CAMEO

The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



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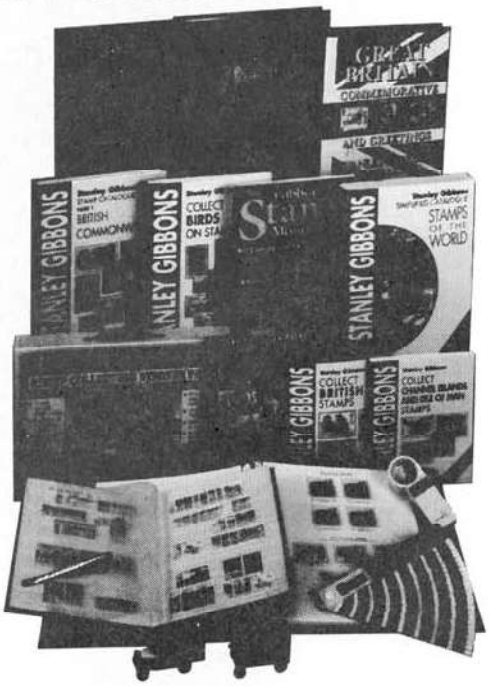
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2000

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Editorial

This edition of *Cameo* offers a full range of articles spread right across the Study Circle's sphere of interest. I'm sure you will enjoy the two articles that have been submitted by Rob May; in the first Rob presents evidence concerning the numbering of Woermann Line Seapost cancellations which I'm sure members will find fascinating; in the second he has collaborated with three others members to explain the vagaries of the sterling overprints from Cameroons.

When I started the 'Letters to the Editor' section a few issues back, I hoped to start off a series of questions and answers which enabled members to pose small queries and tap the collective expertise of the circle as a whole. My intention was to get a quick, next issue turn round - but I was still delighted to receive an answer from Stewart Duncan to a point raised by John Sacher 17 years ago!

This issue has a weighting of pieces in favour of Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. This reflects the balance of my editorial in-tray very well - so if you want to see more articles on other topics, all you have to do is write in!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Peter Richards** for taking over the role of WASC Web Master from me. Peter has posted a revised version of the circle's internet page, and has plans to develop this further. Please visit the new site as detailed at the bottom of this page. Further, I would also like to thank **John Hossack** who has kindly agreed to manage the distribution of *Cameo* in the future.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

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Front Cover

A presentation certificate from the Gold Coast Regiment awarded to a soldier when he left the regiment.

My thanks to Mike Roberts for providing the illustration.

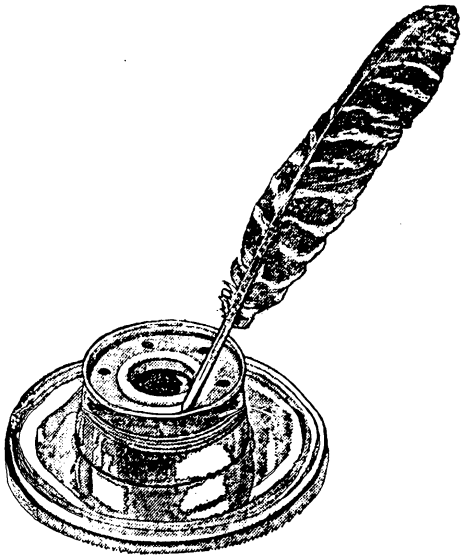
Scope : The West Africa Study Circle studies the postage stamps and postal history of West Africa, including St Helena, Ascension and the British Postal Agencies in Madeira, Tenerife, St Vincent and Fernando Po. The mainland countries covered in most depth are The Gambia, Gold Coast, The Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Cameroons and Togo.

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Access to the internet? Then please try visiting the ***NEW*** West Africa Study Circle Web Site at :

http://members.xoom.com/wasc99



Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

Frank Walton

SMCA?

Dear Frank,

I have recently studied a cover which bore no identification marks save for the arrival postmark in Liverpool in 1889 and a 6d charge mark. The cover was endorsed *Stamps not procurable, WHH, SMCA*. The probability is that the letter came from the Niger Delta. Do any members know what the initials SMCA stand for, or the person whose initials are WHH?

Robert Nelson
Greatham

✧ ✧ ✧

Gambia to UK Rate, 1844

Dear Frank,

John Sacher in *Cameo* Volume 2 Number 8 (page 169) of July 1983 raised a query concerning a letter from Gambia to Britain via France with an exceptional rate of 2s 1d. Now courtesy of Colin Tabeart I am able to report that the letter was carried by an unknown private vessel, not necessarily a French one, but one calling at Le Havre. There are no French charges on it, so it either came under cover of a larger parcel of letters which was common practice especially with companies where the agent would send them on, as a bundle of letters would attract less postage than the sum of each one, or an individual who put them in the post on arrival. The British charge of 2s 1d is for carriage under the 1843 Anglo-French Convention (French inland Le Havre-Calais), which rated letters between the UK and France at 5d per ½oz British plus 5 decimes per 7½g whether prepaid or unpaid. The letter weighed between ½ and ¾oz making it liable to 2 x the British plus 3 x the French rate, totalling 5 times 5d, or 2s 1d. The anomaly on working out the rate is caused by the French single rate being based on a 7½g weight whereas in the UK it was ½oz = 10g.

Stewart Duncan
Cruden Bay

✧ ✧ ✧

TOGO. The local overprints on Gold Coast stamps 1915

Dear Frank,

Under gentle persuasion from Jeremy Martin I have just re-joined the West Africa Study Circle after an interval of almost twenty years and a long flirtation with the study of Japanese Military Mail. My special interest in those far off days was in Togo; in fact Jeremy and I were joint Togo editors for the WASC - we had to be, because we were the only two collectors of Togo at the time! How things have changed, and the increased interest in the subject has prompted me to dig out all the work I was doing concerning the 1915 local overprints on Gold Coast. Amazingly, I seem to have kept most of my material and all of the notes and letters between myself and Jeremy, so I want to take this opportunity of re-launching the study which never saw the light of day, and pool what I know with the newer students in the Circle.

I was always convinced that there were two distinct types of overprinting which took place in Accra, and reviewing my sheets, panes and sheet numbered blocks of the overprints confirms my original thoughts. The two types are distinguished by one being in a light, undamaged but often dirty typeface, positional blocks of which show the so-called constant varieties such as "Small F" and "Thin G", whilst the second type has a much heavier, cleaner impression and shows typeface damage together with the non-constant varieties such as the missing and / or misplaced hyphens and the CCUPATION / CUPATION errors. This second type has sometimes been described as having the word "Occupation" measuring 14.75mm instead of the 14.5mm of the other printing. However, the question still to be answered is "Which overprint came first?"

Preliminary and useful chats with Peter Duggan on this whole subject led us both to the conclusion that the length of the word "Occupation" is extremely difficult to quantify, and it is possible to find blocks or panes of the overprints showing both reported lengths on the same pane, so this is an unreliable way to identify the overprints as well as leading to premature eye failure caused by too much squinting through a magnifier. My own simple evidence of looking at the sheet numbers I possess show that the earlier sheet numbers contain the non-constant varieties, with the later sheet numbers carrying the thin dirty overprint and only the constant varieties. Would that it were so simple, because the exception which seems to prove the rule is that all examples of the 3d white back stamp which was undoubtedly an earlier stamp printing than the 3d coloured back all show the thin, dirty, constant variety overprints. There are many questions to be answered, and it would be very helpful if the Togo collectors could pool information so that we can get a definitive picture of what happened during the Gold Coast local overprinting.

I still have the results of a short questionnaire that I circulated to the Gold Coast and Togo collectors so many years ago, together with my summaries of the results. I would like to expand on this if possible and would welcome any contact with today's Togo collectors so that we can put all our knowledge together. The first step I want to take is to have records of all covers or used stamps carrying clear cancellations of May 1915 so that we can establish if the "thin but dirty" overprints really were the first printing.

Just to give members something else to think about: I am fairly certain that there were two distinct printings of the 1d inverted overprint variety, which makes a nonsense of the "one sheet" catalogue listings. Any comments?

It's good to be back in the Circle and somewhat of a relief not to be deciphering Japanese FPO cancellers from the 19th Century.

John Wilson
Umberleigh
Devon
jw_devon@yahoo.com

✧ ✧ ✧

Ogoja Postmark

Dear Frank,

I note with interest Ted Proud's comments on the Ogoja postmark. There is no doubt that the original postcard does show crosses as opposed to dots. They may not have come out sufficiently well in the *Cameo* reprint. The mark is definitely not Proud's D2.

Robert Nelson
Greatham

✧ ✧ ✧

Withdrawal of Sierra Leone Jubilees

Dear Frank,

Members may be interested in the text of a postcard from the GPO, Freetown stating *"With reference to your enquiry of 9th January 1936, I regret to inform you that the Jubilee Stamps were withdrawn from sale after 31st December 1935 and that they are no longer available".*

Mick Twinn
Birmingham

✧ ✧ ✧



Auction Reports



Missent Mail at Harmers of London, 12 October 1999

This sale had a remarkable world-wide collection of Missent Mail, which included items from many of the countries covered by WASC. Prices realised exclude 15% buyer's premium.

Report by Frank Walton.

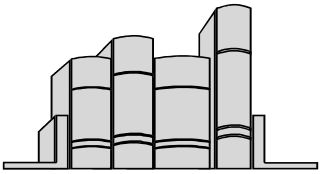
Lot	Description	Estimate	Realised
499	Gambia : 1926 Sweden to Portuguese Guinea with MISSENT TO GAMBIA	£300	£380
502	Gold Coast : 1939 internal cover with MISSENT TO alongside Achimota cds	£100	£150
503	Ghana : 1959 Bechuanaland to Elmina, but twice handstamped MISSENT TO ELMINA, and further RETURN TO SENDER	£100	unsold
504	Ghana : 1959 internal cover with MISSENT TO alongside Lawra cds	£100	unsold
505	Nigeria : 1918 USA to Sierra Leone and 1939 from Canada; two covers with MISSENT TO ONITSHA	£280	£260
518	Nigeria : 1938 Sudan to St Helena with MISSENT TO LAGOS	£80	£140
519	Nigeria : 1939 Scotland to Nigeria with MISSENT TO KADUNA	£180	£240
522	St Helena : 1829 India to Cape of Good Hope with single line MISSENT	£500	£600
526	Sierra Leone : 1886 Portuguese Guinea to Germany; two strikes of MISSENT-TO / SIERRA-LEONE	£650	unsold
527	Sierra Leone : 1889 French internal cover with MISSENT-TO / SIERRA-LEONE	£500	unsold
528	Sierra Leone : 1936 Aden to St Helena with single line MISSENT TO SIERRA LEONE	£180	£170

Sierra Leone Postal History at Postal History Auctions Ltd., London, 5 November 1999

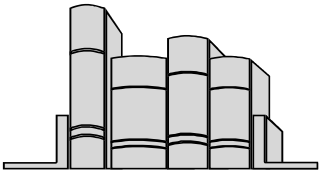
This sale provided a rare opportunity for specialist collectors to acquire scarce postal history material from Sierra Leone. The collection was organised by village, from Aberdeen to Zimmi, in almost 300 lots. Published prices realised are not yet to hand, so values are from my own notes and exclude 15% buyer's premium. There were few people in the room, but a strong book was evident in places. The three WASC members present all seemed to run out of money before lots to buy (I certainly did!), with a fair few lots being apparently unsold. The items detailed below were covers unless otherwise stated.

Report by Frank Walton.

Lot	Description	Estimate	Realised
1061	Baiima : 1907 large double ring cancel (Walton Ref. 004.01)	£200	£220
1111	Daru : 1912 large double ring cancel (Ref. 030.01)	£150	£150
1128	Freetown : 1874 Ireland to Sherbro with UNPAID instructional mark (Ref. 701.01)	£300	£650
1137	Freetown : 1892 London to Freetown with boxed Parti / Gone Away (Ref. 709.01)	(£50)	£50
1146	Freetown : 1912 Nigeria to UK with MISSENT-TO / SIERRA-LEONE on a front	£100	£120
1149	Freetown : 1923 Guernsey to Freetown with six strikes of DÉCÉDÉ (DEAD) s/l	£50	£50
1191	Kambia : 1902 large double ring cancel (Ref. 062.01)	£500	£500
1221	Kychom : 1952 3d stationery envelope to UK (Ref. 083.01)	£20	£65
1223	Lavannah : 1885 good strike of oval cancellation to Germany (Ref. 084.01)	£750	£950
1243	Manoh Salijah : 1889 fair strike of oval cancellation to Germany (Ref. 107.01)	£100	£100
1249	Mano Salija : 1904 card from Nicaragua routed via Mano and Bandajuma	£60	£70
1251	Manowe, Massa Krim, Massa/Massam, Mongheri all on loose stamps	£20	£90
1345	TPOs : Collection 1907-60 of 120 items, including 39 covers	£1500	unsold



Bookshelf





West African Censorship (Second Edition) by Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton. 130 A4 pages, hardbound. Published by the West Africa Study Circle. ISBN 0-9525687-6-4. Available from the WASC librarian, Dudley Ingoldby-Williams, Field House, Northfield Avenue, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames RG9 3PB, United Kingdom. Price £25 (non-members) or £20 to WASC members. Postage & packing £4.00 UK, £5.00 Europe airmail, £10.50 Zone 1 airmail (eg USA), £12.00 Zone 2 airmail (eg Australia) or £5.50 surface mail world-wide. Reviewed by Charles Leonard.

The first edition of this book, published in 1993, generated an enormous amount of new information, including many previously unrecorded handstamps and tapes, additional censor numbers and numerous date extensions for the earlier records. This in itself would have been sufficient to justify a second edition, but the authors have also been able to utilise some important original research, notably that undertaken by Bob Maddocks from the official archives in Banjul, and have also taken the opportunity to make considerable improvements in the production of the book. Much of the background information has been considerably amplified and a source list given for the many references used. A useful index has also been included. All these improvements have added a further thirty pages, despite the use of a smaller, though neater and clearer, typeface, and the book is now hardbound, with gold titling on the spine (which makes it much easier to find on the library shelf). In short, this is a vastly superior production, for which the authors should be congratulated, and is recommended, even to those who already possess the first edition.



The Cancellations and Postmarks of Nigeria 1914 - 1980 (Second Edition) by Neville Jones.
285 A4 pages, hardbound. Published by the West Africa Study Circle. ISBN 0-9525687-7-2. Available from the WASC librarian, Dudley Ingoldby-Williams, Field House, Northfield Avenue, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames RG9 3PB, United Kingdom. Price £35 (non-members) or £30 to WASC members. Postage & packing £5.00 UK, £6.00 Europe airmail, £12.50 Zone 1 airmail (eg USA), £14.00 Zone 2 airmail (eg Australia) or £6.00 surface mail world-wide. Reviewed by Robert Nelson.

This monumental work revised and extended from the first edition overlaps Ted Proud's work on Nigeria. Proud goes from earliest times to 1960 (independence) whereas Neville Jones' work goes from 1914-1980. It illustrates the vastness of the subject when one finds postmarks from the same period in one work and not in the other and vice versa. Further from the sheer volume of the postmarks there must be marks yet to be discovered. Neville Jones has resisted the temptation of giving valuations or scarcity markings and is thus to be praised. The temptation of giving an example a high rating when one has one example is all too tempting. The virtue of this book, apart from the sheer numbers of postmarks recorded, is the simple, concise and clear foreword that gives definitions. Alas, these are not always followed in the text; for example, the recording of the postmarks with and without asterisks is sometimes confusing. The odd typo and the fact that in my copy page 64 is not printed are small quibbles. I do wish however that the illustrations of the postmarks were more comprehensive and of better quality, Ted Proud's book certainly scores here. However this is a book that no collector of Nigerian postmarks can afford to be without.

Macarthy Island Registered Handstamp

Stewart Duncan

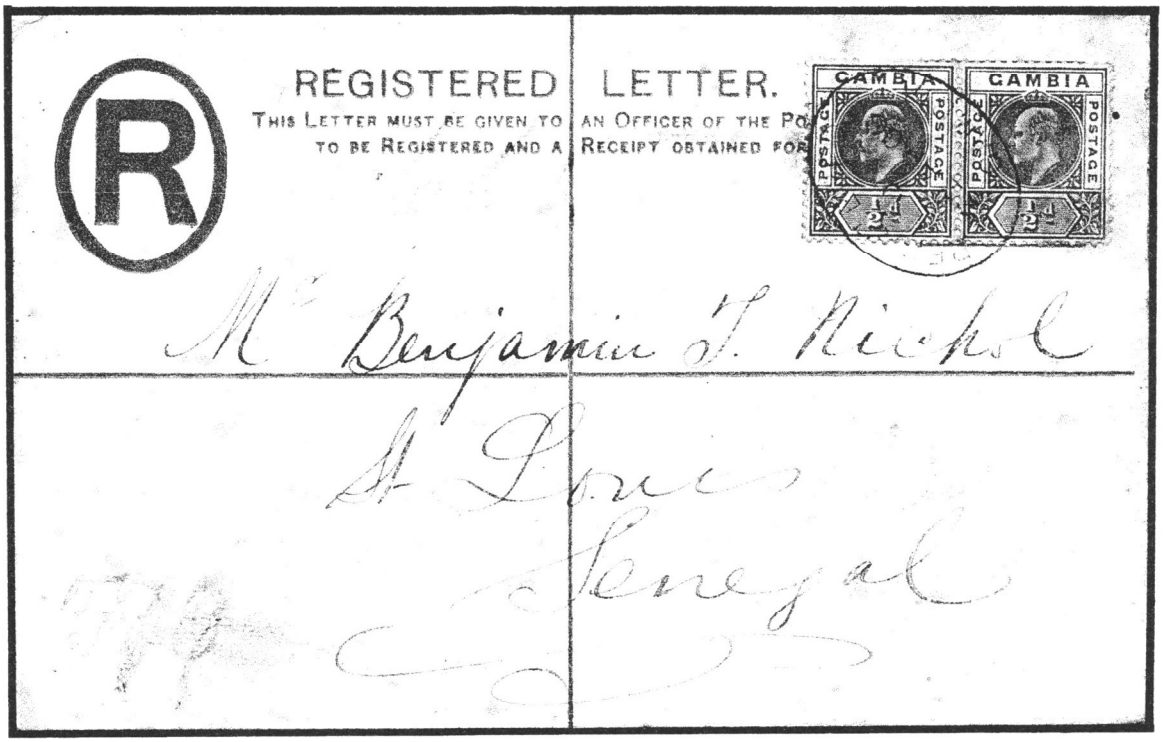


Figure 1: Postal stationery envelope with small registered oval cancellation on front

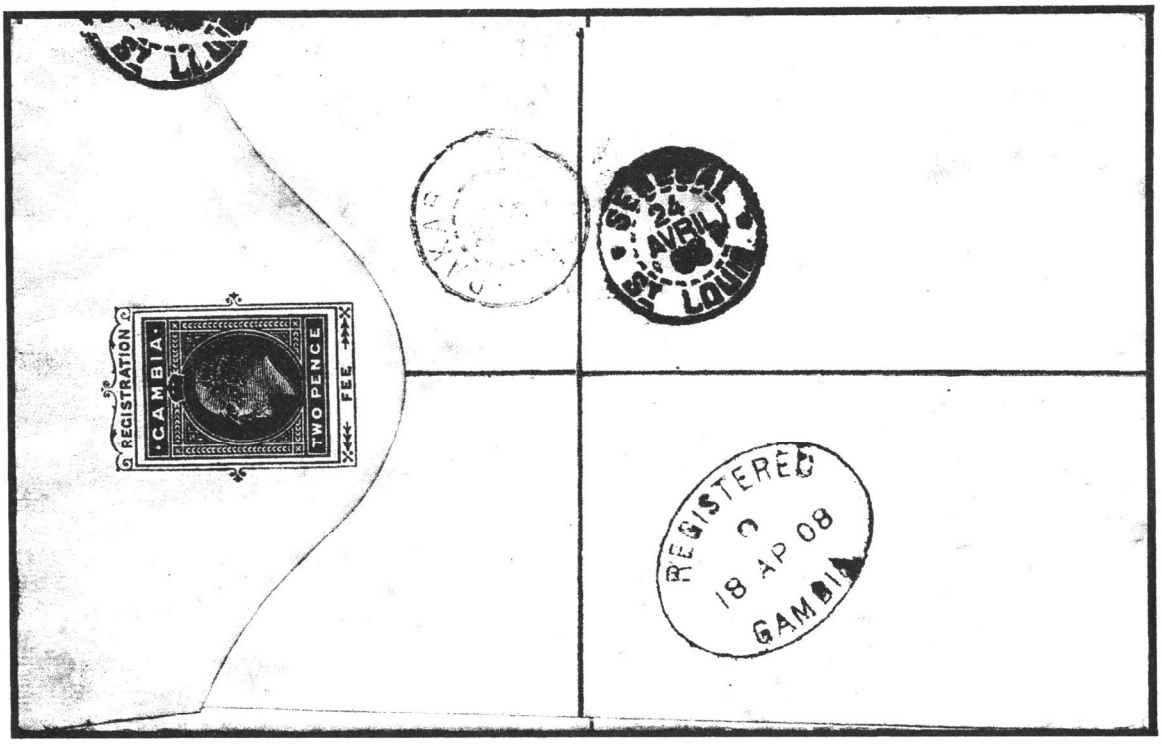


Figure 2: Reverse of Figure 1 showing larger registered oval cancellation



Figure 3
Registered oval measuring 30 x 23mm
Andrew Type Reg 2



Figure 4
Registered oval measuring 32½ x 25mm
Andrew Type Reg 3

Beale and Martin record in their book (Ref. 1) proof strikes of Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 above. Proud (Ref. 2) also illustrates the above, recording that Fig. 3 was sent on 17 January 1901, and allots Fig. 4 to the new post office opened at Macarthy Island on 15 April 1904, although I have seen no other evidence to support this up until now. Andrew (Ref. 3) illustrates Fig. 3 with the code letter C up on its back and also states that Fig. 4 was despatched on 22 May 1904.

