

GENOVA

STAB. FRATELLI ARMANINO

ONE SHILLING NETT

THE
POSTAGE STAMPS
— OF —
SARAWAK

With a History of the
Post Office in Sarawak
from 1869—1906

BY

FRED. J. MELVILLE

PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC
SOCIETY

With Collotype Plates
and Illustrations



LONDON

CHAS. NISSEN & Co.,
7, Southampton Row, W.C.

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The POSTAGE STAMPS
of
SARAWAK

(With a History of the Post Office in Sarawak from 1869-1906)

By
FRED J. MELVILLE
President of the Junior
Philatelic Society of London

WITH COLLOTYPE PLATES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON

CHARLES NISSEN & CO., 7 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, W.C.

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THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF SARAWAK.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE history of the English Rajahs of Sarawak is one of curious interest, and is the subject of books of actual biography not less fascinating reading than the numerous stories of adventure written around their experiences by boys' authors.

The students of the posts and postage stamps of any country so little known as Sarawak require to become acquainted in some measure with the history of the country whose stamps they are studying, and also must know something of the geographical and social conditions under which the postal system has been and is now being carried on. Such information can best be gathered from the standard biographies of the first Rajah Brooke,* so it would scarcely serve any purpose of value to enter into lengthy accounts of the life stories of the first and second Rajahs, nor yet of the general history and geography of the country.

Sarawak occupies nearly 40,000 square miles on the North-West of the island of Borneo, and its capital is reached after about two days' sailing in an eastward direction from Singapore, the distance being 440 miles.

The first Rajah, James Brooke, was the second

* Life of the Rajah of Sarawak. By Miss Jacob.
Rajah Brooke. By Sir Spenser St. John.

son of Mr. Thomas Brooke, of the Honourable East India Company's Bengal Civil Service. He was born on April 29, 1803, at Secore, Benares, and was sent to England at the age of twelve. He was educated at first at Reigate, then at Norwich Grammar School, and afterwards at Bath, whither his parents had returned from India. He received his ensign's commission in the 6th Madras Native Infantry in 1819 and his lieutenancy in 1821, becoming Sub-Assistant Commissary-General in 1822. He took part in the Burmese War in 1824-5, was wounded and invalided home. In March, 1830, he went to China, and on this voyage made his first acquaintance with the islands of the Further East, in whose development he was to play so important a part. At the death of his father in 1835 he inherited £30,000, and decided to buy a small ship with which to make voyages of discovery, an ambition he had long been cherishing. He purchased the "Royalist," a schooner yacht of 142 tons, but did not start on the eventful voyage to the Far East until December 16, 1838, arriving at Singapore May, 1839. A few weeks later, on July 27, he sailed for Sarawak, arriving at the mouth of the Sarawak river on August 11. He was well received by the Rajah Muda Hassim, uncle to the Sultan of Brunei. A rebellion was raging in the interior, and after returning to Singapore, Brooke set out again for Sarawak to aid the Rajah and lead the forces against the rebels. The government of Sarawak was ultimately given to Brooke by Muda Hassim in September, 1841, as a reward for his services in subduing the rebellion, an act which was duly ratified by the Sultan of Brunei.

His rule was, in spite of troublous times, one of

Plate I.
1-4.



1



2



3



4

singular success, and he put the country in a fair way to peace and prosperity.

On February 18, 1857, there commenced a serious insurrection on the part of the Chinese, which was only quelled after much bloodshed and pillage and the destruction of a large part of the capital, and with the aid of the Rajah's nephew, Mr. Charles Johnson, then the ruler of the Sakarang Dyaks. In this trouble the Malays and Dyaks supported the English rajah in a manner which "proved how firmly the Sarawak Government was rooted in the hearts of the people, since in the darkest hour there was no whisper of wavering."*

It was this nephew, Mr. Charles Johnson, who at the death of Sir James Brooke, which occurred at Burrator, on the border of Dartmoor, on June 11, 1868, succeeded as Charles Johnson Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak.

Charles Anthony Johnson (born June, 1829), was the eldest son of the first rajah's sister Emma, who had married the Rev. Francis Charles Johnson, vicar of White Larkington, Somerset. The son was educated at Crewkerne Grammar School. He entered the Royal Navy (1842), and resigned his lieutenancy in 1852 to join his uncle in Sarawak. On succeeding to the rulership of the country he changed his name to Brooke, and the country has enjoyed a period of peace and steady progress throughout his government.

Under the protectorate of Great Britain, the Rajah has his own army and navy, and the succession is vested in his eldest son, who assists him in his duties. The following is his proclamation respecting the succession made in 1904:

* Sir Spenser St. John in Rajah Brooke.

"I, Rajah of Sarawak, do hereby inform all those whom it may concern that my son and successor, Vyner, Rajah Muda, will henceforth take a portion of my duties, and make Kuching, the capital, his principal residence; that he will take my place in the courts of law unless any question be submitted to me for my decision; that he will be entitled to use my swallow-tailed flag on shore and on board at the main, and also entitled to have the yellow umbrella, the emblem of royalty in this country, when he goes to Court, or whenever he may see fit to use it.

"Furthermore, it is herewith made known that I do not retire from the position of Rajah and ruler over the territory, and that I shall continue to hold all the initiative power in my hands over the Treasury, Public Works Department, and in the Military, Naval and Police Departments, so far as complements, entries, uniforms, scales of pay and titles, and any changes proposed are to be submitted to me for my approval."

The Rajah Muda was born in 1874, and has two brothers. His mother, the present Ranee, was, before her marriage to Sir Charles, Miss Margaret de Windt, a sister of Mr. Harry de Windt.

His Highness the Rajah was improved into a knightly G.C.M.G. in 1888, and shortly after the accession of King Edward, his Majesty commanded that the Rajah should be recognised as an Indian Prince of the first class.

The postage stamps of Sarawak, though few in number, present a fairly wide field for philatelic study. Even to the general collector there is an unusual charm about the early issues, quite apart from the interest which almost invariably attaches to

first issues. But to the advanced collector, the early lithographed stamps, and the later overprinted provisionals offer abundant scope for special study. The attitude of the Sarawak Government to the sale of stamps to philatelists has sometimes been questioned, and on this subject there are some interesting references in the official papers.

In the yearly report of Mr. H. C. Brooke Johnson, treasurer of Sarawak, dated from the Treasury, Kuching, March 21, 1902, it is stated that: "Stamp sales to philatelists more than account for the decrease under this head,* foreign purchases in 1900 having amounted to \$4,995.35 as against \$2,767.88 in the year under review; this source of revenue being neither desirable nor reliable will, I trust, show a further reduction in 1902."

Obsolete issues used to be sold by the Post Office to dealers and collectors who applied for them, but this practice was discontinued in 1904. Mr. C. C. Robison, Postmaster-General, in his annual report to the Rajah on the Post, Shipping and Customs Office, under date April 8, 1905, says:

"Receipts from postage stamps are less, as, from 1st July last, the sale of old issues was, with your Highness's permission, discontinued, and there has also been a smaller demand from dealers for the current issues . . . the postal returns for Kuching (those for the outstations being not yet complete) show an increase of twenty per cent. on the amount of correspondence, etc., handled by the Department."

The following year Mr. Robison writes on May 4, 1906:

* Revenue from the sale of Stamps dropped from \$9,058.16 in 1900, to \$7,615.57 in 1901.

“Post Office.

“This Department shows a steady growth in every branch, the apparent decrease under the heading of stamps being due to the stoppage of the sales of the old issues. The amount of Money Orders issued and of mail matters handled, again shows a considerable advance.”

CHAPTER II.

ISSUE OF 1869.

It has been difficult to obtain access to the earliest postal papers and documents of Sarawak. One solitary Government notification is all that can be found prior to 1871, and doubtless owing to the very slight use of the Sarawak Post during the next fifteen years, very few communications were issued to the public during that period.

A stamp representing one value, three cents, was made to the order of the Sarawak Government, by Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald and Macgregor, of London, in June, 1868, and an announcement in *The Philatelist* of September 1, 1868, that the first supply was then on its way out, constitutes the first record of any suggestion or proposal to establish a postal service in Sarawak.

The paragraph in *The Philatelist*, which was illustrated by a picture of the stamp, is here quoted:

“The new emission is lithographed brown on yellow paper, and is the work of the well-known firm of Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald and Macgregor, the engravers of the current set of Montevideo, and other stamps. The portrait is that of the late Sir

James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak. We presume the initials in the corners signify James Brooke, Rajah (of) Sarawak. We are informed, on the best authority, that only a three-cent stamp has been engraved, and that the supply is now on its way out."

The accuracy of this early reference has been doubted by many. At the time all the other philatelic journals declined to accept the stamp as a genuine emission, and until last year a standard catalogue has, in direct contradiction to *The Philatelist* of September, 1868, described the stamp as "engraved by Mr. Charles Whiting." The bona fide character of the stamp was proved in *The Philatelist* a year later (September, 1869), by the publication of a Government notification respecting it. *Le Timbrophile*, which along with the other stamp journals, had ridiculed the issue previously, then admitted that it was "un bon timbre, employé seulement pour cette colonie."

The reasons for attributing, as several writers have done, the work and production (not only of the first but also of the next two issues of Sarawak stamps) to Mr. Charles Whiting, are not easy to ascertain. The Maclure firm used to display sheets of the early Sarawak stamps in their windows in Queen Victoria Street as specimens of their work. Mr. B. T. K. Smith also recollects correspondence passing between his firm and Messrs. Maclure in 1874. He says:

"Suspicious lots of the 2, 4, 8 and 12 cents" (of the third issue) "were then offered for sale under face value, and the printers, who suspected fraud, were anxious to examine specimens."

More conclusive evidence is given by *The Philatelist* (May, 1874), in a paragraph "communicated

by the Rajah of Sarawak," in which His Highness states in reference to both the first and second issues (i.e., the 3 cents of 1869 and 3 cents of 1871) that:

"Both series of stamps were produced by Messrs. Maclure & Macdonald, 37, Walbrook, E.C. The former issue was made in June, 1868, and put into circulation in the spring of 1869. On the arrival in Sarawak of the stamps (made in September, 1870) which are now current,* the surplus stock of the former issue was burned, a few specimens only being retained."

Even these facts do not seem to have settled the disagreement on the subject, so in 1906 a philatelist wrote to Messrs. Maclure & Co., as the firm is now styled, and they replied that "About the year 1868 we (then Maclure & Macdonald) engraved and printed Sarawak stamps to the order of Rajah Brooke."

This, at least, must answer the claimants for Mr. Whiting, and finally give the credit for their manufacture to Messrs. Maclure & Macdonald.

The stamp, a supply of which was announced to be on its way out in September, 1868, was prepared evidently prior to the establishment of a regular postal system,† though it was not actually issued until the post had been established.

An Order in Council in the beginning of 1869, instituted a Postal Service between Kuching and the outstations, and also between the outstations themselves.

Rates of postage were drawn up and published, and the following extract from the "General Order Book" of the Sarawak Treasury is the first official reference we can find to the stamps.

* In 1874. † Probably with a view to use for fiscal purposes.

"A meeting was convened by His Highness the Rajah for the purpose of considering the advisability or non-advisability of putting the postage stamps in force.

Present: A. C. Crookshank, J. B. Crookshank, J. H. Nelson, Datu Bandar, Tuan Emaum, Ewe Hai, Ken What, Bontek, Achick, Haji Swee.

