



**West Africa Study Circle**  
**75th anniversary 1950-2025**



Display at  
Royal Philatelic Society, London  
15, Abchurch Lane, London

20 November 2025

# West Africa Study Circle members enjoying our meetings over many years

Images courtesy of Tony Simmonds



# **West Africa Study Circle**

**75<sup>th</sup> anniversary display at  
The Royal Philatelic Society London**



**20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

# Guide to the displays

## WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE 75 Years of Progress through Collaboration

The origins of our group go back to May 1950. At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Tunbridge Wells, several study circles were convened, one of which was for those interested in Gambia. This meeting took place at 8 p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May under the leadership of Mr. R.E.R. Dalwick and included, among others, Alfred Charlton and Jim Whitfield. This led to the formation of a regular study group called The Gambia Study Circle to provide a forum for the discussion of Gambia postal matters and exchange of information. One result of this was the publication in 1953 of *The Gambia* by R.E.R. Dalwick.

In 1952 the chairman was Jim Whitfield and in 1954 it was the turn of Major McConaghy. At this stage it was resolved to extend the interests of the Circle to include The Gold Coast and Sierra Leone and the official title became The Gambia, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone Study Circle. By 1956, the membership had doubled to 35 with Colin McCaig as chairman. In 1958, Dr. H.C.D. Miller became chairman and in 1959 the official title was changed once more to The British West Africa Study Circle and now included Nigeria.

In 1972, the scope was re-defined to embrace all territories of the former British colonial administration in West Africa, together with the islands of St. Helena and Ascension, which had strong historical associations with the region, and also the British Postal Agencies on Madeira, Tenerife, St. Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) and Fernando Po. This brought the scope of the Circle in line with the former British West Africa as defined in the Robson Lowe Encyclopedia. In September of 1983, the title of the Circle was amended yet again to reflect the extended interests of members, becoming The West Africa Study Circle with an interest in all territories in or associated with West Africa, and so it remains to date.

In the early years, communication between members other than meetings came in a series of informal bulletins circulated by specialist editors for development by members. However, by 1975 membership had risen to 106 and it was decided to issue a journal twice a year. The chosen title for this journal was *Cameo* and the design for the cover was based, appropriately enough, round a facsimile of the cameo issues of *Gambia* in the earliest period. The first issue was dated January 1975 but this design was subsequently modified to fill the entire cover size of 250mm x 205mm. Initially in black and white, a single colour cover was issued from January 1988, using a different colour each year.

In January 1995, the format of the journal was altered to the now nearly universal size of A4 and the quality upgraded, although the frequency of issue remained at twice a year. It was then found that this new format did not comfortably accommodate the cameo design and a revised front was proposed featuring different illustrations for each issue. The first of the new layouts was issued in July 1996.

The journal has been edited by the present joint editors since 2003 when the former annual *St Helena and Ascension Supplement* was absorbed into *Cameo*, moving its frequency to thrice yearly with a total of about 180 pages per annum. This format continues to date and there are no plans to discontinue it.

The purpose of the circle has remained the same for its lifetime: the study of the postal history and stamps of the area, arranging meetings and the publication of specialist material. The Circle has organised the publication of a wide range of studies on stamp issues, postmarks, censor marks etc. Membership is currently over 200 drawn from all parts of the world. The Circle meets in person twice each year in London, also annually in Salisbury, and meets on Zoom three or four times a year. Every second year, there is a weekend seminar, where members can get together for displays and talks and generally exchange notes and views. Postal auctions are held twice a year.

Since 1998, the Circle has its own website on the internet and you are invited to visit us at:  
[www.wasc.org.uk](http://www.wasc.org.uk).

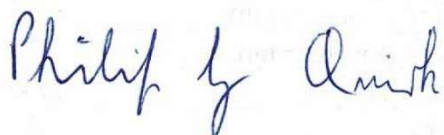
During the last few years this website has become a valuable open-access resource for philatelic and postal history research relevant to West Africa and includes many of our past publications, a list of books for sale (with some books freely available on line), *Cameo* published on-line from issue no. 1, images of recent Zoom and meeting room displays, complete copies (and also extracts) of Government reports and other out-of-copyright books and finally maritime and air mail history including maps and timetables.

Anyone with an active interest in this area is encouraged to visit the website or contact the secretary: Paul Redhead at [paul@redsite.com](mailto:paul@redsite.com) or 01353 663699.

### **Welcome message from the President**

I am delighted to welcome the Fellows and Members of the Royal Philatelic Society London and their guests to the 75th Anniversary Display of our Study Circle. A huge amount of work behind the scenes has gone into preparing this display, and I particularly wish to thank John Hossack FRPSL, Rob May FRPSL and Tony Plumbe for their organisational expertise and endeavours.

I am also extremely grateful to our WASC members for contributing such a high quality and hugely varied assortment of material for this occasion. We all hope that you enjoy the displays, and hopefully may even have a new collecting interest kindled by something that you see today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Quirk". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

Philip Quirk FRPSL  
President, West Africa Study Circle

## Contents in Frame Number Order

<b>FRAME/S</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1-2</b>	James Podger	A Miscellany	5
<b>3</b>	John Spencer	Ascension Island: the pictorial definitive stamps of King George VI	6
<b>4-8</b>	Bernard Mabbett	St Helena Boer Prisoner of War Mail April 1900 to September 1902	7
<b>9-10</b>	Richard Moss	Tristan da Cunha, The Volcano Period 1961-63	8
<b>11-12</b>	Jan Berg	Gambia during the Victorian period – the early Cameo issues	9
<b>13-14</b>	John Russell	Gambia Cameos 1869 – 1897	10
<b>15-16</b>	Majed Halawi	Important Letters from Gold Coast	11
<b>17</b>	John Powell	Gold Coast: early letters and handstamps	12
<b>18</b>	John Powell	Gold Coast: the Basel Mission	13
<b>19</b>	Tony Stanford	The Gold Coast Colony Registration Envelopes	14
<b>20-21</b>	Ian Anderson	Gold Coast Travelling Post Offices	15
<b>22</b>	John Powell	Gold Coast: Imperial Airways feeder service	16
<b>23</b>	Rex Dixon	The King George VI stamps of the Gold Coast	17
<b>24</b>	Philip Quirk	Ghana in the 1980s and 1990s	18
<b>25</b>	Simon Heap	The postal services of Lagos Colony's Western and Eastern Districts	19
<b>26-27</b>	Tony Plumbe	Lagos	21-22
<b>28</b>	Tony Stanford	The Niger Company Territories	20
<b>29</b>	Tony Stanford	The use of GB Postal Stationery Overprinted for the Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorates	22-23
<b>30-31</b>	Tony Plumbe	Oil Rivers and Niger Coast	24-25
<b>32</b>	Simon Heap	Niger Coast Protectorate's stamps	26
<b>33-34</b>	Tony Plumbe	Southern Nigeria	27-28
<b>35-36</b>	Simon Heap	Southern Nigeria's first postage stamps	28
<b>37-38</b>	Simon Heap	Northern Nigeria's first postage stamps	30
<b>39</b>	Tony Plumbe	Northern Nigeria	29-30
<b>40</b>	Tony Plumbe	Biafra	31
<b>41-42</b>	Paul Redhead	A Fistful of Forgeries	32
<b>43-46</b>	Majed Halawi	Revenue for Postage in Sierra Leone	33
<b>47</b>	John Hossack	Sierra Leone Government Railway and the Travelling Post Offices	34
<b>48-49</b>	Chris Jackson	Togo: the printing of the overprints on Gold Coast stamps 1915-1920	35
<b>50-51</b>	Jeremy Martin	The cancellations of Togo during the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922	36
<b>52</b>	Peter Richards	Sierra Leone Second World War Civilian Air Mails 1939 -1945	36-37
<b>53-54</b>	Barry Burns	St Helena - Queen Victoria Stamps 1856-1876	38
<b>55-56</b>	Rob May	British Cameroons Plebiscite and Independence 1960-62	39
<b>57-59</b>	Barbara Priddy	Keeping the Peace	40

## West Africa: A Miscellany

### James Podger FRPSL

These two frames show a range of material that I have acquired since my time at Ascension Island in the late 1990s when I joined the WASC.



Letter from William Grey-Wilson, Governor of St. Helena, to his mother dated 5<sup>th</sup> August and continued 6<sup>th</sup> August and mentions that 'the steamer is now in sight' and, 'we are anxiously looking for Zulu news. Poor Sir Arthur must have his hands full'.

The envelope has travelled in the diplomatic bag to London where it has been franked with the 1d lilac and cancelled AU 21 88 at Charing Cross. Reverse with Bracknell cancel dated AU 21 88.

Type 'CH1' THE CASTLE handstamp: EKD 4<sup>th</sup> August 1887, LKD 17<sup>th</sup> February 1893.

# Ascension Island: The pictorial definitive stamps of King George VI

John Spencer FRPSL

The pictorial definitive stamps of KGVI were first issued on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1938 and the last printing was made in October 1955. In all there were 13 different printings and three perforations used: p13.5 comb, p13 x 12.8 comb and p14 line.

Designed and printed by De La Rue, the vignettes were recess printed, nominally black, in sheets of 60(10x6), on paper watermarked Multiple Script CA. The vignette designs for this issue were based upon five of the horizontal pictorial stamps of the King George V, 1934 issue, as shown on sheet 2. Like the KGV issue, the designs of the KGVI frames plates were unique to each value and printed in a range of colours. Whilst the banner "Postage & Revenue" was no longer used, the plaque was still incorporated in the new designs. For the KGVI issue, the KGV 5d and 8d values were not needed, but a 10/- stamp was added.



Top LH Positional Block: p13 x 12.8: Feb 1953: with a re-entry - R2/2 and the retouch: "long E" - R2/3

The KGVI issues underwent changes of colour, paper, gum and perforation: some were due to changes in postal rates, but many were due to wartime shortages and production difficulties. These included losses of skilled workers, bombing and fire damage to premises which meant that some operations were contracted out, not only for printing, but perforating as well. Supplies of pigment, paper and gum were also adversely affected. This set of stamps offers a wealth of interest for the philatelist with its many printings, colour variations, perforation changes and flaws.

This exhibit is part of a much larger reference collection which has been put together over many years and as such is an exhibit of stamps displaying examples of papers, watermark, plate numbers, perforation changes, colour changes, varieties, including colour shades within a printing, flaws, re-entries and retouches and finally some interesting cancellations. However, it is a concise study, without any pre-production items. I have chosen to use black mounts for the stamps because, in my opinion, differences in perforation and colour variation are more easily comparable. Magnified scans of flaws are taken from the actual stamps in the exhibit. Dates, in the format, mm/yy, refer to first issue of print run. Stamp positions of flaws are given in the format Row x/Column y. Rx/y: e.g. Stamp 15 is designated R2/5, stamp 42 is designated R5/2.

## St Helena Boer Prisoner of War Mail April 1900 to September 1902

### Bernard Mabbett

The display covers mail sent to and from the Boer prisoners from their time on the prison ships *Catalonia* and HMS *Penelope*, their transfer to the island of St Helena aboard transports such as the *Bavarian*, and also their mail whilst in the prisoner of war camps on the island.

