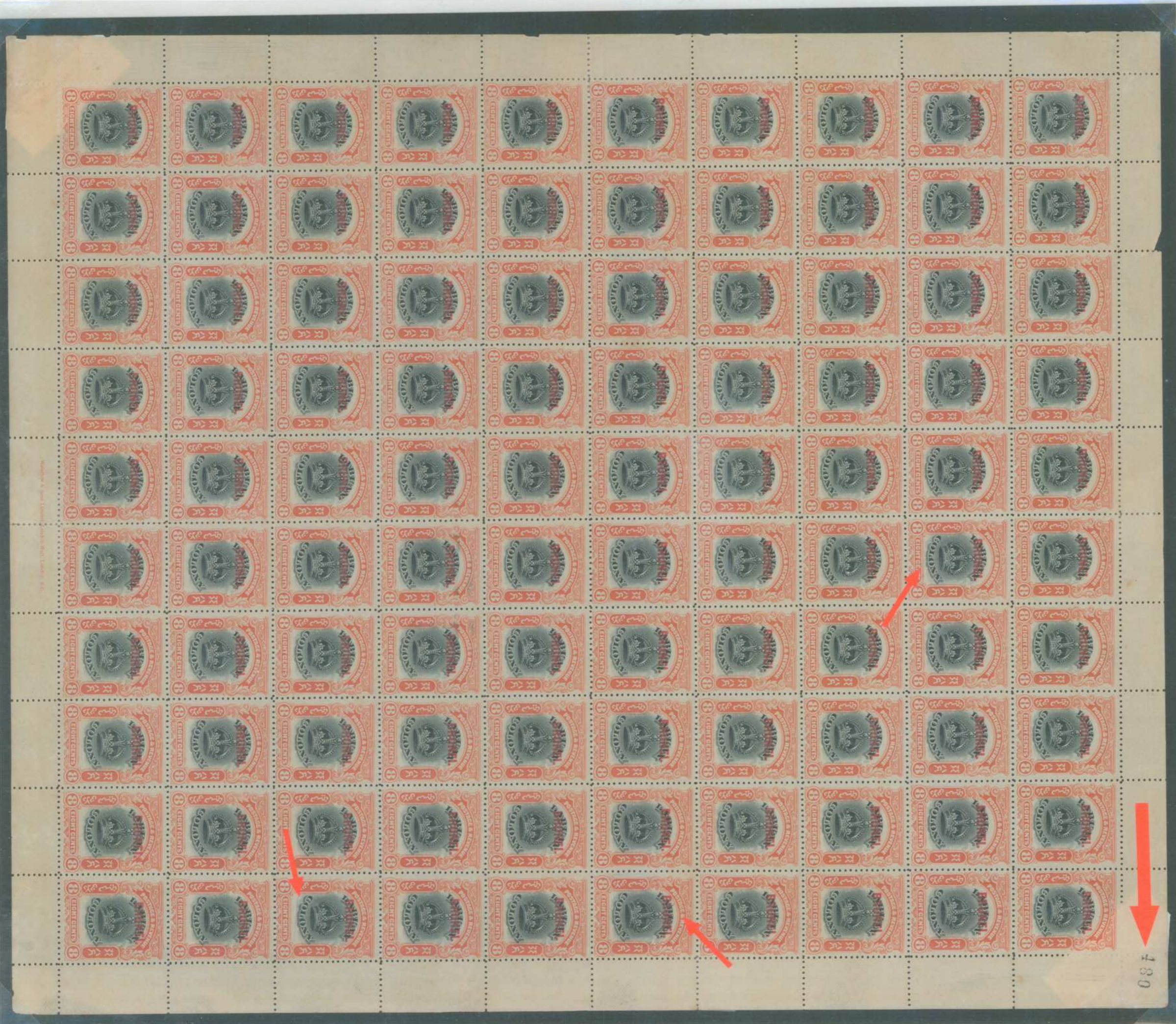


Bottom right block with 'OLON'  
Re-entry position 80

In June 1906 Brunei was included in the Straits Settlements Local Postal Union. Pending receipt of new definitives which had been ordered from England, five of the remainders of the last printing of the stamps of Labuan were overprinted BRUNEI. By additional surcharging four of the values this resulted in eleven denominations and twelve stamps with two versions of the 2 cents.

The overprinting of the stamps was carried out by the Government printer in Singapore. The plates for both 'BRUNEI' and the new denominations were set up in frames of 50 (10x5) necessitating two runs to complete a sheet of 100. Number of stamps overprinted were:

1 c	4,900	3c	5,000	8c	8,000	30c on 16c	2,000
2c on 3c	15,000	4c on 12c	20,000	10c on 16c	9,000	50c on 16c	2,000
2c on 8c	5,000	5c on 16c	5,000	25c on 16c	2,000	\$1.00 on 8c	2,000



## BRUNEI OVERPRINTED ON LABUAN 8 CENTS 1906

ONLY 80 SHEETS OVERPRINTED

Sheet number "480" as indicated at the upper right corner of the sheet.  
The Waterlow & Sons imprint is at the bottom of the sheet.

The sheet includes the prominent varieties;

Line through 'B' at position 50

Lines by 'L' at position 16

The 'OLON' re-entry at position 80.

There were only 80 sheets overprinted giving 8,000 stamps.

There was much speculative buying in Brunei with the 1906 issue when the stamps appeared. The stamps sold out in 1907, however they continued to be used on cover for a number of years.

480

## The Two cents of BRUNEI overprinted on Labuan Eight cents

### ONLY 50 SHEETS OVERPRINTED

The provisional issues of the new postal system in Brunei were overprinted on 5 of the remainders of the third printing of the Labuan definitives of 1902. Labuan was being brought under the Protectorate of the British Government from the North Borneo Company and Labuan stamps were also being overprinted Straits Settlements. There was an excess of Labuan stamps and these suited the Resident to have overprinted Brunei by the Government Printer in Singapore.

The Labuan "Crown" types were printed by Waterlow & Sons, London from "Key and 'Duty' plates. The Key plate printed the Crown and the words Labuan Colony and was line engraved, recess printed, whilst the 'Duty' plate which formed the frame was lithographed for each of the different values. Printed in sheets of 100, 10 rows of 10 stamps, on unwatermarked paper, the stamps were first issued in 1902 in Labuan. The stamps used in Brunei were from the 3<sup>rd</sup> printing, perforated 13 ½ on a line machine. The overprinting was carried out by the Government Printer in Singapore.



Plate Flaw 'Line Through B'

This block of 40 stamps are rows 4 to 7 of the sheet of 100 with side selvage intact.

This includes the Plate flaw 'Line through B' at position 50 or Row 5/10

## The One Cent Black and Purple of Labuan overprinted BRUNEI

ONLY 49 SHEETS OVERPRINTED

The provisional issues of the new postal system in Brunei were overprinted on 5 of the remainders of the third printing of the Labuan definitives of 1902. Labuan was being brought under the Protectorate of the British Government from the North Borneo Company and Labuan stamps were also being overprinted Straits Settlements. There was an excess of Labuan stamps and these suited the Resident to have overprinted Brunei by the Government Printer in Singapore.



There were only 49 sheets overprinted. This lower half sheet of the full sheet has the Waterlow & Sons Limited Imprint on the bottom selvedge between position 95 and 96. The 'OLON' re-entry is at position 80.

A remarkable survival of the half sheet, probably due to much speculative behaviour in Brunei at the time.

## Black Overprint on Labuan 1 cent

One sheet of the Labuan 1 cent was overprinted in black instead of the red overprinting of all other Labuan stamps.  
It may have been a colour trial proof that went into stock by oversight.  
It is believed to have been purchased by the Resident who was also  
Postmaster General.



Number printed = 100 RPF certificate

### Plate flaw above B of BRUNEL

There is a plate flaw above the B in position R5/10 in the Labuan stamps which have been overprinted.



1 of only 49



1 of only 200



1 of only 80



1 of only 150



1 of only 90

## 1906 Double Printing

The overprinting in red of the Labuan stamps was carried out by the Government printer in Singapore. All the surcharged sheets were put to the printer on four separate occasions. This was because the formes were set up to cover 50 stamps at each operation, twice for the overprint and twice for the surcharge. It is possible to find values with faint doubling due to a shift in the printing process.

One sheet of the 2c on 3c had a misprinting in which there was a double BRUNEI overprint in row 5 and no overprint in row 10.



There were 10 stamps double overprinted, BPA Certificate.

## 1906 Colony re-entry

The Labuan 10 cent stamp had a re-entry named the "COLONY" re-entry in position R 8/10 on the sheet.

There were only 50 possible examples this re-entry on the 5c on 16c overprinted due to the fact that there were only 50 sheets ever printed.



## Postal Usage of the 1906 Definitives

The postal rates for Brunei were set at the same rates as Labuan by the Resident Mr M S H McArthur when he declared the postal system commenced in Brunei from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1906. Brunei had joined the Straits Settlements Local postal Union in June 1906. The postal rates as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 1906 are listed.

This registered cover from Brunei to Bosnia, part of Austria at the time, has 8 cents for the UPU foreign letter rate plus ten cents registration fee.

The back stamps are for Labuan, Singapore, and the Military Post Office in Zavidovici.



The postal rates of 1st October 1906 were:

Local rate	: 3 cents per 2 oz	Registration fees	: 5 cents
Postal Union	: 3 cents per 2 oz		: 10 cents
GB Empire	: 4 cents per ½ oz		: 10 cents
UPU	: 8 cents per ½ oz plus 5 cents per ½ oz		: 10 cents

## The 1906/1907 Colour Trials and Die Proof

The British Resident wrote to the Crown Agents on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1906 that the High Commissioner, Sir John Anderson, desired to have a separate issue of stamps. A **photograph** of the town of Brunei was forwarded with the details selected for the design marked as being typical of Brunei scenery. To avoid spoiling the design it was specified that the value should be shown in the corner in figures: BRUNEI in top border: value in words in the lower border and with POSTAGE & REVENUE on the sides. Two designs were to be produced one in one colour and the other in two colours, these were submitted with a schedule of prices on 7th June 1906. The Crown Agents advised De La Rue on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1906 that the engraving for printing the stamps in two colours should be put in hand at once and a colour scheme supplied in due course.



