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**The presentation belongs to the author.**

British Consulate

Post Office



1855 - 1885

BANGKOK (SIAM)

# What to expect

A bit of history

Pre-B era

The Bs

Cancel

Chops

Fakes

Eye candy

# Thailand

Thailand is the only SEA country not conquered by England or France.

Changed its name from Siam to Thailand on 23 June 1939. The name reverted to Siam from 1945 to 11 May 1949 after which it again reverted to Thailand.

1767 Ayutthaya fell to the Burmese.

21 April 1782 the City Pillar was erected founding the new capital at Bangkok.



# Siam Opens to the West



## Reign of King Mongkut (Rama IV)

- Spent 27 years as a monk
- Studied Latin, French, English, Science & History
- Accession to the throne in 1851 (aged 47)
- Installed foreign advisers
- Sent nobles to study overseas
- Died in 1868

*SPPM Mongkut  
Rex Siamensium*

SPPM Mongkut Rex Siamensium  
(Somdet Phra Poramenthra Maha Mongkut King of Siam)

# Westerners Arrive in Numbers

## **Missionaries:**

- 1835 June – Rev. Dan Beach Bradley MD arrives with printing press
- 1844 July 4 – he begins publishing *The Bangkok Recorder*, the first newspaper

## **Merchants:**

- ROBERT HUNTER (Est. August 1824)
- THE BORNEO CO. LTD (Est. May 1856)
- A. MARKWALD & CO. (Est. Feb. 1857)
- etc.

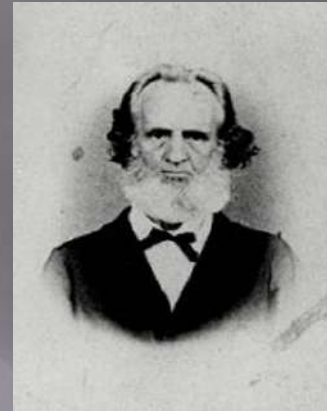
## **Diplomats Open Consulates:**

- 1820 - Portuguese
- 1856 - British
- 1856 - French
- 1856 - American
- etc.

# Stampless Era [ca1835 - 1869]



1836



1850

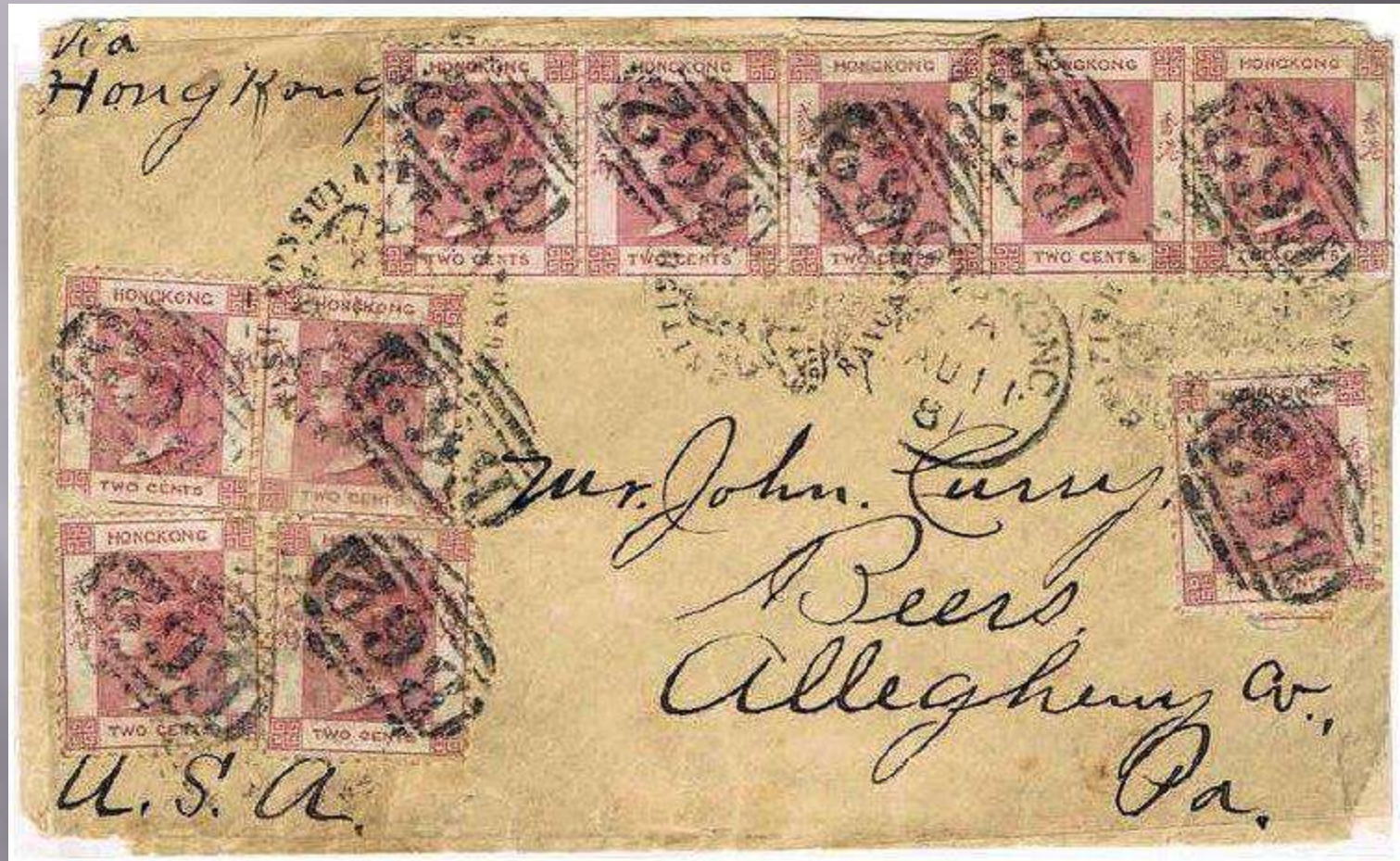
# Indian Issues [1859 - 1867]



