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Journal of the
British West Africa Study Circle

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 7

JANUARY 1983

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Telephone: 01 839 4034

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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.

Hon. Treasurer and Admissions Secretary:

J. R. Merchant,
10 Bushmead Avenue,
Bedford,
Beds.

Hon. Advertising Manager:

C. W. Graham,
55 Woodholm Road,
Ecclesall,
Sheffield 11.

EDITORIAL

A recent visit to the Public Record Office at Kew in Surrey proved most interesting. The purpose was to see the log of H.M.S. Melville which was in West African Waters in 1840.

The logs of two other ships were also inspected and, whether the sea was rough or calm, the writing proved very difficult to read!

The H.M.S. Melville log for January 11th 1840 showed 'Received a Mail for St. Helena and Ascension' but most other comments were 'Single Anchor Ascension' or 'At Anchor at Cape Coast Castle'. Otherwise there was little to interest the postal historian.

CORRECTION.**The 1914 British Overprints on Stamps of Togo.**

J. Wilson

Regrettably, a few words were omitted from the article in Cameo Whole Number 16 page 143. It is necessary to add in the second column line 16 after 5 pfg, 'but there was a shortage of the 10 pfg stamps'.

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BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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PROPOSED AIR MAIL SERVICE DAKAR-LAGOS, 1928

J. J. MARTIN

By courtesy of P. O. Archives, I am able to reproduce a Memorandum dated October 2nd, 1928 from File No. M.14303/1928. Previous article in Cameo 15, page 109 refers.

"The proposed service, Dakar-Lagos, would run in conjunction with the existing Toulouse-Dakar service and the time-table might be as follows:-

			Distance	
	Leave London (by air to Paris) 6 a.m.	Thursday		
	Leave Toulouse	Friday		
Present				
	Arrive Casablanca	Friday	– 4695	k.m.
Itinerary	Leave Casablanca	Saturday		
	Arrive Dakar	noon Sunday		
	Leave Dakar	Sunday	– 160	k.m.
	Arrive Bathurst, Gambia	Sunday	– 660	k.m.
Estimated	Arrive (& leave) Sierra Leone)	Monday	– 1580	k.m.
	Arrive (& leave) Accra	Tuesday	– 350	k.m.
	Arrive (& leave) Lagos	Tuesday		

Letters posted on Wednesday would take 4 days to Bathurst, 5 to Sierra Leone, 6 to Accra and Lagos, giving minimum gains over the ordinary route of 4, 5, 7 and 9 days.

The acceleration by the present air service to Dakar over the ordinary routes to the West African colonies may be several days but it varies considerably owing to irregularity of steamers beyond Dakar. The amount of correspondence sent by it is small – only about 12 to 15lbs. **per month**, and **most of this is for Senegal and neighbourhood**. A through and comparatively regular Air Service would no doubt attract more traffic from and to the British Colonies.

For conveyance by the existing service from Toulouse to Dakar (4695 k.m.) the French Post Office charges 44 gold francs per kilogramme for closed mails and 55 gold francs for à découvert correspondence and our corresponding Air Mail fee is 1/- per ounce. (This corresponds to our charge of 12 fcs. per kilogramme for the Cairo-Baghdad transit of 1315 k.m.). Assuming proportionate charges for the air transit beyond Dakar, our air fees would be about 1/- to Bathurst, 1/3 to Sierra Leone and 1/9 to Accra or Lagos.

The arrangements made by the Colonies with the French Air Company should not preclude the use of any other air route that may be organised and should provide for the observance by the Company of Article 74 of the Universal Postal Convention as regards uniform rates for carriage of all mails over the same route, but it seems unnecessary to mention these matters to the Colonial Office at this stage."

Mr. John C. W. Field in his pamphlet "Nigeria" on air mails states that "... a French Service to connect Dakar and the Belgian Congo (via Timbuktoo and Nigeria) was considered (in 1928 Ed.) but this did not materialise." The memorandum suggests that the coast route was being appraised, possibly as well as that via Timbuktoo.

AUCTION REALISATIONS

Stanley Gibbons Auctions February 23rd – 26th 1982

Ascension 1917 June 16th env. to London bearing 1912 – 22 1d (S.G. Z40) tied by Ascension code 'A' c.d.s. with 'PASSED CENSOR/ ASCENSION' hand-stamp in violet. Somewhat roughly opened £210 + 10% = £241 (£175).

Sierra Leone 1921-28 £5 optd. 'SPECIMEN', large part o.g. £140 + 10% = £154 (£150).

Sierra Leone Postal Fiscal: 1884 5/- on 1/- with red bar through value, variety ovpt. inverted, part o.g. with 1981 B.P.A. cert. £190 + 10% = £209 (£200).

Stanley Gibbons Auctions April 14th – 16th 1982

Ascension 1835 April 7 entire from Capt. William Bate (H.M.S. Hydra) George Town Island of Ascension to Lieut. William Allen, Woolwich, readdressed to

Sheerness, usual filing creases and some sailing but one of the earliest and best preserved covers from Ascension £440 + 10% = £484 (£250).

Ascension 1864 December 15 Wrapper to France via London, with the Ascension 20mm. c.d.s. of JAN 13 '65, various G.B. tax and accountancy markings, light soiling. £460 + 10% = £506 (£250).

Harmers of London May 18th – 19th 1982

Gambia 1902-05 2/6d with 'Glover' flaw, part o.g. £40 + 5% = £42 (£40).

St. Helena 1884-94 1/2d green, "N" and "Y" spaced, part o.g., fine £350 + 5% = £367.50 (£300).

Robson Lowe Ltd. September 7th 1982

Sierra Leone 1874 envelope to a Missionary at Wilberforce, Sierra Leone bearing 6d G.B. adhesive and showing "INSUFFICIENTLY /STAMPED" with arrival d.s. on flap. £205.20 (£35).

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions September 9th 1982

Gold Coast 1941 covers to England (2), one registered; both censored and bearing "Spitfire Fund" labels, one tied by datestamp on flap. £26 (£35).

Estimates in brackets.

