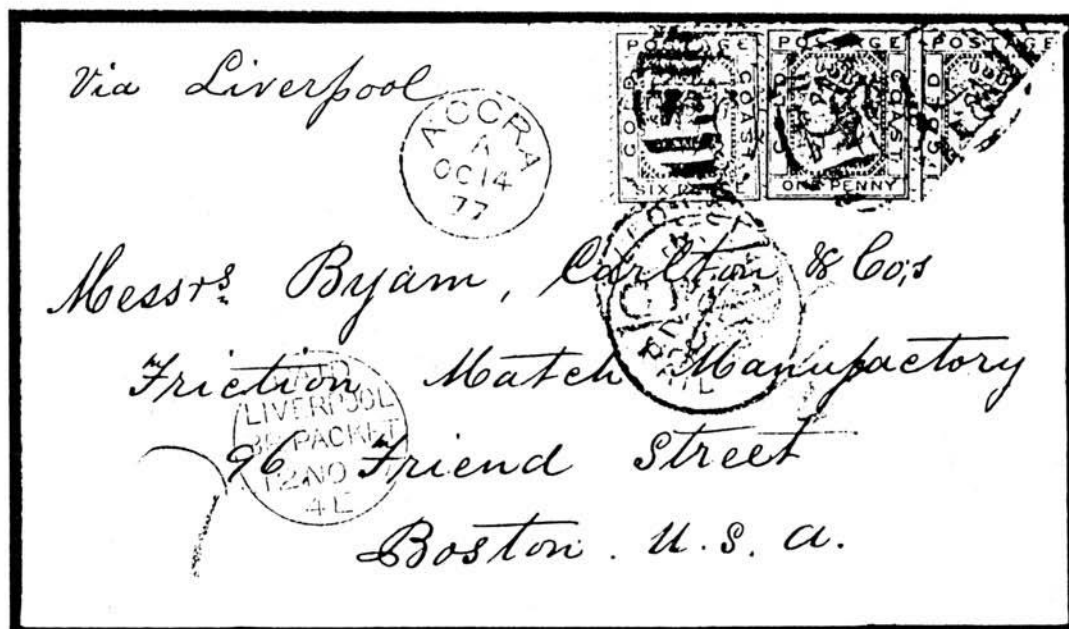


CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



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Front Cover Illustration

The Gold Coast 7½d rate to the USA is illustrated by this 14 October 1877 envelope which features a bisected 1d as no ½d stamps had been issued by this date. Kindly submitted by John Sacher.

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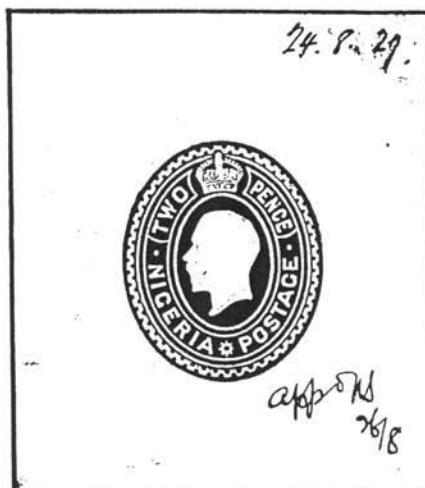
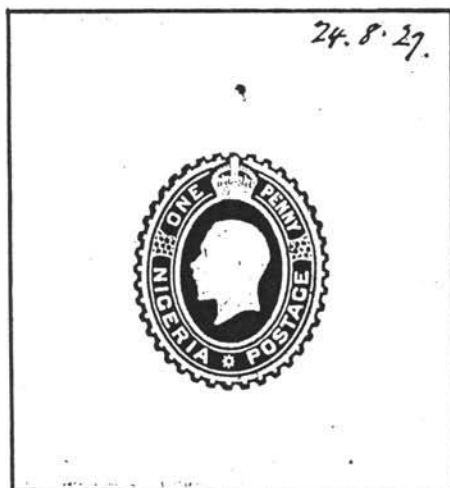
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Editorial

With the number of pages in each issue growing I have decided to close Volume 5 of *Cameo* with this edition. This will enable those members who have their journals bound to keep this volume roughly the same size as the previous ones. The first four volumes had 229, 218, 262 and 296 pages in respectively, each in ten issues. Volume 5 has 290 pages after just six editions, so a very large book was destined for the shelf unless we acted now. An index to the current volume is included at the back of this issue.

Going through the stock of articles inherited from my predecessors, there are several pieces missing the contributor's name that warrant publication. Some of these have been included in this issue, and if the authors recognise their work, I would be delighted to give them the appropriate acknowledgement in the next edition.

In this magazine there is another section of the notes made by Bob Maddocks during his original research in the Gambia Archives in Banjul; this series has brought to light many facets of postal history relating to the Gambia, particularly during World War II, and I'm sure members will appreciate Bob's efforts.

An article by a new member, Don Carter, compares and contrasts the ways in which Gibbons and Scott have treated the first issue of Sierra Leone. This piece highlights the underlying principles which are applied by the two catalogue publishers which will, I suspect, be news to many members.

Change of Editor's Addresses

Courtesy of the Post Office, I no longer live in Sheffield! I haven't actually moved, it is just that Dronfield has now grown sufficiently to be a post town in its own right; please note that my postcode has also changed. My new full address is given at the top of page 239. Whilst on the topic of changed addresses, I'm delighted to report that my email service provider can now handle meaningful names as well as numbers - so you can now get me at FrankWalton@compuserve.com. Both my old addresses will find me for some while to come.



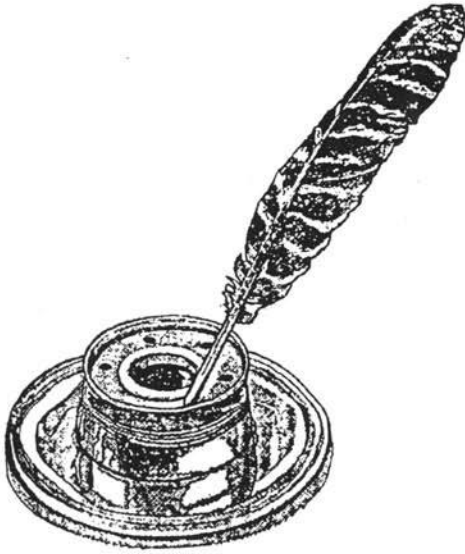
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Scope : The West Africa Study Circle covers The Gambia, Gold Coast, The Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Ascension, Cameroons, St. Helena, Togo and nearby British Postal Agencies.

Annual Subscription : £12 for UK members, and £14 for overseas members. There is an entry fee of £5 for new members. The subscription term is for calendar years.

Advertising Rates : Full page £35; half page £20. Members small advertisements 50p per square inch, plus a fee of 1% in the event of a sale; minimum fee £1.



Letters to the Editor

Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the Cameo editor in the first instance to enable a consolidated follow-up to be published in conjunction with the study editors as appropriate.

Correspondence on any subject is always most appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, telephone or email.

My addresses are listed on the front page of all Cameo issues.

Frank Walton

☰ Sierra Leone 2 / WIR Perfins

Dear Frank,

I can add further values and dates to those given in your articles in recent *Cameos* (Vol 5 p168 and p221). In my collection I have stamps of the Victorian keyplates as follows:

SG		Date used
31	2½d	2 Jun 1896 on cover
42	1d	2? Apr 1900
43	1½d	?? Oct 1897
45	2½d	30 Sep 1897 on cover
46	3d	4 Nov 1897

Frank von Hausen
Vancouver, Canada

◇ ◇ ◇

☰ Southern Cameroons UKTT Overprints

Dear Frank,

I am pleased to report that WASC member Mike Adams showed me at Stampex an unmounted mint block of six of the Type A 2d grey, being rows 9 & 10, stamps 1 to 3. The bad news is that he found them in Australia! So far these are the only reported copies apart from the two used items which started the study.

Rob May
Princes Risborough

◇ ◇ ◇

☰ Meter Marks

Dear Sir,

I have just joined your circle and only collect Meter Marks world-wide. I have examples from Cameroun, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Gold Coast and Nigeria. The latest Nigeria examples are believed to be forgeries. I would welcome correspondence and exchanges with other collectors of this material.

Gabe Pustel
PO Box 1345
Jackson, NJ 08527
United States

Editor's Note

Looking back through previous Cameos has found few, if any, articles on meter marks. Can anyone provide a general piece on their use in West Africa?

◇ ◇ ◇

☰ Viscount Swinton

Dear Frank,

One minor correction is called for to Bob Maddocks' excellent airmail article in the January 1997 *Cameo*. On page 208 he says the first Resident Minister in West Africa was Viscount Simon. This minister was in fact Viscount (later Earl) Swinton. Incidentally the senior member of the staff he brought with him from Britain,

Sandford, came from the Air Ministry and so was knowledgeable about aviation matters.

Michael Ensor
Blackheath

◇ ◇ ◇

Walter A. Large Postcards

Dear Frank,

Regarding the cover illustration on the January 1997 *Cameo*, I risk saying snap for I also have such a card. In addition I have one other entitled "The Coaster's Lament". This shows a group of gentlemen sitting at a table with an empty bottle of spirit. A parrot gives the warning "Palarver Come" - roughly translated as "Trouble Ahead". The cards come from The Coaster Series drawn by Walter A. Large, Nigeria. I have not been able to find out how many cards were in the series.

Bob Maddocks
Oswestry

◇ ◇ ◇

Sierra Leone Freetown-Bo TPO

Dear Frank,

I have noticed three varieties of the Freetown-Bo / Travelling Post Office circular datestamp (Walton Ref. 202.02, Beale Type 105). These are:

	Earliest	Latest
a) No code	14 May 1924	4 Oct 1939
b) Small * code	10 Mar 1937	26 Feb 1940
c) Large * code	30 Nov 1921	30 Apr 1925

The lettering on postmarks with the large star appears to be slightly taller and narrower than on the others. Did these marks have limited lifetimes, or did they all survive through the entire use of this datestamp (Walton gives 1918 to 1946) on this busy service? Could separate ones have been used on east-bound and west-bound trains? I have not noticed such differences with the Boia-Yonnie TPO. My Bo-Pendembu examples for the same period all have the same star with one displaced spoke, except for one with no code dated 13 March 1940. Any observations from other

members would be most welcome.

John Hossack
Leighton Buzzard

Editor's Note

*John has raised an interesting topic. From my own collection I can add one extended date, that of 18 November 1925 for the large * type.*

◇ ◇ ◇

Sierra Leone Stories

Dear Frank,

Thank you for the mention of our e-zine on the internet the *Sierra Leone Stamp Collector* in your last editorial. One regular feature that is in each issue is "My Story" where a collector shares with other readers a personal anecdote relating to his or her collecting of Sierra Leone stamps. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be able to contribute an article of 150-200 words.

Don Carter
Co-Editor SLSC
Muskego, USA
email : doncart@mail.execpc.com

Editor's Note

I can thoroughly recommend the SLSC web site on the internet. It can be found at:

<http://sapphire.surgery.wisc.edu/stamps/index.html>

◇ ◇ ◇

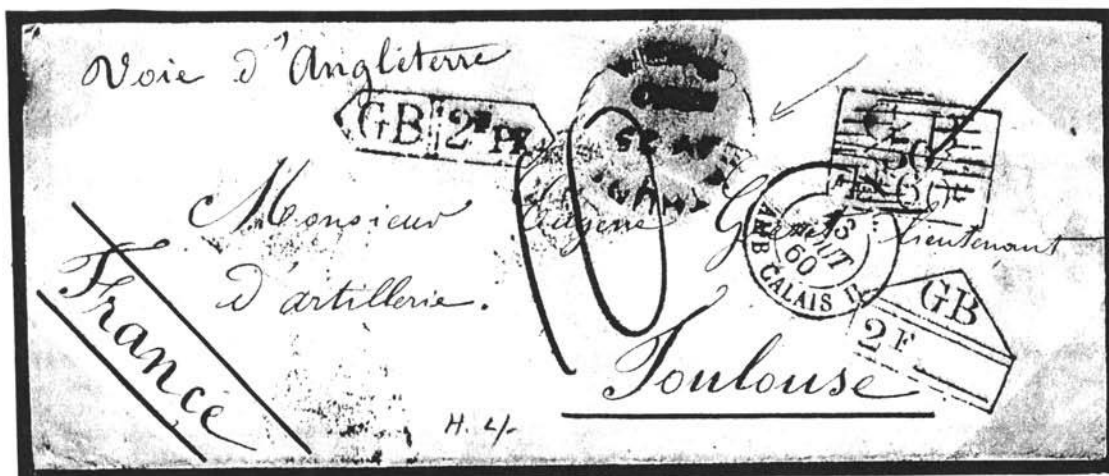
Article on Senegal Collecting

Dear Frank,

Members interested in Senegal may appreciate an article I came across in the June 1996 edition of *Stamp Chronicle*, a magazine published in English from France. The piece is called "How to collect stamps from the French Colonies : Senegal". A copy of this seven page article has been provided for the WASC Library.

Jeremy Martin
Salisbury

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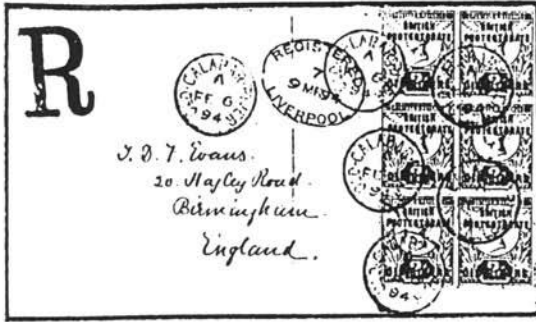
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(1)



23 AUG. 12

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(2)

1. NIGER COAST, 1894. Registered cover to England bearing a block of six of the G.B. Jubilee issue 2d overprinted "BRITISH/PROTECTORATE/OIL RIVERS", cancelled by "OLD CALABAR RIVER" c.d.s. £400.
2. SIERRA LEONE, 1912. Die Proof of the duty-plate for the 10/- value, printed in black on glazed card, stamped "AFTER HARDENING" and dated "23 Aug 12". £250.
3. TOGO, 1961. Admission of Togo into the United Nations. Group of six De La Rue die proofs, 30c, 50c, 1f, 10f, 25f & 30f, all printed in issued colours on white glazed cards. (Not illus.) £150.

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Auction Reports

Lagos and Niger Coast - Lots 393 to 536 Stanley Gibbons Sale 21 March 1997, report by Jack Ince.

By courtesy of David Crocker I am able to report on some exceptional material which was on offer at this auction and which is described in some detail in the catalogue. I am sure that the describers will forgive me if I note that frequent reference was made to the Ince and Sacher book *The Postal Service of the British Nigeria Region*. Not having been present at the sale one can only judge from the prices realised that the rare opportunity to acquire some exceptional material was readily appreciated. All prices are quoted exclusive of a 15% buyers' premium and VAT.

The first item, lot 393, was a cover of 22 Oct 1855 from Doncaster, England redirected to Lagos with an 1847-59 1s pale green adhesive with good margins. This sold at £1400 (valuation £1500/1700), a huge appreciation over a valuation earlier in this decade. Lot 396 comprised a historical mourning cover to Woolwich from Sierra Leone with the manuscript message "*Prometheus has hoisted the British flag*" (at Lagos). Dated 21 Aug 1851, this reached estimate at £1500. Perhaps, at least to your scribe, one of the most fascinating items was lot 400, described as an essay and illustrated in colour on the front cover of the catalogue. There is depicted a seated Britannia on a headland with a three masted schooner at sea and a palm tree with an African child seated beneath and, in the margin, the inscriptions SIXPENCE and LAGOS WEST AFRICA. Above the watercolour in manuscript is "*Design of stamps required but to be reduced to the size of other postage stamps*" and below "*To be returned to Crown Agents. R.V.C.*". Reference to this item is made by Ince & Sacher (p61) and in *Cameo* (Vol. 2 p53). While no verification on authenticity has as yet been found in the De La Rue records, bidders were sufficiently satisfied to enable the hammer price to reach the top end of the valuation at £2200. Of the die proofs, one of three known copies of the master die (lot 401) failed to reach reserve. On the other hand lot 410 comprising the ½d series of ten perforated colour trials from De La Rue sold at double estimate at £1800.

