

ISSUE I.

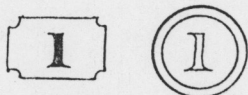
DESIGN.

Although simple in construction, the design displays to perfection the art of the engraver, the execution of which has been attributed to Mr. J. F. Joubert, then chief engraver to the stamp printers.



PLATES.

Two plates were used for printing, the key or head plate for the design, and a separate duty plate for the value. Key plate No. 1 was used for all values, the stamps being printed in sheets of 60, ten horizontal rows of six. The margin was without any border line, but key plate No. 1 in white was printed on a ball of colour, with an additional number 1 enclosed by a plain oblong frame having indented corners. Thus each sheet contained four plate numbers, which were placed over and below the second stamp from each end. An illustration showing the two types of plate number is shown herewith.



PAPER AND WATERMARK.

The paper was medium white wove for all values, watermarked with the Royal Crown over the letters CC, the watermark so arranged that each stamp contained a complete design in the centre. In the sheet margins the words CROWN COLONIES were also watermarked in large block capitals.



PERFORATION.

Perforation was made by means of a single line or guillotine gauge 12½, which machine was brought into use by the printers in 1863.

PRINTINGS.

The first printings consisting of the 1d., 2d., 4d., and 6d. values were despatched from London the 12th May, 1874, and were placed on sale at Lagos on July 10th, 1874. The first printings of the 3d. and 1/- values were despatched on November 18th, 1874, these being placed on issue in March, 1875. There were six despatches of the 1d., four each of the 2d., 3d., and 1/-, and seven each of the 4d. and 6d. values. The following are official figures :

<i>Date Despatched.</i>	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	6d.	1/-
12th May, 1874 ..	33	33	—	32	34	—
13th Aug., „ ..	—	—	—	36	36	—
11th Sept., „ ..	40	42	—	42	42	—
18th Nov., „ ..	51	—	50	53	54	52
14th Dec., „ ..	53	—	55	51	54	52
3rd Feb., 1875 ..	50	52	50	53	51	50
13th May, „ ..	103	109	108	105	106	106

Sheets of 60	330	236	263	372	377	260
Total No. of stamps	19800	14160	15780	22320	22620	15600

The totals for the 1/- value cover both varieties of plate in the value tablet.

SHADES.

As the value was printed at a separate operation, all Lagos issues show marked differences between the colours of the stamps and the values, and one explanation for this has been advanced that the printers kept a stock of stamps on which the values were inserted later, as and when fresh requisitions were made. It will be noticed from the despatch dates that small consignments of various values were generally sent quarterly to the Colony, lending support to this theory.

PROOFS.

In ^{THIS} the ~~Forrest~~ collection is a beautiful coloured artist's drawing for the original design of the 1d. value. It is dated 16th January, 1874, and auto-graphed "APPROVED M.S."

In the same collection are die-proofs on white glazed card and printed in black.

- (1) Before plates were hardened and the value tablet left blank.
- (2) After hardening showing value PENNY HALF PENNY.

From the value above-mentioned ^{THIS LATTER} ~~these~~ proofs ^{WAS} ~~were~~ evidently for the printing of postcards, which carried a stamp of this value.

Both proofs are exquisite, and show to perfection the engraver's skill.

A proof printed in pale lilac on white glazed card having the value tablet blank and overprinted SPECIMEN, is also known to exist.

H.W.

ISSUE II.

The second issue of the stamps of Lagos (with the exception of the 1/- value, which was not despatched from London until November 26th, 1879) is believed to have taken place towards the end of 1876. Unfortunately, it will be found that in this issue nearly all the stamps are cancelled by the ugly bar postmark mentioned in the list of postmarks, and owing to the scarcity of the round-dated postmarks, the exact date is difficult to prove. Stamps of this issue bearing round-dated cancellations are very scarce indeed, and are worth considerably more than copies with the bar postmark.

DESIGN AND COLOURS.

The design and colourings are identical to the previous issue, the only difference being that the stamps were perforated by a new comb machine gauging 14 in place of 12½. Mr. Armstrong advances the statement that it is possible that the early consignment of this issue may have been perforated by a new single line machine, which was known to have been used by the printers about this time, as stamps issued by the neighbouring Colony of Gold Coast and also by Gambia were first of all perforated with a single line machine, and later with a comb machine. The difference between the two perforations can be identified thus:—

Single Line (Guillotine Machine).—The vertical and horizontal rows do not exactly co-incide but almost invariably fall foul of one another at the angles.

Comb Machine.—The teeth are arranged roughly in the form of a comb, perforating three sides of the stamp in a vertical or horizontal row at each descent of the pins, leaving a single perfect hole in the corner of each stamp.

Those collectors who possess blocks can readily distinguish between the two types of perforations.

SHADES.

The 1d. will be found in a lilac-mauve and also in a deeper tone of the same shade; the 2d. will be found in blue as well as deep blue. There are two shades of the 6d.—one in blue-green, and the other in a paler shade.

PRINTINGS.

There are four despatches of the 1d. and 3d. values, six each of the 2d. and 4d., three of the 6d., and one only of the 1/- . These were shipped from London on the following dates:—

<i>Date Despatched.</i>	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	6d.	1/-
9th May, 1876	400	106	105	104	106	—
12th June, 1877	206	105	106	203	212	—
28th Aug., 1878	—	200	191	350	250	—
23rd July, 1879	305	105	—	102	—	—
26th Nov., 1879	—	100	—	100	—	93
18th Nov., 1880	200	203	100	200	—	—

Sheet of 60	1111	819	502	959	568	93
Total No. of Stamps	66660	49140	30120	57540	34080	5580

WATERMARK VARIETY.

The 4d. value will be found with the watermark sideways in place of upright. It is difficult to explain how this error occurred, but the sideways watermark has happened with other Colonial stamps. It is undoubtedly genuine; the writer has handled several specimens, and it is surprising this variety has not been given a place in the catalogue.

On January 1st, 1879, Lagos became a member of the Universal Postal Union, and the rates of postage were revised accordingly. An official notice issued by the Postmaster, W. E. Cole, dated 22nd March, 1879, gave the new rates as follows:—

Letters within the Colony 2d. per ½ oz.

Letters to U.K. and Countries be-

longing to Postal Union 4d. per ½ oz.

Newspapers to U.K. and Countries be-

longing to Postal Union 1d. per 4 ozs.

Other printed papers and patterns 3d. per 4 ozs. or

1/- per lb., except when addressed via Brindisi.

Unpaid letters were charged double on arrival at destination.

These regulations came into operation on the 1st April, 1879.

1876. Head of Queen Victoria. Set of 6 values.

Exactly as last; watermarked CROWN over CC., but perf. 14.

Cat. No. 10	1d. lilac-mauve. deep lilac-mauve.
" 11.	2d. blue. deep blue.
" 12.	3d. red-brown. chestnut.
" 12a.	4d. rose-carmine. rose-red.
" 14.	6d. blue-green. pale blue-green.
" 15.	1/- orange, value 16½ mm. long.
VARIETY. <i>Watermark Sideways.</i>	
" 14a.	4d. carmine.

ISSUE III.
CHANGE OF WATERMARK.

June, 1882-March, 1885. Head of Queen Victoria.
Set of 5 values. Exactly as before, but water-
marked CROWN OVER CA. Perf. 14.

Cat. No.	17.	1d.	lilac-mauve. deep lilac-mauve.
"	18.	2d.	blue. deep blue.
"	19.	3d.	chestnut.
"	20.	4d.	rose-carmine.
"	21.	1/-	orange. deep orange.

