



# A Catalog of Burmese Cachets Union of Burma 1948-1961

Steven Zwillinger

## Introduction

This listing is an attempt to list the cachets (the envelope designs) that commemorated events in Burma during the Union of Burma from 1948 to 1961. While these covers are encountered in the philatelic market, there has not been a reference guide to these covers.

Burma has long been a “step-child” of philately. With a short period of membership in the British Commonwealth before gaining independence, Burma is frequently viewed as a place where Indian stamps were used. Due, in part, to the relative anonymity of Burmese philately, the items included in this listing are, generally speaking, inexpensive. There are not many collectors seeking these items. More discoveries are waiting to be made.

This volume is a continuation and companion to the earlier work *A Catalog of Burmese Illustrated Envelopes 1937-1947*. In that volume, as in this listing, each envelope design has a two-part designation. The first number, from twenty-one to forty-three, designates the event, and the second part is a sequential listing of designs for the event. This structure allows new numbers to be added for any covers not previously identified. The numbers one to twenty are used in *A Catalog of Burmese Illustrated Envelopes 1937-1947*. The numbering across volumes eliminates the possibility of one number representing different cachets. The catalog numbering system is copyrighted; permission to use it - should it be of interest or use - is freely given provided that the numbers are always referred to with the prefix “Zwillinger”.

If you possess a cover not included here and would like to contribute to future revisions of this catalog, please send me a clear full size photocopy of the cover, or, even better, a clear scan of the cover with the information needed to include it in this listing.

Please address correspondence to [sandszwil@aol.com](mailto:sandszwil@aol.com). Thank you.

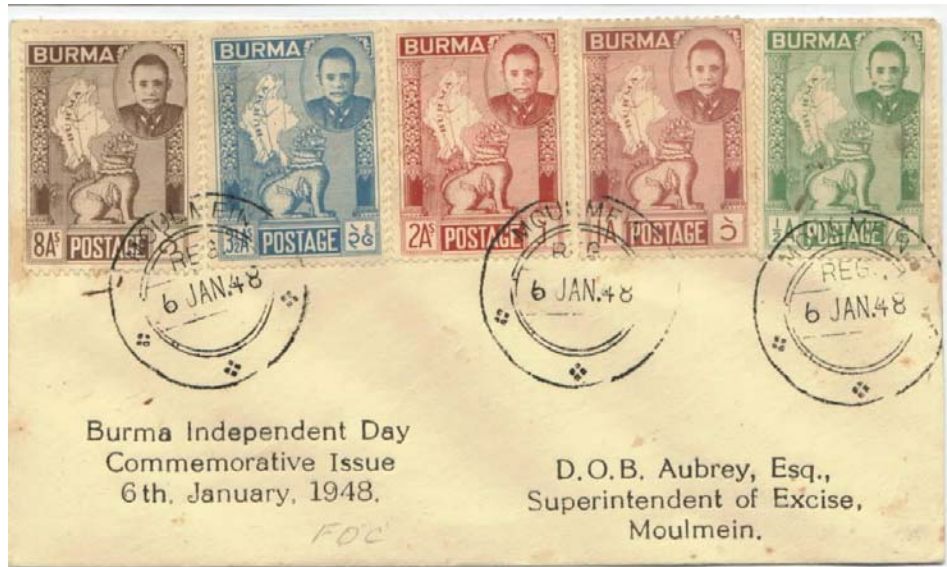
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## **Burmese Events Commemorated on Covers 1948 to 1961:**

21	Jan. 6, 1948	Independence
22	July 19, 1948	Anniversary of assassination
23	Jan. 4, 1949	Postal Issues (First anniversary of independence)
24	Oct. 9, 1949	Anniversary of UPU
25	Jan. 4 1950	Second anniversary of independence
26	Jan. 4 1951	Third Anniversary of independence
27	July 1, 1952	Postal Issue
28	Aug 9, 1952	Naval Service
29	Sept. 1, 1952	Postal Issue
30	Jan. 4, 1953	5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence
31	July 6, 1953	Postal Issue
32	Jan. 4, 1954	Postal Issues
33	May 17, 1954	6 <sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Stamp Issue
34	Nov 15, 1954	6 <sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Opening Session
35	May 24, 1956	2500 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buddhist Era
36	Oct 24, 1956	U.N. Day 1956
37	Oct. 24, 1957	U.N. Day 1957
38	Oct 24, 1958	U.N. Day 1958
39	Nov. 9, 1959	Centenary of Mandalay Postal Issue
40	June 1961	Postal Issue of 1961
41	Dec. 11 1961	UNICEF Postage Issue
42	Dec 11, 1961	Peninsular Games Stamp Issue
43	various	First Flight Covers