Macarthy Island was the colony's first country office and lies approximately 160 miles up river from Bathurst.

The Type RPI (Ref. 4) registered postal stationery envelope, illustrated by Figs. 1 & 2 opposite, was sent to Senegal on 18 April 1908. It received a Fig. 4 REGISTERED GAMBIA 18 AP 08 with code C down on the reverse and a Fig. 3 REGISTERED GAMBIA 22 AP 08 code C up cancelling the adhesives, arriving at Dakar on the 23 April and St. Louis on the following day. Since the registered handstamps are four days apart it would appear to confirm that Fig. 4 had been allocated to Macarthy Island.

Mike Roberts (Ref. 5) illustrates how mail was handled at Macarthy Island, with the forwarding country office applying its acceptance on the reverse of the envelope. As the code letters in the handstamps point Fig. 3 up and Fig. 4 down was this used to differentiate between up and down river postings? Incidentally cancellations of Fig. 3 are recorded with C facing right, left and up, - had more than one canceller been sent on 17 January 1901? It seems strange that the counter clerk would require to change the code setting each time the date plugs were altered. Does anyone else have a C facing down before 18 June 1914, when Macarthy Island received a new registered handstamp?

The short time taken to deliver this letter compared to that taken when the airmail service commenced in 1926 begs the question was the Aviso (fast boat) service (Ref. 6) still in operation?

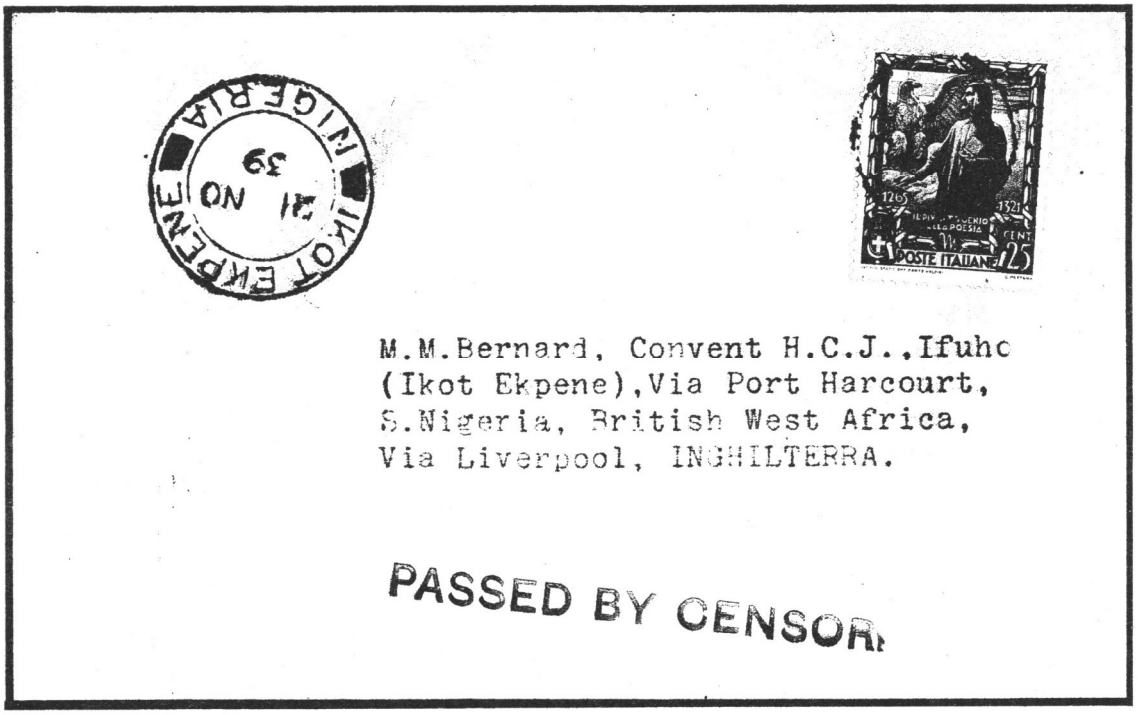
References

1. Beale P.O. and Martin J.J.. *The Post Office Impression Books*, p12, BWASC 1981
2. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of the Gambia*, pp217 & 235, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995
3. Andrew J.O. (Ed), *The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia*, pp125 & 128, Christie's Robson Lowe with the West Africa Study Circle, 1985
4. Andrew J.O. (Ed), *The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia*, p101, Christie's Robson Lowe with the West Africa Study Circle, 1985
5. Mike Roberts, "Macarthy Island Covers of 1913", *Cameo*, Volume 4 pp210-1, WASC, July 1993
6. John Sacher, "Aviso – Postal Senegal", *Cameo*, Volume 4 p27, WASC, July 1990

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Nigeria 1939 Censored Postcard

Rob May



Seeing the second edition of Martin and Walton (Ref. 1) at the 1999 weekend meeting at Chester reminded about the postcard illustrated, which I showed to Jeremy Martin a few years ago. It is a postcard from the office of *The Pylon*, a Roman Catholic mission magazine based in Rome. It is pre-printed specifically for Nigerian missions apologising that the war had forced suspension of the October 1939 issue. The postmark is illegible but there is a clear arrival mark for Ikot Ekpene of 21 November 1939. It carries a straight line PASSED BY CENSOR. in mauve. At this stage Italy had not joined the war, but mail from Italy would be likely to be of interest to the censors in view of Mussolini's Fascist government and pro-Hitler policies.

No straight line censor marking is recorded in Nigeria during the second world war, though there is reference in this book to a first world war straight line handstamp on a prisoner of war cover, which is not illustrated (Ref. 1). Similar straight-line handstamps are recorded for Sierra Leone during the First World War.

Letters and cards were usually censored at source or in transit, not on arrival. Clearly this mark is not Italian. To reach Nigeria it is addressed "via Liverpool", so does anyone recognise this marking from other mail via that port?

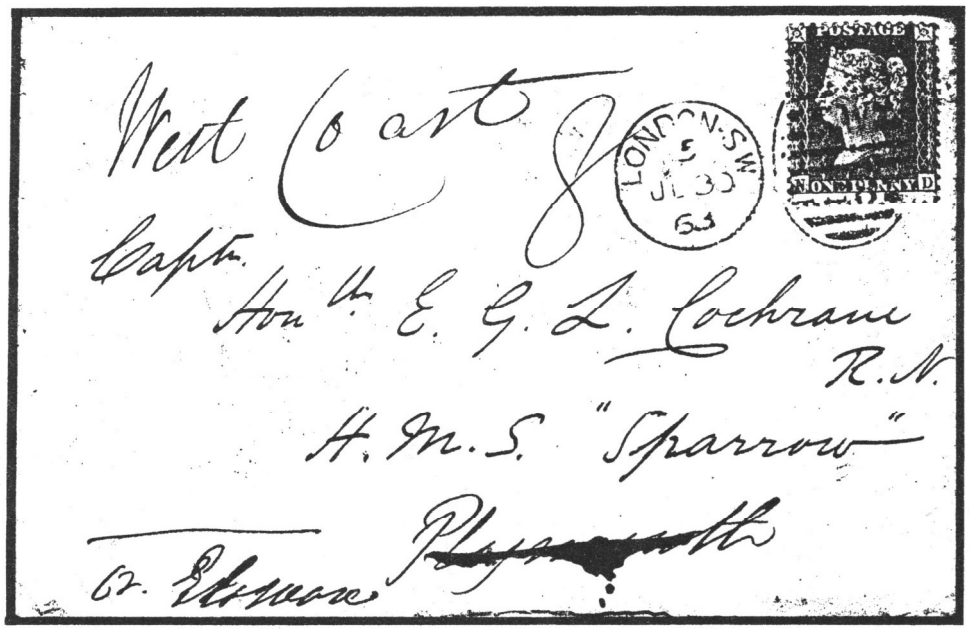
Bob Maddocks, reporting on Gambian records in Cameo (Ref. 2), has found 1941-dated instructions from London that a "Passed by Censor" handstamp was to be used on letters that were submitted open and on postcards. These instructions are unlikely to be unique to Gambia but explain the use of this unusual mark, even if it does not help with its origin.

References

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p56, WASC, 2nd Edition 1999
2. Bob Maddocks, "Further notes on Postal Censorship in West Africa during WWII", *Cameo*, Volume 5 p68, WASC, July 1995

HMS Sparrow 8d Rate

Geoff Osborn



30 June 1863 : Cochrane Cover from London to *HMS Sparrow* at Plymouth 'or elseware' (sic)

This cover is from the well-known Cochrane correspondence associated with West Africa. *HMS Sparrow* was a five gun wooden screw gun-vessel of 430 tons, 8 HP. From the public record office I have obtained details from the *Sparrow*'s log book which help understand the postal markings:

Log Book		Postal Markings	
18 Apr 1863	Left Plymouth for West Africa	30 Jun 1863	London duplex
30 Jun 1863	at St Paul de Loanda	1 Jul 1863	Devonport (backstamp)
17 Jul 1863	at Ascension	2 Jul 1863	Liverpool (backstamp)
10 Aug 1863	arrived at Sierra Leone	10 Aug 1863	Sierra Leone (backstamp)
13 Aug 1863	"sailed mail str *Armenian*"		

The post office notice that is illustrated by Philip Beale (Ref. 1) states that in 1852 the mails for Sierra Leone were made up on the 24th of each month; a normal transit time would thus fit with the Sierra Leone arrival mark of 10 August, but I do not know whether this was still the monthly cycle in 1863.

The letter was pre-paid at 1d in London, but I cannot explain the '8' manuscript charge.

It would be much appreciated if anybody could shed any light on either the ship which carried this letter to Sierra Leone, or the charge of 8d that it attracted.

Reference

1. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...* , p7, RPSL, London 1988

Origins of Cape Coast "Combination" Cancellations on Queen Victoria Gold Coast

Peter Newroth

Queen Victoria Gold Coast stamps occasionally are found bearing two cancellations. After they first caught my eye about 15 years ago I began to search for them and put them aside for later study.

I found no published references to these "combination" cancellations other than passing reference in auction sale catalogues. Several years ago, Michael Hamilton, a member of the West Africa Study Circle at the time, kindly shared his dealer's list of Gold Coast that included some combination cancellations. I checked lists from other dealers, auction records and several collections belonging to other WASC members and found more examples. Combining this information with over 30 examples in my collection provided a reasonable sample to study.



Figure 1. Strip of five (SG 4) marked AXIM / JY 16 / 80 and CAPE COAST CASTLE / JY / 80 (both in black)

My observations address cancellations of Cape Coast applied in combination with one of seven other towns. Figure 1 illustrates the earliest example recorded (July 1880) on a strip of five Half Penny values. It and another single Half Penny (August 1880) are the only ones seen with a 'Cape Coast Castle' Type 2a cancellation. Nearly all combinations were on single stamps (see example in Figure 2).



Figure 2. SG 7 marked ANAMABOE / AP 6 / 83 (in red) and CAPE COAST/ AP 7 / 83 (in black)

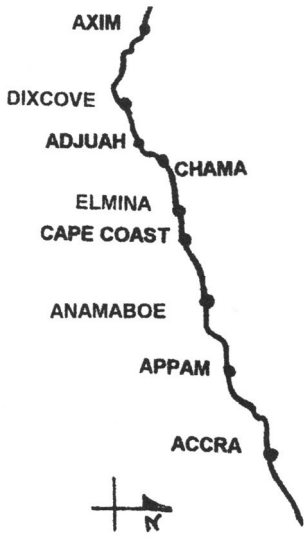


Figure 3. Map of Gold Coast postal towns with Combination Cancellations

Fortunately, most are clearly struck so both towns and dates of cancellations can be deciphered. The Cape Coast date is always either later or occasionally the same day as that of the other town. Most Elmina datestamps are one day earlier and most from Dixcove are several days earlier, reflecting greater distances between the towns and Cape Coast.

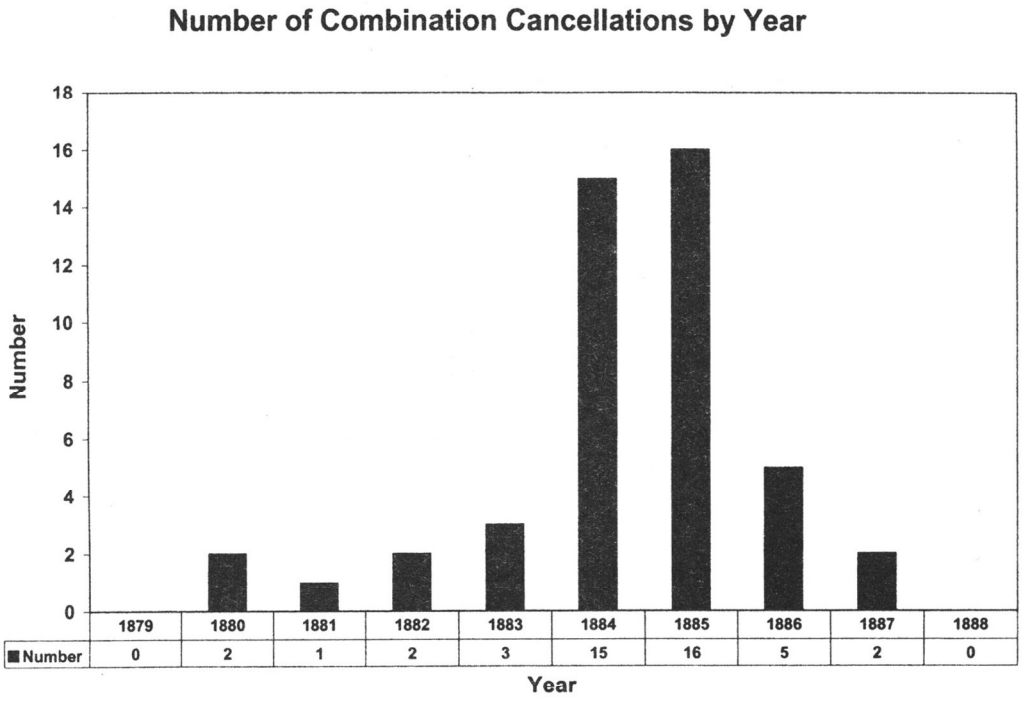


Figure 4. Number of Combination Cancellations plotted by year

Figure 4 graphs the number of cancellations recorded for years between 1880 and 1887. The most frequent examples are dated 1884 and 1885.

Records of the number of examples and range of dates of usage seen are listed below for each town, ranging geographically from west to east along the Gold Coast shoreline (see Figure 3):

Town	Examples	Earliest	Latest
AXIM	2	1880	
DIXCOVE	12	1881	1885
ADJUAH	1	Date unclear	
CHAMA	2	1885	
ELMINA	27	1882	1887
CAPE COAST	51	1880	1887
ANAMABOE	7	1883	1885
APPAM	1	1884	

The numbers of examples found on various duties were: Halfpenny (3), One Pence (4), Two Pence (25), Four Pence (12) and Six Pence (1).

Also, I mention for the record that I have single examples of combinations of other towns (Adjuah - Elmina; Appam - Axim) but cannot draw conclusions about them at this point. In vain, I searched for examples of combination cancellations on cover.

Conclusions and Interpretations

The preponderance of stamp duties used indicates items with combination cancellations probably franked overseas mails. At that time Inland mails were rated at 1d, while the basic Overseas letter rate was 4d per half ounce.

The peak period for combination cancellations was 1885. Official records on overseas mails or documentation of Gold Coast packet services in the early 1880s are sparse. However, Beale (Ref. 1) reproduced a file dated August 1886 from the GPO record for the Gold Coast that stated:

> *"Mails are not dispatched by any of the Branch Offices to the United Kingdom or to any Intercolonial Ports. Accra and Cape Coast being each the Chief Office of the respective Districts all correspondence is sent to these offices for transmission to its destination."*

This evidence probably explains the origin of the combination cancellations and the forwarding procedure recorded in August 1886 also was applied earlier. All towns with combination cancellations except Appam were Branch Receiving Offices for the Western District with Cape Coast as its Chief Post Office.

I believe the combination cancellations resulted from a routine practice in Cape Coast in the period 1880 to 1887. Mails originating in other Western District towns and leaving the Colony usually received a second Cape Coast datestamp directly on the stamps. While not all mail may have been treated this way, perhaps this practice was a habit of a particular clerk. The Blue Books record only two postal staff consistently on duty at Cape Coast during this period. While J.F. Thompson was Cape Coast Postmaster from 1884 to 1897, H.R. Blankson was the Clerk and Sorter from 1880 through 1890, and he probably was responsible for marking mail.

My collection includes very few cancellations without the Cape Coast combination from these towns during 1882-1887. This tends to confirm the routine nature of the practice which gradually became discontinued.

Why did no examples emerge to date with Saltpond cancellations? Saltpond also was in the Western District but there may have been low mail volume originating there or perhaps mails were picked up more frequently from Saltpond by passing steamers. This needs further research. The same question also might posed for Accra, as no combination cancellations are recorded incorporating Accra.

The Post Office Annual Report for 1888 indicated that only five Post offices (Accra, Cape Coast, Kwitta, Saltpond and Axim) exchanged Ocean Mails at that time. Other intermittent stops were made at various Gold Coast towns.

