

CAMEO



Journal of the
British West Africa Study Circle
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 5 JANUARY 1982

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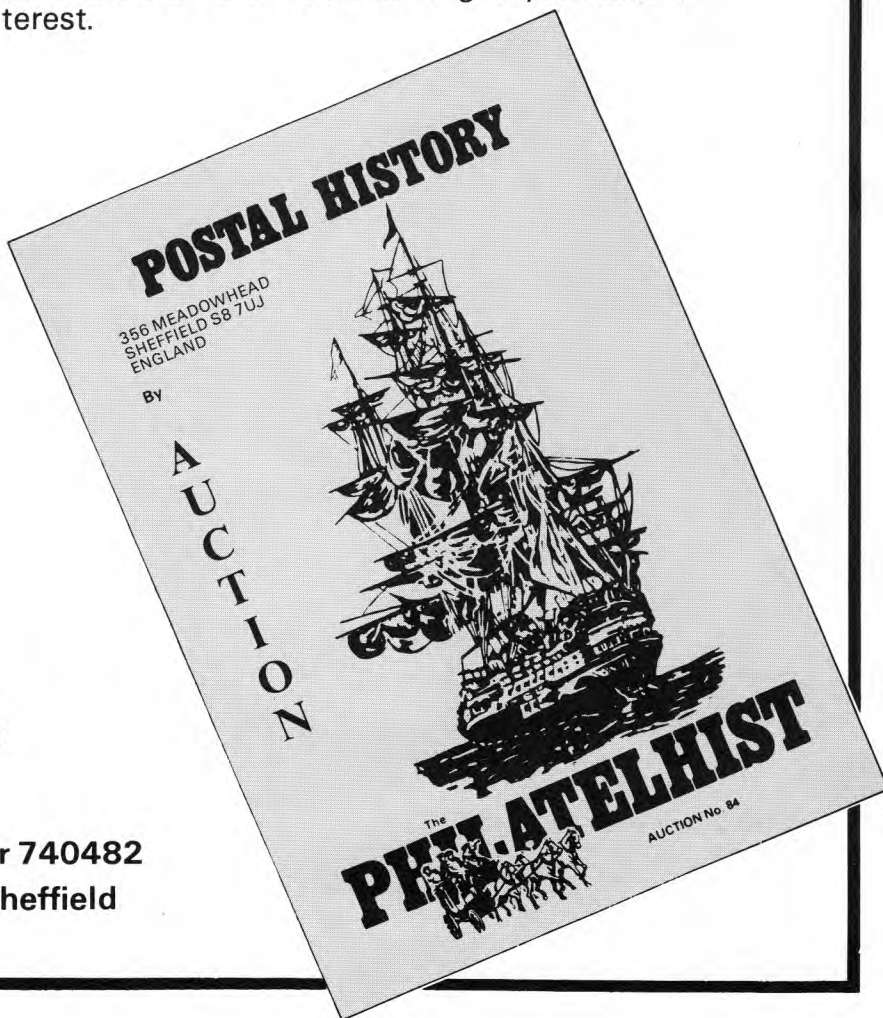
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ASCENSION

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- SG 11a 1933 1d grey-black and bright blue-green. A very fine used example. Much under-rated stamps. Ascension c.d.s. JU 20 34. £250
- SG 40c 1953 1½d black and rose-carmine. A very fine mint block of four showing the 'Davit flaw'. Row 5/1. BK 28aa . £20
- SG 1938 ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6d, 5/- & 10/-. Photographic essays of the KGV I definitive issue. Ex De La Rue £225

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- SG 93 1912-22 5d orange and purple. A superb mint copy showing the split 'A' variety. Stamp 45, left pane. £25

NIGER COAST

- SG 14 1893 2½d blue and purple/blue. A very fine mint example of the ½d blue provisional. Only 120 copies printed. B.P.A. Cert £350

NIGERIA

- SG 38a 1936 3d blue. A very fine mint copy of the scarce 12½ by 13½ perf variation. £45

NORTHERN NIGERIA

- SG 2 1900 1d dull mauve and carmine. A very fine copy cancelled by partial violet 'Lokojo' catchet and red manuscript 'Post Office Jebba' dated 20 1 01 £25

ST. HELENA

- SG 1911 KEVII 1d red. A very fine mint example of this rare unissued stamp overprinted specimen. £500
- SG 86 1913 6d dull and deep purple. A very fine mint example showing the split 'A' variety. Extremely scarce on this issue £125
- SG 103 1927 5d green and carmine/green. A very fine mint corner control pair showing the 'cleft rock' variety. Row 5/1. £45

SUDAN

- SG A16 1906-11 10pi black and mauve. A very fine used copy of this rare stamp. Only 400 copies were printed! £70

TOGO

- SG 34e 1915 ½d green. A fine copy showing the 'Cupation' variety. Rare £60

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EDITORIAL

This issue of *Cameo* sees a new style and, for the first time, the inclusion of advertisements. The income from the advertisers helps pay for some of the cost of the Journal so support for them does, in the long run, mean a better and larger *Cameo*.

At the last London meeting a request was made for a contribution to survey new catalogues and note any particular changes that affected West African philately. No one volunteered. Surely someone is prepared to take on this comparatively small task?

Collecting habits change all the time. When your Editor started, stamps were the in-thing and eccentrics acquired postmarks and covers. Nowadays, studies of stamps are rarely seen although we hope to have a series on modern Nigerian definitives in future issues. Horizons have widened and now there is competition at auction for postcards, old maps, reference books, postal records and P.O. notices. Today's scene would be unrecognisable to the old time collector.

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JANUARY 1982

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BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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MAIL VIA FERNANDO PO TO GABOON – 1853

J. SACHER

Letters were sent regularly from non-British territory in Africa to the UK and other European countries via British Post Offices and Agencies. Examples are

- (a) Porto Seguro, later in Togoland, via **Cape Coast Castle** and Liverpool to Genoa – 1859.
- (b) Porto Novo, Dahomey via **Lagos** and Liverpool to Marseille – 1870.
- (c) Bauffrah (Boffa), Rio Pongo – French Guinea, via **Sierra Leone** and Liverpool to Bordeaux – 1861.
- (d) Loando, Angola, via British Post Office in **Fernando Po** and Liverpool to Pennsylvania – 1861.

Contemporary letters in the reverse direction are not surprisingly less common. Nonetheless correspondence to remote places had to be sent. These two letters which slightly predate the opening of the British Post Office were sent by packet from Bristol to Fernando Po to be forwarded from there by a convenient ship to Gaboon.

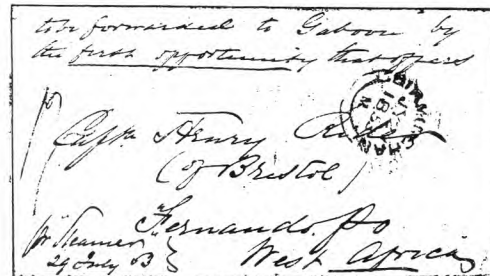
There must have been reasonably substantial mail between the U.K. and Gaboon as by 1859 the Treasury had authorised the use of British stamps on letters sent via the British Postal Agent in Fernando Po to the U.K.