**21-1 Independence**  
January 6, 1948



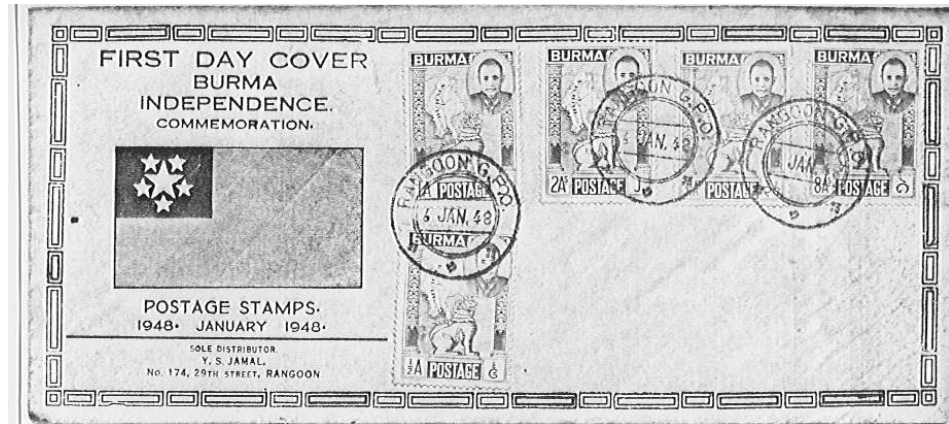
Publisher: D.O.B. Aubrey

Text: Burma Independent Day  
Commemorative Issue  
6<sup>th</sup> January 1948

**21-2**

**Independence**

January 6, 1948



Publisher: Y.S. Jamal

Text: First Day Cover  
Burma  
Independence  
Commemoration  
Postage Stamps  
1948 January 1948  
Sole Distributor  
Y.S. Jamal  
No 174, 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Rangoon

**21-3 Independence**  
January 6, 1948

Variety A  
large



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Bogyoke U Aung San  
The Architect of Burma's Freedom  
Burma First Day Cover  
Sovereign Independent Republic  
Inaugurated 4<sup>th</sup> January 1948  
Issued by N.K.D. Naigamwalla & N.M. Mir

Note: This cachet appears on envelopes of two different sizes

Variety B  
small



**21-4**

**Independence**

January 6, 1948



Text: Burma Team  
Burma Independence Issue

21-5

## Independence

January 6, 1948



Text: First Day Cover  
Independence Day  
4-1-48  
From Today Burma Stands  
In the Comity of Free Nations

Note: Cachet says independence on the 4<sup>th</sup>; all other  
cachets and the cancellation on this show the 6<sup>th</sup>.



**21-6**

**Independence**

January 6, 1948



Text: Burma Independence  
First Day Cover  
6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1948

Note: Typewritten

21-7

# Independence

January 6, 1948



Text: [all text in Burmese script]

**22-1**

**Anniversary of assassination**

July 19, 1948



Publisher: D.O.B. Aubrey

Text: First Anniversary  
of the  
Assassination  
of  
Burma's Leaders  
19<sup>th</sup> July 1948  
First Day of Issue  
D.O.B.A.

22-2

## Anniversary of assassination

July 19, 1948



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover 19<sup>th</sup> July 1948  
Burma Martyrs Memorial Issue  
First Anniversary of the Assassination  
Of State Leaders  
Bogyoke U Aung San  
U Ba Choe  
Ma Razak  
U Ba Win  
Mahn Ba Knine  
Sawbwa of Mongpawm  
Thakim Mya  
Beloved Bogyoke and  
Those Who Fell With Thee,  
In Burma's Heart Will Live Eternally  
Issued by N.K.D. Naigamwalla

**22-3**

**Anniversary of assassination**

July 19, 1948



Text: Commemorating the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Of the Dastardly Murder of the  
Pioneers of Burma's Freedom  
[unclear]  
First Day Cover  
19-7-48

**23-1**

**Postal Issues**

January 4, 1949



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Union of Burma  
First Definitive Stamps  
Day of Issue  
First Anniversary of Independence

Note Handstamp "Experimental P.O. R-68"

Design is single color version of design on following page.

## 23-2

## Postal Issues

January 4, 1949



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Union of Burma  
First Definitive Stamps  
Day of Issue  
First Anniversary of Independence  
Issued by N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Note Design is color version of design on the previous page.  
This same cachet was used for issues of July 6, 1953

### 23-3

### Postal Issues

January 4, 1949



**Text:** Inaugurating the issue of the Union of Burma Postage Stamps on the anniversary Of the attainment of the Independence of Burma

**Note:** Always seen with purple commemorative postmark



24-1

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Postal Union

October 9, 1949



Publisher: Artcraft

Text: First Day of Issue  
Monument of the  
Universal Postal Union  
At Berne, Switzerland

24-2

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Postal Union**

October 9, 1949



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Universal Postal Union  
Diamond Jubilee  
1874-1949  
Issued by N.K.D. Naigamwalla, Rangoon

24-3

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Postal Union

October 9, 1949



Text: Universal Postal Union  
Burma  
1874-1949  
9 th October  
First Day Cover  
Issued by: Tan Heng-Eng  
B.B> [unclear]  
Latter St. Rangoon

