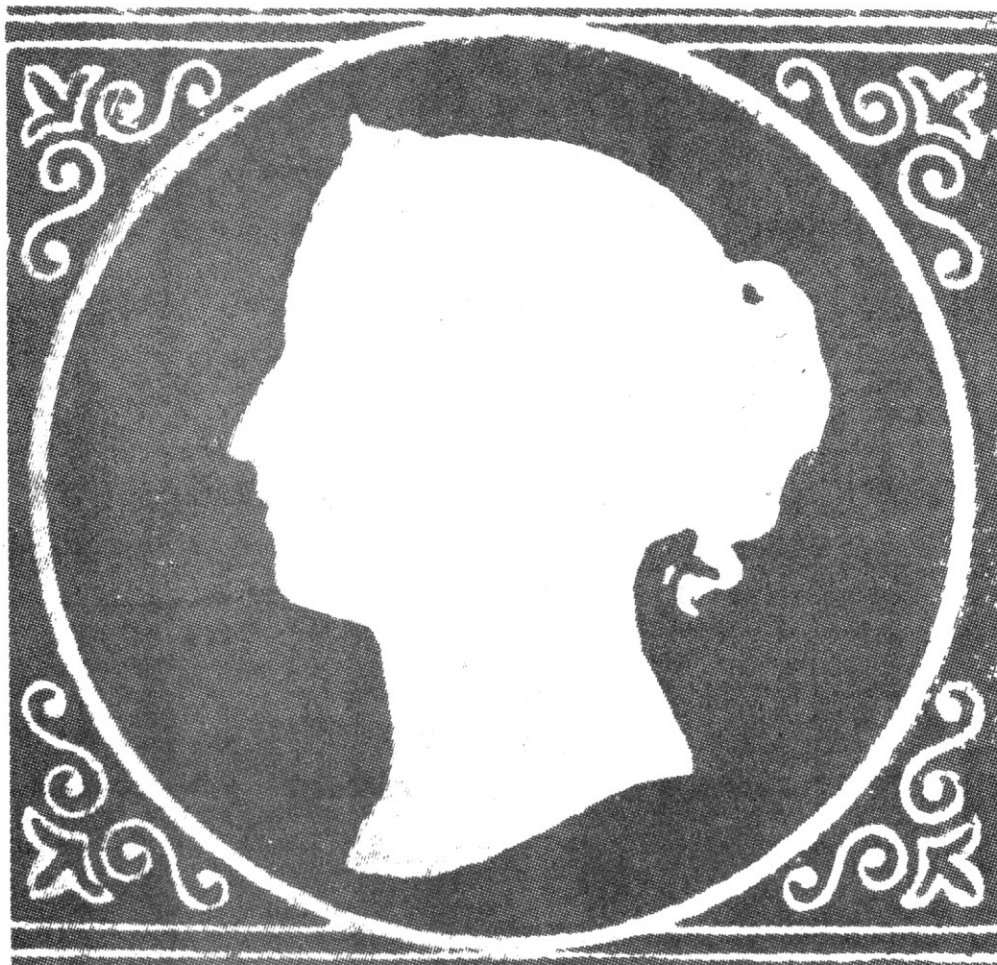


C A M E O



JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

Editor:

J.J. Martin,
22 Constable Way,
West Harnham,
Salisbury,
Wilts. SP2 8LN.

Hon. Secretary:

P.O. Beale,
10 Cornfield Road,
Seaford,
Sussex BN25 1SW

Specimen copy of the Journal £1 from the Secretary
Published twice yearly in January and July
Annual Subscription to the Circle £6.

WHOLE NUMBER 13 VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3 JANUARY 1981.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
EDITORIAL	58
H.M.S. PYLADES, 1838 - A. Rawlings	58
THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM - J.J. Martin	60
THE G.P.O. RECORDS 1921-1930 - J.J. Martin	61
POST WAR WEST AFRICAN F.P.O.'s - J.A. Daynes	63
AUCTION REALISATIONS	64
THE 1981 GIBBONS (PART I)	65
BIAFRAN SUMMARY - D.H. PRESTEDGE	66
GAMBIA: THE 1946 "STAR LEADER" CRASH - J.J. Martin	68
THE GOLD COAST JUDICIAL STAMPS - P.O. Beale	69
THE ACCRA TYPE & CANCEL - G. Matthews	71
GOLD COAST "DAMAGED BY WATER" : 1917 - J.J. Martin	72
GOLD COAST AT HARMERS : NOVEMBER 1980	72
ST. HELENA: THE BROAD BOTTOM CAMP FORGERY - B. Mabbett	75
ST. HELENA: "POLICE HEADQUARTERS" HANDSTAMP - B. Mabbett	76

EDITORIAL

First, one correction for CAMEO 12 : on page 39 'Reply Coupons' the fifth line should read "Unoverprinted coupons of Nigeria remained on sale in the Southern Cameroons".

