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British West Africa Study Circle.

In circulating a check list of the normal types of cancellation found on the stamps of the Gold Coast between 1875 and 1957, together with notes on the various types used on Queen Victoria issues, to be read in conjunction therewith, it is hoped they will be found useful for reference.

I am indebted to members for the help given in compiling the notes and the accompanying check lists, but the latter are probably not even yet complete and amendments or additions thereto will be welcomed.

Notes on the cancellations used on the later issues will be circulated in due course - an effort is being made to prepare check-lists of these also.

J. Cameron.

Check List

Gold Coast Cancellations 1875-1957

Type No.	In use	Type	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Index letter
R.L."J"	1. 1875 - 1902	Oval killer with number	Black Blue Green		554(Accra): 556(Cape Coast) B27 (Quittah)	-
R.L."L"	2. 1875 - 1903	Single Circle	Black Blue Red Green	20 mm	Town name only - two line date	A.B.C. or none
R.L."N"	2a 1875 - 1881	"	Black	23 mm	"Cape Coast Castle" two line date	A
	2b 1884 - 1889	"	"	20 mm	"Central Office" with or without date	A or none.
R.L."K"	3. 1875 - 1887	Octagonal Frame	Black	22x19 mm	"Elmina Paid" with or without date	-
R.L."M"	4. 1876 - 1888	Seal	Black Blue Red	-	Post Office - Town. In centre Gold Coast	-
R.L."O"	5. 1889 - 1902	Single circle	Black Blue Violet Purple Red	24 mm	Town name - Gold Coast Two line date	A.B.C. or none
	5a 1894 - 1897	"	Black	23mm	"Cape Coast" - Fleuron at foot: date	A
	5b 1896 - 1901	Narrow Double circle	"	27 mm	"Prahsu - Gold Coast" within inner circle. Two line date. Dot between Prahsu & G.C.	none
	6. 1894 - 1902	Double circle	"	27 mm	"Cape Coast" or "Kumasi" - Gold Coast. Two line date (within circles)	none
R.L."P"	7. 1887 - 1902	Killer	Black Blue	-	Nine bars in oval - used at Accra	-
	8.	See type 2 b.				
R.L."Q"	9. 1898 - 1902	Oblong lines frame	Black	32x19 mm	"Accra - Gold Coast" Two line date	-

Check List contd.

Type No.	In use	Type	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Index Letter
R.L."R"	10. 1898 - 1900	Killer	Black		Seven bars, G.C. in top half: year in lower half	-
	11. 1900 - 1907	Single Circle	Black	24 mm	As type 5 but smaller letters	A none
	12. 1902 - 1908	"	"	26/28 mm	Town - Gold Coast. Two line	none
R.L."T"	12a. 1920 - 1957	"	"	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast. One line date. Large letters.	none
	12b. 1918 - 1951	"	"	30 mm	Town - Gold Coast. Two line date. Skeleton type - small letters.	none
R.L."Oa"	13. 1903 - 1938	"	"	25/27 mm	Town - Gold Coast Colony. Two line date	none
R.L."S"	14. 1906 - 1923	Double circle	Black Blue Violet	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast (dots between): Crown above two line date: month before day.	-
	14a. 1915 - 1938	"	Black	"	As type 14 but day before month	-
R.L."Ob"	15. 1905 - 1928	"	"	"	Town - Gold Coast (dots between): two line date	none
	15a. 1914 - 1926	"	"	"	As type 15 but three line date with time.	-
	16. 1922 - 1957	Double Circle with bars.	"	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast: bars above and below. Single line date in centre.	none 2.3.
R.L."U"	16a. 1923 - 1957	"	"	"	As type 16 but time included	none "A"
	16b. 1946 - 1957	"	"	26 mm	As type 16a single line date &time	none A.T.
	17. 1921 - 1957	Double circle	"	30 mm	Town - Gold Coast - dots between. Two line date.	-
	17a. 1920 - 1924	"	"	"	As Type 17 but time included	-
R.L."Oc"	18. 1919 - 1957	"	"	32/33 mm	Town - Gold Coast - dots between. Two line date.	-
	18a. 1923 - 1927	"	"	"	As Type 18 but time included.	