24-4

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Postal Union

October 9, 1949



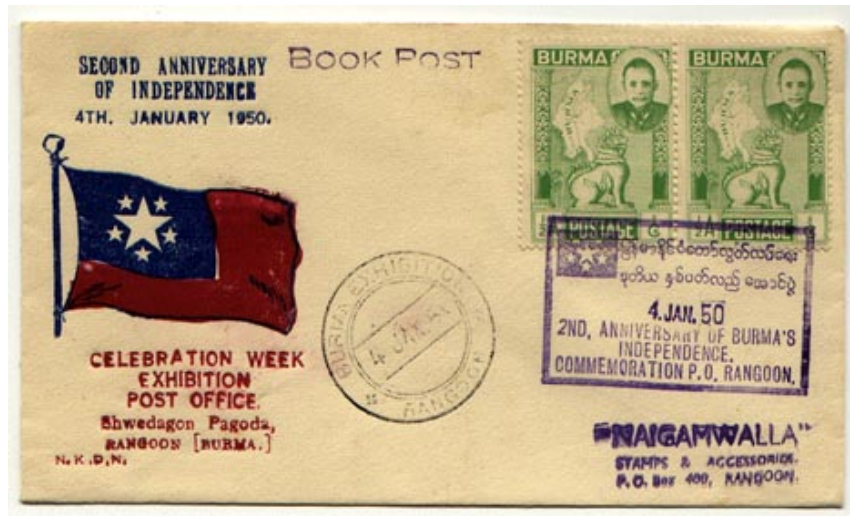
Text: 1949  
UPU  
1874  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Postal Union  
[unclear]

Note: This cover was used in 1952, three years after the event it commemorates.

## 25-1

## Second Anniversary of Independence

January 4, 1950



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Second Anniversary  
of Independence  
4<sup>th</sup> January 1950  
Celebration Week  
Exhibition  
Post Office  
Shwedagon Pagoda  
Rangoon [Burma]  
N.K.D.N.

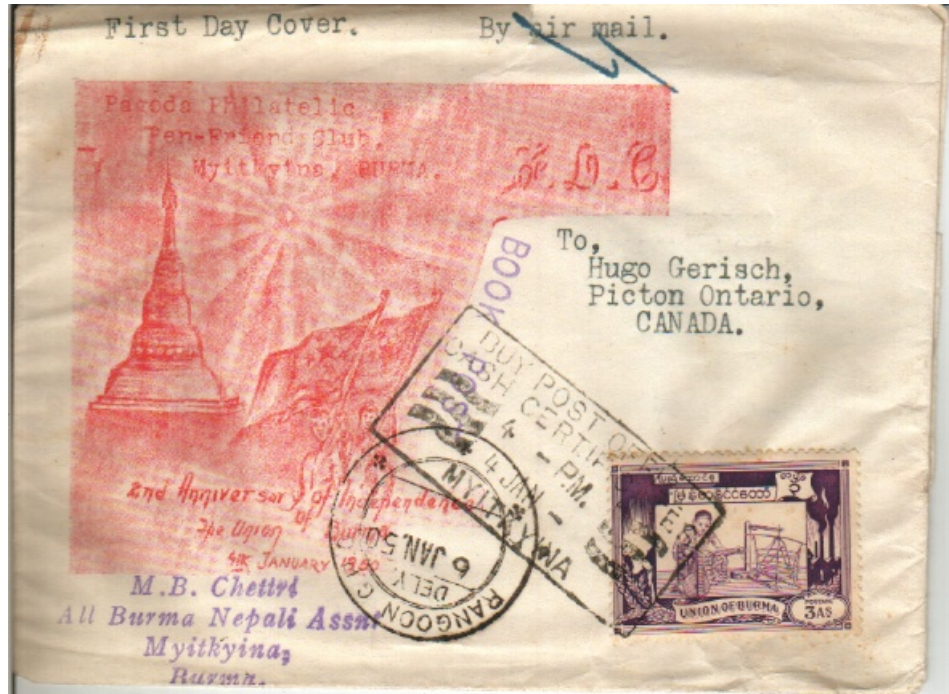
Note: Special commemorative cancel.

It appears a special exhibition post office was set up for anniversary celebrations.

**25-2**

**Second Anniversary of Independence**

January 4, 1950



Text: Pagoda Philatelic  
Pens-Friend Club.  
Myitkyina, Burma  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Independence  
The Union of Burma  
4<sup>th</sup> January 1950

**26-1 Third Anniversary of Independence**  
January 4, 1951



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Union of Burma  
First Definitive Stamps  
Third Anniversary of Independence  
Issued by N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Note This is the cachet from Naigamwalla's first anniversary of independence with the words "Day of Issue" and "First" crossed out with XXXXX and the work "Third" inserted.

Special Commemorative cancel

**27-x**            **Postal Issues 1952-53**  
July 1, 1952

Notes            No cover with a cachet is yet recorded

An article in the Burma Peacock Volume 18, Number 3, Winter 1998 "Issue Dates for the 1952-53 Definitive Series" by Frederick L. Dunn and Alan Meech provides the actual issue dates for this issue. In addition to the July 1, 1952 issue date (2 anna green), stamps in this series were also issued on September 1, 1952 (3 anna vermilion and 8 anna light blue) and July 6, 1953 (all the rest).



28-1

**Naval Service**

August 9, 1952



Text: Union of Burma  
Navy Ship  
Mayu

Also know  
for the  
Navy ship  
Inma

August 25



**29-x**      **Postal Issues 1952-53**  
July 1, 1952

Notes      No cover with a cachet is yet recorded

**30-1**      **Fifth Anniversary of Independence Stamp Issue**  
January 4, 1953



Text:      Picture of Independence Monument Rangoon

Note:      Illustration is reproduced from the Burma Peacock Volume 6, Number 3, Fall 1984, "1953 Fifth Anniversary of Burmese Independence" by Edward A. Bishop.