The French had claimed the Gaboon Estuary to expedite slavery suppression during the 1839-43 period. However, even they often used British Mail from the area for speed of service up to the 1890's.

Forwarding through Fernanod Po was presumably possible courtesy of the British Consul for the Bights and Biafra, John Beecroft (1849-1854), prior to the opening of the British Post Office in 1859.

The first of these letters is dated "Bristol 21 June 1853", marked "PAID AT BRISTOL" in red with "1/-" (packet rate) in red manuscript. It is addressed to "Capt. Henry Rider (of Bristol), Gaboon, West Africa", "pr Mail to be forwd from thence by the first vessel or boat for Gaboon". The second, a similar cover, is dated "Bristol 29

July 1853", but surprisingly bears the mark "BIRMINGHAM JY 29 1853 M" in green in spite of the endorsement "pr 'Steamer' 29 July 53" (from Liverpool). The instruction on this letter is "to be forwarded to Gaboon by the first opportunity that offers".

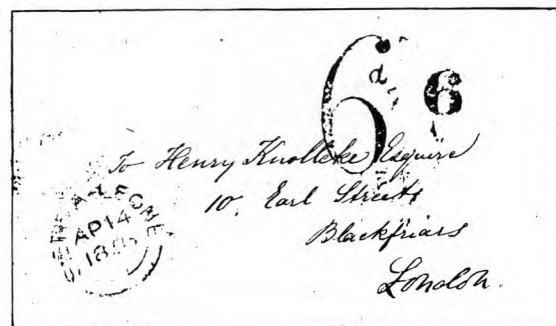


AN EARLY 6d PACKET RATE COVER

J. SACHER

The illustration shows a letter with the handstamp "SIERRA-LEONE AP 14 1856". It was unpaid, although since July 1853 mail from Sierra Leone to the U.K. and to intermediate ports where payment could not be made had been obligatory.

The 6d packet rate had been introduced on 1 June 1855 and this is the earliest cover that I have seen after that date.



This item was landed at Plymouth – “PLYMOUTH PACKET LETTER MY 4 1856” in green – where the “6d” charge mark was applied. The letter was subsequently surcharged “6” in black. No doubt confusion arose, as prepayment was generally still optional from West Africa.

POST WAR WEST AFRICAN F.P.O.'s

In the January 1981 issue of “Cameo”, a list was given of Field Post Office numbers. This list was provided by Mr. Daynes.

Your Editor had two covers with F.P.O. 716 which appeared to emanate from Nigeria and added these to the listing without Mr. Daynes’ knowledge. Mr. Daynes has checked this and advised that 716 was in Europe between 1952 and 1967 and never in West Africa.

Would members please amend their listing accordingly.

WEST AFRICAN AIR-LINE: 1927

J. J. MARTIN

In Cameo 14, I gave details of the start of the air-mail service to the Gambia and indicated that this was the beginning of the acceleration of the carriage of mail by air to West Africa.

By courtesy of P.O. Archives, I am now able to reproduce a memorandum (File M14303/1928) setting out details of a proposed air route from England to the Cape via West Africa. This memorandum was a result of an October 1927 communication from Norman Thwaites, Air League of the British Empire to Sir John Ganzoni, M.P. at London SW7.

“The Spanish Co. air-traffic would like to obtain from the British Government a contract to establish an air route from England to the Cape of Good Hope along the coast of West Africa.

This will be a weekly return line, i.e., every week a machine will leave England, and another one will arrive.

In each case, a ton of the load will be reserved for English mail. Moreover a postal

service will be maintained between the English, Spanish, Belgian and Portuguese Colonies.

THE STAGES OF THE ROUTE WILL BE

Southampton (England) – Lisbon (Portugal) or alternatively London – Sevilla, by rail – Mualva (Spain) Gando (Canaries) – Porto Praya (Green Cape) (Portugal) – Botama (Portuguese Guineas) Freetown (Sierra Leona (E.) – Accra (Gold Coast) (E.) – Lagos (Nigeria) (E.) St Isabel (Fde. Poo) (E.) – Ste Tome (Ste Tome) – Boma (Belgian Congo) St. Pablo de Loanda (Portug.) (Angola) – Wolfish Bay (S.W.Africa) (E.) Cape Town (Cape Colony) – Lorenzo Margues (Portug. East Africa) Mozambique (Portug. East Africa.)

The contract with the English Government for the postal service will cost nothing to the English Treasury, for it will be drawn up on the following basis:

1. All expenses for purchasing the planes, material, insurance, the establishment of bases, costs of the service etc., will be at the Company’s charge.
2. The letters which will circulate on this line will bear, besides the ordinary stamp, a supplementary stamp (Surtax), to be fixed in accordance with the wishes of the English Government, for every colony, and on the basis of a letter of 15 grams.
3. Since a kilo will contain 66 letters of 15 grams, the Government will pay the Company 66 times the surtax of a letter of 15 grams, per kilo, i.e., if the surtax for one letter be a shilling, the English Government will pay the Company 66 sh. per kilo on the mail sacks which it will send.
4. The Company will receive from the English Postal administration the sealed sacks, which will be delivered at the English stations on the route, for any destination on the said route.
5. All the mail sacks will be weighed on being received, and a total monthly cost of the quantities transported, will be reached by calculating the weight of the sacks and the cost of each postal expedition.

6. The English Government will be under no obligation to give any guarantee to this postal service, the use thereof being free to the public, and its regularity ensuring confidence.
7. When the total of the correspondence from England to her colonies, or from her colonies to England will exceed one ton a week, the Company undertakes to form two expeditions a week in each direction; when it will exceed two tons, it will form three expeditions each way, and it will continue in this manner until the realisation of a daily service.
8. While the Company fulfills the conditions stipulated in the contract, and this in the course of 15 years, the English Government will not authorise this traffic to any other Company.
9. Having reserved a given weight for the correspondence, the Company will be at liberty to dispose of the remainder of the weight for the transport of passengers, at a tariff approved of by the English Government.
10. The length of the journey from Southampton to Cape Town will not exceed 7 days. The advantages derived by the English Government from such a contract, would be the following:
 - (a) Without incurring any cost it would have for its African colonies a rapid means of communication with England.
 - (b) In the unhealthy regions of Tropical Africa, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria, those suffering from paludal diseases, or anaemia could, with little loss of time, exchange the Tropical climate for a European climate.
 - (c) Englishmen, who have little time at their disposal, will be able to benefit easily from the exceptional climate of the Canaries, or to go to Cape Town.
 - (d) The great rapidity in the carriage of mail will be followed by a quick and automatic development in business with the colonies, and an increase in Colonial traffic.

