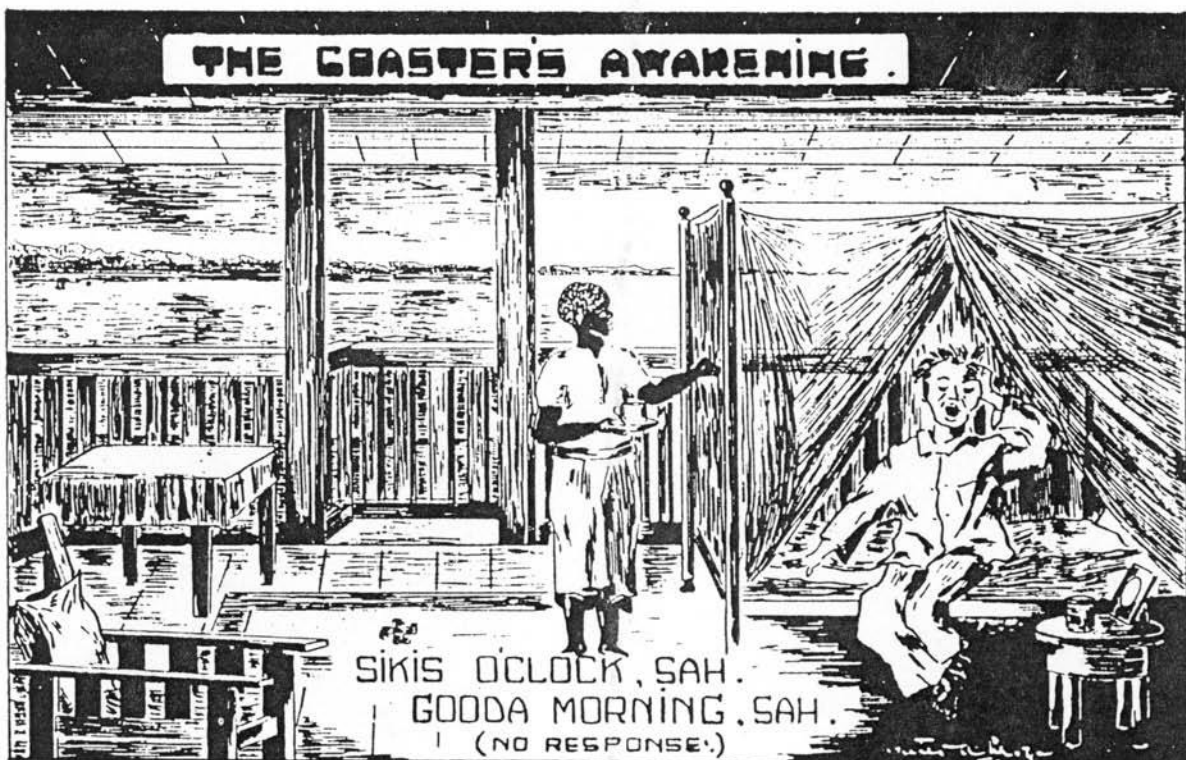


CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



Volume 5 Number 5

January 1997

STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA

Sold By Christie's



Niger Coast: 1893 (Sept.) 1/2d. on 1d. Lilac,
unsevered pairs in a vertical se-tenant pair; top stamp with
surcharge in violet, lower stamp with surcharge in vermillion.
Sold by Christie's in London, March 1994, for £4,830.

Christie's holds regular auctions featuring
West African Stamps and Postal History
in London and New York.

For further information on buying or selling
at Christie's, please contact David Parsons or
Nick Startup in London; Colin Fraser in New York.

To purchase catalogues for forthcoming
auctions, please telephone 0171 389 2677 in London
or 718 784 1480 in New York.



8 King Street, St. James's
London SW1Y 6QT
Tel: 0171 839 9060
Fax: 0171 389 2688

CHRISTIE'S
ROBSON LOWE

502 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel: (212) 546 1087
Fax: (212) 750 6498

West Africa Study Circle

President : Michael Roberts

Hon. CAMEO Editor

Frank Walton
8 Grasmere Road
Dronfield Woodhouse
SHEFFIELD S18 5PS
☎ Home 01246 414953
☎ Office 0114 252 8836
internet email :
106022.3670@compuserve.com

Hon. Secretary

John Powell
23 Brook Street
Edlesborough
DUNSTABLE LU6 2JG
☎ 01525 220196

Hon. Treasurer

Tom Butlin
52A Blenheim Park Road
SOUTH CROYDON CR2 6BD
☎ 0181 688 4275

Hon. Membership Secretary

John Mills
70 Salisbury Road
CANTERBURY CT2 7HH
☎ 01227 787070

Hon. Auctioneer

John Smith
52 Eastway,
GREASBY
Wirral L49 2NT
☎ 01516 786201
106251.1143@compuserve.com

Hon. Advertising Manager

Peter Rolfe
"Merok"
28 Ashford Road
BEARSTED ME14 4LP
☎ 01622 737476

Hon. Librarian

Dudley Ingoldby-Williams
Field House, Northfield Ave
Shiplake
HENLEY-ON-THAMES RG9 3AB
☎ 01734 404527

Contents

Editorial	189
Letters to the Editor	190
Auction Reports	194
Bookshelf	196
Gambia Archives : WWII Censorship	<i>by Bob Maddocks</i> 198
Fiji to Gambia 1895	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 201
Gambia WWII Civil Censorship	<i>by Bob Maddocks</i> 201
Gambia : Airmails During WWII	<i>by Bob Maddocks</i> 202
Gambia to Lagos Missent to Sierra Leone	<i>by Stewart Duncan</i> 209
The Ashantee Expedition	<i>by Geoff Osborn</i> 210
Mail from HMS Rattlesnake	<i>by Geoff Osborn</i> 211
Gold Coast in the CA's Archives	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 212
Southern Cameroons UKTT Overprints	<i>by Bob Maddocks</i> 214
Nigeria George VI Definitives 1938-51	<i>by Daniel Warren</i> 216
Nigerian Bisect used 1961	<i>by Neville Jones</i> 221
Sierra Leone 2/WIR Perfin	<i>by Frank Walton</i> 221
Telephone Letter	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 222
World War II POWs in Nigeria	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 222
Sierra Leone 1995 FAO Error	<i>by Peter Rolfe</i> 223
Sierra Leone Damaged Mail	<i>by Jeremy Martin & Frank Walton</i> 224
Sierra Leone Unclaimed Mark	<i>by Malcolm Badham</i> 226
Sierra Leone Duty Plate Varieties	<i>by Peter Fernbank</i> 228
Sierra Leone 'Dot After Six' Variety	<i>by Philip Beale</i> 229
Sierra Leone QSL Cards	<i>by Frank Walton</i> 229
Togo Sansane-Mangu	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 230
Togo Dated Cachet	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 230
Dahomey Stamps used in Togo 1915	<i>by Jeremy Martin</i> 232
Joubert Head Die Proofs	<i>by Philip Beale</i> 234

Front Cover Illustration

This issue's front cover is taken from a black and white postcard kindly submitted by Robert Seaman.

1997 LONDON STAMP & POSTAL HISTORY FAIR

(organised by Chris Rainey and Trevor Davis)
to be held at

**Royal Horticultural Halls
HALL 2 GREYCOAT STREET**

Thursday 6th March 11am - 8pm

Friday 7th March 10am - 6pm

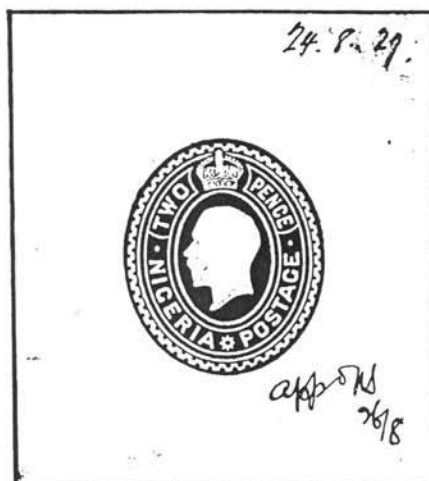
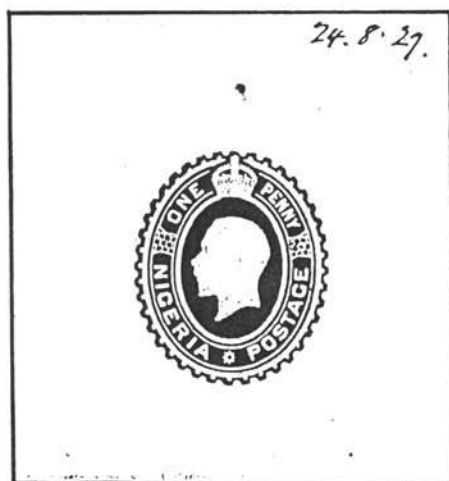
Saturday 8th March 10am - 5pm

Free Admission. A.A. Signposted. Bar/Bufferet.

For information ring : 01268 726687 or 0181 946 4489

NIGERIA

De La Rue die proofs for the King George Vth 1d and 2d Postal Stationery envelopes in Vermilion struck on horizontally laid paper. Fine and rare proofs ex DLR Archives£650 (2)



RITCHIE BODILY, 72 FITZJOHNS AVENUE, LONDON NW3 5LS

Fax 0171 794 8682

Telephone 0171 435 8425

Editorial

It's New Year's Day, and there is at least 15 cm of snow covering my garden outside. What better reason for putting the final touches to the January 1997 edition of *Cameo*?

Many thanks to the many members who have contacted me to say how much they enjoyed my first edition as the new editor; it is nice to hear that my efforts are appreciated. Some of the correspondence is included in the 'Letters to the Editor' column. Apart from a some nostalgia about the old front cover, all comments passed were positive. You will be able to see in the Circle's next end of year accounts the very considerable saving that the recent *Cameo* production changes have introduced.

This edition has three articles as a result of members searching through archives. Bob Maddocks has unearthed some most significant material from the National Archives in Banjul, Gambia relating to censorship and airmails during the second World War, and Jeremy Martin has sent in details of the Gold Coast material held in the Crown Agents Archives at the British Library. All of these articles contain information that has not been previously published anywhere to my knowledge.

Our treasurer, Tom Butlin, tipped me off about a web site on the internet titled "The Sierra Leone Stamp Collectors Club". I browsed their home pages and discovered that two American gentlemen, Don Carter and Paul Vreugdenhil, have been publishing a bi-monthly magazine dedicated to Sierra Leone philately. For those of you who have the technology, I thoroughly recommend that you contact Don or Paul via the internet. The web location is <http://sapphire.surgery.wisc.edu/stamps>. Since my initial contact, I have exchanged emails with both of the authors, neither of whom had heard of the WASC. They have very kindly added a reference to the WASC on the internet, and Don has subsequently applied to join us as a member. The world is getting smaller...

Who Am I? Although I've been a regular attender at WASC meetings for about ten years now, it occurs to me that the majority of members will not know me. Philatelically, I collect Sierra Leone, China pre-1949 and GB line engraved. I am a member of Sheffield PS, the Royal, the China PS of London; additionally I am the secretary of Midland Bank (Sheffield) PS, where I have run an exchange packet for ten years. In real life, I'm married with two teenage sons, work as an IT Project Manager for Midland Bank and also run a Scout Troop.



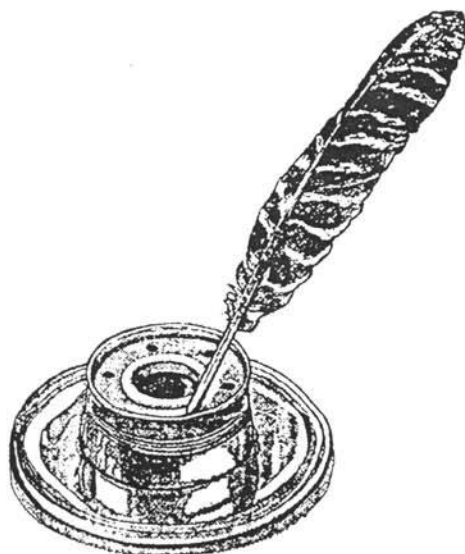
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording, without the written permission of the copyright holder. Application for which should be addressed to the Secretary of the Circle. Such written permission must be obtained before any part of this publication is stored in a retrieval system of any nature.



Scope : The West Africa Study Circle covers The Gambia, Gold Coast, The Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Ascension, Cameroons, St. Helena, Togo and nearby British Postal Agencies.

Annual Subscription : £12 for UK members, and £14 for overseas members. There is an entry fee of £5 for new members. The subscription term is for calendar years.

Advertising Rates : Full page £35; half page £20. Members small advertisements 50p per square inch, plus a fee of 1% in the event of a sale; minimum fee £1.



Letters to the Editor

Initial reaction to this feature from members has been most encouraging. This will become a permanent feature from now on - so long as people keep writing that is!

The title 'letters' is a little of a misnomer. Several of the items below have arrived by other means, either telephone or most recently via the internet.

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.

Senegal Censor Cover

Dear Frank,

Bob Maddocks' article in the July 1996 *Cameo* (Vol 5 p175) reminded me of an undated On Active Service censored postcard about which I was seeking information at one of the London Circle meetings a few years ago. The consensus view was that it was a Senegalese place name that had been struck out. My card is very similar to Bob's in that it an identical CENSORED cachet with a reversed 'N'. The signature appears to be C/W Watson. I cannot solve the problem as to where the censorship was undertaken, but at least Bob will now know he's not alone in his puzzlement.

Mike Roberts
Huddersfield



typeface throughout but also for the versatility available to you for placement of figures and tables.

Members may be interested to learn that I am in contact with a fellow Cameroun *aficionado* who is conducting forestry research in Kribi, Cameroun. He has made several trips to the National Archives in Yaoundé and graciously provided copies of pages from the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* with relevant postal information. He is also checking out other leads that may contain postal history information.

Marty Bratzel
Windsor, Canada
bratzelm@ijc.wincom.net



Revamped *Cameo* & Cameroun Research

Frank,

I like the idea of using the internet for submitting items to *Cameo*. It is not only faster but cheaper; the postage from Canada to Britain is 90c plus 7% tax - do you know of any other country in the world that taxes mail?

I concur with the cover change, although it will take a bit of adjustment, having become so familiar and comfortable with the former *cameo* motif. Also, I must say that the layout on the inside pages is excellent, not only for the consistent



Sierra Leone Watermarks

Dear Frank,

I have been researching the various watermarked papers used for all British Colonies in the nineteenth century and would be grateful if any member of the WASC could help explain one item that I have been musing over. For the first keyplate series, why did De La Rue use the paper sideways in 1872 but switch to upright in September 1873?

Michael Nicholson
York



Revamped *Cameo*

Dear Frank,

Congratulations on the revamped *Cameo*, but as a Coaster I'll miss the old familiar Gambia classic from the cover. The changes and innovations are welcome updates without in any way detracting from the extremely valuable contributions of the two previous editors who have so capably kept the magazine going over the past 21 years for the considerable benefit of WASC members generally.

Bob Maddocks
Oswestry

◇ ◇ ◇

Madolkele Cancellation on Gold Coast

Dear Mr Walton,

I have recently joined the WASC and have a cancellation which I am unable to find any trace of and wonder if any member, via *Cameo*, could help. The details are as follows:

Stamp	Gold Coast 1s, SG 31
Cancellation	MADOLKELE
Date	AU 26 / 99
Diameter	21 mm.

I have checked the listings for Gambia, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone.

Robin Davis
Caversham

Response from Mike Mackin, Gold Coast editor:

By pure chance of belonging to another collecting area of mine, I can immediately identify this postmark as being from MADULKELE in Ceylon. Robin's example actually provides a new earliest recorded date for this handstamp.



◇ ◇ ◇

Sierra Leone Skeleton Cancellations

Dear Frank,

I am preparing a new listing of these temporary cancels covering both pre- and post-independence. It would be appreciated if members who have any information that extends that already published could forward it to myself. Details of postmarks of this nature after 1961 would be particularly welcomed.

Peter Rolfe
Ashford

Editor's note:

I was lucky enough to come across an example from Tumbudu used in January 1962; Peter now has a copy.

◇ ◇ ◇

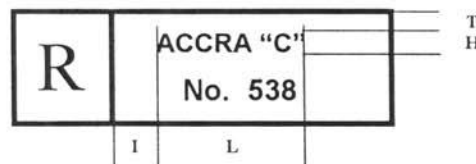
Gold Coast Registration Labels

Dear Frank,

Following the July 1997 WASC meeting at Salisbury, I have begun to compile a listing of the following categories:

- 1 Office in manuscript
- 2 Office name applied by rubber handstamp
- 3 Office printed in capitals, all letters same size
- 4 Office printed in capitals, different size letters
- 5 Office printed in lower case but with initial letters in capitals
- 6 Office printed in a font with serifs
- 7 Labels using commas or quote marks (‘ or “)

For each type several dimensions are sought:



Where I=Indentation, L=Length, T=Top margin and H=Height of letters; all are measured in mm to one decimal place.

The date of use and perforation gauge of each label is also being recorded. It would be most

appreciated if members could examine their own collection and send me details of any items that they have.

Don Cross
8 Dorin Court
Landscape Road
Warlingham
CR6 9JT

◇ ◇ ◇

Sierra Leone Foreign Postcard Rate

Dear Frank,

For some time now, while attempting to transfer parts of my Sierra Leone collection from shoe boxes to album pages, I have been puzzled by the surface rates in the King George VI era for postcards as detailed by both Philip Beale in *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...* and Ted Proud in *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*.

Proud (p113) give the foreign rates as:

1.12.21 - 31.12.39? 1½d
1.1.40? - 31.12.50? 1½d
1.1.51 - 31.3.58 2½d

Proud (p114) also gives the Empire rates:

1.1.27 - 31.12.39 1½d
1.1.40 - 31.3.58 2d.

Beale does not give much detail relating to these rates, other than mentioning (p23) that the GB, and I assume the Empire, rate from 1.1.40 was 2d. No mention is made of the foreign or UPU rate for this period.

My collection does include a few used postcards of this period, several of which are either 'rogue' or philatelic. The one which does appear genuinely commercial is a card to the USA dated 18 October 1941 rated at 2d. Has anyone got further examples of Sierra Leone postcards from this period which may shed light on these rates?

Nigel Lutwyche
Aberdeen

Response from Philip Beale, Sierra Leone editor:

The postcard rates during the 1940s are poorly documented due to the Blue Books not been published. In my book I only endeavoured to cover the rates in summary; to do otherwise would have added a very considerable number of pages. Although the postcard rates are a good example of this, the airmail rates are an even better one. Every year the Blue Books have a wealth of detail on this subject.

