

WHO WAS WHO IN BURMA PHILATELY

An annotated biographical index for researchers

Compiled by Richard Warren



A gathering of collectors, probably in Rangoon, possibly in the late 'thirties, and possibly connected with the Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club, or with the Burma Philatelic Society.
From left to right: unknown; Dr Suman Chowdhury; Tan Swee Choo; Prof. Aung Hla; unknown; possibly NKD Naigamwalla.
Photo courtesy family of Tan Swee Choo & Gilbert Chua

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Introduction

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In the final analysis, philately is as much about people as it is about stamps.

Among the papers of the late Gerald Davis (now in the keeping of the Burma [Myanmar] Philatelic Study Circle), I came across two or three pages of unpublished biographical notes labelled "People who have made an impact on [the] philately of Burma". The two dozen or so entries contain both the living and the dead, and, besides philatelists, include such figures as Thomas Archer, artist engraver at Nasik, and two Governors of Burma. Most are British, and there is only one Burmese name.

The list has an unfinished look, and I wondered if Gerald had found it difficult, in the event, to define "impact". It occurred to me that a wider and less selective listing of personalities in Burma philately might actually be a useful research tool, rather than just a roll of honour. Names turn up in isolation on covers and in periodicals, or are cited as provenance, and it is often difficult for the collector or researcher to find out more. So, this listing has been built upon Gerald's slim foundations, but quite often relying on information found among his papers. Errors, omissions and poor judgements are entirely mine.

I have tried to limit entries to those whose names have at least some small significance, and who were directly involved in philately, whether collectors, writers, correspondents, researchers, dealers, fakers or forgers. Postal officials, for example, are listed only if they also fit any of those categories. Inevitably, entries cover both philately in Burma and the philately of Burma, which has extended worldwide.

To comment on the merits (or otherwise) of the living seemed to me to invite disaster (if not litigation), and so this is a "Who Was Who", not a "Who's Who". In some cases, for want of better information, I have assumed that, with the passage of time, a subject is no longer living. My apologies to anyone not yet dead who has been included in error.

A note on the entries

The alphabetical listing of individuals (and some philatelic traders), beginning on page 6, is preceded by a general outline of the history of organised philately in Burma. Ethnic background is indicated by name. All Burmese (Burman) names are given with the prefixed titles "U", "Maung" or "Ko" for men, or "Daw" for women. Where someone of Chinese background has later adopted a Burmese name, the entry is given under the Chinese name, but cross referenced. Confusion could arise where a Chinese name has been given a European form. In such cases I have followed the predominant usage; cross referencing should reduce any problems.

I have included locations or addresses where known, in case this may help to identify senders or addressees on covers, or writers of letters. I have shown some signatures, in case they may help to identify letters or covers. Where memoirs, letters or articles have allowed, I have included quotations that might help to bring the entry alive, or to add a note of interest or curiosity. In this respect, the flavour and emphasis of the work is very much my personal choice.

Sources

The principal source has been the mass of notes, letters and articles left by Gerald Davis, and given to the Burma (Myanmar) Philatelic Study Circle by the Royal Philatelic Society London. Sometimes it seems as if Gerald jotted down notes or comments with one eye on posterity! Some other selected sources are noted in the entries, but I have not indicated specific sources for every small piece of information. Alan Meech's *Annotated Bibliography of Burma Philately*, 1993, has, as ever, proved an invaluable check, and I have made full use of Steven Zwillinger's first day cover collection, with my thanks. Others have provided some useful reminiscences and images, for which I am very grateful. Their input is acknowledged in the entries. Some recurring references are abbreviated:

APS American Philatelic Society
IP *India Post*
ISJ *India's Stamp Journal*
JP *Japanese Philately*
LP *London Philatelist*
PJI *Philatelic Journal of India*
RPSL Royal Philatelic Society London

SC *Stamp Collecting*
TBF *The Burma Fantail* (Burma [Myanmar] Philatelic Study Circle)
TBP *The Burma Peacock* (Burma Phil. Study Circle)
WWWIBP "Who was Who in British Philately"
[www.ukphilately.org.uk/bpt/whowaswho/whowaswho-a.htm]

Organised philately in Burma

The history of organised philately in Burma, so far as it is known, has been admirably chronicled in "Organized Philately Concerning Burma" by Brian Saxe and Alan Meech, in TBP 12/4. Essentially, the demographics of philately in Burma have naturally enough followed political and social changes in the country. The recorded members of the Rangoon Philatelic Society, in existence by 1894, have British surnames, and were members of the commercial and military classes. The few surviving pages of *The Burman Philatelist*, published in 1920 by **Edward Hay** of Rangoon, have no specifically Burmese content.

With the growth of an educated Burmese community and separation from India in 1937, more Burmese names appear among the philatelic community. The philately of Burma (as opposed to philately in Burma) develops as a study in its own right with the first stamp issue of 1937. The list of committee members of The Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club, founded in 1933, is relatively evenly divided between names of British, Indian, Chinese and Burmese origin. **Lawrence Burness**, a member at the time, found that meetings comprised "about ten people of various nationalities but there were rarely any Europeans present". Meetings were clearly very informal.

The Burma Philatelic Society existed briefly from 1940, and again from 1948 to the 'fifties, with a similar mix of membership. In the meantime the Japanese Occupation brought Burma to the attention of Japanese collectors. (Too few Japanese names appear in this listing, and the compiler would welcome advice on this aspect.) With the reoccupation in 1945, considerable numbers of Allied servicemen in Burma were attracted by the mysteries of the Occupation issues, though after a flurry of activity and reports in the philatelic press, rather few of the names concerned seem to have sustained their interest for long. Meanwhile, a small cottage industry of dealers, Burmese and Indian, had evolved to cater for this market. Much of this network of dealers and collector-dealers survived into the 1950's, sustained by a continuing interest in the issues of the newly independent nation.



In 1954 the Burma Stamp Club was established alongside the Burma Philatelic Society, followed by the Burma Stamp Society in the early 'sixties. On February 15 1956, the First Burma International Pilot Stamp Exhibition was held at the Burma-American Institute in Rangoon.



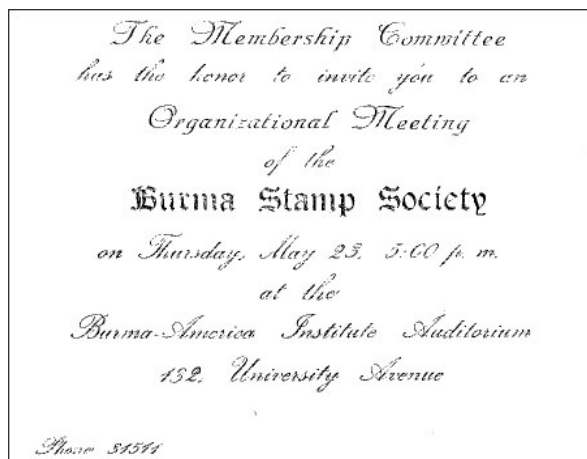
A full report, under the editorial name of H L Lindquist, appeared in the April 7 1956 edition of *Stamps*. Before assembled diplomatic dignitaries, **N K D Naigamwalla** – a recurrent name in Burmese philately – was presented with a Certificate of Honour. Some exhibits on display were from the collections of members of the Burma Philatelic Society and the Burma Stamp Club ("largely of a thematic nature, although a number of classic issues were also on display ..."), but other exhibits were provided by the diplomatic missions of ten nations, and by the Government of the Union of Burma.

In his introductory speech, Professor **U Aung Hla** explained that the term "pilot" was to indicate that this was to be the forerunner of a "full scale exhibition" to be staged later the same year. It is not clear whether this ever in fact happened.

Left: diplomatic dignitaries at the opening of the 1956 "pilot" exhibition.

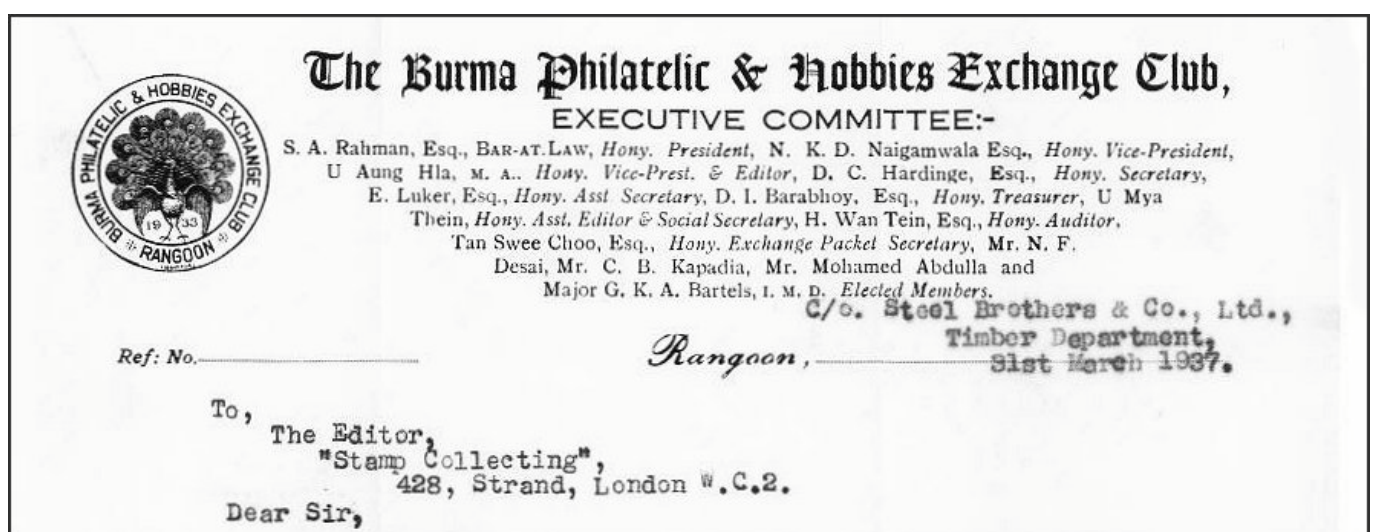
Brian Saxe recalls the inaugural meeting of the Burma Stamp Society, probably in 1962:

"The invitation to the initial meeting of the Burma Stamp Society [below] is dated May 23, but the year is not listed – I believe it was 1962, but could have been 1963. (My family arrived in Burma in the Fall of 1961, and I recall that the first show sponsored by the Society was in October 1963.) The photo [below] includes handwritten notations which read: Lim Peng Hong, Nagaimwalla (sic) and Col. Khin Maung Gale. I do not see Naigamwalla on the members list, and I wonder if he was excluded from membership because he was a dealer (as many stamp clubs used to do) – I seem to remember considerable discussion on that subject. Terms like "bona fide stamp collector" were debated vigorously. Being 13 or 14 years old at the time, I yawned through the writing of the constitution and rules. I shudder to think that I am the young man to the lower left of the photo, directly below the speaker – yeah, the one with the large ears. I can remember no other Westerner of my age."



An invitation to the inaugural meeting of the Burma Stamp Society, probably in 1962 [left] and a photo of the meeting [right]. The speaker at left appears to be Bo Khin Maung Gale, with **NKD Naigamwalla** apparently seated to his right and **Lim Peng Hong** (U Aung Myint) at front right, by the first flag. The portraits are those of Aung San and General Ne Win. [Courtesy Gilbert Chua & Brian Saxe]

Within a few years the departure of many Indian residents meant that philately in Burma was now dominated by Burmese collectors. None of these organisations survived later than the mid-'sixties, but in 1971 the Burma Stamp Society was organised. Its existence seems to have been brief. From the late 'seventies onwards, with the establishment of the Burma Philatelic Study Circle, the focus of organisation has moved outside the country to Canada and the UK.



The letter heading and committee members of the BP&HEC, 1937

BURMA STAMP SOCIETY

MEMBERS LIST

1. Mr. Khoo Boon Khin,
73 Lanthit Street,
Rangoon.
2. Mr. C.C. Khoo,
Bar-at-Law,
91 Bo Aung Gyaw Street,
Rangoon
3. Mr. T.K. Moon,
104 Phayre Street,
Rangoon
4. U Ng Mg Aye,
93, Lower Main Road,
Houlmein.
5. Mr. G. Kirkham,
17 Goodliff Road,
Rangoon
6. Mrs. Wadge Aye,
28 Inya Myaing Road,
Rangoon
7. Col. Phillips,
American Embassy,
Merchant Street,
Rangoon.
8. Micky Tan,
530 Mahabandoola Street,
Rangoon
9. Mg Aye Mg,
22, 2nd Thompson Avenue,
Rangoon
10. U Kin Oung,
Mackinnon & Mackenzie,
83/91 Bo Aung Gyaw Street,
Rangoon
11. U Tun Tin,
48 Churchill Road,
Rangoon
12. Mr. A. Barrow,
32 Top Floor,
Triangle Street,
Rangoon.
13. Mr. N.C. Sen, B.A. B.L.,
Advocate,
83 Phayre Street,
Rangoon
14. U Ba Sein,
C/o Pilot Pen Co.,
666 Merchant Street,
Rangoon.
15. U Ohn Myint,
Asst. Secretary,
Ministry of Trade Development,
New Secretariat,
Rangoon
16. Master K.N. Desai,
177 Lewis Street,
Rangoon
17. Mr. Lim Peng Hong,
140 Lewis Street (1st floor),
Rangoon
18. Mr. M.S. Ahmed,
Violin House,
716-720 Merchant Street,
Rangoon
19. Salim D. Bangee,
277 Edward Street,
Rangoon
20. Mr. & Mrs. D.P. Barnes,
12 Ady Road,
Rangoon
21. Sgt. H. Boog,
Records Office,
Burma Army,
Sales Barracks,
Rangoon.
22. A.E. Ginwalla,
133, 27th Street,
Rangoon
23. Farouk A. Ginwalla,
133, 27th Street,
Rangoon
24. Mr. John S. Hale,
American Embassy,
Rangoon
25. U Sein Tha Htoon,
17, Aungchantha Street,
Sanchaung,
Rangoon
26. Frank Kin Maung,
Burma Asiatic Co. Ltd.,
577 Merchant Street,
Rangoon
27. Ismail M. Mall,
116, 27th Street,
Rangoon
28. U Thein Nyan,
Traffic Dept.,
Lands Section,
Board of Management
Port of Rangoon,
Rangoon.
29. Brad Phillips,
5 A. L. N. Road,
Rangoon.
30. Brian Sene,
18 A. Inya Road,
Rangoon
31. Hlung Htoon Win,
137 Brookling Street,
Rangoon
32. Maung Kyi Win,
J.P.O. Box 730,
Rangoon
33. Mr. E. Aagaard
45 Golden Valley,
Rangoon
34. Mr. R. Jasper,
American Embassy,
Rangoon.
35. John Ray,
American Embassy,
Rangoon
36. Mr. Walter Brittain,
American Embassy,
Rangoon
37. Mr. King,
48 B Windermere Road,
Rangoon
38. Mr. Lionel S. Jude,
No. 96, 39th Street,
Rangoon
39. U Shwe Win,
36 Shan Road,
Rangoon
40. U Kyi Aye,
91 Bo Aung Gyaw Street,
Rangoon
41. Narinder S. Saluja,
Rangoon
42. Mrs. Barnes,
12 Ady Road,
Rangoon.

