

THE GOLD COAST

THE STAMPS

POSTAL STATIONERY POSTAL RATES

KING EDWARD VII

1901 1913

EDITOR

MICHAEL ENSOR

THE GOLD COAST

THE STAMPS

POSTAL STATIONERY POSTAL RATES

KING EDWARD VII

1901 1913

EDITOR

MICHAEL ENSOR

(The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria, St. Helena, Ascension)

THE GOLD COAST
STAMPS, POSTAL STATIONERY AND
POSTAL RATES
OF
KING EDWARD VII'S REIGN

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording, without the written permission of the copyholder. Application for this should be addressed to the secretary of the Circle. Such written permission should be obtained before any part of this publication is stored in a retrievable system of any nature.

THE WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

GOLD COAST : KING EDWARD VII'S REIGN

Editor's Note

This Study Circle has been working for some years on the production of a comprehensive handbook on the Gold Coast's stamps and postal arrangements. Its completion is still, alas, not imminent. So it has been thought helpful to collectors to publish sections which are virtually complete as separate monographs.

This is the first. Like those that may follow, it results from the efforts of members of the Study Circle too numerous to list, several of whom, sad to relate, are no longer alive. In bringing their contributions together the Editor pays tribute to all who have generously helped. But he does not seek to absolve himself from the blame for any errors that have crept in.

Where unquestioned facts have been recorded in standard works, these have been drawn upon, and acknowledgement is made of the help derived from Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia, Marcus Samuel's work on specimens and the listing of postal stationery by Higgins and Gage. Additional material has been derived from, and doubtful points checked, in such original sources as The Gold Coast Gazette, the Gold Coast Blue Books and the De La Rue/Crown Agents archives; and the staff of the Royal Commonwealth Society's Library, of the National Postal Museum and of the British Library are warmly thanked for providing such ready access to these. Another valuable source of information was the notes made by Mr L N Williams when he was given access to Gold Coast Government archives in Accra during periods of local leave in the course of his war service there, which he generously made available. Mr Marcus Faux kindly allowed his long experience of the Crown Agents work to be drawn upon.

But all this assistance has still not enabled all the facts to emerge nor, more fundamentally, all the reasons for them. Readers who can fill in gaps are encouraged to do so in order that the eventual handbook may be as complete and accurate as possible.

Michael Ensor
May 1988

1/12 The Paragon
London SE3 0NZ

THE GOLD COAST STAMPS, POSTAL STATIONERY AND
POSTAL RATES OF KING EDWARD VII'S REIGN

Introduction

The reign of King Edward VII was the heyday of the Universal key plate: only one Gold Coast stamp appeared during this period that was not of this design. The 'Imperium' type of keyplate had already been in use for the whole range of Gold Coast stamp values since 1898. Its adaptation to the requirements of the new reign forms the subject of Section 1 below.

De La Rue continued as the printers of all the colony's stamps and there was no immediate change of paper, basic colours or perforation. Unlike some other, non-African, colonies the Gold Coast had only one value printed on coloured paper - the 20s. on red.

From 1904 stamps appeared on paper with the multiple Crown CA watermark, the dandyroll for which had been approved in May, 1903. Later, some values were printed on chalk-surfaced paper, presumably as an additional precaution against the removal of cancellation. By 1908 such paper was being used, together with doubly fugitive ink, for the values from 3d. upwards, which were more likely to be used for revenue purposes.

In 1907 the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. were printed wholly in the colours decided on by the Postal Union Convention.

Soon after this the Crown Agents put proposals to Colonial Governments for the standardisation of the printing, and paper, colours for the other values. The main object of this general colour scheme was to bring to an end the use of one colony's stamps to fake another's. Such faking was drawn to DLR's notice by Stanley Gibbons in a letter dated Dec 3 1906: it was thought to be being undertaken in Paris. It consisted of removing the issuing colony's name and the value from a low value stamp whose paper corresponded with the high value of another colony and substituting the latter's name and the high value. Both used and unused examples of the 4c. of the Straits Settlements were reported to have been converted by the faker into Gold Coast stamps of £1 (or more likely 20s.) value. The forger's purpose was probably to deceive collectors rather than the Gold Coast authorities. 1909 saw the introduction of the new standard colours for several values.

Although the Universal keyplate remained in general use, a departure from it was made in 1908 when a new design was adopted for the 1d. value. This consists of a border design unique to the Gold Coast around the sovereign's head in an oval surround of dots of the sort incorporated in De La Rue's 'Nyasaland' type of keyplate. Although a suggestion for some departure from the Universal keyplate seems to have come from Accra, the design of this stamp is De La Rue's work. We know from correspondence in the DLR archives that in 1911 the firm was advocating a general move from the Universal to the 'Nyasaland' type of keyplate, of which proofs had first been produced in December 1907, on the grounds that the latter provided a more striking colour contrast.

It came to nothing. So was the Gold Coast Id. of 1908 a first tentative move by De La Rue towards such a switch for the Gold Coast? There is no hard evidence either way. Probably it was only where the quantities of a stamp required were large that the saving from printing from a single plate (in this case of 240) outweighed the cost of making a special plate.

In April 1910 DLR made a charge for the first time for the numbering of sheets (3d. per 100). It is likely that this reflects the start of sheet numbering.

A final printing of all the stamp values, anticipating a delay in the production of the new reign's stamps, was made at the end of 1911, including the two highest which were never put on sale.

In the field of postal stationery the new standard colonial designs appeared on the postcards and envelopes in 1903 and 1904 respectively though not, pace RLE, on reply paid cards. In 1904 the practice of using British registered envelopes with the addition of 'Gold Coast Colony' was dropped in favour of envelopes produced specifically for the colony - also a more or less standard colonial development. This meant that DLR were now producing the entire range of stamps and stationery for the Gold Coast.

The fact that the Gold Coast used the same stamps for revenue purposes and postage means that the numbers sold to dealers and collectors (exclusively at that time from the Colony) and postally used fell well short of the numbers produced, which are set out in Annex 1. Although postage stamps had ceased in the previous reign to be required for use in the Courts, since keyplate issues in other colours and overprinted 'JUDICIAL' were being produced for their use, many other non-postal uses, for telegrams and revenue, remained. In each of the years 1900-1904 the value of sales of stamps for telegraphic purposes exceeded that for postal use, and by 1906 telegraphic use still formed an important proportion of total issues (postal £19,675 - telegrams £12,229).

Unfortunately the figures of sales of stamps showing their purposes are not broken down into consistent categories over the years. But the figures for 1901 give the fullest disaggregation. These are

Stamps for postal purposes	Stamps to philatelists	Postcards	Embossed envelopes	Registered envelopes
£24,040.16.11½d	£176.12s.3d.	£19.15s.7d.	£8.7s.8d.	£61.17s.10d.

Admittedly 1901 was a boom year. The falling off of sales of stamps in the following years was explained by the greater use of embossing machines. This suggests that the 1901 figures of 'sales for postal purposes' included some sales for revenue and that, at least in the early years of the century, stamps needed for some revenue purposes had to be bought in the first instance at a post office.

Perfins are known to have been used after 1904, but the few examples reported by members of WASC are all single stamps bearing only a small part of the wording. It has not been possible to draw firm conclusions as to the use of these perfins but what little is known about them is set out in Annex 2.

In Part B the postal rates in force are listed. Surprising as it may seem in these inflationary days when tariffs rise frequently, the principal postage rates remained unchanged throughout the ten years of King Edward's reign.

