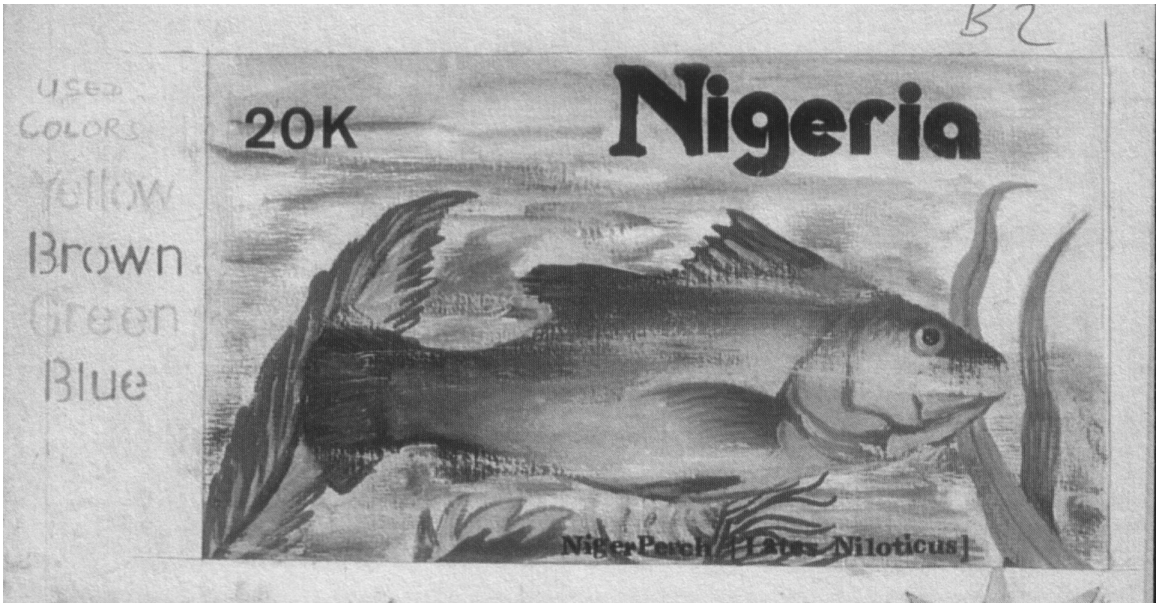
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The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



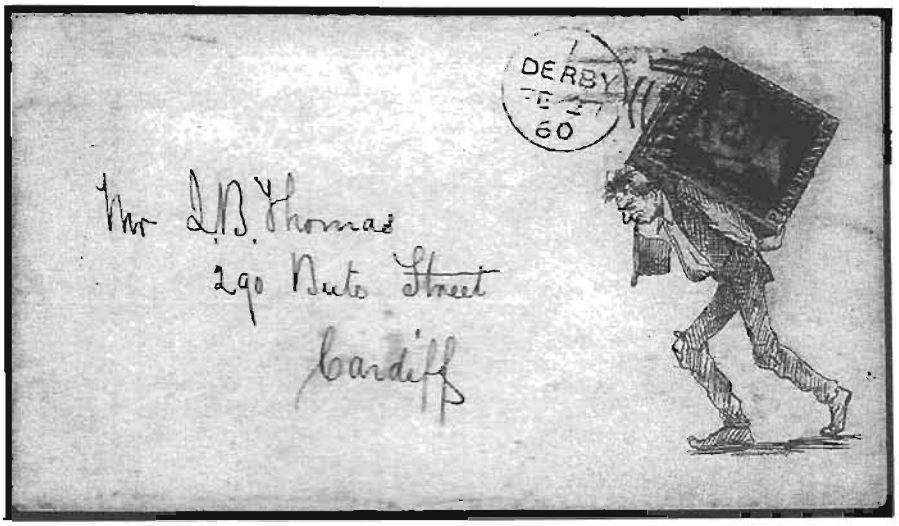
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Contents

Editorial		286
Letters to the Editor;		287
Mark, Carter, Quirk, Walton, Mobbs, Revell, Levine, Collins, Maddocks		
Bookshelf		290
Airmail Directional Hand-stamps by McQueen		
Maritime Disaster Mail….by Hoggarth & Gwynn		
British Commonwealth Revenues, 7th Edition, by Barefoot		
Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals		291
A new Southern Nigeria Hand-stamp	*by John Sacher*	291
Earliest Mail from West Africa	*by John Sacher*	292
AEF – "Petits Bureaux"	*by Bill Mitchell*	295
Pro-tem Postmistress at Jos, Nigeria	*by Bob Maddocks*	299
Togo – Censorship in the French Sector	*by John Mayne*	300
Nigeria Censor 11 – What Speciality?	*by Rob May*	304
New Type of Nigerian WW2 Censor	*by Newton & Piggin*	306
A Nigerian Local?	*by Michael Wright*	306
US Army POs in Nigeria	*by Jeremy Martin*	307
Gold Coast "ATAR…" Postmark	*by Nick Carter*	308
CEF O'prints on Kamerun – another update	*by Marty Bratzel*	309
More on the Opening of Buea Post Office	*by Bob Maddocks*	310
Perfins on Postage Stamps from Cameroons	*by Carter, Wright & Bratzel*	311
Nigeria – the 1991 Fish issue	*by Roger West*	312
S. Leone – Sherbro extra 1d Charge	*by John Sacher*	315
S. Leone – FORWARD Hand-stamp	*by John Sacher*	317
Woermann Line Mail via Sekondi	*by John Mayne*	317
Nigerian Covers Censored in Austria	*by Tony Plumbe*	319
Cameroons Mail Censored in N. Ireland	*by Bob Maddocks*	321
Cameroun / Gabon "Par Pirogue Postale"	*by Rob May*	322
Nigeria 2001 Wildlife Definitives	*by Rob May*	323
Nigeria – Insufficiently Prepaid	*by Rob May*	324
Cameo Volume 7 Index		328

Front Cover

Essay for the 20k value of the 1991 Nigerian Fish set.
Artist Remi Adeyemi
See article at page 312 of this issue of Cameo

Editorial

This issue of Cameo has been more than usually difficult to compile, and I hope readers do not find more than the usual number of problems when it is returned by the printers. Firstly this issue includes the index for both Volume 7 of Cameo and the last five issues of the St Helena and Ascension Supplement. That had to be revised when I realised I had not included the contents of this issue!

Next, this is the first issue I have compiled on a new computer (the old one having run out of hard disk space), and is compiled entirely electronically, including all the illustrations. Any shortcomings in the scanning and positioning of the illustrations are entirely down to my learning curve, rather than the quality of what I have received from the contributors. If this has worked then I would encourage those contributors who have the facility to scan their illustrations to send them to me in .gif or .pdf formats as e-mail attachments or on diskette or CD-RW.

Furthermore, readers should also find the centre four pages printed in colour. This experiment has arisen because the two articles featured in this section were both difficult to illustrate properly in black and white. Costs are significantly higher but I would appreciate feedback on whether this should become a regular part of Cameo.

And finally, we have changed printers. This issue has been printed by Sarsen Press, who have been the printers of the Supplement for several issues. I felt disappointed about the reproduction of the illustrations in the last Cameo, including some of the advertisements, whilst the quality of the Supplement had improved over the last couple of issues. At the time of writing I cannot know how well this change works out, but readers will find a photocopy insert of my article from the last Cameo on the Nigerian Cheetahs definitives which was the most obvious victim, and which this time includes illustrations that show what they were meant to!

The next Cameo will be number 1 of Volume 8, produced by Barry Burns as an Atlantic issue in about late September, and I take the opportunity to welcome him to the joint editorship, as ratified by the 2003 AGM. Please continue to send contributions to me for all features except St Helena and Ascension, which go to him first. We will then swap contributions where they are of more general interest, and will publish letters, book reviews etc in the first available issue.

An apology is due to Michael Wright and Michael Round (Cameo January 2003, page 275) for my editing error. Michael Round is not Paris-based.

Rob May

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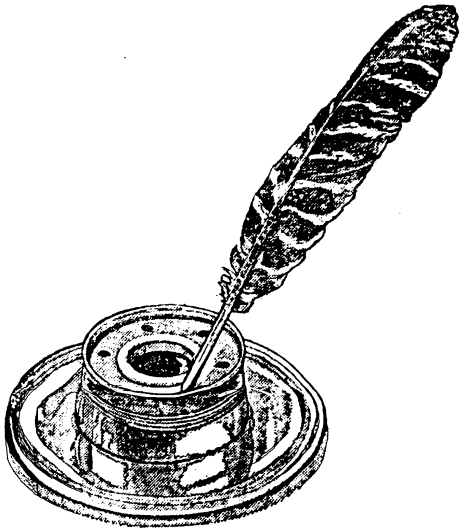
Printed in England on archival quality paper to ISO9706.

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Access to the internet? Then please try visiting the re-launched
West Africa Study Circle Web Site at :
http://www.wasc.org.uk
Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact harris6@which.net



Letters to the Editor

Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the Cameo editor in the first instance to enable a consolidated follow-up to be published in conjunction with the study editors as appropriate.

Correspondence on any subject is always most appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, telephone or email.

My addresses are listed on the front page of all Cameo issues.

Rob May

Corona School, Kano

Dear Rob,

I would be interested to know whether any WASC members still travel to Kano on a regular basis. One of my present contacts was a founder member of the Corona School and brought home with her (some years ago) a quantity of papers concerning the history of the school with the view to writing a history. She wonders if there is still a Corona School, and if so whether she might be able to make contact with the present staff. In the 1970's there was a move to Nigerianise the school but she does not know whether this was fully implemented nor if there were other later developments.

Thank you for another Cameo; the usual good read.

Graham Mark
Wiveliscombe, Somerset

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Nigeria Censor 21

Dear Rob,

The article by Peter Richards and yourself in the latest Cameo (Vol 7 No 5, p248) sent me to my accumulation of Nigeria covers. I found four examples of censor 21, three of which, being surface mail from Kano, had the usual Lagos machine cancel on the reverse.

The fourth proved to be more useful. An airmail letter, franked 1/6d, posted at Jos Town on 28 December 1942 (CDS type 16), and addressed to Fort Lamy, Chad, it has what seems to be a Kano (type 17) CDS dated 30 December, and an arrival CDS at Fort Lamy on 4 January 1943. It was opened by the examiner and resealed with a PC90 tape type 4, and then a PP/21 octagon (type 5) was applied. Finally it has the double ring AEF postal control mark with a clear "Commission G" for Chad.

Given the short elapsed times on this routing there would appear to be a fairly convincing case for the location of Censor 21 in Kano rather than Lagos.

Kudos on another great issue of Cameo

Nick Carter
Bethesda, USA

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Modern Postmarks of Sierra Leone

Dear Rob,

Thank you for doing such a nice job of presenting my articles in the latest Cameo. The comments from Frank Walton and Don Carter about the Kunso postcard are excellent.

The reason I am writing is to correct an error in my Sierra Leone postmarks article (Cameo Vol 7, No 5, p 260). It turns out there is a district known as Savage Square in Freetown as well as one in Makeni. I have just discovered an example of the likely successor to the SAVAGE SQUARE skeleton: it is a type 42 variant with SAVAGE SQUARE around the top and FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE around the bottom. I cannot tell if there is any punctuation between "Freetown" and "Sierra". The cancellation date is probably 13 DE 68, although the slugs are inserted somewhat randomly!

In addition, strikes of the Falla and Jojoima postmarks are included in "West African Post Office Impression Books", alongside a date of 23 Jan (1962). Tantalisingly a type 42 inscribed Jaiama Sewafe was included in the same batch of devices; a replacement for Jaiama – Nimi.Yema, or is this a third Jaiama?

Philip Quirk
Birmingham

Early Censorship in Sierra Leone

Dear Rob,

As the time passes, both myself and Jeremy Martin continue to note all date extensions that we either stumble across or are sent by members. Most of these, though interesting, are somewhat run-of-the-mill. However I have just found in an Australian auction a cover clearly postmarked at both Moyamba and Freetown on 2 September 1939 that has been resealed with civilian tape Type 1A. This is six weeks earlier than previously recorded.

The cover is also of note as it was addressed to Jamaica with an air mail label and adhesives totalling 1/6d – a previously unrecorded rate. It has a Kingston arrival mark of 12 October 1939. Peter Richards advises me that the cover dates from the period between 16 July 1939 and 4 October 1939 when there were no direct flights out of Freetown. Can anybody offer a possible routing?

Frank Walton
Dronfield, S Yorks

Sierra Leone WW2 airmail envelopes

Dear Rob,

I wonder if any member of the Study Circle can help me with a query about an envelope I have in my Sierra Leone collection?

The envelope is of an ordinary manila type sent by airmail to a commercial address in Manchester. The Freetown postmark is dated 14 August 1944 and the correct airmail rate of 1/3d for ½oz was used. The envelope also collected a civilian censor mark. On the rear of the envelope is the sender's name and address (E.J.Browne, 1 Sackville Lane, Freetown) and, typed alongside it "Licence No. 228"

According to Beale's "Postal History of Sierra Leone", the use of ordinary envelopes for airmail was disallowed between March 1944 and August 1945, to cut down the weight carried by the aircraft.

Does the "licence" have any bearing on this use of an ordinary envelope during the ban, or does it refer to something else? If it does refer to the ban, was a licence issued by the Post Office or the RAF, who I think were the carrier at the time?

I personally have not noticed this type of endorsement before and would welcome any information from any member.

Gerry Mobbs
Great Yarmouth

Postmarks of S. Leone after Independence

Dear Rob,

I read with great interest Philip Quirk's article (Cameo Vol 7 No 5, Jan 2003 pp 260-261), and agree that this does seem to be a neglected area of study. For years the postal administration continued along pre-independence lines, post offices opened and closed, and of course the "shapes" were introduced. These, besides littering post office floors (as I remember in Bo in 1967), annoyed postal historians as they did not accept postmarks very satisfactorily.

I have no extra POs to offer, but here are a few extra records pre-dating some of those in Philip's list. All are on registered letters to George Odom of Leicester, and all have the town name in manuscript on the registration label

Falla – franked with seven 3d FFH issue cancelled Falla cds dated 27 MY 63. On reverse, transit cds Blama 28 MY 63 and Freetown oval 30 MY 63

Masingbi – franked 1/3d "Flower" issue with Masingbi cds dated 25 MY 63. On reverse Magburaka cds 29 MY 63 and Freetown oval 31 MY 63

Jojoima – franked 6d and 1/3d Independence issue with Jojoima cds dated 4 OC 62. On reverse Daru cds 5 OC 62 and Freetown oval 8 OC 62

Philip mentioned that he has not seen Jojoima on a map. It is shown on the International Travel Map, Sierra Leone (no 715) published by ITMB Vancouver and available from the National Map Centre, 22-24 Caxton St, London SW1H 0QU. It is shown about 8 miles SSE of Daru. It also appears in "Sierra Leone in Maps" by J.I.Clarke 1966 publ. by L.U.P. (map no. 29) as having a mission dispensary at that time.

On a 1901 O.S. map a place spelt Jujima is in roughly the same position, but villages appeared and disappeared and names were used over and over again!

Ray Revell
Cambridge, UK

Shama, Gold Coast

Dear Rob,

I would like to report to members that I have found a prestamped envelope from Shama via Cape Coast to England, postmarked 5 June 1917, almost seven years later than recorded.

Philip Levine
Queensland, Australia

WW2 Propaganda hand-stamps

Dear Rob,

With reference to Jeremy Martin's cover that was illustrated on the front cover of Cameo Jan 2003, and which showed a red "SAVE FOR VICTORY" hand-stamp, I have unearthed two similar slogans which have been in my collection for some time. Both are in red and are on internal covers.

"ARE YOU / SUBSCRIBING TO / WAR CHARITIES FUND?" boxed in three lines on cover from Makene 24 AU 41 to Freetown back-stamped 27 AU 41.

"VICTORY SAVINGS WEEK" in one line on cover from U.B. Mission, Tiama 29 SP 41 to Freetown, back-stamped Mano 29 SP 41 and Freetown 1OC 41.

It seems very likely that other examples of these slogans will be found.

Ray Revell
Cambridge

Philatelic Websites

Dear Rob,

A question for WASC. I have been trying to find out if an electronic listing of British Africa stamps (pre 1963) exists. I know that Gibbons does not have any electronic lists, but a private group in the USA has an electronic listing of Scott's catalogue (www.scdbsoft.com) which can be purchased for a nominal fee.

Is anyone aware of anything similar for Gibbons? Any response much appreciated.

Bill Collins
St Johns, Newfoundland

The editor replied

Dear Bill,

I have checked www.allworldstamps.com to see if it covers the West African territories yet; and it does. You can use this site to get access to a free on-line listing of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue and, for a subscription, can use it interactively to catalogue a collection and to buy. The site is run by Stanley Gibbons, but is not completely up to date. Having checked Nigeria only, the listing ends at 1999.

Rob May

I am also very pleased that Ray Harris has been in touch to confirm that the WASC website has a new address www.wasc.org.uk (a good, snappy address, Ray!) and, by the time this Cameo is published, should be available to members.

Cameroun stamps since 1995

Dear Rob,

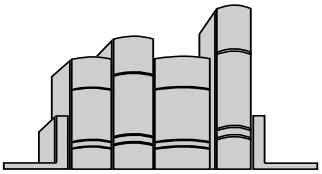
Re Cameo January 2003 page 275, I have an example of the 1981 Christmas commemorative stamp used some 19 years later on 13 May 2000.

I have also seen a more recent new issue than those listed, issued in 2000, with values of 200Fr (montage of views of Cameroun in the shape of a map of the country) and 250Fr (montage of wildlife), presumably a Tourism theme. Both are inscribed "Postes 2000". My examples are on cover used 13 Sept 2002.

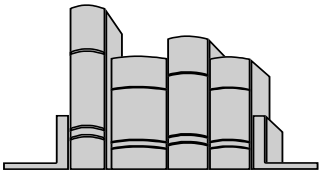
Bob Maddocks
Oswestry

WASC Study Editors are also available for queries and to help edit articles

- **Airmails – Barbara Priddy**
- **Ascension – Bernard Hughes**
- **Biafra – Dudley Prestedge**
- **Cameroons – Marty Bratzel**
- **Gambia – Oliver Andrew**
- **Ghana – Ian Anderson**
- **Gold Coast – Peter Newroth**
- **Lagos – John Sacher**
- **Maritime – John Knight**
- **Nigerias to 1914 – John Sacher**
- **Nigeria post 1914 – Neville Jones**
- **St. Helena – Bernard Mabbett**
- **Sierra Leone – Philip Beale & Peter Rolfe**
- **Togo – Jeremy Martin**



Bookshelf



Distribution of West Africa Study Circle publications has been changed. Please send orders and payments to the Treasurer (address on page 285). Authors will distribute their own publications to members.

🕮 *Airmail Directional Handstamps* by Ian McQueen. 370 A4 pages, in two volumes, hardbound. Published by and available from the author at 55, Albany, Bournemouth, BH1 3EJ. Price £35, including UK surface postage. For Europe price 60 Euros including surface postage. For the rest of the world, price US$60, including surface postage; if airmail add $10 (for Euro or US$ please send cash. However Euro cheques are acceptable provided they are drawn on a French bank). Reviewed by Rob May.

This book is unashamedly a reference work, with almost no explanation of the criteria and practice for use of the Air mail directional hand-stamps illustrated. Periods of use are cited only in full year format. In each country section Ian has included recommended sources of further information from the specialist works of others, or from the appropriate Study Circle journals. There is also a useful consolidated bibliography. Ian recognises the probability that there will be so much more to be found from specialists that he stands ready and willing to prepare a second edition, and invites our further contributions.
Coverage does not include hand-stamps redirecting underpaid Air mail to surface routes, such as the Nigerian types discussed in my article at page 324 of this Cameo, and does not cover souvenir and philatelic markings such as first flight cachets. Neither does it cover O.A.T and A.V.2 hand-stamps as this would duplicate the published work of Murray Heifetz. Nonetheless the world-wide coverage generates 233 pages of illustrations of directional hand-stamps in volume 1, from 125 countries in country name order; useful to collectors of airmails inbound to West Africa. Volume 2 re-lists those markings that include a place name in town name order and also covers further markings that did not fit the country listing. This will be a new standard reference for the aero-philatelist, but for the collectors of West African territories there is limited coverage as there are few outbound hand-stamps on West African mails that fit the criteria of this work.

🕮 *Maritime Disaster Mail. A study of mail salvaged from maritime disasters, as casualties of war, collisions, fires, shipwrecks and stranding*, by Norman Hoggarth and Robin Gwynn, published 2003 by the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, ISBN 0-9530004-4-3, hardbound, 352 pages. Available from Robert Johnson, 65, Manor Park, Redland, Bristol, BS6 4HW, price £37.50 plus £7.39 UK surface postage. Reviewed by Jeremy Martin.

Over 30 years have passed since the publication of the last edition of Adrian Hopkins *A History of Wreck Covers.* Hopkins covered all wrecks and crashes; this impressive new book deals with maritime disasters only, and is a worthy successor. Wrecks and their salved mail have been researched thoroughly with much detail about the circumstances of the disaster and, where appropriate, illustrations of salvaged mail and the cachets employed. Your reviewer has already found information to write up a WWI Gold Coast cover! Highly recommended not only for the facts contained in it, but it is also a book it is a pleasure just to dip into for an enjoyable read.

🕮 *British Commonwealth Revenues, seventh edition,* edited and published by J. Barefoot Ltd, 2002, ISBN 0-906845-61-0, soft bound, 308 pages. Available from J. Barefoot Ltd, PO Box 8, York, YO24 4AR, UK, price £25 (US$38). The latest edition contains additions, new finds and catalogue value changes. A review by a member collector of West African revenues would be welcome.