After mature deliberation and discussion the following resolutions were unanimously carried, the same to be brought into force on March 1, 1869.

On all letters at or under half an ounce: One stamp, posted in Sarawak.

For each half ounce up to four ounces: One stamp.

Four to twelve ounces: Eight stamps.

Twelve to twenty-four ounces: Sixteen stamps.

On increase of every twelve ounces: An extra six stamps or one cent per ounce.

On all receipts or paid bills over \$5.00: One stamp.

On all bills of sale, etc., to become legal: One stamp.

On all agreements to become legal: One stamp.

(Sd.) W. M. CROCKER,
Secretary.

Sarawak,

January 12, 1869."

The extra six stamps for every increase of twelve ounces is not as stated, "one cent per ounce," as the stamps were three-cent stamps; so that at the rate of one cent per ounce the increase of twelve ounces would only require four stamps. Probably the line should read, "An extra six stamps or 1½ cents per ounce."

In the first notification to the public concerning the use of the stamps the rates published only covered letters up to four ounces:

"GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

On and after March 1, 1869, the following rules will come into force:

Postage.

On all letters not exceeding half an ounce	1 stamp.
For every half-ounce in excess, up to four ounces	1 ,,
On all receipts or paid bills over 5 dols...	1 ,,
On all bills of sale, etc., to become legal	1 ,,
On all agreements to become legal	1 ,,
On all bills of lading or mate's receipts...	1 ,,

By order,

W. M. CROCKER,

Sarawak,

Secretary.

January 12, 1869."

From this it will be seen that the stamp served for both postal and revenue purposes.

It is also so far as its postal use was concerned a local stamp, its franking power being limited to Sarawak, and from Sarawak to Singapore only.

The Philatelist of September 1, 1869, mentions a letter bearing one of the stamps "side by side with a 24 cents of the Straits Settlements." It goes on to explain that "a private letter from Sarawak states that the single adhesive issued is current there only, thus being strictly local."

It will be shown later that until 1897 all the stamps of Sarawak were purely local, that is to say, their franking power was limited to the country of their origin, and that they were not recognised by the postal systems of other countries.

The design of this first stamp (figs. 1, 2) consists of a three-quarter face portrait, to right, of Sir James Brooke, Bart., Rajah of Sarawak, within an

oval of engine-turned ground. Above the head, in curved white letters, within the oval, is the name "SARAWAK." A straight tablet of colour at the bottom bears the inscription "THREE CENTS." In the upper corners two circular discs of colour bear the white letters "J" and "B," respectively, two square tablets in the lower corners having the letters "R" and "S," respectively. The spandrels are filled with foliated ornaments, and the whole is enclosed within a double-lined upright rectangular frame.

The letters "J.B.R.S." stand for James Brooke, Rajah [of] Sarawak, and *Le Timbrophile*, of September, 1868, pointed out that this was the first stamp issued indicating the name of the ruler who appeared on it. But Sir James Brooke did not live to see the stamp issued. He died on June 11th, 1868, the month in which the stamps were being made.

The stamps as issued were lithographed on coloured paper. The design was engraved in *taille douce*, and then transferred to the lithographic stone.

The stamps were printed in sheets of one hundred, arranged in ten rows of ten stamps each.

The paper used was an unwatermarked yellow wove, the colour varying from lemon to buff.

The perforation uniformly gauges 11, though several single line machines appear to have been used, making holes slightly differing in size, and sometimes, probably owing to the texture of the paper, having a very rough appearance. Copies may also be found without perforations.

The colour of the impression is a dull brown, and there is very little variation in it. The darkest

shades are apparently early printings, as they show all the shading in the spandrels, and in the lighter shades the finer lines do not all show. Proofs of this stamp in black on yellow have recently turned up. They are imperforate.

The postmarks used in Sarawak during the period this stamp was in circulation appear to have been only applied at Kuching. A specimen in the writer's collection is cancelled in writing, "S.P.O., SARAWAK, 12/11/69." The initials stand for Sarawak Post Office, and the stamp was used during the first year of its issue. Others are obliterated with the word "SARAWAK" in block capitals, enclosed in a single lined oblong border. Another cancellation that was used consisted of a series of thin parallel lines.

An interesting discovery has lately been made of copies of this first stamp of Sarawak clearly impressed from an engraved die or plate. The impression is in an orange red, and the paper is surface-coloured only, the back of the stamp being white. The colour on the upper surface of the paper is of a deeper yellow than any of the coloured paper used for the lithographed stamps, and the specimen in the Tapling Collection is simply noted as "Colour of paper changed." The copy is used. Mr. J. W. Jones has a used copy, and a third, which completes the list of those known up to the present, is a pen-cancelled copy in the writer's collection. (Fig. 1.)

Mr. Jones's theory in regard to this stamp is that when the Government of Sarawak was in treaty with the printers for supplying stamps, they had some engraved and lithographed specimens submitted. The charges for engraved stamps would

have been considerably heavier than for lithographed ones, and the quotation for the latter was accepted. Mr. Jones thinks that the engraved specimens were retained in Sarawak and used. As will be seen in the next chapter, similar specimens exist in the second stamp of this country.

SUMMARY.

1869. Fig. 1. Engraved on surface coloured paper. No watermark. Perforated 12.

3 cents, orange brown on deep yellow.

1869. Fig. 2. Lithographed on coloured paper. No watermark. Perforated 11.

3 cents, brown on yellow.

CHAPTER III.

ISSUE OF 1870-71.

A CENSUS of Sarawak was taken in 1871, the results of which were as follows:

Sarawak Residency	...	...	39,094
Batang Lupar	„	...	35,492
Kalaka	„	...	9,530
Rejang	„	...	30,710
Muka	„	...	9,514
Bintulu	„	...	4,339

128,679

Ten per cent. allowed on omissions and evasions

... .. 12,867

Total 141,546

Postage Stamps of Sarawak

Of this total only a very small proportion were in a position to use the postal system. The trade of the port of Sarawak was not unimportant, however, even at this date, for in the Registrar's returns the value of the imports and exports for 1871 and 1872 though not very considerable, showed a good annual increase:

IMPORTS.			
1872	...	...	1,694,892
1871	...	...	1,427,923
			<hr/>
Increase	...		266,969
EXPORTS.			
1872	...	...	1,680,335
1871	...	...	1,268,337
			<hr/>
Increase	...		411,998

These figures, though they do not bear directly upon postal work, do, nevertheless, indicate that there was a real need for an organised Government postal service as distinct from a service of Government messengers for carrying official despatches. And once assured that there was a genuine postal work, with which the Government was coping, there is no reason to doubt but that the stamps issued were bona fide requirements both of the department and of the public.

The inland mails at this time were chiefly conveyed by native boats or by steamer up the Kuching river and round the coast. Letters could be handed stamped to the captains of such vessels, and they would be delivered to the official in charge of the post office at the settlement to which they were directed.

The foreign mails went through Singapore chiefly by the s.s. "Royalist," and s.s. "Sri Sarawak." The Sarawak stamps only franked the letters in the country itself, and a stock of Straits Settlements stamps was kept at the General Post Office, Kuching, with which all foreign letters were franked, in addition to the Sarawak postage.

The first stamp, as has already been indicated, was being prepared before the death of Sir James Brooke, though it was not put into circulation until after that event. It remained in use for about two years, and was then superseded by a stamp bearing the portrait of the new ruler, Charles Johnson Brooke.

The following Order was issued on January 23, 1871:

"No more of the old stamps are to be issued from the Treasury, and a notice is to be sent round to the effect that the old stamps will be null and void after March 31, 1871. Those that possess old stamps can exchange them for new.

"Order by H.H. the Rajah."

This is the first official notice we have been able to trace concerning the new stamp, though it is evident from a paragraph in *The Philatelist*, a singularly well-informed journal of the period, in its issue for January 1, 1870, that even at that early date the idea had been conceived of showing the portrait of the new ruler in place of the late one on the stamps of the country. In this paragraph the writer takes his contemporaries to task for the pretended or actual doubt they were throwing upon the bona fides of the stamp of 1869. He again gives

Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald, the credit for the manufacture of the stamp, and states that, "Our own specimen came from the Post Office of that district (Sarawak), forwarded direct by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul." The writer adds: "We have official intimation that the issue here noted (the 3 cents, 1869) will shortly be withdrawn from circulation"; presumably to be superseded by the new stamps referred to in the order by H.H. the Rajah, noted above. The communication from the Rajah quoted in the previous chapter, has given September, 1870, as the time when the stamps were made.

It was not until its April, 1871, issue that the same journal chronicled the fact that "the last mail from the East brought us a specimen of a new issue of this country, bearing the head of the present Rajah looking to the left. Ink and paper are precisely similar to that employed for the stamp formerly in use." An illustration of the stamp is given in the issue of *The Philatelist* for May, 1871.

The design of this new stamp (figs. 3, 4) shows a portrait *en profil* of Charles Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, turned to left within an engine-turned circle, ornamented at the spandrels. A straight oblong tablet at the top has the word "SARAWAK" in white letters on a ground of colour, a similar tablet below the circle bearing the uncoloured letters of the inscription of value, "THREE CENTS." In the four corners are coloured letters, "C.B.R.S." (Charles Brooke, Rajah [of] Sarawak), and the whole is contained within a double-lined upright rectangular frame.

The lithographic stone was prepared in the same way as the previous issue from an engraved die, and

the sheet was arranged in ten rows of ten stamps each, making one hundred stamps to the sheet.

The paper was similar to that of the first issue, except that the initials "L.N.L." appear once, and sometimes twice, in the sheet as a watermark. They are supposed to be the initials of the paper manufacturers.

The impression is in a generally brighter brown than the previous stamp, and a large variety of curious flaws occur on the later printings due to deficiencies in the transfers and stones used in lithographing them. One such flaw, which is quoted in most of the standard catalogues, gives a period or full stop between the words of value. This occurs on the seventh stamp in the last horizontal row of the sheets from the later printings. This variety is scarcely more noteworthy than innumerable other defects which occur with more or less regularity on other parts of the sheet, and in the other lithographed stamps of Sarawak. Certainly it does not appear to have more interest for the collector than the variety in the seventh stamp of the second row, which has a narrow first "A" in "SARAWAK" in late printings, and which is not "catalogued."

The perforation gauges 11 in most cases, but specimens perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$ exist. Mr. Walter Morley gives a variety with compound perforations 11 by $10\frac{1}{2}$. Imperforate and part-imperforate copies may also be found.

The cancellations used upon this stamp are more varied than on the last. The row of thin rules occurs as before, and evidently its bars were rearranged to form an almost diamond-shaped cancellation, with no lettering at all. In addition, there is a smaller

diamond-shaped postmark composed of thicker bars, but broken in the centre to take the letter "s." The familiar circular postmark also occurs, and a much larger obliteration, comprised of two small tangent circles enclosing date within a double-lined oval band inscribed "SARAWAK POST OFFICE." One specimen examined was evidently posted in an out-station, and is first cancelled in handwriting "17 ,, 6 ,, 82" and the circular Sarawak postmark, dated a few days later, has been applied at the Kuching office.

Undoubted copies of this stamp have been found engraved instead of lithographed, as in the case of the previous issue. Only two copies have been discovered: one is in the British Museum (Tapling Collection), and is described as before, "colour of paper changed," but this is clearly not the case, as the paper is white paper, with the deep yellow applied afterwards to the surface. The second copy is in the writer's collection. Both the copies known are obliterated with a postmark, and appear to have been used. (Fig. 3.)

