

## **Straddling the Straits**

It seems that 99 times out of 100, a Straits Settlements cover bears a simple Singapore cancel. The 100<sup>th</sup> might be a Penang cancel but, as John Cooper shows, other origins are available. Most of the examples shown here are thanks to John.



The Malayan states had a complicated history but by 1935 the crown colony comprised of not only Penang, Malacca and Singapore but also Labuan, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

### **Penang**

### **Butterworth**

A cover to Bletchley (!) sent on 29th November 1935 with the Empire rate 8



cent stamp cancelled Butterworth -  
named after William John Butterworth,  
governor 1843-1855.

## Bukit Mertajam

Another Empire rate cover from Penang  
to the U.K., this time sent on 11th May  
1935 from Bukit Mertajam - an area  
known for its rubber and spices.



## Eastern & Oriental Hotel

A registered airmail letter to Manchester  
at \$1.25 (15c registration + \$1.10 for



double weight air fee per KLM),  
cancelled Eastern & Oriental Hotel, 16  
No 1935 with a Penang backstamp of the  
same date.

## Perak

### Ipoh

A cover sent at the 5c local rate with a  
Train Letter cachet and cancelled with  
the first day of issue cds of Ipoh - a town  
that grew through a booming tin mining  
industry to become the capital of Perak.



## Malacca

### Malacca



A 25c, upgrading this 15c registered cover for airmail to Australia, is tied by Malacca cds (20 Ju 35) with further postmarks of Singapore reg. (21 Ju), Perth reg. (1 Jul) & Darwin N.T. (25 Jl).

## Jasin

The Kesang river divides the new part of town from the old part of Jasin, from which this airmail cover to London was sent on 17th May 1935.



## Asahan

A complete set on piece, each tied by 12th October 1935 cancels of the border town of Asahan, with an additional London SW1 machine cancel for 21 Oct 1935.



## Alor Gajah

A 5c, being the first 2 oz inland rate, on a roughly opened cover to Johore, is tied by the town of Alor Gajah's cds for 1.45pm 7 Se 1935, with a backstamp of Muar (9 Sp).



## Singapore

### Tanglin Singapore

A registered airmail cover to Scotland from Tanglin - "Great East hill peaks".



15c pays registration and 25c pays the airmail, but there's a further four 1c stamps to the reverse.

## Raffles Insin

The 25c, which overpays the 15c registration and 8c empire letter rate to South Africa, is cancelled by a Raffles Insin Singapore cds for 1 Ju 1935. Backstamps: Raffles Insin and Singapore (1 Ju 1935).



## Beyond the peninsular

### Labuan

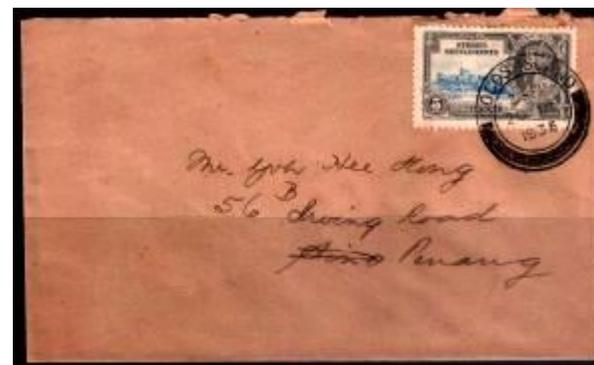
An airmail cover to London postmarked Labuan 22 My 1935. The 29c is thought



to be 1c underpaid as the airmail rate from Singapore was 25c and the local rate 5c.

## Cocos (Keeling) Islands

An enviable cover to Penang sent at the local rate of 5c. The stamp is tied by a Cocos Island cds for 20 Mr 1936. It seems it would have had a journey reminiscent of Tongan tin can mail\*.