The Barefoot March 2003 catalogue also includes *French Colonies Revenues 1* by Donald Duston, price £30 listing, in English, all the revenues of French colonies in North Africa and the Middle East, with a note announcing that two future volumes are planned, one of which will cover French colonies in "Black Africa".

Articles of Interest Published in other Journals

Members are invited to contact the editor by e-mail post and phone when they notice any article they feel might be of interest to other members.

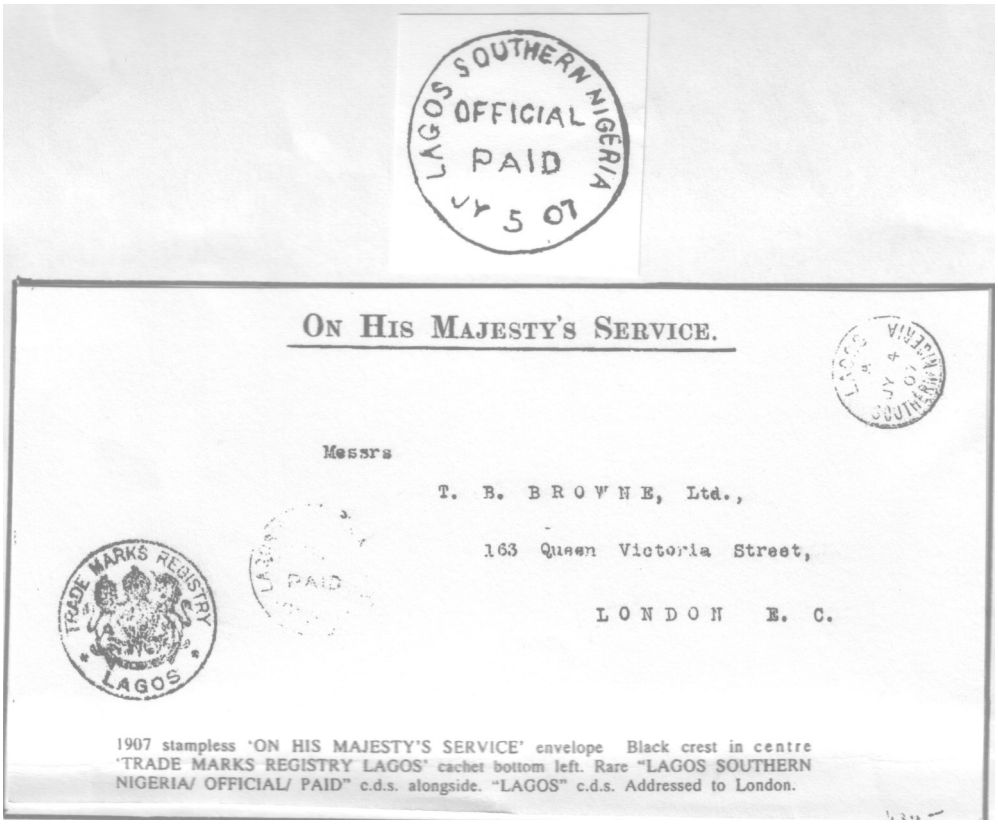
Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society Volume 53 No 1, March 2003
"Benin and Mail from Togo" by John Mayne
"Togo: the 1921 Mandate issue – Again" by Bill Mitchell
Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin Volume 30, No 2, April 2003
"WWII – Belgian Congo to Switzerland with Congo and British Censorship" by Rob May

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A newly found Southern Nigeria hand-stamp

John Sacher

I was shown by Willard Allman at Stampex a hand-stamp from Southern Nigeria which I had not previously seen and which will in due course be included in an update to Jack Ince's and my book, *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region* (Ref.1). It is a Lagos Official Paid mark in black (30mm) on an official envelope and I have numbered it O.16. The cover is also hand-stamped Trade Marks Registry Lagos and both the Official Paid hand-stamp, which is a little clearer on the original than the reproduction shows, and the cover are illustrated below.



1907 stampless 'ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE' envelope Black crest in centre 'TRADE MARKS REGISTRY LAGOS' cachet bottom left. Rare "LAGOS SOUTHERN NIGERIA/ OFFICIAL/ PAID" c.d.s. alongside. "LAGOS" c.d.s. Addressed to London.

Reference

1. Ince J.F. & Sacher J., *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, RPSL, London 1992

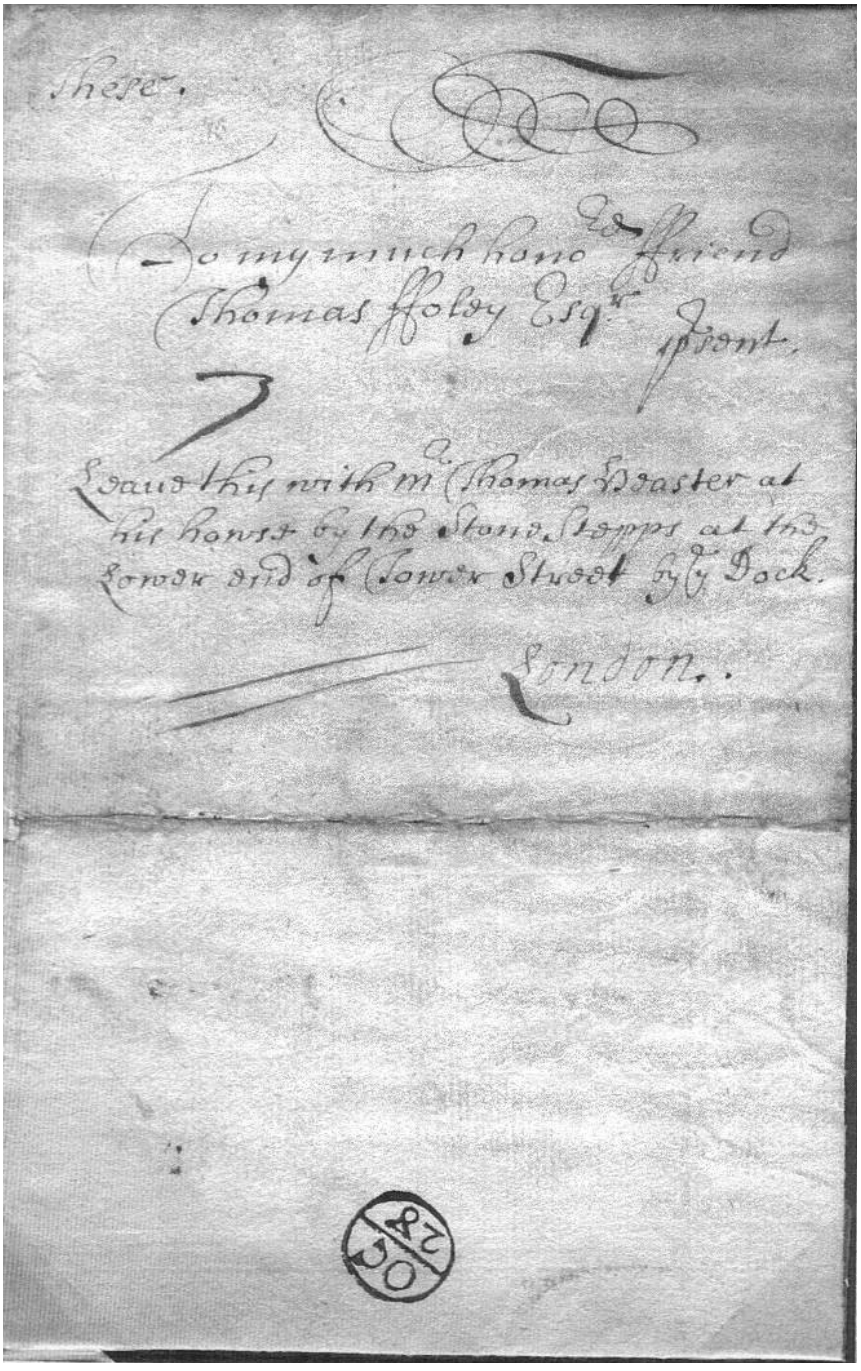
Earliest Mail from West Africa

John Sacher

With reference to the question by M. FitzRoett in the latest Cameo (Ref. 1), the earliest covers from the Gold Coast that I have recorded are one from Cape Coast Castle dated 3 October 1733 to London, where it arrived on 30 March of the following year and another from Cape Coast, dated 21 August 1771 that arrived on 5 April 1772. I hope he will not object to his cover being added to the list in our forthcoming book on Gold Coast postal history.

Other early covers with West African connections are illustrated

11 October 1663, written on board ship en route to "Guiny" and trans-shipped, arriving in London on 28 October. It is addressed "Leave this with Mr Thomas master at his house by the stone steppes at the lower end of Tower Street by the Dock – London"



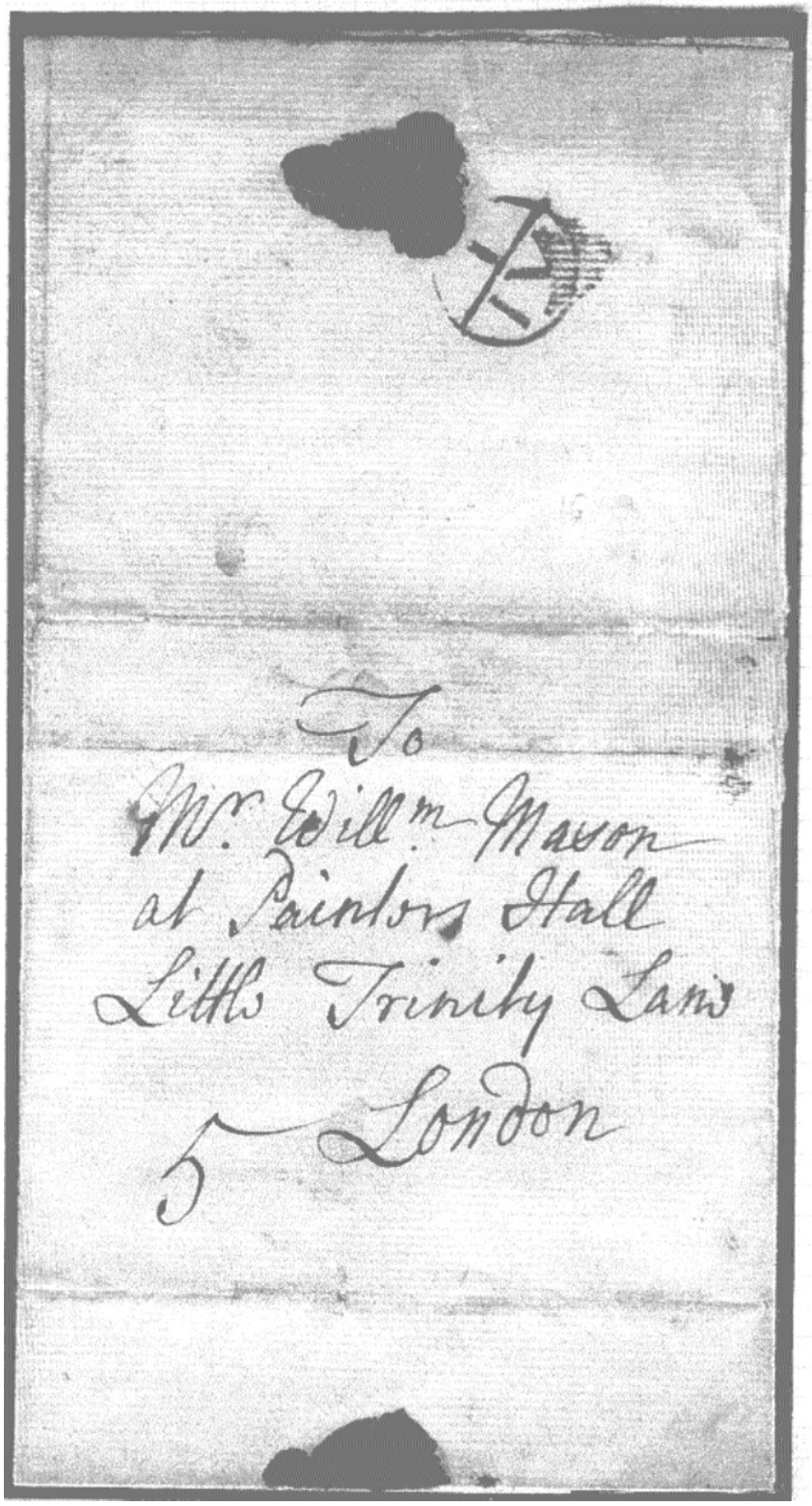
1 March 1715, written on board “att sea near Brava one of ye Cape de Verde Islands”, sent via Cork to Liverpool. The letter stated “I send this pr Allex Graduele who is bound to Cork”. Marked “CORK” in black on arrival and apparently charged Cork to Dublin plus Port Patrick to Donaghadee packet and then to Carlisle – 10d, plus Carlisle to Liverpool an additional 3d, making 1/1d in all



5 January 1771, from “Caap Mesurado”, later in Liberia, written by Cornelius van Haijen on board the “Good Intent” concerning “80 slaves for Dominica”. Sent via Bristol ship letter, London, Harwich, Hellevoetsluis vand Rotterdam to Middelburg.
“5” pence accountancy mark for 1d ship letter plus 4d over 80 miles (Bristol to London),
then UK – via Harwich – Hellevoetsluis 16 stuivers
and Hellevoetsluis – Rotterdam – Middelburg 6 stuivers, total 22 stuivers



7 December 1751, from Old Calabar which arrived in London 1 April 1752. The writer, Thos. Stocker, was dealing in slaves. 5d charge mark, possibly 4d over 80 miles plus 1d ship letter.



I also have a much later rather untidy cover that travelled on the triangular route, dated 16 February 1837 from Sierra Leone, via Antigua 10(?) January 1838 to London arriving on 27 February.

Reference

1. Fitz Roett M., "Gold Coast to England, via Barbadoes, 1771", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p247 WASC, January 2003

French Equatorial Africa

French "Petits Bureaux" in Territory claimed by Spain and others

Bill Mitchell

A couple of years ago Cameo printed a translation by Peter Kelly of a summary by Dr Pierre Magnard of the postal history of French Equatorial Africa (Ref. l).

In a subsequent article (Ref. 2) Dudley Cobb discussed the French post offices at Bata and Benito in an area (Rio Muni) claimed by Spain, a claim that was recognised by France in 1900. He also enquired about the location of a third office (Campo) which he had been unable to trace, the only town of that name known to him being in the German colony of Kamerun. With the help of the collectors named in this article I have been able to identify this "other" Campo and shed a little more light on the postal history of this remote region.

Laurence Lambert, a good friend and regular correspondent in the United States, referred me to the important article by P.-L. Pannetier on the "Petits Bureaux" of Gabon and French Congo (Ref. 3) which is one of Dr Magnard's sources. Quoting contemporary documents, M. Pannetier sets out the background to the creation of these offices in the late 1880s. The reasons included the need to provide postal services "at all points on the West Coast of Africa where there are French or foreign traders", this being "the minimum obligation imposed by the U.P.U. on its members" - which included all French overseas settlements.

The post offices thus created included, in "Gabon", not only Bata and Benito in the territory claimed by Spain but also the mysterious "Campo". The Bata office was open from 1888 and that at Benito from 1888 to 1889 and again from 1891; as will be seen, these offices were open at about the period of World War I. I do not know whether they had been open throughout or whether they had been closed and subsequently re-opened. The position as regards Campo is not quite so certain. M. Pannetier records that an office was opened there in 1888 and closed in the following year; however, it is now known that it was re-opened at an unknown date subsequent to 1893, the closing date of his study, and subsequently closed again, apparently for good. This cannot be the Campo in Kamerun, German since 1884 (Ref. 4), which did not have postal services until 1 June 1906 (Ref. 5), so, as Dudley says, where was it?

Regrettably, M. Pannetier (who incidentally makes no reference to the Spanish claims) does not include a map, but Bob Maddocks has kindly sent me a photocopy of an extract, including a map, from the Foreign Office "Grey Book" on Spanish Guinea published immediately after World War I, in 1919 (Fig. 1). An un-named "Spanish post" is clearly marked immediately to the south of the Kamerun "Kampo". The new Millennium Edition of the "Times" Comprehensive Atlas also clearly marks, on Plates 85 and 87, a "Pta de Campo" ("Campo Point") on the Rio Muni side of the border between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroun, and this must be the site of the "Spanish Post", presumably now non-existent. So this is, or rather was, the "other" Campo. A recent acquisition, the "Times" Atlas of 1896, is rather less helpful than its current descendant. Although it includes, on Plate 111, maps of three selected West African coastal regions showing far more detail than is now considered necessary, it is unfortunately not very helpful in this particular connection. It marks both "Campo" and "Cape Campo", but the precise location of the former is not shown and the latter seems to be located some miles too far south.

I can add a little more about these three offices. Some years ago, Laurence Lambert went laboriously through the U.P.U. "Dictionnaires des Bureaux de Poste" extracting details of the post offices recorded therein for various French colonies. His notes show that Bata and Benito are both listed in the editions of 1888 and 1895 (under Gabon and French Congo respectively); Campo appears in 1888 only, under Gabon. The Foreign Office "Grey Book" records the existence of sub-offices at Bata and Benito, but not Campo, at about the period of World War I. The special Gabon/Congo issue of the COL.FRA Bulletin mentioned by Dudley (Ref. 6) includes a list of post offices open up to the year 1904. The entry for Campo reads "vu 1896, cédé au Cameroun 1912" (the latter remark is clearly wrong, as we have seen). In the absence of details of where the example seen in 1896 is recorded I was inclined to treat this note with caution, but very recently it, or another very like it, has come to light.

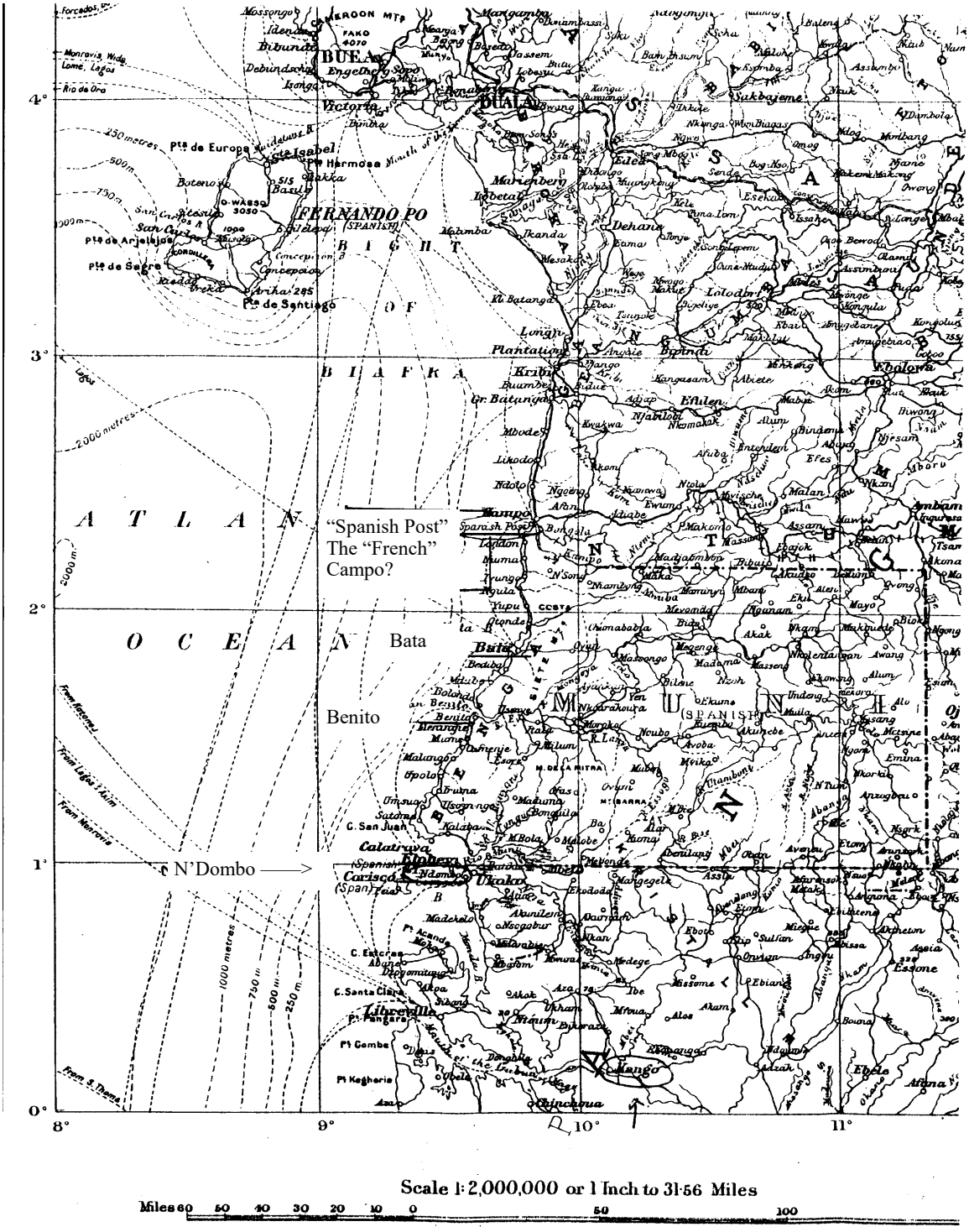


Figure1; map extracted from the Foreign Office "Grey Book" of 1919

Since writing his 2002 article, Dudley Cobb has been doing some research of his own. With his permission I can print the following note which has been taken from current work in progress.

