

MALAYA & BRITISH BORNEO

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

- 1945 Japan's Emperor surrendered on 14 August, but, locally, generals could not believe it, so local surrenders took some time.
Malaya reoccupied by Allied forces on 5 September. British Military Administrations set up in Malaya and British Borneo. The British Military Administration in Malaya was established with two Divisions - "Singapore Division" and "Malay Peninsular Division". The latter had nine Regions - Johore, Kedah & Perlis, Kelantan, Negri Sembilan & Malacca, Pahang, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Trengganu.
British Military Administration postal services began (free) in Malaya on 17 September. Stamps issued 19 October.
- 1946 A united Malayan Union was formed on 1 April from Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Penang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor, Trengganu, plus the Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak, with capital at Kuala Lumpur in Selangor. This was to have become self-governing in due course with laws giving equal status to all races. Singapore would have remained a Crown Colony. The Malayan Union Constitution proved unpopular as it recognised the increased Chinese and Indian populations and gave no special privileges to Malays. Opposition was led by the United Malays National Organisation which supported a federation of sultanates with special rights for Malays.
Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke announced in April that he wished to cede Sarawak to Britain. Bill of Cession passed by Sarawak State Council (Council Negri) in May. Sarawak became a British Crown Colony on 1 July. A brief but bloody uprising against cession was subsequently led by Anthony Brooke, C V Brooke's nephew and heir apparent.
North Borneo became a Crown Colony.
- 1947 New Singapore constitution introduced in July with Governor and Executive and Legislative Councils, initially appointed, but with provision for elections.
- 1948 New Federation of Malaya established on 1 February with revised constitution, excluding Singapore (due to its high Chinese population) and the Borneo states.
State of Emergency declared in Malaya in June after Malayan Communist Party launched an uprising.
- 1955 Britain agreed to grant Malaya independence.
Cocos Islands transferred to Australia on 23 November.
- 1957 Independence granted to the Federation of Malaya on 31 August.
Christmas Island became separate colony on 31 December. Transferred to Australia October 1958.
- 1958 Singapore granted a New Constitution with internal self-government on 3 June.
- 1960 Malayan Emergency ended (on paper)..
- 1961 Agreement reached on setting up Malaysia, to contain the Federation of Malaysia and Singapore. As this upset the racial balance, discussions commenced with Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak with the aim of restoring the Malay balance.
- 1962 British inquiry established that the people of British Borneo wished to become part of the Federation of Malaya. Indonesia, under Sukarno, laid claim on 8 December to the whole of Borneo and started the Confrontation.
- 1963 Agreement finally reached in July on formation of Malaysia.
Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak declared unilateral independence from the United Kingdom on 31 August. Federation of Malaysia formed on 16 September from Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo (renamed Sabah). Brunei decided at the last minute to remain outside Malaysia, so as to retain its oil wealth, which made it self-sufficient.
- 1965 Singapore "expelled" from Malaysia and became independent on 9 August (actually by mutual consent).

MALAYA (British Military Administration)

1945

On 14th August 1945, the Japanese forces occupying Malaya, together with all their forces, surrendered to the Allies. Lord Louis Mountbatten declared the British Military Administration of Malaya on the following day. An invasion force had already been assembled to attempt to reoccupy Malaya. The fleet therefore sailed and landed unopposed in Malaya on 5th September 1945. Postal services were restored progressively as the infrastructure necessary to support it came back into use. First to be restored was Singapore on 17th September 1945.

- 17th September 1945 Free Post Period.
First day of operation in Singapore.
Letter from Singapore to South India with civil censor mark A6.
Received in Nachiyapura, Ramnad 3rd October 1945.