The prisoners arrived on 10 April 1900, but due to the camp not being fully ready for them they did not land until 13 April. Deadwood was the first camp to open, with Broad Bottom Camp in January 1901. The display covers the censor marks used during the period together with copies of all the censors' initials. Other items of mail include Garrison Office cachet, an item of mail to High Knoll Fort, Hospital mail, scarce Passed Press Censor mark on both outgoing and incoming mail, soldiers' mail, tax markings and Returned Letter hand-stamp.



Registered cover to Cape Town censored by E. Walton.



## Gambia during the Victorian Period - the Early Cameo Issues

Jan Berg FRPSL

The Cameos were the first stamps issued by the Gambia and the issue was in use for 30 years. Despite the long period of usage, the printed number of stamps was relatively small compared to most other countries during this period. All Cameo stamps were printed in sheets of 15 stamps (3 rows of 5 stamps). Covers from the early period are very scarce or even rare.

The first issue, from 1869, consisted of a FOUR PENCE and a SIX PENCE stamp, both printed on unwatermarked and imperforate paper. There were three different consignments (1869, 1870 and 1871 respectively) of both values. In total were 14,265 stamps printed of the 4d and 11,640 of the 6d.

*Cover cancelled Gambia AU 18, 1869 and sent to France. Only three covers are recorded with the first issue.*



The second issue, from 1874, again consisted of only a FOUR PENCE and a SIX PENCE stamp, both printed on imperforate paper watermarked CC.

There was only one consignment of both values and the total numbers printed were 5,190 and 5,160 stamps respectively.

*Full sheet of 15 stamps of the 6d from the second issue. The only full sheet recorded of the 6d.*

The following three issues, from 1880 and 1881, were printed on paper watermarked Crown CC. There were two different printings in 1880, the first with the watermark in sideways position and the second one in upright position. Stamps from both printings are perforated 14 by a single line perforator.

The issue of 1881 was printed on paper watermarked Crown CC, with the watermark in upright position. The stamps were perforated 14 by a new comb perforator (a.k.a. the first comb) with the perforation combs pointing downwards.



*The first perforated issue of 1880.*

## Gambia Cameos 1869 – 1897

John Russell



3.9.1885. 1<sup>st</sup> Crown CA printing 4d sheet very easy to identify with the large dot in the bun but very difficult to find (single stamp or sheet).

A selection of the Gambia Cameos on Crown CA watermark paper issued from 1883 until 1897 in new colours with the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d & 1/- values, as before, and 2½d value added in late 1885.

The paper was used with the watermark sideways but some inverted are known to exist. As with the earlier Crown CC watermark paper the watermarks are not aligned with the stamps and marginal lines etc were included on the stamps.

The perforations are 14-gauge comb using the top part of two different 240 stamp machines one with a central gutter and the other without producing several marginal perforation combinations due to the position used on the perforator and the orientation of the sheet.

Progressive deterioration of the fourpenny and sixpenny plates was responsible for the well-known sloping label varieties on the corner stamps, also distorting the rows of the other stamps within the perforations. This led to the sixpenny plate being replaced for the last printing. Minor sloping labels can also be seen on later printings of some other values.

## Important Letters from Gold Coast

### Majed Halawi FRPSL

The postal history of the Gold Coast is inexorably linked with the achievements of Portuguese explorers in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries and ultimately with British imperial hegemony in the nineteenth century. In their attempt to find the source of Gold in Africa, which had captivated European imagination since the fabled journey of Mana Musa of Mali to Mecca in 1324, the Portuguese charted new maritime trade routes and, in the process, brought this part of the African coast into the European spotlight.

However, it was British hegemonic ascendancy that would usher in the dawn of an imperial century during which Great Britain effectively had no rivals in terms of its ability to project its power across the globe. The imperatives of trade, capitalist industrialisation, and inter-European power struggles and competition for pre-eminence propelled Great Britain's search for new markets and invariably the scramble for colonial possessions. They also highlighted the need for more reliable and secure communication links between metropolis and subject territory.

Therefore, it is axiomatic that the establishment of the Crown Colony of Gold Coast on 24 July 1874 integrated the territory fully into the orbit of the expanding British Empire. As elsewhere in the Empire, the establishment of a post office in 1853 served the economic and political needs of the ruling authority more effectively.

This display shows some of the earliest recorded letters from Gold Coast, rare letters with the Addah seal, and an extensive selection of the bisects on cover, which were used to address the stamp shortages that occurred in various locations across the colony between 1877 and 1885.



2d green (SG6a) bisected on a wrapper from Cape Coast in March 1884, paying the 1d rate for newspapers.

## Gold Coast: early letters and handstamps

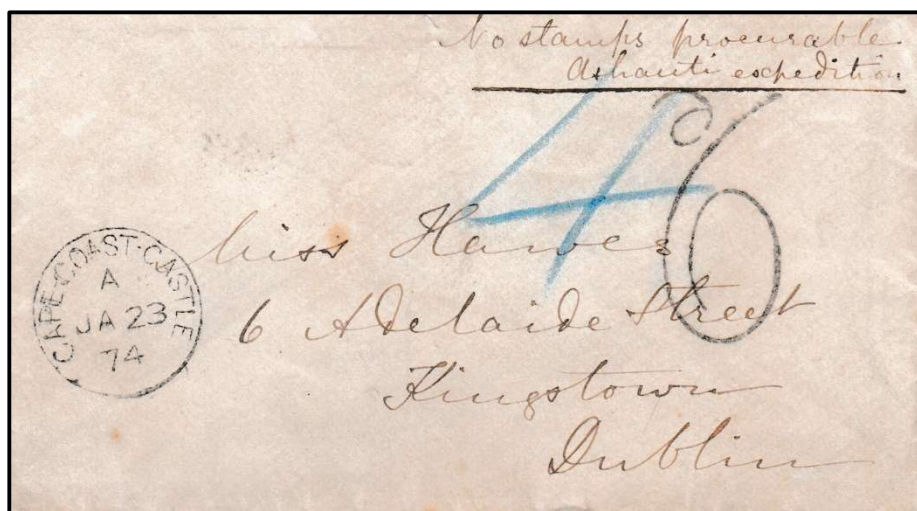
### John Powell FRPSL

The Portuguese established the first settlement on the West Coast of Africa when they built the fort of St George at Elmina in 1481. The British first built a fort in 1631 followed by the Dutch and by 1750 The Royal African Company was formed – their chief interest was trading slaves for export to America and the West Indies. The British government took over the forts in 1821, the Crown resuming responsibility in 1843.

Before the 1850's no formal organisation of a postal system existed. From 1815 the ship letter rate became 8d at a time when vessels were required to land the post at the first port of call in the UK; each port having its own ship letter handstamp. In 1847 a monthly packet service by naval ships was introduced until replaced by a civil mail service in 1850. In October 1852 the African Steamship Company acquired a new contract to serve West Africa; the monthly schedule included Cape Coast Castle and Accra. From this date the rate was 1s per half oz. which was reduced to 6d in May 1854. One penny of the 6d packet rate, or half the 6d when carried by private ship, was retained by the Colony.

By early 1851 the Colonial Secretary was acting as Postmaster and on 2 October 1855 PAID and UNPAID handstamps were despatched from London to the Colony for both Accra and Cape Coast Castle. A number of additional handstamps were sent to Cape Coast Castle and Accra before adhesives were issued in 1875 plus PAID and UNPAID to Quitta.

Five major conflicts known as the Anglo-Ashanti wars took place between 1824 and 1900 and this activity required enhanced postal arrangements. During the 1873 campaign a branch service was established from Cape Coast to St Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, where it was scheduled to meet ships of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co.



Letter from Lt. A.G.S. Hawes, Royal Marines, through Cape Coast Castle to Dublin endorsed “No stamps procurable Ashanti expedition”. The Liverpool P.S. Packet mark denotes unpaid mail carried by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company – their ship *Magellan* collecting mail at St Vincent, Cape de Verde on its journey from South America.

## Gold Coast: the Basel Mission

### John Powell FRPSL

The Basel Mission was a Christian missionary society based in Switzerland and active between 1815 and 2001. From the beginning the society set out to be Protestant but non-denominational. The mission was founded as the German Missionary Society in 1815 but later changed its name to The Basel Mission. The mission has worked in Russia and the Gold Coast from 1828, India from 1834, Cameroons from 1886, Borneo from 1921 and Nigeria from 1951. In 1828 the first missionaries were sent to take up work in the Danish Protectorate at Christiansborg, Gold Coast.

The major focus for the mission was to create employment opportunities for the local people together with building a Christian village culture, church life and education. Educating the natives was practically in the hands of the two large missionary societies (the Wesleyan being the other) and by 1901 the Basel Mission were in charge of 61 schools mainly in the Eastern region where the higher ground offered healthier conditions. They were financially assisted by the Government. At this time the larger schools were situated at Aburi, Akropong, Abokobi, Odumasi, Addah and later at Begoro, Abetifi and Anum and in the Akim and Kwahu districts. Subjects included carpentry, smith work and book-binding with reading, writing and arithmetic taught at all schools. There was a teachers' training college at Akropong which is attended for a time by most of the teachers employed by the society.

With effect from 1887 a new postal service was introduced known locally as the 'mountain route' which linked the above villages with Accra. Beginning in 1891 this route led to the opening of postal agencies at these places, run gratuitously by the Basel Mission.



½d postcard paying the local rate from Nsaba via Winneba to Paul Georg Olpp at the Basel Mission book depot in Accra. Manuscript cancel in red ink 27/III 03.

## The Gold Coast Colony Registration Envelopes

Tony Stanford FRPSL

In 1875 the first Gold Coast stamps were issued but it was not until 1888 that Registration envelopes were issued which were GB registration envelopes printed by McCorquodale & Co. Limited. and overprinted by them 'GOLD COAST COLONY'.

Initially these were specially printed envelopes without the standard Compensation Tables for Inland Registration on the reverse side and included the unique GB size J registration envelopes.

It was not until the 1894 QV issue with the embossed stamp printed vertically that the standard GB registration envelopes were used with a summary of Inland Registration compensation information on the reverse side. The use of various issues of GB overprinted registration envelopes continued into the KEVII period after registration envelopes with an imprinted Gold Coast stamp were issued in 1904



1893 issue size G Registration Envelope with embossed 23 mm diameter Two Pence Registration stamp at centre of front flap with straight line 'GOLD COAST COLONY.' overprint above, dispatched to London. The cover is franked with QV one penny Gold Coast definitive cancelled with barred numeral B27 and has a KWITTA dispatch mark dated 7 August 1900 below. The front has manuscript endorsements 'per S.S. Eduard Bohlen' and 'Via Plymouth' and a London Registered receiving mark dated 27 August.

This display shows mint and Specimen copies of the GB Registration Envelopes overprinted 'GOLD COAST COLONY' and their scarce postal use during the period 1888-1907.

## Gold Coast Travelling Post Offices

### Ian Anderson FRPSL

Although a railway into the interior had been mooted as early as 1872 after Captain Glover had marched his troops north to relieve the Ashanti siege at Kumasi, the Gold Coast Government Railway was not begun until 1898.

