



A Catalog of Burmese Cachets 1937 - 1947

Steven Zwillinger

Introduction

This listing is an attempt to list the cachets (the envelope designs) that commemorated events in Burma during the ten years beginning in 1937. While these covers are encountered in the philatelic market, there has not been a comprehensive reference guide to these covers. The primary source of Burmese postal history, *Burma Postal History*, by Davis and Martin does not go beyond 1937 in its discussions. Cachets are frequently not addressed in “serious” philately; I believe there is a place for them. *The Burma Peacock*, the publication of the Burma collecting fraternity, has reproduced several cachets over the last 20 years. This listing builds upon the work started in *The Burma Peacock*.

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 would not have been possible without the help, guidance and encouragement of Alan Meech and Brian Saxe; they are giants in Burmese philately. Much of the content is due to their help; the errors are mine. Thanks are also due to William Bennett who shared cachets I had never seen before.

In this listing, each envelope design has a two-part designation. The first number, from one to twenty, designates the event, and the second part is a sequential listing of designs for the event. This allows new numbers to be added for any covers not previously identified. 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. Thank you.

Steven Zwillinger
Silver Spring, MD
November 2002

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v 5.0

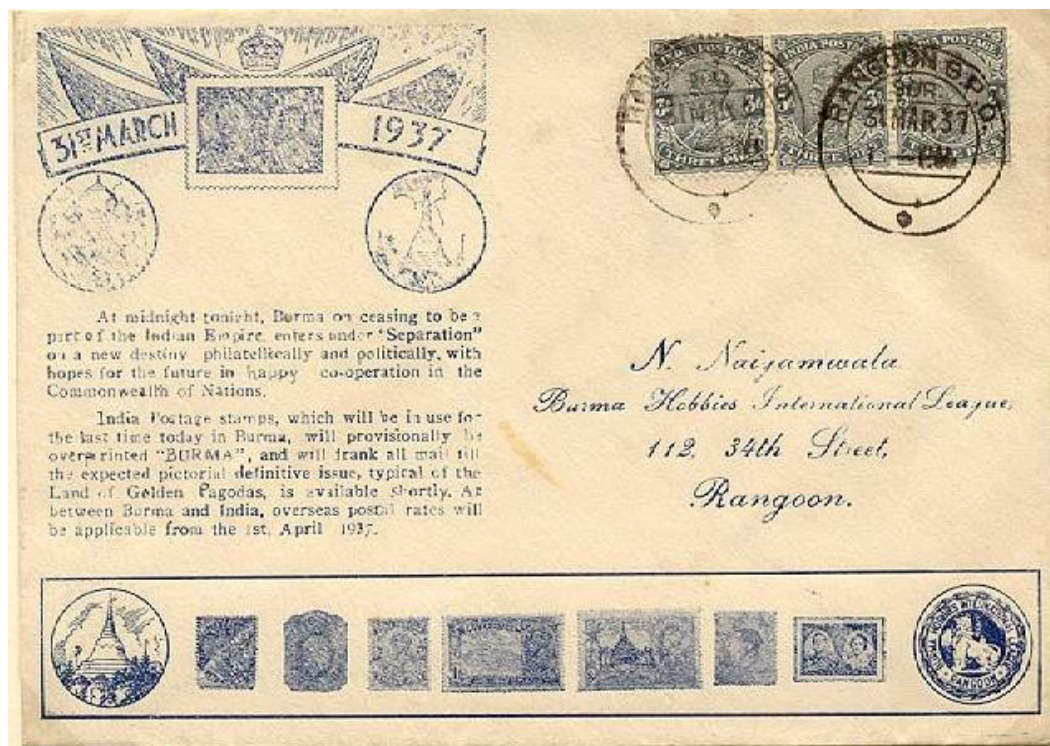
Burmese Cachets

There are 20 significant events, activities, or periods in Burmese postal history associated with covers from Burma. These are:

1. March 31, 1937 Last Day Before Separation
2. April 1, 1937 Separation from India
3. May 12, 1937 Coronation of George VI
4. Summer, Fall 1937 Naigamwalla's proposed stamp designs
5. November 15, 1938 First Definitives
6. May 6, 1940 Commemorative Issue – Postage Stamp Centenary
7. August 1, 1940 One Pie (Newspaper Rate) Stamp Issue
8. January 2, 1941 Maiden Voyage of S.S. Executor
9. March 7, 1941 Burma Arts and Crafts Exhibition
10. June-August 1945 World War II Victory
11. January 1, 1946 Definitive Issue
12. May 2, 1946 Burma Victory Issue
13. December 18, 1946 Memorial Day for Allied P.O.W.s
14. March 1947 Burma Exhibition – Cachets not recorded
15. October 1, 1947 Provisional Government Issue
16. Karl Lewis Covers
17. Airmail Flights First Flights
18. Japanese Occupation
19. U.S. Army Post Office
20. Pre -1937 (India used in Burma)

1-1 Last Day Before Separation
 March 31, 1937

Var 1



Publisher: N. Naigamwala

Text: At midnight tonight, Burma on ceasing to be a part of the Indian Empire, enters under "Separation" on a new destiny philatelically and politically with hopes for the future in happy co-operation in the Commonwealth of Nations

India Postage stamps, which will be in use for the last time today in Burma, will provisionally be over-printed "BURMA", and will frank all mail till the expected pictorial definitive issue, typical of the Land of the Golden Pagoda, is available shortly. As between Burma and India, overseas postal rates will be applicable from the 1st. April, 1937

Note: There are two varieties. One without a rubber stamped "Last Day Cover" (above) and one with (next page).

1-1 Last Day Before Separation con't
March 31, 1937

Var 2



With rubber stamped "Last Day Cover"

1-2 Last Day Before Separation

March 31, 1937



Publisher: N. Naigamwala

Text: Separation Day
1st April 1937
Burma
The dawn of the new constitution over Burma through five /
reigns of British rule.

Note: Some copies do not have the rubber stamped
"First Day Cover" in the upper left corner. This
was Naigamwala's first separation design.

1-3 **Last Day Before Separation**
March 31, 1937

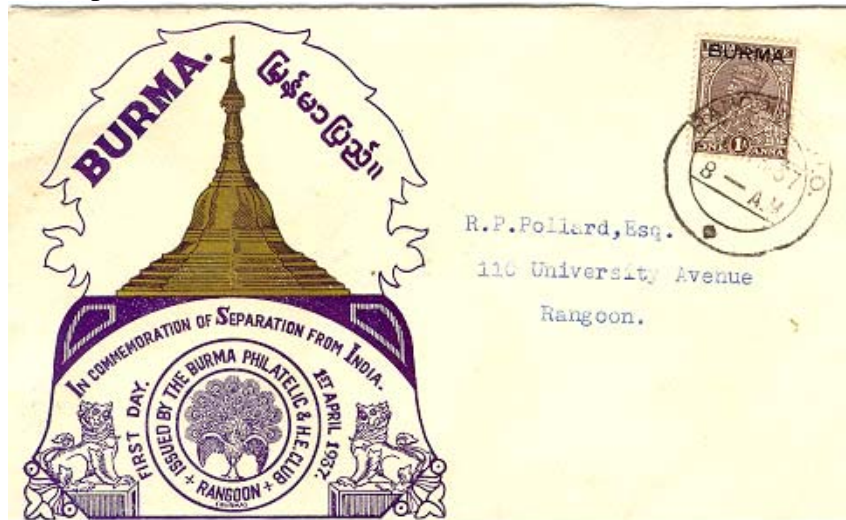


Publisher: Burma Philatelic And H.E. Club

Text: Burma Philatelic And
Hobbies Exchange Club
Rangoon

2-1 Separation from India

April 1, 1937



Size: Issued in two sizes: Variety 1 is 4 x 6½ inches and Variety 2 is 5 x 7 inches

Publisher: The Burma Philatelic & H.E. Club

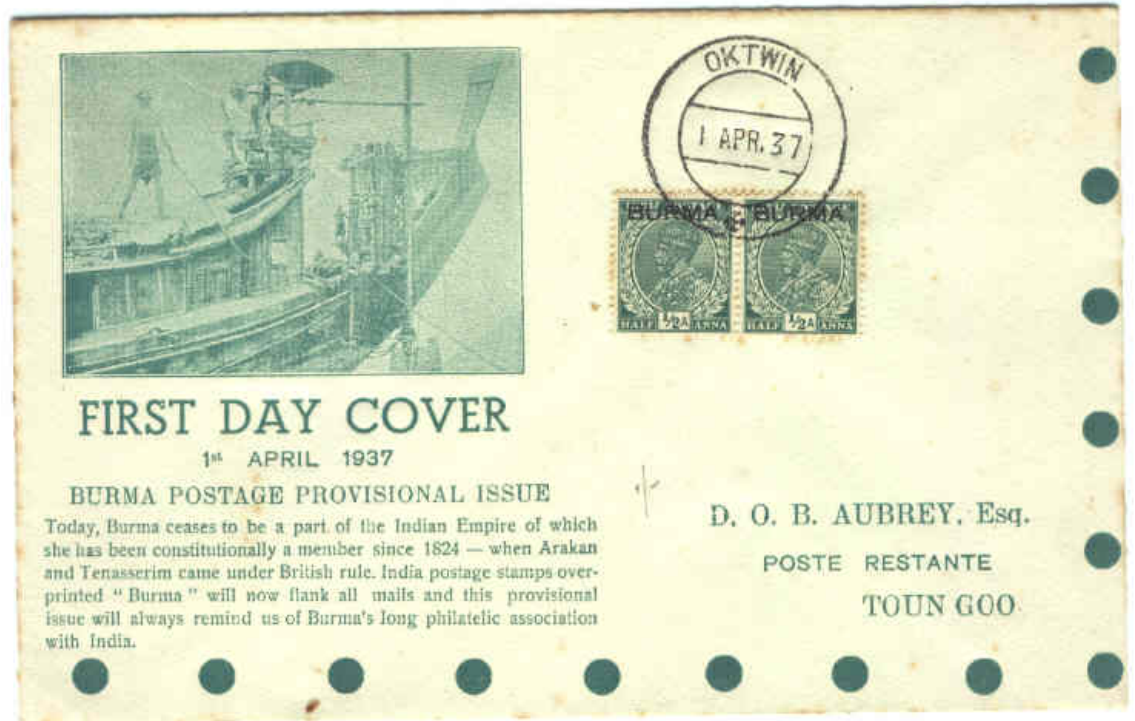
Text: In Commemoration of Separation from India
First Day 1st April 1937
Issued by the Burma Philatelic & H.E. Club
Rangoon (Burma)

Note: See next Page

2-2

Separation from India

April 1, 1937



Publisher: D.O.B. Aubrey

Text: First Day Cover
1st April 1937
Burma Postage Provisional Issue
Today, Burma ceases to be part of the Indian Empire of which she has been constitutionally a member since 1824 – when Arakan and Tenasserim came under British rule. Indian postage stamps over- printed “Burma” will now flank all mails and this provisional issue will always remind us of Burma’s long philatelic association with India

2-3 Separation from India

April 1, 1937

2-3a

Light blue sea
sea40



(also on buff envelope as well as white)

2-3b

Dark blue sea
Orange sari



This version, of the 3 illustrated appears to be the most common. It is usually found with a rubber-stamped address to Q. do Carmo Lobo in Rangoon

2-3c

Green sea



Continued next page

Publisher: NKD Naigamwala

Text: Commemoration of Burma's Separation
1st April 1937

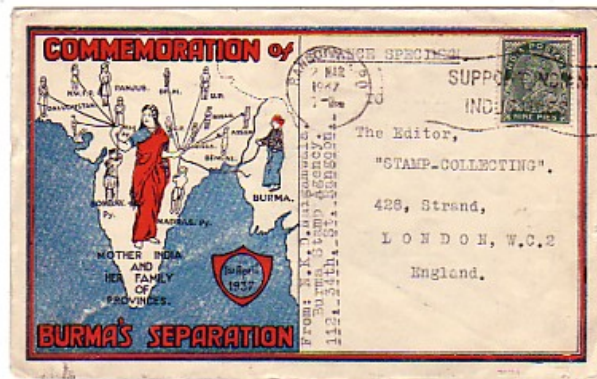
Notes This was Naigamwala's second separation design. Note the variant spelling of PANJAB for PUNJAB in all varieties. Frequently seen with a rubber stamp from Burma Hobbies International League Rangoon, an organization created by Naigamwala.

2-3 **Separation from India**
continued April 1, 1937

2-3d
 Dark blue sea
 Yellow sari

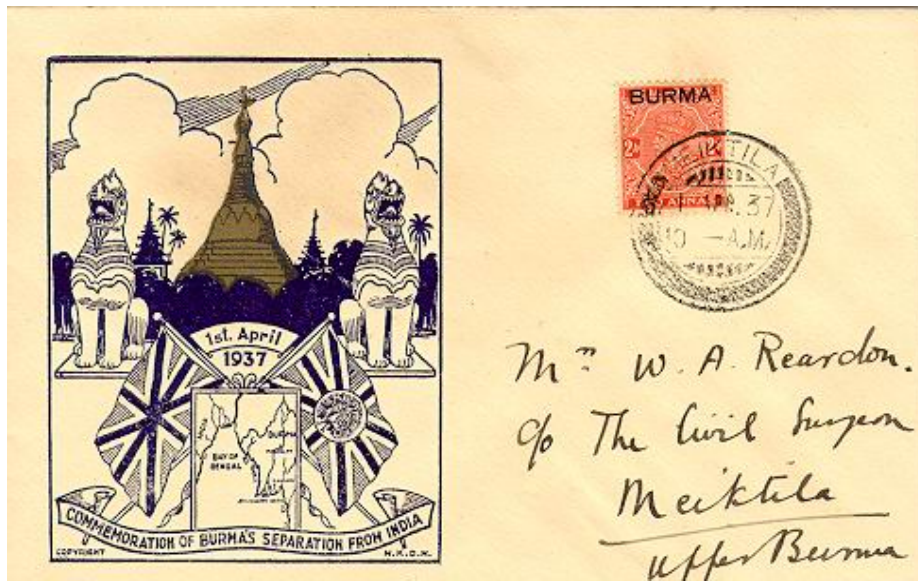


2-3e
 Medium – dark
 blue sea
 Red Sari



2-4a **Separation from India**
 April 1, 1937

Small size



Size: Issued in two sizes: Variety A is 4¼ x 6½ inches and Variety B –on buff - is 5 x 7 inches.

Publisher: NKD Naigamwala

Text: 1st April 1937
 Commemoration of Burma's Separation from India
 Copyright N.K.D.N.

Notes This was Naigamwala's third separation design. Frequently seen with a rubber stamp from Burma Hobbies International League Rangoon.



2-4b

Separation from India con't

April 1, 1937

Large
size



Size: Issued in two sizes: Variety 1 is 4¼ x 6½ inches and Variety 2 –on buff - is 5 x 7 inches.

Publisher: NKD Naigamwala

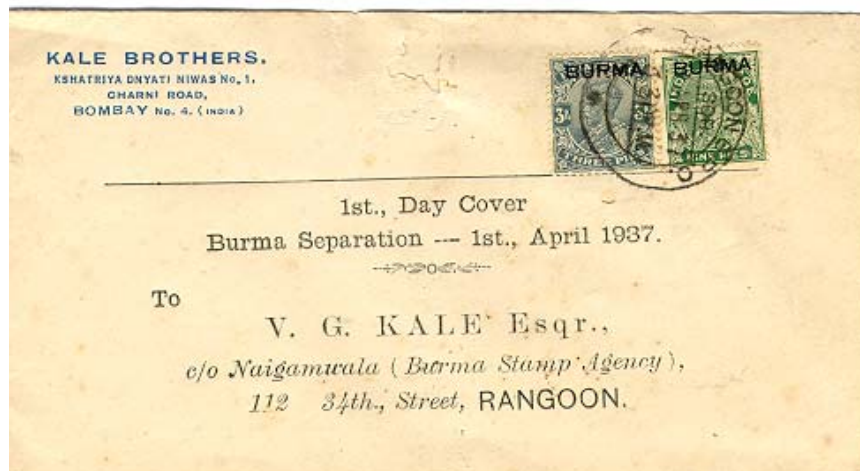
Text: 1st April 1937
Commemoration of Burma's Separation from India
Copyright N.K.D.N.