In the last Editorial, members were promised an article on Sierra Leone censorship. This is already in draft form but some additional information is awaited from an overseas member.

Your editor feels that, perhaps, too many articles and notes come from his pen. For example, through research in P.O. Records, a great deal of information has been obtained concerning the carriage of mail to West Africa by air. This includes the inauguration of the 1926 air service to the Gambia and, also, subsequent proposals for alternative routes. Is this of interest to members?

The thirtieth anniversary of the Circle falls in 1981. As a suggestion, would members like to submit a photograph or a photostat of an interesting cover, plus a brief explanatory note, for CAMEO. This has been done by another society and resulted in some fascinating articles.

At the time of writing this Editorial, it is not certain whether our Auctioneer will have enough material for an auction list. So, for the future, search through and submit a list of duplicate stamps or covers to Mr. Disbery. Only by doing this will you enable him to continue this popular event.

H.M.S. PYLADES, WEST COAST OF AFRICA, 1838

In CAMEO 12 extracts from an 1836 letter were given. The extracts below are taken from a letter headed "H.M.S. PYLADES AT SEA 26th February, 1838".

We left St. Helena on 23rd for Ascension with a fine favourable breeze. The St. Helena people seem to be very discontented, most of the respectable people are clearing their accounts and leaving the island. How the poorer classes live it is hard so say but such hovels as they live in I never saw - horribly dirty - well built walls but many of them without roofs or windows all fast mouldering into ruins.

We arrived at Ascension on 1st March where we found

the Bonetta & Forrester two Men of war Brigantines and a Brig named the Velos a prize to the Fair Rosamund taken on the charges of piracy the circumstances of which I must tell you first as it is the least melancholy story. A boat of Rosamunds was blockading the River Benin up which there were three slavers. The Velos one of them came out after she had been ten days there - the boat chased her and came within musket shot and fired to bring her to - but without success. She returned the fire, killed one of the boats crew and disabled her. However, she got under her stem and attempted to board her but the vagabonds threw iron ballast and crow bars into her which injured the boat so much that it was with difficulty she hauled off and kept her afloat until the next morning when the Fair Rosamund arrived. The boat however had succeeded in driving the Velos up the river again so the Rosamund went up after her and took her on the charge of piracy she having fired on a British Man of War's boat. In the action if such you may call it - ten Portuguese were killed.

Captain Bate and all the people at Ascension were very healthy and it has been a most prosperous season for turtle - one night while we were there 35 were killed.

May 21st (at Fernando Pol). The day after our arrival the "Viper" Man o War schooner came in from blockading the Calabar, the fever having broken out on board her which obliged her to come to Fernando Po for medical aid her surgeon having caught the fever poor fellow he died just before she anchored. A fine young man. We sent her immediately to Ascension unfortunately we had no assistant surgeon to give her. She has been the most unfortunate vessel on the coast - taken nothing but had most work having her boats up the river continuously but been obliged to leave them before the vessels came out - some other Man o War popped in and took them. She told us there was a vessel in the Old Calabar River nearly ready to sail with 450 slaves so the following day 22nd. we sailed from Fernando Po for the distance about 50 miles and arrived the following day when two of our boats were sent up the river to blockade her. The second Lieut. Price & Lloyd in one boat and I in the other. We remained here four days, the river is very large and navigable nearly seventy miles up. The slaver was lying sixty off the town. Mr. P & L went up the first night - I remained at our station off a SMALL island forty miles from the mouth keeping a sharp lookout lest she should come out past our gig. He returned the following day and took me up with him next night leaving Lloyd in

charge of my boat as I wished to go up and see the channel of the river.

It is very wide at the mouth about 12 miles and continues so for 30 or 40 miles when it decreases gradually several smaller rivers emptying themselves into it. It is covered with trees close to the banks studded with several small islands covered with mangrove trees which at high tide are covered with water. The ground being blue mud which makes the rivers so unhealthy. The town is large - built on the brow of a hill. I could see nothing of it but the lights as we were obliged to paddle up in the dark of night for fear of the slaver might see or get information that we were there. We left my boat in the afternoon and pulled several miles up then got into a creek to hide till dark when we paddled up along shore passing the "Prova" a beautiful schooner quite close but not ready for sea in consequence of her men being. She was a Portuguese so we could not take her empty. We went on board an English Merchantman and heard she was to sail in a fortnight or three weeks but her slaves were not quite ready so we returned down river that night and two days afterwards returned on board. There is a great deal of trade with this river with our vessels as the best Palm Oil comes from it. There was three Englishmen in the river loading when we were there. We sailed from Calabar on the 29th.

May 13th

The sailmaker is ordered to shut up the bag immediately so have no time to fill the edges as I intended to my sisters so they must take the well for the dead. Love to Father and all my brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts. I shall write to the Major soon. Your affectionate son Willy in great haste."

This entire was posted on May 13th and arrived at Arderseir on July 20th, 1838. Routed via Liverpool with a manuscript postal rate of 1/10d.

THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

J.J. MARTIN

In February 1980, by appointment, I called on the Museum and Mr. Simmonds in the Art Store showed me their stamp collection. The main purpose of my visit was, in fact, to see if any of the Occupation issues of Togo were held there.

The main collection is not on public display. It is housed in a glass filing cabinet and includes the 1900 Togo set to the 5m value unused, the 1915 Local Overprints to 2/- mint and the 1916 London Overprints to 20/- mint. These were all presented to the Museum in 1919 by the Colonial Office.

There are a few 1915 Cameroons stamps plus stamps, mostly unused, from many other countries issued during the war period.

I was also shown material that had not yet been sorted. There were examples of the 1917 Baghdad overprints on Turkish stamps, complete sheets from the Hejaz and also a set of labels issued, I believe, in Berlin in 1919 to "mourn" the loss of the German colonies.

Anyone wishing to view should contact Mr. J.O. Simmonds, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ for an appointment.

THE G.P.O. RECORDS 1921 - 1930

J.J. MARTIN

In CAMEO'S 10 and 11, I gave details of Post 29 which comprised Packet Minutes for 1811 - 1900 and 1900 - 1920. Post 33, Volumes 1 (1921 - 1925) and 2 (1926 - 1930) deal with matters by subject and, by courtesy of P.O. Records, I am able to list below files of West African interest.

Volume 1: 1921 - 1930

<u>Reference</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>CAMEROONS</u>		
632	M8332/1922	Parcel post service
<u>GAMBIA</u>		
709	M11671/1922	Wireless telegraph services
1216	M 2554/1924	Government Savings Bank transferred to control of Post Office Savings Bank London
<u>NIGERIA</u>		
63-64	M 4242/1921	Parcel post service

<u>Reference</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>ST. HELENA</u>		
1646	M12850/1925	Wireless Station papers
<u>TOGOLAND</u>		
808	M 15224/1922	Parcel post service
<u>Volume 2: 1926 - 1930</u>		
<u>AIRMAIL</u>		
2439-40	M14303/1928	France, Spain, Morocco and beyond Air Mail Services. Service established with West African Colonies in conjunction with Toulouse-Dakar service.
<u>ASCENSION</u>		
1720	M 3542/1926	Postage rates on letters
2448	M14995/1928	Import prohibitions
<u>GAMBIA</u>		
1708	M 2142/1926	Parcel post service
2462	M15270/1928	Import prohibitions
<u>GOLD COAST</u>		
2728	M11986/1929	Ordinances and Regulations
<u>GOLD COAST COLONY</u>		
2192	M 710/1928	Apportionment of marriage gratuity payable in event of marriage before two years Colonial service completed
<u>NIGERIA</u>		
2352	M 9043/1928	Post Office Ordinances and Regulations
<u>ST. HELENA</u>		
2448	M14995/1928	Import prohibitions

<u>Reference</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>SIERRA LEONE</u>		
1951	M 4090/1927	Postal Ordinances and Regulations
2470	M15642/1928	Import prohibitions
2779	M14312/1929	Parcel post service
3099	M13501/1930	Mail services

POST WAR WEST AFRICAN F.P.O.'s.J.A. DAYNES

Field Post Offices have continued to operate, albeit temporarily, in West Africa to the present time. The following have been recorded and any further information would be welcome c/o the Editor.

CAMEROONS B.F.P.O. 14 (1960-61 only, later Canada)

F.P.O.	573	(code A and *)	Buea	Sept 1960 - July 1961
	600	(A)	Mamfe	May 1961
	594	(A)	Bamenda	March 1961 - June 1961
	188	(* A and B)	Buea	July 1961 - 29 Sept 1961
	570	(*)	Mamfe	Aug 1961
	1032	(*)	Bamenda	Aug 1961
	233	(*)	?	Sept 1961 (registered)

188 was used on board H.M.T. Devonshire on way back to U.K. (B.F.P.O. 609 - recorded 3 Oct 1961)

GAMBIA

F.P.O.	129	Exercise Sun River	3 Jan - 24 April 1977
	243	Exercise Sun River	3 Jan - 1 June 1978
	141		10 Jan - 4 April 1979

GHANA

F.P.O.	56	(*) B.F.P.O. 617 Exercise Attack	Oct 1968
	574	B.F.P.O. 617	Aug 1971

NIGERIA

F.P.O.	716	(*)		19 Aug	1957
	716	(None)	B.F.P.O. 44	25 Sept	1959

(These need corroborating)

AUCTION REALISATIONSHarmers of London June 19th/20th 1980

Gold Coast 1913 p.p.c. to France bearing Edward 1d tied by octagonal French "MATADI A BORDEAUX/* /26-5/13 L.L. No. 3", additional strike on obverse, a trifle soiled or stained, otherwise fine. £31 + VAT (£25).

Robson Lowe Ltd June 24th/25th 1980

St. Helena 1868 thick bar shorter than words, 3d purple, an imperforate pair, one with tiny thin and the usual gum creasing, otherwise fine. £2200 (£500).