De La Rue Imperforate Die Proof without Duty Plates printed in deep black and vermillion on unwatermarked wove paper. Guidelines at corners and fingerprint from printer in vermillion in margin.

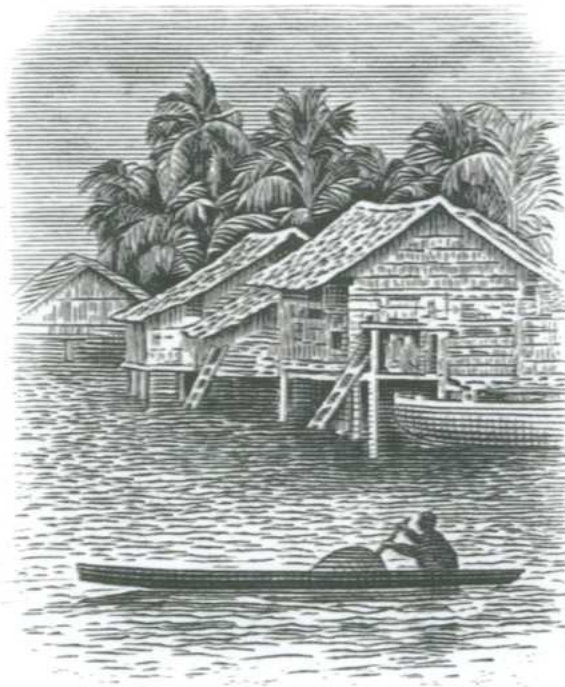


These are six of the alternate colour schemes printed on watermarked Multiple Crown CA paper submitted to the Crown Agents but **not approved**.

The De La Rue Colour trials in the **final accepted colours**, all with Duty Plate "1 c.", all imperforate on watermarked Multiple crown CA paper. Probably from the duplicate "Appendix A" presentation sheet that is from the sell off of the De La Rue archives.

## 1906 De La Rue Die Proof

The De La Rue Die proof for the central vignette engraved in black on glazed white card in deep black shade with faint printer's guidelines in the surround.



## The 1907 Definitive Issues

The 1907 definitive issues were line engraved by Thomas De La Rue in London. There is no record of the engraver. They were printed on Multiple Crown and CA paper, perforated gauge 14 on a line machine. From 1907 to 1949 all Brunei stamps were printed by Thomas De La Rue and only two basic designs used. There were several printings of some stamps generating shades as illustrated particularly the 4 cent.



Shades of 5 cent blue

1<sup>st</sup> Printing 1907  
Mauvre

2<sup>nd</sup> printing 1910  
Reddish Purple

## The 1907 Definitive Issues

The 1907 definitive issues were line engraved by Thomas De La Rue in London. There is no record of the engraver. They were printed on Multiple Crown and CA paper, perforated gauge 14 on a line machine. From 1907 to 1949 all Brunei stamps were printed by Thomas De La Rue and only two basic designs used. The stamps below include a number of the Watermark Multiple Crown reversed.



### Issues with Reversed Watermarks

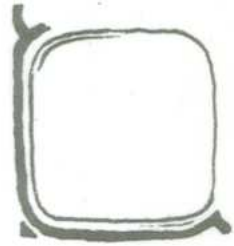


### The 1907 First Definitive issue

The first stamps of 1907 depicted a typical river view scene which was the request of the Resident who sent a photograph to illustrate the scene. The stamps were line engraved by Thomas De La Rue in London on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper, perforated gauge 14 on a line machine. From 1907 to 1949 all Brunei stamps were printed by De La Rue and only 2 designs used during this period making them the second longest period of one design in the world. The working plates consisted of one frame plate and two vignette plates in sheets of 60.

The frame plate had several re-entries as shown below.

It is notable that this sheet did not have the white lines that other sheets later in the exhibit had in positions R2/6 and R3/6.



R1/5



R4/9



R3/1



R4/12

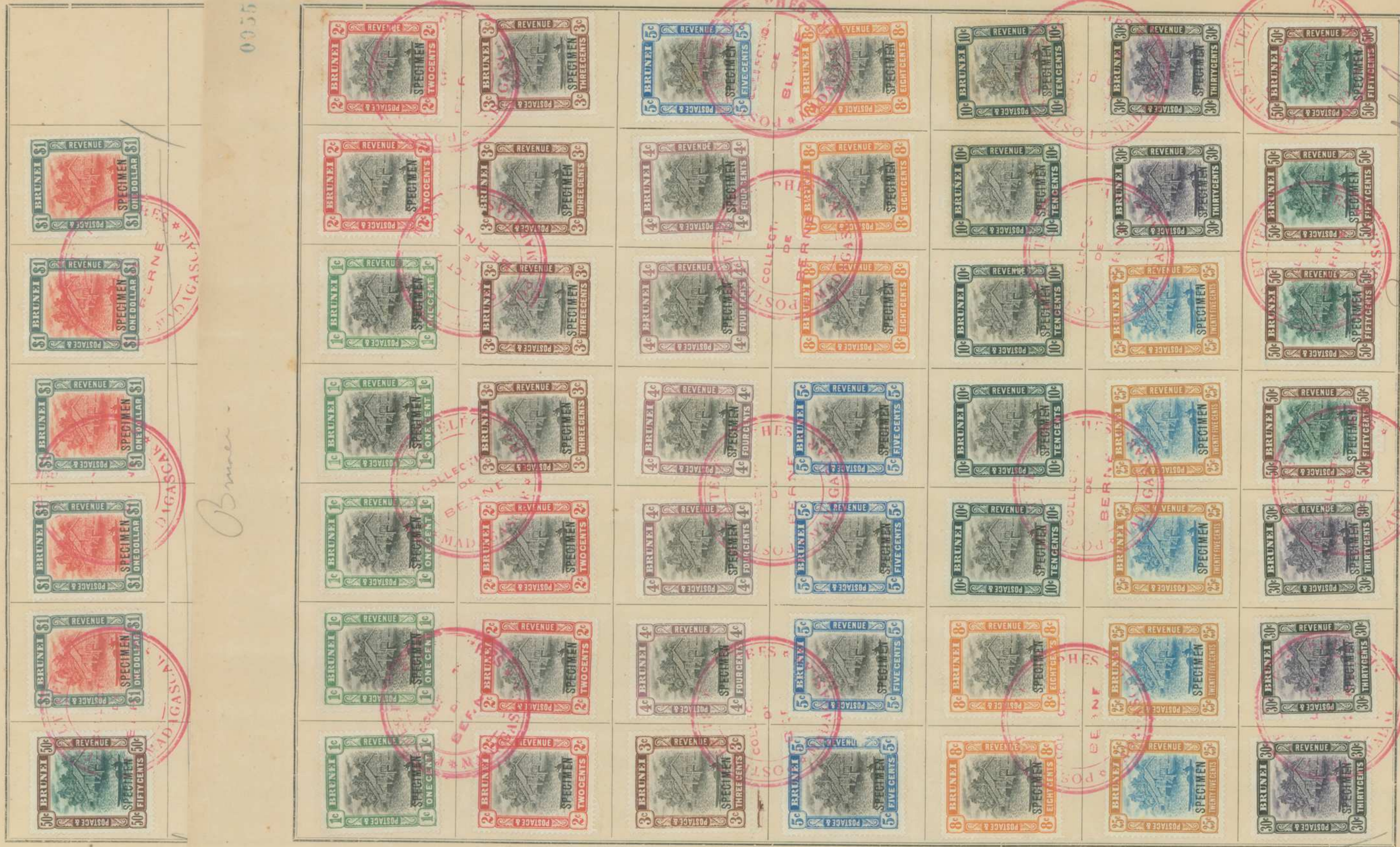
The 1907 Madagascar UPU Specimens

0056

0055

*Brunei*

*Brunei*



*Garantie neuf original postals*  
*Carte de Madagascar*  
*Postes de Madagascar*

*H9*

The appointment of a British Resident in January 1906 and plans for a government postal service led to Brunei's entry into the local Straits Settlements Postal Union in June 1906. Brunei appears to have adopted UPU rules well in advance of its formal membership dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1916. The circulation of specimen stamps is evidence of this intention. There were about 756 sets of specimens distributed by the UPU at 5 sets per country. After October 1907 the five sets were reduced to three sets. These SPECIMENS are from the Madagascar government archives.

## 1907 First Definitive Issue SPECIMENS

The appointment of a British resident in January 1906 and plans for a government postal service led to Brunei's entry into the local Straits Settlements Postal Union in June of 1906. Brunei appears to have adopted UPU rules well in advance of its formal membership date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1916. The circulation of specimen stamps is an instance of this. There were about 756 sets of stamps over printed for UPU distribution in 1907 when five specimen stamps were issued each time, from October 1907 this subsequently reduced to three stamps for each issue.



## 1907 First Definitive Issue overprinted SPECIMEN

### ULTRAMAR

Specimen stamps for Portugal and the Portuguese Colonies of Angola and Goa were sent from Berne to the General Post Office in Lisbon. Those designated for the colonies were passed to the Ministry of Colonies for onward Transmission. From 1899 until 1942 all specimens received by the Ministry, whether already marked SPECIMEN or not were provided with a protective marking, mainly as a security against theft in transit to the colonies. They were marked ULTRAMAR, meaning "over the seas".



The following number of specimens were sent by the UPU for the Portuguese colonies. The Ministry only forwarded a single copy of each specimen to each colony, as a result by 1914 a large surplus had accumulated in Lisbon.

12 Feb 1907      30 stamps      6 quintuple collections

1 Oct 1907      18 stamps      6 triple collections

## 1907 Registered letter to the USA

This cover was posted using the 1907 series of stamps. The UPU foreign letter rate was 10 cents and the registration fee 10 cents. The letter was posted on 15<sup>th</sup> June and travelled by launch to Labuan on 16<sup>th</sup> June. It arrived in Singapore 20<sup>th</sup> June, London on 13<sup>th</sup> June and to New York arriving 21<sup>st</sup> July 1907.



## 1907 4 cent reddish purple on combination cover to England

This cover has a mix of the 1907 and 1908 series stamps attached. The 4 cent grey black and reddish purple is the second printing in 1910 of the 1907 4 cent stamp.

The remainder of the stamps are of the 1908 series. The letter rate to GB in 1912 was 4 cents and the registration fee 10 cents.