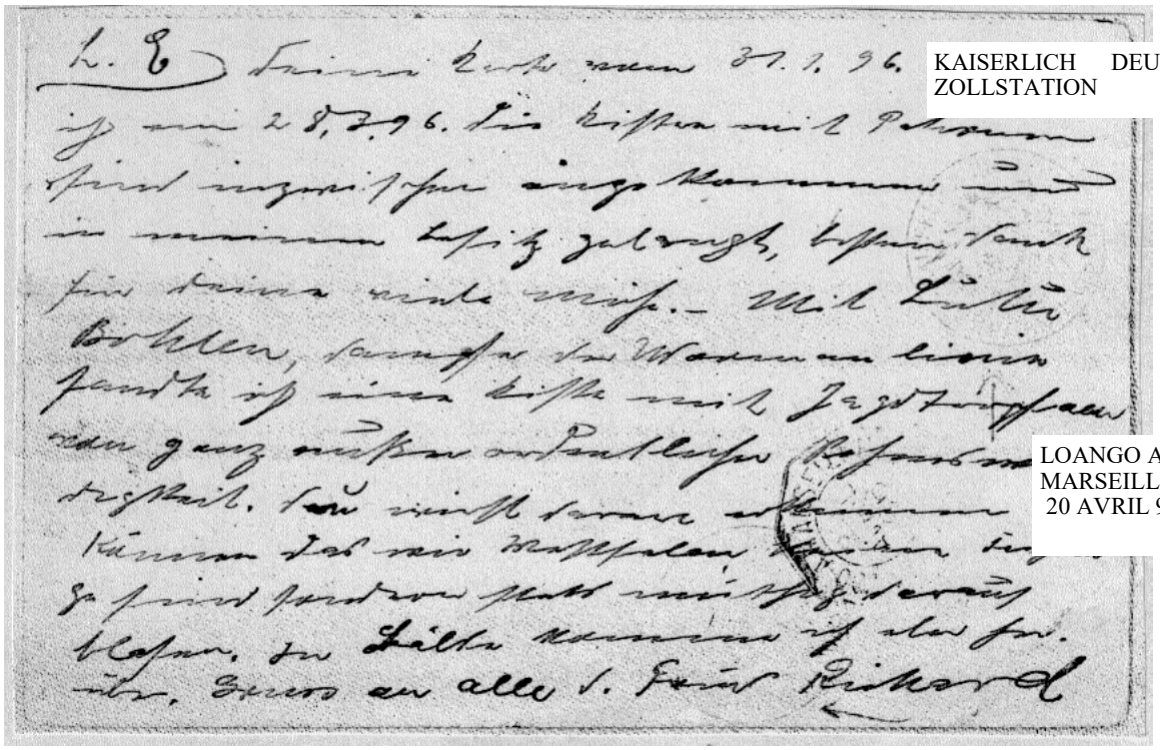
"The Campo (Congo Francais) office was on the southern side of Campo Bay – the Campo river formed the border between the Spanish and German territories at that point. There was a German customs post at Campo on the northern side. Following my article, Brian Lythgoe kindly showed me a pre-printed l0c Congo Francais postcard sent to Germany from there in 1896; it has the mark of the customs post, and successive postmarks for Campo, either Benito or Bata, and Libreville - all plus Congo Francais."

I too have seen this postcard, which Brian has kindly agreed may be illustrated here (Fig. 2, below), annotated because some of the strikes are faint or incomplete - in particular, I confirm that the CAMPO cancel is dated 2 AVRIL (there appears to be no year date slug) and I believe that the cancel beginning with "B" is probably Bata rather than Benito.



Campo Congo Francais

Two strikes of Bata? 13 [AVRIL] There appears to be the point of an "A"



KAISERLICH DEUTSCHE ZOLLSTATION

LOANGO A MARSEILLE 20 AVRIL 96

As will be seen, the card formed part of personal correspondence, and it casts some interesting light on postal conditions in West Africa at the end of the nineteenth century. It reads in part:
"Dear E. Your card of 31 January 1896 reached me on 28 March. Your boxes with ? have arrived in good order, many thanks for your trouble. By the Woermann steamer Lulu Bohlen I have sent a box of hunting trophies....You will see what we Westphalians can do..Best wishes to all..Richard". (The translation is Dudley's.)
So, on the evidence of this card it took anything from six weeks to a couple of months for correspondence between Europe and isolated points on the West Africa coast to reach its destination. In this case it even took a couple of weeks for the card to reach Libreville, where it had to wait four days awaiting the departure of the "Taygete" on 20 April. This is shown by the part LOANGO A MARSEILLE cachet of that date; the "Taygete" arrived at Marseille on 16 May, the day before the card arrived at its destination (Ref.7).
It is now clear that the French did indeed re-open their post office at Campo and that in the absence of any postal facilities of their own it was used by residents of the nearby German settlement. I would hazard a guess that it was open from some time in 1895, too late for inclusion in the UPU Dictionnaire of that year, and finally closed in 1900 when the area was formally handed over to Spain.

Later in his article, Dudley draws attention to several place-names that have been garbled in Dr Magnard's account. He correctly says that for "Mayumba, Monoah, N'Djole" read "Mayumba, Mondah, N'Djole", but I agree with Laurence that "Kouilou, and Campo M'Pando" should be Kouilou, Campo and M'Pando" and not, as Dudley suggests, "Kouilou, Campo and N'Dombo". M. Pannetier's article shows that Kouilou and M'Pando were two more offices that were opened in 1888 and closed in the following year, in February and July respectively. M. Pannetier cites Ministerial authority for the manufacture of date-stamps for both as well as giving their dates of closure; Kouilou, we are told, handled five outgoing letters in December 1888!

Nevertheless, shortly after the period covered by his study its post office was re-opened, on 1 January 1895 (Ref. 8). Laurence records that it is included in the U.P.U. Dictionary of 1899 (as Bas-Kouilou) and 1909 (as Kouilou (Bas Kouilou)); it also appears in the 1914 Annuaire(Ref. 9) as Bas-Kouilou (Kouilou). Confusing!

Kouilou (or Bas-Kouilou) was a coastal settlement a few miles to the north-west of Loango. It still exists as Bas-Kouilou and it can be found on the 1993 Institut Geographique National map of the Republic of the Congo. According to Laurence's notes it would appear that it retained postal services at least until independence.

M'Pando, too, was on the coast to the north-west of Loango - it appears on Plate 108 of the 1896 "Times" Atlas, but since then it seems to have been abandoned. Its post office was never re-opened after the closure in 1889.

Interestingly, some years after the closure of the Kouilou and M'Pando offices in 1889, a post office was in fact opened at N'Dombo "about 17 October" 1891. It appears in the U.P.U. Dictionaries for 1895, 1909 and 1912, marked for deletion in the 1912 Supplement. N'Dombo (or Dombo) only appears on Bob Maddock's "Grey Book" maps of French Equatorial Africa and Spanish Guinea. It was just south of the Rio Muni border near Coco Beach/Ukoko in the area ceded to Germany in 1911 when, as is shown by its deletion from the U.P.U.'s lists, it was closed.

Finally, M. Pannetier reprints the report of the Gabon-Congo postal service for the period 1 January 1889 to 1 May 1890. It records receipts of 9,684.97 francs and expenses of 8,249.50 francs; the Libreville office accounted for receipts amounting to 8,785.02 francs, and more than half the remainder (473.70 francs) was attributed to Loango. These two offices handled registered letters and parcels but the activities of the remainder were confined to selling stamps and receiving and despatching mail. Small wonder, then, that some of these "petits bureaux" (of which 15 were authorised in 1887) were so ephemeral - as Laurence has observed, some of them may have been "phantoms", existing in documents but never opened.

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1. Magnard, Dr P, "French Equatorial Africa - from Tropical Forests to the Sands of the Desert", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p 67, WASC, July 2001.
2. Cobb, D, "Cameroun and A.E.F.", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p 113, WASC, January 2002.
3. Pannetier, P.-L, "Gabon et Congo Francais - Les Petits Bureaux (1887-1893)", *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* 217 and 218 (1979). This was a reprint of an article originally serialised in L'Echo de la Timbrologie in 1960; a photocopy is in the library.

4. Maddocks, R.J, personal communication to the author, 24 March 2002.
5. Bratzel, M.P, Kraja, H and Maddocks, R.J, "Les Obliterations du Cameroun 1914-1960", p 22, MPB Canada 1990.
6. Bulletin COL.FRA No 96B, Spécial Congo-Gabon, Summer 2001.
7. Salles, R, "La Poste Maritime Francaise, Tome III - Les Paquebots de 1'Atlantique Sud, Brésil-Plata, Cote Occidentale d'Afrique", p 200, Paris 1963 and 1992 reprint by James Bendon Ltd, Limassol, Cyprus.
8. This is recorded in a local Arrêté of 3 January 1895, reprinted in the COL.FRA Bulletin 99 (2éme trimestre 2002) from the "revue coloniale 1895".
9. Indicateur Annuaire de 1'administration des Postes, des Télégraphes et des Téléphones, 1914, reprinted by COL.FRA in 1996 as its Bulletin Hors-série No 13.

Editor's note. In his quoted analysis of the card illustrated at figure 2, Dudley Cobb comes to a tentative conclusion that the two incomplete strikes of "B…..Congo Francais" postmarks are of Bata rather than Benito. In his covering letter to Brian Lythgoe, the owner of this card, he states that he has seen neither postmark. From my own collection I can offer below an illustration of the Bata postmark for comparison..



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A Pro-tem Postmistress at Jos, Nigeria 1945

Bob Maddocks

The following interesting snippet pertaining to a virtually unknown aspect of postal activity at Jos at the end of WWII was found in the book "Bush Life in Nigeria" by Elnor Russell, published privately in 1978. This book, based on the author's letters home, recounts her up-country experiences over a period of nearly 30 years in Nigeria, first as a single woman and latterly as the wife of a District officer, R. Blair-Cunningham.

"Jos, 24 June 1945

We are to have another move! To...Wamba. We had thought we would be off soon but we are in the middle of a strike of all the African technical people.....and at the moment there are no trains, no post office etc – only aeroplanes twice a week to take air mail. I am acting as postmistress for Jos – selling stamps etc each morning and also the decoding expert for code wires so am kept pretty busy….The railway strike has delayed our relief coming up"

"Jos, 7 August 1945

We are really off this time. R's relief has arrived so I expect we shall move next Monday"

Togo - Censorship in the French sector

John Mayne

Martin and Walton state in Togo Postal History 1914 - 1922 (Ref. 1) “No definite examples have been recorded of French censorship within Togo”.

Having three covers with a double oval black cachet styled 'OUVERT / Par l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE' enclosing a number, I sought to ascertain where they were opened.

The cover at Figure 1 with cachet 404 was posted from Anecho 29 April 1916 to Switzerland, sealed with tape 'Controle Postale Militaire' and sent via Dahomey. It is not considered philatelic. Two covers, one of which is shown as figure 2 show cachet 902 sent from Lome 2 Feb and 28 Feb 1917. They are philatelic and went to Switzerland via the Gold Coast and London.

I enquired of the Swiss Society if the strikes were known to their members, and they were not. I turned to F. & C.P.S. In their journal (Ref. 2) Chris Hitchen wrote some comments on World War 1 censor marks in France, and Maurice Tyler translated the section on this topic from “Les Estampilles Postales de la Grand Guerre” by Stephane Strowski (1976 reprint), the text and illustrations for which were reproduced by permission of Yvert and Tellier.

All strikes were issued in spring 1916, 401/450 listed with Commissions de Controle Bourg-en-Bresse who handled correspondence from French-speaking Switzerland. It appears they also handled mail to Switzerland from French areas. 902 was allocated to London, suggesting mail from empire areas for routing via France went via London and a French censor there. The cachets are noted in red, blue, black or violet.

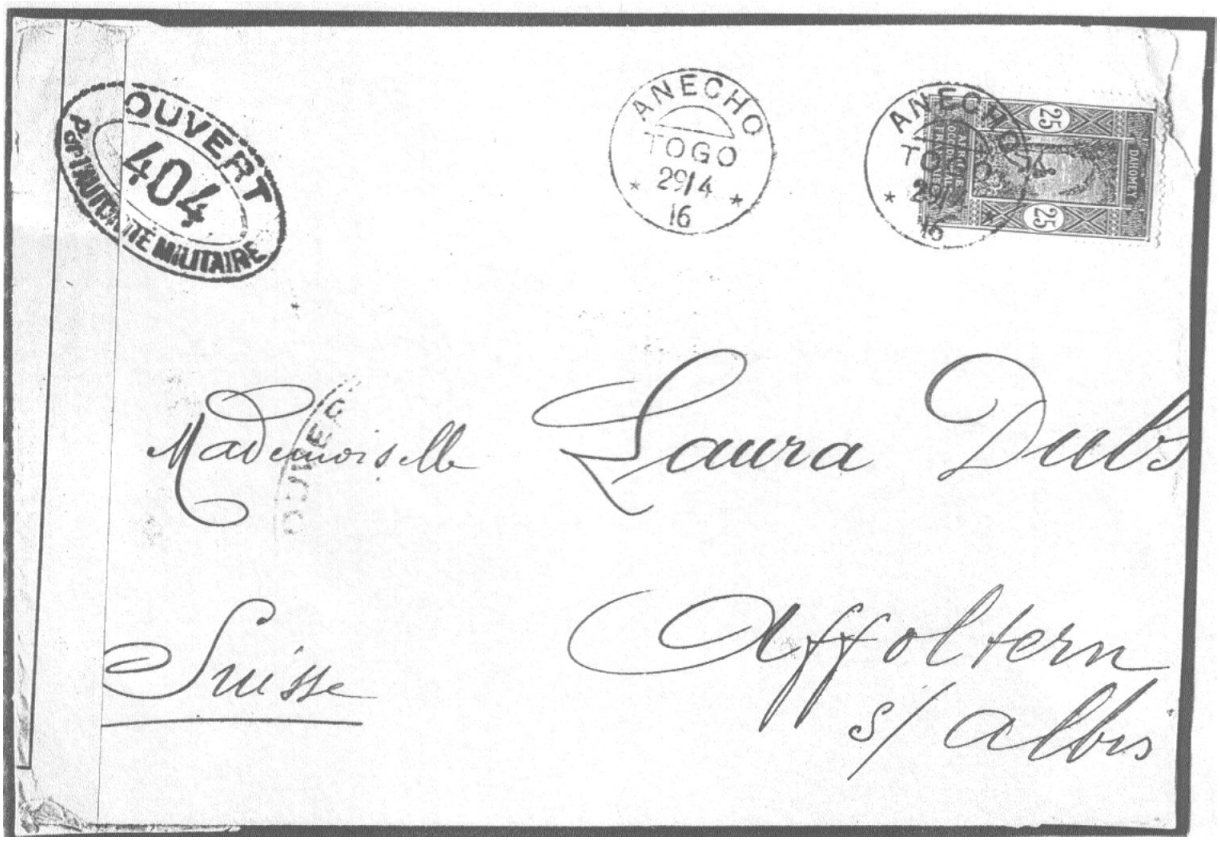


Figure 1(80% 0f actual size)

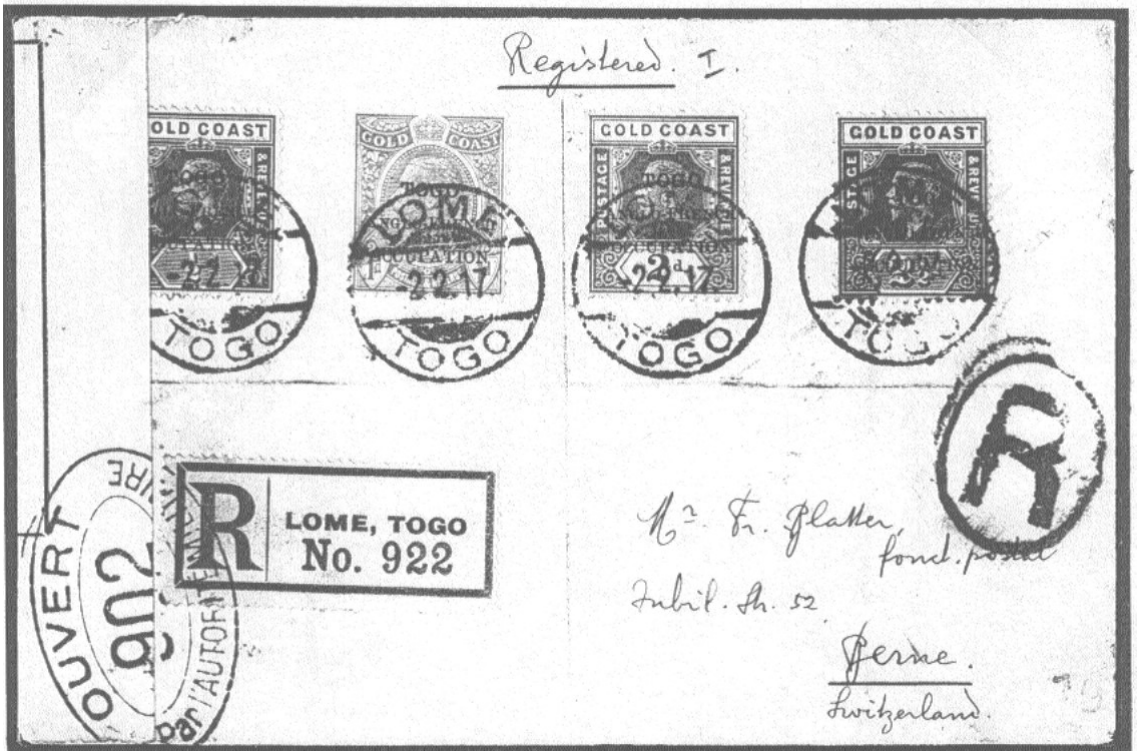
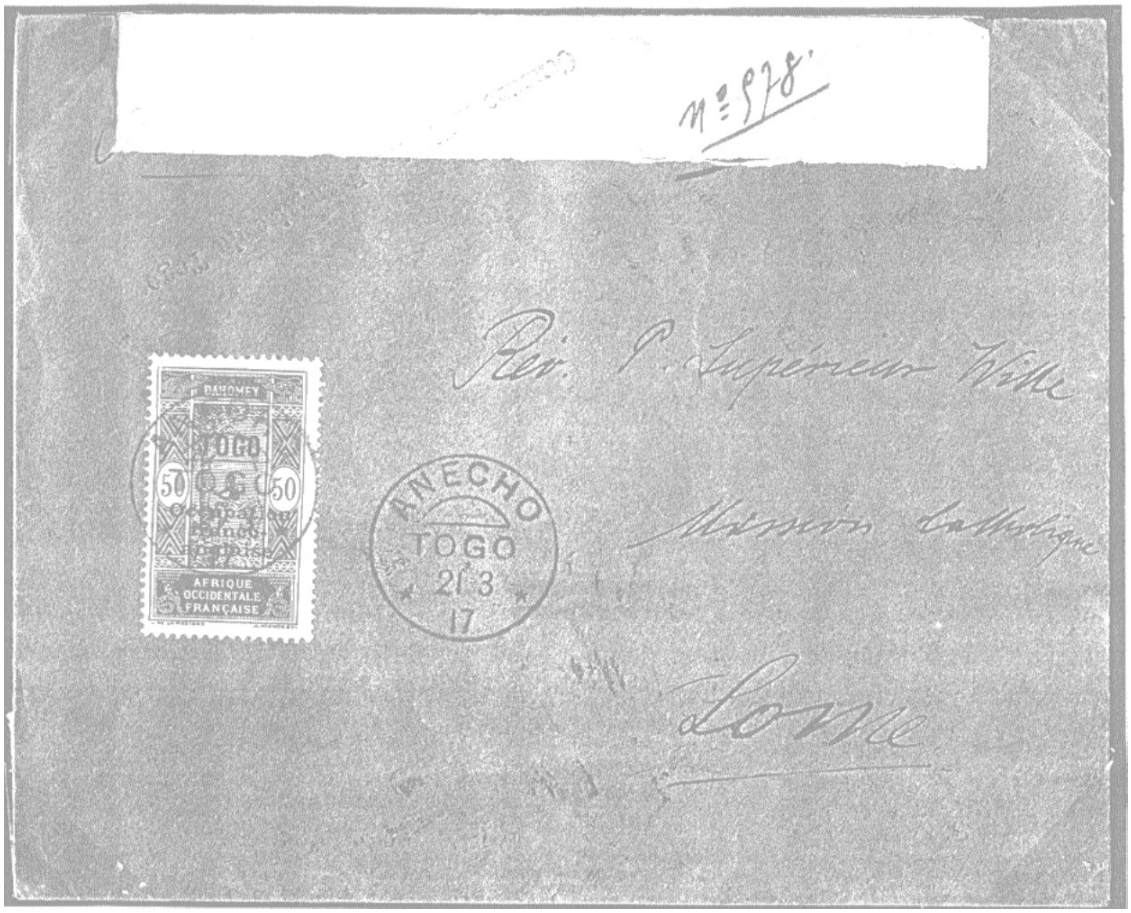


Figure 2

Three philatelic covers (one shown as figure 3), from Lome 28 Dec 1916 to Switzerland via Dieppe are the first Togo mail seen passing by that route. At Dieppe a circular cachet 'Ministere de la Guerre/ Controle Postale Dieppe' was added. The covers also have a hexagonal “SAISI PAR/ l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE”, perhaps applied at Dieppe. None of these six covers confirms censorship in Togo, but rather en route.