The roster of the Burma Stamp Society, 1962. [Courtesy Gilbert Chua & Brian Saxe]

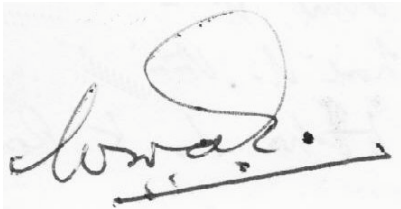
Index of names

Abdullah (Abdulla), Mohamed

Committee member, Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948.

Adgey-Edgar, Capt. Walter Herbert [1887-1977]

UK collector of all Occupation territories, dealer. Photographer. Eastwater House, Bramley, Surrey. Later at Ardenholme, London Rd., Guildford, Surrey. (Related to the Reginald Adgey-Edgar, killed in 1944, to whom the angel on the tower of Guildford Cathedral is dedicated?) Author of *Catalogue of Imperial Japanese Overprints and Issues in Occupied British Territories*, 1946. Pencilled expert mark ("AE") found on Occupation items. In 1958 sold his Occupation territories collection to Bridger & Kay, from which **Gerald Davis** purchased 26 items, but continued to collect Tibet, Manchuria, Mongolia etc.



Adgey-Edgar's signature. (Does this read "Adgey-Edgar" or "Walter"? At one time, the quality of an Englishman's signature was judged by the extent to which it did not resemble his actual name.)



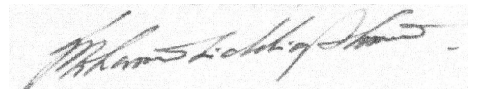
Pencilled "AE"

"I sold my collection because I was disgusted at the amount of stupid forgeries turning up. I really began to dislike the whole lot and still do. I'm beginning to think 75% of the whole lot are duds as there could not possibly have been so many."
[Letter to Gerald Davis, 1960]

[Gerald Davis papers, WWWIBP]

Ahmed, Mohamed Siddiq

Dealer. 716/20 Merchant St., Rangoon. In 1950 was taking orders for the "Pyidaungsu" overprint (in the event, unissued) at face value through a UK agent, a Mr E S James of Rustington, Sussex.



Ally, Hajee Mohamed

Dealer? 24 (1) Block, Zegyo, Mandalay. Produced printed 1938 fdc.

Aubrey, Denis O B [?-1949(?)]

From 1937-40 and 1945-49, prolific creator of first day covers, marked "DOBA". Superintendent of Excise in Burma before and after WW2, at Akyab, Myaungmya, Toungoo, Moulmein. In New Delhi in June 1945, in Burma in July, at Golden Valley, Rangoon. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948. Collection sold by Robson Lowe in 1950. His widow Dawn (Daw Saw Yin) subsequently lived in Holland Park Ave., London.

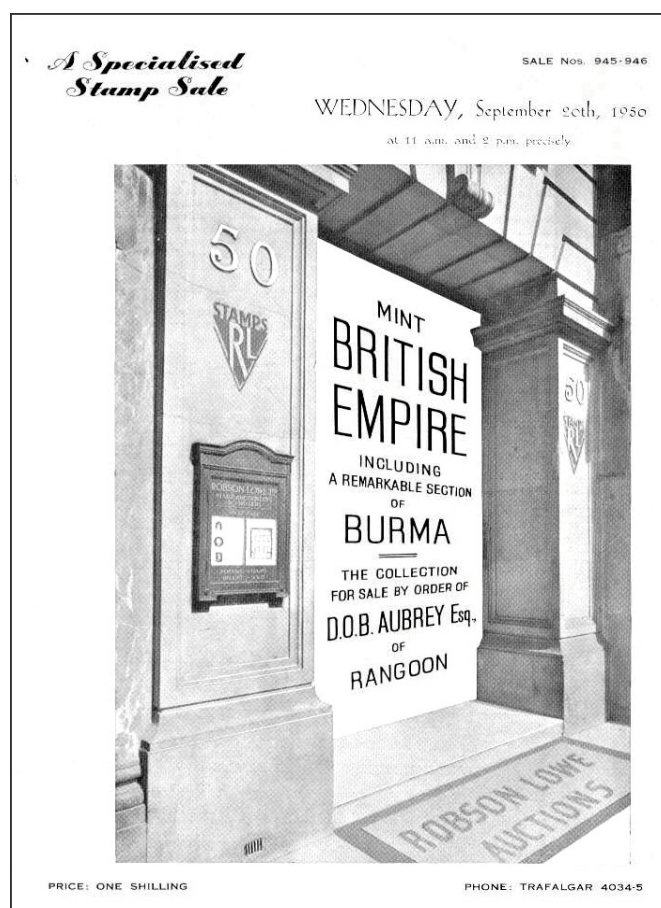
Aubrey, Guy A B

D O B Aubrey's son or brother? His name appears on covers. Pre-war at Toungoo and Prome Rd., Rangoon. In Burma in July 1945, at Golden Valley, Rangoon.



A D O B Aubrey designed first day cover addressed to Guy Aubrey

The cover of the catalogue of the Robson Lowe sale of the D O B Aubrey collection, 1950.



Aung Gyi, Maung

Dealer. Zegyo, Mandalay. Name and address as "Philatelist" on fdc's and philatelic usages from 1947 to 1950. Supplied aerogrammes to Francis J Field.



Aung Gyi's printed envelope, describing himself as a "Burma Stamp Specialist", mailed from Mandalay to well known UK dealer **J Stephen**.

Aung Hla, Prof. U

Vice President & Editor, Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. Burma Philatelic Society, 1940, 1948 and then, or later, President. President, Burma Stamp Club, 1954. Burma Stamps Society. Barrister and professor of mathematics at the University of Rangoon.

"One of Burma's leading and most knowledgeable and experienced philatelists."
[N K D Naigamwalla]

[TBP 9/3. Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]



U Aung Hla – late 1930's?



U Aung Hla, 1956

Aung Myint, U
See **Lim Peng Hong**

Ba, U

Did U Ba ever really exist? The address “U Ba, care of post office, Tamwe” appears on many occupation covers that appear to have been produced retrospectively, using genuine stamps or reprints, genuine stationery, and genuine cancellations. Beyond this, U Ba seems invisible. It is conceivable that this name is merely an indicator of a “posthumous” cover, and perhaps “Maung Ba” likewise.

Ba Din, U

Burma. Head clerk, correspondence, staff and accounts branch at Rangoon GPO, during the occupation. Cited by both **Roberts** (see Preface to **Roberts & Smythies**) and **Chaldecott** as a supplier of stamps in 1945.

“He was a gentleman and not so obviously on the make as the others. He and I drank many cups of tea together and he was interesting on a variety of subjects. I imagined that he got me stamps in spite of the activities of the other postmasters. At the end he could find me no more.”

[Chaldecott narrative, Gerald Davis papers]



A cover to U Ba Din from Tharawaddy, November 1943, with the King's head defaced in manuscript.

Barabhoy, D I

Dealer. Hardware goods merchant. Proprietor of Burma Stamp Mart, 116 Sule Pagoda Road, Rangoon. Also Mogul St., also Dalhousie St., Rangoon. Hon. Treas., Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. His adventures during the Occupation were later chronicled in typically purple prose by **Jal Cooper** in ISJ. Born in Rangoon, and a collector since 1901, Barabhoy left in late February 1942, sinking his cash savings into “purchasing every available stamp in the various post offices in Rangoon”. Having secured 150,000 rupees worth of mint stamps in the safe in his cellar, he made for Lashio, but failed to get out on a CNAC plane. He was, like many refugees, in Myitkyina when Japanese forces arrived, and eventually returned to his Rangoon home.

“He was not slow in realising the future propensities of the enemy issued stamps and bought off complete sheets of the famous Yano Seals costing him 104 annas per sheet and recently unloaded them in Bombay at a mere 40,000 to 60,000 annas a sheet and he had over six complete sheets! The ‘Peacocks’ he had in original panes and the scarce one rupee and two rupees values by dozens ... He is the only fortunate possessor of a complete sheet of 1c on ¼an on 1 sen with three rows showing ¼ inverted.”

He left for India in March 1946.

“However, whilst selling his stamps in Bombay, he received a nasty jar, worse than a Jap bomb, at the hands of a Bombay dealer and only his astute business mind prevented him from selling out the stock for the proverbial song which the Bombay dealer had endeavoured to make him do by questionable and dubious methods.”

[Jal Cooper, “A Philatelist Makes a Fortune”, ISJ Jan. 1947]

Instead, Barabhoy sold his stock to another Bombay dealer – Cooper, thus securing “a happy and peaceful living in the evening of his life”.



D I Barabhoy in 1947

Bartels, Maj. G K A

Indian Medical Dept. Committee member, Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club.

Baxter, C C

Indian aero-philatelist, whose name appears on second flight covers of Indian National Airways Burma service, 1933.

Bertalanffy, Felix D [1923-1999]

Canada. Wrote for JP, and for TBP [6/3] on the "Chalo Delhi" stamps. [Brief obituary in TBP 19/1.]

Felix Bertalanffy [photo courtesy Kyaw Myint Maung]

**Bharucha, Ahmed & Yusuf H**

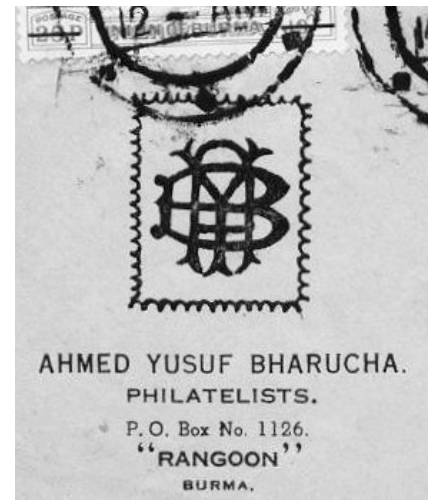
Brothers? Dealers. Described as "philatelists" on their printed envelopes. At PO Box 1126, Rangoon. Produced first day covers for Mandalay Centenary, 1959. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948. Left Burma for India, perhaps in 1963, perhaps later.

"April 1949 – A clerk working with Sooratee Bara Bazaar, YHB, told me that he had some SG albums etc for sale. I went to his office and found that he was sending mint peacock overprinted Burma stamps to SG ... What Bharucha was sending to SG in 1949 were all ¼ sheet small stamps. He said he received SG publications in exchange. For all his pains, YHB was deported out of Burma some time later."

[Dr Chowdhury, Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]

"I used to visit a stamp dealer called Yusoof in Fraser Street, quite a busy area in Rangoon, as he always seemed to be familiar with local philatelic happenings. Yusoof was an Indian who boasted he could supply most of the Burmese Japanese occupation overprint issues."

[Nelson Eustis, "On the Road to Mandalay", TBP 20/2]



The Bharucha Brothers logo, from their printed envelope.

Birch, C L

Leek, Staffs. Named as contributor to early article on Burma occupation issues in SC, July 14 1945.

Bishop, Rev. Edward A

Welling, Kent. Methodist Church, Rome. Wrote on 1937 overprints for IP.

[TBP 15/1. Gerald Davis papers]

Boon Khin, U

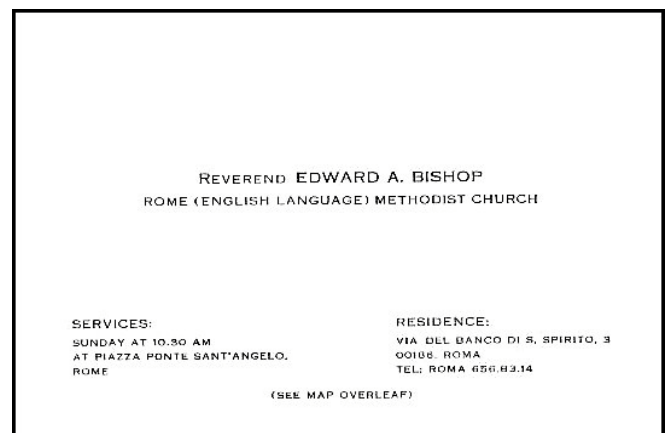
See **Khoo Boon Khin**.

Boon Na, Ko (U Boon Na)

See **Lim Peng Hong**.

Brash, Capt. John

Reported to ISJ May 1946 the "MILY ADMN" 3½ annas with centre clearly double printed.



Edward Bishop's calling card

Broomhead, Flt. Lt. Thomas A [?-1970]

UK. Collector. RAF. With **Flt. Lt. Mawer**, obtained Occupation stamps in Burma in 1945. Provided information on the "Chalo Delhi" stamps for a piece in *Stamp Collecting*, November 10 1945. Wrote early but solid pieces for the same periodical on "Farmers", peacock overprints, etc.

"Tom Broomhead, whom I knew in Rangoon, met me a few times in London long after the war and showed me a 'printing plate' which he said was used to print [the Chalo Delhi stamps]. When his whole collection was stolen from his home in Cheshire this die or plate was also stolen. The only positive reference went with it. Neither it nor his stamps have been seen since. His whole collection was worth so much that its loss made him terribly ill ..."