## British North Borneo registered postcard to Denmark

This is a 1889 British North Borneo post card PC2 used by Mr H A Gunn of the Brunei Government Service posted on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1910 writing on behalf of the Brunei Government Service to a person in Copenhagen, Denmark. The post card has been stamped with a double line registration cachet, letter number 24. The Brunei stamps are part of the first of the River View definitive series produced from 1907 to 1910. The stamps total 21 cents on the 6 cent North Borneo post card. The postage rate for post cards to foreign countries from Brunei was 3 cents and the letter rate was 8 cents; the registration fee was 10 cents.

The post card was mailed at Brunei on 24 March 1910 and travelled via Labuan (24 March) to Singapore (28 March) being stamped as registered mail. It would have then travelled by sea to a Mediterranean port and then by rail overland to Denmark.

It has a red registration R-label German entry cachet for overseas mail at the Kufstein (Austria) - Munich (Germany) rail border entry.



Brunei 114  
 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1910.  
 From H. A. Gunn.  
 Brunei Government Service  
 (to Copenhagen)  
 Dear Sir  
 I earnest apologise for not replying to yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct (Reg<sup>d</sup>) & to a former one dated 14 June 1909 - it has slipped my mind very entirely. I would like to state here that I am not a stamp collector nor a Post Office Post Card collector, besides Brunei Govt. has no Post Cards for sale. The Post Card I am writing you over is one of British N. Borneo. Please excuse my  
 Yours sincerely  
 H. A. Gunn

**The 1908 Plate proof undenominated – ONLY ONE SHEET PRINTED**

This 'View on the Brunei River' IMPERFORATED PLATE PROOF of the master plate was printed in deep lilac on thick woven ungummed paper with only one sheet printed. Frame with blank value tablets and blank bottom margin with vinette. Included in a separate colour are two blocks of the plate proof in a recent Spink auction.



The 1908 – 1922 Die Proof and Plate Proofs.



De La Rue Imperforate Die Proof without Duty Plate from the Single working plate, printed in deep black on unwatermarked very thick wove paper. Guideline at upper left corner and a partial date "23 Sep 19".

The De La Rue Imperforate proofs for the 3 cent printed in blue on unwatermarked wove paper. The issued colour of the 3 cent 1908 printed with double plates was scarlet. The 8 cent was printed in blue.



De La Rue Imperforate Proofs for the 1 cent value printed from key and Duty plates, on watermarked Multiple Crown CA paper, for 1 cent green (issued colour) and 1 cent deep black and deep purple.



Position 42 on card



SPECIMEN 15 x 2.5 mm D 14 (1903-27) over stamped by hand De La Rue archives.



SPECIMEN overprinted with DLR 16, 15.5 x 1.75mm (1922-28).



## The 1908 to 1922 Definitive Issues

The Crown Agents journal for April 1908 announced that Brunei had decided to adopt the UPU colours for the 1c, 3c and 8 cent values and alter in colour the 2c and 5c values. Vignette plate 1 was used in the 1c whilst vignette plate 2 was used in the 3c for the first time, later vignette 1 would be used in a subsequent printing of the 3c. Vignette plate 2 was used in the 5c and 8c. In 1910 it was decided to print some stamps from a single colour plate. The die for this plate was probably taken from the original frame and centre dies but in order to obtain a proper register the bottom row of shading in the vignette plate consisting of a series of dots was removed. The stamps were printed on Multiple Crown CA paper and line perforated 14.



June 1908 1 cent  
Green Double Plate



Double Plate – line of dots at the bottom



Single Plate – no dotted line of shading



December 1910 \$25.00  
Black on Red Single Plate



June 1908 5 cents  
Black and Orange Double Plate



October 1908 8 cents  
Blue and Indigo Blue Double Plate

December 1910 \$5.00  
Red Single plate



June 1908 3 cents  
Scarlet Double Plate



April 1911 1 cent  
Green Single Plate

## The 1908 to 1922 Definitive Issues

The colours of the five denominations were changed between 1908 and 1911. The 1c, 3c and 5c were brought into line with the colour scheme prescribed by the UPU Convention i.e. green, red and blue. These colours were stipulated to assist international recognition of each class of mail, and they denoted denomination equivalent to 5, 10 and 25 gold centimes.

These were the general rates for the repayment of printed matter, a postcard and a letter at foreign mail rate.



April 1911 2 cents  
Black and Brown  
Double plate



March 1912 \$1.00  
Black and Red on Blue  
Double Plate



May 1912 25 cents  
Deep Lilac  
Single Plate



November 1912 10 cents  
Purple on Yellow  
Double plate



1922 10 cents  
Purple on Pale Yellow  
Double Plate



March 1912 30 cents  
Purple and Orange Yellow  
Double Plate



April 1912 4 cents  
Claret Single Plate



November 1912 50 cents  
Black on Green  
Double plate



February 1916 3 cents  
Scarlet Single Plate



1916 5 cent  
Orange  
Single Plate



1916 8 cents  
Ultramarine Blue  
Single plate



1922 50 cents  
Black on Blue Green  
Single Plate



March 1923 10 cents  
Purple on Pale Yellow  
Single Plate

### The White lines on the 1907 Vignette Plate on One cent Green

The 1907 printings show on some stamps two white lines on the stamps. These white lines appear only on the vignette plate used in the printings and not on all the printings to our knowledge. The white lines are on the vignette plate in positions R2/6 ie position 18 and in position R3/6 ie position 30. There is some conjecture about how this damage to the vignette plate occurred. The white line could have been caused by a hair on the master plate. It has been seen on the 1 cent grey black and pale green, the 2 cent grey black and scarlet and on the 25 cent.



### The White lines on the 1907 Vignette Plate on 2 cent Scarlet and 25 cent Pale blue and Ochre brown

The 1907 printings show on some stamps two white lines on the stamps. These white lines appear only on the vignette plate used in the printings but not on the frame also not on all the printings to our knowledge. The white lines are on the vignette plate in positions R2/6 ie position 18 and in position R3/6 ie position 30. There is some conjecture about how this damage to the vignette plate occurred. It does not appear on all printings of a particular denomination. This is illustrated with the white lines Not appearing in a previous frame with the 2 cent scarlet but does appear on this full frame example. Also exhibited is the white lines on the 25 cent Pale blue and Ochre brown position R3/6.



Brunei

0937

plus envoi du 30 novembre 1910  
n° 1101/135



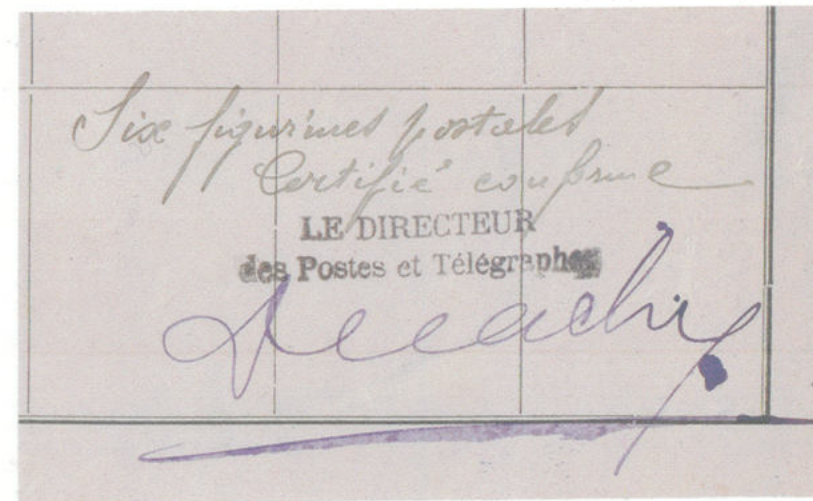
anglais

Brunei

0937



1908 to 1922 Madagascar Specimens



Specimen stamps originating from UPU distributions to the French Colony of Madagascar were released to the philatelic market in two batches. The first released in 1980 covered the years 1902 to 1912.

All SPECIMEN stamps received in Madagascar were affixed to large album pages with 49 printed rectangles in seven rows each of seven spaces. Up to around 1912 the strips of five or after 1907 strips of three were separated into singles each placed within a rectangle but thereafter the strips were kept intact and placed across two or more printed spaces.

All stamps were cancelled with a triple circle 42mm diameter handstamp inscribed 'POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES' around the top, 'MADAGASCAR' around the base and 'COLLECTION / DE / BERNE' across the centre. The hand stamp was struck in red ink and usually covers four stamps.



0921

Brunei

- 6 timbres-poste (cours n° 4235/324 du 4 novembre 1896)

- 12 timbres-poste (cours n° 441/12 du 24 janvier 1912)

- 6 t.p. (cours n° 259/23 du 25 février 1912)



*Vingt-quatre figures postales*  
 LE DIRECTEUR  
 des Postes et Télégraphes



**MADAGASCAR SPECIMENS**

**1908 to 1922**

These sheets from the Madagascar archives show the 1908-22 definitive issues with SPECIMEN overprints from the UPU.

The 1908 Specimens were issued only in sets of three rather than the sets of five previously distributed.

The archive records show the dates received in Madagascar for many of the stamps indicating they were printed in groups and despatched in batches.

The 24<sup>th</sup> January 1912 records are interesting because they contain the 1916 colour changes SPECIMEN stamps when Brunei joined the UPU.

## Brunei Joins the Universal Postal Union

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1916, Brunei joined the Universal Postal Union, and in anticipation of this had changed the colour of its one cent, three cent and eight cent stamps to green, red and blue, the colours prescribed by the UPU for postage stamps representing the unit rate for printed papers, postcards and foreign overseas mail.

Two further changes were made to the 1908 series in 1916 when the 5 cent and the eight cent were printed from single plates and were introduced as monocolours. These were produced on paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA, perforated 14 on a line machine.



Cover from Brunei 21 September 1922 sent by registered mail to Tucson, Arizona redirected to Columbus, Ohio then back to Phoenix, Arizona. Slightly overpaid postage and registration fee. Back stamped Labuan, Singapore, New York, Tucson, Columbus and Phoenix.

**Postal rates reduced in 1920's**

The postal rates increased in February 1923 from 4c to 5c per oz for Local letters and from 4c to 6c for Postal Union letters. The GB Empire letter rate increased from 4c to 6c and the UPU foreign rate from 10c to 12c.