Notes This was Naigamwala's third separation design. Frequently seen with a rubber stamp from Burma Hobbies International League Rangoon. Some copies have a rubber stamped "First Day Cover", others have it and "Registered".

2-5

Separation from India

April 1, 1937



Publisher: Kale Brothers, Bombay

Text: 1^{st.}, Day Cover
Burma Separation --- 1^{st.}, April 1937
To

Notes The address is c/o Naigamwalla

2-6

Separation from India

April 1, 1937



Publisher: R. Tannan

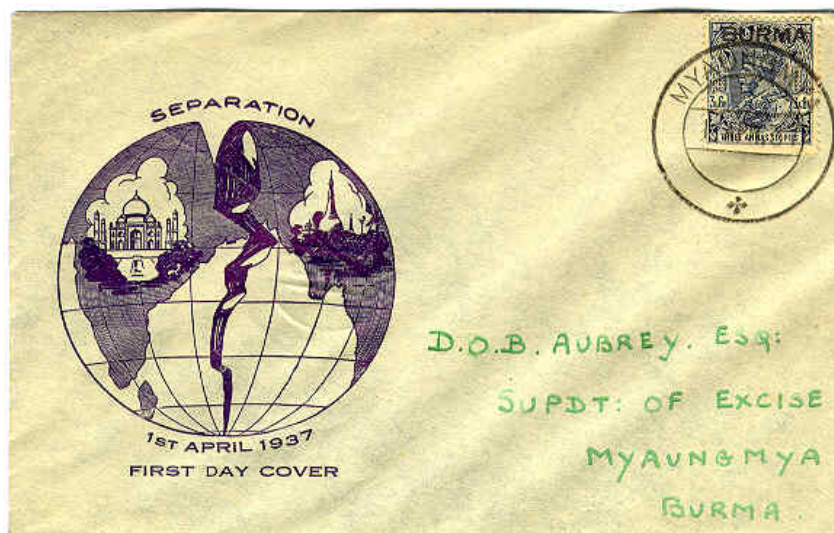
Text: Burma Separation
First Day Cover
1st April 1937

Notes Known with printed address for both Rangoon and
Bombay.

2-7 Separation from India

April 1, 1937

2-7a
Blue



2-7b
olive-green



Publisher: ?

Text: Separation
April 1937
First Day Cover

Note Most from Rangoon but also seen from Myaungmya and registered from Meiktila. seen with a rubber stamp from Burma Hobbies International League Rangoon.

2-8

Separation from India

April 1, 1937



Size: Issued in two sizes: Variety 1 is 4¼ x 6½ inches and Variety 2 is 5 x 7 inches. Illustrated cover is large size.

Publisher: E.B. Choo, Rangoon

Text: First Day Cover
In Commemoration of Separation of Burma from India
1st April 1937

Notes A set of two envelopes with this cachet was illustrated in India's Stamp Journal September 1942 page 207

Registration Label from "Office of the PMG Burma Rangoon" on reverse.

2-9

Separation from India

April 1, 1937

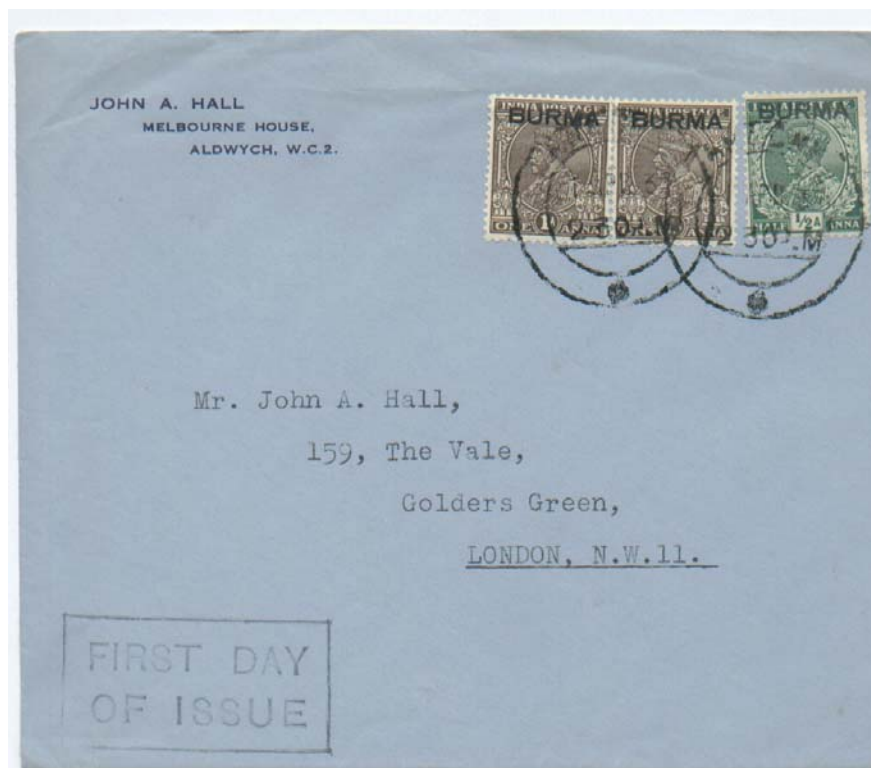


Publisher: E.B. Choo, Rangoon

Text: In Commemoration of Separation of Burma from India
1st April 1937
Designed by E.B. Choo Rangoon

Note Same as previous design but no color added.

2-10 Separation from India
April 1, 1937



Publisher: John Hall?

Text: First Day of Issue (Rubber Stamped)

2-11 Separation from India

April 1, 1937



Publisher: J. Stephen?

Text: First Day Cover (Rubber Stamped)

Notes: Circular rubber stamp marking on reverse
"Guaranteed Genuine J. Stephen" [around
circumference] and "Delivered 13 April 1937
Liverpool" [in center]

2-12 Separation from India
April 1, 1937



Publisher: ?

Text: First Day Cover

3-1

Coronation

May 12, 1937

3-1a



King facing right
Queen wearing tiara

3-1b



King facing slightly
to left
No tiara on queen

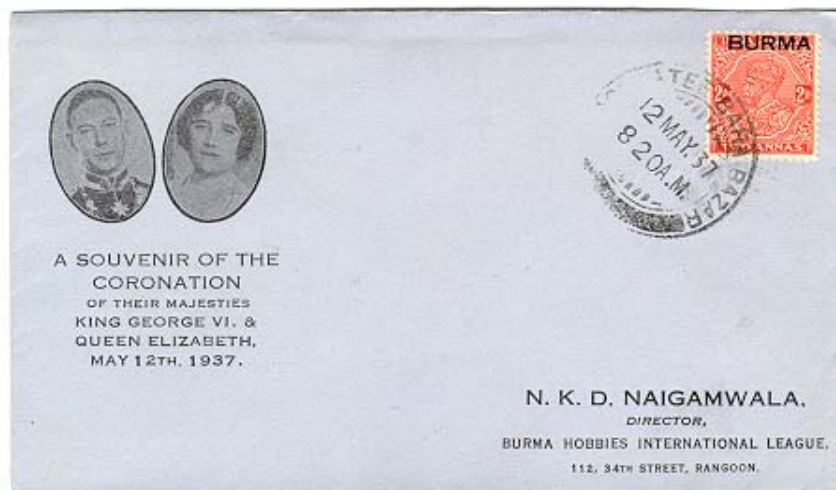
Publisher: Naigamwalla

Text: Coronation
May 12 1937
Copyright Naigamwalla
Burma Hobbies International League Rangoon

3-2

Coronation

May 12, 1937



Publisher: Naigamwalla (?)

Text: A Souvenir of The Coronation of Their Majesties
King George VI & Queen Elizabeth,
May 12th, 1937.

Notes Preprinted address of Naigamwalla.

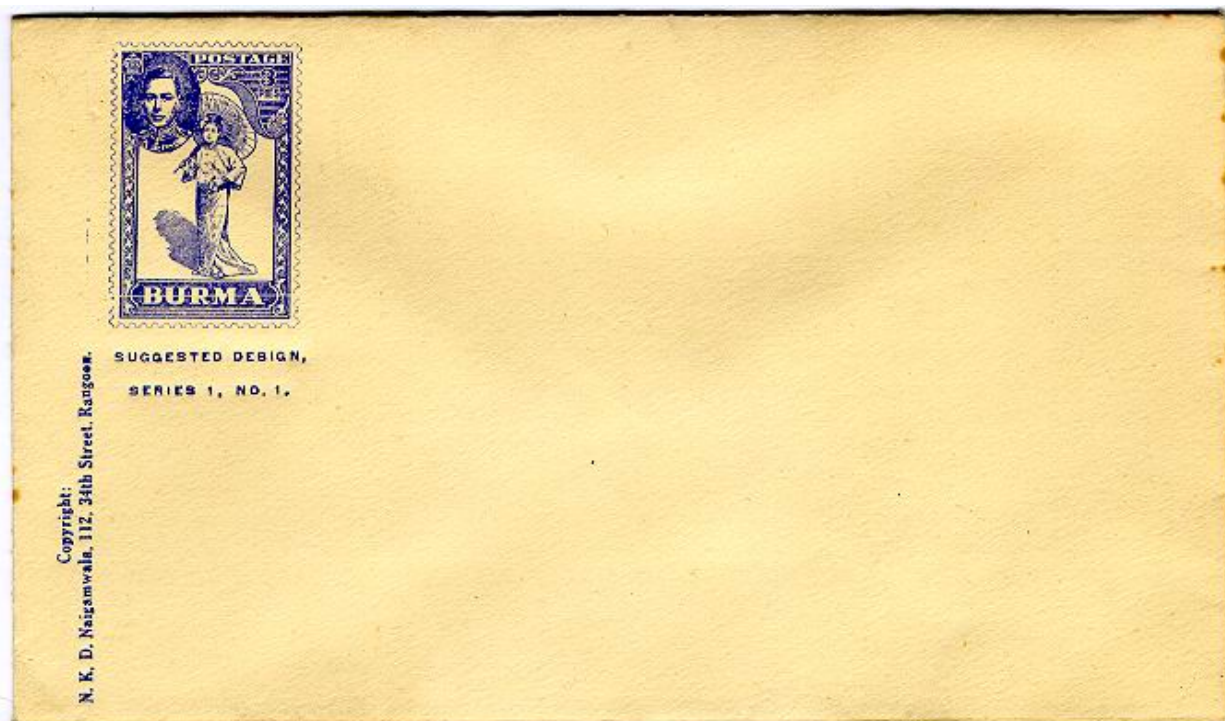
4-1 to 4-12 Naigamwalla's proposed designs of 1937

Publisher: Naigamwalla

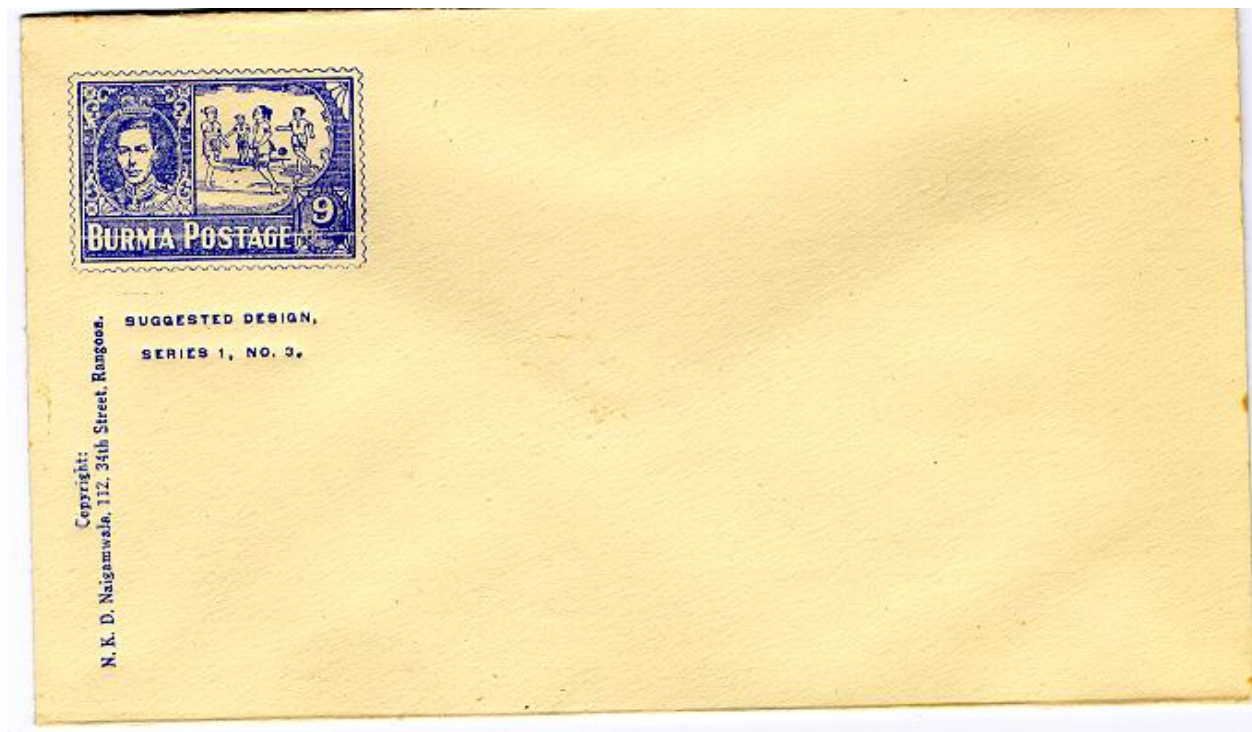
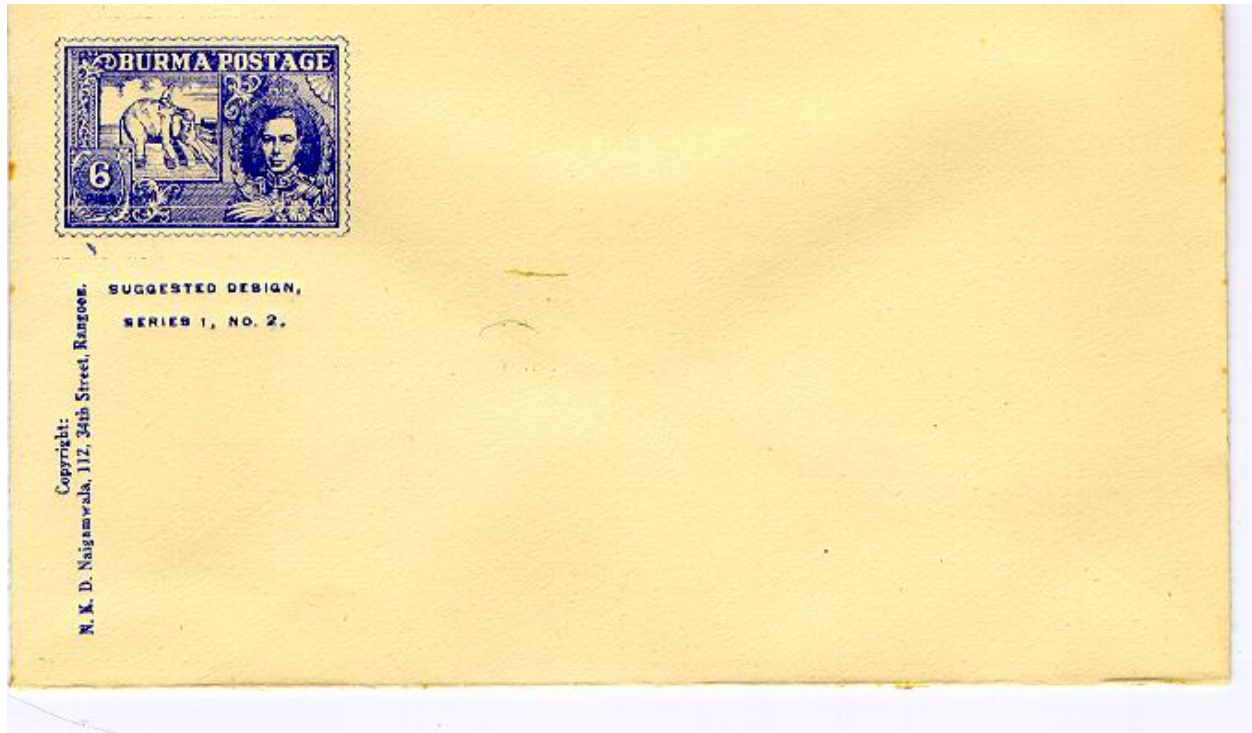
Text: Suggested Design
Series 1, No. x[where x varies from 1 to 12]
[sideways]Copyright
N.K.D. Naigamwalla 112 34th Street, Rangoon

Note: In 1937 N.K.D. Naigamwalla suggested a series of twelve designs for Burmese stamps. The 8 anna design proposed was accepted for the series issued in November 1938. Naigamwalla prepared a series of covers in which each cover depicted one of the proposed designs. The used examples reproduced in The Burma Peacock (Vol. 12, No.3, page 60, Fall 1991) are cancelled in August 1937. These covers may have been used through the end of 1937 and even possibly for the commemorative issues of November 1938. They are occasionally mis-described as essays of the Burma PTO.