'NO STAMPS AT ASCENSION' - 1875

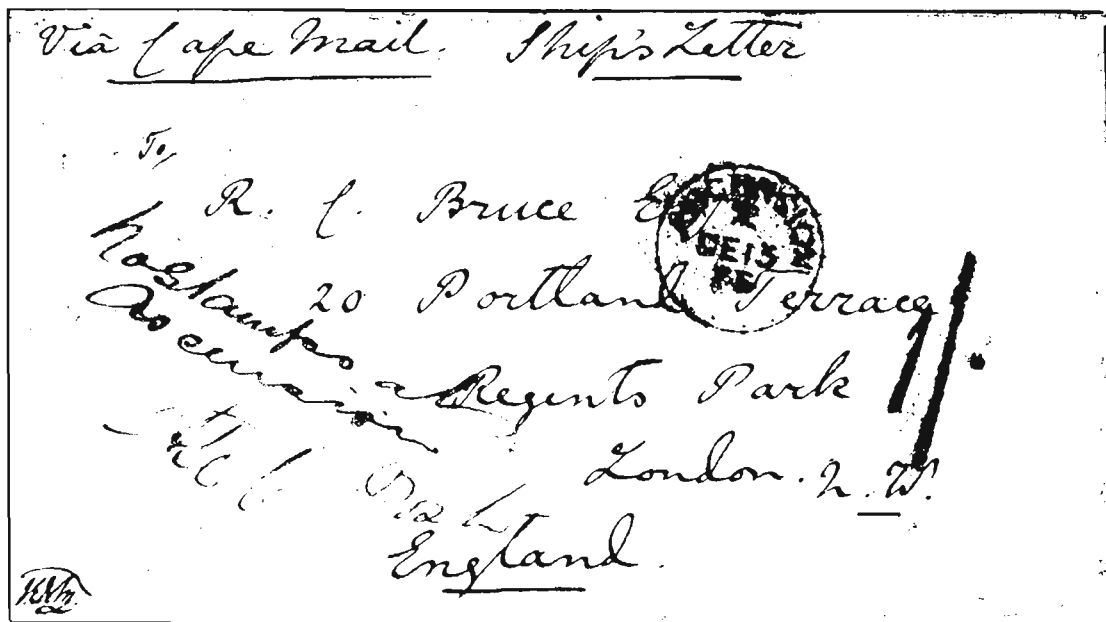
J. A. ATTWOOD

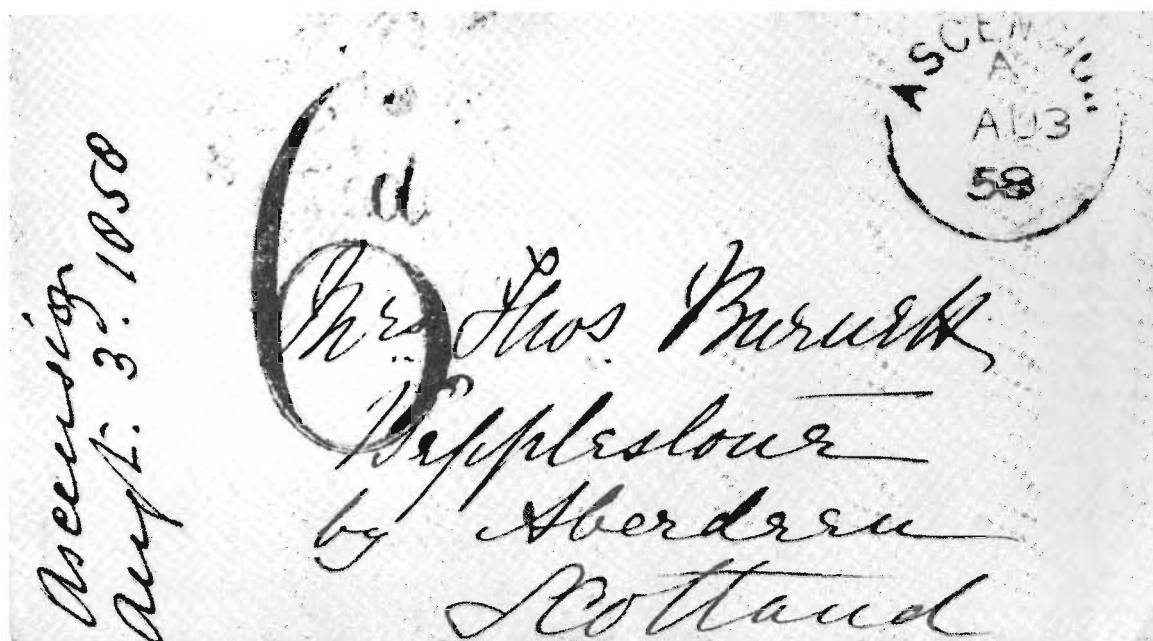
This 1875 cover to England has several interesting and unusual features and these comprise:-

1. The endorsement, "no stamps at Ascension", initialled by the Postmaster, highlights the fact that stamps to the value of £20 (£5 of 1d, £8 of 6d, £7 of 1/-) first received on the island from London on 3 March, 1867, were used up in a matter of six months. A second consignment of £20 worth was sent out from London on 8 October, 1867, and clearly also soon used up.
2. The Postmaster's endorsement on the front of the cover is in red ink which colour was usually used to indicate prepayment. Clearly this was not the case since the black "1/-" charge mark was applied at Plymouth.
3. The Plymouth "1/-" charge mark is not the same as any of the ones quoted by Robertson so clearly

the usage here is uncommon whatever the general status of the mark itself is.

4. The postal rate of 1/- is correct according to Post Office Notice 1863 for a letter not exceeding 1/2oz. and conveyed to the United Kingdom by Packet (CAPE PACKET PLYMOUTH DE.31.75 c.d.s. on the reverse). However, the front of the cover indicates that the writer intended the letter to be conveyed by Private Ship according to the endorsement "via Cape Mail Ship's Letter". The Post Office Notice 1863 further states that the postal rate from Ascension to the United Kingdom by Private Ship would be reduced as from 1 April, 1863, to fourpence for a letter not exceeding 1/2oz. It would appear, therefore, that the recipient of this letter was charged three times more than the writer intended.





**ASCENSION: THE CAPTAIN W.
BURNETT CORRESPONDENCE**

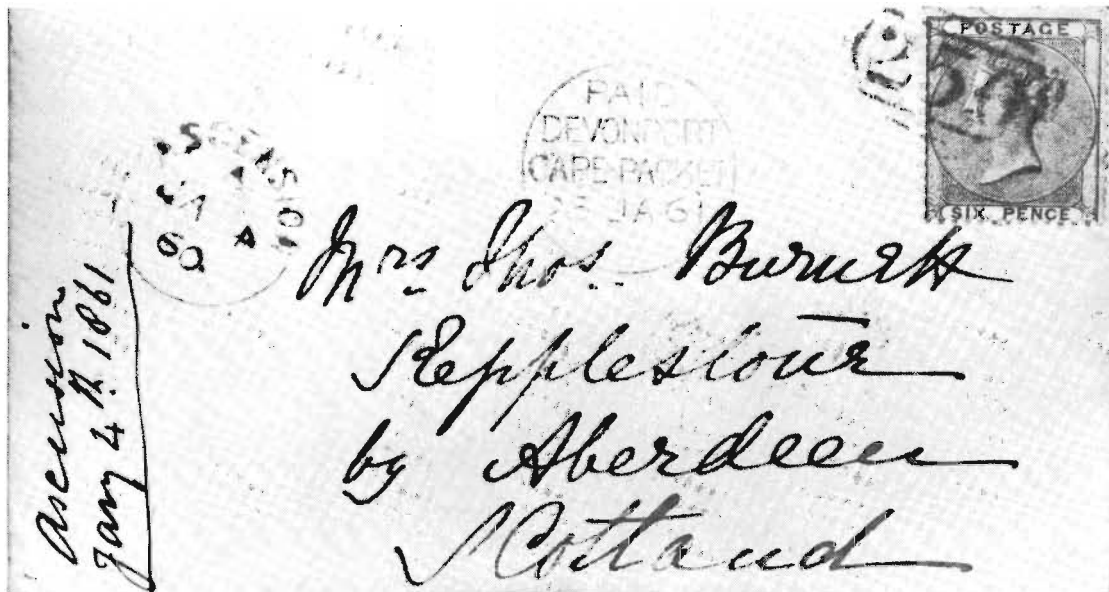
J. A. ATTWOOD

Due to pressure on space, the following photographs and comments were omitted from
Cameo Whole Number 16.

From the Impression Books in the Post Office archives (Volume 8 (2), page 150), the Ascension cancellation, illustrated on letters Nos. 1 and 13, was sent out to the island from England on 27 February 1858. This cancellation remained in use until replaced by the familiar circular date stamp, index letter A, on 4 June 1864 (Impression Book, Volume 22, page 31).

As a matter of further interest, on letters Nos. 13 and 14 the year in the date slug was not changed from 60 to 61. However, the date was corrected on letter No. 15 sent from Ascension on 4 May 1861.

Finally, the number "4" is reversed in the cancellation on letter No. 13.

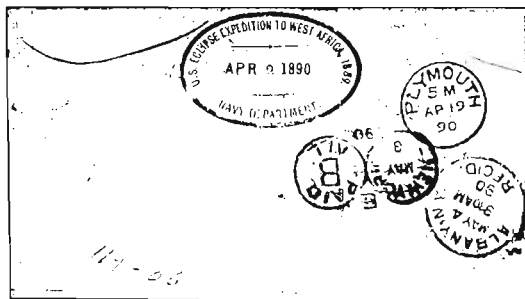


UNITED STATES ECLIPSE EXPEDITION TO WEST AFRICA: 1889

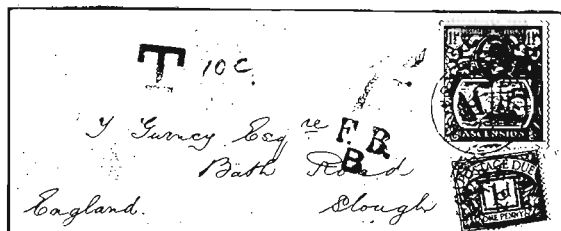
"Stars and Stripes in Africa" by Eric Rosenthal, published 1968, described the American Eclipse Expedition of 1889. The Expedition was authorised by special Act of Congress.

The book gives details of those in the party which was conveyed by the U.S.S. Pensacola. Gravitational data was obtained at, among other places, St. Helena. No fewer than seventeen books on the scientific results were produced on board the Pensacola. The Expedition returned to New York on May 23rd 1890.

By courtesy of Mr. Ritchie Bodily, we are able to show the reverse of a unique cover which was posted on Ascension upon the arrival of the U.S.S. Pensacola. The cover was franked with a G.B. 6d Jubilee stamp and addressed to Albany, New York, arriving May 4th 1890.