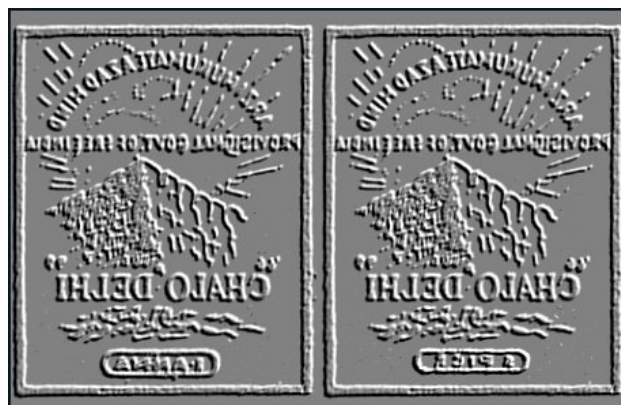
[Gerald Davis]

This plate was obtained from **Flt. Lt. Mawer**. The theft took place c.1968.

[Gerald Davis papers]



A "MILY ADMN" censored cover sent by Tom Broomhead to himself in October 1945



A reconstruction of Broomhead's "Chalo Delhi" die, from descriptions [Richard Warren]

Burma Philatelic Coy.

Dealers. Known as producers of a rather spectacular fdc for the 1946 "Victory" issue.

Burma Stamp Mart

See **D I Barabhoy**

Burman Philatelist, The

See **Hay, Edward**

Burness, Lawrence R [?-2004]

Purley, Surrey. Arbroath, Scotland. In Burma from 1936, he worked for Rowe & Co., Rangoon, and served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. Wrote "Philatelic Memories of Burma" for TBP. Collection sold by Spink in 1998.

"Few [Europeans] took any interest in the country or its people and we were still living in an era in which contact with its inhabitants outside business was inclined to be frowned upon ... However, I was not content to leave it at that."

[TBP 12/3,4. Brief obituary in TBF 1/2]



Lawrence Burness in 1947

Burrell, Maj. P G

Served in Burma with the Royal Engineers. Contributed an early notice to ISJ (May 1945) of the Java and overprinted Shan series, shown on covers.

Chaldecott, Lieut. Col. Gilbert H

Served in the Royal Artillery(?). Obtained peacock overprints in 1945 while in Burma, mainly from **Tan Swe Choo**, **H D Ka Ka** and **U Ba Din**. In late 1945/early 1946 wrote an interesting record of his activity. Sold 35 stamps to Gibbons on return, but kept the remainder. Posted to the Middle East and the Arab Legion after the war. In 1952

concluded mistakenly that the supposed two types, A & B, of the Henzada die, had indeed existed separately, but later revised this opinion. Collection sold by Robson Lowe in 1956.

"It has been my habit in life to focus my attention on one matter at a time and when interest and leisure have combined to aid the process the result has sometimes been cyclonic and the goal pursued relentlessly. So it was with "Peacocks" once I had become "bitten" ... Of the unused peacocks I have a collection of over 400 of 48 kinds and I suppose I have chosen these 400 out of some 4000 that I could have bought. The top price I paid for a stamp was £7-10-0, the bottom 1/6d. A few I was given."

[“Lt. Col. Gilbert Chaldecott’s narrative”, typed copy, Gerald Davis papers.]

"One of the lots **Paisley** bought was a notebook in the previous owner’s manuscript ... We were agreed that many of Chaldecott’s “findings” were erroneous ..."

[Gerald Davis]

Chatterjee, S

Journalist. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954.

[TBP 9/3]

Childers, Col.

Mentioned by **Dr Chowdhury** as a collector of occupation items, and as being in Burma in 1942.

[Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]

China Arts Co.

Dealers, at Wyndham St., Hong Kong. Their Rangoon addresss – 345 Phayre St. – appears on fdc’s from 1938 onwards.

Choo, E B

Name on one type of 1937 fdc. Examples are addressed to **Tan Swee Choo**.

Choo, T S

See **Tan Swee Choo**



Dr Chowdhury in the late 'thirties?



Dr Chowdhury in later years

Chowdhury (Chowdry), Dr. Suman [1912-1995(?)]

Collector and researcher. Born East Bengal. Moved to Arakan 1920. Educated in Burma. Commissioned as an army medical officer in 1940, served as Captain with 77 Field Ambulance Burma. Captured by Japanese at Myitkyina, where is stamp collection was lost, but during the occupation worked at the Medical College in Rangoon and obtained stamps in Rangoon and from the Shan States.

Mentioned on p. 13 of **Roberts & Smythies** as the anonymous “military officer” who supplied examples of the Japanese stamps with blue and violet overprints used in the Shan States. Supplied stamps to **E D McDowall**. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948. Post-war at Phayre St, Rangoon. Left Burma for Calcutta in 1963. Wrote for IP, JP, TBP and *The Postal Bell*. His letters in later life to **Gerald Davis** are increasingly eccentric but contain useful information. In them he makes a number of unpublished allegations concerning the reprinting of peacock overprints by postal officials after the war and other malpractice.

"Many Burma gems are only synthetics."

"After we finish we shall have pages of album weeds on Burma."

"Ka Ka after writing the book and selling the stamps, was said to have died of kidney disease. Capt Mg Mg Gyi, PA to BMA Postal Chief, who certified that he had 'destroyed' all the remnant BMA stamps, also died of kidney disease. Some Agatha Christie work?"

"The world wars are said to be due to bombing out the tombs of ancient Assyrians & Babylonians – like the curse of Tut-Ankh-Amen."

[Gerald Davis papers, biography and material from notes on Shan States in TBF 4/1]

Chubb, Capt. Hugh J [1893-1975]

Commodore, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. Judge, *Rangoon Gazette* stamp design competition, 1936. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948. Fellow, RPSL. In the evacuation of 1942, Chubb lost several of his specialised collections of other countries, but was able to bring safely to India his collection of Burma, which was described by Jal Cooper in a "Burma Number" of *India's Stamp Journal*, with particular detail given to Chubb's analysis of the 1937 overprints. Returned to Burma post-war. By 1952 at Westbourne Grove, West Kirby, Cheshire. Collection sold by Robson Lowe in 1955.

[Gerald Davis papers]

Cockburn, George W M

Sutton, Surrey. District Officer in Burma 1937-48. Collection sold 1979? Contributed over-view of pre-independence stamps to TBP 1/2.

Coddington, Col. D H

Obtained occupation stamps in Burma in 1945. Named by **Jal Cooper** (as Major Coddington) as an informant in a general article in ISJ, August 1945. In April 1946 reported to ISJ on peacock and Yano Seal forgeries, and on the Andaman Islands surcharge on postal stationery envelope.

Cooper, Jal Manekji, FRGS [1908(?) - 1972]

Noted Bombay dealer and writer. Commemorated on an India stamp of 1997. Standard Building, Hornby Rd. (later Dr. D Naoroji Rd.), Bombay. Publisher and editor of *India's Stamp Journal*, of which the Sept 1942 issue was entirely devoted to aspects of Burma philately. Author of *India Used in Burma*, 1950. Pencilled expert mark found on Occupation items, though not 100% reliably! (See **U Sein Kho**.)



Jal Cooper



Cooper's expert mark

Jal Cooper

Jal

Dadabhoy, SGH

Dealer? 272, Edward St., Rangoon. Produced fdc for 1956 Buddhist Anniversary.

Davis, Bertram

Collector of occupation Burma before 1960. Blackfriars St., Salford, Manchester. Collection sold by Harmer, Rooke in 1963.

Bertram Davis

Davis, Gerald [1916-2005]

Researcher, writer. Consultant to expertisers. Architect. Photographer. Joined RPSL in 1936, Fellow 1972. Served in Burma with the Royal Engineers.

"My special job was demolitions. Amongst other things I was a dab hand with explosives. I always thought this most ironic. Having spent so much time learning how to build buildings, when I got into the army I had to destroy them."

Obtained Occupation stamps in Burma in 1945 from **U Tun Tin**, **U Kyaw** and others, but suspended his collecting for a while after the war.

"I have fondly imagined that we were experiencing the same sort of excitement that Tapling, Ferrari and the other real pioneers of our hobby found in their early days when no one knew exactly what stamps there were to collect. We had the true thrill of the chase."

"In the early 1950's my cousin ... sent me an auction catalogue offering a large selection of Japanese Occupation issues of Burma ... I was surprised at the high quotations for so many stamps that only recently I had obtained in exchange for a few cigarettes. In a short time the philatelic incubus which I had kept at bay before my exams, now began to take over."

His studies of the occupation led to researches into the earlier period of Burma postal history, which he collected in depth. Co-author with **Col. D R Martin** of *Burma Postal History*, 1971. Wrote widely on Burma, including "Separation Trials" (1936-7 Burma essays) in *London Philatelist*, 1980. Co-author with Alan Meech of *A Catalogue of Telegraph and Revenue Stamps for Burma and Myanmar*, 1998. RPSL Tilleard Medal 1974, Tapling Medal 1980. Rowland Hill Award 2002. President, India Study Circle. Collections sold by Robson Lowe in 1986, 1990, and by Spink in 2005.

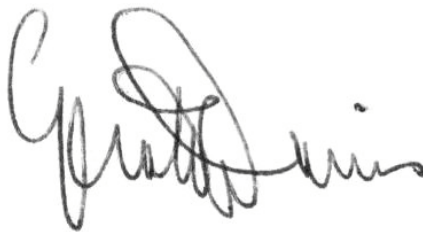
"He has raised Burma from being a philatelic non-entity to the rank of the eminently collectable."

[Robson Lowe]

"Through his energy, his application and his willingness to share, he established the necessary basic foundation of knowledge for our particular philatelic interest ... We should be conscious of our debt to him as a scholar, [and] as an advocate for Burma in the philatelic world ..."

[Alan Meech]

[Gerald Davis papers. TBP 4/2. TBF 2/3.]



Gerald Davis in 1986

Davis, John S

See **Stephen, J**

De Roemer, Martin C [? – 2000?]

Brought up in Wimbledon, South London. Later in London, and at Tilford, Surrey? Grandson of Major M de Roemer of Lime Park, Herstmonceux, Sussex. Collections of Japanese Occupation territories sold by Harmer Rooke (Gibbons) in 1964. The main strength was in Malaya, but 272 lots of Burma were offered. Auction review by **Milo D Rowell** in JP 19/6. De Roemer's nine Chin Hills covers were acquired from **C E F Pickett**, who obtained them from the estate of J P Mills in the early 'sixties:

"Pickett told me that he sent the bulk of his cuttings and correspondence concerning the Falam covers to a stock broker, Martin de Roemer, who apparently has retained them."

[Frank Saunders to Gerald Davis, 1964]

"The 'de Roemer' collection of Japanese Occupation issues has a world-wide reputation ... Mr de Roemer has, by his intensive study, 'typing' and exploration of these stamps, been of invaluable service to many, and in arranging his collection he has brought clarity to a most interesting but complicated subject."
[Auction catalogue]

"His grandmother had left him the bulk of her money and he had been a Lloyds Underwriter, but his fortunes had suffered with those of that famous company. He had remained a bachelor. Around the year 2000 I stopped hearing from him and a little while later I had a letter from Benita, who told me that, sadly, Martin had died ..."
[Recollections of Margaret Pollard on <http://www.solarnavigator.net/history>]

Desai, Chunnilal D [? – 1948?]

Collector. Fellow, RPSL. Treasurer of the Bombay Stock Exchange. Famed for the strength of his collection of early India. Named in ISJ May 1946 as purchaser of two full sheets of the Yano seal "for his magnificent Jap-Burma collection". Collection sold by Robson Lowe in 1949.

"One of the most prominent Indian philatelists of all time."
[Wikipedia]

Interestingly, as noted by **Felix Bertalanffy**, the defence counsel at a 1945 war crimes trial of three Indian National Army officers was a B Desai, who cited as evidence **Tom Broomhead's** report in SC of the "Chalo Delhi" labels.

Desai, N F

Committee member, Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. The 1962 roster of the Burma Stamp Society includes a "Master KN Desai" at Lewis St, Rangoon.



C D Desai

de Souza, Frank T

Collector or dealer? Publisher of UPU fdc, 1949. Presumably connected with the firm of Messrs E M de Souza & Co, Rangoon, trading before and after the war.

Eustis, H Nelson [1915-2003]

Australian aerophilatelist and dealer. Produced priced catalogue of *Japan's Pacific Occupation*, including Burma, in August 1946. Philatelic consultant. Briefly Philatelic Advisor to the Government of Burma, during the period of the State Philatelic Advisory Board in the early 1970's, and appointed sole agent for the sale of Burma stamps abroad. His two reports to the Advisory Board are reproduced in TBP 7/4. His recommendations that Burma should ignore local themes and produce large colourful thematics for the international market were, thankfully, ignored. His colourful memoirs of his days in Burma were published in *Australasian Stamps* in 1999 and reprinted in TBP 20/2.



Nelson Eustis

Federal Stamp Co.

Dealers. Guido Bldg, Fort, Bombay. Produced printed 1937 fdc's.

Fosberry

Apparently serving in Burma in 1945, and an early collector of occupation issues.

"I met Fosberry and Woolacott [**Woolcott**] only in U.K."
[Gerald Davis]

Frenandes

"Mgr. Frenandes" is named by **E A Smythies** in July 1946 as an informant on a forged surcharge on a Japanese stamp.

Fujita, K

Otaku, Tokyo. Author of *Catalogue of the Japanese Occupation Stamps of Burma*, 1948.

Fuller, E G

Name found on fdc's and covers from c 1940 to independence, sometimes described as "Collector of Rangoon". Pre-war at Windermere Park, Rangoon. Post-war, Commissioner at Sagaing.

Fulton, Colonel

Early collector of Burma occupation. Some items passed to **E D McDowall**.
[Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]

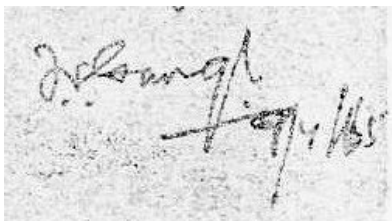
Garratt-Adams, H

Edgbaston, Birmingham. Author of a report of a "new discovery" – the Pyapon peacock overprint on the 1937 2 annas value, published in *The Philatelic Journal* (of Great Britain), April-June 1949. (It is not clear whether this item may have been forged, and it was not given catalogue status.) UK distributor of **Roberts'** and **Smythies'** book.