The next excitement arose in the bidding for lot 432, a cover to India from the 1895 Lagos Hinterland Expedition endorsed "*No stamps available*". This realised £2000 matching an estimate of £1800/£2000.

Lot 441 reached the surprising price of £1100 (est. £400/£440). The stamps on the cover were 1s SG 9 and 4d SG 14, but the attraction was the rare strike in red of REGISTERED LETTER (58 x 5mm).

The level of bidding reached new heights with offerings of the Old Calabar provisionals of Oil Rivers. All the items comprising lots 459 to 480 were sold, more or less in line with generous estimates. Several individual lots reached high prices:

		Realised	Estimate
Lot 467	Type 6 vert. surch. ½d on 2½d in vermilion in pair with normal Type 7 (SG 19e, 21)	£2800	£2000/2200
Lot 468	Type 7 surch. diagonal and inverted ½d on 2d in pair with normal (SG 20, 20a)	£1800	£2000/2200
Lot 473	Type 9 surch. ½d on 2½d strip of three with centre stamp vermilion & others green surcharge	£2200	£2500/2700
Lot 479	Type 12 5s on 2d (SG 40)	£4600	£3400/3600
Lot 480	Type 12 10s on 5d (SG 41)	£3400	£3000/4000

Comment must be made on lot 471, a block of four 2½d (SG 4) used with a Forcados type 1 cds. This was incorrectly described as the double ring cancel; the so called double rings were caused by a rolling motion by the user, no double ring cds exists for this type 1 cancel. The lot reached £420 (est. £300/400).

After all this drain on bidders' pockets, prices realised tended to recede to more acceptable levels (for most

folk!) as the Niger Coast came on offer. The 1894 colour trials of Jan and May generally sold in line with estimates.

Three other gems, very probably unique, were on offer in the Niger Coast as lots 514-6. The first was the 1897-8 values 6d, 2s 6d and 10s perf. 15 in strips of five overprinted SPECIMEN. These are the largest multiples possible and sold at £500 (est. £700/800). Lot 515 was a punched printers' file sheet of the 2s 6d value which went for £1600 (est. £1200/1400); the main attraction here was that each stamp in row 1 was overprinted CONSULAR in red, while row 2 was overprinted SPECIMEN in black. Lot 516 was a complete imperf. file sheet of the 10s value with punch holes; it sold at £1900 (est. £1000/1200).

The realisations in this sale, even when sold below estimate, reflected the keen interest which continues in this type of material. The large increases in valuations which have taken place, some of which were substantial over a span of five years, indicate the levels to which some collectors are prepared to go even in a period of low inflation.

Gambia - Lot 345 Robert Siegel Sale 6 May 1997, report by Charles Leonard.



- Lot 345 GAMBIA, 1869 6d Blue (Scott 2; SG 3a). Large margins all round, deep shade on bright paper, tied by red "PD" in circle, red "A GAMBIA AU 18 69" cds on small cover to Mangiet, France, blue "Victor Barrere. Bathurst, Riviere Gambie, Cote Occidentale D'Afrique" oval hs, red London Paid cds and matching "PD" in circle tying stamp, red "8" crayon, Calais transit cds and French receiving backstamps. Very Fine, choice and extremely rare use of Gambia first issue, with 1958 P.F. certificate.... Est. \$5,000-7,500.

Courtesy of Stewart Duncan, I can give details of a splendid 1869 envelope from Gambia to France. The estimate of \$5000-7500 was, in my opinion, somewhat conservative but even so the final realisation was surprising to say the least. It fetched an enormous \$26,000 (approximately £16,500) + 10% buyer's premium and I now accept that unless I win the National Lottery I will never own anything similar!

The cover poses a number of queries. The 6d stamp is nicely tied by the red "PD" (Paid to Destination), presumably applied at the London Foreign Branch Office, but wasn't 6d the rate to Great Britain? What was the rate to France (8d rings a bell, but I'm not sure), and what is the significance of the red manuscript "8"?

Can any member produce a copy of the letter from the GPO to Bathurst (see *The Gambia handbook*, page 3 paragraph 9) of March 1858, or otherwise explain?



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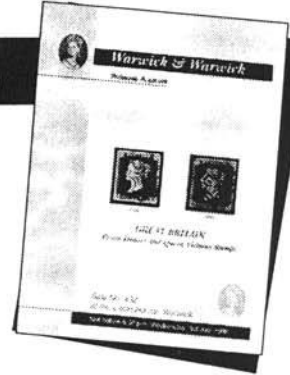
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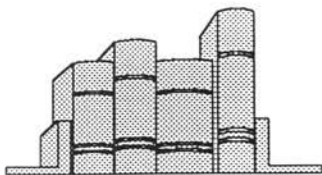
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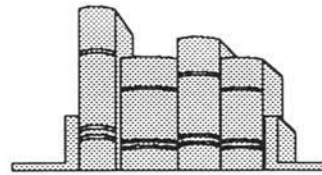
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Bookshelf



New Books



King George V Key Plate Issues of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design by Peter Fernbank.

ISBN 0-9525687-2-1, 492 A4 pages, hardbound, published by West Africa Study Circle. Price £48 retail, £40 to WASC members, p&p £4 in UK. Available from Peter Fernbank, 128 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, United Kingdom OX16 7BL. For postage to other places and for prices in US dollars, please contact Peter Fernbank. This book covers all seventeen British Colonies that used the George V De La Rue small keyplate design and publishes for the first time a huge amount of information that has been extracted from the De La Rue and Crown Agent archives. A full review will be published in the next *Cameo*, but from your editor's initial impression of the huge amount of data provided it represents a stunning piece of research and is marvellous value at the price quoted for such an extensive book.



Sierra Leone Picture Postcards by Terence Dickinson.

ISBN 0-9525687-3-X, 146 pages, perfect bound, published by West Africa Study Circle. Price £15 retail, £12 to WASC members, p&p £1 in United Kingdom. Available from the WASC Hon. Librarian. Reviewed by Dudley Ingoldby-Williams:

Collectors who have dabbled in the postcards of the British West Africa Colonies will know that they present a fascinating insight into the life of those territories - particularly during the "Golden Era" of around 1900 to 1914 when the production of picture postcards was prolific. This is true in particular of Sierra Leone because of its importance as a coaling station and as a port-of-call for steamers bound to and from the French, German and Belgium colonies - and indeed the unique nature of Freetown stemming from its historical foundation.

Even a modest collection exposes the large number of publishers / photographers involved and the wide variety of designs produced - from the earliest cards with "Address Only" on one side and a reduced picture on the other, leaving room only for a short message around the margins. When the outdated restrictions were lifted, the current "divided back" design became common from about 1905. Terence Dickinson has completed an awe-inspiring task in resolving the maze of publishers and designs with such clarity. Listing some 2100 cards of which some 480 do not reveal the publisher's identity. With a thorough index of texts, the book enables any particular card to be identified with comparative ease. This work would prove essential in attempting to form a collection of a specific publisher, or of following a particular theme - such as military, railways or buildings. To any member interested in Sierra Leone postcards, this book must be on the library shelf.



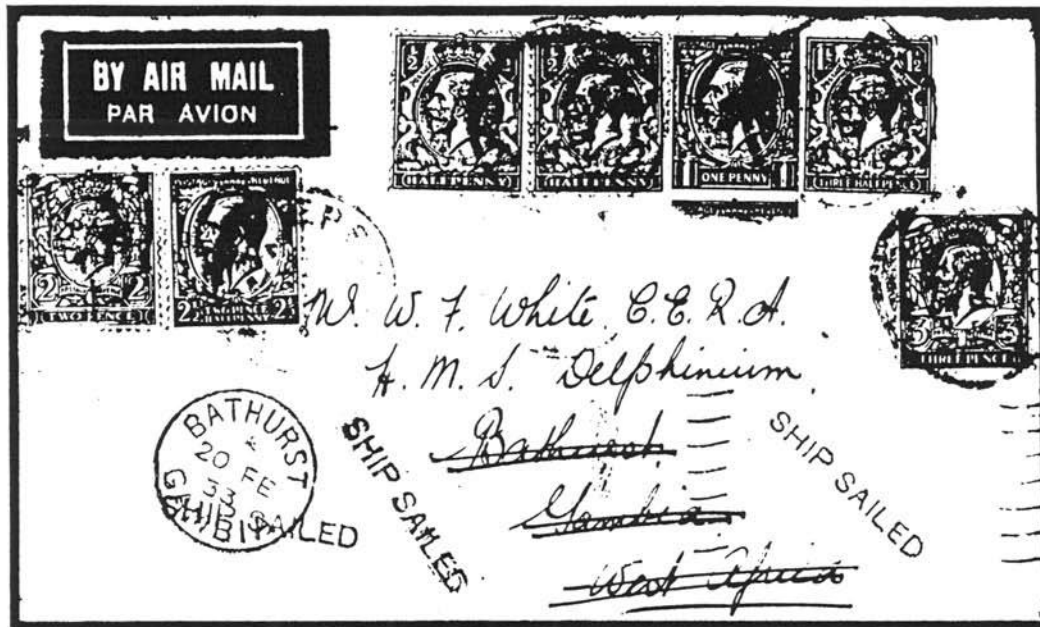
The Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue 1997 (17th Edition)

ISBN 1-901624-005, A5 format, hardbound, published by Murray Payne Ltd. Price £28, p&p £2 in United Kingdom, enquiries welcome for other p&p rates. Payment accepted in £ or US\$ cheques, or by Mastercard or Visa. Available from Murray Payne Ltd., PO Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, United Kingdom BS26 2EW.

This new edition of a longstanding publication by one of our dealer-members contains a re-written listing for some countries, with numerous items being listed for the first time and corrections being made. There has been a comprehensive re-pricing throughout.

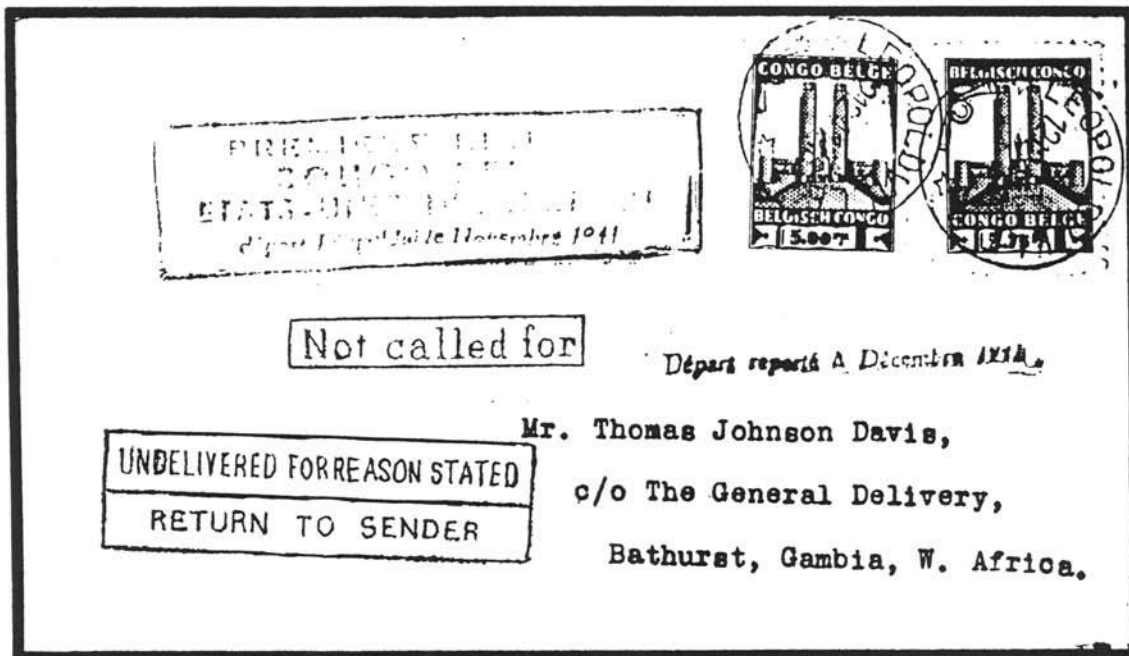
Gambia Additional Instructional Marks

Stewart Duncan



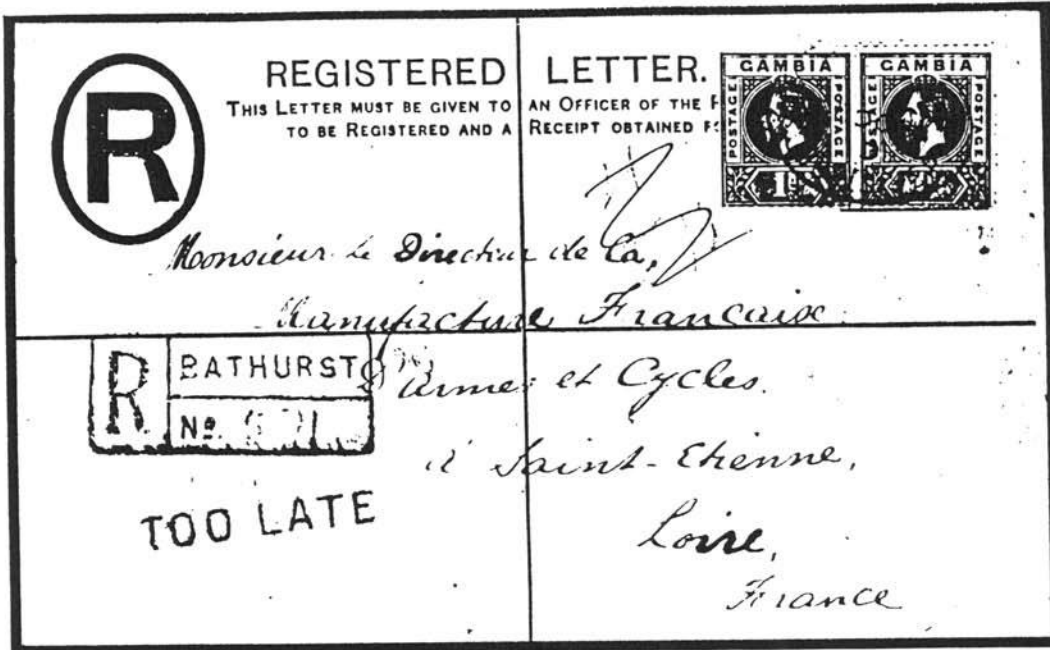
SHIP SAILED (29 x 3mm) - 20 February 1933

Airmail sent to the Chief Engine-room Artificer on board the Flower Class sloop *HMS Delphinium* at Bathurst (and presumably arriving too late). This class of vessel was built during World War I as a "Q" ship and was used afterwards to patrol the four corners of the Empire.