The first supplies of the 1d., 2d., 3d., and 4d. values bearing a new form of watermark, *i.e.*, Crown over CA, in place of CC, were despatched from the printers on the 14th February, 1882, being placed on issue at Lagos in June of the same year. The 1/- value was not sent out until July 8th, 1884, and was available for sale at the post office in March, 1885. No 6d. value in the blue-green shade was printed with the CA watermark.

PRINTINGS.

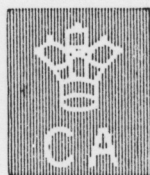
There were ten despatches of each of the 1d., 2d., and 4d. values, nine of the 3d., and six of the 1/-, as follows:—

<i>Dates Despatched.</i>	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	1/-
14th Feb., 1882	56	60	31	60	—
5th April, "	60	60	23	59	—
30th June, "	60	60	28	60	—
21st Sept., "	59	62	30	60	—
10th Jan., 1883	61	61	—	60	—
11th April, "	60	60	—	60	—
4th July, "	56	60	—	60	—
2nd Oct., "	61	61	—	61	—
21st Dec., "	60	60	—	62	—
28th April, 1884	60	61	—	62	—
8th July, "	—	—	56	—	60
16th Dec., "	—	—	60	—	60
13th July, 1885	—	—	63	—	62
29th Dec., "	—	—	60	—	60
30th June, 1886	—	—	58	—	60
12th Oct., "	—	—	—	—	68
<hr/>					
Sheets of 60	593	605	409	604	370
Total No. of Stamps	35580	36300	24540	36240	22200

All printing details were identical to the last with the exception of the watermark. No varieties have been reported. *THE 1/- VALUE IS KNOWN IN PERF. PROBABLY A PROOF.*

SHADES.

The 1d. and 2d. values have the same shade varieties as mentioned in the previous issue.



ISSUE IV.
CHANGE OF COLOURS.

Between the years 1884 and 1886 the colours of the stamps were revised. The ½d. and 1d. values were supplied in green and red respectively to conform to the requirements of the Postal Union; the 2d. was in grey, the 4d. in pale violet, the 6d. in olive-green, while three new high values were added to the set, consisting of the 2/6 in olive-black, the 5/- in blue, and the 10/- in purple-brown. These three high values are the rarities of all Lagos issues. They were despatched from London on the 12th October, 1886, and had a very short life of less than six months, being superseded in March, 1887, by a change of colours. There was only one printing of each value, and as they were used for fiscal as well as postal service, the available supply for collectors is very limited. They have always maintained high prices from the time they were first issued.

DATES OF ISSUE.

The 1d., 2d., 4d., and 6d. values appeared first in December, 1884, the ½d. in February, 1886, and the 2/6, 5/-, and 10/- values in October, 1886.

PRINTINGS.

The following despatches were made :—

½d. and 6d. values .. six of each.
1d., 2d., and 4d. values .. eleven " "
2/6, 5/-, 10/- values .. one " "

Dates Despatched.	½d.	1d.	2d.	4d.	6d.	2/6	5/-	10/-
8th July, 1884 ...	—	55	58	58	58	—	—	—
24th Sept., " ...	—	60	60	60	—	—	—	—
16th Dec., " ...	—	57	56	60	62	—	—	—
21st April, 1885 ...	—	58	61	60	—	—	—	—
13th July, " ...	—	60	61	60	60	—	—	—
29th Sept., " ...	—	60	63	60	—	—	—	—
24th Nov., " ...	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29th Dec., " ...	62	62	61	62	61	—	—	—
29th March, 1886 ...	61	61	60	60	—	—	—	—
30th June, " ...	60	60	60	60	58	—	—	—
12th Oct., " ...	80	75	76	76	76	15	10	7
13th Dec., " ...	82	82	80	80	—	—	—	—
Sheets of 60 ...	405	690	696	696	375	15	10	7
Total No. of stamps	24300	41400	41760	41760	22500	900	600	420

The following additional despatches from plate No. 1 of the ½d. and 1d. values printed in the new doubly-fugitive ink, mentioned later, were made :—

Date Despatched.	½d.	1d.
31st March, 1887 ..	80	80
14th July, " ..	82	78
4th Oct., " ..	82	80
29th Dec., " ..	80	80
11th April, 1888 ..	82	80
3rd July, " ..	80	80
2nd Oct., " ..	80	80
31st Dec., " ..	80	80
2nd April, 1889 ..	80	80
9th July, " ..	80	80
10th Oct., " ..	80	164
31st Dec., " ..	80	160
15th April, 1890 ..	80	163
2nd July, " ..	82	160
4th Oct., " ..	80	160
19th Dec., " ..	82	160
29th Aug., 1891 ..	36	150
10th Dec., " ..	34	150
8th March, 1892 ..	34	152
2nd June, " ..	36	152
21st March, 1893 ..	35	150
3rd June, " ..	36	152
5th Sept., " ..	36	150
30th Sept., " ..	36	150
30th Dec., " ..	216	150
15th Jan., 1894 ..	182	149
7th March, " ..	34	152
3rd July, " ..	176	152
7th Sept., " ..	205	152
27th Dec., " ..	200	150
27th March, 1895 ..	400	150
12th June, " ..	404	152
27th Aug., " ..	402	153
4th Dec., " ..	403	150
11th Feb., 1896 ..	400	150
17th June, " ..	404	148
10th Sept., " ..	400	150
9th Dec., " ..	406	150
11th March, 1897 ..	403	150
24th June, " ..	400	150
26th Aug., " ..	400	300
25th Nov., " ..	1630	1222
8th Sept., 1898 ..	1600	1204
5th Jan., 1899 ..	—	100
1st Aug., " ..	1605	1200
4th Aug., 1900 ..	1626	1200
25th Oct., " ..	—	1006
Sheets of 60 ..	13433	11461
Total No. of stamps ..	805980	687660

SPECIMEN.

400 stamps from the 1st printing of the 1d. in the above inks (31st March, 1887) were over-printed SPECIMEN.

PLATE No. 2.

There were only two printings of the ½d. and 1d. values from the new plate No. 2 (see remarks concerning this new plate mentioned later). They were despatched to the Colony on the following dates :—

	½d.	1d.
1st printing 19th August, 1901 ..	1641	2225
2nd " 29th " 1902 ..	2022	4040
Sheets of 60 ..	3663	6265
Total No. of stamps ..	219780	375900

Note.—See later reference to 1765 sheets of the ½d. value, which were offered for sale by the Crown Agents as remainders.

1285
no
original

SPECIMEN.

According to printers' records, 400 stamps of the 1d. value were overprinted SPECIMEN for the Postal Union. I have also the 2/6, 5/-, and 10/- values overprinted SPECIMEN, and Mr. Marcus F. J. Samuel also gives me the 1/2d. value.

Specimen.—According to printers' records 400 stamps of the 1d. value were overprinted "SPECIMEN" for the Postal Union. I have also the 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. values overprinted "SPECIMEN," and Mr. Marcus F. J. Samuel also gives me the 1/2d. value. The 1/2d. and 1d. values are also known with "SPECIMEN" written across the stamp diagonally in black ink. The 1d. value is also known with watermark inverted.

205
118
act
Norma

Imperf. Varieties.—The 2d., 4d., 6d., 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. values in the issued colours and on watermarked paper are to be found imperforate. These are probably proofs.

