

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

COLONIAL OFFICE

Records relating to the Straits Settlements, 1871-98

Reels M446-58

**Public Record Office
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1LR**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Straits Settlements, comprising Prince of Wales Island (Penang), Malacca and Singapore, were established in 1826 as a presidency of the East India Company. Singapore became the seat of government in 1832, with resident councillors administering Prince of Wales Island and Malacca. They remained under the control of the East India Company until it was dissolved in 1857 and were then placed under the India Office. In 1867 they became a Crown colony.

In 1874, at the direction of the Colonial Office, the Governor of the Straits Settlements appointed Residents to the Malay states of Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan. The agreement with the Perak chiefs of 20 January 1874 specified that the Resident was to be accredited to the Sultan's court and his advice was to be sought and acted upon on all matters other than those touching on Malay religion and customs. In 1887 a similar treaty was signed with the Sultan of Pahang. In July 1896 the rulers of the four protected states accepted a Treaty of Federation, which provided for a Resident-General responsible to the High Commissioner (the Governor of the Straits Settlements). Certain departments were unified under federal heads, such as the Judicial Commissioner, Attorney-General, Commandant and Chief Commissioner of Police.

Governors of the Straits Settlements

1867-73	Sir Harry Ord
1873-75	Sir Andrew Clarke
1875-77	Sir William Jervois
1877-79	Sir William Robinson
1880-87	Sir Frederick Weld
1887-93	Sir Cecil Smith
1994-99	Sir Charles Mitchell

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For a short period (1958-65) the geographical boundaries of the Australian Joint Copying Project were extended to encompass Malaya, Borneo, Indonesia and the Philippines. A researcher at the Australian National University had arranged the microfilming of selected Colonial Office records, in particular C.O. 273, relating to the Malay States in the period 1871-98. It was decided to incorporate copies of this film in the Miscellaneous Series of the Australian Joint Copying Project. Several years later, the Public Record Office refilmed C.O. in its entirety (1838-1946). This film does not form part of the Australian Joint Copying Project, but copies are held in the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales, as well as other libraries.

COLONIAL OFFICE

Records relating to the Straits Settlements, 1871-98

The records were filmed selectively, focussing on the relations between the Straits Settlements and the Malay states of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang. Consequently, many pieces were not filmed at all and, with one or two possible exceptions, none of the pieces copied were filmed completely.

The bulk of the records filmed form part of C.O. 273, but selections from other Colonial Office classes were filmed on reels M450, M453 and M457.

Reel M446

C.O. 273 Straits Settlements original correspondence, 1838-1946

84	Despatches, May-Sept. 1876
85	Despatches, Oct.-Dec. 1876
113	Despatches, Jan.-March 1882
114	Despatches, April-May 1882
128	Despatches, June-July 1884
130	Despatches, Oct.-Dec. 1884
134	Despatches, April-June 1885
135	Despatches, July-Sept. 1885
139	Despatches, Jan.-April 1886
140	Despatches, May-Aug. 1886
141	Despatches, Sept.-Dec. 1886
143	Despatches, Jan.-March 1887
144	Despatches, April 1887
145	Despatches, May-July 1887

- 148 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1887
- 151 Despatches, Jan.-Feb. 1888
- 152 Despatches, March-May 1888
- 154 Despatches, July-Sept. 1888
- 155 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1888
- 156 Despatches, Dec. 1888
- 159 Despatches, March-April 1889
- 160 Despatches, May-July 1889
- 162 Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1889
- 168 Despatches, Sept.-Oct. 1890
- 169 Despatches, Mov.-Dec. 1890

Reel M447

- 172 Despatches, Jan.-March 1881
- 173 Despatches, April-June 1891
- 179 Despatches, Jan.-March 1892
- 183 Despatches, Sept.-Nov. 1892
- 188 Despatches, Sept.-Nov. 1892
- 194 Despatches, Jan.-April 1894
- 195 Despatches, May 1894
- 196 Despatches, June-July 1894
- 197 Despatches, Aug.-Sept. 1894
- 198 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1894
- 199 Despatches, Dec. 1894
- 202 Despatches, Jan.-March 1885
- 203 Despatches, April-17 May 1885