In 1901 thrice-weekly postal services were provided between all the principal stations in the colony ('the colony' is here used in its restricted sense - i.e. excluding Ashanti and the Northern Territories) Services to Kumasi, to Grand Bassam and Assini in the French Ivory Coast and to German Togo were provided once a week. A statistic for 1910:

Letters and postcards posted 1,955,950; delivered 2,266,498.

A proportion of these totals was of course official correspondence - i.e. without adhesive stamps.

When the reign opened the Postmaster General was Thomas Deacon who had been serving since 1899 on a salary scale of £500 x £20 - £600. He remained in office until he was invalided in 1910, then enjoying a salary of £650.

In the early hours of 18 March 1907 the SS Jebba on a northbound journey from West Africa went onto the rocks at Whitechurch in South Devon in thick fog. All 155 passengers and crew were hauled to safety by bosun's chair. Later the mails she carried and much of her cargo of rubber and ivory but also including some parrots were offloaded. Items of the mail are known handstamped "SALVED FROM - SS JEBBA" including a cover from Kumasi dated February 24 1907 which was offered by Sothebys in their auction of 6 September 1984. The stamps appeared to have come away from the cover and to have been replaced not quite in their original position. Mail from Sierra Leone from this vessel is known with two different handstamps.

Note: the highest value postage stamp issued in King Edward's reign was designated 20s. In the literature, indeed even in De La Rue's daybook entry for Dec 1911, this stamp is occasionally described as being a £1 value. A check has been made to see if a Gold Coast £1 value was ever produced in this period even if only as a specimen or judicial overprint but the conclusion reached is that it was not, and that lapsus calami has occurred.

Abbreviations used

CAA	Crown Agents for the Colonies (as they then were)
DLR	De La Rue & Co. Ltd.
H & G	Higgins & Gage's Catalogue of Postal Stationery
RLE	Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps 1806-1948 Vol.2, Part 2
Samuel	Marcus Samuel's 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948'
SG	Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 1.

PART A

THE STAMPS AND POSTAL STATIONERY

1. THE KEY PLATES

For a general account of the evolution of the Universal key plate the reader is referred to Robson Lowe's amply illustrated monograph "The De La Rue Key Plates" which was published in 1974. This was based, as the author acknowledges, on the work of James Whitfield, one time President of this Study Circle. A companion work is the catalogue of the RL sale of 15 November 1974. Between them these two works trace the story of the key plate from the first essays in August 1888, which featured Queen Victoria's head. The Imperium type came in two versions - one inscribed 'Postage Postage'; the other 'Postage & Revenue'. The monograph goes on to describe the successive adaptations of this type to take King Edward's, and then King George's, portrait, the gradual standardisation as between the colonies of the colours of inks and papers; and the development of the 'Nyasaland' type.

For most of West Africa it was the Imperium type that was used; and the Gold Coast, where stamps served revenue as well as postal purposes, chose the 'Postage & Revenue' version. Twenty other colonial administrations at one time or another shared the key plates of this type, including the cost of producing them. Each needed its own range of duty plates to print the colony's name and each value. This system enabled quite small quantities to be produced economically. While the original proofs, for Queen Victoria's reign, contained the word 'Imperium' at the top where a colony's name should appear, the tablet was left blank in the case of the early (i.e. pre 1907) proofs for the King Edward issues.

The closest working relationship had been developed between DLR, who printed the stamps, and the Crown Agents, who placed orders on behalf of the colonies, supplied and tightly controlled the paper, and had an inspection team installed at the printer's works.

In May 1901 the Crown Agents sent a circular to those colonies using the Universal key plate, enclosing specimens from the existing plates and photographs of the design for the new royal portrait which had been approved by King Edward. In July the Colonial Secretary's Office in Accra replied, accepting the combination and specifying the 'Postage & Revenue' version of the Universal plate for all values. In practice one change in design was adopted, apart from the new portrait: as the king is portrayed bare-headed a symbolic crown was included above his head. The Gold Coast was debited with its share of the cost of the new plate in 1902.

Only two key plates were used during the reign, each numbered at the top or bottom of each panel. Plate No.1 was used for all three definitive issues. So far the use of Plate No.2 has been reported for only seven values of the third issue. As a late printing occurred of all values in response to one order in 1911 it is surprising that Plate 2 is not known as having been used for all the other values except the 1d. for which a new design had been adopted. Philip Beale's transcription from the DLR archives lists the ½d. to 5s. values overprinted 'Specimen' all from plate 2.

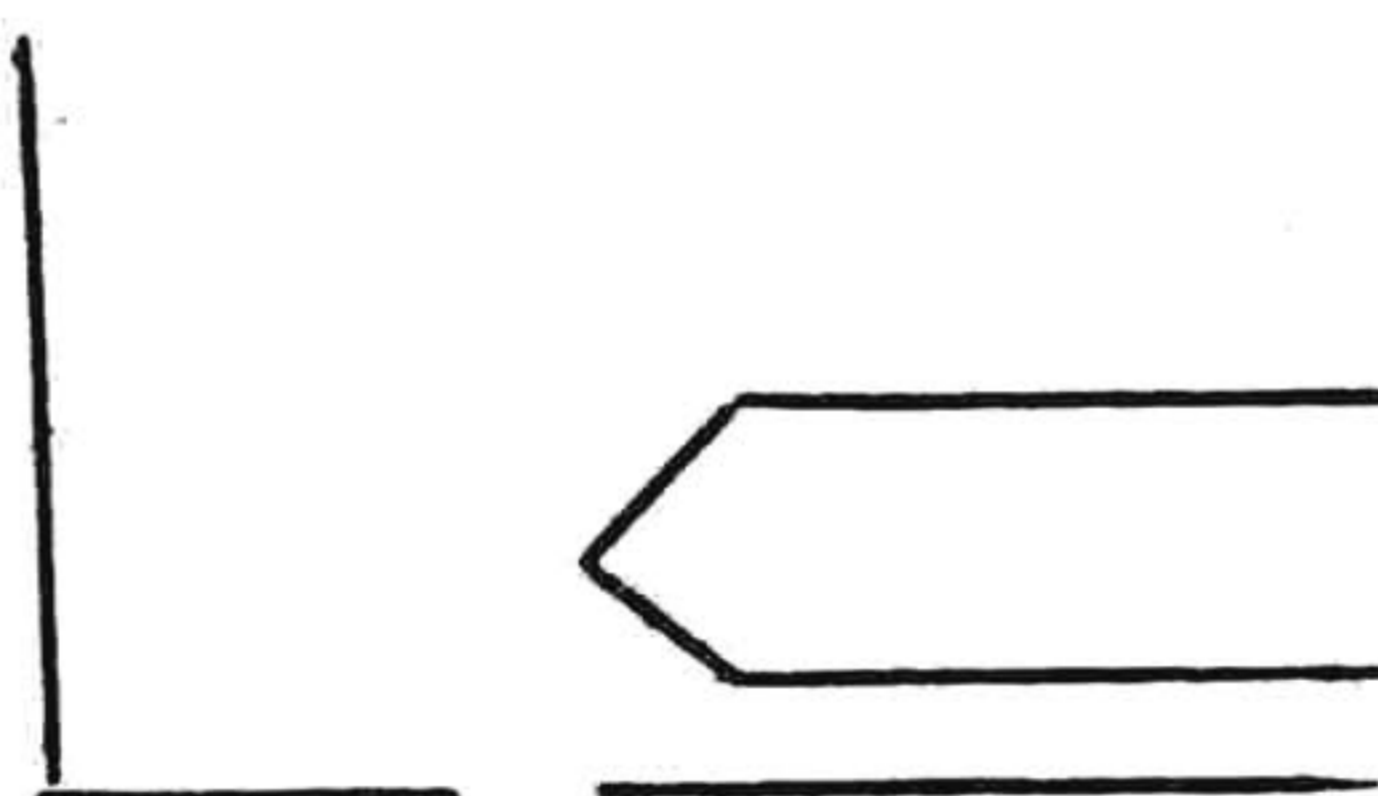
It is the key plate that was protected by the single Jubilee line that is a feature of all these issues.

