

BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

HANDSTRUCK STAMPS AND CANCELLATIONS OF THE GOLD COAST

In 1960 and 1962 Mr. Cameron, then Gold Coast Editor, produced check lists and notes on the types of cancellations found on the issues of Gold Coast between 1875 and 1957. They were based on the information published in existing books of reference and collated from members' contributions to the bulletins circulated by him during the 1950's, and have provided a most useful guide to further studies for which the Gold Coast members have been very grateful.

Since then many members have furnished additions or amendments and special mention should be made of the considerable research and recording done by Messrs. Cross and Kidd. As a result of all these efforts the Editors have now reached the stage of producing this comprehensive revision of the subject.

Finally, I must also acknowledge on behalf of the members the considerable work put into the final revision by Mr. Beale and the help given by his friend Mr. Collins who, though not technically a member, has earned the gratitude of us all for his willingness to share his knowledge and his time in our interest.

K. J. Macrae

Editor.

October 1971.

## INTRODUCTION

The Editors have felt, in preparing this new edition, that the numbering of the various types of cancellations for the period 1875-1957 should be improved and simplified.

In the Type designations of the old notes, some ambiguity was caused by the use of the suffixes "a" and "b". For example, Type 14a indicated a minor variant of the basic Type 14. On the other hand, Types 5a and 5b were not variants of the basic Type 5; they were distinctly different Types which, it seems, came to notice after the original enumeration was made and were interpolated (more or less chronologically) to avoid extensive re-numbering.

In these revised notes, small letters "a"; "b"; etc., will be used to denote a minor variant of a basic Type. Capital letters "A"; "B"; etc., will be used to denote a different major Type. It is felt that this form of annotation is preferable to a wholesale re-numbering giving each Type and variant a separate number.

In conformity with these principles, Type 2a has been redesignated 2A; Type 2b has been dropped as a separate entity because it is in no way different in design from a normal Type 2, and the note regarding its usage is incorporated into the notes relating to Type 2 cancellations generally.

Type 5a and 5b have been redesignated 5A and 5B respectively, and a new Type 5C has been added.

Type 8, which was unallocated in the previous edition, has been brought into use to designate a unique Accra cancellation.

Type 10 as described in the previous edition has been dropped because no member of the Study Circle has seen it. If it exists, it is most probably not a Gold Coast cancellation. It has been described as a circular killer of seven horizontal bars, with blanks cut to show the letters "G C" and, below, what could be the last two digits of a date "O O". It is illustrated in Spowart's Gold Coast and in Robson Lowe's Encyclopædia, but it nevertheless remains a mystery and the Editors have decided to remove it from the Check List until reliable evidence of its existence justifies its restoration. Meanwhile, Type 10 will be used to accommodate information about a scarce type of cancellation which was not included in the earlier edition.

The "old" Types 12a and 12b have nothing in common with the basic Type 12; they are different not only from Type 12, but also from each other. They have, therefore, been redesignated 12A and 12B respectively to denote

major Type differences. The designation 12a has, however, been retained and is now used to denote what is regarded as a minor variant of the basic Type 12 (see text).

Type 14a has been dropped as a separate entity; the only feature which distinguishes it from Type 14 is the transposition of day and month which, in the Editors' opinion, is not of sufficient importance to justify separate designation. The feature is, however, mentioned in the notes under Type 14.

The Editors have concluded their major revision of these notes at Type 15. The subsequent Types and the notes accompanying them have been retained for the benefit of members who do not possess copies of the earlier notes; a few amendments have been made, but they are otherwise largely unaltered.

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### THE "HANDSTRUCK " STAMPS OF THE GOLD COAST

These were in use prior to the introduction of adhesives, being applied to the cover to indicate pre payment of postage, office of origin etc.

Types 1, 2, 3 and 4 show SP 25 1855 in the G.P.O. Impression Book Vol. 8 part 2, but no date of despatch is given.

1. (Robson Lowe H.S.1). Large unframed circular date stamp, diameter 29 mm. in red, "Cape - Coast - Castle/Paid" above date in centre.

Examples recorded dated 22nd March 1858 and 12th September 1861.

2. (R.L. H.S.2) As (1) but "Accra/Paid". This is shown by Robson Lowe as "Acora"(sic) but Jaffe states that the London G.P.O. Proof Book shows it as "Accra", as indeed do the recorded examples. In fact, the G.P.O. Impression Book shows the second "c" almost as "o".

Examples recorded dated 12th June 1862, 12th May 1864, 2nd March and 16th November 1871 and 25th September 1872.

3. (R.L. H.S. 11 PL) Diameter 25 mm. "Cape - Coast - Castle" in black.

Examples recorded dated 15th May 1856 and 19th September 1859.

THE "HANDSTRUCK" STAMPS OF THE GOLD COAST cont'd..

4. (R.L.H.S.12 PL) As (3) but "Accra"; it is stated to have been in use in 1855.
5. - Circular date stamp, diameter 22 mm.  
"Gold Coast/Paid" in red.

Example recorded dated 28th November 1869.

6. (R.L.H.S.3 & 4) Large concentric circles diameter 35 mm. and 26 mm. "Cape - Coast - Castle" at top and ornament at bottom between circles: 'Paid' in centre above date.  
Robson Lowe states found both in black (1865-75) and red but the examples quoted are both in red.