- Only identifiable on cover by date line or chop
- Through Singapore Post Office
- First Straits Settlements stamps not issued until 1 September 1867



# Hong Kong Issues [1881-1885]



On mail via the Pacific route,  
placed in Hong Kong mail by favour.

# Straits Settlements Issues [1867-1885]



The first Straits stamps were issued on 1 Sept 1867.  
Identified on cover or from postmarks [1882 onwards] and chops.

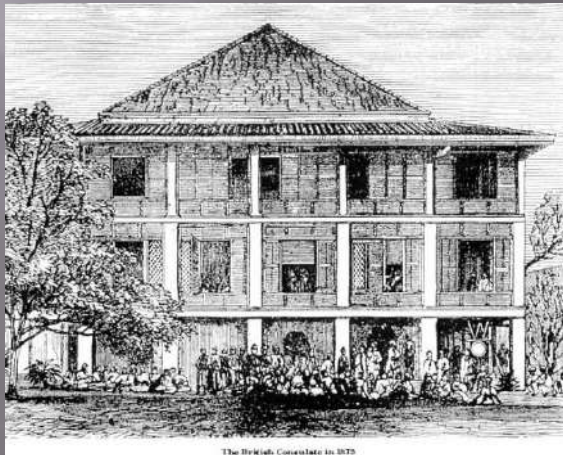
# English Sailor's Letters



Lot 2511 Christie's Robson Lowe in Zurich #8167  
held 14 May 1987. Sold for 1125 Swiss Franks.  
[1881 GB 1d lilac. BPA certified (1986)]

# British Consular Post Office - Bangkok

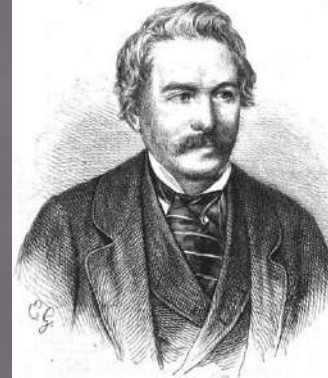
- 1855 April 18 Treaty with Britain
- 1856 June 11 British Consulate opens
- 1858 April 13 Foreign Community requests use of Consulate's mails service
- 1859 May 21 Approval from PMG, Singapore
- 1864 June First Assistant at the Br. Consulate acting as PM, Bangkok
- 1868 Mail sent to/from Singapore by Steamer every 20 days
- 1869 Chief Constable becomes Postmaster
- 1882 May Formal Postal agreement with Singapore GPO
- 1882 May First shipment of B-overprinted stamps reaches Bangkok
- 1883 Aug 4 Siamese PO inaugurates a local service within the City of Bangkok.
- 1885 June 30 Last day of service at the Br. Consulate PO
- 1885 July 1 Siam joins the UPU and begins handling all internal and external mails



