



THE CITIZEN ARCHIVIST PROJECT

GUIDE TO TRANSCRIBING THE
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
RECORDS

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Dear Fellow Citizen Archivist,

Hello and welcome to the Citizen Archivist Project! As a Citizen Archivist-Transcriber, your task will be to transcribe documents from the Straits Settlements Records held by the National Archives of Singapore. This way, you will be aiding in the documentation of Singapore's rich colonial history and easing access to Singapore's historical records. This may seem like a daunting task but this guide is here to help you!

In this guide, you will learn the dos and don'ts of transcribing and gather the tools you will need to start your work as a transcriber. Remember, practice makes perfect! Don't worry if you make a few mistakes here and there in the beginning. You can always refer to this guide whenever you have doubts.

Most of all, have fun! You never know what fascinating stories you may unearth while perusing a piece of Singapore's history.

Happy Transcribing!

The Citizen Archivist Team

Abigail, Angeline and Sandy

A Brief Introduction to the Straits Settlements Records

The Straits Settlement Records are a vast collection of documents that relate to the British administration of the Straits Settlements from 1826 to 1946. On the 6th of February 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles, representing the East India Company, signed a treaty with Sultan Hussein Shah of Johor. This allowed the East India Company to establish a trading post in Singapore. Subsequently, Singapore was formally ceded to the Company in 1824 and joined Malacca and Penang to form the Straits Settlements.

By 1763, the British Empire was the dominant trading power in India. Malacca, Penang and later Singapore, would become important ports of call through which the British would extend their economic influence and trade monopoly. In this way, the establishment of the Straits Settlements reinforced British dominance in a period of intense rivalry amongst the imperial powers.

The Straits Settlements Records contain the letters, meeting minutes and various documents that were required for successful governance and trade throughout the Straits Settlements. This includes, but is not limited to, letters written by the Governors of the Straits Settlements and letters written by native rulers who were in correspondence with the British. The Records also contain information about the British trade monopoly, including for example, minute details of what cargo left with each ship in the Straits. The Straits Settlements Records therefore document the economic and political history of Singapore, Malacca and Penang under the British Empire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The 1st of April 1946 saw the formation of the Malayan Union; the Straits Settlements was no more. Under this new arrangement, Singapore was made a separate crown colony, while Penang and Malacca became part of the Malayan Union together with nine other Malay states. Even though the Straits Settlements no longer exist today, the Straits Settlements Records remain a relevant and incredibly important source in the history and national identity of Singapore.

General Transcription Guidelines

Now that you have a brief overview of what the Straits Settlements Records are, let's start transcribing!

Go to our website: <http://www.nas.gov.sg/CitizenArchivist>. To start transcribing, you need to log in with your Facebook, Google, Windows or National Library Board account. Feel free to open a National Library Board Account if you do not have one.

The Straits Settlements Records are grouped into various series differentiated by theme and timeframe. You will find a range of documents to choose from, including letters sent by the Governor of the Straits Settlements. Pick a series that interests you the most.

Choose a page that is labelled as "Open" or "In Progress" and start to transcribe! An "Open" page refers to either a page that has not been transcribed at all or a page that has been re-opened by the reviewer because the page was inaccurately transcribed. A page that is labelled as "In Progress" refers to a page that is in the process of being transcribed by someone.

