OVERPRINTS ON STRAITS SETTLEMENTS STAMPS

1891. "JOHOR Two Cents" Overprints on 24 cents green, watermarked Crown CA

Overprints on stamps with watermark inverted

Type (a) position 3 or 4
Type (a) "CENST" error, position 28 uncatologued

Type (b) position 35
Type (c) position 42
Type "c) position 43

Type "a" position 28, "J" dropped; second printing only
Type "d" position unlocated; definitely from second printing uncatologued

Unoverprinted Straits Settlements stamps with watermark inverted are scarce. Overprinted stamps with inverted watermark are scarcer.
1891. “JOHOR Two Cents” Overprints on 24 cents green, watermarked Crown CA

Narrow “J” and Positional blocks from Printing I

Narrow “J” at top right, Row 6, Column 6. Unverified in Printing II.

Rows 7-8, Columns 1-2
Rows 8-9, Columns 5-6
Rows 9-10, Columns 4-5
Rows 9-10, Columns 5-6
Bottom and right margins identifies this block easily
"PORTRAITS" PERIOD: 1891 - 1940

REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR
These stamps were the first ever issues with portrait of a Malay native state ruler.

1891. ESSAYS FOR PERMANENT ISSUE

Group One: With tablet characters in Siamese
on Chinese rice paper

State name misspelled "JAHORE"

Dated March 11, 1891
Rejected design

Dated March 11, 1891
Rejected design

Each essay is unique. Ex De La Rue archives.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR

1891. ESSAYS FOR PERMANENT ISSUE

Group Two: With tablet characters in Chinese
on Chinese rice paper

State name corrected to "JOHORE"

Dated March 16, 1881
Rejected essay

Dated March 18, 1881
Approved essay

Each essay is unique. Ex De La Rue archives.
First Die
Initialled “C.W.” and inscribed at the back
“1st die, not used”. Unique item.
Ex De La Rue archives.

New Die
With frame drawn in pencil by printer and
inscribed “New die” in front and at back.
Unique item ex De La Rue archives.
Second Die
Marked "2nd Die" and used for the completed design shown below. Unique item.
Ex De La Rue archives.

Proof of Completed Design Without Value
Believe to be unique item ex De La Rue archives.

The stamps were printed in two operations. Values in Chinese characters at left and in English right were printed in a different color.
Two cent stamp (paying postage to Singapore) from the royal town of Muar, Bander Maharani, used with Straits Settlements five cent stamp, for franking to Carlsbad.

The letter was addressed to Sultan Abu Bakar and is scarce.
The literature states that the Sultan Abu Bakar issues were printed in "unbroken sheets of 120 (12 x 10) . . . " surrounded by marginal line. The multiples in this page (missing rows 1 to 5, 11th and 12th columns) suggests otherwise.

Suggested format: Sheet with top and bottom panes, with comb perforation starting from bottom row of bottom pane, running through interpane gutter to top of sheet, leaving in the bottom pane's bottom margin and the right and left margins unperforated, and top margins of both panes perforated.

Markers on lower halves of panes "A" and "B":
1. Marginal guideline and pin markings under columns 6 and 7 of pane "B" are absent in the same location at pane "A"
2. Pin marking at left of row 6 of pane "A" is located at left of row 5 of pane "B" (row 5 not shown above).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottom pane: &quot;B&quot;</th>
<th>Top pane: &quot;A&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lower portion of Pane "B": Rows 6 -10, columns 1 - 10, showing unperforated bottom margin.

Lower portion of Pane "A": Rows 6 -10, columns 1 - 10, with perforated bottom margin.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR
PRINTING FORMAT

Multiples with top margins ("A": columns 6 - 8, "B" columns 1 - 10; rows 1 - 5 for both) suggests a two-pane format in the sheet.

Markers on upper halves of panes "A" and "B":
3. Guideline and pin markings above rows 6 and 7 on pane "A" are absent from the same location on pane "B"
4. Pin marking at left of row 5 of pane "B" appears at left of row 6 of pane "A" (see preceding page).

Large multiples of the Sultan Abu Bakar issues in their original state are scarce because stocks were surcharged with "3 cents." prior to the stamp issue of that value; and later, overprinted with "KEMAH-KOTAAN" and "KETAKKOTAAN" upon the death of the sultan (shown in the following pages).

Upper portion of Pane "B": Rows 1—5, columns 1 - 10, with narrow top perforated margin (half of interpane gutter).
These surcharges were necessitated by a change in the local postal rate to 3 cents per 1/2 oz. The permanent 3 cent stamp was issued later. Initially surcharged on the 5c, 6c and $1 values only, supplies ran out quickly due to purchases by speculators.

First three surcharges used in registered mail to Singapore, March 28, 1894, paying single-letter rate and registration of 5 cents, overpaid by one cent.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR

1894. THE "3 cents." SURCHARGE ON 4 CENTS

This additional surcharge was issued in April 1894 after speculators bought up the supply of the first three values.

An early cover (April 23, 1894) from Johore Bahru franked by all four surcharges.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR

1894. THE "3 cents." SURCHARGES

Surcharge 3 1/2 mm from canceling bar

No stop after "cents." (Stamp No. 59) exist on all four values.

Stamps 58 and 59
Stamps 58 and 59
Stamps 58 and 59

No stop variety on 4 cents overprinted stamp, used from Muar in 1899.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR

1894. NEW VALUES WITH PORTRAIT OF SULTAN

These two values completed the set. One cent was for printed matter, three cents was the single-letter local rate introduced in March 1894.

Cancellations on these first issues were mainly the double-ring, undated, crown- or crescent-and-star postmarks from Johore Bahru, Muar, Kota Tinggi and other major towns. Singapore postmarks indicate arrival postmarks for uncanned mail carried to Singapore, or accidental partial strikes on combination covers with Straits Settlements stamps for mail going abroad.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR
FIRST ISSUES WITH PORTRAIT OF SULTAN

JOHORE POST CARD:
ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE.

There cent stamp paying overseas postcard rate to New York 1907 (late usage).
The picture postcard was an official issued by the State of Johore and shows
the state crest with additional description/instruction in Jawi script.

There cent stamp used from Muar to Singapore in 1908. Very late usage.
REIGN OF SULTAN ABU BAKAR

1894. PROPOSED COLOR CHANGES

The Johore Government proposed to change the frame and vignette color of the cents values to blue, and the dollar value to brown. De La Rue responded with color trials shown in these two pages.

Top half of Appendix dated “Dec. 7th, 1894” (upper portion of sheet excised). Straits Settlements 5 cents blue stamp pasted and “this is the shade of blue” written on the top margin for the proposed color.

Ex De La Rue archives. Unique item.
The Johore Government proposed to change the frame and vignette color of the cents values to blue, and the dollar value to brown.

Lower half of Appendix dated "Dec. 7th, 1894" (upper half on previous page). Straits Settlements 5 cents stamp in brown pasted and "this is the shade of brown" ("shade" overwritten over original "colour") written on the top margin.

Ex De La Rue archives. Unique item.

Proof of frame and vignette die, mounted on sunk card.

Probably unique.