The practice, started in the previous reign, of using the key plate to produce stamps for judicial purposes continued (for the background see Philip Beale's article in Cameo No. 13). These were printed in different colours and subsequently overprinted 'JUDICIAL'. Three deliveries are recorded between February 1902 and April 1903; each covered all the values from 1d. to £5.

Varieties

Frame breaks are known in two areas of stamps from Plate 1. One affects the inner frame line of the country tablet - in its top right hand corner, opposite the right arm of the 'T' of Gold Coast. This was displayed by Charles Kidd to the Study Circle in April, 1965, and has since been the subject of detailed study by Jack Ince of the Northern Nigerian printings from this plate (see Cameo Vol. 2 No. 10). In its most distinct form the break attains $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in length and can be seen on stamps 5 and 6 in the top row of the left hand pane. Assuming the Northern Nigerian conclusions are equally valid for the Gold Coast issues, this break can be found in a decreasing form down the right hand columns of the left hand pane. It seems to have started as a weakness in the plate that developed into a series of breaks.

The other break occurs on the bottom line of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of 1902: it looks like this



Colours

Until 1907 the printings of the key plate were in one of two colours - purple for the lower values; green for the higher. These were two of the three colours in which doubly fugitive inks were produced at that period. (The third was black used for the Judicial stamps). In the DLR archives a letter from the printers dated 17 October 1905 explains that single fugitive stamps have to be sensitive under printed obliteration only, while the doubly fugitive have to be sensitive under a written, as well as a printed, obliteration. In that year the Crown Agents asked for tests to be conducted. The conclusion reached was that no end would be served by treating the paper of stamps likely to receive only printed obliteration. De La Rue offered to put, at their own expense, a protective coating on the paper for other values.

In 1906 general instructions issued by the Crown Agents that all colonies' printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. values in the new UPU colours were to be made with singly fugitive ink. It is inferable that the purple, green and black key plate printings of the third issue were, like the purple and green of the two previous issues, made with doubly fugitive inks. On the other hand the 2d. grey of 1909 must have been printed with singly fugitive ink.

Watermarks

As will be seen, some values have been recorded with inverted watermarks. When asked, admittedly some years later, by another colonial government that all sheets printed with watermarks inverted should be rejected, DLR replied that no doubt some of the paper was turned in the course of manufacture before being handed to them and that the rejection of such sheets would involve them in a very considerable financial loss.

2. THE DUTY PLATES

When printing from a key plate had taken place, two blank tablets were left: duty plates were needed to overprint (to use the printer's language) at the top the colony's name - in our case 'Gold Coast' - and at the bottom the value. Two versions of the value tablet existed - one with the value in outline on a lined background, the other with a solid value figure on a plain background.

In general DLR did not charge for producing new duty plates when needed so that the production of new duty plates cannot usually be established from the firm's invoices. The CAA circular of 1901 warned that new plates would not be produced immediately so as to avoid delay in the appearance of new reign stamps. The close resemblance in detail of most duty plates used in King Edward's reign to those used in both Queen Victoria's and in King George's reign suggests that perhaps for most of the values the duty plates were not changed during King Edward's reign.

Some of the features of the Gold Coast duty plates are these:

- unlike other West African colonies the 2d. value has a solid value figure on a plain background (as for the 3d. and 6d. values);
- the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values follow the standard practice of having the 'd.' underlined whereas the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., also with lined background, has not.

The lettering of 'Gold Coast' comes in varying thickness: this is probably attributable to differences in inking conditions, pressure or the absorbtivity of the paper.

The duty plates for the 1d. and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. values were increased from a 60 set to a 120 set in 1905 and 1907 respectively, for which charges were made. The die proofs of these two values known to exist presumably relate to the enlargement of the plate. The only other value of which a die proof of the duty plate alone is known is the 3d. This may have been the proof produced in 1901 when the colours for the judicial issue were being considered by DLR, CAA and the Gold Coast Government referred to in

DLR's letter of 10th September that year. Five specimens of the 2d. were also sent to the Gold Coast at this time: the copy in the DLR archives has been removed and presumably has appeared on the market.

These duty plates must also have been used for the judicial overprints on differently coloured stamps as only one set of duty plates - from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to £5 - was listed in the schedule of duty plates held by DLR in the firm's return of 15 December 1904.

3. FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE - 1902 (SG 38/48)

This is distinguished from succeeding issues by the watermark, which is Crown CA (illustrated as w6 in the introduction to SG).

The DLR invoice dated February 21, 1902, included charges for producing all eleven values overprinted 'specimen'. The invoice is headed 'King's head stamps' so it is virtually certain that all the values of the new issue were despatched at this time. Only the 2d. seems to have been released immediately on arrival in the Gold Coast (which is surprising since a 2d. bearing Queen Victoria's portrait had only just been put on sale). The 1d. followed, the earliest known example being cancelled 6 May. August is generally reckoned to be the month of release of the remaining values.

The colours are all more or less the same as the previous issues, the key plate appearing in only two colours, green for the 1s. to 10s. values, purple for the rest. White wove paper was generally used: the red paper for the 20s. value was the only coloured paper. Two versions, illustrated in SG as types 6 and 7, with lined and plain backgrounds to the value tablet, continued in use.

The stamps were produced by DLR by typography in sheets of 120 - two panes 6 x 10 - with a single jubilee line surrounding each pane. The plate number - always No.1 - appears above and below each pane. The perforation is 14.

CHECK LIST

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	dull purple and green
1d.	dull purple and carmine
	do. watermark inverted
2d.	dull purple and orange red
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	dull purple and ultramarine
3d.	dull purple and orange
6d.	dull purple and violet
	do. watermark inverted
1s.	green and black
2s.	green and carmine
5s.	green and mauve
10s.	green and brown
20s.	purple and black on red

Die proofs

Cameron records a die proof of the 1d. in black. The RL sale of 21 December 1978 offered a cut down die proof of the key plate in black on glazed card. No colony's name or duty was expressed: the reason for treating the item as specific to the Gold Coast was not given.

Specimens

The set was overprinted horizontally in black in block letters 14.5 x 2.5 mm. (Samuel type D12). The 20s. value was also overprinted similarly but 15 x 2 mm. (type D9) but even Marcus Samuel has been unable to give the reason for this.

Forgeries

Two fakes of the 20s. are known. Both were produced by fading out the names and values of other colonies' stamps produced on the same red paper and printing in a new name and value. One was the 1d. of Fiji (SG 105); the other the 4c. of Straits Settlements (SG 112). RLE reports that the 10s. value was similarly faked.

4. POSTAL STATIONERY 1ST ISSUE

In 1902 there appeared, in the three sizes G, H and H2, British registered envelopes with King Edward's head in white against a brown background encircled with 'REGISTRATION TWO PENCE POSTAGE ONE PENNY' on the flap which also bears 'GOLD COAST COLONY' in large sans serif capital letters (H & G type 7).