**31-x      Postal Issues 1952-53**

July 1, 1952

Notes      No cover with a cachet is yet recorded

**32-1      Postal Issues of 1954**

January 4, 1954



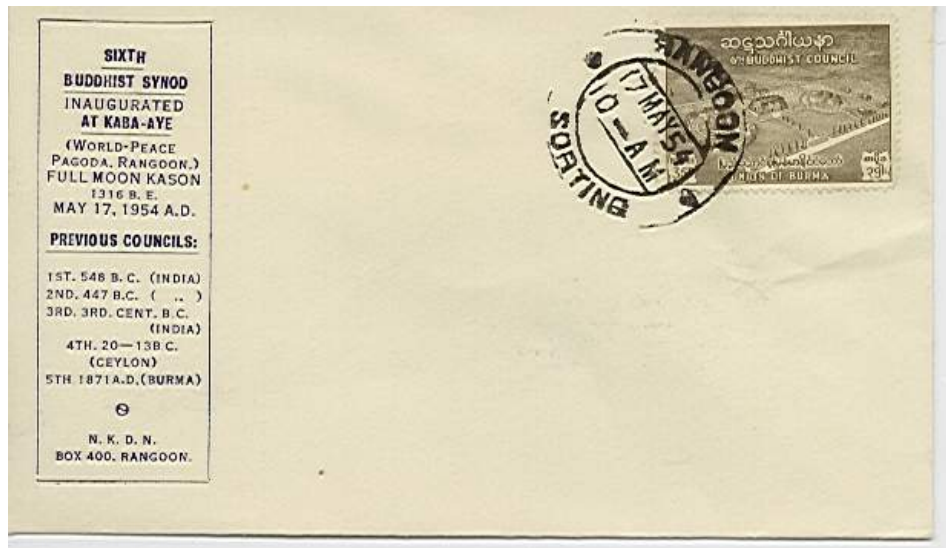
Publisher:    N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text:      Change of Currency  
Postage & Service Stamps  
4th January 1954  
Sixth Anniversary  
Burmese  
Independence  
Old Currency  
16 Annas – 1 Rupee  
12 Pies – 1 Anna  
New Currency  
100Pyas – 1 Kyat  
(1 Kyat – 1 Rupee)  
M.M.D.N.  
Box 400, Rangoon

33-1

## 6<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Stamp Issue

May 17, 1954



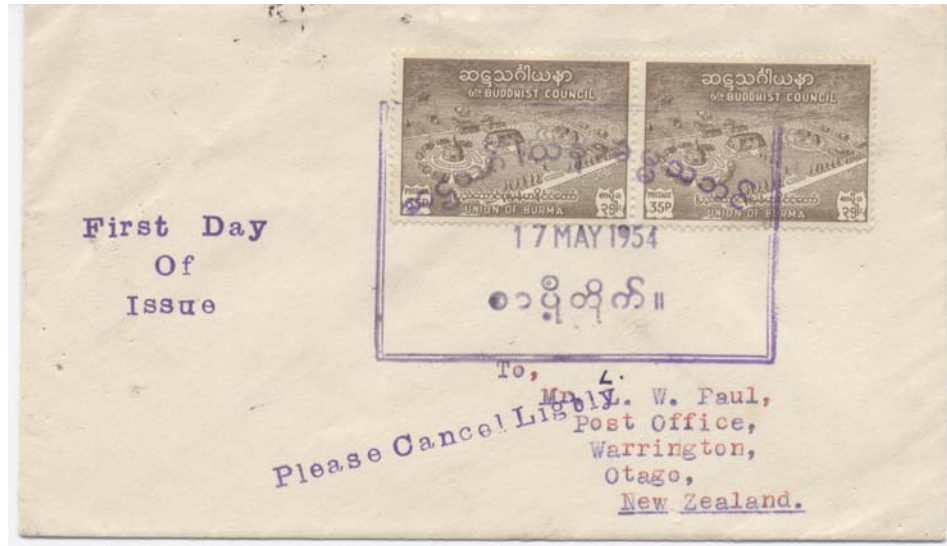
Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Sixth  
Buddhist Synod  
Inaugurated  
At Kaba-Aye  
{World Peace  
Pagoda, Rangoon}  
Full Moon Kasan  
1316 B.E.  
17<sup>th</sup> May 1954 A.D.  
Previous Councils  
1<sup>st</sup>, 548 B.C. (India)  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 447 B.C. ( " )  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cent. B.C.  
(India)  
4<sup>th</sup>, 20 – 13 B.C.  
(Ceylon)  
5<sup>th</sup>, 1871 A.D. (Burma)  
N.K.D.N.  
Box 400, Rangoon