Harmers of London July 15th/17th 1980

St. Helena Official cover addressed to London with violet oval "THE CASTLE ST. HELENN (sic) 2 JAN 1909" and black framed Official marking, the cover a little soiled and creased £48. (£10).

Sierra Leone 1964-66 Decimal surcharges 4c on 1d, mint horizontal pair, fine and Rare. Unpriced by S.G., the "Commonwealth Catalogue" states "Only one used copy has been reported..." With B.P.A. Certificate (1979) £210 (£-).

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions July 19th 1980

Ghana 1965 60p on 5/-, Double Surcharge, SG 389a unmounted mint £10 (£9).

Gold Coast 1923 Postage Dues SG D1-4, Mint pairs optd SPECIMEN £30 (£25).

St. Helena 1864 1/- some clipped perfs; WMK inverted £18 (£15).

St. Helena 1884/94 2½d/6d vertical strip of three optd. SPECIMEN, slight gum crease £32 (£40 - £50).

Robson Lowe Ltd September 5th 1980

Gambia 1804 (May) E.L. from William Forbes in Gambia, concerning his return to Senegal as surgeon to the newly arrived reinforcements: posted in London as an inland letter £250 (£400).

Gambia 1925-32 Registered P.S. envelopes from Bathurst to Huddersfield, with handstamped Registration cachet (5) or label (1). Total 6. £58 (£30).

Gold Coast 1888 G.B. 1½d postal stationery card addressed to Salt Pond showing arrival c.d.s. of "CAPE COAST" in black with "UNCLAIMED" in red and "undelivered" cachet in purple, all ** to *** £65 (£40).

St. Helena 1901 envelope (opened out for display) to South Africa, bearing "ONE PENNY" overprinted adhesive with dumb cancellation, showing "DEAD WOOD CAMP" mainly ** across flap, and St. Helena c.d.s. on address panel: with "SOMERSET STRAND/C.G.H." d.s. of arrival. Some small stains, a small part of flap torn away £85 (£60).

Harmers of London September 16th/17th 1980

Niger Coast 1900 mourning envelope bearing 1897-98 1d orange-vermilion tied by "FORCADOS RIVER/A/AU 10/00" cancellations, envelope a little soiled and stained £35 (£20).

East of England October 18th, 1980

Lagos Pre-stamp 1870 letter from Nova Dahomey to Marseille via Lagos with fine "POST OFFICE LAGOS WEST COAST OF AFRICA/ 8 MARCH 70" (RL type 3) v.f. in green/blue. Accountancy marks and transit receipt cds. This is the earliest cover recording Dahomey mail being handled through Lagos P.O. en route to U.K., extremely fine £500 (£400).

Estimates in brackets

THE 1981 GIBBONS PART I - ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

J.J. MARTIN

The major change, compared with the 1980 Edition, is the inclusion of a valuation factor for commercial covers. This will, no doubt, affect the postal history market in the future.

The other changes affecting British West Africa are listed.

Ascension Edward VII G.B. 5/p and 10/- used in Ascension now listed as z 1570 a and z 1570 b but not priced.

Ghana 1965 New Currency definitives 6p and 6d. horizontal pair, one without surcharge SG 385c (Should we be taking more note of modern definitive sets?)

1966 "Black Star" 24p vertical pair, one with opt; the other with opt. inverted listed as 414 ab

S.G. D 19b 1965 Postage Dues 1p on 1d Surcharge double.

S.G. D 24b 1968-70 Postage Dues 1½ n.p. on 2p on 2d
Albino surcharge

Lagos The Crowned-Circle PAID AT LAGOS handstamp has been listed for the first time (£1000 on cover).

Niger Coast Protectorate Under Oil Rivers SG 27a has been added to the 1893 Provisionals - ½d on 2½d Surcharge double.

Nigeria (Biafra) The 1968 Help Biafran Children set 5/- + 2/6d Surcharge inverted listed as SG 25a.

St. Helena The 1864-85 issues SG 7-33 have been re-written to become 1864-80 SG 6-30. Gibbons acknowledge the help of our member Mr. Hibbert.

<u>Sierra Leone</u>	SG 297a	1964	World's Fair 6/- "AIR MAIL 6/-" omitted
	SG 376a	1965	Margai and Churchill Commemoration 2L on 10/- Surcharge value omitted.
	SG 459a	1968	Olympics 22½c on 50c. Surcharge double and
	SG 462a	1968	Olympics 6½c on 40c. Surcharge double.

BIAFRAN SUMMARY

D.H. PRESTEDGE

Ten years on and Biafra still generates interest and also fresh items to examine. During the past year I have acquired a cover sent to Rhodesia by registered post from Ihiala and bearing a complete set of the 1968 First Anniversary issue. On the reverse it bears the following inscription: "Brought down from Biafra by Mr White, a commercial pilot who had been flying in supplies to Biafra

during the civil war. It had been posted in June 1969 but there was no official outgoing postal service from Ihiala at the time owing to the war conditions."