These were supplied to CAA by the Inland Revenue, Somerset House. The numbers supplied are not known. DLR supplied tin-lined cases for the deliveries of registration envelopes in March and October 1903.

5. POSTAL STATIONERY 2ND ISSUE

On 25 September 1902 DLR invoiced CAA for making and printing plates, 4 sets each, for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. postcards. First deliveries of the cards were invoiced in April 1903. King Edward's head is in a frame the shape of a stamp but slightly larger, in green for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., in red for the 1d. (H & G types 5 & 6). The paper of both cards is buff coloured. Between 1903 and 1910 DLR supplied 18,084 of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 37,572 of the 1d. The 1d. card is recorded used in Togoland as late as January, 1916.

Essays

Essays of the K.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, and 1d. red, postcards each with hand-painted value tablets and affixed to an Appendix sheet (205 x 307mm.) dated May 20th 1902 were included in the RL sale of 21st December 1978.

Specimens

727 examples of each card were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'.

DLR offered to provide at the same time reply paid cards. But the Colonial Secretary's office in Accra replied that, as there was very little demand for them, the stock remaining in hand would suffice.

6. POSTAL STATIONERY 3RD ISSUE

The DLR/CAA archives contain correspondence dated March and April 1904 concerning the format of the new 1d. postage envelope and also

that of the registration envelope. After three designs had been considered for the latter one was approved on 18 April 1904.

The first supplies of both and the electrotypes needed to produce them were invoiced on 6 June 1904.

CHECK LIST

1904 Postal Stationery envelopes. One penny carmine on white wove paper 145 mm. x 88 mm. The design is the same as for the 1d. postcard. (H & G2). Only one delivery was made.

1904 Registered envelopes specially prepared for the Gold Coast. King Edward's head in square frame with the words 'Registration Gold Coast Two Pence Postage One Penny'. Paper Creamy white.

Size F $3\frac{1}{4}$ x $5\frac{1}{4}$ ins. with 'THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. PATENT' under flap (H & G 8).

Size G $3\frac{3}{4}$ x 6 ins. with 'THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. PATENT' under flap (H & G 8a).

Size H 5 x 8 ins. with 'THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. PATENT' under flap (H & G 8b).

The quantities delivered are given in Annex 1.

Essays

Seven different essays for the registration envelopes were offered for sale by RL on 24 November 1976. The sale catalogue describes them as follows:

Upright design: 2d. in blue, part printed part hand painted made up essay on size F registered envelope with "GOLD COAST", "TWO PENCE" and part of frame hand painted and surrounded by "REGISTRATION/FEE" frame.

2d. + 1d. in black, part hand painted and affixed to card (34 x 45 mm.); dated "March 29th 04", the two side tablets and wording have been removed and "TWO PENCE" added in lower frame.

Circular design: 2d. + 1d. in black, part hand-painted, affixed to card (39 x 42 mm.) with head set in a central square, all the letters and associated surrounds together with the background to the head are hand-painted. "TWO PENCE" is at top, "GOLD COAST" at foot, "REGISTRATION" at left and "POSTAGE ONE PENNY" at right.

ditto. the same design prepared photographically and affixed to card (89 x 114 mm.) dated "April 13 04".

ditto. a similar essay but with "GOLD COAST" at top, "POSTAGE ONE PENNY" at foot and "TWO PENCE" at right, marked "B" and dated "April 9th 04".

Square design 2d. + 1d. in black with hand-painted legend and corner stars on all four sides affixed to card (89 x 114 mm.) marked "C", dated "April 9th 04" and initialled "WHM".

This last is the one adopted.

Specimens

727 examples were produced of the postal stationery envelope and of the registered envelope, size F, overprinted 'Specimen'.

7. SECOND DEFINITIVE ISSUE - 1904-7 (SG 49-57)

This issue is distinguished from the first by its multiple Crown CA watermark (SG w8) in paper used from 1904 onwards. Otherwise the colours and papers were unchanged until probably in late 1905 the 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d. values started to be produced on chalk-surfaced paper, which was the only paper used for the 2s./6d. which appeared in March 1906. It is believed that all these printings involved doubly fugitive ink for the key-plate.

All were printed from Plate 1 in sheets made up as before, and so included the frame breaks described above.

CHECK LIST

Value	Ordinary Paper earliest recorded date	Chalk paper earliest recorded date
1/2d. dull purple and green	27 Mar. 06	-
1d. dull purple and carmine	Oct. 1904	May 1906
2d. dull purple and orange red	Nov. 1904	Aug. 1906
2 1/2d. dull purple & ultramarine	June 1906	-
3d. dull purple and orange	Aug. 1905	Apr. 1906
6d. dull purple and violet	Mar. 1906	Sept. 1906
2s./6d. green & yellow	-	Mar. 1906

The 1d. value is known with watermark inverted.

Specimens

Only the new value 2s./6d. was overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. This overprint is known with both Samuel's types D12 and D9.

Die Proofs

Cut down die proofs of duty plates were included in the RL sale of 24 November 1976. The first two are presumably proofs in preparation for the enlargement of the plates (see section 2 above). The dates are

- 1/2d. on piece marked "Jan 19 120 leads" endorsed with a red line across the proof and dated in red "Feb 22 07".
- 1d. on piece marked "July 24 120 leads" similarly endorsed but dated "Sep 14 05".
- 3d. affixed to piece marked "November 7th 120 leads" (as no year is given this does not necessarily relate to the 2nd issue).

The same, or similar, items were put up for sale on 21 December 1978.

Value	Colour	Paper Ordinary or chalky	Plate No.	Date of invoicing	Date of release
1s.	black on green	C	1	June 1909	before Oct. 1909
	grey black on green	C	2		
2s.	purple & blue on blue	O	1	? Aug. 1910	1910
	-do-	C	2	? Dec. 1911	
	(the purple varies from pale to dark)				
2s./6d.	black & red on blue	C	2	Dec. 1910	1911
5s.	green & red on yellow	C	2	Dec. 1911	1913

Note: Where, in the above listing, Plate 2 is shown against a second colour, this means only that some Plate 2 printings of that colour are known and not that all Plate 2 printings are of that colour nor that all Plate 1 printings are of the first colour.

Green and red stamps on green paper of the 10s. value, and purple and black stamps on red paper of the 20s. value, both watermarked multiple Crown CA, were produced and sent to Accra but not issued. The Royal Collection contains a corner block of 4 of the 10s. This came from a sheet specially printed to fill the gap discovered in the Royal Collection (as did a block of the 5s. value) after the entire stock sent to the Gold Coast had been destroyed. A "rather water stained" example of this stamp was included in a RL sale in 1985. Whether it escaped from the first attempt at destruction at sea in 1913 before the subsequent incineration of the stock, or from the remainder, sent to Accra, of the specially printed sheet, thought to have been destroyed in 1914, is not known. The 20s. is known only with Specimen overprint and presumably failed to be included in the Royal Collection because it was regarded as insufficiently different from the 1902/3 printings on Crown CA watermarked paper.

Specimens

The ½d. to 5s. values are known with 'SPECIMEN' overprint in Samuel's type D12. Two versions of the 2s. are recorded: one D12 dated August 10 in singly fugitive ink; another, darker in colour with type D9 dated December 11. Only the former was invoiced to the Gold Coast Government.