Check Lists (contd)

Type No.	In use	Type	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Index Letter
19.	1923 - 1957	Double circle	Black	34 mm	Town - Gold Coast (no dots): Two line date	-
19a	1928 - 1957	"	"	32 mm	Town - G.C. (no dots). Two line date.	-
20	1950 - 1957	"	"	26 mm	Town - curved stroke - Gold Coast. Two line date or three with time.	-
21	1950 - 1957	Single circle	"	24 mm	Town - Gold Coast. Two line date.	* none
R1	1921 - 1957	Double Oval	"	32x25 34x28 mm	* Registered * Town Gold Coast Single line date	-
R2	1928 - 1946	"	"	34x32	*Registered* - Takoradi Gold Coast. Single line date with or without time	-
R3	1923 - 1957	16 or 16b	"	28 mm 26 mm	Town Registered - Gold Coast Single line date	-
R4	1950 - 1957	Large Double Oval with bars.	"	50 x 32 mm	* Town Registered * Gold Coast Single line date.	-

Type 1

The numeral killers "554" and "556" had been withdrawn from two small Staffordshire non-money order Offices, Etruria and Shelton respectively, in 1859 and were despatched on 27th August, 1875 to the Gold Coast for use there, being assigned to ACCRA (554) and Cape Coast (556).

A B27 killer is recorded in the British Post Office lists as a mail-boat cancellation, having been assigned in 1859 to the Allan Line for use on board ss "Hungarian", an Atlantic Mail Boat. It was, however, of a somewhat different format from that sent out to the Gold Coast in 1875 and assigned to Quittah.

Normally struck in black these cancellors are quite common in blue for all three Offices. B27 is also found in green but this is rare.

They were used to cancel the adhesive: Type 2 being struck on the cover. The B27 and 556 markings are recorded on K E Vll stamps.

Check List

554 Accra Black: blue.
556 Cape Coast Black: blue
B27 Quittah. Black: blue: green.

The B27 cancellation has been forged and is so found on the lithographed forgeries of the first type and also on "fake" bisects. It may be distinguished as follows:-

- (a) There is no stop after the figure "7":
- (b) The top of the "B" is weak or even broken and the horizontal serifs at the left are too thin or missing altogether.
- (c) The serif at the right of the foot of figure "2" slopes too much to the N.E. corner.
- (d) The downward serif at the left of the figure "7" is missing altogether and the horizontal stroke of the figure is shorter than in the normal.

Type 2

This cancellation was intended for use on cover in conjunction with Type 1 for Accra, Cape Coast and Quittah or to cancel the adhesive in other towns, but in practice, is found as a cancellation on adhesives for all towns. Normally struck in black it is also found in blue, red and green (Quittah).

Between 1875 and 1881 date-stamps were supplied by the G.P.O. London as and when required, these having no code letter, but on 21st June 1881 date stamps with code letters A B or C were supplied for seventeen Offices - B is scarce. Code letter A exists as A : B is found reversed and C sideways.

In the normal setting the month precedes the date e.g. MR 19 but examples may be found where this is reversed i.e. 19 MR. - this variation is recorded for the following offices: Adjuah : Appam: Axim: Elmina: Pram Pram: Quittah: and Winnebah.

Examples may be found of this cancellation with name of town only i.e. without code letter or date. The following are recorded on stamps of the 1876-79 issue only:-

Axim: Dixcove: Saltpond: Secondee: and Winnebah.

In many cases where the c.d.s. was defective the date (or part thereof) is found inserted in ink. This practice prevailed throughout the life of this date-stamp. (see special note on Adjuah).

