

# The Butterfly Definitives of Malaysia, 1971 to 1978—Part 2

Mac McClaren concludes his review of this attractive, modern issue



Figs 24 and 25 State booklet from Pahang and one from Perlis with label inside the front cover giving details of revised rates

## State booklets

Booklets were issued for each State on 8 December 1973, retailing at \$3, this being the first booklet issued since the formation of Malaysia. Each booklet contained seven panes of four stamps, two at 5c., two 10c. and three 15c. Each pane was interleaved with transparent paper to prevent the gum sticking in the local humid conditions. The booklets had light magenta card covers front and rear with printing in black and machine stitched. The spines of each booklet were sealed with a latex type gum.

Sheet stamps were used for the panes, being from the first two columns on the left or last two columns on the right of the sheet, as the margins were required for the machine stitching. The hand-assembled columns of booklets were guillotined horizontally to produce each individual booklet after stitching. This method of production provides two variants of each booklet, 'left' or 'right' stitched.

The number of booklets produced for a particular State was based on the projected sales, smaller States requiring less than the larger ones, so booklets from Sabah and Sarawak should be more difficult to find than those of Selangor or Johore. Information passed to the author by POS Malaysia during 1995 on the production numbers for the 1992 \$3 Booklet (e.g. Johore SB9) issue that replaced the 'Kuala Lumpur 92' booklets were as follows:

States	Qty Issued Per State
Federal Territory and Selangor	165,000
Johore, Negri Sembilan, Penang and Perak	30,000
Trengganu	20,000
Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Pahang and Perlis	10,000
Sabah and Sarawak	5000

There was probably a similar distribution or ratio between each block of states on the butterfly booklet issue, as I was led to believe that this had been the case with all Malaysian booklets for the states when I was given the numbers. It should be noted that the Federal Territory had not been established at the time of the Butterfly issue, and the totals for the Federal Territory should be combined with Selangor for this exercise, as this was the seat of the Government at the time.

Some booklets were later produced with a white label applied inside the front cover informing users of revised postage rates. State booklets known in this condition are Perlis, Sarawak and Trengganu (Figs 24 and 25).

A booklet with a Selangor cover was produced in error containing Pahang stamps. Examples of these booklets were sold by the Crown Agents at a Stampex Exhibition not long after issue with 'Selangor' crossed out and 'Pahang' added in manuscript (Fig 26).

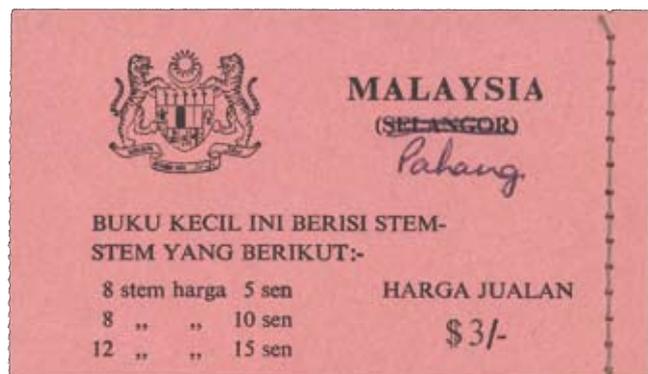


Fig 26 Booklet containing Pahang stamps but with a Selangor cover



Fig 27 Trial postal stationery envelope showing two stamp impressions, one inverted, on the front