The, otherwise unissued, 10s. stamp green and red on green paper watermarked multiple Crown CA also exists overprinted with type D12. The DLR archives show that 404 of these 10s. specimens were included in the comprehensive invoice of 30 December 1911. An example from the Cameron collection was auctioned by Wm. Carson in June 1982 and is illustrated in the catalogue of that sale. What appears to be a proof dated "Dec 11" was offered in the RL sale of 21 December 1978.

The RL sale of 24 November 1976 included a 20s. stamp coloured purple and black, on red paper watermarked multiple Crown CA which was overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in type D9. It was normally perforated and

Colour trials: The same sale included three imperforate trials of the 2s./6d. in green, with a different shade of yellow for the duty plate, affixed to "Appendix" sheet (134 x 220 mm.) dated "19th Decr. 1905". One is marked "Appd. (Sd.) WHM 22/12/05".

8. THIRD DEFINITIVE ISSUE - 1907-13 (SG. 59-68)

In 1907 the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps were issued wholly in the colours agreed upon by members of the Universal Postal Union and in 1909 the Colony adopted the new general colour scheme for all other values. Stamps in these new colours were issued up to 1913, i.e., well after the accession of George V.

With this issue the policy seems to have been adopted of using chalk-surfaced papers for the values 3d. and above. But there is one exception: the 2s. value appeared on both chalky and ordinary paper. Two despatches of this value are recorded, so it may well be that one consisted of ordinary, the other of chalk-surfaced, paper. If so, which was which is unclear, and, since the identification of the paper of single used examples, which have normally been soaked off, is very difficult, dated cancellations are not a reliable guide. In Philip Beale's transcription of the DLR archives (p.163 of Cameo No.8) two specimens of the 2s. are listed - one dated August 10 in singly fugitive ink, the second, darker, dated December 11, in doubly fugitive ink. This makes it look as if the despatch of August 1910, which consisted of 2s. stamps only, was printed on an old stock of ordinary paper with singly fugitive ink.

The following plate nos. are known:-

- Plate 1 ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. (these include the frame break).
- Plate 2 ½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s., 2s./6d., 5s.

CHECK LIST

Value	Colour	Paper Ordinary or chalky	Plate No.	Date of Invoicing	Date of release
½d.	dull green	0	1	Feb. 1907	May 1907
	blue green	0	2		? 1909
1d.	red	0	1	Jan. 1907	Feb. 1907
2d.	grey	0	1	Feb. 1909	Apr. 1909
	slate	0	2		
2½d	blue	0	1	Jan. 1907	Apr. 1907
3d.	pale purple on yellow	C	1	Feb. 1909	16 Apr. 1909
	deep purple on yellow	C	2		
6d.	dull & deep purple	C	1	Oct. 1908	Dec. 1908
	dull & bright purple	C	2		1911

affixed to a piece of paper on which was written "Dec 11". A similar stamp, with no paper or date attached, was included in Harmers' auction of 1st February 1983. It was supported by a 'Royal' certificate dated 1982 and is illustrated on the front cover of the sale catalogue. The paper is described as chalky, which coincides with the surface of the papers generally used for high values in 1911.

One explanation for the existence of a 20s. specimen on mult.CA watermarked paper would link it with the samples of the new Universal colour scheme produced by DLR in April 1908. Sets of specimens of all the values covered by this scheme were handed to the Crown Agents for despatch to each of the 12 colonies sharing the key plate, including the Gold Coast. Copies were included in the DLR archives but these were removed in 1955 and later put on sale. (Although photos were taken and still exist these are now inaccessible).

However this would not explain a 20s. specimen on paper marked "Dec 11". A suggested explanation of the existence of such a stamp, without any having been invoiced to the Gold Coast Government, is that in December 1911, a new delivery of the whole range of values having been ordered, it was thought necessary to produce specimens for UPU of all those values that had not been so overprinted since the introduction of the new colour scheme - in practice the 5s., 10s., and 20s. Only after overprinting had started, according to this explanation, was it realised that, while the 5s. and 10s. differed in their colouring from the previous printings of these values, the 20s. did not differ from the 1902 printing in any respect that warranted notification to UPU. Any sheet printed doubtless became printers' waste but DLR placed an example in their records which subsequently came on the market. Not only were no new 20s. specimens invoiced to the Gold Coast, none appears in the Colonial Office stamp records nor in the Berne collection in the National Postal Museum.

9. THE FOURTH DEFINITIVE ISSUE

This consisted of a 1d. value only to a new design, illustrated in SG as No.8. It was typographed by DLR and produced in sheets of 240 on ordinary paper with multiple CA watermark. The perforation was 14. All were printed from Plate No.1.

The first delivery was invoiced on 6 April 1908. There were six subsequent deliveries whose colour varies from very pale to very deep red.

Essay

The RL sale of 24 November 1976 included a photographic essay of the 1d. in red in a design similar to that issued. There was a small area of hand painting near the crown. It was affixed to a card dated "Dec 23rd 07".

Die Proof

A cut down die proof on glazed card dated in manuscript 'Feb 21 - 1908' on face is known. On its reverse is written in manuscript '21/2/08 approved for hardening'.

Also in black on glazedcard are proofs inscribed:

Before hardening	21 Feb 08
After hardening	24 Feb 08

The last is also known cut down and affixed to a small piece marked "Feb 26 240 leads and 6 extra" endorsed by diagonal red line and dated "Apr 3rd 08" in red.

Specimens

449 stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN' were invoiced. The overprint is Samuel type D12.

PART B

P O S T A L R A T E S

The General Postal Regulations made under Section 21 of the Post Office Ordinance of 1889 and gazetted on 29 November 1898 set out the basis of the Gold Coast Post Office's services to the public and were still in force at the start of King Edward's reign. They reaffirmed the system of Imperial Penny Postage which was to come into effect at Christmas of that year (1898). This applied mutually between the UK, British Crown Colonies and such other British dependencies as elected to join the arrangement (these last already included Lagos, the Niger Coast Protectorate and the Niger Territories). Mail between these countries, as well as within the Gold Coast, was carried at 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Letters from the Gold Coast to foreign countries and British dependencies not part of the Imperial Penny Postal system were charged 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or part thereof. The rate for printed papers to the UK was 1d. for 4 oz. and that for parcels to the UK 9d. per lb. The charges for postal stationery were

Inland postcard	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
International postcard	1d. (this was applied to the UK)
Reply paid postcard	2d.
Registered envelopes	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for sizes F & G, 3d. for size H.

The registration fee was 2d.

King Edward's reign was characterised by stability of postal rates, though reductions in the rate to many individual British

dependencies occurred from time to time as they joined the Imperial Penny Postal system. The principal letter, and postcard, rates remained unchanged throughout the reign but some new rates were added.

On 23 September 1901 an arrangement for the insurance of parcels to the UK was announced. There was a scale of fees from 5d. for compensation up to £12 to 1s.3d. for compensation up to £50.

In 1902 the introduction of a parcel post service from 9 post offices (all on the coast except Tarkwa) to the USA was announced. The rates were: up to 3 lbs. - 1s.8d., 3 - 7 lbs. 3s.4d. and 7 - 11 lbs. 5/-. These compared with rates to the UK of 1/-., 2/-., and 3/-.

By 1903 the internal rate for printed matter had become 1d. per 2 oz. while the external rate for the same weight was 2½d.

In 1904 the prices of registered envelopes were raised to 3½d. each for sizes F and G and 4d. for size H.

A copy of the page from the Blue Book for 1904 showing the postal rates in force in that year forms page 16 below.