The precise date of the first issue of this lithographed stamp at the General Post Office, Kuching, cannot with certainty be decided. Allowing over two months for the journey to Sarawak, they may have been available towards the end of December, 1870, or perhaps not until the date of the Order by H. H. the Rajah, quoted on page 21, namely, January 23, 1871.

The Stamp Collectors' Magazine of 1874 says a forgery of this stamp, printed in blue on white, and perforated 14, made its appearance about that time, but that Mr. H. A. de Joannis (a corre-

Types.

a

b



Types.

a

b



c

d

e



5

c

d

e



6

5.6
Plate II

spondent of the journal) "says he has succeeded in stopping the sale of it."

SUMMARY.

1870-71. Fig. 3. Engraved on surface coloured paper. No watermark. Perforated 12.

3 cents, orange brown on deep yellow.

1870-71. Fig. 4. Lithographed on coloured paper. Watermarked LNL once or twice on sheet. Perforated 11.

3 cents, brown on yellow.

CHAPTER IV.

ISSUE OF 1875.

THE postal documents between 1871 and 1880 contain but little information. A note in the *Sarawak Gazette*, under the date Friday, August 16, 1872, states:

"An improvement in the postal arrangements between Singapore and Sarawak, Manila and Labuan, may shortly be looked for. In particular, the charges now made on letters passing both ways in Singapore will be done away with, and possibly a further reduction in the rate of postage may be made."

The same journal, in the course of a review of the year 1874, in the issue for January 5, 1875, intimates that "A new Postal Convention has been entered into" (during 1874) "between the Government of Sarawak and the Government of the Straits Settlements."

What were the precise details of the "improve-

ment" of 1872 we have not been able to ascertain, but the Convention established the following rates of postage between the Government of Sarawak and that of the Straits Settlements:

Letters: 6 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Newspapers: 2 cents each.

Books: 6 cents per 4 oz.

Registration fee: 6 cents.

To this convention was doubtless due the increase of the stamp system to a series of several new values, an extension which was made about the same time as the convention.

In the December, 1874, issue of *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, the new issue chronicler states:

"We are indebted to Mr. H. A. de Joannis for a sight of five proofs of what is stated to be a forthcoming issue for this rajahship (Sarawak). The design is that of the current three-cent stamp, possibly a trifle modified and touched up in detail, but to all appearance the same. The colours of the proofs, which are the adopted ones, are as follows:

Two cents mauve on lilac-tinted paper;

Four cents brown on yellow paper;

Six cents green on green-tinted paper;

Eight cents Prus. blue on blue-tinted paper.

Twelve cents carmine-rose on rose paper.

"Our correspondent informs us that there is a sixth value, viz., 24 cents, of which he does not know the colour, and that all six are to be issued on the 1st of January, perforated. He adds, 'Whatever they may be, they are not forgeries.' That much is certain, and we shall soon see whether the stamps are put in circulation."

So the next series of stamps was in preparation towards the end of 1874, and it is very probable they were issued as stated on January 1, 1875, when the Postal Convention, already referred to, would commence to operate.

The new stamps (figs. 5—9) were only five in number, not six, the twenty-four cents denomination, referred to by Mr. de Joannis, having evidently been abandoned. Neither is there any alteration in the design, except the change in the inscription of value.

In fact, it is clear that the stamps were made from the same die, but that the old value was erased and the new ones substituted. The inscription of the new value was in each case transferred to the stone in strips of five, and as the five inscriptions on the transfer varied slightly from each other, they make five distinct types of each value. The types nominally appear in consecutive order twice in each row thus:

a b c d e a b c d e

In some printings these types got out of order, as in a sheet of the 12 cents examined, the types in the first and last rows run as follows:

First row a b c a c a b c d e

Last row a b c d e a b c d b

TYPES OF THE TWO CENTS.

(Plate II., Fig. 5.)

Type A.—The first two letters of "two" are larger than in the other four types, and the "c" of "CENTS" is small and above the level of the other letters. The upper half of the "s" is small, and terminates in a ball; the lower

half is thick and open, with no upward curve at the end.

Type B.—The letters are spaced as in type *a*, and differ only in that the “c” is as large as the other letters and slightly raised from the line; the “s” is thick and open at the top and small and cramped at the bottom.

Type C.—The space between the two words of the inscription is much wider than in types *a* and *b*. The letters are mostly narrower, particularly the “c”. The “s” is long and narrow, and thins out at the extremities.

Type D.—The spacing between the words is similar to types *a* and *b*, the letters are mostly larger, though the letters “r” “w” and “o” are successively smaller than each other, and the “s” is thicker and better formed than in the other four types.

Type E.—The spacing between the two words is similar to type *c*. The apex of the second angle of the “w” is above the level of the other letters; the “o” is larger than in the other types; and the “s” is large and wide, and open at the top.

TYPES OF THE FOUR CENTS.

(Plate II., Fig. 6.)

Type A.—The distinguishing feature of this type is the “s” which is thin at the top.

Type B.—There is a wider space between the two words than in the other four types, and the first three letters in “FOUR” and all in “CENTS” are small and close together.

Type C.—The letters are larger than in types *a* and

b, and the "o" is not uniform in size with the other letters. The "u" is attenuated. The left-hand side of the square tablet, enclosing the initial "s" in the lower right hand corner of the stamp, cuts into the outer line of the design in this type.

Type D.—The "o" is small and round, and the upward curve is thin at the top. The "s" is straight at the top.

Type E.—The letters are larger than in all previous types and the letters "NTS" are much taller. The "F" has a long top, and the centre bar scarcely shows at all.

TYPES OF THE SIX CENTS.

(*Plate III., Fig. 7.*)

Type A.—The upper part of the "x" is small and the letters generally are not so tall as in the following types. In the upper part of the stamp of this type the space between the tablet of colour on which the name "SARAWAK" appears, and the square enclosing the initial "B" in the right upper angle, is broken into by the coloured tablet and does not meet the white line beneath.

Type B.—The "s" of "SIX" is squat, and is straight at the bottom, the "s" of "CENTS" is small at the top and the lower half is very open.

Type C.—The letters "SIX" and the "c" of "CENTS" are large, the remaining letters being smaller and narrower. The final "s" is slanting.

Type D.—The letters are all larger, and the "c" is thick and open.

Type E.—The letters are closer together than in all the previously described types of this value, and the letters "SIX" and "TS" are large, and the letters "CEN" small and narrow.

TYPES OF THE EIGHT CENTS.

(Plate III., Fig. 8.)

Type A.—The lowest bar of the "E" of "EIGHT" is long and thin, the "I" is thick and the "G" is almost closed up, having the appearance of a broken "O." The "C" of "CENTS" is thick and open; the "S" is thick at the centre and narrow at the ends.

Type B.—The left stroke of the "H" bends to the left at the bottom, the "C" is open, and is thin at the top. The tablet with the inscription is closer to the outer line of the stamp than in the other types.

Type C.—The centre bar of the "E" of "EIGHT" is hardly visible. The top of the "C" of "CENTS" is thin and indistinct. The space between the tablet and the outer line of the stamp is wider than in all the other types. The "S" has the appearance of a figure "5."

Type D.—The letters of the word "EIGHT" are narrower than in the other types.

Type E.—The letters "NT" of "CENTS" are thin and narrow.

TYPES OF THE TWELVE CENTS.

(Plate IV., Fig. 9.)

Type A.—The "S" is very open, the letters are all very thick, and the "WE" of "TWELVE" are very close together.

Type B.—The “c” is slanting, and is thin at the lower end. The “s” is also thin at the bottom. The space between the two words of value is smaller than in the following types, and the letters are more widely spaced.

Type C.—The “c” is thick, and the “s” is thin at the top and thick at the bottom. The white line above the coloured tablet of value is crossed at the right-hand corner by a slanting white stroke.

Type D.—The letters are tall and thin, the “c” is large and open, and the “s” is thick and battered at the right side of the lower portion.

Type E.—The “t” of “TWELVE” is short and thick and the “s” is small and cramped.

The sheets were uniform in size and arrangement with the three cents stamp of 1870-71.

The paper is coloured, and has the watermark LNL in the sheet at least once, except in the case of the six cents stamp on green paper, which is distinctly watermarked TNL. The eight cents and twelve cents exist on laid paper, though undoubted specimens on laid paper are very scarce.

The perforations vary from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12, the latter being the perforation generally met with. Compound perforations $11\frac{1}{2}$ by 12, and 12 by $11\frac{1}{2}$ exist in all the values. Roulettes and pin perforations occur on the six and eight cents, and a large perforation gauging $6\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 occurs on the six cents, and another, $7\frac{1}{2}$, on the eight cents. These latter are unofficial, and probably bogus, as a quantity of unperforated sheets was stolen from the printers, and may have been treated in this way. Imperforate specimens of all values exist.

The colours all present a small range of shades; the two cents being printed in lilac the variations are largely due to the fading of the original colour. There are two very distinct printings of deep lilac and pale lilac. The four cents, in red brown, goes from a light shade of that colour into a very deep brown.

The six cents is to be found in light and dark green, the eight cents similarly in light and dark blue, the twelve cents also in deep red and light red. There is not much variation in the colour of the paper, but an imperforate copy of the twelve cents exists on bluish paper, instead of the usual rose-tinted paper. No perforated specimens of the twelve cents on bluish paper have been found, so it is presumably a proof impression.

SUMMARY.

1875. Figs. 5-9. Lithographed on coloured wove paper. Watermarked LNL once or twice on sheet, except six cents, which is watermarked TNL. Perforated 11½, 12.

- 2 cents, lilac on lilac.
- 4 cents, brown on yellowish.
- 6 cents, green on greenish.
- 8 cents, blue on bluish.
- 12 cents, red on rose.

On coloured laid paper.

- 8 cents, blue on blue.
- 12 cents, red on rose.

Types. a b c d e



7

Types. a b c d e



8

Plate III.
7-8.

CHAPTER V.

A STAMP OF DOUBTFUL ORIGIN (1876).

THERE is a stamp of doubtful origin, which is said to have been issued in 1876. This is the three cents stamp of 1871, overprinted in black with the new value **TWO CENTS** in words (fig. 10).

The real character of this stamp has never been quite decided. It was first chronicled by M. Moens in *Le Timbre Poste* for July, 1876. It appears also in the Reference List of the Stamps of Sarawak, compiled by the London Philatelic Society,* at its meeting on May 8, 1880. In all the standard catalogues it has been given a place until quite recently, yet in the last two editions of the leading English catalogue it is stated that the stamp "is now considered a bogus surcharge."

In answer to a question put to the present Postmaster-General of Sarawak, Mr. C. C. Robison, the writer was informed that specimens of this stamp "were never issued or printed by the Sarawak postal authorities."

A former Postmaster-General of the country writes :

"The 'TWO CENTS' on three cents, brown on yellow, was never issued by the Post Office, and I believe only one of these passed through the post. It

* Now the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

was overprinted by hand in writing-ink by an Outstation Officer in ignorance."

We are inclined to think the latter part of this statement, which we have italicised, must be an error, and as the author of this statement was not appointed to the Postmaster-Generalship until 1886 (ten years after the stamp was chronicled) the latter part of his communication is of little value.

