

The magnificent block of 12 Straits Settlements 24c. on 8a. rose (Lot 28)



This cover to Mauritius is thought to be the only cover originating from Saigon but posted in Singapore (Lot 52) (Reduced)

Q. Are there any covers that have an interesting story to tell?

The collection includes a cover to Mauritius (Lot 52), which in itself is quite unusual, which originated from Saigon in Indo-China. Rather than use the local postal service, the cover was handed to a forwarding agent who arranged for the cover to be posted in Singapore instead of Saigon. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only cover from Saigon which has been posted in Singapore.

Q. When was the collection started and how long would this material have been in the collection?

The items in this Queen Victoria collection, which mainly focus on the stamps and postal history of the Straits Settlements, as used in Singapore, were assembled between 1994 and 2007. Since then, they have been held in the museum's collection. This is the first time these Queen Victoria items have been made available for sale.

Q. What is your personal favourite within this collection?

A cover from Singapore to Pennsylvania (Lot 49) stands out for a number of reasons. The stamps, neatly affixed and tied by very fine strikes of the D14 duplex cancel, really catch the eye and have great visual appeal from an artistic point of view. The cover is endorsed 'via England' in the top left corner; during this period there were two options available to send mail, by steam ship or sailing ship, and because there was no standardisation of postal routes, most people would choose the cheapest route. There was also an option to specify a particular route, or for an item to be sent as quickly as possible. What you tend to find was that the English shipping lines were used by British merchants. Some would endorse a cover to say 'Per P&O' or a specific ship. Mail to the USA could be sent via the UK, or

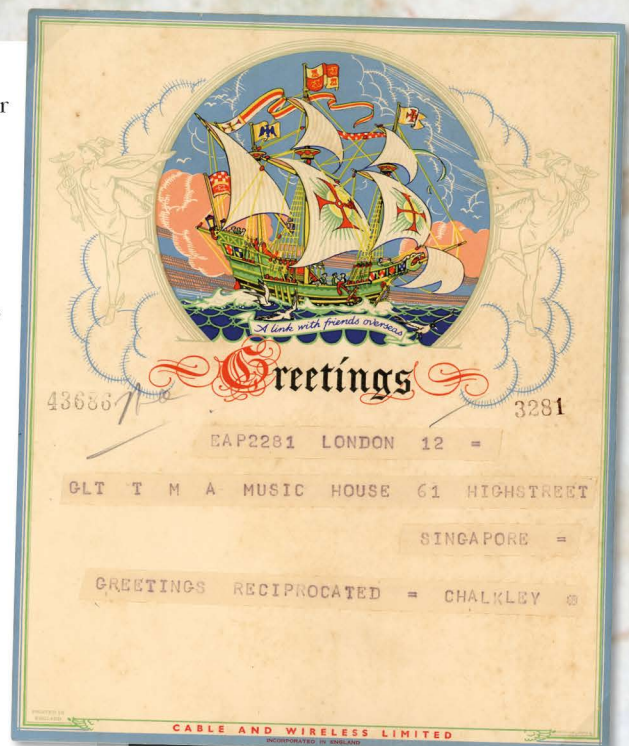
One of the interesting and attractive pieces of postal history in the collection is this cover sent from Singapore to Pennsylvania, USA, via England in 1868 (Lot 49) (Reduced)



via the Cape of Good Hope and West Africa (a longer but cheaper route). Another possible route would be to the West Coast of America via Australia or Japan.

Q. Are there any unusual items in the collection?

One unusual piece is a Greetings telegram sent to an address in Singapore. This is the only telegram within the collection. It is an eye catching example of ephemera with a lovely illustration of a galleon. This Cable and Wireless telegram form would have been delivered to the intended recipient; the sender would have gone to a Cable and Wireless office in London, written out the message, and the office would then have used Morse code to transmit the message to Singapore, where it would have been delivered to the recipient less than 24 hours after sending. So it was a remarkably quick method to send a message.



Lot 62 One of the more unusual items in the collection is this Cable and Wireless Greetings telegram sent from London to an address in Singapore (Reduced)