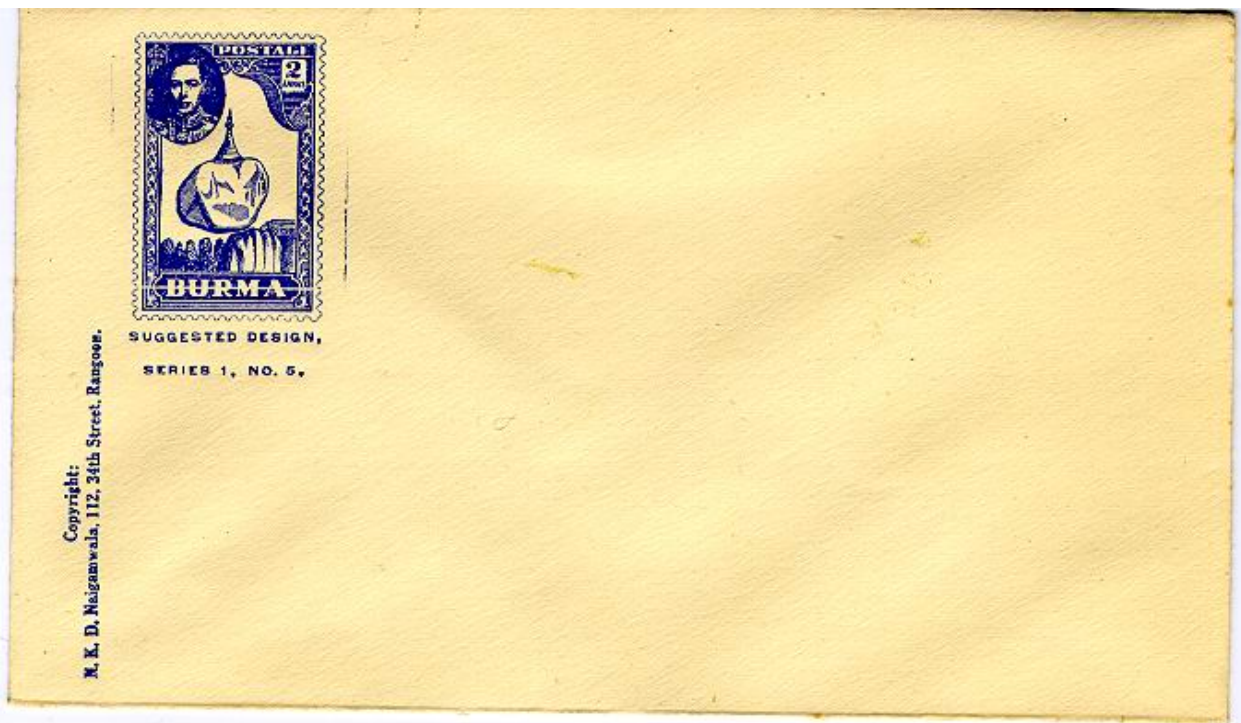
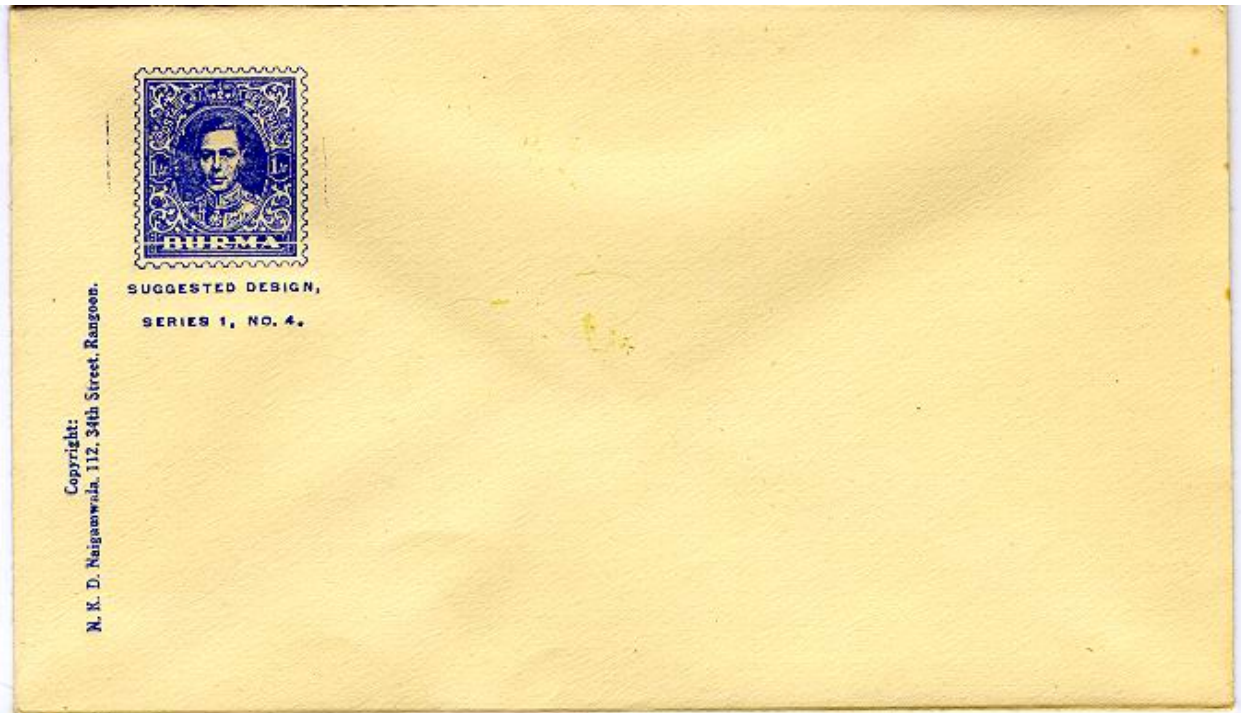
There are 12 designs which are reproduced below.



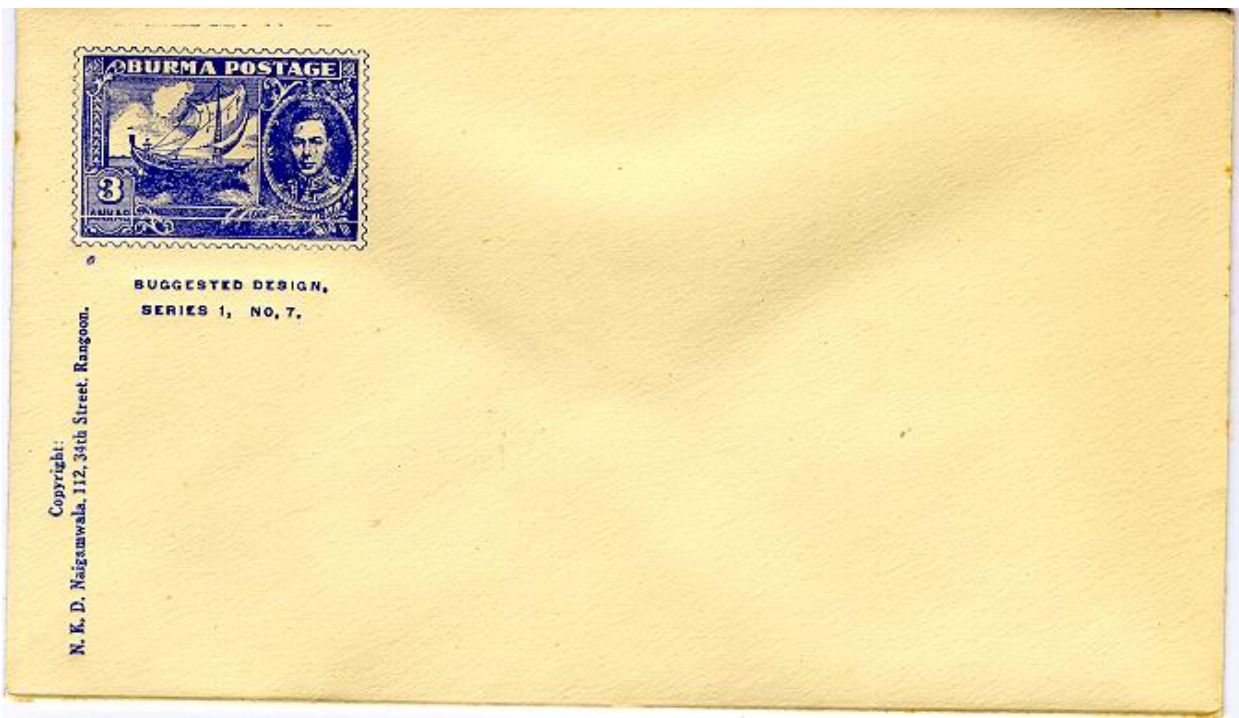
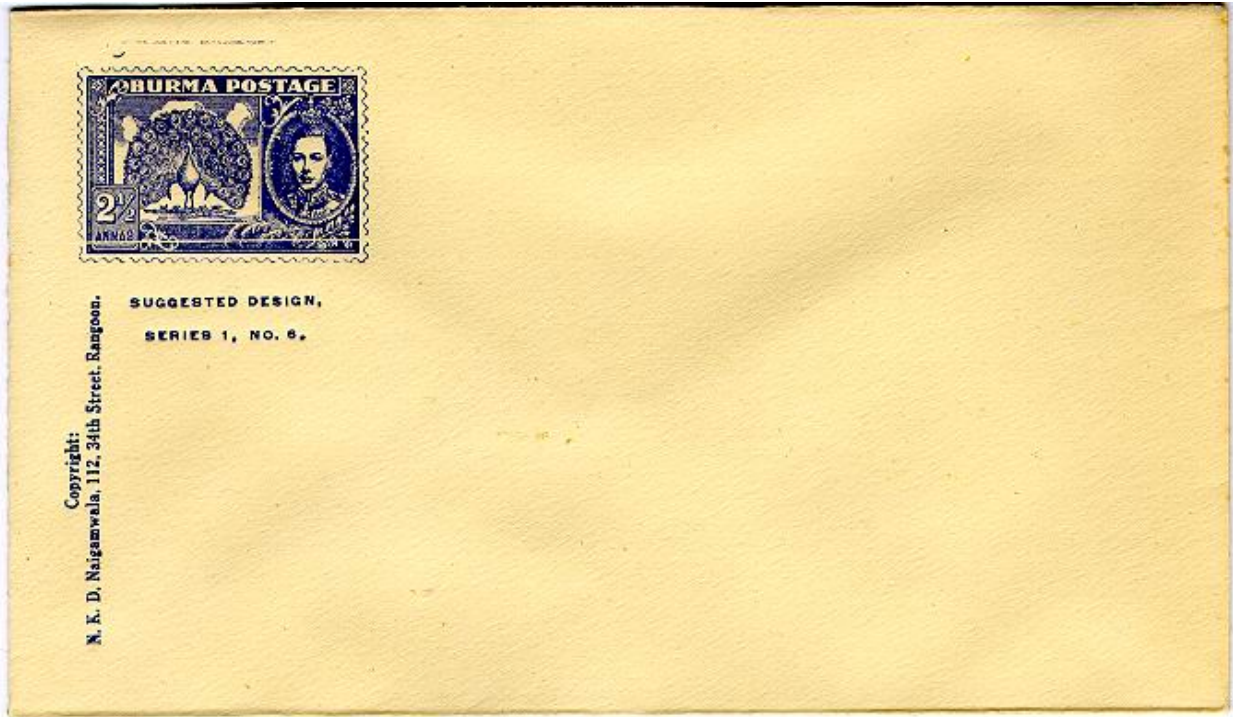
NAIGAMWALLA'S PROPOSED DESIGNS OF 1937 – continued



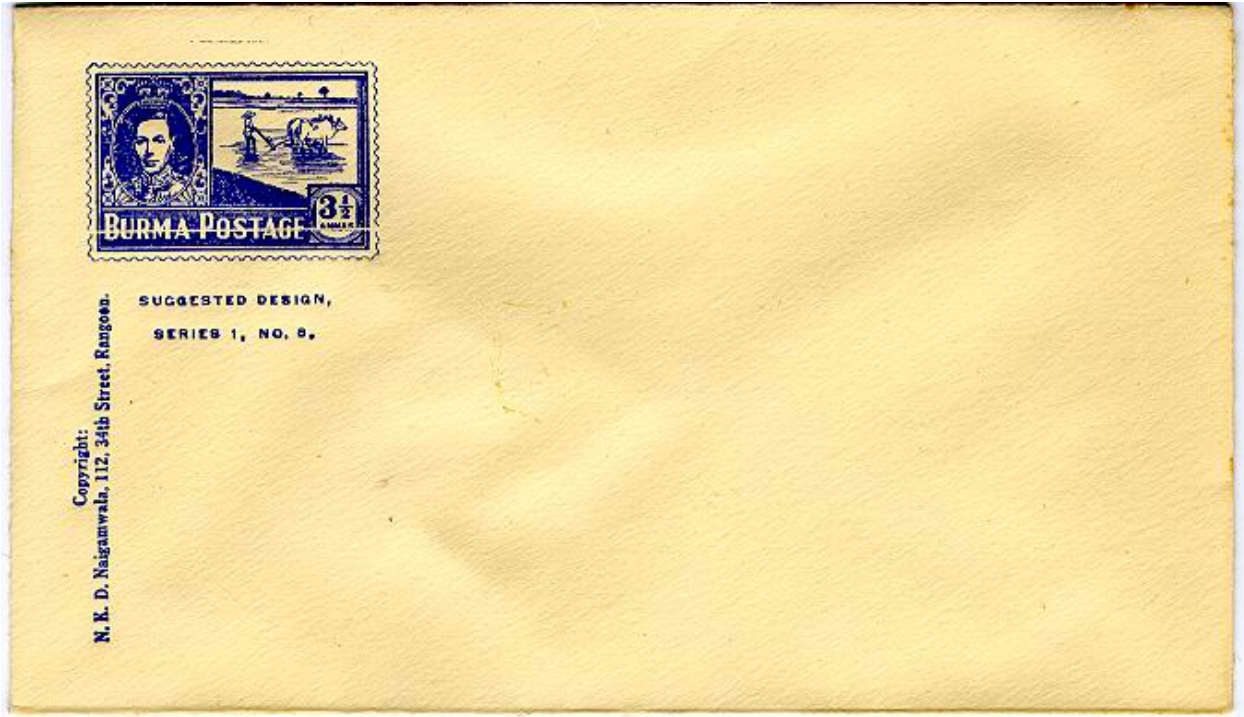
NAIGAMWALLA'S PROPOSED DESIGNS OF 1937 – continued



