Cancels showing Registration continued

The **JR5** and **JR8** group (PR21, 22 and 28-36). As the number of Proud illustrations suggests, this is a complex group, confirmed by the fact that no fewer than nine of his images come from the 1949 canceller census, so were presumably different instruments, used on different counters. In addition, the usage period for the group as a whole, runs from 1928 to 1957. During this time evident wear blurred letter shapes and tended to force perimeters inwards, reducing the cancel size.

The JR5 / JR8 distinction is primarily by width: 29mm Vs 28mm. However, a survey of 30 decent examples divided them into 4 subgroups by width: 29mm, 28mm, 27mm and under 27mm. And there are differences in letter shapes, especially the S of LAGOS. Th two groups below show 29mm and 28mm examples. The next sheet shows examples 27mm and below.



29mm wide





28mm wide



Cancels showing Registration continued

The JR5 and JR8 group continued

The examples below show cancels which are 27mm wide and 26.5 mm wide.

The final cancel is narrower still, at under 26mm, and clearly heavily worn. It is probably the sort referred to in Jones as the 26mm wide **JR22**, from 1956 to 7. In fact it is almost certainly one of the JR5 / JR8 group, worn to the extent that it has lost its side dots altogether. These, like the example at the bottom right, are mostly found as transit cancels.



27mm wide







26.5mm wide



JR22 25.5mm wide

Cancels showing Registration continued

JR12 and **JR12A** (PR25 and 26). According to Jones, JR12 has side dots, JR12A does not. PR 26 looks very like a worn version of PR25. In both Proud images the O of GPO is round. I've seen only one example of J12A, and the presence / absence of side-dots can be affected by wear and pressure. Usage dates for the JR12s are 1938 to 1951.

The cover below, dated 11 DE 35, is the earliest known date. Sent Registered by a Lagos-based stamp dealer to Accra, backstamps show it arrived on the 12th, but was not called for (in pencil and ?the illegible violet cachet), so received another Accra registered cancel (type R10) on 20th December before presumably being returned to Lagos. The three examples beneath it show JR12 in various stages of wear.









Cancels showing Registration continued

A similar cancel to J12, and which also shows LAGOS G.P.O. , is shown in Proud (**PR52-54**) There is no Jones equivalent. It does not have side dots and the O of G.P.O. is oval. Known used August 1960 to April 1961.