I welcome comments and suggestions on these interpretations from Circle members - especially reports of covers that may help to explain these interesting cancellations.

Thank you to Ian Anderson and Michael Ensor for letting me examine and record parts of their collections, to Michael Hamilton for sharing his cancellation records, and to Ted Proud for providing photocopies. Also thanks to Jack Ince for reviewing the draft and for his helpful suggestions.

Reference

1. Beale, P.O., *A West African Circulation List of 1886*, Postal History International, pp21-31, January 1975

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Ghana - Beg or Borrow!

Ian Anderson

I have recently become Study Circle editor for Ghana, a country that very few members (including me) actually nominate as an interest in the membership list. I **beg** contact with those members who do have a section of their collections, a small album, a shoebox or a single interesting item of Ghana. Please tell me if you are interested in stamps and varieties, postal history or what?

At present, I am attempting to compile a postmark listing, continuing on from Mike Mackin's excellent Gold Coast book published by the Circle. Does anyone have a postmark collection on stamp or cover? I would be delighted to **borrow** originals or photocopies for viewing and to correspond to share information. Perhaps you have no interest in Ghana but have accumulated some items in mixed purchases – in my attempt to build a reference collection I could be a buyer of your unwanted material.

Please contact: Ian Anderson, 57 Manse Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7SR. Email: ianderson@sit.co.uk

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Damaged Axim Handstamp?

Roy Cooper

The illustrated postmark is struck twice identically on a Gold Coast post card which is headed by the sender *Axim, 9 August 1887*. It appears to be a damaged version of the small AXIM datestamp set with code A, Mackin Type 2. Can anyone provide further information?



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Advertisement

Gold Coast Postmarks

Although I have collected an extensive range of village postmarks I would appreciate the opportunity to exchange (or buy) from other members. I seek all types from the elusive "Clearing House" to many of the later type 21s.

Ian Anderson
57 Manse Road
Edinburgh EH12 7SR

Advertisement

Gold Coast Plate Numbers

I wish to fill gaps in my plate number collection of Queen Victoria through to George V keyplates. Hence I would like to hear from any member who may have plate singles or blocks available for sale or exchange.

Ian Anderson
57 Manse Road
Edinburgh EH12 7SR

West African Airmail First Flights, Part 2

Jeremy Martin

The first part of this listing appeared in the previous *Cameo* (Ref. 1). Again, further information would be most welcomed.

1937

12 February	Brussels [Belgium] - Lagos [Nigeria] by Sabena. Cover marked *1st flight*, but no backstamps.
1 March	Aeromaritime began a weekly service Dakar [Senegal] - Monrovia [Liberia] - Abidjan [Ivory Coast] - Takoradi [Gold Coast] (3 March) - Lome [Togo] - Cotonou [Dahomey].
5 March	Return Aeromaritime flight Cotonou - Dakar (7 March).
27 March	47th Bomber Squadron, RAF. Khartoum [Sudan] - Fort Lamy [Chad] - Maidugari [Nigeria] - Sierra Leone. Muller (Ref. 2) gives 27 April 1937.
17 May	Aeromaritime extended their service Dakar - Cotonou to Douala [Cameroons] - Libreville [Gabon] - Port Gentil [Gabon] - Pointe Noire [Congo].
21 May	Return Aeromaritime flight Pointe Noire - Dakar (23 May).
13 August	Lagos - Accra [Gold Coast] experimental flight by Elders Colonial Airways.
14 August	Accra - Lagos return of experimental flight by ECA.
October	Accra replaced Takoradi as main Gold Coast airport. Aeromaritime begin using Accra.
11 October	Accra - Pointe Noire service by Aeromaritime.
11 October	Accra - Dakar service by Aeromaritime.
11 October	Accra - Lagos inauguration of service by ECA.
13 October	Lagos - Accra return ECA flight.

1938

20 March	Rome [Italy] - Cagliari [Sardinia] - Bathurst [Gambia] - Bahia [Brazil] - Rio de Janeiro [Brazil]- Buenos Aires [Argentina]. First survey flight proper by Ala Littoria for eventual LATI service.
24 March	Agreement made between Air Ministry and British Airways whereby BA responsible for control and management of proposed routes from UK to West Africa and South America and for experimental flights with a view to development of regular services.
2 May	Berlin [Germany] - Stuttgart [Germany] - Bathurst - Natal [Brazil] - Rio de Janeiro - La Paz [Bolivia] - Lima [Peru] by DLH / Syndicata Condor / Lloyd Aereo Boliviano.
24 June	ECA began weekly service Freetown [Sierra Leone] - Bathurst to connect with German service. Due to engine failure it missed the connection.
26 June	Return ECA flight Bathurst - Bissau [Portuguese Guinea] - Bolama [Portuguese Guinea] - Conakry [French Guinea] - Freetown (27 June). Operated by IA for ECA.
1 July	Freetown - Bathurst ECA flight took place.
6 July	UK - Gambia - Freetown (9 July). First all air route via DLH service to Gambia and thence ECA.
3 September	Bathurst - Boloma via ligne Allemagne - South America.
2 November	Mails were accepted from UK for French Guinea and Portuguese Guinea via the German service to Bathurst and thence by ECA Gambia - Sierra Leone.
28 December	BA's Lockheed 14 left London on a survey flight of Lisbon [Portugal] - Casablanca [Morocco] - Agadir [Morocco] - Port Etienne [Mauritania] - Dakar - Bathurst (31 December).

1939

4 April	ECA experimental flight Lagos - Takoradi to test new airport at Takoradi.
5 April	Return experimental flight Takoradi - Lagos.
1 May	Khartoum - Kano [Nigeria] (2 May) - Lagos (2 May) - Accra (2 May) for the extension to Takoradi (2 May) by IA and ECA.
2 May	Regular ECA service Lagos - Takoradi inaugurated.
3 May	Return regular service flight Takoradi - Lagos.
3 May	Takoradi - Accra - Lagos (depart 4 May) - Kano (depart 5 May) - Khartoum (6 May) by ECA and IA to connect with South Africa to UK IA route.
2 June	Freetown - Conakry experimental flight by ECA.
22 June	ECA regular service Freetown - Conakry.
2 July	Conakry - Freetown. First mail acceptance by ECA.
15 July	ECA withdrew Bathurst - Freetown service as being uneconomic.
End August	German DLH service ceased.
3 September	UK and France declared war on Germany.
September	Governor of Sierra Leone arranged for Aeromaritime to carry mail from Freetown to Dakar for onward conveyance to Europe by Air France.
4 October	First flight Aeromaritime Freetown - Monrovia [Liberia] - Abidjan - Takoradi - Cotonou - Douala - Pointe Noire.
24 November	BOAC established.

Abbreviations

BOAC	British Overseas Airways Corporation
ECA	Elders Colonial Airways
IA	Imperial Airways
DLH	Deutsche Luft Hansa

References

1. Jeremy Martin, "West African Airmail First Flights", *Cameo*, Volume 6 p194, WASC, July 1999
2. Frank Muller, *Catalogue des Aérogrammes du Monde Entier 1950*, pp194-5, Re-edition de la FISA, 1970

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Sierra Leone Design Error

Don Carter & Frank Walton

In July 1999 Sierra Leone issued a stamp honouring Dick Rutan and Jenna Yeager and their aircraft *Voyager*. Dick and Jenna made the first non-stop flight around the world without re-fuelling their aircraft, which was designed by Dick's brother Burt. The plane carried 9,000lb of fuel. The flight lasted from 14 December 1986 until 22 December and covered a distance of 26,000 miles. Unfortunately the designers of the stamp have spelt Dick's first name as 'Nick'.

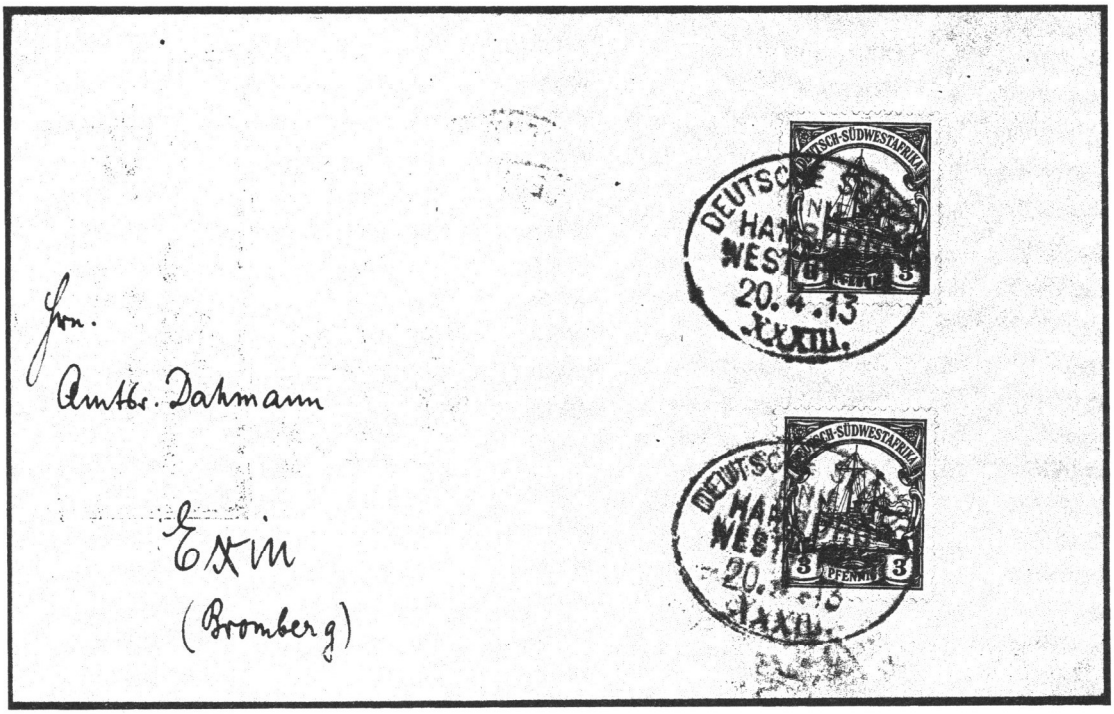
This information is reproduced with permission from the SLSC web site (Ref. 1).

Reference

1. *The Sierra Leone Stamp Collector*, http://sapphire.surgery.wisc.edu/stamps, November 1999

Woermann Line Seapost Cancellations
What do their numbers signify?

Rob May



The German postal service aboard the Woermann Line ships serving West Africa used an oval form of canceller between 1894 and 1939, with a gap in usage between 1914 and 1921. These are very familiar on stamps and covers from most West African territories; inscribed Deutsche Seepost Linie Hamburg – Westafrika. The foot of the oval contains a Roman numeral between I and LVII, plus VIIIa. They are found with and without a full stop, but only XVII is known with and without stop. In that case the version with the stop was not used aboard ship, but was sent instead to the Postal Museum at Berlin. Every number actually used aboard ship is therefore unique.

Philip Cockrill (Ref. 1) states that there is doubt about whether these numerals were personal to the postal clerks or kept with the ships as clerks changed over. His study supports the view that they were allocated personally because there are examples of the same numbered mark passing from ship to ship and also a few examples of ships using different numbers for later voyages.

The postcard illustrated herewith sheds possible new light. The number shown is XXXIII, which is one of the scarcer identifiers. The message confirms the use of the canceller. A translation of the text is:

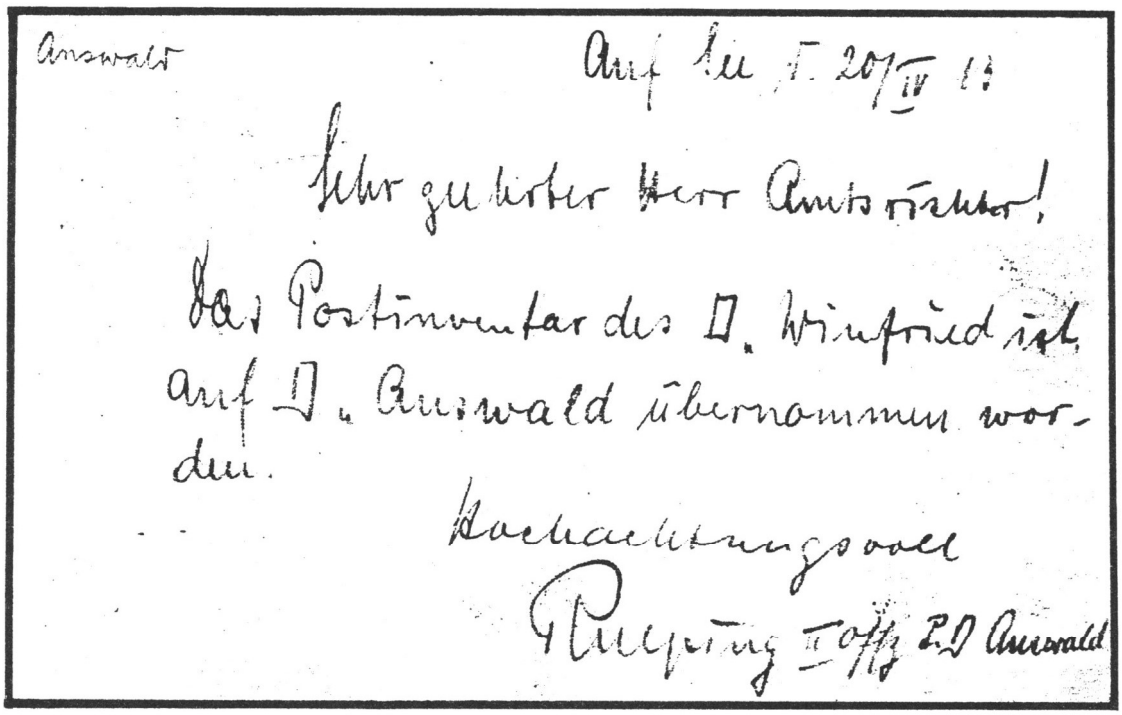
Answald *At sea*
20 April 1913

Your esteemed Mr Judge,

The postal inventory from the Winfried is
aboard the Answald, as named for you above.

(?)

2nd officer P.D. Answald



The *Answald* was a 5,400 ton ship belonging to HBAL chartered by Woermann Line during 1913 and 1914 for several West African voyages. The *Winfried* was also a ship of about the same size chartered from HBAL, although in the 1920s this became one of the regular Woermann Line vessels on the West African roster (Ref. 2).

Winfried's first voyage for Woermann left Hamburg on 8 April 1911. She then made five return voyages, the last docking at Hamburg on 2 April 1913. Czimmek does not list any postal markings for any of these voyages, but Cockrill shows XXXIII for *Winfried* as "1912?"

Answald's first voyage for Woermann left Hamburg on 19 April 1913. This fits very well with the postcard. The postal inventory could very logically have been transferred between the ships. However, did the postal agent also transfer? The word *postinventor* suggests not.

Czimmek shows the XXXIII canceller with the *Answald* from 19 April 1913, the day before this postcard. It was then carried on four return voyages, ending on 25 July 1914. The first, and only other, time Czimmek records the numeral is on the *Mainz* from 29 December 1910 to 16 March 1911. This again fits very well for a transfer of the inventory to the *Winfried* for its first voyage on 8 April 1913.

Turning now to Gottspen and Grimmer (Ref. 3), where it is stated that XXXIII was issued 6 May 1902, but that there was no record of it being carried on any ship before December 1909. They list four postal items with this mark (excluding this postcard) which were:

From Southern Nigeria	20 January 1911
From Kamerun	24 February 1911
From Liberia	10 July 1914
From Togo	26 April 1939

There are not sufficient covers to prove the various changes of ship.

On the strength of the above, I would suggest that these numerals do not refer to particular ships, nor were they personal to the postal agent or purser. I would hypothesise instead that they are inventory numbers, exactly as stated on the postcard.

In their customary methodical style it appears that the German authorities had set up a total of 58 complete postal kits over a period of years, which were allocated from ships stores to the vessels as needed. XXXIII languished in stores for some years before being allocated between 1909 and 1914 to three successive chartered vessels. It then went back to stores only to reappear in 1939! The kits would have been replenished with consumables during each lay-over in Hamburg and the numbering of the kits could have been an aid to this audit and stock control process.

I would like to thank John Mayne for extracting the relevant dates and ships details from his copies of Czimmek and Gottspen & Grimmer for me. Without him this article would not have been possible.

References

1. Cockrill P., *The History, Ships and Postal Cancellations of the Woermann Steamship Line of Hamburg*
2. Czimmek U., *Deutsche Seepost Hamburg-Westafrika 1890-1914*
3. Gottspenn A. & Grimmer L., *Die Deutsche Westafrika Schiffpost 1885-1956*

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Nigeria George VI Definitives 1938-1951

Robert Nelson

I read with interest the article in *Cameo* by Dr Warren concerning the printing dates of this issue. There is a difficulty regarding the dates of issue of the penny rose red SG50a similar to the difficulty concerning the Gambia penny-halfpenny SG152. Rose red pennies on cover have been discovered which have caused Stanley Gibbons to alter their original listing of the date of issue of the penny rose red.

I have a cover from the Cameroons bearing a halfpenny green and a penny rose red addressed to England, the postmark being Victoria Cameroons under British mandate dated 1939. Unfortunately, the balance of the postmark is indistinct save the figure 5 of the month date. Additionally, I have a George V 1d postal stationery cover sent by airmail to the UK on 29 May 1938 from Awka. This bears a copy of the 1d rose red and a copy of the 1d carmine and three copies of the previous George V issue to make up the 6d rate. It is therefore certain, both because of the rates and the dates, that the figure given in the *Cameo* for the date of the issue of the rose red, namely 15 March - 27 April 1940 cannot be right. The issues of 1938 and 1939 must have contained some rose red printings.

It would be interesting to know whether other members have covers from 1938-1939 bearing a penny rose red.