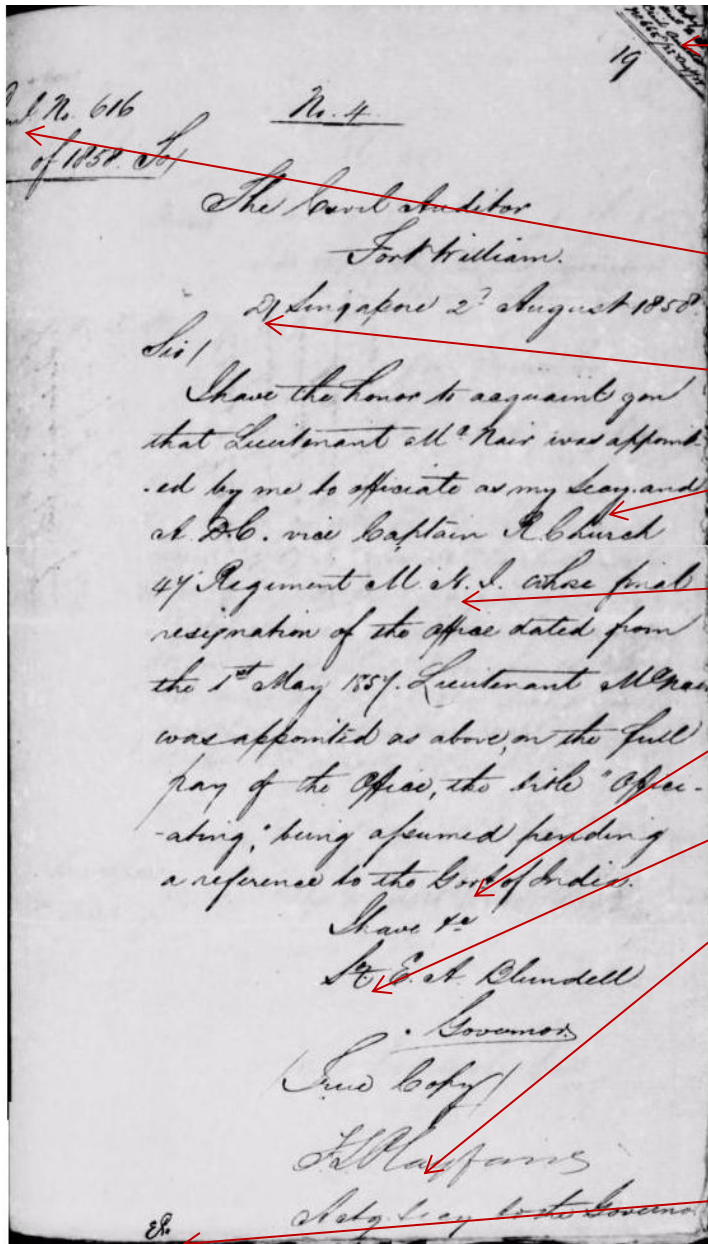
Once you submit a transcription for review, no more edits can be made (unless the page is reopened by the reviewer), so be sure to double check your transcription before submitting it for review!

Some additional tips:

- Transcribe what you see in the document.
- Skip over words that you are unable to read. Upon completing what you can transcribe, re-read the whole sentence again. Looking at the big picture may give you clues to the missing words!
- To maintain the document's integrity, do not add any information to the document. Insert square brackets in place of the words that are illegible, hard to read or obstructed.
- Do not leave out any faded words in the document.
- Do not forget to transcribe the dates (if available).
- Save your work regularly to avoid losing it accidentally!

A Step-by-Step Guide to Transcribing

Here, we have a page extract from a collection of the Straits Settlements Records. This is a step-by-step tutorial to transcribing, especially when you encounter problematic words.



{1} Do not forget to transcribe the words in the margin! The month may be written in short form on the original document so we will accept both regular and short forms.

{2} If the word cannot be read, please insert a [] in the place of the word.

{3} Dated/ Dt will be accepted.

{4} Secy/Secretary will be accepted.

{5} If you are not confident with what you have transcribed, leave the word in square brackets.

{6} Govt/government will be accepted.

{7} Sg/Signed will be accepted.

{8} The signature, if illegible, can be left as [Signature]. If it is legible, transcribe word for word.

{9} If the word cannot be read, please leave a [].