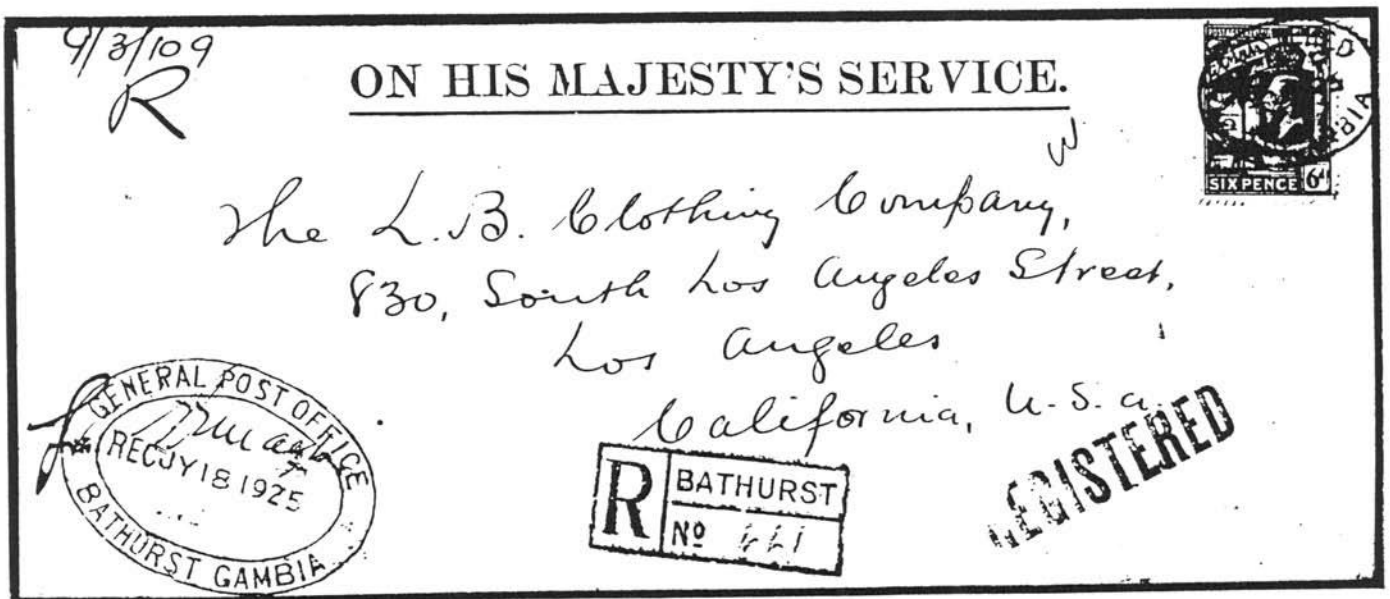
Not called for (Boxed, 43 x 7mm) - December 1941

FAM 22 mail from the Belgian Congo to Gambia. The UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED etc is already known from a few strikes, eg 11 September 1953.



TOO LATE (34 x 5mm) - October 1920

Registered letter to France sent 4 October 1920 and received at Liverpool on 17 October and London the following day. This mark may have been applied in the UK, perhaps being too late for a Channel ferry?



* GENERAL POST OFFICE * / REC <date> / BATHURST GAMBIA (Double oval 52 x 37mm) - 18 July 1925

Registered OHMS letter received 18 July 1925 and registered 19 July, one day later. Was this a successor to one of the "RECEIVED" datestamps of earlier?

Gambia Queen Elizabeth 3d Variety?

Mike Roberts

A very ordinary looking Nigeria cover from 1954 came amongst a job lot at auction; this was put to one side for some months as being of no particular interest. Recently however I found time look at it in more detail, and discovered the delightful contents as being a letter from one keen philatelist to another. Extracts from the letter read:

*Civil Secretary's Office
Kaduna
N. Nigeria*

23rd Sept. (1954)

Dear Dick,

I have a note in my diary, made when I saw you last leave, that you wanted a copy of the lighter blue Falkland Islands 1/- KGV (No. 105a in S.G. catalogue), and that I promised to look one out for you. Here it is at last. Sorry the gum on the back is not better, but I have got rather low on spares of that 1/- and this is the best of those I still have. I did also say that I would try, when the boat called at Bathurst on the way out, to try and get some sheets of the new 3d Gambia Q.E. to show the retouches in the after rigging of the vessel pictured on that stamp. The Post Office authorities who came aboard only brought a limited quantity of stamps, and would not let me have anything like a sheet. However, I send herewith a used pair, in which I think it is possible to detect slight differences for your amusement.

You may have seen that there has been a reprinting of the ½d Gold Coast Q.E. with a noticeable difference in the colour. I haven't seen yet whether S.G. are going to list it, but if they do the older ½d will presumably be worth keeping. Herewith a used copy in case you have not got one.

There are said to be minor shade differences in new printings of the Nigeria 1d & 4d. I can't see it myself, but send you one or two of the new ones in case you can. On the other hand I do think I see a slight difference in some of the 2d ones, and I send a few of these too. All these are what they call "fine used" and there is no possibility of any colour difference you can detect being due to fading.

Yours,

Michael

The letter is addressed to R. Blgrave (?) Esq., Reading, but the writer's surname is not present. It is possible that some of the WASC's senior members may be able to identify the author, who was clearly a keen collector.

The reference to the "rigging re-touch" is most intriguing as I have not heard of this variety before. Can anyone shed any light on this topic?

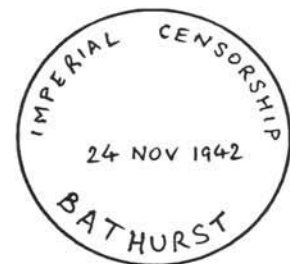
Local & Imperial World War II Censorship in Gambia

Bob Maddocks

The following notes were made from various files to be found in the National Archives in Bathurst, and are reproduced by the kind courtesy of the Archivist.

- 2 Sep 1939 Gambia Gazette - Governor appointed Mr M. Aucklinleck (Receiver General, Posts and Telegraphs (P&T)) to be censor and Mr R.C. Allen (Director of Education and Information Officer) to be Assistant Censor of postal matter and telegrams. It was notified for public information that censorship has been imposed in respect of all postal packets and telegrams of any description whatsoever that may be in course of or intended for transmission to or through any place outside of the Gambia. Also appointed Officer in Charge of Cable and Wireless to act as Censor's Assistant or Deputy Assistant Censor.
- 5 Sep 1939 Aucklinleck requested the appointment of Assistant Censors; on the same date the following were appointed:- F.J.C. Palmer and K.C. Jacobs (General Assistants), W. Hayward (Special Commercial Correspondence), I.B.M Jobe (Arabic) and Mrs A. Skinner (French).
- 19 Oct 1939 Governor of Gambia (GG) to Secretary of State for the Colonies (SSC) - herewith specimen of local 'Opened by Censor' tape and 'Passed by Censor' stamp. *[Note: these are Type 1 (p22) and Type 5 (p21) respectively of Martin & Walton's West African Censorship.]*
- 14 Feb 1940 Controller of P&T - List drawn up of addresses known to be suspect of being used as undercover addresses (47 foolscap pages, not just those in West Africa).
- 24 Jul 1940 Censors - Appointments of Allen, Hayward and Skinner cancelled owing to absence from the Colony. Bishop of the Gambia and Mr Justice Grey appointed censors in the colony.
- 1 Jan 1941 SSC to GG - Mail smuggling in neutral ships especially Portuguese is causing concern to Ministry of Economic Warfare. Consignee mail and ship's boxes are sometimes used for this purpose. Ensure these are examined immediately before ships sail for neutral ports.
- 24 Feb 1941 GG to SSC - from P&T Censorship HQ - for information of local postal censorship future 'Examination' labels should be printed locally where possible.
- 19 Mar 1941 Censors - R.C. Allen and E.H. Horfleet took over duties as Censor and Assistant Censor respectively at the end of February 1941.
- 3 Oct 1941 Colonial Secretary Bathurst to Public Works Department - Pan-american ground staff expected. Also 150 officials from censorship branch of Ministry of Information will be stationed in Bathurst towards the end of the year. (This was to staff the Imperial Censor Station to examine transit mails from the PanAm South Atlantic flights due to begin in December 1941. P.W.D. said that they cannot accommodate.)
- 9 Jan 1942 P&T Censorship Staff Imperial Censor Station, Gambia - Advance party of six left England as E. Jacobs (D.A.C.), K.M. Quintuba (Clerical Officer), R.G. Bale (Examiner), M.W. Cramb (Examiner, Spanish reader), M. McFarlane (Examiner, Spanish and Portuguese) and F.E. Warren (Examiner, German, French and Dutch). GG told that they would not be taking over the terminal mails and would be handling primarily the transit mails. He wrote to the Colonial Office to the effect that he would like the team to take over all censorship in the Gambia to include the terminal mails and volumous official correspondence which the Chief Censor, R.C. Allen, has to open at present. There would be little work for the six Imperial censors to do on transit mail - one days work every two months re PanAm service and on Portuguese mails en route between Bissau and Lisbon (ship calls infrequently and carries little mail). The reply was that censorship of terminal mail must remain with Chief Censor.

- 17 Jan 1942 GG to SSC - Agree advance party to take over duties now performed by Chief Censor and small staff of part-time assistants examining (a) all transit mails (b) cuttings and documents and (c) letters taken from crews and passengers of ships. Terminal mails still remain under the responsibility of Mr Allen.
- 14 Feb 1942 Mr E. Jacobs (of advance party, not to be confused with K.C. Jacobs of the Gambia) - took over from R.C. Allen all cyphers etc. His office was immediately behind the General Post Office. First essential was to concentrate on unofficial mails emanating from Latin America and to extract all "Watch List" items. He was told that he need not as a rule open all bags from U.S.A. and that he must not interfere with official Brazilian mails.
- 2 Mar 1942 "Blanketing" (ie P&T Censorship HQ in London) to Chief Censor, Bathurst re examination of first Clipper transit mail - Expected aeroplane may carry about 700kg of mail from USA and 200kg from Brazil. Please prepare to carry out proposals in telegram on Government business [not seen] ensuring mail for Europe sent by same Clipper. Important as thorough an examination as possible be made in time available. Get assistance from local censorship and other local resources. Concentrate on mail for Europe. Leave any Africa mail for the Africa censors as far as possible and advise these stations. All, repeat, all "Watch List" letters to be sent to HQ. Send intercepted original material with all submissions to UK by BOAC. Cable brief results of examination and report in detail by airmail later including weight, destination and country of origin of all mails indicating which have been examined. Report also diplomatic mail carried.
- 9 Mar 1942 Jacobs to Blanketing, report following examination of the first Clipper mails passing through Bathurst - PanAm Clipper mail consisted on ten bags Buenos Aires to Lisbon containing letters to seven European countries; USA mail not seen. Only one hour for examination so rushed through all unofficial mail. No proper examination possible; practically all letters private. All mail released except for enemy and enemy occupied territories. Would not be diplomatic to release innocent letters to the latter. Mr Ward (?) Adams will explain the delay; he is also endeavouring to arrange for the Clipper to call here regularly. He has promised that letters from the Brazilian Government to their representatives in enemy countries must not be stopped.
- 20 Oct 1942 Acting Censor In Charge Imperial Censorship Detachment, Bathurst to Chief Censor, London - touching on impending transfer of detachment to Lagos, stated that main work of the detachment at present consists of censorship of terminal and military mail. Military mail censorship could be discontinued at any time and that terminal mail is the concern of the local government.
- 24 Nov 1942 IMPERIAL CENSORSHIP / <date> / BATHURST handstamp - as seen on plain paper in file. Drawn for guidance only as size of skeleton ring and letters were not measured but probably 35mm and 2mm respectively, with BATHURST 3mm.
- 18 Dec 1942 Chief Censor (R.C. Allen, Director of Education) to Colonial Secretary - a short account of past and present position of censorship in the Gambia.
- "1. Outbreak of war - censorship of terminal mail and cables instituted for purposes of colonial security. Staff consisted of part time censors one of whom, the Agent of Elder Dempsters, dealt only with mail in ship's boxes. The arrangement for dealing with terminal mail was that of the Chief Censor and censors took a week's duty each in turn during which the one on duty dealt with any inward terminal mail as it arrived and went for about an hour each day to the Post Office to deal with outward mail. If the incoming mail was large the man on duty called for the assistance of other censors. Letters infringing Colonial Security and Defence Regulations etc were dealt with appropriately but there was no question of carrying out all the regulations of Imperial Censorship such as the sending of "submission slips" to London in accordance with Ministerial requirements or of keeping massive records etc. Consequently the office work falling on the Chief Censor was not unduly heavy.



2. At the time I took over here the censorship staff had begun at the request of Blanketing, London to deal with some of the transit mail on Portuguese steamers - a task which was carried out with certain amount of difficulty. After a time Blanketing sent out their high and low grade cyphers and gradually increased their demands on staff here for records, submission certificates and coding and decoding cables until we were regarded as an Imperial Censorship Unit with nothing to do but censor work. The position was rapidly becoming impossible when the Imperial Censor Unit arrived here [*Note - this was in February 1942*]. The Unit became ostensibly to deal with the transit Pan American airmail but, as it happened for a short period of a couple of months or so they have had little to do beyond censoring of terminal mail; even the transit of Portuguese mail ceased soon after their arrival. Having consequently plenty of time on their hands they dealt with terminal mail strictly in accordance with Blanketing's requirements and have built up an extensive system of records, statistics and submissions to London etc as indeed they should. Blanketing have treated them in their capacity of a full time Censorship Unit and expected these things. Blanketing also expected them to deal with the quantities of cables in censorship cypher which, though in many cases they did not concern the work of the unit here, are sent to all such units for record purposes.
3. If the unit is now to be withdrawn a procedure similar to that outlined in paragraph 1 could possibly be carried out here by myself with the assistance of one or two other people, if available. You suggest Mr Andrews, ARP Officer, might be one assistant. Even this work could only be done however under the following conditions:
 - a) that we do not send Blanketing either records or statistics or submission slips except when a submission is considered absolutely essential by the Chief Censor
 - b) that Blanketing reduce their correspondence to a minimum
 - c) that cables concerning censorship sent here, if any, should be on matters of urgent concern to the colony and that if such cable is necessary it should be sent through the Secretary of State in Government cypher.
4. I cannot refrain from adding that the position needs bludgeoning into Blanketing with considerable force. Eighteen months experience of their methods have left me with an opinion of that department which could not well be lower.
5. Since writing the above I have spoken with Mr K.C. Jacobs, Receiver General, who as you may be aware was Chief Censor before he had to hand over to me owing to the fact that he had too many other duties, notably that of Food Controller with which to deal. The Receiver General agrees with this minute and has been kind enough to offer, now that he has been relieved of many of these duties, to take over the duties of Chief Censor or to act as an Assistant Censor. In view of this may I suggest that if and when the Imperial Censorship Unit leave, censorship here should be carried out by the following part time officials: Chief Censor - R.C. Jacobs (Receiver General), Assistant Censors - R.C. Allen (Dept. of Education) and Mr Andrews (ARP Officer). Mr Haywood would of course continue to examine Ships' Boxes and Mr Bailey would continue as Cable Censor under the supervision of the Chief Censor. Incidentally I might add here that I anticipate that before I go on leave I shall have cleared up my pressing matters regarding Education at this time eg annual examinations, grants, expansion of educational programmes etc. The person who relieves me will probably have more time than I have at present to devote to censorship work."

28 Dec 1942 GG to SSC - advised quite impossible to carry out all regulations of Imperial Censorship.

19 Jan 1943 SSC to GG - Censorship Department have agreed to keep communication to a minimum. Co-operate in as far as is possible with staff available.

The Imperial Censorship Station at Bathurst was reported as closed by 12 March 1943 though most of the personnel if not all of the detachment from London had probably moved to Lagos at the end of 1942.

Sale of Gambia Stamps Aboard Elder Dempster Ships

Bob Maddocks

The following correspondence and information in respect of the above were found in the National Archives, Banjul and are reproduced by kind courtesy of the Archivist. On 30 June 1932, a letter from the Agent, Elder Dempster to the Acting Colonial Secretary, Bathurst:

“I have been asked on several occasions on board our Express Mail Steamers to obtain a set of Gambia postage stamps for passengers aboard.

In most instances there is insufficient time for passengers to come ashore and purchase them. Again very often the Post Office is closed whilst the vessel is in port, particularly homeward bound.

I was informed on the last mail steamer that at Sierra Leone a Post Office official boards every mail vessel and in addition to ordinary postage stamps for sale he carries sets of Postage Stamps for collectors and it is not uncommon to dispose of stamps to the value of £20 aboard.