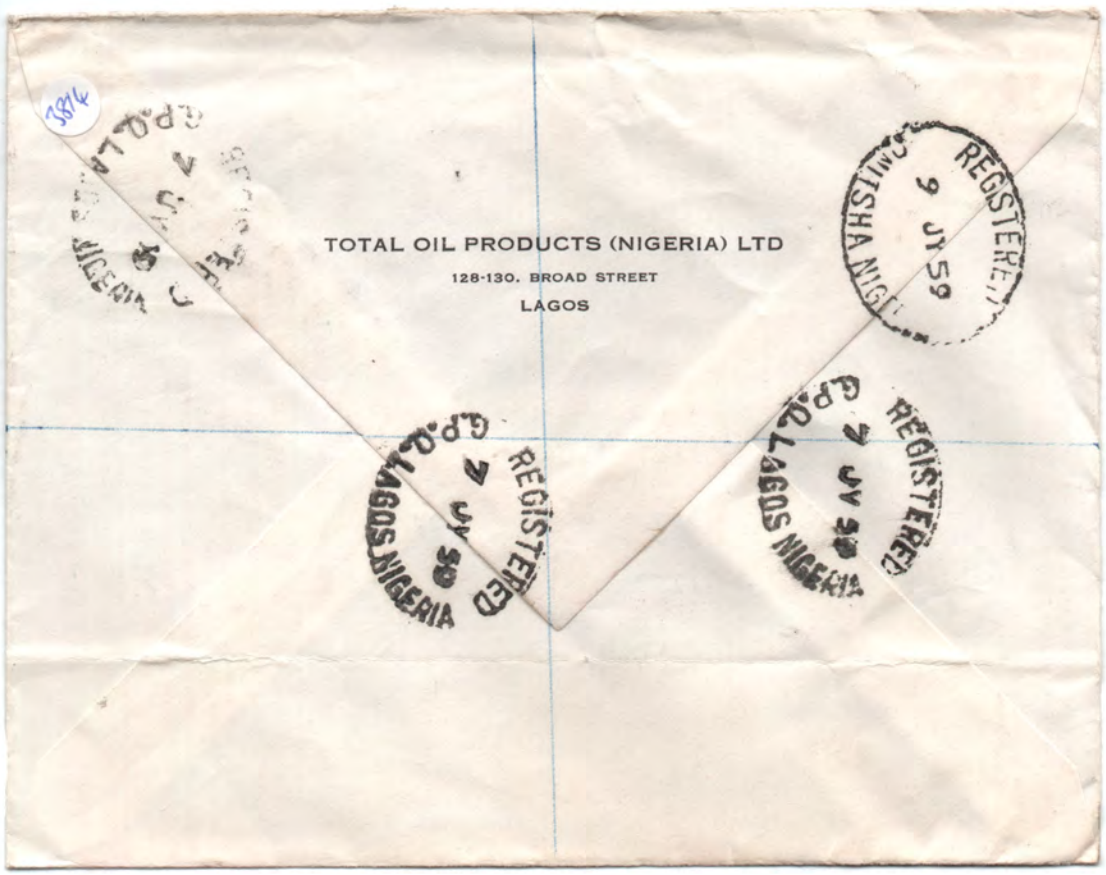


JR14 (PR37, 38). PR37 is known only from the 1949 census. The image shows a different G in LAGOS, but otherwise is very similar. Although JR14 is a very common type from other post offices, it is fairly uncommon from Lagos. Usage dates 1950 to 1961.



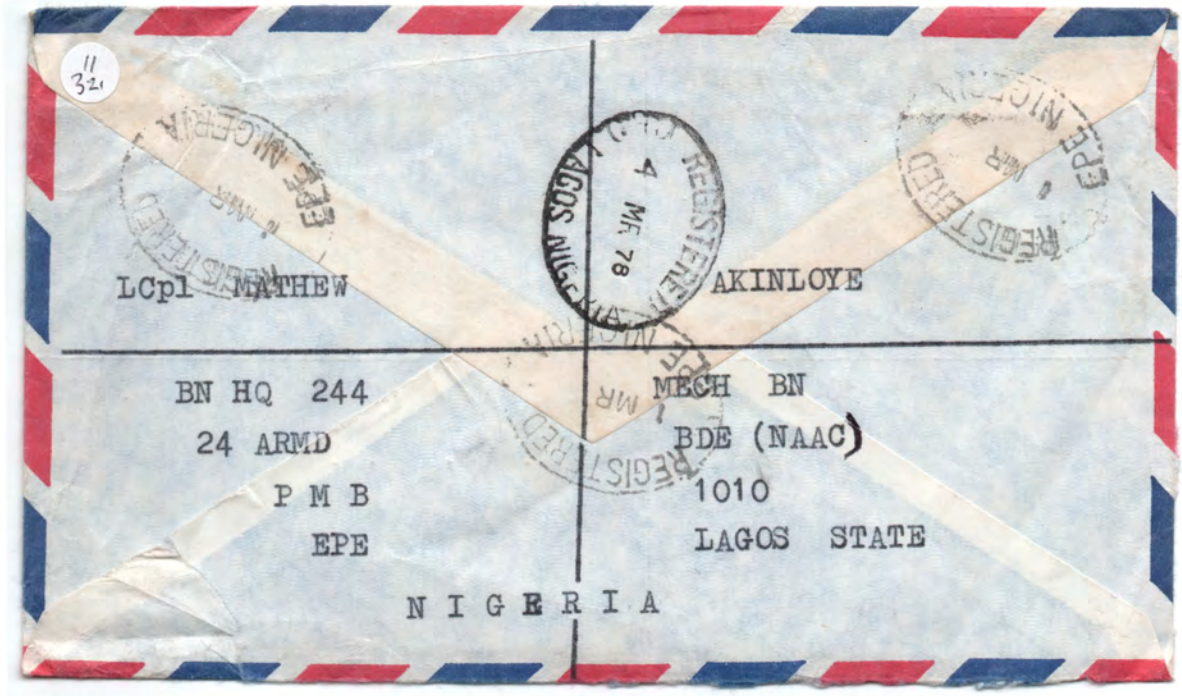
Cancels showing Registration continued

JR16 (PR39) was first seen in April 1955, used to cancel registered mail, and as a transit canceller. JR16 was ‘retired’ in 1959, but brought back into use in the late 1970s. The images show use on transit mail and as canceller.