THE ASCENSION TAXE MARK R. C. F. BAKER



I recently had the good fortune to acquire a very pretty little Postage Due cover emanating from Ascension, and which appears to be non-philatelic in origin. The cover, addressed to T. Gurney Esq., of Slough was franked with the 1924 1½d 'Badge' Definitive and cancelled with the normal Ascension single ring cds for 1st January 1928. As the extant one ounce letter rate to England was 2d, the cover was struck with the Ascension Taxe Mark in black to signify that the item was underpaid. The due charge of ten Gold Centimes was applied in manuscript (10c) using a purple crayon. Upon arrival in England the cover received a Foreign Branch strike indicating the due charge of 1d (1d/F.B./B.). A 1d postage due stamp

(SGD11) was affixed and cancelled with the Slough double-ring cds for 7 a.m., 20th January 1928. The cover thus took 19 days to reach its destination.

In "Ascension: the Stamps and Postal History", John Attwood lists seven covers bearing the Ascension Taxe 'T' mark. As far as I am aware this is the only existing list recording such items. The seven covers date from the period 1932-1941; from the descriptions supplied it would seem that the four earliest examples, numbers 3, 4, 5 and 6 were prepared by the ubiquitous Ernest Panton and date from the period 1932-1933. Thus, the cover which I describe pre-dates any of the recorded covers by at least four years; it seems highly probable that the Taxe mark was used between 1928 and 1932 and possible that it was used before 1928 or after 1941. I have, however, been unable to ascertain the dates of supply and of withdrawal from use of the Taxe mark and I should be indebted to any member who would supply this information. Furthermore, it would be of interest to compile a more complete record of known examples of this strike and I would be grateful for details of any further unrecorded examples of its use.

GAMBIA 1906 1½d SURCHARGE- BROKEN 'E' VARIETY

R. F. BAVINGTON-JONES

It has recently come to my attention that the Broken 'E' variety seems to be more interesting than has previously been suggested by reference to the Dalwick Handbook and catalogues generally. The information available to me is:

- 1) The positional pair with broken 'E' variety but no broken 'Bar' from the top left-hand pane. I also have a strip of four on cover with the same variety but without the positional margin.
- 2) Positional blocks showing the broken 'E' and broken 'Bar' and marginal single all from the right-hand pane.

There is no reason to doubt Dalwick that the "type and rules were set up to surcharge 30 stamps at a time (6 x 5) a method which necessitated the complete sheet going through the press four times." This being the case, it would appear that at some stage the local printer spotted the broken 'rule' and changed it during the printing.

Two points of interest arise:-

- 1) The broken 'E' without bar was not considered to be the variety for certification by the R.P.S. expert Committee but it is now established that it is from the same position.
- 2) The broken 'E' and 'Bar' variety is not constant, having been partially repaired at some stage, and is therefore in all probability as scarce as the double surcharge on the 1d. Similarly broken 'E' without broken 'Bar' is a great rarity.

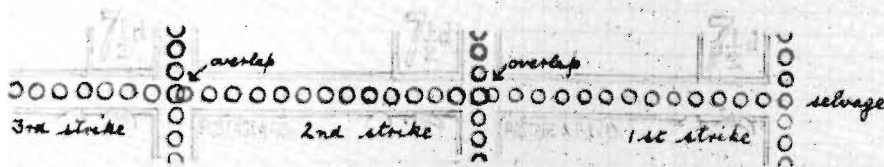
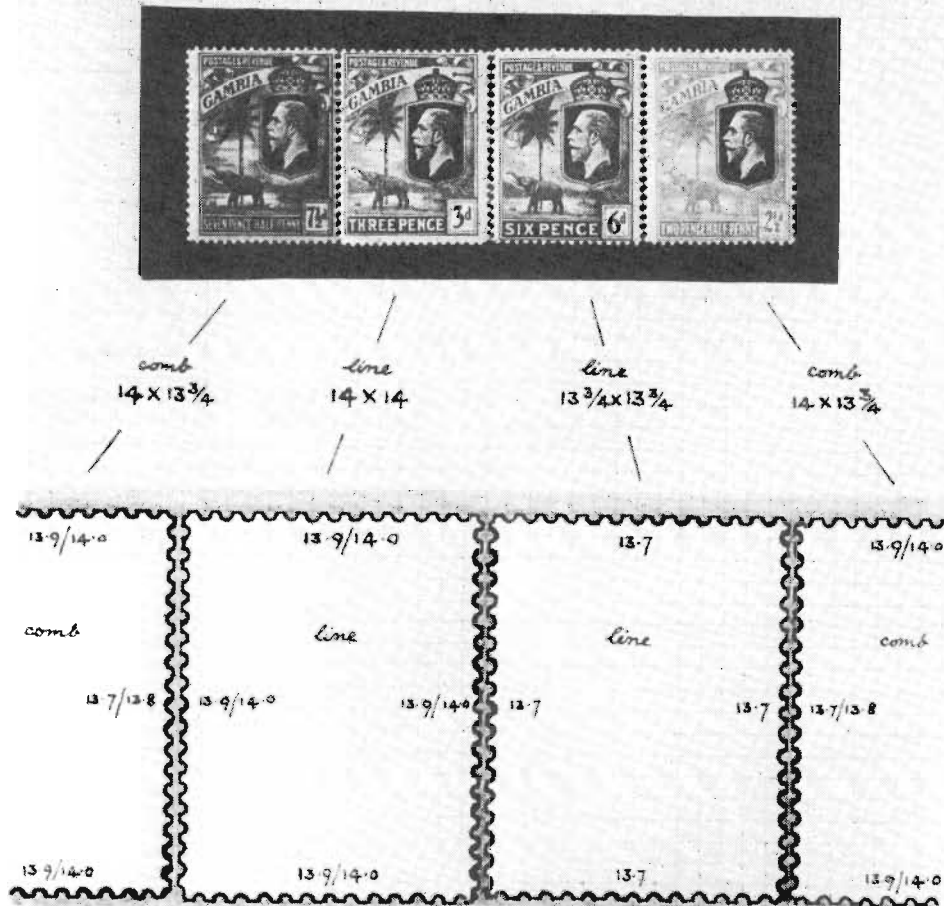
The evidence in hand seems to be conclusive but it would be interesting to hear of any other positional broken 'Es' as to whether they are from the left or right-hand panes.

GAMBIA: THE 1922-27 ELEPHANT AND PALM ISSUE

The late Colin McCaig prepared an illustration of the differing perforations of this issue which is reproduced for the benefits of members.

THE 'PENCE' PERFORATIONS

Although most catalogues describe this 1922-27 issue as "perf. 14", a study of the stamps shows that three different perforators were used for the pence values. These can be distinguished readily if direct comparison be made with values of a known gauge - e.g. the 2d, which was only issued comb perf. 14 X 13 3/4 - as illustrated below:



The Comb Perforation

GOLD COAST – THE 'CAMERON' COLLECTION

K.J.M.

Part of the G.C. Collection made by the late Mr. J. Cameron, an early member and a former President of the Study Circle, was sold last June by W. Carson, auctioneer in Glasgow.

The stamps, mint and used, covered all issues from 1875 to 1913 and for KG VI and Q.E. to 1953. Of special mention were:

Elmina Paid box – strikes inc. 1875 6d and 1876 to 6d (16 vals.) £77

M/S– 1901 1d Prov¹, cancelled 'Rwissa'. (Used by Ashanti Field Force), 3 vals., various cancelled in M/S at Wa, Ada and Winnebah £70

Maritime – a wide range of Paquebot or ship cancels £110

Covers –

42 lots included the following special items:–

1. 1875 1d optd CANCELLED; 6d optd SPECIMEN realised £65
 - SG1 m., full gum £105
 - 2 unused, no gum £50
 - 3 large part o.g. £105
2. 1876-9 2d and 4d optd SPECIMEN £99
3. 1883 1d fine m., pale blue £240
4. 1884-91 Specimen set of 4 £46
 - 2/- optd SPECIMEN £18
 - VARIETIES – positional frame breaks, malformed letters, "gashed eye" on 2d (only example recorded) (90 items) £165
5. 1889 1d on 6d Prov. 7mm setting £30
 - 8mm setting £55
6. 1889-94 SPECIMEN optd set of 4 incl. both £210
 - £1
 - £1 green and red – a good fiscally used example with pen cancellation £65
7. 1898-1902 SPECIMEN opt. set of 10 £130
8. 1901 Provisional – MISSING ONE, optd on 6d in pair, one showing variety £155
9. 1902 SPECIMEN opt. set to £1 £130
10. 1904-7 SPECIMEN 2/6d £32
11. 1907-13 SPECIMEN SET complete £80
 - Unissued 10/- red and green optd SPECIMEN £310
12. 1908 1d Die Proof on glazed card "Before Hardening" dated 21.Feb.'08 £90
13. SPIRO FORGERIES of the 1875 issue. 1d and 4d in full sheets, 6d in part sheet – each showing various types of cancellation £60