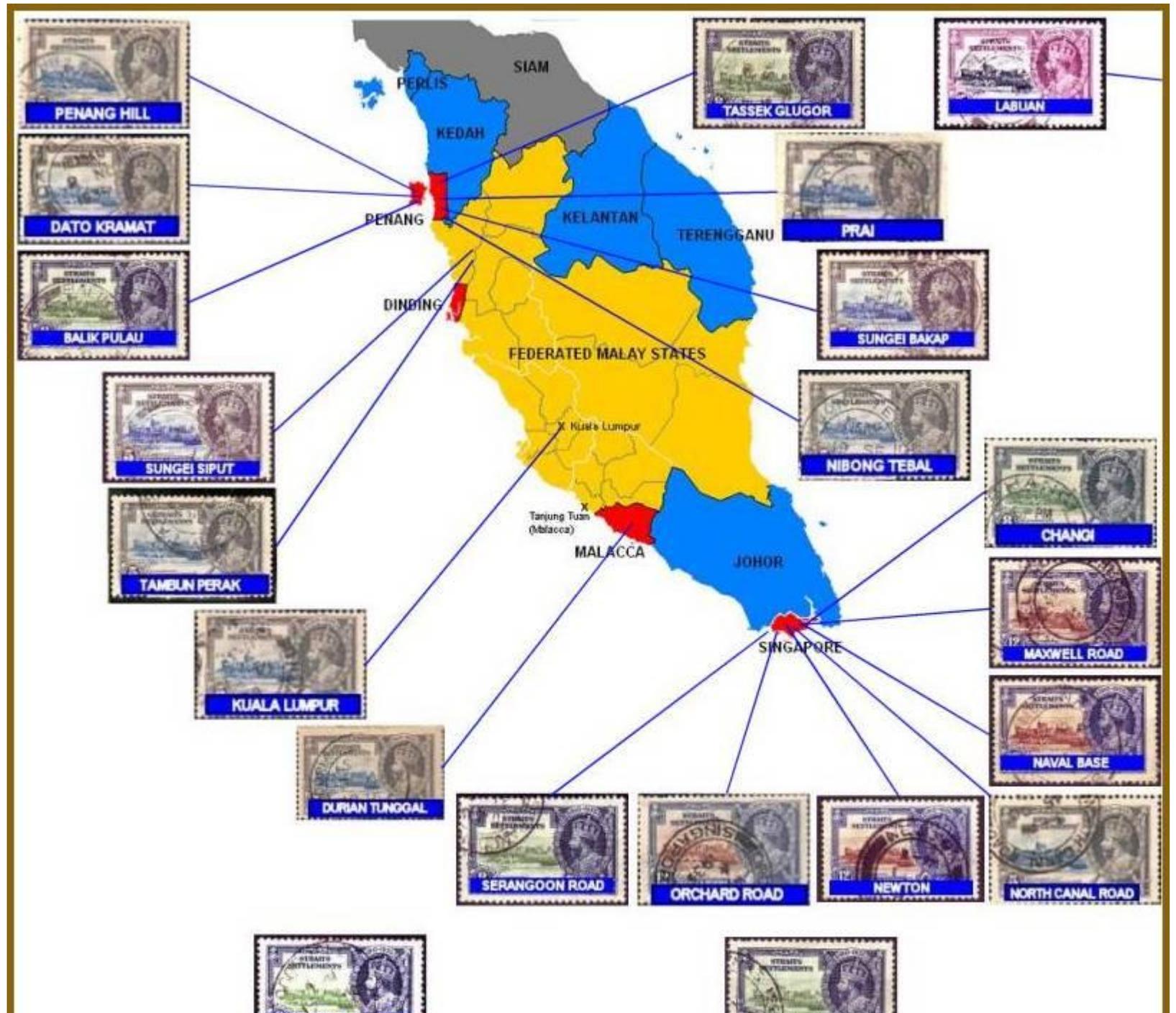


*\*Proud states: The P & O or Orient Line, on arrival at Colombo would take on a barrel to be dropped when the vessel neared Cocos. As it approached the islands, communication was made via the Cocos radio station. The ship slowed as they approached West Island, a barrel containing letters, fresh foodstuffs etc. was dropped into the sea with a flag to point out its location for a launch to collect it. At the same time, the liner trailed a rope in the sea to which the Cocos party attached a tin cannister containing letters for posting in Australia. The tin can mail drop usually operated on the outward journey as ships on the return trip passed the islands*

*in darkness.*

## **Some further postmarks...**

including repeats for those located beyond the map



AJA -September 2014