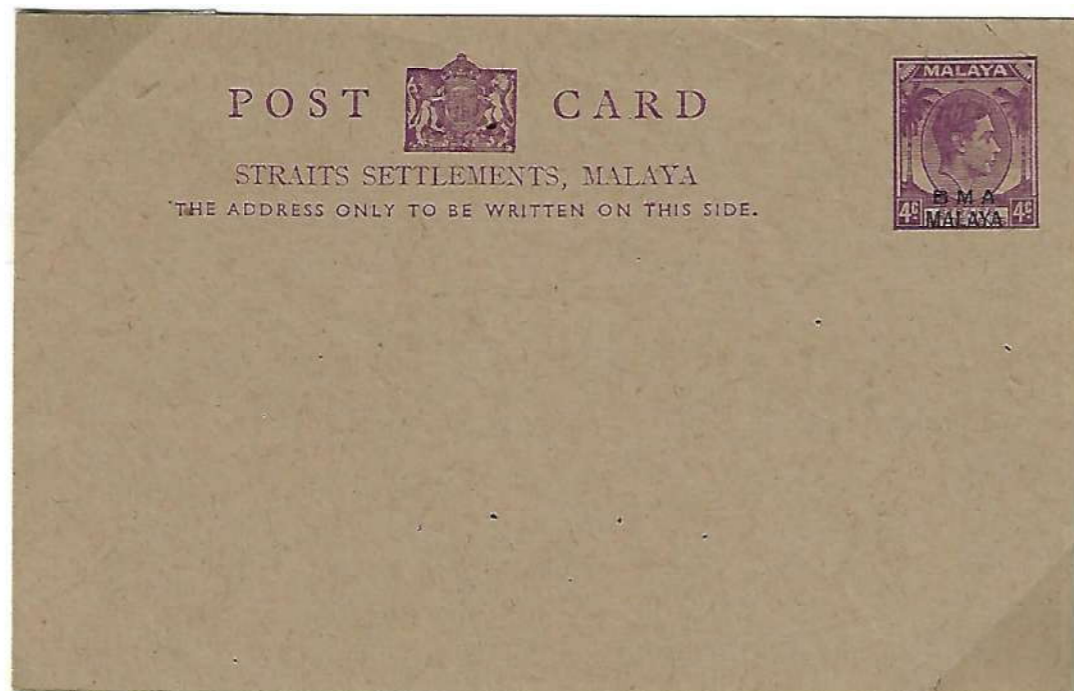
Postal stationery postcards, for use within Malaya, to replace the provisional use of pre-war postcards were specially printed by De La Rue in purple on "Austerity" card, which probably had a high recycled content. There was only one order.

Reqn. 19/1 was originally for 100,000 4c. postcards. The entry in the Requisition book was subsequently annotated "By Air 15.10.45 1,200,000". The quoted text is crossed out and "Commence 6 weeks after receipt of paper" has been substituted. 1,024,000 were supplied in two batches on 25th September 1945 and 19th October 1945. The entry states "NEW The colour of the stamp should be brilliant rosa - overprinted in black "BMA MALAYA". The reason for the choice of purple is unknown, as the 4c. stamps were brown, but it may have been to create sufficient contrast with the brown card.

19 October
Late 1945

BMA Overprinted Definitive Issue.
4c. Postcard.

Letterpress, De La Rue.



BMA REVENUE STAMPS

Crown Agents Requisition Malaya 11/1 of 1945 required De La Rue to reprint Straits Settlements \$25 (500 sheets of 50) and \$100 (500 sheets of 50) revenue, and overprint BMA MALAYA. The Requisition Book entry is annotated "NEW Colour proofs of the \$25 and \$100 stamps in the colours decided are to be submitted in triplicate for approval before printing is commenced. 360 specimens of each value required. Stamps of the exiting design for Straits Settlements but overprinted BMA over MALAYA. The word MALAYA to completely blot out the words Straits Settlements. To be packed in strong cases to withstand rough usage".