Cancels showing Registration continued

JR17 (PR40, 41). This skeleton canceller is known in 3 forms. Two types show LAGOS GPO at the foot of the cancel, one (PR40) with the letters of GPO double spaced (August to December 1953), the other (PR41) with no spaces (June 1954 to September 1959). It is also known with LAGOS GPO at the top of the cancel (8/60 to 4/70) - JR17A.

The cover, sent to Glasgow, shows PR41. A piece showing PR40 is bottom left, and the other three examples show JR17A, with the example on the right showing misplaced letters typical of a skeleton canceller poorly re-assembled after cleaning.

PR41



PR40





JR17A





Cancels showing Registration continued

JR23 (PR 42, 44, 47, 50, 51), in which LAGOS is followed by a number in brackets, which is presumed to relate to the post office counter at which that copy of canceller was deployed. Numbers known are 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11.

Some examples are shown below.



(2)



(7)



(9)



(10)



(11)

Telegraph handstamps used on mail

Lagos GPO, like all larger offices, provided facilities for sending telegrams, for the sale of Money and Postal Orders and for the Post Office Savings Bank. Specific handstamps were usually used in transacting these services, and from time to time, were also used to cancel mail. In some offices this practice was common, but less so in Lagos GPO.

Jones records two similar Telegraph handstamps (his type **JT8**) used on mail. This was a 30mm diameter instrument, presumably of the skeleton type, with either 'LAGOS TELS CTR' (used on 6 FE 57) or 'TELS CTR LAGOS' (used on 17 AP 1958).

Jones' generic illustration of JT8 (on p279) is from Kaduna, and I have not seen an example of the Lagos ones he mentions.

Cancellers used on parcels

For the first 4 years or so, Lagos relied on the old Southern Nigeria parcel cancellers described earlier (JP6 was in use until at least 9/23).

In 1918 **JP5** was introduced. Jones' image does not show Maltese cross at foot and Proud does not show an equivalent parcel cancel at all. Just to add to the range of appearance, the two drawings at the foot of the sheet, taken from notes made by Herbert Porter, show JP5 without an inner ring and with extra ring outside main.

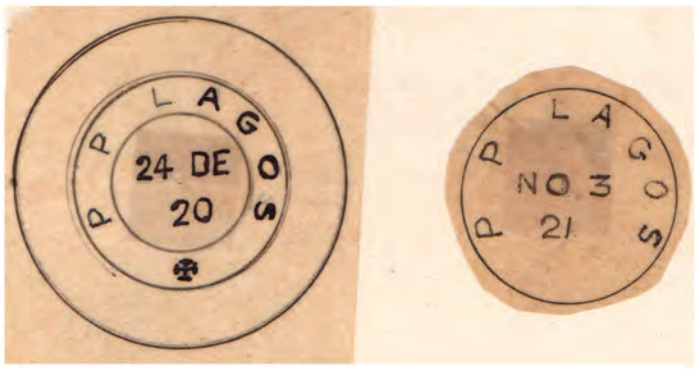
As the four examples of JP5 on stamps show, the cancel is indeed varied in presentation, perhaps reflecting the diffculty of cancelling stamps on an uneven parcel surface (especially using a steel-die canceller). Known usage dates for JP5 are JY 18 to SE 23.

In **JP5A** (bottom right) the letters of LAGOS are jumbled (as Northern Nigeria JN5 cancels can be) to show 'LGAOS' The example shown is the only one reported, dated 13 AU 21.