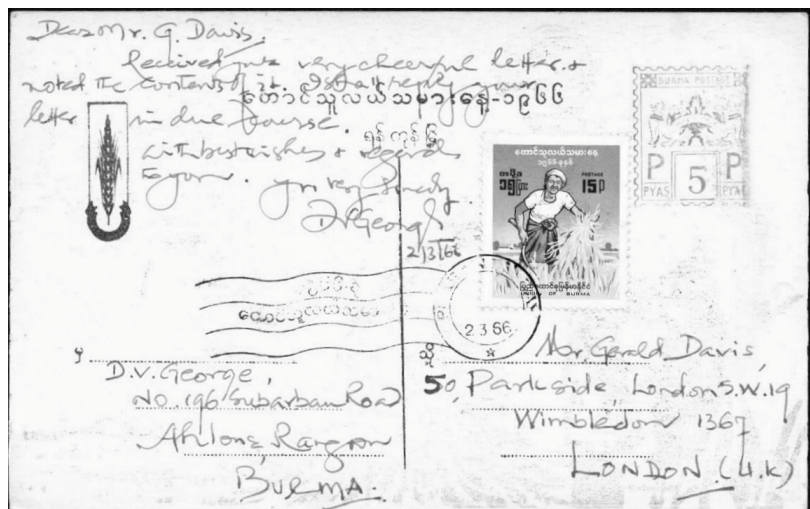
George, DV

Subarban Rd, Ahlone. The Anglo-Burmese collector who in 1965 alerted *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* to the existence of the 1964 local English language "Service" overprint on the 3p definitive (SG O174), prompting enquiries into its status. George apparently worked for the Accountant General's office in Rangoon, or was in close contact with someone who did, and accumulated a cache of covers to that address bearing this stamp.

[Editorial note by Russell Bennett, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, Feb 1966]



D V George's signature on a 3p "Service" cover



A postcard sent by D V George to Gerald Davis.
No further correspondence between these two collectors has survived

Ghose

Dealer? "Mr Ghose of Calcutta" is named by **E A Smythies** in May 1946 as an informant on blocks of four of various occupation issues, cancelled to order, many at Kalaw. (See **Sacklat**.)

Ginwalla, Ahmed E

Dealer. 133, 27th St., Rangoon, and PO Box 718, Rangoon. Proprietor of Ginwalla Stamp Club, which produced fdc's from 1963 to 1969. Burma Stamp Society member, as was his brother[?] Farouk A Ginwalla, at the same 27th St address. A Mr P P Ginwala had been first President of the Municipal Corporation of Rangoon.

Gurney, Major I

Author of "Jap-Issued Stamps of Burma" in ISJ, October 1946 – an essentially accurate but rather superficial (given the relatively late date) gallop through the Occupation issues, said to be based on information "supplied to me by official sources".

Gwatkin, Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick, CB, DSO, MC [1885-1969]

Military advisor to the forces of the Indian States, 1939-43. Retired 1943. Collection of Burma postal history sold in 1970.

Hardinge, D C

Worked for Steel Bros., Rangoon, pre-war. Worked for Steel Bros. & Burma Teak Shippers' Assn. post-war. Hon. Sec., Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. Hon. Sec., Burma Philatelic Society, 1940. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948.

Harris, Capt. Gordon

Author of an early, and essentially accurate, survey of Occupation stamps and postal stationery, "Burma Posts during the Japanese Occupation" in *Philatelic Magazine*, August 10, 1945. Harris had evidently been in Rangoon with the Royal Artillery.

Hay, Edward

Dealer. Edward Hay & Co., Post Box No. 806, Rangoon, published the two known issues of *The Burman Philatelist*, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 & 2, for Oct. & Nov. 1920. These have no Burma content as such. [TBP 15/1, Gerald Davis papers]

Helliwell, A C

Halifax, UK. Named as contributor to early article on Burma occupation issues in SC, July 14 1945.

Hinde, William Cornall [1885(?) - 1959]

Specialised in wider India used abroad, Nepal, Tibet, etc., as well as Burma. India collection, including Burma, sold by Robson Lowe in 1959. [WWIBP. Gerald Davis papers]

Hla Tun, U

Assistant Director of Posts. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954. [TBP 9/3]

Hoggan, Col. J C

Advertised for sale five sheets of Yano seals and five values of peacock overprint in multiples in ISJ May 1946.

Hone Lin, Daw

General Secretary, Burma YWCA. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954. [TBP 9/3]

Inoue, Gorō

Dealer. Osaka & Kyoto, Japan. Civilian employee in Burma during the occupation, in work related to transport.

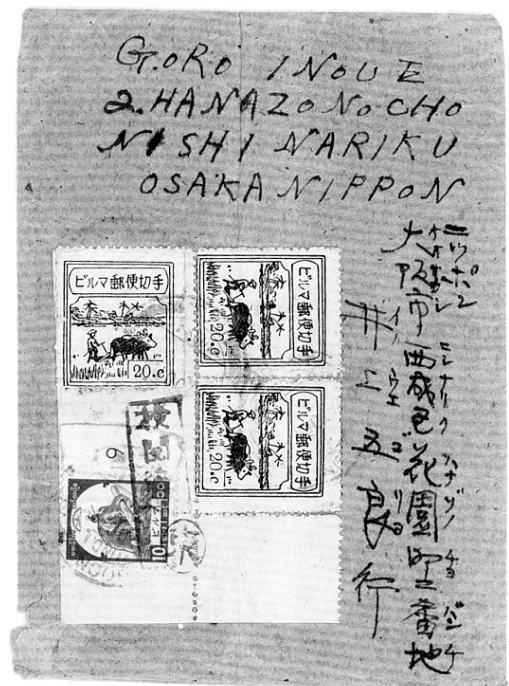
"He was in Rangoon and the independent Shan States ... and had been able to buy many of the occupation stamps and postal cards there. He made an effort to buy as many of the Yano stamps, peacock overprints and postal cards issued during the war as he could find. Some time before the British attack became too fierce, he returned to Japan. He was always accompanied by higher officers of the Japanese military and was able to send his stamps back to Japan ... After the war he quickly set about selling these Burmese Occupation stamps at his shop in Kyoto, at a sales counter he opened in the Matsuzakaya Department Store in Osaka, and to other dealers in Japan. It seems he made quite a lot of money this way."

[Nishioka Tatsuji, *A Philatelic History of the Showa Period*, English edition, 1994.]

"His home [in Kyoto] ... was a two-storey structure in the usual Japanese style, the rooms being separated by sliding panels which could be removed at will, to combine several smaller rooms into one large one. All of the panels on the second floor had been removed, converting it into a single large room, and around the walls were heaps and piles of stamps, all in an apparently hopeless muddle ... He began pulling the material from all corners of the room, and in a matter of moments I saw before me a tremendous array of Japanese-occupation postal cards and stamped envelopes, many of which I knew to be of great rarity ...



The masthead of the first issue of *The Burman Philatelist*



A censored wartime cover home from Goro Inoue to himself

Mr Inoue was an indefatigable conversationalist ... He had an inexhaustible store of interesting and amusing anecdotes and recollections of his stay in Burma during the war, and they poured forth endlessly and effortlessly.”
[Robert M Spaulding Jr, “The ‘Garumen’ Stamp of Japanese-occupied Burma”, JP 15/1]

Jamal, Y S

Dealer? 174, 29th St., Rangoon. Produced Independence first day cover, 1948.

James, E S

See **Mohamed Siddiq Ahmed**.

Ka Ka, (Kaka) Cassim Dawood [1906(?)-1946(?)]

Dealer. From August 5 1942, an account clerk at Rangoon GPO under the Occupation, but did not rejoin the post office in 1945. Produced printed fdc for 1946 “Victory” issue. Died shortly after the war. **C C Khoo, Tan Swee Choo** and **U Tun Tin** were involved in the attempted sale of the “type 6” peacock die, on behalf of his widow, to a UK dealer in 1960’s. Wrongly mentioned in Preface to **Roberts & Smythies** as “C N Ka Ka”. Elder brother of **H D Ka Ka**. Covers also exist to A D Ka Ka and Mrs K Ka Ka.

“On the afternoon of 3.8.43, I was making some FDCs of Independence stamps. A man peered over my shoulders, and asked me if I collect stamps. I said, yes. He said ‘You should collect peacock stamps.’ I asked him, ‘What are these?’ He said, ‘Come to me, I shall give them to you.’ I asked the lady stamp vendor about the man. She said ‘He is Mr Kaka, he is in the account section upstairs.’”

““Ka Ka after writing the book and selling the stamps, was said to have died of kidney disease.”

[Dr Chowdhury]

Ka Ka, (Kaka) H D

Dealer. Younger brother of **C D Ka Ka**. Sold stamps from his father’s general merchant’s store, E E Ka Ka & Sons, 472, Dalhousie St., Rangoon. Author of the pamphlet *An Abridged History of the Various Issues of the Postage Stamps Issued During the Japanese Occupation of Burma*, 1945, a brief and partial, but very early, account, using information supplied by his brother.

“H D Ka Ka was an Indian trader dealing on Dalhousie Street who saw a great opportunity to make money out of stamps. He had a small fancy goods, stationery and general merchandise business. He really hadn’t the slightest rudimentary knowledge of stamps. I had already acquired quite a few when I went into his shop asking for stamps. He had the “Independence” issue in singles ... on opening the first envelope I noticed that one of the three was perforated but the other two were rouletted. I opened more envelopes and as I rejected one after another he obligingly said ‘Have whichever set you like.’ After a search I managed to find a set of three perforated and another set rouletted. It was quite clear that he had absolutely no idea that the two versions existed.”

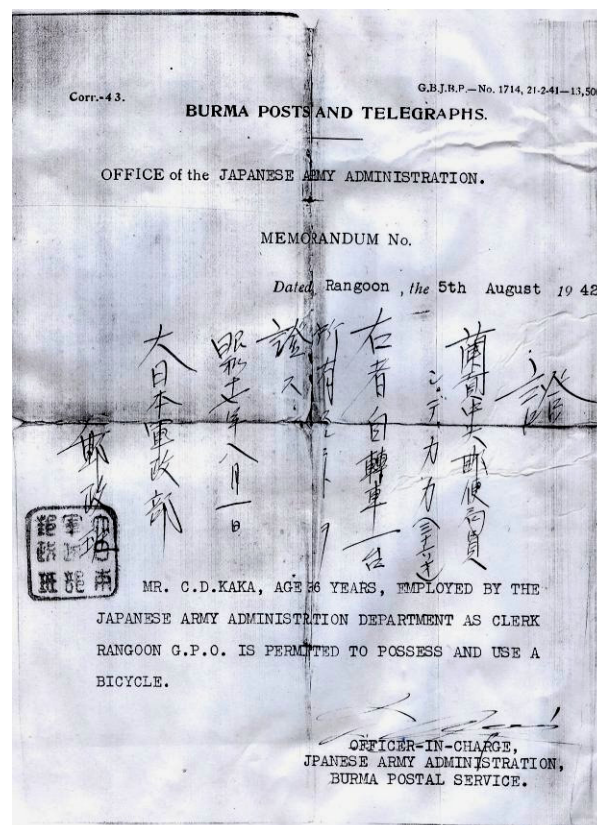
[Gerald Davis]

“Ka Ka is a very able business man ... He cast his net very widely. Every postal official knew him and after a certain date, I think practically every Peacock was marketed through him. At first he undoubtedly let some very rare stamps slip through his fingers. Later he became more wary. I should say that altogether five or six thousand peacocks passed through his hands, but this is the veriest guesswork.”

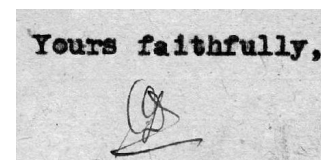
[Chaldecott narrative, Gerald Davis papers]

“Early 1946 ... I went to his [C D Ka Ka’s] shop, corner of Dalhousie & Maung Taulay St., but met his brother. He had published a book ... but his brother will not sell the book nor any stamps to me ... At the back of the small shop there was a small press.”

[Dr Chowdhury]



C D Ka Ka's 1942 GPO bicycle permit issued by the Japanese Army Administration [Pairuch Vanaaram]



C D Ka Ka's signature as “CD” on a fictitious enclosure in a philatelic cover

Kale Brothers (V G Kale)

Dealers. Charni Rd., Bombay. Produced 1937 fdc's c/o **Naigamwalla**.

Kapadia, C B

Committee member, Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club.

Kapur

Dealer? Calcutta. Named by **E A Smythies** in Nov. 1945 as an informant on peacock forgeries. Possibly the same dealer as H N Kapur of New Delhi to whom printed 1933 first flight covers are addressed.

**Kearney, Patrick** [1919-1994]

Cley-by-Sea, Holt, Norfolk. Painter and naturalist. Developed an interest in philately during the Burma campaign. Obtained material in Burma in 1945. Wrote on postmarks of Occupation Burma for *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, May 1958, though his main interest was Occupation of Malaya. Wrote on postal stationery for TBP.

[Brief obituary in TBP 15/1. Leaflet for retrospective exhibition of paintings, 1992, Gerald Davis papers.]

Patrick Kearney

Patrick Kearney – a self-portrait

Khin Khin, Daw K

High School Principal. Hon. Treas., Burma Stamp Club, 1954.

[TBP 9/3]

Khoo, C C

Collector and dealer. Barrister. 1943 Independence cards addressed to him at 125, Latter St., Rangoon. Active during the occupation. Later at Bo Aung Gyaw St., Rangoon. Director (and Secretary?), Rangoon Turf Club. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954. Burma Stamp Society. Involved, with **Tan Swee Choo** and **U Tun Tin**, in the attempted sale of the "type 6" peacock die, on behalf of the widow of **C D Ka Ka**, to UK dealer Ted Proud in the early 1960's.

[Gerald Davis papers. TBP 9/3]

Khoo Boon Khin (U Boon Khin, U Kyaw)

Noted collector. British Oxygen Company agent. Lanthit St., Rangoon. Burma Philatelic Society, 1956. Burma Stamps Society. Handled material on behalf of **U Tun Tin**.