Recorded dated April 1864 and March 1865 both on covers to U.K.

7. (R.L.H.S.13) despatched 8th February, 1869. Circular dated type, diameter 23 mm. in black "Cape • Coast • Castle" Code letter 'A'.

Examples recorded dated 18th October, 1869 and others on various dates between 1869 and 1874 (28th January).

See also Type 2A in the section of these notes dealing with cancellations on adhesives, 1875 - 1957.

8. Despatched 9th October, 1871. Concentric circles diameter 24 mm. in black or red. "Paid • at • Cape • Coast • Castle" between circles two line date in centre.

This is the commonest hand-struck Paid Stamp found on pre-stamp covers and is normally in red from 1872 to 75. (The Head Post Office in the Colony was situated at Cape Coast from circa 1851 - 1877).

It is also recorded in red on stampless covers in 1884 (March and April) during the "stamp famine", the postage paid 3d being shown in M/S also in red.

After the introduction of adhesives it appears in red, or occasionally in black, on the cover, the adhesives being cancelled by the '556' Killer (latest date seen 1883). It also appears, more rarely, in black as an additional cancellation on the adhesives (e.g. 9th June, 1878).

9. (R.L. H.S.5) despatched 7th July 1873. Circular dated type 24 mm. diameter in red or black. "Paid : at : Cape : Coast/Inland". Code letter 'A' or 'B'.

No pre-stamp cover with this marking is known, but later examples are recorded as follows:-

- (i) in red, code letter A, dated 20th December 1883 on cover addressed to Elmina bearing SG 6a cancelled by killer.
- (ii) in black, code letter A, dated 2nd February 1889 on stampless cover addressed to U.K.

Both of these covers fall within the "stamp famine" period and the use of the mark seems somewhat haphazard.

10. (R.L. H.S.6) despatched 16th September 1873. Rectangular frame in black "Elmina Paid".

No pre-stamp cover with this marking is known, but see also Type 3 in the section of these notes dealing with cancellations on adhesives, 1875 - 1957.

11. (R.L. H.S.7) Single circle diameter 22 mm. in red; "Accra/date", "Paid" in centre between parallel lines, code letter 'B'.

Examples recorded dated 25th September 1872 and 2nd March, 1873.

12. - "Accra Unpaid" in black.

Example recorded 19th June, 1877 - arrival marking on stampless G.B. cover to Accra.

The Unpaid canceller was used to draw attention to understamped or underpaid mail. As such, it could be used on incoming or outgoing mail. The Letter Bill forms used between Governments support this interpretation of the mark.

13. (R.L. Type L) despatched 15th April, 1874. Circular dated type diameter 20 mm. in black "Accra" Code letter A.

No pre-stamp cover with this marking is known but see also Type 2 in the section of these notes dealing with cancellations on adhesives, 1875 - 1957.

14. (R.L. H.S.8) despatched 4th January, 1875. Circular date stamp diameter 30 mm. in black "Quittah . Paid . Gold Coast".

No pre-stamp cover with this marking is known, but examples are recorded as follows:-

- (i) on a cover dated May 1881 bearing adhesives cancelled by B27 killer.
- (ii) cancelling adhesives, date indecipherable.

15. "Quittah Unpaid Gold Coast", despatched 4th January, 1875.

No pre-stamp cover with this mark is known; it is probable that the intended purpose was the same as that of the Accra Unpaid mark (see 12 above).

### CHECK LIST

#### Gold Coast Cancellations 1875 - 1957

Type	No.	In use	Description	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Code letter
R.L. "J"	1	1875 - 1909	Oval killer with number	Black Blue Green		554 (Accra) : 556 (Cape Coast) B27 (Quittah)	-
R.L. "L"	2	1875 - 1911	Single circle	Black Blue Red Green	20 mm	Town name only - two line date	A.B.C or none
	2A	1875 - 1883	"	Black	23 mm	"Cape Coast Castle" two line date	A.
R.L. "K"	3	1875 - 1887	Octagonal frame	Black	22x19 mm	"Elmina Paid" with or without date	-.

CHECK LIST - Gold Coast cancellations 1875 - 1957

Type	No.	In use	Description	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Code letter
R.L. "M"	4	1876 - 1888	Seal	Black Blue Red	-	Post Office - Town. In centre "Gold Coast"	-
R.L. "O"	5	1883 - 1906	Single circle	Black Blue Violet Purple Red	24 mm	Town name - Gold Coast. Two line date	A.B.C. or none
	5A	1893 - 1897	"	Black	23 mm	"Cape Coast" - Fleuron at foot; date	A
	5B	1896 - 1901	Narrow double circle	"	27 mm	"Prah-su-Gold Coast" within inner circle. Two line date. Dots between Prah-su and Gold Coast.	none
	5C	1891 - 1903	Single circle	Black	24 mm	"Victoriaborg - Accra"	none
	6	1893 - 1902	Double circle	"	27 mm	"Cape Coast" or "Kumasi" - Gold Coast. Two line date	none
R.L. "P"	7	1887 - 1902	Killer	Black Blue	-	Nine bars in oval used at Accra	-
	8	1888 - 1894	Single circle	Black	22 mm	"Accra"; two line date	A.C.

cont'd ...