I have re-read my notes made from the Blue Books whilst doing my initial research, which give for 1938:

1d Inland
1½d UK and Empire
1½d Foreign.

Perhaps of greater significance is notes made from a typed, unpublished Blue Book for 1943 which is held in the Public Record Office at Kew. This gives:

1d Inland
2d UK and Empire
2d Foreign.

There is clearly a large amount unpublished on this subject. I too would welcome examples of commercially used postcards from 1940 up to independence in 1961.

◇ ◇ ◇

Namesake?

Dear Frank,

I wonder whether anyone in the Circle knows of a namesake of mine, one W.E. May, who worked on the Bo Extension of the Sierra Leone Government Railway in 1904. I have recently come across a postcard from Rhyl addressed to him in Sierra Leone.

Rob May
Princes Risborough

Response from Philip Beale, Sierra Leone editor:

The following passage is extracted from page 28 of J.R. Best's 'A History of the Sierra Leone Railway':

"When the construction railhead reached Baiima, towards the end of the year, Mr W.E. May, the surveyor, was transferred to road making as Superintendent of Roads in the Protectorate. He commenced activity in the region of Mano".

◇ ◇ ◇

Cameo Format & Distribution

Dear Frank,

Congratulations on your appointment as *Cameo* editor - it is a wonderful production. For your information, *Cameo* Vol. 5 No. 4 arrived here on July 15th, a record, speedy transit. Also, a nice cover and good stamps on the envelope were appreciated! You asked for suggestions on the covers - how about a series of early maps?

Peter Newroth
Victoria, Canada

◇ ◇ ◇

Danish Forts Map

Dear Frank,

I have heard from Professor Hopkins that the best reproduction of Peter Thonning's map referenced in his article in the July 1995 *Cameo* (Volume 4, pp51-55) is in *Guvernør Edward Carstensens inberetninger fra Guinea 1842-1850*, Georg Norregård, ed. (Copenhagen: Selskabet for Udgivelse af Kilder til Dansk Historie, i kommission hos G.E.C. Gad, 1964).

Robert Nelson
Greatham

◇ ◇ ◇

Cameo Press Dates

Dear Frank,

Would it be possible for you to include the cut off dates for forthcoming *Cameos* before which members can submit articles?

Jack Ince
Stirling, Canada

Editor's response:

*Typically the cut off will be one month before the cover date. For the next *Cameo*, articles must be in my hands by 31 May.*

◇ ◇ ◇

Gold Coast Ministry B.O. Accra C Postmark and the King's Beard

Dear Sir,

As a fairly new addition to the ranks of the West Africa Study Circle, I would like to pose two questions that I am sure our more experienced members may be able to answer.

- 1 I recently acquired a cover, dated 6 November 1957, with Ghana Independence overprints on Gold Coast stamps cancelled with the MINISTRY B.O. ACCRA C cancel. Can anyone provide information about this office?
- 2 In a copy of the EVII 2d of the Gold Coast (SG 40) in my collection, the king sports particularly luxuriant side whiskers. Is this a constant variety previously recorded?

Roger Nailer
Chipping Sodbury

Response from Michael Ensor, editor of the pending Gold Coast Handbook (Vol. 2):

- 1 According to Mike Mackin's book (*"The Gold Coast : The Post Offices / Agencies and their Cancellations 1875 - 1957"*, still available from the WASC's Librarian) the MINISTRY B.O. ACCRA C cancel was in use from 1954 until independence in 1957. A similar postmark with code A was also in use at the same time. The Colonial Secretary's Office was set up in 1876 half way between Christiansborg and Accra; this grew rapidly after World War II, when in 1951 it warranted its own branch post office. What is unusual about Roger's cover is that as late as November 1957 a Government office was still using a Gold Coast handstamp rather than a new Ghana one.
- 2 This is a new report as far as I can trace. It would be interesting to hear from any other members who may have a similar variety.

◇ ◇ ◇

Auction Reports

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Derby, 6th December 1996 The Alan Brown collection of 20th Century Military Postal History

The sale of this massive collection attracted a record breaking number of postal bids and a room full of dealers, agents and collectors. Assembled over half a century by the leading expert in the field over 700 lots went under the hammer with remarkable results in many areas. Inevitably this review concentrates on the small section of West African material but it does no harm to comment upon the intense demand for material fresh to the market particularly if it emanated from obscure theatres of war or from forces and units not usually associated with a particular campaign. Thus World War I covers from Saudi Arabia, East Africa and Sudan commanded high prices whereas those from Europe only surprised if connected with, for example, colonial forces. Collections of general interest (eg a splendid lot of World War I 'Honour' envelopes estimated at £100 but selling for £950) were also in great demand.

Three lots of World War I West African material generally sold at about double estimate with a grubby but rare Sierra Leone Naval Control Officer cover dated 9th May 1917 (not 1919 as printed in the catalogue) selling for £140 (est £75) and a small group including three Cameroons stampless items being secured by one of our dealer members at £170 (est £75).

About a dozen West African World War II lots had brought Messrs Martin, Plumbe, Wright and your scribe to the saleroom hoping for bargains but few were to be had. An attractive Gambia collection with a censored small size George VI registered stationery envelope and several covers with new earliest and latest known dates sold on the book at £270 (est £140) with a fairly straightforward lot of Gold Coast civilian censors meeting a similar fate at £280 (est £200) - an average of about £12 per cover.

Two particularly strong groups of Nigerian covers found new homes at £300 (est £110) and £180 (est £100) and should provide several new dates to add to Martin & Walton's listings. A mixed Sierra Leone lot containing a remarkable cover with two different wax seals of type 1 (one being a previously unrecorded Censor 2 seal) sold on the book at £260 (est £140) whilst the apparently unique type R25 Censored 265 M.R.U.R.A.F. cover made an astonishing £420 (est £90). Fairly straightforward but nonetheless attractive Ascension and St. Helena covers were generally selling in line with or a little below estimate at between £70 and £90.

In securing two lots of Prisoner of War mail one of our members had fierce battles against the book. He thought his luck was in when a 1943 stampless Gold Coast cover endorsed 'Service des prisonniers de Guerre - Postage Free' was brought into the room at £32 but was less pleased at the final hammer price of £240 (est £50). Slightly less harrowing was the fight to secure a pleasing 1944 P/W Censorship West Africa Force cover at £130 (est £80).

The sale set new price levels for 20th Century censored mail. Only recently it seems has it become respectable to collect World War II material. This sale demonstrated its enormous popularity and could well bring new material to the market.

(All prices are exclusive of 15% buyers' premium with VAT on the premium)

Mike Roberts

British Africa Philatelic Auctions, Bristol, 31 October 1996 (Sale 30)

- Ascension** 1924-33 8d Grey-black & bright violet, fine used. SG 17 variety 'Shamrock Flaw on Left Scroll'. Realised £130 (estimate £120).
1924-33 1½d Rose-red, mint. SG 12 variety 'Line through C of Ascension'. £85 (£85).
1942 cover with Crown over PASSED XX/ handstamp. £85 (£85).
- Lagos** 1884-6 ½d Colour trial on unwatermarked paper, perf 14. Printed in lilac with value tablet in blue. £160 (£180).
- St Helena** Philatelic local use of formula registered envelope, size H2, in 1949. £140 (£150).
- Sierra Leone** 1884-91 ½d dull green perf 12 overprinted SPECIMEN. £175 (£125).
1884-91 1d carmine perf 12 overprinted SPECIMEN. £175 (£125).
1884-91 4d brown perf 12 overprinted SPECIMEN. £175 (£125).
- Togo** 1915 20s Purple & black on red, mint with trimmed perfs with 'CCUPATION' error. SGH46F. £260 (£325).
1916-20 London overprinted set overprinted SPECIMEN, SGH47-58. £125 (£160).

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL THE Auction People



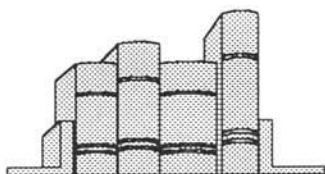
Specializing in 'THE UNUSUAL' - proofs, varieties, errors, specimens, etc (although we do sell normal stamps, covers, collections and all philatelic material)

Our annual programme consists of

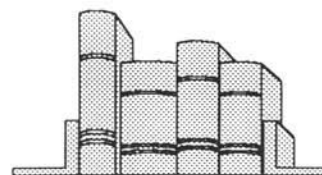
4 public sales comprising 1500+ lots
2 postal bid sales of around 2000+ lots

Write, phone or fax for free catalogue or Vendors terms

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL (Cameo)
Ashleigh, Monument Lane, Codnor Park, Notts NG16 5PJ
Tel : 01773-608899 Fax : 01773-609821



Bookshelf



West Africa Study Circle Publications Committee

The society has for many years had a publications committee to oversee the production of handbooks, monographs and articles by members. These have been published by the society under an imprint of The West Africa Study Circle. Such projects have the principle aim of bringing to the public domain research by members. It is the Publications Committee's role to ensure the high standard of recent works is maintained and, wherever possible, that books are financially viable. The present committee has the following members: Philip Beale, John Sacher, Frank Walton and, *ex officio*, the Editor of *Cameo*. Because Frank Walton was already on the committee before he took on the role of *Cameo* editor, there are now just three members.

To clarify the manner in which manuscripts are considered by the society for publication and also to specify the financial considerations, the full West Africa Study Circle committee agreed the following guidelines at the November 1996 meeting.

Guidelines for WASC Publications

1. The script or synopsis of any proposed publication should be sent to the Publications Committee which will decide whether the work is suitable for publication. Any decision involving use of the Circle's funds or application for funds from other sources will need ratification by the WASC's Committee.
2. Such matters as modifications and format will be discussed with the author. If the Publications Committee and the author are in agreement about publication an exchange of letters between the Publications Committee and the author will take place to confirm this. The author will be required to accept these Guidelines.
3. The Circle will pay for printing, binding, and any other expenses that may arise from publication.
4. Publications will be sold to WASC members at a discounted price, set by the Publications Committee, before being offered to other outlets. The Publications Committee will determine the price at which a publication may be offered to non members of the Circle and to booksellers. The Publications Committee may decide to make a special arrangement with the author under which, for example, after the discounted sales, the author undertakes further publicity and sales.
5. When the Circle has recouped its costs of publication, the author can request to be paid all reasonable expenses from subsequent sales.
6. If there are profits from sales after all costs and expenses have been met, then these will be divided on the basis of 50% to the author and 50% to the Circle. Should the author wish to take less than 50% an adjustment will be made.
7. One person alone will be in charge of any book to ensure that it is produced to the correct standard and in a single style. This applies particularly to joint ventures where style and presentation can vary considerably.
8. The author(s) has the ultimate right to decide who will publish a book.
9. The interpretation of the meaning of the wording in the above paragraphs will be decided by the Publications Committee.

New Books

The society has recently agreed to publish the following two works which are currently in preparation:



King George V Key Plate Issues of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design by Peter Fernbank.

This book is now in the final stages of production, with the fully drafted manuscript now being checked. It is expected that it will be available around Easter 1997.



Sierra Leone Postcards by Terence Dickinson and Con Rutter.

Around 2,000 picture postcards are included. It too is expected to be available at Easter 1997.



The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916

by R. J. Maddocks. Published by the author, 1996, 217 + viii A5 pages. ISBN No. 0 9529487 0 2.

Hard cover, with dust jacket. Retail price £35 + p&p.

Available from R.J. Maddocks, 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Mount Road, Oswestry, SY10 7PJ, UK

Whenever Bob takes pen to paper, we can expect only the best, and this book is no exception. Bob's latest addition to Cameroons postal history draws upon official documentation which has languished in British government archives, out of sight and mind for three-quarters of a century. Specifically, through his sleuthing, Bob has located the General Routine Orders, the Base Routine Orders, and other relevant materials that cover the entire period of the joint Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force, from its formation on August 15, 1914 until its dissolution on March 31, 1916, and beyond. Through the factual information thus to hand, Bob lays to rest a number of persistent misconceptions and fills in numerous gaps on the philatelic and postal history of this fascinating period of time.

The book is well organised into six chapters plus three appendices. Chapters 1 and 2 set the scene by outlining the area's history prior to the Great War and placing the military campaign into proper perspective, with an appropriate emphasis on associated stamp issues and postal operations.

Chapter 3 is the heart of the book, laying out in diary form the wealth of relevant military and postal history information gleaned from official sources and appropriately annotated by the author, so that virtually no stone remains unturned. Chapter 4, among other topics, focuses on a miscellany of contemporary philatelic commentary, speculation, and misinformation; a spurious stamp issue; and an issue prepared but not approved, with the stamps ordered destroyed. Chapter 5 addresses forged postmarks, mail from the French naval contingent, letters to unusual destinations, and post-campaign mail from the British and French administrative spheres after April 1, 1916. Chapter 6 provides an interesting post script on the "Professor Woermann" and a censor in West Africa.

The appendices identify the author's primary information sources, secondary sources for further reading, personnel for the C.E.F. Post & Telegraphs Department, and a check list of vessels, including those which carried the mails, named in the official documents.

What does Bob say in Chapter 3? Chronologically he covers virtually every relevant postal aspect of the campaign. Of particular note are the dates of commencement and termination of the Forces Post Office (not a British post office), the issuance of the C.E.F. stamps (not in June 1915 as so long thought but on July 12), the relationship with French officials who wished to open a post office and issue stamps (requiring approval by General Dobell who, as commander of the joint Anglo-French forces, had authority over all military and administrative matters). Since the C.E.F. and the first "French" stamps were in fact issued under the auspices of the joint expeditionary force, they should be listed in catalogues not as British or French issues but as issues of the joint expeditionary force. The British thus never issued postage stamps for this period, and the first truly French issue came about in 1916, after the military campaign was completed, the expeditionary force disbanded, and the territory divided into separate administrative spheres.

Clearly, a reviewer cannot do justice in the limited space available here. The narrative is expertly complemented with illustrations of material primarily from the author's collection but drawn from other sources as well. More than 200 covers, post cards, stamps, photos, maps, and reproduction of original documents are found throughout, including four plates in full colour.

The author has mined the information sources well and laid to rest many questions, yet questions remain. Others should emulate Bob's lead and his standards to search for, ferret out, and report additional information yet awaiting discovery. Bob has provided a genuine service to the philatelic and historical community by locating the original records and, with sound reasoning and a touch of humour, succinctly and clearly presenting the material for our edification and future benefit. This reviewer's copy is already well thumbed. With hard cover, dust jacket, and sturdy binding, the book will endure being read and re-read. A must for all Cameroun aficionados and highly recommended for all philatelists and postal history buffs.

Gambia Archives : World War II British Censorship of Transit Mails

Bob Maddocks

I have unearthed another item from my trawl of the Gambia Archives - an undated, unsigned and unattributed Circular Letter No. 1 on the outline development of censorship since the outbreak of World War II. Marked "Secret" and probably dating from around 1942 it obviously originated from British Postal and Telegraph Censorship H.Q. in London and was circulated to British Censor stations overseas. No subsequent circular letters were found in the Gambia file but then Gambia which had once been an Imperial Censor Station was sidelined when the censor detachment from England was transferred to Lagos at the end of 1942.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO 1

1. HISTORICAL SUMMARY

In this first letter it may be of interest to review briefly the development since the outbreak of war leading up to the present situation, especially in regard to Transit Mails.

Before the war preparation for censorship was in the hands of only two officers with a very small staff working under the War Office assisted by one or two volunteers who had been earmarked for responsible positions in the event of censorship being imposed. From this small beginning the organisation at home developed very rapidly and within three months the number of persons employed on censorship duties had increased to over 3,000. At the present time over 8,000 are employed in dealing with censorship of mail at home and abroad.

In the early days of the war sufficient information was not available to enable a co-ordinated scheme of Empire Censorship to be put into operation and all that could be attempted was a system that endeavoured as far as possible to avoid duplication of effort and to close gaps in the censorship net. In May 1940, however, as the result of the deliberations of a Sub-Committee of the Interdepartmental Committee on censorship, a scheme was devised and detailed instructions sent to all overseas censorships. The main principles underlying this scheme were (a) to ensure that all neutral transit mails, and particularly those to and from enemy countries, should pass through a British Censorship station and (b) that this censorship should be exercised as near the point of origin of the mail as possible, thus enabling information derived from it to be available at the earliest opportunity.

In order to give the fullest effect to this scheme, Gibraltar was reinforced by approximately 400 personnel from the UK and certain important stations in the Middle and Far East were encouraged to recruit local personnel for the additional service required of them.

Unfortunately, almost immediately after these instructions had been circulated, the whole situation changed with the invasion of the Low Countries, the collapse of France and the entry of Italy into the war. The Mediterranean was no longer used by mail-carrying ships, and airlines from the Far East closed down. The censorship staff at Gibraltar with the exception of about half a dozen Examiners were all evacuated and for some time the whole position as regards transit mails became somewhat obscure. Further, with the possibility of invasion the security demands of the fighting services became relatively more important than they had hitherto been.

It soon became evident that mails on routes in the Western Hemisphere would become increasingly important and in consequence, Bermuda, Trinidad and Sierra Leone have assumed an importance relative to that of

Gibraltar, Haifa and Colombo before the capitulation of France. In addition, the diversion of mails round the Cape increased the importance of such stations as Cape Town and Zanzibar.

2. THE ATLANTIC

For a long time now negotiations have been in progress between the British and US Government in an endeavour to persuade the latter to route all their mails for Europe via Bermuda, Trinidad or Sierra Leone, or alternatively via the UK and this was considered to be of such great importance that one of the Directors (Mr Herbert) and the Chief Postal Censor (Mr C des Graz) have paid personal visits to the USA, Canada, Bermuda and Trinidad.

As a result of these negotiations the US Government have agreed that their "Export" line of steamers will call voluntarily at Bermuda on both inward and outward journeys so that their mails can be examined; it has also been arranged that the Pan American Clipper Air Service will call at Bermuda on both Eastbound and Westbound trips.

Already a staff of nearly 700 has been sent to Bermuda, and it is intended to make up this number to at least 1,000. The staff at Trinidad is being augmented but at Sierra Leone mails removed from ships are nearly all being sent to England for examination.

Until now the mails terminal between Portugal and Portuguese Atlantic Islands and Spain and Spanish Atlantic Islands have been allowed to pass unexamined but there is evidence that this concession is being abused and stricter control may have to be imposed in the near future.

The one serious gap which we have been unable to close is the LATI Airline between Italy and Pernambuco which transits French and Spanish Morocco and calls at Sal Islands en route to Brazil. Apparently the only way of dealing with this means of evasion at present is by denying to enemy trans-Atlantic Airlines the petrol they require to operate them. This question is being actively pursued. Many letters however for USA which have crossed the Atlantic by LATI airmail are intercepted at Trinidad en route from South America.