A telegraph system ran alongside the railway and the telegraph operators were authorised to accept mail to be carried on the trains and were issued with G.C.G.R. postmarks.



Initially, letters were carried to a main office but as volumes of mail increased mail sorting vans were introduced which carried their own T.P.O. markings, and this display is mainly a study of those.

The G.C.G.R. became the Western line running from the port of Takoradi in the south to Kumasi in the north. A second line was built from Accra on the coast up the east of the country also to Kumasi. Finally, a Central line was created running west to east across the inland lands.

## Gold Coast: Imperial Airways feeder service

### John Powell FRPSL

Despite pressure from the business community, it took until February 1936 to start a part-way air mail service for Gold Coast mail. Prior to this it was possible to use the French service from Europe as far as Dakar but as the rest of the journey was by sea it was little used.

Imperial Airways had commenced their overland African trunk route London to Cape Town in 1932. To get mails to Nigeria and Gold Coast, Imperial Airways started this feeder service linking Khartoum (on the trunk route) to Kano in Northern Nigeria in February 1936 using De Havilland DH 86 aircraft. Initially mail for the Gold Coast travelled by rail to Lagos and then by sea to Accra. In October 1936 the air link was extended to Lagos saving one day but the link with Accra was still by sea. The first all-air was achieved when Elders Colonial Airways opened a service between Lagos and Accra in August 1937.

In June 1937 Imperial Airways changed from their overland African trunk route service to a coastal flying boat service terminating at Durban using aircraft designated S23 but popularly dubbed the Empire flying boat or C-class. The link to the Gold Coast remained the same although the air route was extended to Takoradi in May 1939.

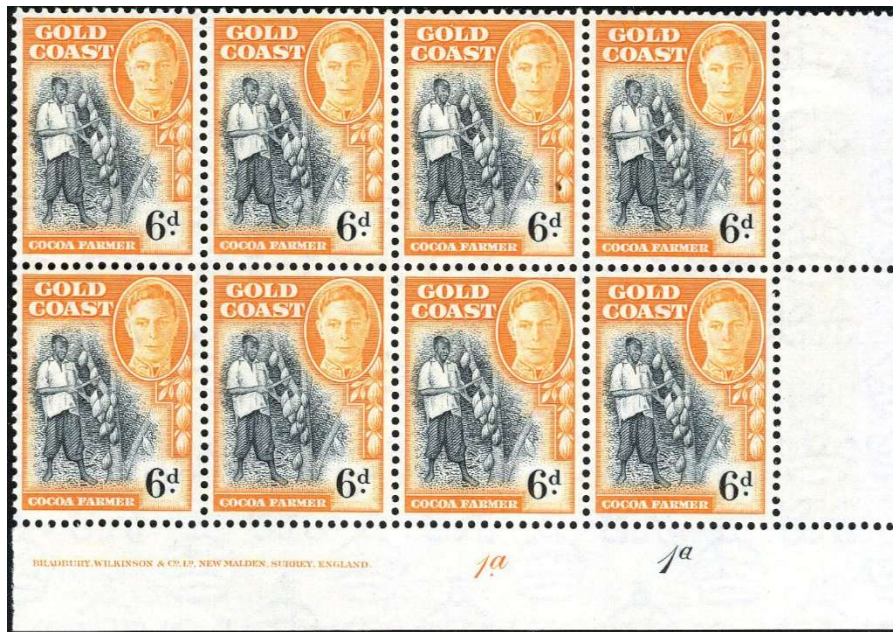
The rates were confirmed as the Post Office (Air Mail Rates and Charges) Rules 1937 and covered many destinations although in reality very few are seen; the more common (per ½oz) being 6d to the UK and 10d to Europe. The rate of 1/- to the USA covered air mail to London and onward from New York only.



Letter posted on the Eastern Railway 8 MAR 39 addressed to Switzerland.  
Franked 1/1d – 10d per ½ oz to Europe by Imperial plus 3d registration  
but escaped the late fee.

# The King George VI stamps of the Gold Coast

## Rex Dixon FRPSL



Bradbury Wilkinson imprint and plate number block of the 6d Cocoa Farmer from the 1948 pictorial definitives.

A few years ago, I decided to branch out from my main collections to something totally different. I've always liked the recess-printed two- or three-colour engraved stamps of the King George VI and early Elizabeth II periods. After surveying the various options, I settled on the Gold Coast. The stamps were attractive, not plagued by too many high values, and there were plenty of opportunities to collect commercial postal history.

This one-frame display shows a range of material – including specimens, printer's imprint blocks, plate number blocks and sheet numbering – of the six series of stamps issued during the King's reign: two series of definitives and four commemorative sets, each part of a colonial omnibus issue.

Both the 1938 and 1948 definitives were printed by Bradbury Wilkinson of New Malden. The 1938 series comprised two designs, monochrome for the commonly used pence values and bicolour for the shilling values, both showing Christiansborg Castle in Accra. The 11 values issued on 1 April 1938 were line-perforated and do not have sheet numbering. Comb perforation was introduced in 1939/40, including two further values needed for airmail, and sheet numbering became the norm for those sheets dispatched to the colony. The 1948 series of 12 values show a range of different pictorials, half of which were bicoloured.

The so-called Victory set of 1946 is the most interesting of the commemoratives. The 2d was printed by De La Rue from a pair of 60-set plates with inverted current numbers '85A' and '85B', and '86' for the single 60-set plate for the 4d. Two comb perforators of different gauges were used. I had a serendipitous buy from a foreign dealer on Delcampe of half sheets of both values at a very good price even for the common perf, but on receiving them I found to my joy that they were both the much scarcer perf.

## Ghana in the 1980s and 1990s

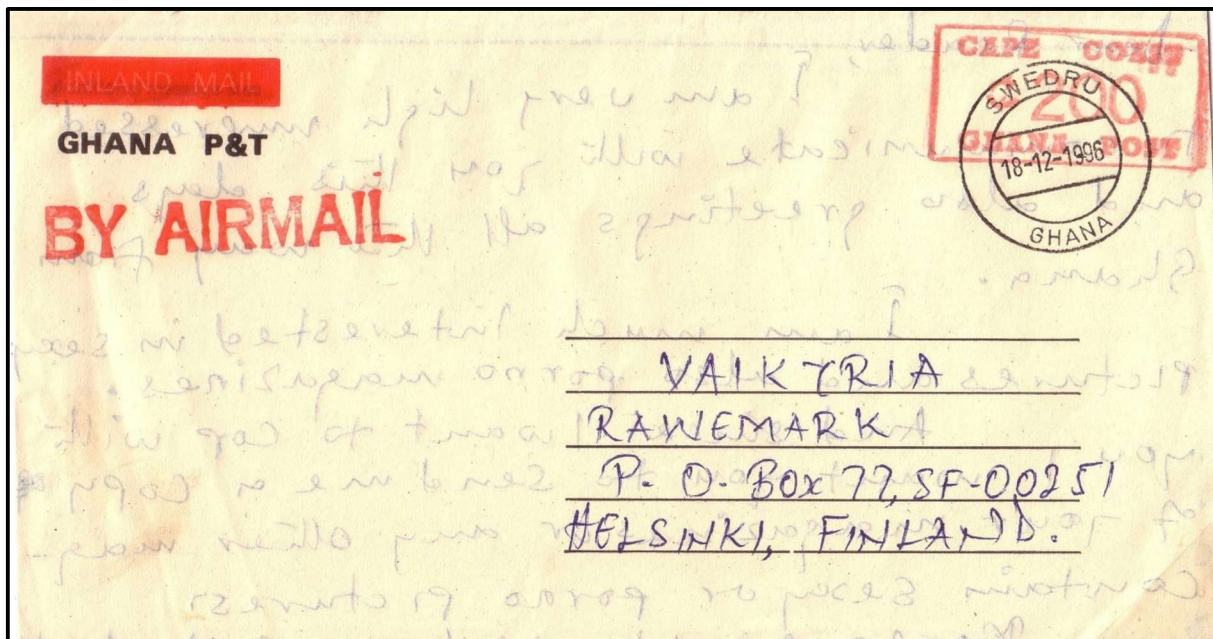
### Philip Quirk FRPSL

At the start of the 1980s, the postal system in Ghana was expanding, with new post offices opening in both cities and country areas. Although machines were used to cancel mail in the main cities, both urban and rural offices continued to cancel their own items. Examples from a selection of new locations are shown.

Many of the postmarks supplied at or shortly after Independence in 1957 were by this time wearing out. Some of the replacement devices were similar to existing ones, but others were novel, including a bridged design somewhat reminiscent of the type used widely in the Gold Coast. Again, a selection is presented.

Inflation took its toll on postal rates, which can be illustrated by considering the lowest value stamp in commemorative sets. This was 20p (pesewas) in 1980, rising to 1c (1 cedi = 100 pesewas) by 1984, 5c in 1985, 20c in 1988 and 200c by the end of the 1990s. Shortages in 1983 led to the reissue of obsolete stamps handstamped "NOT FOR PHILATELIC USE". Surcharges began with a 1c on 20np definitive in 1982, followed by a long series issued between 1988 and 1991. Some variants were widely available but others have only been recorded used from a few offices and their supply may have been limited.

The effect of inflation can also be seen in the printed indicia of aerograms, which often had to be supplemented with additional postage, paid either using stamps or by franking machines numbered in a P&T series. An interesting, c200 handstamp applied at Cape Coast to unfranked postal stationery envelopes has been recorded used from Swedru.



Rectangular handstamp inscribed Cape Coast / c200 / Ghana Post, applied to Inland Mail postal stationery and used internationally from Swedru, 18 December 1996.

# The postal services of Lagos Colony's Western and Eastern Districts

## Dr Simon Heap

The British colony of Lagos comprised more than just the port town of Lagos. This display examines the development of the postal services to the far western and eastern parts of the colony.

From very early on in Lagos colony's existence in the 1860s a postal service of runners carried mail to the west and east of the territory. Analysis of their employment records indicate all the mailmen were male, bore Yoruba names and their salaries ranged from one to two pounds per month. This postal service was important for colonial and trading communication within the colony and to/from the outside world, but it was not without risk: the Leckie postman being murdered in 1878.

By 1893 the westwards mail service was twice weekly. In due course, delivery to both western and eastern places along the inland lagoons switched to canoes and, in 1899, steam launches. The detailed timetables of each of the Lagos Government Mail Launches show regular timings to specific destinations and with priority given to the mail over any paying passengers seeking to travel on the vessels.

The Western District was centred on the town of Badagry (post office opened 1893), while the Eastern District had Leckie (post office, 1893-97) and then Epe (post office opened 1896). From those dates, each had its own town canceller, but also cancellers incorporating the addition of W.D and E.D respectively after the word Lagos in the postmarks.

The W.D and E.D postmarks are shown on single stamps, as well as on a cover from Badagry to France and a postal card from Badagry to Germany. From 1899 until when the Lagos Colony merged with Southern Nigeria in May 1906, some postcards of Badagry illustrate the town's local market and foreign trading activities.