CHECK LIST - Gold Coast Cancellations 1875 - 1957

Type	No.	In use	Description	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Code letter
R.L. "Q"	9	1898 - 1902	Oblong lined frame	Black	32x19 mm	"Accra - Gold Coast" Two line date	-
	10	1904 - 1911	Single circle	Black	25 mm	"G.C.G.R" - Town; two line date	none
	11	1900 - 1905	Single circle	Black	24 mm	As type 5 but smaller letters	A none
	12	1902 - 1914	"	"	26/28 mm	Town - Gold Coast. Two line date	none
	12a	1903 - 1908	Single circle	Black	26/28 mm	Branch Office, Town - Gold Coast; two line date	none
	12A	1919 - 1957	"	"	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast. One line date. Large letters	none
	12B	1917 - 1956	"	"	30 mm	Town - Gold Coast. Two line date. Skeleton type - small letters.	none
R.L. "Oa"	13	1905 - 1940	"	"	25/27 mm	Town - Gold Coast Colony. Two line date.	none
R.L. "S"	14	1906 - 1949	Double circle	Black Blue Violet	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast (dots between); Crown above two line date	-

CHECK LIST - Gold Coast Cancellations 1875 - 1957 cont'd ..

Type	No.	In use	Description	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Code letter
R.L. "Ob"	15	1905 - 1928	Double circle	Black	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast (dots between); two line date	none
	15a	1913 -	"	"	28 mm	As type 15 but two line date with time above	-
	16	1922 - 1957	Double circle with bars	Black	28 mm	Town - Gold Coast; bars above and below. Single line date in centre	none '2' '3'
R.L. "U"	16a	1917 - 1957	"	Black	28 mm	As type 16 but time included	none 'A'
	16b	1941 - 1957	"	Black	26 mm	As type 16a, single line date & time, smaller letters	none 'A' 'T'
	17	1913 - 1957	Double circle	Black	30 mm	Town - Gold Coast dots between. Two line date	-
	17a	1914 - 1925	"	Black	30 mm	As type 17 but two line date with time above	-
R.L. "Oc"	18	1918 - 1957	"	Black	32/33 mm	Town - Gold Coast dots between. Two line date	-
	18a	1919 - 1937	"	Black	32/33 mm	As type 18 but two line date with time above	-

cont'd...

CHECK LIST - Gold Coast Cancellations 1875 - 1957 cont'd ....

Type	No.	In use	Description	Colour	Diameter	Inscribed	Code letter
	19	1923 - 1957	Double circle	Black	34 mm	Town - Gold Coast (no dots). Two line date	-
	19a	1923 - 1957	"	Black	32 mm	Town - G.C. (no dots). Two line date	-
	20	1950 - 1957	"	Black	26 mm	Town - curved stroke - Gold Coast. Two line date with time above	-
	21	1950 - 1957	Single circle	Black	24 mm	Town - Gold Coast Two line date	-
R1.		1921 - 1957	Double oval	Black	32 x 25 34 x 28 mm	* Registered * Town Gold Coast Single line date	-
R2.		1928 - 1946	"	Black	34 x 32 mm	* Registered * -Takoradi Gold Coast. Single line date with or without time	-
R3.		1923 - 1957	16 or 16b	Black	28 mm 26 mm	Town Registered Gold Coast, Single line date	-
R4.		1950 - 1957	Large double oval with bars	Black	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). At the same time a B27 killer was sent out and assigned to Quittah.

(A B27 killer is recorded in the British Post Office lists as a mailboat cancellation, having been assigned in 1859 to the Allan Line for use on board S.S. "Hungarian", an Atlantic Mail Boat. It was, however, of a somewhat different format from that assigned to Quittah.)

Normally struck in black these cancellations 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 V11 stamps as late as 1909.

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

TYPE 2 continued

in practice it is found as a cancellation on adhesives at all contemporary post offices. Normally struck in black, it is also found in blue, red, and violet/purple; green was used for Quittah only.

Date stamps were despatched at intervals between 1874 and 1881. Codes A, B and C are found - B is scarce. B is found reversed and C sideways. Sometimes the code letter is missing.

In the normal setting the month precedes the date e.g. MR 19, but examples are also found where this is reversed ie. 19 MR. This variation is recorded for:-

Adjuah	Akuse	Appam	Axim	Chamah	Elmina
Mumford	Prampram	Quittah	Saltpond	Winnebah	

Examples with the name of the town only (i.e. without code letter or date) are found on the 1876-9 issue only, and are recorded for :-

Axim	Dixcove	Saltpond	Secondee	Winnebah
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Occasionally, the date (or part thereof) is found inserted in ink. This practice prevailed throughout the life of this date-stamp. (see special note on Adjua).h).

Red cancellations are found on all values of the C.C. Perf 14 issues (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 1884-9 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 rare on the C.C issues; are not recorded on the 1883 C.A. issue, but are found on all values of the 1884-9 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 recorded only 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 cola-nut !