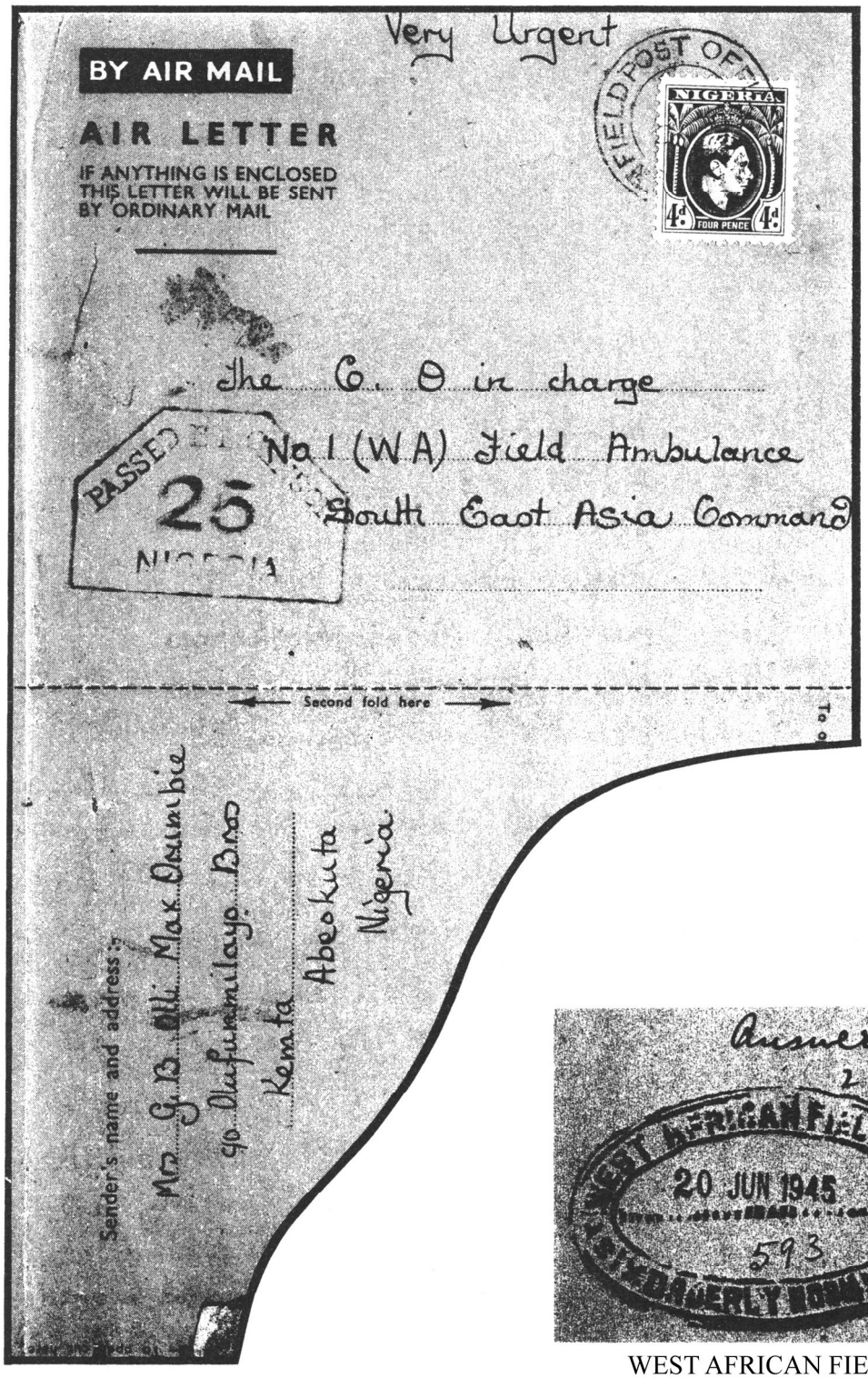
As an appendix I would add that I have covers dating from 8 June 1940 and 27 January 1941 bearing 1d rose carmines. It would therefore seem that a rose carmine shade was issued with the 15 March - 27 April 1940 issue.

Reference

1. Daniel Warren, "Nigeria George VI Definitives 1938-51", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp216-220, WASC, January 1997

Nigeria Censor Number 25

Neville Jones



The new edition of Martin & Walton (Ref. 1) has included a major revision of the Nigeria World War II civil handstamp Type 1.

This series was generally not used beyond the end of 1942, although numbers 19 and 25 are recorded after this date. I have a cover in my collection that extends the usage considerably.

It was written on 30 May 1945 by a civilian in Abeokuta to the Commanding Officer in charge of No. 1. (WA) Field Ambulance, South East Asia Command. The stamp is cancelled by an unclear FPO datestamp.

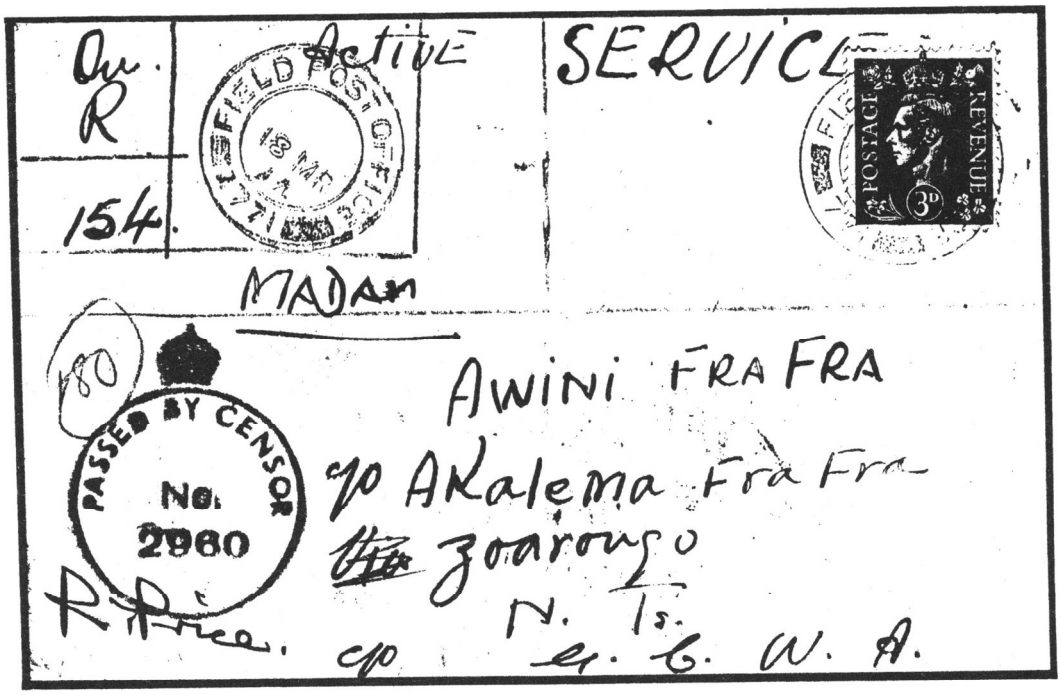
WEST AFRICAN FIELD AMBULANCE
SIX ORDERLY ROOM unit handstamp

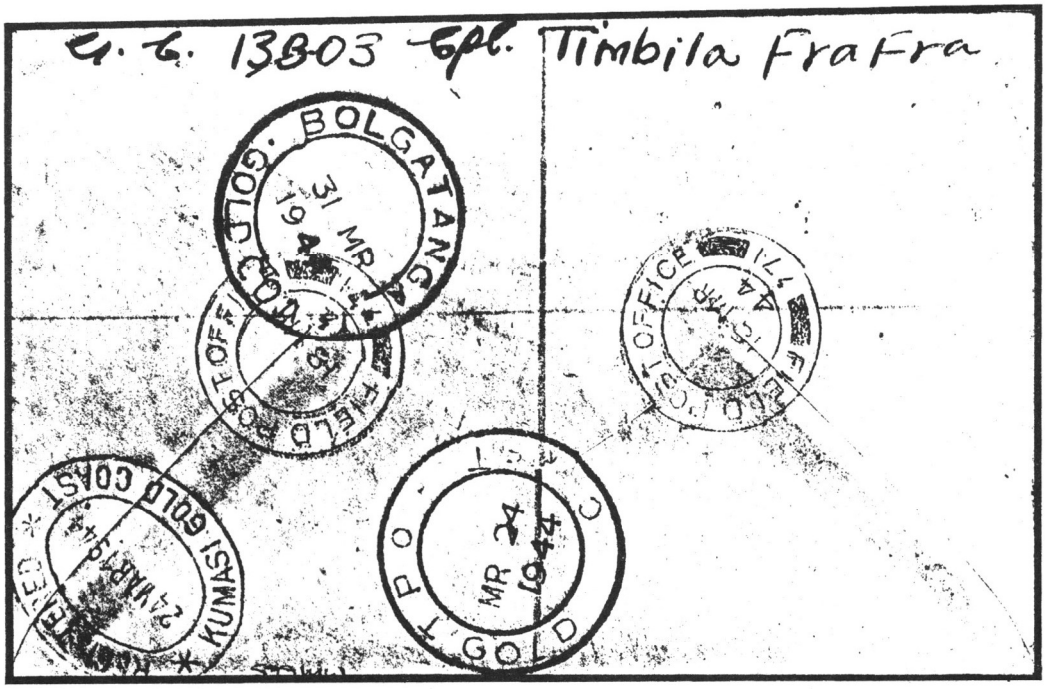
Reference

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p59, WASC, 2nd Edition 1999

Gold Coast TPO New Discovery

Robert Nelson





The cover illustrated above was sent by a Gold Coast soldier on service in Nigeria. 82 Division WAD was allotted FPO 771 and served in Nigeria from 4 March 1944 to 23 April 1944, before going off to Burma and India (Ref. 1). The envelope is interesting, both for its origins in Nigeria, which is not common, and in particular for the reverse of the envelope which shows a Gold Coast TPO mark of 24 March 1944. It is a Mackin 19B mark (Ref. 2).

Although the soldier was on active service because the cover was registered, a 3d fee was payable and was franked by a GB 3d stamp. The front of the cover shows a military passed by censor mark of Gold Coast origin, although at a date two years after the date shown in Martin and Walton (Ref. 3). I suspect that this could be another example of military censor handstamps travelling with the military unit.

References

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p117, WASC, 2nd Edition 1999
2. Mackin M.T., *The Gold Coast ... Cancellations 1875-1957*, p160, WASC, Revised edition 1990
3. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p52, WASC, 2nd Edition 1999

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Gold Coast George V 15s Duty Plate

Ian Anderson

The 15s and £2 values of the Gold Coast George V definitive series was only issued following the loss of a consignment of 10s and 20s stamps in transit in 1920 (Ref. 1). The 10s and 20s values were immediately withdrawn, and the two new higher values released in their place.

The first printing of the new values was made from the Die I keyplate 9 on 1 March 1921 (Ref. 2). This was the only printing for the £2 value, but demand led to further printings of the 15s on 27 March 1924, 13 June 1924 and 9 July 1925. These final three printings were all from keyplate 11, which was from Die II.



Plate 9, Die I
No duty plate marginal rule



Plate 11, Die II
With duty plate marginal rule

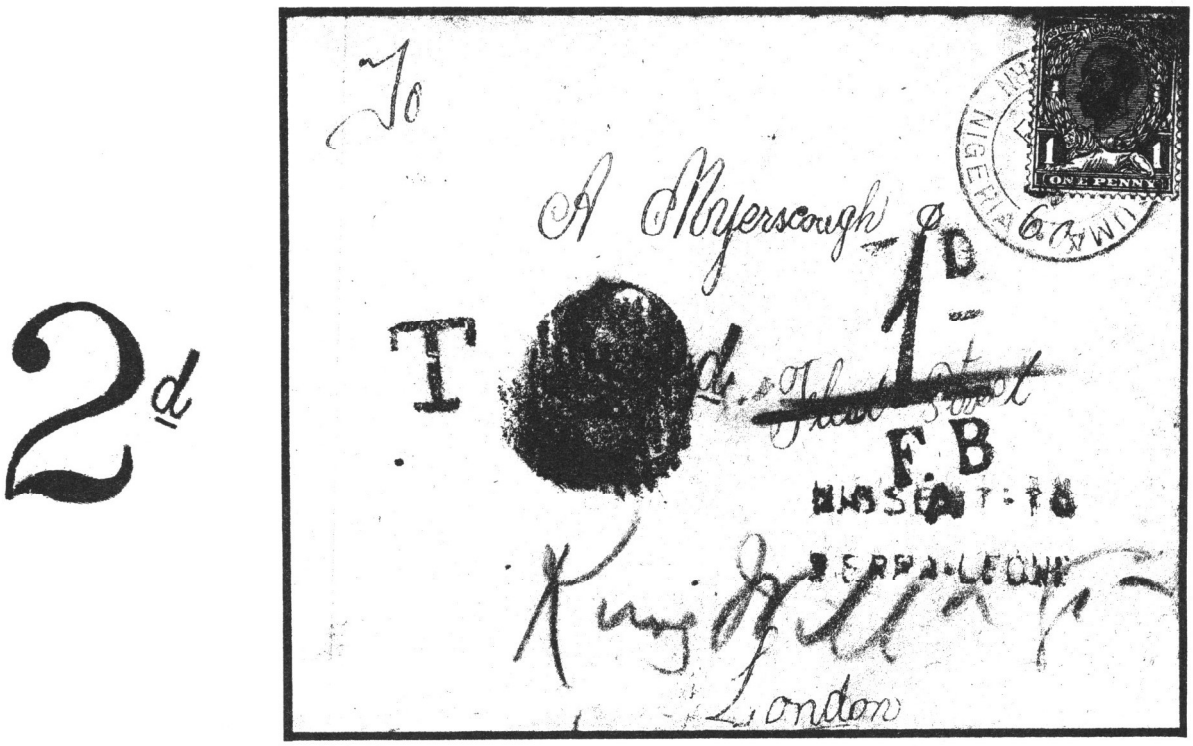
The two plate blocks illustrated above show the use of plate 9 and plate 11 for the 15s value. The blocks also show that the 15s duty plate had been adapted between the first and subsequent printings in that a marginal rule had been added (Ref. 3). It is not clear why this modification was made.

References

1. Ensor M. (Ed), *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957*, p18, WASC, Dronfield 1998
2. Fernbank P.E., *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design*, p200, WASC, Banbury 1997
3. Fernbank P.E., *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design*, pp190-1, WASC, Banbury 1997

Where Was the 2d Applied? (Part 1)

Frank Walton



23 February 1912 : Buguma, Southern Nigeria to London, England

This letter, of which unfortunately only the front and the flap have survived, was initially posted in Buguma, Southern Nigeria on 23 February 1912. The postage was attempted to be paid by a 1d Great Britain stamp which was cancelled by a double ring datestamp, Ince & Sacher Type 7A (Ref. 1). At this date, the letter rate was 1d per ounce (Ref. 2).

There are several other interesting postal markings, but they are not readily put into sequence. The Freetown backstamp ties in with the rare Type 702.01 MISSENT-TO / SIERRA LEONE (Ref. 3), but the T mark, a large 2d handstamp and the obliteration over the 2d are not easy to attribute. The final postmark would appear to be the 1d / F.B / A, almost certainly applied in London.

I have asked a few members to help me unravel the story of this piece, but as yet no-one has come up with a watertight theory that explains all of the markings. John Sacher has suggested that the authorities (in Freetown?) could have applied the T and the 2d on the assumption that the rate was 1d and that the GB stamp was invalid. This could have been cancelled in London and replaced by the 1d charge mark. The 1d would perhaps be double the ½d printed paper rate.

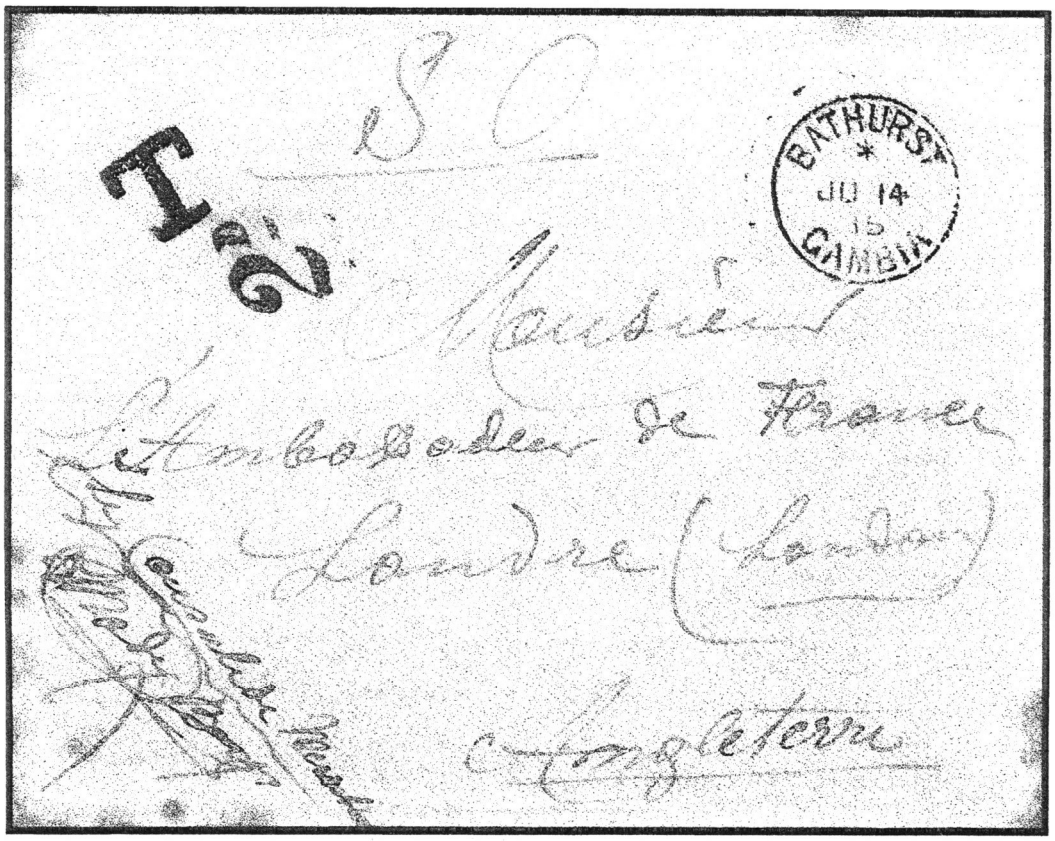
Can anybody shed any further light - especially as to where the 2d was applied?

References

1. Ince J.F. & Sacher J., *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, p353, RPSL, London 1992
2. Ince J.F. & Sacher J., *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, p415, RPSL, London 1992
3. Walton F.L., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, p90, WASC, Sheffield 1990

Where Was the 2d Applied? (Part 2)

Stewart Duncan



14 June 1915 : Bathurst, Gambia to London, England

This stampless cover was first postmarked in Bathurst. There is a manuscript endorsement *S O*, which is presumed to be Official Service. The writing in the bottom left corner indicates that the letter was from the Consul of Mereke in French Equatorial Africa. The T mark was applied in Gambia, but can anybody attribute the 2d mark?

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Southern Nigeria SPECIMEN Postal Stationery

Neville Jones



In my collection I now have a Southern Nigeria KE VII registered envelope, size H (200 x 127 mm), with a rubber handstamped SPECIMEN in violet ink across the 2d imprinted stamp. The letters are unseriffed, measuring 5 mm. Ince & Sacher mention such a handstamp on Victorian envelopes, but not on Edwardian ones (Ref. 1). My measurements agree with Higgins & Gage as to the size of the envelopes; Ince & Sacher give a size of 200 x 100 mm.

Reference

1. Ince J.F. & Sacher J., *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914*, p398, RPSL, London 1992

Sierra Leone Half Penny Provisional Overprint

Tom Butlin

It has been well known since at least 1911 that the half penny provisional overprint of 1893 has produced a wide variety of overprinted stamps all probably caused by the local printer not being particularly conscientious in his work.

In late 1892 stocks of the then ½d stamp for the postage of newspapers and printed papers were running low. The 1½d stamp was chosen because of its small demand at that time. It was necessary, therefore, to overprint 1½d stamp with HALF PENNY and a bar deleting '3 HALF PENCE'. The overprinting was done locally by the Government Printer, Freetown, on any 1½d stamps available at the time. Although the majority of the sheets overprinted were on Crown CA watermarked paper (SG 29), there was a small number overprinted on the older Crown CC stock (SG 18).

Stanley Gibbons' catalogue gives the following varieties:

SG 38	½d on 1½d lilac on Crown CC paper
SG 38a	PFNNY (Row 3 Stamp 1)
SG 39	½d on 1½d pale violet on Crown CA paper
SG 39a	Surcharge inverted
SG 39b	PFNNY (Row 3 Stamp 1)
SG 39ba	PFNNY Surcharge inverted

A note in the catalogue also points out that as the cancelling bars were applied separately, SG 39a exists with the bars either normal or inverted in relation to the rest of the surcharge. This article shows what can be found in this issue. Not all fall within the parameters mentioned above.