Kirkham, George P, MBE

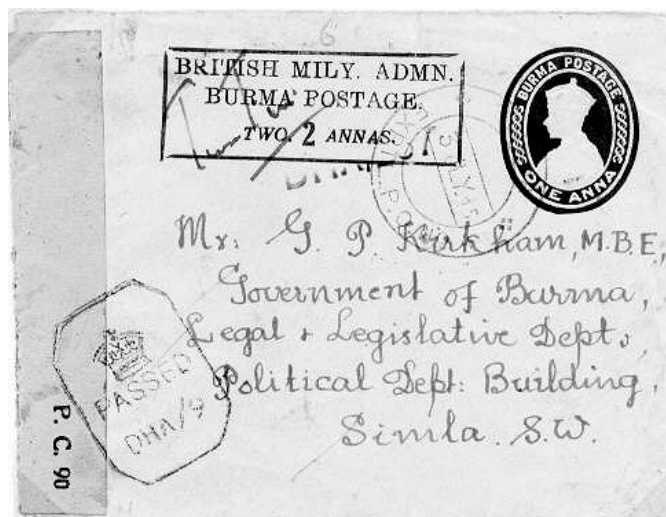
Administrator-General & Official Assignee, High Court, Rangoon. With Government of Burma Legal Dept. at Simla, India, during the war. Post war at Windsor Rd and Goodliff Rd, Rangoon. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954.

"George Kirkham was a retired barrister who had practised before the High Court. He was a well-respected stamp collector, and actively encouraged any young person in the Kirkham School who showed any interest. I do not know what became of his collection when he died, which I believe was in the late 1960's or early 1970's. The Kirkham School was in the Kirkhams' home on Goodliff Road which was located off Kokine Road, not far from the Kokine Swimming Club. The school was for all ages, and run primarily by Helen Kirkham. There were 2 or 3 teachers for the lower grades, and Helen taught the older students. George tutored Mathematics on what was their dining room at night, the area separated by a curtain from the rest of the desks, which filled most of the downstairs living area. There was a small parlor with a piano, and Helen also taught lessons to a few of the students. There were no Burmese in the School; the Kirkhams themselves were Anglo-Burmese. Students were all children of foreign families, many from the diplomatic corps. There were some Americans, but also students from Britain, Australia, Switzerland, France, Israel, Poland, Yugoslavia and probably others. The Kirkhams provided regular schooling for the younger children, but for the teenager the School provided a quiet place to work on their correspondence courses, with the adult supervision and tutoring we all needed. And did I mention discipline? Helen

was alert to those of us whose minds wandered, especially during the hot weather, and she was wonderfully skilled at snapping the tip of her pencil of the back of one's head. But Helen and George loved each one of each as if we were all their very own children, and we loved them in return. Although I never saw George's collection, he did encourage me to show him what I had accumulated, and he prodded me to collect Burma stamps. He is likely the reason I went to the first meeting of the [Burma Stamp] Society."

[Brian Saxe]

[TBP 9/3]



Kyaw, U – see **Khoo Boon Khin**

A 1945 cover to Kirkham at Simla

Kyaw, U

Minister in pre-war Burma government under U Saw's *Myochit* administration. Gave material to **Gerald Davis** in 1945.

"Another character was U Kyaw ... not only was he dropped from any post-war office, but his home was conspicuous for the quantity of domestic furnishings and chattels it still possessed."

[Gerald Davis]

Lane, Lt. Col. C E

Owner of occupation period post office identity card with impression of "Yano seal", acquired from **C D Ka Ka**, which passed to **E D McDowall**.

U Kyaw in ceremonial dress [Gerald Davis papers]

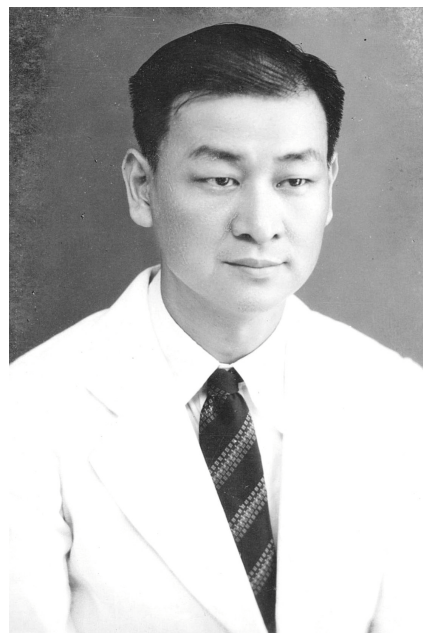


Lim Peng Hong (P H Lim) (U Aung Myint) [1913-2003]

Brought up by his uncle, U Boon Na, a general merchant on Yegyi Rd., Kyonpyaw. (The name "Ko Boon Na" appears on some of Lim Peng Hong's occupation covers.) Collected extensively during the occupation, visiting Delta post offices using an official "pass". Postwar at Strand Rd., Rangoon, then Lewis St & Barr St., Rangoon. Said to have bought **U Tun Tin's** remaining stock from his widow. A small portion of Mr Lim's collection (but far from all, as claimed) was bought by Mr W H Lu, and included in the sale of his collection by Stanley Gibbons Singapore in 1993. Burma Philatelic Society. Burma Stamp Club. Burma Stamps Society. Sin Kwang Stamp Club, China. Singapore Stamp Club. Wrote for TBP. Also collected China.

"This tribute is to an old philatelist much older than me, for his knowledge on the Japanese Occupation stamps, generosity and his encouragement for younger generation to do research and publish them. I owe a lot of my knowledge to Uncle Peng Hong alias U Aung Myint or Uncle Gyi (Senior Uncle) as other new generation of collectors would call him affectionately."

[U Thein Aung]



Lim Peng Hong [photo Dr Kyaw Win]

"He knows more about the Burma postal history and he has many stories about Burma. We got many philatelic knowledges from Uncle U Aung Myint."

[U Khin Htun]

"U Aung Myint was the doyen of collectors in Burma."

[Alan Meech]

[Tribute in TBF 3/3.]

Lim Peng Hong
Philatelist
Yegyi Road
Kyonpyaw.

Luker, E

Hon. Asst. Sec., Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club.

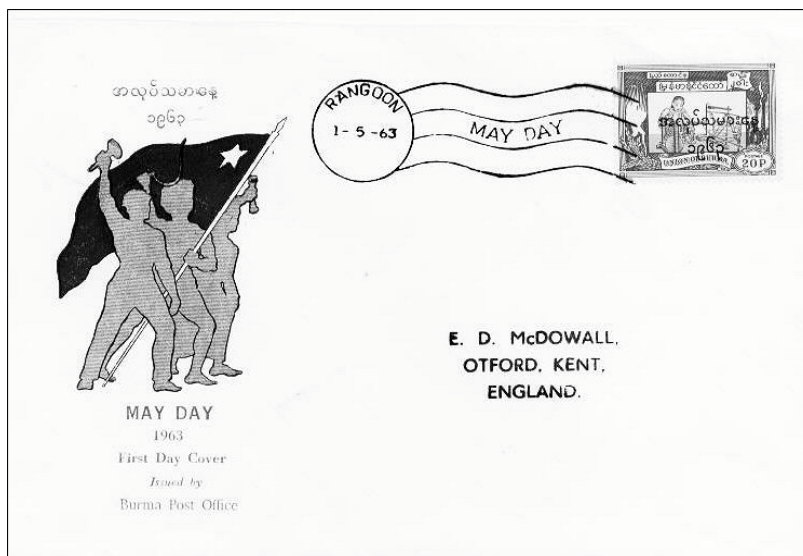
McDowall, E D [1900(?)-1968]

Otford, Kent. Obtained Occupation stamps from Burma in 1945, building an important collection. (See **Chowdhury, Fulton & Lane.**) Burma fdc's addressed (but not mailed) to McDowall at Otford exist until 1963, if not later. McDowall's "Pilgrim" collection sold by Harmer in 1988.

"Mr. MacDowall, introduced by Mr **Smythies** was a very good friend, in many things besides stamps."

[Dr Chowdhury]

1963 fdc addressed to MacDowall in England



Malone, Major

Named by **E A Smythies** in PJI, May 1946, as an informant on certain Occupation items.

Manjra, M E A

Dealer. 61, 25th St., Rangoon. Name appears on 1948 Independence fdc's.

Marcoolyn, Maj. H B

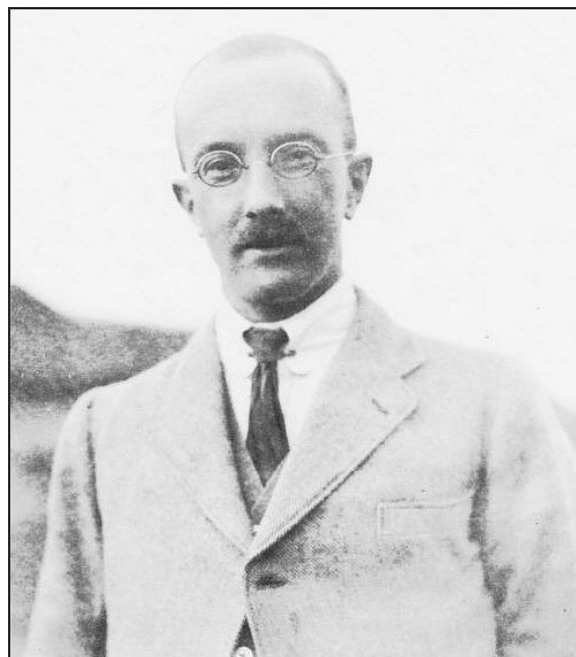
Collection of India & Pakistan, including much Burma, auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1954.

Martin, Col. Denys Richard [1892-1970]

UK collector and researcher. Served in Royal Engineers. Abbotsford Rd., Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex. Prolific and expert author on India philately, and co-author on stamps of India with **E A Smythies**. Crawford Medal with **E A Smythies**, 1932, for work on India 1854 issues. Co-author with **Gerald Davis** of *Burma Postal History*, 1971.

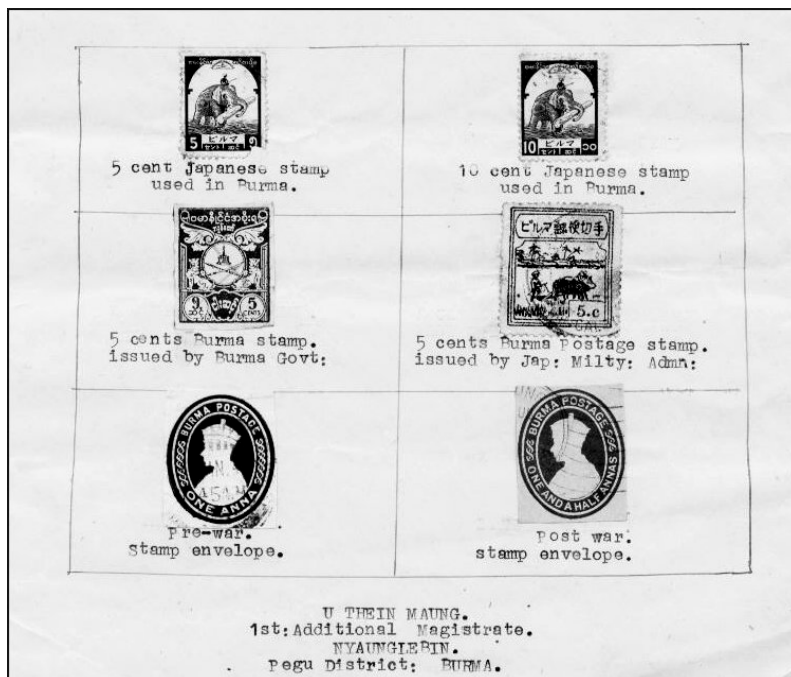
[WWWIBP. Gerald Davis papers]

Colonel Martin in 1930



Maung Khine Press

Dealer. 70 Maung Khine St., Rangoon. Produced 1971 Unicef fdc.



Maung Thein, U

Magistrate, Nyaunglebin, Pegu. Exported stamps in quantity in 1946(?), sending out sample sheets, including Occupation court fees.

Sample sheet sent out by U Maung Thein

Mawer (erroneously, Mawyer), Flt. Lt. G

RAF. With Flt. Lt. Broomhead, obtained Occupation stamps while serving in Burma in 1945. In contact with **E A Smythies**. In "Burma Notes" by Smythies (PJI, Nov. 1945) Mawer is said to own the "master block" from which the Chalo Delhi stamps were printed. This passed to **Tom Broomhead**, from whom it was stolen. Mawer also owned the sheet of 5c Farmer imperf, certified genuine by **U Tun Tin**, which is mentioned by **Roberts** and **Smythies**. Mawer and **Lim Peng Hong** used to meet in 1945 by the Shamie Bakery near Sule Pagoda.

"By early June 1945 I was in Rangoon and had met Flt. Lts. Mawyer and Broomhead ... They had the advantage over me by arriving in that war torn city some time before me ... Each day Mawyer, Broomhead and I met in the Services Club and discussed and often swapped our finds. If someone found a block he might be persuaded, after a few drinks, to split it so we could all add a copy to our collections."
[Gerald Davis]

Mawer's typed wants list, Rangoon, 1945, as given to Lim Peng Hong [Dr Kyaw Win]

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT G. MAWER, ROYAL AIR FORCE, LAW COURTS

WANTED LIST

NIKE	HIPPOON OVERPRINTS 3 annas, 6 annas. 10 cent on 3 annas, 20 cent on 6 annas. 10 cents.
YARD	3/4 anna, 3 annas, 6 annas. 20 cents on 6 annas.
HEMZADA BLACK (Type 1)	PEACOCKS B.I.A. (Wanted all in pairs). 1 pie, 3 pies, 6 pies, 9 pies (G.V.) 1 anna, 2 annas, 4 annas.
HEMZADA WHITE B.I.A. (Type 2)	Can exchange: 1 pie (single), 3 pies (single), 6 pies (single), 9 pies (G.V.) (single), 2 annas (1 single), 4 annas (single)
HEMZADA WHITE B.I.A. (Type 4)	4 annas. I have double impression Can exchange: Hemzada Black, 20c samples
	NEAUNOYA 6 annas (G.V. service), 2 rupees. Can exchange: Singles 6 annas (G.V. service) and rupees 3-

5c Perax used (preferably in pairs)
can exchange with other

Mayet, A E

Dealer. Name appears on fdc's in 1968.