3. THE PACIFIC

Mails for Europe from the Far East must now be routed via South Africa or else overland via Siberia although there is evidence that some mails are passing through the Persian Gulf. The Inspector General of Overseas Stations (Brigadier French) has just completed an extensive tour of South and East Africa and Egypt, and he is now in India prior to proceeding to the Far East. It is hoped that as a result of these visits arrangements can be made to close any gaps that may still be open in that part of the world. Negotiations are also in progress with the US Government which should result in a great deal of trans-Pacific mail being seen at Vancouver and Hong Kong.

4. MATERIAL DERIVED FROM CENSORSHIP

Since the occupation by Germany of so large a part of Western Europe, and the closing of the Mediterranean to normal shipping routes, comparatively little transit mail is available for censorship in Great Britain or can be made so by diversion except at the cost of very heavy delay. The chief function of the UK Censorship, therefore, has become that of censoring mail terminal to the UK. It follows from this that censorship material derived from transit mail is derived chiefly from examination of mail at overseas stations. Such material, like all information, can be of use only if it is quickly available at a distributing centre, ie, at Postal & Telegraph Censorship Headquarters, London. There is therefore an implied responsibility on all overseas stations to see that not only is their examination of mails efficient but that their information service is also functioning well. In this respect, submissions and cables from overseas stations are generally good but there is an ever increasing demand for more and better information from the Government Departments served by us.

APPENDIX TO CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 1

SERVICE POINTS

1. CORRESPONDENCE

All matters connected with Overseas Censorship have now been made the responsibility of the Secretariat, Postal & Telegraph Censorship. To enable these matters to be dealt with effectively an Overseas Section has been formed in the Secretariat. To enable this section to carry out its task it will be appreciated if all letters and reports from Overseas Stations are addressed to the Director, Postal & Telegraph Censorship and semi-official correspondence discontinued. This will ensure that correspondence flows through one channel only and will enable it to be distributed promptly to the appropriate branch.

2. CABLES

Cable traffic is a vital and necessary link between "Blanketing" (Director of Postal & Telegraph Censorship) and Chief Censors. It must be realised however, that it is an expensive item in the Censorship budget and it is hoped that you will co-operate in effecting economy in this connection. The "blue pencil" should be unsparingly used on drafts before despatch and any that are not sufficiently urgent to warrant a cable should be sent by the quickest "safe" route. A prefix (letter or number) facilitates reference in replies, while strict checking to avoid inaccuracy saves time, temper and requests for repeats from the recipient. (This applies equally to letters and reports).

A PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERING SERVICE FROM THE MOST FAMOUS NAME IN PHILATELY

0% VENDOR COMMISSION
on total realisations over £5000

A PROVEN PROGRAMME OF SPECIALISED
INTERNATIONAL SALES

FREE ADVICE AND EXPERT MARKET VALUATIONS

FAST GUARANTEED PAYMENT

CASH ADVANCES AVAILABLE

SETTLEMENT IN ANY CURRENCY

THE INDUSTRY'S LARGEST DATABASE
OF SPECIALIST BUYERS

HIGH QUALITY CATALOGUES
DISTRIBUTED WORLDWIDE

REGULAR TELESales CONTACT
WITH MAJOR BUYERS

SPECIALIST SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

COMFORTABLE AIR CONDITIONED VENUES
AND EXTENSIVE VIEWING TIMES

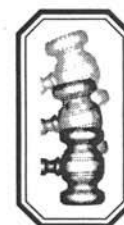
For a full information pack contact David Crocker on 0171 836 8444 today.



**STANLEY
GIBBONS**

Auctions

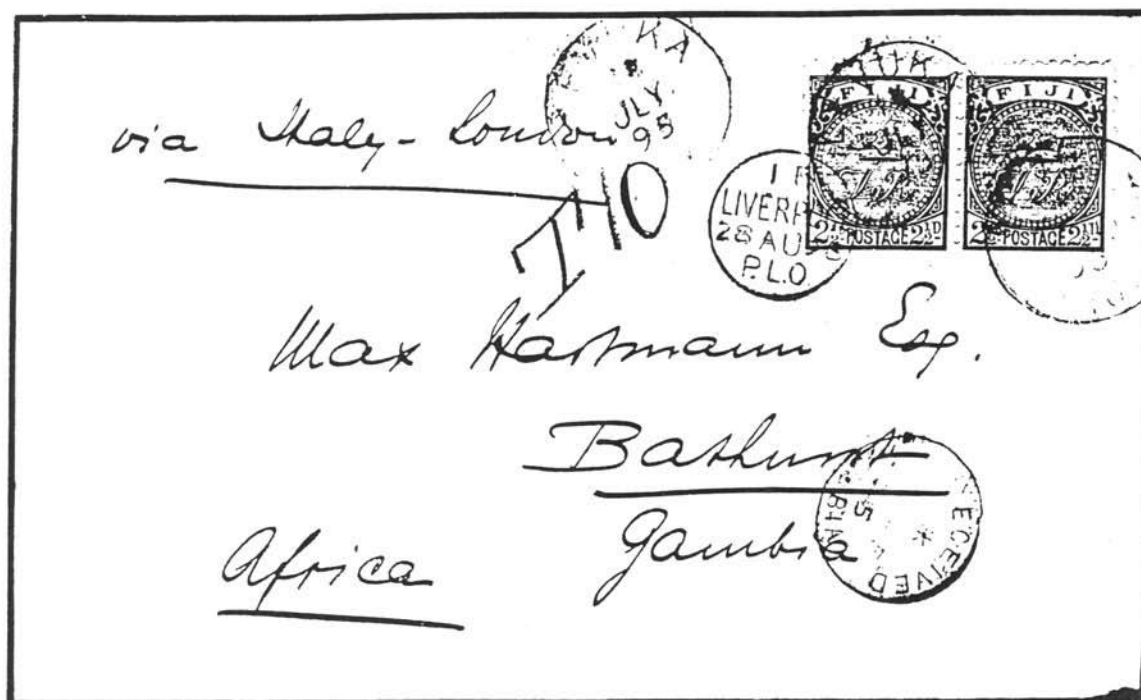
**LEADING PHILATELIC
AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1901**



STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS
399 STRAND • LONDON • WC2R 0LX
TELEPHONE: 0171 836 8444
FACSIMILE: 0171 836 7342

Fiji to Gambia 1895

Jeremy Martin



14 July 1895 - Levuka, Fiji to Bathurst, Gambia via Italy and the United Kingdom

Tony Eastgate gave a display of his collection of Fiji to The Royal Philatelic Society, London, including this unusual item. The cover illustrated was carried by the Orient Line *Ophir* via Sydney, Suez and Naples to London. It subsequently received a Liverpool P.L.O. mark and, upon arrival at Bathurst, a RECEIVED / GAMBIA handstamp was added on 25 September 1895, giving a total journey time of just over ten weeks.

The cover was franked at 5d but attracted a manuscript T10 surcharge, presumably because it was overweight.



Gambia World War II Civil Censorship Type 4C

Bob Maddocks

This handstamp is certainly of UK origin and is indisputably recorded with numbers P202 and P203 on Gambian mail (Ref. 1). It is possible that the handstamps were taken to the Gambia by the Imperial Censorship detachment who arrived in February 1942. The use of P202 could be explained this way, however P203 is more difficult to understand as the only recorded use is on 9 December 1941 - two months before the British censors arrived. Another explanation could be that the mail on which they were struck was submitted to London for examination, eg correspondence suspected to contain code or secret writing sent for testing.

Reference

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship World War I and II*, p21, WASC 1993

West African Airmails During World War II from the Gambia Prospective

Bob Maddocks

The following details given in chronological order have been extracted from various files in the National Archives, Banjul by kind courtesy of the Archivist. Most are found in exchanges of correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies (SSC) and the Governor/Government of the Gambia (GG) or as otherwise indicated. RG indicates Receiver General.

22 Apr 1941 SSC to GG. Attention has been drawn to the fact that mail received from Bathurst on 4 January by the West African Flying Boat service (instituted in Autumn of last year) included one packet containing nine ordinary airmail letters and one bag containing approx. 460 similar letters. It has already been pointed out that this air service is available for the carriage of urgent official passengers, mails and freight and the ordinary mail should not be sent by this route. See previous telegrams of 21 Oct 1940 and 20 Nov 1940. In view of the limited capacity of this service it is essential that it should, for the present, be reserved for the carriage of official passengers, mail and freight of high priority and that no ordinary surcharged postal mails may be despatched by this air service.

7 May 1941 Receiver General proposes to send an airmail to Freetown for the UK by ocean.

9 May 1941 GG to SSC. Bathurst, being the last West African stop on the homeward flying boat route, spare space if and when available has been used for carriage of private mails in the belief that no repeat no inconvenience could be caused. If difficulties anticipated from Lisbon onwards private mail could be bagged separately and, if necessary delayed, in Lisbon. Average weight total airmail has been under nine kilograms of which only about half has been private mail. It is estimated that seven-eighths of private mail is from service personnel.

Ocean mail communication with the Gambia is exceptionally difficult: for example a package posted in London on 8 Mar arrived only last mail on 29 Apr. Homeward ocean mail believed equally difficult as direct sailings are very rare and mails usually routed via Freetown. Gambia is worst served of all West African colonies with regards ocean mail.

Homeward airmail has been of greatest value to businessmen and service personnel and private persons alike and it is difficult to understand why this convenience should be taken away when space for private mail is available. In the interests of all concerned I most earnestly urge reconsideration and grant of permission to send private mail as and when space is available.

19 Jun 1941 SSC to GG. In view of the difficulties arising in connection with ocean mail communications with Bathurst it has been agreed as an exceptional measure that the Gambia Government should have discretion to send limited quantities of surcharged unofficial mail on each homeward bound flying boat whenever space is available for that purpose. No guarantee can be given that space will be available on each and any particular flying boat and it is regretted that it is not possible to afford similar facilities on the outward bound service.

Unofficial mail despatched in this manner should be surcharged at the airmail rate of 1s 3d per ½oz, should be separately bagged and should be consigned through normal postal channels. The carriage of unofficial mails by this service will be charged for at the rate of 45s per lb.

In view of the extreme pressure upon the limited capacity available on the flying boat service, it is not possible at this stage to agree to the carriage of unofficial mail to and from other West African dependencies though it is hoped that this will be possible later in the year when larger flying boats are brought into operation.

Objections were raised in the Gambia to this deterrent rate as it was estimated that of private mail was from service personnel, few of whom could afford to pay 2s 6d per letter. It was suggested that 1s 3d per ¼oz and advocated the introduction of special letter card as used by the military. Also that there should be a weight restriction / allocation for each colony. Europeans in West Africa complained of low priority given, delays etc to their mails when Middle East airmails were continually being flown through West Africa. The Governor of the Gambia agreed the high rates were unfair.

20 Jul 1941 The Receiver General, by Public Notice, advised airmails to UK and any part of Africa were to be charged at 1s 3d each ½oz. Postcards (single) were at 7d.

20 Oct 1941 SSC to GG. Necessary to divert from West Africa to Mediterranean route BOAC flying boats other than Boeing 314s. For operational reasons, latter must proceed to USA for maintenance and overhaul after each trip to West Africa and, during winter, itinerary of these flying boats will be Baltimore, Bermuda, Lisbon, Foynes, Lisbon, Bathurst, Lagos, Bathurst, Belem, Trinidad, Bermuda, Baltimore. It is hoped to maintain this service once fortnightly commencing flight "Bristol" due to leave Foynes about 30 Oct 1941. As this involves the discontinuation of the Northward service from West Africa, official mail and priority traffic destined for the UK must in future be routed via Cairo for onward transmission by the Mediterranean route.

Undated Memo from GG to RG. Notice of suspension of airmail service to the UK until further notice - possible might reopen when Pan American service comes in and if and when they take over the Lati Service - should we telegraph SSC suggesting our mail should be sent weekly to Londonderry for transport in HM ships? I imagine GPO know nothing about our regular convoys and that our mail is being sent hither and thither to Liverpool, Swansea, Glasgow, etc when we could be assured of a regular and frequent service from Londonderry. (Response not seen on file). Mention also of gun being taken off the aircraft at Lisbon southbound to provide for extra cargo weight.

5 Nov 1941 Note that Army PO mail went by freight plane; Government official mail by BOAC via Lagos and Cairo.

18 Nov 1941 RAF Communications Services West Africa. Notice from A.O.C, Air HQ, West Africa to GG. It is proposed to run a service of one aircraft per week in both directions commencing Monday 24 Nov 1941 pending establishment of regular air services by Pan Am, Bathurst - Freetown - Takoradi - Accra and return. Airmail carried to Accra for Lagos will be despatched by air whenever possible otherwise by first available ship. Nigerian mail for the UK will be despatched via the Middle East in future. Space for official mail will be available on each flight as follows:

Colonial Secretary, Gambia	15 kg
GOC Gambia	6 kg
RAF Gambia	15 kg
Naval Officer i/c	6kg

24 Nov 1941 Air HQ to GG. Re Panair Communication Service West Africa. Further to ours of 18 Nov 1941 PAA Airways will commence operating a once weekly service w.e.f. 26 Nov 1941

Accra - Takoradi - Freetown	Wednesday
Freetown - Bathurst - Freetown	Thursday
Freetown - Takoradi - Accra	Friday

landing at Marshall Aerodrome, Liberia when required. Aircraft DC2. Payload 26 passengers or 4,000lbs freight and mail.

Passengers for Lagos can be accepted at Accra by PAA which is already running a thrice weekly service in that direction.

5 Dec 1941 Pan Am Airways, Accra to Colonial Secretary, Bathurst. Will accept airmail for carriage between points on our route. Want assurance that we will be reimbursed for all such carriage on basis of the rates to be agreed upon in the future.

(Date?) Reply by Colonial Secretary to PAA. Assurance given that your company will be reimbursed for the carriage of airmail accepted from the Bathurst PO. I am to add that the rates of postage have already been agreed upon with the US Government.

6 Dec 1941 Lagos advised Gambia of Nigerian Rate of Postage for Pan Am Service beginning in Dec 1941 as Gazetted 25 Nov 1941.

For letters for each ½oz to :	Belgian Congo	9d
	Belem & Natal	1s 6d
	elsewhere in Brazil	3s 0d
	Trinidad	2s 0d
	Puerto Rico	2s 6d
	elsewhere in West Indies, Guyana and Central America	3s 0d
	Miami and other destinations in US and Canada reached by	
	i) surface routes	3s 0d
	ii) air routes from Miami	3s 6d
	Argentina, Chile and other South American states	4s 0d
	UK, Malta and Gibraltar and other European neutral states	5s 0d

For postcards one half of above rates apply. All correspondence to be superscribed "VIA PAN AMERICAN". Presumably Gambia adopted same rates.

13 Feb 1942 SSC to GG. For operational reasons 3? (indistinct) flying boats will revert to West Africa forthwith. As this will provide northbound service from West Africa; official mail and priority traffic for the UK should no longer be routed via Cairo.

7 Apr 1942 Foreign Office London emphasise that any Government Department Diplomatic Bag in transit on the Trans Africa Route is not to be put on the PAA service unless accompanied by an approved King's Messenger.

22 May 1942 Army Air Force HQ Ferrying Command, Washington to Air Vice Marshall RAF Delegation, Washington. Our Army Air Force are taking over control and operation of ferrying service in Africa and Near East from Pan American African w.e.f. 31 Oct 1942 - the latter had in an Aug 1941 agreement taken over the task originally undertaken by the RAF.

16 Jun 1942 Airmails to UK sent on average twice a week. Since 1 Apr 1942 mails despatched 29 times. Airmail for USA now sent via Accra instead of Lagos.

Note Pan Am also carried mail Bathurst to Khartoum on behalf of BOAC. Rate 1s 3d per ½oz to all destinations. Conveyance charges paid by UK GPO.

28 Jul 1942 Airgraph Service

Observations and comments by Receiver General:- unlikely that volume of traffic to and from the Gambia would justify the setting up of a branch of the service in the Gambia itself. Outwards airmail is now quite

adequate and there is little difference in the time required for transmission by airgraph and by sea to Bathurst. Could consider indirect service via Nairobi or Cairo - but little shorter than by sea mail.

14 - 15 Aug 1942 West Africa War Council minuted that the introduction of a letter card service from the UK for troops in West Africa would be of great benefit. Also that it was impossible to arrange air passages for key men urgently required in West Africa.

21 Sep 1942 Airgraph service apparatus will be installed at Lagos when available.

12 Mar 1943 Resident Minister, Accra / GG (and other three Governors) re air letter services - it has been decided to extend the 6d airletter services to Forces in West Africa from 5 Mar 1943. This will provide quicker service than airgraph which would have to be flown to Lagos for enlargement before being sent to the other colonies. In these circumstances, the Director of Army Postal Services has advised the War Office to drop the proposal for airgraph services. (Relay of part telegram received by Resident Minister from SSC London). (However, Airgraphs dating 1945 have been recorded from the Gold Coast to the UK)

Air Communications

9 Sep 1942 GG to Resident Minister, Accra. There are no ordinary mail or passenger facilities by air outwards and only a limited expensive mail and occasional accidental passenger facilities. In the absence of any direct sea connection the round voyage takes sometimes as long as three months instead of a few days, thereby causing serious shortage of manpower. Consider that morale of all would be improved if adequate air mail services both ways were inaugurated.

30 Sep 1942 Resident Minister, Accra to Air Ministry. West Coast requirements presently being served by three Boeings, (*Bristol*, *Bangor* and *Berwick*), two G-class flying boats (*Golden Hind* and *Golden Horn*), three S-30s, now reduced to two following loss of *Clare*, (*Catalina* and *Guba*). Still necessary to send the Boeings to Baltimore for servicing and overhaul. *Catalina* and *Guba* not permanently allocated to West Africa service and often used for special flights to Malta and elsewhere. *Golden Hind* is experiencing engine trouble which makes it necessary to confine them to the Foynes-Lisbon hop. Recently supplemented by PAA service along the coast but this service has now been discontinued with disastrous results. Policy from recent talks is to concentrate flying boats on Foynes-Lisbon-Bathurst lap and use land planes between Bathurst and Lagos. Hope to introduce Warwicks on part of the route. Governors expressed the importance of two way airmail service (a) for important communications connected with the war supply between firms on the West Coast and their HQ in England and (b) from the point of view of the morale of the civil population.

13 Oct 1942 West Africa War Council minuted that concerned only essential loads were carried by air and that rigid system of inspection of official bags and freight had been instituted to prevent personal effects being sent home in official bags loaded in West Africa.