Collection: Z36 Singapore: Letters from Governor

Media Number: Z036_00990

Sample Transcription

Collection: Z36 Singapore: Letters from Governor

Media Number: Z036_00990

[Copy sent to the Civil Auditor no 665/ {1} 28 Aug/August /58]

19

{2} []no. 616 of 1858

no. 4

To, The Civil Auditor

Fort William

{3} Dated/ Dt Singapore 2nd August 1858

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that Lieutenant McNair was appointed by me to officiate as my {4} Secy/Secretary and A.D.C. vice Captain R.Church 47 Regiment {5} [M.N.I] whose final resignation of the office dated from the 1st May 1857. Lieutenant McNair was appointed as above, on the full pay of the office, the title “officiating,” being assumed pending a reference to the {6} govt/government of India

I have &ca

{7} Sg/Signed E.A. Blundell

Governor

(True Copy)





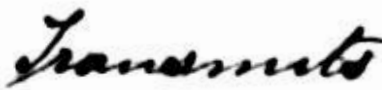
{8} (Signature)







Actg/Acting Secy/Secretary to the governo[r]

{9} []

Some Challenging Words You Might Encounter While Transcribing

Most of the documents in the Straits Settlements Records are handwritten and can be quite difficult to decipher at times. Here are some examples of words that become unrecognizable in the handwritten, cursive form characteristic of the colonial era.








<p>Double “s” : fairness, vessels</p>  <p>(fairness)</p>  <p>(Vessels)</p>	<p>A word with two “s” side by side can often look like a cursive “fs”.</p>
<p>Joined words: I have, I beg</p>  <p>(I have)</p>  <p>(I beg)</p>	<p>Some words tend to be positioned close to the word on its right, resulting in the two words looking like one word. Be sure not to make the mistake of transcribing these words as one word!</p>
<p>Capital Letters: “T” and “F”</p>  <p>(Transmits)</p>	<p>The cursive capital letters “T” and “F” can look very similar. A tip is to first deduce what the overall word is before coming to a conclusion about what the capital letter actually is.</p>

 (Furlough)  (Farquhar)	
Double “r”  (referred)  (correspondence)	Be sure to look out for two “r” that sit side by side! They tend to look rather illegible in their cursive form.
The ‘t’ that is hard to see  (conducted)  (directed)	The letter ‘t’ tends to get swallowed in the cursive form of writing, especially when it is not at the front or the back of the word. Most of the time the letter ‘t’ looks more like an ‘l’, so watch out for this tricky letter.





Note: This list is not exhaustive – refer to page 24 for an alphabet style guide showing more variations of the letters and words you will encounter in the Straits Settlements Records.

Common Phrases and Abbreviations used in the Straits Settlements

During the Straits Settlements period, English was written in older linguistic forms. Many of such forms are no longer in use today and may be unfamiliar to you. Here are some of the words commonly used in the documents of the Straits Settlements Records and their respective definitions.

<p>Ditto/Do</p> 	<p>Another of the same.</p>
<p>I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant</p>   	<p>This valediction appears at the bottom of most letters.</p> <p>Other variations include:</p> <p>I am honored to be, Sir, your most obedient servant.</p> <p>I am, Sir, your most obedient servant.</p> <p>I have &ca.</p>
<p>I have the honor to transmit/to acquaint /to forward/acknowledge the receipt of...</p>  	<p>A common opening phrase of a letter to help state the purpose of the letter.</p>
<p>To beg leave</p> 	<p>A phrase meaning “seek permission”.</p>

<p>Under flying seal (UFS)</p> <p><i>under a flying seal</i></p>	<p>The phrase, also abbreviated as UFS, refers to a letter or message sent from one point to another through an intermediary messenger. The latter, being either invited or required to read it, will reseal the letter upon reading it and send it to the intended final destination.</p>
<p>Instant</p> <p><i>Instanto</i></p>	<p>Spanish for “of current month”.</p>
<p>Ultimo</p> <p><i>Ultimo</i></p>	<p>Spanish for “of last month”.</p>
<p>Proximo</p> <p><i>Proximo</i></p>	<p>Spanish for “of next month”.</p>
<p>Per mensem</p> <p><i>per mensem</i></p>	<p>Latin for “by the month”.</p>
<p>Per annum</p> <p><i>per annum</i></p>	<p>Latin for “by the year”.</p>
<p>Per diem</p> <p><i>per Diem</i></p>	<p>Latin for "per day" or "for each day".</p>
<p>P.S.</p> <p><i>P.S.</i></p>	<p>An abbreviation of “Post Script”. Used to denote an afterthought that occurs after the letter has been written and signed.</p>
<p>N.B.</p> <p><i>N.B.</i></p>	<p>An abbreviation of Nota Bene, which is Latin for “note well”. This usually appears at the end of a letter, after the valediction and signature to emphasise a point.</p>