Reel M448

207	Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1895
212	Despatches, Jan.-Feb. 1896
213	Despatches, March 1896
217	Despatches, Sept. 1896
218	Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1896
101	Offices and individuals, 1879
104	Despatches, Aug.-Oct. 1880

Reel M449

47	Despatches, May-June 1871
76	Despatches, June-Dec. 1874
77	Offices, 1874
78	Offices (Home, War and Miscellaneous) and individuals, 1874
79	Despatches, Jan.-March 1875
80	Despatches, April-June 1875
82	Offices and individuals, 1875
84	Despatches, May-Sept. 1876
85	Despatches, Oct.-Dec. 1876
89	Offices and individuals, 1876
90	Despatches, Jan.-March 1877
91	Despatches, April-Nov. 1878
93	Despatches, Jan.-May 1878
94	Despatches, June-July 1878
95	Despatches, Aug. 1878
96	Despatches, Sept.-Dec. 1878
97	Offices and individuals, 1878

- 98 Despatches, Jan.-April 1879
- 99 Despatches, May-Aug. 1879
- 100 Despatches, Sept.-Dec. 1879
- 101 (1) Offices and individuals, 1879

Reel M450

- 101 (2) Offices and individuals, 1879
- 102 Despatches, Jan.-March 1880
- 103 Despatches, April-July 1880
- 104 Despatches, Aug.-Oct. 1880
- 105 Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1880
- 106 Offices and individuals, 1880
- 107 Despatches, Jan.-March 1881
- 112 Offices (Foreign, Home, War and Miscellaneous) and individuals, 1881
- 113 Despatches, Jan.-March 1882
- 114 Despatches, April-May 1882
- 115 Despatches, June-Aug. 1882
- 116 Despatches, Sept.-Nov. 1882

C.O. 447 Sungei Ujong Sessional Papers

- 1 State Council proceedings, 1883-93

C.O. 273 Straits Settlements original correspondence

- 117 Despatches, Dec. 1882, and individuals, 1882
- 119 Despatches, Jan.-March 1883
- 120 Despatches, April-May 1883
- 121 Despatches, June-July 1883

- 122 Despatches, Aug.-Oct. 1883
- 123 Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1883
- 126 Despatches, Jan.-March 1884
- 127 Despatches, April-May 1884
- 128 Despatches, June-July 1884
- 130 (1) Despatches, Oct.-Dec. 1884

Reel 451

- 130 (2) Despatches, Oct.-De. 1884
- 131 Offices, 1884
- 132 Offices (Home, War and Miscellaneous) and individuals, 1884
- 133 Despatches, Jan.-March 1885
- 134 Despatches, April-June 1885
- 135 Despatches, July-Sept. 1885
- 136 Despatches, Oct.-Dec. 1885
- 137 Offices, 1885
- 138 Offices (Miscellaneous) and individuals, 1885
- 139 Despatches, Jan.-April 1886
- 140 Despatches, May-Aug. 1886
- 141 Despatches, Sept.-Dec. 1886
- 142 Offices and individuals, 1886
- 143 Despatches, Jan.-March 1887
- 145 Despatches, May-June 1887
- 146 Despatches, Aug.-Sept. 1887
- 148 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1887
- 149 Despatches, Dec. 1887, Offices and individuals, 1887
- 151 Despatches, Jan.-Feb. 1888

- 152 Despatches, March-May 1888
- 154 Despatches, July-Sept. 1888
- 155 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1888
- 156 Despatches, Dec. 1888, Offices 1888

Reel M452

- 157 Offices (Miscellaneous) and individuals, 1888
- 158 Despatches, Jan.-Feb. 1888
- 159 Despatches, March-April 1889
- 160 Despatches, May-July 1889
- 161 Despatches, Aug.-Oct. 1889
- 162 Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1889
- 164 Miscellaneous offices and individuals, 1889
- 166 Despatches, April-July 1890
- 167 Despatches, Aug. 1890
- 168 Despatches, Sept.-Oct. 1890
- 169 (1) Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1890