IMPERF. VARIETIES.

The 2d., 4d., 6d., 2/6, 5/-, and 10/- values in the issued colours and on watermarked paper are to be found imperforate. These are probably proofs.

VARIETIES.

The 1d. value is also known with watermark inverted.

Forgeries.—The higher values 6d. to 10s. have been forged on paper perforated 14 and having forged watermark Crown CA. These forgeries are lithographed by Panelli and should be readily detected by anyone having a knowledge of Lagos stamps. Genuine stamps are engraved.

Forgeries.—The full set of six values have been forged on paper perforated 14 and having forged watermark Crown CC. These forgeries are lithographed by Panelli and can be readily distinguished from the genuine stamps which are engraved.

110-11
- 1st

ISSUE V. BI-COLOURED STAMPS.

In March, 1887, a further change of colours was made. The printers had patented a specially doubly fugitive ink obtainable only at this time in two colours, *viz.*, green and purple, and in order to limit the activities of "cleaners" of postally-used specimens, it was decided to print future stamps with this doubly fugitive ink. The values of each stamp were printed at a separate operation in single fugitive colours. The only exception to the doubly fugitive ink was the new 2½d value, which was issued to repay the Universal Postal rate of 2½d per ½ oz. for single letters to foreign countries within the Postal Union. This 2½d stamp was printed in blue to conform to the existing regulations.

Four new denominations were added, *viz.*, 2½d, 5d, 7½d and 10d, while it will be noticed that the 3d and 1/- values were again brought into circulation. The ½d and 1d values remained in the same colours, but shades of these two stamps can readily be distinguished from the earlier printings, and some distinction in the pricings should be made. The latter printings are fairly common and can be identified by the deep carmine tone of the 1d, which has the appearance of aniline colour, or by the postmarks.

This issue remained current from 1887 to 1904 when the new King Edward series came into use, and during the whole of this period the original plates made for the 1874 issue were employed for printing. About August, 1901, plate No. 1 was showing signs of wear, and stamps printed from it were blurred and indistinct, so the plate was discarded and a second plate brought into use. The new plate was numbered 2. The only difference between plates 1 and 2 was that the latter plate had the number 2 printed in white on a ball of colour in all four corners of the sheet margin, and the margin had a continuous "Jubilee" line of colour enclosing the panes. This "Jubilee" line is printed in the same shade as the stamp itself. The only values printed from plate No. 2 were the ½d, 1d, 6d and 1/-.

SHADES.

The colourings vary throughout the different printings.

In the GREENS the first printings were in a dull shade of yellow-green and the stamps show brownish gum, later printings varied from a dull blue-green to a grey-green with white gum.

MAUVES are particularly dull and will be found in very pale shades and also in deeper tones. The gum also varies from brown to white.

BLUE.—In the 2½d value the shades of blue vary considerably from bright ultramarine to pale, and there was a scarce shade printed in blue, which has attained to catalogue rank.

PRINTINGS.—The following despatches were made:—

Date Despatched.	2d	2½d	3d	4d	5d	6d
31st Mar., 1887	80*	—	—	80*	—	80*
14th July, "	80	—	—	80	—	80
4th Oct., "	80	—	—	80	—	80
29th Dec., "	77	—	—	80	—	80
11th April, 1888	82	—	—	80	—	80
3rd July, "	80	—	—	80	—	80
2nd Oct., "	77	—	—	80	—	80
31st Dec., "	80	—	—	80	—	80
2nd April, 1889	80	—	—	80	—	80
9th July, "	80	—	—	80	—	79
10th Oct., "	80	—	—	80	—	80
31st Dec., "	80	—	—	84	—	80
15th April, 1890	80	—	—	80	—	80
2nd July, "	82	—	—	80	—	80
4th Oct., "	80	—	—	80	—	80
19th Dec., "	80	—	35*	80	—	—
15th April, 1891	—	180*	—	—	—	—
10th July, "	—	180	—	—	—	—
29th Aug., "	75	178	17	75	—	—
10th Dec., "	75	177	17	75	—	—
8th Mar., 1892	76	180	18	76	—	—
2nd June, "	78	182	18	78	—	—
21st Mar., 1893	76	180	17	77	—	—
3rd June, "	78	178	18	76	—	—
5th Sept., "	76	180	16	76	—	—
30th Dec., "	78	184	18	78	86*	—
15th Jan., 1894	—	180	—	—	—	—
7th Mar., "	78	180	18	78	—	—
3rd July, "	76	182	18	76	84	—
7th Sept., "	35	182	18	35	87	—
27th Dec., "	35	183	18	34	86	—
27th Mar., 1895	36	178	20	36	88	—
12th June, "	36	182	20	36	88	—
11th Mar., 1897	—	700	—	—	—	—
24th June, "	—	200	—	—	—	—
26th Aug., "	250	150	100	100	202	200
25th Nov., "	1018	602	402	400	—	—
8th Sept., 1898	1008	600	405	405	203	200
1st Aug., 1899	1000	600	400	405	205	200
4th Aug., 1900	1008	605	400	402	205	200
19th Aug., 1901	1010	611	404	409	202	—

Sheets of 60	7½d	10d	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-
31st Mar., 1887	—	—	80*	18*	14*	6*
14th July, "	—	—	80	20	12	6
4th Oct., "	—	—	80	17	12	6
29th Dec., "	—	—	80	17	12	6
11th April, 1888	—	—	80	17	12	6
3rd July, "	—	—	78	22	11	8
2nd Oct., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
31st Dec., "	—	—	80	20	12	6
2nd April, 1889	—	—	80	20	12	6
9th July, "	—	—	79	15	10	6
10th Oct., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
31st Dec., "	—	—	80	20	12	6
15th April, 1890	—	—	80	16	12	6
2nd July, "	—	—	80	16	12	6
4th Oct., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
19th Dec., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
15th April, 1891	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th July, "	—	—	—	—	—	—
29th Aug., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Dec., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
8th Mar., 1892	—	—	—	—	—	—
2nd June, "	—	—	—	—	—	—
21st Mar., 1893	—	—	—	—	—	—
3rd June, "	—	—	—	—	—	—
5th Sept., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
30th Dec., "	87*	85*	—	—	—	—
15th Jan., 1894	—	—	—	—	—	—
7th Mar., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
3rd July, "	84	84	—	—	—	80
7th Sept., "	87	87	—	—	—	—
27th Dec., "	85	86	—	—	—	80
27th Mar., 1895	86	86	—	—	—	—
12th June, "	86	88	—	—	—	—
11th Mar., 1897	—	—	—	—	52	—
24th June, "	—	—	—	—	—	—
26th Aug., "	82	40	200	64	65	41
25th Nov., "	—	—	—	—	—	—
8th Sept., 1898	82	43	202	64	64	41
1st Aug., 1899	82	42	202	65	66	40
4th Aug., 1900	82	42	200	64	64	40
19th Aug., 1901	84	40	—	66	66	40

Sheets of 60 ... 927 723 1441 471 472 412
 Totalling ... 55620 43380 86460 28260 28320 24720
 * Supplies marked * were overprinted SPECIMEN for the Postal Union.

There was only one printing of the 6d and 1/- values from Plate No. 2, viz:—

<i>Despatched.</i>	6d	1/-	
19th August, 1901 ..	204	200	sheets of sixty.
Totalling ..	12240	12000	stamps.