The coloured cancellations most frequently met with are Axim and Elmina in red and Akuse in blue.

Red cancellations are found on all values of the C.C. Perf 14 issue (all Elmina cancellations of Type 2 during this period are in red): on the 1883 CA $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d (rare): and on all values of the CA issue including the 1d on 6d (S.G.20), being scarce on the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 1d on 6d values. None have been recorded on the Q.V. Key Plate stamps.

Blue cancellations are not recorded on the C.C. or 1883 CA issues. They are found on all values of the CA issue and on the key plate 5/- & 10/- (S.G. 22/23) being scarce on the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 6d and 1/- values.

The green Quittah cancellation is rare and is only recorded on the 1876-79 C.C. issue.

"Brown" cancellations are, it is considered, freaks due to the use of an uncleaned inking pad when changing from red to black or vice-versa or perhaps, in some cases, to the native clerk moistening the pad by spitting while chewing betel-nut!

Cancellations in violet or mauve are occasionally found on the Q.V. Key Plate stamps.

Type 2a

Cape Coast Castle. This c.d.s. with dots before and after "Coast" was used to cancel adhesives for some three months from July 1875, thereafter being replaced by the killer 556(Typel). It was, however, used on occasion up to as late as 1883.

Type 2b

Central Office. It is doubtful whether either variety of this cancellation was used as a postmark. The Department of Posts, Accra state. "There is no record of 'Central Office '" but presumably it might have been what is now known as "Central Telegraph Office" but this is by no means conclusive. It is recorded only on the lower values of the 1884-89 issue up to and including 6d.

Check List Type 2.

Black	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Black	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Accra	A	3.8.75	23.3.92	Elmina	A	22.3.82	8.2.93
	C	8.10.86	29.8.89		+ C	14.6.00	18.6.04
Addah	A	.81		Mumford	A	17.10.88	5.6.89
	+ C	2.5.85	23.11.01		+ C	15.6.90	14.10.99
	nil	4.3.77	8.9.79	Pram Pram	A	27.4.82	13.7.89
Adjuah	+ A	1.8.86	17.2.02		B	29.7.82	
	C	26.6.86	6.9.89		C	20.8.81	
Akuse	+ C	8.12.90	21.1.03		nil	28.12.75	
Anamaboe	+ A	23.8.93	14.3.01	Quittah	C	14.12.86	8.7.95
	B	5.9.94	25.7.95		nil	15.4.76	15.6.79
	C	2.86	23.6.92	Saltpond	A	16.10.94	
Appam	A	28.10.91			C	27.7.81	24.5.99
	C	28.2.82	19.7.99		+ nil	13.2.00	20.11.02
	nil	6.1.77	31.10.79	Salt.pond	C	15.9.89	4.6.91
Axim	+ A	31.8.81	5.4.00	Seccondee	nil	21.1.78	
	B	.87	20.7.96	Seccondee	+ A	6.2.01	23.12.01
	C	8.6.88	4.1.89		+ C	12.1.90	4.11.00
	nil	16.3.76	19.5.80	Winnebah	A	12.11.81	30.7.92
Cape Coast	A	10.1.90	16.10.93		B	16.5.83	
	C	24.10.79	4.7.90		+ C	17.9.81	15.4.02
Chamah	C	26.3.88	26.1.92		nil	2.9.77	
Dixcove	C	25.5.84	7.11.91	X-borg Castle	B	5.1.89	
	nil	16.11.78			C	14.1.93	11.1.97

+ Used on Q.V. Key Plate issue.

Check List. Types 2 (colour):2a:2b.