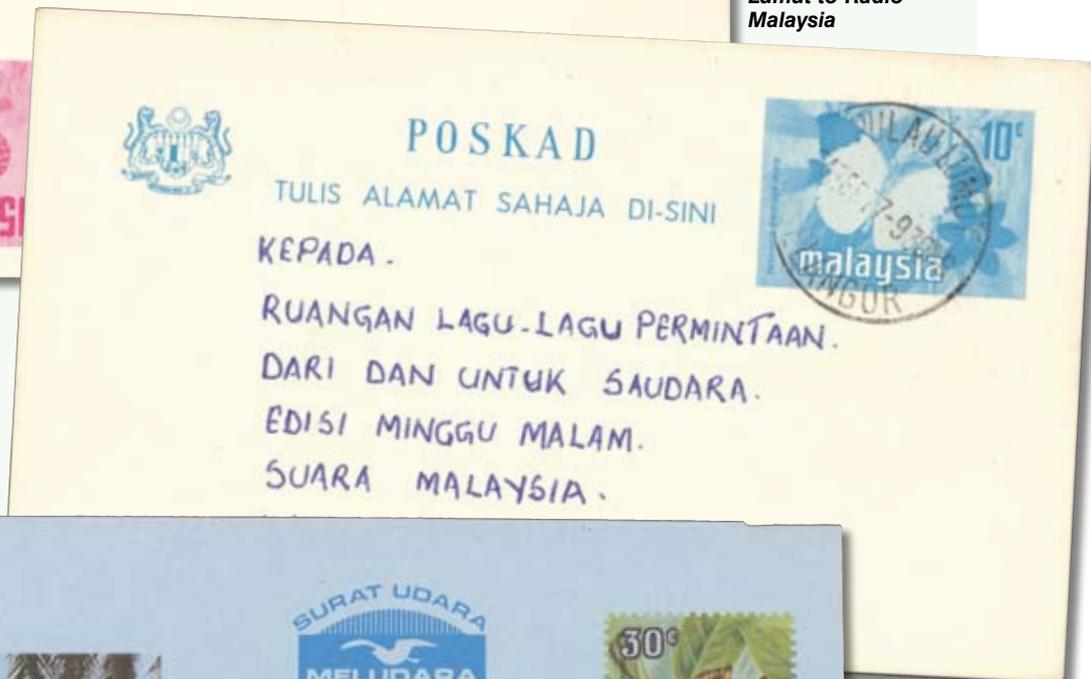
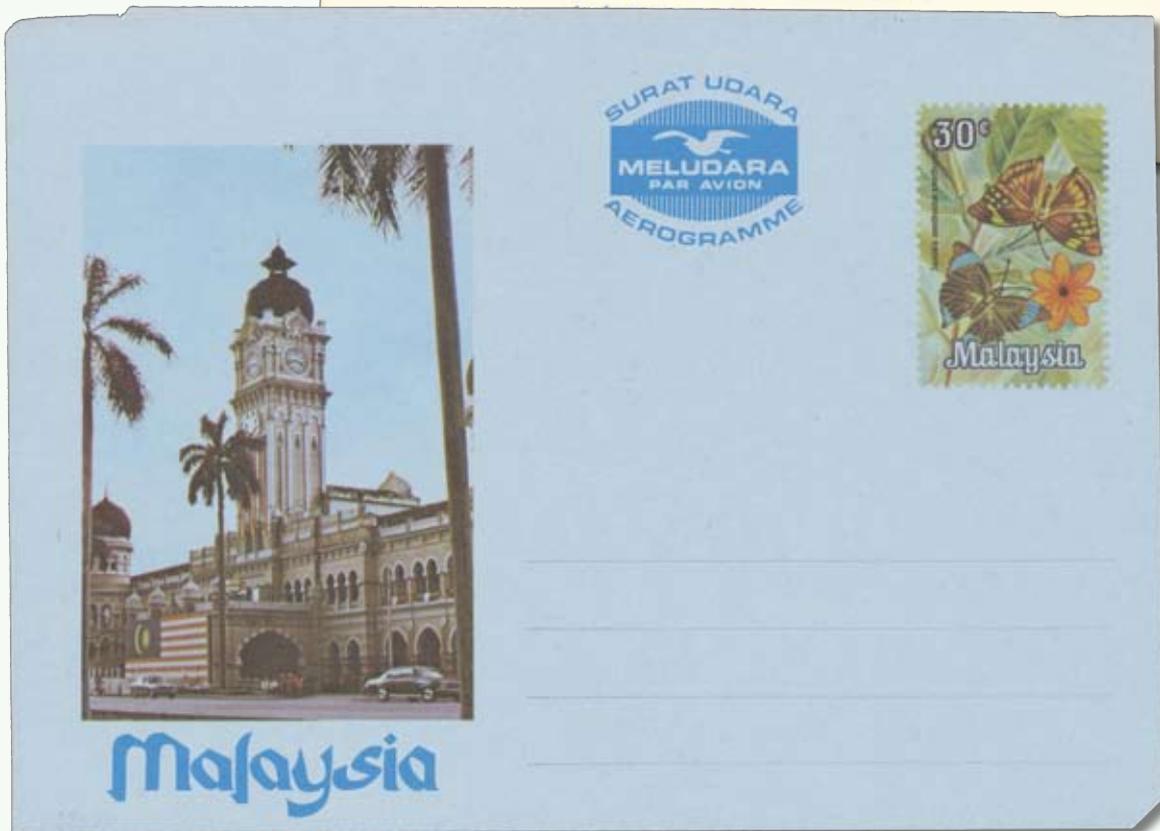
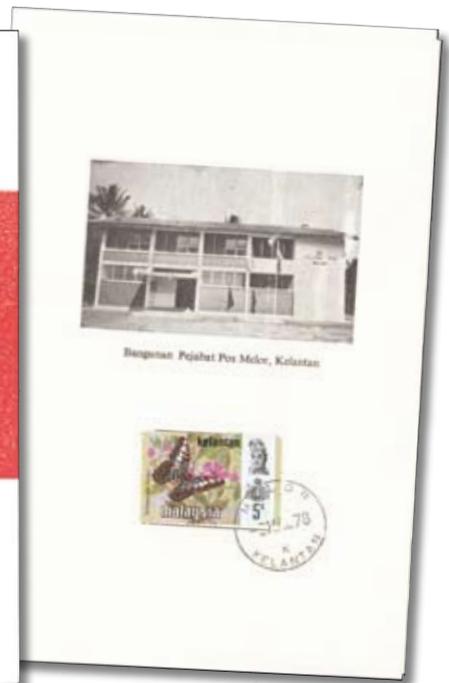