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

Check List Type 2 - in BLACK

Town	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Town	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Accra	A	3. 8.75	15. 1.96	Elmina	A	1. 5.81	31. 8.96
	C	11. 9.82	21. 1.90		x C	16. 3.82	18. 6.04
Addah	A	.81		Mumford	A	4. 8.82	6. 9.89
	x C	17.12.82	28. 2.11		x C	15. 6.90	14. 9.04
	nil	4. 3.77	10. 1.88		nil	30. 5.76	20. 2.95
Adjuah	x A	1. 8.86	11. 7.04	Prampram	A	11. 9.81	13. 7.89
	C	26. 6.86	14.12.90		B	29. 7.82	
Akuse	x C	11. 3.89	27.11.03		C	20. 8.81	19. 7.88
Anamaboe	x A	2. 4.92	2. 7.01		nil	28.12.75	13. 2.91
	B	7.11.93	3.10.96	Quittah	A	14. 9.92	10.12.92
	C	28. 1.82	29. 5.93		C	14.12.86	12. 3.00
Appam	A	28.10.91	3. 3.97		nil	27. 9.75	7. 7.80
	C	28. 2.82	29.12.00	Saltpond	A	16.10.94	
	nil	6. 1.77	12. 7.88		C	27. 7.81	24. 8.99
Attititeh	C	No example known			x nil	24.11.75	20.11.02
Axim	x A	31. 8.81	5. 4.00	Salt.pond	C	2. 5.86	12. 6.94
	B	4. 6.86	20. 7.96	Seccondee	nil	21. 1.78	
	C	18. 5.88	30. 5.91	Seccondee	x A	6. 2.01	K.E. 02
	nil	16. 3.76	11.11.80		x C	27. 3.87	4.11.00
Cape Coast	A	1. 1.90	13. 5.96	Winnebah	A	12.11.81	30. 7.92
	C	24.10.79	3. 9.92		B	3. 5.83	
Central Office	A	19. 1.89	29. 1.89		x C	17. 9.81	10. 1.03
	nil	no date	? 1889		nil	3. 3.76	10. 3.97
Chamah	C	31. 1.84	3.10.92	X-borg	B	5. 1.89	29. 1.89
Danoe	C	No example known		Castle	C	11. 4.90	11. 1.97
Dixcove	C	25. 5.84	17.12.92				
	nil	5. 7.76	16.11.78				

x = Used on Q.V.Key Plate issue.

Check List Type 2 - in COLOURIn RED

Accra	A		29. 2.90
Anamaboe	C	24. 9.81	14.11.88
Appam	nil	7.81	
Axim	A	8. 8.83	10.11.98
	C	24. 4.89	30. 5.91
Dixcove	B	8. 3.82	6.11.84
	C	1.10.81	8.85

In BLUE

Accra	C	1. 6.88	
Addah	C	5. 5.87	2. 4.90
Adjuah	C	25. 8.87	
Akuse	C	14. 4.87	20. 9.02
Cape Coast	C	21.11.89	13. 1.91
Elmina	A	1. 5.81	30. 9.93
Quittah	A	28. 4.76	17. 9.91

cont'd .....

Check List Type 2 - in COLOUR cont'd.

Town	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Town	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
<u>In RED</u>				<u>In VIOLET/MAUVE</u>			
Elmina	A	24. 9.81	24. 1.87	Adjuah	* A	5. 2.02	3. 3.02
	C	16. 3.82	10. 7.02	Akuse	* C	.99	20. 9.02
Pram Pram	A	3. 4.88	25. 8.88	Axim	B	22. 2.93	
	nil	13. 2.81		Elmina	* C	14. 6.02	28. 6.02
Secondee	C	4.12.83	20.11.91				
Winnebuh	C	30.10.89	1. 4.91				
<u>In GREEN</u>							
Quittah	nil	3. 7.76	15. 8.76				

\* = Used on Q.V.Key Plate issue.

Notes on Check List TYPE 2

- Accra There are two varieties of Accra A (20mm). The first has round letters, the second has taller oval letters. The earliest date of the second variety is Jan 1889.
- Addah C The use of this cancellation as late as Feb 1911 is most unusual.
- Adjuah A In this office the use of a defective date-stamp reached its maximum. 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) thus '93' '95' or '96'. Examples are also found with the year omitted and no m/s insertion. By 1897 the date-stamp had apparently been repaired, and the date appears complete with year.
- Cape Coast The c.d.s. with code letter A has taller oval letters than that with code C. Both show a dot between 'Cape' and 'Coast'.
- Central Office It is doubtful whether this cancellation, which exists either with or without date, was used as a postmark. The Department of Posts, Accra state "There is no record of 'Central Office'"; presumably it might have been what is now known as "Central

Notes on Check List TYPE 2 continued.

- 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.
- Saltpond C            There are two varieties of this c.d.s.; one shows a dot after 'Salt' thus 'Salt.pond'.
- Secondee            This is the normal spelling, but early examples have the spelling "Secconde".
- Winnebah            The c.d.s. with code letter C has two types of letters; one being taller and thinner than the normal. An example without code letter has been seen dated 10 March 1897, some twenty years later than the normal period of use.

TYPE 2A

Cape Coast Castle. This c.d.s. (Code A) with dots before and after "Coast" was used to cancel adhesives from July 1875 until 1883. The earliest date is 15 July 1875 and the latest 26 November 1883.