28 Oct 1942 Air Ministry to Resident Minister. Boeings will continue to return to Baltimore for overhaul but from 27 Oct 1942 will follow the South Atlantic route on westbound flights. The new route will be Baltimore - Lisbon - West Africa - Lisbon - West Africa - Baltimore. As this route does not touch the UK the connection will be provided by the two G-class boats (*Golden Hind* and *Golden Horn*) which will shuttle between UK and Lisbon instead of going right through to West Africa.

The S-30 boats have come off the Bathurst - Lisbon run due to old age (and after crash of the *Clare*) and their inability to continue to operate at overweight on this leg though usable on other runs. Have borrowed from the RAF two Catalinas pending arrival of Sunderlands. *Guba* and existing *Catalina* will continue to be available.

23 Jan 1943 West Africa War Council Memo (extract). US Air Transport Command has agreed to carry mails previously carried by PAA Africa Ltd.

The State Dept has requested US Post Office and War Dept to see that nothing is done which would be

contrary to the undertakings on censorship reached with Pan American Airways. The censor advisor has informed the US Army Postal Dept at Accra that British censorship wishes to examine all civil transit mail to or from Belgian Congo or Fighting French territories between Nigeria and the Congo or Angola which has originated in or is conveyed to South America or Liberia. The US Army Postal Dept has not yet replied.

The censorship Advisor is still of the opinion that uncensored mail is passing through Fisherman's Lake from South America to Lisbon and vice versa. [NOTE: The arrangements made between British and American Censorship Authorities were that no mail should be delivered either way unless it had been censored by British or American censors in San Juan or Trinidad. Proposed to set up censorship in Liberia - this would have to be American as US Army is in effective control of the country.]

9 Mar 1943 War Council Minute. Aircraft operating on regular services within West Africa are now limited to two aircraft operated by Sabena between Takoradi and Belgian Congo and one DC3 aircraft operated by RAF between Accra and Bathurst. Five out of six Sunderlands were now in service on UK - West Africa sector; arrangements to land and refuel at Port Etienne (Mauritania).

29 May 1943 West Africa War Council. Ensigns were now operating at a nominal frequency of one per week between Lagos and Freetown, landing at Takoradi and Robertsfield (in Liberia). No final agreement for the use of facilities in Liberia by BOAC had however been concluded with the American Authorities who were still suspicious of BOAC activities.

RAF South Atlantic Service now in operation between Miami and Accra though so far only three Liberators had been put into service. Official bags of mail from Washington to Middle East and most parts of Africa flown by this route.

21 Jun 1943 SSC / Resident Minister. In view of importance of re-establishment of civil air links across the Indian Ocean between New Zealand, Australia and India, the Middle East and UK, air service arrangements are being made for the operation by Qantas Empire airways on behalf of BOAC of air services between Ceylon and Western Australia commencing 1 Jul 1943. Service will be weekly at first but it is hoped later, twice weekly services will be possible. In view of the small payload available, services will be limited to high priority passengers, official mails and airgraphs. If and when capacity can be increased it is hoped to carry troops' mail and, ultimately, public air mail. Please inform West Africa Governments.

26 - 27 Oct 1943 West Africa War Council. Sunderlands taken off the West Africa route for period of five weeks to carry Christmas mail to troops in the Middle East. A land plane service to be operated by Transport Command with a Dakota between Rabat and Accra would be substituted. No decision yet taken as to whether the land planes would be substituted permanently for the flying boats or whether the Sunderland services would be resumed at the end of the five week period.

Sabena hope to introduce a service between UK and Leopoldville via Casablanca, Gao and Lagos. No recent development on RAF South Atlantic Service, Aeromaritime Service and the service operated by the Lignes Aeriennes Militaires which were now closely associated with Air France.

(Note elsewhere) There was an Inter-colonial Dakota service to meet the requirements of the four British colonies and Banana, Port Etienne and Dakar (military communication). Number 114 Transport Wing at Accra was responsible for air transport for the Colonial Administrations and the Fighting Services (established late 1943).

20 Nov 1943 RG / GG. With Boeings on their winter schedule and with the Sunderlands being taken off we lose our homeward air service but as a partial help a service is now operating between Rabat, Accra and Lagos.

22 Nov 1943 RG / GG. There are three Boeings on the direct Lagos - UK run for the time being; about 100 passengers to and from the UK per month. These machines are presumably carrying airmails (homeward).

These are the only aircraft on this run until the return of the Sunderlands.

30 Nov 1943 RG / GG (Correcting above) Position is that the three Boeings operated by BOAC travel out here from the UK, from Bathurst to Lagos. They then return by winter route to Bathurst, Trinidad and Baltimore. On the return journey they travel via Bermuda and Lisbon to the UK and then out to West Africa. We thus have no direct mail or passengers northbound by BOAC aircraft. Traffic Branch, however, informs us that they have passengers from time to time to USA. All mail to the UK is at present carried by the RAF service to Rabat and thence to the UK by BOAC. BOAC acts as Agent for Air Transport Command for all mails from Bathurst to Rabat. I am informed that Post Office Mail, diplomatic mail, etc leave by this route twice weekly and that all mail is now cleared. Finally, we have of course no southbound private mail from the UK.

11 Sep 1944 SSC / GG Civil postal service between the British Empire and all places in Departments of Calvados and Manche in France has now been reopened. Service restricted until further notice to non-registered postcards containing messages of a purely personal or family matter. You should effect 100% examination (censorship) in your territory until further notice. 14 Sep 1944 - restrict repeat restrict to non illustrated postcards closed mails to be addressed to Bureau de Poste, Cherbourg.

An Explanation for the Changes of Route taken by Transatlantic Flights to USA

During the winter months flights from Europe to the USA took the southern route to avoid the hazardous westerly head winds met on the northern route and to benefit from the strong trade winds off the African coast.

Postal Routes in Central West Africa

28 Jan 1941 GG / SSC. Gambia has no regular postal communication with neighbouring Vichy colonies.

3 Feb 1941 West Africa Governors' Conference, Lagos / GHQ, Accra. Gold Coast is the only colony which maintains regular transfrontier postal communications with the Vichy Colonies No transfrontier communications between Sierra Leone and French Guinea also between Gambia and Senegal except mails from the UK are transmitted occasionally (Note - these were for British internees). Nigeria and Dahomey discontinued exchanges in Jul 1940 at instance of French Authorities. Military Authorities have no objection to resumption of postal services provided they follow definitive routes and are subject to complete censorship.

3 Mar 1942 SSC / GG. Request report on postal routes to Europe and USA from:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (a) French Camerouns and Equatorial Africa | (e) Spanish Guinea |
| (b) Belgian Congo | (f) Vichy Territories |
| (c) Angola | (g) British West African Territories |
| (d) Liberia | |

Also between any two of these territories.

10 Mar 1942 Replied. No information here re (a) to (f). Re (g):

- (i) Gambia to Europe - by ocean and airmail to the UK (Aircraft call at Lisbon or Gibraltar) Mails for neutral countries in Europe are normally sent to the UK by this route. Frequency - approximately every three week for ocean mail and about once a week (somewhat irregularly) for airmail. Latter primarily for official mail but private mail carried when space is available. A northbound Portuguese steamer occasionally calls at Bathurst in which case it is used to carry mail for Portugal which happens to be awaiting shipment.
- (ii) Gambia to USA - ocean mails are sent via Freetown as opportunity occurs. Airmails are sent via Lagos at frequent intervals.
- (iii) Gambia to Vichy Territories - mails for Dakar (principally for British subjects detained in French West Africa) are occasionally received here from the UK, when special arrangements are made for handing

them over to the French Authorities at the land frontier. There is no mail service from the Gambia to other Vichy territories.

- (iv) Gambia to other BWA territories- ocean mails for Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigeria are forwarded as opportunity occurs; for the latter two territories usually via Freetown but occasionally direct. Airmails are despatched at least once a week.
- (v) Gambia to French Camerouns, Equatorial Africa, Belgian Congo, Angola & Spanish Guinea All mails sent via Lagos as under (iv).
- (vi) Gambia to Liberia - all mails sent via Freetown as under (iv).
- (vii) Gambia to Portuguese Guinea - mails usually sent out via Freetown as under (iv) or occasionally via Cape Verde Islands if northbound Portuguese steamer or schooner calls at Bathurst. Southbound, by Portuguese steamers.

Further information will be sent if any changes occur.

An Explanation of the Governors' Conference, Resident Minister and West Africa War Council

Convened by the four Governors under the Chairmanship of Governor of Nigeria, to co-ordinate actions of their governments especially in relation to the fighting services. In 1942 Viscount Simon was appointed Resident Minister for West Africa, establishing his headquarters at Accra. He set up a War Council into which the Governors' Conference was absorbed and also included the heads of the three armed services. The war effort of the four colonies was increased. In 1944 he was succeeded by Capt Harold Balfour. The post of Resident Minister was abolished in 1945.

Footnote Comments

Guba Flying Boat Re the aforementioned exchanges of 30 Sep 1942 and 28 Oct 1942 between the Resident Minister Accra and the Air Ministry - this might lead to a fresh assessment of the general belief that the flying boat *Guba* was solely responsible for clearing a likely backlog of outward unofficial West African mails in November 1942. This backlog had apparently been occasioned by a reduction in available aircraft and services. Two unreliable G-class flying boats were restricted to the UK - Lisbon shuttle, two aged S-30 boats were withdrawn from the Bathurst - Lisbon run and Pan American African discontinued their West Africa coastal service. Another mentioned factor was the seasonal switch of the three BOAC Boeings from their summer North Atlantic route to their winter South Atlantic one which excluded any stop in the UK, using Lisbon instead for the connection.

All this happened in Sep / Oct 1942 leaving only two aircraft *Guba* and a Catalina on, but not permanently allocated to the West Africa Service. That the BOAC Boeings continued to operate to and from West Africa, albeit via Lisbon as their only European stop, seems perhaps to have been overlooked in the *Guba* involvement in clearing the mail backlog.

Moreover, though no specific dates are mentioned as to when they were actually made available in West Africa, two more Catalinas were at this time borrowed from the RAF and presumably they also would have helped in the transportation of mail.

The question arises as to how great was the mail backlog and were all four colonies equally affected? Given the relatively low pay load of *Guba* and the Catalinas and the high priority given to essential official mail and passengers it would seem improbable that any one of these planes would have normally been given over entirely to the transportation of unofficial mail from any one colony let alone all four on a single flight to Lisbon and the UK. However *Guba* was aged and full of mechanical problems and was perhaps despairingly expendable for this sole purpose. Nonetheless in the known circumstances it should not be stated so categorically as is the case in some auction catalogues that a particular cover postmarked in British West Africa in Oct / Nov 1942 was actually carried by *Guba*.

Postage Rates for Unofficial Airmails West Africa's airmail rate to the UK was 1s 3d per ½oz and as far as can be ascertained, was unchanged when carried by BOAC Clippers flying whichever route. Mail carried over the double Atlantic route by PAN AM clippers had to be superscribed "via Pan American" and prepaid at the postal rate of 5s per ½oz (four times the standard rate).

There were proposals from London to surcharge unofficial airmail at double rate, ie 2s 6d per ½oz to discourage proliferating mail but given the probable adverse effect on expatriate morale they were rejected by the Gambia Administration (and presumably the other three colonies) and subsequently withdrawn.

Air Services and Routes Operational in Africa 1941 - 1942 (incomplete and unconfirmed, frequency and routing seemingly variable according to experiences)

Pan American Airways = Miami - San Juan - Trinidad - Belem - Natal - Bathurst - Lagos - Leopoldville

Pan American Africa Airways = Accra - Lagos - Kano - Maidugari - El Fasher - Elobeid - Khartoum

BOAC = Takoradi - Lagos - Douala - Bangui - Libenge - Stanleyville - Juba

BOAC = Lagos - Libreville - Pointe Noire - Leopoldville - Coquilhatville - Stanleyville - Butiaba - Port Bell - Juba - Malakal - Khartoum - Wadi Halfa - Cairo

(NB The last two may have been operated by Sabena under charter to BOAC)

South African Airways = Jo'burg - Bulawayo - Lusaka - Ndola - Elizabethville - Mpika - Dodoma - Nairobi

- Entebbe - Irumu - Stanleyville - Leopoldville

Free French = Brazzaville - Fort Lamy - Cairo

BOAC = Takoradi - Lagos - Kano - Fort Lamy - El Geneina - El Fasher - Khartoum

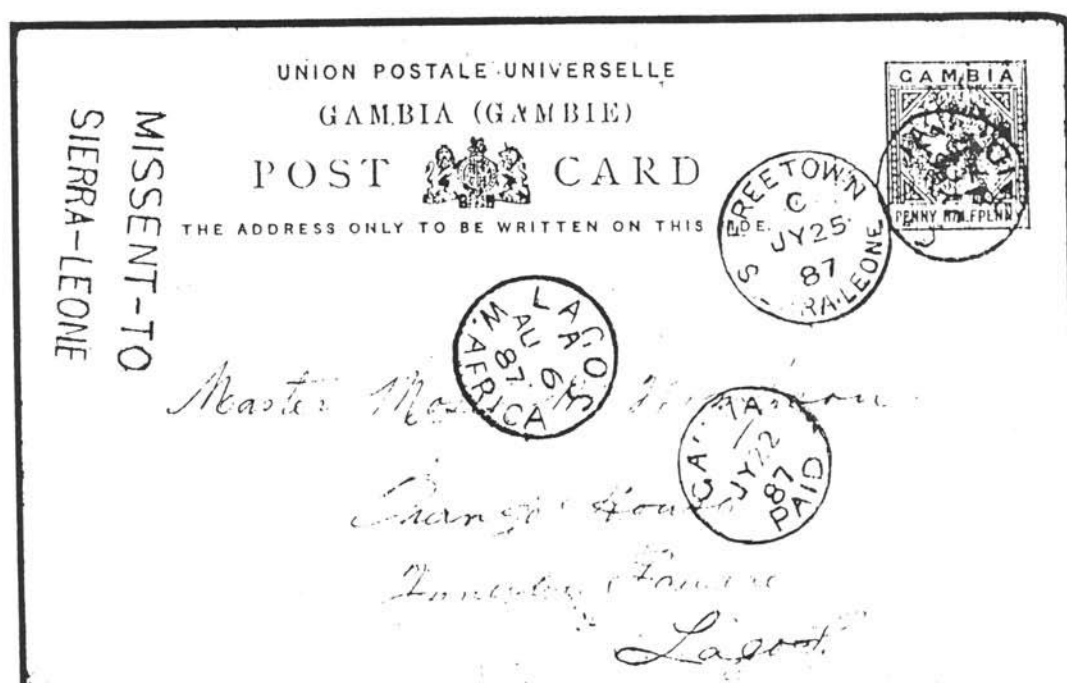
Lignes Aeriennes Militaires/Aeromaritime = Lagos - Accra - Abidjan - Monrovia - Conakry - Dakar,

Thence by Reseau Aerien Francais to Casablanca and Lisbon.



Gambia to Lagos via Sierra Leone

Stewart Duncan



22 July 1887 Gambia 1½d card to Lagos with the scarce MISSSENT-TO / SIERRA-LEONE handstamp.

The Ashantee Expedition

Reproduced from The Illustrated London News of 20 September 1873

submitted by Geoff Osborn

A detachment of the British naval forces on the Gold Coast of West Africa has met with a serious disaster from a treacherous attack by some natives, in complicity with the King of Ashantee, who still invades the country of the Fantees under the British protectorate. Despatches have this week been received at the Admiralty from Commodore J.E. Commerell V.C., C.B. in command of H.M.S. Rattlesnake, describing the untoward affair, which took place on the 14th ult. at Chamah, on the Bussum Prah river, where the Commodore had led a party, in several boats fully manned and armed, to hold a conference with the native chieftains, and to as their aid in expelling the Ashantees. The boats employed were the captain's galley of the Rattlesnake, in which the Commodore was accompanied by Commander Percy Luxmoore of H.M.S. Argus, and Captain W. Helden, of the 2nd West India negro regiment; the steam-launch of the Colonial Government, under Sub-Lieutenant Cross, of the Argus, towing the captain's galley, and armed with rockets; the steam cutter of H.M.S. Simoom, under Lieutenant Frederick Edwards, of the Rattlesnake, with rockets, accompanied by Sub-Lieutenant Hulton; and the whale boat and gig of the Rattlesnake, under Surgeon C.F. Murray and Sub-Lieutenant Pocklington.

The Commodore had first gone forward alone in his galley, and had landed and talked with the Chamah chiefs, who declared that they would be neutral in the war between the Ashantees and the English. After this, having been told that the Ashantees were on an island some miles up the river, Commodore Commerell thought he might go up and make a survey of its banks. He led his boats up along the Chamah shore, trusting to the promises he had that morning received; but when they had got a mile and a half up the river they were suddenly fired upon by the negroes in ambush, at fifteen yards' distance. Many of our sailors, with the Commodore himself, and the two officers his companions - namely, Commander Luxmoore and Captain Helden - were severely wounded.

Commodore Commerell's wound, in the right side,

presently caused such loss of blood and exhaustion, that he was compelled to give up the command of the party to Commander Luxmoore; but this officer had five wounds, in the left hip, shoulder, back and side. He nevertheless bravely continued to act in command, as the Commodore desired, moving the boats out into mid-stream, and returning the enemy's fire till the enemy were driven out of the bush. Commander Luxmoore is said to have nearly fainted with loss of blood, when this first brunt of the action was past.

In the meantime, a party of ten Fantee policemen, under the Chief Constable, had been landed by the Rattlesnake's second cutter, of which Sub-Lieutenant Draffen was in command, to take possession of the Chamah Fort. This party was also suddenly attacked by the Chamah people, and four men were killed - William Woodcock, an English sailor, of the cutter's crew, a Krooman, and two Fantees. Their bodies were quickly stripped and mutilated, their heads being cut off, as they lay on the beach. The survivors were rescued by the Rattlesnake's first cutter, under Sub-Lieutenant Wilding. The other boats having returned to the ship, a bombardment was opened, which in two hours destroyed the whole town of Chamah, leaving it a heap of burnt ruins. Next day, having been relieved by the Merlin and the Argus, the Commodore's ship returned to Cape Coast Castle. It is hoped that he and the other wounded officers are in a fair way of recovery. They have been ordered to the Cape for medical treatment, as Cape Coast Castle is very unhealthy at this time.

The departure from England of Sir Garnet Wolseley, commander of the military expedition about to be sent out against the Ashantees, is noticed in another page. It is stated that the regiments to be sent out will probably be the second battalions of the 23rd fusiliers and of the Rifle Brigade, both now in Ireland; but they will not embark before November or December. The artillery, to be commanded by Captain Rait, will consist of a battery of six small 4½-inch-bore brass howitzers, throwing 12lb shells, and mounted on carriages 2ft. 6in wide between the

axles, which are to be drawn by the native soldiers, and will pass more easily through the dense forest than larger guns or mortars could. The native troops enlisted will be armed with muzzle-loading Enfield rifles. Great efforts are now made, both in the Royal Victualling Yard at Deptford and in the Royal Arsenal at a Woolwich to complete the stores and preparations.