(e) Not only will the English Government incur no cost for the services but it will gain an economic advantage.

- 1) It will pay the cost of transport, two months after receiving it from the public.
- 2) Since it receives by fraction of 15 grams and pays by fraction of kilo, the balance of the accumulation in the differences in weight will always be in its favour. For instance, 100 letters of 10 grams each, will fetch 100 shillings, while only 66 shillings will have to be paid.
- 3) The more rapid transport in the correspondence will necessarily produce an important increase in the volume of mail, and consequently the ordinary tax, which represents an important sum will yield more.

If English capital will participate in this business, an Anglo-Spanish Company could be formed, and the Napier, and Rolls Royce Condor motors could be used.

Having the concession of the Spanish Government for the aerial routes subsidised by the State.

Sevilla – Tetuan – Larache
 Sevilla – Canaries
 Sevilla – Buenos-Aires

the Spanish Company of air traffic would be in an exclusively advantageous position for putting into execution the projected plan."

Nothing seems to have developed from this proposed new air route.

HIGHER RATES OF REGISTRATION

J. SACHER

An Oil Rivers cover of October 1892 has a sticker on the back headed "Inland Registration". It concerns compensation for loss at higher rates; unfortunately it is torn.

2d-
3d-
4d-
5d-£20
6d-£25

When were higher rates introduced? Was the practice started for all colonies and protectorates at the same time? Were overseas rates higher? What were the full scales?

AUCTION REALISATIONS

Harmers of London May 12/13th 1981

Gold Coast Ashanti Wars: Wolseley Expedition: 1874 envelope to Aldershot endorsed in MS "no stamps procurable in Ashantee," "CAPE COAST CASTLE / A/FE 16/74" etc. £270 (£300).

Gold Coast 1928 Harrison greenish-grey photographic 3d proof in brown sunk card (70 x 95mm) for Castle set £180 (£200).

Niger Coast Great Britain used in Niger Coast: 1892 2d Registration envelope (flap and imprint damaged) additionally franked with G.B. 2½d Jubilee strip of three and a single with Opobo River cancellations, addressed to London and endorsed 'O.H.M.S.' in MS. £1,000 (£150).

Oil Rivers Protectorate 1893 (Sep 3) ½d on half of 1d (surcharge in red), two pairs and a single on 1894 cover to Surrey tied by Old Calabar River c.d.s. cancellations. Address said to be in the hand of Sir Claude MacDonald, Governor. A trifle stained in places, otherwise fine. £1,550 (£400).

Niger Coast Protectorate 1893 ½d a perforated Colour Trial block of four in black from the lower right corner of the sheet on gummed unwatermarked paper. Few minor perf. or gum faults, otherwise fine. £80 (£100).

St. Helena 1864-80 3d purple, variety imperforate, close to large margins, part o.g. (hinge remainders). With "Royal" certificate, 1950. £270 (£150).

St. Helena 1884-94 3d; a single and a strip of three on cover to London, tied by black cork and indistinct red circular cancellation, neat "ST. HELENA /NO 30/92" c.d.s. at right, few tiny thins or hinge remainders, otherwise fine and attractive £240 (£150).

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions June 6th 1981

St. Helena 1912 6d S.G.84 Variety Split 'A' in 'POSTAGE' mint £50 + 15% VAT (£15).

Stanley Gibbons Auctions June 18th/19th 1981

Nigeria 1963 Scout Jamboree, Min. Sheet, 3d with red omitted (to be listed as S.G. MS 134 ab), unmounted o.g. with normal sheet. £280 + 10% Buyer's premium (£250).

Nigeria 1964 Kennedy, 1/3d, 2/6d, 5/-, imperf. (S.G. 147-149 vars.) bottom marginal; o.g. £29 + 10% Buyer's premium (£40).

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions July 1st/2nd 1981

Nigeria 1917 K.G.V. "REVENUE/REVENUE" 1d; 3d; £1 and £5 each in issued colours, overprinted "SPECIMEN", stuck down on white card on which is noted "Issue obsolete. Dies and Plates (all values) destroyed April 1930." £70 (£40).

Robson Lowe July 21st 1981

Ascension 1937 Coronation set in imperforate singles perforated "SPECIMEN", fine with almost full original gum. £250 + 15% V.A.T. (£200).

Gambia 1922 4/- black and red, marginal, variety wmk.inverted, fine mint. £30 (£30).

St. Helena 1937 Coronation set in imperforate singles perforated "SPECIMEN", 3d with crease, otherwise fine with much original gum £180 + 15% V.A.T. (£220).

Southern Nigeria 1900 1½d marginal imperf. colour trial on gummed CA paper in black and carmine on salmon. £50 + 15% V.A.T. (£70).

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions August 6th 1981

Gold Coast 1938 3d and 5/- photographic essays in unadopted designs showing Christiansborg Castle and without King's head. £60 + 15% V.A.T. for U.K. residents. (£30).

Harmers of London September 22nd/24th 1981

Gold Coast 1937 (March) West Coast of Africa – France cover to France franked 1/8d; the stamps tied with Takoradi date-stamps with Aeromaritime and Air France diamond and oblong violet cachets, dated markings on reverse, good condition. £17 (£15).

Nigeria 6d Air letter, 1956, addressed to London, large violet "SALVAGED/ ARGONAUT AIR/CRASH KANO" cachet. £38 (£25).

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions November 5th 1981

Ascension G.B. 1881 1d lilac tied to picture postcard by "ASCENSION" c.d.s. of 30 Aug. 1901 (clear strike); card is 'Links of Empire' Postcard No. 13, view of Ascension, issued specially for the visit of Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York; slight soiling. £80 + 15% V.A.T. (£80).

(Estimates in brackets)

BRITISH AFRICA AT ROBSON LOWE'S

An important sale was held in London by Robson Lowe Ltd. on June 10th 1981. It is pleasing to report that several of the more interesting lots were purchased by members of the Circle.

The following lots are included partly for interest, partly for use by future researchers. Estimates are shown in brackets. It should

be noted that + 15% V.A.T. was added to purchases made by U.K. residents.

Ascension

1938 (c) 1½d; 1d; 1½d; 2d; 3d; 6d; 1/-; 2/6d; 5/- and 10/- photographic essays in the issued designs but with head area blank. £60 (£50).

Gambia

1921 (c) Elephant and Palm 1½d and 10d small format and 2/6d large format photographic essays, the vignettes similar to those used, the frames different, each with portrait space blank. £75 (£30).

1950 (c) 1½d to £1, a set of fifteen photographic essays with vignettes as used in Q.E. II set, employing the head of George VI and all with small crown; 1½d, 4d and 5/- with similar vignettes but new larger simplified crown as used for Q.E. II issue and another 4d again with small crown but showing "JAMES ISLAND" incorporated in the scroll and not in the vignette. £85 (£100).