The cover is addressed to Dr Strong and the inscription is signed by Dr Strong and it is such a pity that the handwriting on each side is so similar - so philatelic.

A much more exciting find was made at London 1980 where I purchased a commercial cover, Biafra to U.K. via Libreville. As usual with these covers the dates are very near to the end of the conflict, Mbieri Sub Post Office DE 10 19(69) and Libreville 9.1.70.

Despite advertising for material and searching the dealers, this is the only genuine cover that I have acquired over the last few years and I shall, therefore, be interested to hear from other Members regarding their success or lack of success in obtaining material.

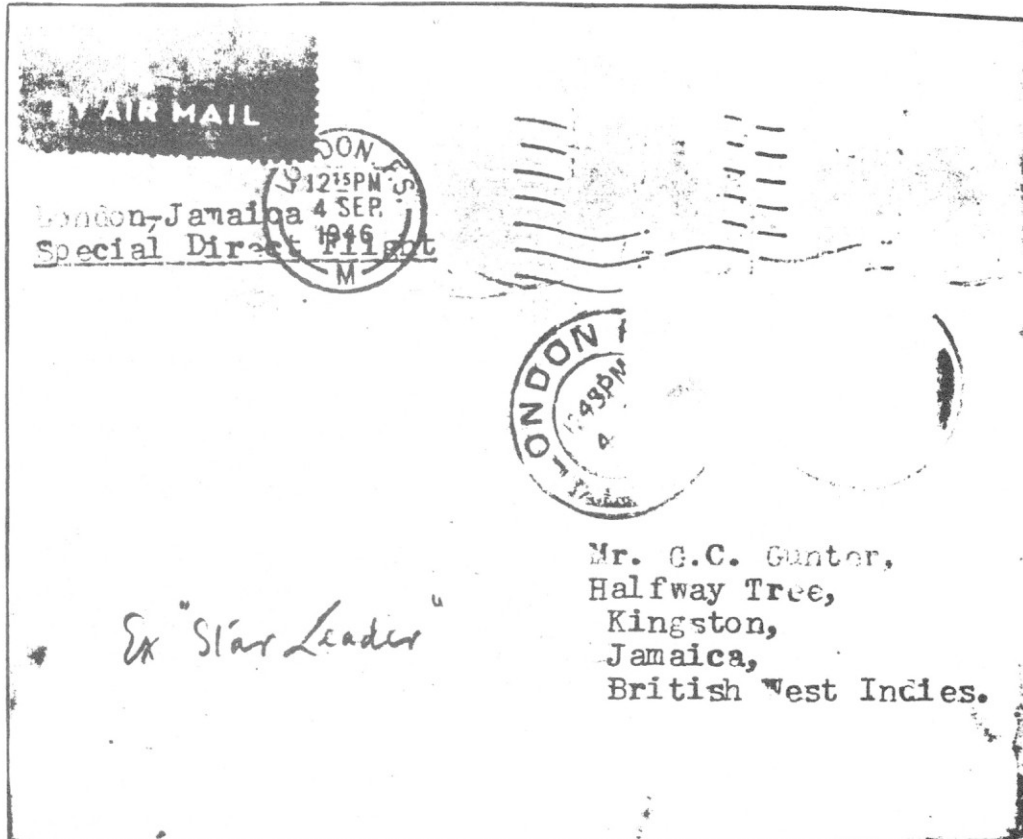
New items in the form of mint issues or cancelled items on piece are discovered every now and then. Most cancelled items on piece are CTO with the Umuahia philatelic cancellation (Large letters 31mm). Recently, a new item has shown up consisting of a piece of a Nigeria airletter with the 6d mask impressed stamp plus a 3d Oyo Carver to make up the then current Nigeria airletter rate of 9d. Both stamps have been neatly cancelled with a red box type rubber cachet, about 20mm x 23mm, reading " B/ABA/BIAFRA " with the B about 5mm high and the rest 3mm high. There is no date cancellation and, if this is a genuine item, it must have been used early on, about the same period as the Post Paid cachets but why only a piece and not the full cover? Can anyone help with this one, please? Hopefully someone has a similar item in their collection.

Another new item is a set of three overprint trials attributed to Wilkinson. The set consists of the 1d, 4d, 9d animal series of Nigeria overprinted in a straight line "Republic of Biafra" halfway up the stamp. Diagonally across the top left corner is a rubber stamp cachet "Cancelled". I wonder why these are attributed to Wilkinson's as there must have been plenty of printers in Biafra at the time capable of producing a similar result and the problems in transferring stamp stocks also suggests that this may not be what it seems. Could it be that this is an item "manufactured" at some much later date? Once again, has anyone a similar set of trials? Has anyone seen those items advertised for sale? Your comments will be welcome, even if only as light relief

GAMBIA: THE 1946 "STAR LEADER" CRASHJ.J. MARTIN

The London Times of September, 9th, 1946 carried the following report - "Twenty-three persons, including all four members of the crew were killed early on Saturday when the British-South American Airways liner Star Leader crashed soon after leaving Bathurst, Gambia.