In order to meet the wishes of passengers might I ask for your kind cooperation in making a similar arrangement to that in vogue at Freetown. I feel sure that the Revenue to be obtained will compensate the Post Office for detailing the official to sell postage stamps aboard.”

The request was referred by the Acting Colonial Secretary to the Receiver General, Posts and Telegraphs who replied on 1st July 1932 to the effect that:

“It was a good suggestion and well worth giving it a trial for 6 months; subject to His Excellency’s approval an officer of the department would go on board *MV Apapa* due at Bathurst 7th July 1932.”

Elder Dempster were advised accordingly. A report was made annually by the Post & Telegraphs on the sale of postage stamps on board mail boats lying at anchor in the port of Bathurst from 1932 to June 1938 when the ship’s purser took over the duty of stamp vendor. The first and last reports are detailed below; the increased value of sales is self-evident.

July to December 1932				January to June 1938			
Ship			Value of Stamps Sold	Ship			Value of Stamps Sold
<i>MV Apapa</i>	7 Jul 1932	Outwards	£1 18s 0d	<i>MV Aba</i>	8 Jan 1938	Homewards	6s 9d
<i>MV Appam</i>	15 Jul 1932	Homewards	£4 14s 2d	<i>MV Apapa</i>	14 Jan 1938	Outwards	£11 13s 0d
<i>MV Accra</i>	4 Aug 1932	Outwards	10s 5d	<i>MV Accra</i>	28 Jan 1938	Outwards	£9 6s 7½d
<i>MV Appam</i>	12 Aug 1932	Homewards	£7 16s 10d	<i>MV Apapa</i>	Feb 1938	Homewards	£6 7s 8d
<i>MV Apapa</i>	1 Sep 1932	Outwards	£2 10s 7d	<i>MV Abasso</i>	17 Feb 1938	Outwards	£12 18s 6d
<i>MV Adda</i>	9 Sep 1932	Homewards	17s 10d	<i>SS Almanzora</i>	17 Feb 1938	Outwards	£32 11s 1d
<i>MV Accra</i>	29 Sep 1932	Outwards	£4 10s 4½d	<i>MV Accra</i>	18 Feb 1938	Homewards	£4 15s 8½d
<i>MV Appam</i>	7 Oct 1932	Homewards	£4 1s 5½d	<i>MV Abasso</i>	11 Mar 1938	Homewards	£9 3s 9½d
<i>MV Accra</i>	20 Oct 1932	Homewards	£4 9s 1½d	<i>MV Accra</i>	17 Mar 1938	Outwards	£11 2s 9d
<i>MV Apapa</i>	28 Oct 1932	Outwards	£3 1s 3½d	<i>MV Apapa</i>	7 Apr 1938	Outwards	£6 19s 1½d
<i>MV Apapa</i>	18 Nov 1932	Homewards	£1 16s 2d	<i>MV Accra</i>	8 Apr 1938	Homewards	£2 16s 3d
<i>MV Accra</i>	24 Nov 1932	Outwards	£1 12s 0d	<i>RMS Atlantis</i>	13 Apr 1938	Homewards	£21 18s 2½d
<i>MV Accra</i>	15 Dec 1932	Homewards	£1 14s 9½d	<i>MV Apapa</i>	29 Apr 1938	Homewards	£16 3s 5d
<i>MV Apapa</i>	22 Dec 1932	Outwards	£1 12s 10½d	<i>MV Accra</i>	5 May 1938	Outwards	£7 5s 7½d
				<i>MV Apapa</i>	26 May 1938	Outwards	£6 13s 6½d
				<i>MV Accra</i>	27 May 1938	Homewards	£8 17s 0d
				<i>MV Apapa</i>	17 Jun 1938	Homewards	£12 8s 0½d
				<i>MV Accra</i>	23 Jun 1938	Outwards	£12 0s 4½d
		Total	£41 5s 11d			Total	£193 7s 5½d
		Average	£2 19s 0d			Average	£10 14s 10d

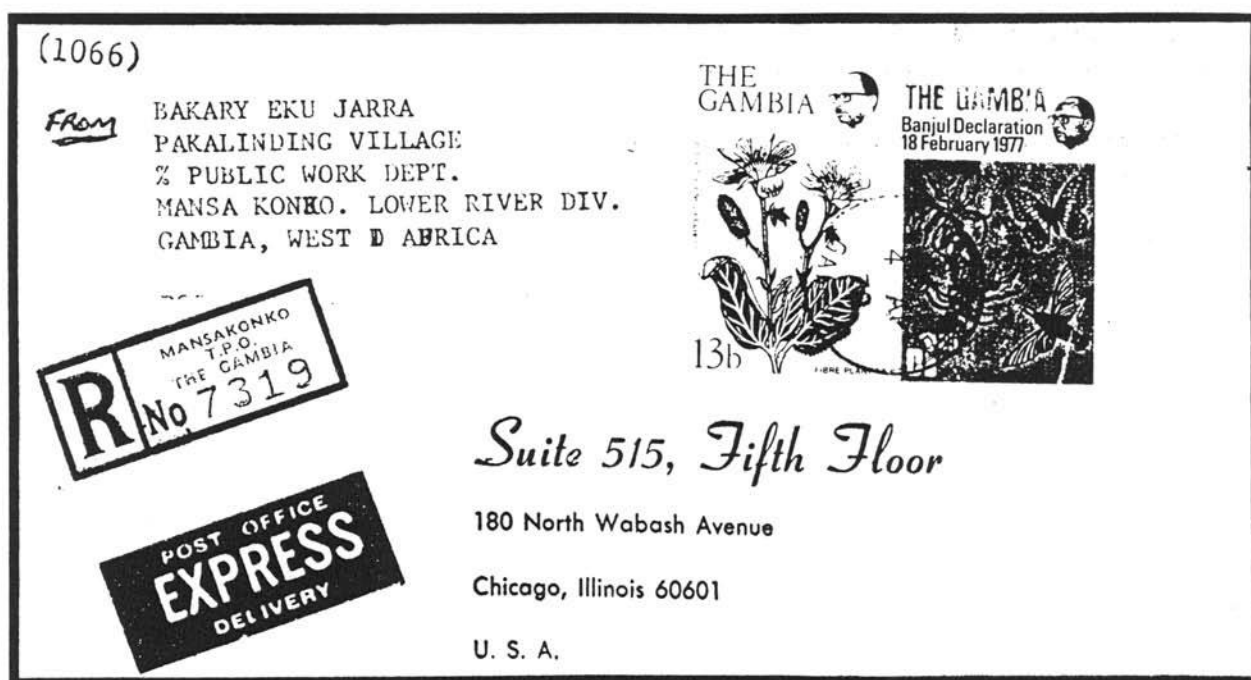
On 20 June 1938, according to the Receiver General (P&T), the Elder Dempster's Agent thought that his company would be agreeable for one of the ship's company to sell stamps on board. The Agent would be made a Stamp Vendor on commission and under licence and the Government would look to him for payment of stamps on receipt. He estimated he would sell about £120 in value per annum and the commission would be £6. The Post and Telegraphs would save 5s per month special allowance to its own stamp seller as well as overtime. The convenience of passengers and the Post Office would be much helped under the new scheme.

On 12 July 1938 the Receiver General reported that the Elder Dempster Agent had now heard from Liverpool (agreeing in principle to the scheme) and that the Post Office stamp seller will sell for the last time Homewards that week and for the last time Freetownwards the following week. Instead, however, of the Agent selling stamps the duty was to be undertaken by the ship's purser.



Gambia Registration Labels

Charles Leonard



4 April 1978 - Mansa Konko to Chicago, United States

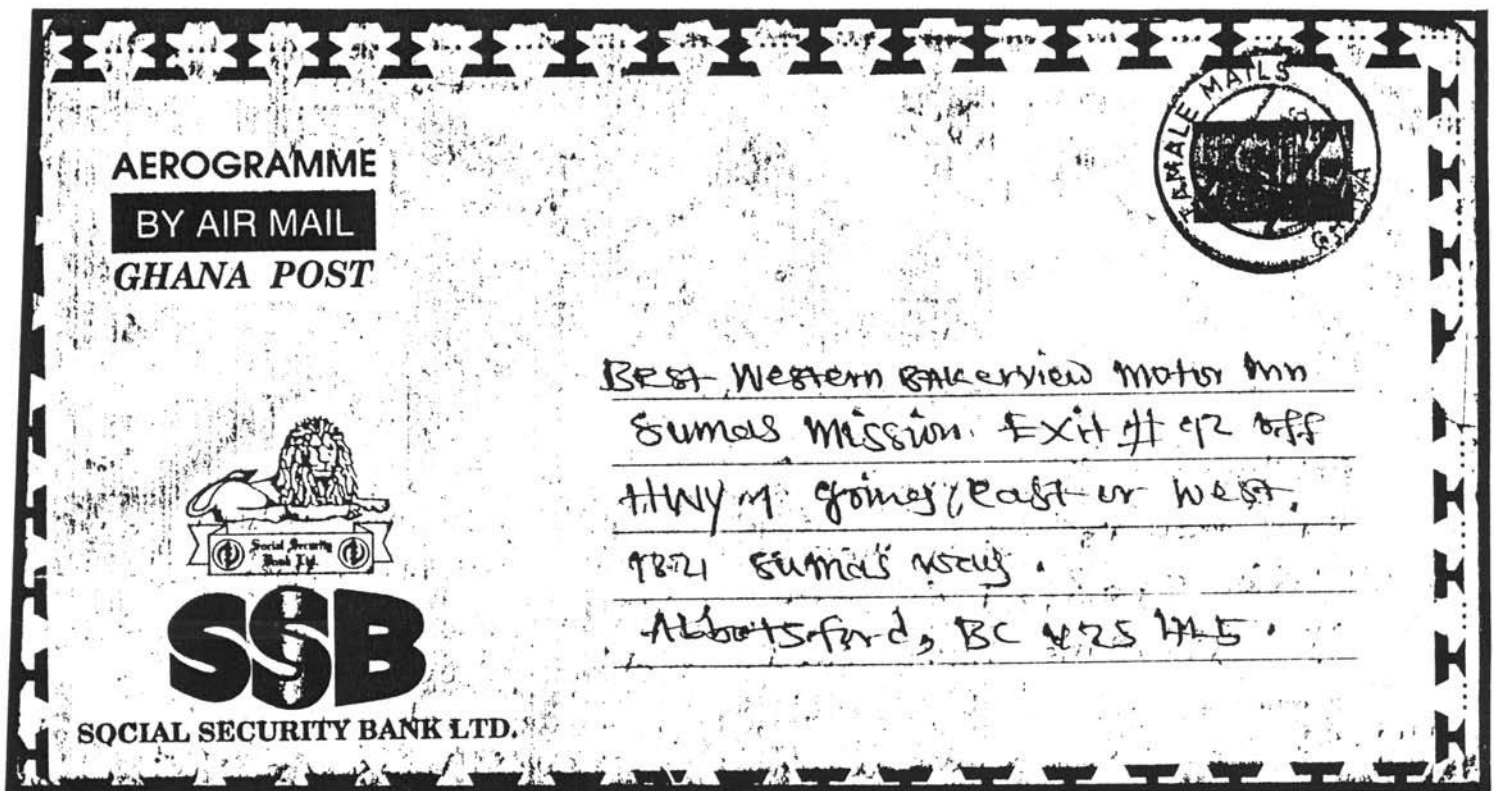
I have come across two covers from Mansa Konko, dated 29 August 1977 and 4 April 1978, both of which bear a registration label in a type which I cannot recall seeing before.

They both read MANSAKONKO / T.P.O. / THE GAMBIA, but what does the TPO mean? Is it really 'Travelling Post Office', or possibly 'Temporary Post Office' or what? Can any of our members help and are any other offices known to have used this type of label?

The cover illustrated shows the continued use of the British standard type of Express Label.

Security of Mail in Ghana

"Duff"



3 October 1996 - Advertising Aerogramme from Tamale to Abbotsford, Canada

This Ghana Post aerogramme with a c200 'stamp' featuring a Ghana Airways passenger jet was sponsored by the Social Security Bank Ltd. This is a very thematic piece that would be attractive to collectors of aeroplanes, lions, banking or even coats-of-arms. The interest lies in the advertisement by the Social Security Bank for their Inward Remittances services. This item is an example of privatisation in so much as the post office has sold space to allow the bank to appeal directly to Ghanaians working overseas.

The advertisement on this cover is a reminder of the difficulties that Ghanaians face when attempting to send money home. An article in *African Business* (Ref. 1) discusses the problems and the potential solutions. The opening paragraph reads "Not very long ago, an African working abroad wishing to send money home had a very limited choice. He either used foreign banks, which had no branches in his home country or he put his hard currency in an envelope and hoped it would get past the post office thieves in his home country." An electronic money transfer system has now been established which circumnavigates the post office clerks.

Another insight into the difficulties that face users of the Ghana Post Office was provided by Jeff Lassen in an article in the American magazine *Stamp Collector* (Ref. 2). In this piece he vividly describes in detail his experiences of using the postal services at Berekum, a town 200 miles inland near the Ivory Coast border. There is no mail delivery to private houses, so mail can only be delivered to boxes that all inhabitants of a building share; anyone visiting the post office can collect the mail along with any valuable contents.

References

1. Baffour Ankomah, "The Money Transfer Revolution", *African Business* p28, October 1995
2. Jeff Lassen, "For Efficiency and Dependability Ghana's Postal System Rates Far Below USPS", *Stamp Collector* pp11,14 & 19, 25 January 1992

Gold Coast Ashieme Postmark

Robert Nelson

I recently acquired a postcard with a previously unknown ASHIEME type 14 postmark dated 26 April 1913, additionally with a SECONDEE type 14 transit mark of the same date. The picture side of the card is of POASSI ROAD, SECONDEE. The message implies that Ashieme was on the Secondee to Kumasi railway.



In Mike Mackin's book (Ref. 1), Ashieme is listed as being open in 1912 and closed on 26 January 1918 but states that no example has been recorded. The postmark on the card itself is faint and unsuitable for reproduction, but Mike has kindly provided an illustration.

Ashieme is not marked on most maps, but Jeremy Martin has discovered a potential location. On a large scale 1949 map, there is a place called Ashiam on the railway about seven miles north of Secondee.

Reference

1. Mackin M.T., *The Gold Coast: The Post Offices / Agencies and their Cancellations 1875-1957*, p39, WASC, 1990



Lagos Dumb Cancellation

"Duff"



The postmark illustrated was on a commercial airmail cover from Lagos to Vancouver, Canada. The cancellation is unusual in that it does not contain a date or country name.

There is a Vancouver ink jet transit mark of 31 May 1997.



Sierra Leone Registered Postmark

Stewart Duncan

On a 1902 registered envelope from Gambia to Southampton, England there is a transit mark struck on the reverse in Freetown. This is an oval datestamp REGISTERED / FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE, code A, dated 5 December 1902. There is a clear 'dent' at 2 o'clock on the frame. The oval measures 27 x 21mm, considerably smaller than all those listed by Walton (Ref. 1). The date also falls in between the given recorded usages of Types 535.10 and 535.11. Do other members have examples of this apparently new postmark?

Reference

1. Walton F.L., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, p82, WASC, 1990

King George VI Gold Coast

Reproduced with permission from 'Sixth Sense' by Murray Payne Ltd. (Ref. 1)

King George VI Gold Coast in the catalogue looks a deceptively simple area to collect. Both Gibbons and Scott list 36 basic postage stamps, Gibbons four Postage Dues issued in 1951-52 and Scott one. Not too much to tackle, one would think, and this impression is largely correct. However, there are a number of unanswered questions, and an absolute myriad of postmarks!