33-2

**6<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Stamp Issue**

May 17, 1954



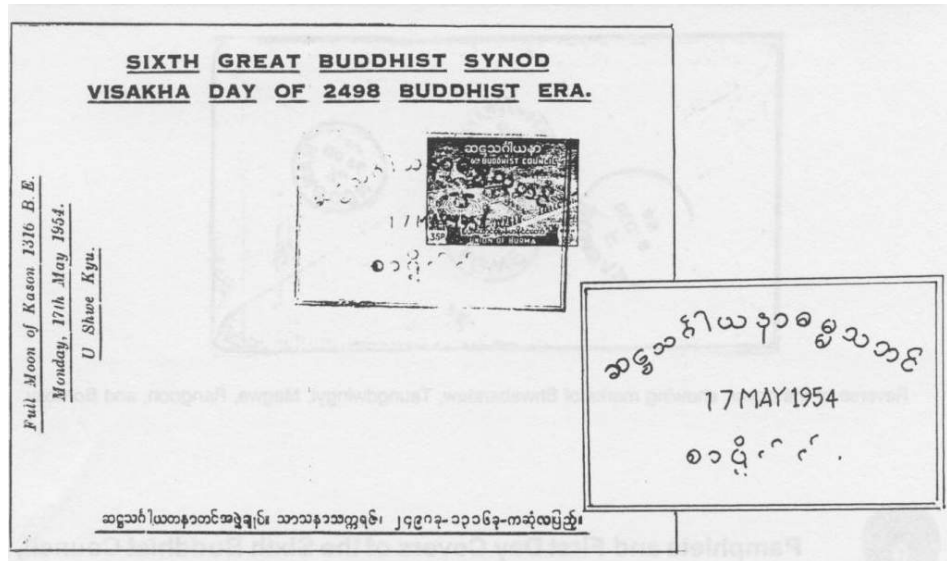
Text: First Day of Issue

Notes: Cachet is rubber stamp.

**33-3**

**6<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Stamp Issue**

May 17, 1954



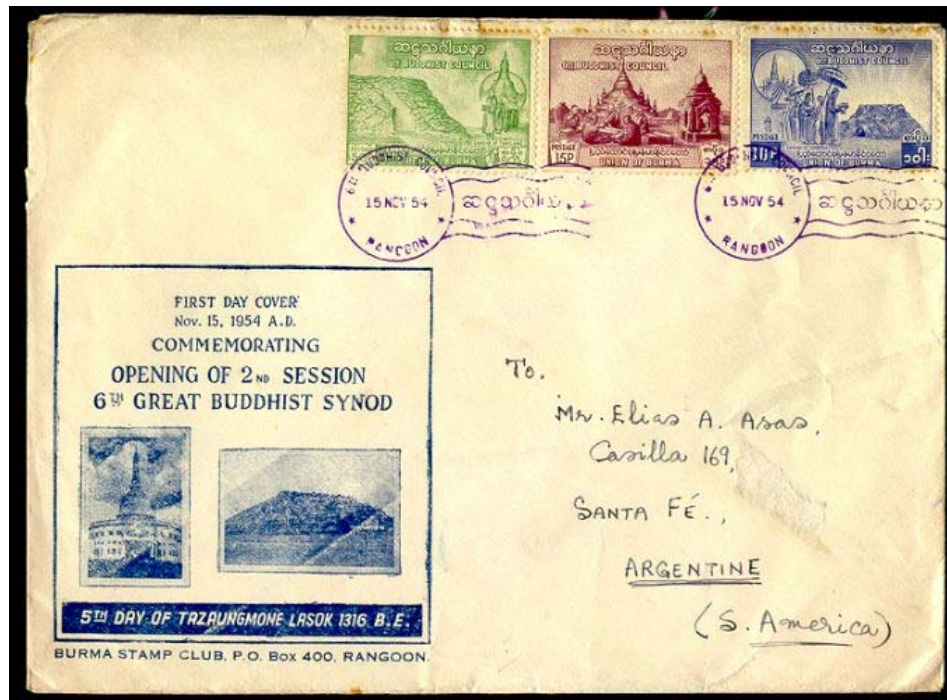
Text: Sixth Great Buddhist Synod  
 Visakha Day of 2498 Buddhist Era  
 Full Moon of Kasan 1316 B.E.  
 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1954  
 U Shwe Kyu

Note: Illustration is reproduced from the Burma Peacock Volume 10, Number 3, Fall 1989, "Pamphlets and First Day Covers of the Sixth Buddhist Council, 1954" by Khin Htun..

34-1

## 6<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Opening Session

November 15, 1954



Publisher: Burma Stamp Club

Text: First Day Cover  
Nov. 15, 1954 A.D.  
Commemorating  
Opening of 2<sup>nd</sup> Session  
6<sup>th</sup> Great Buddhist Synod  
5<sup>th</sup> Day of Tazrungmone Lasok 1316 B.E.  
Burma Stamp Club P.O. Box 400 Rangoon

Note: The Burma Stamp Club was founded by N.K. D. Naigamwalla

34-2

## 6<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council Opening Session

November 15, 1954



Text: 6<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Council  
For  
Sangayana  
Commemorative Stamp  
Date of Issue 15<sup>th</sup> November 1954