In November, 1905, the Crown Agents for the Colonies sent out a circular letter offering the remainders of above issue for sale in London. It is understood that as no satisfactory offer was received (the Colonial Government not being willing to accept offers under face value), the stamps were destroyed. Application has been made to the Crown Agents to find out the actual facts, but there was no record in the Stamp Office to say what had become of them.

The following stamps were mentioned in the circular, all in sheets of sixty, and the totals, therefore, should be deducted from the quantities printed, in order to arrive at the exact number of stamps available for postal and revenue services.

	½d	2d	3d	4d	5d	6d
Sheets	1765	4071	1430	1708	959	390
Stamps	105900	244260	85800	107880	57540	23400
	7½d	10d	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-
Sheets	546	385	437	301	315	227
Stamps	32760	23100	26220	18060	18900	13620

COLOUR CHANGE.

In the 6d value, Plate 2, despatched 19th August, 1901, and issued at Lagos in October, 1902, a change of colour was made in the value SIX PENCE, which was printed in aniline carmine instead of the original shade of mauve.

VARIETY.

I possess a mint specimen of the 1/- value without watermark. Unfortunately it cannot be stated whether this came from a complete sheet or from a single row of stamps, which had escaped the watermark.

SPECIMEN.

All values from 2d to 10/- were overprinted SPECIMEN in black for the Postal Union. From the printer's records the following totals have been taken:—

2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values—400 of each
5d, 7½d and 10d values—750 of each.

DATES OF ISSUE.

The 2d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values were issued in April (?) 1887, the 2½d in (May ?) 1891, the 3d in (April ?) 1891, the 5d, 7½d and 10d in February, 1894. These three latter values were instituted to prepay registration of parcels, etc., up to the following amounts:—

5d	to register up to	£12	value.
7½d	„	£24	„
10d	„	£36	„

RATES OF POSTAGE.

On October 27, 1887, the Post Office issued a revised scale of charges for inland postal mail as follows:—

Letters	1d per ½ oz.
Newspapers	1d
Newspapers in parcel, Bookpackets or samples, not exceeding 4oz.	1d
with an additional 1d for every 4 oz. in excess of this weight.	

THE SET OF SIX TYPES.



THE SET OF SIX TYPES.



PROVISIONAL ISSUE. AUGUST, 1893.

The only occasion throughout its history that Lagos had to resort to a temporary expedient of surcharging stamps occurred in August, 1893, when the Post Office at Lagos ran out of halfpenny stamps. A glance at the list of despatches for the halfpenny value shows that up to 1890 approximately 322 sheets of sixty were sent out each year, but for the years 1891, 1892, and the six months of 1893 the figure had dropped to about 70 sheets. After the provisional was created the despatches of this value jumped up enormously.

The shortage was overcome by overprinting a quantity of the 4d. value, bicoloured, in black, with the words HALF PENNY in small Roman capitals in one horizontal line across the stamp, the original value FOUR PENCE being cancelled by two horizontal bars. These bars were spaced so closely together that in many cases when printed with a good supply of ink they appear as a single bar, but in lightly printed copies the two bars show distinct.

The overprinting was done at Lagos, but the press used was evidently a ramshackle affair quite unfitted for the work of surcharging postage stamps, and the printer evidently had very little experience for the work appears to have been performed in most amateur fashion. It abounds with partly double surcharges, badly printed letters, missing serifs, raised and dropped letters, altered bar positions, &c.; in fact, several pages of an album could be filled by the specialist with these minor varieties.

Unfortunately, the number of provisionals thus created is unknown, but it is evident that more than one printing was made. From a study of specimens in the writer's collection at least four distinct settings have been found, but in what order they were printed he is not prepared to offer a definite opinion.

The set-up for the overprint was taken from a fount of movable metal type, and as one setting differs from all the others in that it covered only two stamps at a time, entailing thirty operations to print a sheet of sixty stamps, it might possibly be given prior claim for consideration as the first printing. See illustration showing a horizontal strip of six from bottom row of sheet.



The Posts and Postage Stamps of Lagos

By HERBERT G. PORTER

Provisional Issue, August, 1893 (continued.)

The following table describes the chief characteristics of the first printing:—

	<u>Positions 1, 3, and 5.</u>	<u>2, 4, and 6.</u>
Letters.....	"P" is dropped below level of the other letters. "E" has top left-hand serif missing.	"F" is raised slightly above level of "L." "H," the bottom right-hand outer serif does not always print.
Halfpenny.....	16 mm. long.	16 mm. long.
Bars.....	Approx. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long. Both bars are centred one above the other, and finish just short of "Y."	Approx. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long. The top bar overlaps at left and finishes short at right. Bars finish about 1 mm. beyond "Y."

Notes.—In position 6 of illustration the type has shifted, as the "Y" is slightly raised and "H" dropped.

In No. 3 of illustration the "E" is printed as "F" in PENNY, owing to defective printing.

Examination of single specimens of the above settings show that the bars also shifted slightly during printing operations.

A full sheet kindly lent by Mr. P. L. Pemberton shows that the "F" is sometimes level with the other letters in positions 2, 4, and 6. This printing is evidently scarce.

The Posts and Postage Stamps of Lagos

By HERBERT G. PORTER

What I judge to be the second printing was made with a set of three types surcharging a sheet of sixty stamps at twenty operations. The majority of the specimens examined showed a large spot in the "E," and small black spots in the lower half of "H," and a tabulation taken from a half sheet of thirty in the writer's collection describes this setting.

Positions 1 and 4.

"H" is slightly below level of other letters, and in most cases has small black spots in lower half of "H."

"E" has large spot in upper segment.

Halfpenny.—16 mm. long.

Bars.—Top approx. $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Bottom approx $16\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Both bars start level at left, but bottom bar laps slightly at right.

Bars finish approx. $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of "Y."

2 and 5.

"H" dropped very slightly below level of other letters.

"P" is below level of other letters.

"E" has top left-hand serif missing.

Halfpenny.—16 mm. long.

Bars.—Both bars approx. $16\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long.

Both bars are centred one above the other.

Bars finish approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. short of "Y."

3 and 6.

"L" has serif at top left-hand side bent, curving downwards.

Halfpenny.—16 mm. long.

Bars.—Both bars approx. $16\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long.

Both bars are centred one above the other.

Bars finish approx. $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of "Y."

Varieties.—The earlier printings of this setting will be found without the spots in the letters "H" and "E," and a block of eight is described by Mr. P. L. Pemberton for his printing B. So far as can be judged from the illustration, this block is identical to the tabulation above, the only differences being:—Position 2: Bars finish just beyond the "Y." Position 3: Bars finish approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. beyond the "Y."

I possess a strip of three without the spots, but showing shifts in the bars thus:—Position 2: Bars finish level with "Y." Position 3: Bars finish about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. beyond the "Y." Also a pair showing the bars of No. 2 finishing about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. short of the "Y," which is identical to the stamps with the "spots."

Positions 2 and 5.—The "P" will also be found with a large black spot in centre of the loop, this evidently occurred in the latter stage of printing and was caused by dirt adhering to the type. Several specimens of this variety have been examined and the bars show shifts as follows:—Normal, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. short of "Y"; also finishing level with "Y"; also finishing just beyond the "Y." The second printing is certainly the most prolific of the various settings.

A most interesting article on this provisional appeared in the "Philatelic Journal" of September, 1935, by P. L. Pemberton, and the writer has since had the opportunity of comparing Mr. Pemberton's study with his own. The main details of the combined studies agree, but whereas Mr. Pemberton sets out details of six printings, I have made out only four.