In 1907 amending regulations published in the Gazette of 30 September announced

"Letters bearing an extra penny stamp and endorsed 'Late Fee Paid' will be accepted at Post Offices at Accra, Victoriaborg, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Axim, Tarkwa, Obuasi and Kumasi up to half an hour after the advertised time of closing the mails for the homeward mail steamers".

At the same time the basic letter rate to foreign countries of 2½d. was extended to one ounce and the rate was reduced to 1½d. for each subsequent ounce, in accordance with the 1906 Postal Union Convention signed in Rome.

The introduction of these rates led to a reduction of £679 postal revenue in the year of its introduction. These rates were those in force at the end of the reign.

ANNEX 1

QUANTITIES OF STAMPS SUPPLIED

There is no way of ascertaining the numbers of stamps issued by the Gold Coast authorities: even if there were, the proportion sold for postal, as distinct from revenue, purposes would be uncertain. It is known, however, what deliveries of each value of stamp were made by the sole supplier, Messrs De La Rue, and the numbers overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The figures of these deliveries can be found in the DLR day books fortunately preserved in the National Postal Museum. Although, to be precise, these deliveries were to the Crown Agents, in practice they all passed on, except for Specimens, to the Gold Coast Government.

The day books give no direct indication of colour or of the paper used on any occasion. Consequently, in order to relate the printers' figures to the different issues, assumptions and inferences have to be made.

The first assumption is that each delivery of each value consisted of only one type of stamp on one type of paper. Considerations of security prevented any mixing of types at the printers. To be sure, the Crown Agents on occasion held reserves of stamps on behalf of colonial governments and this practice could have led to deliveries of mixed types; and there is no conclusive evidence, either way, whether or not such stocks were held for the Gold Coast at any time during this period. However the circumstantial evidence suggests that no such reserves were created. So the strong probability is that, although shades may have varied, and the paper was sometimes reversed, in the course of a printing, when we read of a delivery of stamps of a particular value having been made on a given day we can suppose all the sheets forming the delivery were in all major respects identical.

This supposition is not in itself sufficient to enable quantities to be related to particular issues. Next, an inference has to be drawn, but it is a highly probable one, that each time new specimen overprintings took place, there was a change in a readily visible characteristic of the stamp (e.g. design or colour) as such a change needed to be reported to U.P.U. This inference enables deliveries of much of the third issue to be distinguished from the first two.

To distinguish stamps of the second issue from those of the first the timing of changes in watermarks and paper surfaces has to be inferred. Obviously the earliest recorded dates of used Gold Coast stamps form a starting point. But it seems very likely that paper with the multiple CA watermark was introduced at about the same time by the Crown Agents for all the administrations they served. If so, the dating of the introduction of the new watermark in other studies (e.g. Jack Ince's study of Lagos) is highly relevant. The DLR archives show that the Crown Agents agreed the design for the new dandyroll to produce the overall mult. CA watermark in May 1903. While it is conceivable that paper with this watermark was supplied to the printers in time for stamps to be printed on it in late 1903, it is more likely that stocks of the former paper lasted into the first half of 1904 and that stamps printed on the new paper started to be supplied around the middle of that year.

The timing of the introduction of chalk surfaced paper is a greater problem and it certainly cannot be assumed that once introduced it was invariably used (e.g. two values of the second issue which appeared on chalky paper appeared on ordinary paper in the third issue). It looks as if chalk surfaced paper was introduced for all values in late 1905 but from 1908 was confined to the values from 3d. upwards. This leaves a doubt over printings in 1907 and early 1908. Furthermore it does not explain why some 2s. stamps of the third issue delivered no earlier than 1910 were printed on ordinary paper (unless one accepts the theory that it was possible for a purple key plate printing to have been made on blue paper several years in advance of demand). It may well be that the paper surface related to the printing ink - doubly or singly fugitive - used. The problem is compounded by the difficulty of determining the paper surface on used and dated examples which have almost always been soaked off.

All this explains the basis on which your editors have arranged the DLR figures in the table below to show quantities against the values of each issue.

It can be added that at the start of the reign supplies were despatched in response to a standing order from the Colonial Treasurer in Accra for quarterly deliveries. The quantities in the standing order were amended by a letter from the Colonial Secretary's office in Accra dated 17 May 1902. Up to the end of 1903 most despatches are described in the day books as quarterly supplies, though the occasional supply against an ad hoc indent is also included. This arrangement, however, was evidently based on an overestimate of needs especially of the highest values, since no deliveries of these were made between 1903 and 1911. Whether a supply of stamps over-printed 'judicial' in 1904 affected the need for postage and revenue stamps is not known. Alas, the correspondence in the archives hardly ever gives reasons for the decisions communicated to the printers. It is likely that the supply of all values at the end of 1911 was intended to avoid the risk of a shortage occurring while the plates bearing the new sovereign's head were being prepared.

The first definitive issue (Wmk Crown CA)

Date of invoicing	Value	Specimens Invoiced	Quantity despatched
1902 Feb 21	½d. purple & green	722	84,120
Apr 16			339,120
May 26			84,960
Sept 2			183,600
1903 Jan 14			180,000
Apr 3			180,120
Jun 3			178,320
Sep 25			181,200
	Total	722	1,411,440
1902 Feb 21	1d. purple & carmine	722	120,000
Apr 16			482,640
May 26			121,440
Jul 30			365,160
1903 Jan 14			360,960
Apr 3			360,000
Apr 23			602,880
Jun 3			349,200
Sep 25			362,640
	Total	722	3,484,920
1902 Feb 21	2d. purple & orange	722	7,680
Apr 16			7,920
Jul 30			60,000
Sept 2			12,240
1903 Jan 14			12,240
Apr 3			12,000
Jun 3			12,000
Sep 25			12,840
	Total	722	136,920
1902 Feb 21	2½d. purple & ultramarine	722	11,760
Apr 16			48,600
May 26			11,880
Sept 2			12,480
1903 Jan 14			12,000
Apr 3			11,760
Jun 3			12,000
Sep 25			12,480
	Total	722	132,960

Date of invoicing	Value	Specimens Invoiced	Quantity despatched
1902 Feb 21	3d. purple & orange	722	12,240
Apr 16			48,960
May 26			12,000
Jul 30			36,960
Sept 2			24,360
1903 Jan 14			24,240
Apr 3			24,000
Jun 3			24,240
Sept 25			24,000
Total		722	231,000
1902 Feb 21	6d. dull purple & violet	722	47,880
Apr 16			192,000
May 26			49,200
Sept 2			49,440
1903 Jan 14			48,000
Apr 3			48,720
Jun 3			47,760
Sept 25			48,120
Total		722	531,120
1902 Feb 21	1s. green & black	722	23,880
Apr 16			96,360
May 26			24,000
Sept 2			24,840
1903 Jan 14			24,240
Apr 3			23,880
Jun 3			24,000
Sept 25			24,840
Total		722	266,040
1902 Feb 21	2s. green & carmine	722	18,600
Apr 16			73,440
May 26			18,000
Sept 2			18,120
1903 Jan 14			18,000
Apr 3			18,240
Jun 3			18,000
Sept 25			18,480
Total		722	200,880
1902 Feb 21	5s. green & mauve	722	24,000
Apr 16			24,000
Sept 2			12,480
1903 Jan 14			11,760
Apr 3			12,240
Jun 3			11,760
Sept 25			12,360
Total		722	108,600