Cancellations –

Apart from sets of used examples under each issue, the collection included a fine specialised section of cancellations which formed the basis of Mr. Cameron's first production of the Circle's checklist. These were presented in 7 lots of which the first were some 470 items (QV and E.VII) – realised £650 and some 3-400 items (GV and GVI) – realised £320. Other lots were:

Oval Seal – strikes from Addah, Elmina, Secondee, Winnebah (14 stamps) – realised £100

1. 1874 to GB, m/S '5' in red and double circle PAID AT CAPE COAST CASTLE in red. London/Paid cds in red on obverse £115
2. 1875 to France with 1d blue strip 5, pair and single, cancelled 556 and with PAID AT CAPE COAST CASTLE cds in black £410
3. 1881 to Italy, 4d, magenta cancelled with fine strike of POST OFFICE /GOLD COAST/ADDAH oval seal in black, cds of Addah and Accra on obverse and Liverpool Packet cds in red £400
4. 1884 to London with fine strike of double circle PAID AT CAPE COAST CASTLE in red, rated '3' in red and Liverpool Packet cds in red £110
5. 1888 large part envelope with 4d magenta (2) cancelled with POST OFFICE /GOLD COAST /ELMINA seal in black. Elmina and Cape Coast cds also on obverse, London cds on reverse £220
6. 1890 to London with 4d magenta cancelled with WINNEBAH cds in RED. Rated '4' in red and Liverpool Packet cds £125
7. 1896 to England with 3d cancelled oval of bars with Accra cds and s/line TOO LATE £97
8. 1896 1d stat. p.card to Germany cancelled 556 with Cape Coast cds and large framed TOO LATE in red £46
9. 1898 to Ireland franked 1d (2) in pair with BISECTED PENNY cancelled at Kumasi but bisect not tied. T mark and 1d postage due mark struck on arrival – Unsold. Est. £400-£500
10. 1899 large piece with 2d cancelled NORTHERN TERRITORIES /GOLD COAST, 9 JAN 1899, unframed in violet, overstruck with Kumasi cds and alongside KINTAMPO cds, realised £44

Travelling Post Offices

1. 1937 to Huddersfield with 1d (2) cancelled TPO Central No. 2 cds and large framed POSTED ON TRAIN /WITHOUT EXTRA FEE/(2)d. TO PAY and with GB 2d postage due added and cancelled Huddersfield £36
2. Collection 24 covers GV – QE, plus stamps with wide range of TPO cancels £100

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DUTY PLATE? LAGOS 1874 ONE SHILLING

J. F. INCE

A mystery exists regarding the differing duty plates which occur on the first one shilling value of the colony. The duty plate of one variety (S.G. no. 8) measures 15½mm with the "G" of the "SHILLING" lacking a serif capping the upward stroke (Fig.1). The second variety (S.G. 9) measures 16½mm and the serif is present (Fig.2).

The order for this value (together with that for the 3d value) was placed with the De la Rue & Co. on 15 October 1874. The dies of the duty plates for both the 3d and 1/- values have, in the De la Rue Striking Book, the notation: "Oct 31st 60 Leads Each plate." Written in manuscript, diagonally, is the date "Nov. 18. 74."

This was the date of the invoice rendered by De la Rue, not only for the cost of these two duty plates, but also for a despatch of 1d, 4d, 6d values, and the first consignments of the 3d and 1/- values. Actual despatches of the 1/- value for the 1874 issue were made as follows:

3120 stps on 18th Nov. 1874
3120 stps on 14th Dec. 1874
3000 stps on 3rd Feb. 1875
6360 stps on 12th May 1875

The die for the 1/- duty plate is clearly that for S.G. 9, the 16½mm variety. No die for a 15½mm duty plate has been seen nor is there any other invoice in the De la Rue records.

The earliest recorded usage for the 1/- is 3 March 1875 for the 15½mm (S.G. 8) and 22 January 1876 for the 16½mm (S.G. 9). Samuel in his 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies' records that both varieties occur with "Cancelled" or "Specimen":

15½mm Type D6 (Cancelled) & D11 (Specimen)
16½mm Type D4 (Cancelled) & D8 (Specimen)

In view of the period of usage by De la Rue of all these "overprints" (approximately the period 1862 to 1882, except for D11, 1870 to 1884), no reliable conclusion can be drawn. It is, however, notable that the 16½mm variety had an apparently earlier overprint for both "Cancelled" and "Specimen."

In marked contrast to the date of the die (and any inference from the overprints), the following facts are known:

- First usage is for the 15½ variety.
- All later Queen Victoria issues of the 1/- value show the 16½mm duty plate.
- In practice, S.G. 8 is scarcer than S.G. 9 and this is, to some extent, reflected in valuations.

The possible deductions are:

- A 15½mm duty plate must have been used for at least one or more early printings of the 1874 issue based upon the earliest date of usage.
- The 16½mm duty die of 31 October/18 November 1874 must, therefore, have been damaged before the first printings with the 15½mm variety.



Fig.1. The value lacking the serif on the "G", 15½mm.

- It seems inconceivable that any other printings were made prior to the 18 November 1874 despatch or more particularly, that a 15½mm die was first prepared, some printings made, and then the die replaced between 31 October/18 November 1874 with the 16½mm varieties, and more printings made by that date (De la Rue were not, at this date, printing in advance of requirements and holding stocks of stamps for Lagos).



Fig.2. The value with the serif, 16½mm.

Whatever deduction is favoured, neither is wholly satisfactory even allowing for the fact that De la Rue made no reference to the change or the reasons therefore in their files, and no complaint appears to have been received from the Crown Agents or Lagos that the first issues of the 15½mm did not conform to the die proof, such as would have caused De la Rue to revert to 16½mm.

Two other possibilities exist. First, could the 16½mm duty plate have been damaged, perhaps after printing had commenced, necessitating replacement, and to meet the despatch date of 18 November, the duty plate of another client was borrowed to meet the emergency? Damage to plates in these early days did occur. However strange the possibility seems (and the damaged plate seems the most feasible), De la Rue was using an identical duty plate at that time for the first issue (1874) of Dominica. The stamps of this colony have a remarkably similar design to those of Lagos. The duty plate is 15½mm and lacks the serif on the "G" (Fig.3).

It would not be unreasonable to assume the already existing duty plate for Dominica could have been substituted for the first printing of the Lagos 1/- value, and when the 16½mm duty plate had been repaired or



Fig.3. The Dominica 1/- lacking the serif, 15½mm.

remade, subsequent printings continued with the 16½mm plate.

Secondly, there is always the possibility that the De la Rue workmen may have picked up the Dominica duty plate in error and used it on the press. This would imply a slip in De la Rue's quality control which is uncharacteristic of that firm but there would have been no plate identification numbers; sometimes the least complicated explanation turns out to be the most likely.

I am indebted to Messrs. E. E. Fricks and L. Leon, members of the British West Africa Study Circle, for the co-operation in the preparation of this article.

Acknowledgement

This article first appeared in *The Collectors Club Philatelist (USA) July/August 1982*. Permission has kindly been given to reproduce the article.

NIGER COAST WATERLOW PERFORATIONS

J. F. INCE

The Waterlow stamps printed for the Niger Coast were the subject of a considerable variation in perforation gauging which has in itself provided a time-consuming diversion in the study of the three issues (1893, 1894, 1897/98).

This perforating process was carried out by single line machines then in use by Waterlows and it is believed that six separate guillotine machines were used.

Recently, as a result of an enquiry concerning the differing measurements of the paper on which various of the stamps have been printed, I have measured the spacing between the rows of perforation holes on complete sheets on all three issues (measuring from centres of holes).

From this exercise it is clear that the setting of these rows was not constant. Generally, the horizontal measurement can vary between 23 and 24½mm, while vertically the variation can be between 29½ and 30½. For example, an 1893 sheet of 5d (8 x 6 stamps) gives measurements as follows:-

Horizontal ... 24, 23½, 24, 23½, 23½, 23½, 23½, 24½.

Vertical ... 30½, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30½.

On two sheets of 1/- (6 x 5 stamps) the vertical measurement is as low as 29½ on the 3rd and 4th rows on both sheets.

Similar variations occur on sheets of the 1894 and 1897/98 issues.

On some sheets the horizontal line of perforation is 'wavy' in places.