Figure 1 : PFNNY Variety

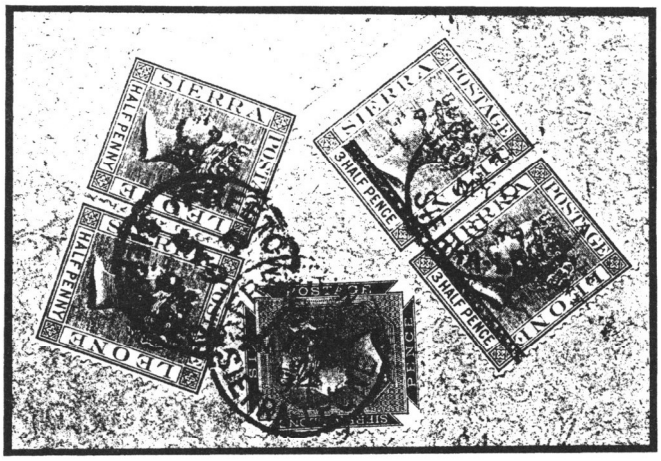


Figure 2 : PFNNY Used on Piece

The first stamp in row three in the pane of 60 has the constant variety of PFNNY for PENNY (Fig. 1). It is relatively common unused, but difficult to find used on cover or piece, as in Fig. 2.

Bertram Poole in his *The Postage Stamps of Sierra Leone* (Ref. 1) stated that the local printers were not too particular about exact adjustment, and consequently stamps with the surcharge too high or too low are not uncommon, as in Figs. 3 and 4.



Figure 3 : Overprint too high



Figure 4 : Bar so low it is on the stamp below

Many of the stamps with overprints misplaced too high have a line ruled by a hand in ink deleting 3 half Pence, sometimes continuous across the sheet and sometimes in a short sections just enough to cancel the value tablet on each stamp (Fig. 5). The overprint can be found inverted with the bar through Postage (Fig. 6) and partially inverted with the bar correctly positioned (Fig. 7).



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Occasionally a stamp has a printed bar at both the top and the bottom of the stamp. This would most likely happen when it was noticed at the time of overprinting that the first bar was in the wrong place (Fig. 8). When the bar has been overprinted beneath '3 Half Pence' but not entirely on the stamp below (Fig. 4) it appears through the perforations both top and bottom (Fig. 9).



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

In Figure 10 "H" and "A" are poorly inked. "P" has been improved with blue crayon or indelible pencil and the bar has fuzzy edges as if it had been drawn with a brush.

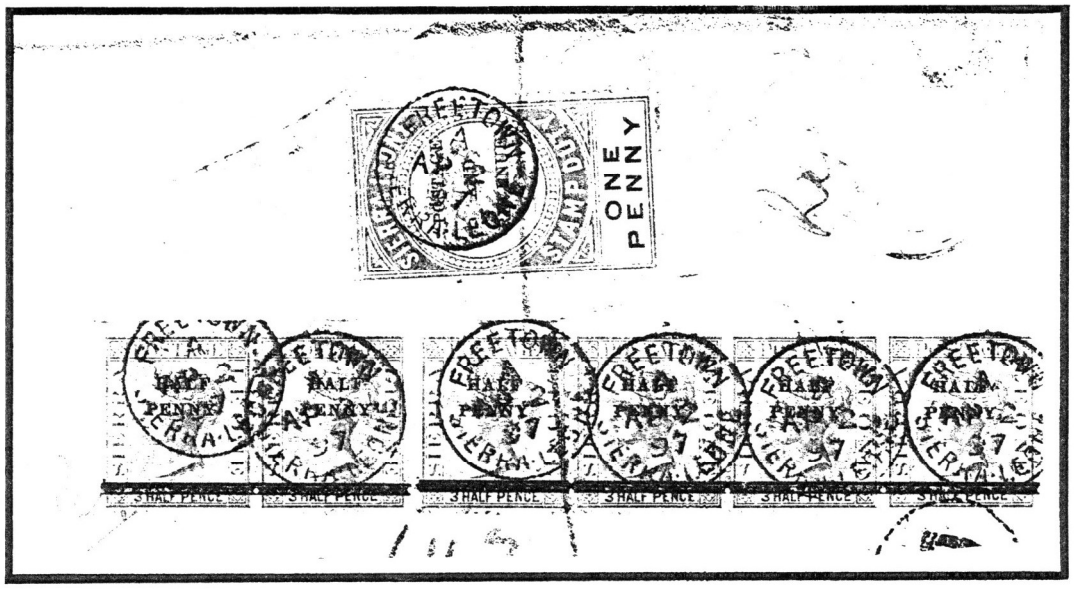


Figure 11 : Registered letter dated 2 April 1897



Figure 12

Although these overprinted stamps being intended for use on newspaper wrappers, ie singly, they were also used for normal correspondence as in Figure 11.

The overprinting can also slip sideways as in Figures 12 and 13. On the strip of five featured in Fig. 13, the third and fourth stamps show a significant sideways slippage. Mysteriously the displacement has been corrected by stamp five.

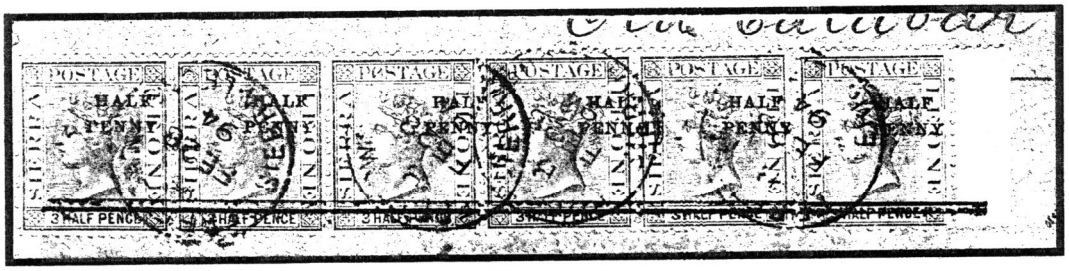


Figure 13 : Piece bearing a strip of five, plus one single

Philip Beale describes how the overprinting was probably done in two separate sessions in that the forme of 60 was reset at some stage. The top six rows were identical on both settings, ensuring that the PFNNY variety is constant on every sheet (Ref. 2)

References

1. Poole B.W.H., *The Postage Stamps of Sierra Leone*, pp20-2, Field, London 1911
2. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...* , pp140-4, RPSL, London 1988

Gold Coast - Thick and Thin Lettering on 2s 6d Value

Peter Fernbank

In his book *The Postage Stamps of the Gold Coast*, H.A. Spowart mentions that the King George V 2s 6d value on Multiple Script CA paper from the 1926-27 printings has the value and duty printed in much thicker lettering than that of the 1925 printing (Ref. 1). At the Chester weekend Ian Anderson showed me two corner pairs from the plate 11 printings which demonstrated both the thick and thin lettering.

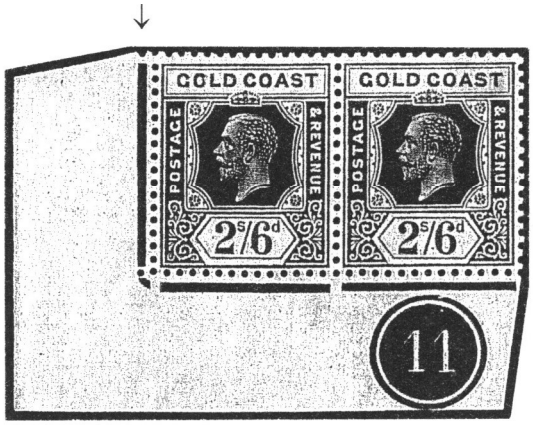


Figure 1 : Thin Lettering

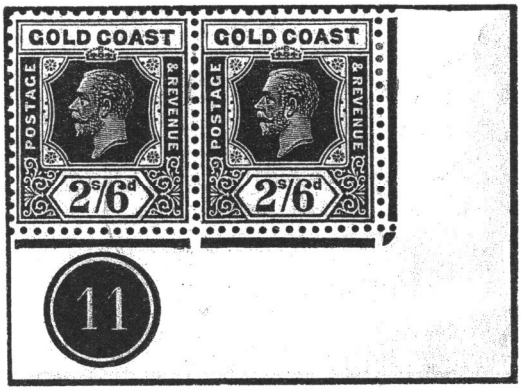


Figure 2 : Thick lettering

Two printings of the 2s 6d value from plate 11 were made, 499 sheets in May 1924 and 512 sheets in July 1926. There has been some debate on whether the thick lettering was the result of a new duty plate being employed for this printing. I do not consider this likely. In my opinion it is the result of the use of an ink of a slightly thinner consistency, which has diffused away from the outline of the typeface. Note that the marginal rule on the bottom left corner pair (Fig. 1) is undamaged.

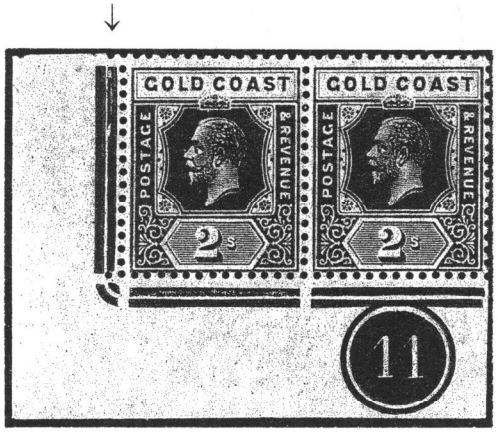


Figure 3 : Minor damage

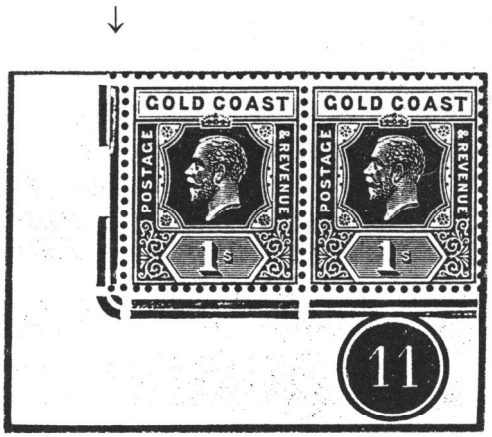


Figure 4 : Increased damage

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate examples of damage to the inner vertical marginal rule on both the 1s and 2s from plate 11. From my study of the King George V Imperium keyplates I have established that this damage occurred at sometime between May 1924 and February 1925, and was constant on all plate 11 printings thereafter. The undamaged example (Fig. 1) must thus originate from the 1924 printing and, by default, the example with thick lettering (Fig. 2) must be from the 1926 printing, confirming Spowart's observation. These examples illustrate the importance of damage to the marginal rules as they often provide a means of dating and differentiating printings in those cases where the details of the various printings are known.

Reference

1. Spowart H.A., *The Postage Stamps of the Gold Coast*, p44, Stanley Gibbons, London 1929

Commemorative Cancellations of Sierra Leone

Philip Quirk

While searching through an accumulation of commercially used Sierra Leone stamps on piece, dating from the late 1960s, I came across one or two examples of four types of commemorative cancellation, all completely new to me. All were used in 1968 and 1969, judging from the stamps, subjects commemorated and the dates on additional postmarks, where present. Their use is not connected with new issues of stamps. For additional information, I am indebted to Peter Rolfe, who kindly provided me with photocopies of items from his collection. The cancellations I found are as follows:

1. International Human Rights Year

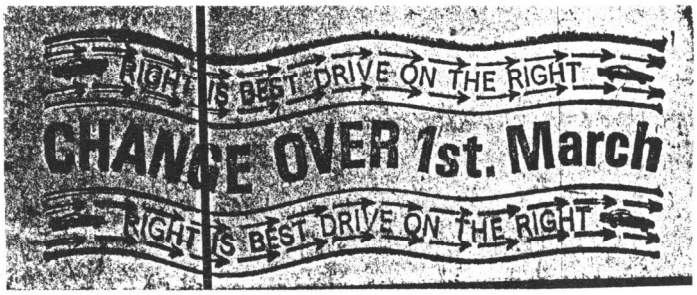
   Unframed rectangle, 45 x 32mm, struck in black. FREETOWN - SIERRA LEONE at top and bottom. In between, the words HUMAN RIGHTS and UNITED NATIONS surround the emblem for International Human Rights Year. Period of use includes May to July 1968.

2. World Health Organisation. Irregular octagon with curved sides and loops at some corners, approximately 45mm wide by 60mm tall, struck in violet. The W.H.O. emblem is surrounded by the curved inscriptions WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION / 20th ANNIVERSARY / 1948-1968. Period of use includes May 1968.

3. Blood donor campaign. Framed rectangle, rounded corners, 66 x 34mm, struck in black. A "+" symbol and SIERRA LEONE, with the inscription Give Your / BLOOD to / SAVE a / LIFE, flank a cartoon figure of a blood donor. Period of use includes June to July 1969.



Type 4



Type 6

4. Gandhi. Framed rectangle, squared corners, 55 x 20mm, struck in black. Inscription not completely legible: GANDHI CENTENARY 1968/69 / TRUTH / NON VIOLENCE / HUMANITY. Period of use includes September to October 1969.

Further types shown to me by Peter are:

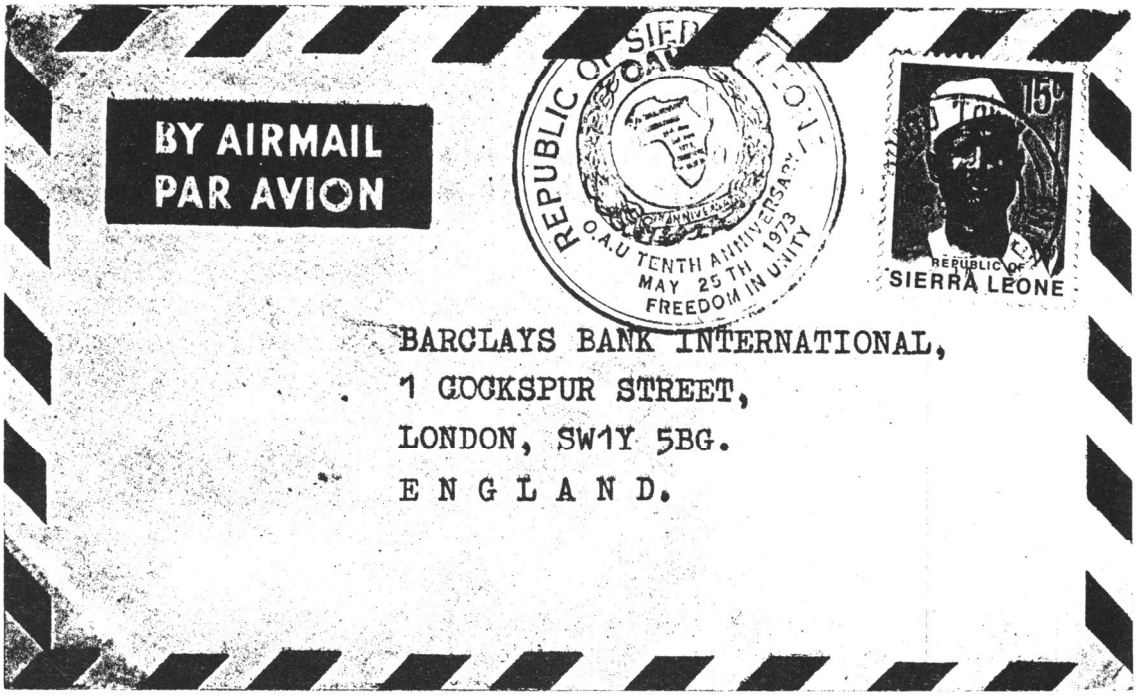
5. International Labour Organisation. framed rectangle, squared corners.
   I.L.O. 50TH / ANNIVERSARY / 1919 (-69?). Period of use includes October 1969.

6. Traffic change-over, 1971.

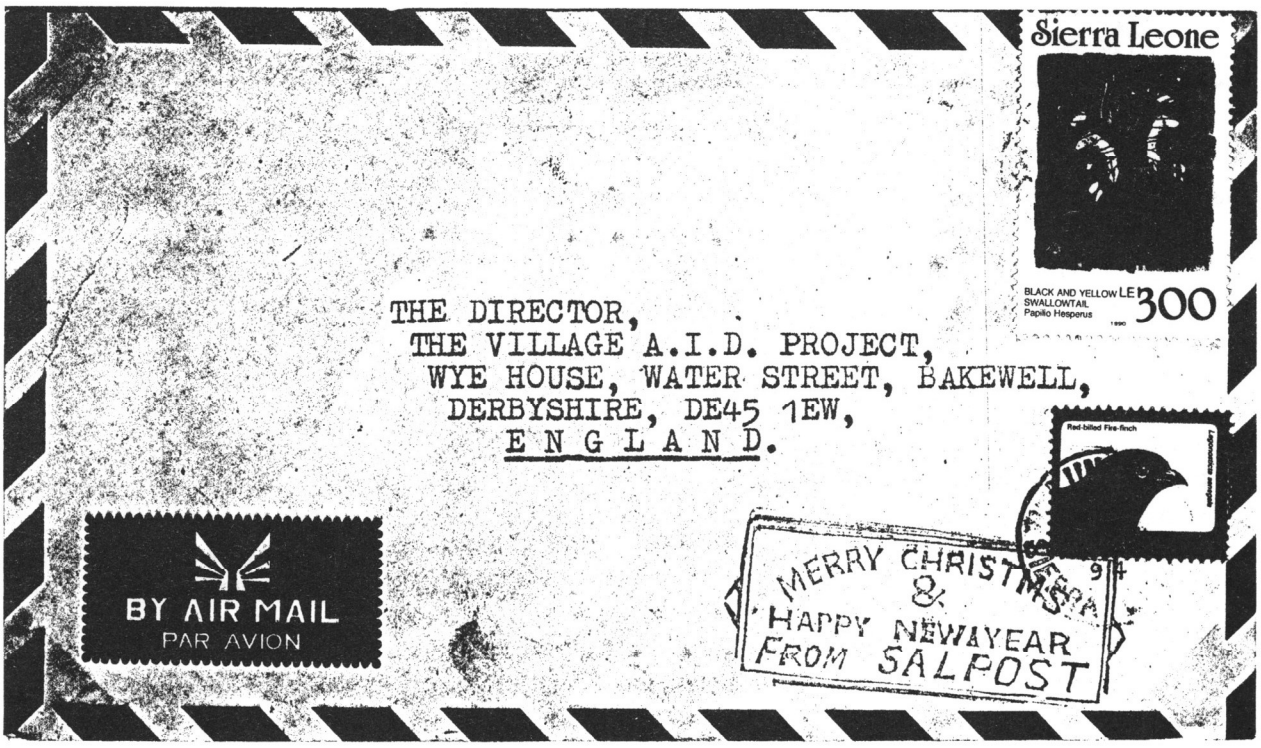
7. Organisation of African Unity, 10th Anniversary, 1973.

8. Africa Refugee Day, 1975.

9. Christmas and New Year greetings, 1994/95. One of the handstamps used in this campaign contained the misspelling "CHRISTMS" for "CHRISTMAS".



Type 7



Type 9

All the examples seen are struck in black or violet (sometimes both). It is likely that all types were applied at Freetown, but only Type 1 includes the town name. They appear to have been used in addition to normal circular datestamps, since the special types do not give the date of posting, even though they were often applied over the stamps. Periods of use of some of the early types may well have overlapped.

Both Peter and I would be most interested in any further information on these items that members might be able to supply.