Badagry W.D.  
postmark on  
Lagos 2½d  
stamp



Cover, Badagry  
to Lyon 1895

## The Niger Company Territories

### Tony Stanford FRPSL

The Royal Niger Company, which had evolved from the earlier United African Company formed in 1879 which became the National African Company in 1882, was granted a charter in 1886 to administer the territory along the rivers Benue and Niger and the Niger Delta over which a Protectorate had been proclaimed in June 1885.

Post Offices were opened at Akassa in 1887, Burutu in 1896 and at Abutshi and Lokoja in 1899. Initially unstamped mail with the Company's handstamp was forwarded to Britain and from 1888 unoverprinted GB stamps were provided to be left uncanceled until received in Britain with the Company's handstamp on the front. This practice continued until early 1895, when stamps started being cancelled by the company handstamps, and from May 1896 all stamps were cancelled with the company handstamps.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900 the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was established with the amalgamation of The Niger Coast Protectorate and the Southern section of the Niger Territories and incorporated the post offices at Akassa, Burutu and Abutshi. At the same time the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria was established which incorporated the Lokoja office which continued using the unoverprinted GB stamps until Northern Nigeria stamps were provided in April 1900.



1891 cover to Ripon franked with unoverprinted QV 6d Jubilee with faint Akassa triple-ringed oval handstamp dated 25 May 1891 alongside. On arrival at Liverpool the front received a 'PAID LIVERPOOL BR PACKET' handstamp dated 3 July and the stamp was cancelled with a Liverpool code 466 barred oval. On the reverse is a Ripon receiving mark also dated 3 July and on the front manuscript 'Recd. July 6<sup>th</sup>'

This display features covers and pieces with the various cancels of the four Niger Company post offices.

# Lagos

## Tony Plumbe

Lagos was the earliest part of what is now Nigeria to come under British protection, but not until 1851 after some 'gunboat' diplomacy to coerce the local chiefs. An attempt a year previously had proved too light a bombardment and the chiefs too canny as negotiators. The primary motive of British control was to suppress the slave trade in which Lagos inhabitants were major participants. Trade and missionaries quickly followed to supplant slaving. Treaties were made gradually with groups inland from the original lagoon islands comprising 3 square miles declared as Lagos Colony in 1861: influence extended over the next fifty years such that the Protectorate of Lagos comprised 26,700 square miles by 1901 with the Colony itself covering 3,420 square miles. Only in 1906, six years after the establishment of Southern Nigeria was Lagos amalgamated into Southern Nigeria with its administrative capital and all-important Marine department shifted to the greater Lagos area.

Postal services comprised *ad hoc* arrangements pre-1851, from 1852 onwards mail was conveyed aboard the packet steamer services plying along the West African coast. Stamps were first issued in June 1874, General Postal Union rates applied between 1875-78, and Lagos joined the UPU on 1 January 1879. A fascinating and often rare philately emerged. This display presents some of the rarer proofs, specimens, stamps, postal stationery and postal history available.

The display starts with the earliest recorded covers into the Colony reflecting the westward thrust of the Wesleyan Mission along the West African coast (Figure 1). These are complemented by covers sent to Dr Blaikie leading an expedition to explore the River Niger, and by outward covers from trading interests exemplified by the Sechino and Pastres Freres correspondences. A major deployment of the British Navy in the nineteenth century was the West Coast Prevention Squadron operating off the West African coast to intercept slaving vessels: a cover sent to *HMS Spitfire* is shown.

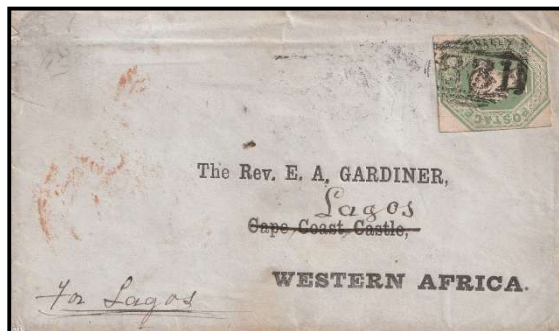


Fig.1. 1854 First inward cover to Lagos Wesleyan Mission eastward movement



Fig. 2. Watercolour Essay without text around it

An initial watercolour essay for a stamp, perhaps dating from 1861, epitomises British colonialism in the early Victorian era (Figure 2) and predates the administration of Lagos from Sierra Leone between 1866-74 and the Gold Coast between 1874-86. For the first definitive stamps of 1874, die and value tablet proofs, the De La Rue ink recipes, a Die Proof, very rare Specimens, and the issued stamps with their characteristic ragged perforations are displayed. The 1876-79 definitive stamps, their variants, and examples with barred 'L' cancellations on cover follow. Lagos postal stationery in the guise of postcards first emerged in 1879 consequent to a Paris UPU agreement of 1 June 1878: die proofs of the 1879 issue and rare manuscript Specimen examples for the 1883 and 1888 postcards are displayed.

The 1884-86 definitive stamps are represented by a De La Rue colour trials Appendix Sheet, Specimens including their variants, and the 1/- to 10/- issued stamps.

Lagos is plagued by the activities of forgers of stamps and postmarks including Panelli and Fournier: examples are exhibited of Fournier's die proofs and some of the clichés he used to produce dangerous postmark forgeries.

The 1887-1901 definitive issue is represented by die proofs, colour trials, various Specimens, and mint higher denominations illustrating current and plate numbers. More contemporaneous rare postcard and cover material

complement while reflecting the on-going pacification of the Lagos interior where rivalry between the Egbas and Ijebus was being suppressed, and the Hausa Force was active 190 miles inland from Lagos at Shaki.

In 1893 there was a need to have ½d stamps, it is believed for the newly introduced newspaper rate, and Lagos had no such denominated stamp. De La Rue obliged by overprinting the extant 4d stamp with 'HALF PENNY' using a triplet hand registration process that resulted in many kiss prints, genuine double and even triple printings: a complete sheet is displayed.

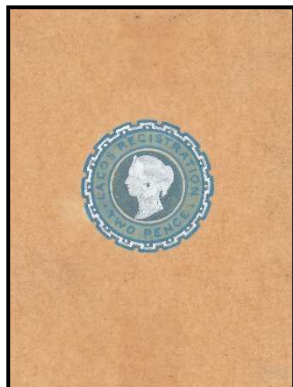


Fig. 3. Lagos 1895 Regency Essay 2d hand painted blue, green, yellow and white

A hand painted essay for the 1895 (Figure 3), and a photographic essay plus DLR indica die proofs (Figure 4) for the 1902 registration envelopes follow with examples of the issued envelopes.

The display concludes with material relating to the 1904 definitive stamps including proofs produced by the semi-photographic 'Printex' process (Figure 5), specimens, and the 1/- to 10/- denominations.



Fig. 5. 1904 Printex clear value tablet cropped down



Fig.4 1902 indicia die proof for 2d registration envelope

## The Use of GB Postal Stationery overprinted for the Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorates

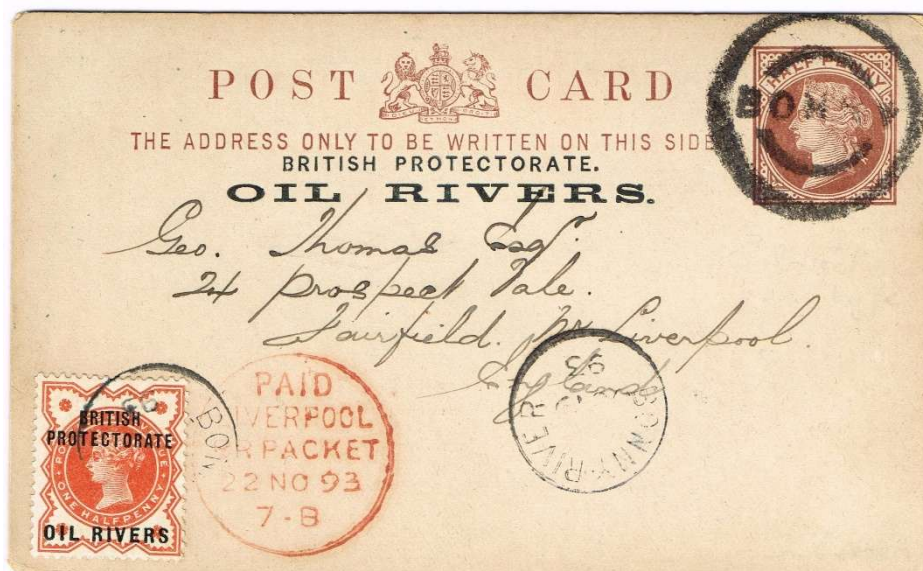
**Tony Stanford FRPSL**

On 5th June 1885 the coastal and delta region of the Niger Territories, excepting the colony of Lagos and the Royal Niger Company's preserves in the Niger Delta, was declared a British Protectorate. A postal service was established, administered by the Consulate-General at Old Calabar, and mail collection and distribution services were provided by the vice-consulates and trading stations, initially using GB stamps.

On 20th July 1892 the GB 1d lilac and the ½d, 2d, 2 ½d, 5d and 1s Jubilee stamps were issued overprinted "BRITISH PROTECTORATE OIL RIVERS" by De La Rue together with overprinted registration envelopes and postal stationery cards.

On 5th June 1885 the coastal and delta region of the Niger Territories, excepting the colony of Lagos and the Royal Niger Company's preserves in the Niger Delta, was declared a British Protectorate. The extent of the Protectorate was extended into the interior and the name changed to the Niger Coast Protectorate on 12 May 1893 with a new series of Niger Coast Protectorate stamps being issued from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1894 together with overprinted postal stationery which remained in use until the end of 1899. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900 the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was established with the amalgamation of The Niger Coast Protectorate and the Southern section of the Niger Territories. It was not until 1<sup>st</sup> May 1906 that Lagos was also incorporated into Southern Nigeria.

This display features the usage of both the Oil Rivers Postal stationery cards and registration envelopes and the Niger Coast Protectorate issues which superseded them as stocks needed replenishing.



The half-penny brown size A post card with Die II stamp on stout white card overprinted **'BRITISH PROTECTORATE OIL RIVERS'** dispatched from Bonny to Liverpool and uprated with QV half-penny Jubilee stamp with **'OIL RIVERS'** overprint. The printed stamp is cancelled with the Bonny parcel cancel and the overprinted QV half-penny Jubilee stamp with unclear Bonny cds. On arrival at Liverpool the card received the red **'PAID LIVERPOOL BR PACKET'** handstamp dated 22 November 1893.



1895 use of 1893 Size F Registration Envelope with embossed 23 mm diameter Two Pence Registration stamp with two-line **'NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE'** overprint above. The envelope is addressed to Freetown, Sierra Leone and is franked with a 5d **'OIL RIVERS'** overprint to pay the double rate for up to one ounce and additionally with a pair of 2½d **'OIL RIVERS'** overprints to pay the 5d insurance fee for £20 compensation. The stamps are each tied with an Old Calabar River cds dated 8 July 1895 with the Old Calabar registration oval below and there is an indistinct Freetown receiving mark on the front.