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. Covers are scarce.

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 12½ and 14 issues. The earliest date recorded is 23 December 1875.
  - (2) Examples recorded are all in 1881 - the earliest being March 11th 1881.
  - (3) On the 1884 issue only. The ½d (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. The inscriptions were engraved.

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 : red
Chamah	Red
Elmina	Black
Prampram	Red
Secondee	Black : blue
Winnebah	Black

TYPE 5

This cancellation was introduced about 1883 and gradually replaced Type 2; it continued in use during the period of the Queen Victoria issues and is found also 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 found also in blue, red, violet or purple with code letters A, B or C or without code letter.

The coloured cancellations most frequently seen are Elmina and Prampram, both in blue; red is recorded for Abokobi and Appam, Violet/purple cancellations are scarce, and occur mainly on the Q.V.Key-plate issue.

As with Type 2, the normal setting shows month before date, but examples are also found where this is reversed. This variation is recorded for Anamaboe, Axim, Half-Assinie, Kpong, and Prampram.

Occasionally manuscript amendments or insertions of the date are found.

## Check List Type 5 - in BLACK

Town	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Town	Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Abokobi	C	20.11.03		Cape Coast	nil	26. 3.93	26. 3.02
	nil	15. 5.94	30. 7.94		† x		
Aburi	x A	24.12.89	9. 1.00	Chama	† Rd.nil	25. 9.92	18. 3.97
	x C	3. 4.03	4. 6.04		† Ov.nil	8.10.91	10. 4.04
	nil	.91	4. 3.99	Clearing			
Accra	C	12.11.89	4. 2.93	House	nil	31. 8.97	
	nil	3. 4.94	6. 3.97	Danoe	x nil	17. 6.94	24. 9.03
	† x nil	20. 8.94	15. 8.02	Dixcove	† x nil	2. 3.93	29.11.02
Ada	x nil	27. 2.91	18. 9.99	Elmina	x C	23.11.93	29. 1.00
Adda	† nil	4.10.00	16. 2.03	Half			
Akropong	x C	23. 5.93	16. 8.04	Assinie	x C	13. 1.93	10. 3.02
Anamaboe	nil	30. 9.89	25. 9.04	Kintampo	† x nil	25. 1.99	21. 5.02
Anum	† x nil	1. 8.05	17. 3.06	Kpong	x C	28. 2.90	2. 1.04
Appam	A	20.12.90	5. 4.97	Kumasi	† x nil	18. 1.95	8.12.01
	B	25.10.93	3. 1.94	Kwitta	x nil	22. 9.83	5. 9.01
	x C	19. 1.88	31. 5.02	Mansu	nil	2. 3.92	13. 4.11
Attuabu	x C	3. 4.94	20.11.00	Odumasi	A	.93	18. 9.95
Axim	C	12.11.89	4. 2.93		C	18. 4.92	27.11.93
	nil	7. 5.94	19. 3.96	Prahsu	nil	28.11.96	3.10.01
	† nil	15. 6.93	17. 1.02	Prampram	x nil	5.10.89	31. 8.02
Berraku	† x nil	1.10.92	1. 9.01	Prestea	C	17.11.94	26. 9.97
Beyin	x C	27. 7.94	7. 4.03	Saltpond	C	15. 1.88	
	nil	18. 5.19	27. 6.01		† nil	13. 5.95	21.10.99
	(00)			Sekondi	† x nil	13. 3.01	17. 4.03
				Tarkwa	x nil	30. 8.89	11. 4.03
				Victoriaborg			
					† x nil	26. 3.00.	4. 3.03

† = With dots between town and Gold Coast

x = Found on Key Plate issues

## Check List Type 5 - in COLOUR

In BLUE

Akuse	C	19. 1.95	
Elmina	C	7.10.93	23. 8.94
Prampram	nil	7. 5.91	28. 2.94

In RED

Abokobi	C	16. 5.94	4. 5.97
Appam	A	1. 4.95	

† = Dots between Town and Gold Coast

In VIOLET/PURPLE

Appam	C	6. 6.96	31. 5.02
Axim	nil	27. 8.94	
Aburi	nil	5. 3.02	
Bole	† nil	30. 7.99	22. 8.19 (00)
Cape Coast	† nil	4. 3.02	8. 3.02
Elmina	C	9.10.02	
Half Assinie	C		10. 3.02
Kintampo	† nil	8. 1.02	
Kwisa	nil	12. 5.02	
Sekondi	† nil	.01	

Notes on Check List TYPE 5

Accra	The c.d.s. with dots has round letters; that without dots has oval letters.
Anum	This is recorded on K.E.VII stamps only, and is scarce.
Appam	This is the only office recorded with code letter B.
Berraku	This c.d.s. is often found with the year missing.
Chama	There are two types of lettering, round in the earlier dates and larger and oval later (? from 1896). Both types have dots.
Danoë	This c.d.s. shows a three letter month e.g. APR instead of the normal two letter e.g. AP.
Kintampo	The lettering is larger than usual, and the year is often missing.
Kpong	Exists both with and without dots.
Tarkwa	The lettering is larger than usual.