Short Payment in the Gold Coast 1930-50

Nicholas Carter

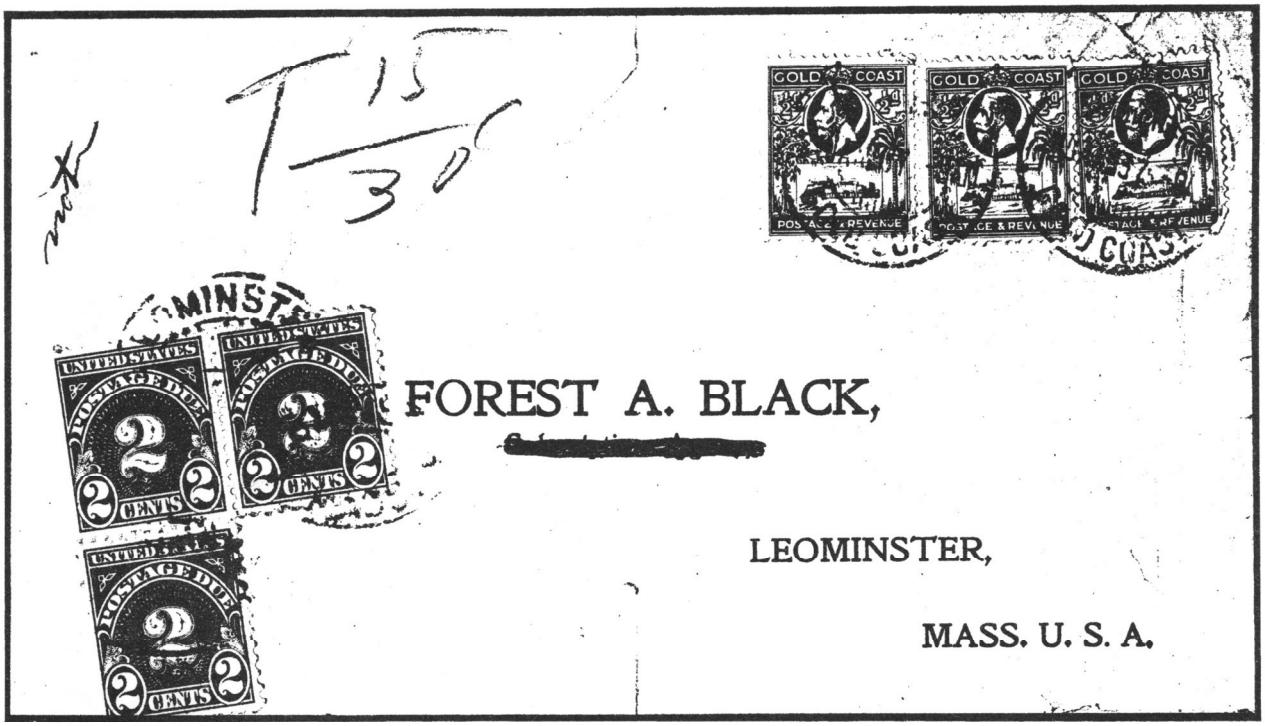


Figure 1 : Accra to Leominster, 1937. 15 centimes (1½d) paid, 15 centimes (1½d) unpaid

The treatment of short payment is an interesting facet of postal history. Unlike ordinary pieces of mail, a letter with short payment markings shows the intervention of a postal clerk with specific knowledge (perhaps not always correct) of the postal rate extant at the time. As postal rates are often ephemeral, the existence of a specific short paid piece, in contrast to a letter which may have been tolerated bearing incorrect prepayment, tells us that particular rate to that particular destination was the correct one at that particular place and time.

The standard UPU practice during the 1930-50 period called for the amount of short payment to be doubled, and then (following the Madrid Conference of the UPU in 1920) expressed in gold centimes on the face of the letter, together with a marking - typically some kind of "T" indicating that a further payment was due. This was then converted to the currency of the receiving country and assessed upon delivery (Ref. 1). During almost all of the period of this article, ten gold centimes were equivalent to one penny sterling and to two US cents; these ratios changed following the devaluation of sterling in 1948.

Inside the British Empire, when due amounts were marked on letters these were in Sterling, and only letters to destinations outside the Empire were marked with centimes. The other colonies in West Africa followed this practice, however the Gold Coast appears to have implemented a more elaborate scheme, which seems to have been unique to that colony. Short paid letters for delivery outside the Empire were frequently marked in gold centimes not only with the amount due, but also with the amount already paid, the two numbers resembling a fraction. For example:

$$\mathbf{T}\ {}^{20}/_{20}\ \mathrm{c}$$

on a letter from the Gold Coast to the USA in 1934 with 2d paid and thus 1d short, meant the following. The "T" indicated that payment was due, the first "20" referring to 20 centimes (2d) paid, the other "20" to the amount due (twice the 1d) and the 'c' to the fact that the expression is in gold centimes.

Figure 1 shows a letter from Accra to Leominster Mass in the USA. The correct rate in 1937 was 3d. The adhesives total to 1½d, converted to centimes gives 15c. Thus 1½d short paid, doubled to 3d, and converted to centimes (at 10c per penny), giving 30c. Upon arrival in Leominster the 30c was converted to US currency (at 5c per cent) and due adhesives amounting to 6¢ were added.

Table 1 lists Gold Coast short paid covers bearing the fraction known to the author. It implies that the practice began in 1931 and was in use as late as 1950. It appears almost exclusively on covers destined for the USA. It should be recalled that for a time before August 1931, the rate to the USA was "uncertain" (Ref. 2), and only between January 1932 and July 1949 was it identical (for surface mail) to the UPU rate. Could it be that the Gold Coast postal authorities instituted this scheme in order to make clear the correct rate?

Table 1 : Gold Coast Short Paid with Fraction

Date	Origin	Destination	Country	Paid (d)	Rate (d)	Short (d)	T Mark	Due Mark	Due(¢)	Notes
8 Jan 1931	Accra	"England", AR	USA	1	1½	½	T (manuscript)	10/10	2	1
3 Nov 1931	Accra	Lourdes	France	2½	3	½	Encircled T	25/10C	10 cntme	2
9 Dec 1932	Kumasi	New York, NY	USA	2½	3	½	Encircled T	25/10	2	3
30 Sep 1933	Tarkwa	Chicago, IL	USA	2	3	1	T	20/20	4	4
9 Oct 1933	Accra	Buffalo, NY	USA	½	3	2½	Encircled T	5/50	10	5
1 Dec 1933	Accra	Buffalo, NY	USA	2	3	1	T (manuscript)	20/20C	4	6
25 Sep 1935	Oda	Polk, OH	USA	1½	3	1½	Encircled T	15/30	6	
26 Apr 1936	Takoradi	Jacksonville, FL	USA	1	3	2	T over…..oz	10/40	8	
19 May 1936	Accra	Cazenovia, NY	USA	1	3	2	Encircled T	10/40	8	7
3 Oct 1936	Korforidua	St.Joseph, MO	USA	1	3	2	T over…..oz	10/40	8	8
21 Jan 1937	Accra	Leominster, Mass.	USA	1½	3	1½	T (manuscript)	15/30	6	9
3 Aug 1937	Kraboa Coal Tar	New York, NY	USA	½	3	2½	T	5/50	10	10
20 Mar 1938	Dunkwa	Chicago, IL	USA	1	3	2	T (manuscript)	10/40	8	
18 Jul 1938	Dabala	Chicago, IL	USA	1	3	2	T (manuscript)	10/40	8	11
20 Feb 1939	Cape Coast	Des Moines, IA	USA	1	3	2	Encircled	10/40	8	12
4 Apr 1941	Keta	California	USA	2	3	1	T (manuscript)	20/20	4	
9 Jul 1942	Abakrampa	California	USA	2	4	2	T over…..oz	20/40C	8	
8 Dec 1942	Asamankese	Fairmont, WV	USA	2	4	2	T over…..oz	20/40C	8	
11 Oct 1943	Sekondi	Philadelphia, PA	USA	2	4	2	T (manuscript)	20/40C	8	13
26 Jul 1948	Korforidua	Washington DC	USA	2½	3	½	Encircled T	25/10	2	14
22 Jun 1948	Accra	Arcadia, FL	USA	1½	3	1½	Encircled T	15/30	6	15
10 Jan 1950	Beraku	Ten Hills, FL	USA	1s 3d	2s 0d	9	Encircled T	150/180C	36?	
10 Mar 1950	Korforidua	Akron, OH	USA	1s 9d	2s 3d	6	Encircled T	210/120C	24?	16

Notes on entries in Table 1:

1) NY "Opera Glass" 2¢
2) Assessed 60¢ on arrival.
3) 2¢ US due stamp.
4) 3¢ US due stamp (correct was 4¢).
5) 5¢ US due, marked "Postage Due Collected"
6) NY Opera 2¢, 2¢ due stamp
7) NY Opera 8¢, also US due stamps of 5¢, 3¢
8) NY Opera 8¢
9) 3 x 2¢ US due stamps
10) via Accra; 10¢ due at destination (NY "Opera")
11) via Akuse
12) Marked "Postage Due 8 Cents"
13) Marked "Postage Due 7 Cents Foreign Sect G.P.O. N.Y."
14) NY Opera 2¢, 2¢ due stamp
15) NY Opera 6¢
16) Marked "Postage Due 40 Cents AMF New York N.Y."

Note that the use of "T…over", which was intended for overweight letters, has been used interchangeably with the ordinary "T" mark.

Table 2 shows other Gold Coast short paid covers during the same period. With few exceptions they show only a "T" mark.

Table 2 : Gold Coast Short Paid without Fraction

Date	Origin	Destination	Country	Paid (d)	Rate (d)	Short (d)	T Mark	Due Mark	Due (¢)	Notes
12 Dec 1930	Cape Coast	New Castle, IN	USA	1	1½	½	T	1d	2	
13 Jul 1931	Sekondi	Hamburg	Germany	2½	3	½	Encircled T	1d	2	1
15 Feb 1932	Accra	New York, NY	USA	1	3	2	Encircled T		8	2
23 Jan 1936	Winneba	New York, NY	USA	1	3	2	Encircled T		8	3
13 Feb 1936	Kumasi	Savannah, GA	USA	2	3	1	Encircled T		4	4
8 May 1937	Cape Coast	St. Peter, MN	USA	1	3	2	Encircled T		8	
12 Aug 1937	Brofuyedru	Chicago, IL	USA	2	3	1	Encircled T		4	5
15 Nov 1937	Sekondi	Chicago, IL	USA	2½	3	½	T	10	2	6
15 Nov 1938	Jumapo	New York, NY	USA	7	1s 0d	5	T (manuscript)	50 C	10	7
24 Jul 1939	Asamankese	Savannah, GA	USA	1	3	2	T over…..oz		8	
3 Jun 1940	Cape Coast	New York, NY	USA	1s 3d	1s 4d?		T (manuscript)	40 C	8	8
2 Feb 1944	Cape Coast	Savannah, GA	USA	1s 6d	?	?	Encircled T			9
3 Nov 1947	Accra	Boston, MA	USA	2	4	2	Encircled T		8	10
2 Sep 1948	Accra	Philadelphia, PA	USA	2	3	1	Encircled T		4	11
12 Dec 1948	Tarkwa	Boston, MA	USA	1	3	2	Encircled T		8	12
30 Dec 1948	Tarkwa	Boston, MA	USA	1	3	2	Encircled T		8	13

Notes on entries in Table 2:

1) "Nachegbuhr 10 pf"
2) NY "Opera Glass" 2¢ (rate effective for 3 weeks, AM etiquette
3) NY Opera 8¢, also US due stamps of 5¢, 3¢
4) 2 x 2¢ US dues; marked "POSTAGE DUE 4 CENTS"
5) NY Opera 4¢
6) Both "T" and "10" stamped in purple ink
7) Air (Imperial) via Accra, surface from London.
8) implied rate 1s 5d; published rate (Jusqu'a UK) was 1s 4d
9) London "jusqua" obliteration of
10) NY "Opera" 8¢
11) "Postage Due 7 Cents"
12) Marked "COLLECT POSTAGE 14 CENTS"
13) Marked "COLLECT POSTAGE 14 CENTS"

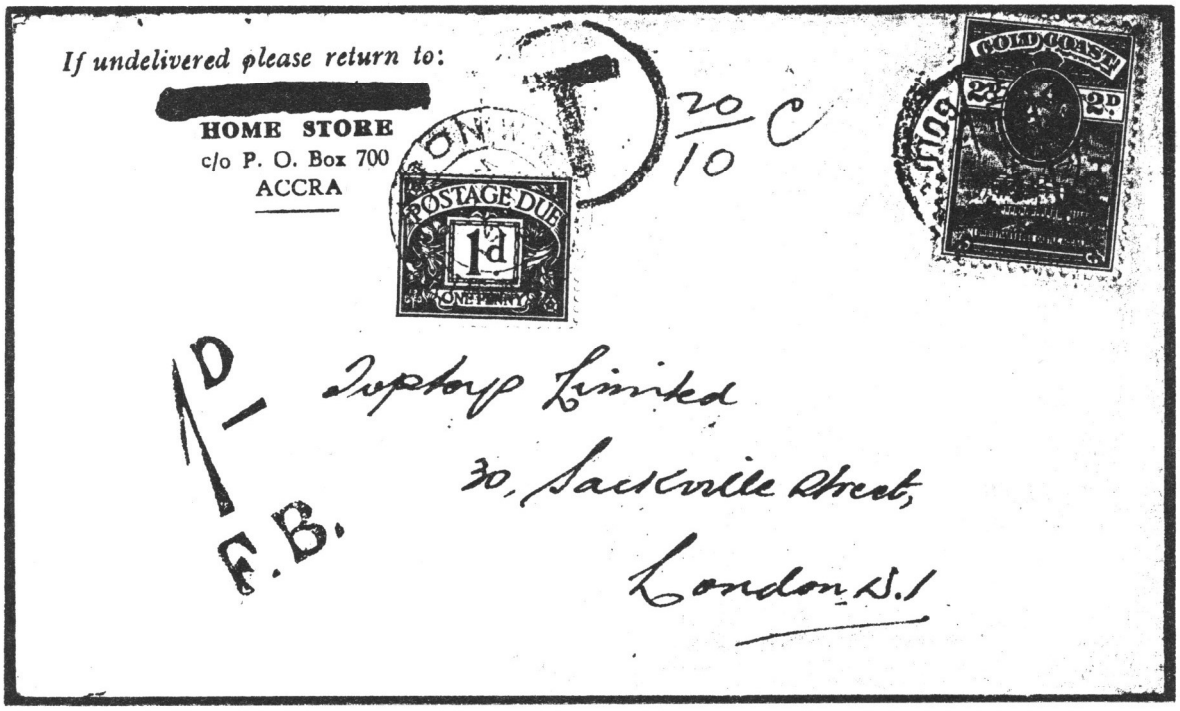


Figure 2 : Accra to London, 1947. 20 centimes (2d) paid, 10 centimes (1d) unpaid

Inside the Sterling area, there seem to be far fewer short-paid covers. From 1921 to 1942 the domestic letter rate and the Empire letter rate were identical, thus there would have been less reason for short payment. Figure 2 shows a cover (not listed in Table 1) to the U.K. showing the fraction. From Accra to London, 18 December 1947 - when the Empire rate was 2½d and the domestic was 2d - it has a 2d adhesive, and thus is deficient by ½d. It is marked with an encircled T and "20/10 c" added in pencil. It was then marked "1 D / F. B." upon arrival in the UK and a 1d UK due label added.

The question remains as to which offices employed this system. Certainly it was in use in Accra and Sekondi / Takoradi. These were the towns where foreign mail was assembled and sent abroad. It could be that the "T" mark was applied at a local post office (probably not at postal agencies) and the fraction at either of the above before leaving the country.

I would like to express my thanks to Michael Ensor who not only reviewed and improved this article but also supplied me with photo copies of a number of the covers referenced above.

References

1. Furfie M., *British Postage Due Mail 1914-1971*, Author, Ashford 1993
2. Ensor M. (Ed), *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957*, p110, WASC, Dronfield 1998

Cameroun 1961 Sterling Surcharges

Rob May, Michael Wright, John Smith and Brian Lythgoe

Introduction

As a result of a referendum conducted throughout the United Kingdom Trust Territory of Cameroons in 1961, the southern, more populated part of the Territory elected to join the independent ex-French Republic of Cameroun from 1 October 1961. Cameroun had already become independent on 1 January 1960 and Nigeria had already become independent on 1 October 1960. The anomalous status of the British Trust Territory was reflected in the set of Nigeria definitives overprinted "Cameroons UKTT" issued on 1 October 1960.

The decision to join the independent state of Cameroun did not entirely resolve the anomalies, because there would now need to be a change of currency from Sterling to CFA Francs. As a result various values of the current definitives in use in Cameroun were overprinted in Sterling for use only in the former British territory from 1 October 1961. The reunification commemorative set of three stamps was also surcharged with Sterling values, with an official release date of 1 January 1962.

Full currency conversion to the CFA franc was effective from 2 April 1962.

The Overprints

Both Stanley Gibbons and Michel state that the initial set of overprints of all values was carried out locally by the Government printers in Buea. Later, according to these references, in 1962 (date not known) a second printing of some values was undertaken in Paris by the Government Printing Works. The authors have seen no direct evidence for this. As a result of a collaboration by the authors, so far using only the evidence to be derived from the stamps rather than official records, we are able to show that there are three types of some high values. We can also show that there are some identifiable second types of lower values which are not listed in the Yvert, Michel, Scott or Stanley Gibbons catalogues. We cannot yet prove whether this provides evidence of a third printing of some values, or where such a printing was made.

Overprint proof sheets, some complete but most broken up, have appeared on the market in the last few years. The evidence we have available, especially the small sizes of the values on the 2/6, 5/- and 10/-, points to these being proofs of the first issue, probably printed in Buea.

Each overprint forme was of different dimensions because of the different stamp sizes and sheet sizes of the chosen base value, which had designs dating back in some cases to 1946 and in other cases recent semi-commemorative issues. Within each forme there are clear varieties in the length and spacing of the obliteration bars which make each value to some degree plate-able.

All the surcharges are in red except the 4d, which is in black. Michel claim that the first and second printings can be distinguished by the shade of red ink, but from inspection of available material this is not evident.

The Values



Figure 1

½d Surcharged on the 1fr orange of 1946. The base stamp is found both perforated 12½ x 12½ and 12½ x 12 and the overprint has been found with both. Proof sheets are known on green paper with, on the reverse "1000 planche 50000 1fr porters bananes ½d" for the first printing in sheets of 50. The proofs seen are partial but all show 1.8mm spacing between "Republique" and "Federale" and the d of ½d under the L of "Federale". Most stamps seen with both perforations have these characteristics. The authors have seen a mint copy of a stamp perf. 12½ x 12 which shows 2.3 mm spacing of "Republique" and "Federale" and the d of ½d below the E of Federale (Fig. 1). A used pair has also been reported dated 14 April 1962. This variety is

recognised in the Stanley Gibbons listing. We cannot be certain yet that this is not a plate variety of the first printing, but it does not appear on the proof blocks or on blocks of stamps we have seen. It may be evidence of a second printing.

1d Surcharged on the 2fr grey of 1946. The base stamp has so far only been found perf 12½ x 12½ and the same applies to the surcharge. There are shades of the base stamp between grey-black and blackish green which have been overprinted. We have not so far seen any overprint proofs. Sheets are of 50. A variety "surcharge double" was reported to Stanley Gibbons by a collector some years ago and a photocopy has been provided. The stamp is commercially used from an unidentifiable office and shows one overprint properly positioned but with 1d almost un-inked, and the second overprint shifted 15mm to the let, properly inked. There is no evidence of a second printing.

1½d Surcharged on the 1956 5fr FIDES issue, which comprises sheets of 25 stamps.
A complete proof sheet is known on off-white paper, together with a similar part sheet comprising the top three rows. The part sheet is inscribed on the reverse "1000 planche 25000 5 fr ", in sheets of 25.
A further proof block of the top three rows has the overprint double, shifted 2mm upwards and 1mm left. The proofs are all consistent with all stamps seen. A misplaced overprint has been seen on a used stamp that puts the RE of Republique on the adjoining stamp.