While the variation between adjacent stamps is rarely more than half a millimetre, horizontally or vertically, where it widens to a full millimetre the visual impression is either of a small wing margin or alternatively of a very narrow stamp and this can be accentuated if it coincides in a printing where the stamps are not well centred.

NORTHERN NIGERIA

- THE CAPT. W. H. WILKIN CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. T.V. Roberts has provided details of two letters, each with a manuscript cancellation, from Capt. Wilkin in Northern Nigeria to England.

The letter from Ibi, with stamps stamp cancelled 23/7/01, is a long one, dated 14.7.01: maybe it took the writer several days to complete, but he does not put a fresh date at the end. It is to his brother and begins -

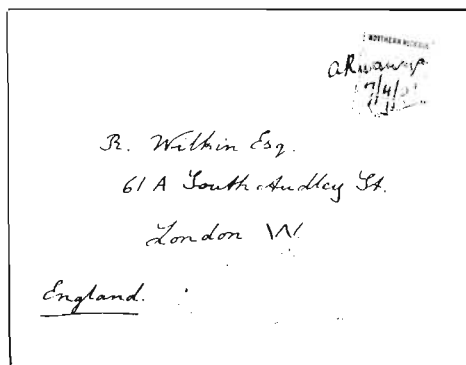
"At last I have got an opportunity of sitting down and writing some of the letters I owe. We were out in the bush from June 8 - July 6th and during that time we received two mails and found another on our return here ... The expedition is considered very successful, as we gave them a very bad time and opened up the roads. We marched 422 miles in 29 days."

He goes on to a detailed description of their doings, including mentioning that "We killed at least 60 men and burnt innumerable villages and compounds ... We must have burnt out at least 5000 or 6000 people." A rather horrifying description of our forbears' activities in Africa!

Capt. Wilkin describes in some detail shooting game for meat for his troops and goes on to explain the meaning of 'palaver'.

"Palaver is a word of rather varied meaning here. For example, 'To go on palaver' means to go on an expedition. 'A peace palaver' means an expedition in which there will be no fighting at all i.e. a political one. 'To make palaver' means to quarrel, to have a row; on the other hand it very often means simply business or affair, for example two fellows going out into the bush, one says to the other 'I will see about the canoe, you arrange about the chop palaver' i.e. you arrange about the food question. It also means simply talking, for example if the boys are talking loudly, someone will call out to them 'There is too much palaver there.'"

Finally, in commenting on various awards and promotions, he says "I see several of the papers complain that 'B-P' (Baden-Powell) has only been made a C.B. instead of a K.C.B. - I suppose many people would not have been satisfied unless he had been made a full general and a peer" and then adds several pertinent comments about B-P and the defence of Mafeking.



The second letter, stamp cancelled 'Akwanaga 7/4/01' is headed "Akwanaga Easter Sunday" Capt. Wilkin discusses the possibility of investing some of his accumulated pay in the family firm. It gives an interesting comment on changes in values, that he says his pay is £25 a month and his proposed investment is £100.

He also says "I only heard at breakfast this morning that the mail goes out at 10.00 a.m. – the canoe having come down from Ibi two days before it was expected."

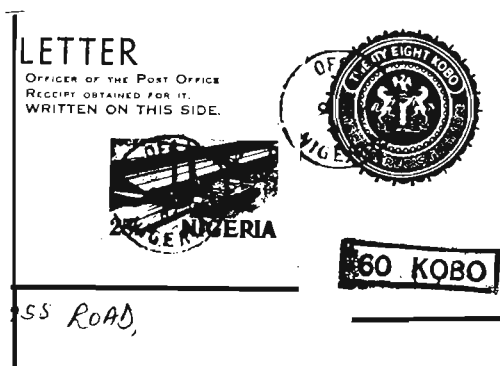
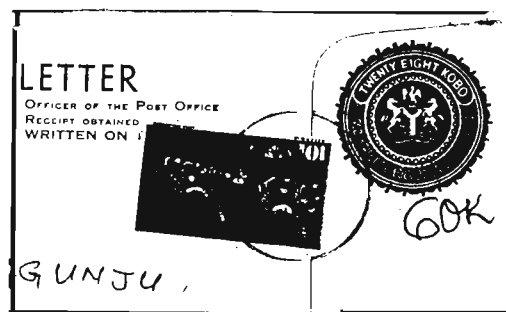
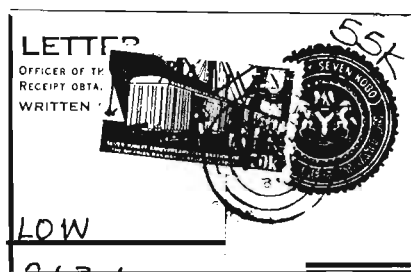
That is all that either letter tells us about the postal service.

NIGERIA: REGISTERED ENVELOPE SURCHARGES

N. M. JONES

Among recent purchases of used Registered Envelopes were several bearing signs of an increase in the counter price of these items. I show photocopies of four of these and I list below the examples obtained to date.

Size/Value	Postal Point	Date	Mark
G 27k	IBOKUN	30 JUN 81	Manuscript '55K' in red
H	BACITA	10 MAR 81	Oblong rubber stamp '60 KOBO' in violet
H	LAGOS	23 APR 81	Manuscript '60k' (black)
H 28k	ABAKALI	21 MAY 81	Manuscript '60k' (black)
H 28k	IKIRUN	2 JULY 81	Manuscript '60k' (black)
H 28k	OFFA	4 JULY 81	Oblong rubber stamp '60 KOBO' (black)



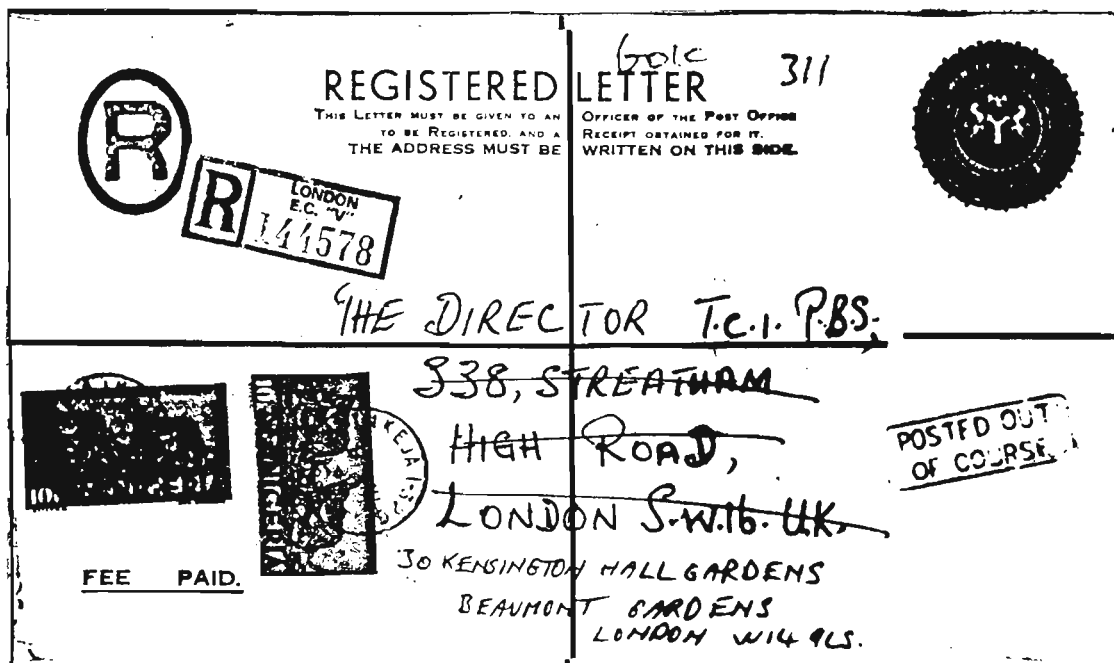
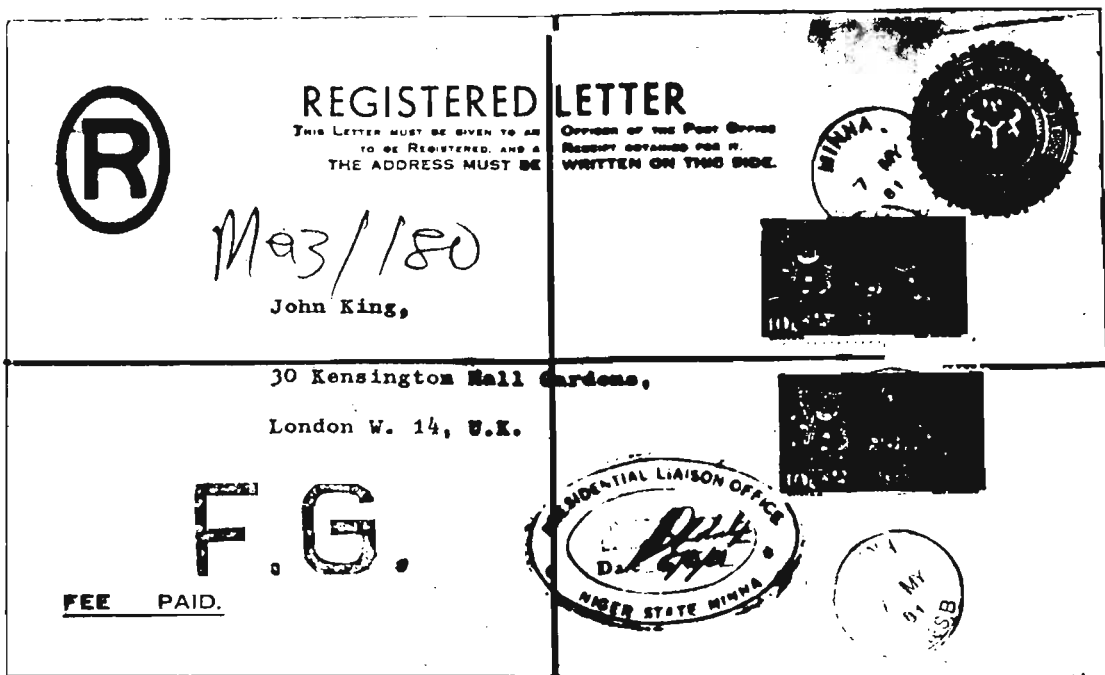
NIGERIA: F. G. AND 'POSTED OUT OF COURSE'