Mr. Charles J. Phillips, in a letter to the Editor of *Smith's Monthly Circular* (issue for January, 1904), gives the reason for deleting the stamp from the Gibbons catalogue. He says:

"The reason for this exclusion is that some years ago, possibly about 1892, when I was personally investigating the question of forgeries . . . in my position as Secretary of the Stamp Trade Protection Association, certain people were arrested, and their stock examined, and, if I remember right, the detectives then found dies not only of the surcharged two cents but of two different postmarks that were used to obliterate the stamp, and on making inquiries later on I had every reason to believe that this two cents had been manufactured in London and was never used in Sarawak. The postmarks on the stamp in the Tapling Collection tally exactly with those we know to be London manufacture, and we have seen three or four other copies with similar postmarks, but they all emanate from London. I fancy they were first made about 25 years ago, and it is quite possible that the *Timbre Poste* saw one of the so-called used copies and chronicled it from such a copy."

Mr. L. Hanciau, of *Le Timbre Poste*, also wrote to Mr. Smith, and his letter appears along with that of Mr. Phillips.

" . . . I may say that the Sarawak (2 c. on 3 c.) never gave me any confidence, but I have completely forgotten who sent us the report of its existence. From the feeling which I have retained, I am inclined to think that the source was not quite undefiled."

Perhaps an examination of all the specimens available will help at the solution, as although Mr. Phillips's memory is doubtless correct as regards the dies, there are still some who assert that the London stamps were forged imitations of a genuine Sarawak issue.

Only one specimen we have seen is unused. That is one of the two copies of this stamp in the Tapling Collection.

Of the others we have made a list of the postmarks and dates. It should be stated that all we have seen bear the two postmarks: one an oblong one bearing the word "SARAWAK" only; the other is a London "arrival" postmark. In all the specimens it is important to note that the London arrival mark covers or touches part of the stamp, a most unusual thing, as the arrival postmark is generally stamped on the back, and not on the front or stamp side of the envelope.

The dates, so far as we have been able to distinguish them, are:

1	Tapling Collection	...	...	Not legible.
2	W. D. Beckton	...	...	Mar. 1, 76.
3	"	...	...	July 29, 76.
4	C. J. Phillips	...	...	Sp. 5, 76.
5	"	...	...	J—
6	"	...	...	Sp. 5 (?) 76.
7	"	...	...	Not legible.
8	"	...	...	July 29, 76.

9	F. J. Melville (on "piece of original")	...	...	...	July 29, 76.
10	F. J. Melville	...	...	...	May 17, 76.
11	P. Kosack	...	...	...	Mar. 1, 76.

It is, to say the least, unlikely that there should be no trace in the Sarawak postal department of a stamp used during a period of at least eight months, as indicated by the two extreme dates of March 1 and September 5, and there can be little doubt that the stamp is a fictitious issue.

Another stamp about which no reliable information can be ascertained is the three cents rose Revenue stamp of Sarawak, which appears to have been used for postage in and about the year 1887. The stamp exists postmarked with several varieties of Sarawak obliterations, the only one of which that bears a date being that shown on the stamp (fig. 50) on Plate VIII. The three cents black Revenue stamp is also supposed to have been similarly used for postage. But nothing is now known at Kuching of the use of these or any other revenue stamps for this purpose.

CHAPTER VI.

THE POST OFFICE FROM 1877—1888.

No further issue of postage stamps took place until thirteen years after the 1875 series.

In 1877 the convention of 1874 with the Straits Settlements was annulled by the latter joining the Postal Union, this act cancelling all previous postal agreements. In order to make the postal rates uniform throughout the Straits all letter postages over eight cents the half ounce were reduced to that sum, and those under increased to eight cents.

As has been shown, Sarawak had been under a six cents per half ounce rate, and this in 1877 became an eight cents rate.

Meanwhile, however, the Post Office was developing its services. In 1879 the income of the Department was \$721.44, and it decreased the next year to \$513.47. It was never a source of profit, as will be seen from the following statement of revenue and expenditure between the years 1882 and 1887. In the earlier years the expenditure of the Department is included in the Civil List, and is not accounted for in detail in the published statement.

POST OFFICE AND SALE OF STAMPS.

Year.	Rev.	Exp.
1879 ...	721.44	—
1880 ...	513.47	—
1881 ...	—	—
1882 ...	518.82	2125.63
1883 ...	540.31	2586.11
1884 ...	660.03	4140.31
1885 ...	701.52	2476.53
1886 ...	1062.33*	3010.65
1887 ...	1096.32	4722.99

The internal postal services were still supplied by Government steamers and native vessels, and in consequence of the employment of the latter for mail purposes there was considerable infringement of the postal monopoly by the Nakhodas of the native boats, who frequently took letters on their own account. The regular postal business done at the outstations was extremely small, as is shown by the

* Reginald Awdry, Acting Treasurer, in submitting his report for 1886 in a letter to the Rajah dated from the Treasury, April 29th, 1887, says: "The Post Office returns have exceeded those of 1885 by a small amount, due principally to collectors' purchases."

following table of the half-yearly revenues of the outstation post offices, as compared with those of the Kuching post office.

Jan. to June.	Kuching.	Outstations.
1882 ...	239.25 ...	6.03
1884 ...	329.19 ...	8.54
1885 ...	215.88 ...	8.85
1886 ...	728.07 ...	11.46
1887 ...	291.56 ...	11.42
1888 ...	448.72 ...	134.48

The service to places abroad via the Straits Settlements, was at this time limited to one vessel at irregular intervals. But other steamers clearing for Singapore were frequently utilised for the despatch of mails.

A note in the *Sarawak Gazette* for July, 1881, states:

“Now that the Sarawak and Singapore Steamship Company possess two steamers, it is to be hoped that arrangements will be made for their running with some regularity, and, if possible, in connection with the home mails. A fortnightly service, punctually carried out, would be far preferable to the present system, which occasionally gives us steamers at nine days’ intervals, and at other times over three weeks.”

That the stamps at this time in use in Sarawak were strictly local or limited in their postal validity is shown in the list of postal rates for places abroad contained in the following letter to the Editor of the *Sarawak Gazette*:

“SIR,—As a universal penny postage scheme has been mooted in England, might I now try to draw through your columns the attention of the authorities, both here and in Singapore, to the

very high rate of postage between Sarawak and Singapore and other places, in the hope that some fresh arrangements may be made.

For a letter per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Miles.		Straits	Stamps.	S'wak	Stamps	Total.
10,000 and over						
	1. To countries comprised in the U.P. Union	10cts.	3cts.		13cts.	
1160	2. To Labuan	8 "	3 "		11 "	
1460	3. To N. Borneo	8 "	3 "		11 "	
1877	4. To Hong Kong	8 "	3 "		11 "	
440	5. To Singapore & N. States		8 "		8 "	

By some arrangement with the Straits Government, the Sarawak stamp takes letters to places under its own (viz., Straits) jurisdiction (see No. 5), and for every other place a three cent stamp is necessary on outward letters only. No extra charge is made on inward letters.

"Before the Postal Union, the postage to Singapore was six cents only, and I have never heard the reason why it was raised to eight cents.*

"As the postage to England at that time was reduced from 24 cents to 10 cents, one would be led to think the postage between here and Singapore would also have been reduced.

"What say you, Mr. Editor, to a two cent stamp to Singapore, only 440 miles, and for Sarawak (by arrangement with the Straits Government) to enter the Postal Union?

Yours faithfully ' "TIMBRE."

"Kuching, 23rd May, 1886.

* See ante page 37.

Sarawak did not, however, join the Postal Union until eleven years later. But it was nevertheless developing its resources on the lines of the postal service of Great Britain, and on July 1, 1887, it established a parcel post between Sarawak and the Straits Settlements and between Sarawak and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The following rates for parcels show that the postage beyond the Straits Settlements was still required in Straits Settlements stamps:

The United Kingdom.

Postage, 20 cents Straits stamps.

5 ,, Sarawak stamps.

25 ,, a pound or fraction of a pound. No registration.

Straits Settlements, including the Protected Native States and Johore.

Postage, 12 cents per pound or fraction of a pound. Registration compulsory: fee, eight cents per parcel. Postage and registration to be pre-paid by means of Sarawak stamps.

A supplementary notice was issued from the General Post Office, Kuching, dated August 15, 1887, extending the parcel post to various other countries, and the rates were as follows:

India, Burma and Ceylon, and via Bombay to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Postage, 20 cents Straits stamps.

5 ,, Sarawak stamps.

25 ,, per pound or fraction of a pound.

Types

cc

G.

c.



9



d.

e.



Plate IV.
7-10

Registration was optional, and the fee eight cents, payable in Straits stamps.

Hong-Kong, the Treaty Ports of China and Japan.

Postage, 12 cents Straits stamps.

5 „ Sarawak stamps.

—
17 „ per pound or fraction of a pound.

Registration compulsory; fee, eight cents. Straits stamps.

Barbados, British Guiana, Constantinople, Grenada, Heligoland, Jamaica, Leeward Islands (including Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat), Nevis, St. Kitts and Tortola, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Tobago and Trinidad.

Postage, 44 cents Straits stamps.

5 „ Sarawak stamps.

—
49 „ a pound or fraction of a pound.

Ascension, Cape of Good Hope, Cyprus, Newfoundland, St. Helena.

Postage, 54 cents Straits stamps.

5 „ Sarawak stamps.

—
59 „ a pound or fraction of a pound.

Canada.

Postage, 75 cents Straits stamps.

5 „ Sarawak stamps.

—
80 „ a pound or fraction of a pound.

No inland parcel post had been started up to this time.

In the early part of 1887 the postal revenue had fallen to nearly a third of the half-yearly revenue of the previous year, and the outstations postal revenue was only \$11.42. The expenditure had nevertheless increased by \$438.35 to \$1994.58.

This was doubtless due to the illicit carrying of letters unstamped by the captains of native vessels. A meeting was held to consider the matter. The minutes of the meeting are here quoted :

“INLAND POSTAGE.

“A meeting was held in the Resident’s Office, Kuching, to consider the Post Office regulations:

HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH—*Presiding.*

The Honourable the Resident, F. O. Maxwell.

The Acting Treasurer, R. V. Awdry, Esq.

The Postmaster, A. K. Leys, Esq.

The Datu Bandar.

The Datu Emaum.

Abang Mahomat Kassim.

Mr. Chong Seng, chop Ewe Hai and Co.

Mr. Ghee Siang, chop Ghee Soon and Co.

Mr. Seng Kow, chop Seng Hak and Co.

Mr. Liong Loo, chop Soon Seng and Co.

Mr. Bun Tiong, chop Swee Ee and Co.

Mr. Ah Koh, chop Chin Ann and Co.

“H.H. the Rajah said that in 1869 an order was issued instituting a Postal Service between Kuching and the Outstations, and also between the Outstations themselves, when rates of postage were drawn up and published. In course of time these regulations had become relaxed and letters are

carried by native boats and by steamers without being stamped.

"In view of the increased facility of communication between Kuching and the Outstations by means of steamers and launches, H.H. the Rajah now puts the question to all present, whether the postal system shall be reorganised on the basis of that instituted in 1869. In the event of the decision of the members of this Committee being that such a postal system is not necessary or beneficial to the country, His Highness proposes to allow letters to be conveyed by native boats as hitherto *unstamped*, but that no letter can be carried by Government steamers or launches.

"After some discussion on the matter, the members of the Committee agreed unanimously that a Postal Service was most necessary throughout the territory of Sarawak; the Chinese merchants, whom it more particularly affects, receiving the proposition for the reorganisation of this department with the greatest approval.

