

SYNOPSIS:

BURMA BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION STAMP USES JUNE TO DECEMBER 1945

Burma Military Administration Stamps: During World War II the Japanese conquered the British Colony of Burma in 1942. In 1945 Burma pre-war King George VI stamps of 1937 were overprinted MILY ADMN in anticipation of the British Military Administration that would oversee the colony when the Japanese were defeated. Many stamps were issued, and today mint stamps are plentiful and inexpensive. On January 1, 1946 the British Civil Administration took control of the Burma postal system, and the MILY ADMN stamps were demonetized.

On Cover Uses: The first post office reopened June 8, 1945. Civil Affairs Services (Burma) or CAS(B) issued 20 circulars between April 11, 1945 and December 5, 1945. These had information on post office operations, post office reopenings, announcements of any new services, and postage rates. Letters were always limited to 2 ounces or 5 tolas. The only rates published were the domestic letter rate and the letter rate to India. The very first circular listed rates for post cards, but by the time the first post office opened post card rates had been removed. Initially most letters showed the 2 annas per tola rate to India. Eventually foreign letter mail was allowed, then air mail to Malaya, registration, and air mail to the UK. The Nov 7, 1945 circular announced the "Introduction of Air Mail Service Between China and Burma," with a rate 1 rupee per ½ oz plus postage. I have never seen such a cover, nor do I know of the existence of one. After the last circular was issued on December 5, some new unpublished rates and services can be found.

RUPEE VALUES: There was little need for high value stamps since letters were limited to 2 oz. or 5 tolas. There was no parcel service. At one time I calculated highest possible non philatelic franking was 5 rupees 4 ½ annas for 2 oz registered airmail to the UK. Years later I found such a cover. It has five 1-rupee stamps in the franking. I have never seen a 2- or 5-rupees stamp used on a legitimate cover. There was no need at all for a 10 rupees stamp. In fairness, it was not known when the stamps were issued that the high values, especially the 10 rupees, would not be needed. The high values are easily found on philatelic mail including entire MILY ADMN sets on a single cover.

KNOWLEDGE, STUDY RESEARCH: I have been collecting Burma since the early 1990's. I am aware of what was sold in the Gerald Davis Spink sale of 2005 and the Derek Filby Cavendish sale of 2017. I used to correspond with Derek before his death. I am aware of every cover in the James Song collection. I am the secretary of the Burma (Myanmar) Philatelic Study Circle headquarter in the UK. I am the first officer that does not live in the UK.

RARITY: Rare covers are double framed in dark red. Often, they are the only such covers I have seen or am aware of.

REFERENCES: [References Chicagopex 2025.pdf](#)

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The British ended the Japanese occupation of Burma in 1945. Pre-war Burma stamps were overprinted **MILY ADMN** for use in the liberated colony. This exhibit illustrates on cover uses of these stamps as limited services were gradually restored. The story ends when the stamps were demonetized at the end of the year.

Exhibit Plan

Surface Mail to India	Registered Mail
Surface Domestic Mail	Unpublished Rates
Foreign Surface Mail	Revenue Use
Foreign Air Mail	Demonetization

The most significant items are **double framed in dark red.**

Burma currency: 12 pies = 1 anna
16 annas = 1 rupee

Some rates use the tola as the unit of weight rather than the ounce.
1 tola = .411 oz.

THE FIRST POST OFFICE TO REOPEN WAS MANDALAY JUNE 8, 1945



To: Major R.O. Steele C.A.S.(B) Mandalay
8.6.45

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to report that I have brought all the equipment except three tents which were very heavy to load in the plane. These tents were handed over to Ofc C.A.S. supply base Akyab.

yours faithfully
M.L. Chowdhury
Postmaster
at Mandalay.

← Reduced scan of contents.

Sent by M.L. Chowdhury, the first Burma postmaster to be appointed in liberated Burma. The announcement had been made April 13. Addressed to Major R. O. Steele at Civil Affairs Services (Burma) or CAS(B) located in Calcutta at this time.

The rate to India was 2 annas 1st tola, 1 anna each additional tola, the weight limit was 5 tolas.

← The only known commercial use on June 8.