# Real People



**CHARLES BATTEN HILLIER**  
(1820-1856)  
Her Majesty's First Consul to Siam  
(29 April 1856-18 Oct 1856)



**ROBERT  
SCHOMBURGK**  
(1804-1865)  
Second Consul  
(1857-1864)



**HENRY ARTHUR GARDNER**  
Died at Bangkok  
August 20th 1884  
at the age of 56



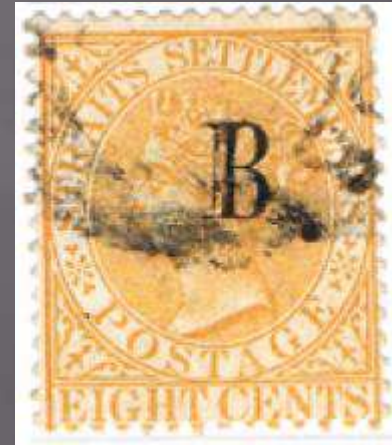
**CAPT M. C. EDLEFSEN**  
Mar. 15, 1830 - Oct. 2, 1897  
Born in Heligoland  
Died in Bangkok

# The B's [1882-1885]

|      | 8900   | 8307   | 1792  | 3322  | 16255   | 10040  | 1070  | 1643  | ?   | 20  | 66  |
|------|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|      | 2¢   | 4¢   | 5¢  | 6¢  | 8¢  | 10¢  | 12¢   | 24¢   | 30¢   | 32¢   | 96¢   |
| cc   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|      |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| CA   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
|      |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Elp. |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |

Total Number of Stamps Printed = 51,415 [22 or 23 Issues + varieties]