Then in March 1926 the Local rate reduced dramatically to 3c from 5c and the Postal Union letter rate from 6c down to 4c. Member countries advise the UPU of changes in their rates and the equivalent in gold francs. It is in gold franc currency that mail accounts are settled. Where local restricted postal unions exist, they fix their own local postal rates. The other GB Empire and UPU foreign rates did not reduce.

**Temburong cover**

This cover to the USA in 1927 has 12 cents postage, the UPU letter rate for foreign mail plus 15 cents cancellation fees. It has back cancellations for Labuan, Singapore and San Francisco.



**British Resident Postal Union cover**

This On Government Service registered cover from the British Resident in Brunei to Kuching, Sarawak of 16<sup>th</sup> April 1930 has 4 cents Postal Union letter rate plus 15 cents registration fees.

The reverse of the cover is sealed with a red seal stating 'TREASURY BRUNEI' with cancellations for Singapore on 21<sup>st</sup> April and Kuching on 28<sup>th</sup> April. It has no Labuan cancellation.

**Cover to San Francisco**

This cover to San Francisco is registered with back cancellations for Labuan, Singapore and San Francisco. The foreign UPU letter rate was 12 cents in 1927 and the registration fee rate was 15 cents, this cover has 76 cents in postage affixed.



## Malaya - Borneo Exhibition 1922

On March 31<sup>st</sup> 1922 the Malaya Borneo Exhibition was opened in Singapore by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The Exhibition was jointly organised by the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak. To commemorate the event and to defray costs, five of the participants overprinted some of their definitive stamps. Brunei issued a set of nine stamps overprinted which were sold at the Exhibition and over the counter in Brunei between the 31<sup>st</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April. The stamps were on sale until 17<sup>th</sup> April when all remainders were returned to the postal administration for destruction.



### The quantities printed were;

1c	15,120
2c	10,800
3c	10,500
4c	10,020
5c	10,080
10c	9,720
25c	7,260
50c	6,000
\$1	6,000

### Quantities sold

15,099
10,721
10,399
9,965
9,969
9,618
7,236
5,494
5,272

## Malaya - Borneo Exhibition Overprints 1922

The overprints were produced from a setting of 30 applied twice to complete the full sheet of 60 stamps by the Government Printer in Singapore.

There are three prominent flaws.

All stamps in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> vertical rows have a Short 'I' in EXHIBITION.  
All stamps in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> vertical rows have a Broken 'E' in EXHIBITION.  
All stamps in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> vertical rows have a Broken 'N' in BORNEO.



Short "I"

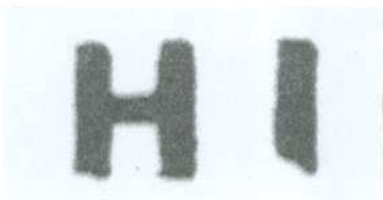
Broken "E"

Broken "N"

# Malaya – Borneo Exhibition Overprints 1922 –Short I Flaw

The overprints were produced from a setting of 30 applied twice to complete the full sheet of 60 stamps. There are three prominent flaws.

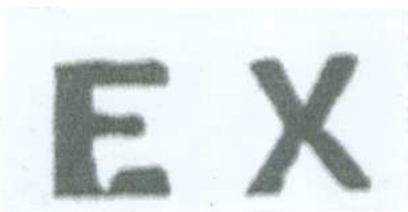
All stamps in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8th vertical rows have a short first 'I' in EXHIBITION.



# Malaya – Borneo Exhibition Overprints 1922 – Broken E Flaw

The overprints were produced from a setting of 30 applied twice to complete the full sheet of 60 stamps. There are three prominent flaws.

All stamps in the 4th and 10<sup>th</sup> vertical rows have a Broken 'E' in EXHIBITION.



# Malaya – Borneo Exhibition Overprints 1922 – Broken N Flaw

The overprints were produced from a setting of 30 applied twice to complete the full sheet of 60 stamps. There are three prominent flaws.

All stamps in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> vertical rows have a Broken 'N' in BORNEO.



## Malaya – Borneo Exhibition Covers 1922

The postal letter rates in 1922 were:

Local rate : 4 cents per 2 oz

Postal Union : 4 cents per 2 oz

G B Empire : 6 cents per ½ oz

UPU Foreign : 12 cents per ½ oz

Registration fee : 12 cents

The letter rates increased on 1st February 1923 to 5 cents, 6 cents, 6 cents and 12 cents respectively.



Registered cover from Brunei 22 May 1922 to Singapore at the correct postal rate back stamped Labuan and Singapore. Red wax seal on back embossed 'POST OFFICE STATE OF BRUNEI'.



Registered cover from Brunei 22 May 1922 to Penang with only the registration fee paid, On Government Service envelope. Back stamps of Labuan and Singapore.

## THE RAF SURVEY FLIGHTS OF 1930

On May 26<sup>th</sup> 1930 two Southampton Flying-boats, S1419 and S1149, flew from their base at Seletar, Singapore to Kuching. They were to make a detailed survey of the northern coastline of Borneo to locate suitable sites and seaplane bases for later use.



This 1930 1<sup>st</sup> July envelope was flown on the fourth stage of the survey from Brunei to Kuching, franking at 15 cents and cancelled by a special framed "AIR MAIL/BRUNEI chop, a "BY AIR MAIL" label and on the reverse, arrival date stamp for 4<sup>th</sup> July 1930. It is believed that only 28 letters were carried.

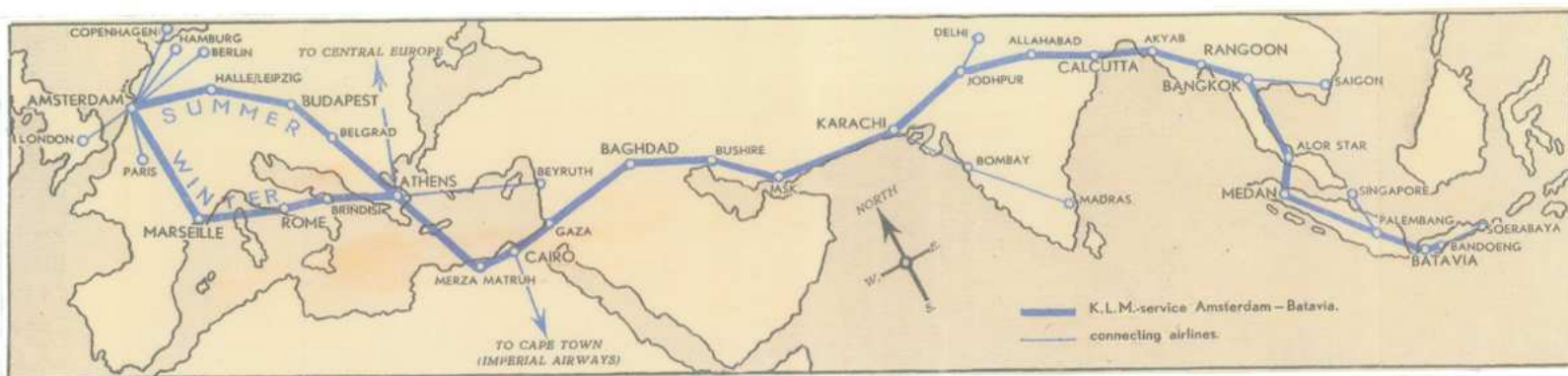
The 15 cent rate was made up of several stamps there not being a 15 cent stamp at the time.

This was also true of the international rates, no stamp existed to match the postal rate.

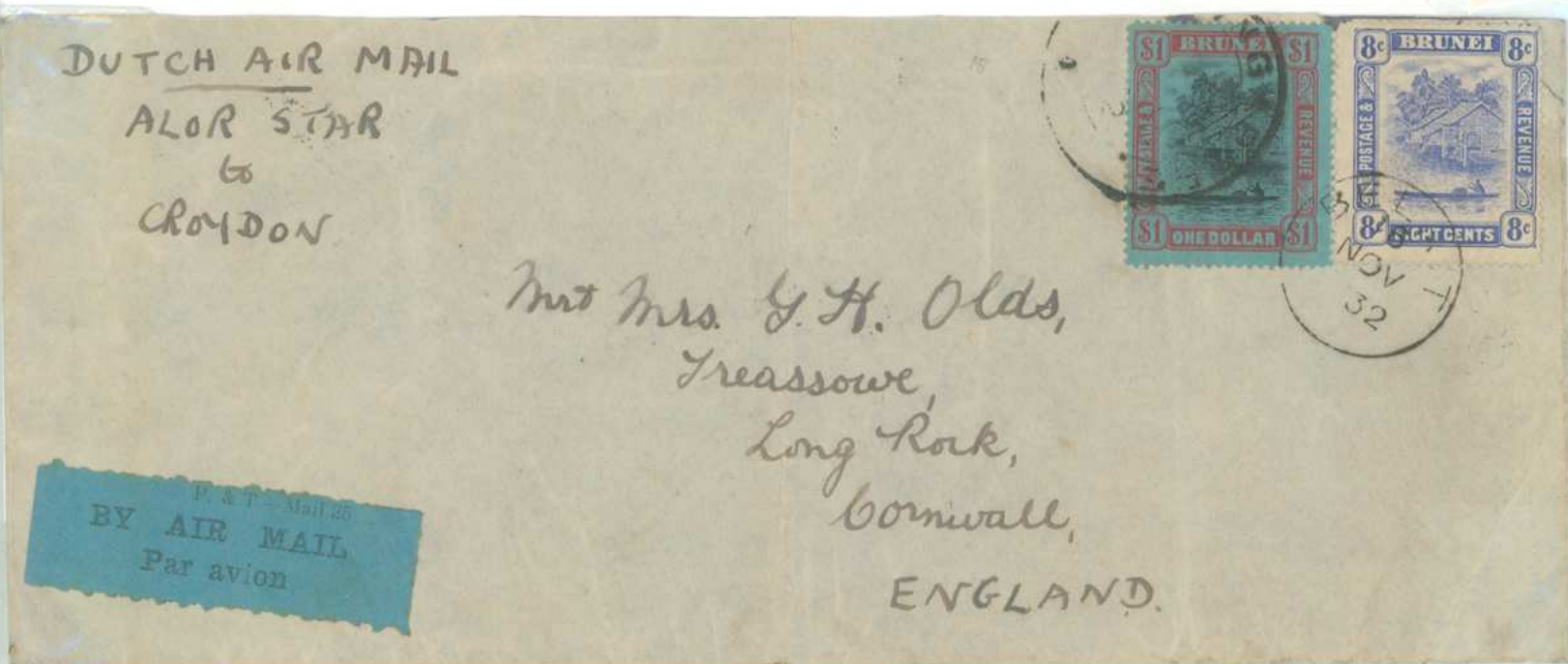


## Airmail KLM service

On 31st October 1931, KLM introduced a weekly service from Amsterdam to Batavia taking 10 days. Mail from Brunei travelled by sea to Singapore and hence to Alor Star (Alor Setar) in Kedah where it joined the KLM flight to Amsterdam. From Amsterdam the mail was flown to Croydon, south of London. The flight path taken by KLM is shown below; note the Summer and Winter routes.