N. M. JONES

Two Registered Envelopes may be of interest. One shows the initials 'F. G.' usually associated with Federal Government use, though I am not sure that this was used on official business.

The second example, although posted at IKEJA, has somehow obtained a London registration label. I can only assume that the sender had posted the letter in a post box instead of passing it across the counter to be officially recorded, this being noticed only when it reached London.

Presumably the 'POSTED OUT OF COURSE' cachet was applied in London.

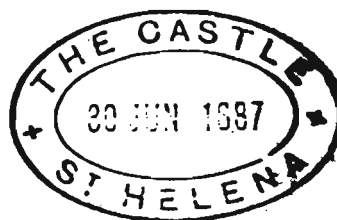


THE POST OFFICE IMPRESSION BOOKS: ST. HELENA

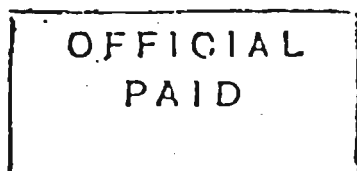
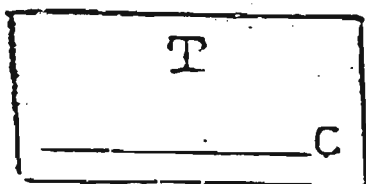
In the booklet produced by the Circle in 1981, some impressions for St. Helena were omitted. By courtesy of P.O. Archives all are now reproduced here. In black unless stated.



Rubber Vol. 2, Page 102, Violet, 9th Ap. 1887



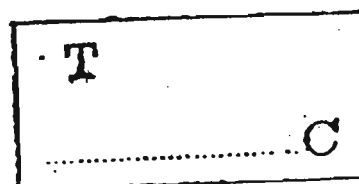
Rubber Vol. 2, Page 144, Violet, 14th Jly. 1887



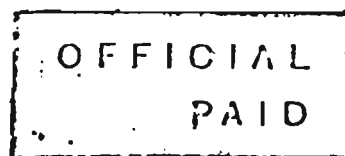
Vol. 51, Page 16, 22nd March 1895



Vol. 51, Page 19, 25th Apr. 1896



Vol. 51, Page 25, 17 Sep. 1897



Vol. 51, Page 63, 11th March, 1901



Vol. 51, Page 49, 6th June 1902

FORGERIES – ST. HELENA

ROGER B. WEST

Numerous types of forgeries are known on the early St. Helena 6d Surcharges; the majority of which can only be described as crude. In most cases they were copies of inexpensive stamps and produced in larger quantities than a forgery of a rare stamp might warrant.

It should be noted that during the 1860's and 70's many territories had only just started issuing stamps. Stamp collecting also was in its infancy and lacked the facilities offered today by new issue dealers and philatelic bureaux. Consequently, a large demand was

created for cheap packet stamps and the forger was not slow to respond. The situation is comparable in many ways to the CTO thematic sets issued by the Arab States a century later.

In all cases to hand, the forgeries can be readily detected in many ways as little attention was paid to faithful copying. The paper was invariably unwatermarked although some attempts had been made with impressing. The colour of the paper varied from white to cream to dark. The cancellations were generally

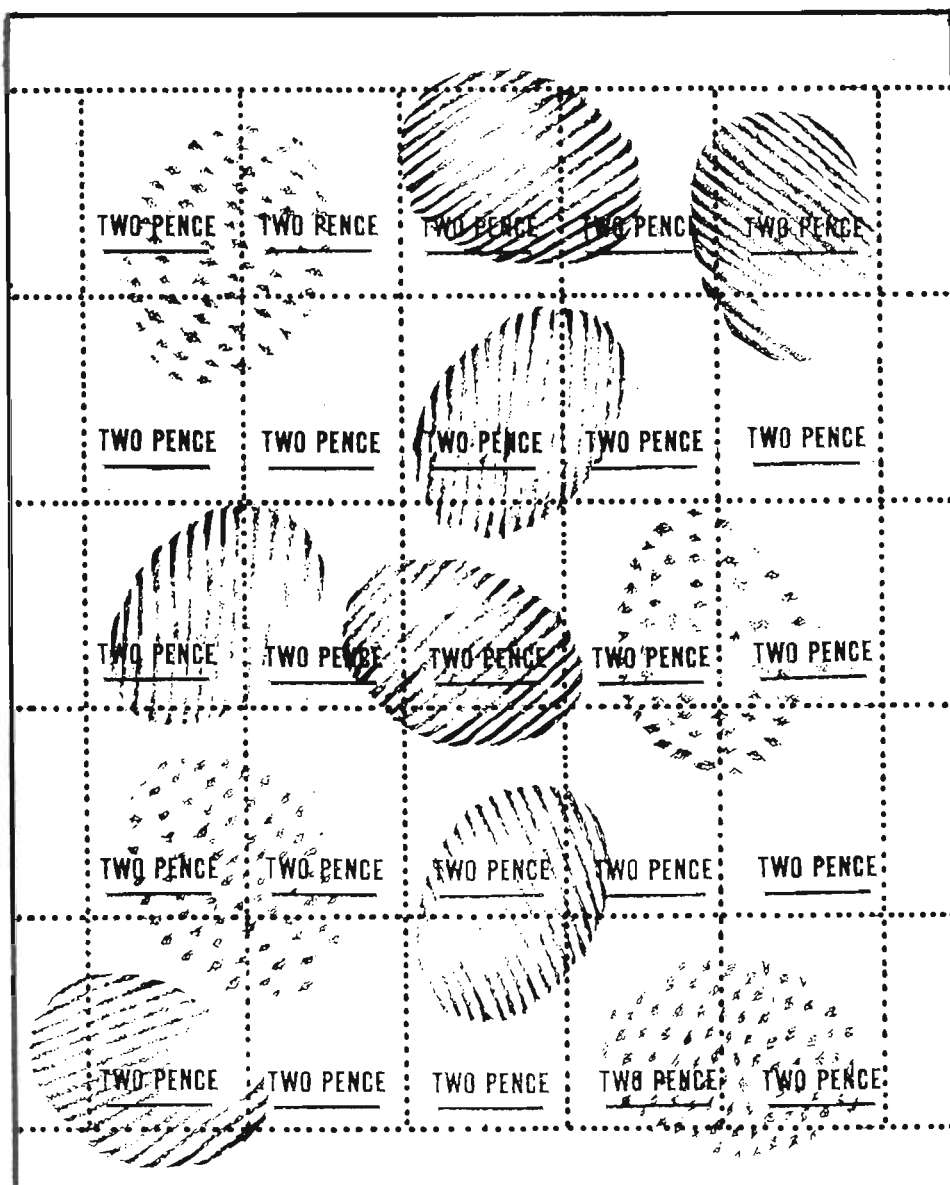


Fig.1

SPIRO FORGERY

Complete sheet showing relative positions of surcharge and cancellations on the 2d on sixpence.

similar to the genuine corks although with experience these alone can be identified. The surcharges in most cases involve the wrong fonts, the spacing and size often not corresponding to the original and frequently misplaced. Many different gauges of perforation have been noted including perf 9, 11, 11 x 1 1/2, etc. The perf holes are often elongated and seldom clean cut.