In the earlier notes on Type 5, mention was made of several copies of partial strike showing what appeared to be the letters ".BU..1", in violet/purple, dated 1902. It was conjectured that this might be Aburi or Obuasi, but measurements now show that it could not be a partial strike of Type 5 Aburi, whilst Obuasi is not recorded as having used a Type 5 canceller. On the basis of this scanty information, identification is not possible, but the particulars are repeated here in the hope that further details will become known.

TYPE 5A

This c.d.s. which has a fleuron in the place of "Gold Coast" and measures 23 mm only, is peculiar to Cape Coast. It is struck in black with code letter A and is recorded only on the Q.V. C.A. issue and on the 1889-94 Key Plate issue. The earliest date is 21 January 1893 and the latest 22 May 1897.

TYPE 5B

This c.d.s. resembles Type 5 with dots, but is framed by two concentric circles about 1mm apart, the outer measuring 27mm. It is struck in black

TYPE 5B continued.

with no code letter, and is peculiar to Prahsu. It was in use concurrently with the Prahsu normal Type 5 c.d.s. which is less frequently seen. The earliest date for Type 5B is 22 October 1896 and the latest 3 October 1901.

TYPE 5C

Victoriaborg. This c.d.s. - the first sub-office cancellation - resembles the general style of the normal Type 5, but there are two distinguishing characteristics. The words "Gold Coast" at the foot are replaced by "Accra", and the latter is separated from "Victoriaborg" by two very small crosses, one on either side, instead of dots.

It appears that this c.d.s. became worn, since the impressions of the small crosses and of the outer circle do not always register.

TYPE 6

Concentric circles struck in black, measuring 27mm outer and 18mm inner, between which appear 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	15.3.94	15.1.02
Kumasi	22.2.97	5.5.99

A later example has been seen dated Ja 190? - the year has been added in manuscript, but the final digit falls off the stamp.

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.

TYPE 8

Accra. A c.d.s. exists similar in general design to Type 2 but measuring 22 mm as compared with 20 mm for the normal Type 2; It shows code letter A (1893/4) and C (1888/9), but has so far been recorded only struck on cover, and may not have been used to cancel adhesives.

TYPE 9

This unique cancellation, used at Accra only, has 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 is Spowart's Handbook and Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia is not quite accurate). This date stamp appears to have deteriorated badly in use and later impressions on the Q.V. Key Plate stamps are generally very worn.

In use 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

Single circle 25mm diameter, at the top the letters G.C.G.R. (abbreviation for Gold Coast Government Railways) spaced around the circumference; at the bottom the name of the town. Two line date in centre. So far recorded only for Abosso and Imbraim on later K.E.V11 issues. Abosso is known with year omitted and day of month in manuscript; fully legible dates are 12.8.04 and 3.3.05. Imbraim dates are between 27.6.10 and 13.1.11.

TYPE 11

This is similar to Type 5, measuring 24 mm, but with smaller and neater letters and figures. It is found with or without code letter and also with or without dots between the town name and "Gold Coast". The year may be found with one, two or four digits. It is usually struck in black, but has been seen in purple/violet for Cape Coast.

It has been recorded for the following towns:-

Accra	Elmina	
Axim	Kintampo	
Cape Coast	Kwitta	Saltpond
	Pram Pram	

TYPE 11 continued.

This type of cancellation does not appear to have been widely used and specimens are not often seen.

(The Editors would welcome additional information which would enable a detailed check list to be compiled)

TYPE 12

The diameter of this c.d.s. is 26/28mm. There is no code letter; the date is in two lines, the year in full (i.e. four digits). For some offices, there are dots between the town name and "Gold Coast". Some used a two-letter abbreviation for the month, others used three - none used both. Month before day was the general practice but this was sometimes reversed for both the two- and three-letter months.

This cancellation is found on Q.V. Key Plate (late use 5.3.03) and on K.E. VII issues, the earliest recorded date being 17.8.02 and the latest 22.6.14. It has been noted for 19 offices.

Check List

Accra	Dodowa	Obuasi
Ada	Elmina	Prestea
Attuaboe	Half Assinie	Saltpond
Axim	Kintampo	Sekondi
Beyin	Kwitta	Tarkwa
Cape Coast	Kumasi	Winnebah
Dixcove	Obuassi	

TYPE 12a

The three Branch Offices which were included under Type 12 in the previous edition have characteristics which distinguish them clearly from the standard Type 12, and they are therefore now shown separately as Type 12a. At these offices much smaller letters were used in order to enable the additional information to be accommodated within the c.d.s. viz the name of the "parent" office as well as that of the Branch. All have dots between the office name and "Gold Coast"; all used the two-letter abbreviation for the month, and all showed month before day.

O'Connors Hill B.O.	Cape Coast	earliest	17.7.03	latest	28. 3.08
Ussher Fort B.O.	Accra	"	24.4.03	"	13.11.08
Victoriaborg B.O.	Accra	"	14.3.03	"	24. 7.06

TYPE 12A

Single circle measuring 28mm with large letters and one line date : town - Gold Coast or alternatively N.T. (Northern Territories). This c.d.s. was used in only a few offices but is found on K.G.V., K.G.VI., and Q.E.11 issues.

Check List

Accra	Gold Coast	Adjuah	Gold Coast	Bole	N.T.
Maasi	Gold Coast	Tafo	Gold Coast	Salaga	N.T.