The 1938 issue was originally line-perforated 12 and these were replaced (as supplies ran out) by later printings, perforated 12 x 11¼ on a comb machine. Records can be found for only one printing of line-perforated stamps, but a study of a few examples of each of the low values will reveal that there was certainly at least one further printing of each. There are some quite striking shade differences. No authority (including Potter & Shelton) lists a second printing, but a conversation some years ago with Michael Ensor, who I believe will be responsible for the King George VI chapter in the forthcoming West Africa Study Circle book on Gold Coast, revealed that he too was convinced that one was made.

The comb-perforated stamps had longer lives, and there are shade differences which are listed by Commonwealth, but these are hardly any more striking than the variants of the line perfs. It's worth illustrating an example of each perforation; a little practice should enable you to tell them apart with near-100% certainty. The illustrations show the characteristic even corners produced by the comb machine, while those produced by the line machine are all over the place.

It is hard to find the line-perforated stamps unmounted, especially the high values. I've kept an eye out for multiples for years, with success being markedly rare. Recently an American customer sent us a Wants list including the set in unmounted blocks of four - some chance, I thought. But idling through another dealer's stock at the RHS show in March, I found a ½d block... then a 1d block... sure enough, the whole set, albeit every stamp had a handstamp on the reverse. Don't all write in at once; I don't expect to find another set for a long, long time! On the subject of scarcity, it's also difficult to find nicely-used high values in either perforation unless

cancelled-to-order. Most high values were used on parcels and have messy postmarks.

Moving on to the comb-perforated stamps, the best shades to my eye are on the 2/- and 5/-. I wonder if these are more eye-catching than the others merely because they are bi-coloured stamps? Is there a psychology of colour appreciation? It seems to me that almost all the stamps with most appeal in our field of King George VI are also bi-coloured. At any rate, should you find shades in this set, you ought to be able to decide 'which came first' by the colour of the paper (cream early, white later) and the colour of the ink ('warm' early, 'cold' later).

The 1948 set was not long-lived, but was still printed from at least two different plates for the low values. Again, shades can be found. There is not much to say about the commemoratives, except that the Victory stamps are not easy to find nicely used, in either perforation.

The Postage Dues follow the standard pattern for British colonies of the period. Smooth ordinary paper from 1923-44, rough ordinary paper from 1944-46, chalk-surfaced paper 1951-52. The latter issue has the 2d, 3d, and 6d with crown missing in the watermark, and all four values with St Edward's Crown error. The 1/- chalky paper is in sheets of 60 and all stamps in the fifth column show the stroke in the value much more upright than the normals.

Many of the Postage Dues are very, very difficult in fine used condition and this has been the case for a long time, leading to attempts to 'fake' postmarks - sometimes these look as if they have been done with the edge of the base of a slooped coffee-cup. I have seen them with Accra/Ghana CDSs cancelling them to order. Eschew examples with gum and neat-but-dubious postmarks; I'd rather see something a bit more ugly-looking.

The postmarks are a wonder and delight. There are major collections of these, and unlike some colonies there are great rarities in the King George VI period. The reason for this is that the Post Office system was expanding at a furious rate, with the increase in literacy, for fifteen or so years in the run-up to

independence. Initially, offices would be issued with a 'do-it-yourself' kit for 'skeleton' postmarks - a double circle into which the postal officials would have to fit their own letters to spell out the office name. This often led to spelling mistakes, inverted letters or dates and letters dropping out. In due course, a more permanent canceller would be issued, but the skeleton was often kept for emergencies.

Some of the names are wonderful. Big Ada, Jim Abufuru, Kisi, Tuna, Walewale and Woe are among my favourites. Half Die was renamed after half the population died of sickness. There are two excellent books on the subject; the West Africa Study Circle's

publication, written by Mike Mackin (Ref. 2), and Ted Proud's book (Ref. 3). These should both be quite easy to find.

That about covers Gold Coast, one of the most collectable of the British Colonies. Fortunately, we do not have to concern ourselves with the abominations produced by Ghana. My father bought all the new issues of all the colonies for many years; Ghana was the first country he stopped buying, and I'm sure he wasn't alone. At least at the time we are looking at, stamps were produced to suit the postal needs of the colony (not even a £1 value!) rather than the fiscal requirements.

References

1. Murray Payne, "Gold Coast", *Sixth Sense*, Issue 10, May 1997
2. Mackin M.T., *The Gold Coast: The Post Offices / Agencies and their Cancellations 1875-1957*, WASC, 1990
3. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of the Gold Coast*, Postal History Publications Co., Heathfield 1995



Gold Coast George VI Postal Orders



This fifteen shillings King George VI British Postal Order has been overprinted **POUNDAGE / PAYABLE IN / GOLD COAST / 6d.** and used in Koforidua on 25 May 1954. A similar item of 4d overprinted on a five shillings British Postal Order was used the same day.

Gold Coast Tax Mark?

Frank Walton

In the January 1997 issue of the *American Philatelist*, there was an extensive article by Edward Leahy on the use of T tax marks world-wide (Ref. 1). The article illustrated a 1942 cover from Gold Coast to South Africa which bears a T mark which is not included in the lists previously published in *Cameo* (Ref. 2) for the Gold Coast.



Figure 1 : Cover from Accra, Gold Coast to Cape Town, South Africa on 17 Nov 1941

Michael Ensor has kindly considered this cover, and provided the following thoughts:

- ◆ This distinctive T mark in a barred oval has not been recorded before as being used in the Gold Coast; despite this I cannot find anything that rebuts the assumption made by Mr Leahy that the mark is a Gold Coast one. If this is correct, everything points to it having been applied in Accra.

- ◆ Next the reason for such a mark: at the date of the posting of the cover the last published tariff of airmail rates showed the rate to South Africa as being 1s 3d per ½oz. Perhaps the cover weighed over ½oz. Posted on 17 November it could have contained a Christmas card that took it over the first weight step. But how the simple application of a T mark was expected to tell the South African authorities that the deficit was 1s 3d and not some other figure escapes me. It looks as if they took no notice of the T mark. (Whether Barclays Bank would have stumped up 2s 6d if asked for that sum seems doubtful).
- ◆ Thirdly there is the question of the route the cover took. There was at that time no Pan Am service to Leopoldville or other air service from the Gold Coast to central Africa. When the October 1939 tariff was published there was the airmail link at Khartoum with Imperial Airway route to the Cape. I believe it was still operating in 1941, but this requires verification. The routing may be made clearer if the faint mark at the bottom left corner of the envelope could be deciphered.
- ◆ Finally the recipient: there was a Medical Officer called Goodman, I think initial L. and married, in the Gold Coast in 1941. He could well have been on leave in South Africa for Christmas.

If any members can provide further information about this mark it would be most welcome.

My thanks go to Bill Welch, editor of the *American Philatelist*, for permission to reproduce the cover, and to Jack Ince, Donald Carter, Jeremy Martin and of course Michael Ensor for their help in pulling this article together.

References

1. Edward Leahy, "The UPU T", *American Philatelist*, Volume 111 p59, APS, January 1997
2. John Powell, "Gold Coast Instructional Marks", *Cameo*, Volume 4 p118, January 1992

The 1928 Issue of the Gold Coast

Michael Ensor

Maurice Tozer has pointed out that the listing in Stanley Gibbons of the first Christiansborg Castle issue of the Gold Coast took no account of shades and suggested that the Study Circle should seek to have this shortcoming remedied. The catalogue's editor, when approached, said he would be glad to consider the Study Circle's suggestions for a fuller listing provided that they were based on SG's colour guide. So three members, Maurice Tozer, Sir Adrian Cadbury and Michael Mackin, known to have worked on this issue, were consulted. As a result of what they have produced I have, in spite of having learned as a schoolboy the Latin warning against getting involved in a dispute on colours and tastes, prepared the list of shades below. In at least one case (the 1d) the shades are so clearly different that there can be no question that they deserve catalogue listing. In others the differences are subtle and the design, especially of the bi-coloured shilling values, makes it difficult to be sure of the shades.

The first shade listed in each case is that of the Specimen overprint which came from the first printing. It would have been nice to indicate the dates of the first issue of subsequent shades. This can, of course, be derived only from used stamps, most of which having been soaked off are not reliable. With the 1d value the year of the first change of shade is clear, and with the ½d value the subsequent printings seem to be of different shades from the first. In other cases we have failed to pin down the timing of changes of shade. Moreover it is not always the case that a change having been made all later printings were of the new shade.

Here is the result on which members are invited to comment (but only on the basis of SG's colour guide):

½d	dull green yellowish green (1929) green	3d	bright blue blue
1d	red-brown chestnut (1930) chocolate	6d	black & purple black & grey-lilac
1½d	scarlet red	1s	black & red-orange black & yellow-orange
2d	slate grey	2s	black & bright violet black & dull violet
2½d	orange-yellow yellow	5s	carmine & sage green

At the moment we don't look like being able to help SG's editor much if in order to price the different shades he asks for the quantities of each shade issued.



Don't Forget - Editor's Amended Addresses



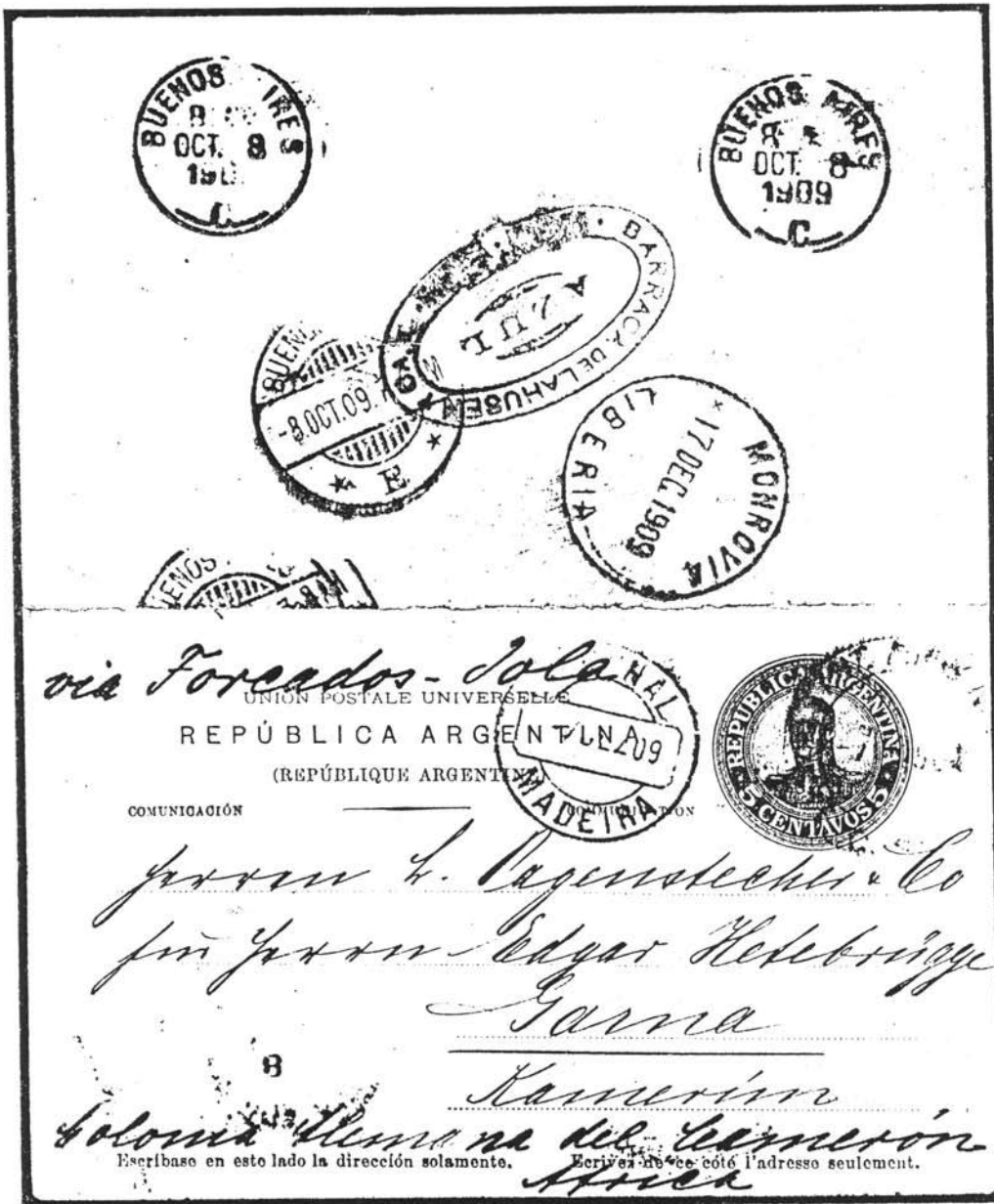
Postal : Frank Walton
8 Grasmere Road
Dronfield Woodhouse
DRONFIELD S18 8PS
United Kingdom

Email : FrankWalton@compuserve.com

Argentina to Kamerun 1909

Jeremy Martin

Richard Harlow, a member of the Society of Postal Historians, showed me this item.



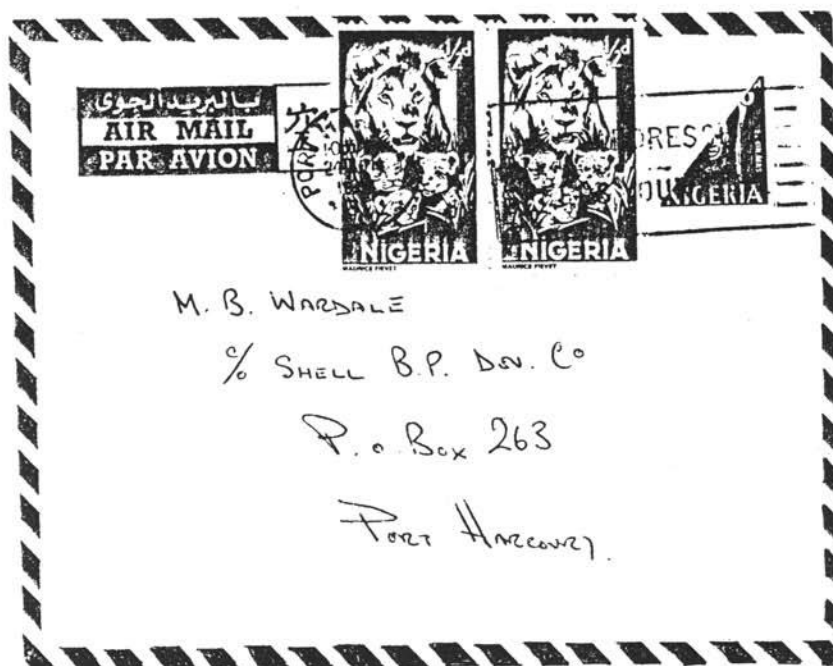
It is a 5c + 5c Argentine postal stationery reply card from Buenos Aires to Garna in Kamerun with a most interesting routing.

It has a Buenos Aires backstamp of 8 October 1909, reached Funchal in Madeira on 7 December 1909 and Monrovia in Liberia on 17 December 1909.

The card has a manuscript routing via Forcados - Yola but, sadly, there are no other relevant datestamps.

Nigerian Bisect used 1967

Robert Nelson



Following up on Neville Jones' article in the last *Cameo* (Ref. 1) concerning the Nigeria Bisect, reproduced above is an example that I have in my own collection. It is however postmarked Port Harcourt dated 10.15am 24 April 1967 being an internal cover within Port Harcourt. I believe, although I am not entirely sure, the fourpenny rate is correct.

Reference

1. Neville Jones. "Nigerian Bisect used 1961". *Cameo*, Volume 5 p221, WASC, January 1997

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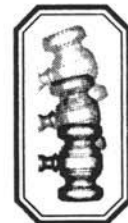
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Nigeria 1953-58 2d Tin Definitive

Tony Simmonds

All values of the 1953-58 Definitives were issued perforated 14, on watermark Multiple Script paper.