In arriving at his decision Mr. Pemberton has been influenced in tabulating his B, C, and D settings by the varying positions of the cancelling bars, and also by distinguishing spots in the letters "E" and "P," and I am not ruling out the possibility of his view being correct as regards his B and C printings. I cannot, however, see any valid reason for so many printings being necessary, and in view of the vagaries of the "primitive" printing press already mentioned, I conclude that the varying positions of the cancelling bars can be attributed to shifts during printing, and the spots in the letters "E" and "P" caused by grit picked up by the type. I have several examples to support my view that the bars shifted, and careful examination proves that settings B, C, and D referred to all show the same characteristics of type.

I do not think there is sufficient evidence to support Mr. Pemberton's printing D. A separate printing cannot be judged on five single specimens, two of which can definitely be placed with my second printing, except for slight shift in the position of the bars.

The spaced "N N" in this printing D is decidedly intriguing, as I have never come across another specimen of it. Unfortunately, the overprint was so struck that part of the "H" finished in the perforation and could not be properly measured. The spaced "N N" may, of course, be only a shift.

The Posts and Postage Stamps of Lagos

By HERBERT G. PORTER

A third printing was also made from a setting of three types covering a row of six stamps in two operations and repeated ten times down the sheet, as last. The writer has the good fortune to possess a complete sheet of sixty stamps of this printing, and it will be seen from the table that the peculiarities of the previous settings are absent.

THIRD PRINTING.

<u>Positions 1 and 4.</u>	...	<u>2 and 5.</u>	...	<u>3 and 6.</u>
"HA" dropped slightly below "LF"	...	"Y" is dropped very slightly	...	"H" is dropped very slightly
"H," the bottom right-hand serif does not always print fully.				
"L," the bottom left-hand serif does not always print.				
<i>Halfpenny</i> —				
16 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long ... ..	...	16 mm. long ... ..	...	16 mm. long.
<i>Bars</i> —				
16 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long ... ..	...	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long ... ..	...	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long.
The top bar is very slightly shorter than the bottom bar.		Both bars centred one over the other.		Bars are not centred, but overlap at each end.
Both bars start level at left, but bottom bar laps very slightly at right.				Bars start approximately level with "H" and finish about
Bars finish approximately level with "Y" ...	...	Bars finish approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. beyond the "Y."	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ mm. beyond "Y."

Notes.—Close examination of this sheet shows that the type moved during printing, as the overprint does not always register directly under the one above it.

Bar Shifts.

Positions 1 and 4. Bars also finish just short of "Y."
 Positions 2 and 5. Bars finish approximately level with "Y."
 Positions 3 and 6. Bars finish approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. beyond "Y."

The Posts and Postage Stamps of Lagos

By HERBERT G. PORTER

A fourth printing is distinguished from the previous ones by the length of the word "Halfpenny," which is $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long, and also by the bars which differ in length and position.

Of this setting I have a block of six from the left-hand side of the sheet postmarked "Lagos Feb. 6th 1894," and two singles *only*. Presuming that these printings were both made from a setting of three types, it gives us the following tables:—

Note.—The centre stamp in the block of six above referred to shows that bars shifted during printing, finishing $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short of "Y," whereas the stamp directly above has the bars finishing just short of the "Y." A single specimen from this position also shows the shift $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short of "Y."

FOURTH PRINTING.

<i>Positions 1 and 4.</i>				<i>2 and 5.</i>				<i>3 and 6.</i>			
Letters are more or less level				"H" is dropped very slightly				Letters are more or less level.			
<i>Halfpenny</i> —											
16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long				16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long				16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long.			
<i>Top Bar</i> —											
16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long				16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long				17 mm. long.			
<i>Bottom Bar</i> —											
16 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long				16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long				16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.			
Bottom bar laps top bar slightly at both ends				The bars are not centred, but lap each other, the top bar lapping at right.				The bottom bar laps top bar at left. The top bar overlaps at right <i>very</i> noticeably.			
Bottom bar finishes approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short of "Y."				Bottom bar finishes just short of "Y."				Top bar finishes about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. beyond the "Y."			

Double Prints.

The overprinting was most probably done by a native, who must have enjoyed himself very completely in creating so many variations of surcharge. The West African native is invariably lazy and in this case he did not trouble very much to see that the ink supply was properly attended to. How many of the double surcharges can be laid down to laziness and how many to the printing press itself one will never know, but the fact remains that partially double surcharges of the letters were very frequent. Stamps with bars only double are scarcer, but it is only those stamps with the letters and bars clearly double that can be considered rare.

I have a mint specimen of the second printing in which the letters are clearly trebly surcharged and I have not come across any other. No inverted specimens have been reported at any time.

Stamps that have been genuinely used are scarce, the majority of the postmarked copies in circulation have been stamped in complete sheets and have, therefore, not done actual postal duty.



Error—½d. on 2d.



Normal—½d. on 4d.

The error (enlarged), with a normal stamp of the same variety and type (2 VII). The apparent differences are due to the heavier slurred impression of the latter.

ERROR OF SURCHARGE—HALFPENNY ON TWO PENCE.

It seems incredible that after a lapse of forty-three years no other specimen of this error has turned up, although the "error" was first brought to light in 1915. If a full sheet of sixty stamps was printed, it seems hardly feasible that the remaining fifty-nine could have got lost, as "provisional" stamps are not thrown away in the same manner that one discards a common ½d. or 1d. stamp, and collectors were just as keen in 1893 as they are to-day. On the other hand it is hard to believe that a forger would limit his activities to a single stamp.

I examined this error some two or three years ago and turned it down, because it did not tally with any variety in my collection at the time, there was in every case a slight difference with each specimen I compared it with. Since then, I have obtained many additions to my collection and in view of Mr. Pemberton's article, I have had the stamp again for further examination.

There is no doubt that the same press that printed the fourth setting printed this stamp also, but I am far from convinced that it is a *genuine official error*. I have in mind the fact that just about this time there was an epidemic of provisionals created in the neighbouring town of Old Calabar, many of them needless. Was the same "influence" working at Lagos?

It seems to me that a likely explanation of the "error" is that it was created specially by an unauthorised person. Mr. Pemberton is to be congratulated on the lucid way he has marshalled his argument and I am quite prepared to keep an open mind on the question.

AUGUST, 1893. PROVISIONAL ISSUE.

The 4d. value, No. 33, overprinted in black locally with "HALF PENNY" in one line and two narrow spaced bars cancelling the original value.

WATERMARK CROWN CA. PERF. 14.

(a) HALF PENNY 16 MM. LONG.

Cat. No.

42. HALF PENNY on 4d. dull mauve and black.
Variety.

- 42a. Surcharge double (bars and letters).
- b. Surcharge double (letters only).
- c. Surcharge double (bars only).
- d. Surcharge treble (letters only).

(b) HALF PENNY 16½ MM. LONG.

42e. HALF PENNY on 4d. dull mauve and black.

EXTRACTS FROM POSTAL REPORTS, LAGOS.

1898.—Post offices in addition to the central office at Lagos have been established at Badagry, Epe, and Ikorodu within the Colony, and at Jebu-Ode, Ibadan, and Abeokuta in the Hinterland.

1900.—Mention is made of a pigeon post between Lagos and Forcados (Southern Nigeria). The training of pigeons was taken in hand by Capt. Elgee, who had already successfully trained birds to fly from stations within the Colony and Protectorate. It was hoped that the experiment of connecting the two ports by the pigeon post would be successful.