<p>&ca</p> 	<p>An abbreviation of “et cetera”, which is Latin for “and so forth and so on” (used to indicate that more of the same category has been omitted for brevity).</p>
<p>Messr.</p> 	<p>An abbreviation of the formal writing the plural of “Mister”. Adopted from Messieurs, the French word for the plural of monsieur.</p>
<p>Signed/Sd</p> 	<p>A precursor to the signature.</p>
<p>Viz/Vizt</p> 	<p>Abbreviation for videlicet, which is Latin for “namely”.</p>

Common Designations in the Straits Settlements

Here are some of the official titles that you will encounter during your time transcribing. These titles were commonly used by the East India Company as well as the British Empire. The various responsibilities that come with the title are described below.

Esq/Esquire	A courtesy title usually placed in its abbreviated form after the surname.
Master Attendant	The head of a port.
Store Keeper	A person responsible for stored goods.
Pay Master	A person appointed by a group of investors or government to dispense commissions, fees or salaries.
Accountant General	The administrative head of the Treasury.
Lieutenant	An officer rank in the British army, above Second Lieutenant and below Captain.
Lieutenant Colonel/Lieut. Col.	An officer rank below a Colonel and above a Major.
Lieutenant Governor/Lieut. Gov.	The acting or deputy Governor of a state or province, under a Governor or Governor General.
Shipping Master	An official presiding over the signing-on and discharging of seamen.
Secretary/Secy	A person, usually an official, who is in charge of the records, correspondence, minutes of meetings, and related affairs of an organisation, company or association.
Court of Directors	The Directors of the East India Company.
Resident Councillor	The person responsible for each Settlement's day-to-day administration.
President in Council	The chief officer of the Privy Council, a body of officials and dignitaries chosen by the British monarch as an advisory council to the Crown usually functioning through its committees.

Notable Persons of the Straits Settlements

Here are the names of some important people (along with their titles and periods of service) to take note of.

Anderson, John (1795–1845)	Worked with the East India Company from 1813-1830. Acting Secretary to the Government of Penang was his last post before his return to London.
Beadon, Sir Cecil (1816-1880)	Home Secretary and Administrator to the Government of India and of Bengal. Resided in India from 1836-1866.
Bernard, Francis James (1796-1843)	Master Attendant. Publisher and Editor of the <i>Singapore Chronicle</i> , first issued in January 1824.
Blundell, Edmund Augustus (1804-1868)	Resident Councillor of Malacca (1847-1849), Governor of the Straits Settlements (1855 - 1859).
Bonham, Sir Samuel George (1803-1863)	Governor of the Straits Settlements (1837-1843) and the Governor of Hong Kong (1848-1854).
Campbell, George William Robert	Acting Lieutenant Governor of Penang (1872-1873).
Colonel Butterworth, William John (1801-1856)	Governor of the Straits Settlements (1843-1855).
Chapman, R. B.	Secretary to the Government of India.
Church, Thomas (1798-1860)	Resident Councillor of Singapore (1837-1856).
Edmonstone, Sir George Frederick (1813–1864)	Secretary to the Government of India and Administrator (1831-1863).