Fig 28 Postcard sent from Palau Lumut to Radio Malaysia

Fig 29 Air Letter depicting the Secretariat Building





### Postal stationery

Postal stationery envelopes were issued with an imprint of a 15c. stamp in magenta, being an adaptation of the issued multicoloured coil stamp of the same value. A trial envelope exists with three impressions of the imprinted stamp, two on the front and one on the inside rear. Illustrated is the front of the envelope (Fig 27). Commercially used examples of the envelope are not common.

Pre-printed postcards were also issued with an adapted imprint of the 10c. coil stamp in cyan printed in the top right corner. Various shades of the cyan exist. These postcards were popular for requesting records to be played by Radio Malaysia and as a result can be found with interesting postmarks from small kampongs (villages). Illustrated is a request card to Radio Malaysia from Pulau Lumut (Lumut Island) (Fig 28).

Air Letter sheets, 149mm×105mm folded, were produced with an imprint of the 30c. stamp printed in full colour on the top right of the sheet front to pay the airmail postage. Scenes were printed in a panel on the left of the sheet front and on panels on the rear, there being two different designs, a view of Parliament House and a view of the Secretariat (Sultan Samad) Building, illustrated (Fig 29).

### Post Office opening brochures

During the 1970s and 1980s quite a number of small post offices were opened throughout Malaysia and a few of the existing larger post offices were refurbished or rebuilt. To commemorate the openings of these establishments, local officials and dignitaries were invited to attend ceremonies at the locations involved. At the larger events, royalty attended and at all events several speeches took place, normally taking about one hour. Attractive booklets were produced containing the order of ceremony, most having

Fig 30 (above left) Post Office opening brochure showing \$10 Butterfly definitive Figs 31 and 32 (above) Front and inside of brochure for the opening of Melor Post Office, Kedah

Figs 33 and 34 (below) Front and page from a booklet for the opening of Baharu Kelang Post Office, Selangor



## Pembukaan Rasmi PEJABAT POS BAHARU KELANG, SELANGOR

PADA  
17hb. Julai, 1978

OLEH  
D.Y.M.M. SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH  
IBNI  
AL-MARHUM SULTAN HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH ALHAJ,  
D.K. (S.P.M.S., D.M.N., D.K. (BRUNEI), D.K. (TRENGGANU), D.K. (KELANTAN),  
D.K. (PERLIS), D.K. (JOHOR), S.P.D.K. (SABAH), D.P. (SARAWAK),  
SULTAN SELANGOR



butterfly stamp designs in full colour on the front. Three designs of butterfly cover have been identified for the smaller post offices, 25c., 75c. and \$10, which is illustrated (Fig 30). A current state butterfly stamp was affixed inside the front cover of these folders, normally a 5c. stamp but occasionally a 15c. one, cancelled with the new post office circular datestamp. Later booklets had white covers with a red band across the centre with the Post Office 'POS' logo in red and white and descriptive text in the white top and bottom panels in gold. Illustrated is a booklet for the opening of Melor Post Office, Kedah (Figs 31 and 32). These folders continued into the next issue, the Flowers definitives, the last recorded folder being issued in March 1982. I have never seen these items described before, although they form a fascinating area of collecting, being historical in relation to establishing the date of opening of new post offices. The number recorded so far is 62.