"It was then determined that the rates of postage throughout the territory of Sarawak shall be :

Local or between the different stations or districts.	Letters p. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Newspapers	Packet of Printed Papers or Books per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Registration.
	2	2	2	6

"Limit of weight for a newspaper to be four ounces.

“Rates of postage from Sarawak to Labuan, Brunei and North Borneo will be arranged and published later. It being the custom among the Chinese and Malays to trust to native boats to a great extent to carry their letters between the different districts, it is now determined that in view of the fact that such boats are dependent on the tides, and that the Post Office may be closed when such boats are starting, it shall be permitted to the Nakhoda or captain to receive letters into his charge *stamped*, for transmission to the port or ports to which he is bound.

“No letters shall be received by captains of steamers, sailing ships, native boats, or other description of vessel without being previously stamped, under penalty of \$5 on each letter so received.

“F. O. MAXWELL, Resident,
“Resident’s Office, Kuching,
“Sarawak, 22nd August, 1887.”

The statistics for the year 1887 show an increase of revenue of only \$33.99, but an increase of expenditure of \$1712.34. An explanation of the slight increase of revenue is contained in a leading article in the *Sarawak Gazette* for May 1, 1888:

“The very small increase in the receipts of the Post Office is rather disappointing, and may perhaps suggest that certain clauses in the new inland postal rules are not respected by native shipowners. The increase is however larger than it looks, as the sum received from sales of stamps to collectors is much less than in former years. As, however, the new regulations were in force for but a short time at the end of the year, the results in the future may

be confidently expected to show a marked improvement."

This opinion was substantiated in the next half year (January to June, 1888), when the revenue was \$583.20, an increase of \$270.22 for the half year.

But more notable still was the increase of the outstations postal revenue, which rose from \$11.42 in the first half of 1887 to \$134.48 in the corresponding period of 1888.

A complaint in the *Sarawak Gazette* for July, 1888, drew from the Postmaster-General an interesting statement as to the irregularity with which the native vessels delivered their mails at this period.

To the Editor of the *Sarawak Gazette* :

SIR,—I notice in the *Gazette* for this month, in an account of His Highness the Rajah's visit to Simanggang, it is stated :

"It was unfortunate that owing to some irregularity in forwarding the mails from Kuching, no notice had been received at Simanggang of His Highness's intention to visit the station."

His Highness crossed from Singapore in the p.s. *Adeh*, which arrived here on the 21st May, and His Highness left in H.H.S. *Aline* for Simanggang on the 1st June.

All letters, etc., in this office on the 17th May, for Simanggang, were forwarded on that date in the usual way by a native vessel.

Between the 17th May and the 1st June no vessel cleared for Simanggang or the Batang Lupar river, which carries mails, consequently, all letters, etc., posted and received at this Department for Simanggang, after the 17th May were forwarded on the 1st June by H.H.S. *Aline*.

So long as mails are conveyed by native

vessels irregularity in *receiving* them may naturally be expected, but in the absence of communication, as in this case, "irregularity in forwarding mails" is impossible.

I should have been pleased had the writer of your article notified to me in the first instance any irregularity which he might think had occurred, and I regret that he did not do so or assure himself of an "irregularity" before censuring a Public Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. K. LEYS,

Postmaster-General,

General Post Office,

Kuching, 5 July, 1888.

On Thursday, June 14, 1888, the Supreme Council assembled in Kuching and signed the agreement by which Sarawak was afforded British Protection.

The Rajah issued the following Order, dealing with postal matters, and granting special opportunities to outstation officers to get their mails more speedily from Singapore.

"I hereby direct that no mail bag is to be opened whilst in transit from Singapore to Kuching under any circumstances whatever without my order and signature; and, moreover, all mails enclosed and sealed from Outstations or other places, addressed to certain destinations, are never to be opened for any purpose by any Officers in intermediate Stations.

"Should opportunities offer of vessels running from any outstation to Singapore and back again to an outstation, on their return bringing the mail-

bag addressed to Kuching, then the Officers of the Station can write a request to the Postmaster-General of Singapore to send their letters to them direct, outside the bag.

"Under my hand and seal this 15th day of September, 1888.

"C. BROOKE, *Rajah.*"

The establishment of a Money Order Service between Sarawak and the Straits Settlements was the next development on the part of the Post Office. This took effect from November 1, 1888.

The next month a new series of stamps was issued, and these are considered in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VII.

ISSUE OF 1888—93.

THE *Sarawak Gazette* for December 1, 1888, contains the following note:

"A new issue of Sarawak stamps has been made, and they are now in circulation. The stamps are very neat and a great improvement on the old ones; they are in two colours only, green and mauve, but each different value bears a small square of different colour on which the value is printed in figures. The issue consists of 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 25 cents, postage and revenue."

This is the first notice we have found concerning the new issue, but from official sources quoted later it will be seen that some of the values had been

issued nearly three weeks before this notice appeared in print.

The new stamps (figs. 11—20), which it should be remembered were still of local validity only, were surface printed by Messrs. Thomas de la Rue and Co., Limited, of 110, Bunhill Row, London, E.C., and bear a distinct resemblance to the general type of British Colonial stamps which have long been manufactured by this firm.

The central feature of the design is a three-quarters face portrait to right of Rajah Charles Johnson Brooke, on an oval disc which has a ground of horizontal lines, and an outer band on which are inscribed the words, "POSTAGE . SARAWAK . & REVENUE." A tablet with a ground of perpendicular lines, in a different colour from the rest of the stamp, bears the numeral of value and a small "c" for cents, the numeral and the letter being in outline on a white ground. The corners are ornamented with serrated and foliated corner pieces, and the whole design is enclosed in an outer line of colour forming a complete rectangle.

The stamps were printed in sheets of sixty, made up of ten rows of six stamps each, and all values have the jubilee line—an outer line extending right round the plate of sixty stamps.

The paper is white wove and has no watermark. The gum is white and apparently the same as that used by Messrs. De la Rue for the stamps of Great Britain. The perforation gauges 14 uniformly.

The shades of the colours vary, particularly the mauve of the six lowest values and the red of the two cents and eight cents. A second printing of each of these last two stamps took place, and the sheets have double jubilee lines on the later print-

Plate V.
11-22.



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22

ings and the colours of the value tablets are very different.

The first of the stamps to be issued at the General Post Office, Kuching, was the 4 cents, which appeared on November 10, 1888. The next day the 2, 6, 8 and 12 cents were issued. The 25 cents appeared on November 19. The 5 cents was not issued until June 12, 1891, the 1 cent till June 6, 1892, and the 10 cents appeared on June 12, 1893. The date of issue of the 3 cents we are not able to definitely ascertain, but it was probably during November, 1888, as it is mentioned as having been issued, in the *Sarawak Gazette*, on December 1, 1888, in the paragraph quoted at the beginning of this chapter.

The dates given above are given on the authority of the Postmaster-General. For the numbers printed of these stamps, we are indebted to Messrs. De la Rue and Co.

1 cent	...	...	...	3,018 sheets
2 cents	...	...	...	3,605 "
3 cents	...	...	...	2,945 "
4 cents	...	...	...	877 "
5 cents	...	...	...	1,026 "
6 cents	...	...	...	214 "
8 cents	...	...	...	1,735 "
10 cents	...	...	...	520 "
12 cents	...	...	...	925 "
25 cents	...	...	...	344 "

SUMMARY.

1888-93. Figs. 11-20. Surface printed on white wove paper. Tablet of value in second colour. No watermark. Perforated 14.

1 cent,	lilac and	black.
2 cents,	„	carmine.
2 cents,	„	rosine.
3 cents,	„	ultramarine.
4 cents,	„	yellow.
5 cents,	„	green.
6 cents,	„	brown.
8 cents,	green and	carmine.
8 cents,	„	rosine.
10 cents,	„	violet.
12 cents,	„	ultramarine.
25 cents,	„	brown.

CHAPTER VIII.

PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF 1889—92.

FOR some reason not yet ascertained there was a shortage of two cents stamps within a year of their issue. Possibly the first supplies from London had been exhausted, and during the period necessary to elapse before a fresh supply could be received a provisional stamp of this value was created by overprinting the current eight cents stamp with the numeral "2" and a small capital letter "c" for "CENTS" followed by a period.

2^c

The first issue of this provisional stamp (fig. 21) at the General Post Office, Kuching, took place on August 3, 1889.

The overprinting was done by hand stamp and in black ink, and was normally applied so that it

obliterated the numeral "8" of the original eight cents stamp.

The Treasury records do not appear to be clear on the number of these or of any subsequent stamps which were overprinted. The overprint was in every case done in the Government Printing Office, Kuching.

As is always the case with handstamped overprints, there is considerable unevenness in the impressions. Copies exist with a distinct double surcharge, and there are pairs showing one stamp with and one stamp without the "2c" *se tenant*.

No stamp of the denomination five cents had been included in the series of stamps ordered from Messrs. De la Rue in 1888, and it appears that no need arose for this value until the beginning of 1891. A supply was ordered from London, but until these could be put in hand a quantity of the twelve cents stamps was overprinted and issued on February 17, 1891 (figs. 22 and 23).

These stamps also were overprinted in black, and there are two important differences in the type used. The first is a block figure "5" with a small serif capital "c." The second is a thicker "5" and with a heavy block letter "c."



A



B

Both types are found with and without the period after the letter "c." Double surcharges of the first type are known, but we have not seen one of the second type overprinted double. Various portions of the overprints at times are missing owing to the defective manipulation of the hand stamp.

In January, 1892, a need for a one cent stamp arose. This was consequently ordered from London, to be uniform with the other denominations of the 1888—93 set, but to serve temporarily as a one cent value the three cents stamps of the De la Rue type were overprinted with the inscription "one cent" (fig. 24), and issued on January 12, 1892.

The overprint was set up sixty times so that an entire sheet of sixty could be overprinted at one impression.

At first the overprint had the initial letter of each word in capitals thus: "One Cent" (fig. 24), but shortly afterwards a second printing being required the type was reset with lower case letters for the entire inscription, thus: "one cent" (fig. 25).

In the first printing of type 2 the last stamp in the second horizontal row was without the period after "cent." This was corrected in later printings.

Double surcharges of type 1 with the capital initials exist, but no such variety is known of type 2.

Eight hundred sheets are said to have been overprinted with the two types, making 48,000 stamps in all.

There appears to have been a continued demand for stamps of the value of one cent, and as the stamps which had only been ordered at the beginning of the year could not reach Sarawak for some weeks, an old stock of the three cents stamp of the 1871 type (fig. 26) was overprinted instead of using up all the three cents De la Rue types. The first issue of these stamps to the public took place on May 23, 1892.

To effect this overprinting fresh type had to be set to cover the larger sized sheet in which the old stamps had been printed, namely, of one hundred

stamps each. The words, "ONE CENT" were set in serif capitals, long primer size, in two lines and

ONE
CENT

below was a rule which extended across each horizontal row of ten stamps to cancel the old value of three cents. The distance between the word "CENT" and the bar varies considerably (from $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm) in the ten rows of ten stamps.

There were evidently no errors in the setting of the overprints, but owing to defective printing, particularly as regards the inking, some of the letters are represented by albino impressions. In some pairs the entire surcharge on one stamp has not printed, while the other is surcharged. In other cases the bar is omitted or the words "ONE CENT." A block of twelve in the writer's collection shows only a letter here and there and the bars have long breaks.

The bars sometimes appear very thick, resembling double impressions due probably to the "spring" of the thin metal rules used for printing them.