1950 (c) 1½d essay, the design and crown (large) handpainted in blue-green, yellow-green and touched up with Chinese white, the head printed in blue-green on piece of card (64 x 74mm). £340 (£200).

1950 (c) a somewhat similar essay for the 4d value, the frame handpainted, the vignette photographed, touched up with Chinese white and the head printed in pale blue. Some slight staining away from design. £340 (£200).

1950 (c) 5/-, similar essay, handpainted in bright blue and brown and touched up with Chinese white, the head painted in bright blue. £525 (£200).

Gold Coast

1879 1½d postcard essay with stamp design and legend all handpainted in brown on piece of tracing paper (184 x 108mm) affixed to piece of card. £300 (£150).

1899 (30th March) two Appendix sheets, the first bearing 1d postal stationery

envelopes (2, one on white wove, the other apparently unissued on greyish wove paper), the other bearing 1/2d wrapper. £50 (£30).

1891 1/2d green postcard essay, mostly printed, but with value tablet handpainted, stuck in position on card (115 x 85mm) with printed legend. Two light stains do not significantly detract. £140 (£75).

Lagos

1876 CC perf. 14 1/- orange Panelli forgery with litho watermark, one blunt corner, otherwise fine. £26 (£35).

Postal Stationery: 1902 Registration 2d embossed proof in orange (2), one with uncleaned surround, each on wove paper (34 x 41mm and 57 x 57mm). £280 (£125).

Niger Coast

Oil Rivers Protectorate. 1892 1d postal stationery postcard with handpainted essay in rose, red and pink, touched up with Chinese white, dated "DEC 21. 92" at lower left. Not sold. (£1,000).

Niger Coast Protectorate. 1893 imperf. 2d colour trial in indigo on gummed paper. £100 (£40).

Niger Coast Protectorate 1894 issue, Die Proofs in black on surfaced paper:

(i) 1d (95 x 147mm), numbered "1557" in reverse. £340 (£450).

(ii) 2d unfinished (86 x 117mm), portions of the design handpainted in grey, showing guide lines, pencilled instructions and numbered "725" in reverse. £380 (£500).

(iii) 5d (98 x 104mm) numbered "757" in reverse. Not sold (£450).

(iv) 1/- unfinished (90 x 145mm) with left hand value tablet and scroll to upper left of head blank and right hand value tablet and scroll with outline only, numbered "793" in reverse. £460 (£600).

Niger Coast Protectorate postal stationery 2d registration handpainted essay in grey-green, blue and Chinese white on tracing

paper (55 x 73mm) dated "SEP. 2. 96", vertical crease through design. Not sold. (£200).

Nigeria

1924 3d bright violet imperforate colour trial affixed to Appendix sheet. (142 x 176mm) endorsed "Approved for colour" signed and dated "2 Aug 23" £85 (£50).

1936 Pictorial issue 1/2d to £1 gloss photographic essays (12), all in an upright format with King's head at top, "NIGERIA" across centre and Government House vignette, each dated "30.7.34." £75 (£35).

Ditto, as last, with additional 1/2d (matt) and 1/-, the frames as in the issued set but with unissued vignettes, some dated "30.7.34" (14). £115 (£40).

Ditto, 1/2d to £1 matt photographic essays as issued each dated "11.5.35" on reverse (12). £80 (£35).

St. Helena

1883 sheet (203 x 335mm) entitled "Existing and proposed Schemes of Colours", the existing colours being represented by 1863 1d (short bar) (marked "Colour established by the International Postal Convention for this duty") and 4d; 1864 6d (straight-edge at top), 1864-67 1/- and 1865-68 2d, 3d and 5/- (marked "This colour could not well be improved upon"), the 2d to 1/- duties having alongside an overlap entitled "proposed colours" with 6d in yellow-brown, in mauve, in brown, in grey and in bronze-green with suggested 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/- values written alongside all but the grey 6d with an asterisk denoting "This duty to be overprinted as on the stamp in the Scheme showing the existing colours", some perforations trimmed in places. £1,900 (2,500).

1950 composite essay for a new frame in green (shades), the head printed, on piece of thick card (51 x 40mm) endorsed "frame no longer required". £240 (£200).

1950 ditto, a similar lot in brown. £250 (£200).

1950 1½d (2), 1d (2), 1½d, 2d (2), 2½d (2), 3d (3), 4d (2), 6d (3), 7d (2), 1/- (2), 2/6d (2), 5/- (3) and 10/- (2) photographic essays, all different. £115 (£150).

1950 1½d composite essay in grey and maroon, the frame and vignette (Heart Shaped Waterfall) handpainted, the head printed, area above head rubbed to remove crown, on piece of thick card (37 x 48mm) endorsed "not required". £300 (£250).

1950 8d somewhat similar essay, vignette showing Flagstaff and the Barn, endorsed "design not required". £300 (£250).

1876 1d brown-red handpainted essay for a Postal Stationery Postcard. Design similar to that issued but with more ornate border, affixed to card (110 x 90mm) marked "A" and dated "9 April 96". £380 (£500).

Sierra Leone

1933 Wilberforce ½d to £1 matt photographic essays in close to the issued designs. £54 (£75).

Postal Stationery Reply Cards:

(i) 1882 1d + 1d red with pencilled essay of the design on both values £145 (£150).

(ii) 1882 ditto 1½d + 1½d grey, a similar set. £145 (£150).

(iii) 1882 ditto, 1d and 1d red with hand-painted essay of the design on both halves endorsed "Approved", initialled and dated "30/12/82". A little soiled but rare and attractive. £280 (£250).

(iv) 1882 ditto, 1½d + 1½d grey, a similar set. £270 (£250).

The Photographic Essays

Mr. Leonard writes: I can confirm that most of those which have appeared in Robson Lowe sales over the past few years have been in the De La Rue archives. Certainly the Gambia examples were.

I am sure that these came about purely for reasons of economy – it was cheaper and quicker to photograph the original artwork than for the artist to produce copies. In most cases, the original artwork was sent to the issuing authority for approval and the photograph retained as the file copy.

Another factor which could have affected the disposal of "Approved" artwork was the request by King George V (in the 1920's, I believe) that all "Approved" material should be donated to the Royal Collection.

THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF ASCENSION

by J. H. Attwood, published by The Pall Mall Stamp Co. Ltd., price £8

Though the Circle over the years has, through its members, produced a comprehensive range of studies of the stamps and postal history of the countries in which we are interested, those which have progressed to publication in book form are comparatively few. Probably the first was Dalwick's work on the stamps of the Gambia. More recently McCaig's 'Postal History and Handstamps of British West Africa' was published by Robson Lowe in 1978. Now from the same stable we have John Attwood's 'Ascension' – a very worthy successor.