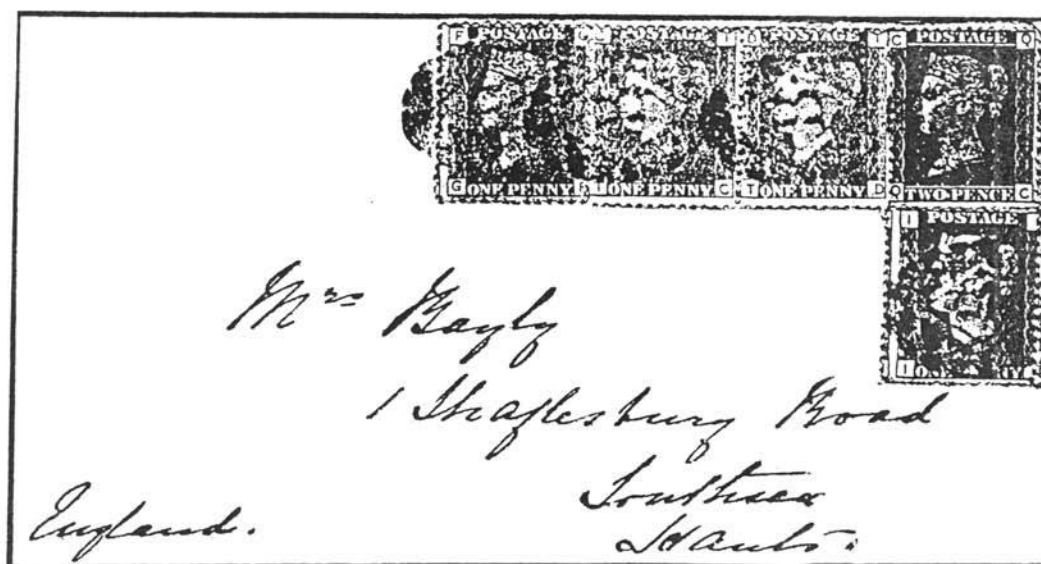
The screw steam-ship Warree, carrying large quantities of ammunition, with carcasses of fire-balls to set fire to native villages or stockades, has already started. She was last week lying alongside the T pier at Woolwich, embarking her cargo (sic). The Warree, which is named after a tributary creek of the Niger river, is a new vessel of about 300 tons burden, built in the Tyne by Dudgeon and Co., for the British and African Steam Navigation Company, of Glasgow, and this is her first voyage. She is commanded by Captain Bowmaker, who expects to

make the voyage to the Gold Coast in nineteen days, including a stoppage at Madeira for coal. The time showed by the Government for the voyage is twenty-four days. She will not stop at Elmina or Cape Coast Castle, but proceed up the Volta to a landing-place more convenient for approach to the Ashantee capital, Coomassie. The decks are covered with an awning of deals and canvas from stem to stern as a protection against the painful rays of the tropical sun; and the Gertrude, which sailed a week ago, was fitted with a similar covering at Devenport, where she put in for coal. The Adela, screw steam-ship, of Grimsby, a much larger vessel than the Warree, is also loading at Woolwich, and has taken on board the battery of brass howitzers, with some wooden huts for the troops, who will require better shelter than tents can afford under the tropical rains of the Gold Coast. A fourth vessel, the King Bonny, has been engaged for the conveyance of stores.



Mail from HMS Rattlesnake

Geoff Osborn



July 1873 - Cape Coast Castle to Southsea. England

This July 1873 cover is from Sub-Lieutenant Edward H. Bayly serving in HMS Rattlesnake, a 21 gun wooden screw corvette of 2431 tons. Prepaid at the West African packet rate of 6d and sent by ship's bag in the British and African Steam Navigation Co.'s Volta, sailing on 12 July 1873 from Cape Coast Castle. An arrival datestamp of 6 August 1873 at Portsmouth agrees with Volta reaching Liverpool of 5 August. The stamps were cancelled with a B in a diamond in horizontal bars at the Foreign Branch GPO, London. One month after this letter was written, HMS Rattlesnake took part in the Prah river expedition against the Ashantee in which several crew members became casualties. Bayly was awarded the Ashantee medal.

Gold Coast Material in the Crown Agents Archives

Jeremy Martin

The following material is held by Philatelic Collections in The British Library:

1928 Christiansborg Castle Set

Imperf colour trials of the 3d value in blocks of four beside which suggested values had been marked. Approved 8 May 1928.

3d	Green	½d	3d	Slate	2d
3d	Red-brown	1d	3d	Orange yellow	2½d
3d	Scarlet	1½d	3d	Blue	3d

Higher value colour trials, also in imperf blocks of four, had a value of 6d or 5s. Approved 29 May 1928.

6d	Black and purple	6d	6d	Black and violet	2s
6d	Black and vermilion	1s	5s	Carmin and olive green	5s

George VI 1938 Definitives

Master Die, imperf in black and white with blank value tablets, as used for the low values. Approved 15 October 1937.

Frame only, imperf in black and white with blank value tablets, as used for the higher values. Also vignette or centre plate. Not approved 15 October 1937.

Progressive proof, imperf single with blank value tablet, as used for the higher values. Colour the same as the later 10s value. Marked "Approved for die 23/10/37".

Coloured imperf plate proof singles, or colour trials, of values ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 1s, 2s and 5s. Approved 15 November 1937 except:

1½d	which was claret
3d	which was dull blue
6d	which was dull purple with note "as 10s St Helena Centenary"
5s	which was dull green and red.

New colours were approved the same day:

1½d	Scarlet
3d	Blue
6d	Purple
9d	Yellow orange but was then left as the original orange
5s	Olive green and carmine

The 10s imperf single, colour as issued, was approved 28 March 1940. The 1s 3d imperf single, colour as issued, was approved 6 November 1940.

George VI 1948 Definitives

A set of imperf plate proofs to 10s in the issued colours. All approved 14 March 1947 except 6d "GOLD COAST should be in the case of the 1s denomination so as to give the letter a bolder appearance". A new 6d imperf colour proof as approved 25 March 1947.

1952 Postage Dues

Imperf plate proofs in black and white of the 6d and 1s values as issued. Dated 2 April 1952 and approved 3 April 1952. Note the 2d and 3d values were issued the previous year.

Elizabeth II 1952-54 Definitives

Set ½d to 10s, imperf singles in issued colours. Approved 25 July 1952.

Registered Envelopes

3d George VI head and surround, in issued colour, on small piece. Approved 7 July 1938.

4d Elizabeth II head and surround, in issued colour, on small piece. Approved 11 November 1953.

Complete envelope, size F, in blue lettering but without head or value. Approved 5 January 1954.

Aerogrammes

Colour proof on piece of the George VI 6d, approved 14 November 1947. As Higgins and Gage (H&G) 1. Printer McCorquodale.

Complete form with head of Elizabeth II; stamp yellow orange with simulated perforations. Inside white, front blue, back white and flaps white. As H&G 4. Perforated with a straight line 'CANCELLED'. Approved 29 July 1953.

A similar form but stamp a deeper yellow orange and black. Inside and flaps white, front and back blue. Approved 9 August 1954. Perforated straight line 'CANCELLED'. Similar to H&G 5.

Another similar, but the stamp is orange and black. All blue. Approved 12 January 1956. Similar to H&G 6.

Note : 'Flaps' as described above is probably a misnomer. The flap is blue, but a border, where the flap is stuck down, is white.

War Savings Labels

The design was small, of an elephant and palm within a double circle which contained the text 'WAR SAVINGS GOLD COAST COLONY'. The first essay was for a 1d blue and 6d red. The sky in the centre had few lines and the area outside the rings was blank. Dated 4 October 1943 and approved 20 October 1943. By De La Rue.

A new design was dated 20 October 1943. The 1d was dark blue and the 6d red. There were more lines in the centre and the sky. The outer border was solid colour. This was not approved 20 October 1943. On the same day, the 1d pale blue and 6d scarlet were approved.

A similar essay or proof of the 1d in pale blue was dated 11 July 1944 and approved 12 July 1944.

Acknowledgement

My thanks are due to the British Library and, in particular, to Rod Vousden of Philatelic Collections.

Southern Cameroons Provisional UKTT Overprints

Bob Maddocks

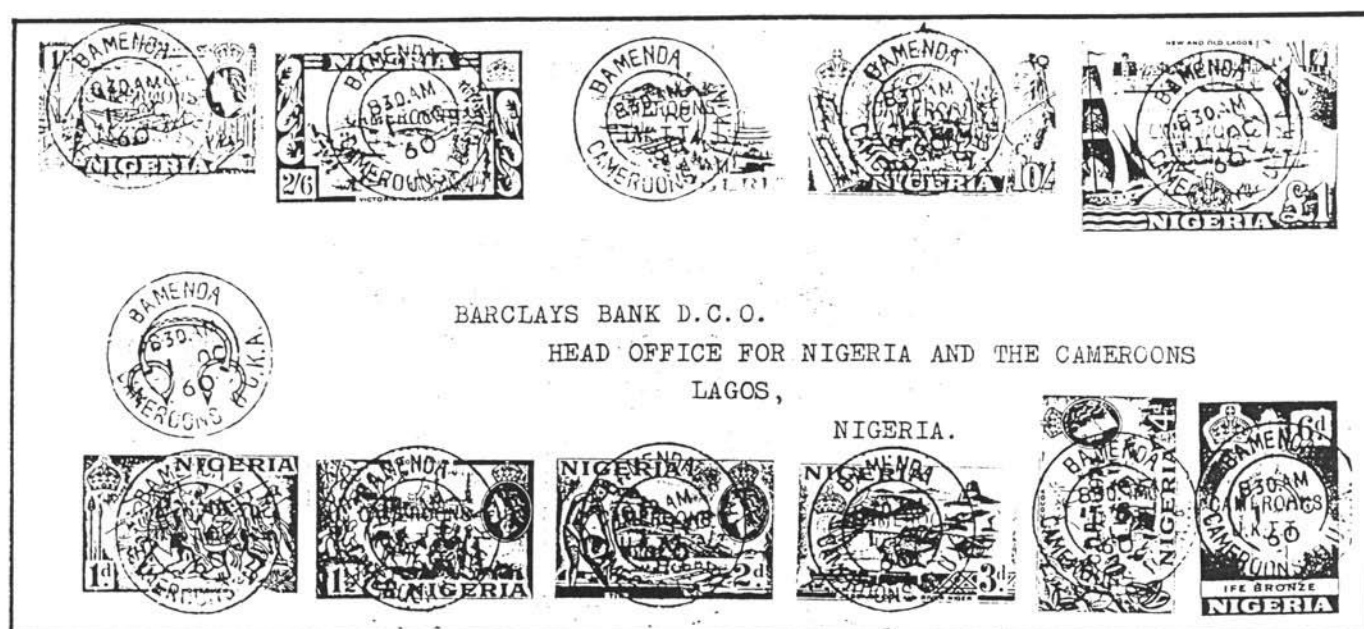


Figure 1 : Cover from Bamenda, Cameroons to Lagos, Nigeria on 1 October 1960

In their article on the UKTT overprints in the most recent *Cameo* (Ref. 1), Rob May and Michael Wright raised the question as to whether these stamps went on sale in the Cameroons on the scheduled release date of 1 October 1960 since according to their research at the British Library the airfreight dispatch from the UK was shown as 13 October 1960 in Table 1 illustrated from the Crown Agents Requisition Book. It does seem, however, that it has been overlooked that there is an earlier dispatch date in the same table of 16 September 1960 which seems a more probable date.

As far as I am aware the full set of twelve values was put on sale at post offices in the Southern Cameroons on the release date there, viz 1 October 1960. To support this, a First Day of Issue cover bearing all the stamps cancelled at 8.30am on 1 October 1960 is illustrated as Figure 1. I also have on piece a number of cancelled stamps of various values postmarked prior to the suggested date of 13

October 1960 from as far apart as Muyuka and Wum.

Concerning the mention that the two values 1d and 2d were not apparently delivered until 13 March 1961 I again, because of the Bemenda cover, find this most improbable - at least concerning the initial stocks sent to the Southern Cameroons. In support, I have these stamps also on piece duly postmarked at various post offices on and immediately after the official release date. Moreover, it should be pointed out that whilst the 2d value in particular might not be found in great quantity postally used, it was a stamp in very great demand locally for revenue purposes such as receipts and official documents. As such it is most improbable that it and the 1d were not available along with the other ten values until some five months later.

Given the inconsistencies, the issue may well rest on the date of dispatch of initial and subsequent stocks

and, moreover, which consignments were sent to Southern Cameroons and which to Northern Cameroons. Post offices in both territories were still within the Nigeria P & T service; in the former there was a greater degree of autonomy at Victoria the Head Post Office in the territory than in the latter where political orientation was very much towards Nigeria and it is by no means certain that Northern Cameroons embraced the UKTT overprints so readily. Stocks intended for Northern Cameroons were probably sent via Lagos and not direct to Bama and Mubi post offices and the four postal agencies and possibly also via the controlling Nigeria post offices of Maiduguri and Yola hence delays might well have occurred in receipt and release dates.

The information obtained from the Crown Agents apparently did not give a destination for each dispatch; it is improbable that Victoria would have been responsible for forwarding stock to Northern Cameroons according to usual lines of communications.

Reference

1. Rob May & Michael Wright, "Southern Cameroons Provisional UKTT Overprints", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp 176-180, WASC, July 1996



Further notes from **Rob May** and **Michael Wright**:

We quite agree with Bob that all values of the provisional overprints were definitely issued in the South on 1 October 1960. We regret having thought the September despatch date shown for most values related to Bureau supplies.

As Bob says, the actual issue in the North may have been later. Michael thinks that he had (in his stolen collection) a cover addressed to him from a Northern office shortly after 1 October that was franked with stamps of independent Nigeria.

Although the overprint was perfectly appropriate for the Northern Cameroons, the Crown Agents publicity specifically attributed the new issue to Southern Cameroons, and Stanley Gibbons claim it was ordered by the Southern Cameroons quasi-regional government; they have always listed the set under that name (even after they grouped the areas that preceded 'united' Nigeria together with Nigeria) although it was de facto a 'regional' issue under the Nigerian P&T, as Bob points out. The requisition books show all but the De La Rue stamps to have been ordered by "Administration G9 - S. Cameroons", not Nigeria.

The stamps seem to have been acceptable in Nigeria, and Nigerian stamps acceptable in the Southern Cameroons - some independent Nigerian values were probably issued there when there were shortages. Southern Cameroon stamps seem also to have remained valid in West Cameroon up to at least the end of 1961. Rob showed a cover at the WASC meeting on 2 November 1996.

The Southern Cameroon government certainly took an interest in stamps, and conducted a competition for designs for a definitive issue, but this was overtaken by events (Ref. 2).

Now that Cameroon (as it is now called in English) has joined the Commonwealth, the latest S.G. Part 1 has transferred the issue to follow the C.E.F. set, but still labelled Southern Cameroons. They will list the issues of the Cameroon Republic from the date of joining the Commonwealth as a third section.

Reference

2. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P. Jr., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons under British Administration 1916-1961*, pp16-17

Nigeria George VI Definitives 1938-51

Daniel Warren, M.D.

By kind permission of the author and Frank Huxley, editor of *GEOSIX*, the newsletter of the George VI Collectors Society, we are able to reproduce this article which appeared over a number of years (Refs. 1 to 4).

The information in this paper comes primarily from four sources:

Potter & Shelton's *The Printings of King George VI Colonial Stamps* (Ref. 5);

an undated supplement to *GEOSIX* prepared by Frank Saunders about January 1965;

photocopies of the Crown Agents records, for which I am deeply obligated to Mr Marcus Faux;

my own collection of KGVI Nigeria which depended heavily on two auction purchases made some fifteen to twenty years ago of pencil-dated marginal copies.

I have attempted to draw all of the threads that I hold together for an overall picture of what Potter & Shelton call "this interesting set". The inevitable errors are, of course, mine, and further information anyone may have would be most welcome.

The low values were all recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson in sheets of 120 (10 rows of 12), with no plate numbers. Plates of two panes formed two post office sheets. The firm's imprint was centrally positioned in the bottom selvedge. All values were line perforated 12 except for the printings from 1950 onwards, which were comb-perforated 11¾ x 11½. The high values 2/6 and 5/-, were engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co. in sheets of 60 (10 rows of 6). Plate number 1 was used for both plates, with the centre plate number appearing under the second stamp, the bottom row and the frame plate number under the fifth stamp. The frame plate was common to both values. The imprint was positioned as with the low values.

Several papers were used, ranging from a medium-thick off-white to a thin, very white, and will be described with the printings. Gum on the low values was at first white; after 1941 a semi-transparent white and, from 1946 onwards, opaque white. Early printings of the high values had cream gum, becoming transparent off-white in 1942, transparent in 1944 and opaque white in 1946.