During the year 1903 the following rates of postage were charged:—

	Letters per ½ oz.	Newspapers per 4 oss.
Within the Colony ..	1d	1d
To the United Kingdom	2½d	1d
To Postal Union Countries		
West of Suez ..	4d	1d
To Postal Union Countries		
East of Suez ..	5d	1½d
Parcels to and from England ..	..	.. 9d per lb.
Parcels to and from British Colonies in		
West Africa ..	..	.. 6d per lb.

Discovery of an Error of the Lagos Provisional of 1893, Printed on the 2d. instead of the 4d.

With an Account of the Varieties and Types of the Surcharge on the Normal Issue.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.



Error— $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d.



Normal— $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d.

The error (enlarged), with a normal stamp of the same variety and type (2 VII). The apparent differences are due to the heavier slurred impression of the latter.

ABOUT eighteen months ago, Mr. Neville Stocken brought me the hitherto unrecorded error, Lagos, 1893, Half Penny on Two Pence, instead of on Four Pence—of which an illustration is here shown—and asked my opinion on it. He told me that the stamp was found about twenty years ago, and that, owing to its being turned down at that time by the R.P.S. as a forgery, it had ever since remained under the shadow of that judgment. Mr. Stocken himself was convinced of its genuineness and asked me to make a thorough examination of it.

My enquiry naturally started with a burden of prejudice, for one cannot lightly disregard the opinion of the experienced experts of the R.P.S., but after getting together a considerable amount of material, in the shape of the regular Half Penny on Four Pence, in blocks and singles, and as a result of a thorough study of these, I have come to the conclusion that the overprint is genuine beyond any shadow of doubt. Curiously enough, the features which may have influenced the R.P.S. in condemning the surcharge—as they did me for a long time—are precisely those which point most surely to its genuineness. The length of the surcharge differs from that on all but one rare setting of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d.; and the bars are markedly unequal in length—a feature which seemed very damaging until it became clear that this is the characteristic feature of one of the three types in that setting.

I have found the study of the normal Half Penny on Four Pence extremely fascinating. I do not claim that the following account is complete or that, in places, it may not be open to amendment, but I hope it may serve as a basis for future investigations.

There are two main varieties, which I call 1 and 2. I have clear evidence of five different printings in Variety 1, and of one printing only of the stamps in Variety 2. The differences between 1 and 2 are as follows:—

Variety 1. The words Half Penny measure 16 mm. in length; the space between

them is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm., measuring from the central tongue of the P to the horizontal stroke of the P. The bars obliterating the original value are 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 17 mm. long, and those in each pair are either equal in length or within a fraction of being so; they are placed one above the other so that neither juts out appreciably beyond the other, either at the left or at the right.

THE PRINTINGS OF VARIETY 1.

I have been able to separate five distinctly different printings, all of which are easily recognisable in blocks or pairs, while it is also possible, in most cases, to assign even singles to their correct printings, if they are clearly printed. One of the printings stands out from all the rest by the fact that the surcharges were set up in horizontal pairs. In all the other printings of Variety 1 they were set up in horizontal triplets. It is quite clear that in all the printings the bars were set up and printed with the words of the surcharge, a fact which appears to be contradicted by the existence of stamps in which, while the bars are very heavily doubly printed, the words show no sign of a double impression. I will explain this phenomenon later. That the words and bars were set up and printed together is proved by the fact that, within all the settings, the words and bars in any given type are always in exactly the same relative positions, and by the further fact that in all types and all settings the words and bars are exactly 7 mm. apart.

It is also quite clear that the sheets were surcharged from the small setting of two, in the case of one printing, and from the setting of three in the case of the others. Probably a small hand-press was used, which completed the surcharging of each sheet either at thirty operations (from the couplet setting) or at twenty (from the triplet settings). This

was a laborious work, and it seems reasonable to assume that the couplet setting was the first, and was abandoned in favour of the triplets to save time and labour. The fact that the type in the couplet setting is sharp and clear also supports this supposition; I therefore start with this, which I call:



Fig. 1. Variety 1, Printing A. Couplets consisting of types I and II. The end couple in top row have double bars (see text).

Types of Variety 1.

There are four types of Variety 1, of which one is recognisable only because it exhibits none of the characteristics of any of the others, and is, in effect, normal. The following are the peculiarities by which the types may be recognised, but the reader must bear in mind that in heavily printed or blurred impressions, these peculiarities are often distorted and therefore unrecognisable.

- Type I. There is no serif jutting out from the top of the back of the E, and the P is set slightly lower than the E.
- „ Ia. As I, but with a smudged dot in the centre of the loop of the P.
- „ II. The cross-bar at the top of the L slopes downwards at left. There is little or no serif to the right of the foot of the right-hand vertical stroke of the H.
- „ IIa. As II, but the two letters N are spaced further apart.
- „ III. The H is set very slightly lower than the A.
- „ IIIa. As III, but showing a small irregularly shaped blot of ink between the tongue of the E and the top of that letter. In later printings the tongue of the E often fails completely, but the above-mentioned blot is always present.
- „ IV. Without any abnormalities.

It should be noted here that the obliterating bars were re-set for each printing, and vary in position in relation to the words with each re-setting.

The following charts, shewing two rows across a sheet from each of the five settings of Variety 1, may be found useful. It will be seen that all the stamps in a vertical row must be repetitions of a single type.

Variety 1. Setting A.

I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II

Printing A. (Fig. 1.)

This is made up of types I and II in horizontal pairs, and in that order. That each pair was printed separately is proved beyond doubt by the spacing, and also the slanting positions of some of the pairs of surcharges as compared with adjoining pairs. This is the only setting of which I have an entire pane of sixty, and it is a curious fact that I have not yet found any others of the same setting—not so much as a single specimen. It is evidently very scarce.

Double Prints and other Abnormalities in Variety 1

Partially double or slipped prints are quite common; in fact, on my entire pane of sixty of printing A, exactly fifteen out of the thirty couplets show this peculiarity. On the other hand, examples in which double surcharges are clear and distinct, and either not overlapping at all or only partly so, are rare. In the



best example I have seen (Fig. 7) the words only, and not the bar, are double. There is no doubt that it is genuine, as both surcharges are in the distinctive type I. This stamp is obviously from printing B.

There is another, and more satisfactory, variety, namely, that in which the bars alone are double, as already mentioned. These were purposely done when the surcharge was accidentally printed either so high up or so low down that the Four Pence on the stamp itself was left exposed. In such cases the printer stamped a second surcharge of the bars only, in order to obliterate the original value. (See Figs. 1 and 2.) Whether he used the same type after covering up the words, or whether he had special bars for this purpose, I cannot say for certain, though careful measurements of the examples illustrated point strongly to the former alternative. It should be noted, however, that there are no albino impressions of the words, as might have been expected if that is the true explanation.

Owing to the frailties of the hand-press, which was little more exact in its results than a handstamp might have been, faulty prints, in which parts of some of the letters are missing, are quite common. A more than usually striking result of this defect is seen in the third stamp of the upper row of the block illustrated as Fig. 2, in which the E appears to be a perfect F. Since that surcharge was obviously printed from the same type as that used on the stamp below it, it provides a remarkable example of the strange results of which faulty printing is capable.