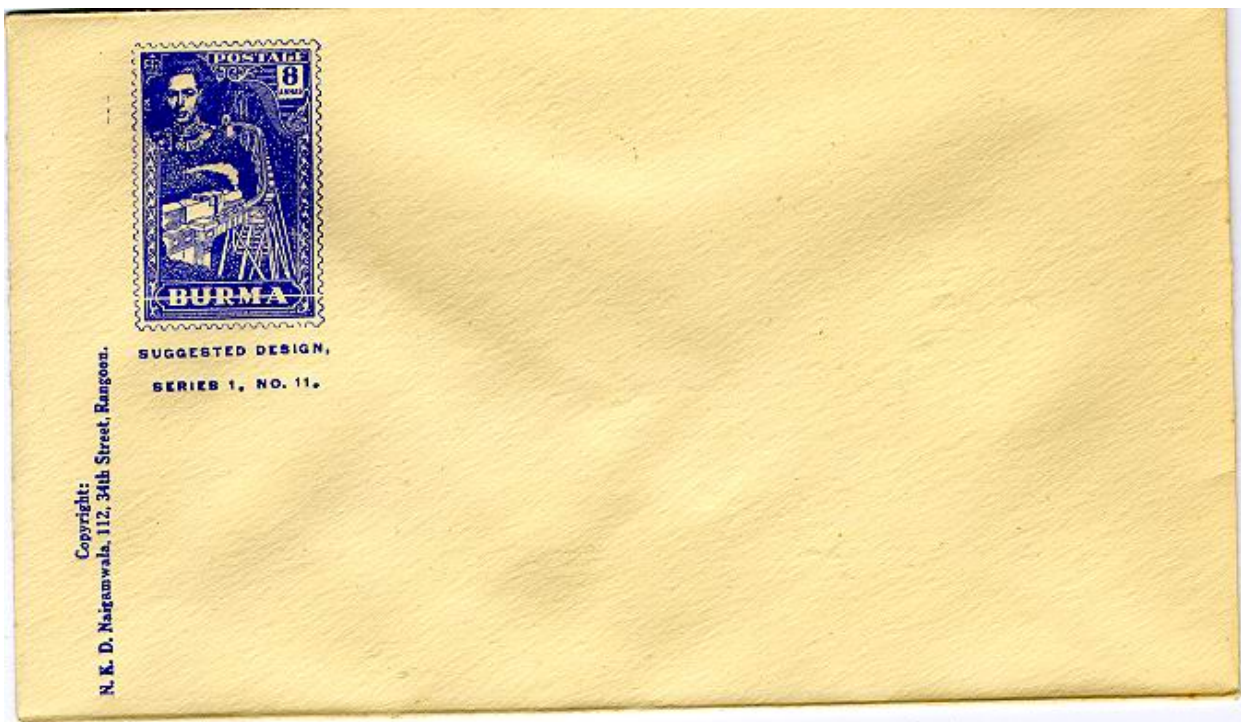
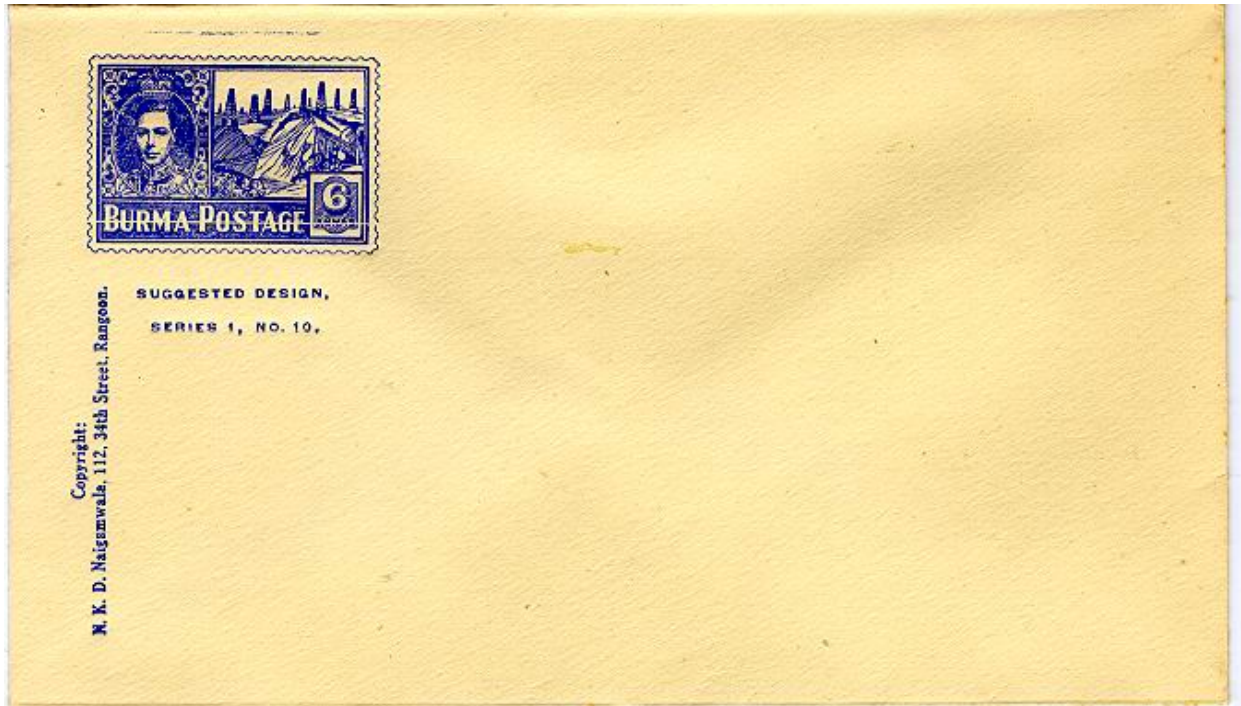
NAIGAMWALLA'S PROPOSED DESIGNS OF 1937 – continued



NAIGAMWALLA'S PROPOSED DESIGNS OF 1937 – continued



NAIGAMWALLA'S PROPOSED DESIGNS OF 1937 – continued



NAIGAMWALLA'S PROPOSED DESIGNS OF 1937 – continued



Copyright:
M. K. D. Naigamwala, 112, 34th Street, Rangoon.

SUGGESTED DESIGN,
SERIES 1, NO. 12.

5-1

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover
Burma Postage 1938
H.M. King George VI
Inaugural Definitive Pictorials
Copyright D2 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes D2 indicates Design Number 2.

There appears to be great variety in the amount of ink used in printing the cachet. Some are clear and distinct; others are blurry.

This design is also know as a poster stamp



5-2

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover
H.M. King George VI
Definitive Issue Burma
Pictorials 1938
Copyright D3 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes D3 indicates Naigamwalla's Design Number 3. Most seen are from Rangoon. Also from Moulmein, Syriam, and registered from Bassein and from the Office of the Director General Posts and Telegraphs, Burma.

5-3

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: Naigamwalla

Text: Burma Stamps New Issue
Burmese Royal Barge & Sailing Boat
The Irrawaddy
Copyright D4 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

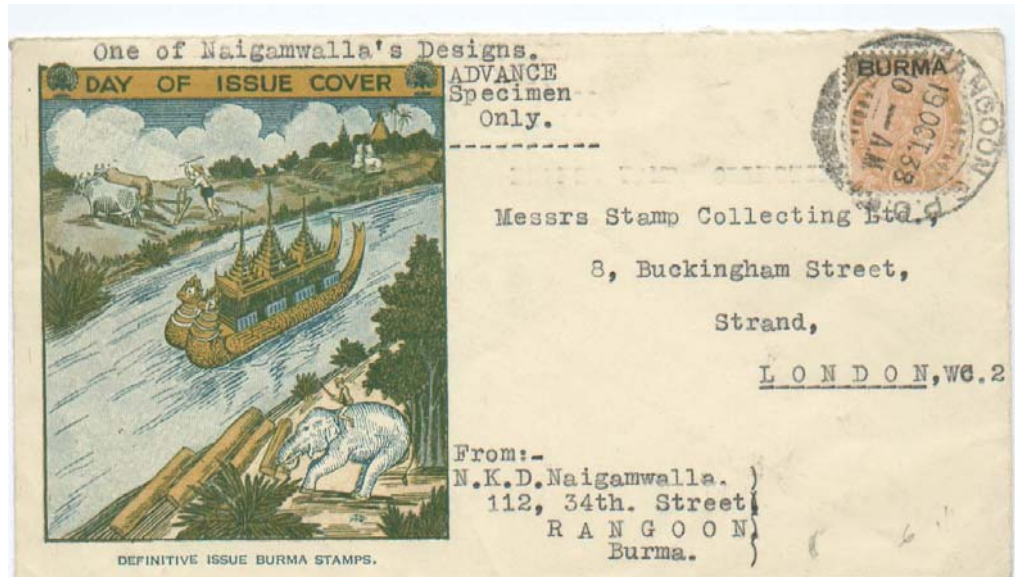
Notes D4 indicates Design Number 4. The first three designs listed are Naigamwalla's second, third, and fourth design. It is reasonable to speculate that one of the following designs was his first.

Also known with a rubber stamp marking "First Day Cover / November 15, 1938 / Burma Definitive Issue."

5-4

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: NKD Naigamwalla

Text: Day of Issue Cover
Definitive Issue Burma Stamp

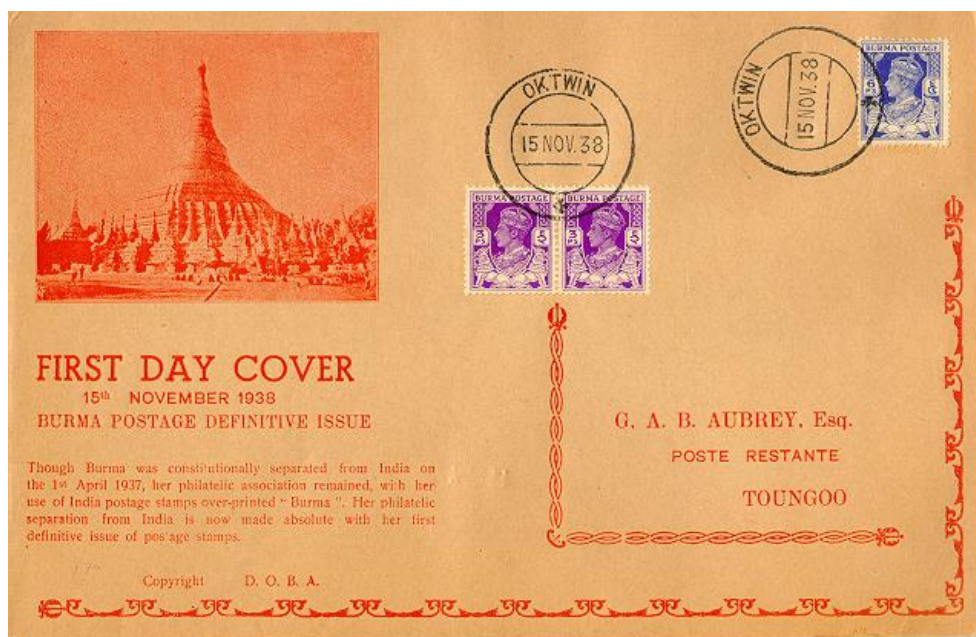
Notes The illustrated cover was sent by Naigamwalla himself in advance of the issue date of the stamp it commemorates.

5-5

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938

5-5a

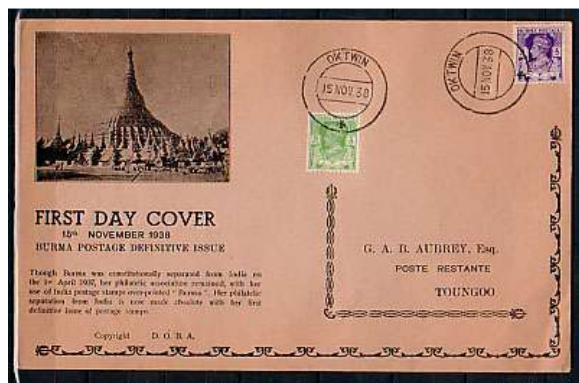


Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: First Day Cover
15th November 1938
Burma Postage Definitive Issue

Though Burma was constitutionally separated from India on the 1st April 1937, her philatelic association remained, with her use of India postage stamps over-printed "Burma". Her philatelic separation from India is now made absolute with her first definitive issue of postage stamps. Copyright D.O.B.A.

Note:
Also known in green as 5-5b



5-6

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: T.S. Choo

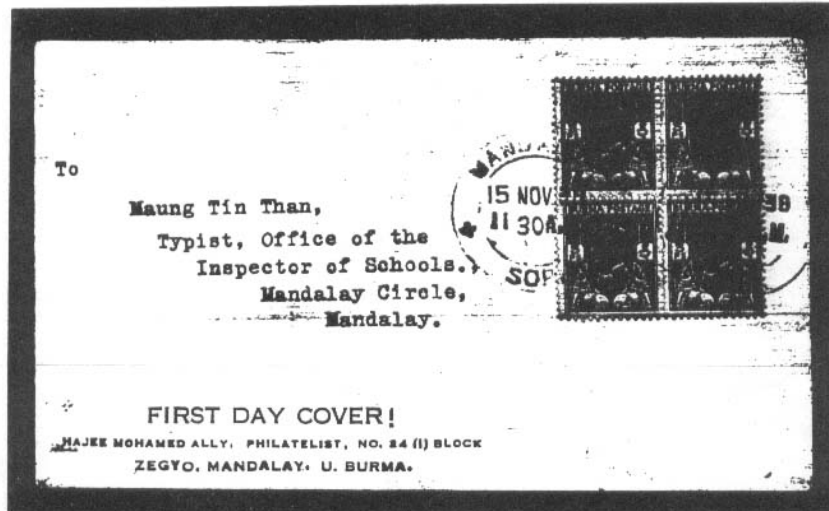
Text: Burma
1st Day Cover of Pictorial Issue

Notes Attribution of this design to T.S. Choo is by Lawrence Burness in Winter 1991 article of *The Burma Peacock*, page 76.

5-7

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: Hajee Mohamed Ally

Text: First Day Cover
Hajee Mohamed Ally, Philatelist, No. 24 (1) Block
Zegyo. Mandalay. U. Burma

Note: The editor has not seen this image in color.

5-8

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938

Var. A



Var. B



Size: Issued in two sizes: Variety A is 3¾ x 6½ inches and Variety B is 5 x 6¼ inches

Publisher: T.S. Choo

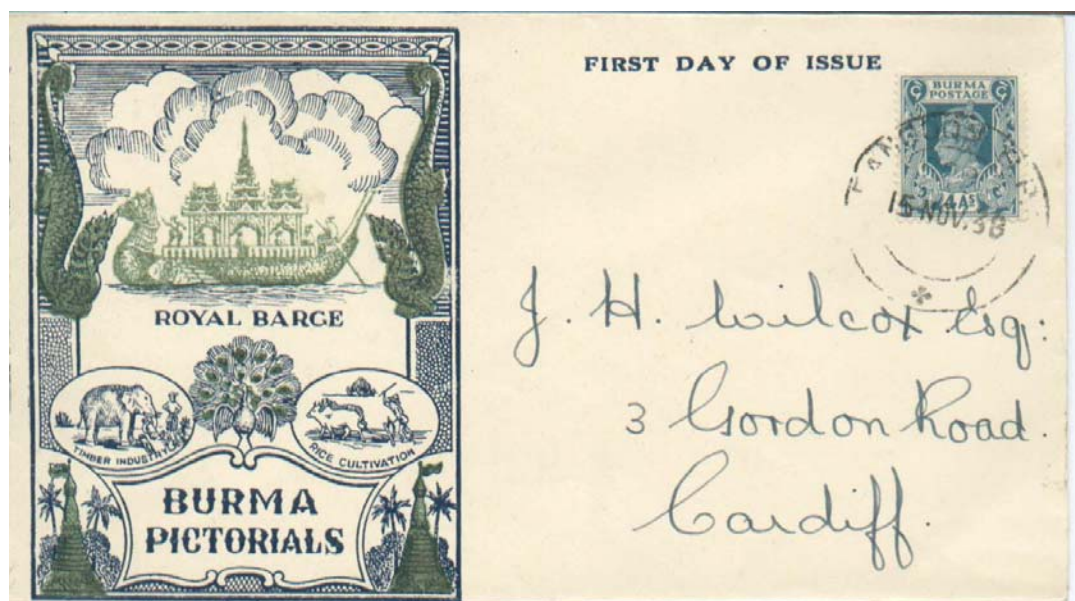
Text: Burma
1st Day Cover of Pictorial Issue

Notes The illustrated larger cover is part of a 2-cover set; the second cover has the high values up to 10 Rs.

5-9

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: ?