Date of invoicing	Value	Specimens Invoiced	Quantity despatched
1902 Feb 21	10s. green & brown	722	24,360
Apr 16			24,000
Sep 2			12,360
1903 Jan 14			11,760
Apr 3			12,240
Jun 3			12,000
Sep 25			12,720
Total		722	109,440
1902 Feb 21	20s. purple & black on red	722	24,960
Apr 16			24,240
Sep 2			12,720
1903 Jan 14			12,000
Apr 3			12,000
Jun 3			11,640
Sep 25			12,720
Total		722	110,280

The second definitive issue (Wmk Mult. Crown CA)

1904 Jun 6	½d. purple & green	122,160
1904 Jun 6	1d. purple & carmine (ord. paper)	302,880
Dec 31		243,600
1905 Sep 15	(? chalky paper)	615,360
		1,161,840
1904 Jun 6	2d. purple & orange (ord. paper)	24,480
Dec 31		60,960
1905 Sep 15	(? chalky paper)	61,080
1907 Jan 9	do.	61,200
Aug 16	do.	61,440
1908 Feb 4	do.	72,000
		341,160
1904 Jun 6	2½d. purple & ultramarine	24,000
1904 Jun 6	3d. purple & orange (ord. paper)	24,000
1905 Sep 15		(? chalky paper)
1907 Jan 9	do.	61,200
Aug 16	do.	60,000
1908 Feb 4	do.	138,720
		325,000

Date of Invoicing	Value	Specimens Invoiced	Quantity despatched
1904 Jun 6	6d. dull purple & violet	(ord. paper)	60,000
1905 Sep 15		(? chalky paper)	120,960
1907 Jan 9		do.	122,880
1908 Feb 4		do.	108,600
			<hr/> 412,440

1906 Jan 26	2s./6d. green & yellow	727	60,360
-------------	------------------------	-----	--------

Third definitive issue (new colours)

1907 Feb 25	½d. green	732	611,160
1908 Mar 6			600,000
1910 Apr 18			123,960
Dec 15			243,600
1911 Nov 2			123,000
Dec 30			427,200
		Total	<hr/> 732 2,128,920

1907 Jan 9	1d. red	732	902,880
Sep 28			323,520
1908 Mar 6			906,360
		Total	<hr/> 732 2,132,760

1909 Feb 1	2d. grey	413	152,280
1910 Aug 10			121,560
Dec 15			122,400
1911 Dec 30			121,440
		Total	<hr/> 413 517,680

1907 Jan 9	2½d. blue	732	61,560
1909 Feb 1			60,000
1910 Aug 10			60,720
Dec 15			120,360
1911 Dec 30			121,920
		Total	<hr/> 732 424,560

1909 Feb 1	3d. purple on yellow	413	121,560
Jun 24			120,960
1910 May 31			122,520
1911 May 26			121,920
Dec 30			120,000
		Total	<hr/> 413 606,960

Date of Invoicing	Value	Specimens invoiced	Quantity despatched		
1908 Oct 28	6d. (SG 64)	413	242,880		
1909 Jun 24			121,920		
1910 Aug 10			242,400		
Dec 15			240,360		
1911 Dec 30			307,320		
		Total	1,154,880		
1909 Jun 24	1s. black on green	413	120,480		
1910 Apr 18			74,160		
Dec 15			72,960		
1911 Dec 30			121,200		
		Total	388,800		
1910 Aug 24	2s. purple & blue on blue	413	121,920		
1911 Dec 30			60,720		
		Total	182,640		
1910 Dec 15	2s./6d. black & red on blue	404	61,080		
1911 Dec 30			60,480		
		Total	121,560		
1911 Dec 30	5s. green & red on yellow	404	29,760		
1911 Dec 30	10s. green & red on green (not issued)	404	29,880		
1911 Dec 30	20s. purple & black on red * (not issued)		29,640		
<u>1d. red new type</u> (240 to the sheet)					
1908 Apr 6		449	1,218,480		
1909 Jun 24			1,456,800		
Dec 10			734,160		
1910 Apr 18			122,160		
Dec 15			1,476,000		
1911 Nov 2			617,040		
Dec 30			2,440,800		
			Total	8,065,440	

*note: In the DLR day book "£1" and not "20s." appears in the table: but as it uses the symbol "/-" against the other shilling values where "s." appears on the stamps it cannot be relied on.

Postal stationery: quantities invoiced by De La Rue

Postcards ½d. green

1903	Apr 3		1,596
		└specimens	727
	Jun 3		1,548
	Sep 25		1,548
1910	Jul 30		10,296
1911	Dec 30		3,096
			Total 18,084

1d. red

1903	Apr 3		1,632
		└specimens	727
	Jun 3		1,548
	Sep 25		1,548
1904	Jun 6		3,660
1905	Sep 15		7,176
1908	Feb 4		3,096
1909	Dec 10		12,696
1911	Dec 30		6,216
			Total 37,572

Postage envelopes

1904	Jun 6		6,072
		└specimens	727

Registration Envelopes

(Prior to 1904 the registration envelopes in use were British stock adapted for use in the Gold Coast and supplied by Inland Revenue. All that the DLR records show is the supply on 2nd March 1903 and again on 15 October of that year of tin-lined cases to contain registration envelopes).

Supplies from DLR of the new types of envelope prepared specially for the colony were:

Size F

1904	Jun 6		6,200
		└specimens	727
1908	Feb 4		2,575
1909	Dec 10		2,600
1910	Jul 30		5,050
1911	Dec 30		6,325
			<hr/>
Total			22,750

Size G

1908	Feb 4	2,076
	Oct 28	5,150
1909	Dec 10	8,425
1911	Nov 16	2,561
	Dec 30	<u>12,700</u>
Total		30,912

Size H

1909	Dec 10	2,600
1911	Dec 30	<u>6,250</u>
Total		8,850

ANNEX 2

P E R F I N S

The shilling values (i.e. 1s., 2s., 5s., 10s., and 20s.) of the King Edward VII postage and revenue stamps of the Gold Coast are fairly commonly found with perfins. Ian Anderson reports that perfins have also been applied to the Judicial stamps of this reign including the 3d. as well as the shilling values. All the known examples are single stamps that have been cancelled: the postage and revenue stamps normally by hand stamps closely resembling type 11 cancellers but sometimes by crayon; the judicial stamps either by 'Court' handstamps or by crayon. Where they can be identified the cancellations on the postage and revenue stamps bear dates between mid 1904 and mid 1906. But a 1s. black on green stamp with an unclear cancellation is known with perfin so the use of perfins must have continued at least until 1909. The following are typical cancellations:



The code letter 'B' frequently features in those impressions as does a single figure for the year. Akropong and Accra are place names commonly found on the cancellations.

Commonly the perfin is a series of letters 12 mm. in height (7 holes) but sometimes the lettering is only 8 mm. (5 holes) high. Rarely in either case does a whole letter coincide with the area of a stamp. The main lettering appears to be the word 'CANCELLED' running forwards, backwards, upwards or downwards. Below this is sometimes discernible a second line, including figures which, it has been suggested, may form a date.

It is virtually certain that the perfins were official but not used on postal matter. Probably they were applied in advance of use to a folded sheet of stamps (which would account for the different directions of the writing). If so, the object would be protection against misuse.

However the correct use is still a matter of speculation. The fact that both judicial and postage and revenue stamps were perforated plus the fact that the earliest recorded use is March 1904

may mean that perfins took over in some places from judicial stamps when the 1903 supply of the latter was exhausted. If so handstamp cancellers of a type similar to type 11 post office cancellers had been supplied to some judicial offices. (Perhaps the code letter 'B' at this time identified them as such?).