Farquhar, William (1774-1839)	Lieutenant Colonel, Resident Councillor of Singapore (1819-1823).
Garling, Samuel	Resident Councillor of Penang.
McNair, John Frederick Adolphus (1828–1910)	Executive Engineer & Off. Barrack Master, Superintendent of Convicts (1867-1869); colonial official and penal reformer.
Mooyer, Johannes (1830-1903)	Consul for Hamburg at Singapore.
Halliday, Sir Frederick James (1806–1901)	Lieutenant Governor of Bengal (1854-1868).
Hobson, James Phillip	Accountant and Auditor for Penang (1805).
Hull, L. Nelson	Acting Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor.
Ibbetson, Robert (1789–1860)	Deputy Resident of Singapore, Governor of the Straits Settlements (1830-1833).
Lushington, C. Hough	Secretary to the Government of India.
Maxwell, William Edward (1846-1897)	Commissioner at Penang (1869-1883), Acting Resident at Penang (1884-1889), Colonial Governor of the Straits Settlements (1893-1895).
Murchison, Kenneth (1794-1854)	Deputy Resident of Singapore (1827-1832), Governor of the Straits Settlements (1833-1836).
Pratt, John Henry (1809-1871)	Church of England clergyman and mathematician. Archdeacon of Calcutta (1850-1871).

Presgrave, Edward	Acting Superintendent of Wellesley Point. Resident Councillor of Singapore and Malay Translator.
Prince, John	Resident Councillor (1826-1827).
Protheroe, M	Deputy Secretary to Government Straits Settlements.
Raffles, Thomas Stamford (1781–1826)	Secretary to Governor, Resident at Bencoolen and the Founder of Singapore.
Swettenham, Sir Frank Athelstane (1850–1946)	Malay interpreter, assistant colonial Secretary in Singapore (1876-1882), Governor of the Strait Settlements (1901-1904).
Tan, Kim Seng (1805-1864)	Wealthy trader, property owner and philanthropist.
Vaughan, Jonas Daniel (1825-1891)	Assistant Resident Councillor (1861-1864) and Magistrate of Police in Singapore (1851-1869).
Woods, Robert Carr (1816-1875)	First Editor of the Straits Times.

Other Notable Persons of the Straits Settlements

Here is a list of people you might not come across as often in the Straits Settlements Records as those you have just seen, but their names can get a little hard to decipher at times, so here they are just in case!

Farquhar, Andrew

Flint, William

Lewis, W. T.

Maxwell, Montgomerie

Prendergast, Mr

Querios, Claude

Read, William Henry Macleod

Rogers, Frederic

Sherer, J. W

Solomon, Abraham

Terms and Expressions of the Colonial Era

The Straits Settlements existed during a period of massive trade, interaction and communication between different empires and native rulers. This is also known as the period of extensive colonization. Here are the words that were commonly used during this period as well as their various definitions.

Adjudication	The legal process of resolving a dispute.
Affidavit	A written statement of facts voluntarily made by a person under an oath or affirmation administered by an official authorised to do so by law.
Aide-de-camp	French for “assistant in the field”. A personal assistant or secretary to a person of high rank, usually a senior military or government officer, a member of a royal family, or a head of state.
Apothecary	A place that sells medicines and drugs.
Arrack	A strong alcoholic drink, usually distilled from fermented palm sap, rice, or molasses.
Archdeacon	A senior clergy position in Chaldean Catholic Church, Church of England, Syrian Malabar Nasrani, and some other Christian denominations, above that of most clergy and below a bishop.
Arrear	Money that is owed and should have been paid earlier. An arrearage refers to the debt that remains after part of an overdue debt has been paid.
Bale	A large wrapped or bound bundle of paper, hay, or cotton.
Batta	During the British Raj, Batta or Bhatta was a military term, meaning a special allowance made to officers, soldiers, or other public servants in the field.
Bailiff	A manager, overseer or custodian; a legal officer to whom some degree of authority or jurisdiction is given.
Bendahara	An administrative position in Malay kingdoms with a status comparable to a vizier before the intervention of European powers during the nineteenth century. A Bendahara was appointed by a sultan and was a hereditary post. The Bendahara and the sultan shared the same lineage.
Bill of Lading	A document issued by a courier which details a shipment of merchandize and gives title of that shipment to a specified party.
Brick Kilns	A furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying of bricks.
Cask	A large barrel-like container used for storing liquids, typically alcoholic drinks.