Double surcharges exist of this stamp, but are apparently very uncommon. A pair was sold at auction in the season 1905-6.

Mr. Luff, of New York, has a vertical pair imperforate between, and a few specimens are known imperforate.

The general perforation of the surcharged stamp gauges 11 but a few specimens have been found gauging $10\frac{1}{2}$.

One thousand sheets are said to have been printed, giving a total quantity of 100,000 stamps.

SUMMARY.

1889 (August 3). Fig. 21. Provisional stamp. Surcharged in black.

“2c” on 8 cents (1888).

1891 (February 17). Figs. 22, 23. Provisional stamp. Surcharged in black.

“5c” on 12 cents (1888).

“5C” on 12 cents (1888).

1892 (January 12). Figs. 24, 25. Provisional stamps surcharged in black.

“One Cent” on 3 cents (1888).

“one cent” on 3 cents (1888).

1892 (May 23). Fig. 26. Provisional stamp. Surcharged in black.

“ONE CENT” on 3 cents (1871).

CHAPTER IX.

ISSUE OF 1895.

THE history of the next issue of the stamps of Sarawak has no parallel in the annals of philately. The entire series may in a sense be termed “errors,” though they were such satisfactory errors that they were countenanced and used by the Government for four years.

The postage stamps were supplied to the Post Office from the Treasury Department, to which department the Post Office had to account for them. The stock was running short, and at the request of the Post Office Department further supplies were ordered from England. At this time the Treasurer was absent on leave, and the order for more stamps,

instead of being directed to Messrs. De la Rue, was sent to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., who printed the currency notes for the Sarawak Treasury. Before the mistake was discovered, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. had made the plates, and as they were considered somewhat handsome (as they undoubtedly are) an order for some of the stamps was given. This mistake accounts for the new portrait on the stamps. It is the same as that which Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. were using for the currency notes.

Only four values (figs. 27—30) had been ordered, so the series was limited to denominations of 2, 4, 6 and 8 cents.

The portrait is three-quarters face to left, on an oval disc.

In the two cents stamp the oval disc is surrounded by a band of colour, on which are in white letters the words "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," extending round the lower two-thirds of the band, and the word "TWO," which appears on the band just above the portrait. The oval band is broken into at the top with two circular discs each bearing a white numeral "2." A tablet of colour extends across the bottom of the oval band with the name "SARAWAK" in white letters and just below it are the white letters "CENTS." The space between the bands or tablets of inscription and the irregular rectangular outer frame are filled in with diagonally engraved fine lines.

The colour of the two cents stamp is Indian red.

The four cents stamp has the word "SARAWAK" on the oval band, as well as the words "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" in white letters on a ground of colour. The value is inserted in letters

of colour on a white tablet below the oval band. A beautiful ground of minutely engraved foliated design and four corner ornaments fill out the design to an irregular rectangular shape enclosed within two lines of colour.

The four cents stamp was issued in black.

In the six cents stamp the portrait oval is not surrounded by an inscribed band. It is on a ground of crossed lines and nearly conforming to its upper curve but separated from it, is a band of colour inscribed in white letters "SARAWAK." In the two upper corners the word "SIX" appears on small tablets of colour. A large figure "6," surmounting small letters "CENTS" appears on a circular disc on each side of the portrait oval, and a scroll beneath the oval bears the words "POSTAGE AND REVENUE." A rectangular outer line completes the design.

The colour of the six cents stamp was violet.

The eight cents stamp has a horse-shoe band of colour round the portrait oval inscribed "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," and the ends of the band terminate in two circular discs, each with the figure "8" in a white numeral. A straight tablet at the top breaking into the upper curve of the horse-shoe has the word "SARAWAK" in white letters. Another straight tablet below the portrait has the white letters "CENTS." The design is filled in with minute engraving and is completed by an outer line of colour.

This value was issued in a green colour.

The plates from which Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. printed these stamps produced sixty stamps to the sheet, being arranged in six horizontal rows of ten stamps each.

34



33



32



31



30



29



28



27



26



25



24



23



Plate VI
23 34

The paper was white wove, and had no watermark.

The perforations were done by ordinary straight line machines, and no doubt several were used differing slightly in gauge. The most frequently found perforation gauges 12, but others are perforated 11½. The machines used did not all make an equal sized punch, and this accounts for the different appearance of some of the perforations, which have larger or smaller holes as the case may be.

Only one printing was made of the four, six and eight cents values, but there were two printings of the two cents stamp.

In November, 1894, the following quantities were despatched to Sarawak by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. :

2 cents	...	...	40,000 stamps
4 cents	...	...	40,000 ,,
6 cents	...	...	30,000 ,,
8 cents	...	...	30,000 ,,

The second printing of the two cents stamp, differing slightly in shade, and with perforations gauging 12½, consisted of

2 cents (second printing) 60,000 stamps

It has long been considered that this second printing is rarer than the first. Not alone from the numbers printed, but from experience of the difficulty in finding the first printing, as compared with the second, we are inclined to think that the two cents perforated 11½—12 is rarer than the two cents perforated 12½.

The four values were first placed on sale at the Kuching Post Office on January 1, 1895. The

second printing of the two cents was put on sale probably in September of the same year.

The two cents and the eight cents exist imperforate with gum, and probably the four cents and six cents may also be found thus.

Copies of the two cents stamp exist in a deep, almost chocolate, brown colour, and also in the colours of the other values in the set, namely, black, violet and green. All these that we have seen are fully gummed and perforated, but none of them are used. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., questioned as to whether these were proofs, replied that they probably were.

We have also an imperforate block of the four cents printed in violet, the colour of the six cents.

It is evident that at one time there was a proposal to change the currency into pence, as we have some interesting proofs of the 1895 series surcharged in pence (see figs. 51—53).

The surcharges were arranged so that all the proposed new values were impressed one sheet of the original stamps. The new denominations were 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 pence, and the setting was distributed over the sheet as follows, the dashes representing the stamps which are left unsurcharged on the sheet.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1st row	3 pence	-	-	-	6 pence	2 pence	-	-	-	2 pence
2nd row	}	unsurcharged.								
3rd row										
4th row	-	-	-	-	5 pence	5 pence	-	-	-	-
5th row	unsurcharged									
6th row	2 pence	-	-	-	4 pence	6 pence	-	-	-	4 pence

All except the first stamp in the sixth row have the new figure of value repeated in all four corners. The

first stamp in row six has the upper right-hand corner figure missing.

The overprinting was done in bronze blue and also in bronze red, the set surcharged on the perforated black 2 cents stamp being found surcharged in both colours. It may fairly be assumed also, that the complete set of values exists in both colours on the 2 cents green and the 2 cents violet, both perforated and imperforate, but those in the following list are all we have seen.

PERFORATED.

2 c black, surcharged in bronze blue	2 pence.
" " " " "	3 "
" " " " "	4 "
" " " " "	5 "
" " " " "	6 "
2 c black	red 2 "
" " " " "	3 "
" " " " "	4 "
" " " " "	5 "
2 c	6 "
2 c violet	2 "
2 c green	2 "

IMPERFORATE.

2 c violet, surcharged in bronze blue	2 pence.
2 c green	4 "

SUMMARY.

1895 (January 1). Figs. 27-30. Engraved in *taille douce* and printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., from whom they had been ordered in error. Wove paper. No watermark. Perforated 11½-12.

2 cents, Indian red.

4 cents, black.

6 cents, violet.

8 cents, green.

1895 (September). Fig. 27, Perforated 12½.

2 cents, Indian red.

CHAPTER X.

ISSUE OF 1897.

IN the Order Book of the Sarawak Treasury, under date June 25, 1897, is the first definite announcement that Sarawak was about to join the Postal Union:

“As Sarawak will become a member of the Postal Union on 1st July, the postage on all correspondence (letters, newspapers, etc.), and on parcels posted for any part of the world and to leave in mails from the General Post Office in Kuching, on or after the above date, will be payable by means of Sarawak stamps only.

“Order by H.H. THE RAJAH.”

Hitherto as Sarawak stamps only franked letters and parcels as far as Singapore higher values than twenty-five cents had not been required. High value Straits Settlements stamps had been kept in stock, and were sold by the Postal Department at Kuching. In the reports of the Postmaster-General of Singapore are given annually the amounts of Straits stamps supplied to the authorities in Sarawak until this year (1897), when the report states:

“Sarawak joined the Postal Union on July 1, 1897, and consequently ceased to use Straits stamps.”

Consequently Sarawak stamps, which had only been required for paying local charges, now defrayed all the charges, sometimes of high amounts,

on parcels and registered packages, and stamps of higher denominations were required and ordered from London.

The order was sent to Messrs. De la Rue and Co. to supply two new values of 50 cents and \$1, uniform with the series of 1888—93. Later another two values were also ordered, namely, 16 cents and 32 cents (figs. 31—34).

The portrait and frame of all four stamps are printed in green, the tablets of value being for the 16 cents, orange; 32 cents, black; 50 cents, green, and the \$1 black. The value \$1 is in black, on a white tablet, not a lined tablet, as in the case of all the other values.

The first of these stamps to be issued at the Post Office was the 50 cents, issued on July 26, 1897.

The following day (July 27, 1897), an Order by H.H. the Rajah demonetised all the issues except the De la Rue series of 1888—93, and the Perkins Bacon series of 1895. The Order reads:

“It is hereby notified that the following stamps only may be used for postal purposes:

No. 2 Series, issued 1888.

1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 25, 50 cents and \$1.00.

No. 3 Series, issued 1895.

2, 4, 6 and 8 cents.

“Correspondence having other stamps will be treated as unpaid. Postcards, value three cents, which may be posted to any part of the world, may be had at the General Post Office.”

Although the \$1 stamp is included in the Order, it does not appear to have been issued until November 2nd. The other two values—the 16 cents and 32 cents—were both issued on December

28, 1897. The numbers printed of these stamps are as follows:

16 cents	...	...	174 sheets.
32 cents	...	...	174 sheets.
50 cents	...	...	222 sheets.
\$1	...	...	202 sheets.

It appears that Messrs. De la Rue were instructed to prepare stamps of still higher values, for plates were made and used for stamps of the values 2, 5 and 10 dollars. The head plate was printed in green in each case, the value tablets being blue for the \$2, violet for the \$5, and carmine for the \$10.

These stamps, however (although they bore the usual inscription "POSTAGE AND REVENUE") were never issued for postal purposes. They were overprinted in 1898 with the words "REVENUE ONLY" and a large serif capital "R" for fiscal purposes. None of them appear to have escaped the overprinting.

The postcard referred to in the Order was the first postcard issued by the Sarawak Post Office. The type of stamp impressed on the card is identical with the De la Rue stamps current at the time, except that instead of being inscribed "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," it has the word "POSTAGE" repeated on both sides of the portrait. The stamp and inscription on the card are printed in carmine.

SUMMARY.

1897. Figs. 31-34. Surface printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. Value tablet in second colour. White wove paper. No watermark. Perforated 14.

16 cents, green and orange (December 28).

32 cents, green and black (December 28).

50 cents, green (July 26).

\$1 green and black (November 2).

CHAPTER XI.

PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF 1899.

WHEN Great Britain and a large number of colonies adopted an Imperial postal rate of one penny per half-ounce, Sarawak promptly entered into the arrangement.