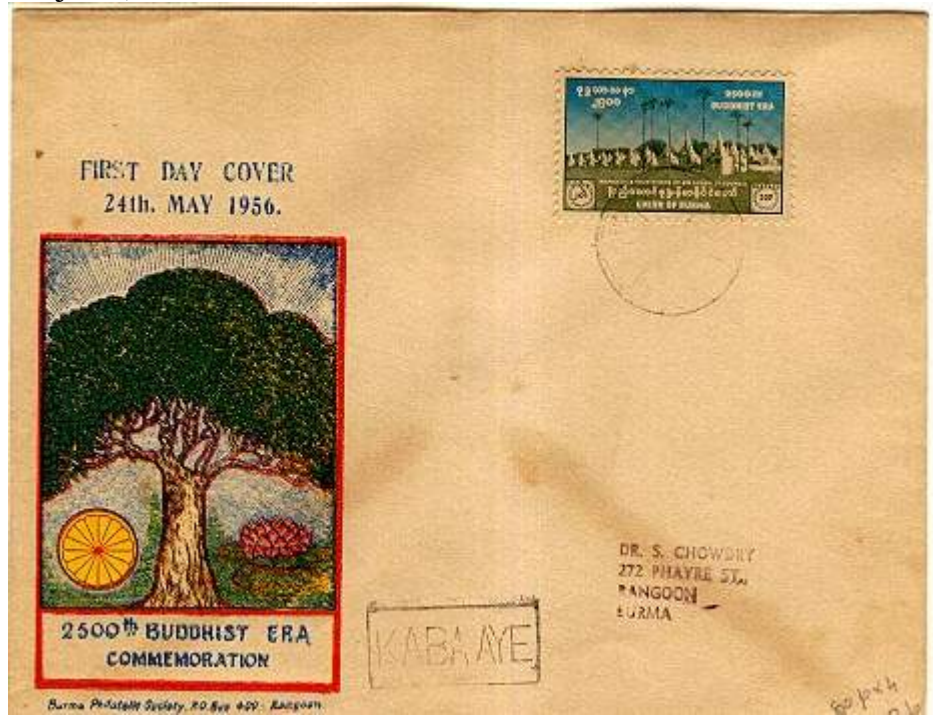
Note: Illustration is reproduced from the Burma Peacock Volume 10, Number 3, Fall 1989, "Pamphlets and First Day Covers of the Sixth Buddhist Council, 1954" by Khin Htun..



35-1

**2500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Buddhist Era Stamp Issue**

May 24, 1956



Publisher: Burma Philatelic Society

Text: First Day Cover 24<sup>th</sup> May 1956  
2500<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Era Commemoration  
Burma Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 400, Rangoon

Note: These covers are frequently seen with a commemorative circular cancel.



**35-2 2500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Buddhist Era Stamp Issue**  
May 24, 1956



Publisher: S.G.H Dadarnov

Text: First Day Cover  
May 24, 1956  
Commemorating  
2500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Buddhist Sasana  
S.G.H Dadarnov 272 Edward St.

**35-3**

**2500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Buddhist Era Stamp Issue**

May 24, 1956



Text: Burma  
Buddha Celebrations  
1956

**36-1**

**U.N. Day**

October 24, 1956



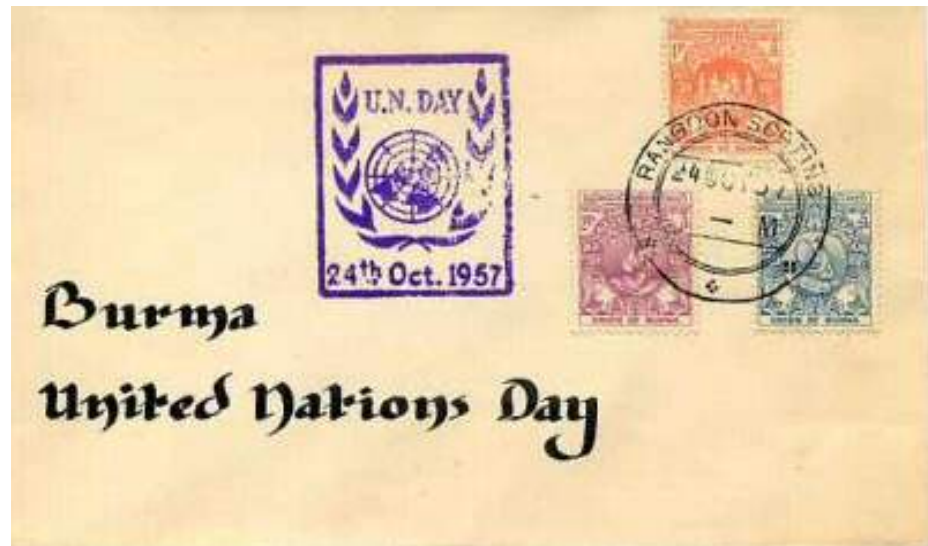
Text: U.N. Day  
24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1956

Note: Typewritten on envelope “First Day U.N. Day Cancellation Mark”

**37-1**

**U.N. Day**

October 24, 1957



Text: Burma  
United Nations Day

[rubberstamp]U.N. Day  
24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1957

Note: Rubber stamp same as for 34-1 but for date

**38-1**

**U.N. Day**

October 24, 1958



Text: U.N. Day  
24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1958

Note: Rubber stamp same as for 34-1 but for date

**39-1**

**Centenary of Mandalay Stamp Issue**

November 9, 1959



Publisher: Burma Post Office

Text: 7th November 1959  
Mandalay Centennial  
1859-1959  
First Day Cover  
Issued by  
Burma Post Office

Note: Commemorative cancellation in purple

39-2

## Centenary of Mandalay Stamp Issue

November 9, 1959



Text:

7th Nov. 1959

Mandalay Centenary

1859-1959

Mye Nan Daw The Royal Palace

The Golden Spire over the Lion Throne Room – marks the centre of the city. Consists of (i) The Great Audience Hall (East), (ii) The Lion Throne Room (West) and (iii) The Great Seven-Tiered Spire (Height about 200 feet.)