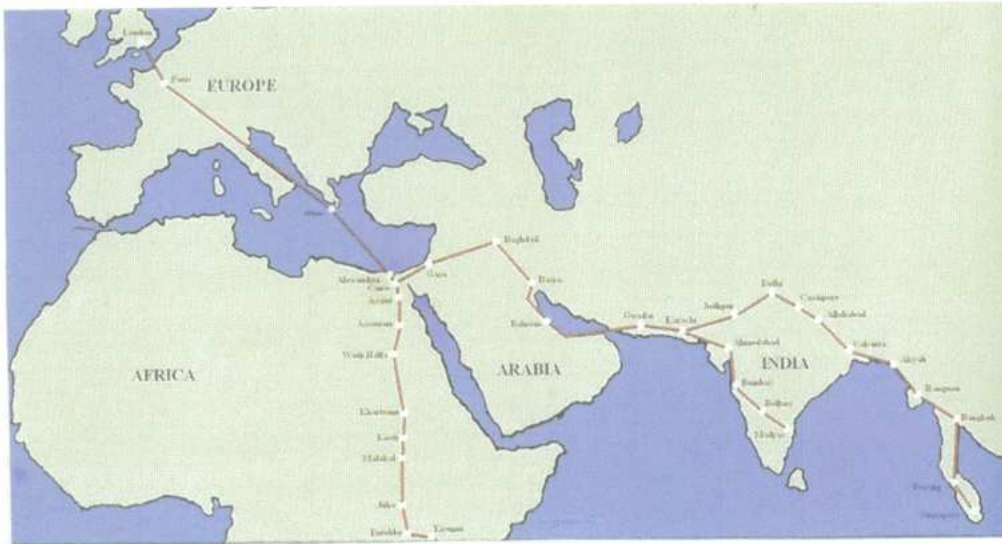
The airmail fee was 50 cents per half oz plus the surface rate of 8c per oz. This one ounce letter was charged at double the airmail rate plus the single surface rate a total of \$1.08. Posted from Belait 16<sup>th</sup> November 1932 and date stamped front and back 21<sup>st</sup> November 1932 in Singapore. The rate could only be made up from several stamps.



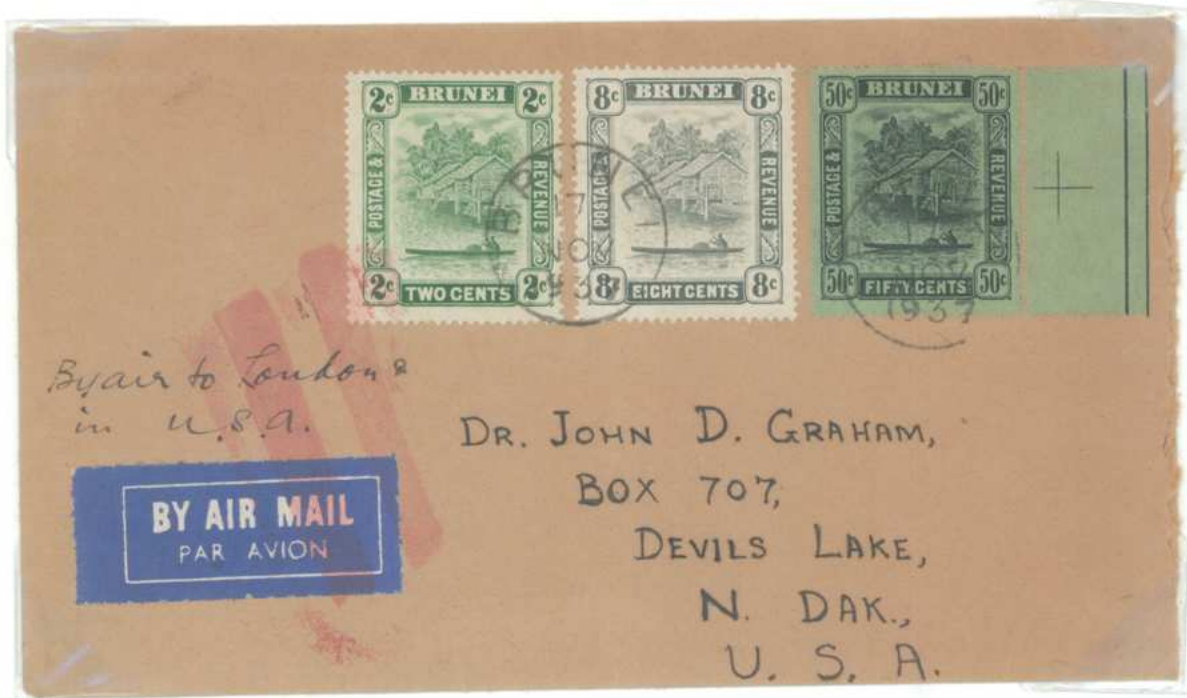
### Airmail Imperial Airways service

The Imperial Airways London to Singapore airmail service commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1933. The service was London to Paris by plane, then rail overnight to Brindisi and hence by plane to Alexandria and to Singapore as illustrated below.

The flight was a weekly service taking ten days. The airmail rate from Brunei was 35c per ½ oz plus the surface rate to the UK. Then in March 1934 the rate became a combined rate of 40c reducing to 35c in November 1934. Between 2 March 1938 and 2 September 1939, the Empire Air Mail Scheme was extended to Malaya and the "all up Mail" rate became 8c with all mail transported by air. With the commencement of WW2 the rate became 55c to the UK. **There was no 55 cent stamp at the time so several stamps were required.**



This cover is post marked 17<sup>th</sup> November 1937, the airmail rate to the UK was 35c at the time. Although 60c in postage has been attached for its journey to the USA, at some time in its transmission the air mail label has been over stamped by red bars, presumably to indicate that it no longer fell into the air mail category.



1924 – 1937 Definitives issues

During this period there was a new design issued, the view of Kampong Ayer of 6 cent and 12 cent denominations to meeting new international postage rates and most of the denominations changed colour with the exception of the 10 cent, 25 cent, 30 cent, 50 cent and \$1.00. All values were printed using a single plate, except the 30 cent and \$1.00, on Multiple Script CA paper perforated 14.



March 1924  
2 cent Brown



March 1924  
3 cent Green



March 1924  
5 cent Orange yellow



March 1924  
4 cent Maroon



March 1924  
6 cent Intense Black



March 1924  
12 cent Blue



12 cent pale Blue



September 1926  
1 cent Black

Note the weak impression of the centre stamp  
Position R4/4



September 1927  
8 cent Ultramarine



1929  
4 cent Orange

1924 – 1937 Definitives issues

During this period there was a new design issued, the view of Kampong Ayer of 6 cent and 12 cent denominations to meeting new international postage rates and most of the denominations changed colour with the exception of the 10 cent, 25 cent, 30 cent, 50 cent and \$1.00. All values were printed using a single plate, except the 30 cent and \$1.00, on Multiple Script CA paper perforated 14.



1931  
5 cent Grey



1931  
6 cent Scarlet



1931 Double Plate  
30 cents Purple and Orange yellow



1931  
50 cents Black on emerald



March 1933  
8 cent Grey Black



March 1933  
2 cent Green



1931  
25 cent Slate purple



March 1933  
5 cent Chocolate



1931 Double Plate  
Black and red on blue



March 1937  
10 cent Purple on yellow

## February 1935 to 1941 issues - Dry printing

An innovation introduced at this time was an alteration in the sequence of printing. Prior to 1924, all stamps were printed on damped paper which contracted whilst drying and were subsequently gummed. There is a difference in size of 0.5mm between stamps printed with this "Wet" method and the "Dry" printing. "Dry" printing on pre-gummed paper introduced at the De La Rue printers resulted in fractionally wider stamps. The "Dry" process was introduced in 1935." Wet" printings are less than 25mm wide whilst "Dry" printings are greater than 25mm wide.



The following stamps were printed with both methods:

The "Dry" printing commenced for the 1c black, 4c orange, 5c chocolate, 6c scarlet, 8c grey, and 25c slate purple in 1935. The 2c green in 1939 and the 10c purple on yellow in 1940.

The "Dry" printing of the 25c slate purple is only seen with Japanese overprint.

## 1924 to 1933 Definitive SPECIMENS

The stamps issued in the definitive set between 1924 and 1927 were overprinted SPECIMEN by De La Rue (Type D16a).

Then in 1928 De La Rue and other security stamp printers changed from overprinting to perforating.

Between 1924 and 1933 there were between 395 and 423 sets of 3 Specimen stamps issued by the UPU.

The 1937 10 cent purple on yellow was NOT distributed in these sets because it was considered by the printers that the 1922 10 cent purple on yellow was part of the series. It was distributed later separately in 1937.

### 1924 to 1927 SPECIMEN stamps were overprinted

The Specimen stamps during this period were overprinted with the De La Rue type D16a. This overprint came into use in 1922. It measured 15.5mm x 1.75mm.

SPECIMEN



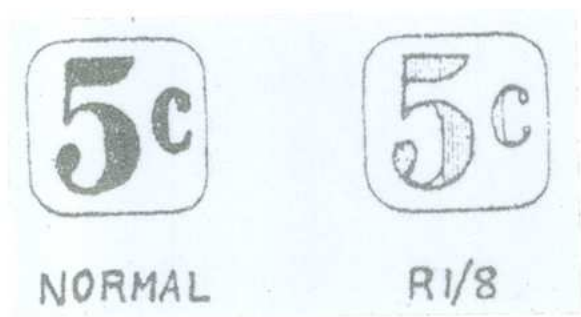
### 1924 to 1933 SPECIMEN stamps were perforated

The Specimen stamps during this period were perforated with the De La Rue type D19. This perforation device came into use in 1928 and was used until 1936.