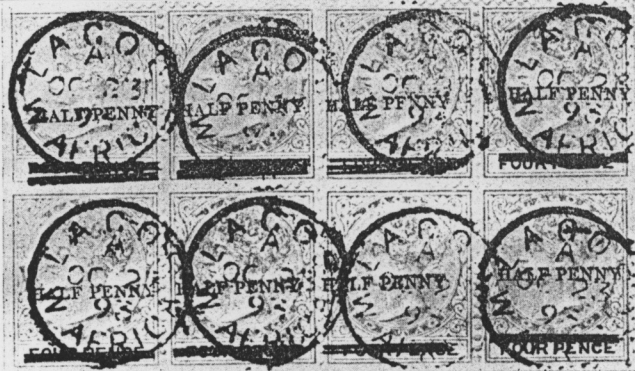


Fig. 2. Var. 1, Printing B. Triplets consisting of types III, I and II. The first triplet in top row shows double bars.

Printing B. (Fig. 2.)

I place this setting next because it shows type III in its first state, i.e., before the blot in the E, which characterises IIIa, made its appearance. It is, therefore, almost certainly the first of the triplet settings. I have only seen one block of eight of it. This is in the collection of Dr. Mosley, and, as will be seen from the illustration, it is used and post-marked Oct. 23 '93. It is made up of type III, I and II, in that order, repeated regularly twenty times on the sheet of sixty.

Variety 1. Setting B.

III	I	II	III	I	II
III	I	II	III	I	II

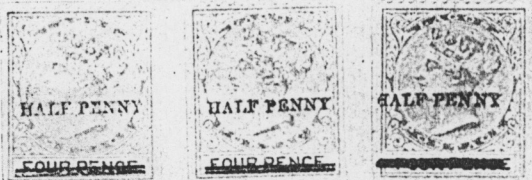


Fig. 4. Var. 1, Printing D. Triplets (IIIa, Ia and IIa). Bars well centred.

Printing D. (Fig. 4.)

I have only five single specimens of this setting, of which three are of type Ia, one of type IIa and the other IIIa. In addition to the differences shewn in the descriptions of the sub-types, all these stamps are notable in having the words of the surcharge perfectly centred over the bars. Possibly the printer's attention had been called to the very bad centring of the C printing, and this was his reply. All the evidence goes to show that the stamps come from another triplet setting, and that it was the last to contain the main types I, II and III, which, by now, had become rather battered.

Variety 1. Setting D.

IIIa	Ia	IIa	IIIa	Ia	IIa
IIIa	Ia	IIa	IIIa	Ia	IIa



Fig. 3. Var. 1, Printing C. Triplets (IIIa, I and II). Bars altered in position.

Printing C. (Fig. 3.)

This is another triplet setting, consisting of types IIIa, I and II, repeated regularly twenty times on the sheet of sixty. Type IIIa is evidently a later and defective form of this type, so the printing containing it naturally follows that with the original type III. It may be noted that in this printing the words of the surcharge are more misplaced in relation to the bars than in any other. It is, in my experience, the commonest of all, especially used. The earliest date I have seen is Aug. 24 '93, and the latest Nov. 19 '94.

Variety 1. Setting C.

IIIa	I	II	IIIa	I	II
IIIa	I	II	IIIa	I	II



Fig. 5. Var. 1, Printing E. Triplets (IV, IV, IV).

Printing E. (Fig. 5.)

I have blocks of twelve and eight and also several singles of this printing, which is composed entirely of type IV. From an examination of the larger block, which consists of two rows across the pane, there can be little doubt that it is from another triplet setting. It will be seen that the relative positions of words and bars are fairly even throughout, though not so exact as in printing D. It is odd that I should not have seen a used specimen of this printing. Setting E.

IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV

Though those described are all the printings I have been able to find, I should not be surprised to discover a further one, or more, if I had enough material to go through; I publish the above particulars in the hope of arousing the interest of any reader who may have any pairs or blocks of the stamps.

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With an Account of the Varieties and Types of the Surcharge on the Normal Issue.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.



Fig. 6. Var. 2. Wider space between words: length $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. greater. Types V, VI, VII.

Variety 2. The words measure $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and the space between them (measuring from the same points as before) is 2 mm. The bars vary in length from $16\frac{1}{2}$ to 17 mm. and are not centred exactly over one another, though in one of the types both are $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and the upper is only very slightly more to the right than the other.

The two varieties never occur on the same sheet.

Variety 2.

This is very much rarer than Variety 1. I have only been able to get together a block of four, two pairs and two singles, and I have a note of a block of six, which was shown to me a year or so ago, before I realised its importance. This note says that the block "apparently indicates that the setting was composed of six types in a horizontal row, of which No. 3 shows the upper of the two obliterating bars prolonged to the right about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. beyond the lower one." I have luckily found this type among my specimens in the right-hand stamp of a pair. I cannot now remember how I could possibly have postulated a strip of six types from a block of six, but in any case I think I must have been wrong, for I can only find three types among my ten specimens. It would appear, therefore, that Variety 2 was printed, like the others, from a triplet setting. The three types show no peculiarities in the lettering of the words of the surcharge, and can only be differentiated by the bars (Fig. 6). They are as follows:—

Type V. The upper bar measures $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and the lower 17 mm., and the latter projects beyond the other slightly at both ends.

Type VI. Both bars measure $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and the upper one is the merest fraction more to the right than the lower.

Type VII. This is the one referred to above. The upper bar measures 17 mm. and the lower $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The upper starts fractionally more to the right than the lower, and ends about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. more to the right.

I have described type VII very minutely as it is the crucial one in view of the primary object of this enquiry. It is, in fact, the type of the error Half Penny on Two Pence, and proves to my complete satisfaction that the latter is genuine. Not in one particular does it fail to reproduce the peculiar characteristics of Variety 2, Type VII. The measurements over all, and from any given point to any other point, are exact to a fraction of a millimetre. The stamp was first found twenty years ago, and it is inconceivable that any forger, at that time, would have so faithfully reproduced one of the types of this rare setting.

If there should be any lingering doubts on the point I will quote from a letter written by the late Lt.-Commander F. H. Napier, R.N., dated 31 July '15. Commander Napier was recognised as one of the outstanding experts

of his day, and it seems strange to me now that it has taken twenty years to prove that he was right with regard to this stamp. The letter is addressed to Mr. N. L. Stocken, and in it, after saying that in his opinion the stamp is *quite genuine*, he refers to certain features of the surcharge, including the varying lengths of the double bars, and concludes with the following most illuminating fact: "The remains of the red blotting-paper on the back seems to clinch the business. The serifs at top of H have originally been deeply impressed, and it is there that the blotting-paper has stuck most." This well illustrates Commander Napier's peculiar gifts as an expert, for, sure enough, on the back of the stamp are still to be seen some fibres of the red blotting-paper adhering to the paper in the indentations made by the type when it was impressed, exactly as on so many of the ordinary stamps. The fibres are to be seen under a glass at the backs of H, L and F, and there are also one or two on the bar. The explanation is that in Lagos, as in other West African Colonies, the sheets of stamps were sent out between thin sheets of red blotting-paper, to prevent them from sticking together in the hot, humid climate. That they were surcharged with the paper still adhering to the backs is proved by the facts related above.

In conclusion, I should point out that a specimen of this error, of which possibly only one sheet was printed, might very easily be overlooked in normal examples in which the bars are not so lightly printed as in the specimen under notice, so I would ask my readers to examine very carefully any of these provisionals that they may come across, since there must be others in existence. It will be noticed that the stamp bears the obliteration of bars, which indicates that it was used in the ordinary way. The majority of used specimens of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d. were postmarked to order in panes, for which purpose the circular dated postmark appears always to have been used.