# Varieties



# Look for the die impression

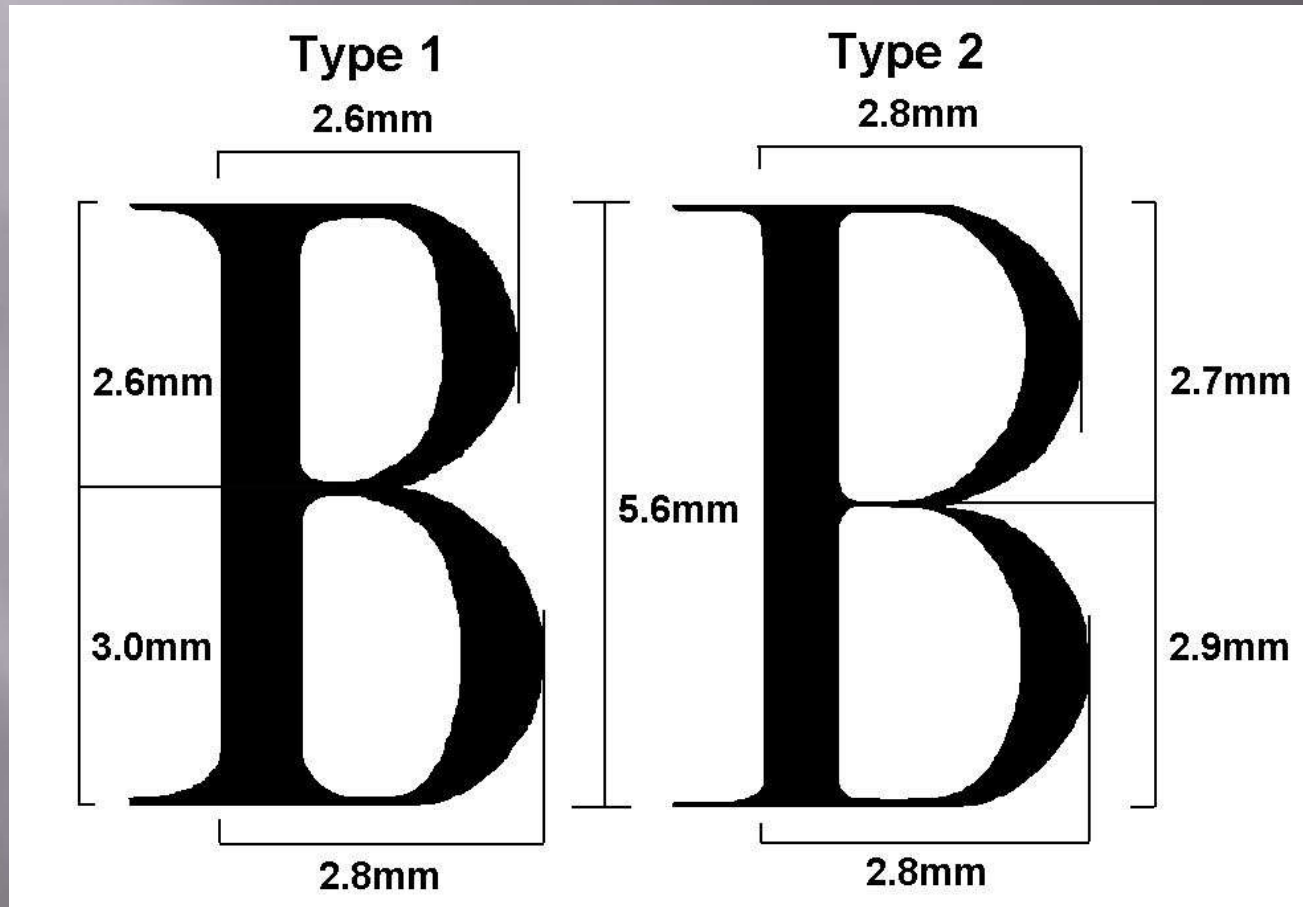


Excess ink often pushes out of the die impression giving the edges a jagged appearance

View under at least 15 power



# The Bs - A Closer Look



Stanley Gibbons since 2010

See: Norris, Andrew, Bangkok, the British Post Office in 1882, published in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, February 2008.

# Examples



Type 1

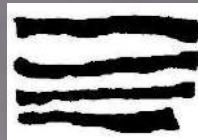
Type 2

# Cancellations

Br. Consulate Arms  
(1878-1884)



Four-bars  
(too new)



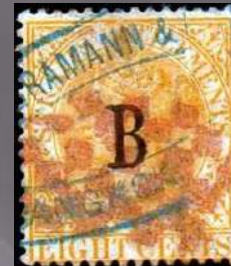
Chequerboard  
(1883-?)



CDS  
(1883-1885)



Bangkok



Hong Kong



Straits Settlements



?



# Consulate Chops



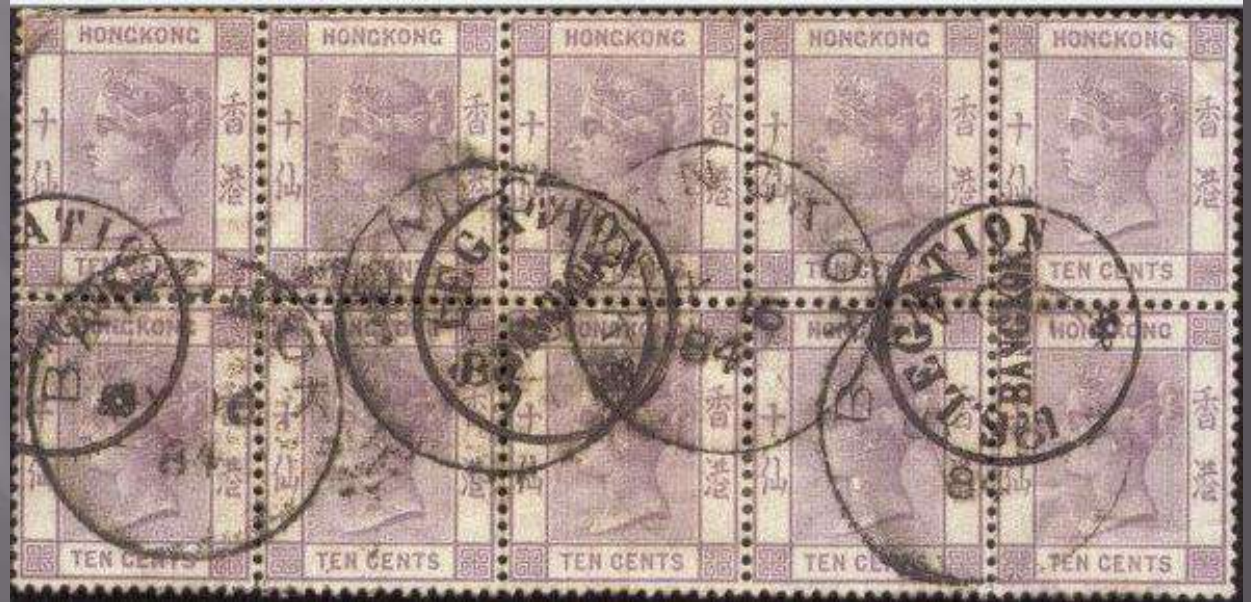
British  
[1878-1884]



German



U.S. Consulate



U.S. Legation

# Some Company Chops



Windsor, Redlich & Co.