Tafo is recorded on all three issues, the earliest date being 30.8.20., Adjuah and Bole on K.G.V. (1919-23); Maasi on K.G.VI and Q.E.11; and Salaga on K.G.VI.

Accra is recorded 17.12.66, whilst Tafo and Maasi (a sub-office of Tafo) are also found on early Ghana issues.

TYPE 12B

Single circle measuring 30mm. Town - Gold Coast; two line date with day before month or month before day; and occasionally the year missing. This is a provisional skeleton type and was probably used pending the issue of a normal c.d.s. or while the normal c.d.s. was being repaired or replaced - c.f. Sierra Leone and Nigeria skeleton types. Found on K.G.V., K.G.VI., and Q.E.11 issues, the earliest date being 12.12.17.

A Mampong date stamp has "Ashanti" in place of "Gold Coast".

Check List - TYPE 12B

Agona Ashanti	Mampong
Ahamansu	Mampong (Ashanti)
Akorabu Kukua	Mepom
Akropong	Mpraeso
Asamankese	Ofuasi
Asuoya	Old Tafo
Attiteti	Prasu Amuaana
Bodaye	Saltpond
Borada	Sekodumasi
Effiduase	Swedru
Fante Nyankumasi	Techiman
Kraichi	
Liati Agbonyra	

TYPE 13

Single circle measuring 25/27mm. Town name at top, but this type adds the word Colony after Gold Coast. The date is in two lines; three letter abbreviation for the month; year (usually) in full (i.e. four digits); day before month. It was in use mainly on K.E.V11 and K.G.V issues though examples are recorded for Aburi on K.G.V1 dated 14.2.39 and 16.3.40.

The earliest date recorded is 2.12.04 and the latest (apart from Aburi) 3.9.38.

Check List

Abosso	Axim	Kumasi
Aburi	Cape Coast	Prestea
Accra	Coomassie	Saltpond
Adawso	Dodowa	Sekondi (KE)
Akropong	Dunkwa	Seccondee (KGV)
Akuse		Winnebah

TYPE 14

Double circle measuring 28mm (outer) Town name - Gold Coast (separated by dots) between the circles. Two line date in centre, 3 letter month, year in full, Crown above date. The usual arrangement is month before day, but the reverse is not uncommon. This cancellation is usually struck in black but it has been found for Dunkwa in blue or violet. Three different types of crown have been noted.

It is known for 64 offices; the earliest date is 2.7.06 and the latest 20.6.50. Abamkrom and Nungoa have been seen on early Ghana.

The use of a Crown in this c.d.s. is not considered to have any special significance - The Postmaster General, Gold Coast has suggested that it indicates that the article franked was "Royal Mail" but as the cancellors were supplied from the United Kingdom this is only surmise. It is, however, a handsome cancellation seen at its best on an entire or piece.

TYPE 15 and 15a

Double circle measuring 28mm : as Type 14 but without Crown : normal setting "month before day" but found also with day before month (Type 15) : two line date with time above (Type 15a). In use on K.E.V11 (15) and K.G.V.(15 & 15a) issues and recorded for some 54 offices. Also recorded on K.G.V1 for Peki, 1950.

	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type 15	11.11.04	1. 9.28
Type 15a	13.11.13	.11.39

TYPE 16 and 16a

Double circle measuring 28mm : Gold Coast : single line date in central panel with vertical bars above and below (Type 16) : date amplified to include time (Type 16a). In a few instances a code number or a letter is inserted in the middle of the bars above the date e.g. '2', '3' (16) and 'A' (16a). Both types were concurrently in use.

There are also variations where the "Town" name normally appears such as T.P.O. : Registered (q.v.) Parcel Post e.g. Accra : Axim : Cape Coast : Coomassie : and Sekondi : also Telegraph e.g. Obuasi or Money Order e.g. Keta. In the case of Agona - "Ashanti" replaces "Gold Coast".

In use, both types, on K.G.V : K.G.V1 : and Q.E.11 issues and on the early issues of Ghana. Recorded for over 250 offices, the earliest dates being 12.2.22 (Type 16) and 26.10.17 (Type 16a).

TYPE 16b

As type 16a but with smaller lettering and measuring 26mm. The code letter inserted in the bars is normally 'A' (or 'T' for Elmina only). In use on K.G.V1 and Q.E.11 issues and on early issues of Ghana the earliest recorded date being 13.8.41.

Check List

Abasa	Elmina
Abura Dunkwa	Kisi
Aiyiribe	Ntronang
Ashanti Newtown	Ofuasi
Ayensuaka	Sekondi
Bedum	Techiman
Brakwa	Tsito
Ebiram	Field Post Office 106

(For registered marks of this type see Type 3)

TYPE 17

Double circle measuring 30mm. Town - Gold Coast with two line date between. In use on K.G.V., K.G.V1 and Q.E.11 issues. Recorded for some 44 offices. Earliest date 10.10.13.

TYPE 17a

As Type 17 but with two line date with time above. Recorded only on K.G.V. issues - earliest date 26.6.14 ; latest date 4.7.25.  
(This c.d.s. may be in fact a variation of Type 15a).