The 50-set revenue plates were issued to the printer on 23 August 1945 (\$100 border plate, returned same day), 29 August 1945 (\$25 border plate, returned same day), 30 August 1945 (vignette plate 1), 3 September 1945 (overprint plate), 10 September 1945 (\$100 border again, returned 12 September 1945), 13 September 1945 (overprint plate again). The second use of the \$100 plates may have been to produce replacements for stock damaged during overprinting.

507 \$25 and 522 \$100 sheets of stamps were shipped on 19 October 1945. There were no reprints.

Late 1945?

Letterpress, De La Rue.
Perf. 13.9.
Watermark Multiple Script CA upright.



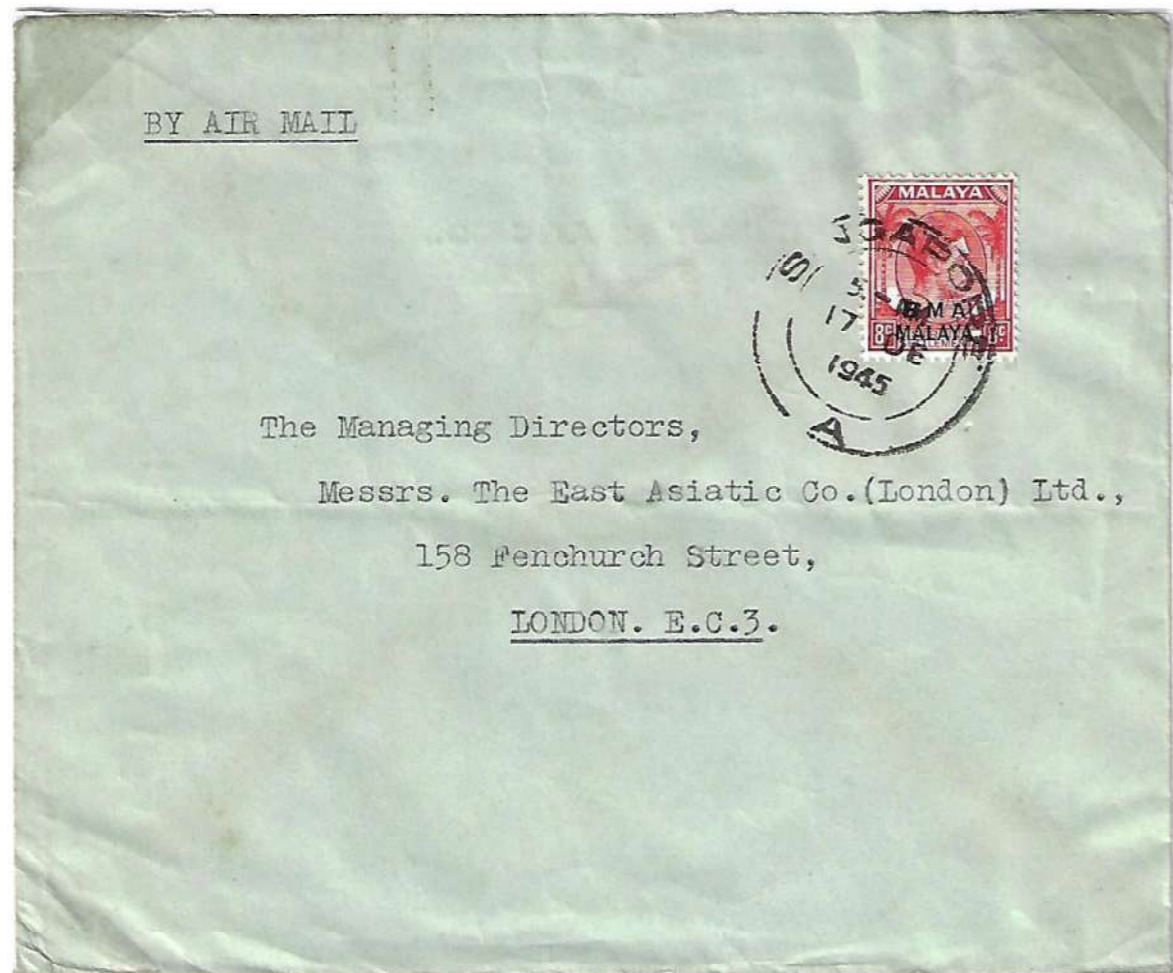
SINGAPORE

EMERGENCY ALL-UP AIRMAIL SERVICE

When Singapore was first liberated, there was no shipping capacity available for carriage of mail. Instead, the Royal Air Force took on the role of conveying mail back to the UK by means of an "all-up" service, pending the reopening of public air services in January 1946. The pre-war "all-up" 8c. rate was temporarily reinstated. Relatively few covers are known at this rate, mostly from businesses seeking to inform head office that they still exist!

General Post Office.
17th December 1945

Double-ring circular date stamp "SINGAPORE / 5-PM / 17 DE / 1945 / A".
(Proud type D154).
8c. single rate air letter to UK.



Aircraft: RAF (type unknown)

NORTH BORNEO

CENTENARY OF VICTORIA, LABUAN

1939 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Commemorative postmark to celebrate the centenary of the capital of Labuan island.

24th December 1946

Recess, Waterlow.
Perf. 12.5.
No watermark.



SARAWAK

BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

1934 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

With the fall of Japan, a British Military Administration came into force on 11th September 1945 on the arrival of Australian forces. Australian stamps were used throughout British Borneo from 5th November 1945 until these stamps became available. These too were valid for use throughout British Borneo.

17th December 1945 Overprinted "BMA".

First day cover used in Brunei with "linotype" cancellation.

Recess, Bradbury Wilkinson.
Perf. 12.0
No watermark.



MALAYAN UNION