Reel M453

- 169 (2) Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1890
- 171 Miscellaneous offices and individuals, 1890
- 172 Despatches, Jan.-March 1891
- 173 Despatches, April-June 1891
- 174 Despatches, July-Aug. 1891
- 176 Despatches, Sept.-Nov. 1891

C.O. 469 Selangor Government Gazettes, 1890-1975

1	1890-91
2	1892
3	1893
4	1894
5	1895

Reel M454

CO273 Straits Settlements original correspondence

177	Despatches, Dec. 1891
178	Offices (War and Miscellaneous) and individuals, 1891
179	Despatches, Jan.-March 1892
180	Despatches, April-May 1892
182	Despatches, July-Aug. 1892
183	Despatches, Sept.-Nov. 1892
184	Despatches, Dec. 1892
185	Miscellaneous offices and individuals, 1892

Reel 455

186	Despatches, Jan.-March 1893
187	Despatches, April-May 1893
188	Despatches, June-July 1893
189	Despatches, Aug.-Oct. 1893
190	Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1893
191	Offices, 1893
193	Individuals G-Z, 1893
194	Despatches, Jan.-April 1894
195	Despatches, May 1894

- 196 Despatches, June-July 1894
- 197 Despatches, Aug.-Sept. 1894
- 198 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1894
- 199 Despatches, Dec. 1894 and Offices, 1894
- 201 Individuals, 1894
- 202 Despatches, Jan.-March 1895
- 203 Despatches, April-17 May 1895

Reel 456

- 204 Despatches, 18 May-June 1895
- 205 Despatches, July-Aug. 1895
- 206 Despatches, Sept.-Oct. 1895
- 207 Despatches, Nov.-Dec. 1895
- 211 Individuals E-Z, 1895
- 212 Despatches, Jan.-Feb. 1896
- 213 Despatches, March 1896
- 215 Despatches, June 1896
- 216 Despatches, July-Aug. 1896
- 217 Despatches, Sept. 1896
- 218 Despatches, Oct.-Nov. 1896
- 221 Offices (Foreign and War), 1896
- 222 Miscellaneous offices and individuals I-Y, 1896

Reel 457

C.O. 273 Straits Settlements original correspondence

List (typescript) of confidential and open despatches relating to the Native States in pieces 9-74

Contents pages (manuscript) of pieces 76-204,206-7, 211-23 (1874-96)

C.O. 537 Supplementary original correspondence

Contents pages (manuscript) of:

- 45 Straits Settlements, 1873-84
- 46 Straits Settlements, 1885
- 47 Straits Settlements, 1889-93
- 48 Straits Settlements, 1894-98

C.O. 809 Confidential Print: Eastern, 1872-96

Contents pages (printed) of:

- 1 Affairs of certain native states in the Malay Peninsula: correspondence, Jan. 1872-Sept. 1874
- 5 Affairs of Malay Peninsula: further correspondence, Nov. 1874-July 1875
- 6 Affairs of certain native states in the Malay Peninsula: further correspondence, July 1875-Feb. 1876
- 7 Affairs of certain native states in the Malay Peninsula: further correspondence, Feb.-June 1876
- 10 Affairs of certain native states in the Malay Peninsula: further correspondence, Feb.-Nov. 1876
- 15 Affairs of certain native states in the Malay Peninsula: further correspondence, Nov. 1876-March 1877
- 18 Instructions to British residents, &c: Malay States, June-Nov. 1878
- 19 Mr Swettenham's tour through the Protected Native States, 6 March 1879
- 22 Appointment of British Residents in Malay States: memorandum by Mr Ebdon, 22 Oct. 1879
- 30 Memorandum of agreement with Sultan of Johore as to opium farms, 1885
- 31 Opium farms: general questions, 1885

35 Colonial military contribution: despatch to Governor, 13 Dec. 1889

44 Consumption of opium: correspondence, March 1883-July 1896

Note: C.O. 809 was later transferred to C.O. 882

Reel M458

C.O. 273 Straits Settlements original correspondence

Contents pages (manuscript) of pieces 205, 208-10 (1895)