Windsor, Rose & Co.



The Borneo Company Limited



Falck & Beidek



Falck, Bramann & Beidek

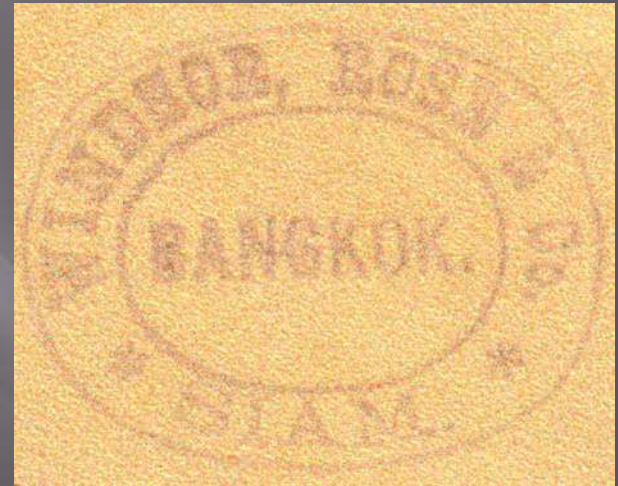


Ameeroodin  
Mahomedbhoymoocha  
Limited

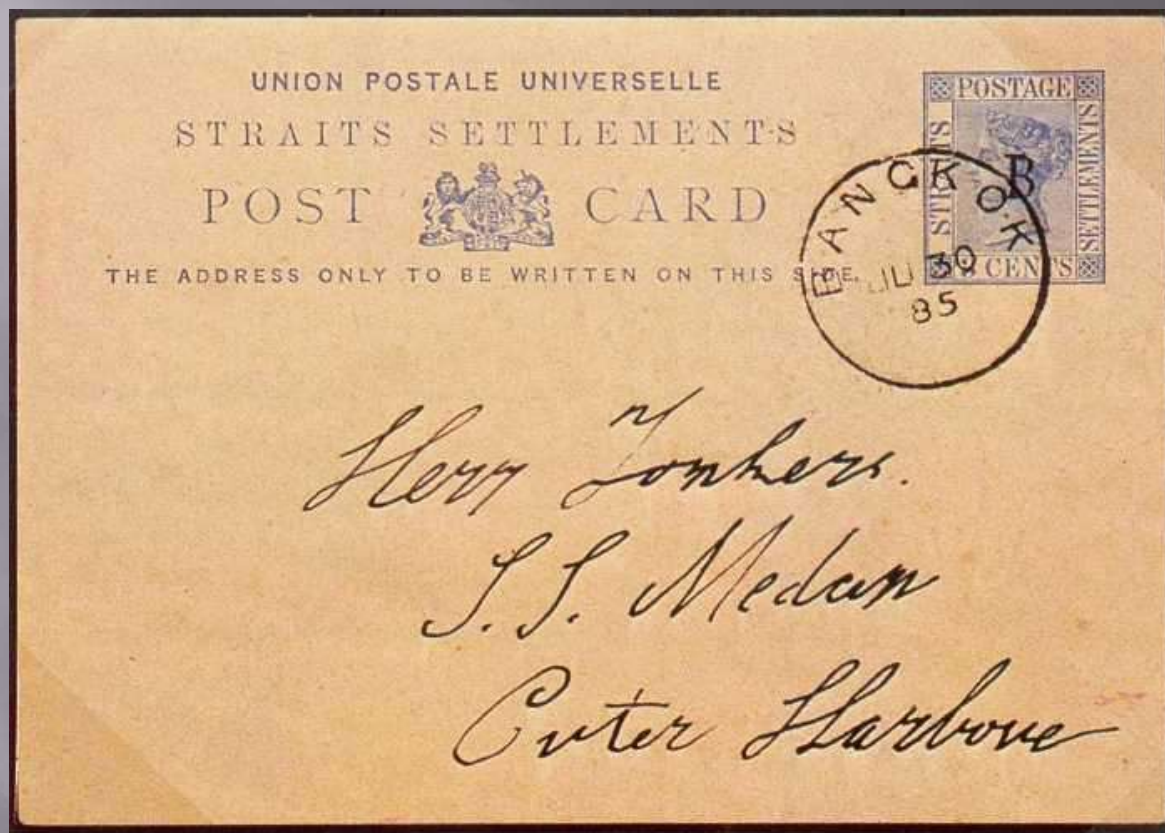


Roger Clarke & Co.