Figure 3



Earlier I acquired the above cover, figure 4, from Anecho 21 March 1917 to Lome to Rev P (pere?) Superieur Wille of Lome Catholic Mission. It reached Lome 23 March. This has a white tape 3.5cm by 12cm on which is typewritten 'Censure militaire Francaise du Togo' and manuscript '978'. This confirmed censorship in the French sector and interestingly on mail remaining within Togo, albeit to the British sector.

The latest cover acquired, shown front and reverse as figure 5 opposite, from Grand-Popo Dahomey 14 July 1917 to Anecho has a smaller piece of tape but the same type-written censor message and, in manuscript, “ouvert par la”. This is to Rektor P Schroeder, Anecho Catholic mission. The cover is endorsed in manuscript “Justices d'Almeida” and is the, first incoming mail seen censored in French Togo.

With both covers sent to Catholic Missions supervised by Germans remaining in Togo I conclude that mail to such individuals was censored, but how can one explain the number '978' if that is so?
The two covers do, however, confirm censorship in the French sector.

References

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, p83, WASC, Sheffield 1995
2. Tyler, M., “World War I Oval Censorship Marks in France”, Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Volume 51 p157, December 2001


DAHOMEY
AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE FRANÇAISE
Rektor P. Schroeder
Kath. Mission
Censure militaire française

Figure 5

Nigeria Censor 11 – What was his Speciality?

Rob May



Figure 1

The cover shown above (Figure 1) from Port Gentil, French Equatorial Africa, 27 Jan 1942, paid 10fr to the Red Cross at Geneva, was passed un-opened by CONTROL POSTAL Commission D/ AEF (which I believe was at Libreville) and by Commission A/ AEF at Brazzaville, back-stamped there on 24 Feb 1942. It was then flown to Lagos where it was opened by censor 11 and back-stamped 28 Feb 1942. The type 1A hexagon appears to be a new Last Known Date. Martin & Walton (Ref 1) show a gap between their previous LKD of this type (28 Jan 1942) and the earliest date for type 1E of 14 April 1942. This example closes the gap by a month.

My first query is why this might have gone south to Brazzaville and so incurred nearly a month's delay? Boyle (Ref. 2) says that for 1940-41 "all mail going south was carried to Brazzaville by surface transport, then across the river to Leopoldville"...there it was loaded onto Sabena. He went on to say that mail to allied territories could be sent to Leopoldville and onward by "an appropriate carrier" and illustrated a cover from Brazzaville 13 Dec 1941 to London, routed via Lagos and censored there, number 12. Boyle also mentions Reseau Aerienne Francaise flying out of Libreville after Gabon sided with the Free French in 1940. As the cover was postally controlled at Libreville there seems no reason why it could not have travelled direct to Lagos, by sea if there was no current airmail link, which I think there should have been at this date. Any information on possible routes would be welcome.

However, the main point of this enquiry is to gather information to determine the role of censor 11 at Lagos. During a recent WASC presentation Michael Wright mentioned that censor 11 appears to be found almost exclusively on mail to Switzerland. This cover fits the pattern, and so does another censor 11 shown

at figure 2 which appeared in the last society auction. An intriguing feature of that cover is the obliteration of both the printed airmail cachet and the censor; or is the latter obliterated by accident, the intention having been to obliterate the Lloyd Triestino corporate branding of the envelope? The form of the obliterator is recorded by McQueen (Ref. 3) as "most likely to belong to a French exchange office".

I have another 1942 transit cover from Belgian Congo, via Lagos, to Switzerland but not to the Red Cross, which was not opened for censorship in Lagos. However, this was sent during the period in late 1942 when the Lagos censors were under particular pressure and are known to have been unable to deal with transit mails. So censor 11 could have been intended to handle all Swiss mail but missed at least this one, or to handle Red Cross mail which would mostly be to Switzerland, or possibly for mail to Switzerland in particular languages. Michael Wright has mentioned in conversation with Graham Mark of CCSG that he has POW mail and two items to the Netherlands, all with Censor 11, so another possibility is that Censor 11 handled sensitive mail of all kinds. Can members please examine their Lagos censored material and let me have details of censor 11 covers?

A similar enquiry has been made through the pages of the Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin.

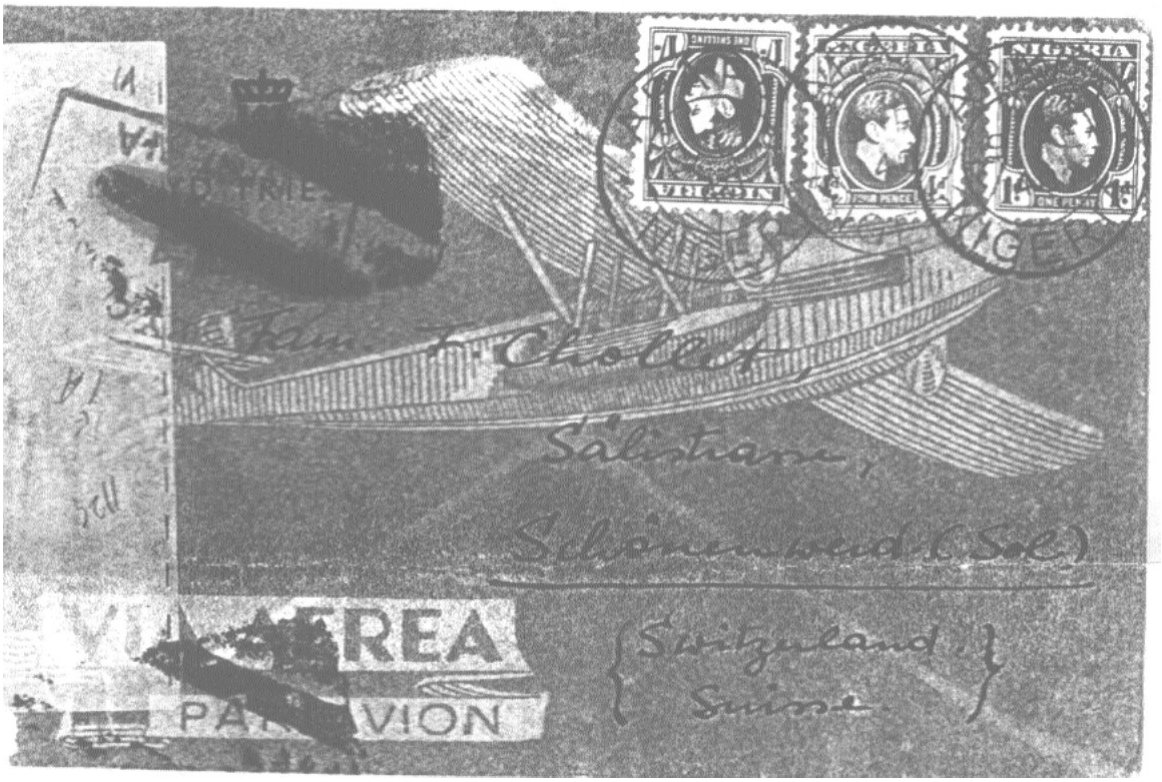


Figure 2

References

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p59, WASC, Dronfield 2nd Edition 1999
2. Boyle T. H. Jr., *Air Mail Operations during World War II*, p444, American Air Mail Society, Mineola NJ, 1998
3. McQueen I, *Airmail Directional Handstamps,* volume 2, p239, McQueen, Bournemouth, 2003

Editor's note

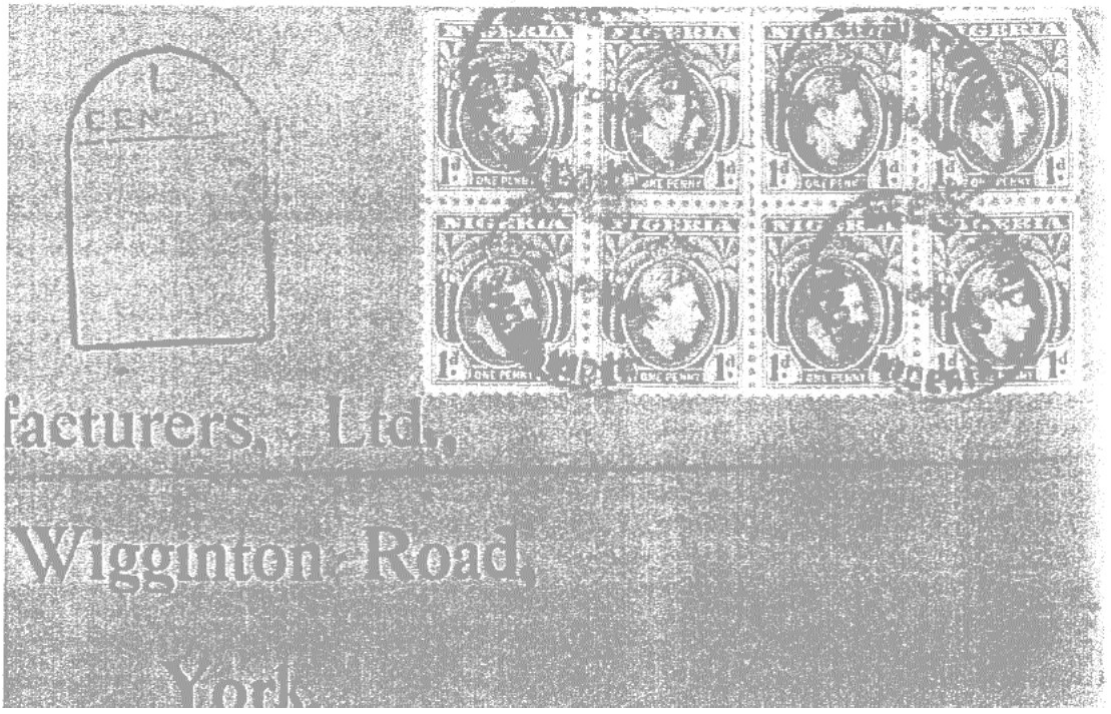
The Civil censorship Study Group are also very interested in mail transiting Lisbon to destinations such as Switzerland that may have been censored in Lisbon. It is suspected by members of that group that there may have been a British censorship presence in neutral Lisbon, using normal numbered censorship tapes. The third cover mentioned above has been illustrated in the CCSG, Bulletin and study by their members has concluded that it was probably back-stamped with a Lisbon machine cancel after being censored in Britain then returned to Lisbon to be routed on to Switzerland.

I can send on any correspondence on such covers to the editor of the CCSG Bulletin.

A New Type of Nigerian WW2 censor

Alan Newton & Mike Piggin

The Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin of January 2003 (Vol 30, No 1, p270) showed an illustration, reproduced below, of a new type of "tombstone" censor for Nigeria on a large registered cover from Ibadan 4 March 1942 to York, UK, paid 8d. The hand-stamp measures 25mm x 38mm. Frank Walton is aware of this discovery which will be added to the listings set out in Martin & Walton (Ref. 1)



Reference
1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, WASC, Dronfield 2nd Edition 1999

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A Nigerian Local?

Michael Wright



A friend who is mainly a collector of local stamps has shown me a crude-looking "stamp" with the inscription around it KADUNA KANO POST / 50K. Within this is a simplified form of the Nigerian National badge, with a wriggly Y-shape representing the River Niger and its tributary the Benue, symbolising the country as a whole. It is in deep blue, cut around in a square, except that on the right-hand side it has been torn off – possibly they were prepared in strips. The printed area is about 24 x 22mm; the paper is rather fibrous, which accounts for the mottling, and it appears to have been gummed.

US Army Post Offices in Nigeria

Jeremy Martin

"Locations and Assignments of US Army Post Offices World War II and Later", Third edition, 1973, published by the War Cover Club shows that APO 607, Miami, located in Kano, opened 2 Nov 1942 and closed 15 June 1945. APO 623, Miami, was located at Maiduguri, opened 19 July 1943 and closed 7 June 1945.

Previously in Cameo (Ref. 1) the writer dealt with the different types of cancels employed in the Gold Coast. Use of the same type numbers is continued here. All are in black.



Type 2: single circle 31mm in diameter without number. This type can only be recognised as Nigerian by the endorsement on the envelope. In the two examples seen by the writer, this is 607-C
ERD 10 Mar 1943 LRD 8 April 1943

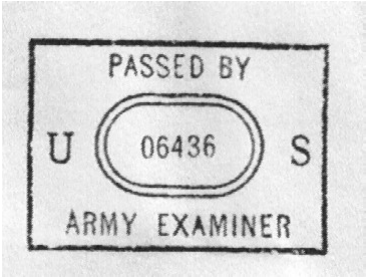


Type 3a: single circle 31.5mm in diameter (slightly oval) with number 607 above a three line date and "A.P.O." left of centre at the bottom of the rim.
ERD 22 May 1943 LRD 6 June 1945



Type 5: 34mm diameter single circle enclosing a three-line date with 623 beneath. "A.P.O." centrally at the foot, with little space between it and the "U" of "US" and the "E" of "SERVICE".
ERD 28 Oct 1944 LRD 19 Feb 1945
Type 5a: - as type 5 but 32mm diameter and with larger spaces between "A.P.O" and the rest of the text.
ERD 19 Oct 1943 LRD 3 May 1944

American censorship.
The type 4 hand-stamp (Ref. 2) is recorded in Nigeria with the following colours and numbers:
Black 03507, 06426
Purple 13007
Violet 06426
Purple-black 06434



In addition some mail was censored and noted by the censor without the use of a hand-stamp
Lt. Arthur E. Feldman
Edw. Burgess, Jr., 0403439
"CENSORED Kenneth A. Beck 1st LT. A.C."
N. R. Priore (also censoring US mail from Gold Coast – see ref. 2)
Lt. H. Greenblatt

References
1. Martin J.J. and Mayo D., "US Army Post Offices in the Gold Coast", *Cameo*, Volume 1 p166, WASC, July 1979
2. Martin J.J., "Gold Coast WW.II US Military Censor Marks", *Cameo*, Volume 3 p156, WASC, July 1987

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Gold Coast: "Atar….." Postmark

Nick Carter

In sorting through some loose stamps from the Gold Coast I found a partial Type 18a CDS, dated 28 October 1922, with the town "ATAR…"



The illustrations are a scan of the stamp and of the cancel with the stamp printing removed. This appears to be a Gold Coast cancel. The problem is that there is no town listed in either Mackin or Proud whose name starts with these letters.
Three possibilities come to mind. First, a misprint of some known CDS – but not one that is obvious. Second, could this be the never-seen "ATUABOLO", but spelled without the "U"?
Third, a search of towns in today's Ghana (in the highly useful, on-line, World-Wide Directory of Cities and Towns: www.calle.com/world/) shows three towns starting with ATAR; Atarakom, Ataraso, and Atara. The first is near Navrongo, the second is just north of Cape Three Points, on the road to Prince's Town, the third is in Ashanti, just to the west of Agogo. None of these seem likely.
Perhaps members of the WASC can help shed some light on this mystery.

C.E.F. Overprints on Kamerun Yacht Stamps – Another Update

Marty Bratzel

In two earlier notes (Refs. 1 and 2) we provided information to supplement and expand Robert Gibbs' definitive treatment of the CEF overprints on Kamerun Yacht stamps (Ref. 3). This note provides yet another modest update.

Gibbs had recorded that the left half of one sheet of the 3d on 30pf. stamp had received a triple overprint, two albino, and that the back of each stamp showed three offset impressions, in reverse (Figure 1). Only 50 stamps were so prepared. To my knowledge, the offset has not previously been illustrated.

The 1s on 1m stamp has now been found with an offset impression, in reverse, on the back (Figure 2). If only one sheet out of the 100 over-printed was involved, then only 20 stamps have this offset. Close examination shows no albino impression.

Further information is always welcome



Figure 1: 3d on 30pf. yacht with triple overprint, two albino, with triple offset. Front and back



Figure 2: 1s on 1m yacht stamp with offset. Front and back

References

1. Bratzel M., "CEF Overprints on Kamerun Yacht stamps", *Cameo*, Volume 6 pp326-327, WASC, July 2000
2. Bratzel M., "CEF Overprints on Kamerun Yacht stamps – A Further Update", *Cameo*, Volume 7 pp40-41, WASC, January 2001
3. Gibbs R.M., *G.R.I The Postage Stamps of the German Colonies occupied by the British 1914-1918*, Christie's Robson Lowe, London 1987

More on Preparations for the Opening of Post Office at Buea, Cameroons

Bob Maddocks

There is certain evidence that Buea Post Office opened and that Nigerian adhesive stamps were available there in early May 1916 (Ref my monograph issued with Cameo January 2003). However, were the initial supplies of postage stamps inadequate to pre-pay a cover to London postmarked 22 May 1916, which is superscribed "No stamps available", illustrated at Figure 1?
The sender was, according to the inscription in its bottom left hand corner, the Financial Officer of the British Contingent (of the Cameroons Expeditionary Force). It is to be noted, in particular, that he had not added "On Active Service" which, during the Cameroons campaign, would have conferred a free frank concession. Indeed, the sender would not have been entitled to such concession since the Governor-General of Nigeria, by then responsible for the British sphere of the Cameroons, had on 7 April 1916 pronounced that troops in Nigeria were no longer on active service with effect from 1 April 1916.

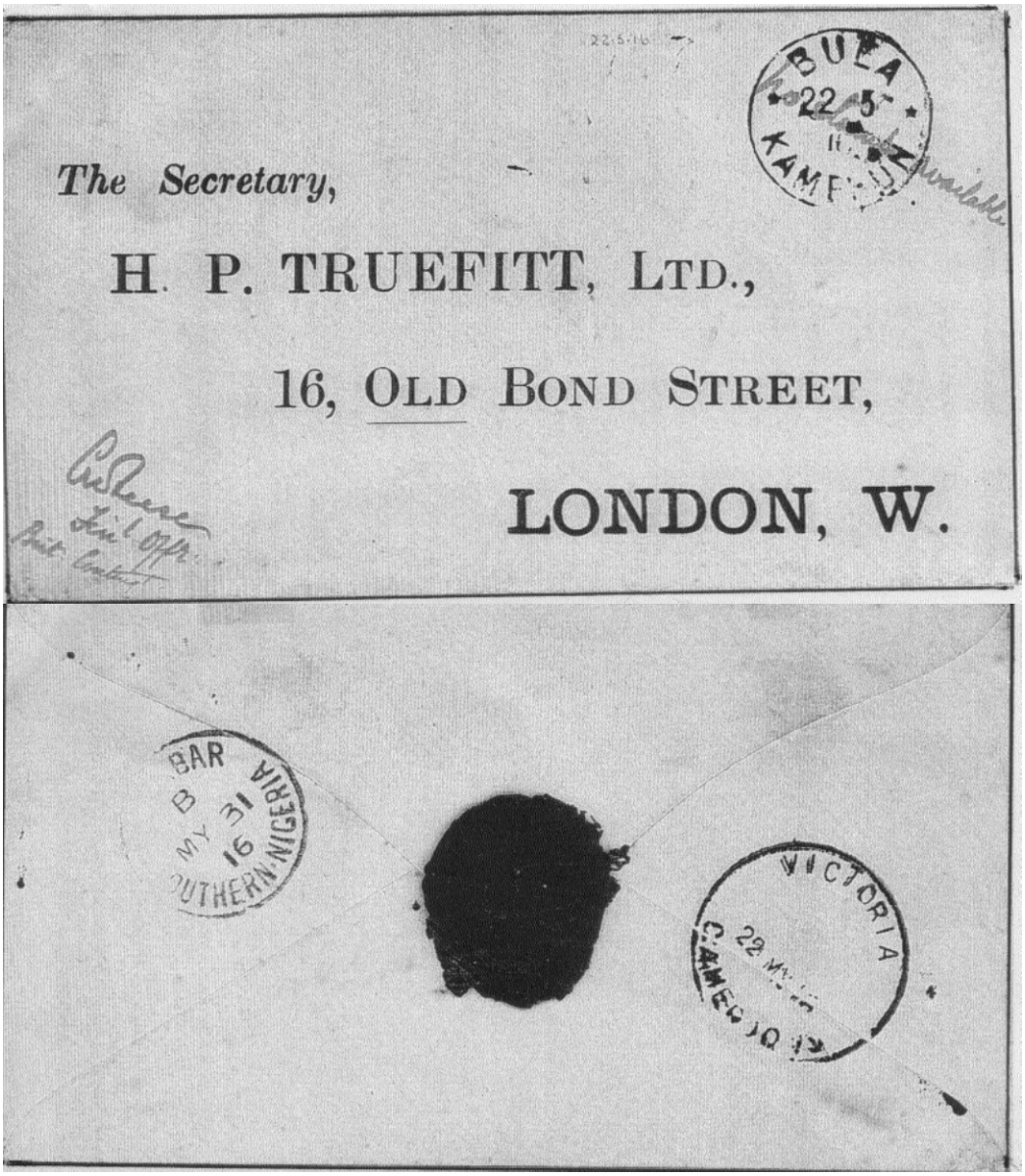


Figure 1: Stampless cover to London, postmarked in violet by former German date-stamp 22 May 16. Back-stamped in transit Victoria/Cameroons 22 MY 16 and Calabar/Southern Nigeria B/ MY 31/16.

Perfins on Postage Stamps from the Cameroons

Nick Carter, Michael Wright, and Marty Bratzel

Maddocks and Bratzel (Ref. 1) illustrated (Figure 1) the two-line E & F LTD perfin on Nigerian stamps postmarked Tiko during the early-to-mid-1950s. The initials are those of Elders & Fyffe, Ltd. This company, which grew and shipped bananas, had an office at Likomba, Tiko, Cameroons.