In January 1946, proposals were announced for Singapore to become a separate Crown Colony and for the remainder of the British dependencies in Malaya to become a single country, the Malayan Union. These proposals were met with open hostility in Malaya, but the Malayan Union duly came into being on 1 April 1946, Singapore becoming a separate Colony from the same date. A British parliamentary delegation visited Malaya to meet the opposition and a further new constitution was developed. The Federation of Malaya, which preserved the power of the state Sultans, thus came into being in 1948. Proposed Malayan Union definitive stamps were not printed and the BMA issue continued in use until new state issues based on the pre-war Straits Settlements "Malaya Key Type" design became available in 1949-1951.

There were two orders for Victory stamps for Malaya:

Crown Agents Requisition G3/602/25
Malayan Union 8c., 15c.

Plates issued 18Jun46 (15c. No.1), 19Jun46 (8c. A1/B1). 32,175 8c. and 17,100 15c. sheets were ordered. 32,190 8c. and 17,060 sheets shipped in two batches on 27Jun46 and 21Oct46, parcelled in reams. 300 sheets supplied to Bureau of each value. Specimens to GPO.

Crown Agents Requisition G3/602/39
Singapore 8c., 15c.

Plates issued 21Jun46 (8c. No.4131 A1/B1 and 15c. No.1). 32,175 8c. and 17,100 15c. sheets were ordered. 35,000 8c. shipped in two batches on 27Jun46 and 18Sep46, and 18,750 sheets shipped in two batches on 5Jul46 and 18Sep46, parcelled in reams. 390 sheets supplied to Bureau of each value. Specimens to GPO.

[1946] Unissued.

Victory in World War Two.

Recess, De La Rue.
Perf. 13.8 x 14.2.
Watermark Multiple Script CA upright.



Both entries in the Plate book are annotated "All taken but later destroyed". The political situation was such that it was not considered acceptable to issue the stamps inscribed Malayan Union. If the Malayan Union stamps were not to be issued, it was decided that it would be impolitic to issue the Singapore ones. The issue was therefore consigned to the municipal incinerator at Kuala Lumpur in the presence of a three-man Board of Survey. As soon as they had left, Manuel Pillay, who was responsible for the incinerator, raked out some 400 copies of the Malayan Union 8c., many damaged, but some in perfect condition. He was charged and convicted, but not before the stamps had come into the public domain. A cylinder block of four from the B1 pane is known to exist.