# Being persistent pays off!



# Supposed Br. Consulate P.O. 3 cent PSC



There is no evidence that these were officially issued – bogus!

# King Chulalongkorn - Rama V



1883 Aug 4 - Siamese Post Office inaugurate a local service within the City of Bangkok

1885 June 30 - Last day of service at the Br. Consulate PO

1885 July 1 - Siam joined the UPU and began handling all internal and external mails





# Fakes

Fake = a genuine postage stamp altered in some way to increase its value.

[Faked stamps include those repaired, with perforations removed or altered, margins added, gum added, or surcharges or overprints added, removed or altered.]

Forgery = an imitation of a genuine postage stamp made intentionally to defraud the postal authorities or collectors.

The Musson Stamp Dictionary by Douglas Patrick & Mary Patrick, Musson Nook Company, Toronto. 1972

# What is being faked / forged



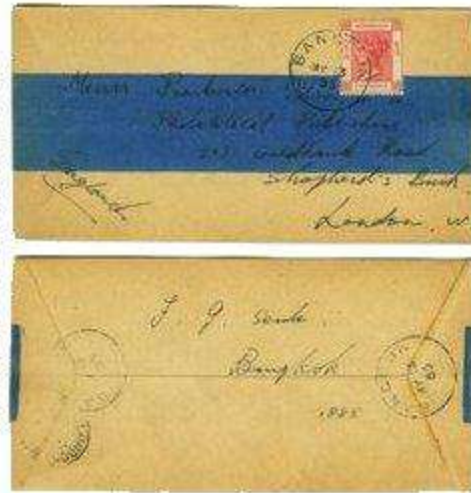
overprints



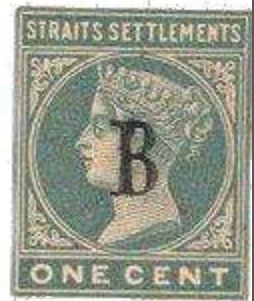
cancellations



stamps

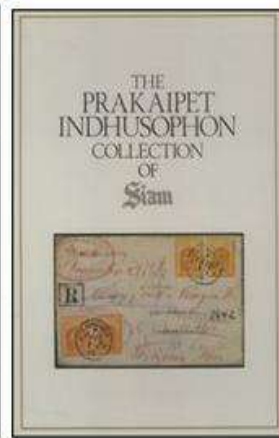
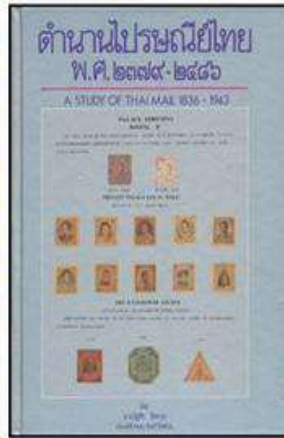
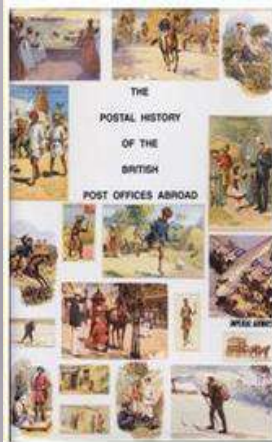


covers

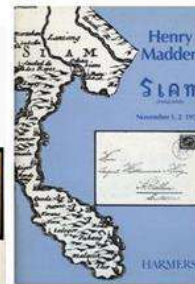
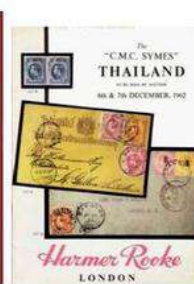
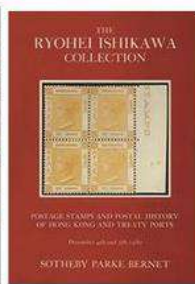
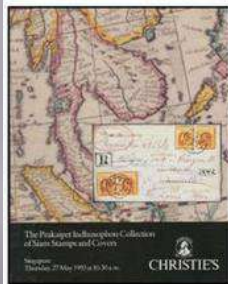


stationery

# Protect Yourself With Knowledge



Books



Auction  
Catalogues



Journals

# Some Easily Identifiable Fakes



- 32-cent red instead of black crown & value.
- 2¢ on 32¢ never issued.
- Both wrong B.

