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Malaya Patriotic Fund



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Philatelic enthusiasts interested in Malayan postal history would certainly have heard about the iconic Malaya Patriotic Fund labels that adorn many of the covers from the pre-Japanese Invasion 1940s. These labels are conceived after the outbreak of the Second World War in 1 September 1939, and served as cinderella stamps as parts of efforts to raise fund in Malaya. The design of the label incorporates an image of a British soldier wearing a steel helmet. A sentence of “He will thank you...” is written in white and the words Malaya Patriotic Fund written in bold black at the bottom.

Here is a breakdown on the prints:

1. First releases were printed and distributed in a number of main post offices – Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Malacca, Ipoh, Seremban and Kuala Lipis on 3 January 1940. 50,000 labels were released but they sold out extremely fast, especially at the Singapore General Post Office, whereby it was sold out within half-an-hour of putting them on sale, and the public were asked to refrain from bulk purchases. There were more labels sent as back ups later. The first prints have the largest dimension, and while it costed 1 ¢, it did not have the denomination reflected on the label. Separation was of non-roulette type.
2. The second print took place between 4th January to April 1940. The design was similar to the first print, but with the appearance of the 1 ¢ denomination.
3. The third printing took place between May 1940 to August 1940 with another 1,320,000 pieces of labels issued. The third printing now incorporates three different denominations of 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ – red, green and blue respectively. The labels in this issue had a smaller dimension than the first and second prints and was a roulette-type compared to its predecessors.

These labels, especially the first prints, were exceedingly rare and seldom seen in collectors' circulations these days. What I have in my collection is an excellent first day cover bearing the very rare first print 1¢ label, postmark showing 3 January 1940 in Singapore, machine cancellation mark with motto 'Money Orders are Cheap and Safe' over Perak 1935-1937 Sultan Iskandar type 4¢ orange stamp and Straits Settlements 1936-1937 King George V type 1¢ black stamp, addressed to Overseas Chinese Banking Corp Ltd (OCBC) on a rare Eastern Hotel cover; as well as the second print 1 ¢, and third print 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ labels.

📁 STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CROWN COLONY 1867-1942

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