Examples of the other values exist, so far as is known, only in the Royal Collection.

19th October 1945 BMA Overprinted Definitive Issue.Typo. De La Rue.
Perf. 14.0.
Watermark Multiple Script CA upright.

For the first post-war Congress of the UPU, in Paris in 1947, Bradbury, Wilkinson was given the unenviable task of producing 250 red or blue cloth-covered souvenir folders for each of some 48 colonies at a cost of £1500, at a time when austerity shortages were still affecting both materials and stamps. The Malayan Union requested to participate. Contains EMA stamps 1c, 2c, 3c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 50c, \$1, \$2.

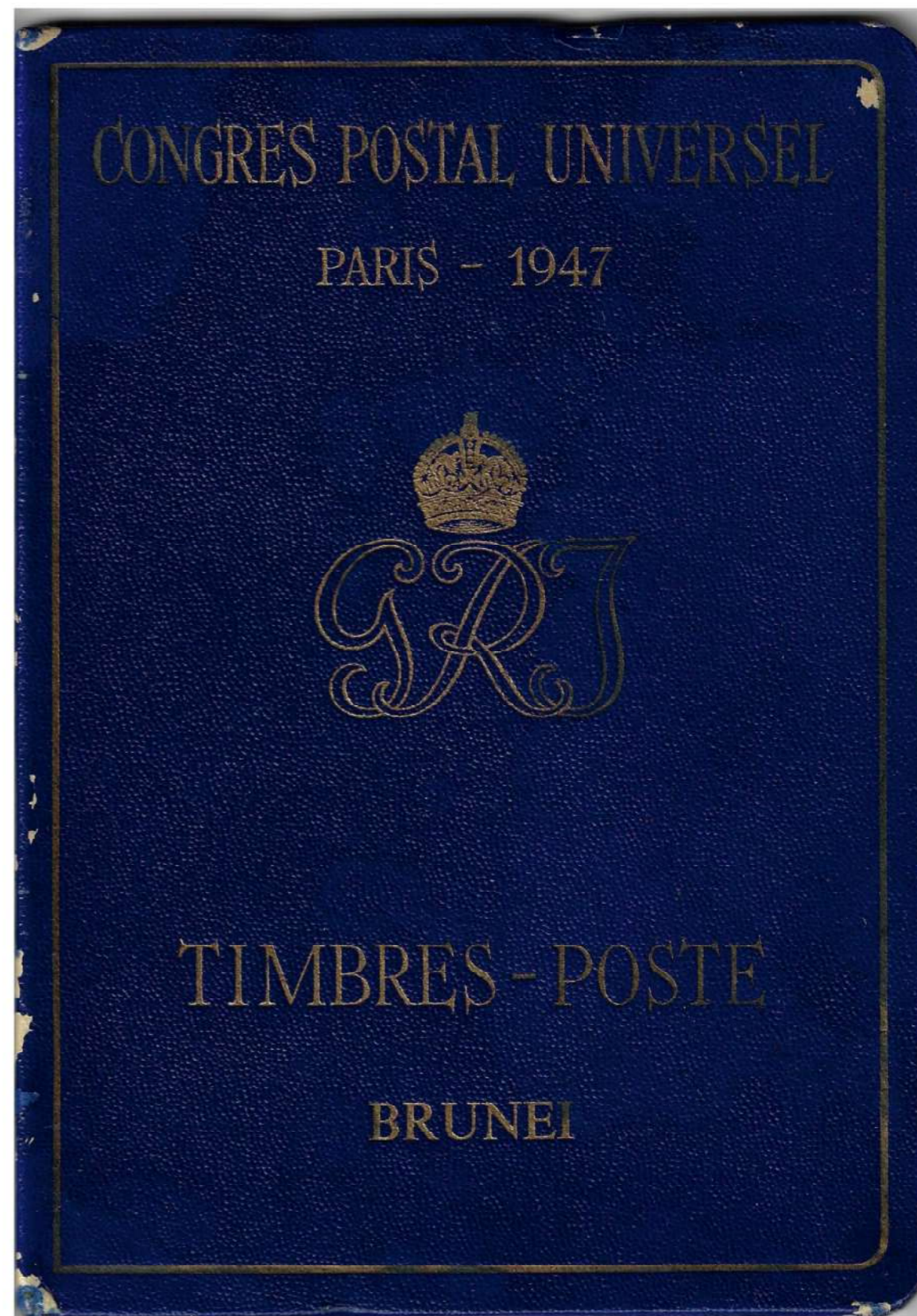


BRUNEI

UPU CONGRESS 1947

Bradbury Wilkinson were given the contract to make presentation folders to be given to each delegate to the Paris UPU Congress. After the initial order for 250 red cloth-covered folders had been printed, more delegates announced their intention to attend. In a period of extreme austerity, the first printing had used all the available red covering material, but enough blue could be obtained to cover the supplementary order and this was agreed to.

Blue folders are relatively rare.



BRUNEI

1907

1947-1951

1907 Definitive Series.

Recess, De La Rue.
Perf. 14.0.
Watermark Multiple Script CA Upright.

2nd January 1947.

Colours changed. Dry printings using pre-war plate and line perforation unless otherwise stated.

6c. Black
(39mm wide)



8c. Scarlet.
P.14.

New plates. Comb perforation.