The liner, a York, left London on Friday and picked up five more passengers at Lisbon. The aircraft was bound for Natal, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Aires".



DF 152

**LOSS OF AIR MAIL CORRESPONDENCE FOR SOUTH AND
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES**

DF 152

A notice in the following terms was issued to the Press on the 9th of September :—

" The Postmaster General announces that air mail correspondence for South and Central America and the West Indies posted in the United Kingdom on the 4th of September and part of the correspondence posted on the 3rd and 5th of September has been destroyed in the accident to the British South American Airways aircraft "Star Leader" by which the mails were conveyed."

(P.O.C. 11.9.46)

A.E. Hopkins in "A History of Wreck Covers" records two envelopes addressed to Mr. G.C. Gunter which does suggest a special flight.

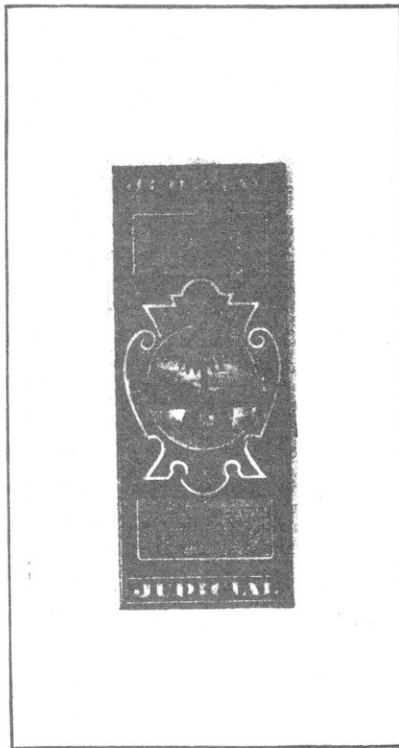
The P.O. issued notices advising of the crash. The Jamaica covers were backstamped at Halfway Tree on September 16th, 1946. No special cachet was applied.

THE GOLD COAST JUDICIAL STAMPSP.O. BEALE

Collectors of Gold Coast have probably come across stamps from the Queen Victoria and Edward 7th issues printed in unusual colour combinations and overprinted JUDICIAL. In the Robson Lowe sale on December 21st 1978 an Appendix sheet from the de la Rue records was for auction showing ten different Imperium proofs, from 1d to £5, each overprinted JUDICIAL. The sheet was dated Feb 6th 1897. The same sale contained the ten values as subsequently issued, five others with Edward's head, and one of the former 1d stamps used on a cover.

The story that lies behind this issue can be found in the Correspondence Books of Messrs de la Rue and readers may like to know of the two relevant letters that are preserved there. On January 8th 1897 the Colonial Secretary in Accra wrote to the Crown Agents: 'Gentlemen, I am directed by Governor Sir William Haswell to state that His Excellency has on several occasions remarked on the non use of judicial stamps in this Colony. 2. The use of ordinary postal and revenue stamps in the Courts has, His Excellency thinks, two disadvantages, namely that there is nothing in the stamp return to show what sales were for judicial purposes alone and there is a prospect of judicial records being tampered with at some future date when the stamps upon them become valuable to collectors. 3. In some Colonies separate judicial stamps are used similar to the Specimen given in the margin. (not now attached). 4. His Excellency will be glad to be furnished with an estimate of cost of dies for a complete set of judicial stamps for the following values, namely, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 4/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £5 and I am to ask you to be so good when you furnish this information as to submit a design for a judicial stamp'.

When Crown Agents passed on this letter to de la Rue they prepared two photographic Essays to enclose with their reply. These two were both included in the Robson Lowe sale. Both incorporated the same design, the first being the usual stamp size, the second being larger. Collectors of other West African colonial stamps will be interested to see that the elephant and palm tree was the same design as was later incorporated in Sierra Leone large format George Fifth stamps and in the Gambia George Fifth elephant and palm issue. It is likely that the firm drew on the Essays they had previously prepared for the Gold Coast when Essays were being made for those issues.



De la Rue's reply is dated Feb 18th 1897. They wrote, 'We beg to enclose two designs - one for the required Judicial Stamp prepared in accordance with your instructions, the other for a postage size Postage and Revenue stamp, in order to show that the arms of the Colony will come in for this size, should it be desired hereafter to adopt postage stamps bearing the arms of the Colony.

2. The cost of producing Judicial Stamps to the enclosed design would be £70 for an original arms due, £45 for the working key die, £85 for an 80 set Key Plate (of the superficial area of a 240 set postage plate), £15 for each 40 set overprint plate. The stamps would come under table 20 of the Schedule.

3. The cost of producing postage and revenue stamps to the enclosed design would, assuming the original arms design to have been engraved for the Judicial stamps, be £45 for a working Key die, £42.10/p for a 120 set Key plate and £12 for each 60 set duty overprinted plate. The stamps would come under Table 5 of the Schedule.