Note:

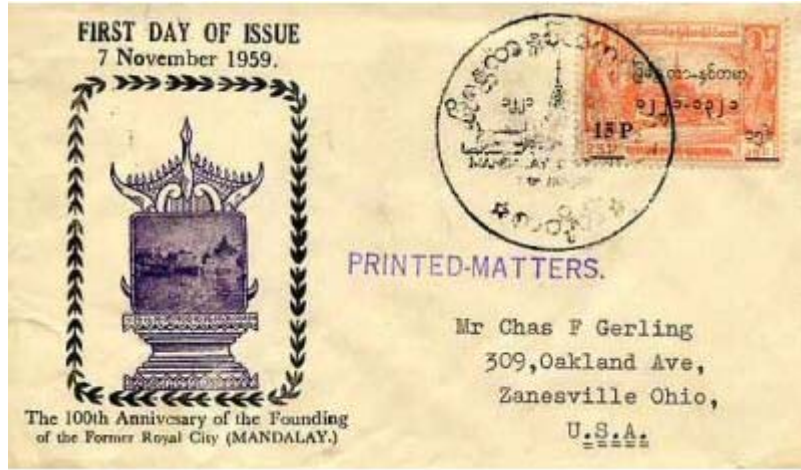
Commemorative cancellation in black



**39-3**

**Centenary of Mandalay Stamp Issue**

November 9, 1959



Text: First Day of Issue  
7 November 1959  
The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding  
Of the Former Royal City (Mandalay)

Note: Commemorative cancellation known in black (above) and purple (below).



**39-4 Centenary of Mandalay Stamp Issue**  
November 9, 1959



Text: First Day Cover  
100 Years Mandalay  
1859 1959  
7<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1959  
A.Y. Bhor(?)n??

Note: Last line unclear. May be the publisher's name

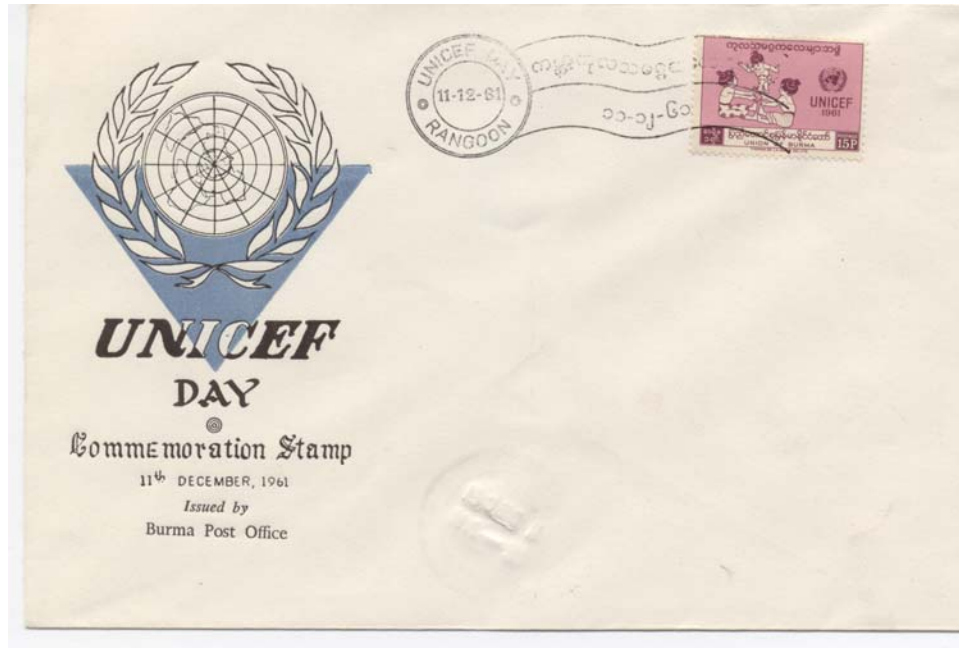
**40-x Postal Issue of 1961**  
June 1961

No cover with a cachet is yet recorded

**41-1**

**UNICEF Issue of 1961**

December 11, 1961



Publisher: Burma Post Office

Text: UNICEF  
DAY  
Commemoration Stamp  
11<sup>th</sup> December 1961  
Issued by  
Burma Post Office

