

WW2 New Procedures in Asia for Airmail to Europe (1939-40)

As WW2 began, the British colonies of Singapore and Hong Kong implemented various procedures on censoring mail, including airmail from the Philippines in transit to Europe. Onward Air Transmission procedures, notably AV2 marks, were also used.

Singapore AV2 Manuscript Marking

The AV2 marking was applied to the top item in a bundle of letters for onward air transmission.

The marking is extremely early - only two other 1939 covers with AV2 marks worldwide.



Manila 17 Dec 1939, to Switzerland

AV2 Marking

Heifetz (2000) had a database of over 1000 covers worldwide with AV2 markings. The earliest AV2 handstamp was used in Singapore - the earliest recorded use is Jan 1940 on a letter from the Philippines to Britain. This cover appears to be a forerunner. Heifetz recorded only two covers with AV2 in 1939, both manuscript, but his book did not state where they were written.

Other Markings

PAQUEBOT mark of Manila. Stamps are cancelled with a Manila cds, suggesting letter was posted on board a ship bound for Manila. PASSED / FOR / TRANSMISSION at Singapore. Censor decided not to open the letter.

Rate

72c, double, 6-10g.

60c air (2 by 30c); 12c foreign.