The original printings of the 2d stamp, first released on 1 September 1953, were in two colours - black and yellow-ochre and were recess printed by Waterlow. Thence the main mineral export was tin, which was mostly mined in the Jos plateau area. The stamps, designed by Maurice Fievet (as was the rest of this set), depicts a large mechanical excavator digging out the tin ore, with a native pan-washing the ore in the foreground, with a fair amount of activity in the intermediate area.

When the internal letter rate was increased to 2d, it was considered more economically viable to print in one colour, as was the ¹⁰1d, because of the high demand. Waterlow's subsidiary company, Imprimerie Belge de Sécurité in Belgium, printed the new 2d stamp on rotary machines. It was printed in panes of 60 (6 across x 10 down), as was the previous bi-coloured stamp, but the side margins contained a machine turned pattern and no plate number or imprint was included. The first issue date for this stamp was 23 July 1956.

Two cylinders were used. The first was Type 'A' which can be identified by the lack of dots immediately above the native's head, below the 'G' of 'NIGERIA', except for two stamps in the sheet which show a faint row of dots. Type 'B' was used latterly and is distinguished by the row of dots over the native's head. I have also noted a weakening of the left frame edge at various points and a small 'hole' in the shaded area, just over 1mm below the 'N' of 'NIGERIA' adjacent to the frame edge - it is certainly more apparent in the later grey shades.

There appears to be some confusion with shades and printings between the catalogues. Additional printings of Types 'A' and 'B' were sent direct to the Colony which were never released in London. These included unlisted shades that might, or might not, have been produced by the local climatic conditions. Nevertheless many shades exist for this stamp, nearly every printing being different; Urch Harris mention at least fourteen different makings of inks that were used.

It can only be stated with certainty that the last despatch of 2d stamps was sent to the Colony late in 1957 and because of a subsequent change in postal rates, there were enough stocks left for the reduced demand. The remaining stocks were sufficient for nearly all purposes, including booklets and also most of the overprinting for the Southern Cameroons, for which the stamps necessary were sent to Britain. A late printing of these overprints was produced by De La Rue (readily identifiable by the much paler background mountains and faint diagonal lines instead of a tongue of shading of dots in front of the Queen's forehead), with the issue date being given as 19 September 1961. All 'CAMEROONS U.K.T.T.' overprints were withdrawn on 30 September 1961 - 11 days later.

I have spent some time going through a sheet of the first issue of the 2d slate-violet Type 'A' with a fine-tooth comb and a strong lens. This has resulted in a list of flaws of six A4 pages, plus a list of further flaws found on various stamps from later printings using the original list to position them.

The most well known flaws are mentioned in the Elizabethan catalogues of Stanley Gibbons or Urch Harris. These are:- horizontal line through the word 'TIN' (only mentioned in Urch Harris) at r4/s1, doubling of the value on r5/s2 and s3, and extra figure to right of native sitting on tracks in foreground at r5/s4. Unfortunately the two positions of the doubling of the '2d' are not differentiated but, with the help of the aforementioned list, they might be more easily recognised thus:

r5/s2 Slight doubling of '2', and doubling of 'd' and stop, with a short vertical line at the top of the 'd' touching the serif at the left. Faint line joining 'G' and 'E' near base in 'NIGERIA'. Faint line under excavator. Two dots to left of far right cart. Short vertical line underneath figure to left of pair behind excavator. Three extra dots to left of man's head.

r5/s3 Doubling of 'd' and stop, with the short vertical line at the top of the 'd' nearly ½mm to the left of the tip of the serif. Extra dots by right leg. Faint dots over head. Faint dot in unshaded area below tongue of shaded area in a horizontal line with

the centre of the Queen's nose and under right foot of 'A'. ^{Three} The extra dots to left of man's head, one of which is tiny.

As previously mentioned, when defining Type A, there are two stamps in the sheet that have faint dots over the native's head and r5/s3, above, is one of them; the other is:

r1/s4 Very faint dots over head of man. Faint horizontal lines through head of '2' to upright of 'd' and to left frame edge over first perf from s3.

Also, conversely to the previously mentioned Type 'B' holes I do have a cover with two Type 'A' stamps from one of the slate-blue printings, one of which has a distinct 'hole' in almost exactly the same place as that of Type 'B'. I have managed to identify this as being from r7/s6.

Finally I think it might be worth showing the entries for the other two flaws mentioned:

r4/s1 Line through top of 'TIN'. Dot in un-shaded area in hills next to oval in line with the Queen's chin. Large dot on top of shaded area over 'TIN' 1mm to right of man's right leg. Extra dot by lowest dot in shaded area below left of right foot of 'R'.

r5/s4 Extra figure to right of seated figure at right, in front of '2'. Two dots over seated figure to left of '2'. Extra dot to left of man's head, to left of second dot up from neck.

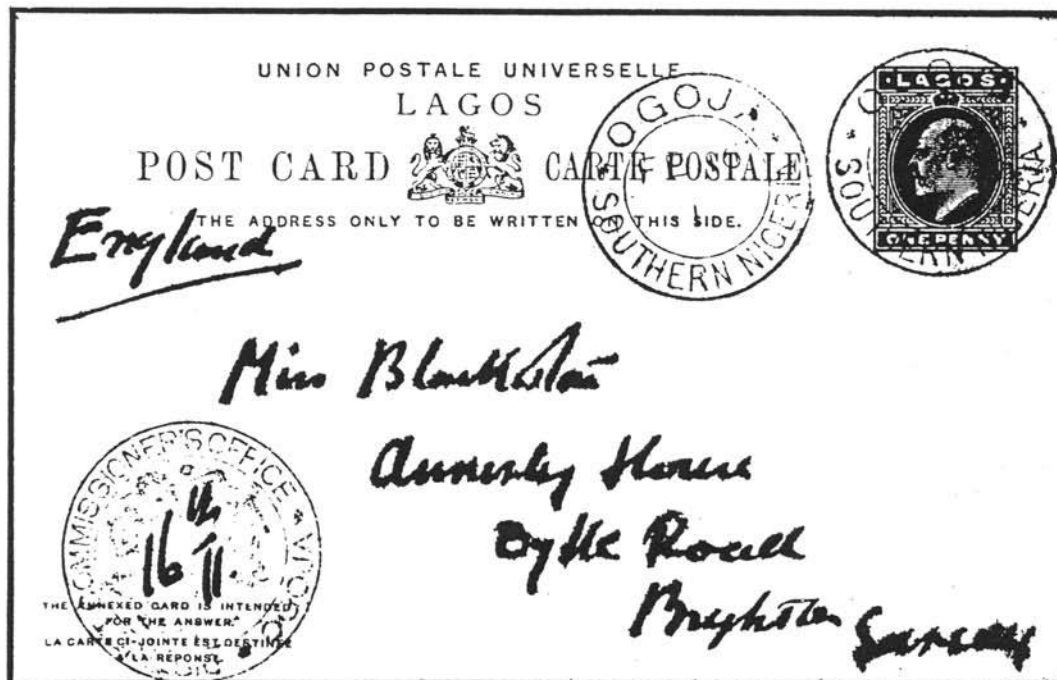
References

1. Halewood N.J., Queen Elizabeth Definitives Part 3 Nigeria 1953-58, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, pp74-7, June 1996.
2. Urch Harris Commonwealth Queen Elizabeth II Stamp Catalogue 1978
3. Stanley Gibbons, Elizabethan, 1978
4. Simmonds A. G., Nigeria 1956 2d 'Tin' Type 'A', Flaws and Varieties, March 1997



Ogoja Southern Nigeria Postmark Discovery

Robert Nelson and Fritz Kemme



This postcard bears an OGOJA postmark of 16 February 1911, together with the District Commissioner's cachet. The datestamp appears to be an Ince & Sacher type 7c, ie with Maltese Crosses instead of dots.

Southern Nigeria - World War I "On Active Service"

Bob Maddocks

This stampless cover is a very early, possibly the earliest so far recorded, mailing from Southern Nigeria at the outbreak of World War I to bear the superscription *Posted on Active Service*; yet it had no connection with the Cameroons Campaign as one might at first surmise.

It was addressed to a Monsieur Le Merle de Beaufond (?), the Principal Controller of Customs, Cotonou in the neighbouring French colony of Dahomey. In the top left hand corner there was written *Posted on Active Service Franked* <Signature> <Rank> in a different hand to that of the address.

In the top right hand corner and struck in red ink is a poor incomplete impression of an Official Paid date stamp reading, it is believed, LAGOS SOUTHERN NIGERIA / SE 3 . 14 being type PD4 in Proud's book (Ref. 1).

Interest however is heightened by the plethora of transit postal date stamps seen on the reverse and struck in the course of reaching the addressee some 80 miles away. At first the progress was along the scheduled route to Cotonou: Lagos (5 Sep 1914), Porto Novo, Dahomey (8 Sep), and Cotonou (9 Sep). But then enigmatically the cover continued on a new month-long journey which, without any redirection markings whatsoever having been written on the envelope, conveyed it through a succession of towns into the interior of Dahomey as far as the border with Niger and then back down to the coast again. This time it arrived at Lome in Togoland, the German colony which had surrendered to Anglo-French forces on 26 August 1914.

The route taken can be followed on the accompanying map (Figure 1) and was as follows: Save (12 Sep 1914), Parakou (16 Sep), Kandi (21 Sep), Guene (23 Sep) and Lome (30 Sep or 3 Oct).

Was the addressee then found at Lome? Why was such a routing made? The addressee could possibly have been away from Cotonou on an up-country tour of duty but could there have been some other ulterior perhaps spiteful motive on the part of the postal officials in Cotonou – we shall never know why this particular cover saw such active service!