From our continuing examination of Nigeria and Cameroons postage stamps, including a very large quantity that one of us (NC) purchased on the street in Lagos during 1960-62, we can report that the E & F LTD perfin saw continued use at Tiko during the 1950s through to the end of 1961, after reunification with Cameroun. Specifically, we have the found the perfin on:

- QE2 definitive Nigerian stamps, postmarked from 1953 onward: 1d, 2d (the black & ochre stamp and stamps in various shades of slate violet), 1/- and 5/-.
- Nigerian stamps with the Cameroons /U.K.T.T. overprint, postmarked between June and September 1961: 1d, 3d and 6d
- Cameroun stamps revalued in sterling, postmarked as late as December 14, 1961: 1d on 2fr and 6d on 20fr.

The perfin was applied to stamps either face up, so as to be reversed when viewed from the back, or face down. Although most stamps have the complete perfin, on some, the perfin is only partial, with some blind perforations, but with other perforations completely absent (Figure 2).

It is worthy of note that no stamps of French Cameroun or of independent Camerouns, other than those with sterling currency have been reported with these perfins. Although perfins were authorized by Nigerian postal authorities, it should be safe to assume that perfins were not favourably received by the Cameroun authorities, and to conclude that the practice was discontinued in late 1961 or early 1962.

Most likely, a range of other Nigeria and Cameroons stamps were also perfinned. Reports of denominations and dates of use are welcome.

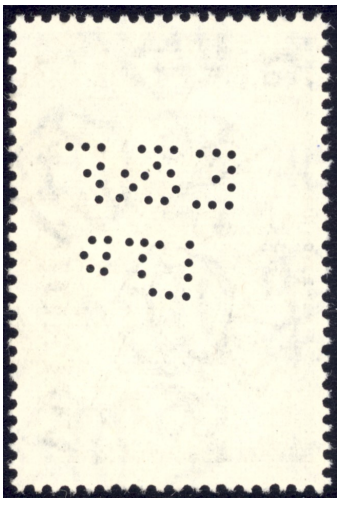


Figure 1: Elders & Fyffe Ltd perfin

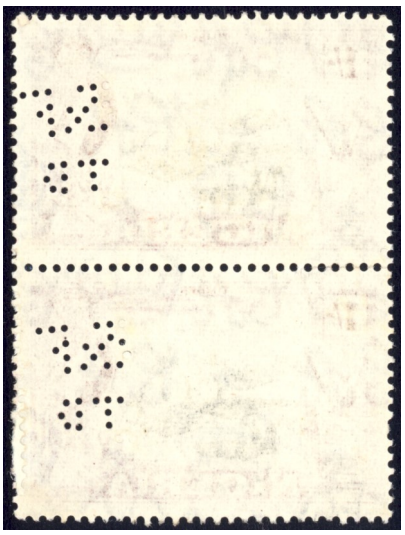


Figure2: Partial perfin

Reference

1. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, p123, MPB Canada 1994

Nigeria - The 1991 Fish Issue

Roger West

As a thematic dealer, I am always looking for unusual items that would enhance a topical collection. Some years ago I purchased a large quantity of original artwork for various Nigerian issues between 1960 and 1995. I managed to acquire well over 800 artworks plus several hundred 'machine proofs'. One issue that was particularly well represented was the 1991 Fish set for which I had 17 pieces of artwork. Two have now been sold but it occurred to me to record the remainder before they too got disposed of.
The issued set contains 4 values thus;
A) 10k Electric Catfish (Malaptecunes electricus)
B) 20k Niger or Nile Perch (Lates niloticus)
C) 50k Sharp-Toothed Catfish (Clarias gariepinus) some artwork shown as 25k
D) 30k Nile Mouthbrooder or Talapia (Tilapia nilotica)
the lettering prefix conforms to that used on the original artwork.

It would seem that five artists prepared essays each possibly producing a full set of 4 designs (A, B, C & D), although my stock could only substantiate this for three of the five. Each piece of artwork is endorsed with a letter (A to D to denote the value) and a number (1 to 5 to represent the artist). Unlike the earlier essays of Goaman and the Waterlow designers, this artwork is beautifully crude and often bears little resemblance to the subject. Comparing the three 'B' essays for example, will show two fish as smooth bodied, while the third is scaly.
Typical of other locally produced Nigerian essays, they are sometimes mounted on card, sometimes board, and sometimes the back of breakfast cereal packets or old calendars. Lettering is generally by “Letraset” (or similar) although technique is frequently lacking. Adhesive tape is often used and has been seen to join plastic overlays and even backing boards.
The artists concerned here are:
1) Godrick N Osuji - a fairly successful artist having several designs accepted from between 1978 and 1995
2) Remi Adeyemi
3) Nojim A Lasisi - an artist whose work first appeared on the 1965 Scouts issue.
4) NSPM & Co. staff artist Clement O. Ogbebor, a name frequently found on issues after 1981
5) S O Nwasike a relative newcomer, whose work first appeared in 1987 (Shelter for the Homeless issue)

	Artist 1 Godrick N Osuji	**Artist 2 Remi Adeyemi**	**Artist 3 Nojim A Lasisi**	**Artist 4 Clement O Ogbebor**	**Artist 5 S O Nwanasike**
A – 10k Electric Catfish	A1 In stock	**A2 As issued In stock**	A3 In stock	A4 In stock	Not known
B – 20k Niger perch	B1 Now sold	B2 In stock	B3 In stock	**B4 As issued Now sold**	B5 In stock
C – 50k African Catfish	C1 Showing 25k value, in stock	C2 Showing 25k value, in stock	**C3 As issued In stock**	C4 Showing 25k value, in stock	Not known
D – 30k Talapia	D1 In stock	Not known	**D3 As issued In stock**	D4 In stock	D5 In stock

Table showing general details of artwork. The accepted designs are shown in bold

The artwork is generally about 8 inches x 5 inches (200 x 125 mm) and is normally contained within a cardboard frame giving an overall size of roughly A4 (210 x 297 mm). Illustrations in this article are reduced to 30%. Letraset (or similar) has been used on clear plastic to allow for alterations (note the 50k value is shown as 25k on essays C1, C2 and C4).



Figure 1: Essays for the 10k value – Electric Catfish. A2 by Nemi Adeyemi was the accepted design



Figure 2: Essays for the 20k value – Niger perch. See front cover for Essay B2. The accepted design by Clement O. Ogebor is not illustrated (sold before it could be copied!)



Figure 3: Essays for the 50k value – African catfish. C3 by Nojim A. Lasisi (bottom right) was the accepted design



Figure 4: Essays for the 30k value – Talapia. D3 by Nojim A Lasisi (top right) was the accepted design

Sierra Leone – the Sherbro internal extra charge of 1d.

John Sacher

In his book, (Ref. 1) Philip Beale quotes *Gazette* notices announcing on 30 September 1872 the introduction of an internal charge of one penny on letters to and from Sherbro and its suspension for mail going abroad on 6 October 1883. The payment of this charge on two 6d rate 1879 covers to T. A. Wall, the Civil Commandant of British Sherbro, care of the Colonial Office in Downing Street, and on one 4d rate cover to Kansas, is illustrated.



Figure1: 6d and a pair of ½d cancelled “B31” in black on a cover originating “PAID-AT-SHERBRO JA 3 1879” in red. “7” crossed out was the rate from Sherbro including a local 1d charge. “5” was the amount due to the GPO in London.



Figure 2: 2d and 3d oncover 1882, cancelled Freetown with “SIERRA LEONE C MY 7 82” both in black, and “PAID-AT-SHERBRO MY 5 1882 in red. Sent via Liverpool 26 MY 1882 and New York 5 June 1882 to Kansas. 4d international rate plus 1d internal rate from Sherbro, with accountancy marks indicating 3d to GPO Londn and 1d to be retained by the colony.





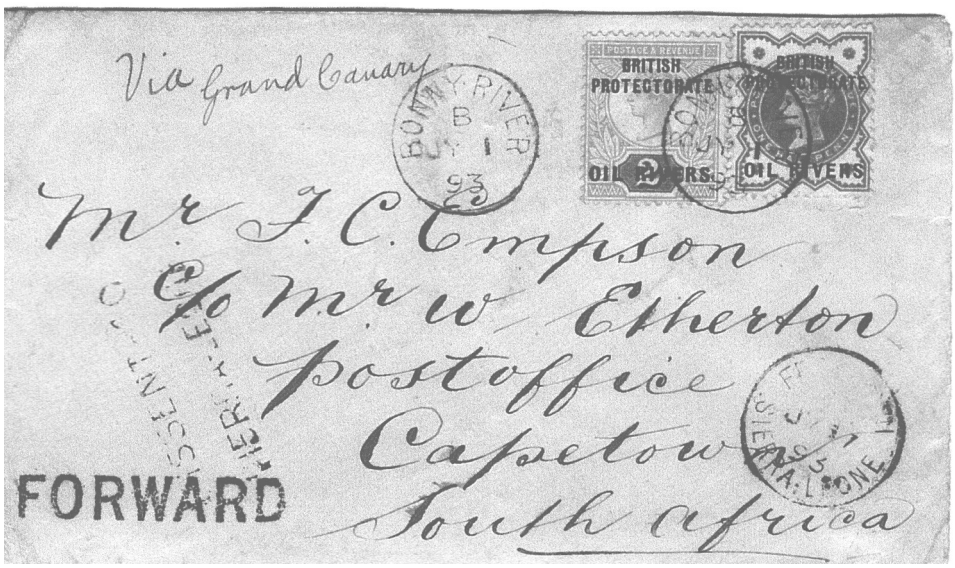
I acquired some time ago an 1874 cover from Dublin (bottom) addressed to the same T.A. Wall at Sherbro, prepaid 6d and marked UNPAID with a red hand-stamped mark for 1d as well as a blue crayon 1d. I had assumed that this red mark was an accountancy indication of the amount due to the colonial post office. Having now found a similar but not identical example from the same correspondence six months earlier in June 1874 (top), I believe that the red marks are internal Sierra Leone charge marks and only the blue crayon marks account for the credit to the colonial post office. We know that other charge marks were sent out to Sierra Leone from London, but these rather primitive ones may have been made locally.

Reference

1. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...* , p9, RPSL, London 1988

Sierra Leone – FORWARD hand-stamp

John Sacher



An unusual cover has just been added to my collection, originating from Bonny River in the Oil Rivers, dated 1 July 1893, and addressed to Cape Town. It is endorsed "via Grand Canary", but in fact was landed at Freetown on 17 July, where it acquired the two line MISSENT TO / SIERRA LEONE and a previously unrecorded hand-stamp FORWARD. From there it was sent to Funchal Madeira (6 August 1893) and, although not further postmarked, presumably reached its addressee.

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Woermann Line Mail via Sekondi

John Mayne

I have recently acquired two interesting items, illustrated overleaf, both posted at Sekondi, Gold Coast.
The first (Fig. 1) is a German 5pfg postal stationery card to Germany with a 5pfg value added. The message was written near Accra 25 June 1908. It has a very faint Woermann ovalstempel XXXII of the same date, when the canceller was carried on the "Lucie Woermann" on an outward voyage. The card was dropped off at Sekondi and postmarked there the following day, to catch a boat back to Germany. The post office accepted the 10pfg pre-payment as sufficient, presumably as the appropriate British Empire Foreign Rate of 1d.
The card was probably collected by the next homeward Woermann ship to call, but according to the schedules I hold, none was due immediately, so it could have passed via Liverpool to Hamburg to Dresden 21 July 1908, where it was re-directed to Marienburg arriving the next day.

Figure 2 shows a coloured picture postcard of Sekondi with ships at anchor. It also bears a Germania value, the 10pfg, cancelled by ovalstempel VII which was issued at October 1912 to the "Hans Woermann" and is addressed to Germany. Again, this ship was on an outward voyage, so the card was dropped off at Sekondi to catch a homebound sailing, cancelled by Sekondi on 10 October 1912. It shows no evidence of the homebound routing, but was probably collected by the "Henry Woermann" which called at Accra four days later.

These are two examples of mail written on board Woermann ships, which were handled by the Gold Coast post office at no further charge, in order to catch homeward sailings to Germany.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Nigerian Covers Censored in Austria

Tony Plumbe

Two surface mail and one airmail 1950-52 covers from Nigeria to Austria that attracted Austrian civilian censorship cachets are shown as Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Allied Powers divided Austria at the end of the Second World War into American, British, French and Russian Zones, and each applied their own postal censorship to letters, parcels and telegrams. On 1 April 1946 censorship of all mail was passed from Military to Civilian Authorities. A year and a half later on the 10 November 1947 the American, British and French Zones discontinued the censorship of foreign mails with the exception of mails to or from Germany and Japan. Censorship continued, however, in the Russian Zone.

The three covers illustrated addressed to Vienna have Russian Zone cachets. The two surface covers dating from August 1950 (Fig. 1) and April 1951 (Fig. 2) display the three figures version of the 30mm diameter single circle cachet inscribed 'Osterreichische Zensurstelle' with code 'Z.1' at the base. Both covers attracted 'T' postage due cachets although on the 2½d rated cover the cachet is crossed through in blue and nothing was collected apparently; on the 2d rated cover a further Austrian postage due cachet was applied and 1 Shilling and 13 Groschen were collected as evidenced by tied postage dues on the reverse. This latter cover was also opened subsequently and sealed by the characteristic Russian censor plain brown paper tape.

The Austrian Government protested in December 1951 that censorship was imposed by the Occupation Powers contrary to the interests of Austria. The result was the introduction of the 30mm diameter cachet inscribed 'Alliierte Zensurstelle' with code 'Z.1' and three central figures as shown faintly on the 11 June 1952 airmail cover rated at 1/3d (Fig. 3). All three covers are likely to have passed through the Schillerplatz as this handled all incoming mail from the West and all other foreign mail. Censorship ended finally in Austria on 1 August 1953.