Larger post offices had a number of stamps affixed and were more lavish in production. Illustrated is an example for the opening of the Baharu Kelang (New Klang) post office in Selangor, which replaced the one opened circa 1882. The booklet, 228mm×153mm, has a reproduction of a 15c. stamp on the cover and contains several pages including colour portraits of the Sultan of Selangor and his wife. Three Selangor

## This issue provides a lot of challenges to complete at a specialist level

stamps were affixed inside and cancelled, 1c. 2c. and 5c., the 5c. being a Harrison printing (Figs 33 and 34).

An official envelope was also produced with the same values. The envelope has a depiction of the new post office on the top left in black as illustrated (Fig 35). These envelopes were probably produced for every event, three others being known; Beranang, Pudu and Sungai Pelek post offices, all in Selangor (Fig 36).

A similar booklet, 229mm×154mm, was produced for the opening of Butterworth post office, Penang, on 30 December 1975. This booklet contained Bradbury Wilkinson 1c., 2c. and 5c. stamps cancelled with the new Butterworth datestamp.

A smaller booklet, 225mm×152mm, was issued for the opening of the new replacement post office of Seremban, Negri Sembilan on 15 October 1971, this again having a 15c. stamp reproduced on the cover front. The booklet, unusually, contains a full set of the Negri Sembilan butterflies cancelled with the new 'Seremban M' cancel.

### Conclusion

This issue provides a lot of challenges to complete at a specialist level, but has many facets of interest and is colourful and well designed, being one of the more colourful issues from Malaysia. Even a basic collection would prove to be most attractive.

The proofs available give an insight into the production methods employed by the different printers in establishing and maintaining printing standards, this information also being relevant to other issues not related to the Malaysian Butterflies.

Postal history, not generally covered here, also provides a wealth of interest, with the different rates current during the period of this issue. Cylinder numbers for many values from various states have not been reported, and if they exist and are found, will most probably be quite scarce.

With thanks to Len Stanway, Bill Payne and the Malaya Study Group.



Fig 35 Official envelope for the opening of Baharu Kelang Post Office

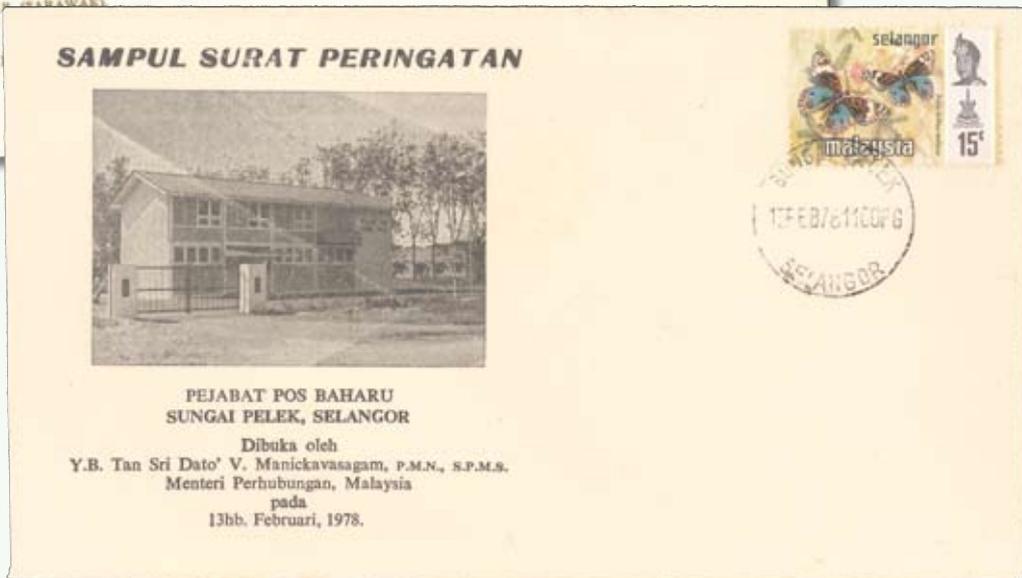


Fig 36 Souvenir envelope marking the opening of Sungai Perak Post Office, Selangor