## Thin C retouch on the 5 cent River Definitives

The retouch on the 5 cent at position R 1/8 is the most significant variation in the Brunei River definitives. The top left corner of the 5 cent has a paleness and using a magnifier it can be seen that vertical lines form the body of the figure. It is considered that early recess printed plates involved the use of a pantograph to insert the value. The instance of the 5 c missing meant the engraving of the 1916, 5 cent single plate by hand to avoid the setting up of the pantograph again. The retouch in position R 1/8 occurred through each of the 5 cent printings from 1916 to 1950.



1924 Orange



Registered letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 1937 to Canada. The letter rate was 8 cents and the registration fee 15 cents totalling 23 cents postage.

The 1933 5 cent chocolate stamp is the retouch stamp at position R 1/8 on the sheet.



### Reduction of sheets from 60 to 50 from 1931

The denomination of Brunei stamps has always been in Straits dollars with 100 cents to the dollar. Yet the sheets of stamps were set in 60 per sheet. About 1931 it was decided to reduce the panes to 50 stamps per sheet, perhaps to assist the postal clerks. This was achieved by removing the right hand two vertical rows on the 1 cent, 2 cent, 4 cent, 5 cent, 8 cent and 10 cent and the left two vertical columns of the 3 cent, 25 cent, 30 cent, 50 cent and \$1. The 6 cent value lost one vertical row on the right, the 12 cent value lost one on the left. Perhaps the variation of left or right removal was due to wear or damage on the existing plates.

The sheet of 6 cent with the Kampong Ayer design on the left is an original full sheet of 60 showing the mid point markers on each side. The sheets showing even numbers of stamps each side of the marker.



The strip of 50 cent stamps shows the mid point marker at the top after only 4 stamps showing that two vertical rows have been removed to achieve a pane of 50.

The 1937 10 cent purple on yellow with SPECIMEN



The 10 cent purple on yellow printed in March 1937 was printed in sheets of 50 where two vertical rows have been removed from the right of the 60 sheet pane. The printers line marker shows the removal clearly.

This sheet was printed using the DRY method of having the paper gummed prior to printing which resulted in larger stamps.



The SPECIMEN stamp above was released separately to the 1929 – 1933 set of SPECIMEN stamps. The ten-cent stamp of 1922 was regarded as being part of the set.

This SPECIMEN stamp was issued singly and was printed according to James Bendon by the printers using some existing stock of ungummed yellow paper using the WET method.



1924 to 1937 covers

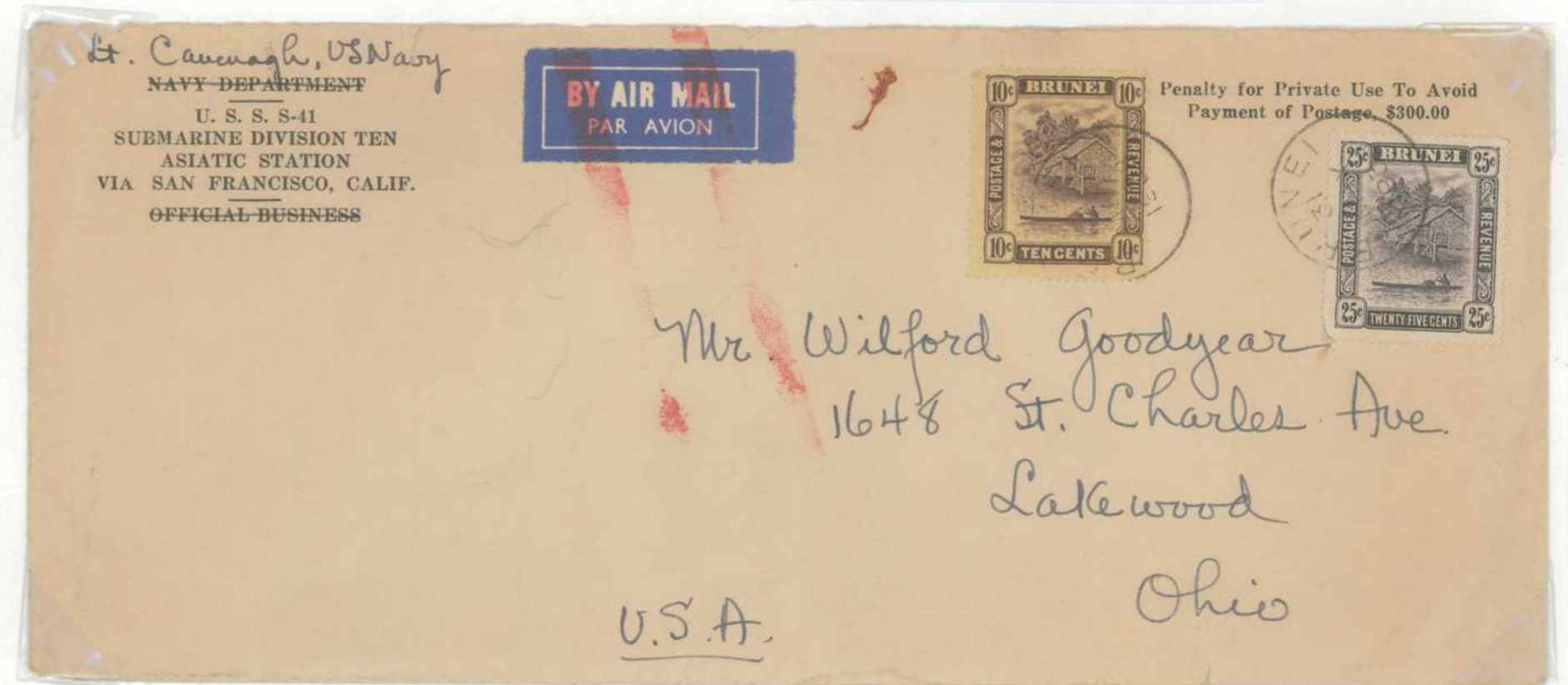
Registered cover to Prague with 65 cent postage, 50 cent airmail and 15 cent registration fee with multiple use of stamps. Importantly it shows two distinct shades of the 6 cent. The 6 cent was first issued in 1931 and here in August 1931 we see two distinct shades of the stamp.

The 1936 usage of the 15 cent blue registered envelope size G is using the rate for the Local Postal Union which was 5 cents per 2 oz in addition to the 15 cent registration fee on the envelope. Posted from Belait on 22 July 1936 with back stamps of Miri and arrival at Kuching.



This cover was posted on the S S Van Rees, a ship of the Dutch shipping line Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschppij which traded in the Borneo and Dutch East Indies area. The cover contained prints hence the 3 cent printed matter rate, The Paquet boat chop is from Soerabaja in 1935 in East Java.

Brunei airmail cover from USA submarine S41 from Submarine Division Ten. Posted 31 May 1935 during a visit. There is 35 cent postage to the USA via London, paid Airmail label crossed through, surface mail rest of the way. Ohio is the home of the Goodyear Rubber Tyre company.



## The 1941 Unissued Values

There were five values which were printed at the end of 1940 in new colours to conform with UPU regulations green for newspapers, red for internal and blue for foreign overseas mail. The stamps were delivered to Brunei four weeks before the Japanese Occupation of the country on 7th December 1941. The stamps had limited public issue if any. They were seized by the Japanese Postal Authority and overprinted. An invoice from The Globe stamp Company indicates that the set in the black box below came from a set of sheets held back from which King George V1 was supplied a block of each value. The block of 3 cents on the left is the LARGEST KNOWN block of the 3 cents and came from the Dr Woods collection. These 1941 printings were probably not produced by De La Rue but by other firms in Great Britain following the bomb damage to the De La Rue printing works at the end of 1940. The philatelic cover with the unissued stamps has been created using a canceller that ceased to be used after 1910.



## Japanese Occupation 1941 to 1945

In 1941 the four neighbouring territories of Sarawak, Brunei, Labuan and British North Borneo all employed different stamps. The Japanese occupied these territories with landings on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1941. The Japanese for administration purposes fused the four territories into one country known as North Borneo. Existing stocks of stamps were placed in common pools under the Japanese postal administration and with or without overprints were freely used over the whole of Japanese North Borneo, the exception being the stamps of Sarawak with the image of the Rajah. The following explains the known phases of the use of different stamps.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Phase – Initial stamps

For the first few weeks after the invasion there were no postal services available. During the period from March to October 1942 there was little mail and this mail being within a town. Stamps used during this period were the current prewar issue of Brunei and British North Borneo with no overprint, whilst the postmark was the normal English one with the appropriate date which ranges from March to Nov 1942.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase - Japanese stamps

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 most of the local stamps were withdrawn and replaced by the current stamps in use in Japan, still without overprint. These values were up to 8 Sen. The postage rates were maintained at the same rate as before the war. English pre-war cancellers were still in use.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase - Japanese canceller introduced plus single line Sarawak stamps

On 21<sup>st</sup> October 1942 an important change was made with a new Japanese canceller with the wording in Japanese. The date was Japanese style, ie year first, followed by month and day. The year is calculated from 1926, when the present Emperor succeeded and the Showa era began, Hence 17 is the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Showa, which was 1942 and the 17.10.21 is 21<sup>st</sup> October 1942. For a few months from November 1942 there was a Sarawak single line overprint used in Miri only.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Phase - Brunei Stamps, First single line issue

Early in February/March 1943 a few sheets of Brunei prewar stamps overprinted in Japanese with what has been known as the "single line" overprint appeared in post offices. Translated it reads 'Dai Nippon Gun' – Japanese Imperial Government.

The overprinting was done with one or more handmade rubber stamps and affixed by small boys in the Japanese Education Department in Kuching and the post office in Brunei. Given that unskilled hands were doing the overprinting instead of machines, many variations are evident; exceptions and double printing, smudges and ink variations are observed.

Hand stamps range from dark blue to violet, with the rare red ink overprint.