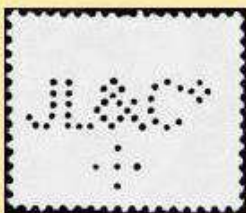


- Blue chop is that of the well know firm of RAUTENBERG SCHMIDT & Co. that never operated in Bangkok.
- Wrong B



- Dates out of Range.
- Wrong B.

# More Easily Identifiable Fakes



A fake Bangkok Issue with the **PERFIN** of John Little & Co. This firm never had offices in Bangkok.

Moreover, **NO PERFINs** were used on the stamps that went through the Br. Consulate's Post Office.



**Wrong Style:**

There should be no stop after the "B"



**Too Tall:** [correct height = 5.6mm]

The B on the 12¢ stamp is 6.5mm tall, 16% too tall.

The B on the 8¢ stamp is 7mm tall, 25% too tall.

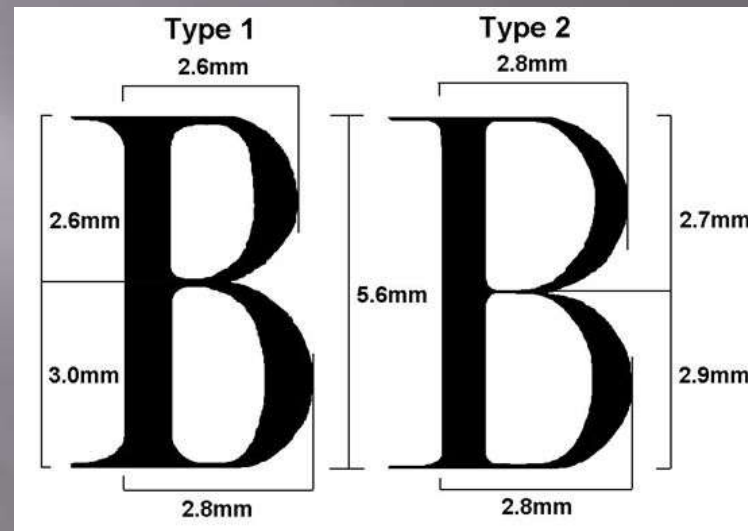


**Too Short:** [correct height = 5.6mm]

The B on the 5¢ stamp is 4.5mm tall, 20% too short.

The B on the 4¢ stamp is 4.7mm tall, 16% too short.

# One More Easily Identifiable Fake



**Wrong Style:** [Compare with the sample B]

- The B is 5.4 mm tall instead of 5.6 mm.
- [Unfortunately, the image does not show sufficient detail to see that there is no die imprint.]
- The serifs are wrong.
- The bottom of the lower loop bulges, instead of being flat.

# Know Your Subject



Doctorhook: [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net)

**STRAITS SETTLEMENTS Scott # 41a F-VF USED  
BANGKOK Cancel [5 USD]**

Oh no!



Really!

# Forgeries / Replicas?



eBay 2010



eBay 2013



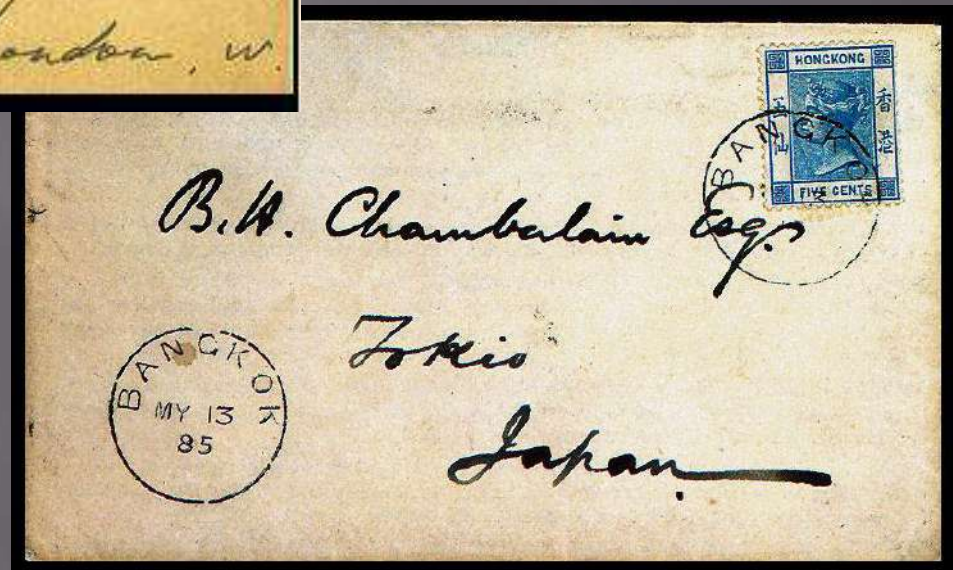
# Computer Generation Fakes






Fake on eBay Nov 2008

Genuine cover:  
SUSSEX SALE (1986)