# Oil Rivers and Niger Coast

Tony Plumbe

The Niger Territories, Oil Rivers and Niger Coast offer the philatelist rich scope to develop collections of the postal history of early contacts with West Africa, studies of initial cachets and later postmarks, missionary, trade and social history, and postal developments. As aspects of the postal history were displayed recently at Europhilex 2025, this display over two frames focuses just on the stamps issued, and the period 1892 to 1898.

After the 1885 Conference of Berlin, a Protectorate over the 'Niger Districts' was declared on 5 June 1885 which recognised a southern coastal area stretching from the boundary of the Colony of Lagos eastwards to the Rio del Rey and a northern area extending from the Atlantic Ocean northwards up the River Niger to its confluence with the River Benue at Lokoja. A year later this riverine territory came under the charter of The Royal Niger Company. An 1890 Conference in Brussels that established the principle of 'effective occupation' hastened the need for an effective administration up the Niger in parallel with that which had been established at trading ports along the coast. Once the delimitation of the eastern boundary with the German Kamerun had been determined at another Berlin meeting in 1891, the southern coastal area plus an extension up the River Niger as far as Ibi was declared 'The British Protectorate of the Oil Rivers'. The oil was palm oil, not the petroleum that gushes from this area today. On 13 May 1893 this Protectorate was extended to cover all the area administered by The Royal Niger Company & Chartered Ltd and renamed the Niger Coast Protectorate. A map is on the ninth page of the display.

The declaration of The Protectorate of the Oil Rivers meant stamps were needed at the six Vice Consulates of Benin River, Bonny River, Brass River, Forcados River, Old Calabar River and Opobo River. As an expedient, overprints of GB stamps were sought with De La Rue receiving instructions on 8 April 1892. DLR submitted samples on 21 April, gained approval on 5 May, and invoiced for despatched stamps on 2 July 1892. Overprinted 'BRITISH PROTECTORATE / OIL RIVERS', this provisional set comprising ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 5d & 1/- duties was on sale at the post offices located at the six Vice-Consulates by the end of July 1892. Reprints of the 2½d followed shortly afterwards. This display opens with Specimens and mint examples of this provisional issue, followed by the left-hand half sheet of the 1d duty. The overprinting suffered from quality control issues resulting in positional and non-constant varieties as shown on the next two display sheets.



Fig. 1: Old Calabar type 6 'HALF PENNY' in violet on 2d, with missing bar

A change in the basic postage rate to the United Kingdom from 6d to 2½d per ½oz on 20 July 1892 led to a need for ½d stamps. The local response at Old Calabar was to overprint two ½d in red on each already black overprinted 1d stamps, and then bisect them diagonally. Alas, not all stamps were bisected leading to unsevered pairs. A sheet of examples including the variety of a straight top to the '1' is shown. A further response at Old Calabar was to overprint already black overprinted 2d and 2½d stamps with eight types of 'HALF PENNY' (Fig.1) and the black overprinted 2d with 'One Shilling'. Each type of HALF PENNY and One Shilling overprint occurs in several colours. A sample of mint and used examples of these overprints are shown over four sheets, often supported by Certificates as forgeries are plentiful. These overprints included 5/- on 2d, 10/- on 5d and 20/- on 1/- stamps but genuine examples are exotically priced and not shown in this display. Equally exotically valued are the multitude of doubled, inverted, diagonal up and down, and vertical up and down varieties found amongst these overprints, but they have eluded this display!

While all this overprinting was occurring, De La Rue were busy preparing to bid for the substantive issue. Shown are two of the three hand-painted essays prepared by De La Rue's artists (Fig.2), and two further essays and two die proofs of Queen Victoria's head with blank country name and value tablets. De La Rue were, however, unsuccessful in their bid and attempt to propagate their key plate approach to stamp design and production. Instead, Waterlow and Sons secured the contract for all Niger Coast Protectorate stamps and philatelists were rewarded



Fig. 2: De La Rue 1892 essay for 2½d duty (reduced to 75%)

with finely designed and engraved stamps. All designs were by G D Drummond comprising a three-quarter face portrait of Queen Victoria enclosed by various frames. Engraving of all the issues was by Bain except for the vignette for the May 1894 issue, the 1898 6d duty, and the three new values produced in 1898 which are all attributed to Bourne. Examples of photographic die proofs from the Waterlow 'dirty' record book and die proofs and colour trials for the January 1894 issue (Fig.3), as well as the issued stamps, are displayed. File copies of whole sheets of this and all other Niger Coast issues for each printing of each denomination have emerged from the archives of Waterlow & Sons. These usually have annotation in the margins recording dates and printing numbers, and include notes of any samples removed for client approval or retention. Three display sheets show examples. This issue is renowned for printing, perforation and colour variations across the printings. There were three printings of all duties for the January 1894 Provisional Issue which is distinguished by having 'Oil Rivers' masked and Niger Coast superimposed in the printing process.



Fig.3: 1893 re-engraved 5d duty imperforate colour trial

The May 1894 issue had 'Niger Coast' incorporated in the design from the outset. Die proofs are displayed before some examples of whole sheet printings derived from the Waterlow & Sons archives. Sheet numbers are of particular interest in the Niger Coast issues as they help to identify the various printings but also pose questions. The first January 1894 printing had no sheet numbers but the second and third printings had sheet numbers applied sequentially by hand either in blue crayon or in red pen. For the May 1894 issue, the first printing is assumed to have had manuscript sequential numbering of sheets as this continued into the second printing yet some duties of the second printings have red printed sheet numbers in the top right corner margins of the sheet, yet for the 2½d duty manuscript sheet numbering continued into the third printing. Examples of manuscript sheet numbers are displayed. Later printings, which numbered from three to seven for individual duties, are believed all to have had red sheet numbers printed in the top right corner margin and for these numbers to follow in sequence from one printing to the next for each denomination. This practice was continued and the sequence renewed for the 1897-98 issue.



Fig. 4: 'OIE' for 'ONE' Variety on Setting 8 of Old Calabar 'ONE HALF PENNY' on 2½d Overprint

Stamp shortages soon emerged after the issue of the January 1894 Provisionals partly owing to philatelic demand. Opobo Post Office could not replenish its stock from the Protectorate's main post office at Old Calabar when it ran out of ½d duties, so was granted permission to overprint 1d stamps with '½' in red and then vertically bisect the 1d stamps. Thus, it overprinted a sheet of dull blue 1d stamps in May and a sheet of pale blue 1d stamps in June 1894. In turn, that triggered a shortage of 1d stamps so the 2d green and carmine was surcharged on both its left and right sides with a vermilion '1' using a piece of hardwood and then bisected vertically. Again short of ½d duties by August 1894, Opobo post office arranged for the May 1894 1d vermilion stamps to be overprinted with violet, blue and black '½' and then bisected either vertically or diagonally. In early August 1894, Old Calabar post office still had a shortage of ½d duties so entered the overprinting frenzy using the May 1894 2½d stamp. A horizontal row of eight stamps was overprinted in one impression but yielding eight identifiable settings! Display sheets show mint or used examples of these overprints including an essay of the '1' on 2d green and carmine and the 'OIE' for 'ONE' variety of the Old Calabar overprints (Fig.4).

The final three sheets of this display provide just a sample of the 1897-98 issue which appeared on Crown CA watermarked paper and was placed on sale gradually with the ½d, 1d and 2d first to emerge, the 2½d a little later, and the 5d and 1/- in 1898. The issue is notable for the addition of 6d, 2/6d and 10/- duties. A Specimen sheet of the 2½d duty from the Waterlow archives, a sheet of the sixth printing of the 1d aniline duty, and the Die Proof for the 2/6d duty plus examples of the papers, perforation and colour variations of the 5d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6d and 10/- duties complete this display.

## Niger Coast Protectorate's stamps

### Dr Simon Heap

This display covers philatelic aspects of the British territory of the Niger Coast Protectorate in the late nineteenth century. Old Calabar was its capital, with a series of small post offices spread across the south-east part of present-day Nigeria. In 1900, it was integrated into Southern Nigeria, though Niger Coast stamps reappeared for use when shortages occurred in the following years.

Five sheets from the first set of Niger Coast stamps issued in May 1894 are displayed here in the form of whole sheets. A new territory in the British Empire immediately provoked stamp dealers and collectors into action to collect from the beginning, as illustrated by two philatelic covers of the full set of stamps, including one to a stamp dealer in London.

With a long voyage from Britain by ship to replenish stocks of stamps lasting several weeks, the display shows occasions when supplies of halfpenny stamps became depleted and the Niger Coast Protectorate's postal service employed short-term solutions to cope: bisecting and overprinting.

On four occasions in August and September 1894, the Bonny Post Office resorted to bisecting penny stamps. The so-called 'Bonny Provisional' resulted in four possible corner-to-opposite-corner bisected triangular shapes: with pairs of south-west or north-east corner triangles and north-west and south-east corner triangles. Only four covers with Bonny Provisionals have been recorded - two are shown here.

In 1894, the General Post Office in Old Calabar used twenty sheets of the 2½d stamp to obliterate their values with pairs of black horizontal bars and overprint with the words 'HALF PENNY'. A small Albion handpress was set up with moveable type to surcharge one horizontal row of eight stamps at a time down the six rows. Such stamps are shown on cover posted in Old Calabar and addressed to London and Dartford.



Cover with Bonny Provisional, 1894

## Southern Nigeria

### Tony Plumbe

Southern Nigeria was born on 1 January 1900. In 1898, the British Government in London initiated a process that led to the buying out of the Royal Niger Company Chartered and Limited for £100,000 in lieu of their privately administering the Niger Coast. This resulted in the southern 'Maritime' half of the Company's domain becoming Southern Nigeria so comprising the River Niger hinterland south from near Idah (307 miles upstream from the ocean port of Forcados), and the littoral and inland territory stretching east from Lagos Colony and Protectorate to the German Kamerun boundary including the Niger delta. Notably, the more developed Colony and Protectorate of Lagos was separate until 1 May 1906 when it was amalgamated with Southern Nigeria. Amalgamation resulted in the administrative HQ moving from Calabar to Lagos and the Marine Department from Akassa to Apapa opposite Lagos across a lagoon. In turn, Southern and Northern Nigeria were amalgamated to form Nigeria on 1 January 1914.

The two frames of Southern Nigeria display selected highlights of its stamps, postal history, postal stationery, and postcards. The Drummond Queen Victoria design of the Niger Coast was much admired in 1900, and despite De La Rue pressure to adopt its standardised keyplate design, Southern Nigeria retained portraits of Queen Victoria akin to those of the Niger Coast. A range of the resulting head and frame die proofs, 23 colour trials, and strips of 4/5 of the specimens are shown. Queen Victoria died before the stamps could be issued but issued they were to avoid wasteful expenditure by the Colony. A range of KEVII head and frame die proofs follow in the display, including ones with uncleared portions and attached DLR Day Book notations; Fournier's die proof forgeries are included. Very elusive colour proofs of the KEVII 1903-04 issue are shown followed by various specimens and the issued stamps. Notably only 9 sheets (1,080 stamps) of the £1 denomination were ever printed. With DLR switching to using Multiple Crown CA instead of Crown CA watermarked paper around 1904, distinct stamps started to appear in ensuing years. No specimens were distributed by the UPU but locally diagonally hand-stamped Specimens were produced it is thought for presentation purposes but only six of each denomination exist. Only a new 3d denomination issued in 1907 gained UPU distribution of specimens. Southern Nigeria stamps from 1905-07 offer the complexities of Types A and B heads, and ordinary and chalky papers, but space limitations here confine that displayed to the basic issued stamps. The same applies to the 1907-09 issue where only the values from 3d upwards are shown. With the accession of KGV to the throne, more die proofs emerged and plate blocks of the lower denominations are shown. A sheet of various 2/1d and 2/- stamp booklets issued in Southern Nigeria from 1904 onwards conclude the Southern Nigeria stamps section.