In the absence of the Rajah, the Committee of Administration met on November 2, 1898, to discuss whether Sarawak should adopt the new rate. The Proceedings of the Committee are summarised in the *Sarawak Gazette* for December 1, 1898:

"The President informed the members that he had received a letter from His Honour the Officer Administrating the Government of the Straits Settlements, enclosing a circular despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, notifying the adoption of a postage rate of one penny per half-ounce within the British Empire, and also the adoption of a reduced parcel postage. The members are of opinion that these rates should be adopted for Sarawak."

From the *Sarawak Gazette* (January 2, 1900), reviewing the year 1899, we find definite information, that "Sarawak adopted the one penny postal rate with Great Britain and such of the British Colonies as reciprocate."

In 1899 there appears to have been a shortage of stamps of the two cents and four cents denominations, and quantities of the old stock of the Maclure and Macdonald series of 1875 were overprinted to supply the deficiency.

The first stamps to be thus treated were the 12 cents red on rose and the 8 cents blue on blue, which were overprinted "2 CENTS" and "4 CENTS,"

2 CENTS.

respectively. Both of these stamps (figs. 35, 36), were issued on June 29, 1899, and the overprinting was the work of the Government Printing Office.

The surcharge of the "2 CENTS" was printed in black in two lines, the numeral being above the letter "N" of "CENTS," except in a few cases where it appears above the "NT" of "CENTS." The type for the surcharge was set up to overprint the entire sheet of 100 stamps at one time. There were three trifling errors in the setting of the word "CENTS," consisting of the use of a final "s" of a different and smaller font of type than that used for the rest of the word. These errors occur in the second and eighth stamps in the first row and the first stamp in the fourth row.

These small "s's" were corrected in a later printing.

One sheet of this stamp was placed in the press the wrong way, and the surcharge therefore appears inverted. They were sold to a Chinaman at the General Post Office in Kuching. There are several stories told about what the purchaser did with them. Some say he used most of them, but all that have been found are unused. Others say that the mistake was discovered after the sheet had left the post office, and that the Chinaman was followed and meekly handed the inverted surcharges back in exchange for properly printed stamps.

The stamps are on wove paper, and have the

same variety of perforations as the issue of 1875. This stamp exists wholly and partially imperforate and also on laid paper.

The 4 cents on 8 cents, blue on bluish (fig. 36), was overprinted in red, probably with the same type as the previous stamp, having only the figures "4" inserted in the place of the "2's." From sheets and half sheets examined it would appear that there were two printings, in one of which the entire sheet was overprinted at one time, and in the other only half a sheet was put in the press at one time.

The entire sheet setting was probably the first, as it corresponds exactly to the setting of the 2 cents on 12 cents, having a small "s" on the second and eighth stamps in the first row and the first stamp in the fourth row.

The surcharging of some of the stamps in half sheets may either have been due to the climate, the excessive heat of which had caused large quantities of these sheets to stick together owing to the softening of the gum and of many sheets it may only have been possible to rescue portions

Or, it may have been that the last four perpendicular rows became "printer's pie," and were not reset. Only four rows appear to be missing, as while the half sheets consisted of only five perpendicular rows of ten stamps each, the surcharge is distinctly impressed upon the right-hand margin of all the half sheets we have seen. These six perpendicular rows are undoubtedly the first six rows of the complete sheet setting, as the second stamp in the first row and the first stamp in the fourth row have each the small "s."

The continued demand for the 2 cents and 4 cents stamps led to further overprinting later in the

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Or, it may have been that the last four perpendicular rows became "printer's pie," and were not reset. Only four rows appear to be missing, as while the half sheets consisted of only five perpendicular rows of ten stamps each, the surcharge is distinctly impressed upon the right-hand margin of all the half sheets we have seen. These six perpendicular rows are undoubtedly the first six rows of the complete sheet setting, as the second stamp in the first row and the first stamp in the fourth row have each the small "s."

The continued demand for the 2 cents and 4 cents stamps led to further overprinting later in the

same year. On September 19, 1899, the 3 cents brown on yellow paper was issued overprinted 2 cents in black (fig. 37), similarly to the previously described 2 cents on 12 cents. These were overprinted in complete sheets of 100 stamps each, and the small "s's" have disappeared. There were probably two settings. On one a large number of the "r's" of the word "CENTS" print defectively, and on the sixth stamp in the first row the period after "CENTS" is missing and the letter "s" is only represented by two small spots resembling a colon.

In the other printing this latter variety does not occur, and all the "r's" are printed clearly.

The variety with the so-called stop after "THREE" (on the original stamp) occurs, being the seventh stamp in the last row.

The stamp exists also partially or wholly without perforations. On some specimens, through the faulty inking, the type has made albino impressions.

The 6 cents green on greenish stamp was next reduced to the value of 4 cents by a further overprinting (fig. 38). The overprint was made in red, and except for the absence of small "s's" resembles the 4 cents on 8 cents.

The fifth stamp in the first row has an inverted or raised period, the impression of the full stop being on a level with the top of the small capitals of the word "CENTS."

It is said that this was corrected, and although we have seen no sheet without it, the scarcity of it seems to suggest that such correction was made.

The stamp was issued on November 16, 1899.

SUMMARY.

1899. Figs. 35-38. Provisional stamps overprinted on original issues of 1871 and 1875, at the Government Print.

ing Office, Kuching. "2 CENTS," in black and "4 CENTS" in red. Wove paper.

(June 29.)

"2 CENTS" on 12 cents, red.

"4 CENTS" on 8 cents, blue.

(September 19.)

"2 CENTS" on 3 cents, brown.

"November 16).

"4 CENTS" on 6 cents, green.

The same, but on laid paper.

"2 CENTS" on 12 cents, red.

"4 CENTS" on 8 cents, blue.

CHAPTER XII.

ISSUE OF 1899—1905.

THE difficulty of keeping the accounts of the postal and other departments distinct led to the Treasury ordering a distinct set of stamps for postal purposes and another for revenue purposes. The postage stamps were ordered from Messrs. De la Rue, and the stamps were the same in design as that firm's previous series of 1888, but the inscription on the oval band round the portrait disc was altered. Instead of the words "POSTAGE . SARAWAK . & REVENUE," the new inscription reads, "POSTAGE . SARAWAK . POSTAGE" (figs. 39—49).

The stamps were produced by two printings, and with the exception of the 2, 4, 10 and 12 cents, they are in two distinct colours. The portrait and frame design are in one colour (the same head plate was used for all the stamps), and the tablet of value is printed separately in another colour. In the case

Postage Stamps of Sarawak

of the 2, 4, 10 and 12, although each was produced in two printings, the colours in which the head plate and the value plate were printed were the same.

The sheets consist of sixty stamps, arranged in ten rows of six stamps each, with double Jubilee line round the whole. The colours of the one cent are blue and rosine, and there are two very distinct shades of the blue colour, one being a dull blue, the other an ultramarine.

The two cents is all in green, and single specimens rarely bear any traces of the two separate printings of the tablet.

This latter remark also applies to the four cents, which is in carmine.

The eight cents is in yellow and black, the ten cents in blue.

The twelve cents is in lilac, though towards the end of 1905 there was evidently a further printing in a deep violet colour.

The 16 cents is pale brown and green, the 20 cents bistre and mauve, the 25 cents brown and blue, the 50 cents sage green and rose, and the \$1 carmine and green.

The stamps were printed on white wove paper without any watermark.

The 4 cents and 10 cents stamps were despatched by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., on October 7, and they were issued almost immediately on their arrival, the date of the first issue being November 10, 1899.

Messrs. De la Rue's next sending was a supply of the 1 cent, 2, 8, 12, 16, 25, and 50 cents and \$1, on October 17, 1899. The 8 cents was issued on December 6, at the General Post Office, Kuching, the 2, 12, 16, 25, 50 cents and \$1 all being issued on the 16th of the same month.

The one cent appears to have been withheld for considerable time, as we find no trace of its having been issued before 1901.

The twenty cents was not sent out to the Post Office until March 6, 1900, and it was issued to the post office towards the end of April or the beginning of May.

In 1901 a supply of the two cents green stamp was printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., on paper watermarked with a quatrefoil design similar



to that on the stamps of Johore, which Messrs. De la Rue were also printing at the time. The use of this paper was due to a mistake, and only the one shipment, consisting of 1,020 sheets, was printed on this paper.

SUMMARY.

1899-1905. Figs. 39-49. Surface printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. White wove paper. No Watermark, Perforations 14. Value in second colour.

- 1 cent, blue and rosine (1901).
- 2 cents, green and green (October 17, 1899).
- 4 cents, carmine and carmine (November 10, 1899).
- 8 cents, yellow and black (October 17, 1899).
- 10 cents, ultramarine (November 10, 1899).
- 12 cents, lilac and lilac (October 17, 1899).
- 12 cents, deep violet and deep violet (1905).
- 16 cents, pale brown and green (October 17, 1899).
- 20 cents, bistre and mauve (?April, 1900).
- 25 cents, brown and blue (October 17, 1899).
- 50 cents, green and rose (October 17, 1899).
- \$1 carmine and green (October 17, 1899).

Fig. 40. Error On paper watermarked quatrefoil design.

- 2 cents, green and green.

CHAPTER XIII.

POSTAL STATISTICS, 1891—1905.

THE following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Post and Shipping Office from 1891—1905:

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1891 ...	2,266.09	
1892 ...	4,178.33	
1893 ...	2,682.01	
1894 ...	5,370.04	
1895 ...	8,247.90	
1896 ...	3,601.41	
1897 ...	5,720.97	
1898 ...	8,757.92	
1899 ...	9,659.55	... 7.431.58
1900 ...	9,337.53	... 7,411.74
1901 ...	8,155.65	... 7,577.20
1902 ...	7,332.47	... 7,471.42
1903 ...	8,007.07	... 10,485.27
1904 ...	6,977.95	... 10,254.66
1905 ...	6,470.17	... 8,804.80

Although these figures include both the Post and the Shipping business, which have always been combined under the control of the Postmaster-General, the registration of vessels formed but a very small portion of the revenues of the department, as will be seen from the following accounts, giving the items in detail, a practice of which we find no trace prior to 1900.

REVENUE.

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Postage Stamps ...	9,058.16	7,615.57	6,733.27	7,136.37	5,800.94	5,513.33
Taxed Letters ...	138.04	194.32	134.47	226.13	220.00	247.01
Postal Expresses ...	33.75	199.50	230.00	263.25	288.78	287.50
Com. on Money Orders	48.18	73.44	155.99	307.59	320.30	—
Registration of Vessels	59.40	72.82	78.74	73.73	209.92	123.33
Miscellaneous ...	—	—	—	—	78.01	299.00

EXPENDITURE.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Establishment	5,510.00	4,686.13	6,605.86	7,013.39	6,091.32
Mail Bounties	293.19	401.00	219.02	229.15	282.05
Transport of Mails ...	349.66	184.66	374.49	522.86	351.50
Purchase of Postage Stamps	260.89	616.94	297.27	435.10	199.97
Other Charges	1,163.46	1,582.69	2,988.63	1,984.16	1,879.96

The department has offices at Kuching (general), Bau, Paku, Lundu, Sadong, Simanggang, Sibul, Matu, Oya, Muka, Kapit, Bintulu, Baram, Brooke-ton, Trusan, Limbang and Lawas. Also sub-offices at Niah, Miri, Sibuti, Lingga, Kalaka, Saribas and Simatan.

We have not been able to trace much business to any of these offices, though, curiously enough, we have seen postmarks fairly frequently of Simang-gang, Muka, Baram and Sibul.