I had long since forgotten (if I ever knew!) that Ascension Island had been occupied in 1815 by the Royal Navy to prevent it being

used as a possible escape route for Napoleon from St. Helena, although I have seen references in more recent years to its use in the S. Atlantic, as a tracking station for U.S. satellites. Even if one had no interest in stamps there is enough in this book to fascinate and hold one's attention, from famous visitors, visits by the Royal Navy ships and the social life (with its two cricket pitches), to details of its flora and fauna – and I always thought that the turtles for the annual Lord Mayor of London's banquet came from some other exotic island.

Suffice to say, the book comprises a comprehensive study of the importance of the role played by the result of volcanic

eruption, in this remote part of the S. Atlantic, well illustrated by pictures, not to mention the detailed study of its issued stamps, its postal history (embracing both maritime and airmail) and its pre-postal history. If such a work had existed before I started to specialise, it would have sorely tempted me to 'collect' Ascension. It is a 'MUST' for anyone who does collect the stamps of this island and should attract many new adherents. Even if one doesn't it constitutes a very readable and valuable book to place in one's reference library of philatelic works. I recommend it.

If in due course the book proceeds to a well merited second printing could we please have at least one, or preferably two, maps? One showing its location vis-à-vis the African and S. American continents, the other of the island itself to facilitate reference to the various places of interest which are cited.

J. F. INCE

ASCENSION

J. A. ATTWOOD

The following information on Ascension represents additions and revisions to my book, "Ascension – The Stamps and Postal History":

Part 1, Chapter 2.1 Period 1860-1866

As stated in the text, unstamped letters from Ascension would be passed on to their destination and the postage due upon them charged on delivery. The following two letters bear "6" in manuscript indicating a 6d postal rate charged:

Name and profession of sender	Date of Ascension/ arrival port in England	No. of days passage to England
John Long (Midshipman, H.M.S. Archer)	29 February 1864 Devonport	Not known
As above	1 April 1864 Devonport	23

The text of the 1 April 1864 letter is quoted in full since it provides interesting information of the island's geography and administration.

H.M.S. Archer
at Ascension
April 1st

My dear Mama,

I have taken advantage of being here so long, and gone up the Green Mountain which is quite like England and has done me a great deal of good. I first got leave for two days and the walk up there quite knocked me up but the other day I got leave to go up there for a week and did it quite easily – it is only 7½ miles but up hill all the way – a few days after Cpts. Bythessea and Barnard were invalided and our first Lieut was put in charge of the island – Lieut Mayow our second Lieut who had charge of the ship went sick and the Master was left in charge and the day before he was coming off to the ship rather top heavy he fell down a sort of quarry about 10ft. high as was taken to Hospital so that now the gunner is left in charge of the ship – Lieut Hammond who was left in charge of the island was made acting Commander and now

that Capt Barnard has left he made himself acting Captain – Capt Bythesea is a great deal better and is going home in this mail – Lieut Mayow is not included but will not go to the coast any more but will go home in a few months when the weather in England is hotter – the Master has hurt himself very much but has not broken any bones – he will be off to the ship in about 10 days. I hope you got the letter Lieut Croke took home for me – I would like to make a different arrangement about the money if you are agreeable – will you allow me to draw forty pounds a year and then you supply me with what clothing I may want – It will be just the same as the other arrangement of allowing me 50 a year and leaving 10 £ for clothing – from May the first. I have only drawn 40 £ – the reason I should like that alteration is the difficulty in paying my outfitter – We have not had any mail since those dated November the 21st. the other day while I was up the mountain, a boy who had had the fever about 3 months ago very badly was sent to hospital with a relapse and died two hours afterwards. there is nothing more to say give my best love to all. How did Charley enjoy his holiday. I am very well – and do not think the coast has done me any harm as I am getting quite fat on salt horse etc.

I remain ever
Your affectionate Son
John Long

Cancellations on John Long letter:–
“CAPE PACKET DEVONPORT AP.23 1864” c.ds.

Backstamped “London AP 25. 64” c.ds
and “B. Arundel 26 AP. 64” c.ds.

Regarding the six 1860/61 covers bearing examples of the 6d lilac S.G. Type 18, these also bear the Type 1 c.d.s. sent out to the island in February/March 1858, ref: “Cameo” of July 1981 page 85.

Part 1 Chapter 2.2 “Period 1867 to 1882”

The following two covers are additional to those already listed:
1d red S.G. Type 5

Name and profession of sender	Date posted in Ascension/arrival in England	No. of days passage to England	Remarks
J. Clarke Boiler Maker	15 June 1868 Devonport	21	Cover stamped “DEVONPORT.A. JY.6.68” c.d.s.
J. Clarke Boiler Maker	15 August 1868 Devonport	21	Cover stamped “DEVONPORT F.H.M.S. SP.5.68” duplex

Part I, Chapter 7. “Cancellations 1862 – 1921”

Again referring to “Cameo” of July 1981 pages 85/86 and to the text of the book, the following points arise:

- (a) The 20mm c.d.s. index letters “A”, which the records say was sent to the island on 4 June 1864 may have been a duplicate. The evidence for this is a 1862 stampless cover from Ascension to England rated “6” with a Devonport Cape Packet transit c.d.s. and the 20 mm “Ascension A” c.d.s. of No. 03.62.

- (b) The 2½ mm c.d.s. index letter "C" is recorded as being sent to the island on 4 December 1901. This casts doubts on the actual existence of a specimen dated 1891 as quoted in "The History and Postage Stamps of Ascension Island" by Eric H. Ford.
- (c) The 23 mm c.d.s. index letter "C" used on mail from the island in 1909 is presumably the c.d.s. sent out by the G.P.O. on 9 October 1909. My note that the index letter is sideways "C" was based on a remark in Eric H. Ford's book, whereas in "Cameo" it is illustrated in the normal upright position.

Part II, Chapter 4.2. "Bird Definitive Issues"

I have recently acquired a copy of the £2 value of this 1976 Definitive Issue with the black printing (Cypher, Value "£2" and "BOATSWAIN BIRD ISLAND SANCTUARY") doubled.

Part III, Chapter 5, "Royal Naval Crests"

The "Varieties on the Issued Stamps" should include for the 1969 (1st Series) a miniature sheet with inverted watermark.

Part IV, Chapter 2, "Airmail"

Where in the text reference is made to the old and the new airmail rates of 36p and 35p respectively, these rates apply to a 30g and not to a 50g letter as quoted.

GAMBIA, SENEGAL ANNOUNCE MERGER



The Philadelphia Inquirer carried the following story in their August 21st, 1981 edition. Mr. Fricks, one of our American members sent it to your Editor who felt that the article would prove to be of interest.

By Leon Dash
Washington Post Service

Abidjan, Ivory Coast – French-speaking Senegal and English-speaking Gambia have announced plans to merge into a new nation, to be called Senegambia.

The decision was made public by the presidents of the two West African neighbors, Abdou Diouf of Senegal and Dawda Jawara of Gambia, at a news conference Wednesday. If the plan were implemented, it would eliminate the problems caused by the existence of the long, narrow enclave formed by Gambia and stretching into the heartland of Senegal.