The second frame of Southern Nigeria illustrates snippets of postal history and stationery. Before Southern Nigeria stamps could be procured, a very limited number of covers were sent endorsed 'Paid' in red mss. Also, showing pragmatism, Niger Coast stamps continued to be used and plugged stamp shortages up to 1907. The interior parts of Southern Nigeria were hardly under control and conflicts between local groups flared up. One involved sending in the 'Aro Field Force' to suppress such a conflict and to stem local superstitious 'juju' practices. Sperati was attracted to produce forgeries of both high value stamps and postmarks of Southern Nigeria: the latter are shown. An example of a mss 'Express' letter sent on Christmas Day follows, surely the earliest Express mail in the Nigerias? Samples of 6d rated registered mail are shown next. In fog, the *S.S. Jebba* hit the Bolt Tail rocks in Devon on 18 March 1907: a sheet shows two examples of cachets applied to salvaged Southern Nigeria mail. Examples follow of a 'late fee' registered cover from Warri paid to catch a ship still in port but past the last regular posting time and franked with a mixture of Niger Coast, Lagos and SN stamps, and a Cash on Delivery OHMS envelope.

Turning to stationery, the only recorded examples of indicia proofs for the KEVII embossed envelope follow; alas the envelopes were never issued. Postcards are represented by a DLR Appendix Sheet of 1902 showing the layout of the proposed postcard, and examples of specimens including a locally hand-stamped rarity. Two sheets of pictorial postcards show steamers on the River Niger and the development of communications. The concluding sheets show rare Parcel Post receipts and examples of telegraph cancellations reflecting the only means of quick communications of this Edwardian era.

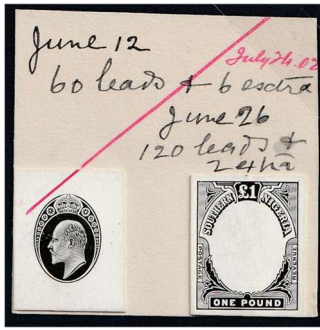


Fig 1. KEVII Head and Frame  
Die proof Day Book



Fig. 2. S. Nigeria KEVII 1d  
indicium 1902

## Southern Nigeria's first postage stamps

### Dr Simon Heap

The British declared the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria on 1st January 1900. As it was taking over the previous colonial territory of the Niger Coast Protectorate, the first stamp issue was a more regular process than that of its neighbour, Northern Nigeria.

This display illustrates some of the preparatory tools of the printers, De La Rue, with die proofs and colour trials. Specimens are shown, including a set from the Swedish collection of UPU specimen stamps.

A set of nine stamps of the Queen Victoria keyplate were printed. However, eleven stamps are shown as it is clear that both the halfpenny and penny stamps had a middle background initially in black but later printings in sepia. A complete sheet of the halfpenny in black and a reconstructed halfpenny pane in sepia illustrate this difference.

Used stamps are shown, including usage on consular forms, by the travelling post office and cancellations at European ports. Old Calabar was the capital of the territory and unsurprisingly many postmarks from that town are shown.

Two orders for stamps and sundry other items are displayed. Firstly, a pre-addressed cover (with instructions on which stamps should be used) to a British collector based in Timperley, Cheshire, as well as the enclosed pro-forma from the Southern Nigeria General Post Office in Old Calabar. Secondly, a similar order form to the well-known philatelist and dealer, Henry Könecke, but regretting that "this Dept cannot undertake to affix stamps on your envelopes as specified". Both orders were double-checked by other postal staff.

The display ends with usage of the stamps on mail, including a postcard from Warri to Edinburgh in May 1903, a registered QV Embossed Cover uprated with a pair of penny stamps to Glasgow in May 1902, and an On His Majesty's Service Cover posted in December 1902 with a QV pair of penny stamps.



QV 10 shillings SW corner mint pair

## Northern Nigeria

### Tony Plumbe

The Protectorate of Northern Nigeria was declared on 1st January 1900 by Brigadier-General Lugard reading a proclamation at Lokoja to about 50 British persons. This was in the wake of the revocation of the Charter of the Royal Niger Company Chartered & Limited that had hitherto administered the hinterland of the Rivers Niger and Benue. The territory stretched from French claimed Dahomey on the west to German influenced Kamerun on the east, and from Niger forming part of French West Africa on the north to the Protectorates of Lagos and Southern Nigeria to the south. Prior to that at the start of the nineteenth century, Islamic Fulani had conquered the area from the east and established emirates over the indigenous predominantly Hausa and Kanuri speaking peoples. Lugard introduced his doctrine of 'indirect rule' whereby powers were delegated to local rulers and customary processes provided they complied to acceptable standards of justice and humanity (including slavery suppression) and in return military and civil protection was extended. Lugard established an administration in about eight weeks by rolling forward all the statutes, orders in Council, rules, regulations and treaties of the Royal Niger Company, but it took until 1903 to overcome by force the major emirates of Kano and Sokoto in the western half, and until around 1907 to control those in the centre and east of the territory. Northern and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated to form Nigeria on 1 January 1914.



Fig. 1 (at 60%).  
Egga m/s cancel  
28.09.00



Fig. 2. NN  
Kaduna m/s  
cancel 4.12.10

With the creation of Northern Nigeria anticipated, the Crown Agents acting for the Colonial Office requested De La Rue on 12 September 1899 to prepare Specimen postage stamps printed from the Universal Plate. Proofs were prepared and submitted three days later following Niger Coast denominations but using UPU standard colours. The first three sheets of this display show examples of the cut-down die proofs, Imperium trials, and Specimens for the Queen Victoria stamps issued in April 1900. Following sheets show the use of the Lokoja Oval Type 13 cancellation and a cover with manuscript 'Jebba' cancellations often attributed to Lugard's personal hand, even when he was on leave! Manuscript cancellation of the QV and KEVII issues continued at Jebba in red and the rarer black, and at many other

locations but survivors are often confined to one or two examples (Figures 1 & 2).

Only a small aperitif of the KEVII and KGV stamps are shown. For the 1905-07 issue, used examples of the ordinary and chalky papers and an example of the Grover constant variety are shown. This was the only issue not to have a 10/- denomination. For the 1910 issue made in response to the 1906 Rome UPU Convention to have a universal colour scheme, die proofs of the two new denominations of 3d and 5/- are displayed followed by Specimens including examples with the non-constant broken north-east corner frame and the only recorded example with a broken 'G' of 'NIGERIA' (on a 10/- denomination as it happens). Mint examples of the varying printing dates of each of the higher denominations complement these KEVII issues.

The 1912 KGV issue is represented by a range of die proofs of the duty and country name on pieces from the DLR Day Books all believed to be the only ones extant (see sample as Figure 3). Only the higher denominations are shown mint but these include two non-constant unrecorded varieties.

The display continues with samples of postal history. Campaigns to pacify the central and eastern parts of Northern Nigeria are charted by the extensive correspondence of Captain Walter H Wilkin to his half-brother R Shortbred in London. An example of an entire written while on an expedition to Kwol is shown. Less well-known is the German Inner African Expedition of 1911 to research social anthropology and ethnography aspects north and east of the River Benue: a cover sent from Ibi illustrates.

Concluding the display are a cover from Dekina sent to India and redirected to Tientsin, China, and a rare 1910 cover endorsed 'No stamps available in Abinsi...'

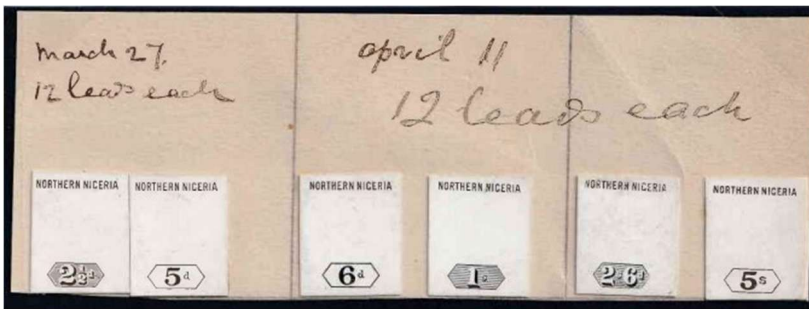


Fig. 3 (at 60%). N. Nigeria 1912 country name and value die proofs 2½ pence to 5 shillings

## Northern Nigeria's first postage stamps

### Dr Simon Heap

This display examines the design of the first stamps for the about-to-be-declared West African British Protectorate of Northern Nigeria and their dissemination and use in the period 1899 to 1903.

Government officials' discussions about the first stamps reveal some extraordinarily exciting and somewhat boring pictorial designs. Fascinating administrative arguments at the Colonial Office in London over what design should be chosen for the new colony even shows ignorance of the need for royal approval of stamps.

A suggested design of a snake fighting a crocodile was declared to be "novel and striking" and also useful for raising money from the undoubted interest of stamp collectors. Alternative photographs of the River Niger at Jebba were offered, which one official viewed as "too rambling". In the end, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, ruled in favour of the Queen Victoria keyplates, declaring "I prefer the Queens Head. It is the symbol, the family, the Empire... I think the Naturalists would be very sarcastic over this amazing Crocodile".

On 1st January 1900, British rule in Northern Nigeria was officially declared at Lokoja, but the first set of stamps were only partially available through their design, production and transport to the colony either side of this important date. De La Rue produced Imperium colour trials, some can be seen in the eventual set of nine stamps printed in early 1900 and reaching Northern Nigeria that April.

At the same time, Northern Nigeria sent sets overprinted 'SPECIMEN' to the Universal Postal Union in Berne for onward transmission to its member countries. Examples of the broken 'M' variety are shown, as well as 'Ultramar' specimens sent to Lisbon for their Portuguese colonies.

The display ends with usage of the stamps on cover, and two distinct postmarks: the Lokoja oval canceller and the large single ring Northern Nigeria two-line date canceller.



The first set of stamps as issued

## Biafra

### Tony Plumbe

The Biafran secession forms a fascinating era in twentieth century Nigerian postal history. Biafra declared unilaterally its Independence from the rest of Nigeria on 30 May 1967 and capitulated on 12 January 1970. Secession was just under seven years after Nigeria gained its own Independence, and in the wake of ethnic based unrest in the North and South-west of Nigeria. Initially, Biafra had an area of about 30,000 square miles and 14 million people of whom a tenth were refugees. By August 1969 Biafra comprised 2,000 square miles and 5 million people. At first thought to be a 6-week police operation, Nigeria imposed an immediate economic and postal blockade but then invaded Biafra on 6 July 1967. It was a period of great human suffering and tragedy. One to 5 million people died, mostly infants from starvation, but also at least 100,000 troops. The civil service including the Post Office functioned until the closing days of the Civil War, but much improvisation and ingenuity were deployed.