The Post Office revenue at Baram for 1899 was 67 53, increasing the next year to 84.59. The ex-penditure for those two years was 5.04 and 41.20, respectively. The Muka Post Office account showed a revenue of 47.86 in 1901, 50.28 in 1902, 41.70 in 1903. Expenditure was 5.00 in 1901 and—50 in 1902.

CHAPTER XIV.

POSTAL NOTIFICATIONS, 1900—1906.

No further issues of postage stamps have been made up to the present time (1906), but to bring our review of the Postal Department in Sarawak up to date, the more important Government Orders and Notifications relating to postal matters are printed here without comment, and others are simply indexed for reference, if required.

ORDER NO. XIII., 1900.—I hereby Order that under no circumstances whatever are Outstation Officers to affix the Post Office date stamp to letters

Plate VII
35-46



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The department has offices at Kuching (general), Bau, Paku, Lundu, Sadong, Simanggang, Sibul, Matu, Oya, Muka, Kapit, Bintulu, Baram, Brooke-ton, Trusan, Limbang and Lawas. Also sub-offices at Niah, Miri, Sibuti, Lingga, Kalaka, Saribas and Simatan.

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Plate VII
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of credit or any other documents. The Post Office date stamp is to be used only for Postal purposes.

C. BROOKE, *Rajah*,

Kuching, 12th June, 1900.

NOTICE No. XLII., 1900.—Postal. Inland Service. On and after 1st January, 1901, the postage, *part of which must be prepaid*, on a packet of printed papers addressed to any place in Sarawak, will be as follows:

Not exceeding two ounces ... 1 cent.

Every additional two ounces ... 1 cent.

Printed papers posted unpaid will not be forwarded, but if insufficiently prepaid, will be forwarded and charged double the deficient postage on delivery.

Outstations should indent for one cent stamps to the undersigned in time to have them for sale to the public by 1st January.

Outstation Officers are referred to Order of 15th March, 1898.

By Order of H.H. the Rajah.

A. K. LEYS,

Postmaster-General,

General Post Office, Kuching,

18th October, 1900.

ORDER No. XXXIV., 1900.—I hereby direct that strict attention is to be given by Government Officers to Postal Regulations and Notices issued by the Postmaster-General, which have been or may be published in the Postal Guide, or in the *Gazette*, or as a circular from his Department.

Further, the Postal Authorities at Kuching have authority to return to the sender any article either

posted or received in mails at the Post Office, which is not in conformity with the published regulations, or which the Postmaster-General may consider not in conformity therewith.

C. BROOKE, *Rajah*,

Kuching,

22nd November, 1900.

NOTIFICATION NO. XLVIII., 1900.—Insurance of parcels suspended temporarily and exportation of bullion prohibited.

NOTIFICATION NO. XLIX., 1900.—Establishment of parcel post, via London, to the agencies of the Gibraltar Post Office in Morocco, and to Honduras Republic.

NOTIFICATION NO. LV., 1900.—Insurance of parcels to various countries and colonies effected.

NOTIFICATION NO. LVI., 1900. Postal.—It is hereby notified to the public that the following rules will come into force from this date:

1.—No notices will be issued to the public from this Office of mails closing by Native vessels.

2.—Anyone desirous of receiving notices of mails closing by steamers will have them delivered at their place of residence or of business on payment of fee of 25 cents per mensem.

3.—Anyone desirous of the privilege under clause 2 should notify the same at once to the undersigned.

A. K. LEYS,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,

Kuching, 1st November, 1900.

NOTICE NO. X., 1901.—The following firms have been licensed to sell Sarawak Postage Stamps:

1. Shaik Madarsah, Kanisah and Co., No. 2, Main Bazaar.
2. Hong Watt, No. 22, Main Bazaar.
3. Chong Kim Eng, No. 54, Carpenter Street.
4. Haji Fadil, No. 17, Jawa Street.
5. Ban Hock Kee, The Canteen on the Fort side of the river.

A. K. LEYS,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Kuching, 1st January, 1901.

NOTIFICATION No. XI., 1901.—Parcel post established to Brazil (via Portugal), etc.

ORDER No. V., 1901.—I hereby direct that under no circumstances whatever may Outstation Officers or their subordinates affix the Post Office date stamp of their district to any foreign postage stamp.

C. BROOKE, *Rajah*,

Kuching,
12th March, 1901.

NOTIFICATION No. XXVII., 1901.—Maximum for a single money order in Straits Settlements, \$100.

NOTIFICATION No. XXVIII., 1901.—As it is found that an abuse is being made of the letter-box on board the s.s. *Vorwärts* by letters, etc., being posted in it which are not bona fide late letters, and which by care being taken could be posted at the Post Office before the hours advertised for closing of mails, it is hereby notified that should the abuse again occur the box will be removed.

A. K. LEYS,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Sarawak, 19th April, 1901.

NOTIFICATION No. XXXI., 1901.—Parcel Post established to Western Australia, 25th April, 1901.

NOTIFICATION No. XXXVIII., 1901.—Rules governing admission of parcels containing coin or bullion into the United Kingdom.

NOTICE No. LXXVII., 1901.—It is hereby notified that from this date unpaid or insufficiently paid correspondence will be handed at the Post Office in Kuching to addressees' messengers on payment of the amount due on such correspondence. Such correspondence not paid for by messengers will be delivered after other mail matter. The public are requested to refer to Article 101 of the Postal Guide.

A. K. LEYS,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Kuching, 21st September, 1901.

NOTIFICATION No. LXXXVIII., 1901.—List of articles of which the importation into the United Kingdom is prohibited.

NOTIFICATION No. XCI., 1901.—Insurance on parcels for Gold Coast Colony.

NOTIFICATION No. CXIV., 1901.—Exchange of Money Orders with India established.

NOTIFICATION No. CXXXVI., 1901.—Alterations and Additions to Parcel Notification No. XC., dated 27th September, 1901.

NOTICE No. CXXXIX., 1901.—It is hereby notified that the Nakhodas of vessels are required to hand in to the Post Office, immediately on arrival at the Station to which they are proceeding, all loose letters, stamped or unstamped, which may

be on board their vessels, and the Nakhoda of any vessel delivering, or causing to be delivered, any such loose letter, shall be liable to prosecution and fine.

A. K. LEYS,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Kuching, 28th December, 1901.

NOTIFICATION No. XIX., 1902.—Money orders on Transvaal issued through the United Kingdom.

NOTIFICATION No. XXV., 1902.—Notice is hereby given that letters can now be sent, through Hong-Kong, to the undermentioned places in China :

Shanghai.	Lim Kang Tau.	Hankow.
Ningpo.	Foochow.	Amoy.
Swatow.	Canton.	Hoihow.

The rate of postage charged will be four cents per half-ounce.

F. H. DALLAS,
Acting Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Kuching, 25th February, 1902.

NOTIFICATION No. XXVI., 1902.—Importation of Saccharin, Sucramin, etc., to United Kingdom by sample post prohibited.

NOTIFICATION No. XLIV., 1902.—Parcels should not be registered for transmission in Sarawak only.

NOTIFICATION No. XLVIII., 1902.—Insurance on parcels to Gold Coast Colony effected.

NOTIFICATION No. XLIX., 1902.—Money Orders on Republic of Liberia issued through London.

NOTIFICATION No. CXVI., 1902.—In future, mails for Singapore and the United Kingdom will be closed punctually at the advertised hour. All letters (except "registered") must be posted in the Letter-Box, which will be cleared for the *last* time at the hour for closing the mail. The Clerks have strict orders *not to receive letters over the Counter*, and any letters which are posted after the hour for closing the mail will not be forwarded until next opportunity. *No exception will be made to this rule.*

F. G. DAY,
Acting Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
Kuching, 1st October, 1902.

NOTIFICATION No. XCVII., 1902.—Rules for Parcel Post to United States, via United Kingdom.

ORDER No. XI., 1902.—It is hereby ordered that the masters of vessels are required to hand to the Post Office authorities, immediately on arrival at Kuching, all loose letters, stamped or unstamped, which may be on board their vessels, and the master of any vessel delivering, or causing to be delivered, direct to the addressee any such loose letter shall be liable to prosecution and fine.

C. BROOKE, *Rajah.*

Kuching,
16th December, 1902.

NOTIFICATION No. XVII., 1903.—Acknowledgments of due delivery of insured parcels at a fee of ten cents, in addition to postage and insurance fee.

NOTIFICATION No. XL., 1903.—Insurance fee to be prepaid in stamps affixed by sender to the cover of the parcel.

NOTIFICATION No. LIV., 1903.—Parcel Post. Insurance on and after January 1st, 1904, on parcels for the Straits Settlements; maximum compensation secured, \$1,200.

NOTIFICATION No. XXXV., 1904.—The use of private postcards permitted from 1st September, 1904.

NOTIFICATION No. II., 1905.—Maximum Money Orders issued by the Kuching Post Office on the United Kingdom increased to £40 from 1st February, 1905.

NOTIFICATION No. XXV., 1905.—Maximum Money Orders issued by the Kuching Post Office on India increased to Rs.600, from 1st July, 1905.

NOTIFICATION No. XXXVII., 1905.—Direct exchange of Money Orders between the Federated Malay States and Sarawak established October 2nd, 1905.

ORDER NO. XIX., 1905.—On and after the 1st January, 1906, the discount on Postage and Revenue stamps sold to licensed stamp sellers will be at the rate of five per cent, instead of as heretofore.

C. V. BROOKE,
Rajah Muda.

Kuching,
6th December, 1905.

NOTIFICATION No. III., 1906.—Granting facilities for sending Money Orders from places outside Kuching to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, by means of cheques on the Sarawak Treasury.

NOTIFICATION No. X., 1906.—Pictorial postcards, having a space reserved for written communications on the front, may now be sent at the

rate for ordinary postcards to certain countries mentioned. 28th February, 1906.

NOTICE NO. XIX., 1906.—In future the Postmaster-General will determine best routes for Kuching Mails for Outstations—whether they are to be sent by steamer or schooner.

C. V. BROOKE,

Kuching,

5th April, 1906.

NOTIFICATION NO. XX., 1906.—United States Parcel Post. Fees, prohibitions, etc.

NOTIFICATION NO. XXI., 1906.—Limit of insurance for parcels to Straits Settlements reduced to \$1,000; from 1st June, 1906, until further notice.

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Announcements.

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THE . . .

Postage Stamps

OF . . .

CHINA

With a History of the
Imperial Post Office

BY

FRED. J. MELVILLE

President of the Junior Philatelic Society

With Collotype Plates

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A GREAT VARIETY
OF ALL ISSUES OF

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Stamps used and unused, at very moderate prices. Practically everything in stock, including—

**Entire Sheets
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Rare Stamps Wanted

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Sarawak

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1907 EDITION.

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EDITED BY PERCY C. BISHOP.

PRICE 1/2, Post Free.

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THE BOARD OF TRADE OFFICIALS. Illustrated.

THE NEW ISSUES OF 1906; A Simplified List. Illustrated.

THE COLLEGE STAMPS OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE, Illustrated.

THE "CUT OUT" POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN; A Reference List and Guide to Values.

UNDER AN ACT OF 1904, the public were permitted to cut out the stamps from embossed envelopes, letter-cards, post-cards, and newspaper-wrappers, and use these as ordinary adhesive stamps.

THE PHILATELIC LITERARY INDEX FOR 1906.

A DIRECTORY AND GUIDE.

British Philatelic Societies. British Colonial Societies.
British Exchange Clubs. American Philatelic Societies.

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