Red	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Blue	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Anamaboe	C	28.1.82	14.11.88	Accra	A		
Appam	nil	7.81			C		
Axim	A	8.8.83	23.2.91	Addah	C	3.8.87	2.4.90
	C	26.4.89	25.4.91	Adjuah	C	25.8.87	
Dixcove	B	2.3.82	8.2.83	Akuse	C	14.4.87	25.1.96
	C	1.10.81	8.85	Cape Coast	C	21.11.89	13.1.91
Elmina	A	2.11.81	24.1.87	Elmina	A	1.5.81	30.9.93
	C	16.3.82	10.6.87	Quittah	A	28.4.76	17.9.91
Pram Pram	A	20.5.88	20.6.88	-			
Secondee	C	4.12.83	15.9.91	Violet/Mauve			
Winnebah	C	19.11.89	19.1.90	Akuse	C	.99	
Green				Elmina	C	28.6.02	
Quittah	nil	3.7.76	15.8.76				
Black Type 2a				Black Type 2 b			
Cape Coast Castle	A	15.7.75	10.10.83	Central Office	A	19.1.89	28.1.89
					nil	no date	? 1889

Notes on Check List - Type 2 black

- Accra There are two types of Accra A (20 mm), the second (earliest date 1890) has longer oval lettering compared with the round lettering of the first type.
- A c.d.s. in this type, but measuring 22 mm is also found. Code letter A 1894: C 1888/89. These have so far only been recorded struck on cover and this date-stamp may not in fact have been used to cancel adhesives.
- Addah C A copy of this cancellation has been seen as late as 1908.
- Adjuah A In this office the use of a defective date-stamp reached its zenith. In August 1894 the '4' of '94' is missing and inserted in m/s. In January 1893 and from December 1895 and throughout 1896 the year is omitted and inserted in m/s in black (or rarely in red) e.g. '93' '95' or '96'. Examples are also found with no year and no m/s insertion. By 1897 the date-stamp had apparently been repaired and appears complete with year.
- Cape-Coast. The c.d.s. with code letter 'A' has longer oval lettering than that with code letter 'C'. Both show dot between Cape and Coast.
- Saltpond C. There are two varieties of this c.d.s. with code letter C - one showing a dot between "Salt" and "pond" i.e. "Salt.pond".
- Saltpond Nil. Is found on stamps of the Key Plate design (1900-02) and may be, in fact, a defective date stamp.
- Secondee . This is the normal spelling but early examples have the spelling "Secondee".
- Winnebah The c.d.s. with code letter C has two types of lettering, one being larger and thinner than the normal

Type 3.

This mark was sent out to the Gold Coast on 16th September, 1873, and was used as a hand struck Paid Stamp prior to the issue of adhesives in 1875. Thereafter it continued to be used as a cancellation on the adhesive. being found on the C.C. issues and occasionally on the 1884 C.A. issue.

There are three varieties of this cancellation viz:-

1. Date before month.
 2. Month before date.
 3. No date.
- (1) In use from 1875 to 1881, being found on the C.C. Perf 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 14 issues. The earliest date recorded is 28th July, 1876.
 - (2) Examples recorded are all in 1881 - the earliest being March 23rd, 1881.
 - (3) On the 1884 issue only. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d (issued August 1884) is found cancelled by variety (2) but dated "MR 25. 81" (sic) - this is either cancelled by favour or less probably a "date stamp error".

Type 4.

These seals were cut in metal, probably brass, and intended for use with sealing wax i.e. as a seal but secondary use as a cancellation, while probably not officially authorised, was tolerated. This cancellation was used as a "killer" in conjunction with type 2 by a few offices to which the normal killers (Type 1) were not issued.

In use from 1876 - 88 it is generally found on the lower values up to 4d and is struck in black, blue or red. The seals being of brass did not take the ink very easily and clear impressions are scarce. Covers are scarce, those from Addah less so.

Check List.

Addah	Black:	blue
Chamah	Red.	
Elmina	Black	
Pram Pram	Red.	
Secondee	Black:	blue.
Winnebah	Black.	