Figure 1

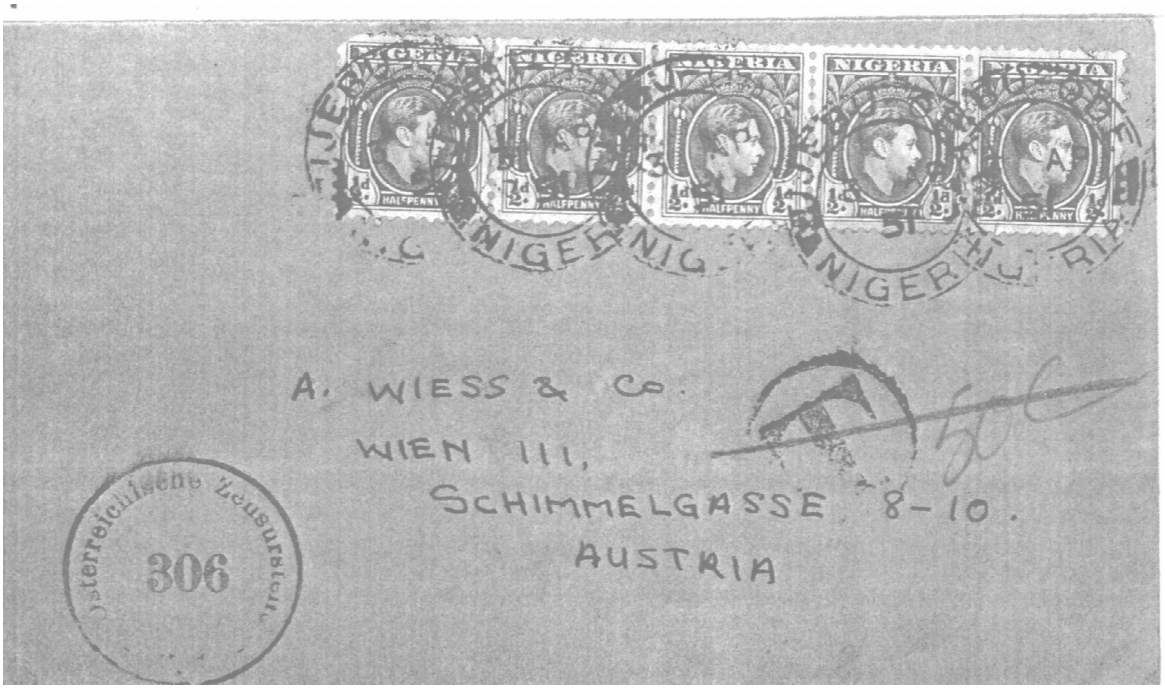


Figure 2

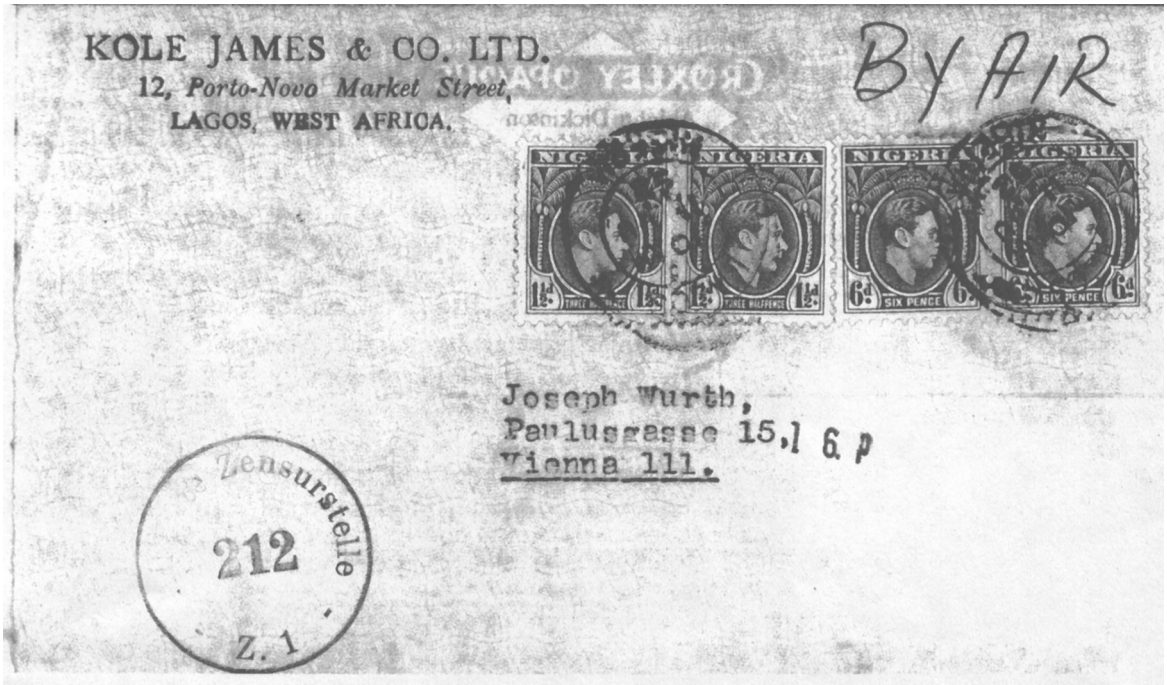


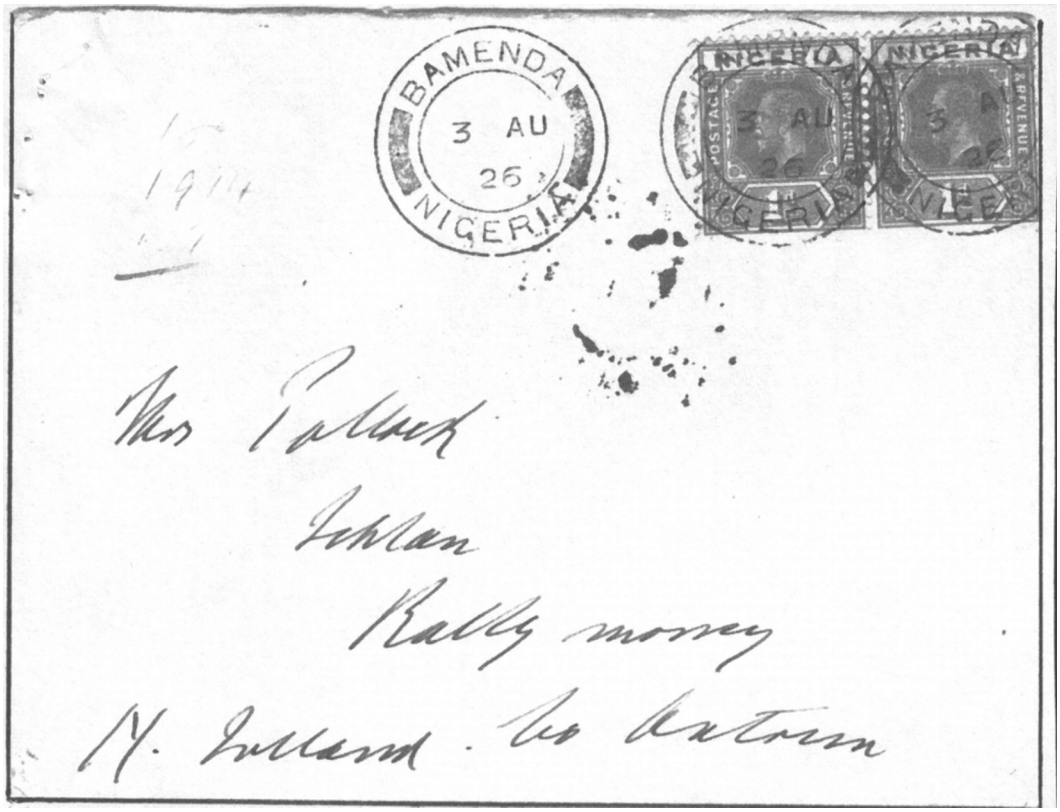
Figure 3

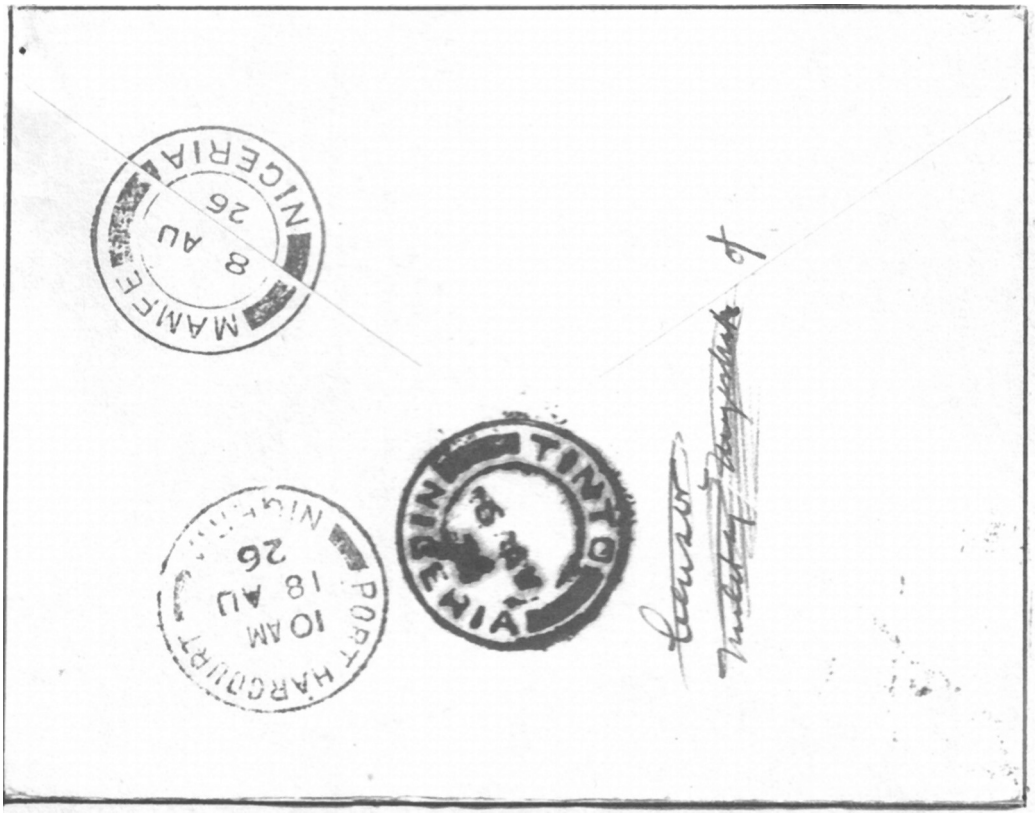
Reference

1. Tranmer, K., *The Postal History of Austria, 1936-1946,* pub. 1972

Post WW1 Censorship of Cameroons mail to Northern Ireland

Bob Maddocks



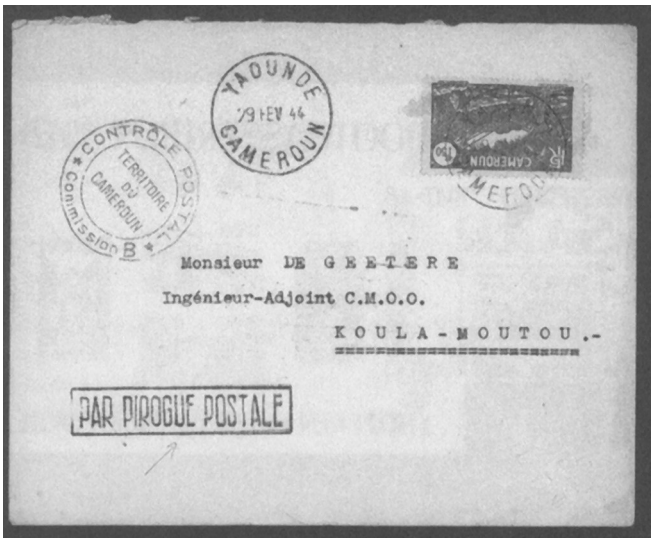


The illustrations on the previous page are the front and reverse of a cover posted to Northern Ireland from Bamenda, Cameroons Province on 3 August 1926.
There is nothing remarkable about its' front, but the
reverse shows an intriguing endorsement written by hand in black ink across the flap "Censor/ Military Magistrate of" followed by what seems to be a "J" - presumably the initial letter of an incomplete place name. However, all this has been crossed through in pencil. The cover shows no evidence of having been opened for censorship purposes.
The question arises, where was the endorsement written and why, some eight years after the end of WW1 and in peace-time? Could there be a connection with the Irish Troubles still, even after the Irish Free State had come into being in 1922? Alternatively, had there been a recurrence of the wartime internal strife and revolts on the part of the native population of Southern Nigeria, which had required military intervention in the area through which this mail passed from Cameroons to the port of dispatch by sea?
It is to be noted that whereas Bamenda mails were ordinarily taken down to the coast at Victoria, this cover went via Tinto (6 AU 26) and Mamfe (8 AU 26) to Port Harcourt (18 AU 26), the alternative route which was used during the rains.
I have not discovered any troubles in Cameroons at that time which might have brought about the imposition of censorship. So, do Study Circle members have any thoughts on this?

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Cameroun / Gabon "Par Pirogue Postale"

Rob May



The illustrated cover recently appeared in a Belgian auction, making 85 Euros. It shows an instructional cachet I had not seen on a Cameroun cover before, but a little research established that it is not a Cameroun marking.
The cover has been addressed to Koula-Moutou, from Yaounde, where it was postally controlled with the normal Cameroun Commission B. This is inter-colonial mail, as Koula-Moutou is in inland Gabon, on a tributary of the Ogooué River, but the address on the cover does not make this immediately obvious. The cover could have been sent overland via Ambam, Cameroun and Oyem, Gabon, but the roads were poor in this direction and a better route was by rail to Douala, sea to Libreville, then up the Ogooué River.

Referring then to Bob Stone's booklet on AEF postal markings (Ref 1), a similar cachet is illustrated (with shorter capital letters). He describes it as "..cachet struck on closed mail carried by contract pirogues on the Ogooué River to or from post offices located up-river from N'Djole, 1940s, rare. Apparently used at N'Djole, Booué and Lastouville post offices"

Reference
1. Stone R.G., "The Diverse World of Postal markings of Gabon/Congo/AEF", pp22-24, F&CPS, New York, 1987

Nigeria 2001 Wildlife Definitives

Rob May

An illustrated First Day Cover of this set is available, dated 15 June 2001, with a single ring cds special postmark "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / LAGOS G.P.O." (*contact Sovereign Stamps, Epsom – £5.65*). Inside the cover is a printed card stiffener describing the issue, and I quote from it:

> "The eight postage stamps...released on 15th June 2001 are the new definitive which are to be used for prepayment of all posted items in Nigeria. They replace the definitive stamps which have been in circulation since June 1986. The technical details of the eight stamps are given on the reverse of this card."

The key information is that the stamps are in full colour lithographic printing on un-watermarked paper in 50 to a sheet by the Nigerian Security Printing & Minting Company Limited, PO Box 3053, Lagos. The list of technical details then goes on to read:

Denomination	Perforation	Quantity
N 10	13	100,000
N 15	13	100,000
N 20	13	10,000,000
N 25	13	100,000
N 30	13	100,000
N 40	13	100,000
N 50	13	4,000,000
N 100	13	4,000,000

These details would be fine apart from the discovery that all of the stamps affixed to these covers are perforated 14, except the N 20 and N30 values which are perforated 13!

If one refers to the Stanley Gibbons catalogue it is evident that the long-standing use of a 14 gauge perforator has been phased out over a period of about four years from 1998, in favour of a 13 gauge machine, which is first found used for some of the production of the N5 value of the 1998 World Cup Football commemorative. At the time the new definitives were printed the two perforators remained in parallel use and it seems the new machine was used for the whole production of 10 million of the N20 value for the standard internal letter rate. Evidently, it also handled the small run of the N30 value whilst all the other values were perforated on the older 14 gauge machine.
When I received the mint set from a new issue service the perforations exactly matched those on the cover.

The stated print numbers must be for the first printing of each denomination. Checking used stamps on commercial mail, I can firstly confirm that no N20 nor N30 values have been found perforated 14, and given the apparent withdrawal of that machine in 2002, they are never likely to be. On the other hand it is logical to expect that the second printing of any of the other values will be perforated 13, and that print numbers of 100,000 of most of the values will not last long in a country the size of Nigeria.

I can report that I have found the N50 and N100 values perforated 13, so the 4 million stamps stocks of those values lasted only about a year. Very few of any of the other values have appeared on commercial mail I have seen. Stocks may well be exhausted but not required to make up the present postal rates. If they appear again they will probably be in a second printing, perforated 13, and the first perf 14 printing is likely to turn out to be scarce in future, especially used.

I have also not yet found a source of mint copies of the second printings of the N50 and N100 values, as the new issue services have not been notified of a change from a stamp that it is clear the Nigerian Postal Authorities did not themselves realise they had produced, on the evidence of the technical details provided with the FDC!

Nigeria – "Insufficiently Prepaid"

Rob May

A wide range of markings have been used to denote and account for short-paid mail in Nigeria since the late 19th century. This article is concerned with one type of short payment marking; a range of hand-stamps which have been used since the introduction of Air Mail, to explain why some mails have been re-routed to surface mail when prepaid postage has been deficient.
Neville Jones (Ref. 1) has illustrated in his book a possible fourteen types of such marks, which are reproduced and numbered in figure 1 below.

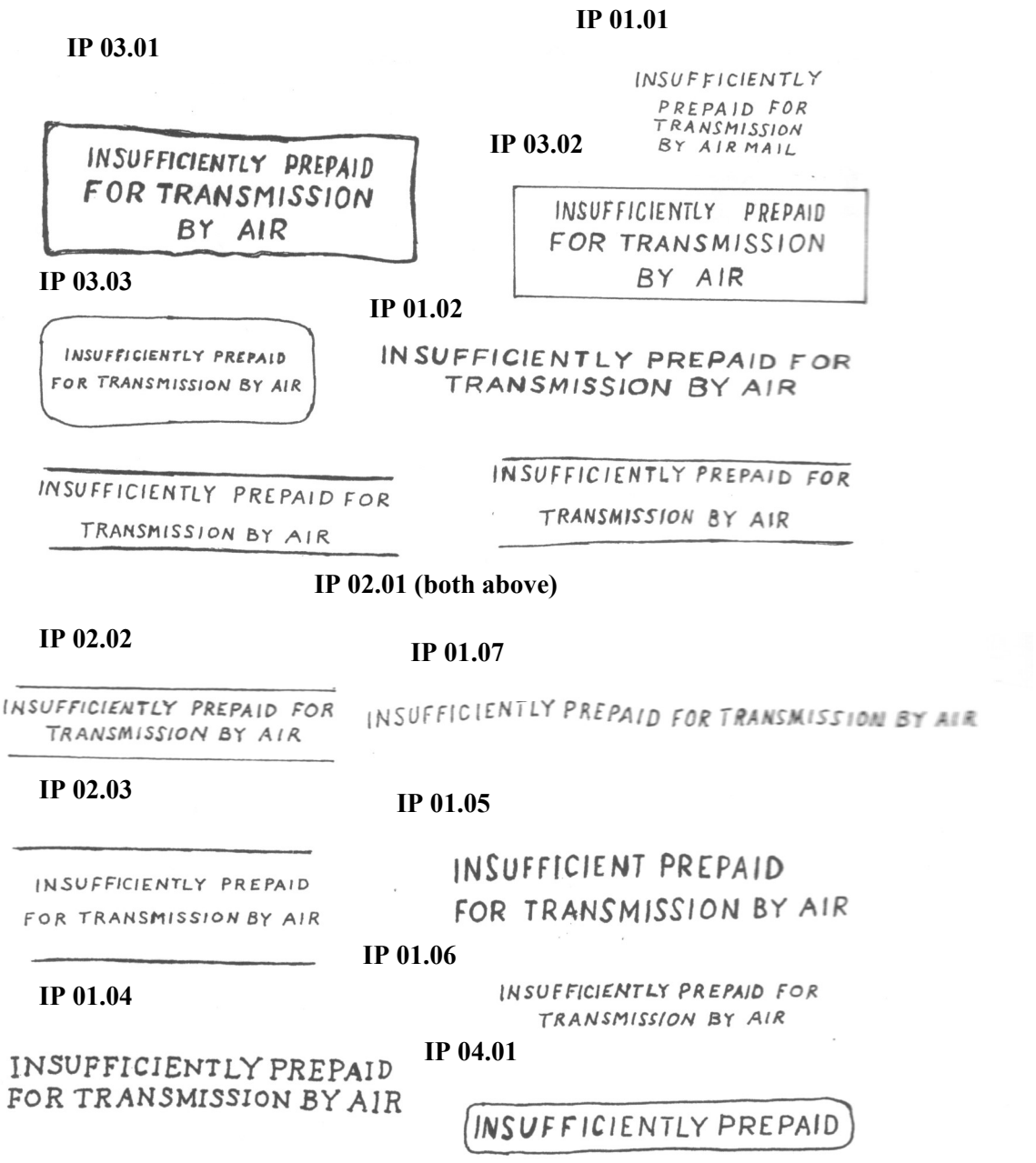


Figure 1

I would expect that only a small number of offices despatching air mails would have held these hand-stamps, as the originating post office clerks would not be likely to have been authorised to re-direct letters marked airmail to surface routes. If any member has a copy of Nigerian postal regulations for any year between about 1945 and 1970, I would be interested to search for reference to this; and better still to find a list of which offices were despatching airmails.
Neville Jones does not attempt to establish earliest and latest dates for each, nor to try to allocate them to specific post offices. The following dates and post offices listed collate examples from my collection, Neville Jones' and Jeremy Martin's.

Markings are in violet unless otherwise stated. Where a separate figure is shown, the marking is additional to those illustrated by Jones.

IP 01 No Frame

01.01 In four lines of text
7 Sep 1950 from Ibadan (in black)
= Dec 1950 from Calabar (in black)

01.02 In two lines of text, top line 88mm
23 Mar 1959 from Yaba

01.03 In two lines of text, top line 83mm (Fig. 4, next page)
1 Mar 1957 from Kaduna North

01.04 In two lines of text, top line 59mm, serif letters
= = 1959 from Kakpamre, via Warri
11 Mar 1959 from Aba
19 May 1959 from Kano
5 June 1959 from Orlu
9 Apr 1962 from Ownrode P.A. (in red)
13 Apr 1962 from Lagos (in red)

01.05 In two lines, top line 52 mm, "Insufficient Prepaid"
= = 1985 from Kano
= Nov 1985 from Kano

01.06 In two lines, top line 50 mm, letters 2mm high
13 Oct 1969 from ? (in black)
20 May 1972 from Kaduna



Figure 2: Type IP 01.09

01.07 In two lines “INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID FOR / AIR POST” (Fig. 3)
15 April 1987 from Lagos
01.08 In one straight line (not wavy as illustrated), 97mm x 5mm
12 Jan 1959 from Lagos
19 Jan 1959 from Abudu
6 Nov (year?) from Yaba
01.09 In one straight line, 91mm x 4mm (Fig.2)
15 Sep 1958 from Tombel (Cameroons)

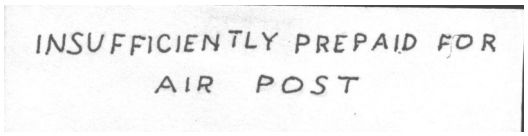


Fig.3: Type IP 01.07

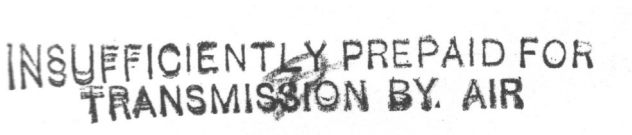


Fig. 4: Type IP 01.03

IP 02 Framed with parallel lines above and below the text, but no sides
02.01 Lines 15mm apart, top line 2mm above the letters
3 Nov 1961 from Kaduna (in black)
02.02 Lines 11 mm apart and 50mm long (R of AIR below F of FOR)
?????????????? (as illustrated by Jones, but no examples on cover are available, and this may be a slightly misdrawn version of IP 02.03)
02.03 As 02.02 but R of AIR below space before F of FOR. (Fig. 5)
18 Aug 1962 from Enugu (in black)
16 Jan 1963 from Zakibiam P.A., via Wukari (in black)
31 Jan 1963 from Enugu (in black)
27 Dec 1963 from ?
14 Jan 1964 from Enugu (in black)
21 Jan 1964 from Ekuri P.A. (in black)
4 Mar 1964 from Enugu
24 Aug 1964 from Eha Amufu (in black)

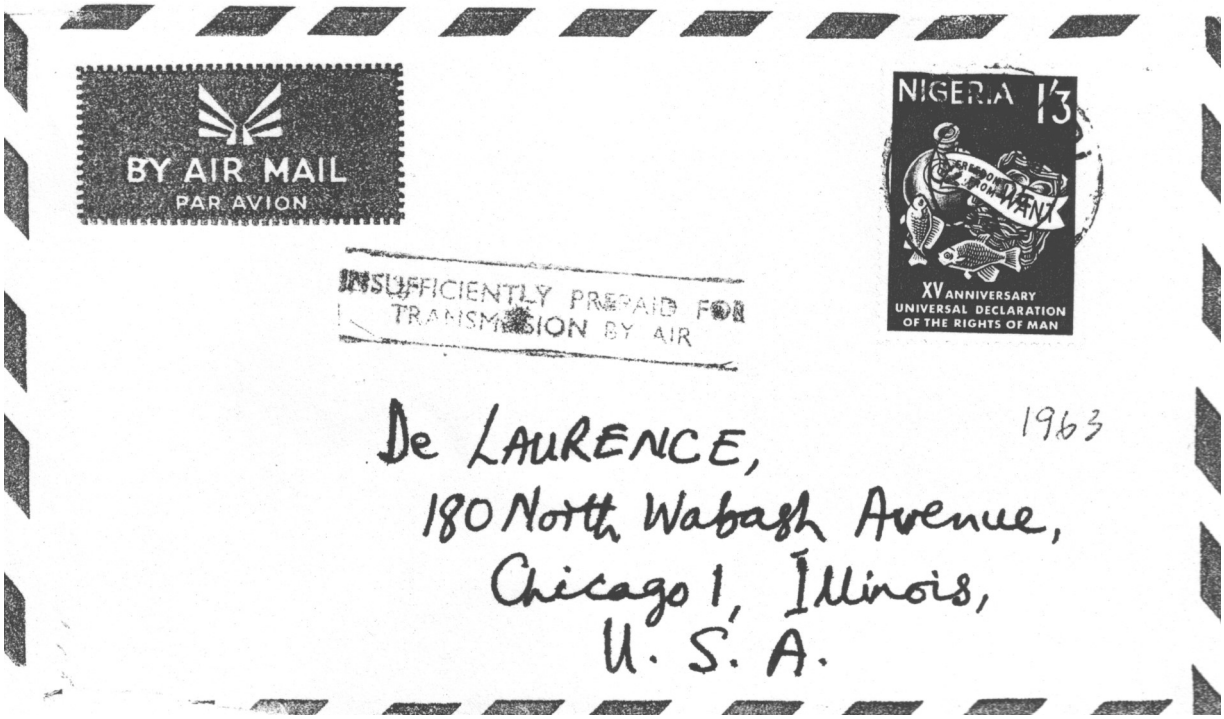


Figure 5: Type IP 02.03

02.04 Lines 17.5mm apart and 46-48mm wide
= Nov 1960 from Benin
3 Oct 1963 from Kano (in black)
10 Dec 1963 from Kafanchan, via Minna (in black)
6 Jan 1964 from Kano (in black)
4 Mar 1964 from Kano (in black)
11 Nov 1964 from Bauchi (in black)
12 Jul 1965 from ? (in black)

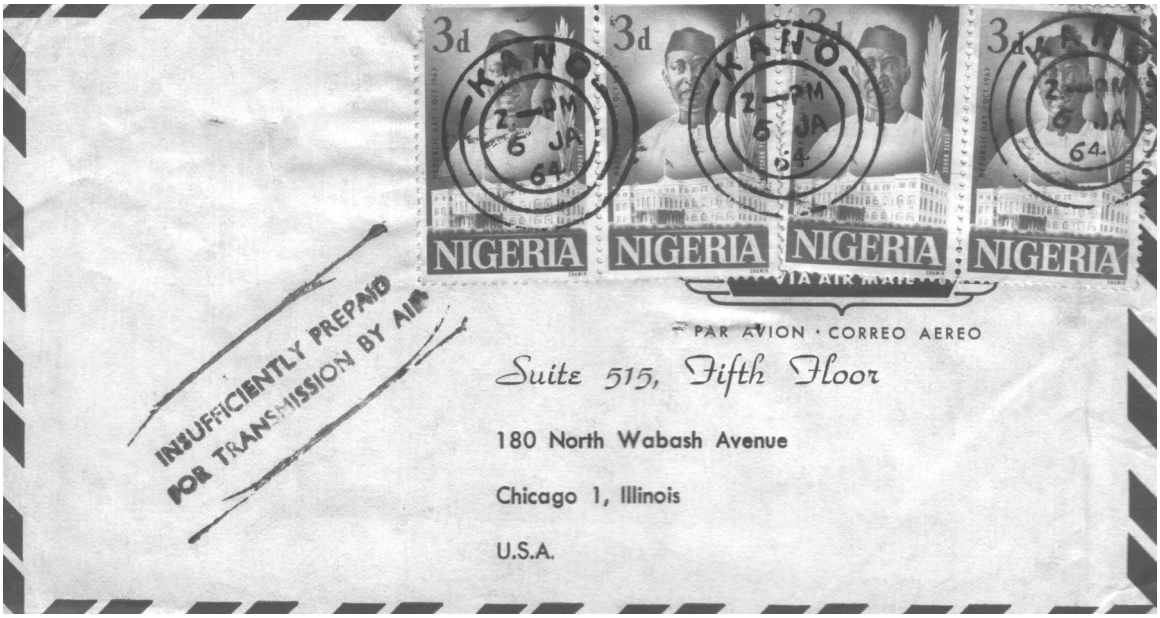


Figure 6: The usage between 1963 and 1965 of IP 02.04 is strongly associated with originating offices in Northern Nigeria, particularly Kano, and typically shows the illustrated crescent-shaped markings from the inside edge of the frame lines. I would tentatively allocate this hand-stamp to Kano.