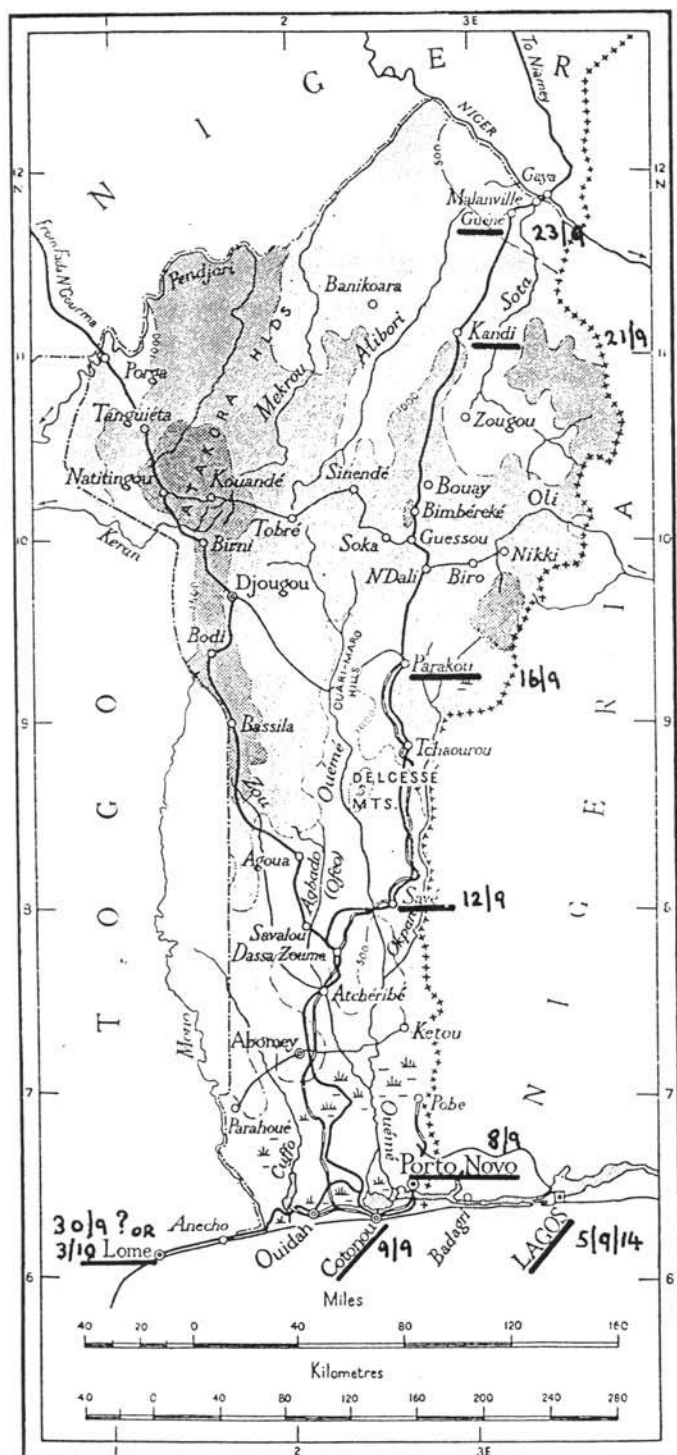


Figure 1 : Map of Dahomey

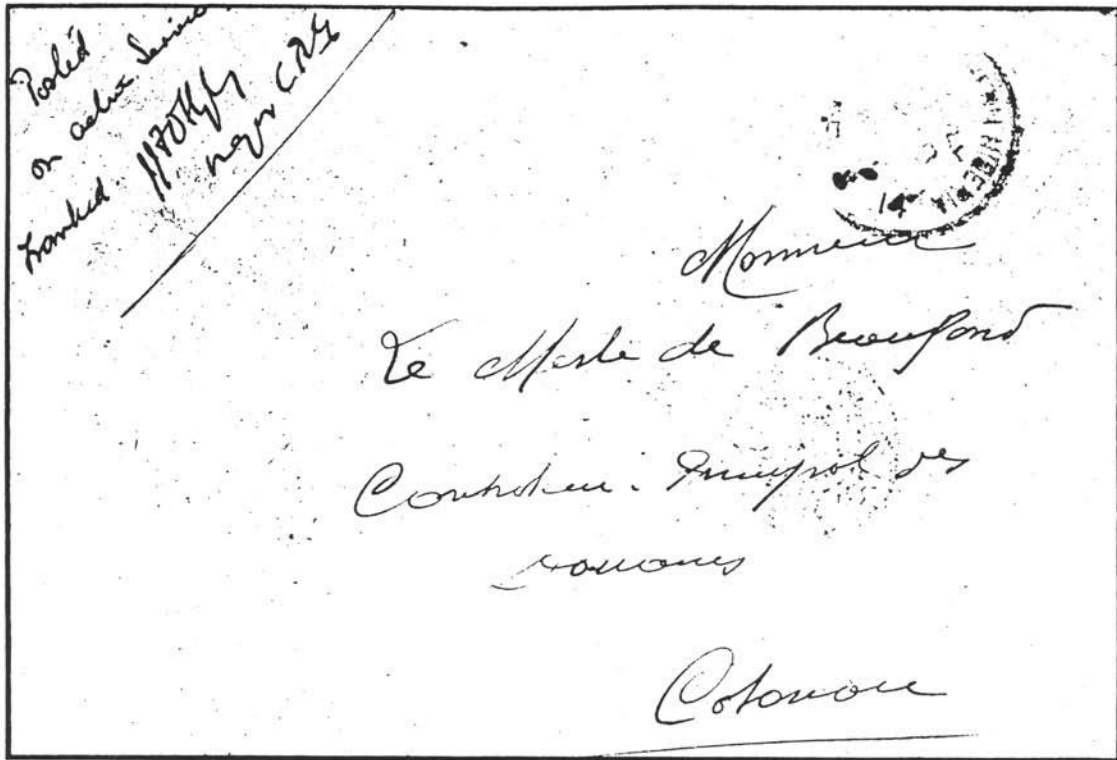


Figure 2 : Front of cover

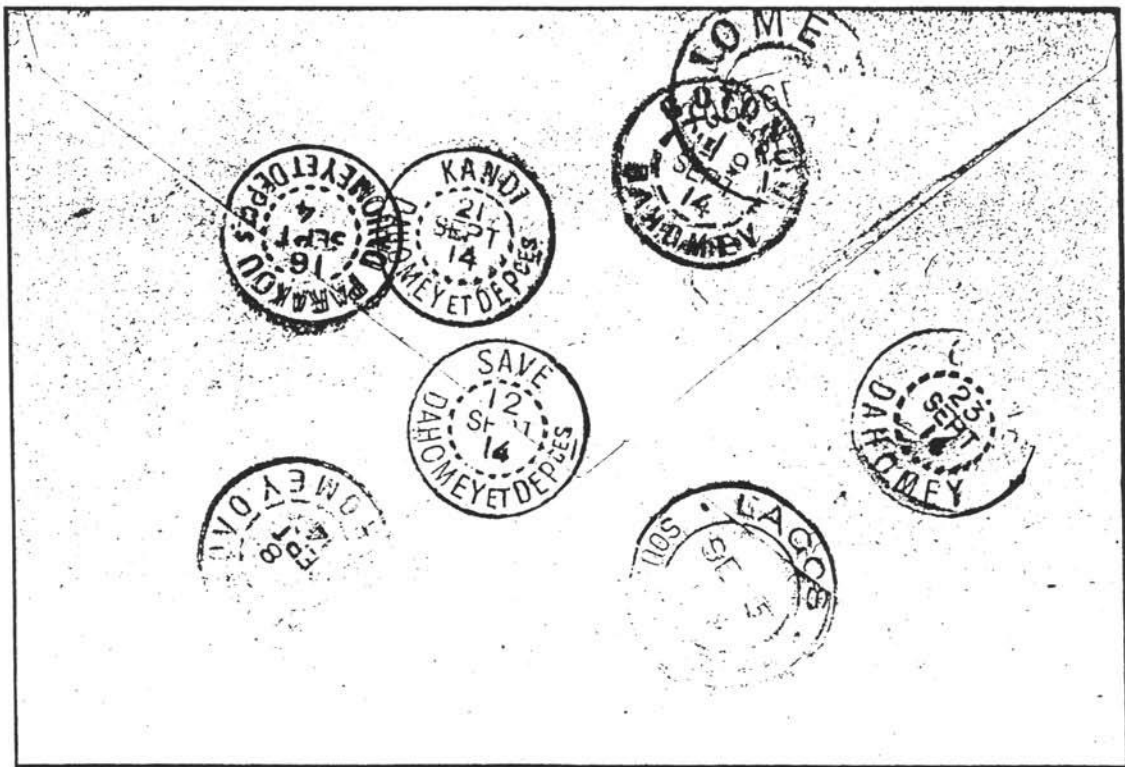


Figure 3 : Back of cover showing transit date-stamps

Reference

1. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Nigeria*, p181, Proud-Bailey, Heathfield 1995

Nigerian Air Letters

Neville Jones

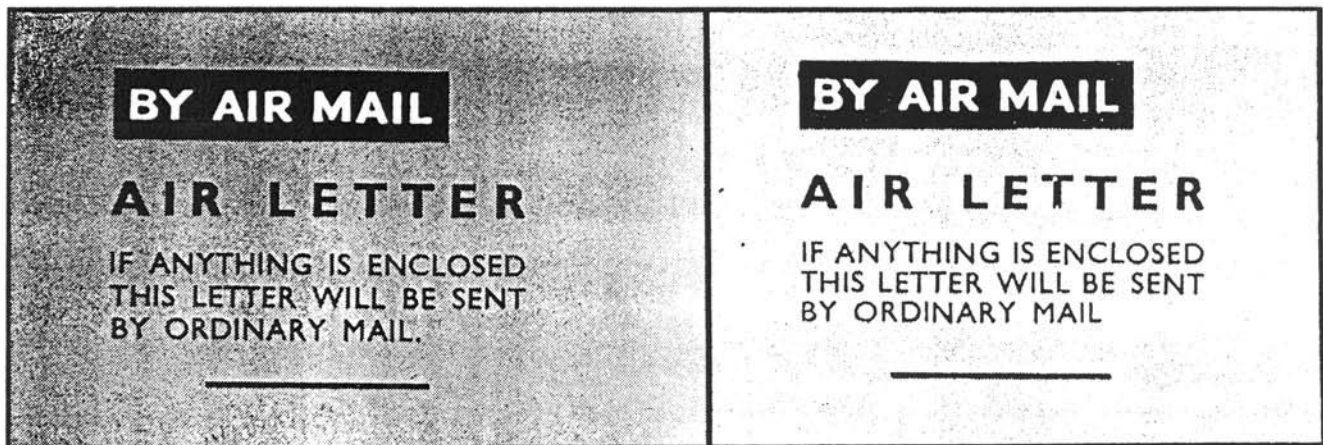
Whilst researching the Crown Agents order books at the National Postal Museum archives, I found the following item (Ref. 1) dated 17 October 1944:

“Requisition for 1,000,000 air letter forms for Nigeria, without stamp or gumming - weight not to exceed 1 lb per 180 forms.”

The printers replied that “supplies could begin 3 - 4 weeks and completion in 6 weeks”.

By the same requisition 200,00 forms were ordered for Sierra Leone and 500,000 for Gold Coast.

From the examples of the Nigerian forms which I have, it would seem that there were either two separate printings or two different printers judging from the format of the instruction on the top left corner of the sheet.



MAIL.

MAIL

The most obvious difference is the presence of a full stop after ‘MAIL’ on one and not on the other. The space between the line of instruction is also different, as is the length of those lines (38½mm on the form with the full stop, and 37½mm on the other).

Does this apply only to the Nigerian sheets, or have the collectors of Sierra Leone and Gold Coast also found these variations?

Editor's Note: I do not recall having seen one of these air letters used from Sierra Leone. Philip Beale (Ref. 2) states that Airletters commenced in 1950.

References

1. C.A. 124, page 87, Reqn. 2226/1
2. Beale, P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p222, RPSL, London 1988

Unaccepted Designs for 1953 Nigerian Definitives



Mechanised Farming



Oron Antiquities



Uromi Dance



The Niger

All told, M. Fievet submitted 19 sketches to the Nigerian Government for the 1953 definitive stamps of which 12 were finally selected. Photographs of the rejected suggestions, which depict similar subjects to the accepted designs are shown above.



Untitled Designs

The remaining designs were untitled. One shows the position of Nigeria on the West African coast, the second a pictorial map of the country while the third would seem to be an ideological design suggesting progress and justice through learning.

Waterlow Samples

Alec Turner

In my previous *Cameo* article on this subject (Ref. 1), I enquired about Sample Stamps with S.T. Numbers handprinted above and a short list of those known to me was given.

Recently I was privileged to view a very early and complete Sample Book containing some of these stamps which may be of interest to members of the West Africa Study Circle. This book did provide a number of answers to queries and, as was to be expected, posed a few more. New numbers were added to my existing list and included, amongst others, some for the Niger Coast Protectorate.

The book was inscribed on an inner leaf "A.J. Lewis with D.M. Sindins Kindest Regards. Freemantle 19.5.96.". From this inscription it would appear to be a presentation copy and not a Representatives work book. The S.T. Numbers were on printed slips stuck above the stamps which were in blocks and strips. The book was entitled *Waterlow & Sons Limited - STAMPS TIMBRES - London Wall, London* in gold lettering on brown leather or leatherette. This would seem to settle the meaning of the letters S.T.! Freemantle would seem to suggest a place rather than a surname, since it did not include initials, and a place by this name does exist. It is now a district of Southampton but in 1896 might well have been a separate village. All of the stamps in this book were outlined in pencil and on occasion spaces were left (see Fig. 1). The page sizes were five by six inches approximately.

The printed numbering of the samples has only been described on one occasion previously (for North Borneo) and is different to the more usual handprinted numbers. This leads me to believe that the earlier books with printed numbers were just presentation books. When this fell into disuse the idea may have been resurrected and the same system used for the books provided for Waterlow Representatives. In my original article I had suggested that S.T. Numbers had so far proved unique to specific stamp/colour combinations. This might still be the case if we distinguish between the two types of numbering although the North Borneo stamps appear to use the same numbers each time. The printed numbers used for the Niger Coast Protectorate stamps in this book are the same as those allocated later to Belgian Congo stamps with handprinted numbers. It might well be that when it was decided to use stamps for the Representatives books some of the original 'stamps' were unavailable.

From the illustrations it can be seen that imperforate Niger Coast Protectorate stamps were used. The complete listing being:

S.T.	Date	Description	SG	Value	Colour
481	1894	Definitive	45	½d	Violet
482	1894	Definitive	46	1d	Brown
483	1894	Definitive	47	2d	Steel-blue
484	1894	Definitive	48	2½d	Orange-brown
485	1894	Definitive	49	5d	Carmine
486	1894	Definitive	50	1s	Green

The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region shows imperforate colour trials in very similar shades and these may be the source for these samples (Ref. 2). If this is the case then it may also explain why these were not used later when compiling Representatives books as supplies of these particular 'stamps' would be very limited.



Fig. 1 - Sample illustrations from Waterlow presentation book of 1896

References

1. Turner A., "Waterlow Samples", *Cameo Volume 5* p166, WASC, July 1996
2. Ince J. & Sacher J., *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region*, Plate X (p221), RPSL, London 1992



West African Adult Literacy Rates

Frank Walton

All mail has to be written and read. Modern western society takes for granted the fact that most people have these basic skills, but in West Africa the literacy rates are still much lower:

Country	Total	Male	Female	Year
Cameroon	57.0	69.0	47.0	1987
Gambia	24.9	35.6	15.1	1985
Ghana	53.2	64.1	42.8	1988
Nigeria	42.4	53.8	31.5	1988
St. Helena & Ascension	96.9	96.4	97.5	1987
Sierra Leone	23.6	31.2	16.5	1985
Togo	39.1	51.7	27.5	1987

For comparison:

United Kingdom	100.0	100.0	100.0	1987
United States	95.5	95.7	95.3	1989

Reference

Figures extracted from 1991 Britannica Book of the Year, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., Chicago 1991

The First Sierra Leone Stamps and their Obliterators

Frank Walton

The introduction of the first postage stamps by Sierra Leone in 1859 has been documented in summary by many authors over the years. In an effort to understand the details of the reasoning behind the introduction of the stamps and the original B31 obliterator, I tracked down the various philatelic literature that has reported the birth of postage stamps in Sierra Leone over time. The chronology given below cannot be gleaned from one single source, but only after the various accounts have been interleaved.

The following works have been referred to:

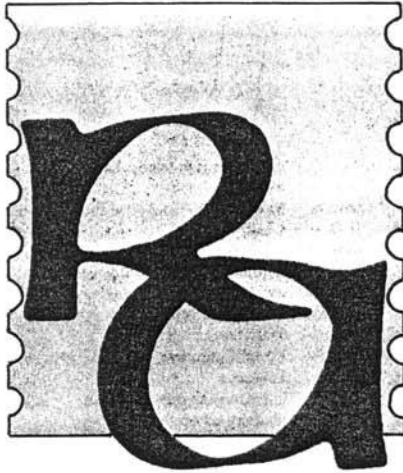
- SGMJ Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal: New Series Volume II No. 2, November 1924 and No. 3, December 1924 pp 27-29 and 55-57. Article "*The First Issue of Sierra Leone and its Post Office*" by Rev. C.S. Morton.
- LTP Le Timbre-Poste: October 1911 p119 and p139. Article "*Sierra Leone - Deux réhabilitations : 1859, 6d non dentelé et 1884, 5 sh. Sur 1 sh.*" by Paul Tripes.
- WEP The West-End Philatelist July-August 1947 pp78-80, September-October 1947 pp102-104. Article "*Sierra Leone Early Posts and Postage Stamps*" by Brigadier F.M. Montresor (under the *nom de plume* Rammer and Sponge).
- Beale *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone* Chapter Eight The Sixpence of 1859 to 1895 pp119-125 by Philip Beale, RPSL London 1988.
- Cameo *Cameo*, The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle, Volume 2 p123. Article *Paid At Sierra Leone* by John Sacher.

Copies of these articles and transcriptions of the letters that they refer to have been lodged in the Library of the West Africa Study Circle. Several of them are to be found in Post Office Archives in London, although some of the crucial pieces of the jigsaw are only now available from the copies (translated into French) in *Le Timbre-Poste*. Montresor, writing in 1947, endeavoured to trace the originals through the appropriate colonial authorities. He wrote "*I have not been able to refer to the originals of these letters. Some years ago the then Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone informed me that he had no old files of correspondence in his office as they had been eaten by white ants some years before*"!

Summary of Dates and Events

- 15 Feb 1858 Mr H. Labouchere, the Secretary for the Colonies, wrote to 14 colonies requesting that they consider the compulsory prepayment of postage to United Kingdom (Beale).
- 10 May 1858 The Governor of Sierra Leone, Stephen Hill, replied to Lord Stanley rejecting the proposal because it may not be clear which mail was prepaid and because of the opportunity for dishonesty by staff who may be tempted to accept the cash payment, and then destroy the letter pocketing the money. He suggested that it would be acceptable if Sierra Leone had its own stamps (SGMJ).
- 14 Jun 1858 Mr H. Merivale wrote to Mr F.Hill, the Secretary of the Post Office in London, accepting that Governor Hill's idea has merit economically (SGMJ).
- 18 Jun 1858 F. Hill responded to Merivale agreeing that Sierra Leone could have their own stamps as the retention of 1d per letter for colony makes the use of British stamps too complicated (SGMJ).

- 6 Jun 1858 Sir Bulwer Lytton, the Secretary of State for Colonies, wrote to Governor Hill repeating the view that it is most desirable to introduce prepayment. He suggests that the Colonial Agent should send out dies for colonial stamps as a matter of urgency (SGMJ).
- 1 Sep 1858 Governor Hill wrote to requesting dies for stamps in order that the system of prepayment could be established as soon as practical (SGMJ).
- 18 Oct 1858 Mr E. Barnard, the Agent General, was instructed by Lytton to send sample stamps (SGMJ).
- 23 Dec 1858 The De la Rue Record Book contains a die proof inscribed 'Sierra Leone Head'. Another dated 24 January 1859 is also present (Beale).
- 3 May 1859 The Royal Collection has a proof in black on card with this date. The collection also has an undated example in violet (Beale).
- 21 Jun 1859 The De la Rue Day Book records that 24,000 stamps were despatched to Sierra Leone (Beale).
- 24 Jun 1859 Barnard informed the Secretary of State that postage stamps had been sent out by mail steamer (SGMJ).
- 14 Jul 1859 Mr John Smyth, the Sierra Leone Colonial Secretary, informed Mr Isaac Fitzjohn, the Freetown Postmaster, that he had been directed to hand over 25 sheets of 6d stamps, totalling 6000 stamps (LTP).
- 16 Jul 1859 Fitzjohn replied that there was no safe to keep the £150 worth of stamps in, and requested that they are retained by Smyth until the authority to issue them is given (LTP).
- 21 Sep 1859 Fitzjohn informed the GPO in London that following instructions from Governor Hill, 6d stamps were on sale. He also stated that some letters in the September 1859 despatch of mail had them attached (LTP).
- 18 Oct 1859 The GPO in London wrote to the Sierra Leone Colonial Secretary (now George W. Nicol following Smyth's death) requesting specimens of the new Sierra Leone stamps. This letter was received in Freetown on 19 November 1859, and was actioned two days later (LTP).
- 23 Jan 1860 The GPO in London complained to Fitzjohn that four letters had arrived in London without the stamps on them being obliterated; "ill-disposed people might use them again" (WEP).
- 20 Feb 1860 An order was placed for an obliterater for use in Freetown (LTP).
- 20 Feb 1860 Orders were published in Sierra Leone that all stamps must be obliterated and that all letters from Sierra Leone must be prepaid, and any not so prepaid will be charged postage plus a further fine of 6d (LTP).
- 1 Mar 1860 The orders made 20 February 1860 came into effect (WEP).
- 21 Mar 1860 The Post Office Impression Books show that B31 and INSUFFICIENTLY / PREPAID handstamps were sent to Sierra Leone (Beale).
- 21 Nov 1860 Earliest recorded cover bearing Sierra Leone adhesives (Cameo).
- 1861 The 1860 Blue Book records that there was £5 3s 0d income from stamp sales during 1860.



richard allan

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Sierra Leone Early Usage of Victoria 1½d

Frank Walton

The first 1½d stamp for Sierra Leone was ordered by the colony on 8 May 1876, presumably to allow the prepayment of the 7½d rate to foreign destinations, and despatched on 27 July 1876 (Ref. 1). Gibbons list this stamp as SG18, giving an issue date of 1877 (Ref. 2).