Type 5

This cancellation was introduced in 1889 and gradually replaced Type 2: it continued in use during the period of the Queen Victoria issues and is also found on K E VII issues. It exists in two varieties in one of which dots are shown between the name of the town and Gold Coast on either side, the other has no dots. Usually struck in black it is also found in blue red, violet or purple with code letters A.B or C or without code letter..

As with Type 2 the normal setting shows "month before date" but examples may be found where this is reversed. This variation is recorded for the following offices:- Anamaboe: Axim: Half-Assinie: Kpong: and Pram Pram. In some cases manuscript amendment or insertion of the date are shown.

The coloured cancellation most frequently met with is Elmina followed by Pram Pram, both in blue. Blue cancellations are recorded on all values of the C.A. issue, except the 2/- and on the 10/- Key Plate (S.G. 23).

Red is recorded only for Abokobi on the C.A. issue.

Violet or purple cancellations are mainly found on the Q.V. Key Plate issue $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values - the purple strikes are often temporary c.d.s. (? rubber stamps)

Check List Type 5.

Black	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Black	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Aburi	nil	.91	4.3.99	*+ Chama	nil	29.9.92	10.4.04
"	A	24.12.89	25.6.97	+Danoe	nil	11.9.94	20.6.03
+ "	C	3.4.03	4.6.04	*+Dixcove	nil	.93	29.11.02
Accra	nil	20.11.94	12.95	+Elmina	C	27.10.94	28.2.97
*+ "	nil	27.8.95	17.1.02	+Half Assinie	C	13.1.93	4.11.01
"	C	12.11.89	4.2.93	*+ Kintampo	nil	25.1.99	2.4.02
+ Ada	nil	28.2.91	24.8.99	+ K'pong	C	.90	31.1.03
*Adda	nil	14.9.01		*+Kumasi	nil	18.1.95	15.7.00
+Akropong	C	23.5.93	16.8.04	+ Kwitta	nil	19.7.94	6.6.01
Anamaboe	nil	30.9.89	5.8.99	Mansu	nil	1.3.01	
*+ Anum	nil	1.8.05	17.3.06	Odumasie	A	.93	2.6.95
Appam	A	7.12.91	20.8.96		C	18.4.92	4.10.93
"	B	.93	3.1.94	*+ Prahsu	nil	10.6.99	2.4.01
+ "	C	11.11.89	25.8.99	Pram Pram	nil	3.3.90	25.4.97
+ Attuabu	C	15.6.94	3.8.00	Prestea	C	3.2.96	19.9.97
* Axim	nil	7.5.94	10.10.96	* Saltpond	nil	2.2.96	14.4.97
*+ Berraku	nil	27.12.92	1.9.01	"	C	.91	
Beyin	nil			*+ Sekondi	nil	21.7.01	15.12.01
				+ Tarkwa	nil	30.8.89	1.4.03
+ "	C	27.7.94	7.4.03	*+Victoriaborg	nil	26.3.90	4.3.03
*+Cape Coast	nil	26.3.96	12.10.00				

* With dots between Town and Gold Coast
 + Found on Key Plate issues.

Check List Types 5 (coloured) 5a: 5b.

Blue	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Violet/Purple	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Elmina	C	14.10.93	23.8.94	* Bole	nil	30.7.99	
Pram Pram	nil	7.5.91	28.2.94	* Cape Coast	nil	4.3.02	
<u>Red</u>				Elmina	C	9.10.02	
Abokobi	C	16.5.94	4.5.97	Half Assini	C		.00
<u>Violet/Purple</u>				*Kintampo	nil	8.1.02	
Appam	C	6.6.96	31.5.02	Kwisa	nil	12.5.02	
Axim	nil	27.8.94		* Sekondi	nil	.01	
Aburi	nil	5.3.02					

*Dots between Town and Gold Coast

Type 5a

Type 5b

Black

Black

Cape Coast	nil	21.1.93	5.97	Prahsu	nil	13.12.96	2.9.01
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Notes on Check List - Type 5