The printing was generally lithographed although a clever engraved forgery is known. Coloured inks are obviously close to the originals in the broad sense but seldom match convincingly. When used on dark or coloured paper they bear no resemblance at all. Many discrepancies can be noted in the overall design but vary from one forgery to another. In general terms however, the intricacies of the engine-turned background are grossly simplified and the lettering takes on a spidery appearance. Notable characteristics may identify each forgery and these are worthy of further study.

The most prolific of the 19th Century forgers was the firm of Spiro Brothers of Hamburg. They produced large

numbers of stamps from many countries and of the forgeries of early St. Helena stamps theirs are the most common. The attempts at forging these stamps will be dealt with here in some detail.

Their forgeries (or facsimiles, as they liked to call them) were all lithographed on wove paper varying from white/cream/dark. They produced the 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 1/- and 5/- on sixpence all in small sheets of 25 (5 x 5) and the 6d produced in sheets of 25 (5 x 5) and 60 (5 x 12). In all cases noted they were forged as 'used', the cancellation (in black) being an integral part of the surcharge plate. Consequently, single copies, if matched up to a complete sheet, can be plated by comparing the cancel. The illustration in Fig.1 shows a complete sheet of the 2d and 6d. The yellow colour of the stamp has been conveniently burnt out showing only the cancellations and surcharge. The perforations have been drawn in although their precise position varies from one sheet to another. The cancellations take on a similar format for each value although not identical.

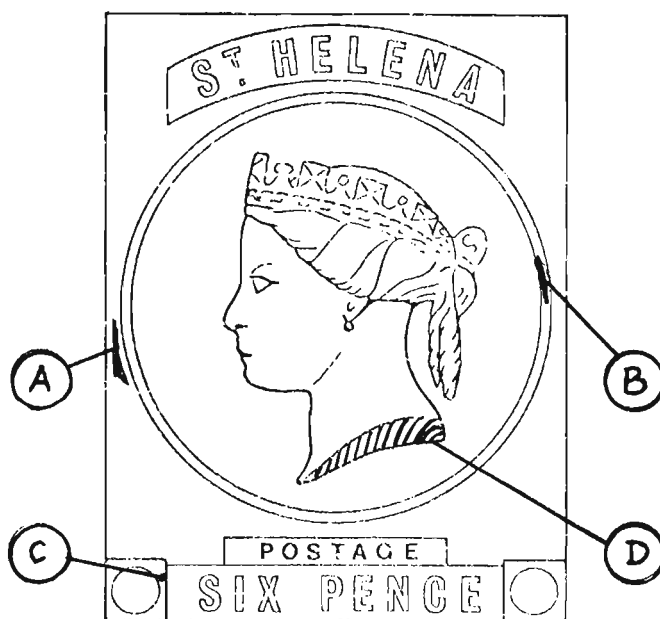


Fig.2
SPIRO FORGERY
Identifying characteristics. See text for description

The Spiro forgeries have certain characteristics which identify them from the original and other forgeries.

Figure 2 shows the locations of these characteristics which are:

- A large triangular solid forming part of the background between 8 and 9 o'clock.
- A line in the white circle between 2 and 3 o'clock (in a similar position to the Transfer Roller Flaw).

- A coloured dot in the left square extending from the value box.
- Lines of shading on bust curve towards the right-hand side.

Numerous other differences may be noted in the crown, facial detail and lettering.

Although as stated most of the forgeries are of inexpensive stamps there were one or two 'better' items copied; these include the 6d imperf, the 1/- green with surcharge omitted and also 1/- with inverted surcharge.

SIERRA LEONE. The 5/- overprint on the 1/- green. 1884.

by P. O. Beale

This stamp, which has been a subject of controversy for nearly a century, is normally seen cancelled with a red line and more rarely without the line. As a result of the Stamp Duty Ordinance passed in 1884, the colony ordered revenue stamps to be printed and, while awaiting the supply, the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes was authorised. Messrs. De la Rue had recommended that temporary overprinted stamps be used and on August 14th 1884 the colonial secretary wrote to Crown Agents ... 'The colonial Government are now using the ordinary Sierra Leone postage stamps for revenue purposes until the new adhesive revenue stamps arrive, and we have already adopted for the higher issues a plan similar to that proposed by Messrs. De la Rue by overprinting the value.' The stamp that was so overprinted is the 5/- on 1/-. It was withdrawn when a Regulation was passed with effect from March 1st 1885 limiting revenue stamps to the new issue that had by then arrived from Crown Agents. It is unlikely that the 5/- stamp was put to genuine postal use but there are many colonial stamps valid for both postal and revenue use that are unknown properly postally used and yet which have catalogue status.

The overprinting, which was made on May 30th, was to a good standard although the printer evidently did not have 60 identical copies of number 5. He found 45 similar ones with an upright shaft below the flourish at the top, and 15 with sloping shafts. One of the latter, stamp number 51, has a distinctly thicker flourish than the others. Other constant varieties are Stamp 26 with no dot after the value, Stamp 40 with a raised A on Sierra, and Stamp 60 with a raised R and A at the end of Sierra. One copy of stamp number 6, as can be identified from the Control number, is known with a missing A and with most of the final E on Leone missing, perhaps caused by paper on the plate preventing the end of each word from printing. In his article on the stamp in *The Philatelist* Mr. Robson Lowe refers to a sheet on which three of the letters on Stamp 40, R R and A, are all raised, but this is not so on another sheet. That does suggest that there was some minor shifting of type during the printing run. The stamp exists with overprint inverted and, as this exists on copies with and without the red ink line, it can be deduced that at least two sheets were so treated. Mr. Harris' account of the issue in the *Philatelic Magazine* states that the purchaser of the sheets cancelled in red found one inverted, thus confirming the likelihood of there being two inverted sheets. At one time he records that a block of 24 of the inverted stamps cancelled in red existed.

The Regulation bringing to an end the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes appeared in the *Gazette* of January 1885. The relevant parts read '... Whereas by a Regulation under section VIII of the same Ordinance passed by the Governor-in Council on the second day of June 1884, it was ordered that the Stamp Duties should be collected by means of Postage Stamps, and Whereas a supply of adhesive revenue stamps has since been procured. It is hereby ordered that from and after the 1st day of March next the use of Postage Stamps shall be discontinued for the purposes

of the Stamp Duty Ordinance, and that adhesive Revenue Stamps shall be affixed to the various documents and instruments ...'

After the 5/- on 1/- stamp had served its purpose, the remaining stamps were withdrawn and cancelled with a red line drawn irregularly by brush. The colonial secretary, T. Risley Griffiths, was given permission to keep the stock which then comprised 25 1/3rd sheets or 1,520 stamps. Later in the year when on vacation in Madeira, he wrote to the stamp dealer, Theodore Buhl, offering him the stock. They were purchased and subsequently sold to a Mr. W. Matthews. He wrote to the Sierra Leone Postmaster about the status of the stamps and fortunately that correspondence has been preserved, being quoted by Mr. Harris in the article referred to. He gives the information that 40 sheets totalling 2400 stamps had originally been overprinted. It follows that 880 stamps did not receive the red line and so were sold for fiscal or postal use. Mr. Griffiths kept a copy for himself and sent eleven copies to various dealers.

Four covers survive bearing the stamp, three having the red line. Three were discussed at length in *The Philatelist* of April 1971. All are postmarked with the unusual canceller type 11 and all are backstamped with the rare Sherbro and Sierra Leone postmark type 5 that is probably only recorded on these four covers. Although they are envelopes that may have been passed through the post, they are either philatelic or forged. The date on each is December 10th 1884 and the arrival date is the 15th. However, the stamps were not remaindered until the next March and yet three are cancelled by the red line that had not then been applied! The inescapable conclusion is that they were contrived at a later date and that the postmarks were backdated. As was pointed out by Mr. Cadbury in *The Philatelist*, not only are the stamps overprinted in a thicker more smudged ink, but the datestamp is poorly aligned and the red cancel seems in a different shade of ink than on the remaindered stamps. All this goes to strengthen the view that these covers are later forgeries.