JP5 examples



Porter notes images





JP5A

Cancellers used on parcels continued

JP1 continued: PP10 shows LAGOS G.P.O. across the centre. It isn't mentioned in Jones. The cancel diameter is 27mm.



Cancellers used on parcels continued

JP13 (PP16) is another steel die parcel canceller, with ‘PARCELS.LAGOS’ at top, side-bars and a Maltese cross at foot. Its use at Lagos is not mentioned in Jones. Known usage dates are August 1921 to December 1922.







There follows a period dominated by parcel cancels constructed from hard rubber, probably locally made rather than sourced via Britain. Rubber cancels may have been more accommodating to the often uneven surfaces of parcels, but they were also subject to more rapid wear than steel cancellers, accelerated often by the use of inks which perished the rubber compound. Wear and the flexibility of the canceller can make it difficult to be certain of a cancel’s dimensions and letter shapes.

These cancels are by their nature undated, and are scarce on pieces which also bear a dated cancel. Approximate use dates are therefore usually inferred from the issue date of the stamp bearing the cancel.

JP1 (PP9, PP10) PP9 shows G.P.O. LAGOS, though Jones’ image is 27mm diameter while the examples seen are 25.5mm diameter and Proud’s image is 25mm. GV. PP10 is described on the next sheet. Most examples are in violet ink, though black was used too.









Cancellers used on parcels continued

The **JP4** group. This is a varied group of cancels. All have ‘LAGOS’ across the middle, but they vary in terms of diameter, letter shapes and fonts. Jones‘ lists mention JP4, JP4A and JP4B, distinguished by diameter (respectively 27mm, 25mm, 26mm). However those diameters don’t match well to the three Proud type images (PP6, PP7, PP11) which have diameters 25.5 – 26.5 mm.

In PP6 the G and O are elongated. In PP7 the word LAGOS is 16/17mm wide, in PP11 it is 19mm. In practice other differences in letter shape exist, and PP11 examples are known with a stop after the S.

Given that rubber cancellers were not as durable as steel ones, and the long usage paeriod (from GV through to QE2), it is likely that quite a few JP4 type cancellers existed, so the variations are not surprising. Cataloguing examples can be tricky.



PP6 examples



PP7 examples

Further JP4 group examples on next sheet

Cancellers used on parcels continued

The **JP4** group - examples of PP11.

The images below show PP11 with and without a stop after LAGOS



JP3 (PP4, PP5, PP8, PP8A) These rather different Proud types are lumped together under JP3, though Jones' detailed listing mentions three types.

PP4 shows LAGOS NIGERIA on 2 lines, in black or purple ink. This two-line format is found for many of the offices using this type of parcel cancel. The example on the right has received a strike of PP15 as well as PP4, giving a date - 4 JU 19 .



Cancellers used on parcels continued

JP3 type **PP5** shows is LAGOS P.P. across the mid-line. In use from GV to EII, it became worn. Seen in violet or black.



JP3 type **PP8** shows LAGOS PARCEL POST across the mid line in small letters



JP3 type PP8A is a variant on PP8, not shown in Proud or mentioned in Jones. It is distinguished by the wording LAGOS G.P.O. PARCELS across the mid line



Cancellers used on parcels continued

While the rubber parcel cancellers continued in use well into the 1950s, several new steel-die cancellers, of similar design, were introduced in the 1930s. All are double circle, and contain some of the words NIGERIA, LAGOS, GPO, and PARCELS in different arrangements

JP7 (Proud PP18) has PARCELS at the top, side dots, and LAGOS - NIGERIA at the foot. The hyphen between LAGOS and NIGERIA is not always clear, and Jones' type image for JP7 doesn't show it. Diameter is 29.5mm. Known used NOV 34 to MAR 55.



JP10 (Proud PP17) has LAGOS at the top, side dots, and G.P.O PARCELS at the foot. Diameter 29.5mm. Known used APR 45 to MAR 61



Cancellers used on parcels continued

JP9 (PP19-22). The four Proud images come from the 1949 census. Although they are indistinguishable in practice, they were used in separate counters: Inland parcels, overseas parcels, Parcel acceptance and Parcel delivery.