Cap.	Cap or capitulus, a Latin word for “chapter”, is used before a chapter number of laws of the United Kingdom and its colonies. Example: Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553). In some practices the full stop is omitted: Cap 553.
Capitan China/Kapitan China	A title given to leaders of overseas Chinese enclaves in Southeast Asia.
Chintz	Printed multi-coloured cotton fabric with a glazed finish, used for curtains and upholstery.
Chowkeydars/Chowkidars	Watchman, caretaker, gatekeeper; one who inhabits a “chowki”, police station or guard house.
Covenant	Agree by deed, lease or any form of legal contract.
Daffadar	The equivalent rank to sergeant in the cavalry of the British Indian Army.
Docket	A document or label listing the contents of a consignment or package.
Embankment	A wall or bank of earth or stone built to prevent a river flooding an area.
Freight	Goods carried by a vessel or vehicle, especially by a commercial carrier; cargo; a burden; a load.
Furlough	Temporary leave of some employees due to special needs of a company, which may be due to economic conditions at the specific employer or in the economy as a whole. Derived from the Dutch word “verlof”, meaning “leave of absence”.
Godown	A word for “warehouse”.
Gratis	Given or done for nothing; without charge; free.
Gutta percha	Gutta-percha is a name for a set of trees, mostly of the genus <i>Palaquium</i> , noted for their latex.
Humbly sheweth	A common law term used by petitioners, meaning “showing something to someone without being arrogant about it”.
Larceny	Theft of personal property.
Laksamana	A position within the armed forces, similar to the position of admiral in Malay sultanates and in present-day countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. The word “Laksamana” originated from Lakshmana, a figure in the Hindu epic Ramayana.

Mandamus	A judicial remedy in the form of an order from a superior court, to any government subordinate court, corporation, or public authority—to do (or forbear from doing) some specific act which that body is obliged under law to do (or refrain from doing)—and which is in the nature of public duty, and in certain cases one of a statutory duty.
Marauder	A person who marauds (the act of going about in search of things to steal or people to attack; raiding).
Naich/Naick	A tribe settled throughout the Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces of Pakistan.
Masonry	A trade or work of building with bricks or stone.
Ordnance	Mounted guns or artillery.
Privy Council	A formal body of advisers to the sovereign in the United Kingdom.
Pro tempore	A phrase often used to describe a person who acts as a locum tenens (placeholder) in the absence of a superior.
Prow	The forward most part of the ship's bow that cuts through water.
Remuneration	The compensation that one receives in exchange for the work or services performed.
Schooner	A sailing ship with two or more masts, typically with the foremast smaller than the mainmast.
Steamer	A ship, boat, or locomotive powered by steam.
Subpeona	A written order that commands someone to appear in court to give evidence.
Tamoongong/ Toomengong/ Toomoongoong/ Toomongong	An ancient Malay title signifying nobility, usually given to the chief of security. The Temenggong is also responsible for the safety of the King as well as the police and armed forces.
Viscount	A British nobleman ranking above a baron and below an earl.
Wakil	An Indonesian term meaning “deputy”.
Whitehall	The British government or its policies.
Writ	A formal written order issued by a body with administrative or judicial jurisdiction; in modern usage, this body is generally a court.
Wharf	A structure on the shore of a harbour or on the bank of a river or canal where ships may dock to load and unload cargo or passengers.

Currencies used during the Colonial Era

The exchange of currency was particularly crucial for successful trade within the Straits Settlements. As such, every transcriber needs to be familiar with the different types of currency used during the period. Here is a list of the most commonly mentioned currencies in the Straits Settlements Records!

Anna	A currency unit formerly used in India, equal to one sixteenth of a rupee.
D	Derived from the old Latin word “denarius”, a gold coin of the Roman Empire. Classical historians have established that one denarius was the daily wage for an unskilled worker or the common soldier.
Fanam	A currency used alongside the Rupee.
Pagoda	A currency of the Indian dynasties that was subsequently used by the British, the French and the Dutch during their colonial rule in India.
Real(singular)/ Reis(plural)	Real, a form of rupia, was one of the currencies of Portuguese India until 1958. 600 reis was equivalent to one rupia, which is equivalent to the Indian rupee.
Rupees	One of the currencies used in the British colonies. In 1837, the Indian rupee was made the sole official currency in the Straits Settlements as it was administered as part of India.
Sicca Rupees	A rupee issued in Bengal before 1836 that weighed more than a rupee of the British East India Company.
Spanish dollars/drs	The currency of the Straits Settlements from 1898 to 1939.
Stiver	Derived from the Dutch word “Stuiver”. It was a currency denomination used in Ceylon from 1801 to 1821. It was also a denomination that formed part of the currency system of Demerara-Essequibo (later British Guiana, now Guyana). A stiver had a value of one sixth of a shilling.