Potter & Shelton Date	CA Records Date	Number of Sheets	Notes
½d Green			
1938	21 Feb - 28 Mar 1938	10,973	Green; Medium thick, off-white paper; White gum
	29 Aug 1938	8,760	
	13 - 28 Feb 1939	13,806	
	15 Mar - 16 Apr 1940	15,053	
Jun 1942	23 Aug 41 - 17 Apr 1942	12,517	
	8 Jun 1942	18,890	Green; Thinner, whiter paper; Semi-transparent gum
Apr 1944	25 May - 29 Jun 1943	40,285	Green; Very white paper; Semi-transparent gum
Dec 1944	26 Oct - 11 Nov 1944	12,665	Dull gum
Mar 1945	17 Jan - 6 Apr 1945	15,240	
Nov 1946	29 Oct 1946	11,440	Yellowish-green; White paper; Opaque white gum
Jul 1947	21 May - 10 Jul 1947	20,512	Green
Apr / May 1948	4 - 28 Apr 1948	18,400	
Nov 1948	26 Oct - 16 Nov 1948	8,200	Blue-green
Feb 1950	3 Nov - 6 Dec 1949	55,100	Green; Comb perf
Aug 1951	1 Jul - 8 Aug 1951	20,524	Included 834 sheets in "replacement" stamps; a further 834 sheets were invoiced on 1 Jul
Feb 1952	3 Jan - 25 Aug 1952	73,250	Brighter green
Total Sheets		355,615	

Potter & Shelton Date	CA Records Date	Number of Sheets	Notes
1d Carmine			
1938	21 Feb - 28 Mar 1938	27,998	Carmine; Medium thick off-white paper; White gum
	25 Jul - Sep 1938	64,312	
	28 Aug - 27 Sep 1939	64,650	
1940 - 1941	15 Mar - 27 Apr 1940	46,130	Rose-red; Thinner whiter paper; Transparent white gum
Jun 1942	23 Aug 41 - 17 Apr 1942	79,950	Rose carmine
Aug 1942	11 May - 16 Jul 1942	62,750	Deep rose carmine
	16 Jul - 17 Aug 1942	61,830	
Jul 1943	5 Apr - 29 Jun 1943	102,182	Deep rose carmine; Very white gum
	Total sheets	509,802	
1d Mauve-Purple			
Dec 1944	16 Mar - 7 Jun 1944	62,830	Very white paper; Semi-transparent white gum; Plates 2, 2a, 3, 3a, 4, 4a, 5, 5a
Sep 1947	1 Sep 47 - 20 Jan 1948	119,890	Bright mauve-purple; Opaque white gum; Plates 3, 3a, 2, 2a
Aug 1948	28 Apr - 5 Aug 1948	152,830	Deep mauve-purple; Plates 4, 4a, 5, 5a
Feb 1950	16 Mar - 18 Oct 1949	202,100	Reddish mauve-purple; Comb perf, 8,000 sheets as coils; Plates 5, 5a, 6, 6a, 7, 7a, 8, 8a
	19 Dec 1949	8,718	As coils
Jun 1950	23 Mar - 6 Jun 1950	313,000	Light plum; Plates 5, 5a
	Total sheets	859,368	
1½d Chestnut			
1938	21 Feb - 28 Mar 1938	11,308	Chestnut brown; Med. thick off-white paper; White gum
Mar 1940	15 Mar - 16 Apr 1940	6,046	Dull chestnut brown; Medium thick white paper
	May 1943		Requisition for 100,000 stamps cancelled
Apr 1944	28 Feb - 27 Jul 1944	152,950	Reddish chestnut brown; Thinner, whiter paper; Semi-transparent gum; Plates 2, 2a, 3, 3a
1945	3 Sep - 27 Nov 1945	123,400	Deep red-brown; Very white paper; Plates 2, 2a, 3, 3a
	26 Aug - 29 Oct 1946	34,260	
	7 Oct 1947	119,220	
Nov 1950	13 Nov 50 - 11 Jul 1951	242,100	Red chestnut; White paper; Opaque gum; Plates 4, 4a
May 1952			Deep red brown; Plates 4, 4a
Oct 1952			Deep red chestnut; Plates 5, 5a
	Total sheets	689,284	
2d Black			
1938	21 Feb - 28 Mar 1938	4,530	Black; Medium thick, off-white paper; White gum
	25 Jul - 29 Aug 1938	9,900	
	15 Mar 1940	5,500	
Mar 1942	19 Dec 41 - 6 Feb 1942	6,408½	Slate black; thinner whiter paper; Semi-transparent gum
Apr 1944	11 Mar - 29 Apr 1943	10,213	Very white paper
	Total sheets	36,551½	

Potter & Shelton Date	CA Records Date	Number of Sheets	Notes
2d Carmine Red			
Dec 1944	16 Mar - 5 Apr 1944	9,325	Line perf 12; Carmine red; White paper; Semi-transparent gum
May 1945	27 Mar - 11 Apr 1945	3,655	Scarlet
May 1946	23 May 1946	2,880	Dull scarlet
	20 Jul - 5 Aug 1946	16,210	Opaque gum
1946 - 1947	29 Oct 1946	4,743	Deep bright red
Apr 1947	21 May 1947	6,550	Carmine red
Feb 1948	20 Jan 1948	6,390	Bright carmine red
Aug 1948	11 Mar - 12 Jun 1948	20,080	
Feb 1950			Comb perf 11¼ x 11½; Bright scarlet; Plates 2, 2a
Nov 1950	12 Oct - 13 Nov 1950	20,475	
1952	29 Jan - 27 Feb 1952	17,050	Rose scarlet
	Total sheets	107,288	
2½d Orange			
Apr 1941	21 Jan 1941 1943	7,983	Orange; White paper; Semi-transparent gum; Plates 1, 1a 500 cancelled
Apr 1944			
Feb 1946	4 Feb 1946 23 Mar 1950	2,320	Red-orange; White paper; Opaque white gum 875 sheets from Bureau
	Total sheets	10,303	
3d Blue			
1938	21 Feb - 28 Mar 1938	4,530	Dark blue; Medium thick off-white-paper; White gum
	29 Aug 1938	3,300	
	15 May 1940	3,300	
Jun 1942	8 Jun 1942	1,900	Deep blue; Thinner, whiter paper; Semi-transparent gum
Apr 1944	11 Mar - 5 Apr 1944	4,857	Deep grey-blue; Very white paper
Jan 1948	7 - 24 Oct 1947	21,520	Deep blue; White opaque gum
	Total sheets	39,407	
3d Black			
Dec 1944	16 Mar - 5 Jun 1944	5,250	Black; White paper; Semi-transparent gum
1945	12 Mar - 4 Apr 1945	20,880	Slate-black; White paper
	Total sheets	26,130	
4d Orange			
1938	21 Feb - 28 Mar 1938	4,500	Medium thick off-white paper; White gum
	Total sheets	4,500	

Potter & Shelton Date	CA Records Date	Number of Sheets	Notes
4d Blue			
Dec 1944	16 Mar - 6 Apr 1944	5,170	Deep greyish blue; Very white paper
1945	27 Mar - 11 May 1945	5,133	Deep blue; White paper
	26 Aug - 29 Oct 1946	12,877	
	Total sheets	23,180	
6d Plum			
1938	21 Feb 1938	2,752	Deep plum; Medium thick white paper; White gum
	25 Jul - 8 Aug 1938	5,270	
	15 Mar 1940	6,042	
Mar 1942	19 Dec 41 - 6 Feb 1942	10,506	Deep brownish-plum; Thinner whiter paper; Semi-transparent gum
Apr 1944			
Mar 1945	21 Feb - 12 Mar 1945	8,758	Very white paper
Mar 1947	16 Dec 1946	5,565	Bright brownish-plum; White paper; White opaque gum
	9 Jan 1947	3,190	
Oct 1947			Deep brownish-plum
Feb 1948	20 Jan 1948	6,570	Dull brownish-plum
May 1948	28 Apr 1948	6,620	
May 1949	16 Mar - 28 Apr 1949	15,025	
	11 Nov 1950		200 from Bureau
Apr 1951	5 - 23 Jan 1951	7,350	Comb perf 11¾ x 11½; Bright brownish-plum
1952	12 - 27 Feb 1952	7,200	Bright deep plum
	Total sheets	84,848	
1s Green			
1938	21 Feb 1938	2,175	Sage green; Medium thick white paper; White gum
	25 Jul 1938	4,271	
Feb 1944	5 - 29 Apr 1943	4,181½	Deeper brownish sage green; Very white paper; Semi-transparent gum
1945	21 Feb - 13 Mar 1945	2,507	
Oct 1946	5 Jul 1946	1,590	Deep greyish sage green; White paper; Opaque gum
Apr 1947	14 Mar 1947	1,942	(+150 ex-Bureau)
1947	1 Sep 1947	3,980	Olive green; White paper; Opaque gum
1948	2 Apr 1948	4,140	
1948 - 1949	16 Mar 1949	5,265	Greyish olive green
Feb 1950	18 Nov - 12 Dec 1949	10,190	Olive green; Comb perf 11¾ x 11½
Apr 1951	5 - 23 Jan 1951	8,930	Bright olive green
1952	27 Feb 1952	5,600	Light olive green
	Total sheets	54,771½	
1s 3d Blue			
1940 - 1941	4 Jun 1940	1,073	Turquoise blue; Medium thick white paper; Semi-transparent gum; Plate 1
	5 Sep 1940	2,823	
Feb 1944	5 - 29 Apr 1943	1,726	Very white paper; Semi-transparent gum
Apr 1944	17 May - 22 Jul 1944	3,314	Light blue
	Total sheets	8,936	

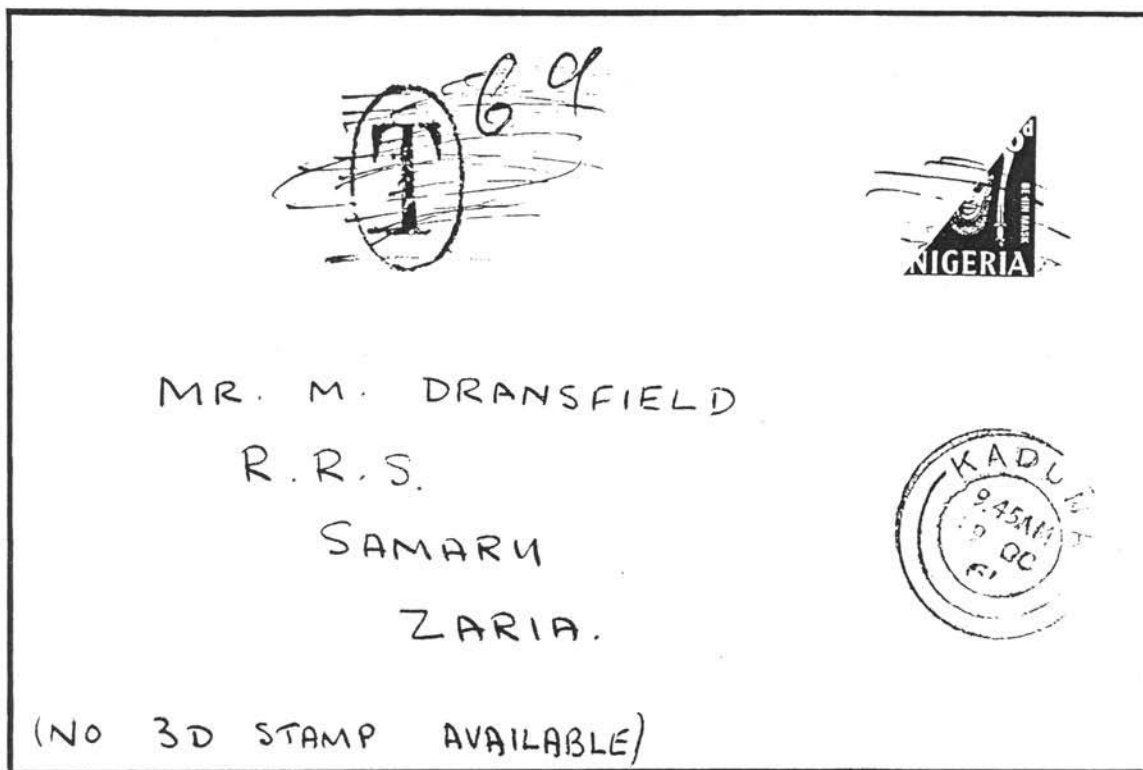
Potter & Shelton Date	CA Records Date	Number of Sheets	Notes
2s 6d Deep Blue and Black			
1938	4 Jan 1938	1,165	Deep ultramarine & black; Medium thick off-white paper Cream gum; frame plate 1 centre plate 1; Comb perf 13x11¼
Jun 1942	29 Apr 1942	803	Blue & black; Thinner whiter paper; Transparent off-white gum; Perf 13½
1942	15 Sep 1942	815	Deeper blue & black; Perf 14
Apr 1944	12 Jun 1944	197	Very white paper
	30 Jun 1944	120	Perf 13½; All allocated to Bureau
Oct 1944	6 Sep 1944	478	Re-engraved centre plate number; Perf 13½
May 1945	25 Apr - 15 May 1945	809	Perf 13½
Feb 1946	18 - 21 Dec 1945	1,019	Perf 13½
1946 - 1947	14 Nov - 23 Dec 1946	800	Deep grey blue & black; White paper; White opaque gum
Mar 1947	21 Jun 1947	1,197	Deep blue & black; Frame plate 2 centre plate 1; Perf 13½
Nov 1948	13 Aug 1948	1,554	Light ultramarine & black; Perf 14
Nov 1949			Grey blue & black; Perf 14
1951	31 May 1951	732	Deep bright blue & black; Perf 12
Feb 1952			Perf 12
	Total sheets	9,689	
5s Orange and Black			
1938	4 Jan 1938	1,278	Orange & black; Medium thick white paper; Cream gum; Perf 13x11¼
1942	15 May 1942	1,049	Deeper orange & black; Thinner whiter paper; Transparent off-white gum; Frame plate 1 centre plate 1; Perf 13½
	3 - 13 Mar 1943	1,757	
Apr 1944			
1946 - 1947	14 Nov 1946	800	Red-orange & black; White paper; Opaque white gum; Perf 13½
1948	23 Mar 1948	722	Bright orange & black; Perf 14
1948 - 1949	22 Mar 1949	1,240	Red orange & black; Perf 12
Feb 1950	Oct 1949	1,100	(Estimated sheet numbers) Red orange & black; Perf 14
Nov 1950	27 Sep 1950	2,018	100 Bureau; Dull red orange & black; Perf 12
1952			
	Total sheets	9,964	

References

1. Warren D.C., "Nigeria 1938-51 Definitives", *GEOSIX* Whole Number 152, pp1-3, KGVICS, June 1989
2. Warren D.C., "Nigeria 1938-51 Definitives", *GEOSIX* Whole Number 171, pp7-10, KGVICS, March 1994
3. Warren D.C., "Nigeria 1938-51 Definitives", *GEOSIX* Whole Number 173, pp10-12, KGVICS, September 1994
4. Warren D.C., "Nigeria 1938-51 Definitives", *GEOSIX* Whole Number 176, pp7-8, KGVICS, June 1995
5. Potter W.J.W. & Shelton C.M., *The Printings of King George VI Colonial Stamps*, London 1952

Nigerian Bisect used 1961

Neville Jones



19 October 1961 - Kandu to Zaria bearing bisected 6d stamp

Among a collection of Nigerian covers purchased at auction I found this cover with a bisected 6d stamp. The postal authority appears to have had doubts as to its authenticity, as evidenced by the application of the T handstamp and the subsequent crossing out. The same pen appears to have been used for cancelling both the tax mark and the bisected stamp. The Kaduna postmark was applied, but away from the bisect. Presumably the cover was delivered as several other covers in the lot were addressed to the same recipient.

One obvious question is if there was a shortage of 3d stamps why did the sender not use other smaller denominations? Does any other member have any similar covers?



Sierra Leone 2/WIR Perfin

Frank Walton

Further to the article in the previous *Cameo* (Vol 5 p168), the Queen Victoria 1s (SG 50) has recently been offered for sale by British Africa Philatelic Auctions.

This is a used single, off cover. It was estimated at £150.

WANTED

Specialist West Indies
collector seeks

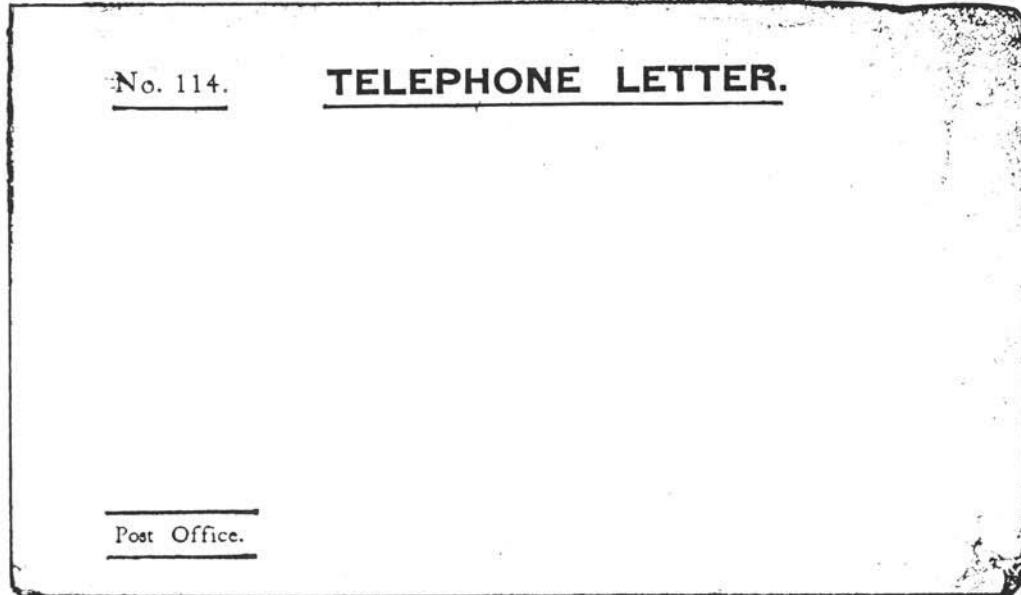
**West India Regiment
Material**

especially 2/WIR perfin

offers via Mike Roberts please

Telephone Letter

Jeremy Martin



This Post Office envelope, which measures 133 x 80 mm, recently turned up at my local stamp shop. The printing is in black ink, on white paper. Other than having 'Nigeria' written on the outside and containing some Nigerian stamps, there is no known connection with West Africa. Can anyone identify its origin?



World War II Prisoners of War in Nigeria

Jeremy Martin

Two lots were recently offered by a European auction house. The first was described as a Franchise letter from a sailor who survived the sinking of the submarine *Poncelet* on 8 November 1940 by a British patrol boat in the area off Gabon. He was interned at Umu-Duru, Nigeria. The envelope received a red cachet PRISONERS OF WAR POST and a Nigerian censor mark (1941).

The second lot was described as a letter from Toulon, France (November 1940) addressed to a sailor from the *Poncelet* interned in Nigeria. It was then redirected to the Free French Forces that the sailor had rejoined in the meantime.

The first letter does seem to establish that there was a P.O.W. / Internee Camp at Umu-Duru. Proud notes that Umuduru was a postal agency situated 17 miles from, and under, Okiwigi (Ref. 1). In 1939 it was listed as a Native Administration postal agency under Aba.