The initial stamps overprinted were 1 c black, 2 c green, 3c green, 6 c scarlet, 6 c greenish black, 8c grey black and 30 c purple and orange. Also small quantities of the 4c orange and 5c brown which appeared later in large quantities.

1 cent Black



RARE Red overprint

Violet overprints

### Japanese Occupation – December 1941 to June 1945

It is felt that the Japanese overprinted the stamps which were readily available in post offices in the 4<sup>th</sup> Phase. There were more stamps discovered later and brought into use. As more pressure was applied to shipping by the allies there was less supply of Japanese stamps and hence the need to overprint local stamps.

#### Fourth Phase continued

3 Cent Green



2 cent Green Scarce



4 Cent Orange



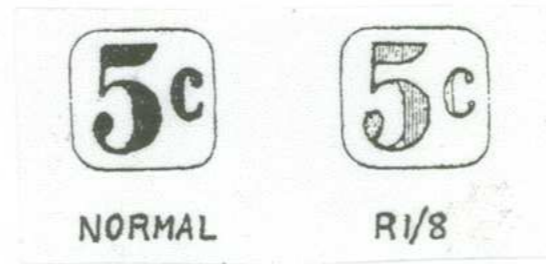
3 cent Green used in combination with Japanese unoverprinted stamps

Japanese Occupation - December 1941 to June 1945

Phase 4 continuing

5 Cent Chocolate

The retouch on the 5 cent at position R 1/8 continued to be seen throughout the Japanese occupation where the 1933 5 cent chocolate was overprinted



8 cent Grey Black

VERY RARE

Certificate



6 cent Scarlet

VERY RARE

6 cent Greenish Grey

Note printers guide mark below where right hand vertical row has been removed



Double overprint top left stamp  
First impression very faint,  
second impression to reink



Double overprint top right stamp

## Japanese Occupation 1941 to 1945

Phase 4 continued

### The 8 cent Red

The Japanese overprints on Brunei stamps were carried out by schoolboys at the Japanese education Department in Kuching. They used a single chop manually applied. This meant both omitted and double overprints were experienced. The 8 cent red was in the new colour which was not issued locally and is only seen with the Japanese overprint. The full sheet on the left shows the Plate 2 at the bottom. Note that the central printers alignments top and bottom which have been changed from the reduced panes of 60 to 50 to the centre in the second plate.



Block of the 8 cent red double overprinted on the bottom right hand stamp.



The top two rows of the full sheet with the right-hand selvedge missing. The stamp at position R 2 / 3 has the overprint omitted. VERY RARE

Japanese Occupation - December 1941 to June 1945

Phase 4 continuing

10 cent Purple on yellow

Note the printers mark at the top and bottom showing 2 vertical rows removed.



12 cent Blue



30 cent Purple and Orange yellow



25 cent Slate-Purple



50 Cent Black on Emerald



## Japanese Occupation 1941 to 1945

Phases 5, 6 and 7

### 5 th Phase Emperor's Birthday stamps

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 1943, the anniversary of the birth of Emperor Hirohito in an commemoration of Meiji Day, there was issued a short set of stamps. These were the only ones during the occupation in North Borneo to be especially printed. They were printed in offset litho at Batavia, Java. They are inscribed "Japanese Imperial Post" at the top and "North Borneo" at the bottom. They were on sale intermittently until the end of the occupation.



### 6 th Phase - North Borneo three-line stamps

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1944 the stamps of Japan were withdrawn and replaced by the Borneo three-line overprint. The stamps were those of pre-war British North Borneo from 1 cent to \$1.00 only. The overprints read "Japanese Imperial Post" for the top two lines and "North Borneo" underneath. The overprinting was done by the Chinese Press in Kuching to a high standard.



### 7 th Phase - Brunei Stamps, Second single line issue

At the beginning of December 1944, a second issue was made of pre-war Brunei stamps, with the same single line overprint as previously. Additional stocks of some that had already been issued were distributed as well as some stamps which had not previously appeared with the overprint.

2 Cent Orange



15 cent Ultramarine



Double overprint

## Japanese Occupation 1941 to 1945

### Phases 7 and 8

The Japanese Post Office closed down just before the Australians landed as part of Oboe 6 on 10th June 1945 and burnt all their records and stamp stocks. It is very difficult to then ascertain how many Japanese Occupation stamps were ever issued,

### 7th Phase Brunei stamps overprinted for airmail charges

The rarest stamp of the Japanese Occupation



\$3 on 1 cent Brunei Black  
Orange red surcharge  
RPSL certificate

Early in May 1944 there was issued a short series of 3 stamps for payment of telegraphic mail transfers to Japan and to cover airmail charges for a privately operated company flying between Borneo, Phillipines and Japan. The need for airmail communications at this period of the Occupation was due to the virtual isolation of North Borneo and Brunei by the intensity of the Allied blockade which made sea communication virtually impossible.

Three denominations \$2, \$3, \$5 were produced by overprinting two BNB stamps and one Brunei stamp. \$3 was overprinted on the 1 cent black Brunei stamp.

The overprinting was carried out by the Communication Department of the Japanese Army H.Q. at Jesselton and stamps both with and without the single line overprint were used. Overprinted by hand it is believed the 'chops' were hand made wooden ones and that the rather oily ink, orange-red on the Brunei stamp was the same as that for impressing signature seals.

It is almost certain that the two large characters representing the value were impressed separately from the two lines of Characters which signify 'Dai Nippon' and 'Imperial Post' so that each stamp was overprinted by hand in two operations.

It is believed that there were only 200 overprinted of each value and these were distributed to Kuching, Miri, Sibiu, Jesselton, Sandakan, Labuan and Brunei.

### 7th Phase - Brunei Stamps, Second single line issue

At the beginning of December 1944, a second issue was made of pre-war Brunei stamps, with the same single line overprint as previously. Additional stocks of some that had already been issued were distributed as well as some stamps which had not previously appeared with the overprint.

\$1.00 Black and red on blue



\$5.00 Carmine on green



\$25.00 Black on red



### 8th Phase - Japanese stamps overprinted

Early in 1945 a third set of Japanese stamps appeared with new values and bearing the overprint "North Borneo". This comprised the stamps of Japan similar those in Phases 2 and 3. The overprinting was carried out by the Kuching Press. Note that the original 7 cents has disappeared from the set distributed.



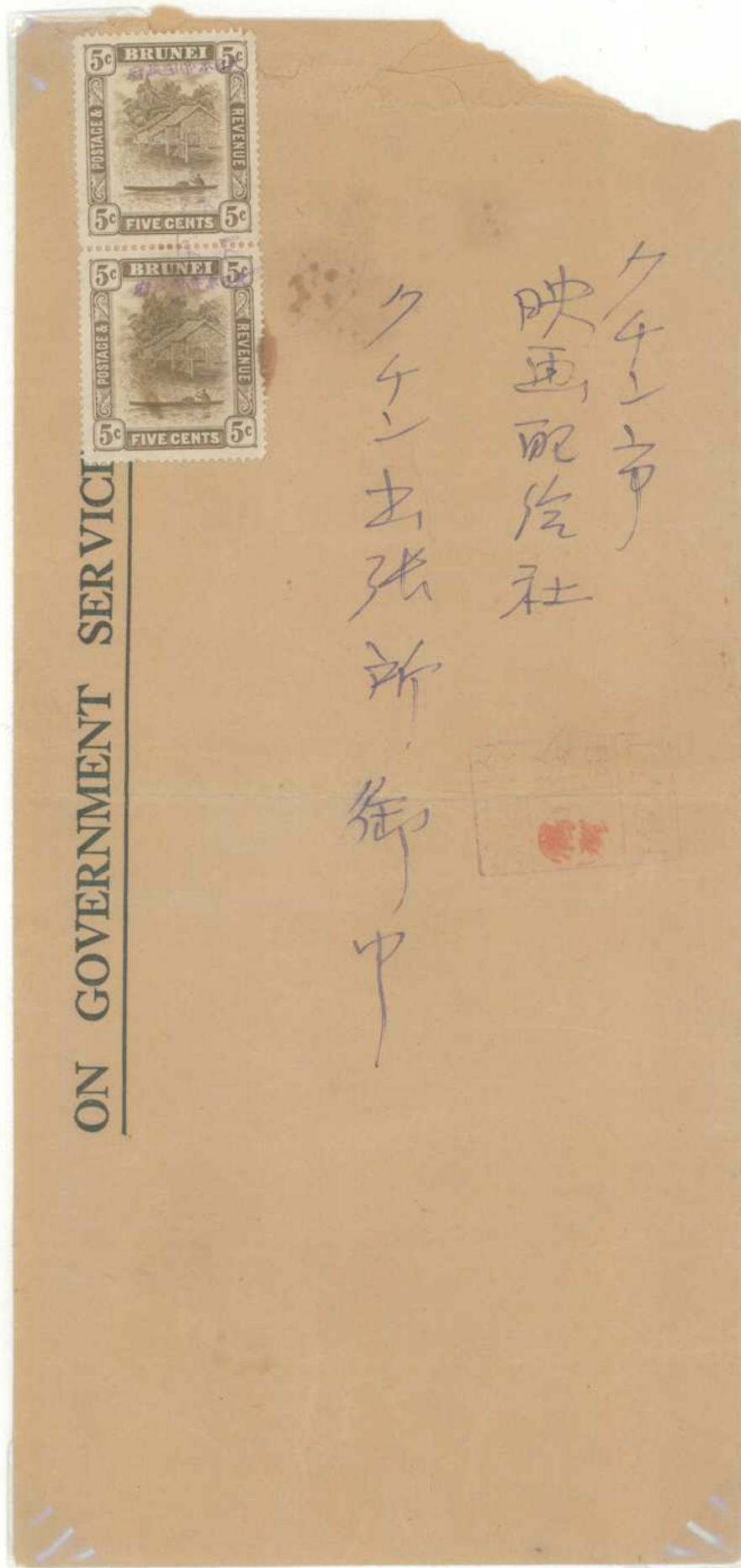
Japanese Occupation 1941 to 1945

Japanese Occupation Covers

The cover on the left has been Posted in Kuala Belait from the General Manager of the Kuala Belait Theatre to the film distributor in Kuching. Covers posted in Brunei with Brunei Overprinted stamps are VERY RARE. Post card below is Military issue with 2 x 2 cent stamps Brunei and North Borneo combination.