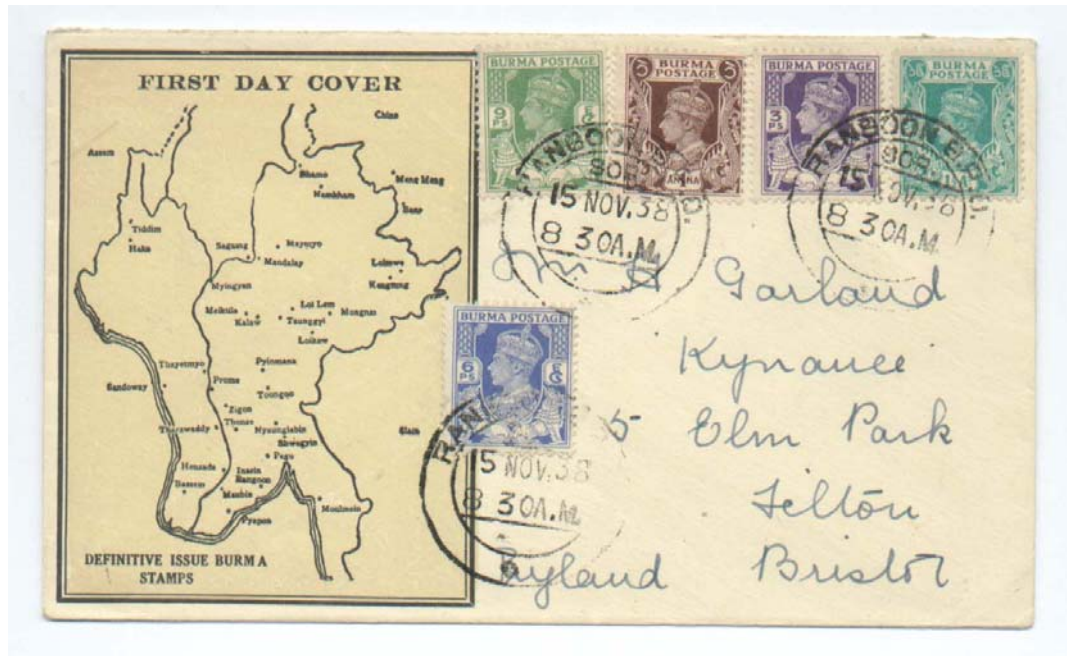
Text: Royal Barge
Burma Pictorials

Notes Two colors are known. Variety 1 is brown (above) and variety 2 is green (below). Brown shade varies between gold and brown

5-10

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



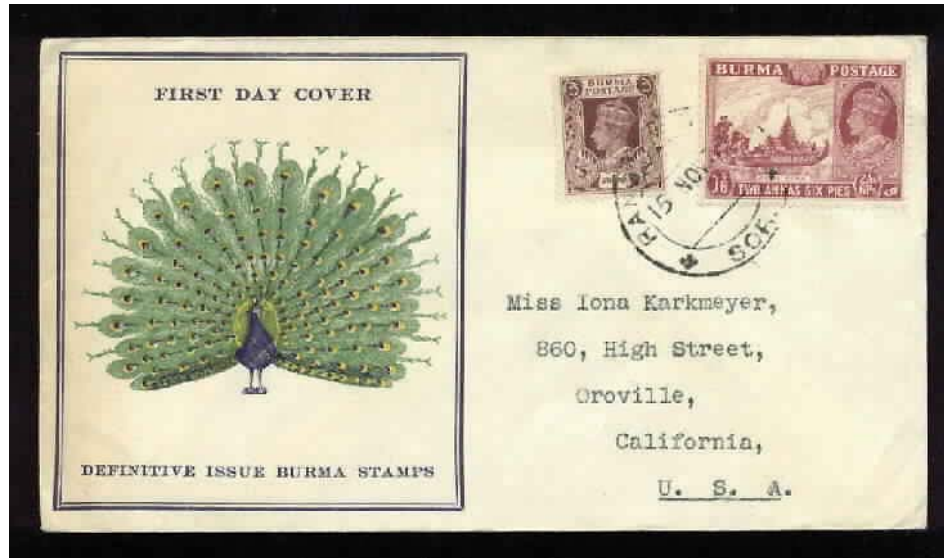
Publisher: ?

Text: First Day Cover
Definitive Issue Burma Stamps

5-11

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: ?

Text: First Day Cover
Definitive Issue Burma Stamps

5-12

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



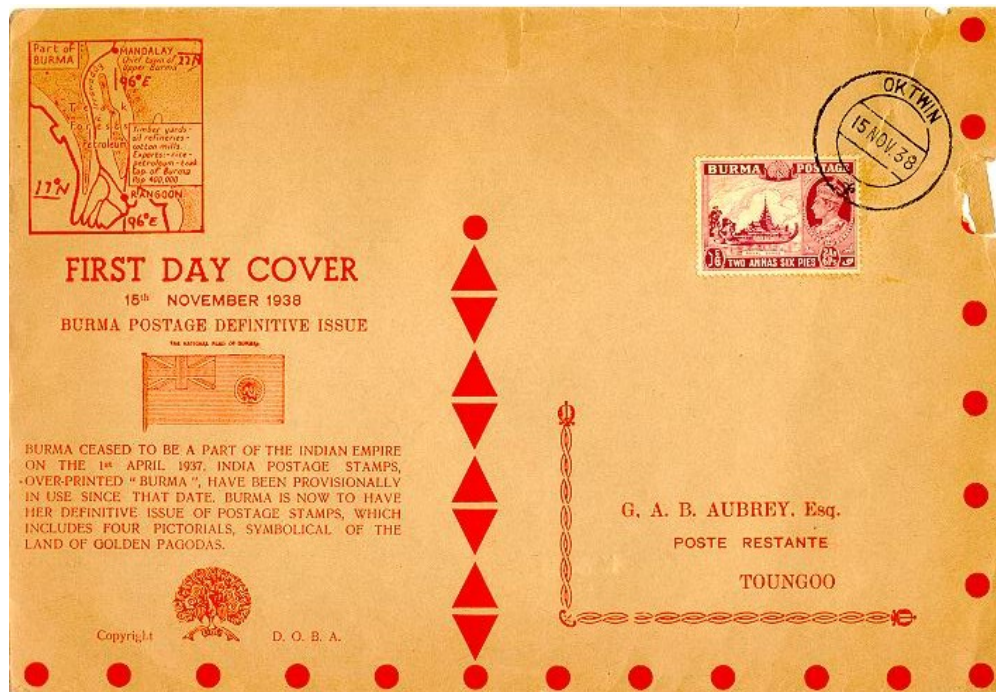
Publisher: D.O.B. Aubrey

Text: First Day Cover
15th November 1938
Burma Postage Definitive Issue
Burma, the youngest stamp-issuing country in the British Empire, releases, today, her first definitive issue of postage Stamps, thus taking her place in the philatelic world.
Copyright D.O.B.A.

5-13a

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: DOBA

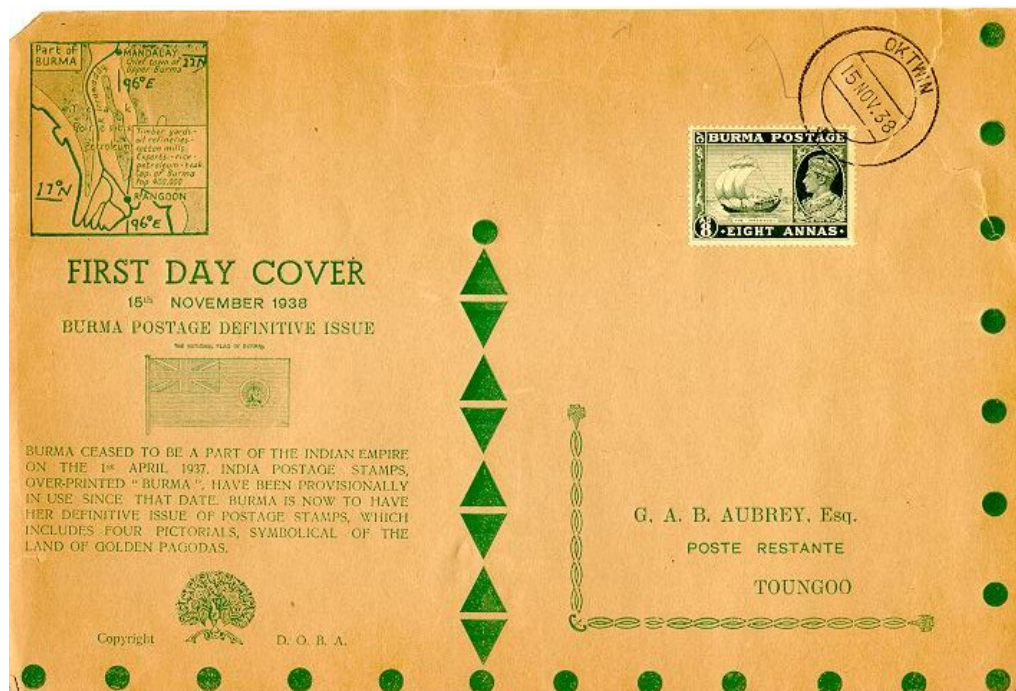
Text: First Day Cover
15th November 1938
Burma Postage Definitive Issue

Burma ceased to be a part of the Indian empire
On the 1st April 1937. India Postage stamps
Overprinted "Burma", have been provisionally
in use since that date. Burma is now to have
her definitive issue of postage stamps which
includes four pictorials symbolical of the
land of golden pagodas.

Copyright D.O.B.A.

Notes: D.O.B.A. was D.O.B. Aubrey, the Superintendent of Excise,
located in Toungoo. His name appears frequently on Burmese
cachets.
See the next page for the same cachet in green.

5-13b **Stamp Issues**
November 15, 1938



Publisher: DOBA

Text: First Day Cover
15th November 1938
Burma Postage Definitive Issue

Burma ceased to be a part of the Indian empire
On the 1st April 1937. India Postage stamps
Overprinted "Burma", have been provisionally
in use since that date. Burma is now to have
her definitive issue of postage stamps which
includes four pictorials symbolical of the
land of golden pagodas.

Copyright D.O.B.A.

Notes See the prior page for the same cachet in red

5-14

Stamp Issues

November 15, 1938



Publisher: Burma Philatelic And H.E. Club ?
[poor scan. Resembles 1-3 which is clearly attributed]

Text: Souvenir Envelope
King George VI
First Day Cover

6-1 Commemorative Stamp Issue
May 6, 1940

Variety
6-1a



Variety
6-1b



Publisher: Naigamwalla

Text: Century Postage Stamp.
1840 – 6th May – 1940
Rowland Hill Queen Victoria
Burmese Royal Barge
Burma Commemorative Issue
Copyright. D1 N.K.A. NAIGAMWALLA

Notes Variety 6-1a: black ink and last line ends with Naigamwalla
Variety 6-1b: blue ink and last line is Nett [sic] proceeds to War Charities

6-2a Commemorative Stamp Issue
May 6, 1940



Publisher: D.O.BA./Naigamwalla

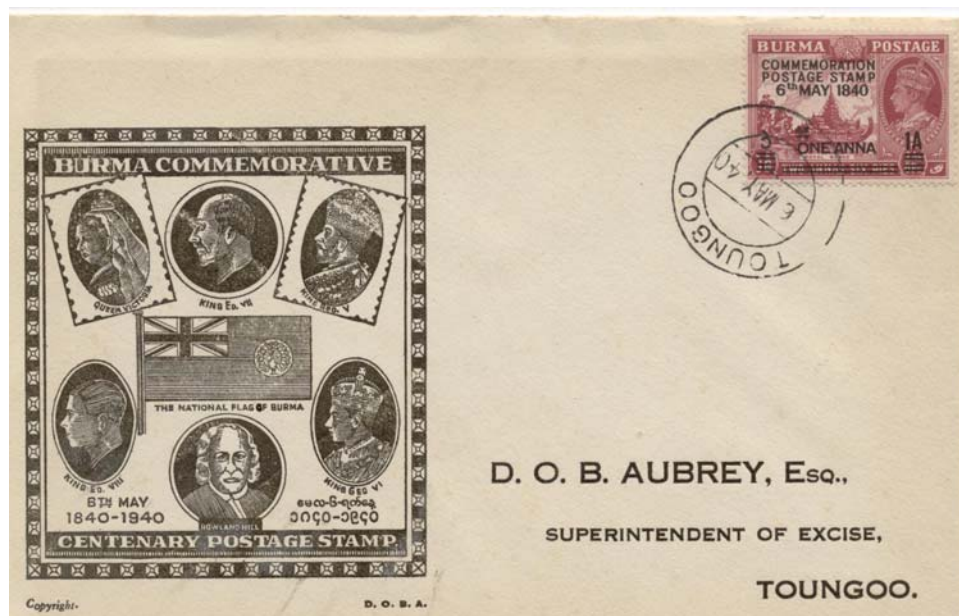
Text: Burma Commemorative
Queen Victoria King Ed VII King George V
The National Flag of Burma
King Edward VIII Rowland Hill King George VI
6th May (repeated in local script)
1840 – 1940 (repeated in local script)
Centenary Postage Stamp
Copyright No. 2 D.O.B.A.
Sole Distribution: - N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes D.O.B.A. was D.O.B. Aubrey, the Superintendent of Excise, located in Toungoo. His name appears frequently on covers of the August 1940 stamp issue described in the next section.

6-2b

Commemorative Stamp Issue

May 6, 1940



Publisher: D.O.BA./Naigamwalla

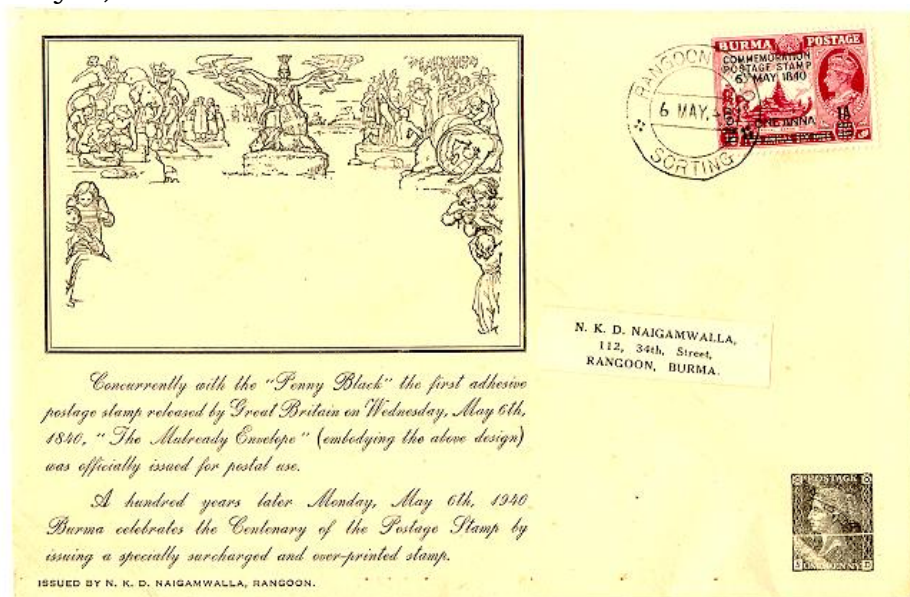
Text: Burma Commemorative
Queen Victoria King Ed VII King George V
The National Flag of Burma
King Edward VIII Rowland Hill King George VI
6th May (repeated in local script)
1840 – 1940 (repeated in local script)
Centenary Postage Stamp
Copyright No. 2 D.O.B.A.
Sole Distribution: - N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes This is identical to 6-2a except for the size. This is larger; there is blank envelope extending above the cachet.

6-3

Commemorative Stamp Issue

May 6, 1940



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Concurrently with the "Penny Black" the first adhesive postage stamp released by Great Britain on Wednesday, May 6th, 1840. "The Mulready Envelope" (embodying the above design) was officially issued for postal use.