Reference

1. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Nigeria*, p771, Proud Bailey Co. Ltd, Heathfield 1995

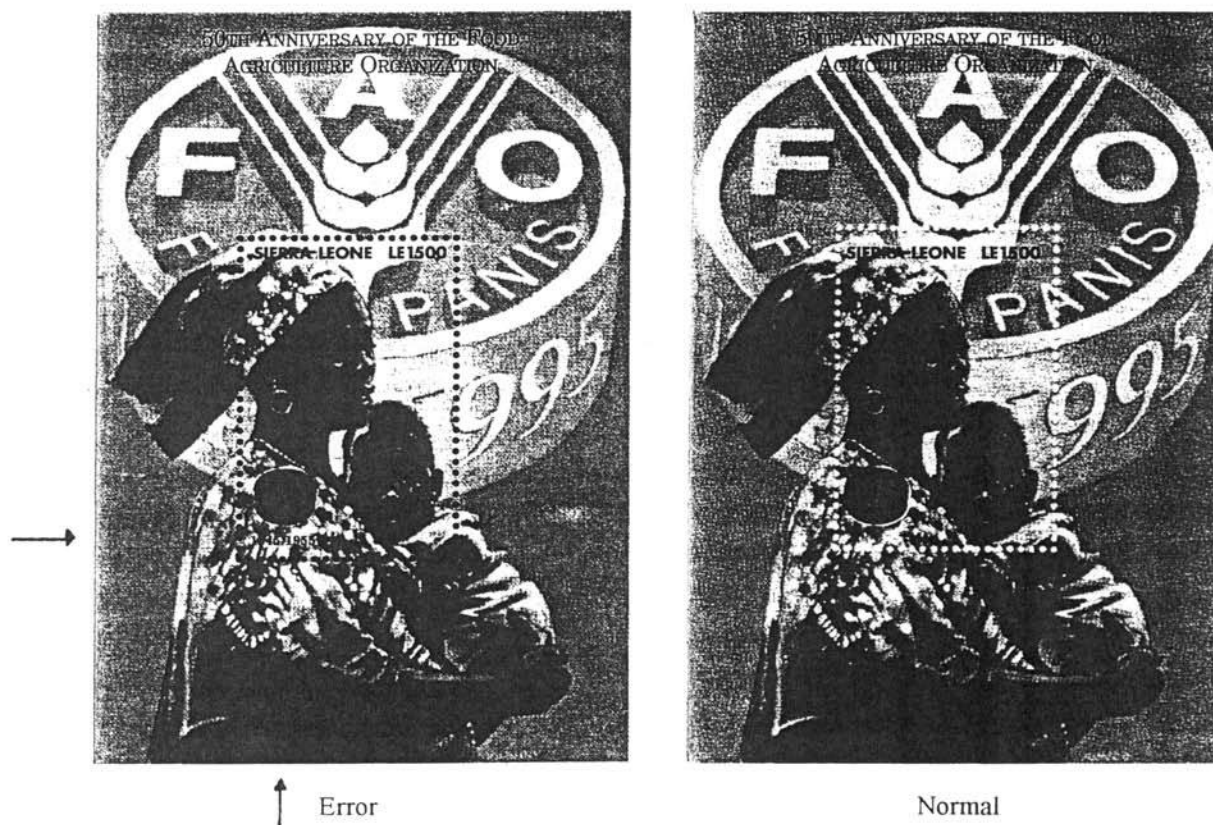
Sierra Leone 1995 FAO Error

Peter Rolfe

In the July 1996 issue of *Cameo* (Ref. 1), I described an error on the Year of the Pig issue and noted that Gibbons also described a further error on the FAO issue of July 1995 (Ref. 2). A copy of this error has now come to hand.

The issue commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Food Agricultural Organisation and comprises three values set-tenant in a sheetlet of nine and a miniature sheet with a single value stamp of LE1500. In the bottom left corner of this stamp the date was inscribed as 1945-1955 in error! This miniature sheet was immediately withdrawn and re-issued with no date in the bottom left corner.

Gibbons suggested that about 25 copies were sold before the error was noticed but I believe (on no very firm evidence) that there may have been rather more.



References

1. Rolfe P. & Abihanna A., "Sierra Leone Year of Pig Sheetlet Error", *Cameo* Volume 5 p170, WASC, July 1996
2. Aggersburg D., "Catalogue Column", *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, p94, April 1996



Christmas Cracker?

Found in a Christmas cracker this year at your editor's office party:

"I was posted to Africa during the war." "Really! Did you like it?" "Dunno - I couldn't get out of the envelope!!!"

Sierra Leone Damaged Mail

Jeremy Martin & Frank Walton

The three covers illustrated in this article are from Sierra Leone to England, but are really completely unrelated in terms of their handling by the Sierra Leone post office. They do all share one thing in common in that each had an eventful journey to its destination.



Figure 1 'DAMAGED / BY OIL', 26 November 1955

The first item (Fig. 1) is illustrated from a large envelope (20 x 18cm) to London in 1955 franked 1s. Unfortunately there is no further information known as to how, why, where or when it was damaged. The violet boxed DAMAGED / BY OIL handstamp measures 39 x 14mm.

The next is a stampless cover (Fig. 2) with a F.P.O. 41 applied at Freetown on 27 November 1942. It received a violet Type R11 RAF censor cachet number 70. The violet DAMAGED BY / SEA WATER cachet (32 x 13mm) was almost certainly applied in London following some mishap in transit from West Africa.



Figure 2 'DAMAGED BY / SEA WATER' Sierra Leone to Bournemouth, 27 November 1942

The final example of damaged mail (Fig. 3) was shown by Dennis Rolfe, a member of the Sheffield Philatelic Society in a display of Crash and Wreck mail. The letter was carried by a B.O.A.C. flying boat which left Lisbon on 27 July 1943 and crashed in dense fog in County Derry, Ireland early the following morning. The aircraft was carrying a crew of seven and eighteen passengers, of which ten were killed and the remainder injured. As well as West African mail, there were 30,000 letters and postcards from prisoners of war in Japanese hands. Only 2,570 items of mail were saved.

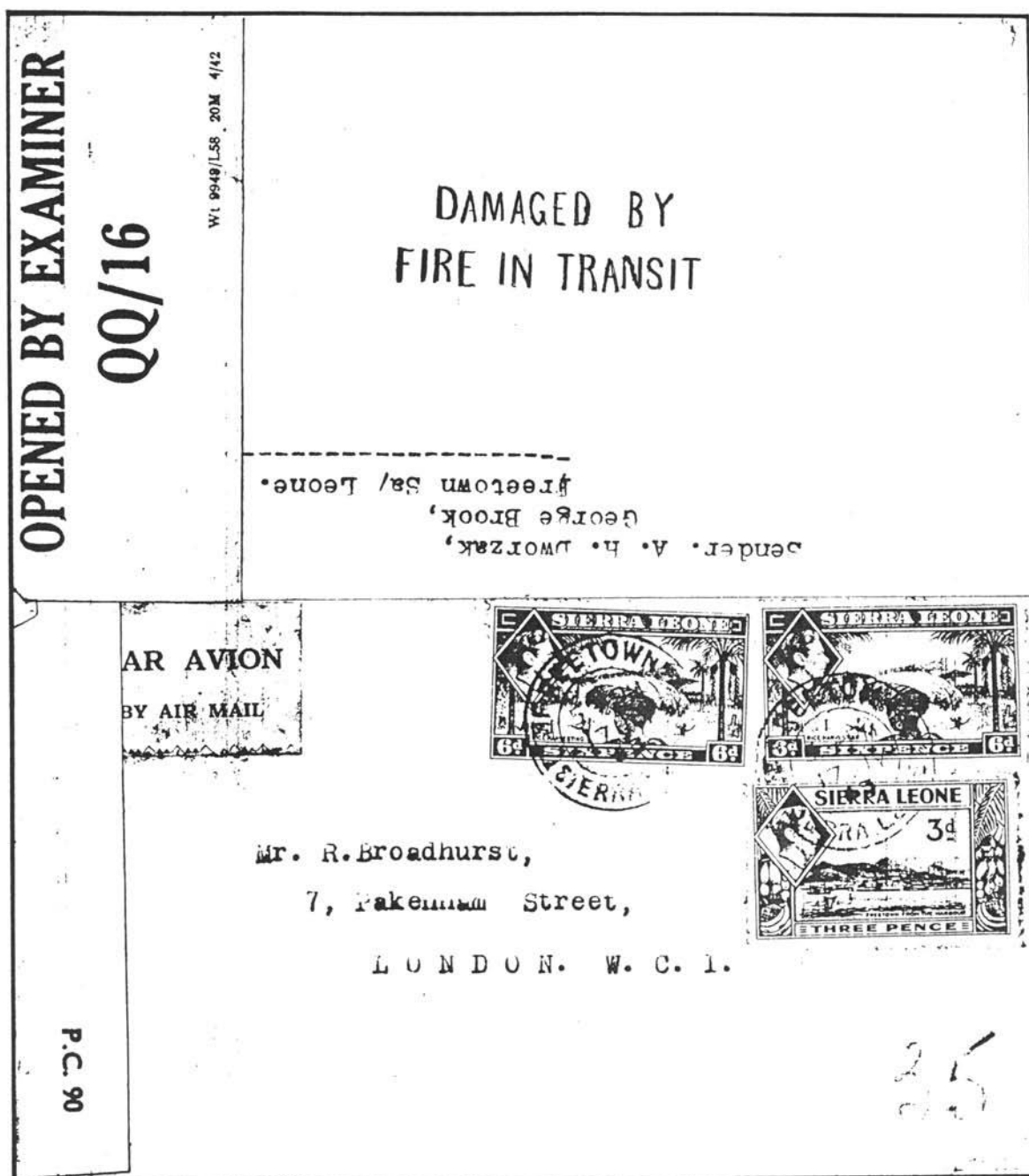
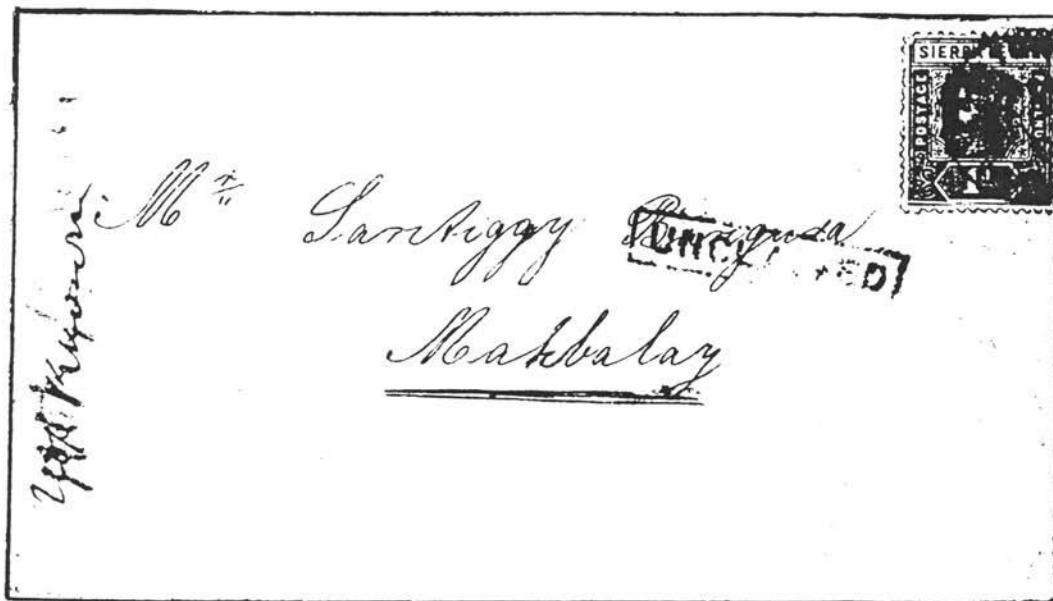


Figure 3 Violet 'DAMAGED BY / FIRE IN TRANSIT'
Freetown to London, 17 July 1943

Sierra Leone Unclaimed Instructional Mark

Malcolm Badham



March 1901 : Internal cover from Freetown to Mahbalay

This cover, if genuine, illustrates a previously unrecorded UNCLAIMED instructional mark. It appears to be an internal mailing inasmuch that it left Freetown for Mahbalay on 30 (or 31) March 1901 and arrived at Newton on 1 April 1901. This is easily possible since Newton was a Colony village and not way up country. It was received back in Freetown on 2 September 1902.

In a 1953 Atlas of Sierra Leone compiled by the Survey & Roads Department, Newton's location is given as 8°21' N 13°0' W. In the same atlas, the villages of Mabala and Mabaola are both shown as being close by at 8°21' N 12°58' W.

My guess is that Mabala was the intended destination but that Mr Samiggy (?) Bariga never collected it from Newton and that it was ultimately returned to Freetown gathering the UNCLAIMED mark along the way. Presumably it was then opened and returned to the sender. The cover is endorsed *Not Known* twice in different handwriting. The box is 35½ x 7mm with the lettering at 4mm in black.

The Newton datestamp Reference 120.01 pre-dates the earliest date recorded by Walton (Ref. 1) by more than five years; it is just seven months after the opening of the office on 1 September 1900 (Ref. 2).



Newton 1 April 1901



Freetown 5 September 1902

Backstamps

The handling of Undelivered Articles is covered by the Postal Regulations of 29 September 1892, which are reproduced in Ted Proud's *The Postal History of Sierra Leone* (Ref. 3), and quoted below:

Undelivered Articles

101. Postal matter of all classes, unclaimed, or the addresses of which cannot be found, shall be detained at any District Post Office for a period of one month after which they shall be returned to the Colonial Post Office in Freetown with the reasons for non-delivery indicated thereon.
102. At the Colonial Post Office they shall after one month from the date of receipt of such articles in the Colony be advertised in the local newspaper subsidized for that purpose, and detained for a further period of two months, after which they shall be returned by the Colonial Postmaster to the offices of origin.
103. If originating in the Colony or if the office of origin cannot be made out from the postmarks on the envelopes each article shall be returned to the Sender unopened if his name be written or printed on the cover, but if not, it shall be opened by the Colonial Postmaster or any officer deputed by him for that purpose, and the names of the Addressees and Senders of all articles so opened be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose in the Colonial Post Office after which they shall be returned to the Senders.
104. All articles, the senders of which cannot be known from internal evidence gathered from the contents, shall be detained for a further period of three months, after which the letters may be destroyed and any valuable security contained therein shall be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary and appropriated by the Colonial Government or otherwise dealt with as the Governor may direct. Other correspondence may be destroyed by the Colonial Postmaster and printed papers and pattern jackets sold by his direction and paid to the credit of the Colonial revenue.

In view of these procedures, this letter ought to have been advertised in the Sierra Leone Government Gazette. Some photocopies of this period are held in the WASC Library and Dudley Ingoldby-Williams kindly searched the information to hand for any reference to this cover. Unfortunately none could be traced, although not all such listings are in the extracts held; a thorough search of the original Gazettes would be required before a definitive view could be taken.

Letters such as the one illustrated by Malcolm are rare. Indeed, the regulations suggest that many such letters would have been destroyed, reducing even further the surviving examples. The Sierra Leone Study Editor, Philip Beale, believes that this mark is most probably genuine and as such he has allocated Type M17A.

References

1. Walton F.L., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, p50, WASC 1990
2. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p73, RPSL, London 1988
3. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*, p65, Proud-Bailey, Heathfield 1994

Sierra Leone Duty Plate Varieties on the George V 2½d

Peter Fernbank

The recent acquisition of a complete sheet of the 2½d value from plate 6 has provided the opportunity to define and position any duty plate varieties present. Two examples of damaged lettering were found on the left pane, eminently collectable as such. The damaged 'A' is also present on a plate 10 corner block which I possess, the final printing of this value.

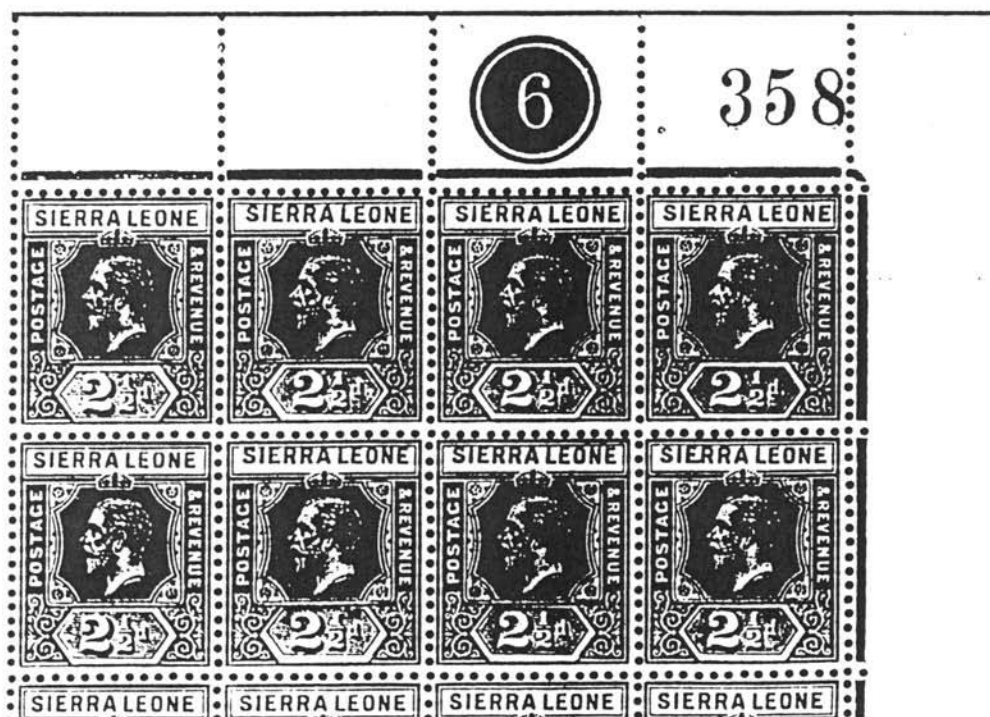


Left Pane 7/1 Bottom leg of final
'E' points upwards



Left Pane 10/1 Lower end of left leg of 'A' missing

No lettering or value tablet deformities were found on the right hand pane, but four of the individual subjects at the top of the plate have been moved out of position in relation to their neighbours, probably by an accidental knock or blow of some sort. In each case the value and colony name tablets have been displaced upwards, creating a very noticeable misalignment with the head plate, and they also slope downwards from left to right. Printings of this value were also made from plates 1a and 5, and it would be interesting to know when these examples of damage to the duty plate occurred.



Right pane
1/4, 1/5
2/4, 2/5

Colony name
& value tablet
displaced.

Sierra Leone First Sixpence 'Dot After Six' Variety

Philip Beale

This flaw was first noted many years ago by our late member Bernard Livermore in *Stamp Magazine* (Ref. 1). It consists of a dot after the word SIX and the same stamp also has a considerable break on the upper right diagonal inner frame that surrounds the Queen's head. It occurs on one stamp on each sheet of 240 stamps and is surprisingly elusive to find. I describe it in my book *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone* (Ref. 2). The



Dot After SIX Flaw
Note the break in the inner frame line.

stamps are printed in small panes of 20 and the flaw is on the bottom right pane, being the the third stamp on the fourth row, stamp 15 on the pane. Although the flaw has been known to WASC members I have never seen or heard of a copy on SG 1. It is known on all of the other printings. I would be pleased to know if any member has a copy of the flaw on the first printing, ie SG 1. It is worth mentioning that many stamps that are described as SG 1 are actually from later printings.