The cancel shows LAGOS G.P.O. PARCELS top, nothing at the foot, and examples are 27.5mm in diameter. Known usage dates: January 1949 to November 1955



JP8 is illustrated in Proud under Lagos Broad Street (as PP2), with the comment ‘’Before 1946 used at Lagos’. The only dates given are by Jones (14 AP 49), and on the 2 Proud drawings of the cancel (23 and 26th July 1949). The drawing below left comes from Proud, and the scan in the centre is my only (incomplete and therefore uncertain) example of the cancel on a stamp. The same scan is shown on the right, with ring reconstructed. It is a good match by diameters, but the position of the letters differs from the drawing. LAGOS HARBOUR is another possibility



Cancellers used on parcels continued

JP12 This cancel is not mentioned in Proud, though its known use dates are January 1958 to December 1960ot in Proud). It is 24mm in diameter, with PARCELS.LAGOS top and NIGERIA at the foot.





JP22 Details are under Parcel Delivery GPO in Jones, but an example seen seen by Ray Harris confirms that this cancellation was used at the Lagos GPO. Diameter 30.5mm, with known dates: September 1960 to April 1966.







The final cancel is not definitely a parcel cancel at all. It is not mentioned in Jones or Proud, but the Porter notes contain a drawing, shown below and I have seen incomplete examles on GVI stamps. Further sightings would be most welcome!









Other special purpose cancels

In addition to cancellers for mail, for parcels and to show registration, there were a number of others used at Lagos GPO for specific purposes. These include Returned Letter Office and Offical Paid handstamps, and an Air Mail canceller. Proud also lists a couple of Paquebot cancels under Lagos, which for the sake of completeness are included below.

J27 (Proud SL3) Listed under Lagos in Proud and as On Board Lagos in Jones. October 1927 to January 1931. Jones' type example shows an O between LAGOS and NIGERIA at the foot of the cancel. Proud's image doesn't show the extra O, but all examples seen have the O.



SL4 (in Proud but not mentioned in Jones), is a 30mm cancel with PAQUEBOT top and LAGOS at foot. Proud gives a single usage date of 19.5.30, but the 2 egs seen (of which this is one) are undated. How this came to be used on a stamp from Dahomey would be interesting to know.



J114 (AM 6 in Proud). While this survey does not include commemorative 'first flight' cancels, or the extremely scarce 'INTERNAL AIRMAIL LAGOS (AM1) cancel of 5 November 1931, J114 (mentioned twice in Jones – J42A 'AIRMAIL LAGOS in addition to the entry under Lagos itself) was in use from 1959 to 1968.