2d Surcharged on the 10fr green of 1946. The base stamp is found both perforated 12½ x 12½ and 12½ x 12. As the latter features on almost all dated used copies after 1953, one would expect the surcharge to feature that perforation. It doesn't. The only perforation so far seen on the surcharged stamp is 12½ x 12½. The surcharged stamp shows shades between mid-green and sage. We have not so far seen any overprint proofs. Sheets are of 50. A variety has been reported showing the bars of the obliteration extended and running onto the next stamp.

3d Surcharged on the 15fr FIDES issue "Pont du Wouri". This appears to be the most common value of the set, but no overprint proof has yet been seen by the authors. Sheets are of 25. A wide variation of the depth of inking is a feature of this value in particular, and also horizontal misalignments are common. The top of the d of "3d" is almost always sloping. A variety has been seen with the top of the d clearly rounded. This is a positional variety (position not yet known) as evidenced by a strip of three on cover where the middle stamp shows this rounded top (Ref. 6).



Figure 2

4d Surcharged on the 1956 15fr coffee issue.
We have not so far seen any overprint proofs. The Michel catalogue claims that there is a second printing identifiable by the space between the value and "Federale". The first printing, they claim, shows 3.5mm and the second shows 4mm. There is variation of this distance within the sheet; a block of four we inspected showed a range between 3.2mm and 3.5mm. Can anyone show a copy with a 4mm gap? We remain to be convinced. A variety exists, probably positional, that shows the tip of the "nose" of the 4 broken away from the rest of that figure (Fig. 2). So far one mint and two used copies have been brought to our attention.

6d Surcharged on the 1959 20fr banana production issue.
We have not so far seen any overprint proofs. Both horizontal and vertical misplacement of the overprint is regularly seen. There is no evidence so far of a second printing.



Figure 3

1/- Surcharged on the 1960 25fr "President Ahidjo" Independence issue.

A complete proof sheet of 25 overprints has been seen on off-white paper, inscribed on the reverse "1000 planche 25000 25fr A. Ahidjo 1/-". Part proof sheets on the same paper are also known. Sheets are of 25. The overprinted stamps show a very clear shade of the colour of the jacket which can be grey or yellow. All positions of the proof sheet show the last E of "Republique" with full length bars. However used stamps dated 23 October 1961 (at Victoria), 27 January 1962 and 3 March 1962 (Tiko) show this E with all three bars cut back to stubs (Fig. 3). This could distinguish a very early second printing, or could there have been two formes of 25 used for the first printing of this well-used value, and therefore a second proof sheet out there somewhere?

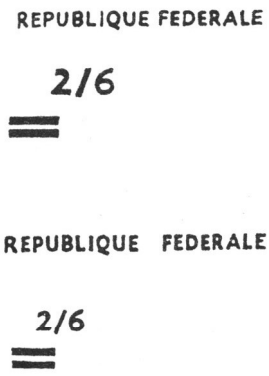


Figure 4

2/6 Surcharged on the 1960 30fr "refugee year" commemorative.
Two clear types exist, with large and small figures of value (Fig. 4). A 3 x 3 block of the top right corner of a proof sheet on off-white paper shows the small figures of value; a first day cover dated 1 October 1961 and bearing the small values overprints of the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values confirms the Stanley Gibbons and Michel listings that this is the first printing. Yvert wrongly identify it as the second printing. It is inscribed on the reverse "40 = 1000 5/200 40". This is unfortunately rather cryptic; does it imply that only 40 sheets were prepared at this stage? No date of release is known to us for the issue with larger figures of value but mint copies are not uncommon. Used examples are much scarcer but have been reported on a philatelic cover dated 6 December 1961. It is tempting to speculate that this could be their first day of issue. On both issues the inking is often very light, particularly of the final E of Federale. The large overprint has been reported with the foot of the L of FEDERALE and also the final E missing.

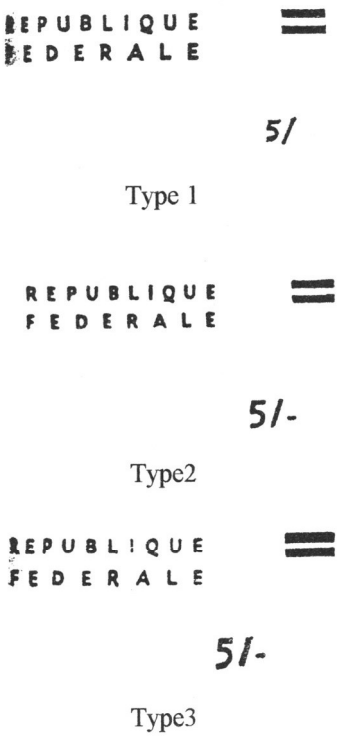


Figure 5

5/- Surcharged on the 1955 100fr giraffes definitive.
Three clear types exist, with differing size figures of value, the smallest value always missing the hyphen of 5/-. There are two types of the printing with the larger figures of value which could either be evidence of second and third printings, or positional varieties within the second printing. Full sheets or large multiples for this and the 10/- values would be very welcome for inspection. For the time being we will refer to them as Type 2 and Type 3. A 3 x 3 block and a left marginal 1 x 2 block of the proof overprints of the small value on green paper have been seen, again matching the 1 October 1961 first day cover referred to above. There are no inscriptions on either piece. The issue dates of the second, and possible third, printing are not known to us. Type 2 shows the large figures of value positioned below the obliterator bars. We have seen this only mint. Type 3 shows the large figures of value completely to the left of the bars and with a wider gap between "Republique" and "Federale". We have seen this both mint and

used; dated 25 April 1962 and 9 May 1962. The Yvert catalogue lists an inverted overprint, but it is not clear which type of overprint it is on.

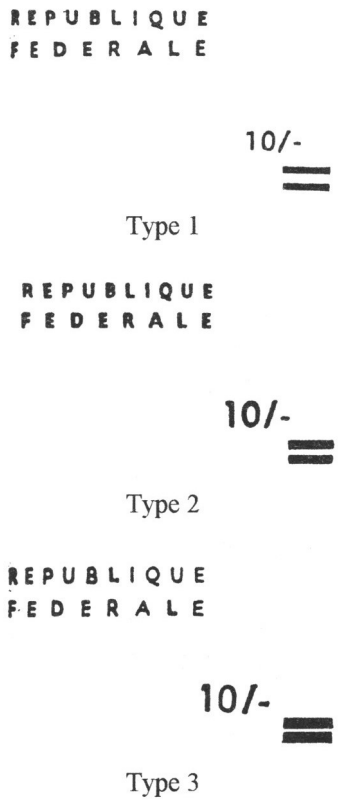


Figure 6

10/- Surcharged on the 1955 200fr Port of Douala definitive. We have not so far seen any overprint proofs. Three types have been identified, one with small figures of value and two with large (Fig. 6). Yvert have listed all three types for this value for some years. The small figures of value type always has a hyphen (compare with 5/- which never does). Again the first day cover evidence shows that the small value is the first printing. There are potential positional varieties of the overprint as the placing of "Federale" in relation to "Republique" can have the F directly below the R, or 2mm to the left of the R, of "Republique". We do not yet have blocks of proofs or of stamps to take this further. Type 2 shows the larger figures of value with the end of the hyphen above the beginning of the obliterator bars. We have seen this only mint. Type 3 shows the large value with the 1 of 10/- below the E of "Federale" and a wider gap between "Republique" and "Federale". We have seen both mint and used copies; dated 25 April 1962. One of the mint copies seen is from row 1 with the top selvedge attached. Yvert report an inverted overprint but it is not clear on which printing.

£1 Surcharged on the 1953 500fr "Piton d'Humsiki" definitive.
We have not so far seen any overprint proofs. The first printing shows the words "Republique Federale" short (17mm) and the stamp shows the rock shading from dark to light purple. Used copies show dates from the first day of issue, so Stanley Gibbons and Michel are wrong in showing this as the second printing. Stanley Gibbons have acknowledged this but have no plans to reprint the Africa post-independence catalogue. The second printing shows the words 22mm long and the stamp shows the rocks in pale blue-grey. This is found both mint and used, dated Bamenda 31 May 1962, almost two months after full currency conversion. There is a variety of the second printing with the loop at the left of the foot of the pound sign cut off. This could either be a plate variety or a third printing; but we have not had access to proofs or multiples that would help resolve this.

First Day Covers

REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE
DU CAMEROUN
REUNIFICATION
1ER OCTOBRE 1961

First day covers exist with one copy of each value, using the first printings as identified above, cancelled with normal town cancellers but with a cachet added.

The Reunification Commemorative Set

A set of three values was issued on 1 January 1962 to commemorate reunification. The denominations were 20fr, 25fr and 60fr, which were surcharged 3d, 6d and 2/6 for use in the former British territory. The surcharges did not reflect the equivalent postal value in the rest of the country! Michael Wright is aware that for several years after re-unification, the old Southern Cameroons were allowed much lower postal rates than the old French area. The stamps depict President Ahidjo and Prime Minister Foncha. The drawing of the design is crude and, almost as soon as they were issued the stamps were withdrawn from sale, it is said because President

Ahidjo did not like the way he was depicted and that Foncha looked like a woman that was taken to be Ahidjo's wife! For this reason all catalogues price the stamps only as a set, both mint and used.

The precise dates when the stamps were on public sale are a matter for conjecture, but commercially used copies are well known from offices throughout the former British Cameroons. Dates we have seen are:

Victoria	8 Jan 1962 (2/6),
	15 Jan 1962 (3d),
	18 Jan 1962 (3d),
	19 Jan 1962 (3d & 6d),
	22 Jan 1962 (3d)
Buea	16 Jan 1962 (6d),
	4 Jan 1962 (3d and 2/6)
Manyemen	11 Jan 1962 (3d and 2 x 6d)
Tiko	11 Jan 1962 (3d),
	23 Jan 1962 (3d),
	5 Feb 1962 (6d and 2/6)
?	25 Jan 1962 (3d)

There is an argument that these stamps did have a significant period of release and so they should be listed and priced individually. The 2/6 value is notably scarcer used than the other two values.

The stamps appear to have been surcharged locally, but where? The quality of the printing is usually poor, showing fuzzy outlines to the numerals, but there are no list-able varieties reported. The 3d value especially appears to be usually over-inked to the extent that the d of 3d is filled in. However, a mint copy has been reported with a sharp clean overprint. The stamps are known imperforate, both with and without surcharge, as mint sets.

Table of Comparative Catalogue Listings

	SG	Yvert	Michel	Scott
½d (8.5mm)	286	320	332	343
Inverted		320a		
(9.5mm)	286a			
Perf. 12½ x 12	286b			
1d	287	321	333	344
Opt double	287a			
1½d	288	322	334	345
2d	289	323	335	346
3d	290	324	336	347
4d	291	325	337	348
6d	292	326	338	349
1/-	293	327	339	350
2/6 (6 x 2.5mm)	294	328a	340 I	351a
(8 x 3.5mm)	294a	328	340 II	351
5/- (4 x 2.5mm)	295	Air 49a	341 I	C38a
(7 x 3.5mm)	295a	Air 49	341 II	C38
Inverted		Air 49b		
Value left shifted			341 II	
10/- (7 x 2.5mm)	296	Air 50a	342 I	C39a
(9 x 3.5mm)	296a	Air 50	342 II	C39
Inverted		Air 50c		
Value left shifted		Air 50b	342 II	C39b
£1 (17mm)	297a	Air 51a	343 II	C40
(22.5mm)	297	Air 51	343 I	C40a

Re-unification

3d	301	332	347	355
6d	302	333	348	356
2/6	303	334	349	357

Conclusions

This study is not complete! We would welcome any additions and corrections from study of stamps held by members, and also access to any documentary material to try to resolve the various gaps in our understanding of this provisional issue.

References

1. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB Canada 1994
2. Stanley Gibbons Catalogue
3. Yvert Catalogue
4. Michel Catalogue
5. Scott Catalogue
6. Maddocks R.J., "Posted out of course at Bamenda, Cameroun 1962", *Cameo,* Volume 6 p142, WASC, Jan. 1999
7. Maddocks R.J., "Southern Cameroons", *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, pp64-67, September 1999

Postal Facilities at Sabongari & Jimeta, Northern Nigeria

Bob Maddocks

It is most improbable that Sabongari will be found in any gazetteer of Nigeria or that Jimeta can be found indexed in any Nigeria Post Office guide, though the converse is true. Both names feature directly or indirectly in the postal history of Northern Nigeria though, as far as the writer is aware, no attention to the relevant detail has been given in any philatelic literature published to date on Nigeria.

Firstly, Sabongari. This name is somewhat of a geographical misnomer on its own for there is no specific or autonomous location to be found on Nigerian maps. Yet, confusingly, not one but several Sabongari postmarks are listed and indeed illustrated in the two definitive works on the territory's post of facilities (Refs. 1 & 2). The first list all under Sabongari; the latter refers to such locations in association with the well-known towns of Kano and Zaria, a more correct treatment and in this respect for convenience the following illustrations are taken accordingly.







Kano







Zaria

Sabongari (also seen as Sabon Gari and, in the abbreviated form, Sabo) is a Hausa word which literally means new town or quarter, more specifically a strangers' settlement, which had come into being on the outskirts of several large Northern Nigerian cities, such as Kano and Zaria as mentioned. The inhabitants were mainly non-Moslem immigrants and, mostly Ibos but some Yorubas, from the southern regions of Nigeria in pursuit of employment with the colonial administration and of Trade.

The first Sabongari to be given a postal agency was that of Kano, opened in 1937, followed by that in Zaria in 1944. By 1963, according to the Nigeria Post Office guide, a further three northern cities namely Gusua, Maidobi and Nguru, also had Sabongari postal agencies. Listed too was Sabo Shagamu, the first in Southern Nigeria.

Secondly, Jimeta (also seen as Gimeta). This location, which is a pinprick on early maps, has had full postal facilities for 57 years prior to Nigerian independence in 1960 though without recognition of that name in official postal nomenclature. As seen from the following explanation, Jimeta has been a "Sabongari tail" which, in colonial days, wagged the proverbial dog!

Jimeta is the Benue River port for the Fulani township of Yola, the seat of the Emir of Yola, situated about three miles to the south. It sprang up in the late 19th century from around the mooring site of the first trading hulk of the Royal Niger Company that subsequently established a warehouse ashore on a nearby bluff. In December 1899 the British government took over the administration of the Northern Territories from the company and Colonel Frederick Lugard was appointed High Commissioner. He initiated a British military presence in the newly designated Yola province to pacify the area and not least to terminate the notorious slave trade in pagan peoples then practised by the Fulani. This led to the battle of Yola in September 1901 where the Emir was

defeated and fled the area. He was replaced in power by the British who then quartered troops in a fort built on the same ridge of high ground at Jimeta, overlooking both the Benue and Yola town. Thus was the nucleus of the incoming colonial administration known as the Residency. It became the provisional government headquarters when Adamawa Province was created by a merger of Yola and Muri provinces.

The Northern Nigeria administration introduced a postal facility at Yola in 1903 with an office officially designated under that town's name as the postal datestamps showed invariably. However, according to the provincial annual reports of the time, it is evident that the Post Office building was sited not in Yola township itself but close to, and later within, the government reservation at nearby Jimeta, as was the telegraph office.

It should be recalled that the post and telegraph services were originally designed for administrative purposes and not for the public at large. There were even no telephone links between Jimeta and Yola town until 1936.

To support the foregoing a couple of tantalising remarks are to be found in a book by Mr Kirke-Green (Ref. 3) rather than by the official postal records. A former senior government official in Northern Nigeria he wrote that in 1936 *"Jimeta post office was removed to within the government station"* and that subsequently in 1954 *"the Post Office at Jimeta was moved into a new building"*. Yet Jimeta Post Office was not to be found a listed in the Nigeria Post Office guide or indeed in any published postal history of Nigeria. Furthermore, no postmark or postal date stamp impression has been or is likely to be seen for this office.

How had the situation arisen? Jimeta was in effect a sabongari of Yola, but was singularly different to those mentioned earlier in that not only was it a European residential and trading area but also the headquarters of the colonial provincial government. Obviously it was not subordinate to or indeed could be part of the Emir of Yola's native administration; on the other hand deference to the position of the traditional ruler was probably the reason why the post office at Jimeta was officially known as Yola Post Office, the first in the province. The first postal facility to be opened in Yola itself was the agency known as Yola Town on 17 June 1950, nearly half a century later, under the control of Yola (also known as Jimeta) Post Office. Today, Yola and Jimeta is one conurbation. I am unaware as to whether the main post office is still situated in the latter place.

References

1. Jones N.M., *The Cancellations and Postmarks of Nigeria 1914-1980*, pp227-9, WASC, Dronfield 2nd Edition 1999
2. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Nigeria*, pp554-5 & pp810-1, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995
3. Kirke-Green A.H., *Adamawa Past and Present*, London 1958

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More Sierra Leone Design Errors

Don Carter and Frank Walton

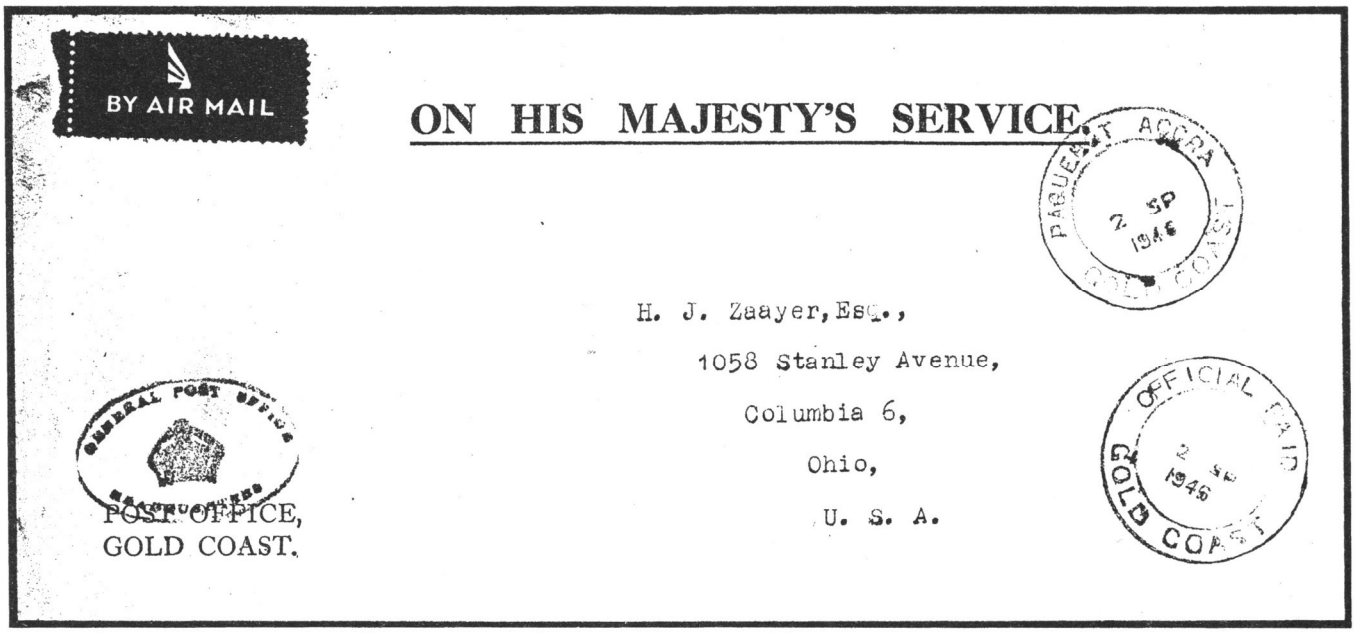
More fundamental design errors have come to light on modern Sierra Leone stamps:



1. The 1984 set commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Sierra Leone stamps has a Le5 souvenir sheet (SG MS837, Sc 656) which identifies the first post offices as Kissy, Lavannah, Mano Salija, Shaingay, Sulymah and York. Freetown (1843) and Bonthe (1873) are both obvious omissions, as is Combraymah which opened with the other customs posts in 1884. Kissy and York didn't open until 1892 - along with 16 others the same date. The map also has Lavannah inland at the location of Levuma.
2. The flowers set of 1999 has the fuchsias all growing upside-down on the Le800!
3. An inscription error on SG 2634, Sc 1922b where *HMS Dreadnought* is spelled as *HMS Dreadnaught*.
4. In August 1999, the inscription *Britiania* (Sc 2218f) is misspelled - it should be *Britannia.*.