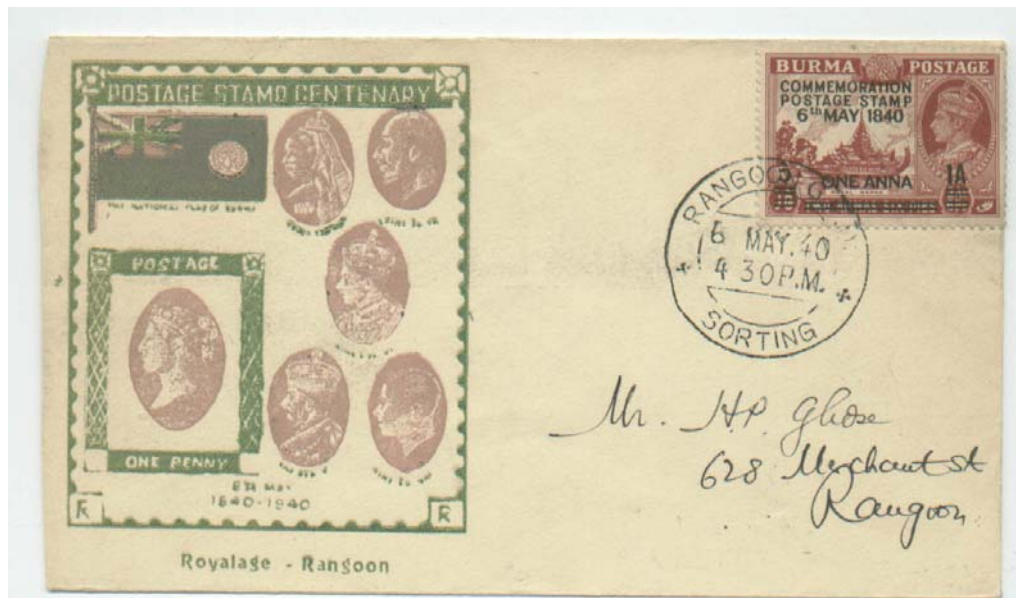
A hundred years later Monday, May 6th, 1940 Burma celebrates the Centenary of the Postage Stamp by issuing a specially surcharged and over-printed stamp.

Issued by N.K.D. Naigamwalla, Rangoon

Notes: Also seen registered:



6-4 Commemorative Stamp Issue
 May 6, 1940



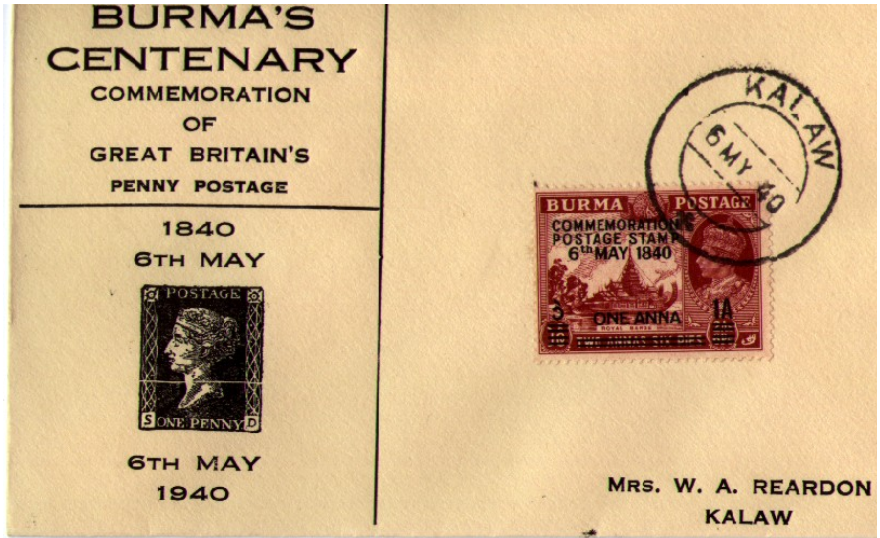
Publisher: ?

Text: Postage Stamp Centenary
 6th May 1840-1940
 Royalage – Rangoon

6-5

Commemorative Stamp Issue

May 6, 1940



Publisher: ?

Text: Burma's Centenary Commemoration of Great Britain's Penny Postage
1840 6th May
6th May 1940
Royalage - Rangoon

Notes The name of the addressee, Mrs. W.A. Reardon, appears to have been printed at the same time as the cachet itself.

7-1

Newspaper Stamp Issue

August 1, 1940



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: U Ba Hlaing B.A.M.H.R.
 Who is responsible for the introduction in Burma of the one postage which is the cheapest postal rate in the British Empire
 The National Flag of Burma
 First Day Cover
 1st August 1940
 Burma Postage One Pie Issue
 Copyright D.O.B.A.

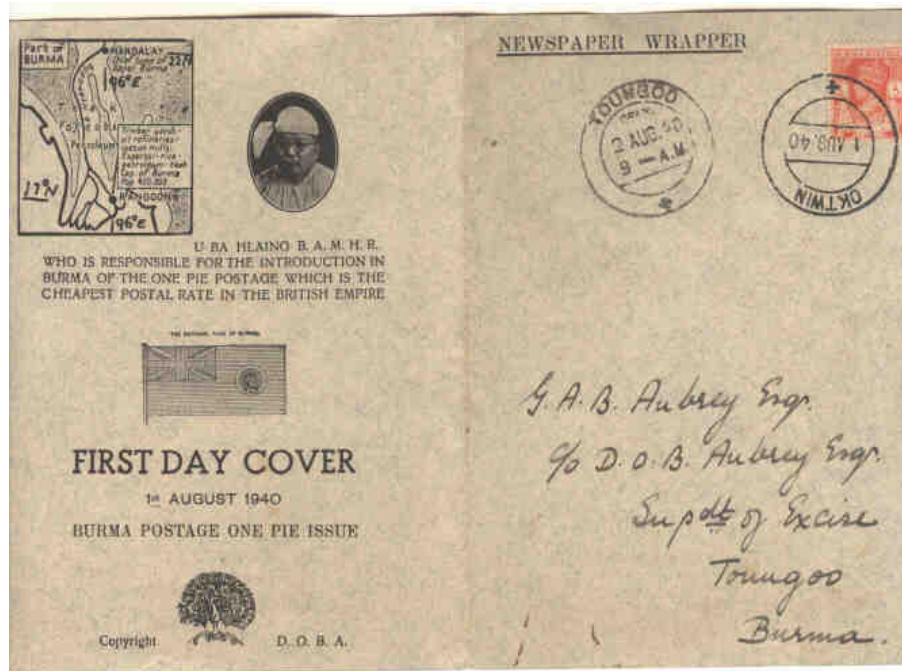
Notes The printed address is that of D.O.B. Aubrey. Esq., the "Superintendent of Excise" in Toungoo. This accounts for the copyright D.O.B.A. on this and other cachets.

An article about this stamp issue, "The Cheapest Postal Rate?" by Robert White appeared in the Burma Peacock, volume 42, number 2, Summer 1982. It was reprinted from Stamp Collecting Weekly.

7-2

Newspaper Stamp Issue

August 1, 1940



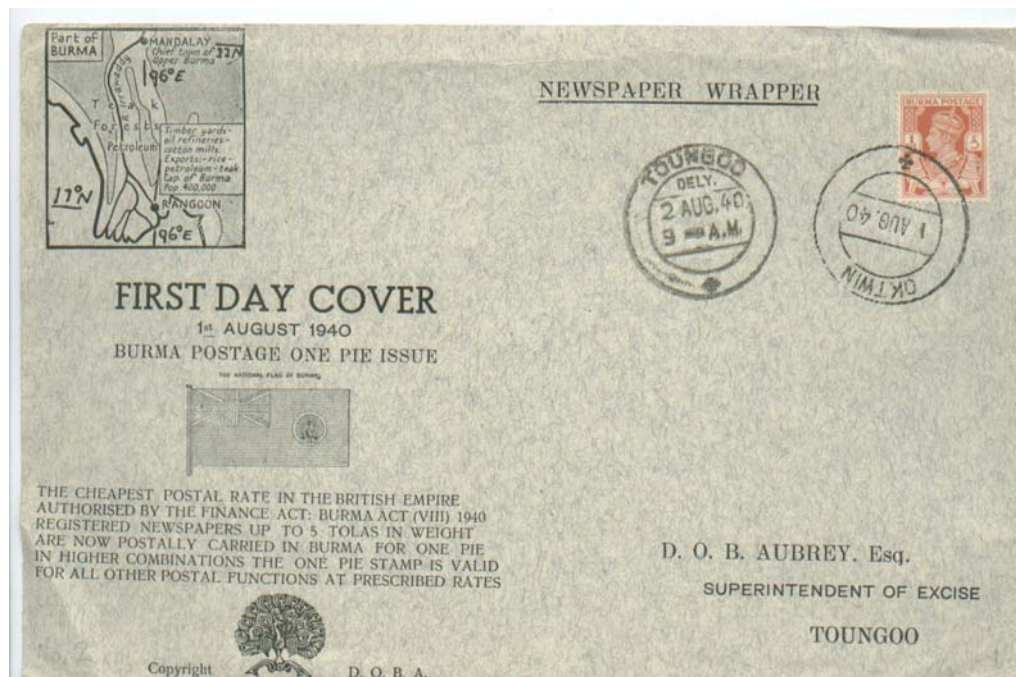
Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: U Ba Hlaing B.A.M.H.R.
Who is responsible for the introduction in Burma of the one postage which is the cheapest postal rate in the British Empire
The National Flag of Burma
First Day Cover
1st August 1940
Burma Postage One Pie Issue
Copyright D.O.B.A.

Notes: This is identical to the envelope shown in 7-1, except that it is a newspaper wrapper.

Also seen with a pink colored paper

7-3 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
Burma Postage One Pie Issue
The National Flag of Burma
The cheapest postal rate in the British Empire authorized by the finance act: Burma Act (VIII) 1940 registered newspapers up to 5 totals in weight are now postally carried in Burma for one pie higher combinations the one pie stamp is valid for all other postal functions at prescribed rates
Copyright D.O.B.A.

Notes This is not an envelope; it is clearly marked
“NEWSPAPER WRAPPER”

7-4 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940



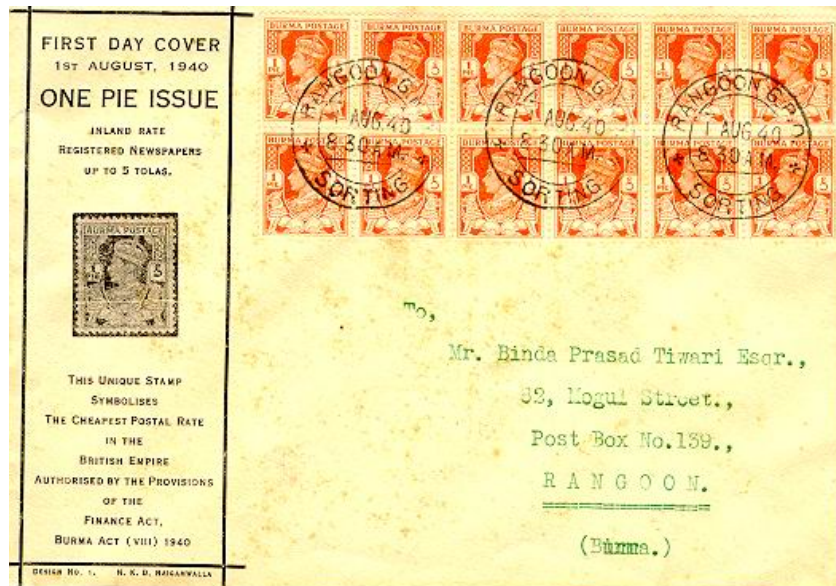
Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Burma One Pie Issue /First Day Commemoration
1st August 1940 /The National Flag of Burma
U Ba Hlaing B.A.M.H.R. /Introducer of 1 Pie Postage
One Pie Postage / The cheapest postal rate
in the British Empire /authorized by
the Finance Act / Burma Act (VIII) 1940
Regd. papers up to 5 tolas
Design by N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes Newspaper Wrapper mailed with Issue No. 198 of
the daily "Market Report", a Burmese newspaper.



7-5 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940

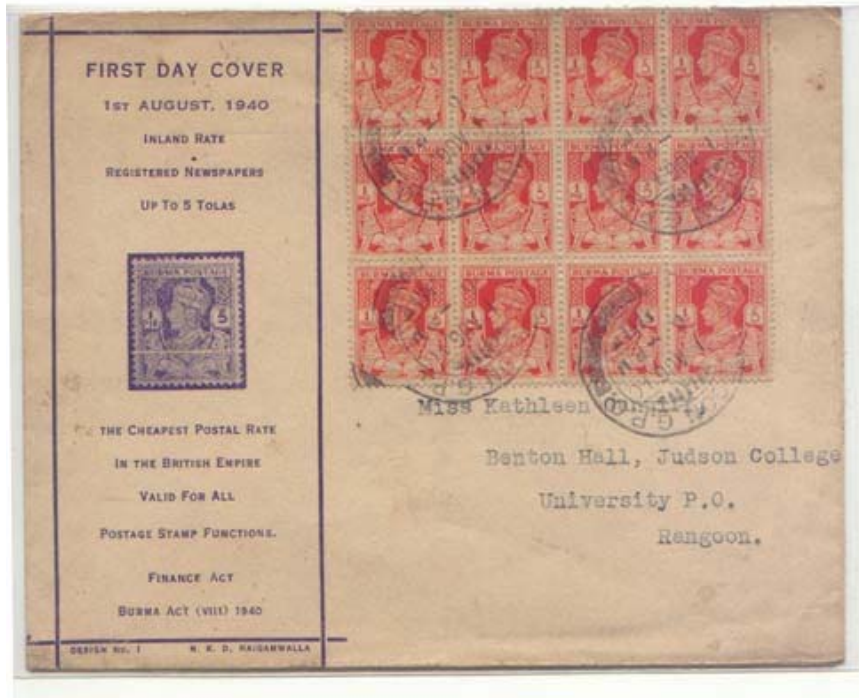


Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
One Pie Issue
Inland rate / registered newspapers / up to 5 tolas. / This unique stamp/symbolizes / the cheapest postal rate /in the / British Empire / authorized by the provisions / of the / Finance Act, /Burma Act (VIII) 1940
Design No. 1 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes This is one of two covers designated as Design No. 1 by Naigamwalla.
This cover is cancelled in Rangoon. Both of the D.O.B.A. covers are cancelled in Oktan.

7-6 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
In inland rate / registered newspapers / up to 5 tolas / The
cheapest postal rate / in the British Empire / valid for all /
postage stamp functions / Finance Act / Burma Act (VIII) 1940 /
Design No. 1 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes This is one of two covers designated as Design No.
1 by Naigamwalla.