Other special purpose cancels continued

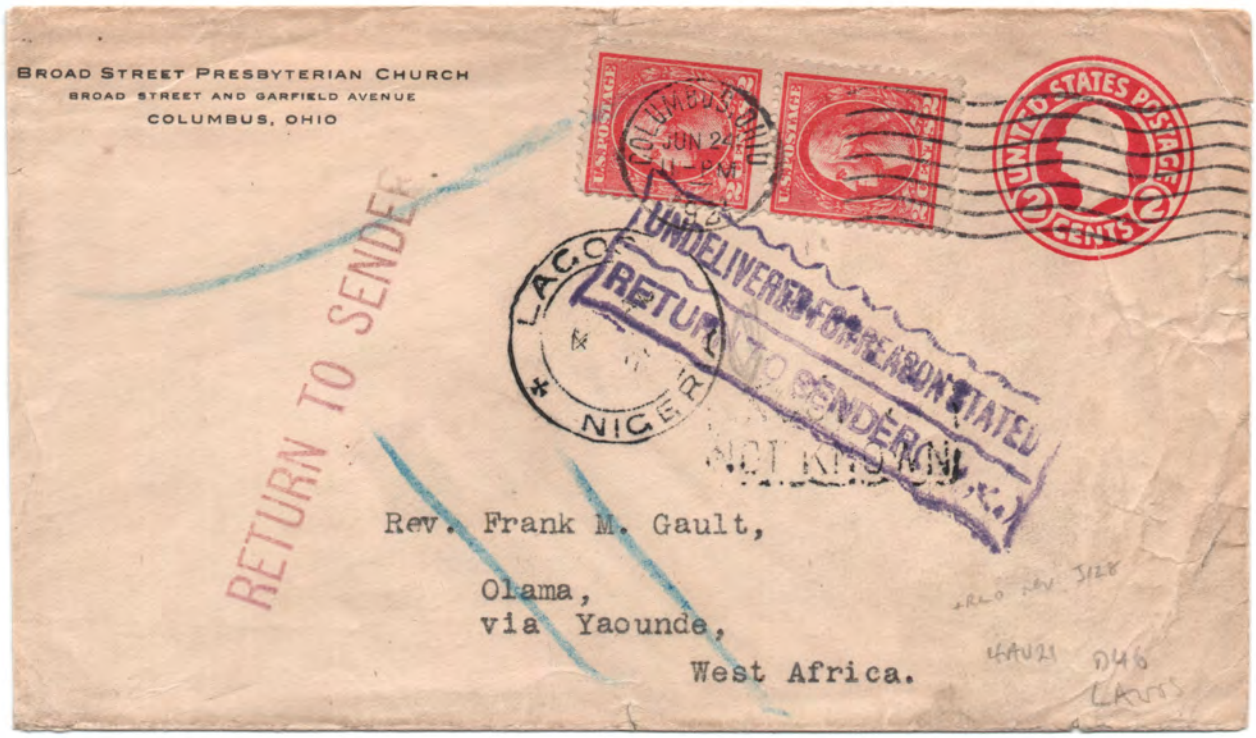
Returned Letter Office (RLO)

If mail could not be delivered and was consequently returned to the address from which it was sent, a specific RLO handstamp was usually applied.

J128 is not mentioned in Proud or in Ince and Sacher. It shows RETURNED LTR OFFICE top. LAGOS SOUTHERN NIGERIA at foot. Dates: March 1918 to August 1921.