The need for a close relationship between Senegal and Gambia was dramatically illustrated earlier this month when Senegalese soldiers intervened in Gambia to crush an armed uprising of leftist rebels and disgruntled police officers. Jawara, who invoked a mutual defense agreement in asking Diouf to send troops, would have been deposed if Senegal had not intervened.

After a long meeting with Diouf in Senegal's capital, Dakar, Jawara told reporters that the coup attempt in the Gambian capital, Banjul, "opened our eyes to the need to go further" in its relationship with Senegal.

"Our duty is to find a better form of co-operation which goes beyond the integration of the security forces," said

Jawara. Senegalese soldiers will have to guarantee the domestic security of Jawara's government for the foreseeable future. Gambia's 900-member police and paramilitary force, large numbers of whom spearheaded the rebellion, was left in shambles when the fighting ended.

Diouf echoed Jawara's sentiments. "We must now build Senegambia and, in that way, present the proof that we are capable of succeeding," he said.

The idea of a Senegambia federation had been discussed since Senegal won its independence from France in 1960. Gambia's existence as a separate, independent nation was questioned by a U.N. study commission shortly before it became independent from Britain in 1965.

At that time, the commission recommended a political union of the two former colonies.

The existence of two separate entities dates to Africa's precolonial days, when the English and French fought for control of the Gambia River valley. The British eventually gained control of the 200-mile-long, 18-mile-wide trading enclave, splitting French-controlled Senegal.

In an interview last week, Senegal's Diouf said his soldiers had to intervene in Gambia because the self-described "Marxist-Leninist" rebels jeopardized Senegal's security.

"You just have to look at a map to be aware that both countries are very entangled," he said.

6. The rates of postage including Air Mail Fee are :—

	To Great Britain.		To France.		To Morocco.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Up to 1 oz	0	11½	0	11	0	9
Over 1 oz—3½ ozs	1	8	1	7½	1	3½
„ 3½ „—7 „	2	6½	2	6	2	1
„ 7 „—10½ „	3	6½	3	6	3	0

7. **Express delivery** at the place of destination is not covered by the Air Mail fee. An additional fee of 6d. (a packet) must be paid and the packet marked "**Express**".

8. The **Ordinary Postage** due (in addition to the Air Mail fee) on an Air Mail packet **MUST** be prepaid at the rate applicable to the class of letter packet concerned, *i.e.*, at the letter rate, printed paper rate, sample rate, etc., as the case may be.

WARNING.

9. The Postal Service of the Gambia accept no responsibility in case of the postponement of the departure of the Air Mail from Dakar or for any delay whatsoever and the date of the despatch of letters sent for Air Mail depend upon the facilities of conveyance to Dakar.

General Post Office,
Bathurst, Gambia.
27th March, 1926.

J. L. FENTON,
Director of Posts.

GAMBIA 1926 AIR MAIL NOTICES

C. LEONARD

I recently bought a couple of Gambia Air Mail notices including a 1926 example. This seems to be identical to the one illustrated in the July 1981 Cameo except in one important respect – it gives *no* "Up to ½oz" rates. So was there one, or not?

The few early covers seen by me have all been at the 11½d rate but this does not prove anything. Has anyone got a cover at the 9½d rate?

I cannot imagine that there was a need for two editions of the notice unless there had been a change, or one was incorrect.

GAMBIA 1922 – 27 ELEPHANT & PALM ISSUE

P. GEARING

With regard to the note by Mr. Hibbert on the top of Page 100 of Cameo, July 1981, I have quite a few blocks of four, mint, of the Gambia 1922/27 portrait and elephant issue, many of which also have a note by "Ewens" in the sheet margin. On careful examination I think the name is "Evans". One interesting fact is that the shade and printing data of "Evans" do not, in general, agree with the information in *The Gambia* by Dalwick.

I too would like to learn more about "Evans" or "Ewens".

GAMBIA – INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS

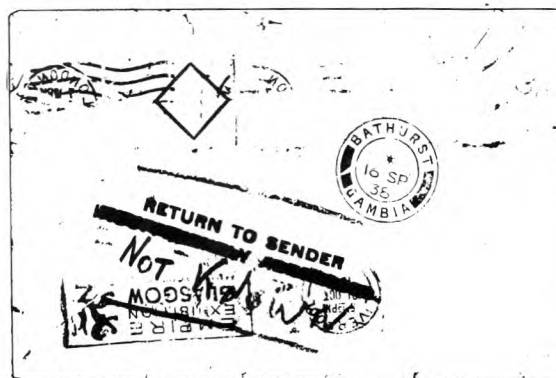
C. LEONARD

This 1938 cover from London to Bathurst, via the German airmail service, was eventually returned to London by way of Liverpool, taking six weeks in transit. It shows a plethora of instructional cachets of which the two framed types were struck at the Bathurst Post Office, the "NOT KNOWN / INCONNU" being one of a batch of seven instructional marks which had been sent out to the Gambia in August 1901.

The unframed "LEFT SHIP" (crossed through and altered to "NOT KNOWN") and "RETURN TO SENDER" were, I

believe, private marks of the Elder Dempster Shipping Company.

As a bonus, on the reverse, is a very new looking "BATHURST / GAMBIA" double ring date stamp for "16 SP 38". When the "BATHURST" error was withdrawn on 11th August 1938 it would appear that the earlier single ring type was re-issued until the corrected date stamp was ready. Oliver Andrew has been meticulously noting the dates and has recorded the single ring type up to 13th September 1938. This cover reduces the gap to just three days.



GOLD COAST – A PLEA

K. J. MACRAE

I recently looked through "Gold Coast – Extracts from Cameo, issues 1-9" which Jack Ince has made available to help newer members who may not have the early issues of Cameo. I was surprised and disappointed to be reminded of the number of times members were asked for further information from their collections and

opinions regarding points under discussion but the result has been, apart from one or two old faithfuls, an echoing silence.

The Gold Coast membership list has increased considerably over recent years. These questions, and many I have not thought of, are still open. Please do not be shy of offering your contribution, based on your material, or of seeking answers to points that puzzle you. The value of a Circle like ours lies mainly in the exchange of information and, for the many who are unable to attend the meetings held each year, Cameo and the Editors provide the essential links.

Clear photo-copies are most helpful but simple sketches are often sufficient. Give as much detail as possible of the stamp, postmark and/or cover, but use a good magnifier when assessing the problem.

Above all, remember that in this as in many other activities, your dividends result from your efforts.

GOLD COAST UNPAID MAIL 1888

J. J. MARTIN

A G.B. postcard from Darlington to Saltpond has an interesting message. "All you have sent but one are English and are of no value to us. We can get plenty at 6d per 1000.

The Gold Coast ½d and 1d we can pay cash 3/6d per 100 and for higher values we pay 4/- per 100.

Do not send any more English but send all the Gold Coast you can.

Kindly prepay postage as your letter cost me 6d."