Mir, N M

Dealer. Name appears with **Naigamwalla** on 1948 Independence fdc's.

Misquita, E

See **Rosemeyer, Percy E W**

Mitsui, Takaharu, Baron [1900-1983]

Chairman of the Mitsui Steamship Co., 1942. Member of a powerful business dynasty with varied interests. The most prominent Japanese philatelist, and a prolific author. Founded three philatelic magazines. His philatelic collection was donated to the Communications Museum, Tokyo, and to the Smithsonian Institute, and his artworks to the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale, Italy. APS Hall of Fame. Wrote "Stamps of Burma During the War" in *The Postage Stamp* (Philatelic Society of Japan) 6/2, Feb. 1948. Owned proof sheet of 1 anna "Farmer" in black, now in Masayoshi Tsuchiya collection.

"The dean of Japanese philately"

[APS website]

Baron Mitsui

**Mya Thein, U**

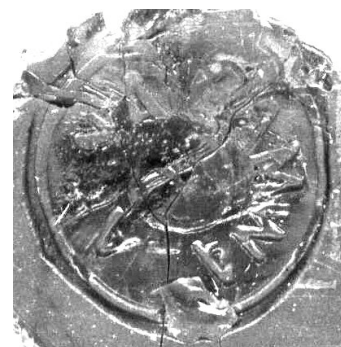
Barrister. Asst. Editor & Social Sec., Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954.
[TBP 9/3. Gerald Davis papers]

Naigamwalla (Naigamwala), Naval(?) K D [1896(?)-1965(?)]

Dealer. Insurance agent (Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Co. Ltd.) and travel agent. Founder of the Burma Boxing Board of Control. Apparently author of *Zarathushtra's Glorious Faith. Zoroastrianism And Its Followers, the Parsis* and *An expanded exposition of the ancient Zoroastrian Avestan ashem vohu prayer*. Relentless promoter of Burma philately and of his own reputation. Prolific creator of first day covers, marked "NKDN". Proprietor of Burma Stamp Agency, and of Burma Hobbies International League. 112, 34th St., Rangoon. Credited with design of 1938 8 annas stamp. Burma Philatelic Hobbies & Exchange Club from 1933 (Vice President), Burma Philatelic Society 1940-2. Left Burma in the evacuation of 1942 by the overland route:



N K D Naigamwalla



Naigamwalla's wax seal — reading "NAIGAMWALA" clockwise

"I had to leave Burma suddenly ... as an evacuee, trudging with wife and child the over-land mountain route, enduring great hardship and having practically lost all my worldly belongings and large, valuable stocks of philatelic treasures ... Being well known as one of the leading Burma philatelists and dealers, ... I am pestered by unsolicited letters to which I do not feel obliged to reply as they are apparently 'feelers' either to extract information for their own benefit or to get something for nothing from one whom they guess must be in abject need to sell out for a 'song'. They may whistle loud and long. Nothing doing here. Bonfire is the word!"

[Letter to ISJ, Sept. 1942]

"[Naigamwalla] came [back to Burma] only in 1947, down & out, almost starving, with his wife."

[Dr S Chowdhury]

Post-war at 155, 40th St., Rangoon, and PO Box 400, Rangoon (box also used by Burma Philatelic Society and Burma Stamp Club). Also PO Box 416, Mandalay. Burma Philatelic Society, 1948, and then, or later, Hon. Sec., Burma Stamp Club, 1954. Burma Stamp Society. At the First Burma International Pilot Stamp Exhibition, 1956, Naigamwalla was awarded a certificate by U Win Maung, Minister for Transport and Communications, in recognition of his services to philately, and was the Burma representative for FIPEX at New York the same year. It is not clear if he attended that exhibition. He left Burma for India in 1962.

"About Mr Naigamwalla, I think he was born in India because he was holding a foreign registration certification until he died. He left Burma after 1962 ... a broken man. He did not have a job and was solely depending on his stamps

for his living. When all his stamps were sold out he had no choice but to leave for India for good. I heard that he died a few years after his return, that was about the middle of the sixties.”

[T A Mickey]

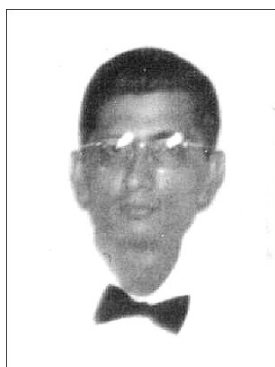
“In early 1962, [Naigamwalla] came over to India for good with two trunks full of philatelic material. He stayed at a rest house in central Calcutta for nearly three months ... he moved over to Bombay and was lost. I wrote to my friend to trace him ... But my friend Medhora could not trace him, and wrote to me that he was probably dead, and his materials disposed by his wife, Naja.”

[Dr S Chowdhury]

“[Commentators on Naigamwalla] ... seem to have got all their information from his own writings about himself, where he describes himself as a great chap and a philatelic hero of Burma.”

[Gerald Davis]

[TBP 9/3, 9/4, 12/4, 14/3, 16/4. ISJ Sept. 1942. Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]



This appears to be an image of Naigamwalla in the late 1930's, though the identification has been disputed.



Naigamwalla (right) receiving his 1956 award. (U Aung Hla centre.)
From *Stamps*, April 7 1956

Naroji, Capt.

Allegedly a forger.

“8 Aug 1945 – I meet Naroji ... on the Prome Road was Hmawbi, at that time the biggest RAF base. We went to the officers' shop to make some purchases. O/C Capt. Naroji, a Parsi, took us to his tent and gave us beer. On his camp cot, I found some part sheets of Burma stamps. I asked him what they were. He told me that they were Peacock stamps. He asked me if I have any. The ink was still not dry, so he had spread them on his camp cot. He sent them to Calcutta with some RAF officers, who sold them and took back gold coins. A sovereign was only Rs 80 in Calcutta but sold at Rs. 1000 in Burma. I remember the stamps were all small, mostly green with blue peacock. Naroji committed suicide some time later.”

[Dr Chowdhury]

[Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]

Nishikawa Takamine

Sino-Japanese Philatelic Research Society, Dairen. Publisher of Japanese language pamphlet, *Postage Stamps in the Early Days of the Japanese Occupation of Burma*, June 1945.

Paisley, Tom B [1915(?)-1980]

Holywell & St. Ives, Huntingdonshire. Expert on traction engines. Obtained Occupation stamps in Burma in 1945, serving in the RAF. Burma collection of all periods sold by Robson Lowe in 1981, fetching high prices.

"I first met Tom Paisley in July of 1956 ... The occasion was the sale of a collection of the Japanese Occupation stamps of Burma formed by **Lieut. Col. G H Chaldecott**.

He attended a philatelic society meeting only once in his life ... but he would show his stamps unsparingly to the few visitors he chose to invite to his delightful farm in Huntingdonshire. On my first visit there I was given a conducted tour of his other important collection, steam traction engines, great iron and brass antique giants, well over a dozen and all roadworthy ... After dinner in his lovely library we chatted on paintings, on ships and aircraft, on cameras as well as stamps, accompanied by a decanter of brandy until the small hours. The next morning, inspired no doubt by the country spirit, I made what I thought was an early start only to find that he had already breakfasted and done well over an hour's work on the farm!"

[Gerald Davis]

Paisley's traction engines were auctioned in 1980.

[Gerald Davis papers. Memoir and review of sale by Gerald Davis in TBP 3/1.]

Pandey (Panday) Brothers

Dealers. In 1946-7 as "philatelists" at 36 or 38, 29th St., Rangoon.

Pickett, C E F

Wartime General Manager of Bombay Telephones, and Hon Sec of the Victory Philatelic Fund, Bombay. Sold a number of Chin Hills covers in aid of the Fund. Responsible for the earliest record of Chin Hills OHMS overprints, in ISJ for March 1943. Later a stamp dealer in Worthing, UK. Obtained Chin Hills covers from J P Mills, who had obtained them from A G McCall. The majority were sold to **Sir Frederick Gwatkin**. Other such covers he later acquired from Mills' estate, some going to **De Roemer**.

Pilcher, Dr. Jeremy [1937?-1989]

Coventry, UK. Wrote definitively on peacock overprints, the "Farmer" printings and interim government overprints for TBP, and on flaws of the definitive series for SC. Collection sold by Robson Lowe in 1987.

"The Jap period of Burma is where my main interest lies – via my father I suppose, who was not a collector at all! He was in charge of the building of one of the India-Burma roads during the war and when he came home presented me with some very grubby Java issues that he'd acquired knowing my schoolboy tastes. From there my interest blossomed."

"All fellow collectors of Burma owe much to Jeremy Pilcher. He was a most enthusiastic student of Japanese occupation issues ... in February 1986 he and I discussed a number of points, some raised in his article [on the Farmer issue] and others omitted. I never realised at the time that ... we were never to meet again. Tragically he died in February 1989. He was 52."

[Gerald Davis]

"The very fortunate among us have known him personally ... In every way he shared with us his knowledge, assistance, and enthusiasm ... He has ranged across the field he chose, defining the main questions and then providing the answers."

[Alan Meech, obituary in TBP 9/3]

Pillay, S R

Allied Trading House, 109, 51st St., East Rangoon. Name appears on covers from late 1945 to 1948. Produced printed fdc for 1946 definitives, with a very laudatory text addressed to Governor Dorman-Smith. (Was this the same Mr Pillai who had been an Indian Member of the Burma Legislative Council in pre-war years?)

Rahman, S A

Barrister. President, Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club.

Reardon, Mrs W A

Meiktila and Kalaw. Creator of covers for 1937 coronation, 1938 "all up" airmail to New Zealand and 1940 stamp centenary.

Renouf, Winter Charles [1868-1954]

UK collector and researcher. His work on early Indian cancellations was incorporated in the *Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia* Vol III. Edited *Philatelic Journal of India*. Collection of India, including Burma, auctioned by Robson Lowe, 1960.

"The truth is that Renouf was a great collector of postmarks but as far as Burma was concerned he merely sketched in the few facts which are in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia* Vol. III ..."

[Gerald Davis]

[WWWIBP]

Ricardo, C D [1897-1966]

Holland. Collected all Japanese Occupation territories, with strength in Dutch East Indies. Dai Nippon group. After his death, his two volumes of Burma were offered for sale by Robson Lowe, but were unsold. With the 33 other volumes of his collection, they were bequeathed to the Postal Museum of the Netherlands. The volume on Ricardo's work by the curator of the Museum does not cover Burma. The obituary by T Vrijdag contains these interesting comments:

"In the last years he was no longer active as a collector of Japanese occupation. He was disappointed with the breakdown in information and co-operation from other philatelists. He had to do it all on his own. Also his trust in juries at the exhibitions, national and international, was not great. He came to believe that the true quality and rarity of his material was not properly appreciated."

The Ricardo Burma collection was viewed by Gerald Davis, who wrote:

"His study of the subject was superficial. There are reprints and forgeries not recognised as such, but the collection contains some fine stamps, mostly unused. Postal history is largely ignored and none of the stamps on covers looked commercial. The only unusual items were a few colour trials of the 'Shan States' ... perforated with special perforating boxes ..."

C D Ricardo



[Obituary in *Maandblad*, April 1966, translation in Gerald Davis papers. Listing of items in the Ricardo Burma collection, Gerald Davis papers. L B Vosse & C F C G Boissevain, *The Stamp of Authority: C.D. Ricardo and his philatelic collection on the Dutch East Indies and Indonesia from 1942-1949*, 1997.]

Roberts, Col. (later Brig. Gen.) Gordon Lennox ("Bobby") [1901-1994]

Collector and researcher. Obtained stamps and information while on service in Burma in 1945. Left Burma in July 1945. Co-author with **E A Smythies** of *The Japanese Occupation Stamps of Burma 1942-1945*, 1946. Presented to the RPSL in 1981-2 the die of the Henzada peacock overprint, obtained in May 1945, and the Occupation postal notices obtained at Thonze. Collection passed to his son-in-law, Edward Conder, and subsequently sold to Gibbons in 2004.

[Gerald Davis papers. Obituary in TBP 15/4]

Roberts, W

Contributed a very early notice (July 1944) to ISJ of the "State Crest" and "Farmer" stamps, and the 1 anna overprinted envelope. The source is not indicated.

Robinson, Ben

Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954.
[TBP 9/3]



Roberts in 1945

Rosemeyer, Percy E W

The Rosemeyer correspondence is well known to collectors of WW2 Burma covers. Significant numbers have survived. They are addressed pre-war to P E W Rosemeyer or Mrs P E W Rosemeyer at 24 Lancaster Rd Rangoon, and later to P E W Rosemeyer or Mrs M Rosemeyer at the British Burma Evacuees' Camp at Coimbatore in South India. A Lt Col A P Rosemeyer (P E W's brother or father?) was Deputy Commissioner at Shwabo in late 1945. Covers also exist to a Mr E Misquita at the same Lancaster Rd address. Covers include some with the Rangoon Examination Battery mark and many from the Military Administration era. The educated guess would be that P E W was the philatelist in the family, but how and when the correspondence found its way onto the philatelic market is not known to the compiler.

[TBP 6/1, TBF 2/4, 4/1]

Rowe, Vernon [1909(?) - 1986]

UK collector and researcher. Wrote very extensively (and wordily) on Burma postal history pre-1937, largely in *The Philatelist*.

"You damn well are prone so often to wild conjectures, that I have to be very careful in agreeing with you, buddy!"

[Jal Cooper to Rowe, 1964]

"The collector who established a record of using more words to say nothing than any writer before or since."

[Gerald Davis]

Rowell, Col. Milo David [1926-1992]

US researcher and expertiser. Collector of all Occupation territories. Obtained material during tour of duty in Japan. Co-author with Robert M Spaulding of article on peacock overprints in *Kitte Shumi* in 1954. Pencilled expert mark ("MDR") found on Occupation stamps, and signature ("genuine / Milo D Rowell") on covers. In 1989 JP announced:

"The ISJP Expertization Committee will no longer expertize Burma peacock overprinted stamps or postal stationery. The Committee's occupation specialist, Col. Milo D Rowell, reports that the number of peacocks submitted has grown so large that he can no longer spare the time required for expertizing them. He adds that 90% are forged."