Check List

Abura Dunkwa	Cape Coast
Accra	Commenda
Akropong	Enchi Nsuaem

TYPE 18

Similar to Type 17, with dots, but measuring 32/33mm. In use on K.G.V., K.G.VI and Q.E. issues.

Recorded for some 60 offices - earliest date 25.7.18.

TYPE 18a

Similar to Type 18 but with two line date with time above. Recorded only on K.G.V. issues - earliest date 1.9.19 latest date --.37.

Check List

Abetifi	Jumapo
Asamankese	Kumasi
Atuabo	Mamfe
Berracoe	Mepom
Hunisu	Tarquah

TYPE 19

Double circle measuring 34mm. Town - Gold Coast : no dots : two line date. Generally the inner circle measures 22mm but some are 24mm. There is a special type for "Coomassie" which has a three line date, including time (August, 1923).

Some of these cancellations are apparently of a temporary nature with irregular lettering.

In use on K.G.V., K.G.VI and Q.E.11 issues and on early issues of Ghana.

Recorded for some 170 offices - the earliest date being 10.9.23.

TYPE 19a

Double circle measuring 32 mm. Town - G.C. spaced (G.C. may be found inverted) : no dots : two line date. Probably a provisional canceller, in use on K.G.V., K.G.VI and Q.E.11 issues. Recorded for some 90 offices - earliest date being 16.9.23.

The following cancellations, found mainly on K.G.V. issues, may also be included in this type.

- (i) Town Gold Coast at top of c.d.s. e.g. Anyinam : Awunegah : Bompata : Oniso : Tekiman : Bosuso recorded on K.G.VI.
- (ii) Town only e.g. Navorro : Mampong Ashanti.
- (iii) Town and date both inside inner circle : outer circle blank or with "30 Gold Coast " at top - recorded only for Ho.

TYPE 20

Double circle measuring 26 mm. Town Gold Coast, with curved stroke between. Two line date, or two line date with time above, the latter being the normal setting. In use on K.G.VI and Q.E.11 issues and on early issues of Ghana. Recorded for some 40 offices - the earliest date being 24.4.50.

(A similar cancellation but with "Ghana" instead of Gold Coast was introduced in December, 1957).

There are several variations of this cancellation:-

- (i) Town name and Gold Coast at top and letter or number at bottom e.g. Accra Gold Coast - '2' or - 'A'.
- (ii) Sub Office name at top : town and Gold Coast at bottom e.g. Jamestown - Accra Gold Coast.
- (iii) As (ii) but without curved stroke between e.g. Market Circle - Takoradi Gold Coast.

TYPE 21

Single circle measuring 24 mm. Town - Gold Coast with or without star above two line date. In use on K.G.VI and Q.E.11 issues and on early issues of Ghana.

TYPE 21 continued

The use of the c.d.s. was widespread and it has been recorded for at least 340 offices. Earliest date 31.3.50.

(A similar cancellation but with "Ghana" instead of "Gold Coast" was introduced in December, 1957).

There are several variations of this cancellation:-

- (i) Town and Gold Coast at top and a number at bottom  
e.g. Tamale Gold Coast - 3 : Accra Gold Coast - 5.
- (ii) '19' in lieu of star above date e.g. Prasu : Asin  
Akropong.  
'c' in lieu of star e.g. Takoradi.

Registered Cancellations

These cancellations do not appear to have been introduced in the Gold Coast until circa 1921 and were first used on K.G.V issues.

This is much later than in other West African Colonies.

TYPE R1

Double oval : "Registered" at top : Town - Gold Coast at bottom with \* before and after "Registered". This c.d.s. is found in two sizes measuring 32 x 25mm or 34 x 28mm. The normal setting has a single line date without time but in a few cases the time is added, the inner oval being proportionately larger e.g. Hohoe : Mpraeso.

In use on K.G.V : K.G.V1 and Q.E.11 issues and on early issues of Ghana. It has been recorded for over 100 offices.

TYPE R2

Double oval measuring 34 x 32 mm (almost circular) : used at Takoradi only from 1928-46. Single line date with or without time.

TYPE R3

As types 16, 16a or 16b - double circle with bars - Town name and Registered at top - Gold Coast at bottom. In use on K.G.V1 and Q.E.11 issues and on early issues of Ghana.

TYPE R3 continued

A cancellation of this type (16) with Coomassie at top and "Registered" at bottom was used in 1923.

Check List

Akrokeri	Takoradi Market Circle
Tafo	Winnebah
Takoradi (no.1)	Coomassie

TYPE R4

Large fancy double oval with bars measuring 50 x 32 mm. "Town Registered" at top : Gold Coast at bottom : large stars at sides : single line date. In the case of Sekondi, the letter 'A' is in the bars above date and the number '2' below date.

In use on K.G.VI and Q.E.11 issues from about 1950 and on early issues of Ghana.

Check List

Aboso	Kumasi
Bibiani	Sekondi
Half Assini	

N.B. A single circle measuring 30 mm with "Accra Rcs" at top and Gold Coast at bottom, apparently a temporary cancellation, was introduced after 6th March, 1957. It has, however, only been noted as an arrival marking on Registered Ghana covers routed through Accra and should perhaps be regarded as a Ghana cancellation, despite the inscription.