8c. Scarlet.
P.13.

(25th January 1951)



10c. Violet
P. 14.



10c. Violet
P. 14½ x 13½ (comb).
(25th September 1950)



15c. Ultramarine.

New plates. Comb perforation.



25c. Deep claret.
P.14.



25c. Deep claret.
P. 14½ x 13½ (comb).
(25th January 1951)



30c. Black & orange.
P.14.



30c. Black & orange.

P. 14½ x 13½ (comb). New plate?
(25th January 1951)



50c. Black
P.14.

New plates. Comb perforation.



50c. Black
P.13.

(25th September 1950)



\$1 Black & Scarlet.

New plates. Comb perforation.



SARAWAK

CROWN COLONY

1934 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Sarawak returned to the rule of Sir Charles Vyner Brooke on 15th April 1946. Pre-war stamps were used without overprint. On 1 June 1946, Sir Charles ceded Sarawak to Britain as a Crown Colony.

16th April 1947

Overprinted with Royal Cypher.

Recess, Bradbury Wilkinson.
Overprint Typo, Bradbury Wilkinson.
Perf. 12.0.
Watermark Multiple Script CA.

Perforated "SPECIMEN".



SINGAPORE

KING GEORGE VI

1948 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

From 1st April 1946, Singapore became a separate colony from the rest of Malaya, now styled the "Malayan Union". The Malayan Postal Union agreement remained in force, so the stamps continued to bear "MALAYA" and the first issue was based on the pre-war Straits Settlements 1937 Definitive Issue, using the same dies with the state name altered.

1st September 1948

Letterpress, De La Rue.
Perf. 14.0.
Watermark Multiple Script CA upright.