- Accra. The c.d.s. with dots has round lettering as compared with that without dots which has long and oval lettering. Late examples of the variety with dots have the letters a little more rounded and show the year in full e.g. 1900.
- Aburi An example is recorded in violet with defective lettering in the town name i.e. " .BU.1"
- Anum This is only recorded on KE Vll stamps and must be scarce.
- Appam This office is the only one recorded with code letter B.
- Berraku Is often found with the year of date missing.
- Chama There are two types of lettering, round in the earlier dates and larger and oval later (? from 1896). Both types have dots.
- Dancoe The date shows a three letter month e.g. APR. instead of the normal two letter e.g. AP.
- Kintampo Is often found with the year missing in the date.
- K pong Apparently exists both with and without dots.
- Tarkwa The lettering is larger than usual.
- Victoriaborg This c.d.s. reads Victoriaborg/Accra (no Gold Coast) and is the first sub-office cancellation. Instead of dots there is a small cross "+" between town and Accra: it also exists without either dots or cross. This c.d.s deteriorated with use and the outer circle is often only decipherable in part, thus in a stamp off cover it might easily appear that there is no circle.
- Obuasi Several copies of a defective date stamp in purple showing the letters " . BU..1" are recorded dated in 1902: it is assumed that this is a temporary c.d.s. for Obuasi.

Type 5a.

This c.d.s. has a fleuron at the foot instead of Gold Coast and measures 23 mm only. It is peculiar to Cape Coast and struck in black with code letter A. It is recorded only on the Q.V. C.A. issue and Key Plate 1889-94, the earliest date Jan.1893 and the latest May 1897.

Type 5b.

As type 5 with dots but with two concentric circles outside the words, the outer circle measuring 27 mm. Struck in black with no code letter it is peculiar to Prahsu. The earliest date recorded is 1896 and it was in use prior to and concurrently with the Prahsu c.d.s. Type 5, which is less frequently met with.

Type 6

Concentric circles struck in black, measuring 27 mm outer and 18 mm inner, between which appears the name of the town and Gold Coast with dots. Used at Cape Coast and Kumasi only concurrently with Type 5 on Q.V. C.A. and Key Plate issues.

Check List.

	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Cape Coast	31.8.94	17.11.01
Kumasi	.6.97	5.5.99

Type 7

Nine thickish bars in oval format used as a "killer" in conjunction with Types 2 and 5 at Accra only. Normally struck in black it has been recorded in blue. In use from about 1887 until 1902, being found on the Q.V. C.A. and Key Plate issues and on the K.E. C.A. issue. This cancellation is common on adhesives but covers showing date of use are somewhat elusive.

Type 9.

A rectangular frame with triangular solid corners, diagonal double lines at corners, double lines top and bottom and three lines at sides, enclosing Accra/ two line date/ Gold Coast. (The illustration of this cancellation in Spowart's Handbook and Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia is not quite accurate). This date stamp appears to have deteriorated badly in use and later strikes on the Q.V. Key Plate stamps are generally very rough and patchy and may show apparently only two or even four lines at one side and in some cases the date is missing.

In use at Accra on Q.V. issues the earliest recorded date being 25.12.98 and the latest 17.10.00. This cancellation is scarce on cover where it appears obliterating the stamp with Type 5 on the cover.

Type 10

An oval of seven horizontal bars - blanks cut to show letters "G C" and the last two letters of date e.g. ".00". This cancellation is extremely rare, a copy was sold at auction in December 1953, and there is no record of the Office at which it was used.

Type 11.

Similar to Type 5 measuring 24 mm but with smaller letters and the year or date shown in full. Struck in black without code letter or with code letter A it is found on Q.V. C.A. and Key Plate issues and on K.E. V11. The earliest date recorded for this type is 26 July 1900 and the latest 26th Octr.1903.

Check List.

Accra A	Kwitta A
Axim A	Kwitta
Cape Coast	Saltpond A
	Saltpond.