-----  
The cancellation was  
copied and printed on  
a genuine Hong Kong  
above.



# Security Markings

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|                                   |  |  |  |
| GERMAN CONSULATE  | FORWARDED BY<br>THE BORNEO COMPANY<br>LIMITED                                     | WINDSOR, REDLICH &<br>CO.  | F. de JESUS & Co.   |
| <p><b>Examples of Stamps with Chops that Are the Only Means of Identifying Them as Originating at Bangkok</b></p> |   |  |   |

A knowledge of the firms in Bangkok & the Straits Settlements helps in identifying fake from genuine stamps and covers.

# Bangkok Firm Chops



**Some Firm Chops Found on Bangkok Issues**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| A. Bjurling & Co.          | [Operating as early as 1879 and liquidated in 1885] |
| A. Markwald & Co.          | [Established in 1857]                               |
| Clarke & Co.               | [?]   |
| E. Lamarche & Cie.         | [Operating as early as 1879]                        |
| Ed. Bonneville             | [Operating as early as 1879]                        |
| F. de Jesus & Co.          | [Operating as early as 1877]                        |
| Falck & Beidek             | [Established in 1878 liquidated with WWI]           |
| Malherbe Jullien & Co.     | [Established in 1866]                               |
| Möeller & Meisner          | [Established in 1871]                               |
| Pickenpack Thies & Co.     | [Established in 1857]                               |
| Remi, Schmidt & Co.        | [Established in 1857]                               |
| Shaw & Chalant             | [?]   |
| Siam Daily Advertiser      | [Began publishing in 1869]                          |
| The Borneo Company Limited | [Established in Bangkok in 1856]                    |
| Windsor, Redlich & Co.     | [Established in 1871]                               |
| Windsor, Rose & Co.        | [Established in mid-1880's]                         |

Other firms may eventually be identified.

# Security Markings - Straits Settlements



C.M.B. = Chartered Mercantile Bank



Chartered Mercantile Bank / PENANG



H.&S.B.C. = Hongkong & Shanghai  
Banking Corporation



Gilfillan, Wood & Co / SINGAPORE



G & Co = Guthrie & Co.



Syme & Co. / SINGAPORE

## Fake Bangkok Stamps Identified because of Firm Chops

All the stamps show the genuine use of firm chops only used in the Straits Settlements, never in Bangkok. In each pair a fake Bangkok issues was created by adding a large black B.

That's about it, but:



For me, stamp collecting  
makes history  
come alive.

# Anna Leonowens



- born India in 1831
- married at 18 to Thomas Leon Owens
- son Louis [founder of the company that still bears his name ]and a daughter, Avis
- husband died in Penang in 1859
- she started a school in Singapore for the children of British officers, but it failed
- 1862, took a position in Bangkok as a tutor to the children of the King
- 1867, left Siam and went to the United States and settled in New York city, Staten Island, where she established a school for the education of teachers in the kindergarten system
- Besides articles in the " Atlantic" and other magazines, she has published:
  - 1870 "The English Governess at the Court of Siam"
  - 1872 "The Romance of the Harem"
- 1876 Avis marries Thomas Fyshe, the agent for the Bank of British North America
- 1876 they all moved to Halifax, where Mr. Fyshe worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia
- During her time in Nova Scotia, she:
  - pioneered many social programs and cultural institutions
  - was heavily involved with the Halifax and National Councils of Women
  - was a strong advocate of suffrage and of education
  - founded the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1887. The Anna Leonowens Gallery is a public exhibition space and resource centre within the College
- 1897 Thomas Fyshe and family moved to Montreal where he was a manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada. In Montreal they lived at 70 McTavish Street next to McGill University.
- she taught Sanskrit at McGill
- 1902 Avis dies
- 1911 Thomas died
- 19 January 1915, Anna died at the age of 85. She is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery

