

G A M E O



Journal of the
West Africa Study Circle
VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

JULY 1995

STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA

Sold By Christie's



Niger Coast: 1893 (Sept.) 1/2d. on 1d. Lilac,
unsevered pairs in a vertical se-tenant pair; top stamp with
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May I make a plea for members to attend the Society's weekend at Leamington. Not only is the town and its environs well worth a visit and hopefully a delight for members' wives but the standard of displays and discussion (not least the live auction) a must.

On the subject of the Madame Joseph Forgeries [Cameo vol. 4 page 287] the Royal Philatelic Society is attempting to build a reference library on the subject. Could any members who have any, send me a photograph (preferably in colour) for me to submit to the Royal and to keep a copy for our own library.

In the last edition I asked members to send their views on the printings of the Southern Cameroons Stanley Gibbons numbers 4 to 4c inclusive to Michael Wright. Michael points out that these should be sent to Robert May. My apologies to Robert.

The next Cameo will contain reviews of Jeremy Martin's Togo and Ted Proud's books on Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Gold Coast and the Nigerias.

Publications: Jeremy Martin's book on Togo has been delayed but I can now report that it is at the printers and will shortly be in your hands.

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The Circle covers The Gambia, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ascension, Cameroons, St. Helena, Togo and nearby British Postal Agencies. Annual Subscription: U.K. members £12 per annum, Overseas members £14 per annum. Entry Fee for new members £5. Subscription term now spans 1 calendar year.

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AUCTION REPORTS

[All prices include buyers premium of 10%. Estimates in brackets]

Harmers 20th December 1994

Gambia

Zeppelin cover from G.B to Bathhurst and back to Southsea £286 [£250]

Niger Coast

1/2^d in red on 1^d slightly damaged used pair left hand stamp surcharge double S.G 7 & 7e £396 [£440]

1/2^d in vermilion on 2 1/2^d used S.G 25 £462 [£90]

1/2^d in blue on 2^d S.G 30 on registered piece with 1892-94 1d pair, 2^d & 5^d £825 [£150]

1/- in vermilion on 2^d type B fine used S.G 38 £3850 [£200]

1/2^d on 2 1/2^d S.G 65, 9 used copies all settings save for setting 8 £880 [£400]

1/2^d on 2 1/2^d OIE for ONE fine used on small piece S.G 65b £418 [£360]

1897 Reg Env to Banbury 1894 2^d & 2 1/2^d (2) Sombreiro River Cancels £242 [£100]

Niger Company Territories

AKASSA pieces showing type 4 cancels (2 one with 2/6) type 5 (3 one with 2/6) Burutu type 4 (4 with 2 2/6) Lokoja type 8 (1) good to fine £715 [£200]

BURUTU 1897 large envelope to Royal Niger Co London per SS Biafra GB 2 1/2^d (3) & 10^d type 6 cancels £209 [£150]

Harmers 21st December 1994

Niger Coast

1/2^d on 2 1/2^d used with 1894 june 1/- on Registered Postal Stationary Envelope to London S.G 65 £715 [£500]

1/2^d on 2 1/2^d single & strip of 3 normals pair double surcharge S.G 65 & 65a on Registered Front, one normal setting eight without OIE variety £3850 [£1500]

Harmers 14th February 1995

Niger Coast

1/2^d vermilion on 2 1/2^d Horizontal pair og, left stamp type 6 surcharge vertical rt hand stamp type 7 S.G nos. 19e & 21 £1320 [£1000]

Ditto rt hand stamp type 6 var surcharge Diagonal inverted left hand stamp type .7 S.G nos. 19f & 21 £1100 [£1200]

1/2^d in violet on 2^d Horizontal pair left hand stamp surcharge diagonal og fine S.G nos. 20, 20c £1760 [£1000]

Ditto left stamp type 7 Diagonal, rt stamp type 9 og S.G nos. 20c, 29 £1320 [£1000]

1/2^d on 2 1/2^d horizontal strip of 3 outer stamps green surcharge middle stamp surcharged in vermilion og veryfine £770 [£750]

Ditto Horizontal strip of 3 sheet margin at rt outer stamps in violet centre stamp in vermilion diagonally og corner perf thinned S.G nos. 37 & 38b £3850 [£3500]

5/- in violet on 2^d og fine S.G 40 £3190 [£2000]

- 10/- in vermilion on 5^d Horizontal pair left stamp surcharge vertical og perfs at rt ragged S.G
nos. 41 & 41b £11,000 [£10,000]
- 10/- in vermilion on 5^d S.G 41 og fine £1760 [£1500]
- 1894 Jan 1/2^d violet 1^d lake 2^d blue 2 1/2^d orange brown 5^d carmine 1/- green imperf colour trial on wove paper
mainly fine £935 [£600]
- 1894 May 1/2^d grey blue 1^d mauve 2^d brown 2 1/2^d vermilion 5^d lake 1/- dark green imperf colour trials on wove
paper mostly fine £1100 [£600]

Northern Nigeria

- 1904 £25 imperf colour trial in green & black on gummed CA paper £4125 [£3000]

Southern Nigeria

- 1900 Die proof intermediate state of unfinished queens head in green on stout paper £143 [£80]
- 1901 1/2^d imperf colour trials on gummed CA paper 10 different one in black without gum £1100 [£1000]
- Ditto 10/- imperf colour trial in grey & violet on green CA paper og £286 [£170]
- Ditto in green & red on green £308 [£170]
- 1905-9 £1 Block of 4 on chalky paper head A og fine £330 [£150]



FROM COMMON STAMPS TO HAND ESSAYS

They all appear on my monthly list. Two of the hand drawn essays of Oil Rivers Protectorate were on my lists in 1994. If you are not already on my mailing list, please request a free copy.

I am interested in buying all British Africa material. Valuations undertaken for insurance and probate.

ROBERT SEAMAN

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**THE "COLUMBUS" COLLECTION OF SIERRA LEONE
REPORT OF SALE BY STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS 28TH OCTOBER 1994**

The contents of this sale must rank with the best to come on the market in recent years and resulted in very spirited bidding both in the room and from the book. As there were c 336 lots it is only possible to note the highlights. The prices realised are the hammer price and figures in parenthesis are the estimates.

Incoming Mail 1874 December 9 mourning cover with 1873-80 6d. grey (S.G. 147) Plate 13, with m/s "1d." for internal rate, 1d. accountancy mark in red and the Type M1 UNPAID h/s (presumably for the internal 1d.): only a handful of such marks are known. £650 (£750-850).

Realisations for the following Post Offices and Agencies on entire or cover. Baiima £140, Bandajuma £210, Bathurst £280, Daru £120, Dublin Bananas £650, Kaballa £95, Kambia £170, Magbelli £140, Manoh Salijah £360, Moyamba £100, Pendembu £100, Port Lokkoh £110, Rokelle £230, Sulymah £550, Tombo £110, Waterloo £120, Wilberforce £220, York Island £500.

1859-74 No Watermark 6d. Four imperf. proofs on thin, unwmk'd paper in sepia, red-brown, green and blue; fine and rare. £950 (£600-700).

1859-74 Specimens: 6d. Imperf. in bright violet on white, glazed paper, pane of 20 each ovpt'd with Type D7 CANCELLED in black; horiz. crease across top margin and some thinning and gum remainders at bottom from where it was originally held in the Records. £900 (£400-440).

1859-74 Issued Stamps First Despatch - wing margin block of 6 (3x2) with part inscription at top, some creasing on bottom stamps and small perf. reinforcement at top. fresh colour, large part o.g. and the largest multiple known, illustrated in colour in Beale £1000 (£100-2000).

1865 Second Despatch - wing margin block of 4 with interpanneau margin at bottom with part inscription, trimmed at top and with crease across bottom margin, very fresh large part o.g. to u/m and one of only two blocks known, illustrated in Beale page 123. £1100 (£1000-1200).

1859-74 Issued Stamps - 1874 June 29 cover to Rouen with 6d. and 1872-73 1d. franking cancelled/tied by the B31 in black and by red London/Paid c.d.s. with violet ink "6" (a little smudged) and red PD in circle alongside, backstamped with Type 3 Paid At Sierra Leone c.d.s. in red plus Paris and Rouen datestamps in black; some slight ink smudges but still a very attractive item and a rare franking. £1000 (£400-440).

1872-73 Crown CC Essays: 4d. D.L.R. hand-painted essay in lilac and Chinese white on white card with Queen's head printed from and existing die - this became the accepted design except that the words LEONE and POSTAGE were transposed; a lovely and historic item which is illustrated in colour in Beale, R.P.S. Cert. £1100 (£800-900).

1872-73 Issued Stamps - Watermark Sideways - 1876 mourning cover from the Cochrane corres. to Ireland franked by vert. pair of the 3d. tied by good strikes of the B31 in black plus the Paid/Liverpool/Br. Packet c.d.s. in red, env. has violet ink "5" on front and is backstamped with faint Type 4 Paid At Sierra Leone c.d.s. in red plus Derry arrival in black for 25 July; part of flap missing and slightly soiled but this does not detract from this attractive and rare item. £1000 (£1000-1200).

1884-91 Crown CA Essays: 2½d. imperf. in issued colour with hand-painted value affixed to small piece from D.L.R. Archive with initials in red ink at top, unique. £800 (£400-440).

Colour Trials with Blank Value Tablets: ½d. and 1d. in issued colours, both perf. 14 and affixed to piece from D.L.R. Archives endorsed "Proposed colours, being those established by the International Postal Convention for these two duties", piece slightly soiled down right side from gum remnants, rare. £1100 (£1000-1200).

Imperf. Plate Proofs: ½d. to 1/- exc. 2d. which does not exist as proof, on gummed wmk'd paper, ½d. and 1½d. both left marginal, 2½d. bottom marginal with part plat no.; fresh large part o.g. and very rare. £900 (£600-700).

1885-96 Crown CC - 6d. perf. 12 trial in brown-purple on CA wmk paper affixed to small piece of white card, very rare as one of only 3 known. £1000 (£1000-1200).

1893 Surcharge PFNNY var. (S.G.38a) tied to piece by part Freetown c.d.s. of MR 5/93, faint wrinkle but extremely rare as thought to be only two used examples known of this var. with this example being illustrated in Beale page 142, cat £2250, R.P.S. Cert (1973) £1300 (£1200-1400).

Ditto in block of 4 which also has such. inverted (S.G. 39ba) some small perf. reinforcements btwn, light horiz. creases on bottom pair and very light gum yellowing, large part o.g. and very rare if not unique, illustrated in Beale Page 142, Cat £1600+ R.P.S. Cert (1949). £1200 (£1000-1200).

1896-97 1893 Essays: 2½d. hand-painted essay of unadopted design prepared by D.L.R. in green, red and Chinese white on white card, dated "FEB 22ND.93" top right and with large letter "B" in red ink top left; some light staining and creasing but very attractive and extremely rare, illustrated in Beale page 135. £1400 (£500-600).

1897 Imperforate Colour Trials: Complete set of 2d. (5) with shaded value tablet and 3d. (8) with open tablet comprising the issued colours for all vals to £1, all on gummed paper, fresh and fine, a lovely and scarce set (13). £1900 (£1000-2000).

1897 Issued Stamps 2½d surcharges. 2½d. on 1/- N.E. corner plate no. block of 15(5x3) consisting of types (a) on the first and third rows plus types (c)+(a)+(d)+(b)+(a) on middle row and with the constant broken 2 var. on pos. 9 of the setting; few split perfs btwn at left, light gum toning and some small tone spots but stamps with original colour and all appear to be u/m, a very rare multiple and prob. one of the largest still existing, illustrated in Beale page 153. £4600 (£2600-2800).

2½ on 2/- - type (a) horiz. right marginal strip of 9 with the constant broken 2 var. on second stamp from right, some perf. reinforcement btwn l/h pair, fresh and fine large part o.g. and an extremely rare multiple - only 8 produced of the var. £7000 (£7000-8000).

-Ditto, type (d) (S.G. 70) pencil annotations on back, tiny gum thinning and some gum disturbance but very rare - only 32 produced, cat. £6500, R.P.S. (1971) and Friedl (1983) Certs. £2900 (£2200-2400).

-Ditto but with italic N. var. on pos. 24 of setting, pencil annotations and imprints on back, good cond. large part o.g., extremely rare as only 8 possible, R.P.S. Cert. (1970) as S.G.70. £6000 (£6000-7000).

King George V 1912-21 Essays: 1910 3d. essay by D.L.R. for the large format design using the head of K.E.VII with frame printed in purple and the badge and King's head in green with some hand painting, all on a "silvered" paper sunk mounted on card which is dated "Dec 6th 10" in the N.E. corner, very attractive and unique, illustrated in colour in Beale. £1500 (£500-600).

1932 Proofs: 2/- to £1 imperf. colour proofs (4) in issued colours mounted on card from B.W. Records which is dated 7th Oct. 1931 and endorsed "appd for colour/(initials)8/10/31" top left, card has some light soiling at edges and fold btwn proofs but one or only two such sets known, illustrated in Beale page 170. £1700 (£800-900).

1933 Wilberforce Centenary: Set of 15 unaccepted D.L.R. photographic essays of vals issued plus two addit. 6d., all with same vignettes as issued stamps but differing frames and each (exc. one 6d.) with colour wash on back of colour recommended, a unique set, most illustrated in Beale page 176. £1300 (£1400-1600).

THE EMBOSSED COMEIO HEAD

Len Weldhen

R. E. Dalwick in his book "The Gambia", published in 1953 listed these early proofs -

"1869 issue. Die proofs of the embossed head (with dot in hair) on backgrounds of -

Dull pink
Dull blue
Dull green.

Dalwick sold his very fine collection in 1956 but retained the above three proofs. These he offered for sale in August 1958. I carefully examined them and found that the embossing was far from perfect and all were badly soiled. My note dated 18 August 1958 reads -

"Pale pink, roundish, 23 mm wide 24 mm tall
Dull blue, oval, 28 mm tall x 20 mm wide
Bluish green, round, 26 mm dia."

"the line of the hair met the first ornament of the diadem;
"the ribbon tying the bun was plain - no embossed dots;
"on the top of the diadem there were six prominent ornaments
"each connected to its neighbour by a curved embossed line -



"and there were faint signs of a seventh ornament. There was a dot in the hair. The shaping of the Eye, Nostril, Mouth and Chin was reminiscent of G.B. Line engraved head "Die 2."

Quite clearly the three Dalwick proofs are not of the Gambia head. I noted this in the Gambia bulletin. The late R.A.G. Lee also examined these three examples and agreed with me, noting his opinion also in the Gambia bulletin - now held in the archives by Oliver Andrew. I do not know what happened to these items but it is possible that they are still around somewhere ready to surface at astronomical estimates.

Members should be beware and avoid this type of material until it has been compared most carefully with a well embossed mint Gambia head. I may well be a confirmed sceptic, however there is one adage that has served me well in life "if in doubt, don't!".

Mr. Charles Leonard has very kindly let me have a copy of Stanley Gibbons (Australia) Auction Catalogue dated 4 December 1993. Lots 772 - 774 are described as follows -

- 772 1869 "Cameo" Primary Die impression on thin card with oval pink surround measuring 23 mm high and 21 mm wide. This and the next two lots are a recent discovery, they show the small dot just inside the top of the chignon that is peculiar to the Gambia "Cameos", and are similar to the previously unique Primary Die found amongst the affects of Ernest Wyon and highlight of the McCaig and Barrington-Jones collections.

- 773 Similar "Cameo" Proof with Primary Die impression and circular turquoise-green surround measuring 26 mm in diameter.
- 774 Similar "Cameo" Proof with Primary Die impression and oval light blue surround measuring 17 mm wide and 26 mm high.

All three proofs were estimated at Australian Dollars 2,500 each.

The catalogue illustrations in full colour show very soiled examples and although details of embossing do not show up very well in a two dimensional illustration, sufficient detail can be made out to make me believe that they are virtually identical with the Dalwick proofs. Thus there are at least two sets of these 'proofs' in existence.

I still have in my collection a very beautiful proof of an embossed head on plain white paper marked in pencil 'India Head'. The Dalwick 'proofs' matched my India Head proof, and it is therefore suggested that the two sets of three 'proofs' already mentioned are in fact colour trials of the India Head.

In the Dale-Lichtenstein sale, Harpers 23 October 1990, lot 2 was described as follows -

"ESSAY; embossed vignette on blue oval, die sunk on card, 51 x 67 mm, wonderful embossing, extremely fine. Est £4,000." the realisation was stated to be £2,200.

The accompanying illustration in the sale catalogue shows that the line of the hair meets the first ornament and that the embossing of the diadem is that of the India head. In my opinion this item is undoubtedly the India Head.

Some stamp dealers of repute have on occasion embellished their note paper with an embossed and/or printed head - W.E. Lea was one and there are others (it would be interesting to collate this information) - but even when cut out from their notepaper such items will not deceive an experienced collector.

The embossed head as used for the adhesive stamps of The Gambia has the following distinctive features

1. Four embossed dots on ribbon tying the bun.
2. Outline of hair meets second ornament on the diadem.
3. Six ornaments on top of diadem.
4. 13 large embossed dots just beneath top of diadem.
5. Diadem tilts backwards at approximately 45 degrees.
6. Detached curl of hair.

Note - the dot in the bun is not constant so it is disregarded.

Distinctive features of the India Head are -

1. No embossed dots on ribbon tying the bun, it is plain.
2. Outline of hair meets first ornament on the diadem.
3. Six ornaments on top of diadem joined together by curved lines
4. 17 large embossed dots within the diadem.
5. Diadem tilts backwards at approximately 55 degrees.
6. No detached curl of hair.

Those who have read from cover to cover John Easton's wonderful book "The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps" realise that De La Rue never worked for nothing, every job was planned so that a profit was made.

So that when De La Rue invoiced the first printing of the 1869 issue of Gambia cameos at a total cost of £10. 8s. 1d. including the tin box and that this included £10. for Embossing and finishing two Embossing and Printing dies and plate from each containing 15 Multiples" it is evident that they used existing material as much as possible. Such material included an existing embossed Cameo head - but which one? To ascertain this it is necessary to examine carefully as much De La Rue material as possible particularly Postal Stationery using an embossed head.

Important distinguishing features include

1. The ribbon tying the bun and the number of embossed dots thereon
2. The embossed outline of the hair - does it meet the first or the second ornament of the diadem.

The writer does not have an exhaustive collection of Q.V. embossed postal stationery but that which he has shows the following combinations of features

- a. Ribbon with four embossed dots, the embossed outline of the head meets the second ornament of the diadem
"4 dot ribbon, hair line meets 2nd ornament"
- b. "5 dot ribbon, hair line meets 2nd ornament"
- c. Ribbon with four large embossed dots plus one smaller embossed dot, the embossed outline of the hair meeting the second ornament of the diadem
"4 plus 1 dot ribbon, hair line meets 2nd ornament"
- d. "No dot ribbon, hair line meets 2nd ornament"
- e. "No dot ribbon, hair line meets 1st ornament" - The India Head.
- f. "4 dot ribbon, hair line meets 1st ornament"

Other embossed heads include

- g. The Wyon Head, as used for 1847 1/=-, 10d., and 6d., embossed stamps of Great Britain, each value having a different pendant curl. These were printed by Somerset House.
- h. Six different Canadian embossed heads in period 1860 - 1904.
- j. The Heligoland head, printed in Berlin.

These last three groups of heads are so different from the embossed head as used for The Gambia that they can be immediately be disregarded.

Head (a) is to be found in the embossed stamps and the postal stationery of Mauritius and Ceylon

Head (b) is to be found in the postal stationery of Mauritius.

Head (c) is to be found in the postal stationery of Mauritius.

Head (d) is to be found in the postal stationery of Ceylon.

Head (e) is to be found in the postal stationery of India.

Head (f) is to be found in the postal stationery of Ceylon, Barbados, Bahamas, Cape of Good Hope, Cyprus, Newfoundland, Straits Settlements and Gibraltar.

It must be emphasized that these details are not exhaustive but the writer feels that they are sufficient to prove the point that De La Rue used an existing head for the cameos of The Gambia.

It will be noted that three different heads have been identified as having been used on the postal stationery of Mauritius, likewise three different heads were used on Ceylon postal stationery, in this case all on the 1857 issue which preceded the embossed cameo head of The Gambia by no less than 12 years! The fact that three different embossed heads were used on this one issue shows that De La Rue were using embossed heads already in existence.

The writer feels that such heads were already being used for Revenue work and that the examination of a dated collection of embossed Revenue stamps could well be rewarding by identifying an earlier and possibly the first use of the embossed head as later used for the beautiful embossed cameos of The Gambia.

Distinguishing features of embossed head used for stamps of The Gambia.

Outline of hair meets second ornament on the diadem.

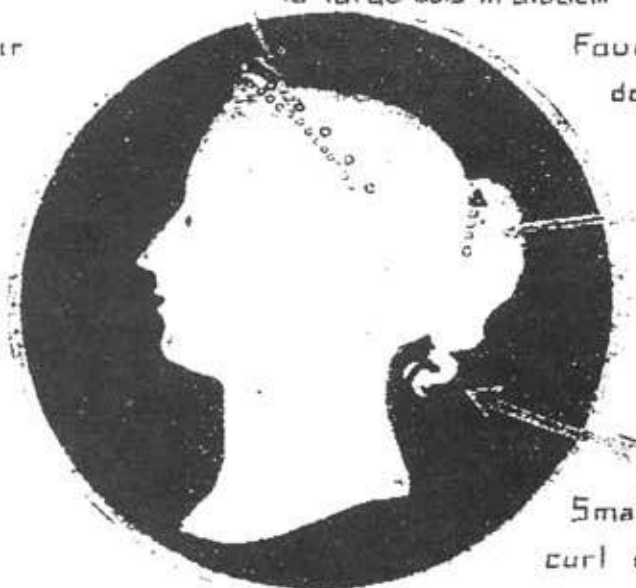


Diadem tilts back at 45° angle

Six ornaments on diadem

13 large dots in diadem

Four embossed dots on ribbon tying bun.



Small detached curl of hair.

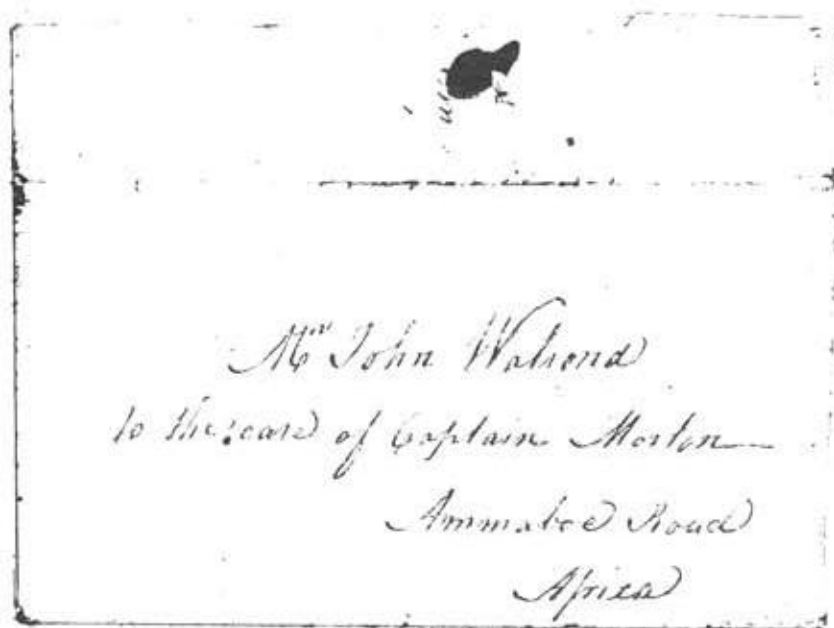
This head previously used for the 1857 One Penny envelope of Ceylon.



GOLD COAST EARLY LETTERS

Robert Seaman & J.J. Martin

Letter dated 28.1.1787 INTO Gold Coast to Mr. John Walrond from Thos. Heathfield, giving most interesting news from home. Carried by Capt. Morton probably on the schooner 'Alice'.



(Reduced 25%)

28th Jan^y 1787

My dear Friend,

..... I was in hopes by this to have informed you of my being settled with some good tempered Damsel but alas, I am not so fortunate, as I cannot prevail on one to say she has no objection, but I submit to my fate and endeavour to be content.

One thing I must tell you that I am very soon going to enter into the world on my own account when necessity may oblige me to take one of the Tender Sex, however unwilling She may be.....

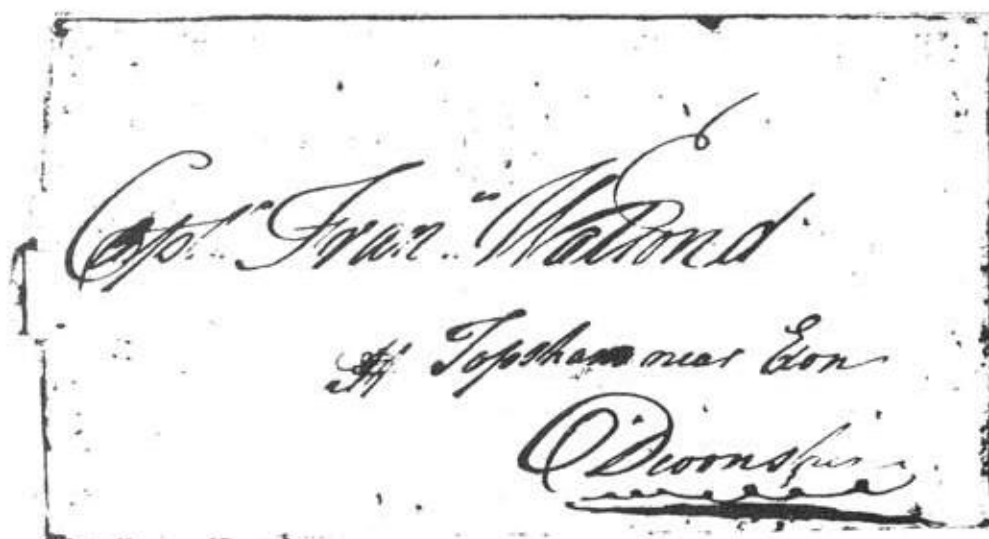
.....Our old acquaintance Clapp is winning the hearts of most of the girls in the neighbourhood. He has been near Matrimony several times lately but takes care to be off in season. I cannot say I approve of it, as it appears to me cruel to destroy the happiness of any one.....

Nutwell 28 Jan^y 1787

Your very sincere friend

Tho.as Heathfield

Entire from Annamaboe dated 20.4.1787 carried by Capt. Woolbert of the 'Fox' "direct to England". A schooner named 'Fox' is listed as being on the Old Calabar slave run in 1770/3.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Capt. J. Walrond" on the first line, "At Topsham near Exon" on the second line, and "Dorsetshire" on the third line, which is underlined.

(Reduced 25%)

.....Annamaboe Rd
April 20th 1787

Dear Uncle,

The Fox Capt Woolbert going direct to England affords me the favourable opportunity of writing you that I am still on the Coast of Africa and well.

The knowledge that you and all my friends were so would contribute greatly to my happiness but that is a plus I have long since been a stranger to for what cause I cannot account as there are vessels constantly arriving from England.

..... One misfortune I have met with here wich (sic) I cannot conceal from you yet would wish few of my other friends to know it as I am sure it would very much effect my Mother if any of my letters come to hand. You have read of my having the command of the Fairy Cutter belonging to Capt. Morton. In her on the 16th February 87 I was cast away on the barbarous coast of ...?.... Our vessel soon became a wreck and myself and crew left to the mercy of the waves wich (sic) soon in a short time carried us safe on the beach where with horror I perceived we were in the hands of savages little superior to brutes.... (as I am sensible it would give you pain and any pen is unable to describe my distress and ...?.... from the time of ..?.. in their land till got under the protection of a British Fort. I will defer it till I have the pleasure verbally of giving you an account of the whole).....

.....Capt. Morton on my arrival at Annamaboe recd. me with all the affection of a brother and never once reflected on the ability as to immediately give me the command of a schooner called the Alice wich (sic) I am now in.

Such goodness as this I cannot to (sic) much acknowledge and with the most assiduous attention hope to continue in his friendship deserve the confidence he places in me and merit his future favours.

The French are building Forts on the gold coast wich (sic) I believe if not soon put a stop to will much injure the British trade as the Blacks are already raising the prices of slaves and consequently all African commodities.

I am now employed the Leeward station I hope soon to have the pleasure of hearing from home or being in a much colder climate as it is the hottest season of the year at present and shortly the rains comes on wich (sic) will be still more disagreeable.... my respects to your Aunt and Cousins and believe me to remain

Your truly affectionate nephew

J. Walrond

MAPS, DIPLOMATIC DEALINGS, AND THE DANISH ENCLAVE ON THE GOLD COAST OF AFRICA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

A paper given by Daniel Hopkins

at the 12th International Conference on the History of Cartography

I wish to relate to you some of the history of an early nineteenth-century map of the Danish colony on the Gold Coast of Africa. I have searched through the Danish archives for the circumstances in which this map was made and used, and it emerges that it was quite a significant instrument of colonial policy-making. It was not, however, the product of any programmatic cartographic undertaking.

As early as the 1660s, Denmark established a fortified commercial presence on the Upper Guinea Coast of Africa, near the mouth of the Volta River, in what is now Ghana. The position, like those of the other European powers on the coast, served almost exclusively as a point of embarkation for the Atlantic slave trade. The Danes exercised a *de facto* jurisdiction in the towns beneath their walls and had fairly firm relations with the tribes and nations of the coastal plain, but the establishments had no territorial depth. Pen and ink maps associated with late-eighteenth-century disputes over trading rights depict this peripheral position quite strikingly, with the forts and towns strung along the coastline like beads on a wire. Where the domains of the African nations are depicted on early maps, their boundaries tend to be drawn as great speculative arcs into the interior, overlapping like the colored scales of a monstrous fish. There were of course navigational charts, of great scope but little local utility.

When the abolition of the transoceanic slave trade at the end of the eighteenth century thoroughly compromised the situation of the Danish West Indian sugar plantations, as well as of the Guinea forts themselves, the Danish government dispatched a young graduate of the Royal Surgeons' Academy to investigate the commercial potential of the tropical African flora. He was enjoined to keep a suitable scientific journal, but there is no mention of any map in his orders.

Peter Thonning was his name, and he arrived at Christiansborg Castle on the Gold Coast in January of 1800 and remained on the Coast for about three years. His periodic reports have him travelling up and down the strip of coastal plain under Danish control between Accra and the Volta River and a little way inland to the hill country. He describes the occurrence and cultivation of cotton, indigo, rice, and sugar cane. He discusses trade in dyewoods and resins, the soils, the surf and the salt air, and the prevailing winds. Fifteen months after his arrival, he dispatched nine crates of botanical specimens to Copenhagen, with descriptions of the plants' natural habit and their use by the Africans. He also sent a draft of a "historical and geographical description" and a new and original map, entitled "Map of the Danish possessions with their allied negro nations in Guinea". He appears to have been especially proud of this last. He was really more a geographer than a physician, operating well beyond his brief.

Thonning returned to Copenhagen in 1803 and completed his botanical report, his more general description, and more maps and plans. His work was well received by the administration, and he eventually took a position in the Colonial Office, which he held for thirty years or more. In the 1830s, a royal Guinea Commission was appointed to study the feasibility of establishing large-scale plantation agriculture in West Africa, and Thonning was its leading figure. The Commission's thousand-page final report, based on years of far-reaching archival and bibliographical research, can be thought to represent the culmination of Thonning's life's work and enthusiasm, although the project came to nothing in the end. His interests and expertise fell somewhere between scholarship and colonial administration, between science and political economy. It appears that he was one of the more competent and persuasive of Danish geographical and ethnographical thinkers and writers of his period and a

key voice in the formulation of Denmark's Atlantic colonial policy. For all that, none of Thonning's writing was ever published, although a great deal of his prose is preserved in government archives.

All of this official work lent great authority to succeeding drafts of his map of the Gold Coast, and the reverse probably applies, as well. Thonning was at pains to attach copies of the map to his more important analyses and to frame his queries and reports with reference to it. A dozen manuscript versions and copies survive in public Danish collections, bearing dates from 1801 to 1847.

Neither the Danish nautical charts administration nor the national topographic program of the Academy of Sciences and Letters operated on the African coast, and nothing has yet been found to link Thonning to these organizations. He is not known to have had any military training. Certainly he was not a cartographer or surveyor in any professional sense. It is clear enough that he made his map on his own intellectual initiative.

Thonning worked at a relatively large cartographic scale, for the time and place. His map of the Danish possessions depicts about a degree and a half of longitude—about a hundred miles of the coast. It is a rich and convincing compilation. In collateral documents, Thonning says the map is "based on observations of latitude and the bearings of the places from all sides," but there is no suggestion anywhere in the archival record of a formal land survey.¹ It is a highly extrapolative map, based more on report than on measurement. Aside from the major topographic elements, the most striking features are the names of a large number of towns and villages, underlined in bright colors to distinguish among the African peoples. On some versions, the territories of these nations are outlined, on one map with bold straight lines and sharp angles; later, Thonning abandons this effort to delimit these lands. He marks the European forts. He marks cultivated spots and "formerly inhabited places". There is a well distributed symbol for what he calls "Powerful fetishes that protect runaway slaves". He depicts the compass's deviation from true north. He represents seasonal variations in the flow of longshore currents. He renders a large offshore bank, said to be "very rich in fish in August and September". There are notes describing the flooding of the Volta and the daily tidal periods. There are soundings. On some versions, he distinguishes among reaches of salt, brackish, and fresh water in the estuary of the Volta.

There is a great diffusiveness of interest and expression in Thonning's map: probably no one was more broadly informed about the colony than he. In terms of the cultural history of cartography, the map is important not so much for its representation of the terrain as for what it records of his effort to preserve and convey his experience of the wild coast. It is interesting to see a man of Thonning's education and social background undertake such a cartographic project. As far as can be reconstructed, and several of his preliminary drafts survive, the map embodies quite an original and intuitive geographical ambition to render a portion of the world accessible in a way that no place on earth can ever in fact present itself to the observer. It was not only a tremendously useful geographical tool but a central and indispensable image of this corner of Africa that so fascinated him.

Thonning was scrupulous about crediting new sources in succeeding drafts. There are clear references among his papers to "native accounts," although not to native maps. Many of the surviving maps are annotated in one way or another, and there is a good deal of other evidence of a continuing process of compilation, and above all of Thonning's sustained interest in and commitment to this form of geographical communication.

Thonning's map anticipates a drastic and general change in the scale of Europe's view of Africa. Africa is bewilderingly large, and its obscurity to nineteenth-century Europeans is proverbial, but the relationship between the continents was changing. Europe's involvement in Africa was to become quite extensive now, and quite particular, as well, as economic and administrative networks were elaborated and manipulated in ever more local detail. The reading of scale has to be regarded as a central conceptual problem of European colonialism, and the importance of maps in this developing context is obviously very great. The documented juxtaposition of Thonning's highly detailed and lively map of the Danish possessions with a

published map of West Africa that he used to orient the members of the Guinea Commission is very striking; it was perhaps also a little disconcerting, tending to trivialize the Danish colonial ambition. The area depicted on his own map is marked in blue on the larger map, like a thumbprint on the African coast.

One of the advantages hoped for from the position on the Gold Coast was that it might be traded away for some other more manageable colony, preferably an island. It was at one time hoped that the possessions could be sold to the American Colonization Society, which in the event founded Liberia farther west along the Coast. Between 1814 and 1820, a series of proposals reached King Frederik VI from a Danish trading family long resident on the Gold Coast, suggesting that the colony could advantageously be traded for the Portuguese island Principe in the Gulf of Guinea. The king's notice was respectfully drawn to a delicate manuscript map of the island bound into one of these proposals. Frederik ordered his Department of Foreign Affairs to investigate the matter, hoping that the Portuguese would be interested in the Gold Coast enclave as a source of slaves for Brazil, but this was a diplomatically troublesome proposition. Rosencrantz, the foreign minister, did not encourage the royal interest in the project and obviously hoped the matter would lapse, but the King insisted, and the Colonial Office was asked to provide a full account of the Gold Coast possessions, "their situation, extent, relations with neighboring negro tribes, and rights of possession", as well as their commercial potential.² The Colonial Office sent along copies of Peter Thonning's description and map of the Gold Coast, and these were forwarded, with cautiously worded instructions, to the Danish Chargé d'Affaires at the Portuguese court in exile at Rio de Janeiro. After several exchanges and several years, the Chargé finally reported as follows:

I thought it superfluous to report to the Department [of Foreign Affairs] about such a subject, since it must have been aware of the Convention concluded between [Great Britain and Portugal] by which King John VI [of Portugal] renounced the trade in negroes on the whole North Coast and as far as 6 degrees south of the line, whereupon . . . the Portuguese government lost all interest in having establishments on said coasts, where our possessions are found. . . .

The Convention having been signed before my arrival in Brazil, I left the papers concerning this affair in their portfolio [and] refrained from saying a word of it, flattering myself that this would meet the approbation of the Department of Foreign Affairs. . . .³

In 1843, the decision to finally dispose of the African possessions had been irrevocably taken. By 1850, Great Britain and Denmark had come to an agreement on a price for the Danish Gold Coast forts, and Governor Winniet of the British Gold Coast travelled to the Danish territory to take it formally under British jurisdiction. Winniet marched about the territory for two weeks, accompanied by Danish colonial officials, while flags were lowered and raised and assurances were exchanged with the African leaders who had hitherto stood in some political relationship to the Danes. Winniet was unable to visit the territory of the Akim people, but he reported it to be

a country of considerable extent, and great fertility of soil, occupied by one of the largest tribes of these regions. I can give no definite account of the extent of the Akim country: its position [can be found] on the accompanying Map, furnished me by Governor Carstensen.⁴

This was without doubt a copy of Thonning's map, and Winniet observes, echoing Carstensen's language elsewhere, "that many of the distances of towns, &c., in it are incorrect, as they are not professed to have been taken with mathematical precision; but it is still valuable as an outline." In fact, Winniet put himself directly on this map, tracing his 300-mile itinerary on it in red ink. The fact that Winniet not only had it in his hands and criticized it but put his own hand to it suggest to me that Thonning's idiosyncratic image, with all its complexity, richness, and focus, is fundamental to a proper historical appreciation of the record of this

transaction between nations. There is every reason to suppose that Winniet had the map before him as he wrote his report. Here is his closing paragraph:

In conclusion, my Lord, allow me to remark, that for the extension of an influence, civilizing in its tendency, and consequently highly beneficial to the native tribes of these regions, . . . for the bringing out of the vast commercial resources of this rich and beautiful country, — and for effecting the destruction of the slave trade, — the measure just accomplished in and by this transfer, by which . . . not less perhaps than a hundred thousand natives, of various tribes and languages . . . are brought under the immediate influence and control of Her Majesty's Government, is one of the most important which could, in reference to this part of Africa, occupy the attention, and enjoy the support of the British nation".

A map showing Winniet's itinerary, presumably reproduced from Governor Carstensen's copy of Thonning's map, was published with Winniet's report in the Parliamentary records for 1850.

The Danish Guinea files were now abruptly reduced to a trickle of correspondence regarding pensions and estates and the like. A good generation later, in the 1880s, when the remaining European powers were reaching their accommodations regarding African colonial boundaries, a British diplomat in Copenhagen conveyed a query from his government to the Danish Foreign Ministry. It read:

[Her Majesty's government are] desirous of ascertaining the exact limits of the territory held by Denmark as an African Colony or Protectorate and ceded to Great Britain in 1850. . . . [I]f it were possible, Her Majesty's government would also wish to be furnished with copies of the Maps relating to the territory in question.⁵

No details of the diplomatic background for this request were offered, but it is highly suggestive that the British colonial authority sought the legitimation of a ninety-year-old map, made in a vanished administration, to shore up its fantastic claim to a huge colony stretching out into cartographic nothingness, founded on almost utter ignorance and the purest cultural arrogance.

Seven manuscript maps, including at least four versions of Thonning's map, were pulled from the colonial archives and forwarded to the British. The Danish inter-office paperwork is preserved, and it is apparent that the Danes, while happy to perform this diplomatic service, were reluctant to place any interpretation on the drawings. Some of the maps lacked titles, and the short identifying titles on a covering list were edited with marked reserve, apparently to avoid implying any concrete territorial claim, for the fact is that Thonning's maps showed no colonial boundaries. It is clear that, by this time, no one in the government had much knowledge at all of the old Danish colony on the Gold Coast.

The British asked for more information, particularly about two frontier towns they were unable to find on the maps. The Danish government re-examined the maps, and the Guinea Commission's voluminous report was consulted, doubtless for the first time in forty years, but the Danes found themselves unable to make a declaration regarding the exact extent of their former holdings. The maps were passed back and forth a number of times in the course of the correspondence, and were finally held in England for more than a year, but what part they may have played in the eventual delimitation of the boundaries of the British Gold Coast colony does not emerge from the Danish archives.

Maps are indeed influential—Brian Harley and Kees Zandvliet call cartography "a potent force in . . . political consciousness", in one of Harley's recent posthumous articles⁶—but from what I have seen in the Danish colonial archives, it appears that maps did not enter into common political or bureaucratic use as a simple, technical matter of course. As in all political matters, the power of individual voices may be decisive. Out on the edge of the Danish world, in Africa, the best map of the Danish interests was not made by the government but volunteered by an amateur.

There is no question that Thonning's own view of the Gold Coast was absolutely suffused by his map, and a great deal of the documented circulation of the map can be ascribed

to his own interest and agency. We know that he saw to it that other people examined it, but exactly how the map may have influenced opinion within his bureaucratic and cultural surroundings remains difficult to pin down. Maps are not easy to read, in a historical sense, especially not maps, like this one, that were made a little outside the prevailing institutional conventions, or before such conventions gathered strength. Such a map is likely to emerge in the colonial setting, far from metropolitan centers of consensus, and this is one of the important ramifications of the colonial experience. This individual's colonial map and his vigorous promotion of it are significant and quite representative elements in the institutionalization of cartography in Denmark.

It is instructive, following Thonning's manuscript maps through the various branches of the archives down through the decades and generations, to see how timelessly compelling these singular documents appear to have been. Peter Thonning's map of the Gold Coast is in a real and continuing sense an important part of the historical constitution of West Africa and the Atlantic colonial world.

NOTES

¹Generaltoldkammer, Guineiske Journal og Journalsager. #726 GJ 1806, Thonning, Copenhagen, Dec. 12, 1805.

²Departementet for udenlandske Anliggender. Almindelige Korrespondancesager, sub Lit. G. Guinea. May 17, 1817, to Generaltoldkammer.

³Departementet for udenlandske Anliggender. Almindelige Korrespondancesager, sub Lit. G. Guinea. Dal Bargo, Copenhagen. August 31, 1823 (1084 pr. 18 Sept. 1823).

⁴Udenrigsministeriet. Dossiersager Alm. Grønland--Handel. 1848-1850. Sager Vedr. de danske Etablissementer på Kysten af Guinea, photocopy of Winniet's report to Earl Gray, Cape Coast Castle, March 30, 1850, published in the Parliamentary records for 1850.

⁵Udenrigsministeriet. Sager til Journal no. A3191. Copenhagen, August 27, 1889, MacDowell to Rosenørn Lehn.

⁶J. B. Harley and Kees Zandvliet, "Art, science, and power in sixteenth-century Dutch cartography", *Cartographica*, Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 10-19, on p. 11.

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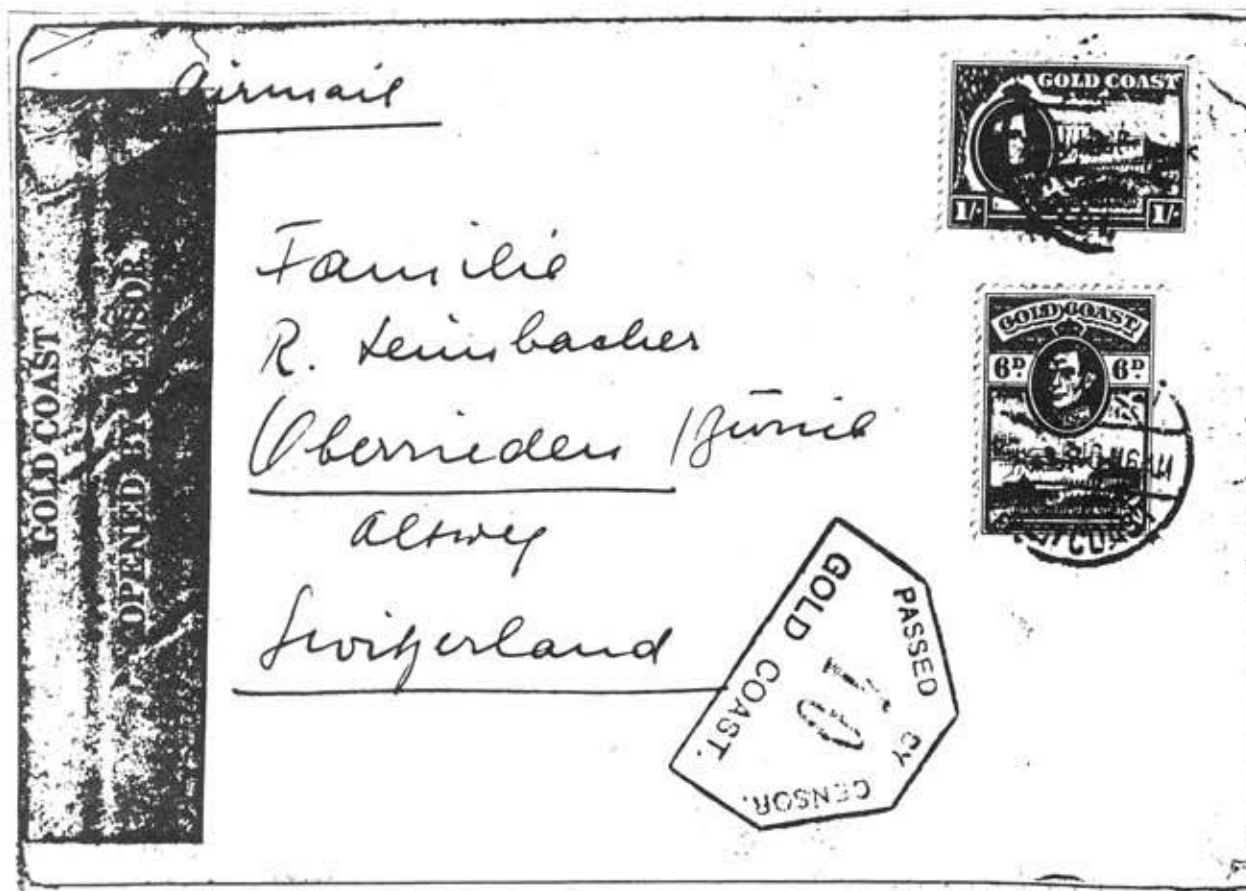
Jeremy Martin

At Conference at Leamington, the use of this type 1A censor cachet was discussed by Nigel Lutwyche and the writer. The cachet does seem to have been used quite frequently on incoming and outgoing mail other than the U.K.

Examples recorded:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) April 1940 Gold Coast to Senegal | NL |
| (ii) June 1940 Gold Coast to Switzerland | NL |
| (iii) June 1940 Gold Coast to Switzerland written in German | NL |
| (iv) December 1939 Gold Coast to France | JJM |
| (v) March 1940 Switzerland to Gold Coast | JJM |
| (vi) May 1940 Gold Coast to Liverpool - shipping firm | JJM |
| (vii) February 1941 Gold Coast to Switzerland | |

It would be interesting to hear of other examples. It could be that, for a time, censor 10 dealt with mail in non-English languages.



[Ed.

A random look at my own collection shows a fair sprinkling of other Censor Marks to places not English speaking and one Censor 10 to the U.S.A; the balance of my Censor 10's show non English speaking addresses.]

A DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S TOUR OF THE GOLD COAST

Maurice Tozer

Mpraeso
Kwahu
Gold Coast
10.8.19

My Dear E'dite

I'm too busy to call my soul my own at present so I hope you'll excuse this badly written effusion. I haven't time to write to everyone by this mail so perhaps you wont mind passing this on to anyone who would like to see it. As soon as I've time I'll write and let you know all the news and I hope you'll let me know everything that happens at your end. I shall be interested to hear how your painting is getting on. I'm so sorry I couldn't give you more time to complete your portrayal of my own classical features

I wrote to Mr.Connor last mail. I hope he got my letter. I left Koforidua last Friday week and came up by motor lorry to Kibbi.The Headquarters of the Birrim district which is the dist. adjoining mine. There I met Moorehead the man I am relieving. The Kibbi bungalow is the finest I have seen although this place runs it pretty close. It has a lovely view and a magnificent garden. We left Kibbi last Thursday and trekked up here. Trekking in West Africa is amusing at first but it becomes monotonous. All the loads go by carrier. They carry them on their heads and will do 20 to 30 miles a day with 80 lb loads and appear quite fresh at the end of it. The first day we used hammocks. Hammocks are carried by 4 men and one gets jolted a good deal but on the whole it is quite a pleasant means of transport. On the second day it rained continually and when it is wet hammocks are useless as the boys skid about in the mud and are apt to let one down onto the road. The greater part of the Kwahu district is on a high plateau and we had a very tiring climb up the scarp. From the foot of the scarp one has a magnificent view of the cliff, which is of basalt and rises sheer from the forest below to a great height. The top was in clouds when we came up but I hope to get a photo of it on a clear day. I got some good photos of Koforidua but my boy, an exceedingly intelligent individual, threw all the plates away. The plateau here is a very pleasant change from the bush country below. There are cool breezes up here and the air is less damp;a great relief after the damp steaming heat of the bush country below. There is also much less vegetation. The country is more open and there are more palms than other trees. It is rather depressing after a bit to be continually surrounded by a dark green wall of forest. One wants to get a clear view and one wants to get away from the beaten track; in the bush it is impossible to go a yard off the road owing to the thickness of the undergrowth. The trees in the bush grow to an enormous height. The commonest are the Cotton trees with peculiar buttressed trunks, which grow very quickly and therefore have no strength in their roots. When the soil has been loosened by heavy rain one can hear trees crashing all over the forest. They' make a tremendous noise, louder than a 12" gun. We passed a fallen cotton tree on the way up; it had dented the road surface to a depth of two feet. One often meets a black ribbon of driver ants crossing a road.These peculiar insects go on trek in column of four with the larger ants on each side to keep the formation. One

can watch the column passing for hours; goodness alone knows how long they are. The Mpraeso bungalow is rather a quaint old place and has a very nice garden and commands a splendid view. It is well furnished but badly needs re-painting. The diningroom is built on the style of an old kitchen with panelled walls and a raftered ceiling, and a big open fireplace. It is one of the 2 bungalows in West Africa so I am told, that possess fireplaces. It is necessary here owing to the coldness of the plateau and I was glad enough to get a big fire going the night I arrived. I shall be able to make the place quite comfortable with native mats, cushions etc. but I wish I had brought more out from England. I have to leave here again the day after tomorrow to go and cut a boundary which is in dispute between two tribes. I expected to be most things as a D.C. but hardly a surveyor. Well, I will try and write a longer letter by the next mail,

Yours very sincerely,

NOEL



3 September 1993

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office
Room K129
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone: 071-

Maurice Tozer, Esq.,
PO Box 4210,
Rivonia 2128,
South Africa.

Tel: 071-270 3919
Fax: 071-930 2364

Dear Mr Tozer,

Thank you for your enquiry of 29 July 1993 regarding the identity and tour of duty of a District Commissioner in the Gold Coast in 1919.

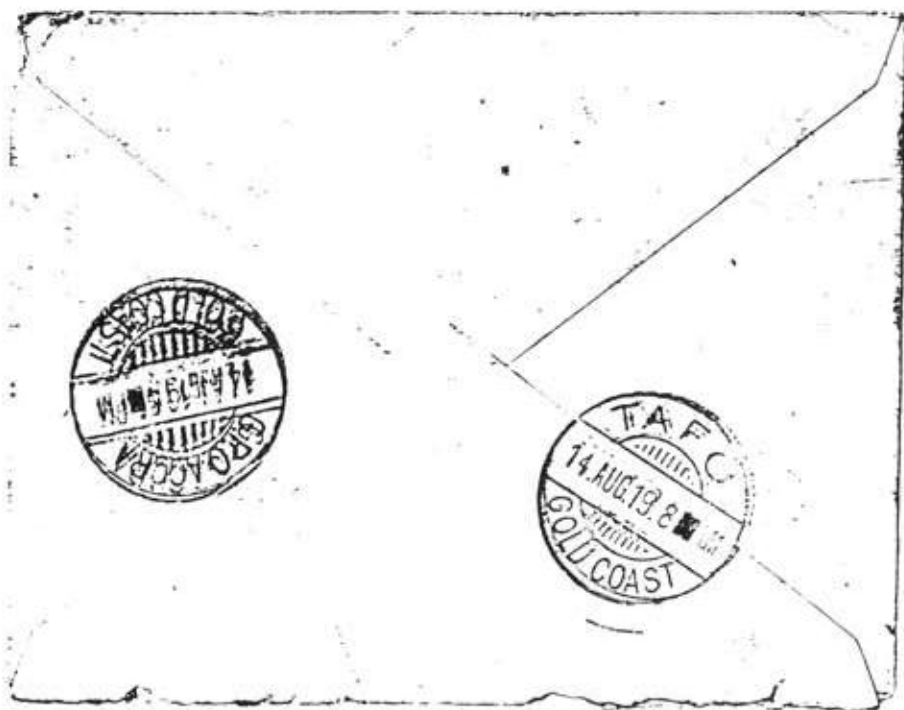
According to the very limited records which we keep of former members of the Colonial Office, it appears that the man's name was Noel O. Tucker. He served as DC in the Gold Coast from 1919 until 1921. Unfortunately, he is not one of those listed in the *Record of service* and so I cannot give any further information about Mr Tucker's career.

I hope nevertheless that this reply is of interest to you and wish you and the West African Study Circle every success with your activities.

Yours sincerely,

John Wright.

John Wright
Africa and Middle East Team
Library and Records Department



Peter Fernbank

I have been able to establish that two separate 120 set key plates, both numbered "1", were made in 1912. The first, Pl.1a, was made with plate numbers in both top and bottom margins and was first used in February 1912 (I have complete sheets of two Gilbert & Ellice Islands values in this format). The second plate, Pl.1b, had numbers in the bottom margin only (Fig.3), but has the unique feature of square marginal rule corners on the top margin of each pane (Fig.1) Those on the lower margin are rounded, as are those of all other plates in this series.

In June 1912 the plate numbers on the lower margin of Pl.1a were removed so that it could be used combined with Pl.1b to print 240 set sheets for Ceylon. The latest use of Pl.1a I have been able to confirm is early 1914 and I believe it was retired around this time. For 120 set printings either one or other of these two plates, but not both, were employed for the printing of the whole of any particular requisition for the various colonies employing this design. In some cases this fact may be used to identify and differentiate separate printings from plate 1.

Gold Coast (and Togo)

Two printings from Pl.1 were made, in April 1913 and March 1915, and quantities of both printings were supplied from Accra for the 'Anglo-French Occupation' overprints for Togo. I have accounted for over forty plate 1 examples of various Gold Coast and Togo values that I either have, have photocopies of, or have seen. All have plate numbers on the lower margin, apparently convincing statistical evidence that only Pl.1b was used for both printings. However, a little while ago Adrian Cadbury kindly sent me a photocopy of the Togo 1/2d overprint from a lower margin block without a plate number imprint (Fig.2). Since all the other plates used for the printings on Multiple Crown CA paper, plates 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10, had plate numbers on the lower margin, this can only originate from Pl.1a. I have seen a number of other Pl.1 copies of the 1/2d value, including a complete pane, and all have plate numbers in the lower margin (Pl.1b). Pl.1a therefore appears to have also been used for at least part of one of these two printings of the 1/2d (although not, I believe, combined with Pl.1b).



Fig 1 Pl.1b - square corners



Fig 2 1/2d from Pl.1a



Fig 3 1/2d from Pl.1b

It would be much appreciated if members could let me know of any other examples of Gold Coast or Togo values, including the 1/2d, with a top Pl.1 imprint, or alternatively a blank lower margin where the plate number would normally be. I would add that of all the other colonies using this design that I have studied, this is the only example I have encountered where both Pl.1a and Pl.1b were used for the same printing of one value.

Sierra Leone

Both plate 1's were used for the early KG.V Sierra Leone printings. There were two Pl.1 printings of each value except for the 1/2d and 1d, which both had three, and I believe it is possible to identify the majority of the printings by the position of the plate number imprint and the sheet number.

Plate 1 Printings (Sheets of 120)

	Requ.26/12	Requ.105/10	Requ.82/12	Requ.18/13	Requ.63/13	Requ.15/14
Value	May 1912	Sept 1912	Dec 1912	April 1913	Oct 1913	Apr 1914
1/2d		98	1515			2066
1d	8482	95			10268	
1.5d		98		503		
2d		98	762			
2.5d		100	763			
4d		103		108		
5d		105		95		
6d		98	761			
7d		103		87		
9d		105		88		
10d		105		98		

It may be seen that for all printings except the 1/2d, 2.5d and 4d the number of sheets supplied for the different printings differ in the number of digits of the sheet total. When numbering the sheets De La Rue set up their sheet numbering machine such that the number of digits required to print equalled that of the total number of sheets printed. Thus for a printing of up to 99 sheets only two digits would be set up, for 100 to 999, three etc. Apart from the above mentioned values it is therefore possible to determine which plate was used for which printing from the number of sheet number digits.



Fig.4 Two digit printings from Pl.1b



Fig.2 Three digit ptn from Pl.1a

Fig.4 shows that Pl.1b was used for the 7d and 10d of the Apr'13 printing since only two sheet number digits were used. Because the same key plate was normally used for each value of a requisition it may be reasonably inferred that all other values of the Apr'13 printing were from Pl.1b. The Pl.1a example of the 4d (Fig.5) must presumably emanate from the Sept'12 printing since the 4d of April 1913 was from Pl.1b by the above reasoning. Sheet numbers of the 2.5d that exceed the sheet totals of the Sept'12 printing may be safely allocated to the Dec'12 printing. Even the three separate printings of the 1d may be positively identified from the number of digits in the sheet number imprint.

I think it a reasonable assumption that the Sept'12 printing was from Pl.1a, and the Apr'13, Pl.1b, but I have no information at present to support a plate allocation for the Dec'12 printing. I would be grateful for further supporting evidence (with photocopies if possible) for any of these Pl.1 printings by way of sheet number examples.

Note:-

The September 1912 printing appears to be missing from Philip Beale's Sierra Leone handbook. This requisition (Requ.105/10) is dated 31st May 1911 in the Colonial Stamp book (Vol.11 p.129). It is this entry which contains the reference to Mr Potter's "telephonic message", concerning the colour of the new 7d, 9d and 10d values made for the first KG.V issue, mentioned in the handbook. The order was not executed and invoiced until September 1912 (Private Day book Vol.AA p.295). The Colonial Office Journal of January 1913 confirms the supply of all values (1/2d to 10d) of the new KG.V small keyplate issue. Specimens of all values were issued for this printing including, in error, a second specimen issue for the 1d, which had already been supplied for the May'12 printing. The specimen for the 2d noted in the handbook for the December 1912 printing is not recorded in either the Colonial Stamp or Day book entries.



Murray Payne Ltd

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WEST AFRICA SHEETS

Gambia	SG 150 sheet of 60	£8
	SG 151 sheet of 60	£8
	SG 152b vermilion sheet of 60	£12
	SG 152c sheet of 60	£12
Gold Coast	SG 120 comb perf sheet of 60, some splitting	£11
	SG 121 comb perf sheet of 60	£12
	SG 122 comb perf sheet of 60	£12
	SG 123 comb perf sheet of 60, Plate 2a	£12
	SG 124 comb perf sheet of 60	£12
	SG 135 Plate 1 <u>or</u> Plate 3 sheet of 60	£8
	SG 136 Plate 1 <u>or</u> Plate 2 sheet of 60	£8
	SG 137 Plate 1 <u>or</u> Plate 2 sheet of 60	£35
	SG 138 Plate 1a sheet of 60	£15
	SG 139 Plate 2a-1a sheet of 60	£50
	SG 140 Plate 1a sheet of 60	£90
Sierra Leone	SG 188 Plate 2-3 sheet of 60	£8
	SG 188 Plate 3-3 sheet, a little splitting	£8
	SG 189 Plate 2-3 sheet	£15
	SG 190a sheet of 60	£8

WEST AFRICAN AIRMAILS CARRIED BY THE FRENCH AEROMARITIME SERVICE

R J Maddocks

In the Nigeria Gazette No 17 of 4th April 1940 there appeared the following Government Notice No 350 (fig 1) issued on behalf of the Postmaster General, Lagos concerning airmail postage rates applicable to the above service.

As can be seen therefrom, senders could elect for their letters to be dispatched overseas specifically by the French service instead of otherwise by the one usually provided by British Overseas Airways. The advantage was mainly more expeditious and direct dispatch to a number of destinations not served by the British.

I have not ascertained when this facility was first initiated but by the summer of 1939 Aeromaritime operated the following West Africa route as a round trip once weekly with amphibian flying boats:- Dakar - Conakry - Monrovia - Abidjan - Accra - Cotonou - Lagos - Douala - Libreville - Port Gentil - Pointe Noire. At Dakar this linked with the trunk routes of Air France to Europe, South America and North Africa, also operated on a weekly basis.

When war in Europe was declared in September 1939 the Aeromaritime service was, as others were, suspended only to be resumed a few months later when no immediate conflict of arms took place. It was suspended again in June 1940 when Paris fell to the Germans and the service was militarised. The mentioned arrangements made by the Nigeria Postal Authorities were therefore probably of relatively short duration.

So far I have not come across any Nigerian covers evidencing having been flown by this service but do have the one illustrated (fig 2) emanating from the British Cameroons. Posted at Victoria on 27 April 1940 it was, however, fed into the Aeromaritime service not via Lagos as might have been expected but via Douala in French Cameroun where it was backstamped 30th April 1940 and also censor cacheted. Postage was prepaid 1/7d in Nigerian stamps (though the prescribed rate for 1/2 oz. was 1/6d) and the cover superscribed in ink "By Aeromaritime".

The Gold Coast too, apparently had similar postal arrangements with Aeromaritime. The cover (fig 3) to Switzerland was posted at Accra on 9th April 1940 franked at the correct rate of 1/6d and bearing a special Aeromaritime blue airmail etiquette printed in English "By Airmail/Per French Line/Aeromaritime". It bears no transit or arrival marks and had been opened for censorship purposes and resealed by the Gold Coast censor tape and cacheted accordingly.

Following the defeat of the Germans in North Africa on 1942 and the consequent switch of allegiance by French West Africa from Vichy to de Gaulle, the Free - now Fighting French were anxious to restart the Aeromaritime service along the West Coast.

The British West Africa War Council decided in March 1943 that it would be undesirable to enter into any general agreement with the censorship authorities in French West Africa and that contact and co-operation would be established by stages. Conveyance of uncensored mail by Aeromaritime was regarded as an offence against Defence Regulations.

Discussions were held in Dakar between the British and French authorities and arrangements for the censorship of mails to be carried by Aeromaritime were accepted by the French. These had been drawn up by Mr W Fox, Imperial Censor Representative in

Lagos, Nigeria and censorship adviser to the Resident Minister in Accra. There was still some concern by the British that letters might on occasion be carried improperly by members of the crew.

By May 1943 the Aeromaritime service had been restarted operating between Dakar and Lagos. The Cover (Fig 4) was conveyed by Aeromaritime from Nigeria to French Guinea soon after the service was restarted. Posted at Lagos on 12/6/43 it was received stamped at Conakry on 16/6/43; note also the Nigeria censors' 'triangle' cover was franked 1/3d, the overseas airmail rate, it is obvious that the particular rates for Aeromaritime carried mail set out in the Nigeria Gazette in 1940 were not applicable 3 years later for the restarted service. The 1940 postal rate between Nigeria and French Guinea was 6d per 1/2oz. The British used this service for the carriage of mail bags with an Army or Royal Air Force officer as courier between its four colonies, the Consul General in Dakar, the Legation in Monrovia, R.A.F Detachments and British Vice Consulates opening in the French Colonies.

In December 1943 the service was extended beyond Lagos to Douala and Pointe Noire in French Equatorial Africa as the cover (fig 5) illustrates. Postmarked at Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 3/12/43 and addressed to Douala, Cameroun it bears a cachet "Reprise Courier/Abidjan/Douala 5/12/43/Aeromaritime" and also the marks of British and French censors.

Imperial Censorship H.Q had agreed that correspondence between French territories should be exempt from British censorship but maintained, however, that correspondence destined for or emanating from territories in Africa other than other French territories should continue to be subject to British censorship.

The Fighting French refused to deliver up for censorship in Nigeria the civil mails carried in transit on its military air services. The British Authorities were fully entitled under the Royal Prerogative to examine any mail landed in a British possession unless an agreement had been made to the contrary. The right of British censorship to make occasional verification was unchallenged i.e re French to French mailbags - this was done at airports not at Post Offices.

The ministry of Economic Warfare saw no objection to double censorship of mails by British and French censorship as counterproposed by the French - military mails being exempted from these proposals. Mr Fox was thus authorised to negotiate a settlement locally in accordance with arrangements already made re mails carried by Aeromaritime.

GOVT. NOTICE No. 350.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The Post Office Ordinance, 1928 (No. 31 of 1928).

AIR MAIL POSTAGE RATES BY FRENCH AEROMARITIME SERVICE.

It is hereby notified for public information that His Excellency the Governor has fixed the prepaid rates of postage on letters posted in Nigeria for conveyance by Air Mail via French Aeromarine Service to the undermentioned places as follows:—

To	Letters per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	For each Postcard
	s. d.	s. d.
AFRICA:		
(West) Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Dahomey, French Guinea, French Senegal, Ivory Coast, Monrovia	6	3
French Cameroons, French Congo, Gaboon	1 0	6
Angola (Portuguese West Africa)	1 3	7
(North) Algeria	1 6	9
Morocco	1 0	6
EUROPE:		
Great Britain and Irish Free State	1 6	9
France	1 5	9
Other European Countries	1 6	9
AMERICA (via Europe and North Atlantic Air Service)*:		
United States of America	3 5	1 9
Canada	3 3	1 8
Newfoundland	3 3	1 8
Azores	1 9	10
Bahamas	3 8	1 10
Barbados	4 3	2 2
Bermuda, Cuba and Jamaica	3 9	1 11
Bolivia, Brazil and Chile	5 6	2 9
British Guiana, Colombia, Dutch Guiana, Dutch West Indies (Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire), Ecuador, French Guiana, Peru and Venezuela	4 9	2 5
British Honduras, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras Republic, Leeward Islands (Antigua), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Porto Rico and Trinidad	4 0	2 0
Sandwich Islands	4 6	2 3
SOUTH AMERICA (via Dakar and Brazil)*:		
Argentine, Paraguay, Uruguay	6 0	3 0
Santo Domingo, Santa Cruz	6 0	3 0
Brazil	5 0	2 6

*Senders should endorse their correspondence by the route desired.

2. The public should superscribe all correspondence intended for despatch by this service *Via Aeromarine*.

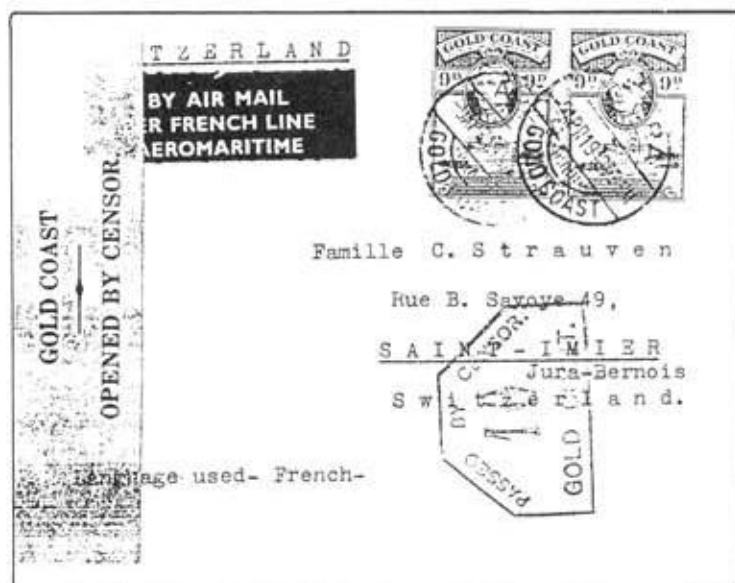
Lagos, 30th March, 1940.

E. C. CREWE,
Postmaster-General.

[Fig 1]



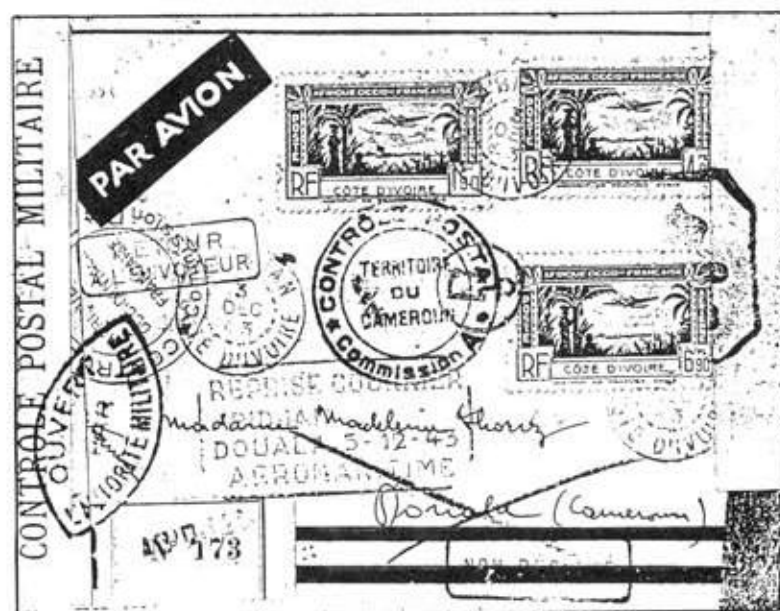
[Fig 2]



[Fig 3]



[Fig 4]



[Fig 5]

R J Maddocks

1. Examiners' Labels and Rubber Stamps

Instructions were laid down regarding the design of and prefix on examiners' labels in a circular memorandum from London in December 1941 which covered the following points:-

(1) Censorship labels and rubber stamps then in use in British censorship stations were of various designs and content. Some disclosed the name of the station and others were recognisable because of the particular design. It was considered that it would be an advantage if designs were standardised in such a way that whilst the origin of a label or stamp could be recognised by British Authorities, it could not be readily disclosed to the recipient of the letter or, if intercepted, to the enemy.

(2) Standard designs had been adopted and to each overseas station there had been allocated an index letter symbol for incorporation with the number of the examiner shown on the label or stamp (see appendix)

(3) A specimen of the standard Examiners' label which it was desired to be adopted at all stations was 3½" x 2" in size and broadly followed the pattern in use in the United Kingdom. It incorporated:-

(a) the form number "P.C.90" in the top right hand corner.

(b) the wording "Opened by Examiner" printed across the centre and

(c) the station index letter or letters followed by a stroke and the Examiner's number.

(4) In some territories there may have been a stock of existing examiners' labels currently in use. These were not to be destroyed but when a new supply was required the standard pattern was to be adopted.

(5) If the existing label did not include the name of the colony and a stock was in hand which was to be used up, then the station index letter was to be entered in manuscript in front of the Examiner's number. Should however, the name of the colony already be included then the index letter was not to be added since that would obviously disclose the identity of the index letter or letters.

(6) An imprint of the standard pattern of rubber stamp which it was desired to be adopted as regards both to size and content was also circulated. The same alphabetical index letter was also to be adopted for the stamp followed by a stroke and the holder's number.

(7) In the United Kingdom these stamps were not issued to individual examiners but were only entrusted to a Deputy Assistant Censor (in charge of a group of examiners). It was therefore suggested that the same procedure be adopted as far as practicable and therefore the appropriate number of the Deputy Assistant Censor should be inserted when the stamp was made. If no local facilities were available for making the stamps then the Chief Censor was to obtain from London.

Other instructions stated that in the smaller stations it was desirable that each examiner should be provided with several labels bearing different numbers so as to avoid possible identification of a particular examiner.

Labels were also to be obtained locally, if possible, otherwise from censorship H.Q or the nearest station with facilities for printing and despatching them.

2. Privileged Mail (further to my note on P.241 Cameo January 1994)

Exempted from censorship were:-

- the Colonial Governors
- Government Departments when the official nature of its correspondence was duly authorised by official seal or approved signature.
- Consuls of friendly powers corresponding with their Government or with Diplomatic Missions or other consuls of their country.
- U.S Consular or other officials corresponding on official business.

Consuls except those representing the U.S were required to render with each bag or packet of mail a certificate that it contained nothing but official despatches.

3. Scrutiny of the Mails

This meant checking of names and addresses of the senders and addressees against the LOCAL WATCH LISTS and the GENERAL SECURITY LIST. ALL letters both in and out by sea and air had to be scrutinised.

The Local Watch List was maintained in alphabetical order; watched for subversive matters, currency evasions and indiscretions etc.

4. "Passed by Censor"

This stamp was to be used only for letters that had been posted or submitted open and had been carefully examined; also for postcards.

Otherwise letters were to be opened and sealed with Examiners' labels. Letters which had been released unexamined were to go unmarked, with care being taken to ensure that the method of release prevented such letters being returned to censorship by the Post Office.

After censorship (scrutiny and examination) letters were to be placed in mail bags which were then sealed and a censorship tag affixed in the censorship office. Bags were not to be opened by anyone prior to loading onto an aircraft or ship.

In order to indicate to other censorship stations the extent to which a bag of mail had been examined, censored bags had to have stapled to them a tag bearing the name of the station and the word "Examined". Those of partially censored bags had to have the same tag but stamped with the letter "P" and those of uncensored bags must bear no markings.

5. Precensorship

This was the term applied to censorship in advance of departure of documents etc intended to be carried by a traveller leaving the country. Documents were placed in a closed cover under seal. In the Gambia the seal used locally was 1" in diameter with a crown surrounded by the words "Receiver General".

6. Gambia Censors

Under date 2/9/39 it was Gazetted that the Governor of the Gambia had appointed Mr M M Auckinleck to be Censor and Mr R C Allen to be Assistant Censor of postal matters and telegrams. The public were at the same time notified that censorship had been imposed in respect of all postal packets and telegrams of any description whatsoever that may be in the course of or intended for transmission to or through any place outside of the Gambia. The officer in charge of Cable and Wireless was also appointed to act as Censor's Assistant or Deputy Assistant Censor.

Auchinleck was the then Receiver General (Postmaster) and Allen, the Director of Education and Information Officer. Following Auchinleck's request for more help, further Assistant Censors were appointed on 5/9/39. These were Mr P J C Palmer and Mr K C Jacobs and as General Assistants were Mr Wyatt Hayward (Special Commercial Correspondence), Mr I B M Jobe (Arabic) and Mrs A Skinner (French). Later appointments/replacements included the Bishop of the Gambia and Mr Justice Grey.

7. Examination of Portugese Mails

All steamers leaving/going to Lisbon to/from the Portugese colonies were obliged to put into Bathurst as a "Control Port" for the examination of any mails it might be carrying.

The first transit mails of any size to be examined were ex S.S. "Malenge" in December 1940 but details were not seen.

SS "Guine" departed from Bathurst for Lisbon on 17/3/41 after her mails were examined, some being detained for examination and forwarding by next available steamer to the Chief Postal Censor, London. These were the Brussels and Bordeaux bags and all letters destined for enemy and enemy occupied territory found in other bags.

SS "Mouzinho", outward bound from Lisbon, called at Bathurst 16/5/41. She was found to be carrying 123 bags of letter and parcel mail. Of these 114 had been loaded at Lisbon, the rest at subsequent ports. All were taken off for examination.

Mail smuggling in neutral ships, especially Portugese, caused concern at the Ministry of Economic Warfare in London. Consignee mail and ship's boxes were sometimes used for this purpose and censors in the Gambia had instructions to examine these immediately before ships sailed for neutral ports. There were indications on file that Freetown, another 'Control Port' subsequently took over main responsibility for the examination of Portugese mails. Usually mails removed from foreign neutral ships were sent to England for examination.

8. Ship's Boxes

Whenever possible censorship of mail from crews of merchant ships employed on government non-commercial service should be done locally at ports overseas. To ensure security and free postage facilities, the Gambia Authorities were directed by London:

(a) letters enclosed in sealed bags addressed to G.P.O, London to be handed by the ship's master to the Naval Authorities who had been instructed to send same unopened to most convenient censor station.

(b) letters to addresses in U.K and Eire did not repeat not require postage stamps. Such mails were to be censored and returned to bag which should be resealed and labelled "Censored for Transmission". Bags were to be sent to local Post Office for transmission to G.P.O, London.

(c) letters for all other addresses which did require postage stamps could after censorship be released through the Post Office for local delivery or transmission with other terminal mails.

(d) to arrange with local postal authorities for neutral cancelling stamps to be used for letters under (c) otherwise locality of ship would be disclosed.

Letters under (b) may be sent to London, uncensored if local staff unable to deal with them. Bags were to be marked "Uncensored Merchant".

9. Condemned Letters

An outgoing terminal letter should only rarely be condemned. If it contained objectionable material it was to be (i) retained in evidence in case of prosecution

(ii) returned to sender with a warning advice

(iii) sent on after objectionable material erased.

10. Postage Stamps

Consignments of postage stamps mailed occasionally by amateur philatelists could go provided they did not exceed the value of 5/- or other sum agreed by the local currency controls. Otherwise refer to the Currency Board.

11. Insertion Slips

A number of Slips with a preprinted standardised text according to various conditions and treatment of censored mail were available to the examiners for insertion into the envelopes before resealing.

(1) Missing Enclosure - "Enclosure mentioned (blank for insertion of details) was missing when the letter was opened. Before making enquiries of the Post Office please ascertain definitely from the sender of the letter whether the article in question was actually enclosed. If so, the sender should make enquiry to the Postal Administration of the country in which the letter was posted mentioning that the enclosure was missing. The cover of the letter and if possible such of its contents as were received should accompany any communication to the Postal Authorities."

(2) Cover Found Open. "The cover of this postal packet was found open when it reached British censorship."

(3) Letter or Cover Mutilated. "The British examiner is not responsible for the mutilation of this letter".

(4) Stamps Missing from Cover. "The British censorship is not responsible for the absence of stamps from the cover of this postal packet."

(5) Currency Control Slip. "No currency in this case (amount) may be sent out of the Colony by post unless it is accompanied by a permit granted by the Currency and Control Board. (No permission is required in order to send a Postal Order or Money Order to residents in other parts of the Sterling Area)."

(6) Security Slip. "The communication returned in this cover constitutes a breach of the Defence Regulations. If the passage or passages referred to (subject) are omitted and if it is returned to the Terminal censorship in an open condition it will be forwarded without further postal charges."

The slips were each headed "Postal Censorship" and had a standardised stationery stock form number of British "P.C" series in the top right hand corner.

Whilst the foregoing notes have been compiled from Gambia records by kind courtesy of the Senior Archivist, National Archives, Banjul their content for the most part does give a parallel insight into the workings of censorship in British West Africa as a whole.

APPENDIX 1 - Index Letter Symbols for British Censorship Stations in 1941

Colonies, Egypt, Sudan

A Gibraltar
B Antigua
C Bermuda
D Jamaica
E Trinidad
F Aden
G Bahamas
H Barbados
I Br Guiana
J Br Honduras
K Br Solomon Is
L Ceylon
M Cyprus
N Kenya & Uganda
O N Rhodesia
P -?-
Q Nyasaland
R Tanganyika
S -?-
T -?-
U Zanzibar
V Egypt
W Falkland Is
X Fiji
Y Gilbert & Ellice Is
Z Hong Kong

Colonies-Imperial*

AA Monserat (Leewards)
BB St Kitts Nevis
CC Virgin Islands
DD Malta
EE Mauritius
FF Malaya & Singapore
GG Penang
HH Sarawak
II Br N Borneo
JJ New Hebrides
KK Palestine
LL Seychelles
MM Sudan
NN Gambia
OO Gold Coast
PP Nigeria
QQ Sierra Leone
RR Dominica (Windwards)
SS Grenada
TT St Lucia
UU St Vincent
VV St Helena
WW Tonga
XX Ascension
YY Somaliland
ZZ Eritrea (Added later)

IA Gibraltar
IB Antigua
IC Bermuda
ID Jamaica
IE Trinidad
TNN Gambia

* Handled transit mails; directly accountable to Post and Telegraph Censorship HQ in London

Dominions, Self Governing Colonies, India, Burma, Iraq, Iran & Syria

DA Australia
DB Canada
DC Newfoundland
DD New Zealand
DE S Rhodesia
DF Union of S Africa
DG Burma
DH India
DI Syria
DJ Iraq
DK Iran



Approved
25/5/50

SIERRA LEONE, 1950

DIE PROOF of the impressed stamp for the 1950 King George VI "Rice Harvesting" 6d Aerogramme printed by McCorquodale in issued colour of grey on pale grey notepaper (slight faults), endorsed in manuscript "Approved (initials) 3/5/50" Price £550. EC clients please add 17½% VAT

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S. Graham Hoey FRPSL

MY RECENT LETTER to the Editor on the De La Rue Current Numbers (LP July/August 1993) has created some interest and I am indebted to several of our members for additional numbers and helpful suggestions. My attention has been drawn to a list by B.W.H. Poole¹ (1907) and to a more recent listing compiled by E.E. Fricks² (1994). The first of these contained only two numbers unknown to me and the latter has a number of inaccuracies, for one of which I am, myself, responsible. For some reason, in my letter, I attributed the number 174 to the 1/- 1860 value of Jamaica, instead of to the 6d value of the same issue.

Since writing my original letter, I have spent some time looking rather more deeply into this question and, I believe, have now evolved a listing and an explanation which goes a long way towards solving this long-established mystery. My theory depends upon a number of basic assumptions which are explained below:

- (1) The numbers are arranged in a strictly chronological sequence. This means that a plate completed in 1872, for example, can never precede one which was made in 1859 no matter what their respective numbers may be.
- (2) They were evolved as part of the De La Rue inventory and security system and have no significance either for the various agents or the Colonies.
- (3) Whenever a plate was completed (ie, was capable of being used to produce the issued stamps), it was allocated the next available Current Number. De La Rue were not concerned with the name of the Colony on the plate or the value of the stamps thereon, but only with the fact that the finished plate was a potential security risk. Once numbered and identified, it was kept under lock and key until signed out for use.

It is no longer possible now for us to ascertain the exact dates when individual plates were completed but we do have another very good source of information in the Private Day Books, which give the details and the dates of the invoices raised when these plates and, usually, the accompanying stamps were charged by De La Rue. These enable us to construct a chronological list of all the plates prepared for printing stamps between 1855 and 1880. Naturally, by our use of these invoice dates, one or two apparent anomalies arise, where although a plate had been finished and numbered, the actual printing of the stamps had been held up for some reason. It was normal practice for De La Rue to invoice their charges for making plates, printing the stamps, supplying paper, etc, on the day the actual stamps were despatched to the Colony or client.

With these assumptions, the numbers fall logically into a number of groups, which I have classified as follows:

GROUP 1: 1859-1860 (see Table 1)

Although De La Rue had been printing stamps for Great Britain for some time, 1859 saw their first stamps produced for the Colonies. If we accept the late John Easton's comment to me that he did not think the first stamp so produced, the Ceylon One Halfpenny, was numbered, then the first stamp plate to be numbered should be that for the Sierra Leone 6d of 1859. Surprisingly, it transpires that the highest recorded Colonial numbers are those of the earliest plates. The Sierra Leone 6d plate is numbered 140, followed by the first De La Rue issues for Mauritius, British Columbia & Vancouver Island, and Jamaica. I am unable to explain at present why the series should begin with the number 140 and there are a number of gaps in the sequence. I should remind my fellow philatelists, however, that De La Rue printed not only stamps, but also bank notes, Government bonds and passports among other security documents, all of which would require printing plates. It is unfortunate that, owing to other pressures, I was not able to visit the National Postal Museum last year, as I have no doubt that a study of the Private Day Books covering this period would clarify the situation.

Note that this group contained plates made for the Crown Agents, the Government of Mauritius and Thomas Hankey, the Agent for Jamaica.

Table 1

GROUP 1**FIRST SERIES:** *Used during 1859 and 1860*

Numbers		Date of Invoice	Colony	Value	Comments
Known	Probable				
140		21 June 1859	Sierra Leone	6d	C McCarg, LP, March 1978
	141	21 July 1859	Malta	1/2d	
	142				
	143	6 December 1859	Mauritius	1d	
144		"	"	4d	M.Samuel, <i>Specimens</i> Plate 3
	145	"	"	2d	
	146	"	"	9d	
147		29 December 1859	British Colombia & Vancouver Island	2 1/2d	G.E. Wellburn, Capex 78
167		17 October 1860	Jamaica	1d	D. Sutchiffe
	168				
169		17 October 1860	Jamaica	2d	Charlton Henry Sale
170		"	"	4d	S.G. Hoey
	171				
	172				
173		17 October 1860	Jamaica	1/- W.	Britton Stitt Sale
174		"	"	6d	Charlton Henry Sale

GROUP 2 (A): Plates made for the Crown Agents (see Table 2)

Around the beginning of 1861, De La Rue apparently had second thoughts about this system of numbering and decided to allocate a specific series of numbers to each agent or client. As can be expected the longest list of these numbers is that apportioned to the Crown Agents, and this I have called Group 2(A). With the exception of the first one or two numbers, which I have not yet been able to place to my satisfaction, these numbers form an unbroken sequence in chronological order up to Current Number 57, the 1872 3d value of Bermuda.

Although it would be too much to expect that the first attempt at such a list would prove accurate, I would submit that the correlation between the known numbers and the chronological list of invoice dates is so good as to suggest that the general framework can be relied upon for further study and correction. It should be noted, by the way, that when the ordering of the stamps of a Colony passed from an agent to the Crown Agents, later plates then appear in this series.

GROUP 2 (B): Plates made for other Agents (see Table 3)

In a similar fashion, each of De La Rue's other clients for stamps, and again, possibly for bank notes, etc, had its own series of numbers, beginning in each case at number 1. Each subsequent new plate would, in due course, receive the next available Current Number in this specific series. The odd man out here is Straits Settlements, who should properly appear in the Crown Agent's list but have a series of eight plates of their own for the 1867 issue. The plate for the 30 cents of 1872 is in the Crown Agent's list as 56, however. The 1871 Ceylon Cents issues similarly fall into this group.

Although I have as yet done no personal research into De La Rue's first Foreign Contracts, it seems fairly clear that the first plates for Italy, Egypt and Belgium fall into this group.

GROUP 3: Colonial Head Plates (see Table 4)

This consists of what might these days be called 'Dedicated Head Plates' ie, with the name of the Colony included in the design. As a group this series has probably caused more confusion among collectors than any other, but

Table 2

GROUP 2(A)

SECOND SERIES: *Crown Agents*

Known	Numbers		Date of Invoice	Colony	Value	Comments
		Probable				
		1				
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5	August 1861	Mauritius	6d	
		6	"	"	1/-	
		7	28 October 1861	New South Wales	2d	Hudson, Hall
		8	10 September 1862	Hong Kong	2c	
		9	"	"	18c	
10			"	"	24c	Ryohei Ishikawa Sale
11			11 August 1863	Jamaica	3d	Byron Cameron Sale 5/11/74
12			10 September 1862	Hong Kong	12c	Ryohei Ishikawa Sale
	13		"	"	8c	
14			"	"	96c	Ryohei Ishikawa Sale
15			"	"	48c	" " "
	16		17 April 1863	Cape of Good Hope	6d	} Or vice versa
	17		"	"	1/-	
	18		18 May 1863	Hong Kong	6c	
	19		"	"	30c	
	20		18 June 1863	"	4c	
21			18 June 1863	Mauritius	5/-	H.B. McMillan
	22		"	"	3d	
23			25 June 1863	Bahamas	1/-	S.G.Hoev
	24		20 October 1863	New South Wales	1d	
	25		27 March 1865	Vancouver Island	5c	
26			17 February 1865	British Columbia	3d	Carr Exhibit, CAPEX 78.
	27		27 March 1865	Vancouver Island	10c	
	28		28 August 1866	Ceylon	3d	
29			July 1865	Bermuda	1d	M.H.Ludington
30			"	"	6d	"
31			"	"	1/-	"
32			29 January 1866	"	2d	"
	33		February 1867	Natal	1/-	
	34		24 May 1867	New South Wales	4d	} Or vice versa
	35		"	"	10d	
	36		26 March 1868	South Australia	3d	
	37		18 July 1868	Ceylon	1d	
	38		8 December 1868	Trinidad	5/-	
	39		15 March 1870	New South Wales	6d	
40			14 February 1870	St. Christopher	All	Head Plate only
41			8 April 1870	Tasmania	1d	W.E.Tinsley
42			"	"	2d	"
43			"	"	4d	"
44			"	"	10d	"
	45		14 June 1870	Natal	1d	} Or vice versa
	46		"	"	1/-	
47			10 December 1870	Tasmania	3d	W.E. Tinsley
48			"	"	5/-	"
	49		26 October 1870	Cape of Good Hope	1d	
50			17 April 1871	Tasmania	9d	W.E. Tinsley
	51		5 June 1871	Cape of Good Hope	5/-	
52			5 July 1871	Western Australia	3d	W.E.Tinsley
53			21 February 1872	Sierra Leone	All	Head Plate only
54			29 August 1872	Jamaica	1/2d	D.Sutcliffe
	55		14 August 1872	British Honduras	3d	
56			25 October 1872	Straits Settlements	30c	F.E. Wood
57			30 November 1872	Bermuda	3d	M.H. Ludington

Table 3

GROUP 2(B)

THIRD SERIES: *Other Agents*

Numbers		Date of Invoice	Colony	Value	Comments
Known	Probable				
		Agent: Thomas Hankey			
	1	1856	Jamaica	1 1/2d	These are all Revenue stamps
	2	"	"	3d	
3		30 October 1857	"	1/-	D.Sutcliffe
	4	"	"	5/-	
	5	"	"	10/-	
It would appear that the two values 2/- and 5/- of 1875 also fall into this Group. They are known numbered 2 and 3 respectively.					
		Agent: N.L. Merry & Co			
	1	28 October 1861	New South Wales	2d	Duplicate Plate made
	2	20 October 1863	"	1d	
	3	13 August 1864	"	1d	
	4	24 May 1867	"	4d	
5		"	"	10d	Block seen
		Agent: E.Sheldon			
	1	11 October 1865	British Honduras	1d	No numbers as yet have been recorded for these
	2	"	"	6d	
	3	"	"	1/-	
		Agent: The Consul General			
	1	27 June 1867	Orange Free State	1d	Harmer's Sale 29 November 1977
2		"	"	6d	
	3	"	"	1/-	
1		18 April 1867	Straits Settlements	8c	F.E.Wood (Also Poole)
2		"	"	12c	"
3		"	"	24c	" (Also Poole)
4		"	"	32c	" (Also Poole)
5		28 June 1867	"	2c	" (Also Poole)
6		"	"	6c	" (Also Poole)
7		"	"	96c	"
8		17 March 1868	"	4c	F.E.Wood (Also Poole) (The number is inverted)
The later 30 cents of 1872 is 56 on the Crown Agents' List					
8		25 September 1877	Tasmania		"Platypus" Head Plate
	9	5 September 1878	"	1d	
	10	"	"	2d	
11		"	"	8d	E. Tinsley

once it is realised that the number was on the head plate, not the duty plate, much of the difficulty disappears. The earliest of these was the St Christopher plate of 1870, followed by the 1872 plate of Sierra Leone, which appear in the Crown Agents' list as Nos 40 and 53, respectively. However, by the time the Dominica, Lagos, Gold Coast and British Guiana headplates were made, De La Rue simply numbered each of them 1. With the development of the General Key Plate system, even this minimal numbering died out, and in over forty years of my collecting the stamps of the Bahamas I have never seen or recorded any indication of a Current Number on the 1884 Key Plate issues, for instance.

Table 4

GROUP 3

THIRD SERIES: Colonial Head Plates

Numbers	Date of Invoice	Colony	Values	Comments
1	15 April 1874	Dominica	1/2d, 4d, 2 1/2d, 4d, 6d, 1/-	4d value seen
1	12 May 1874	Lagos	1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d	
1	8 June 1875	Gold Coast	1/2d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d	H.B. McMillan
1	26 February 1876	British Guiana	1c, 2c, 4c, 12c, 24c, 48c & 96c	2c & 96c seen

GROUP 4: GB Plates made for the Inland Revenue

This is, of course, the largest group of these numbers, and it precedes the Colonial Groups but, as I am not a GB collector, I have left it to the last. The lowest number in this group I have myself recorded is 205 which is the 9d Plate 2 of 1861. Looking at the catalogue it would seem not unlikely that the 4d value of 1855, being De La Rue's first stamp for GB probably is numbered 200. Between this number and the highest I have so far recorded, namely 594, the 3d Plate 21 of 1880, there appears to be an unbroken series of numbers. A number of years ago I spent an afternoon in the National Postal Museum logging many of these until driven out by sheer boredom! All the records are there and if anyone likes to spend the time, a full listing could quite easily be made up.

Once again I have no idea why these numbers should have begun at 200, but I would suggest that this may have been connected with the fact that Perkins, Bacon had a somewhat similar system of numbers in operation at the time, which had not then reached as high as 200. There is some overlapping later, the Perkins, Bacon 1/2d Plate 12 of 1870 being numbered 220, for example, but the two firms used quite different styles for their numbers, so they can be distinguished quite easily from each other.

Not having been able to visit the National Postal Museum this last year to consult the Private Day Books on microfilm there, I have based my listings on the relevant chapters of John Easton's *De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps*³. As its title quite clearly states this deals with postage stamps only, most revenue issues not being included.

As I have already stated this article does not pretend to be a complete answer to this problem. I record my thanks to Eugene Tinsley, Derek Sutcliffe, Michael Nicholson and Derek Nathan for their assistance with known numbers and information and I would appreciate comments, corrections, and further known numbers from members.

In his article in 1907 Bertram Poole commented – *At present these numbers are most mystifying and I can offer no satisfactory explanation as to their use or meaning.* I now offer what I submit to be a possible, logical solution to this ninety year old mystery.

REFERENCES:

1. B.W.H. Poole, *The Postage Stamp*, 7 December 1907.
2. E.E. Fricks, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, July/August 1994
3. J. Easton, *The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps 1855 to 1901* (Faber & Faber, for the Royal Philatelic Society, London), 1958.

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[I understand that the above article has been the subject of much correspondence and that Mr Hoey is compiling a follow up article for the London Philatelist. For those of you who I am sure, can add further light on the West Africa current numbers should write to: Mr Hoey, c/o the London Philatelist, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1N 1PE. The subject of the De La Rue current numbers was also discussed on page 62 Messrs Ince & Sacher in 'The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region'. Ed]

N. Lutwyche

At Sootex in November last year, I acquired a registered cover which at first I thought was initiated at Port Harcourt. On the front was the not untypical manuscript boxed 'R/PH 343' and the 1/3d stamp was cancelled with what I assumed was the usual oval registered postmark of Port Harcourt. On looking at the reverse however, I saw that there was a very clear oval 'REGISTERED/PORT HARBOUR NIGERIA' of '1 FEB 50'. There was also a very indistinct transit oval registered postmark of Lagos of 3 February, 1950 (with the date line inverted).

The cover was apparently dispatched by 'Overseas Regular Import Agency, 28 Accra Street, Port Harcourt (Fig.1)

On my return home I checked my few listings of Post Offices and Agencies but could find no mention of a PORT HARBOUR post office. Because of the very clear and clean cancel I assumed that the handstamp was new. To begin with I held the fanciful view that a new oval registered handstamp had been made for Port Harcourt but that during its manufacture someone had substituted the letter 'B' for 'C' in 'HARCOURT' and had deleted the final letter 'T' so as to produce the word 'HARBOUR', a word which might have been more familiar to the person responsible, an error à la the Gambian 'BATTHURST' handstamp of August, 1938.

I then took the more sober view that Port Harbour was a new Post Office or Agency in the area of Port Harcourt and so the cover joined the others in the shoe box to await Neville Jones' book on Nigerian post offices and agencies.

I had also checked my other registered covers of Port Harcourt and found one sent by the same sender to the same address which was despatched a week earlier. This cover had a 'Pmrs. 403' registration label and on the reverse has the oval registered 'Port Harcourt' handstamp. (Incidentally, this second cover went via Kano, which seems rather unusual. Was Lagos Airport closed?). (Fig. 2)

I have now acquired Neville's tremendous work which is worthy of much praise. Unfortunately, I can find no mention either of the post office/agency of Port Harbour or of the cancel under Port Harcourt, so I'm back to square one looking for assistance from the more erudite members of the Circle!

Fig 1

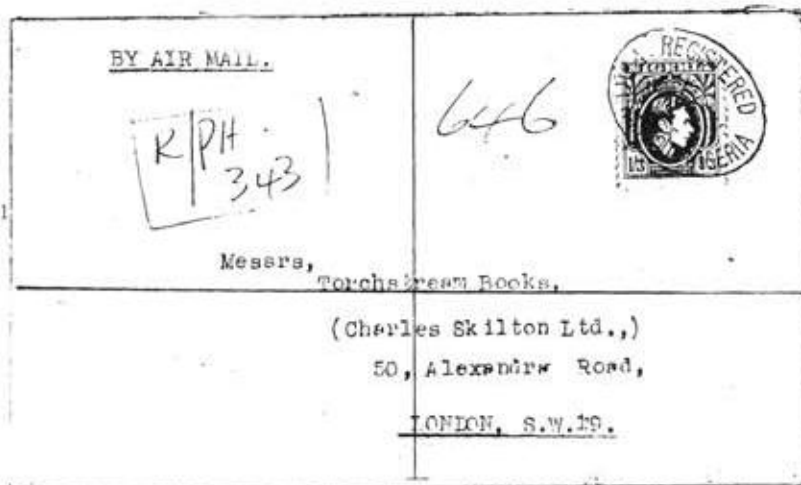


Fig 1

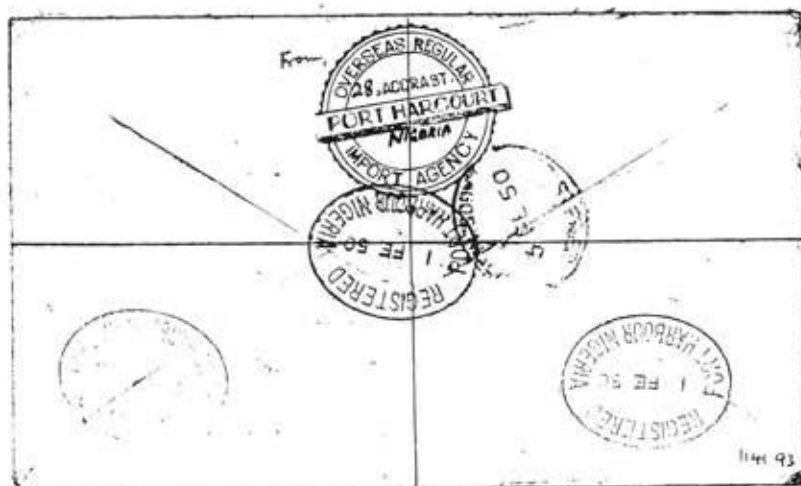


Fig 2

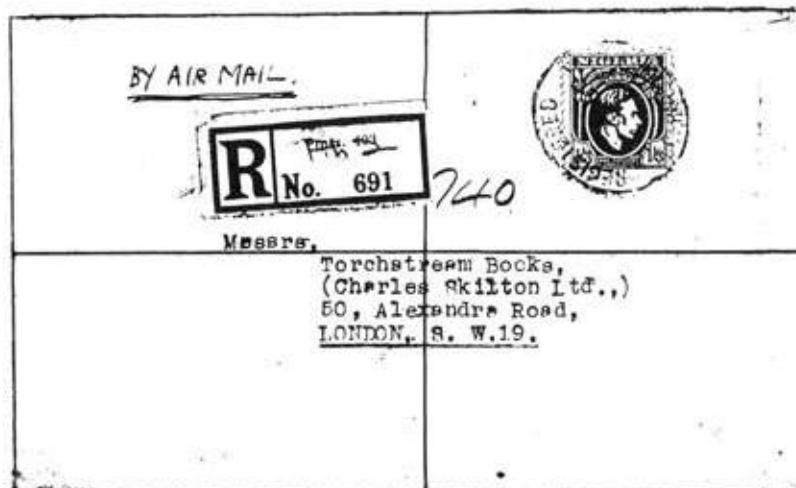
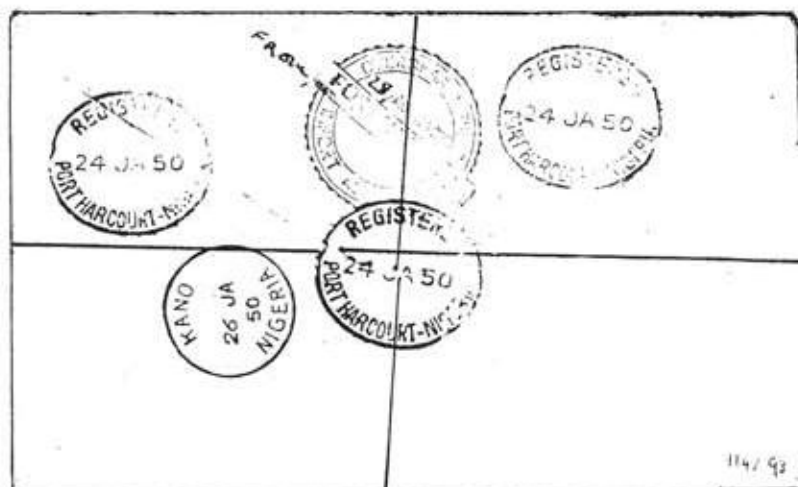


Fig 2



Jeremy Martin

'British Commonwealth Revenues' by J. Barefoot & A. Hall, the 1938 Third Editions, list ten George V revenue stamps issued in 1916. The list includes two 1/- values. From material owned by members of the W.A.S.C. it does seem that there is only one 1/- value and that the 1/- green and black is probably a colour changeling.

It should be noted that identifying the colours of these stamps is difficult. Those shown are my opinions.

The De La Rue archives included several items of great interest. 'Appendix B' dated 13 October 1916 had attached to it nine different imperforate colour trials on three different papers, all of the 3d value:

Brown-purple and lilac / white paper

Red and dark green / white paper

Orange-brown and grey-black / white paper

Royal blue and grey-green / red paper

Grey-black and pale purple / red paper

Black and pale purple / red paper

Black and pale green / yellow paper

Red and grey-black / yellow paper

Blue-green and pale purple / yellow paper

In each case the first colour is that of the frame, the second that of the head plate.

[Fig 1]

'Appendix A' (sic) [fig 2] dated 17 October 1916 had attached to it ten more colour trials, all imperforate and for a 3d value which now included some blue paper examples. Against nine of the stamps, a suggested value had been added:

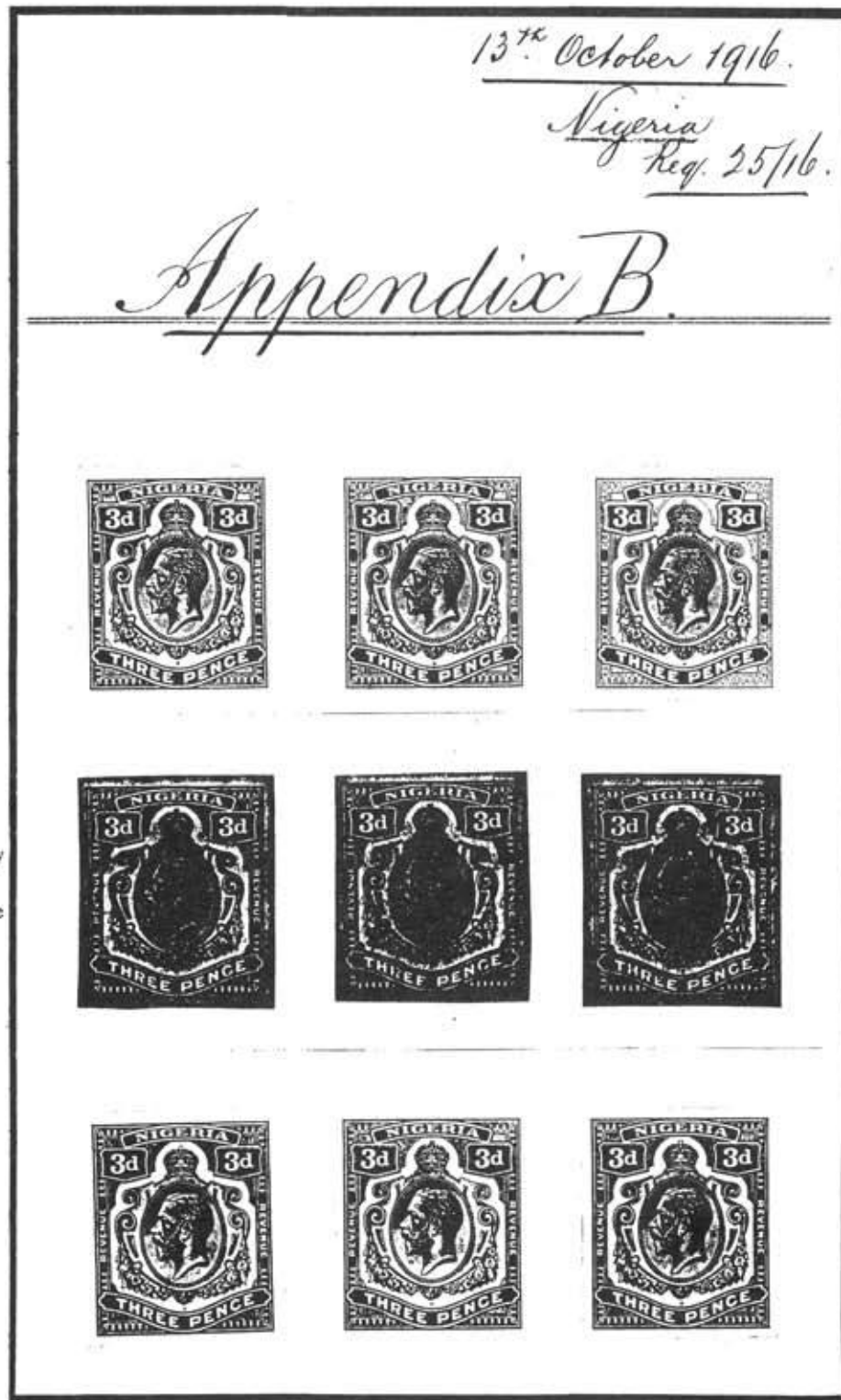
Blue and pale purple / blue paper	1d
Orange-brown and grey-green / white paper	3d
Royal-blue and grey-black / white paper	6d
Grey and pale black / white paper	1/-
Dark green and pale green / white paper	2/6
Purple / red paper	5/-
Black and grey-black / yellow paper	10/-
Purple and green / blue paper	£1 *
Black and grey-green / white paper	£5
Black and purple / blue paper	

* This trial was circled and a note added 'See Appendix B'

NIGERIA

"APPENDIX B" OF THE DE LA RUE COLOUR TRIALS THE "RAINBOW TRIALS" ON THREE DIFFERENT PAPERS

[Fig 1]



NIGERIA

"APPENDIX A" OF THE DE LA RUE COLOUR TRIALS

[Fig 2]

blue &
pale purple
on blue

1d



5/-



purple
on red

orange-brown &
grey-green
on white

3d



10/-



black &
grey-black
on yellow

Royal blue &
grey-black
on white

6d



£1



purple &
green
on blue

grey & pale black
on white

1/-



£5



black &
grey-green
on white

dark green &
pale green
on white

2/6



black &
purple
on blue

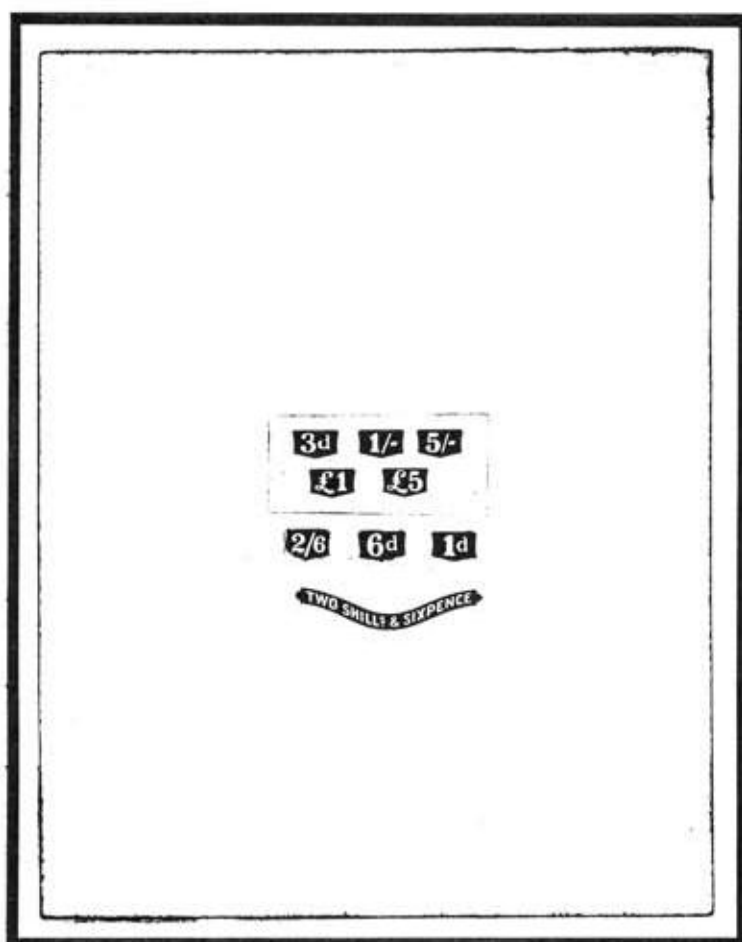
*Asmund
Loom
17.10.16*

De La Rue also produced, mounted on card 89 x 114 mm. proofs of the value tablets that were adopted. Two colour photographic proofs of the 10/- and a small format £5 value were made. In each case the frame was silver and the head plate brown. These were mounted on the same card 114 x 89 mm. The small format £5 was not adopted. [Fig.3&4]

NIGERIA

THE ADOPTED VALUE TABLET PROOFS

EX DE LA RUE ARCHIVES



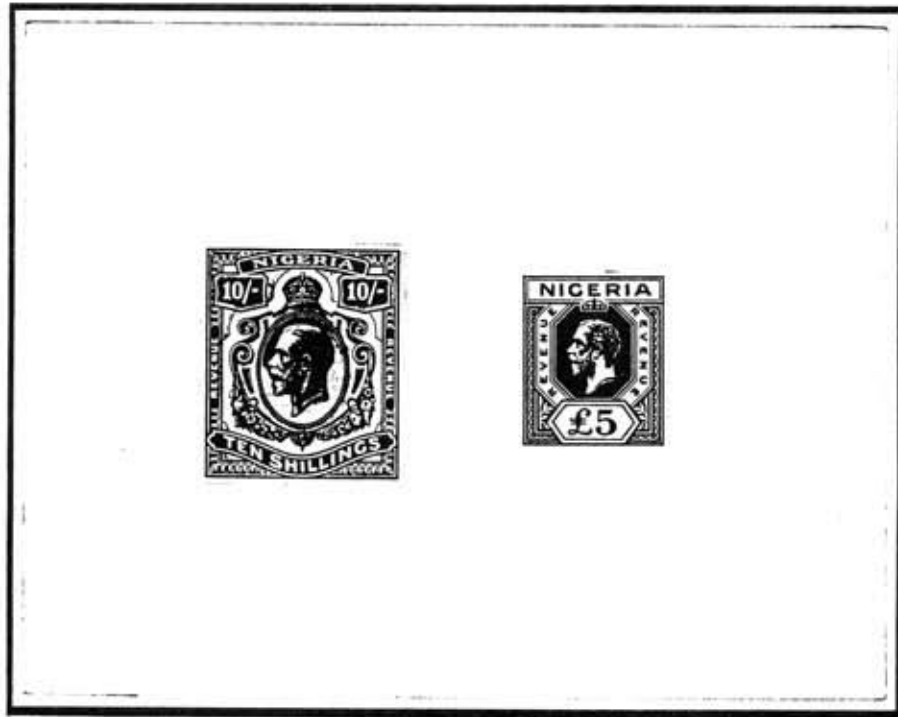
THE VALUES REPRESENT THE COMPLETE SET

[Fig 3]

NIGERIA

THE TEN SHILLINGS

COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF EX DE LA RUE



THE SMALL FORMAT £5 WAS NOT ADOPTED

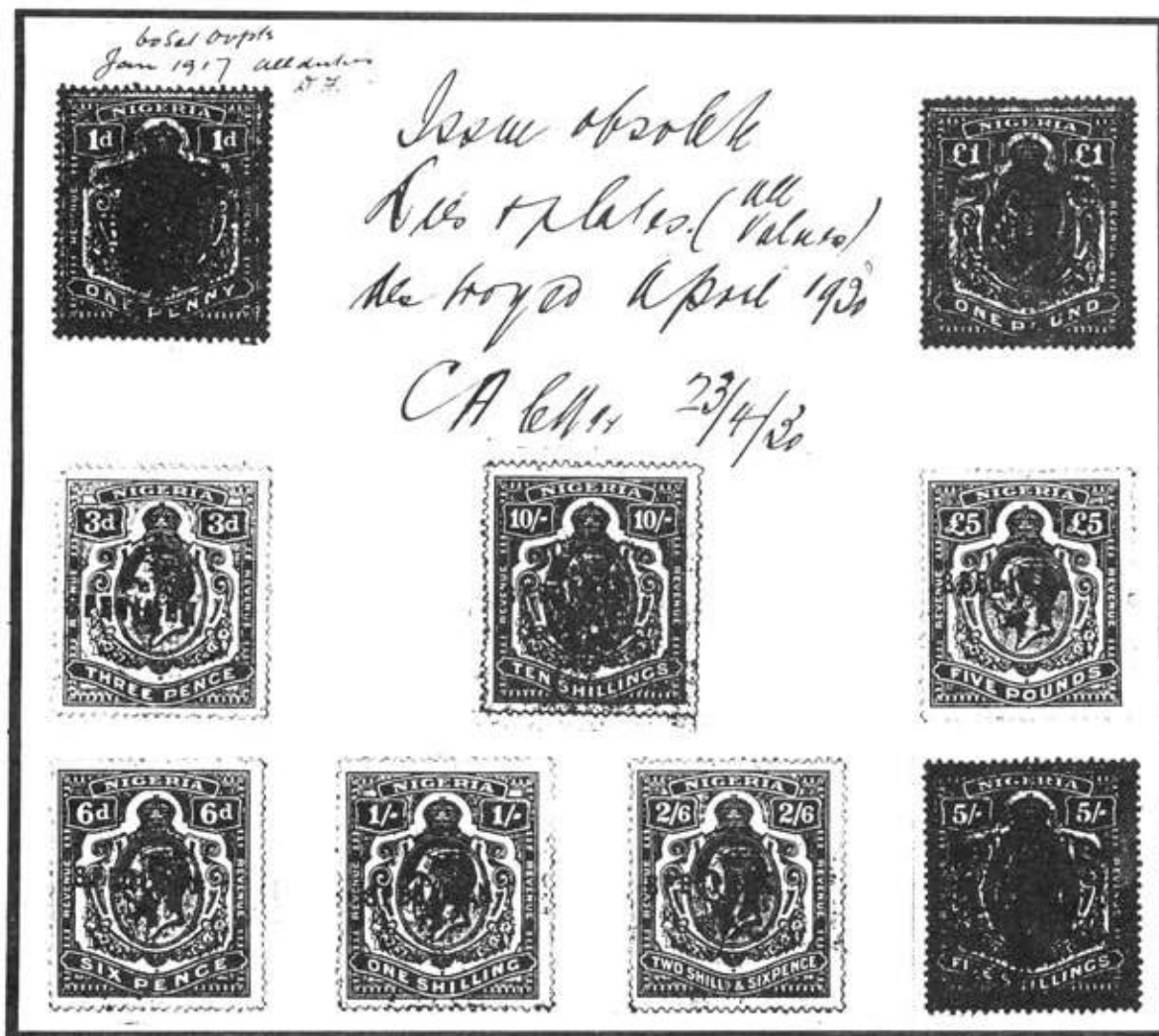
[Fig 4]

A complete set handstamped 'SPECIMEN' exists. This has a date 'Jan 1917 all duties' and a subsequent note 'Dies and plates (all values) destroyed April 1930'. [Fig 5]

NIGERIA

THE COMPLETE AND ISSUED SET WITH "SPECIMEN" OVERPRINT

EX DE LA RUE RECORDS WITH MANUSCRIPT NOTATION STATING
"DIES & PLATES (ALL VALUES) DESTROYED APRIL 1930"



BELIEVED TO BE THE ONLY COMPLETE SET IN EXISTENCE

[Fig 5]

NB Note that the shilling is grey and black

David Springbett has discovered a stamp "51" flaw on the 1/- value. The flaw appears on the fourth pearl up from the bottom right which has a black 'blob' attached to it. This flaw also appears on the Nyasaland revenue stamps and indicates that the same headplate was used for both countries. [Fig 6]

NIGERIA

THE PROOF OF "LARGE NYASALAND TYPE" STATUS

THE LEFT HAND STAMP OF THIS TRIPLET HAS THE "51" FLAW WHICH IS FOUND ON THE KGV "POSTAGE REVENUE" HEADPLATES

THIS FLAW PROVES THAT THE "NYASALAND" HEADPLATE WAS USED FOR THESE NIGERIAN REVENUES



THE KING'S HEAD IS SURROUNDED BY A ROW OF PEARLS -
ON STAMP "51" THE FLAW APPEARS ON THE FOURTH PEARL UP
FROM THE BOTTOM RIGHT WHICH HAS A BLACK "BLOB" ATTACHED TO IT

[Fig 6]

When 'used' many of the stamps are 'PERFINS', one such being
'CUSTOMS / WARRI'.

A full listing of those issued:

Blue and pale purple / white paper	1d
Orange-brown and grey-green / white paper	3d
Royal blue and grey-black / white paper	6d
Grey and pale black / white paper	1/-
Dark green and pale green / white paper	2/6
Purple / red paper	5/-
Black and pale purple / yellow paper	10/-
Red and grey-green / blue paper	£1
Black and grey-green / white paper	£5

Numbers recorded:	SPECIMEN	'USED'
1d	1	
3d	1	
6d	1	1
1/-	1	4
2/6	1	3
5/-	1	3
10/-	1	3
£1	1	5
£5	1	

Philip Beale

Colin was one of the founders of the Gambia Study Circle when it began in 1950 at the Tunbridge Wells Congress. Dalwick was the first Chairman, Jim Whitfield the second and Colin the third. Under his leadership the Circle widened to include the Gold Coast before it gradually extended to the rest of former British West Africa. He became our leading collector and specialist. Each of his collections, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and the Nigerias was of the finest quality. He also collected the airmails, Togo, Cameroons and Fernando Po. For each country he formed a postmark collection often amounting to several volumes. Every part of his collections was written up in his own handwriting.

Colin came to enjoy exhibiting his collections as a means of sharing his interests and of widening his circle of friends. Displays reached Gold Medal standard at both national and international levels. He was particularly pleased to gain the Silver Mailcoach award at Stampex.

Each country he collected was studied carefully and he wrote down his conclusions in the form of Papers that were circulated among Circle Members. When I came to list the postmark Types for my Sierra Leone book, it was to his listings that I turned. His work on the Gambia Cameos, the shades, and the theories about the perforations and embossing were the basis of what appeared in the first book to be written on The Gambia. His study of the perforations used on the Elephant and Palm issue is the definitive one. He composed articles for the *American Postal History Journal* that were published as a complete work by Robson Lowe. Later he started to write on West African airmails but, sadly, this work was never completed.

Colin was a most friendly and generous person ready to share his knowledge with others. His troublesome leg was dismissed with, 'Stairs are a bit of a nuisance'. His dry sense of humour was accompanied with a chuckle as he resolved some problem that had been put to him. It was pleasure to visit his home and view his treasures. He was greatly missed when he died just as he was starting his retirement.

In composing this tribute I have been much helped by Len Welden.

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Over 3 lbs. but not over 7 lbs. weight, rate	2s. 8d.
Over 7 lbs. but not over 11 lbs. weight, rate	4s. 0d.
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Printed Matter—For the first two ounces	1d.
For each additional two ounces or fractional part	1d.

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