

PHILATELIC EXHIBIT: JAPANESE OCCUPATION AREAS DURING WWII

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Japanese occupations thru WWII were significant for the world as well as having quite an impact on philately. Philatelic errors resulted from rapid overprints, handstamps, and forgeries, while so many other occupation issues pressed. One could think postage enhancements at the time would be of minor significance in a war effort. However, these philatelic examples show a small amount of the significant effort by both the occupied and the Japanese to keep the mail moving. Each occupied or influenced area had their own way of collecting revenue through postal services. The results of which maintained information transfer, with a humanitarian effort, in war. There were fewer examples in the Pacific occupations that show an effort to censor mail as there were in Europe or the West.

Philately in Occupation Areas:

- Brunei-handstamped "Scene on Brunei River", A1. "Town of Brunei Dwellings", A2
- Burma – 1943 2N33b imperf. OS4
- China – 1938-41 Mengchiang / Inner Mongolia, 2N64 5c on 10c.
- Hong Kong – 3 stamp issues in 1945 [Not available to display]
- Malaya: N13 Ovpt. DAI NIPPON 2602 MALAYA w/States – handstamp "Seal of Post Office of Malayan Military Dept."
 - Straits Settlements: Johore / Kedah / Kelantan
 - Melaka – blocks of 4 single Ovpt.
 - Negri Sembilan – N29 2c on 5c with overprint.
 - Pahang – N1A 3c handstamped.
 - Penang – see Errors: Ovpt. w/ PE in PENANG omitted [not listed in Scott]
 - Perak – 1942 N21A 30c not regularly issues, DAI overprint
 - Selangor – N16 1942 \$1 w/ red & black handstamp.
 - Trengganu – N17A \$25 [high Scott value]
- Netherland Indies: 1942-43 overprints, Java N1 2c Globe Showing Japanese Empire & Sumatra. N37 depicting Japanese Naval Control.
- North Borneo – N15B handstamped characters "North Borneo" & overprint "WAR TAX".
- Philippines: 1942-43 N4 5c on 10c surcharged "5" in black.
- Sarawak – Oval Framed violet handstamp with Japanese characters, not for paying postage. Overprint also with Japanese characters. N1, 1c, shown with handstamp and overprint.

Manchukuo – Japanese Administration:

Philatelic examples from Manchukuo were during occupations by the Japanese Imperial Army pressing it's influence in this area. As they expanded for secretive "testing" into northeastern China, it was necessary to avoid breaches in security. Philately did not enforce many postal processes, as seen in most occupied areas, trying to maintain secrecy while allowing philatelic / mail information transfer.

- Dec. 1942 Scott 149 6f 1st Anniversary "Greater East Asia War". Characters read - "Asiatic Prosperity Began This Day Dec. 8, 1941."
- May 1943 Scott 151 6f Proclamation of Labor Service Law.

"Japanese Postal Service" - Ovpt. characters on many stamps

dswart@ec.rr.com – stamps full scale.

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Map 20 The Pacific theatre, 1941-45

Legend:
 - - - - - Japanese Empire 1933
 ——— Limit of Japanese advance, July 1942
 ——— Burma Road

Scale: 0 800 km

Examples of stamps and covers shown:
 - "FIRST DAY COVER" INAUGURATION OF THE G. P. O. UNDER DAI NIPPON ADMINISTRATION. 30th. March, 2602 (1942)
 - Mr. Seah Hock Meng, "Seahall", 64, Rangoon Road, Penang.
 - "FORGERY" stamp with Burmese characters
 - "Errors" stamps: MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2602 PENANG and MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2602 PE
 - "PE missing NANG" stamps: MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2602 MALAYA and MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2602 NEGRI SEMBILAN
 - "N40 not listed in Scott Cat." stamp: MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2092
 - "Inverted Overprints" stamps: MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2092 and MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2602
 - "Dbl. Ovpt. w/1 Inverted" stamp: MALAYA DAI NIPPON 2602

大日本郵便