02.04 Lines 17.5mm apart and 50mm wide
16 Jul 1964 from Jos (black)

IP 03 Boxed hand-stamps
03.01 Text in three lines, 23mm high, rubber handstamp?
10 Nov 1966 from Enugu
9 Nov 1967 from Sokoto
03.02 Text in three lines, 20 mm high, steel?
13 Sep 1966 from Nwaniba
5 Oct 1966 from Ibadan
03.03 Text in two lines, and curved corners of the frame
21 Feb 1961 from Oshogbo (in black)
29 Mar 1961 from Lagos (in black)
18 Oct 1963 from Nguru (in black)
23 Apr 1965 from Lagos (in black)

IP 04 Boxed but text only “Insufficiently Prepaid”
04.01 Text in one line
23 July 1920 from Kaduna (black)
At this date of use the hand-stamp cannot be related to air mail, but is included here for completeness. It is an unusual alternative to the standardised form of hand-stamp denoting deficiency; the “T”
04.02 Text in two lines (Fig. 7)
11 Apr 1967 from Benin (black)

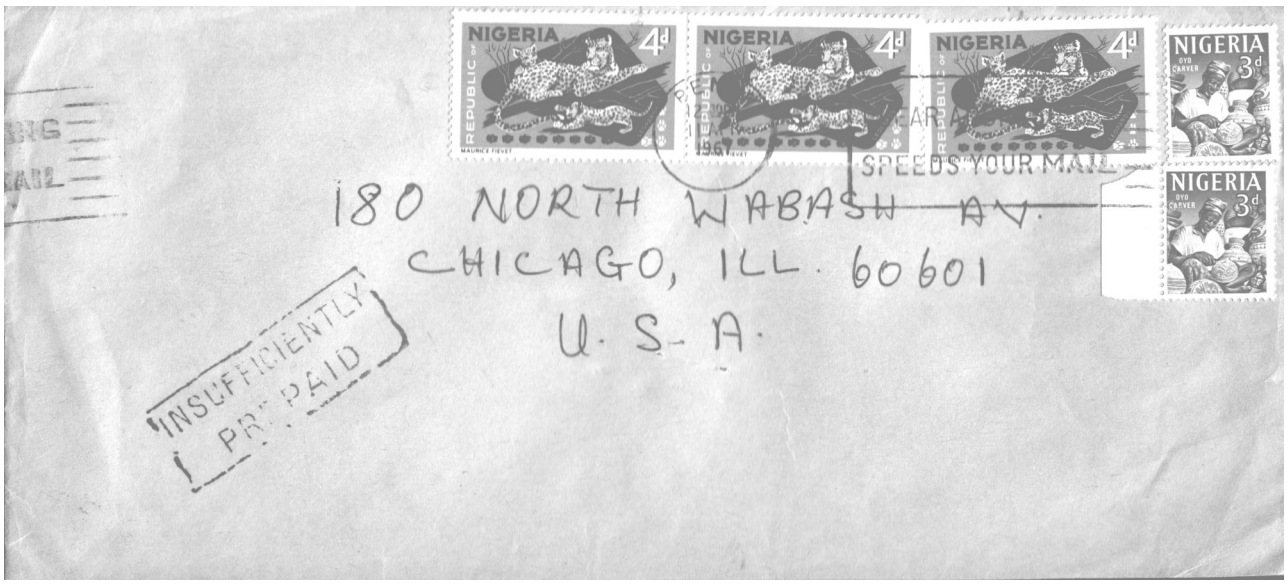


Figure 7: Type IP 04.02 (reduced)

As surmised previously, these hand-stamps would be expected to be held at only the main post offices that were despatching international air mails, so it will be interesting to build up a sufficient body of dated covers to establish earliest and latest dates for these and any other new types of hand-stamp, and to work out where each of these hand-stamps was held. Could members please check their collections?
A minimum list of likely air mail despatching offices would be those head post offices at cities with airports, including Lagos, Kano, Jos and Port Harcourt.

References

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Index to Cameo Volume 7 and St. Helena & Ascension Supplements 35-39

This index covers all West Africa Study Circle Journals since January 2001, and is in the same format as that of the Cumulative Index 1975-2000, compiled by Frank Walton and published as a booklet in 2001. The combined index for 1975-2003 will also appear on the WASC website in due course.

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
ASCENSION					
Airmail					
Auctions					
	Ascension at Victoria 2001	Burns	Sup	37	30
Books					
	Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue	Burns	Sup	35	32
	West African Postal Notices – updated index	Burns	Sup	37	24
Censorship					
General					
	Display at WASC meeting 2002	Burns	Sup	37	25
	Postmistress wins seat on Island council	Hearl	Sup	39	19
	Surface Mail from UK 2001	Hearl	Sup	37	27
	Visit to Ascension May 2002 – report	Burns	Sup	39	4

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
Postal History					
	Gone Away	Podger	Sup	35	5
	Missent to Ascension Island	Podger	Sup	35	5
	Missent to Ascension Island on cover	Andrew	Sup	39	34
	Postal rates 2002	Burns	Sup	38	6
	Postmarks – Paquebot	Podger	Sup	35	5
	Postmarks – Paquebot cancels	Richardson	Sup	35	13
	Postmarks – Paquebot cancels - response	Richardson	Sup	36	4
	Return to Sender	Podger	Sup	35	5
Postal Stationery					
Stamps					
	1927 Badge – 5d value	Stanton	Sup	38	21
	1981-99 Artwork for issues – update	Podger	Sup	35	6
	2000 Christmas new issue		Sup	35	36
	2000 Mis-cut sheetlet sent to Ascension?	Podger	Sup	35	8
	2000 Sheetlet with perforation shift	Burns	Sup	37	25
	2001 500th Anniversary of discovery		Sup	36	36
	2001 BirdLife World Bird Festival		Sup	37	35
BIAFRA					
Books					
	"Biafra: the Stamps, History and Postal History…." by Prestedge	Priddy & Plumbe	7	54	8
	Biafra Book Addendum	Prestedge	7	54	22
General					
Postal History					
Stamps					
CAMEROONS					
INCL KAMERUN & CAMEROUN					
Airmail					
Censorship					
General					
	Cameroun and A.E.F.	Cobb	7	56	113
	Nigeria Marine Vessel "Porpoise"	Maddocks	7	58	Mono page 14
	Steam Yacht "Ivy"	Ince	7	55	59
	SY "Ivy" and Carter Family Papers	Carter	7	55	51
	UN Ghanaian and Cameroun Troops	Parren	7	58	250
Postal History					
	"Where is Kumbo?" - an Identity Problem	Maddocks	7	57	196
	1921 use of Gabon and Congo stamps in Cameroun	May	7	57	186
	Cameroons Mail censored in Northern Ireland	Maddocks	7	59	321
	Cameroun TPAC Cancels	Cobb	7	57	169
	French Military Postal Franchise Cachets in WW I	Maddocks	7	57	187
	German Kamerun used by the French	Mayne	7	54	39
	Initial Organisation of Mail in British Sphere of Kamerun, 1916	Maddocks	7	58	Monograph
	Kamerun or Togo - Neither!	Cobb	7	55	52
	Kamerun or Togo?	Maddocks	7	54	11
	Missionary Cover - Gold Coast to Cameroun, 1935	Carter, Scott, Bratzel	7	56	147
	More on the Opening of Buea Post Office	Maddocks	7	59	310
	Ndian antics	Bratzel & Cronin	7	54	12
	Origins of the Early Mail Runner Service in Cameroons	Maddocks	7	58	Mono page 10
	Par Pirogue Postale	May	7	59	322
	Postage Meters used in Cameroons under British Administration	Maddocks	7	54	9
	Postage meters, Commercial Users of	Maddocks	7	55	90
	Postmark - Kumba Parcel	May	7	57	201
	Postmark - Kumba Parcel response	Broadbridge	7	58	228
	Postmark - Tombel	Maddocks	7	56	125
	Postmark - Tombel, another	Bratzel	7	57	200

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
	Preparations for Post Offices at Victoria and Buea	Maddocks	7	58	Mono page 2
	Reappraisal of the Date of Opening of Bamenda Post Office	Maddocks	7	58	Mono page 6
Postal Stationery					
Stamps					
	1914 CEF overprints on Kamerun - responses	Cummings & Bratzel	7	54	3
	1961 Cameroun Sterling Surcharge Error	May	7	57	177
	1961 Sterling Overprints - two letters	Maddocks	7	57	168
	1961 Sterling Surcharges	Wright	7	58	229
	Cameroun - the Case of the Withdrawn Unification Stamps	Maddocks	7	56	138
	CEF overprints on Kamerun Yacht Stamps - a further update	Bratzel	7	54	40
	CEF overprints on Kamerun Yacht Stamps - another update	Bratzel	7	59	309
	Perfins on Postage Stamps from Cameroons	Carter, Wright & Bratzel	7	59	311
	Re-unification Commemoratives - letter	Lythgoe	7	57	169
	Stamps since 1995 - a Provisional Listing	Wright & Round	7	58	275
	Stamps since 1995 - response	Maddocks	7	59	289
DAHOMEY					
Stamps					
	1920-21 Bisects of Dahomey and Togo	May, C	7	56	115
	1920-21 Bisects of Dahomey and Togo - Part 2	May, C	7	57	177
	More on Those Dahomey Bisects	Mitchell	7	58	237
DANISH GUINEA					
General					
	Danish Guinea Settlements	Maddocks	7	54	14
FERNANDO PO					
Postal History					
	Fernando Po to USA Censored Cover	Ince	7	54	26
	"Render unto Caesar" - 1846 letter from Frenando Po	Maddocks	7	57	215
FR. EQ. AFRICA					
Postal History					
	Cameroun and A.E.F.	Cobb	7	56	113
	From Tropical Forests to the Sands of the Desert	Magnard	7	55	67
	Par Pirogue Postale	May	7	59	322
	"Petits Bureaux" in areas claimed by Spain and Others	Mitchell	7	59	295
FR. W. AFRICA					
Postal History					
	Aspects of the Postal History of A.O.F north of the Niger	Kelly	7	56	120
	French West Africa North of the Niger - response	Ince	7	57	169
	French West Africa North of the Niger - two letters	Kelly & Maddocks	7	58	230
Stamps					
	First (Provisional) Issue of 1943-44	Mitchell	7	55	86
GAMBIA					
Airmail					
	FAM22 - First Flight from Bathurst	Duncan	7	57	183
	Last Flight from Freetown to Bathurst 1939	Walton	7	56	137
	Lufthansa via Gambia	Duggan & Duncan	7	54	16
Censorship					
	Chief Censor in Gambia	Duncan	7	57	193
	Chief Censor in Gambia - response	Bratzel	7	58	227
General					
Postal History					
	"Portuguese" Gambia material	Andrew	7	57	200
	Gambian Postmarks - book in Preparation	Andrew	7	58	231
	Internal Registered Mail from Farrafeni	Maddocks	7	57	195
Postal Stationery					
Stamps					
	1922-27: Constant Flaws Continued	Andrew	7	55	76
	1922-27: Constant flaws on the Elephant & Palm Issue	Andrew	7	54	18
	1922-27: some notes on the Elephant & Palm issue	Andrew	7	54	15
	King Edward VII Slotted Frame - A new Keyplate Variety	Maisel & Schneider	7	56	140

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
GHANA					
General					
	UN Ghanaian and Cameroun Troops	Parren	7	58	250
GOLD COAST					
Airmail					
	1935 Airmail Returned from Gold Coast	Carter	7	54	18
	Air Mail … From Takoradi	McQueen	7	58	236
Books					
	"The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957 - Addenda	Ensor	7	56	Centrefold
Censorship					
	Censor 13	Carter	7	55	77
	Censor 13 - response	Roberts	7	56	110
General					
	Gold Coast Diaries	Ensor	7	56	Centrefold
Postal History					
	"INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID" and "1d"	Martin	7	54	21
	Another "Appam" Cover	Ensor	7	58	240
	Cape Coast Combination Cancels	Newroth	7	54	4
	Cape Coast Combination Cancels Again	Newroth	7	55	53
	Cape Coast Combination Cancels Again	Newroth	7	56	107
	Gold Coast to England via Barbadoes, 1771	Fitz Roett	7	58	247
	Missionary Cover - Gold Coast to Cameroun, 1935	Carter, Scott, Bratzel	7	56	147
	Postmark - ATAR….	Carter	7	59	308
	Postmark - Shama	Levine	7	59	288
	Postmark - Subri	Levine	7	58	264
	Problem Item from 1918	Beale	7	54	20
	Short Payment	Carter	7	56	150
	Togo Mail via the Gold Coast, 1899	Mayne	7	57	204
	Travelling Post Office - response	Mayne	7	58	227
	Travelling Post Office, 1915	Newroth	7	57	203
	Woermann Line from Gold Coast	Mayne	7	58	231
	Woermann Line Mail via Sekondi	Mayne	7	59	317
Postal Stationery					
	Book Post Wrapper, - a different Victorian	Newroth	7	57	201
	Registered Envelope H&G 5, - used example	Newroth	7	57	202
Stamps					
	1908 1d Watermark Sideways	May	7	54	5
	1918 1d War Tax Stamp	Martin	7	55	95
	1928 Artwork	Beech	7	57	169
	1928 Artwork	Beech	7	58	229
LAGOS					
Postal History					
	German Stamps Used in Lagos	Mayne	7	58	276
LIBERIA					
Postal History					
	"British" Liberia	Varaschini	7	55	78
	Benson Field, Liberia	Varaschini	7	56	114
	Liberian Mail via Sierra Leone	Walton	7	57	207
	Liberian Mail via Sierra Leone - response	Carter	7	58	228
NIGER COAST & OIL RIVERS					
Postal History					
	"NON-RECLAME / UNCLAIMED" Handstamp	Walton	7	54	27
NIGERIA					
Airmail					
	1925 RAF Pioneer Flight from Kano to Cairo	Maddocks	7	57	178
	Nigeria Airways	Mark	7	54	4

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
Censorship					
	Censor 11 - What was his Speciality?	May	7	59	304
	Censor 21 at Kano	Richards & May	7	58	248
	Censorship New Finds	Miller	7	56	139
	Censorship update (Hexagon P.P.12)	Wright	7	56	134
	Covers from Nigeria Censored in Austria	Plumbe	7	59	319
	New type of World War 2 Censor	Newton & Piggin	7	59	306
	Nigeria Censor 21	Jones	7	57	210
	Nigeria Censor 21 response	Carter	7	59	287
General					
	Corona School, Kano	Mark	7	59	287
	Nigerian Troops in the Congo	Jones	7	54	23
	Nigerian UN troops in Cambodia and Somalia	Plumbe	7	57	208
	Nigerian UN troops in Croatia and Rwanda	Plumbe	7	58	252
	Pro-tem Postmistress at Jos	Maddocks	7	59	299
	Steam Yacht "Ivy"	Ince	7	55	59
	SY "Ivy and Carter Family Papers	Carter	7	55	51
	Train Ferry "Munshi"	Ince	7	54	22
Postal History					
	Bompai, Kano Postal Facilities	Maddocks	7	58	271
	Erushu, Nigeria	Jones	7	54	25
	Insufficiently Prepaid	May	7	59	324
	PAQUEBOT CALABAR	Martin	7	54	24
	Postage meters, Commercial users of	Maddocks	7	55	90
	Postmarks - Abeokuta and Ilorin	Maddocks	7	55	93
	US Army Post Offices in Nigeria	Martin	7	59	307
Postal Stationery					
	1966 Illustrated FDC	Jones	7	57	209
	Postcode Labels	Martin	7	56	152
Stamps					
	1913-14 Stamp Issues	Ince	7	54	23
	1961 £1 Watermark Inverted	Martin	7	57	170
	1973-74 New Currency Definitives	Martin	7	55	91
	1973-86 10k Cheetah Definitives	May	7	58	273
	1991 Fish issue	West	7	59	312
	2001 Wildlife Definitives	May	7	59	323
	50 Naira "Rock Bridge"	Lazar	7	58	231
	Another Postal Forgery	Lazar	7	57	203
	Forgeries of Nigeria since Independence	Wright	7	55	96
	Modern Nigeria - letter	Lazar	7	56	110
	Nigeria Forgery	Fletcher	7	56	110
	Nigerian Local?	Wright	7	59	306
	Perforations of the Latest Issues	Lazar	7	57	210
NORTHERN NIGERIA					
ST. HELENA					
Auctions					
	'Gibralter' sale at Shreves 2000	Burns	Sup	35	34
	St Helena at Cavendish 2002	Burns	Sup	38	35
	St Helena at Christie's 2002	Burns	Sup	38	35
	St Helena at Colonial 2000	Burns	Sup	35	35
	St Helena at Gibbons 2000	Burns	Sup	35	34
	St Helena at Grosvenor 2001	Burns	Sup	37	32
	St Helena at Harmers 2001	Burns	Sup	37	32
	St Helena at Harmers 2001 – response	Hearl	Sup	38	3
	St Helena at Heijtz 2000	Burns	Sup	35	35
	St Helena at Heijtz 2001	Burns	Sup	37	33
	St Helena at Ivy & Mader 2001	Burns	Sup	37	32
	St Helena at Spink 2002	Burns	Sup	39	35

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
	St Helena at Victoria 2001	Burns	Sup	37	30
	St Helena at Warwick & Warwick 2001	Burns	Sup	37	33
	St Helena at Western 2001	Burns	Sup	37	33
Books					
	Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue	Burns	Sup	35	32
	St Helena George VI Definitives by Studd	Burns	Sup	35	33
	St Helena postal markings by Mabbett	Burns	Sup	38	34
	West African Postal Notices – updated index	Burns	Sup	37	24
General					
	1947 Royal visit	Burns	Sup	5	31
	1961 Christmas greeting	Johnson	Sup	7	35
	Archives at the Castle	Johnson	Sup	7	36
	Canon Walcott and Scout movement	Heijtz & Burns	Sup	6	37
	Cartoon		Sup	22	15
	Coolie ships and wharf design	Heijtz	Sup	11	23
	Curnow loses contract	Burns	Sup	27	19
	'Discovery' fdc – a footnote	Hearl	Sup	28	20
	Discussion with Postmistress	Scrine	Sup	29	9
	Display at WASC meeting 2002	Burns	Sup	10	23
	Display at WASC meeting 2002 - details	Burns	Sup	31	16
	East Indiamen at St Helena 1600-1834	Hearl	Sup	1	11
	Edward Hibbert Archive	Mabbett	Sup	1	14
	Garrison of St Helena – Xmas 1916	Beale	Sup	3	19
	Jessica March MBE	Burns & Hearl	Sup	7	36
	Payment in Stamps	Burns	Sup	8	37
	Payment in Stamps – response	Hearl	Sup	24	20
	Picture postcards, lettercards and foldcards	Crawford	Sup	5	33
	Picture postcards published by Hearl –additional	Hearl	Sup	1	16
	Picture postcards published by Jackson – additional	Richardson	Sup	2	6
	Post Office notification 1863	Johnson	Sup	2	14
	Punctual Post 2002	Magellan	Sup	3	18
	Sailing dates 2002	Burns	Sup	5	19
	St Helena Airways – spoof		Sup	6	36
	St Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha P.S.Inc.	Burns	Sup	22	30
	St Helena Focus Group	Scrine	Sup	35	3
	Struggle for Survival	Hearl	Sup	35	30
	Visit to St Helena May 2002	Burns	Sup	37	25
	Visit to St Helena May 2002 – report	Burns	Sup	39	4
	What's in a name?	Hearl	Sup	37	6
Postal History					
	1676 Earliest known letter from St Helena	Heijtz	Sup	36	7
	1810 Letter to HCS Earl Howe	Morgan & Hearl	Sup	37	20
	1856 T. Baker circular forwarding agent cachet	Heijtz	Sup	36	8
	1884 Swedish & Norwegian Consulate	Heijtz	Sup	38	14
	1919 War Tax stamp on cover	Martin	Sup	39	31
	'George' correspondence	Cottis	Sup	36	25
	'George' correspondence – response	Hearl	Sup	37	3
	'George' correspondence – author unmasked	Hearl	Sup	36	27
	'George' correspondence – author unmasked - update	Hearl	Sup	38	3
	Instructional marks – Not called for	Heijtz	Sup	38	16
	Instructional marks – Returned letter	Heijtz	Sup	38	17
	Kaiser spoof postcard	Johnson	Sup	39	32
	Maritime Mystery	Richardson	Sup	35	12
	Packet rate 1s 8d to USA 1866 – response	Cottis	Sup	36	6
	Paquebot handstamp – unrecorded	Heijtz	Sup	38	17
	Paquebot handstamps	Mabbett	Sup	36	5
	Postal rates 1867	Johnson	Sup	39	20