Orange



Orange-yellow



Deep blue-green



Deep red-brown

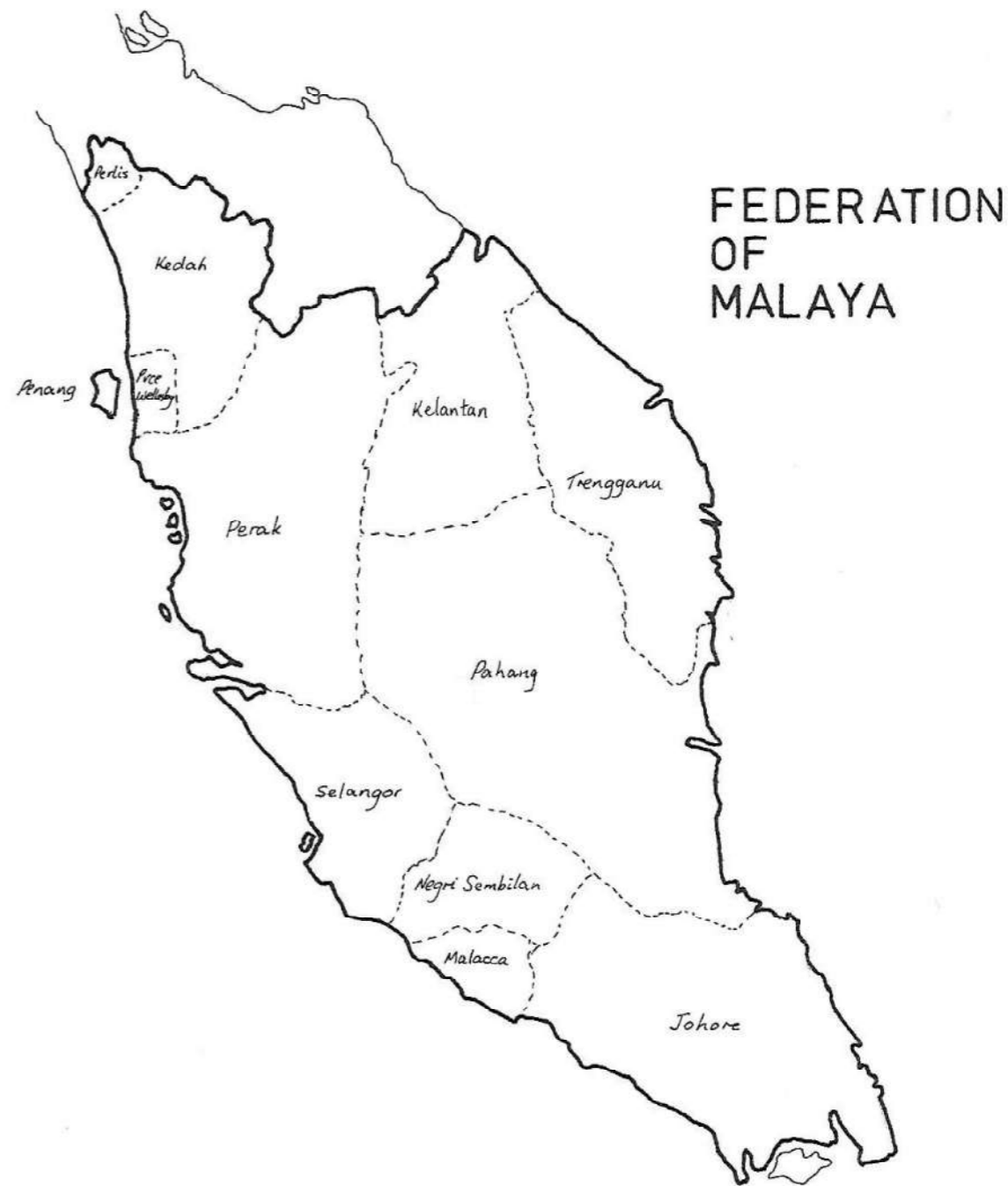


Greenish-slate



Reddish-purple (fluorescent)

FEDERATION OF MALAYA



PERF. = $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

STATES OF MALAYA.

INK: MULTISCRIP.
C.A.



CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

ISSUED IN ALL STATES.

2 JUNE 1953



5th May 1957

1957 Definitive Issue.
First day cover.

De La Rue.
Watermark Multiple St. Edward's
Crown Block CA.



2nd Day!