The display provides a selective synopsis of Biafran philately. Federal Nigeria immediately severed postal communications and supplies to and from Biafra so the opening sheet is of service suspended mail from Mexico and the Netherlands. The Biafrans pragmatically initially continued to use Nigerian definitive stamps of whatever type that came to hand: these included postage dues as displayed.

About two months after succession, Nigerian stamps were withdrawn as a political move, and the Biafran Postal Administration issued oblong rubber 2d, 4d and 1/4d Postage Paid cachets, but only to post offices and a few postal agencies. These related to the first step printed paper, letter, and registered letter rates. They were applied as mail passed through the main post offices, occur in violet and rarer black versions, and remained in use until early February 1968. Examples of the rarer 2d, registration 1/4d, and multiple combination cachets are shown.

With the assistance of Catholic connections in Italy, Biafra procured its first stamps denominated 2d, 4d and 1/- and known as the first Independence issue. They were issued on 5 February 1968. A single sheet shows two examples of registered covers each with four 4d stamps. A stock of Nigerian stamps had been seized by Biafran troops from the post office at Benin when they invaded Mid-West Nigeria in September 1967: these were combined with stocks withdrawn from the Biafran postal system, and overprinted 'Sovereign BIAFRA' plus the Biafran Coat of Arms by the Government Printer partly at Enugu and on evacuation at Aba. Strangely these were issued about seven weeks *after* the first Independence issue but included a full range of denominations. Two registered covers illustrate their use in combination with first Independence issues; the 2d and 1/- denominations are scarce on cover.

This display then turns to four sheets showing examples of military mail with Forces Free and other postal cachets used by the Biafran Army, commando units (identified by skull and cross-bones cachets), the Biafran Air Force and the Navy. Only one or two examples are known of each type.



Commando unit cover - circa 55% of actual size

Mail could be diverted to the Returned Letter Office if sent to 'disturbed' areas not controlled by the Biafrans or sent unfranked. Two examples are shown and include the use of a postage underpaid 'T in circle' cachet.

Mail arrived in and left Biafra using various routes avoiding Nigeria. Some moved with the airlifted relief supplies, or aboard agency personnel, or via official routes probably with a consignment of arms, when on arrival, would be cleared through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Immigration Authorities. Examples are shown as are inward and outward routes via Biafran Representative offices overseas. Just a tiny proportion of incoming mail was censored with two types of handstamp applied, but most mail was not inspected.

The display concludes with an airletter sent out by 'personal courier' via the Netherlands by the Archbishop of the Niger to a past Governor of Eastern Nigeria then retired in Devon. A revealing text!

## A Fistful of Forgeries

### Paul Redhead

This display surveys forgeries of stamps, cancellations and covers from the 1800s to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It focusses on Nigeria, with an early detour into Sierra Leone in order to include examples of the Spiro 'replicas'. The Spiro forgeries were produced primarily to supply the packet trade at a time when demand from collectors outstripped supply. Crude packet filler copies of early Lagos stamps were followed later by sophisticated forgeries produced by Panelli / Oneglia which were more clearly designed to fool collectors. The master forger Sperati produced exceedingly good examples of high value Lagos and Southern Nigeria stamps.



Spiro



Packet filler



Panelli



Sperati

Forgeries of the provisional issues of Oil Rivers and Niger Coast are very common. Most of those are laughably crude, but some are dangerously good. The prolific and highly competent Fournier was responsible for some convincing copies, and the Niger Coast provisional SG65 has been cleverly forged too.



Crude overprint



Surcharged poorly



Fournier



SG65 forged

Another easy target for forgery is the provision of bogus cancellations to 'convert' mint stamps into more valuable used ones, and the Nigerias provide a range of examples.



Madame Joseph



Crude copy of scarce cancel



Forged cancel



Fiscal re-purposed

Relatively little forgery of Nigerian stamps issued from 1914 onwards took place until the deluge of crudely produced copies designed to 'pay' postage on 419 fraud letters in the 1970s through to 2000. Most copies are lamentably poor, though mostly produced by litho rather than photocopied as often assumed. Some examples are very scarce.

## Revenue for Postage in Sierra Leone

### Majed Halawi FRPSL

The overprinting of “POSTAGE AND REVENUE – 2½d.” on revenue stamps in 1897 created some of the rarest stamps in British Empire philately. The revenue stamps were printed in sheets of 60. However, the printer in Freetown did not have sufficient type to make an overprint form of 30 identical styles. This meant that different fonts for the characters “2½d” had to be used.

The stamps were overprinted in blocks of 30. Only six sheets, that is 240 overprinted stamps, of the 2½d on two shillings were produced, with six different fonts for the “2½d” that are differentiated by the letters A to F. Of these, 176 examples are of Type A; 8 of Type B; 16 of Type C; 32 of Type D, of which only 8 are of the variety italic “N” in “REVENUE” that became known as Type DN; and 8 of Type F.

The display shows examples of all the revenue options that Sierra Leone had considered before adopting the new revenue stamps, the revenue surcharges, and the 1897 overprinting and surcharges that produced the rare types.



The strip of three shows, from left, Type A, Type D and Type B surcharges.  
**One of two known such strips**

# Sierra Leone Government Railway and the Travelling Post Offices

## John Hossack FRPSL

Railway construction in Sierra Leone began in 1896 at Water Street, Freetown. The main line proceeded eastwards to Pendembu, 227 miles, near the border with Liberia. There was also a 110 mile branch from a junction at Bauya to Kamabai in the north. The gauge throughout was 2' 6" rather than the 'Cape' gauge of 3' 6". This saved costs and also coped with the many tight curves on the railway.

The first section to be opened, in 1898, ran some 25 miles east from Water Street to Waterloo. The last seven miles from Baiima to Pendembu were very difficult for the construction workers, taking three years to build. The main line was completed in 1908 and the branch in 1916.

As the railway progressed telegraph was installed and post offices were opened at almost 40 villages along the route. In 1907 Travelling Post Offices (TPO's) began operating. The Freetown to Bo TPO, running on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, stopped at Bo overnight. It continued eastwards on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday as the Bo to Pendembu TPO. Return journeys were on the opposite days. On the branch line, the Boia (earlier name for Bauya) to Yonnie (later renamed Yonibana) TPO ran from 1912 and actually ran to Kamabai. Presumably sorting of mail only started at Bauya and at first the line only ran as far as Yonnie.

The section of the branch line between Makene and Kamabai was little used and was closed in 1930. Rate of closure accelerated and the rest of the branch was closed by 1968. In 1973 the eastern part of the main line between Bo and Pendembu had been closed and lifted. More sections furthest from Freetown were dismantled, the final section being closed in 1975.

Use of the railway for carrying mail declined from the mid-1950's as roads improved and internal air transport became more cost-effective. Mail cancelled on the railway TPO's is shown.



Large rectangular canceller used from 1911 to 1920 on the Freetown to Bo TPO. It must have been awkward to use on a moving train.

## Togo: the overprints on Gold Coast stamps 1915-1920

Chris Jackson



The British/French defeat of German forces in Togo, West Africa in 1914 led to the need for British and French Togo overprinted stamps to be made available. This was initially supplied by German Togo stamps found in the country being overprinted with the words 'Togo Anglo-French Occupation'. But when these stamps started to run out, an alternative solution needed to be found quickly.

This solution was found, for the sector of Togo administered by the British forces, by overprinting stamps from the neighbouring British colony of the Gold Coast with the same overprint text as had been applied to the German Togo stamps. Over the period 1915 to 1920 there were nine print runs of overprinted Gold Coast stamps, three locally in Accra and six by De La Rue in London. The local overprints were created by an overprint being applied to existing stocks of Plate 1 Gold Coast stamps held at the Accra Post Office. These local overprints were beset with printing errors which the authorities corrected on each occasion a mistake was found.

For the London overprints, De La Rue created new sheets of Gold Coast stamps including adding the overprint. These came from Plate 5 (three printings), Plate 6 (two printings and finally Plate 8 (one printing). These London printings are error free.

At the end of September 1920, the authorities told the Togo Post Office to cease issuing these Togo overprinted Gold Coast stamps and destroy all remaining stocks. The Plate 8 stamps, of which a pane is shown here (at 67%), were offered for sale for only around three weeks.

## The cancellations of Togo during the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

During this period various cancellations were brought into use. These included the German types, skeletons and newly issued ones.

Illustrated is the skeleton cancel for AGBELUVHOE (Fig 1) which also exists mis-spelt AGBELUHVOE.



## Sierra Leone Second World War Civilian Air Mails 1939 -1945.

Peter Richards

The display tells the story of Civilian Air Mail services from the Colony during the Second World War. At the beginning of the War the Air Mail service was provided by the French Airline Aeromaritime to Dakar from where the mail was put on the Air France aircraft back to Europe. This service ceased with the fall of France in June 1940. From August 1940 BOAC started flying between Poole and Lagos with C class flying boats including a stop at Freetown. However, the pressure on the space available on these flights meant that a Civilian Air Mail service from the Colony to the UK was not re-introduced until May 1942 although, on occasions, illicit use was made of the BOAC flights and an example is included in the display. In October 1943 RAF Transport Command assumed responsibility for taking the Air Mail from Sierra Leone. They flew it to Rabat where it was forwarded to the UK by BOAC but from April 1944 BOAC started a land plane service using Dakotas between West Africa and the UK which lasted for the rest of the war.

From December 1941 US services across the South Atlantic enabled Air Mail to be sent from Sierra Leone to North and South America as well as to neutral Europe, for which it crossed the Atlantic twice. The service is notable for the high postage charges imposed. In January 1943 Aeromaritime started flying again under the control of the Free French which provided an Air Mail service to other parts of West Africa.

Highlights in the display include a first day of the war cover, the last day of the Aeromaritime service in June 1940, South Atlantic covers to Colombia, Switzerland and Sweden and a cover from the 1943 Sunderland crash in Ireland.



22<sup>nd</sup> February 1943. Freetown to Switzerland. Sent at the 'Double Atlantic' Rate of 6/- 9d (Plus 3d Registration) for crossing both the South and North Atlantic. Unusually the cover has been postmarked all along the route at Freetown, Miami, New York, Lisbon and on receipt in Switzerland.

# St Helena - Queen Victoria Stamps 1856-1876

## Barry Burns

The first stamp issue of this South Atlantic Island was a single six pence value of 1856, which was intaglio printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. The design was similar to, but not actually the same as, the contemporary stamps of Ceylon, and for both issues the profile of the Queen was engraved by William Humphries. The stamps were printed on Large Star watermarked paper in sheets of 240 (20 rows in 12 columns). When new duties were required in 1863 the contract had transferred to De La Rue & Co., who used the same single plate but printed the stamps in different colours on paper watermarked Crown CC, and surcharged them with new values—a precedent in stamp production.