The card was not collected by the addressee, a red UNCLAIMED was applied and the card returned to the stamp dealer in Darlington – for him an expensive non-transaction.

GOLD COAST: BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION 1924

Mr. Saberg, not a Circle member, has written to Mr. Macrae advising that he is making an intensive study of the above and would like to know the period of use of the Accra, Gold Coast advertising slogan for this exhibition.

Details of dates, please, to Mr. Macrae.

GOLD COAST 1928 CHRISTIANSBORG CASTLE SET

K. J. MACRAE

Mr. M. Tozer has written as follows:-

"Recently I have been examining copies of my K.G.V. Castle stamps (S.G. 103/112) and have come across some **really distinct** shades, i.e. 1d red brown – chocolate brown; 1½d scarlet-red; 2d deep slate/grey – light slate and white; 3d slate blue – royal blue. No doubt many members have put together a good many of these shades but have they been listed anywhere? I note in Billigs that the 1936 Printings are of a heavier nature, would this account for the difference? Finally does this variation in shades run through the complete set?"

I shall be glad to receive any information members can offer regarding this matter – if sufficient details come in we may be able to establish a specific listing of these shades for all values. Similar variations of shade are known in the K.G.VI. Castle issue and we can do the same for them if members will let me know.

DEMOB CENTRE

K. J. MACRAE

Major Farrant, a member, has provided a photo of the postmark used at the Demobilisation Centre outside Takoradi for a period at the end of W.W.II. He has covers sent home between 2nd and 16th October, 1946, while he was in the Centre, and believes that it closed on 17th/18th



October as he has covers with the standard Takoradi postmark dated 22nd and 25th October, 1946. It is a new mark to me and must be comparatively rare in view of the limited life of such a unit. I shall be glad to know of any other dates members may have for this mark.

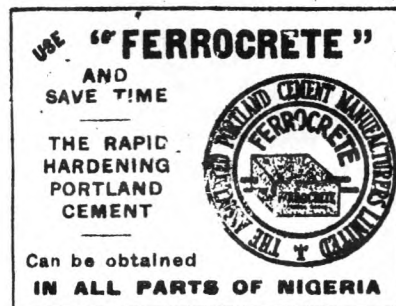
NIGERIAN STAMP BOOKLETS

J. J. MARTIN

Volume 87 of the De La Rue Correspondence Books contains proofs of advertisements for stamp booklets. These are reproduced by courtesy of the National Postal Museum. The entries are dated February – March 1928.

MILLER BROTHERS
(of Liverpool)
LIMITED,
LIVERPOOL.

With Branches
throughout Nigeria.



**COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE
DE L'AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE**
(THE FRENCH WEST AFRICAN CO.)
LIMITED COY. REGISTERED IN FRANCE.
Capital - - 25,000,000 francs.
HEAD OFFICE—MARSEILLES.
BRANCHES IN EUROPE—Paris, Bordeaux, Liverpool,
Manchester.
BRANCHES IN AFRICA—Senegal, Gambia, Portuguese
Guinea, French Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast,
Gold Coast, Dahomey, Nigeria, Togoland, Cameroons.
FACTORIES IN NIGERIA—LAGOS, KANO, PORT HARCOURT,
CALABAR, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Oshogbo, Ilorin,
Zaria, Jos, Ilesha, Umu-Ahia, Udi, Iru, Nsapele,
Onitsha.
GENERAL MERCHANTS—Export—Palm Kernels, Palm Oil,
Cocoa, Shea Nuts, Shea Butter, Ground Nuts, Hides, Skins,
etc., etc.
Import—Provisions, Tobacco, Hardware, Building Material,
Crockery, Cotton and Fancy Goods, Kerosene, Petrol, Motor
Cars.

AN EARLY ST. HELENA LETTER: 1817

B. MABBETT

The letter is headed "On board ship 'O Cain', April 9th 1817 in sight of St. Helena".

The entire is addressed to 'Messers Brown & Ives, Providence, R. Island, U.S. America. The entire was not posted until the vessel arrived at Falmouth where it received the straight line Falmouth handstamp struck in red and manuscript 1/3d in red. The entire was rated 18½ cents in black on arrival in America. The three page letter was from a Philip Amminon who was in the tea trade between China and Europe. The letter

is rather long so I have listed a few extracts of interest.

"Gentlemen,

My last respects to you came from Canton just before I left (Jan 1st) in which I informed you of my having concluded on going to Europe and of the object which had induced me.

Previous to my leaving I forwarded to you in duplicate your accounts by which you will see the disposition I made of the funds brought on by the 'Ann and Hope' from Holland.

My passage this time has been very long (95 days from Maco) I hope from hence to England I may be more fortunate and calculate to reach Cowes in all next month. The two cargos under my charge consist together of only about 7,000 chests tea, both vessels will touch in the English Channel and I shall proceed immediately to London to learn the most favorable market on the continent to order the vessels.

I should by no means recomend a vessel attempting to go up the China seas after the middle of October and that is very late. You may perhaps send her an eastern passage and arrive in Canton as late as February or March, it would be rather uncertain whether she could procure an assortment of teas, Blacks she could probably obtain but of Green it would be rather uncertain. When teas can be procured in the spring they can frequently be pruchased at 25% less than in the fall.

It is my intention as soon as I have disposed of these two cargos to leave Europe for America, where I hope to arrive as early as September next, and although I trust I shall have considerably benfited myself during my absence (for which I acknowledge myself indebted to you) yet from having a rather large family, I shall probably think it my duty to them to make another voyage in case I should have the appointment. If therefore my endeavours to serve your interest should have met with your apprecation, I am not without hopes that I may again enjoy your confidences.

I am well assured that on a cargo of \$200 I could procure credit for 50% for 12 or perhaps 18 months without interest and obtain teas fully equal to Houga's at from 10 to 15% less, and from those who have sufficient influence with the Dutchmen to

procure their certificate if wanted for a small compensation, previous to the Dutch Companys ships going out, after which they cannot grant certificates, provided they are continued as agents for the Company, which is quite uncertain.

The English embassy in Pekin returned to Canton the day I left and it was fully ascertained had not been admitted to an interview with the emperor but was obliged to leave with all their valuable presents taken from England to present to his Majesty. It had for some time been the prevailing opinion in Canton that difficulty would take place between the English and Chinese before a long time, many circumstances appear to warrant this opinion and I should not be surprised if there were to be interruptions to the trade the approaching season, yet it may take place at a more distant period if at all. The English have in more than one instance invincd their desire of having some possistion in the river of Canton, possibly for the benifit of repairing their ships and that is perfectly in their honour (in the present state of Europe) to accomplish this object there can be no doubt.