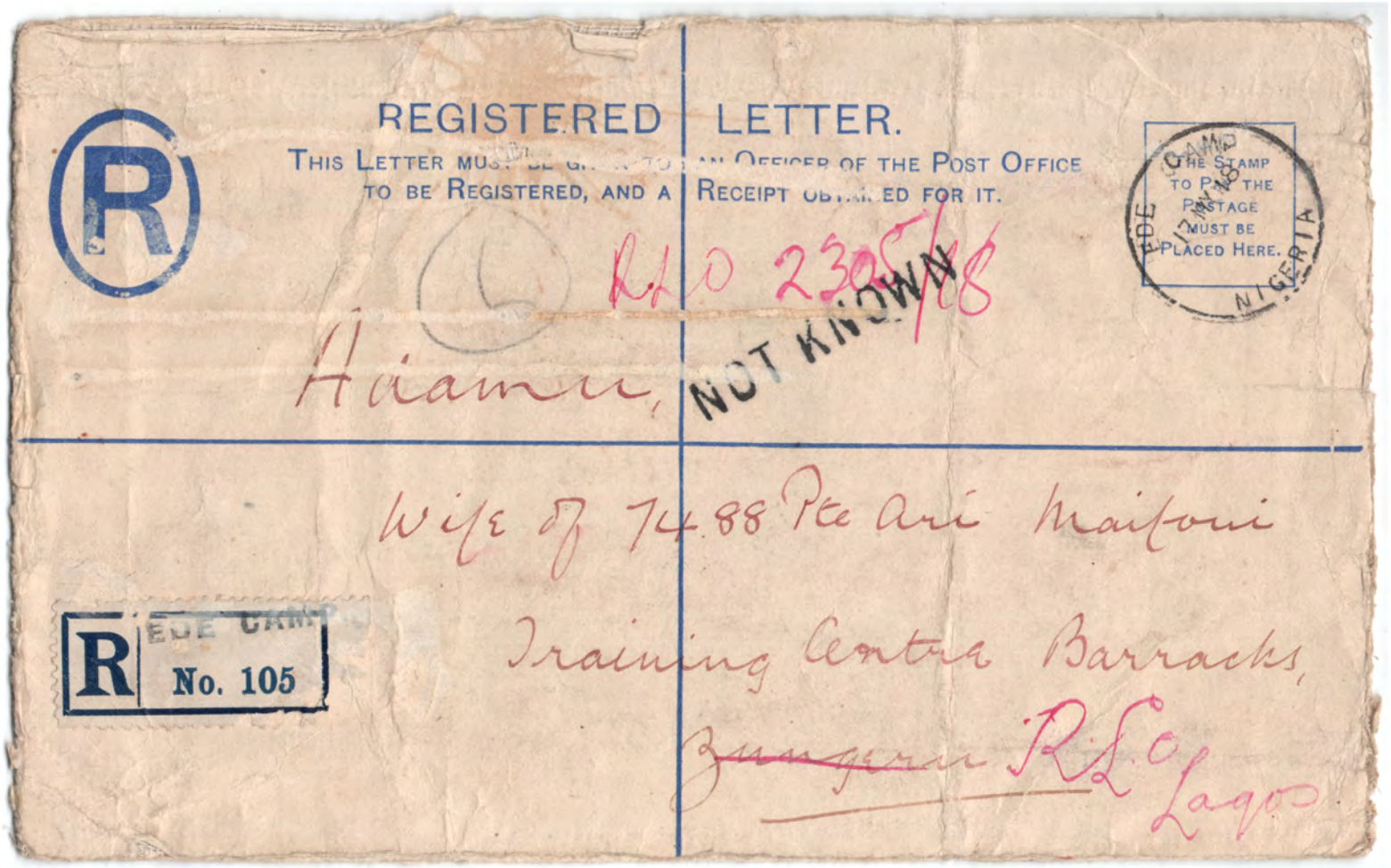
The image on the right showing J128 comes from the reverse of the cover below, which was sent from Columbus Ohio to a missionary in Cameroon on June 24 1921. A London backstamp shows 9 JY 21, and the Lagos cancel on the front shows it reached there on 4 AU 21. There is no indication of when the cover reached Cameroon and was sent back. The J128 date of 19 AU 21 suggests that the unclaimed letter did not languish long before starting on its journey back to Ohio.The cover carries 3 different cachets indicating address unknown and return to sender.





Other special purpose cancels continued

Returned Latter Office J128 continued: This second example was sent Registered from Ede Camp to Zungeru on 17 MY1918, arriving at Zungeru a week later. The RLO handstamp on the back is dated AU 22 18, presumably as the letter passed back through Lagos en route to the un-named sender





Other special purpose cancels continued

Returned Letter Office cont.

J129 (Proud D2 on p185) shows R.L.O. LAGOS at top, sidebars, and a Maltese cross at the foot. Proud shows 2 distinct cancels both called D2, one slightly smaller (D2A), with the 2 date lines separated by 4mm ('wide date') and use dates 5/29 to 12/41. The other (D2B) is 1mm wider in diameter, with date lines 2mm apart ('close date'), and given usage dates of 10/46 to 12/49.

While I have no examples of a pre-1942 D2 RLO cancel to measure, the two examples immediately below, both from 1949, correspond to the 2 Proud D2 types shown below them. J129 (pictured on p284 of Jones) is shown below both. Diameters in mm are given for each image.

Clearly 'wide date' and 'close date' types were separate and in use at the same time