7-7

Newspaper Stamp Issue

August 1, 1940

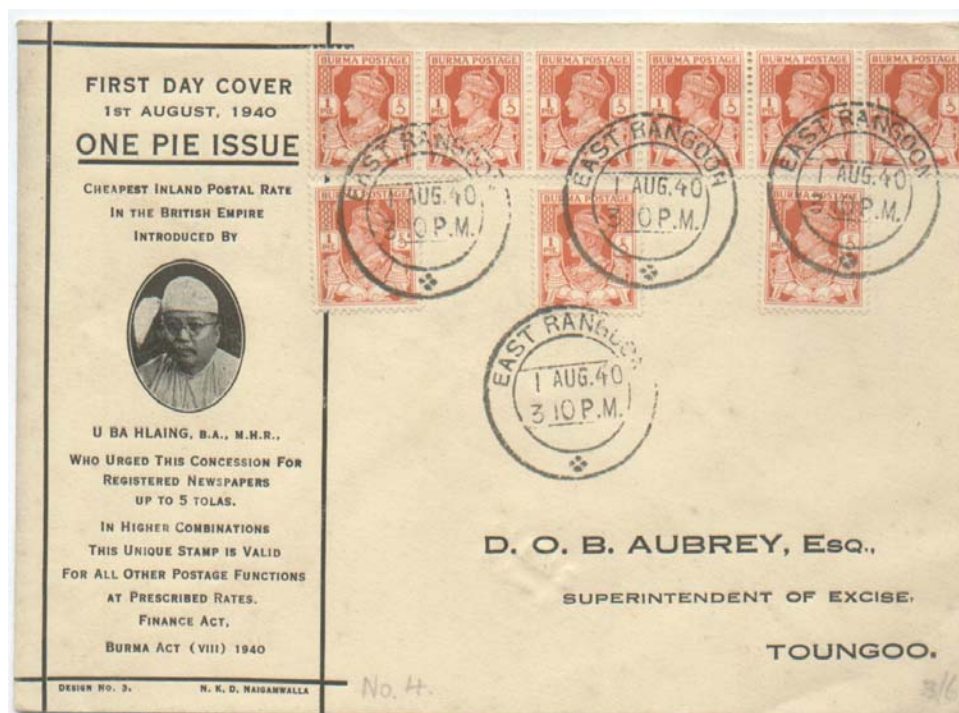


Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
One Pie Issue
Cheapest in landrate /in / the British Empire / registered
newspapers /up to 5 tolas/ For all other / postage stamp
functions / in higher combinations / at prescribed rates./
Burma Act (VIII) 1940
Design No. 2 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Notes This was Naigamwalla's second numbered design
for this issue

7-8 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940



Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
One Pie Issue
Cheapest postal rate / in the British Empire / introduced by
U Ba Hlaing B.A.M.H.R. / who urged this concession for /
Registering newspapers / up to 5 tolas. / In higher combinations /
this unique stamp is valid / for all other postage functions / at
prescribed rates. Finance Act, / Burma Act (VIII) 1940
Regd. papers up to 5 tolas
Design No. 3 N.K.D. Naigamwalla

7-9 Newspaper Stamp Issue

August 1, 1940



Size: Issued in two sizes: Variety 1 is 5 x 7 inches and Variety 2 is 5½ x 8½ inches

Publisher: N.K.D. Naigamwalla

Text: Burma One Pie Issue
First Day Commemoration
1st August 1940
U Ba Hlaing B.A.M.H.R.
Introducer of 1 Pie Postage
One Pie Postage
The cheapest postal rate /in the British Empire
authorized by /the Finance /Act Burma Act (VIII) 1940
Regd. papers up to 5 tolas
Design No. 4 N.K.D. Naigamwalla
All Rights Reserved

Notes Seen cancelled with Rangoon G.P.O. Sorting and East Rangoon. Also known with printed address to D.O.B. Aubrey. This was Nagamwalla's fourth numbered design for this issue. This design was illustrated on the cover of India's Stamp Journal June 1949.

7-10 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940



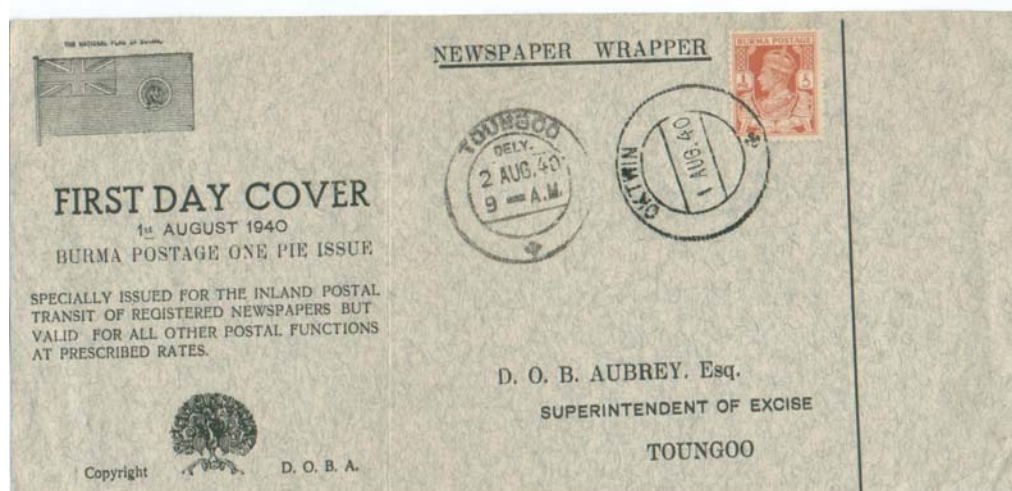
Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
Burma Postage One Pie Issue
Specially issued for the inland postal transit of registered newspapers
but valid for all other postal functions at prescribed rates
Copyright D.O.B.A.

Notes The cancellation in the first illustration is OKTWIN and is dated 1 Aug 1938, clearly an erroneous date line in the date stamp. Other covers (see below) have the correct date.

Also seen on pink paper

7-11 Newspaper Stamp Issue
August 1, 1940

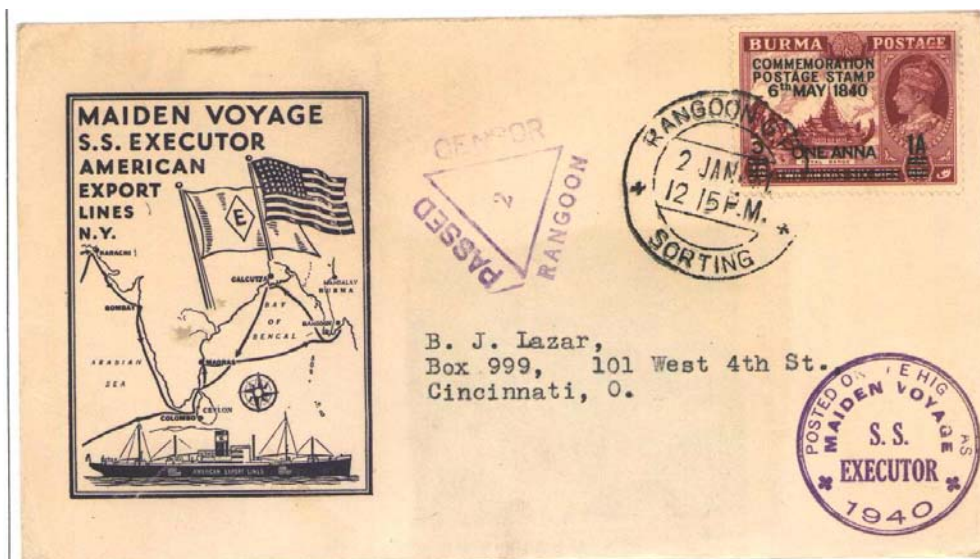


Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: First Day Cover
1st August 1940
Burma Postage One Pie Issue
Specially issued for the inland postal transit of registered newspapers but valid for all other postal functions at prescribed rates
Copyright D.O.B.A.

Notes Identical to the previous design except prepared as a newspaper wrapper: small size, addition of "NEWSPAPER WRAPER", and printed on card stock (for wrapping) instead of on an envelope.

8-1 Maiden Voyage of S.S. Executor
January 2, 1941



Publisher: ?

Text: Maiden Voyage
S.S. Executor
American Export Lines
N.Y.

Notes Full details of this philatelic event are recorded in *The Burma Peacock*, Vol 12, No. 2, Summer 1991. This is reprinted from the column "Sees All" in Meekel's Weekly Stamp News, Vol 168, No. 18, May 3, 1991.

Some of the covers, roughly half, have no censor mark; the other half have one or more censor markings

9-1 Burma Arts and Crafts Exhibition
 March 7, 1941



Publisher: DOBA?

Text: Burma Arts and Crafts Exhibition 1941
 First Day of Exhibition
 7th March 1941
 Post and Telegraph Exhibition Stall

Notes: A souvenir postcard is also known:

An article, "P. & T. Exhibition Stall Cancellation. March 1940" by Gerald Davis, with a photograph of the Exhibition Stall, appears in the Burma Peacock, volume 10, number 2, Summer 1989.



An unsolved puzzle is the 1940 date for the Exhibition in the annual report from the Burmese Post Office (and reflected on the souvenir postcard) and the 1941 date on the souvenir cover with cachet.

10-1

WWII: First Post Out of Liberated Burma

June 8, 1945



Publisher: ?

Text: First Post
Out of
Liberated Burma

Notes Cancelled Mandalay

10-2 **WWII: Day of Surrender**
August 15, 1945

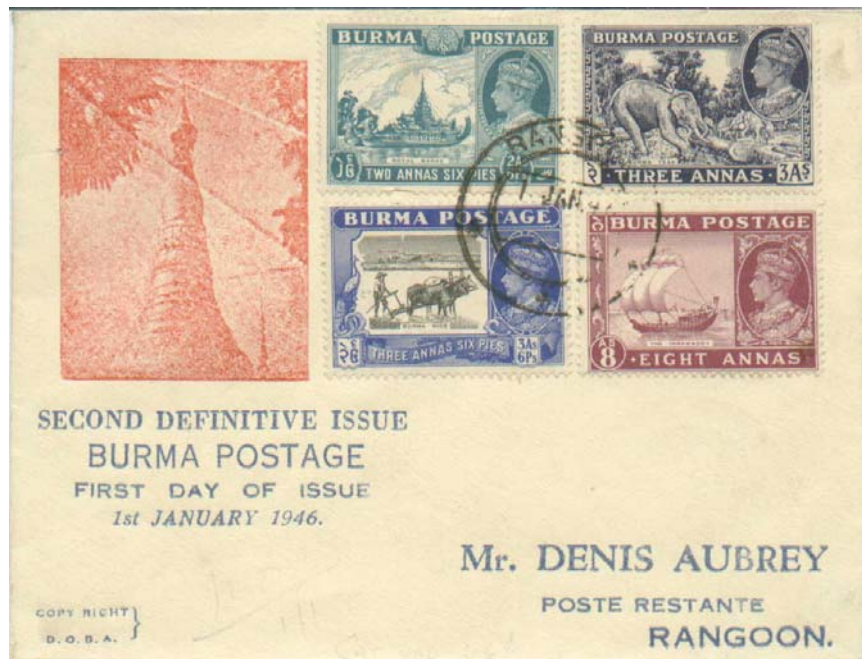


Publisher: ?

Text: Souvenir
 Day of Surrender
 15th August 1945

Notes All copies seen are backstamped EXPTL P.O. No.
 36, 17 Aug 45.

11-1 **Definitive Stamps Issue**
January 1, 1946

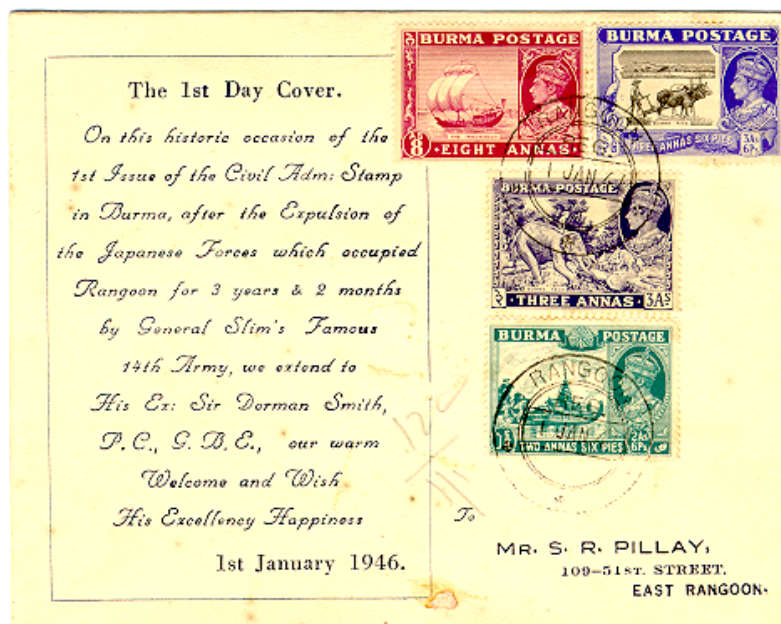


Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: Second Definitive Issue
Burma Postage
First Day of Issue
1st January 1946
Copy Right
D.O.B.A.

Note: Half seen registered (Rangoon); half not.

11-2 **Definitive Stamps Issue**
January 1, 1946



Publisher: S.R. Pillay [?]

Text: The 1st Day Cover
On this historic occasion of the / 1st Issue of the Civil Adm: Stamp
In Burma, after the expulsion of / the Japanese Forces which
occupied / Rangoon for 3 years & 2 months/ by General Slim's
Famous / 14th Army, we extend to / His Ex: Sir Dorman Smith /
P.C., G.B.E., our warm /Welcome and Wish
His Excellency Happiness
1st January 1946

Notes Pre-printed address to Mr. S. R. Pillay

All copies seem are cancelled January 1, 1946
with Rangoon Reg. and have registration label on
back

11-3 **Definitive Stamps Issue**
January 1, 1946



Publisher: ?

Text: 1946
 1st Day Cover
 New Year
 Greetings
 1938
 Burma Stamps [last 2 lines to left]

11-4 Definitive Stamps Issue

January 1, 1946



Publisher: ?

Text: 1946
1st Day Cover
New Year
Greetings
1938
Burma Stamps [last 2 lines to left]

Notes This is a color version of the preceding design.
Known in two printings: one with pale inks; the other with vibrant colors.

Cancelled in Pazundaung

11-5 **Definitive Stamps Issue**
January 1, 1946



Publisher: ?

Text: Burma
Civil
Administration
First Day
Cover
January
1946

12-1 **Burma Victory Stamps Issue**

May 2, 1946



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: Burma Victory Issue
First Day Cover
2nd May 1946
D.O.B.A.

Notes Printed address for Mr. D.O.B. Aubrey, Superintendent of Excise. Moulmein.

12-2 Burma Victory Stamps Issue
May 2, 1946



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: Burma Victory Issue
First Day Cover
2nd May 1946
D.O.B.A.

12-3 Burma Victory Stamps Issue
May 2, 1946



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: Burma Victory Issue
First Day Cover
2nd.May 1946
D.O.B.A.

12-4 Burma Victory Stamps Issue

May 2, 1946

12-4a



“With the compliment of the
Burma Posts & Telegraphs’
[Above the rubber-stamped signature]

12-4b

Publisher: Burma Posts and Telegraphs

Text: Burma Posts & Telegraphs
2-5-46
First Day Cover

Notes Type 12-4b illustrated in Burma Peacock
Volume 9, Number 2, Summer 1988 p.43
With contents: a note from the Director General.

12-5 **Burma Victory Stamps Issue**
May 2, 1946



Publisher: Robert Bradley(?)

Text: First Day Cover
Burma Victory Issue
2nd May 1946

Notes Printed address of Robert Bradley, Assistant
Superintendent of Police, Moulmein.

12-6 **Burma Victory Stamps Issue**
May 2, 1946



Publisher: ?

Text: Burma Victory Stamps
First Day Cover
Burma Philatelic Coy.

12-7 **Burma Victory Stamps Issue**
May 2, 1946



Publisher: ?

Text: Burma Victory
1st Day of Issue
2nd May 1946

Notes Prepared by hand. Still, it is a cachet of sorts.

12-8 Burma Victory Stamps Issue
 May 2, 1946

12-8a
 text



Publisher: S. R. Pillay[?]

Text: The Rising Sun Has Set
 The Howling Hun Has Fled
 And Democracy----Has Led
 Victory Issue

Note: Also known without text, just picture

12-8b
 no text



12-9 **Burma Victory Stamps Issue**
May 2, 1946



Publisher: [?]

Text: First Day Cover – 2 nd May 1946. –
 Of
 The Burma Victory Commemoration Issue

Notes Printed Address to W. J. Foster

13-1 Memorial Day for Allied P.O.W.s
December 18, 1946



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: "Lest We Forget" / Thanbyuzayat / Memorial Ceremony
18th December 1946 / In Memory of the 14,000 Prisoners
of War and the 85,000 Sweat / Labourers who died
in the Construction / of the Burma-Siam Railway
by the Japanese in 1942-45. / Wage Peace
D.O.B.A.

Notes Special Commemorative Cancel: Thanbyuzayat
Memorial Ceremony
Also seen with printed address to D.O.B.A.



13-2 Memorial Day for Allied P.O.W.s
December 18, 1946



Publisher: D.O.B.A.

Text: Memorial Day For Death of The Allies P.O.W.
in Burma-Siam Railways Road.
18th December 1946

Note Known with type-written heading
Thanbyuzayat Memorial Service



Invitation to Buffet Lunch

14-x **Burma Exhibition, Rangoon**

March 11, 1947

No Cachet known

It is possible that an unrecorded cachet exists for this event. A place is reserved in this listing in the event one is discovered. A special cancellation and registration handstamp was used at this exhibition.

Cover with cancellation and handstamp:



15-1 Provisional Government Stamp Issues
October 1, 1947



Publisher: ?