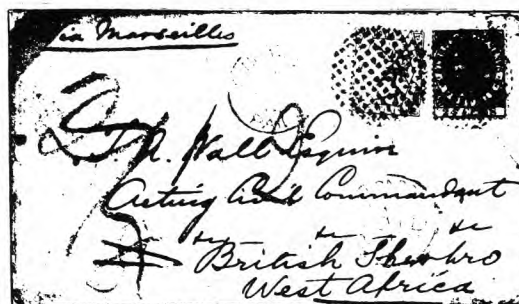
I am with much respect and esteem
your obliged friend and servant

Philip Amminon.

Falmouth (England) June 7th 1817. I landed here last evening in our pilot boat, 5 months from Maco, the ship proceded up channel for Cowes. I leave for London in the morning.

Yours respectively. P.A."

SINGAPORE TO SIERRA LEONE



This cover left Singapore on June 20th 1874 and routed 'Via Marseille'. It arrived in

London on July 23rd and in Sierra Leone on August 8th 1874.

The cover was rated at 54 cents. A red manuscript '1' = 1d, this was applied in London to indicate credit due to Sierra Leone. Views on rates would be welcome.

ST. HELENA: 1912-16 ISSUE

A. J. P. PERLMAN

I was very interested to read in "Cameo 14" Mr. Hibbert's articles on the 1912-16 ½d and 3d of St. Helena.

As to the ½d I have a large number of copies and find that one has to watch out for slight differences of shade, for the toning which results from colonial issue, and use, and the normal shade and paper problems. Having said this, however, I find that there appear to be three types:-

- (a) The commonest, a ½d on thin paper in a dull green of the type which might technically be called yellow-green which can easily be seen through from the back. The vast majority of all copies fall into this category with slight differences.
- (b) A copy on extremely thick normally toned paper which is difficult to see through from the back, and is of almost cardboardy texture. The difficulty with this stamp is the toning, particularly on mint copies.
- (c) A third stamp on thicker paper than the first which seems to be somewhat whitish and of which no copies with a post mark have been seen by me prior to a 1922 date stamp.

As to the threepenny, I find two categories:-

- (a) A copy on bright yellow paper.
- (b) A copy on pale lemonish paper with a very distinctive shade. The shade goes as to all colours of the stamp and it is most distinctive. Post marks appear to be from 1921 onwards. It could be that this is what you referred to as cream paper, although I have no copy of the 8d with which to compare. It could be on the other hand that yours is a quite distinctive cream paper.

You may also be interested to know that the shilling has been seen by me in papers which from the back are strongly blue green and a distinctive green. The use of these two papers was quite common on issues such as, for example, the 1912 Falkland Islands 10s.

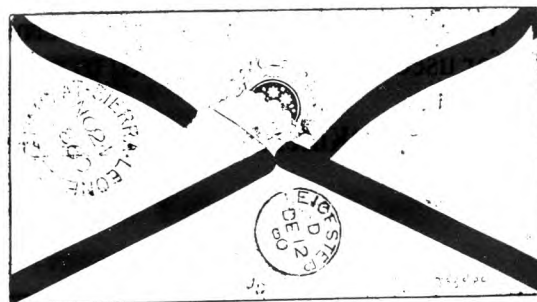
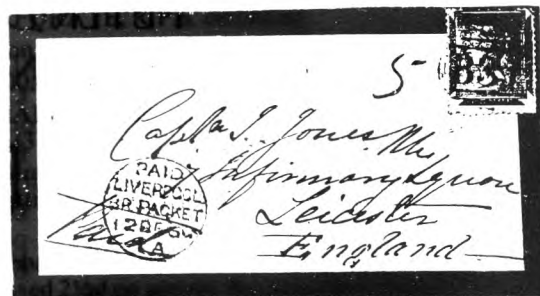
As to the penny thick paper, I find that the bulk of all copies sold are simply not the rarity. There appears to be several copies again here with thin, thick and very thick papers, and the shades vary. Rarity appears to be that with very thick paper and the shade is no great guide to the matter.

I would be interested to hear comments from any members.

PAID-AT-SIERRA-LEONE

J. SACHER

I have recently acquired from an auction of H. R. Harmer in Sydney a mourning over bearing the 6d dull purple (SG1). It is cancelled "B31" with "PAID-AT-SIERRA-LEONE" on the reverse, dated 21.11.1860. This predates the earliest record I have for 13.12.1860 by 22 days and is only two months after the date of issue.





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PETER DICKINSON

FOR AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH POSTAGE STAMPS



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We cover all the territories concerned in depth, though our predilection is for used material as opposed to mint.

“Kufena”, Ilsington, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9RW

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SELECTIONS FROM STOCK

FERNANDO PO	British Post Office, numeral cancellation 247, on GB QV plate 13. The stamp, with three clipped perforations at top left but extremely fine, and with complete strike of the cancellation	£365
	1894 cover to Holborn, London showing blue handstamp "Habilitado Par Correos 50c" Liverpool Packet mark on reverse	£95
GABON	1887 French Post Office at Libreville, mourning cover to New York with Liverpool British Packet cancellation in red, franked with 25c French colonial issue	£25
GAMBIA	1883/93 1/- deep violet, mint marginal copy with diagonal handstruck Specimen MS type GA1	£35
	1899 Cover franked with two copies 2½d SG 39 both cancelled with "Received Gambia". The cover from the French West Africa Company addressed to Switzerland	£225
	SG 122/42 KGV ½d to 10/- specimen	£625
	1950 KGV. The unissued pictorials. Artist's essay for ½d value handpainted in green with the head printed and inset, touched in with Chinese white. The vignette, "palm wine tapping", was later adopted for the ½d value of the 1953 QEII issue.	
	A similar handpainted Essay for the 4d value, the vignette is photographic, the frame handpainted, and the head printed in pale blue, inset and touched in with Chinese white. The stamps were never printed owing to the death of the King. The vignette "James Island" was adopted for the QEII 4d value of 1953.	
	5/- similar handpainted essay.	The three unique items £1,950
GOLD COAST	1875 Master Die Proof, dated April 17th, with blank value tablet	£395
	1884/91 2d grey on watermarked paper, imperforate	£130
	2/- yellow brown, a similar proof	£175
	2/- pale violet imperforate proof showing plate No. 1	£175
	1889 20/- Green and red IMPERFORATE, R.P.S. certificate	£950
	1894 20/- dull mauve and black on red, watermark inverted fine o.g.	£250
	1924 15/- Die II Specimen SG 100a	£220
	KEVII 10/-, 20/- and £5 JUDICIAL and overprinted Specimen – De La Rue's own file copies, probably unique (3)	£350
	1879 QV 1½d Post Card artist's drawing entirely handpainted on tracing paper, mounted on board, in an attractive shade of brown, possibly unique, dated 8th May 1879	£625
NIGER COAST	W.A.F.F. Officer's letter from Jebba to London endorsed "On field service no stamps available" nevertheless taxed 2½d on arrival. Reverse bears a good strike of the oblong framed "Royal Niger Company, Akassa" handstamp in violet	£350
	1899 Stampless cover from Lokoja with violet handstamped Burutu in unserifed letters taxed on arrival in England	£265

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