4. If the existing postage stamps are overprinted with the word Judicial a temporary overprint plate, £3.3.0d, will be necessary and our charges for overprinting the stamps would be 6d per 1000. No duty plates exist for the 2/6, 4/- or £5 values, so that three overprint plates (60 set) would have to be made at a cost of £12 each.

5. Delivery to your Inspectors in about 4 months from the date of receiving your final instructions for Judicial stamps to the enclosed design, and six weeks if it is decided to overprint the existing postage stamps.

Should you decide to have new postage and revenue stamps to the enclosed design and overprint them with the word Judicial about four months would be required'.

Not surprisingly, the Gold Coast elected for the far cheaper method of using the existing Key Plate stamps overprinted with the word Judicial. New colour combinations were agreed upon. The Queen Victoria stamps were as follows - 1d grey black and red, 3d grey black and orange, 6d grey black and green, 1/- lilac and green on yellow, 2/- lilac and red on yellow, 2/6 lilac and violet on yellow, 5/- lilac and black on yellow, 10/- lilac and purple on yellow, £1 lilac and black on red. The same colour combinations were used for the Edward issues.

Members who have Cameo Volume 6 July 1977 will find some further comments on the de la Rue records for Gold Coast on pages 120 to 122.

THE ACCRA TYPE 8 CANCEL

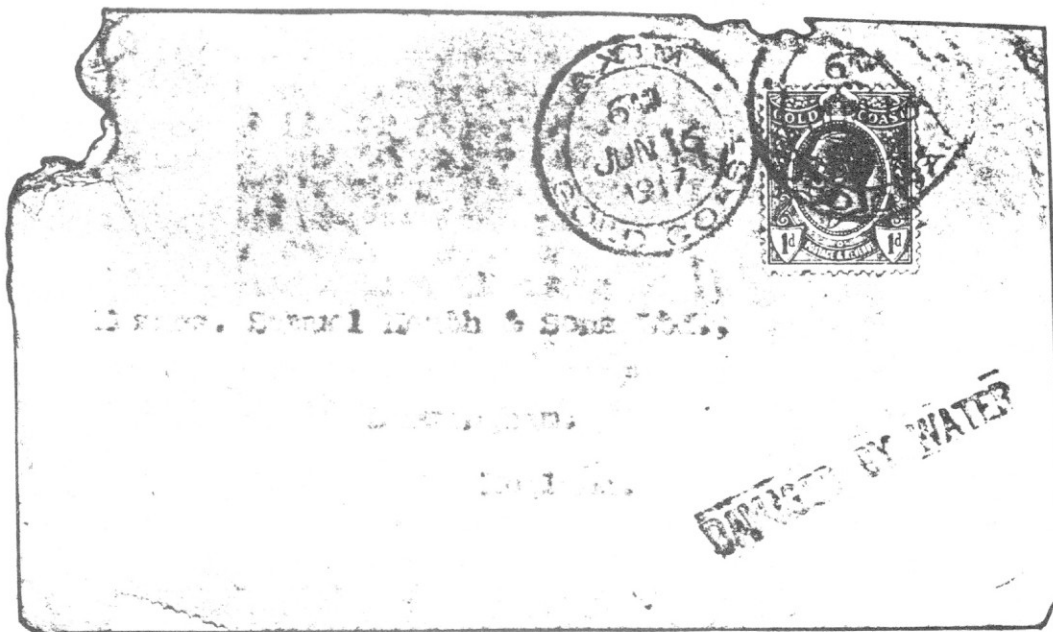
G. MATTHEWS

In the Circle publication "Handstruck Stamps and Cancellations of the Gold Coast" this Type 8 c.d.s. is recorded, so far, as only struck on cover and may not have been used to cancel adhesives.

I am pleased to report that I now have a copy of this 22 mm c.d.s. on adhesive, the 1891 2½d value, which reads "ACCRA/A/MY 1/95".

GOLD COAST "DAMAGED BY WATER" : 1917J.J. MARTIN

This cover has a Gold Coast 1d stamp cancelled at Axim on June 16th, 1917. Addressed to England and somewhat tatty, it received a black boxed cachet DAMAGED BY WATER in sans-serif capitals, words measuring 44 x 4 mm.



Presumably this cachet was applied in London; possibly on mail that received some form of war damage.

GOLD COAST AT HARMERS : NOVEMBER 1980

A very fine collection of Gold Coast offered by order of a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London was sold by Harmers of London Ltd. on November 12th 1980. Details of some of the more interesting lots and prices realised are listed below. Estimates are in brackets.

1876 - 79 Issue: ½d imperf Plate Proof in olive-yellow, part o.g. £140 (£175); 2d imperf. Plate Proof in green, part o.g., corner crease £90 (£100).