My eg
Wide date
26mm



My eg
Close date
27mm



Proud D2A
Wide date
25mm



Proud D2B
Close date
26.5mm



J129
Wide date
25mm



Other special purpose cancels continued

Official paid

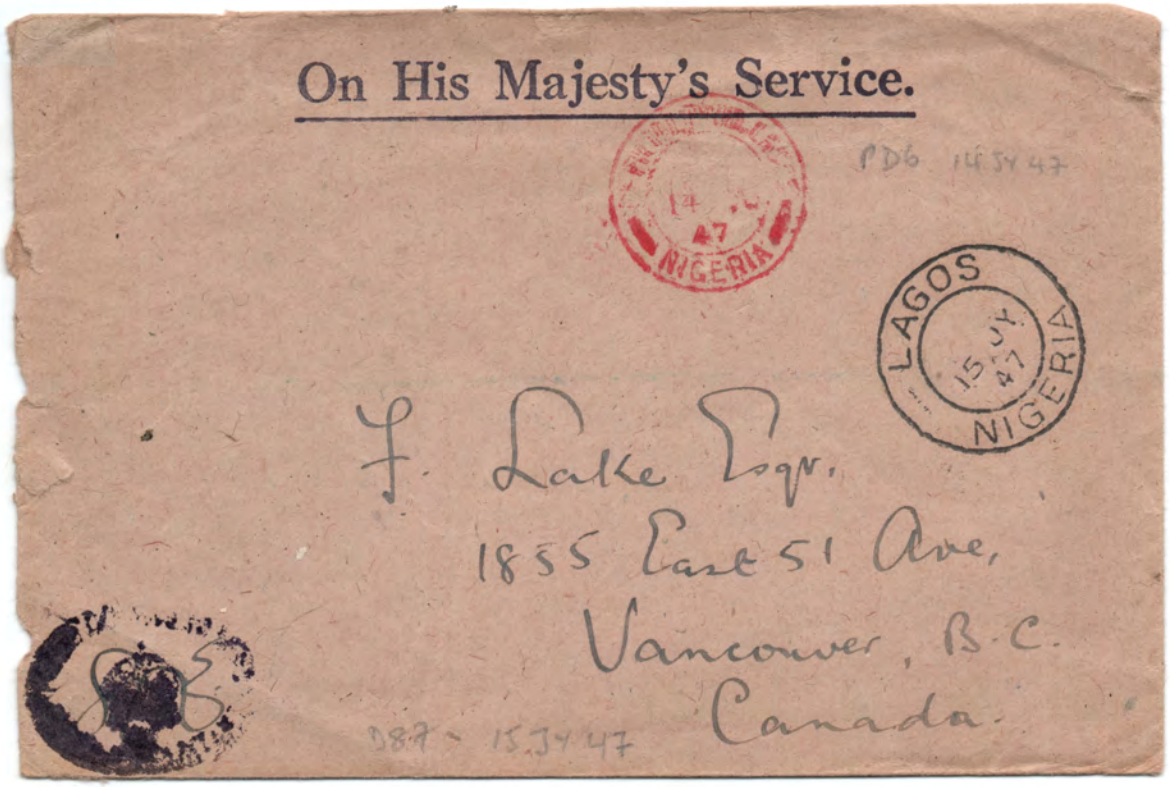
Official paid cancels / handstamps were intended for use on government mail to show that, while a postage stamp might not be present, the postage had been paid for. However, some Offical paid cancellers are found on stamps on cover.

PD5 is illustrated in Proud, and Jones mentions a JO10 of similar date which is not illustrated. Reprints of Jones show an image for JO10 (on p 273) but that image is simply a larger version of his JO3, a post 1960 handstamp. I have not seen an example of PD6, so the image to the right comes from Proud.. Known use dates SEP 22 to SEP 23



JO1 (Proud PD6). The cover below shows PD6 in red on a cover to Canada (lkd for the type), which includes a letter from the P&T Dept Chief Accountant '...I have to inform you that the Peace stamps hace been withdrawn from sale from 31st March 1947...' (refers to 'Victory' issue of Oct 1946?). Until the image (see right) of this handstamp was seen in Porter's notes, dated AP 12 22, the earliest known use date was 1935.





Other special purpose cancels continued

Postage paid continued. JO2 (PD8).

Known use dates for JO2 are June 33 to Apr 60. According to Proud the amount paid was initially written in place of the year slug. However, although the year slug is always missing in QE2 examples, no amount is written in. This may be because by that time the instrument was being used to cancel mail, as the cover below suggests. 6d would have been right for a letter sent in 1958 by sea mail to the UK, so it's most unlikely that anything else was paid. It would be interesting to hear of QE2 era covers without postage stamps in whch this cancel was clearly used to show that postage had indeed been paid.