Units of Measurement used during the Colonial Era

The methods of calculation during the British administration of the Straits Settlements were very different from today's methods. Here are the various units of measurement that are mentioned in the Straits Settlements Records.

Barrel	The wine barrel is half a wine hogshead or an eighth of a tun. A tun is an English measure of capacity for wine and ale, believed to be equal to two hundred and fifty six gallons.
Catty	A traditional Chinese unit of mass used across East and Southeast Asia, notable for weighing food and other groceries in some wet markets, street markets, and shops.
Fathom	A unit of length equal to six feet (1.83 metres), used principally in the measurement and specification of marine depths.
Gallon	A unit of volume for liquid measure equal to eight pints.
Guilder	The basic monetary unit of the Netherlands, generally named after golden coins used during the medieval period.
Lakh/lacs	A unit in the Indian numbering system equal to one hundred thousand.
Orlong	A measure of surveying distance or of area, used in Penang Island. A square orlong is equal to about one and one-third acres.
Picul	A unit of mass used in China and Southeast Asia, typically used in the Silk Trade. Defined as "a shoulder-load", a picul is about one hundred and thirty-three pounds.
Puncheon	An English measure of capacity for wine, a third of a tun.
Tierce	Derived from Latin, meaning "third". An old English unit of volume equivalent to one third of a pipe, forty-two wine gallons or, a cask or vessel holding this quantity. A tierce is half a puncheon, a third of a butt or a sixth of a tun.
Tonnage	The cargo-carrying capacity of a ship.

Places of Interest in the Straits Settlements

Here is a list of the important places mentioned in the Straits Settlements Records. Some of these places were named differently in the past-- try to see if you can spot them!

Brass Bassah Brass Basah Bras Bassah	<p>“Beras” means harvested rice with the husk removed in Malay, and “basah” means wet. In the early days, wet rice was laid to dry in the area of Bras Basah on the channels of the “fresh water stream” (now covered by the Stamford Canal).</p>
Coramandel Coast	<p>The south-eastern coastal region of the Indian Subcontinent, between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal of the Indian Ocean.</p>
Campong China China Campong Market Campoong China	<p>The Chinese quarter in Singapore.</p>
Chuliah Campong/ Chuleah Campong	<p>An area marked out for the earliest immigrants from Southern India known to the first European merchants and officials as the Chulias. This site was probably located around Cross Street in Chinatown.</p>
Campong Glam/ Campoong Glam	<p>An estate located to the east of the nineteenth century European town in Singapore, between the Rochor River and the sea. Kampong Glam was land set aside for Sultan Hussein Mohamed Shah and 600 family members in 1823, upon his signing the treaty that ceded Singapore to the East India Company.</p>
Campong Jawa	<p>Present day Arab Street.</p>
Campong Malacca	<p>The Malacca quarter in Singapore.</p>
Fort Saint George	<p>Historically known as White Town, Fort Saint George was the first English fortress in India, founded in 1644 at the coastal city of Madras, now known as the city of Chennai.</p>