Paquebot Accra

Jeremy Martin



2 September 1946 : Accra to Columbia, Ohio, USA (Reduced to 80%)

Commercial covers bearing any Paquebot marks of the Gold Coast are not easy to find. This stampless OHMS cover has OFFICIAL PAID and PAQUEBOT ACCRA marks of 2 September 1946, and has no backstamps.

As the cover has an air mail label, presumably it travelled from Accra to Takoradi. Normally I would have thought that the paquebot mark would have been applied at Accra to mail arriving there that had been posted on board a ship - or is it just an elaborate fake? Members comments would be appreciated.

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Sierra Leone King George VI Research

Frank Walton

Inspired by a question from my good friend Don Carter regarding how the £1 value was printed (‡), I have begun researching these definitive issues. Philip Beale lists the actual despatches, but I have had to visit the British Library to examine the Crown Agents Plate Issue Register, the Requisition Books and the Paper Issue Register. I will publish my detailed findings in due course, but for the time being I would appeal to members to send me copies of any marginal pieces they may have, whether it is a single stamp, a block or even a complete sheet. My main problem at present is that the single colour values are always listed as '120 set' whereas the bi-colour ones are '60 set'. This does not make obvious sense as all sheets seen to date of any value are always in panes of 12 x 5. Has anyone any evidence of left- and right-panes?

(‡) Despite being the Freetown Harbour design, the records confirm that the £1 was a single working plate.

The Mosely Collection at the British Library

Frank Walton

Based on notes given in British Library Newsletter (Ref. 1)

The collection contains stamps from most of the former British territories and postal administrations in Africa, except for Basutoland, British East Africa, Cameroons, Egypt, Griqualand West, Madagascar, Somaliland, Stellaland, Sudan, Swaziland and Togo.

Dr Mosely attempted to make the collection as complete as possible and all the issues from each of the countries concerned are well represented, including many rarities.

Some parts of the collection are also very specialised, including the Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Rhodesia and the Orange Free State which contain selections of essays, proofs and specimens. The Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius sections also have good examples of pre-adhesive and stamped covers.

Other important parts of the collection include **Ascension Island**, the use of British stamps prior to 1922, in British Bechuanaland there are various double overprints on the ½d slate of 1889, and the issues to 1895 are almost complete. The Bechuanaland Protectorate has all the issues from 1888 to 1935. The Cape of Good Hope triangular stamp section is outstanding, with die proofs of the 1d, 6d and 1s, and a rare example of the 4d black. The 'Woodblock' issue of 1861 is very well represented with two copies each of the rare error of colours, the 1d blue and 4d red. The later issues of this colony are also complete. This part of the collection also contains stamps issued by Lord Baden-Powell in 1900 during the Siege of Mafeking. The issues for **Gambia**, **Gold Coast** and **Lagos** are complete, with a very fine range of the embossed Victorian stamps of **Gambia**. The Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika section is also almost complete.

Mauritius contains reprinted proofs in black and colour from the original 'Post Office' plate of 1847, and there is an extensive selection of the locally produced 'Post Paid' issues including those engraved by Lapirot and Sherwin. Dardennes lithographs are also present. The later issues of Natal are complete, with an excellent range of the 'Postage' overprints of 1869-70. In **Northern Nigeria** there is an unused example of the rare 1904 £25, whilst in Nyasaland there are the 1907 2d and 4d values on Multiple Crown C.A. watermarked paper, and a number of the 1897 cheque provisionals with various rarities.

The Orange Free State has all the early surcharge rarities, and nearly all the V.R.I. overprints are present. In Rhodesia there is the 1896 Matabele Rebellion provisional three pence on 5s yellow, blockof nine with the 'R' inverted on the centre stamp. There is a fine selection of the 'Doublehead' issues, including the unauthorised rouletted types in unused blocks of four, and a block of twelve of the 1d which is imperforate vertically. The 5d purple-brown and ochre and the £1 scarlet and reddish mauve, error of colours, are also present. **St Helena** has some rare errors including the 1884-94 1s yellow green with double surcharge. The Seychelles section is extensive, and in **Sierra Leone** there is an unused example of the 1883 4d blue on C.A. watermarked paper. South Africa is complete with a number of rarities, and South West Africa is also extensive.

The Transvaal contain a good selection of the Second Republic and the section has several of the essays of the unissued President Kruger design, and some examples of the typewriter locals issued at Ermelo and Carolina in 1900. The King Edward VII group includes copies of the 1905 1d scarlet with the Cabled Anchor error of watermark, and the 1909 unissued 2d grey and a second example overprinted 'specimen'. From Mengo in Uganda are some of the Revd. E. Millar's typewritten stamps, and Zanzibar from 1896-1927 is very well represented, as are the Zululand issues.

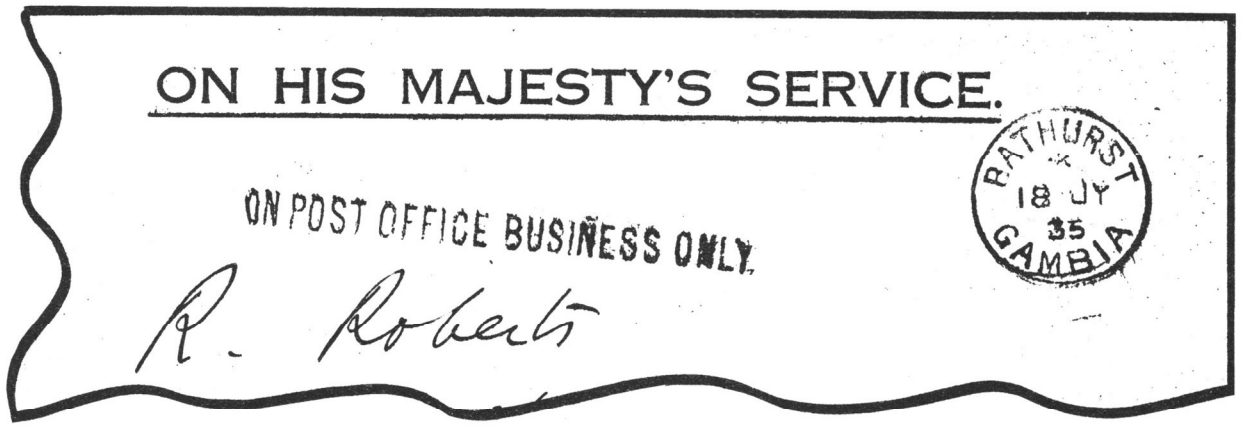
The Mosely Collection is currently on semi-permanent exhibition in the foyer of the new British Library building at 96 Euston Road, London. It can be viewed by the general public free of charge without any need for pre-booking. The British Library is less than five minutes walk from Euston, St Pancras and King's Cross mainline railway stations.

Reference

1. "The Mosely Collection", *Philatelic Collections Newsletter*, Number 5, British Library, Autumn 1999

Gambia 'On Post Office Business Only'

Mike Roberts



Bathurst to London, 1935 *[illustration cropped by editor]*

This OHMS envelope has the 'ON POST OFFICE BUSINESS ONLY' handstamp which was sent to the colony on 9 September 1896 (Ref. 1). The mark is in the *Impression Books* (Ref. 2) just once, although Proud shows two slightly different types (Ref. 3). None of these sources give dates of use. With help from Stewart Duncan and Oliver Andrew, I can give a date range of 4 November 1912 to 29 July 1950; all of these recordings are on OHMS envelopes.

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1. Andrew J.O. (Ed), *The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia*, p143, Christie's Robson Lowe with the West Africa Study Circle, 1985
2. Beale, P.O. and Martin J.J., *The Post Office Impression Books*, p7, BWASC 1981
3. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of the Gambia*, p219, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995

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GOLD COAST, 1873. A large piece of an OHMS cover, with a fine strike of the boxed "MISSENT TO / CAPE COAST" in red. Postmaster's endorsement explaining that the cover had been opened in error at Cape Coast Castle. A rare handstamp. **£250**

NIGERIA, 1922. 1d postal stationery post card commercially used from Lagos to Germany. A very difficult item of stationery used. **£500**

NIGERIA, 1926. A post card sent from South Africa to Nigeria, unclaimed and returned to sender, with double ring "R.L.O. / LAGOS" datestamp, two years earlier than recorded by Proud. **£65**

ST. HELENA, 1902. A die proof of the central vignette showing Government House, printed in black with uncleared surround on white glazed card. Handstamped "BEFORE HARDENING" and "12 NOV 1902". **£450**

SIERRA LEONE, 1959. A cover sent from Uruguay to Cape Town handstamped in purple capitals "MISSENT TO SIERRA LEONE". **£85**

TOGO, 1915. A cover (vertical crease) sent from Anecho to Dahomey, franked by "Occupation Franco Anglaise" 10 on 5pf green strip of 3, the left stamp vertically bisected, cancelled Anecho 18 Jan, Porto Novo backstamp. This bisect is only found used at Anecho to make the 25pf rate in Dec 1914 & Jan 1915. BPA Cert (1999). **£1850**

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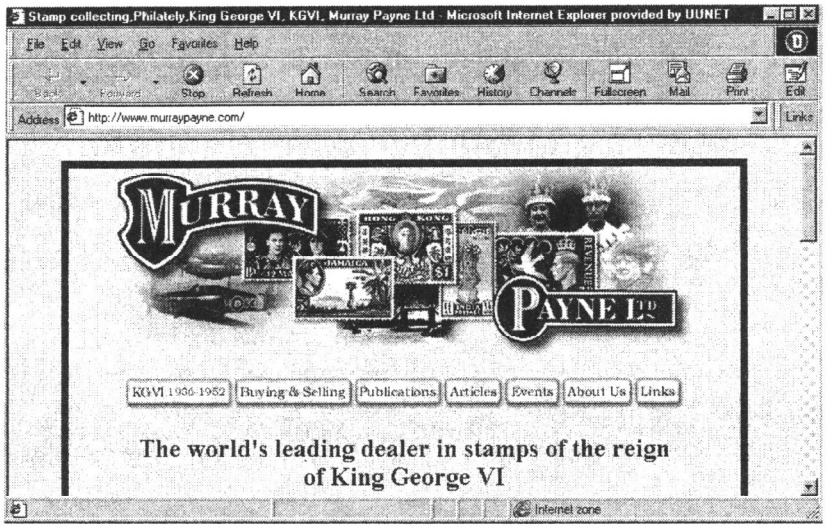
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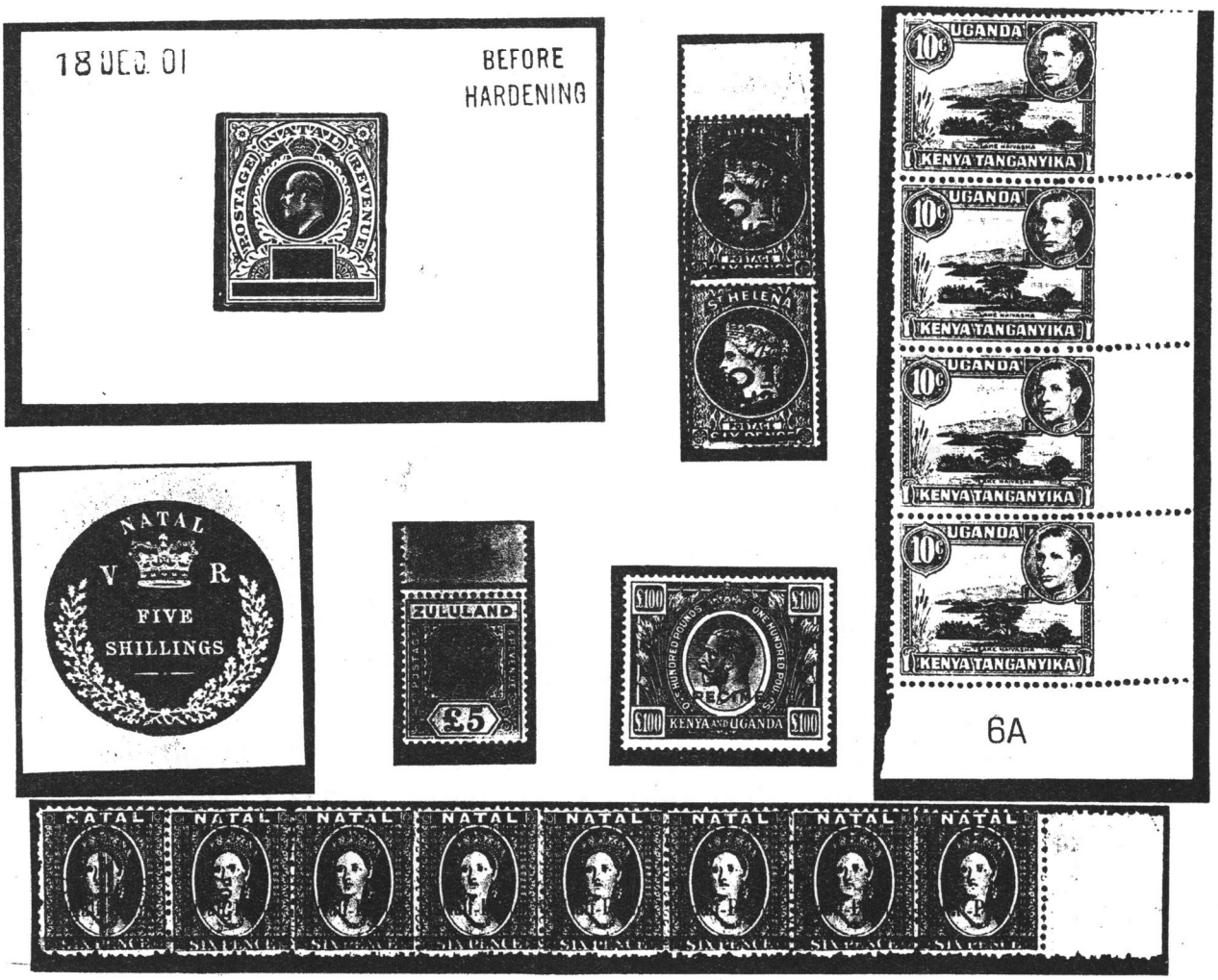
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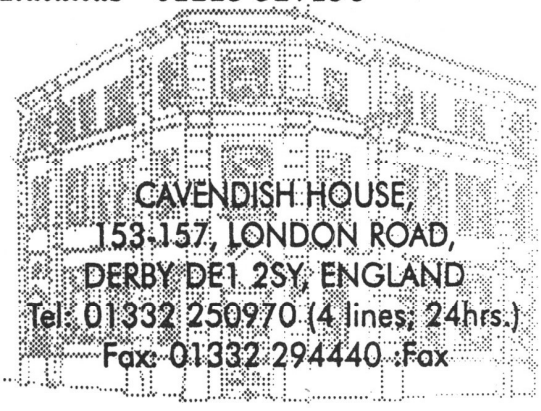
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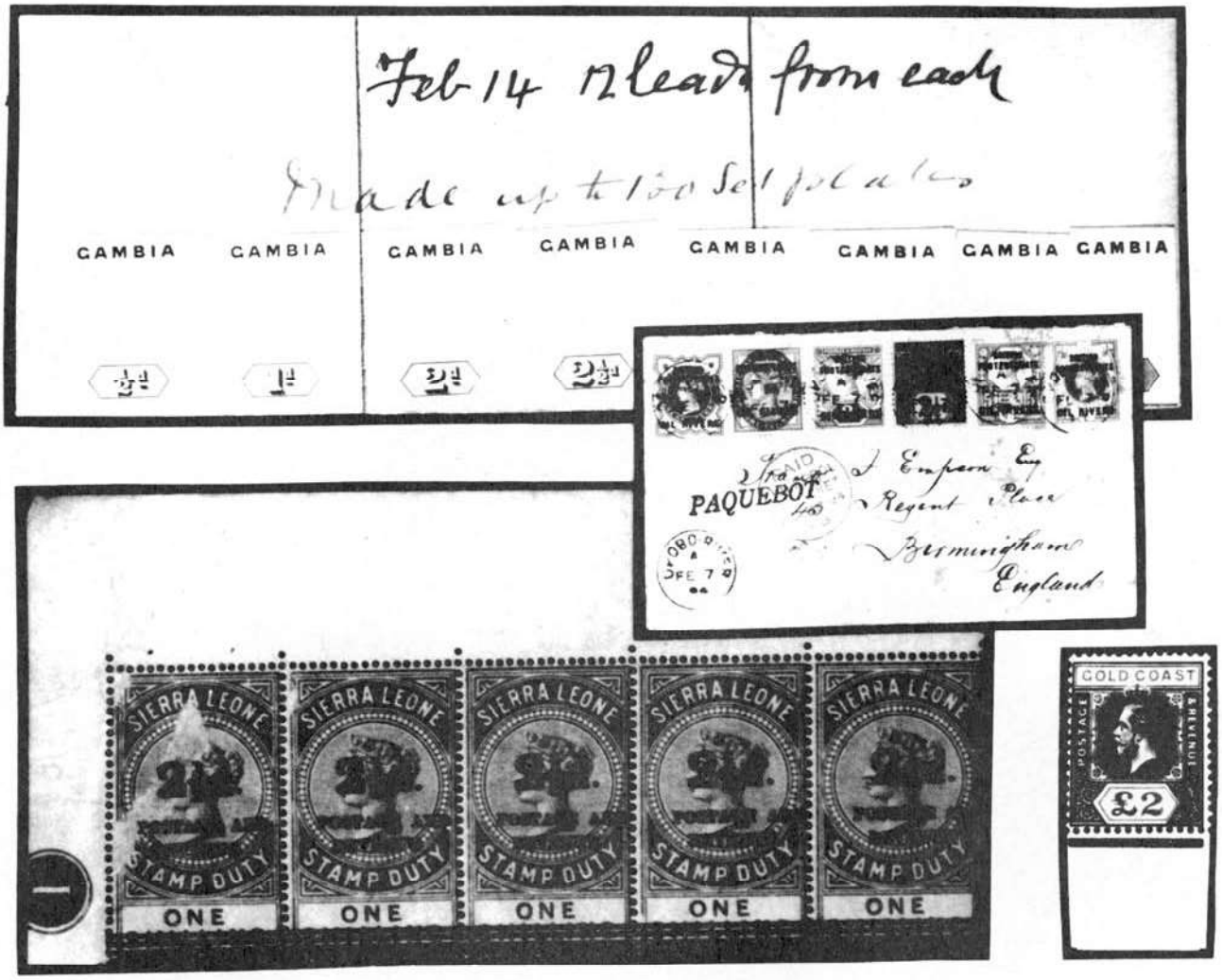
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