[JP 44/3]

"To philatelists in Europe, Asia, and America, Milo was the foremost authority on genuine and forged Japanese occupation issues. He expertized countless thousands of these on and off cover for auction dealers, for the ISJP, and for the American Philatelic Society. His worldwide reputation derived from two main sources. One was the knowledge gained from meticulous study of his own colossal collection ... The other was his phenomenal memory about not only what he had but also what he had read or heard or seen in other collections on three continents ... He is irreplaceable."

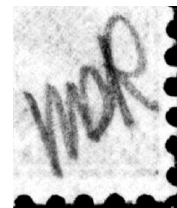
[Robert M Spaulding]

Said to have owned over 15,000 worldwide covers. Collection ("the largest accumulation of Japanese occupation postal history probably ever to have come to auction") sold by Robson Lowe in 1992.

[Gerald Davis papers. Obituaries in JP 47/2, *Linn's Stamp News*. TBP 13/3]



genuine
Milo D Rowell



genuine
Milo D Rowell

Milo David Rowell



Milo Rowell as a captain [Japanese Philately]

Royalage

Dealer. A firm trading at 218, 37th St., Rangoon, incorporating a "Stamp Dept." that produced first day covers for the 1940 stamp centenary and the one pie stamp.

Sacklat (Saklat), R D

Collector and dealer. Used address of 50 Tseekai Maung Taulay St., Rangoon, during the occupation. Active at Kalaw, Shan States, 1944-5.

"These postmarks" [on CTO blocks, as shown by Mr **Ghose**] "were ... made at the Kalaw post office at various times by request of a P.O.W. interned there, and let out from time to time."

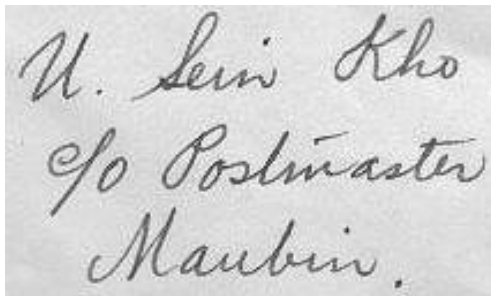
[E A Smythies]

It has been suggested that some of Saklat's covers were made up retrospectively. Post-war, worked at Board of Panels of Surveyors / Rice Survey Dept., Whiteway's Building, Phayre St., Rangoon. Resident in Rangoon until at least 1956.

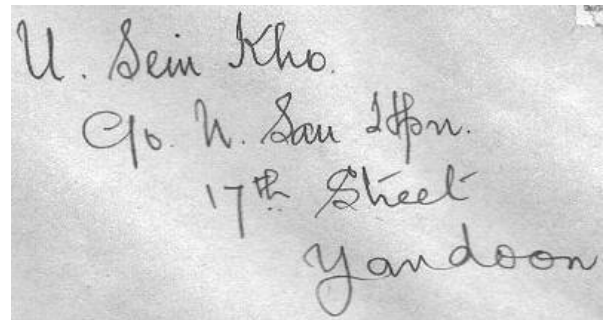
[Chowdhury letters, Gerald Davis papers]

Sein Kho, U

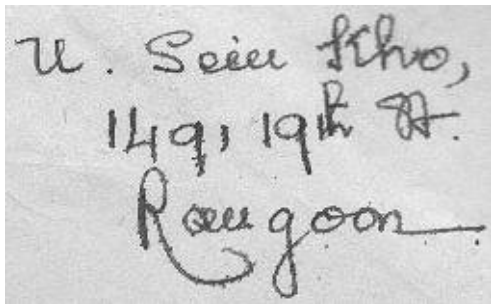
Dealer. Post office employee post-war, later sub-postmaster, Bogyoke-Ze, Rangoon. 149, 19th St., Rangoon. Produced some genuine covers during the occupation. Afterwards, like others at the time, produced a large number of posthumous covers using genuine stamps, postal stationery and cancellations retrospectively, with dates inserted by hand. Creator of first day covers. Some "type 6" peacock overprints are known backstamped "S KHO". Supplied material to **Jal Cooper** and **J Stephen**. Sein Kho's distinctive English handwriting is shown here in various forms. Many faked covers exist made out to various addressees in this hand.



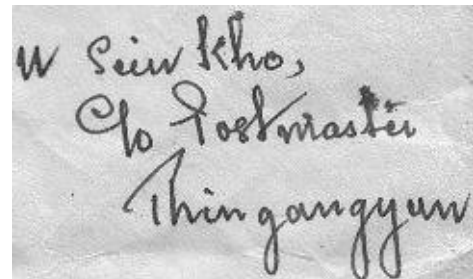
U. Sein Kho
90 Postmaster
Maubin.



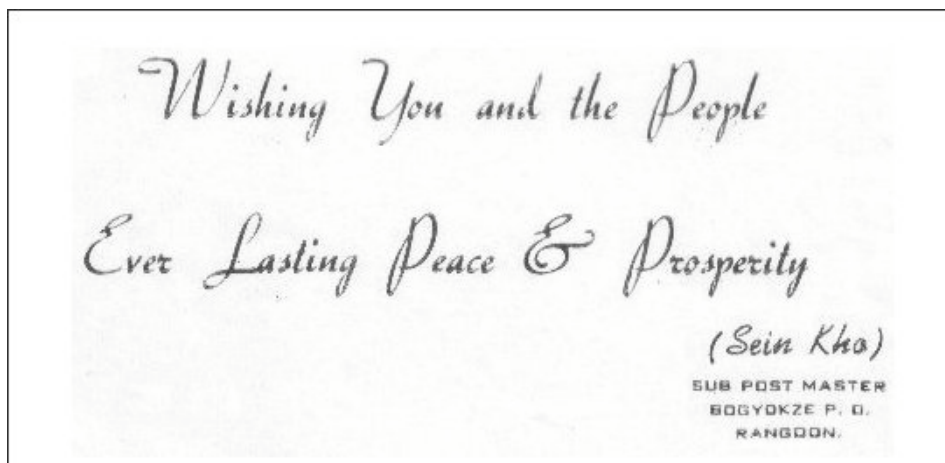
U. Sein Kho.
90 W. San 2Hn.
17th Street
Yandoon



U. Sein Kho,
149, 19th St.
Rangoon.



U Sein Kho,
90 Postmaster
Thingangyun

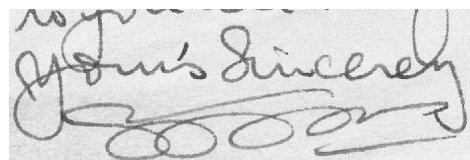


Sein Tha Htoon, U [?-1968]

Collector, dealer. Post office employee pre-war. Postal clerk (Lanmadaw) & sub-postmaster (Rangoon Cantonment, Dagon) from 1945-62. Bow Lane & Baho St., Kyaukmyaung, Rangoon. Aungchantha St., Sanchaung, Rangoon. Committee member, Burma Stamp Club, 1954. Supplied material to **Jal Cooper**.

"An extremely helpful ... correspondent"
[Derek Filby]

[TBP 9/3, 18/1]



Sein Tha Htoon's less than legible signature

Sema, A R M

Dealer. 61, 25th St., Rangoon. His name appears on covers in 1948. Later in Karachi.

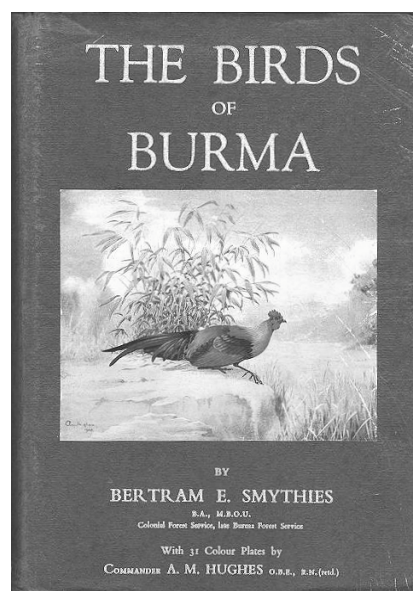
"I think Mr Sema is the only one of our friends to get rich from philatelic business."
[**U Aung Myint** to **Dr Chowdhury**, 1976]

Sengupta

Dealer? "Mr Sengupta of Calcutta" is named by **E A Smythies** in May 1946 as an informant on a forgery of the Yano seal, and as offering reprints of the Chalo Delhi stamps, "printed from the master die in various fancy colours, sets of which I understand he is selling at some small sum for charity." This "master die" must have been lent to Sengupta by **Tom Broomhead** on his way home from Burma to the UK.

Smythies, Maj. Bertram Evelyn (Bill) [1912-1999]

Burma Forest Service, 1934-49. Naturalist and ornithologist. Author of *The Birds of Burma*, 1940, on which the designs for the 1964 and 1968 definitives were based. Collected Occupation material in 1945, which he passed on to his father, **Evelyn Arthur Smythies**.
[Wikipedia]



Smythies, Evelyn Arthur, CIE [1885-1975]

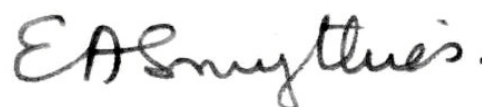
Collector and researcher. Indian Forestry Service. Castle Morris, Tralee, Ireland. Joined RPSL in 1926, Fellow 1930. Wrote widely on India stamps, Canadian cancellations, etc. Crawford Medal with DR Martin, 1932, for work on India 1854 issues. Editor, *Philatelic Journal of India*. Permanent Vice-President, British Philatelic Society of India. Chief Conservator of the Forest of Nepal 1940 – 1947. While working in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1945, obtained Occupation stamps from Burma through his son, **Bertram E Smythies**, who was working in the Forestry Service there. Wrote a considerable number of definitive early journal articles on the peacock overprints and other occupation issues. Co-author with Col. G L Roberts of *The Japanese Occupation Stamps of Burma 1942-1945*, 1946.

Bertram Smythies' *Birds of Burma*, second edition

"By the middle of May I was in Rangoon where I met Lieut. Smythies of the Forestry Division of CAS(B). He had amassed as many stamps and associated documents as he could find, sending them all to his father E.A. Smythies, then in Katmandu and already an established philatelic writer."
[Gerald Davis]

Smythies' Burma collection is listed in detail in PJI May 1946, and is stated to be "complete" from 1937 to date, with the exception of five peacocks and the 2c Shan overprint inverted. This listing was obviously included with a view to a prospective sale back home – "I hope to be on the high seas en route for 'Blighty'."

"When he reached 'Blighty' he sold his collection to S.G. to set up his son in business."
[Gerald Davis]



"EAS retired from Nepal in 1947 and wrote to me that his son ... in Burma had lost his job, and he sold all his Burma to SG for £20,000 to make up a career for his son. Very nice man."
[Dr Chowdhury]

"I sold my Burma collection to Gibbons in 1947 ... I have not seen a Jap. Burma stamp for years."
[Letter to Gerald Davis, 1956]

Some of Smythies' Burma Occupation material was kept by Gibbons as a reference collection, but was later broken up and sold, some items going to **Gerald Davis** in 1956. Items were certified as genuine by being marked on the back with Gibbons' handstamp – "STANLEY GIBBONS LTD" in a small circle.

"I felt like a moth who has just eaten a priceless tapestry as I mentally marked off items which looked as near unique as to make no difference."

[Gerald Davis, on his purchase at Gibbons of items from the Smythies "reference" collection]

[Wikipedia. WWWIBP. Gerald Davis papers]

"Steelback"

The mysterious and rather lengthy narrative "Peacock Patrol", authored by the pseudonymous "Steelback", was published across the March and April 1946 issues (Vol. XIX, Nos. 7-8) of *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*. It claims to recount an extraordinary journey by a stranded British patrol in Burma, of which the philatelic highlight was the discovery of a hoard of peacock overprints and an official document establishing their validity.

Three months after its original publication, the article was paraphrased by **E A Smythies** under the title "Status of the Peacock Overprints" in PJI for July 1946, though it is cited there as "Peacock Parade" and the patrol is wrongly identified as "a small band of Wingate's famous Chindits". The apparent evidence in "Peacock Patrol" for the postal status of the overprints was welcomed by Smythies, who had been arguing for this in the pages of PJI since the previous December.

When Smythies and **Roberts** published their definitive study *The Japanese Occupation Stamps of Burma* in 1947, Smythies continued to claim that this evidence "fully establishes the origin and official status of the Burma Peacocks". However, the authors were by now able to offer "further proof" of this in the shape of an actual memorandum obtained by Roberts – evidence that today appears incomparably more useful than the hearsay document described in "Peacock Patrol".

In his 1993 *Annotated Bibliography of Burma Philately*, Alan Meech concludes that the article "is so imprecise as to location, time and philatelic detail that it cannot be used to prove anything", and that "it is so confused as to be doubtful in all respects". On the surface, this is certainly the case. While the historical detail of the article is annoyingly fuzzy, and the extent of the journey itself almost beggars belief, it is just conceivable that the story was not a complete fabrication.

Why did Gibbons publish it? An editorial introduction to the original by Stanley Phillips admits that "there is not much about postage stamps in the following article", but hails it as "one of those stories which are the essential stuff of British military history", and offers it as a homage to those who undertook "a hellish journey of nearly 2,000 miles". Patriotism aside, the account must have seemed at the time to shed valuable light on the disputed status of the peacock overprints. Its anonymous author seems to have been a demobbed officer who turned up at 391 Strand with a hoard of peacocks to sell, and was persuaded to write up the amazing story of how he came by them. If so, was he telling the truth, or did he create the "evidence" that he felt might make them more saleable?