1884 - 91 Imperf Plate Proofs:

½d in green, Plate 2- 1d in rose-red; part o.g.,
1d slight bend

£170 (£70)

1d Plate 2, part o.g.	£100	(£75)
2d in grey, Plate 2, part o.g. slight creases, small thin spot	£60	(£75)
2½d in ultramarine and orange, Plate 2, part o.g.	£105	(£75)
3d in olive, Plate 2, part o.g., slight stain and crease at top	£75	(£60)
4d in mauve, Plate 1, part o.g., few slight stain spots on reverse	£80	(£60)
4d in slightly paler shade, vertical pair from bottom of sheet with "2" in margin, part o.g.	£240	(£150)
6d in orange, Plate 2, part o.g.	£105	(£75)
1/- in pale violet from bottom of sheet with "1" in margin, part o.g.	£135	(£75)
2/- in yellow-brown, Plate 1, part o.g.	£105	(£75)
1889 <u>Surcharge</u> 1d on 6d, vertical pair, lower stamp with 8mm. spacing, no surcharge at all on upper stamp, part o.g., upper stamp with small paper flaw. Your Editor cannot recall reading of this error before	£125	(£50)
<u>1889 - 94 Key Plate Issue</u>		
5/- Essay, perforated and with hand-painted country name and duty tablet, in mauve and blue and affixed to small piece, slight colour run. B.P.A. certificate 1977	£120	(£125)
10/- a similar Essay but in mauve and red with value tablet in pink, affixed to small piece. B.P.A. certificate 1977	£170	(£125)
20/- a similar Essay in green and red with value tablet in pink, colour slightly run, affixed to small piece. B.P.A. certificate 1977	£180	(£125)
20/- green and red, imperf Plate Proof on gummed unwatermarked paper, part o.g.	£2000	(£1650)
20/- dull mauve and black on red, wmk. inverted	£160	
£5 perforated Essay in colour of the 20/- dull mauve and black on red, the value tablet being inserted, part o.g.	£1900	(£1250)
£5 Die Proof in black on glazed card, dated "2 MAR 99"	£240	(£250)
<u>1898 - 1902 Imperf Colour Trials</u>		
2d in dull mauve and black with unshaded value tablet on gummed wmkd. paper	£110	(£125)
2d another but in dull mauve and olive-green	£110	(£125)
2d another but in dull mauve and orange	£105	(£125)
2d another but in dull mauve and blue	£105	(£125)
3d in dull mauve and black	£105	(£125)
<u>1928 Christiansborg Castle</u>		
1d photographic Essay of unaccepted design, mounted on small piece of card	£37	(£40)
Harrison Essay. 3d in bright blue with head in purple with the Castle to right of vignette, photogravure proof in sunk card (70mm x 95mm)	£340	(£400)

3d imperf. Plate Proof, horizontal pair on gummed unwmkmd. paper in blue	£25	(£35)
3d another imperf pair but in chocolate-brown	£25	(£35)

The 117 lots on offer also included some interesting postal history items. A pair of G.B. 1858-79 1d Note 191 plus a single with 1878 Addah Type 2 cancellation fetched £420 (£300).

1884 covers, pre-paid in cash during a temporary shortage of stamps at Axim, realised between £85 and £145 (£60 - £75).

An 1881 cover to Milan with 2d green (pair) cancelled with the Addah seal was knocked down for £500 (£550) and an 1899 cover to Wolverhampton with a complete strike of the Accra rectangular cancellation reached £135 (£150).

Our Librarian has copies of the catalogue available, with prices realised, at £1.00 postage free.

ST. HELENA THE BROAD BOTTOM CAMP FORGERYB. MABBETT.

These covers were produced by a Dutch firm as a publicity stunt and not as forgeries to deceive collectors.

The covers are franked with a pair of forged 2½d stamps (s.g. 40). These stamps are much larger than the originals and are perf 10½. The date stamp is also obviously forged being much larger than the date stamps in use at that time on St. Helena. The lettering is larger and the date is SR 24 01. Note SR instead of SP for September.

The censor mark is a double circle instead of a single with the words 'PRISONERS OF WAR*BROAD BOTTM CAMP' between the two circles and the word 'CENSOR' across the centre. Note the second letter O of Broad Bottom is a U. Four of these covers have been recorded addressed to Amsterdam and one to Bruxelles.



Idem

Hegelmans & Co

P. Hendr. Kade 123

Amsterdam

Holland

ST. HELENA "POLICE HEADQUARTERS" HANDSTAMPB. MABBETT

A recent acquisition to my collection is an O.H.M.S. stampless cover from St. Helena to Watton, Norfolk. The cover shows the boxed "OFFICIAL PAID" H/Stamp struck in black and is dated St. Helena August 25th 1978. The cover was sent Air Mail and came via Ascension where it received the Ascension transit c.d.s. for September 4th. On the front and reverse are good strikes of the "POLICE HEADQUARTERS" *ST HELENA" H/Stamp struck in violet and dated August 25th. This is the only copy of this H/Stamp that I have come across.