**41-2**

**UNICEF Issue of 1961**

December 11, 1961



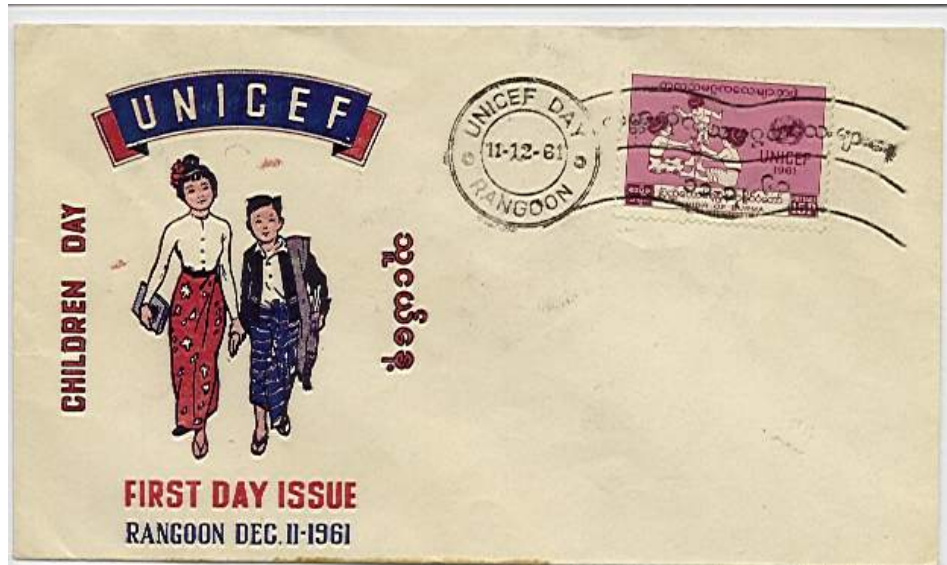
Publisher: P.H. Lim

Text: United Nations  
U.N.C.E.F.  
First Day of Issue  
Union of Burma  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1961  
By P.H. Lim

**41-3**

**UNICEF Issue of 1961**

December 11, 1961



Text:

UNICEF  
Children Day  
First Day Issue  
Rangoon Dec 11 - 1961

42-1

## 2<sup>nd</sup> South East Asia Peninsular Games Issue

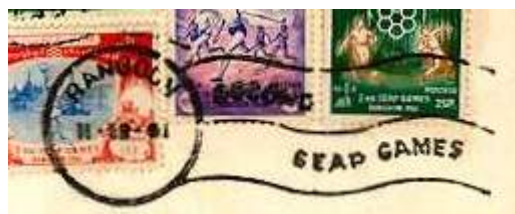
December 11, 1961



Publisher: Burma Post Office

Text: 2<sup>nd</sup> SEAP Games  
11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 1961  
Rangoon  
Issued by  
Burma Post Office

Note: Commemorative cancellation in black



Also known with purple commemorative handstamp



42-2

## 2<sup>nd</sup> South East Asia Peninsular Games Issue

December 11, 1961



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover  
2<sup>nd</sup> S.E.A.P. Games  
S.E.A.P. Games  
11 - 12 - 1961

Note: Commemorative cancellation in purple



42-3

**2<sup>nd</sup> South East Asia Peninsular Games Issue**

December 11, 1961



Text: 1961  
SEAP Games Dec. 11-16  
Rangoon Burma  
First Day of Issue

Note: Commemorative cancellation in black



**43-1 First Flight Cover**  
January 22, 1948



Text: First Day Cover  
Burma  
Interim  
Government  
Postage Stamps  
Inauguration of  
First Air-Mail Service  
Rangoon - Moulmein  
After Independence  
22-1-48

Note: One of a series addressed tot A.R.M. Sema

**43-2**

**First Flight Cover**

January 23, 1948



Text: First Day Cover  
Burma  
Interim  
Government  
Postage Stamps  
Inauguration of  
First Air-Mail Service  
Rangoon - Mergui  
After Independence  
23-1-48

Note: One of a series addressed tot A.R.M. Sema

**43-3**

**First Flight Cover**

January 23, 1948



Text: First Day Cover  
Burma  
Interim  
Government  
Postage Stamps  
Inauguration of  
First Air-Mail Service  
Rangoon - Tavoy  
After Independence  
23-1-48

Note: One of a series addressed tot A.R.M. Sema

**43-4**

**First Flight Cover**

October 16, 1952



Publisher: BOAC

Text: By Air Mail  
Par Avon  
B.O.A.C. Comet  
Jetliner Service  
London  
Singapore  
First Flight Between  
London and Singapore  
By BOAC

**43-5**

**First Flight Cover**

April 3, 1953



Publisher: BOAC

Text: By Air Mail  
Par Avon  
B.O.A.C. Comet  
Jetliner Service  
London  
Tokyo  
First Flight Between  
London and Tokyo  
By BOAC

**43-6 First Flight Cover**  
September 12, 1953



Publisher: Pan-Am

Text: First Air Mail Flight  
From Rangoon  
New York  
London San Francisco  
Basra Honolulu  
New Delhi Wake Island  
Dusseldorf Hong Kong  
Istanbul Bangkok  
Beirut Tokyo  
Calcutta Sept. 12. 1953 Karachi  
Pan American World Airways

Note: Covers known addressed to all destinations cited in the rubber stamp cachet.

**43-7**

**First Flight Cover**

July 17, 1957



Publisher: BOAC

Text: By Air Mail  
Par Avon  
B.O.A.C.  
Britannia  
Jet-Prop Airliner  
BOAC  
First Flight Between  
London and Tokyo