In their Sale 33, British Africa Philatelic Auctions offered as Lot 635 a cover dated 26 November 1876 which bears this 1½d stamp in conjunction with a 6d stamp correctly making up the 7½d rate from Freetown to Cincinnati, USA. The cover is illustrated in the catalogue, and provides a new earliest recorded date for this stamp.

References

1. Beale, P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, pp130-132, RPSL, London 1988
2. Stanley Gibbons, *Stamp Catalogue Part 1 British Commonwealth 1997*, Volume 2 p473, Stanley Gibbons Limited, London & Ringwood 1996



Sierra Leone Hamilton Postmark

John Hossack



This 1d stamp (SG 74, issued 1903) bears a postmark from HAMILTON dated OC 3, but with the year die missing, code B. The mark corresponds to Beale Type 21, Walton Ref. 049.01. However, the diameter is 22.5mm rather than 25mm given by Beale. No measurement is given by Walton.



Sierra Leone Registration Fee Change of 1954

Frank Walton

Although it is known that the registration fee was increased from 3d to 4d around the beginning of 1954, the precise date of the change has always been uncertain as it was not recorded in the *Sierra Leone Government Gazette*. Covers seen up to the end of 1953 are generally rated at 3d, although two exceptions have been recorded:

27 Aug 1953	Sefadu to UK, franked 4d + 1s	Rate 1s 4d = 1s airmail + 4d registration
13 Oct 1953	Makeni to UK, franked 3x6d + 1d	Rate 1s 7d = 1s 3d airmail + 4d registration.

Note that the airmail rate to the UK was increased on 4 September 1953. An order was made for 4d Registered Envelopes resulting in a despatch on 22 February 1954. Nigel Lutwyche has recently showed me a commercial cover of 10 March 1954 from Tiama to UK which was franked by a 4d and a 1s 3d stamp, implying that the new rate was certainly in place by then; this is the earliest date in 1954 that I have seen on any cover. Can any member provide details of other registered covers from around this period?

Comparison of Stanley Gibbons and Scott Classifications of the First Sierra Leone Sixpence

Donald W. Carter

Classification of the first Sierra Leone sixpence stamps (1859-1896), often proves to be a frustrating and difficult task for both collectors and dealers. In the United States, it is common practice for collectors and dealers to use the Scott Catalogue when referencing foreign stamps. Unfortunately the listings given in *Scott's Standard Catalogue* (Ref. 5) are sometimes confusing to Sierra Leone collectors, and their numbering system does not coincide with the listings given in the Stanley Gibbons (SG) Catalogue (Ref. 6), which is widely used in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe.

In the case of the early Sierra Leone stamps, Scott's Standard Catalogue (Ref. 4) is not very clear. If you attempt to reference and classify any issue of the first sixpence stamp in a Sierra Leone collection, you will find that Scott uses a somewhat different colour description than the Gibbons catalogue, which adds to the confusion. The *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue* (Ref. 3) however, is more complete in its listings, covering the period 1840-1940.

One will note that the SG system begins with No. 1 and extends to No. 37. Scott, on the other hand, begins with No. 3 and extends through No. 19. In any attempt to correlate these two systems the question will arise as to why Scott No. 1 and No. 2 are missing in their listings. Recently I presented this question to Mr. James Kloetzel, Editor of the Scott Catalogue. He kindly responded and provided the following clarification (Ref. 2).

"No. 1 was once listed as the 6d dull violet on bluish paper imperforate. When it was discovered that this was not issued in this form, it was made a minor number under the old No. 2, which was the 6d dull violet on bluish. When it was discovered that it was actually a proof, it was delisted. The old No. 2, of course, was discovered not to be on a specifically blued paper, and thus it was also delisted and combined with the stamp that is now Scott 3a.

To understand why No. 3 is described as bright violet, you need to understand that the Scott listings and the Gibbons listings flow from different listing principles. Gibbons is more historical in their presentation; that is, they tend to list the first issue first even if it is the most expensive variety, and list as minors the other values regardless of their market values. The Scott procedure is to list as the major number the least expensive variety of a stamp with the more expensive varieties as the minors. Thus the stamp that is ... No. 3 is given the major listing, while the stamp issued first (No. 3a) is listed second.

Why does Scott not list the SG 6d grey-lilac stamp? There are many shades of stamps in many countries that could be differentiated with minor numbers. This is one of them. To this point, it has been deemed proper to group it with Scott 3a as the closest stamp in shade and value. Perhaps this stamp could eventually receive a minor letter designation in the Classic Specialised Catalogue.

Regarding the Scott listings for the reddish lilac or violet 6d stamps, the reddish lilac (SG 4) is grouped with the bright violet stamp by Scott (No. 3). The "violet" stamp you mention is not listed by SG. If you mean the 1872 reddish violet in Gibbons, that stamp is obviously Scott 5.

Scott 3a corresponds to SG 1 and Scott 5 corresponds to SG 3."

I have found that unless the different colour variations of the stamp are placed side by side, it is very difficult to make good judgmental decisions as to which stamp is which. If it were not for the fact that the watermark descriptions and the perforation values are consistent in both Gibbons and Scott, the task would be even more demanding than it is.

Care must be taken when judging colours and tints caused by the impact of sunlight, humidity and ageing on the ink pigments. I have noticed bleaching effects on stamps resulting in a fading of colours.

Occasionally you will see stamps that have been stained by outside elements making them darker than expected. If the stamp has a heavy cancellation mark this can influence the colour perception of the human eye. Both Stanley Gibbons and Beale mention the SG 2 sixpence as an example of this phenomenon. Some stamps of this group which are classed as grey-lilac in SG are known to be grey. Most authorities feel that this simply reflects a colour shift caused by ageing and environmental and chemical factors.

In his book, *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone* (Ref. 1), Philip Beale has differed from Gibbons somewhat in his interpretation of the sixpence stamp colours. In an article in *Cameo* (Ref. 7), Frank Walton compared the colour interpretations of Gibbons and Beale. With the permission of Mr. Walton, I have extended this idea a bit farther in an effort to assist collectors of Sierra Leone stamps in their identification of these difficult stamps. I have modified Mr. Walton's original table, added the Scott colour classification for the sixpence stamp as well as the Scott numbering system in the table below. This table represents my best match between the SG and Scott classification of the sixpence stamp.

Using the table, a collector should be able to make an educated guess as to which sixpence stamp he is attempting to buy or classify.

Keep in mind that sorting out these variations is hard enough for the experts and not a task easily accomplished by the inexperienced collector or dealer. Since a number of these stamps are rare and have high values, one should always proceed with caution before discarding any stamp in this series. It is better to err on the safe side than to rashly reject or discard the stamp before you study the stamp carefully. If in doubt, you would be wise to obtain the opinion of a qualified expertiser in Sierra Leone postal matters.

No attempt has been made in this article to classify or even identify a number of other variations known to exist for the sixpence stamp. These include but are not limited to overprinted stamps, surcharged stamps, imperforate proofs and the like.

A Comparison of the First Sierra Leone Sixpence Queen Victoria Stamps

Year	Printing	Wmk	Perf	SG No.	Scott No.	Beale Shade	SG Shade	Scott Shade
1859					1			dull-violet *
1859					2			dull-violet *
1859	1	None	14	1	3a	dull-purple	dull-purple	dull-violet
1865	2	None	14	2		grey-lilac	grey-lilac	
1872	3 & 4	None	12½	3	5	purple	reddish-violet	violet
1874	5, 6 & 7	None	14	4	3	violet	reddish-lilac	bright-violet
1885	8	CC	14	35	17	violet	dull-violet	bright-violet
1890	9	CC	14	36	18	brown-purple	brown-purple	violet-brown
1896	10	CC	14	37	19	purple-lake	purple-lake	brown-violet

* Please see comments by Mr. Kloetzel of Scott Publishing Co.

References:

1. Beale, P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, pp119-125. RPSL, London 1988
2. Kloetzel, James E. Catalogue Editor, Scott Publishing Co, Sidney, Personal Communication 1997.
3. Scott, *Classic Specialized Catalogue 1997* Scott Publishing Co., Sidney Ohio USA
4. Scott, *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, 1937 Scott Publishing Co., Sidney, Ohio USA
5. Scott, *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, Vol 1B, 1997 Scott Publishing Co., Sidney, Ohio USA
6. Stanley Gibbons, *Stamp Catalogue Part 1 British Commonwealth 1997*, Stanley Gibbons Limited, London & Ringwood 1996
7. Frank Walton, "Sierra Leone - First Sixpence", *Cameo* Volume 5 p4, WASC January 1995 and Personal Communication 1997.

Togo Dated Cachet

Robert Nelson

I note with interest Jeremy Martin's article in the previous *Cameo* (Ref. 1). I illustrate two covers with this cachet. It does appear to be a rare mark, but it is interesting to note that on one cover (Fig. 1) the date of the cachet is the same as the postmark 31 August 1915, whereas on the other (Fig. 2) the date of the cachet struck on the reverse (Fig. 2a) is 1 August 1915 whilst the postmark is dated 4 August 1915.

From the evidence of the first cover it is probable that the cachet was not a firm's mark, but a post office cachet as the addressee Miss E. Brooks was a relative of the censor. There is also overwhelming evidence from both of the covers to suggest that it is a post office cachet, as the Lome (Togo) on the cachet is the in the same colour and the same font as the Lome (Togo) handstamp overprinting the registration labels.

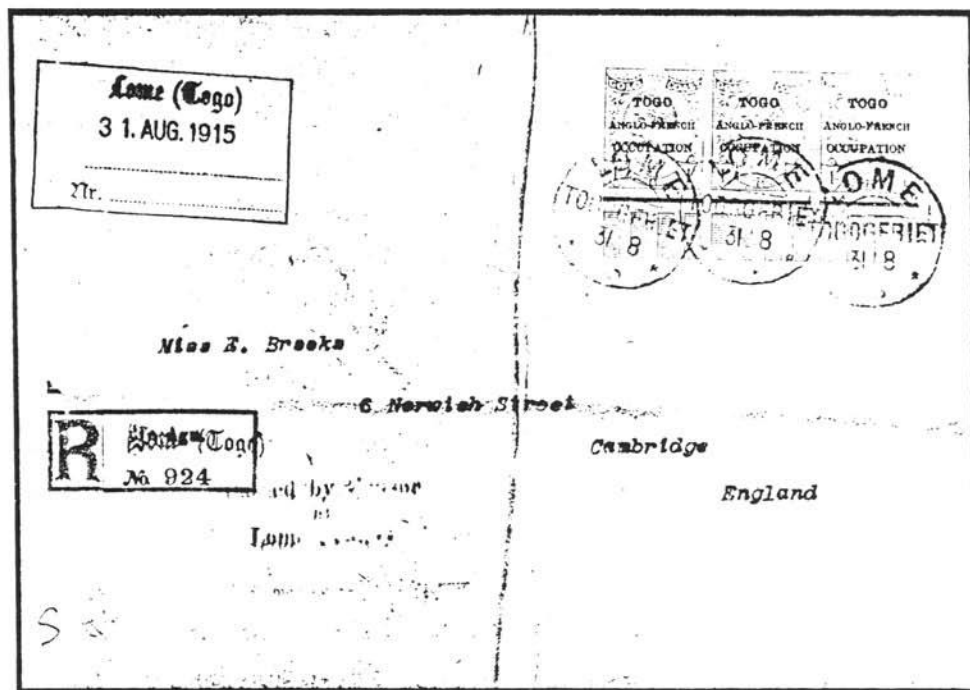


Fig. 1 : Lome to Cambridge, England; Cachet and postmark 31 August 1915

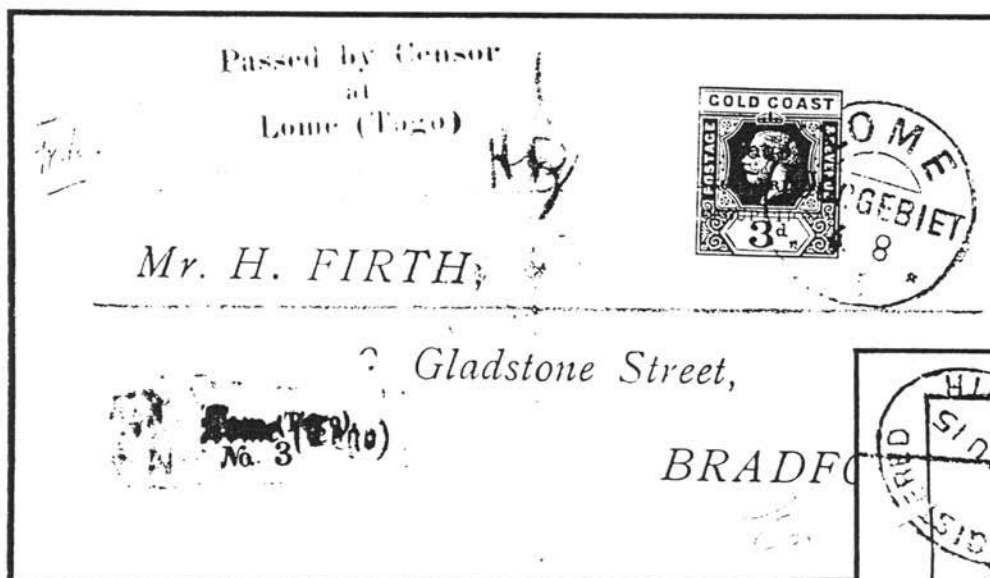


Fig. 2 : Lome to Bradford, England;
Cachet 1 Aug 1915, postmark 4 Aug 1915

Reference

1. Jeremy Martin, "Togo Dated Cachet", *Cameo*, Volume 5 p230, January 1997

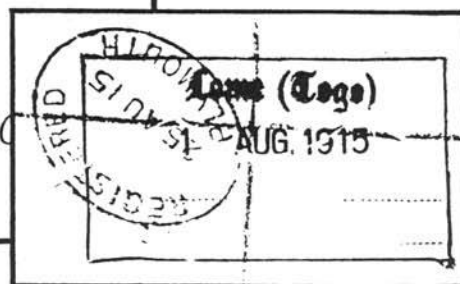


Fig. 2a : Backstamp

Use of Togo Stamps as 1d in September 1914

Jeremy Martin

Erich Schlieper of Düsseldorf, Germany has submitted a photocopy of a fascinating commercial cover.



It was franked with a German 80pfg Yacht stamp overprinted TOGO / Anglo-French / Occupation and was postmarked at Lome on 17 September 1914. Addressed to England, it does seem to prove that stamps, irrespective of face value, were all treated as one penny.

The date of 17 September was also the day when stamps were reported to have been on sale but this was stopped by the authorities after four hours (Ref. 1).

The envelope has been countersigned. The signature appears to be that of Capt. D. R. A. Bettington. He was initially Deputy Commissioner of Police in Accra before moving to Lome on 15 August 1914 when he assumed duty as Base Commandant, Lome.

Reference

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, p18, WASC, Sheffield 1995.

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Index to *Cameo* Volume 5

Frank Walton

The format of this index follows that established in the cumulative index to *Cameo* that was published in March 1995, where the countries are listed before the general topics. Copies of the cumulative index are available from the Honorary Librarian.

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