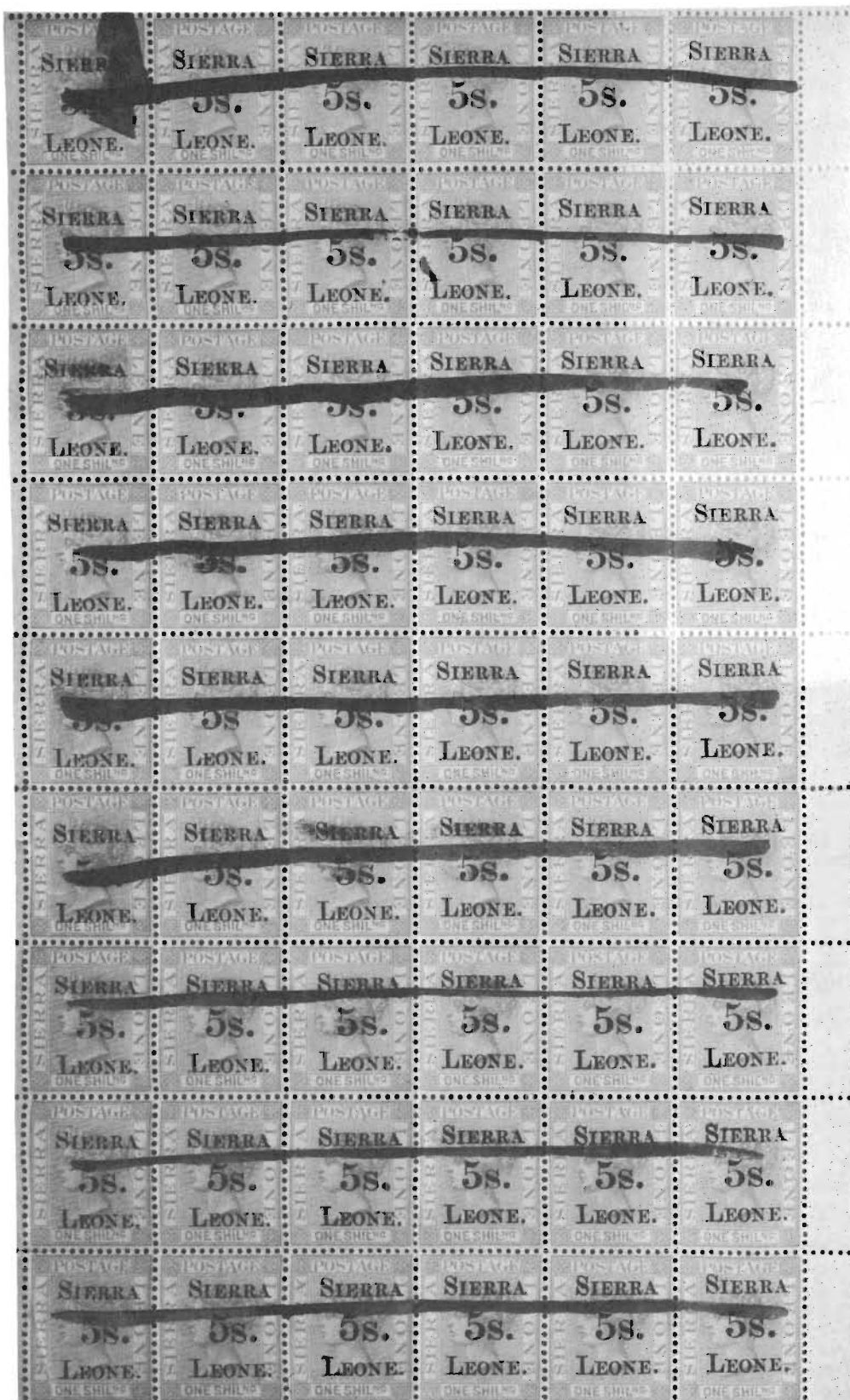
A single stamp survives with the top part of a Freetown postmark, thus excluding the date. Although no stamp exists which can be proved to be postally valid, the stamp was available postally for eight months. Without the red line it is one of the rarities among colonial stamps and there is a single copy extant without the red line and with the inverted overprint.

References:

History of the first 5/- stamp of Sierra Leone. The *Philatelic Magazine* May 8 1942 and May 22 1942 by A. H. Harris.

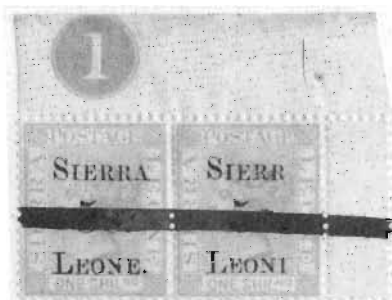
Sierra Leone 1884 5/- on One shilling Green by Robson Lowe and a subsequent comment by Mr. G. A. H. Cadbury. *The Philatelist*. April 1971.

Sierra Leone W. E. P. Handbook 1911. B. W. H. Poole.





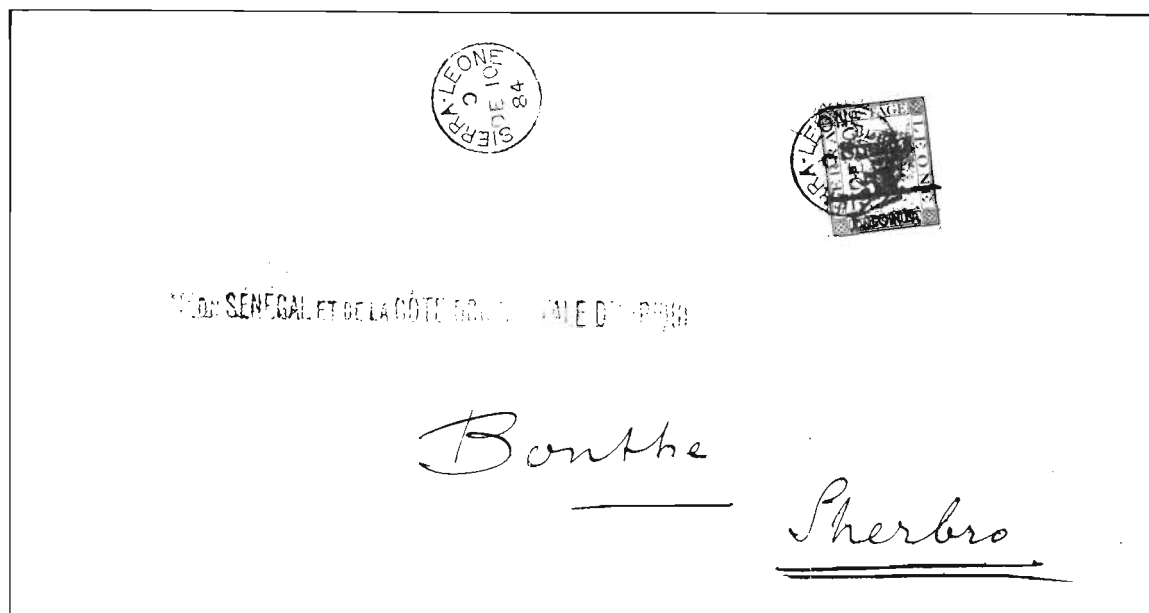
Type 5 datestamp



pair of stamps cancelled by red bar and missing A



the surcharge inverted without red bar



TOGO. THE 1915 LOCAL OVERPRINTS

J. J. MARTIN

In a recent Robson Lowe sale, under Togo, was described "1916 (April) 2½d bright blue, variety double overprint, one partially albino, fine mint."

The writer viewed the stamp and is of the opinion that it is, in fact, the 1915 (May) Local Overprint. The type is thin and does not show through on the back of the stamp. "OCCUPATION" measures just under

15mm and, although not proof, no varieties have yet been recorded on the 1916 stamps.

The letters "CH" and "ON" are clearly double and the rest of the overprint can easily be made out "albino". Previously, only the ½d, 1d and 1/- values had been recorded with double overprints and, it must be noted, with all words appearing twice.

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	1904 cover to England franked with 2 x 1d KEVII cancelled at Freetown and showing also the village datestamp of Panguna.	£35
	KGVth 2d grey MCA watermark inverted, mint.	£25
SOUTHERN NIGERIA	1907 postcard to the French Congo franked with pair ½d KEVII cancelled only with diagonal purple handstamp "S.S. Nigeria"	£95
	1910 picture postcard with 1d adhesive cancelled with "Travelling Post Office Southern Nigeria."	£25
	1906 KEVII 1d stationery card from Old Calabar to Loango, French Congo.	£25

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