In addition to the change to watermarked Crown CA paper in 1884, there were many variations in perforation and type of surcharge during the long life of the plate.

It was not until 1890 that a letterpress-printed key plate stamp was introduced and, even then, many values of the 1856 design were used until replaced by the King Edward VII designs of 1902-1903.



The two frames shown here follow these changes until the perforation 14 stamps appeared during 1880.

Included are Specimens, mint and used stamps in positional pieces, perforation and surcharge errors, and a few covers to illustrate their use.

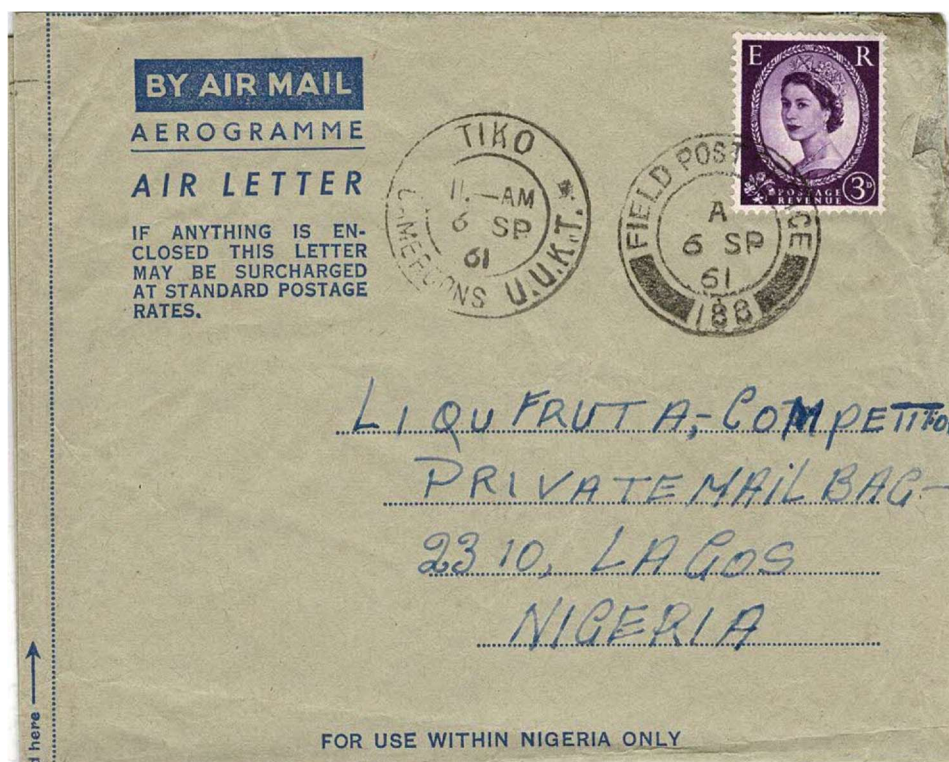
## British Cameroons Plebiscite and Independence 1960-62

### Rob May FRPSL

French Cameroun, the former UN Trust Territory of Cameroun, gained independence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1960. Nigeria became independent on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1960. The UK Trust Territory of British Cameroons had been administered as part of Nigeria but, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1960 all Nigerian administrative and military support was pulled back into Nigeria. A military force was sent out from Britain to provide a policing role whilst the population voted in a plebiscite to decide whether to merge with Nigeria or with the new Republic of Cameroun. Stocks of the obsolete set of definitives of pre-independence Nigeria were overprinted CAMEROONS U.K.T.T. for use in both parts of the British Cameroons pending the outcome.

The outcome was that the isolated, mainly Moslem, northern part of the Cameroons voted to become part of Nigeria's Bauchi province whilst the more populous Christian south voted to become the Province of West Cameroun in a new Federation of Cameroun, which took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1961.

This 3d concession rate aerogramme was sent from FPO188, set up in July 1961 at Buea when the British force was mustering to depart. It is evident from the sender's name that there was also some local recruitment. It is a formula aerogramme with the text FOR USE IN NIGERIA ONLY at the bottom of the front page. It is one of a scarce small release of internal aerogrammes for use in Nigeria pending production of a new post-Independence design. It is scarce both mint and used and very scarce used internally, as intended.



The postal transition into the Federal Republic was not straightforward because the British Cameroons used Sterling and Imperial weights and measures whilst Cameroun was metric and used CFA francs. A set of Cameroun stamps was surcharged in Sterling and released on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1961 to be used until full currency conversion to CFA Francs on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1962. Nigerian pre-independence postage rates based on Imperial weights continued until 31 December 1965 because conversion to metric measures did not happen until 1<sup>st</sup> January 1966!

## Keeping the Peace

### Barbara Priddy

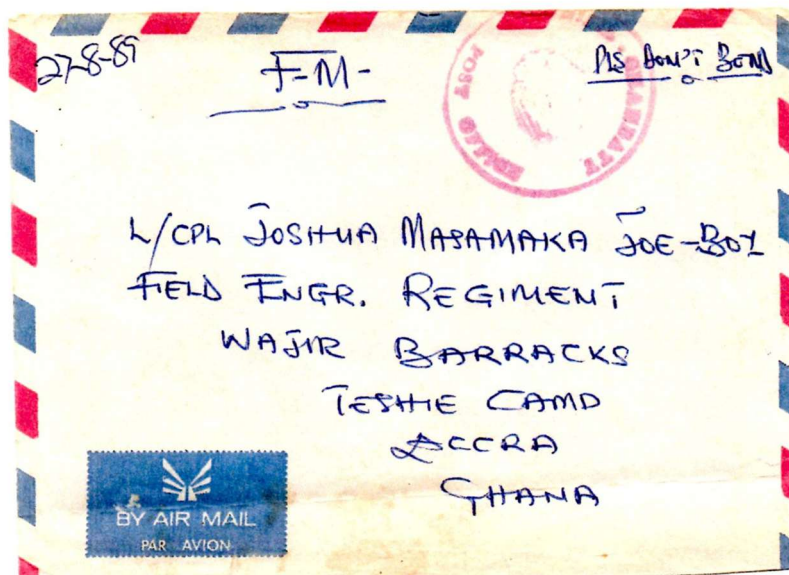
There are really two themes in one here: mail to and from West African Forces serving with United Nations Peace-keeping Forces and mail from United Nations Peace-keeping Operations in West Africa. These often overlap.

The display begins with mail to and from the Ghanaian, Nigerian and Liberian troops serving with UNOC (or ONUC) in the former Belgian Congo, the first really big UN peace-keeping operation, from 1960 to 1964.

From 1978, Ghanaian and Senegalese troops served with UNIFIL in Lebanon; from 1991 Ghanaian troops with UNIKOM in Iraq and Kuwait; from 1992 Camerounian troops with UNTAC in Cambodia and Nigerian troops with UNPROFOR in former Yugoslavia; from 1993 Nigerian troops with UNOSOM II in Somalia and with UNAMIR in Rwanda; from 1999 Ghanaian troops with UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone. Also included are a cover to a Ghanaian soldier serving with ECOMOG in Liberia, and a letter from a Canadian operating a one-man UN mission in Dakar.

It is well-known that correspondence with family and friends is vital to the morale of the troops. It is seldom possible to send mail via the civilian postal system in a war zone, or at a time of violent unrest when the normal infrastructure of a country's services has broken down. Most of these covers have been sent via the forces' postal system, on military aircraft returning to the home country or bringing out supplies. The service is often free, franked with the official stamp of the operation. At first, only generic or local aerograms were available, but later aerograms were printed with the name of the operation.

I have included details of the operations printed out from the official websites: please take these out and read them if you are interested (but beware of AI).



Cover from a Ghanaian soldier serving with the UN peace-keeping troops in Lebanon dated 27 August 1989. Large single-circle FM cachet 'UNIFIL GHANBATT / POST OFFICE' in violet

## West Africa Study Circle

Books published by WASC. Ordering details are at the bottom of this page. Please contact the bookseller for current postage and packing costs. Discounted books are listed in [blue](#), free of charge digital books in [green](#).

<b>General</b>		
British West Africa Mail Packets to 1900: Rates, Routes and Ships, Out and Home	Tabcart	£40
<a href="#">The Post Office Impression Books, first edition, 1981</a>	Beale & Martin	digital free;
<a href="#">The Wreck of SS Jebba</a>	Evans ed. May	£5
<a href="#">West Africa in the British Library Philatelic Collections</a>	Martin & Powell	£5
<a href="#">West African Censorship - Third Edition</a>	Martin, Walton & Harris	£12
West African Forces Air Mail Letter Cards, Air Letters & Honour Envelopes 1942-1945	Daynes & Lutwyche	£5
<b>Ascension</b> (and see St Helena)		
Ascension Island: the Crown Agents Records	Beale	£4
Ascension Island: The Post Office Accounts November 1923 to December 1932	Mabbett	£9
Ascension Island's Post Office 1922-24	Beale	£4
Mail from Ascension 1817-1901	Attwood	£5
Mail from Ascension 1897-1976	Attwood	£5
<b>Cameroun</b>		
The Postmarks and Postal History of Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961, plus supplements 1 and 2	Maddocks and Bratzel	£25 bundle
The Postmarks and Postal History of Cameroun Under French Administration 1916-1959	Bratzel	£25
<b>Gambia</b>		
<a href="#">The Postal Markings of the Gambia</a>	Duncan & Andrew	£5
<b>Gold Coast/Ghana</b>		
Ghana Postal Markings from 1957	Anderson & Quirk	£15
Gold Coast Mail Service Timetables	Duggan	£5
Gold Coast Stamps Postal Stationery rates KE VII	Ensor	£4
<a href="#">Gold Coast Picture Postcards</a>	Dickinson	£5
<a href="#">The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-57</a>	Ensor	£5
<b>Nigeria</b>		
<a href="#">Advertisements in the GV Booklets SB1-SB5 of Nigeria (digital and paper versions)</a>	Murray	£5 paper
Aerogrammes of Nigeria 1948 to 2000	Harris	£16.50
Collecting Nigerian Cancellations (digital and paper versions) [433 pages wire-bound]	Redhead	digital free; £40 paper
Nigeria: A Study of the Sterling Definitive Postage Stamps Since Independence 1961-1972	Martin, May & Harris	£16
Oil Rivers & Niger Coast Surcharged Provisionals & Bisected Stamps	Sacher	£3
<b>St Helena</b>		
St Helena, the Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000	Mabbett	£24
<b>Sierra Leone</b>		
The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961 Second Edition	Walton, Quirk, Hamilton, Horry	£27
The Postal Service of Sierra Leone	Beale	£5
<a href="#">Sierra Leone 2½d on 2s - 4th edition (digital only)</a>	Walton	-
<a href="#">Sierra Leone Certified Postmark Impressions - 2nd edition (digital only)</a>	Walton	-
<a href="#">Sierra Leone Postcards - 2nd edition</a>	Dickinson	£5
Sierra Leone Registration - 2nd edition	Walton & Quirk	£5

To order books from this site, please contact [bookseller@wasc.org.uk](mailto:bookseller@wasc.org.uk) noting what you wish to purchase. The bookseller will provide the postage and packing cost and details for a cheque or Paypal payment.