The top cover was posted in Brunei Town on the first day of issue 30<sup>th</sup> September 2604 (1944). The cover was overpaid for local postage and is philatelic in nature. The bottom cover was posted in Tuaran North Borneo on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2605 (1945), just after the Australians landed in Borneo, to Beaufort with a combination of Brunei and North Borneo stamps overprinted 'Imperial Japanese Government' cancelled with the Japanese Tuaran canceller.



ON GOVERNMENT SERVICE

## BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION (BMA) 1945 to 1946

The Japanese closed all post offices on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1945. The Australia 9<sup>th</sup> Division landed on 10<sup>th</sup> June into Brunei Bay as part of Oboe 6. They were followed by members of the British Borneo Civil Administration Unit (BCCAU). The task of this unit, made up of British and Australian Army Officers, was the restoration of civil administration in the liberated areas. The 9<sup>th</sup> Division Postal Unit established a free postal service for the North Borneo area but Australian stamps were required for other areas.

### Australian Field Post Offices in Brunei

The 9<sup>th</sup> Division had Field Post office cancellers FPO 033 allocated in March 1943. The date stamp was with 20 Brigade when it landed in Brunei. FPO 033 operated in Brunei and Sarawak until February 1946. Field Post Office canceller FPO 034 was used in Brunei from landing and later in Sarawak until January 1946.

### Australian stamps used in Brunei 1945 – 1946

Australian stamps from the 1937 series were used in Brunei until the first issue of the BMA overprinted stamps were available from 17<sup>th</sup> December when Australian stamps were withdrawn. However Australian stamps continued to be used when BMA stamps ran out. Other Australian stamps may have been used having been brought into Brunei by military personnel coming from Morotai the staging base.



This cover is from Labuan where the Australian HQ were established. It shows the changeover date of stamps to BMA and it has the "Straits Times" temporary linotype canceller which came from Singapore.

## BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION 1945 - 1946

The British Borneo Civil Administration Unit (BBCAU) restored civil administration. On 17<sup>th</sup> December 1945 the British Military Administration (BMA) opened civilian post offices. On this date there were issued a series of pre-war Sarawak stamps (1934 – 41) overprinted BMA. Similarly, a series of the North Borneo 1939 issue were overprinted. These two sets of stamps were available in Sarawak, Labuan, North Borneo and Brunei. There were NO Brunei stamps overprinted BMA.

### Sarawak stamps overprinted BMA

The overprinting occurred on 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 10 c, 12c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 50 c, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, and \$10.00 examples are shown below.



### North Borneo stamps overprinted BMA

The overprinting occurred on the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 50c, \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00 examples are shown below.



This registered cover to New Zealand posted on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1946 in Brunei Town, had 8 cents postage and 15 cents registration fee totalling 23 cents postage. Note the typewritten registration label. The canceller is the temporary linotype "Straits Times" canceller.



This registered cover was posted on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1946 to the Rev Mother Claver at the Convent school in Labuan. It was posted from Kuala Belait in Brunei with 8 cents local postage and 15 cents registration fees totalling 23 cents. It has a typed pink registration label on the front; the cancellers used are the metal type brought from Australia.

## New Definitives January 1947

New definitives were released on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1947. Colours and values were changed to reflect the new postal rates and UPU conventions. They were printed on watermarked Multiple Script CA paper by De La Rue. The 1 cent, 2 cent, 3cent, 5 cent, 6 cent, 10 cent, and 25 cent values were printed on old plates of the pre-war issues. These were line perforated 14 whilst the new issues in 1950-51 were comb perforated 14.5 x 13.5. The 8 cent, 15 cent, 50 cent and \$1, \$5, and \$10 were from new plates, comb perforated. The 30 cent was originally an old pre-war plate and in 1951 a new plate was introduced.

### SPECIMENS

The definitive sets were perforated SPECIMEN in an arch shape by De La Rue type D21 as below.



Weak impression Position R4/4

One Cent Brown



Re-entry position R 1/4 and R1/5



### New Definitives 1947

The 2 cent Grey was printed for distribution on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1947. There were several further printings which are identified by varying perforation sets and colour variation. Below the three major printings in Grey or Black are shown with their perforation variations. The redrawn clouds are shown in position R 1/1 in the Black block below. The large block of 2 cents shows the dropped 7<sup>th</sup> column also where the guide marks indicate that two vertical rows were removed from the right when the pane was reduced from 60 stamps to 50.

The 3 cent Green blocks have the plate number 1 on the lower block.

2 Cent Grey



Grey 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14



Grey 25.9.1950: P 14.5 X 13.75



Black 27.6.1951: P 14.5 x 13.5  
Redrawn clouds position R 1/1



Dropped 7<sup>th</sup> column.

3 Cent Green

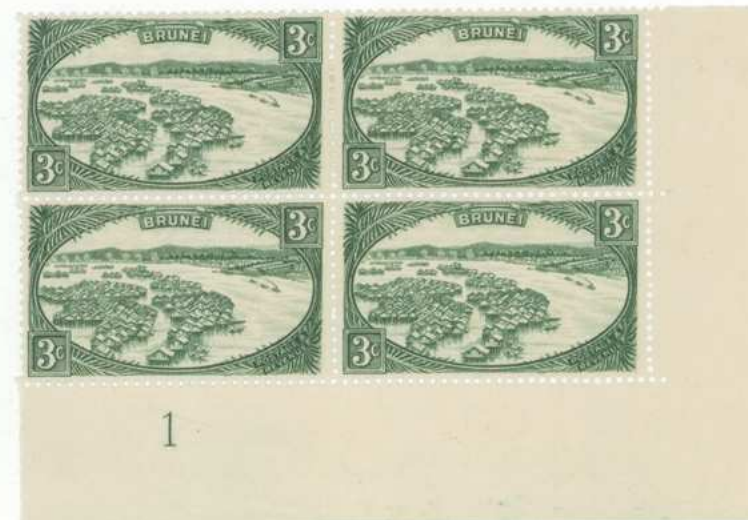


Plate no 1

**New Definitives 1947**

The 5 cent Orange has the constant re-entry at position R 1/8 across all the 5 cent printings. Here it is seen in the two blocks, first and second printing. Sheet numbers are seen in the top right-hand corners. The 6 cent Black block has printers guide marks at the bottom and the side showing a vertical row has been removed to reduce the pane from 60 to 50 stamps. The 8 cent Scarlet has two printings with different perforations. The 10 cent Violet top strip shows re-entries at position R 1/4 and R 1/5. The two printings are shown with a flaw emerging on the second printing at R 2/10

**8 Cent Orange**



Orange 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14  
Re-entry on top left 5 at position R 1/8



Orange 25.9.1950: P 14.5 x 13.5  
Re-entry on 5 cent at position R 1/8

**6 cent Black**



**8 Cent Scarlet**



Scarlet 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14



Scarlet 25.1 1951: P 13 x 13

**10 Cent Violet**



Violet 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14 Re-entries at R 1/4 and R 1/5



Violet 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14



Violet 25.9.1950: P 14.5 x 13.5  
Flaw in position R 2/10

**New Definitives 1947**

A block of the 15 cent Ultramarine is shown below. There are two printings of the 25 cent Deep Claret, two printings of the 30 cent Black and Orange; new plates were made for the second printing. There were two printings of the 50 cent Black. There are blocks of the \$1.00 Black and Scarlet, a block of the \$5 Green and Red Orange Plate 1 and a block of the \$10 Black and Purple plate no 3. There was a NEW definitive issue in 1952 and the 1947 – 1952 issue was invalidated 27<sup>th</sup> February 1957.

**15 Cent Ultramarine**  
1.2.1947



**25 cent Deep Claret**



Deep Claret 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14



Deep Claret 25.1.1951: P 14.5 x 13.5

**30 cent Black and Orange**



Black and Orange 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14



Black and Orange 25.1.1951: P 14.5 x 13.5



Black 2.1.1947: P 14 x 14



Black 25.1 1951: P 13 x 13



**\$1.00 Black and Scarlet**  
1.2.1947



**\$5.00 Green and Red Orange**  
2.2.1948



**\$10.00 Black and Purple**  
2.2.1948



### 1947 to 1951 Definitive Covers

Local and Postal Union letter rates were 8 cents, postcard 4 cents, airmail 12 cents.  
 Great Britain and Empire letter rates were 8 cents, postcard 6 cents and airmail 55 cents.  
 UPU Foreign rates were letter 15 cents, postcard 8 cents and airmail 55 cents, registration fees of 15 cents.



This cover is a local cover posted on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1950 to the British Resident in Brunei. It is posted at the local 8 cent rate to the "Honourable Mr British Resident".



This cover is to Aden paying 16 cents postage. It was surface mail stamped DUPLICATE from the Hong Kong Banking Corporation Brunei Town. Letters from banks were sent in duplicate to ensure a copy got through the postal services to its intended destination.



This cover was sent from Kuala Belait at the 55 cent rate for airmail plus the 15 cent registration fee for a total of 70 cents (including stamps on the reverse). The A.V.2 marking on the cover are RARE and signify that this cover was the top cover on a bundle of airmail from Brunei to Australia. Note the typed registration label.



Cover posted in Kuala Belait in March 1951 from Sarawak Oilfields Limited at the 15 cent surface mail rate to the USA. On arrival a boxed receiver cancellation was applied. The cover was then on sent to Denpasar, Indonesia where the 'T' tax stamp was applied and the 3 postage due stamps affixed.

1947 UPU PARIS CONGRESS – PRESENTATION FOLDER – Only 50 BLUE folders produced



AVEC LES COMPLIMENTS  
DE  
M. LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT  
POUR LES COLONIES  
A L'OCCASION DU  
XII<sup>E</sup> CONGRES POSTAL UNIVERSEL  
PARIS 1947



The 1947 UPU Congress in Paris was the first congress in which Brunei participated. It was planned that for each British territory 250 red presentation folders with the current definitives up to 10 shillings would be produced and distributed to delegates from the participating countries. The title on the cover and the dedication were printed in French, the UPU language, by Bradbury, Wilkinson.

The final preparation and distribution were organised by the Crown Agents. It was then found that 300 sets were required and since there were no further red presentation covers available, the balance of the additional 50 Brunei covers were printed on blue covers.

The blue presentation covers are RARE.