Text: First Day Cover
Burma
Provisional Government
Postage Stamps

15-2

Provisional Government Stamp Issues

October 1, 1947



Publisher: ?

Text: [Burmese]

15-3 **Provisional Government Stamp Issues**
October 1, 1947



Publisher: ?

Text: First Day Cover
 Burma
 Interim
 Government
 Postage Stamps

15-4

Provisional Government Stamp Issues

October 1, 1947



Publisher: Hajee M. Ally?

Text: First Day Cover of Interim Government
Burma
First From the First

Reverse



16-1 Karl Lewis



Publisher: Karl Lewis

Notes Karl Lewis toured Asia in the 1930's and prepared hand-painted envelopes which he sold to stamp collectors. He had a cottage industry with workers preparing envelopes and mailing them from across Asia. One is known from Burma

Full details about Karl Lewis' can be found at <http://www.japan-japan.com/lewispage3.htm>

17-1 Airmail [First Flights]
India/Rangoon – England April 23, 1931



Publisher: Imperial Airways

Text: 1st England Australia Official Air Mail 1931
by Imperial Airways

Notes: First flight Rangoon to London.
This was the return flight of the first experimental air-mail extension of London-Delhi service to Australia by the famous Australian aviator Kingsford-Smith in his *SOUTHERN CROSS* plane, posted from Rangoon, with FIRST AIRMAIL BURMA-ENGLAND cachet. Covers were prepared for the Imperial Airways first attempt to open the regular route to South Asia/Australia, as IA was falling behind the Dutch KLM (the latter had Dutch Indies service since 1929). IA plane broke down; Kingsford-Smith flew from Australia, picked the mail and brought it to London.

17-2

Airmail [First Flights]

India/Rangoon – Jodhpur to England - April 30, 1931



Publisher: Aero Philatelic Club of Calcutta

Text: The Aero Philatelic Club of Calcutta
46 Police Hospital Road
Entally, Calcutta
Experimental
First Flight
Australia
India
England
Route

Notes: A full description of early air-mail service – including the flight that covered this cover – can be found in the Burma Peacock Vol. 6 No. 4, Winter 1984 in the article “From England to Australia and Return – Twice –by way of Burma” by Derek Filby.

This design is known with dashes between Australia – India – England and without. One variety is known in italic print. All varieties are illustrated in the Burma Peacock article.

17-3

Airmail [First Flights]

India/Rangoon – Calcutta to England April 30, 1931

c



Publisher: H. N. Kapur?

Text: First Experimental Flight
By Imperial Airways
England – Australia
Via
India

Notes: First flight Australia to England.

A full description of early air-mail service – including the flight that produced this cover – can be found in the Burma Peacock Vol. 6 No. 4, Winter 1984 in the article “From England to Australia and Return – Twice –by way of Burma” by Derek Filby.

17-4 Airmail [First Flights]

Rangoon – Croydon April 30, 1931



Publisher: Stephen Smith – signed on reverse

Text: Airmail From [Rangoon] to [Croydon]
India World Fliers Half-Way House

Notes: Leg of second experimental Burma to Europe Flight
Rangoon to Croyden.

The same cachet is seen used with
Calcutta to Victoria Point
Akyab to Calcutta
Rangoon to Calcutta
Akyab to Croyden
Victoria Point to Croydon

A full description of early air-mail service – including the flight that covered this cover – can be found in the Burma Peacock Vol. 6 No. 4, Winter 1984 in the article “From England to Australia and Return – Twice –by way of Burma” by Derek Filby.

17-5

Airmail [First Flights]

Rangoon – Calcutta May 20, 1931



Publisher: ?

Text: Via the Air Trail Blazed by the
Ross Smiths and Cobham
2nd Experimental Flight
Australia - England

Notes: A full description of early air-mail service – including the flight
that produced this cover – can be found in the Burma Peacock
Vol. 6 No. 4, Winter 1984 in the article “From England to
Australia and Return – Twice –by way of Burma” by Derek
Filby.

17-6a Airmail [First Flights]

Akyab – Capetown October 7, 1932



Publisher: ?

Text: By Air Mail
Par Avion
From Akyab
To Cape Town

Notes: The reverse of the cover is backstamped Karachi (15 Oct.) and Capetown (30 Oct.)



17-6b **Airmail [First Flights]**

Rangoon - Capetown October 8, 1932



Publisher: ?

Text: By Air Mail
 Par Avion
 From Rangoon
 To Cape Town

Notes: The reverse of the cover is backstamped Capetown (23 Oct.) It is not clear why this date stamp is a week earlier than the one shown in 17-6a.

17-7

Airmail [First Flights]

Rangoon – Capetown October 2, 1933



Publisher: Imperial Airways

Text: By Air Mail
Par Avion
Opening of the regular
Air mail service by
Imperial Airways and
Indian Trans-continental
Airways between London
and Rangoon

Notes: First regular scheduled air mail flight from Rangoon to London. The flight, by the airliner Athena, left Rangoon on October 2, connecting with Imperial Airways at Karachi on 4 October. All mail carried has a special handstamp on the reverse. See enclosure next page.

Some covers have Akyab cancellations.

Imperial Airways and INDIAN TRANS-CONTINENTAL AIRWAYS

Managing Director's Office
Indian Trans-Continental Airways
Mohatta Buildings
McLeod Road
Karachi

7 Phayre Street
Rangoon

Telegram: Flotilla Rangoon
Telephone: 7 October 1933



Dear Sir

This letter has been sent to you by the first regular weekly British Air Mail service between Rangoon and London.

As doubtless you know Imperial Airways has maintained for the last four years a weekly service between Karachi and London, which, in July of this year, in conjunction with Indian Trans-Continental Airways, was opened to Calcutta and has now been extended to Rangoon. This new service will leave Rangoon and Akyab every Monday, arriving in Calcutta the same evening, the following day at Allahabad, Cawnpore, Delhi and Jodhpur, and will be in London the following Monday. The India mail leaves London every Saturday and will be in Rangoon the following Monday.

In December the service will be still further extended, namely from Rangoon to Singapore.

By this service it is possible for you to send your goods to practically anywhere in Europe, Africa, India or Burma and they will arrive quicker than if sent by other means. Packing need not be elaborate or expensive and the insurance rates are lower than those offered for any other form of transport - generally about one-third of the insurance premium levied on goods sent by surface transport. Full facilities are offered for the passing of drawbacks, clearances, adjustment of Customs deposits, shipments under bond and so on. We feel sure if you take advantage of this freight service you will benefit by this reduced insurance greater speed and less packing.

I am enclosing a leaflet which will give to you some information about this service and others operated by this Company. From this you will see that the fares on our routes to India and through Africa are not expensive and include accommodation on land each night, all meals and tips en route and transport between termini and air ports; in short, there are no 'extras'.

I trust that you will consider this letter and its envelope to be of sufficient interest to keep as a souvenir of this historical event and I hope that you will find the service of use for the carriage of your mails and freight and that you will find it of value for travel between England, India and Burma.

Yours faithfully
INDIAN TRANS-CONTINENTAL AIRWAYS LTD

Managing Director

17-7 Airmail [First Flights]
 October 2, 1933 - continued

Akyab – London



Rangoon - Basra



Rangoon - Paris



17-8 Airmail [First Flights]

Akyab – Calcutta October 2, 1933



Publisher: H.N. Kapur?

Text: [Map of India and Asia]

Notes: First regular scheduled air mail flight from Rangoon to London.. All mail carried has a special handstamp. Also known Rangoon - Calcutta



Handstamp



17-9 Airmail [First Flights]
Akyab – Singapore December 16, 1933



Publisher: Imperial Airways

Text: By Air Mail
Par Avion
Opening of the regular
Air mail service by
Imperial Airways and
Indian Trans-continental
Airways between London
and Singapore

17-10 Airmail [First Flights] India National Airways
Rangoon – Calcutta December 5, 1933

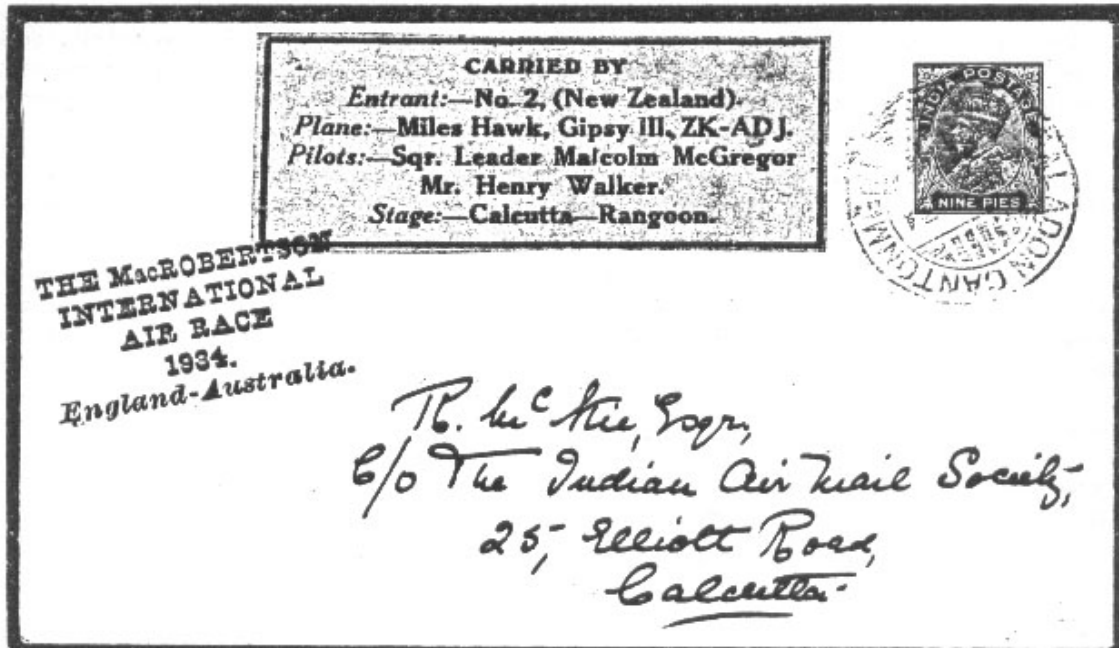


Publisher: ?

Text: First Flight

Notes: Manuscript marking "Indian National Airways
Bassein / Calcutta"

17-11 **Airmail [First Flights]**
October 24, 1934



Publisher: ?

Text: Carried by
Entrant: - No 2 (New Zealand)
Plane: - Miles Hawk Gipsy III, ZK-ADJ
Pilots: Sqr. Leader Malcolm McGregor
Mr. Henry Walker
Stage: - Calcutta - Rangoon
The McRobertson
International Air Race 1934
England - Australia

Notes: A full description of early air-mail service -
including the flight that covered this cover - can
be found in the Burma Peacock Vol. 6 No. 4,
Winter 1984.

17-12

Airmail [First Flights]

Rangoon – Chungking November 1, 1939



Publisher: China National Aviation Corp?

Text: First Flight
Chungking – Rangoon

Notes First flight between Rangoon and Chungking,
China

18-1 Japanese Occupation

Several varieties appear on the market. These appear to be forgeries..



19-1 US Army Post Office in Burma
March 14, 1945

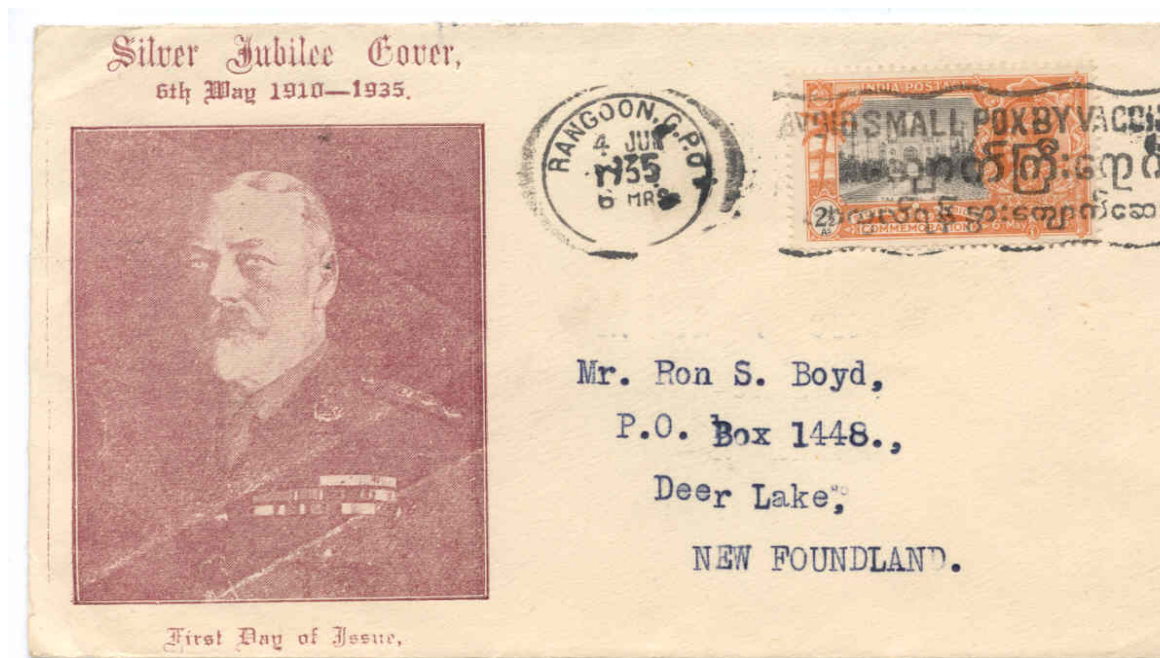


Publisher: Artcraft

Text: Victory Through Unity
Freedom of Speech Freedom of Religion
Freedom from Want Freedom from Fear
We! Are United

Note: U.S. Army Postal Service A.P.O. 218 was in Myitkyina, Burma in March 1945.

20-1 **India used in Burma**
Silver Jubilee Issue
May 6, 1935



Text: Silver Jubilee Cover
 6th May 1910 – 1935
 First Day of Issue

Notes Two of the stamps in the set seen on covers from
 Rangoon. The entire set may exist on individual
 covers in a matched set.

20-2 **India used in Burma**
Silver Jubilee Issue
May 6, 1935



Publisher: ?

Text: First Day Cover
Silver Jubilee
1910 - 1935

Scarcity Guide

Despite the title of this page, there cannot be an accurate scarcity guide of Burmese cachets. Too little is known about how many were produced, how many survived, or even what kind of demand exists. It is possible, however, to identify some cachets as seeming to be readily available and some as appearing to not be so readily available.

These cachets are encountered on E-bay and from postal history dealers. They are not, generally speaking, found in auctions – or if they are they are part of collections and accumulations – and not usually encountered as individual items or on price lists.

Prices vary dramatically. Individual covers can be found for less than \$5 in 2003 while Stanley Gibbons recently sold a set of 2 covers (with high value stamps) for £150. There does not seem to be any relationship between prices and the frequency with which items are encountered.

I have tried to indicate, below, those cachets that are frequently encountered, those that can found with a bit of patience, those infrequently encountered, and those that I consider hard to find. My experience – living in the Washington DC area – is not representative of that of any other area. In this table I have omitted airline flights as I am not qualified to assess them, and I have omitted covers of the Japanese occupation period. There are increasing numbers of what appear to be forgeries of this type in addition to genuine ones.

Frequently encountered	Found with Patience	Infrequently encountered	Hard to find
2-1,3,4,7 3-1,2	2-5,6,8	1-1,2 2-9,11	2-2
6-1a,2a,5	5-1,2,4,9,10 6-3 7-1,2,3,5,6,7,10	5-3,5,8,11,13 6-1b,6-4 7-4,8,9,11	4-1 to 4-12 5-6,7,12 6-2b
8-1	10-2 11-2 12-1,2,4,5,8 13-1,2	9-1 11-1,3,4,5 12-3	10-1 12-3,6,7,9
		15-1,2,3 19-1	15-1,3 16-1 20-1,2

Index of Cachet Designers/Publishers

This index includes uncertain or provisional identification. These are marked in the text with a question mark. "Unknown" are excluded from this index.

Designer/Publisher	Catalog Number
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