I have this block

LAGOS.

THE "ERROR" HALF PENNY ON 20 VALUE INSTEAD OF 4P





6th ISSUE.

HEAD OF KING EDWARD. SINGLE CROWN C.A. WATERMARK.

After a run of 30 years, the first change in the design of Lagos stamps was made, necessitated by the death of Queen Victoria. The making of the new plates was again carried out by Messrs. Thos. De la Rue & Co., and, like their predecessors, the new stamps were of simple design, shewing but little variation in their general appearance.

An uncrowned head of King Edward, taken from the portrait made by Herr Emil Fuch, superseded the Queen's Head in the centre of a double ringed circle, which was shaded by fine horizontal lines as before. Breaking the circle at top was a fairly large Royal Crown, and at the base was placed a small oblong tablet containing the name LAGOS. Curved scrolls conforming to the radius of the circle were arranged at each side of this tablet, and contained the words POSTAGE REVENUE in small capitals. At the foot of the stamp was placed the value tablet, and the whole design surrounded by a single lined frame.

PRINTING.

The stamps were surface printed in sheets of 120 composed of two panes of sixty, each containing ten horizontal rows of six, with gutter margin between. They were usually divided up into half sheets of sixty in London before despatch to the Colony. Plate No. 1 appeared at all four corners of the sheet margin, and a "Jubilee" line broken over each stamp surrounded each pane.

PAPER.

Medium wove paper was employed, red in colour for the 1d, blue for the 2½d, and white for all other values. The watermark was single Crown over C.A. pattern as before.

DATES OF ISSUE.

The first supplies were despatched to Lagos, 12th March, 1903, and placed on sale on January 22nd, 1904, comprising all values with the exception of the 10/-, which was not issued until November, 1904. The 10/- is an outstanding rarity of the set, there being only six sheets of 120 printed, giving a total of 720 stamps in all. The 2/6 follows next in order of rarity, with twelve sheets only printed, giving a total of 1440 stamps. Of the 5/- there were fourteen sheets (1680 stamps), and of the 1/- seventy-eight sheets, totalling 9360 stamps. There was only one printing of these values excepting the 2½d. The total quantities are as follows:—

Date Despatched.	½d	1d	2d	2½d	3d	
12th March, 1903 ...	500	1758	148	206	198	sheets of 120.
30th July, 1904 ...	—	—	—	506	—	" "
Totalling ...	60000	210960	17760	85440	23760	stamps.

Date Despatched.	6d	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-	
12th March, 1903 ...	100	78	12	14	—	6 sheets of 120.
30th July, 1904 ...	—	—	—	—	—	" "
Totalling ...	12000	9360	1440	1680	—	720 stamps.

It will be noted that the 4d, 5d, 7½d and 10d values were omitted from this set.

PROOFS.

The 1d imperforate printed in the colour of the 2½d value—purple on blue—has been recorded.

7th ISSUE.

HEAD OF KING EDWARD. ORDINARY PAPER WITH MULTIPLE WATERMARK.

The King's head issue on the single watermarked paper did not have a very long life, for early in 1904 a new paper with a multiple form of watermark was adopted by the Crown Agents. This watermark consisted of the usual Royal Crown and C.A. in block capitals, but smaller and more closely spaced, so as to allow the paper being used for any size of stamp and also to obviate the necessity of accurate spacing, which was required for the single watermark. The first supplies were printed on the ordinary unsurfaced paper in colours a repeat of the previous issue in all respects, but no 2½d value was printed on the new paper.

PRINTINGS.

Only one printing of each value was made, *viz* :—

<i>Date Despatched.</i>	½d	1d	2d	3d	6d
30th July, 1904 ...	1003	4049	303	305	204 sheets of 120.

Totalling ... 120360 485880 36360 36600 24480 stamps.

<i>Date Despatched.</i>	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-
30th July, 1904 ...	200	52	52	52 sheets of 120.

Totalling ... 24000 6240 6240 6240 stamps.

DATES OF ISSUE.

The penny appeared first on October 22nd, 1904, followed by the ½d on the 30th October, the 6d and 1/- on the 31st October, and the 2/6 and 10/- on December 3rd, 1904. The 5/- was not issued until January, 1905, the 2d in February, and the 3d last of all on April 27th, 1905.

SPECIMEN.

~~The ½d to 1/- values inclusive, with the multiple watermark, exist with overprint SPECIMEN. These are in the Forsyth collection.~~

October, 1904-April, 1905. Head of King Edward.

Set of nine values. Surface printed from engraved plates in sheets of 120 as before, from Plate No. 1 at two operations. Value given in second colour. Watermarked, Multiple Crown over C.A. Perf. 14. Ordinary unsurfaced wove paper.

Cat. No.

54.	½d.	dull green and green. pale green and green.
55.	1d.	purple and black on red.
56.	2d.	purple and deep blue.
58.	3d.	purple and chestnut.
59.	6d.	purple and mauve.
60.	1/-.	dull green and black.
61.	2/6.	dull green and carmine.
62.	5/-.	dull green and blue.
63.	10/-.	dull green and brown.

8th ISSUE.

HEAD OF KING EDWARD. CHALK SURFACE PAPER.

Mention has already been made in the History of Southern Nigeria stamps regarding the adoption by the Crown Agents in 1905 of a special paper having a coating of chalk upon which the design was printed. This chalky paper was an added preventative against the cleaning of used copies. The first stamp to make its appearance on this special paper was the 1d, which was issued on September 21st, 1905, the remaining values following in order of date as follows :—

2½d	..	..	..	October 13, 1905.
6d	..	..	..	March 1st, 1906.
½d and 10/-	..	..	..	March 12th, 1906.
1/-	..	..	..	April, 1906.
3d	..	..	..	August 2nd, 1906.
2d	..	..	..	September 25th, 1906.
2/6 and 5/-	..	..	..	October 21st, 1906.

PRINTINGS.

There were two printings of each of the ½d, 1d, and 6d values, but only one printing of the other values, as will be seen by the following official figures :—

<i>Date Despatched.</i>	½d	1d	2d	2½d	3d
6th July, 1905 ..	—	2000	—	—	—
12th July, „ ..	1012	2075	308	500	300
16th Dec., „ ..	1015	—	—	—	—
Sheets of 120 ..	2027	4075	308	500	300
Totalling ..	243240	489000	36960	60000	36000
<i>Date Despatched.</i>	6d	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-
6th July, 1905 ..	—	—	—	—	—
12th July „ ..	205	205	52	52	52
16th Dec., „ ..	508	—	—	—	—
Sheets of 120 ..	713	205	52	52	52
Totalling ..	85560	24600	6240	6240	6240

No change was made in the plates or method of printing; details of these are identical to the last issue. No marked shade varieties have been reported, and beyond the fact that the ½d and 1/- values are known with inverted watermark, no varieties are known. The 2½d has the large letters only for the duty value.

PROOFS.

The 1d imperforate printed in the colour of the
2½d value—purple on blue—has been recorded.
ALSO THE 1st IN COLOUR OF ½nd GREEN—ON WATERMARKED PAPER.

RARE COLOUR TRIALS.
WATERMARK JOHN C.A.

1/10
2/10

1/10
2/10

DIE PROOF IN BLACK. DE LA RUE & CO. SHOWING HEAD AND FRAME. NO VALUE.

1/10