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
	Postal rates 2002	Burns	Sup	38	6
	Postmarks – Circular datestamp – C inverted	Studd	Sup	35	6
	Postmarks – Datestamps in use in 2001	Burns	Sup	36	33
	Postmarks – Departmental cachets	Richardson	Sup	35	7
	Postmarks – Departmental cachets	Burns	Sup	36	35
	Postmarks – Forged cds	Mabbett	Sup	35	29
	Postmarks – Forged cds – update	West	Sup	36	30
	Postmarks – Post Office oval datestamp latest known	Heijtz	Sup	38	14
	Postmarks – Post Office oval datestamp – new	Burns	Sup	36	33
	Postmarks – RMS St Helena cds, Type 2	Burns	Sup	35	10
	Postmarks – RMS St Helena cds, Type 2 – response	Richardson	Sup	36	3
	QV One Penny on cover	Deakin	Sup	37	10
	"St. Helena; the Postal Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000	Burns	7	58	235
Postal Stationery					
	Airletter - illustration	Burns	Sup	36	33
Stamps					
	1856-94 Perkins Bacon plate – guide	Burns	Sup	35	19
	1863 One Penny imperforate surcharges	Burns	Sup	36	10
	1863 One Penny imperforate surcharges – response	Morgan	Sup	37	3
	1871 One Penny – watermark inverted and reversed	Burns	Sup	37	24
	1884-94 Surcharge varieties	West	Sup	35	26
	1902 Edward VII keyplate – dented frame	Maisel & Podger	Sup	38	4
	1903 1d inverted watermark	Burns	Sup	37	24
	1903 Wharf design	Burns	Sup	37	11
	1903 Wharf design – update	Hearl	Sup	38	20
	1922 Badge Issue – specimen stamps – response	West	Sup	35	4
	1922 Badge Issue – specimen stamps – response	Walton	Sup	36	3
	1938 George VI definitives – sinking ship	Horry	Sup	35	36
	1938 George VI definitives – sorting	Burns	Sup	38	26
	1998 ‘Maritime Heritage’ definitives – perforations	Burns	Sup	37	19
	2000 Christmas new issue		Sup	35	36
	2001 New Issues		Sup	37	35
	2002 Golden Jubilee		Sup	37	36
	2002 Quincentenary	Hearl	Sup	39	27
	King Edward - Slotted Frame: a new Keyplate Variety	Maisel & Schneider	7	56	140
	Specimen handstamps	Morgan	Sup	37	28
SIERRA LEONE					
Airmail					
	Last Flight from Freetown to Bathurst 1939	Walton	7	56	137
Censorship					
	Early Censorship	Walton	7	59	288
	"Opened by Censor"	Beale	7	54	28
	Civil Censorship Type 8 Handstamps WW II	Lutwyche	7	58	256
	Italian POWs in Sierra Leone during WW II	Martin	7	56	128
	Unusual Use of Sierra Leone Civil Censor Mark	Roberts	7	58	246
	WW I Censorship	Walton	7	57	206
General					
	"Contentment is Great Gain; a Missionary Midwife in S. Leone"	Walton	7	58	233
	"Sierra Leone George VI Definitive Stamps" by Walton	Butlin	7	55	54
	1898-1899 Hut Tax War	Hamilton	7	54	30
	Embossed Stamp Duty Impressions	Walton	7	58	263
	Sierra Leone Railway - possible book	Beale	7	58	272
	Sierra Leone Railways	Peachey	7	57	216
	World War 2 Propaganda Hand-stamps	Revell	7	59	289
Postal History					
	"NON-RECLAME / UNCLAIMED" Handstamp	Walton	7	54	27
	1815 Letter to Sierra Leone	Revell	7	55	61
	1912 Postcard from Kunso	Quirk, Walton & Carter	7	58	265
	Army Signals Hand-stamp	Walton	7	54	25

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
	Diplomatic Letter from Freetown, 1884	Butlin	7	57	172
	FORWARD Hand-stamp	Sacher	7	59	317
	INCONNU (NOT KNOWN) Instructional Mark	Walton	7	58	254
	Insufficiently Addressed	Revell	7	58	267
	Liberian Mail via Sierra Leone	Walton	7	57	207
	Liberian Mail via Sierra Leone - response	Carter	7	58	228
	Modern Postmarks of Sierra Leone	Quirk	7	59	287
	Postmarks of Sierra Leone since Independence	Quirk	7	58	260
	Postmarks since independence - response	Revell	7	59	288
	Sherbro Internal Extra 1d Charge	Sacher	7	59	315
Postal Stationery					
	Certificate of Posting	Walton	7	57	189
	Certificate of Posting - response	Carter	7	58	228
	Telegram	Walton	7	57	214
	Telegram, another	Martin	7	58	255
	WWII Airmail Envelopes	Mobbs	7	59	288
Stamps					
	1985 and 1997 First Days of Issue	Butlin	7	54	26
	Double Overprint on the 1893 provisional	Beale	7	58	262
	Inverted Watermarks	Walton	7	56	139
	King George VI 2d Partially Imperforate	Walton	7	55	85
	King George VI definitives	Stone, A	7	56	125
	War Tax Stamp	Roberts	7	57	183
SOUTHERN NIGERIA					
Postal History					
	New Southern Nigeria Hand-stamp	Sacher	7	59	291
TOGO					
Censorship					
	Censorship in the French Sector	Mayne	7	59	300
Postal History					
	Discoveries - letter	Mayne	7	57	170
	Kamerun or Togo - Neither!	Cobb	7	55	52
	Kamerun or Togo?	Maddocks	7	54	11
	Taxe Markings	Mayne	7	57	205
	Togo Mail via the Gold Coast, 1899	Mayne	7	57	204
	Tsewie Post Office	Mayne	7	58	268
	Use of German Stamps at Anecho in August 1914	Mayne	7	55	82
Postal Stationery					
	German Kamerun Postal Stationery used by the British	Mayne	7	55	84
	German Postal Stationery cards - correction	Mayne	7	58	227
	German Postal Stationery used in Togo	Mayne	7	57	205
Stamps					
	1914 Misplaced Overprints	Mayne	7	55	82
	1920-21 Bisects of Dahomey and Togo	May, C	7	56	115
	1920-21 Bisects of Dahomey and Togo - Part 2	May, C	7	57	177
	From the Occupation Overprints to the Mandate Issue	Mitchell	7	58	269
AIR MAIL					
	"Air Mail Operations During World War II" by Thomas Boyle	Picirilli	7	55	55
	"Airmail Directional Handstamps" by McQueen		7	58	236
	"Airmail Directional Handstamps" by McQueen	May	7	59	290
	"Pan Africa - Across the Sahara in 1941 with Pan Am"	Ince	7	58	233
	"Star Glow" - a light-hearted look at a darling little crash cover	Priddy	7	57	184
	"West African Airmails; The McCaig and Porter Collections"	Plumbe	7	58	234
	1925 RAF Pioneer Flight from Kano to Cairo	Maddocks	7	57	178
	1935 Airmail Returned from Gold Coast	Carter	7	54	18
	Belgium - France - Congo Airmail leaflet	Martin	7	58	270
	Boyle - WWII Airmails (letter)	Ince	7	56	108
	British South American Airways Corporation	Martin	7	55	94
	FAM 22 during WW II (Part 1)	Ince	7	57	180

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
	FAM 22 during WW II (Part 2)	Ince	7	58	242
	FAM22 - First Flight from Bathurst	Duncan	7	57	183
	Flying Green Elephant Conveyed the Mails in British West Africa	Maddocks	7	55	60
	Last Flight from Freetown to Bathurst 1939	Walton	7	56	137
	Lufthansa via Gambia	Duggan & Duncan	7	54	16
	Nigeria Airways	Mark	7	54	4
	Pan American FAM 18 in WW II	Ince	7	55	62
	West African Airmail First Flights, Part 4	Martin	7	54	8
	West African Airmail First Flights, Part 5	Martin	7	55	58
	West African Airmail First Flights, Part 6	Martin	7	56	116
	West African Airmail First Flights, Part 7	Martin & Plumbe	7	57	174
AUCTIONS					
Commercial Auctions					
	Auction Report - Phillips 2000	Martin & May	7	54	5
	Auction Report - Phillips 2001	May	7	55	53
Named Sales					
	Len Weldhen's Gambia	Roberts	7	58	232
BOOK REVIEWS					
	"Air Mail Operations During World War II" by Thomas Boyle	Picirilli	7	55	55
	"Airmail Directional Handstamps" by McQueen		7	58	236
	"Airmail Directional Handstamps" by McQueen	May	7	59	290
	"Biafra: the Stamps, History and Postal History…." by Prestedge	Priddy & Plumbe	7	54	8
	"British Civilian Postage rates of the 20th Century" by Furfie	Walton	7	54	7
	British Commonwealth revenues, 7th edition by Barefoot		7	59	290
	"Civil Censorship Study Group - Bulletin Index 1973-2000	Walton	7	54	7
	"Contentment is Great Gain; a Missionary Midwife in S. Leone"	Walton	7	58	233
	"Maritime Disaster Mail….." by Hoggarth & Gwynn	Martin	7	59	290
	"Pan Africa - Across the Sahara in 1941 with Pan Am"	Ince	7	58	233
	"Sierra Leone George VI Definitive Stamps" by Walton	Butlin	7	55	54
	"St. Helena; the Postal Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000	Burns	7	58	235
	"The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957 - Addenda	Ensor	7	56	Centrefold
	"The Un-issued Stamps of King George VI" by David Horry	May	7	55	54
	"West African Airmails; The McCaig and Porter Collections"	Plumbe	7	58	234
	"West African GPO Notices of the Nineteenth Century"		7	56	112
	"West African Post Office Impression Books"		7	56	112
	Gambian Postmarks - book in Preparation	Andrew	7	58	231
	Sierra Leone Railway - possible book	Beale	7	58	272
	Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Part 6 - France, 5th Edition 2001		7	56	112
	West Africa Study Circle's Publications Policy	Beale	7	56	111
	West African Postal Notices – updated index	Burns	Sup	37	24
CENSORSHIP					
Miscellaneous					
	Berlin Blockade Censorship	Plumbe	7	56	119
	Cameroons Mail censored in Northern Ireland	Maddocks	7	59	321
	Fernando Po to USA Censored Cover	Ince	7	54	25
	Nigerian Covers Censored in Austria	Plumbe	7	59	319
Prisoner of War					
	Italian POWs in Sierra Leone during WW II	Martin	7	56	128
	POW Camps in West Africa in WW II	Martin	7	56	128
	POW Camps in West Africa in WW II - Part 2	Martin	7	57	175
World War I					
	Sierra Leone "Opened by Censor"	Beale	7	54	28
	WW I Censorship	Walton	7	57	206
World War II					
	Censor 11of Nigeria - What was his Speciality?	May	7	59	304
	Censor 21 at Kano	Richards & May	7	58	248

		Author	Vol	Whole No.	Page
	Censor 21 at Kano - response	Carter	7	59	287
	Chief Censor in Gambia	Duncan	7	57	193
	Early Censorship in Sierra Leone	Walton	7	59	288
	Gold Coast Censor 13	Carter	7	55	77
	New Type of Nigerian World War 2 Censor	Newton & Piggin	7	59	306
	Nigeria Censor 21	Jones	7	57	210
	Nigeria Censorship New Finds	Miller	7	56	139
	Nigeria Censorship Update	Wright	7	56	134
	Sierra Leone Civil Censorship Type 8 Handstamps	Lutwyche	7	58	256
	Togo - Censorship in the French Sector	Mayne	7	59	300
	Unusual Use of Sierra Leone Civil Censor Mark	Roberts	7	58	246
	US Army Post Offices in Nigeria	Martin	7	59	307
LETTERS					
	Philatelic Websites	Collins	7	59	289
	St Helena & Ascension supplement	Burns	7	55	51
	Togo and Kamerun responses	Mayne	7	56	107
MARITIME					
	"Damaged by Seawater" - West African WW II mail	Duncan	7	56	153
	"Damaged by Seawater" Again	Duncan & others	7	57	190
	Another "Appam" Cover	Ensor	7	58	240
	Earliest Mail from West Africa	Sacher	7	59	290
	Elder Dempster Mail Connections with West Africa - research	Knight & Newroth	7	57	171
	Letter to HMS Sparrow	Tabeart	7	56	133
	"Maritime Disaster Mail……" by Hoggarth & Gwynn	Martin	7	59	290
	RMS "Ebani" on Red Cross Service in WW I	Maddocks	7	56	154
	RMS "Mendi" - the Last and Fated 1917 Voyage	Maddocks	7	56	126
	Royal Navy "Packet Mail"	Sacher	7	57	167
	Royal Navy Packets to West Africa 1848 - 1851	Tabeart	7	56	132
	Side-Wheelers to Western Africa	Swet	7	55	65
	SS "Appam" - letter	Bratzel	7	57	170
	SS "Appam" Query - Delayed Mail	White	7	55	89
	SS "Appam" Query - Delayed Mail	Bratzel	7	56	135
	SS "Jebba"	Martin	7	56	107
	Steam Yacht "Ivy"	Ince	7	55	59
	SY "Ivy and Carter Family Papers	Carter	7	55	51
	Train Ferry "Munshi"	Ince	7	54	22
	Woermann Line from Gold Coast	Mayne	7	58	231
	Woermann Line Mail via Sekondi	Mayne	7	59	317
MISCELLANEOUS					
	"Where are we Today" - a 1930's photo collection	Bratzel	7	57	169
	2nd West Indian regiment in West Africa	Maddocks	7	57	211
	Anthrax Alert at the BBC	Martin	7	58	259
	British Guinea Picture Postcard	Butlin	7	55	57
	British Guinea Postcard - 2 letters	Butlin & Maddocks	7	56	109
	King Edward - Slotted Frame: a new Keyplate Variety	Maisel & Schneider	7	56	140
	Narrow Gauge Railways in West Africa	Ince	7	58	228
	Publications for the Study Circle	Beale	7	54	7
	Republication of Articles	Ince	7	56	108
	Specimen stamps – letter	Walton	Sup	36	3
	Stanley Gibbons on line		7	54	39
	West Africa Study Circle's Publications Policy	Beale	7	56	111
	World War II Question (letter)	Ruggiero	7	56	108
OBITUARIES					
	Skavaril, Russell	Burns	Sup	35	5
	Weldhen, Len	Beale	7	57	171

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NIGER COAST 1895. A registered cover from old Calabar to London, franked 1894 1d pair, 2d and 1/2d on 21/2d blue (SG 52, 53, 55) tied by squared circle datestamps, with large handstruck "R" & oval registration datestamps of old Calabar, Liverpool & Twickenham. £900

NORTHERN NIGERIA 1903. An entire letter to London, endorsed in ms. "No Stamps available", with Northern Nigeria c.d.s. used at Lokoja. The writer was a member of the British Forces involved in the Ashanti Wars. £500

ST HELENA 1922. The £1 grey & purple on red paper (SG 96) - very fine, fresh mint. With RPS Cert. (1985). £300

ST HELENA 1981. Endemic Plants issue, the Black Cabbage, 27p value. Original signed artwork, with near adopted colours. £150

SIERRA LEONE 1909. King Edward p.c. 1d envelope, to UK, with "KENNEMA / SIERRA LEONE" datestamp applied near the stamp impression, which is cancelled at Freetown. £125

SIERRA LEONE 1913. A (comic) picture p.c. sent to UK, franked KGV 1d cancelled at Freetown, with cds of "HILL STATION / SIERRA LEONE" alongside. £85

TOGO 1961. De La Rue die proofs for the Admission of Togo in the United Nations, 30c to 3f set of 6, all in issued colours, on white glazed cards. £150

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Gambia

SG 162-3 1946 Victory pair. Unused (no gum), perforated 'Specimen', lightly toned from years of storage in Cuba £22

SG 164-5 1948 Silver Wedding. VFUM blocks of 4, the £1 an LR corner block with Plate no. 1 £38

Gold Coast

SG 120a 1940-44 ½d comb perf. FUM (folded) sheet of 60 £15

Nigeria

SG46 1937 1d Coronation. VFUM complete sheet of 60 £12

SG49 1938-50 ½d green. VFUM sheet of 100 from unnumbered plate £6

CW 15-16 1938 2/6d and 5/- perf 13 x 11½. F-VFUM £100

CW 17a 1946 2/6d perf 13½, blackish frame. VFM block of 4, hinged on top pair only. Scarce block £125

SG60 1946 1½d Victory. VFM, showing row 3 'tadpole' flaw £8

SG62-3 1948 Silver Wedding. VFUM blocks of 4, the 5 - an LR corner block with Plate no. 1 £16

St. Helena

SG 104b 1922 6d watermark Script. VFM, R4/6 torn flag £110

CW 3a 1945 1d deep yellow-orange. VFUM block of 4, normal for comparison £50

CW 13b 1951 8d deep olive-green. VFUM Plate 1 block of 4 £28

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GOLD COAST. 1935 ld, 3d and 6d Jubilee each with *extra flagstaff* used on cover. SG 113a,114a,115a. £275

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ST HELENA. 1922 7/6 Badge pair one with *torn flag*. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 111b. £475

ST HELENA. 1935 2d Jubilee corner block of four with both *diagonal line by turret.* Very fine mint. SG 125f. £120

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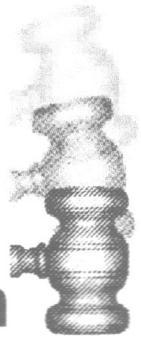
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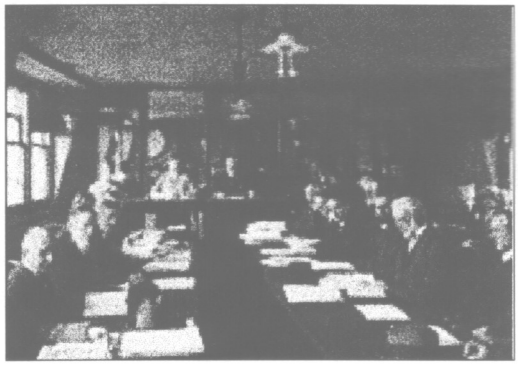
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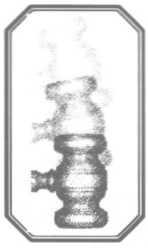


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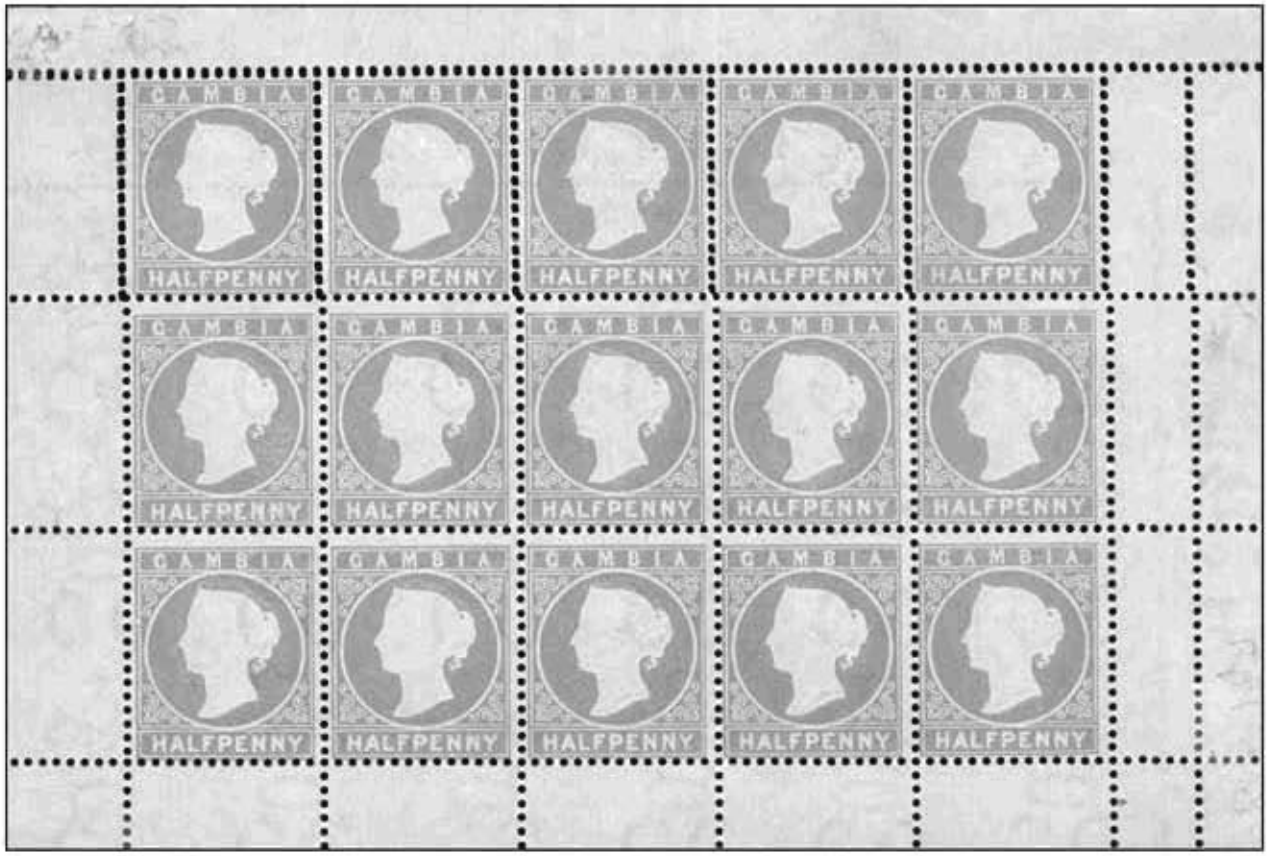
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