Fort William	A fort built in Calcutta on the eastern banks of the River Hooghly, the major tributary of the River Ganges, during the early years of the Bengal Presidency of British India.
Esplanade	A long open stretch of ground on the left bank of the Singapore River. The Esplanade was originally called the Plain, or the Padang which is Malay for field or open ground.
Horsburgh Lighthouse	A lighthouse that marks the eastern entrance to the Straits of Singapore, situated on Pedra Branca island. Horsburgh is Singapore's earliest lighthouse by date of completion and is named after Captain James Horsburgh, a Scottish hydrographer who helped map the seaways of Singapore in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.
Hotel de l' Esperance	The Hotel was located along the Esplanade in Singapore during the early twentieth century. It was closed in October 1932 and was subsequently demolished for the Supreme Court building.
Kidderpore/Khidirpur/Kidderpore	A neighbourhood of metropolitan Calcutta.
Mount Palmer	Also known as Mount Parsee (Parsi) or Parsee Hill, Mount Palmer was located near Tanjong Pagar and the bay of the early nineteenth century Telok Ayer Street. It is now known as Palmer Road.
Nuwera Ellia	Present day Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka.
Prince of Wales Island	Present day Penang.
Province Wellesley	Narrow hinterland opposite Penang Island on the Malay Peninsula.

<p>Tallok Ayer/ Tulloh Ayer/ Terloo Ayer/ Tulluoh Ayer/ Telluck Ayer/ Telloh Ayer/ Terloo Ayer</p>	<p>In Malay, Telok means “bay” and Ayer means “water”. Telok Ayer Street used to face the original seafront and served as a docking bay for the boats and sampans of early immigrants. Telok Ayer was designated a Chinese district by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1822 and gained prominence in the 1820s because it served as the landing ground for early Chinese immigrants.</p>
<p>Tannah Merah Tanah Merah</p>	<p>In the nineteenth century, red cliffs stood in the area known as Tanah Merah in Singapore. These cliffs were an important landmark for incoming ships along the Straits.</p>
<p>Tanjong Catong</p>	<p>Known as “turtle point” by the Malays. The Katong/Catong area was the main quarter for many Eurasians in the early twentieth century.</p>
<p>Tanjong Pagar</p>	<p>Known as the “cape of stakes” in Malay, Tanjong Pagar signifies the origins of a fishing village situated at the tip of the sea.</p>

Alphabet Style Guide for Further Reference

This list of examples extracted from the Straits Settlements Records will help you recognize more words when you are transcribing.

A	 (A)	 (Acting)	 (approval)	 (may)
B	 (B)	 (Balance)	 (beg)	 (absence)
C	 (C)	 (Council)	 (conducted)	
D	 (D)	 (Ditto)	 (directed)	
E	 (E)	 (Engineer)	 (enclosures)	

F *F* *Fort* *furnished* *information*
(F) (Fort) (furnished) (Information)

G *G* *Governor's* *good* *suggest*
(G) (Governor's) (good) (suggest)

H *H* *Hon'ble* *honor* *charges*
(H) (Hon'ble) (honor) (Charges)

I *I* *Island* *inform* *high*
(I) (Island) (inform) (high)

J *J* *January* *justify* *Rajah*
(J) (January) (justify) (Rajah)

K *K* *king* *keeping* *quickly*
(K) (King) (keeping) (quickly)

L *L* *List* *letter* *allowance*
(l) (List) (letter) (allowance)

M *M* *Marine* *much* *imported*
(M) (Marine) (much) (imported)

N *N* *Notice* *Natives* *any*
(N) (Notice) (natives) (any)

O *O* *Order* *opinions* *about*
(O) (Order) (opinions) (about)


P *P* *Public* *practice* *supply*
(P) (Public) (practice) (supply)

Q *Q* *Quarter* *quite* *requesting*
(Q) (Quarter) (quite) (requesting)

R	 (R)	 (Returns)	 (Relative)	 (direct)
S	 (S)	 (Sir)	 (state)	 (commissary)
T	 (T)	 (Treasury)	 (that)	 (Settlements)
U	 (U)	 (Ultimo)	 (usual)	 (your)
V	 (V)	 (Vessel)	 (voyage)	 (Bougainville)
W	 (W)	 (Wales)	 (which)	 (however)

X  *Extract* *expensive* *Executive*
(XXII) (Extract) (expensive) (Executive)

Y  *You* *years* *syllable*
(Y) (You) (years) (syllable)

Z  *Zenobia* *Civilization* *Chintz*
(Z) (Zenobia) (Civilization) (Chintz)

Notes

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