Another possible use is on parcel delivery notices and telegrams. This is suggested by the fact that in 1926 the Gold Coast Government, through the Crown Agents, attempted to sell to De La Rue some perforating canceller presses that produced a "CANCELLED" perfin, albeit of a different size. These machines had been bought in 1921 so cannot have been in use in King Edward's reign. But they may have succeeded other presses. Their purpose was stated as being to cancel postage stamps affixed to parcel delivery notices and telegrams. Such use in 1904/9 is made less likely by the absence of reports of low value postage stamps with perfins, since the cost of parcels and telegrams must sometimes have included the odd penny. To be sure only higher values may have been regarded as needing this protection against misuse.

But other revenue uses of these perfins cannot at this stage be excluded. Nor can the possibility that the perforation was applied to the whole document after the adhesive stamp had been stuck on it. However the heavy preponderance of Accra and Akropong cancellations is puzzling whichever explanation is favoured.

ANNEX 3

SOME MISCELLANEOUS POSTAL INFORMATION DERIVED FROM THE GOLD
COAST GAZETTE 1900-1910

1900 - 13 March

The opening of a twice weekly postal service (in lieu of a weekly service) between Axim and Half Assinie via Attuabo, Beyin and Bonyere is announced. In Axim the mails will close on Mondays and Fridays at 4 p.m. : and they will arrive at Half Assinie on Wednesdays and Sundays at 4 p.m. In Half Assinie the mails will close on Mondays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. and arrive at Axim on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 5 p.m.

1900 - 24 November

Regulations are published concerning the issue and holding of credit stocks of stamps, postcards and registered and stamped envelopes. Outside Accra and Cape Coast, these are issued to District Commissioners and by them to District Postmasters. Issues to DCs will be made sufficient to meet the requirements of their districts for a month. At the end of each month each DC will render to the PMG the usual stamp account of his district.

Every District Postmaster at the headquarters of a DC will receive from him a credit stock of stamps, etc. A table shows the limit for each office. At those P & T offices which are not at the headquarters of the Commissioner's District the District Postmaster will receive a credit stock of stamps, etc. sufficient to meet the requirements of the office for a period varying from two to three weeks according to the time which will be required to meet the supply.

Applications from the public for the purchase of an unusual number of stamps, etc., must be referred by the Postmaster to the DC.

District Commissioners, District Postmasters and Post Office clerks are informed that (excepting the postage collection on unpaid letters) it is contrary to the Post Office Ordinance to accept cash in payment of postage, or to alter the value of stamps by cutting them in half or otherwise mutilating them. [Did this prohibit using Perfins through the post?]

The table of credit limits shows the postal organisation to have been as follows:

Axim District	:	Axim, District P.O.s at Beyin, Attuabo, Bonyere and Half Assinie.
Wassaw District	:	Tarkwa
Dixcove District	:	Dixcove, Adjua.
Chama and Sekondi District	:	Chama, Sekondi.
Elmina District	:	Elmina.
Cape Coast District	:	Cape Coast, Prahsu, Mansu.
Kintampo District	:	Kintampo, Bole.
Kumasi District	:	Kumasi, Nkoranza.
Saltpond District	:	Saltpond, Annamaboe.
Winneba District	:	Winneba, Appam, Mumford, Berraku.
Accra District	:	GPO Accra, P & T Office Victoriaborg, Postal Agency Abokobi.

Prampram District : Prampram.
Ada District : Ada.
Kwitta District : Kwitta, Danoe.
Volta River District : Akuse, Aburi, Kpong, Akropong, Odumasi.
Anum District : Anum.

1901

The colonial estimates provide for the abolition of the commission on sales of stamps by stamp vendors (introduced in the 19th century at a rate of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %).

Among the notes on the estimates is the following reference to a task unusually undertaken by the Governor himself:

"The present organisation of the Post and Telegraphs Department was settled by Sir Frederick Hodgson who had special technical knowledge of the work".

1st March : full postal business could be transacted at Tarkwa.

23 September : insurance of parcels between the main post offices in the Gold Coast and the U.K. introduced on scales
between - compensation up to £19 fee 5d.
and - compensation up to £50 fee 1s.3d.

1902

The colonial estimates now provide for 6 European District Postmasters.

3rd October : parcels for the USA can now be accepted at 9 post offices (all on the coast except Tarkwa).

15 October : new accounting regulations introduced which make the Postmaster of each Head Office financially responsible direct to the PMG. The organisation is as follows:

12 Head Offices

Sub offices

Accra	Abokobi, Aburi, Akropong Akuse, Dodowa, Kpong Odumasi, PramPram Ussher Town BO, Victoriaborg BO
Ada	-
Axim	Attuabo, Beyin, Half Assinie
Cape Coast	Elmina, Mansu, O'Connor's Hill BO, Prahsu
Kumasi	Kwissa, Nkoranza
Kwitta	Danoe
Obuasi	-

12 Head Offices (contd.)

Sub Offices (contd.)

Saltpond

Annamaboe

Sekondi

Adjuah, Chama, Dixcove

Tarkwa

Broomassi

Winneba

Appam, Berraku, Mumford

Kintampo

Bole

1903

The estimates announce the appointment of a native Postmaster at Accra enabling the establishment of European postmasters to be reduced by one.

1st October : the first passenger train service arrives in Kumasi.

1905 20 July

A notice was published saying that parcels would be accepted for 37 post offices, with carriage between ports normally by first steamer.

8 October : more detailed regulations were published covering parcel post between coastal towns and the UK with new rates.

1907 - 30th September

Regulations published prescribing business hours for District Post Offices: 8 - 11 am, 1 - 4 pm on weekdays; 8 - 11.30 on Saturdays.

These regulations also authorised the provision of a late fee service, and reduced the rates of postage to foreign countries in accordance with the Postal Union Convention of Rome, May, 1906.

1908 - 25th July

Regulations published authorising a 'cash on delivery service' agreed with the British Post Office.

1909 - 14 January

A notice published demonetising stamps earlier than the 1891-1900 (i.e. QV universal key plate) issue with effect from 1st April.

1909 - 10 July

A Bill published whose purpose was "to impose on all Masters of Ships an obligation to receive all mails tendered by a Customs or Postal Officer, provide payment for the same and impose a penalty on all Masters of Ships who refuse such mails". This was enacted as Ordinance No.17 of 1909, gazetted on 22 January, 1910.

Additional information extracted from Annual Departmental Reports for
the period

1901 Sales of stamps rose from £6,259-19-1½ in 1900 to £25,130-0-9½ for postal and other purposes except telegraphic and judicial. Postal items other than parcels handled amounted to 8,611,518 - an increase of nearly 400% on 1900.
The number of postal offices rose from 34 to 41.

Sales of stamps in subsequent years were

	Postal & revenue	Judicial	Telegraphic
1903	£8,468	9,582	11,671
1904	9,681	8,250	11,379
1905	19,730		9,950
1906	19,675		12,229

Sales to philatelists and dealers were £320-12-9 in 1907 and £502-2-5 in 1910.

In 1910 Thomas Deacon, Postmaster-General, was invalided home on 10 February and the Chief Assistant Treasurer, Mr Davis, appointed acting PMG.

Mr J. Somerville after an 11-month tour in Northern Nigeria was appointed PMG on 2 November 1910.

Mr Gosling (later to be PMG) arrived as Assistant PMG.