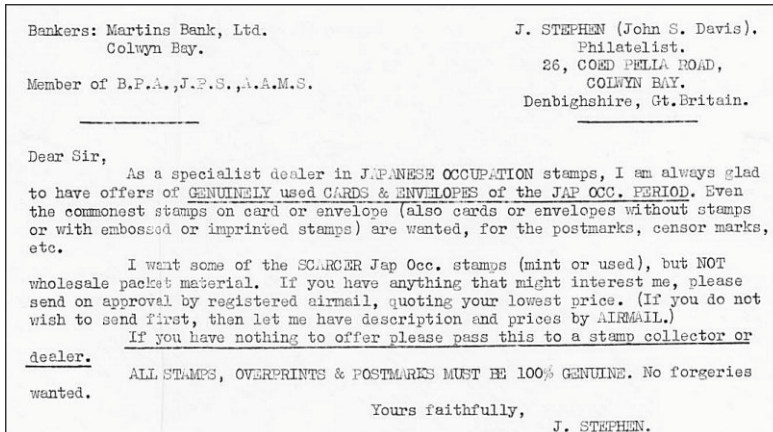
In early 1946 Stanley Phillips wrote to Capt. **Suman Chowdhury** in response to the latter's objections to the likely catalogue status of the peacock overprints:

"One of our readers ... who was on patrol and got 'lost' behind the Japanese lines, actually raided a post office and captured some of the stamps together with the postal notice authorising their issue." Clearly, Phillips and Gibbons set great store by "Steelback's" story.

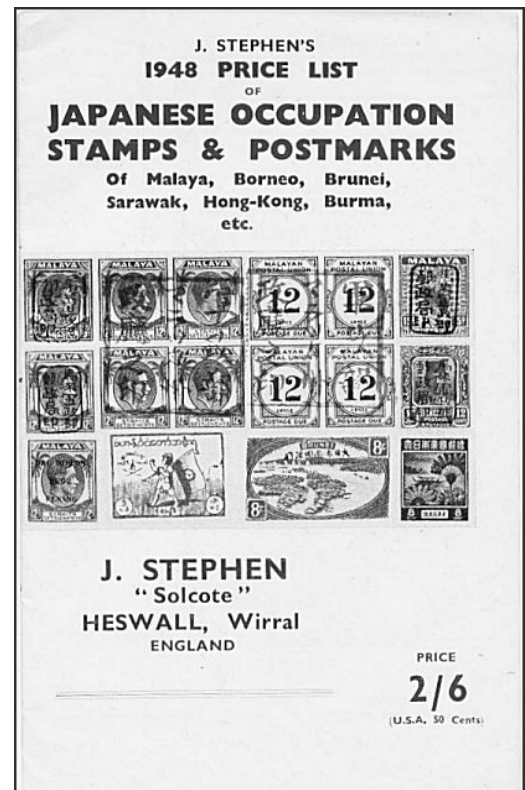
The pen name identifies the author as having served in the Northamptonshire Regiment, whose nickname is the "Steelbacks". However, this presents us with a problem. His story begins with the unsuccessful first Arakan campaign that began in late 1942. The offensive was carried out by Lloyd's 14 Indian Division of XV Corps of Eastern Army. No battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment was involved, which seems to undermine the author's pen name. In his story his men are clearly from an English Regiment, and the best candidate seems to be 10th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers of 123 Brigade, who were in an area consistent with his account. The Rangoon memorial at Taukkyan records a lieutenant in the 10th Fusiliers seconded from the Northamptonshire Regiment, killed in the Arakan in March 1943, and it is conceivable that "Steelback" was similarly seconded.

Stephen, J (John S Davis)

UK dealer. John Davis, later trading as J Stephen, was a well known dealer, active from the 1920's to the 1960's, and specialising firstly in airmails and later in Japanese occupation issues. His Burma material ranged from the 1931 Imperial Airways first flight to the occupation. Pre-war at Rodney St., Liverpool, and Cook St., Liverpool. Post-war at Heswall, Wirral, Cheshire, then at West Kirby, Wirral, and then at Coed Pella Rd., Colwyn Bay. Bought material from **U Sein Kho**. Stephen's *Illustrated Price List of Japanese Occupation Stamps & Postmarks* (1948, 4th edition 1950) includes Burma and is still an interesting reference.



A 1950's mailshot by Stephen, offering to buy Occupation material. These were addressed to "The postmaster or headman" at numerous locations picked from a map of Burma. This example was thoughtfully returned to Colwyn Bay by the Rangoon Dead Letter Office – via Afghanistan!



Stephen's 1948 Occupation price list

Stevens. Lt. D La R

Royal Artillery. Named as contributor to early article on Burma occupation issues in SC, July 14 1945.

Sutherland, Capt. C

By 1938 in Burma civil service at Toungoo. By 1940 commissioned and at Mergui. Creator of first day covers, usually sent registered and containing the receipt.

Swee, Donald

Burma Philatelic Society member, 1956.

Tan Heng Eng

Dealer? Latter St., Rangoon. Produced fdc for 1949 UPU issue.

Tan Swee Choo (Tan Swe Choo, U Swee Choo)

Collector and dealer, probably as early as the 1920's. Also antique dealer. At 2A, 20th St., Rangoon, in the 1920's and 15, 22nd St., Rangoon, before and after the war. Creator of first day covers, beginning with 1938 definitives. (1937 fdc's addressed to him marked **E B Choo**.) Exchange Packet Sec., Burma Philatelic & Hobbies Exchange Club.

Involved, with **C C Khoo** and **U Tun Tin**, in the attempted sale of the "type 6" peacock die, on behalf of the widow of **C D Ka Ka**, to the UK dealer Edward Proud in the early 1960's. Mr Tan's November 1945 price list (a brief document) is copied as an appendix to the **Chaldecott** narrative. He was at that time offering mainly Yano Seals, 1 anna "Farmers", with and without surcharge, and the 8 annas and rupee values of the Myaungmya peacocks.

Tan Swee Choo, probably in the late 1930's



"The then [1945] leading and only professional Rangoon stamp dealer."
[Chaldecott narrative, Gerald Davis papers]

"Mr Tan Swee Choo ... was next to me in the queue for the first day of issue cancellation at the World Peace Pagoda, 17th May, 1954. Come to think of it, Mr **Naigamwalla** was probably in the same queue as myself and Mr Tan without us knowing it. I guess the queue was about 100 yards long when we were there. We started chatting and from then on, usually each Sunday morning, I went into Rangoon to his home where we talked 'stamps'. He showed me unmounted sheets of peacock overprints, all values, with tissue paper in between which he was selling around £60 each, usually as small collections to Embassy staff for around £3,000 each.

He told me that when the Japanese arrived his office staff ran away. One man 'knew' that the British would return, when he would want his job back. So he walked into almost unattended Post Offices and helped himself to sheets of peacock overprints. These he sealed in a tin and buried it. He got his job back and Mr Tan made a small fortune selling these overprints. I have since learned that Mr Tan has died and the sheets of overprints still unsold went to someone in India."
[Dennis Attwood]

[Readers may judge for themselves the likelihood of this explanation!]

ten Hove, J H

Netherlands. Name appears on covers from late 1945 to 1947, addressed to Steel's Building, Rangoon, and to PO Box 200(?), Barr St., Rangoon.

Than Aung, U

Postal official in charge of the Rangoon Stamp Office during the Occupation. Regional Inspector of Posts under the 1945 Military Administration, later Director of Posts. In the preface to **Roberts & Smythies** he is mentioned as a supplier and informant. In association with **U Tun Tin**, he is alleged to have been involved in the re-use of Occupation printing plates after the war. Rumours also allege the re-use of dies for peacock overprints. He maintained a significant collection, which in the 1980's was apparently sold by his widow to Bo Khin Maung Gale.

"Nov 1943 – U Than Aung – It was customary for me to cycle to the Stamp Office, Churchill Road, to buy mint stamps. Rgn GPO kept only a small stock. Under the glass top of the table, I saw some Burma Geo VI stamps, overprinted with peacock design. I asked him what they were. He said those were Br. period stamps overprinted with peacock design in the Deltas, but they were never issued, as they were not authorised by the Japanese. May I have some of them? No, they are confiscated stuff, and not for sale. Only the low value stamps were there, no high value, nor the large Yon Thons."
[Dr Chowdhury]

Tubbs, Harry

Judge, *Rangoon Gazette* stamp design competition, 1936.

"Launch owner and Aero-philatelist of Bassein."
[N K D Naigamwalla]

Tun, U

Dealer. Postmaster. Occupation covers addressed to him at Phayre St, Rangoon. Covers of 1945-1947 addressed to him as postmaster or "Philatelist", Pazundaung PO, Rangoon.

Tun Tin, U [1894(?) – 1976]

Dealer. Deputy Director, Posts & Telegraphs pre-war, during the occupation and from 1945. Retired by 1954. Director (and President?), Rangoon Turf Club. Vice-President, Burma Stamp Club, 1954. Churchill Rd., Rangoon & Po Sein Rd., Tamwe, Rangoon. U Tun Tin is alleged to have been involved, with **U Than Aung**, in the re-use of Occupation printing plates after the war. Rumours also allege the re-use of dies for peacock overprints.

Involved, with **Tan Swee Choo** and **C C Khoo**, in the attempted sale of the "type 6" peacock die, on behalf of the widow of **C D Ka Ka**, to UK dealer Edward Proud in the 1960's.

"U Tun Tin was one of my most rewarding sources of supply ... He tried to form a collection of stamps when he saw what we were doing, but had no idea of how to go about it. I had some stamp hinges sent out from England which he described as 'an extremely clever idea'. It was he and his colleagues who furnished me with some of my most spectacular pieces after hours of discussion and innumerable cups of almost undrinkable coffee."
[Gerald Davis]

“... as U Tun Tin said with a charming smile ...”
[Col G L Roberts]

“U Tun Tin was a very nice man.”
[Dr Chowdhury]

His son or nephew[?], Major Tin Tun, lived at one time in South London, apparently as a military officer attached to the Burma Embassy, and U Tun Tin visited the UK once after the war. After U Tun Tin's death, his stock is said to have been bought from his widow by **Lim Peng Hong**. But according to a different account –



U Tun Tin's post-retirement calling card

“When Tun Tin died, two trunk loads of stamps and albums were sent to England with the son. The plane crashed and the son died but the postal people returned the two trunks to the family. Eventually the daughter sold the two trunks to Col. Khin Maung Gale.”
[Gilbert Chua]

[TBP 9/3. Gerald Davis papers]

Vum Kho Hau, Dr, FRAI, FRGS (Vum Khaw Hau, Pu Vum Kho Hau, Pu Hau) [1917 – 2006]

Stenographer and tour clerk to the DC at Falam, Chin Hills, during the war, and a prominent organiser of the Chin Levies. (His brother, Kham Cin Khai, was stenotypist in the same office.) In this capacity he collected many covers (perhaps almost 200) from the four Chin Hills post offices still in British held territory, many bearing the rare provisional “OHMS” overprints. With the occupation of the Chin Hills he served in the Chin Defence Army under the Japanese, but became a Chin resistance leader and led the Siyin rebellion of 1944-5. Postwar, Deputy Councillor for Frontier Areas to the Governor of Burma, Ministerial Delegate to the Panglong Conference, and member of the Frontier Areas Enquiry Commission. In 1948, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and ambassador to several countries from 1955 to 1977. Also collected porcelain, paintings and coins. In 1963, when he was Ambassador to Indonesia, the *Indonesian Observer* published an article on the Chin Hills overprints which was later reprinted in *The American Philatelist* with photographs of covers from his collection. His autobiography, *Profile of a Burma Frontier Man*, was also published in Indonesia in 1963. About 50 of his Chin Hills covers are known to have survived. Some were obtained by **Lim Peng Hong**, and others are in the collection of James Song.

[TBP 5/1, 5/3]



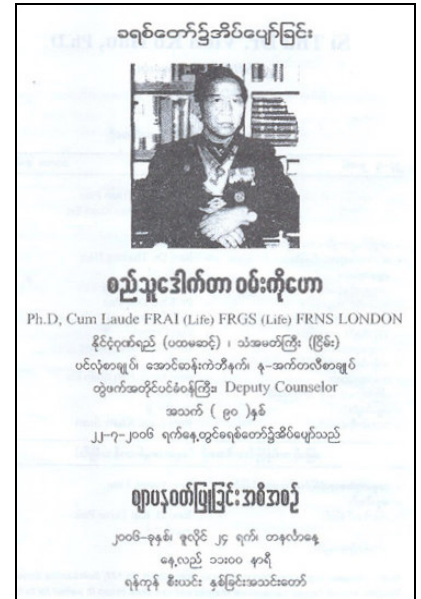
The administration of the Chin Hills in occupied Burma, 1942-3. U Vum Ko Kau, as stenographer and clerk to the DC, stands in the second row in the white suit. Second from left, seated, is Noel Stevenson, DC Chin Hills and commander of the Chin Levies.



U Vum Kho Hau c 1949-50



Dr Vum Kho Hau as ambassador



Dr Vum Kho Hau's obituary notice

Walker, Maj. Anthony [?-1965(?)]

In Singapore in April 1946. Author of a paper on "The Japanese 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere'" and its stamp issues, read before the RPSL in May 1946. Remarkably, after the war Walker had interrogated Yano Shizuo, the official in charge of the Burma postal dept. under the Japanese Army Administration. Even more remarkably, given the unique privilege of this opportunity, Walker's understanding of what Yano had to say on Burma issues was clearly inaccurate in many respects, and he seems to have been the originator of the myth that Yano was dismissed because of the stamp using his personal seal. Walker's other principal conclusions on Burma were that all peacock overprints were "suspect" and most Yano seals forged. Not surprisingly, the publication of this paper in the *London Philatelist* provoked a furious correspondence with **E A Smythies**.
[LP Sept-Oct 1946 & Jan, March, May, July-Aug 1947]

Walters, Lt. Col. H de L

Author of a short piece on peacock overprints in SC, Nov. 17 1945, concluding that "they are very unlikely to appear on the London market in any numbers."

Warren, B C S

(No relation to the author.) Folkestone, Kent. Small collection of peacock overprints sold probably in 1959, probably to **Gerald Davis**.
[Gerald Davis papers]

Warren, R F

The author's father. Certainly not a known name in Burma philately, so perhaps an interloper here, but I include him as a personal touch. As warrant officer of a field section of the Intelligence Corps with 26 Indian Div., he was one of the first into liberated Rangoon, and brought back some used Occupation post cards and some peacock overprints in blocks. The bulk of the overprints were later sold for a very small sum. My father was told that they would never be worth anything, because of the frequency of forgeries ...

Woolcott, Maj. E J

In Burma in 1945, and an early collector of occupation issues. At Rangoon Secretariat in 1946. In 1948 at Feltham, Middlesex.

"I met **Fosberry** and Woolacott[sic] only in U.K."

[Gerald Davis]

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