

BURMA CIVIL CENSOR HAND STAMPS 1939-1943

Purpose: This exhibit will show the types of civil censorship hand stamps used by Burma on regular mail during World War II, explaining when, where, and why they were used. The time frame is from the beginning of the War until the Japanese Occupation.

Importance: The material in this exhibit adds much to what was known about the subject previously.

Exhibit Plan: Single Line Triangle Hand Stamps
Circular “NOT OPENED BY CENSOR” Hand Stamp
Double Line Triangle Hand Stamps

Organization: Items in the sections are grouped by censor station.
Additional interesting cover information is given in italics.

Research:  Indicates discovery or research. One previously unrecorded censor hand stamp is shown. Unreported colors or censor numbers and many newly discovered earliest (EKU) or latest known uses (LKU) are presented.

Rarity: Many of the hand stamps shown exist in very small numbers. *Write ups about rarity are in dark red.* Covers with unique or one of only two known hand stamps are double framed in *dark red.*

Map showing the five places in Burma where civil censor hand stamps were used. →

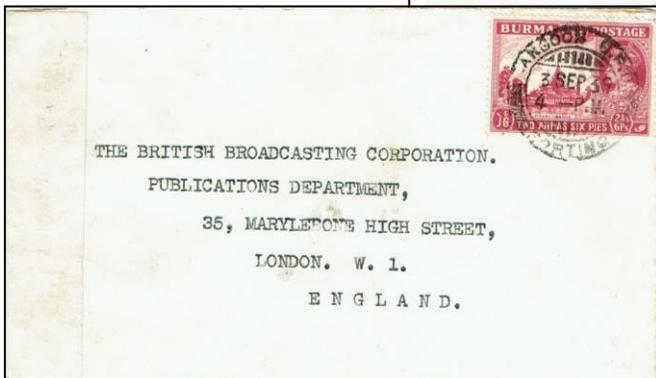
Reference: British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II British Asia 6th Edition 2011, Civil Censorship Study Group. Referred to as CCSG in the exhibit. **Sixteen** discoveries shown are included in a draft of the 7th Edition, which has yet to go to press. **Four** items shown were discovered after this draft.



CENSORSHIP BEGINS IN BURMA

At **12:00 AM September 3, 1939** Britain declared war on Germany. Under the Defence of Burma Act, censorship was immediately introduced on mail leaving the country.

Within a few hours the first civilian censors were appointed in Rangoon. Mail at the censor station was marked with a hand stamp when processed.



←Rangoon-**September 3, 1939 4:00 PM** (Burma 7 hours ahead of England)
Single line red triangle with **6 cm** censor number in the center
Location of censor station at the triangle base – Rangoon
 EKU. CCSG incorrectly says first used **October 30, 1939.**