Stanley Gibbons have now included the flaw in their catalogue (Ref. 3). Frank Walton points out to me that the position given in Part 1 is incorrect. It is very easy for anyone with a sharp implement to remove a little of the colour after the SIX on a sixpenny stamp and so create a white dot. I have such a stamp sold in an auction as genuine. Under magnification any tampering with the stamp should be apparent. You should also look for the flaw on the inner frame to confirm the variety.

References

1. Livermore B., "Some little known Victorian Varieties", *Stamp Magazine*, September 1962
2. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, pp121-122, RPSL, London 1988
3. Stanley Gibbons, *Stamp Catalogue Part 1 British Commonwealth Volume 2 1997 Edition*, p473, London & Ringwood 1996



Sierra Leone QSL Cards

Frank Walton

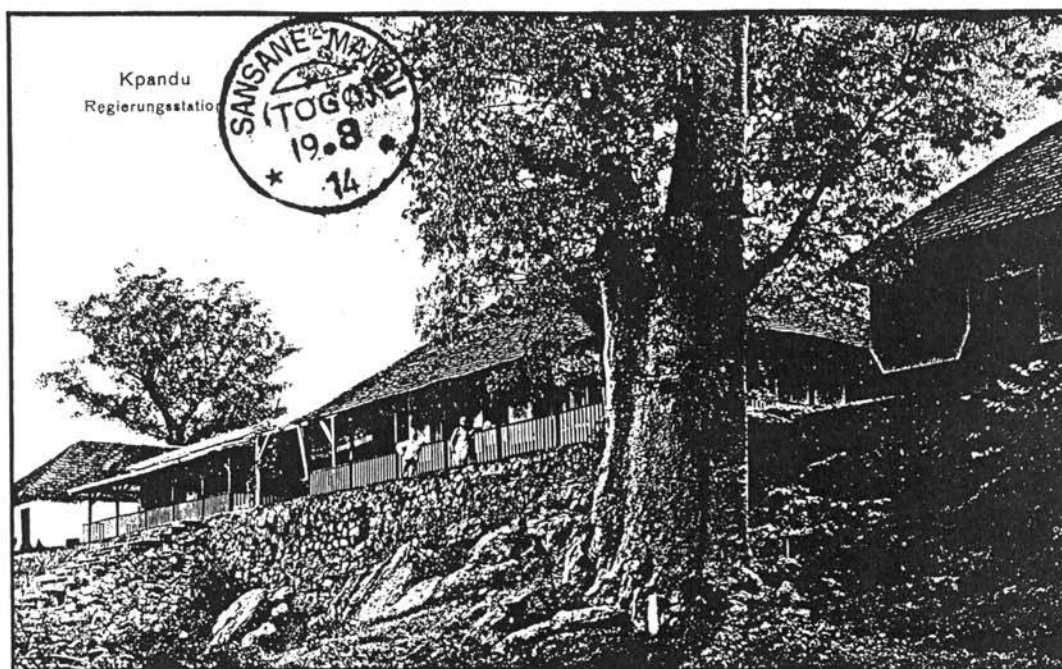
In response to Brian McCloy's article previously in *Cameo* (Ref. 1), I can add another card to his list. This is exactly the same design as the first one illustrated by Brian, but with a call sign of ZD1PW for P. WOOD, RADIO SUPERINTENDENT, c/o G.P.O. WATERLOO, SIERRA LEONE, BRITISH WEST AFRICA. It was used 17 December 1948.

Reference

1. McCloy B.M., "Sierra Leone QSL Cards", *Cameo* Volume 5 p118, WASC, January 1996

Togo Sansane-Mangu

Jeremy Martin



Sansane-Mangu was occupied on 14 August 1914 (Ref. 1) a week after the German Post Office is believed to have closed on 8 August (Ref. 2). The illustrated picture postcard features a scene of Kpandu but with no address or message, just a SANSANE-MANGU cancel of 19 August 1914, Martin & Walton Type 013.01 (Ref. 3). The '8' appears to be heavier than the other numbers as though it had just been inserted. It is likely that this item was a souvenir prepared at the time by troops had just captured the town.

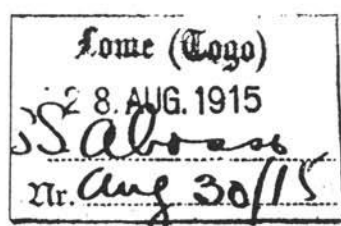
- References
1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, p12, WASC, Sheffield 1995
 2. Ibid, p16
 3. Ibid, p63



Togo Dated Cachet

Jeremy Martin

Proud (Ref. 1) records this boxed cachet as type D4 and comments that it appears to have been used in the (Lome) sorting office. This marking had not been seen by myself or Frank Walton before our recent Togo publication. At a recent Stampex I was delighted to discover an example of this cachet struck in violet partly off the cover, but probably measuring 48 x 27mm.



It is dated 28 August 1915 and has been completed in manuscript with the name of the Elder Dempster steamer *SS Abosso* and *Aug 30/15*, presumably the date of sailing. It may be a post office cachet, or it could be a firm's mark to indicate the method of trans-shipment.

- Reference
1. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Gold Coast*, p504, Postal History Publications Co., Heathfield 1995

A SELECTION FROM STOCK

ASCENSION 1907. Picture postcard of Wideawakes on Ascension Island bearing G.B. King Edward VII 1d cancelled by "ASCENSION" c.d.s. addressed to Mauritius with three arrival datestamps & a transit datestamp of Lourenco Marques. An unusual destination for an Ascension card. £125.

GAMBIA 1905. King Edward VII Multiple Crown CA 5d, 7½d, 10d, S.G.63 65/6 overprinted "SPECIMEN" set of three. £85.

LAGOS c.1905. Picture postcard of French Guinea franked Lagos 1904 2d cancelled on the German Steamship "Eleonore Woermann" by oval "DEUTSCHE SEEPOST/LINIE/HAMBURG/WEST AFRIKA/XXXVII" datestamp. £150.

NIGER COAST 1893-94. Imperforate Colour Trial for the Queen Victoria ½d in purple on wove paper. Minor staining. £200.

NIGERIA 1939. Blue bundle label, datestamped Kano 19 SE 39. Weight & destination (India) added in mss. £50.

NIGERIA 1949. 6d Air Letter from Lagos to London cancelled by an unusual purple handstamp reading "ORIGINAL". £45.

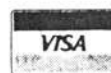
Photocopies of any part of our stock
willingly sent on request.

Argyll Etkin Limited

LEADING BUYERS – RECOGNISED VALUERS
THE ARGYLL ETKIN GALLERY

48 Conduit Street, New Bond Street, London W1R 9FB
Telephone: 0171-437 7800 Fax No: 0171-434 1060

5 minutes walk from Oxford circus tube station



BRITISH WEST AFRICA

SELLING

- ♦ I issue monthly lists of West African material, including memorabilia. Are you on my mailing list?
- ♦ Wants Lists serviced
- ♦ Credit cards or postdated cheques willingly accepted (no extra charges involved)
- ♦ I stock THE REST OF AFRICA, plus all other BRITISH COLONIES; also FRENCH COLONIES

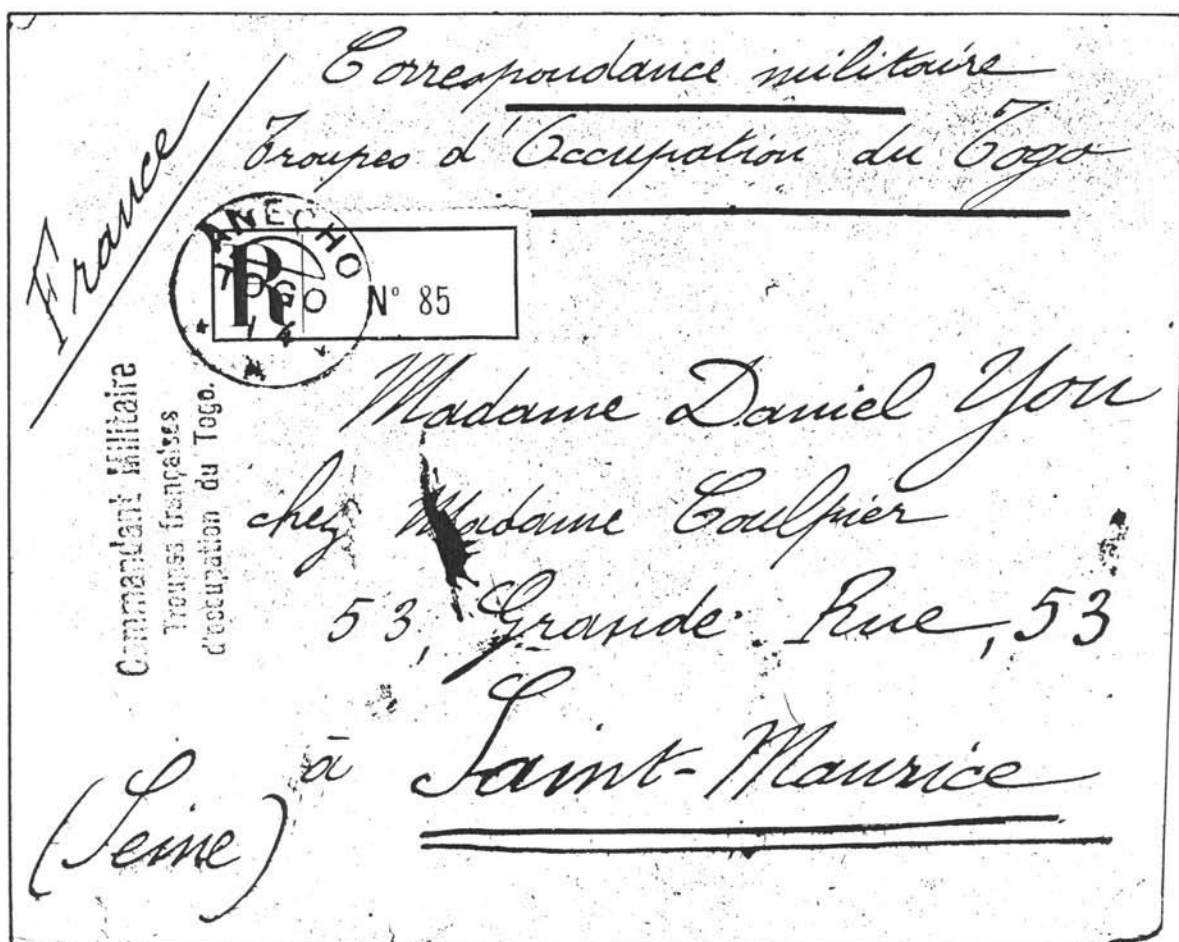
BUYING

- ♦ Because my monthly lists always sell well, I am constantly needing new stock and am willing to pay very good prices DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER RIGHT NOW? Remember - you will not have any 'unsold lots' if you sell to me.

ROBERT SEAMAN, ADPS
Copt Hall, Stock Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9BA
Telephone / Fax 01277 840777

Dahomey Stamps used in Togo in 1915

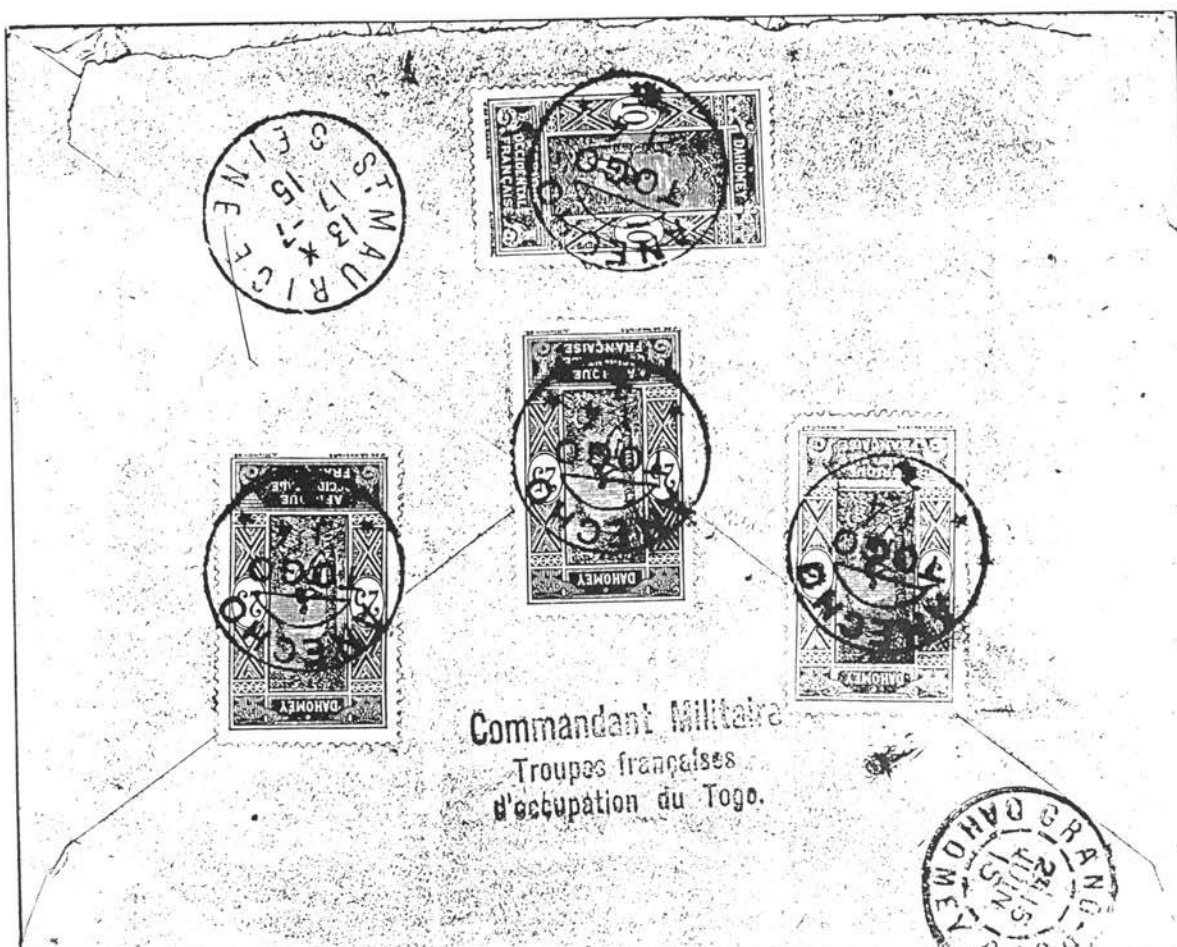
Jeremy Martin



1 April 1915 Military Cover from Anecho to Saint Maurice, France (Front)

This cover is of interest for a variety of reasons:

- ♦ it is franked (on reverse) with unoverprinted Dahomey stamps of the values 5c, 10c and 2 x 25c making 65c in total. The registration rate at 1 April 1915 was 25c (Ref. 1), leaving 40c for postage. For 21 - 50g the rate was 15c plus 5c for each extra 50g (Ref. 2). This would suggest a weight of 271- 300g which seems on the high side.
- ♦ the cover has the pale blue cachet Commandant Militaire / Troupes français / d'occupation du Togo (Ref. 3). Presumably it was franked 65c since it was a private letter.
- ♦ The blank French registration label has the ANECHO canceller on it; this has not been recorded previously (Ref. 4).



1 April 1915 Military Cover from Anecho to Saint Maurice, France (Reverse)
Grand-Popo, Dahomey Transit and S^t Maurice Arrival Markings

Michael Ensor has commented that the sender did not necessarily need to pay any postage on the letter, though perhaps the registration fee, as he had military privileges.

References

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, p28, WASC, Sheffield 1995
2. Ibid, p27
3. Ibid, p43
4. Ibid, p81

Joubert Head Die Proofs Used on Colonial Keyplates

Philip Beale

Several years ago I bought at auction a beautiful example of the Joubert Head printed on a glazed card, resembling the Die Proofs produced by De La Rue. The auctioneer and I took it to be a genuine Die Proof of particular interest because it was struck in green ink. This head was used on the Keyplate Series 2 and 3 and is seen on all the West African colonial stamps.

I decided to send it to the Royal Philatelic Society's expert committee for authentication. Their Certificate No 119586 confirmed it to be a forgery. The auctioneers kindly refunded my purchase money. The moral is that when seeing a rare item that has not been recorded it is best to send it to the Expert Committee.

For members interested in studying the designs and heads on British and Colonial stamps I recommend John Easton's *British Postage Stamp Design* (Ref. 1). There is also an excellent booklet by Robson Lowe *The De La Rue Keyplates* (Ref. 2). Our late member, Jim Whitfield, assembled a magnificent collection of the Imperium Essays for the colonial stamps that used this Joubert Head and it provided the basis of Robson Lowe's study.

References

- 1 Easton J., *British Postage Stamp Design*, Faber 1944.
- 2 Robson Lowe, *The De La Rue Keyplates*, Robson Lowe 1979



Murray Payne Ltd

P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2EW
Telephone: 01934 732511
Fax: 01934 733498

An invitation

You are invited to write for your specialised lists covering your own countries of interest. Irregularly produced, these will automatically be sent to those requesting them, as they appear.

You are also invited to ask us to send you our bi-monthly newsletter 'Sixth Sense' which contains news and articles, mainly related to the King George VI period.

Your wants list for this period are invited.

WANTED

WE URGENTLY NEED TO PURCHASE *PRE 1952* MATERIAL
FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

ASCENSION	LAGOS	SIERRA LEONE
BAHRAIN	MADAGASCAR	SOMALILAND
BASUTOLAND	MAURITIUS	SOUTH AFRICA
BECHUANALAND	MOROCCO AGENCIES	SOUTH WEST AFRICA
BRITISH EAST AFRICA	MUSCAT	SOUTHERN NIGERIA
BRITISH LEVANT	NATAL	SOUTHERN RHODESIA
BRITISH OCC OF ITALIAN COLS	NEW REPUBLIC	STELLALAND
BRITISH PO IN E. ARABIA	NIGER COAST	SUDAN
CAMEROONS	NIGERIA	SWAZILAND
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	NORTHERN NIGERIA	TANGANYIKA
FALKLAND ISLANDS	NORTHERN RHODESIA	TOGO
GAMBIA	NYASALAND	TRANSVAAL
GOLD COAST	ORANGE FREE STATE	TRISTAN DA CUNHA
GRIQUALAND WEST	RHODESIA	UGANDA
K. U. T.	ST HELENA	ZANZIBAR
KUWAIT	SEYCHELLES	ZULULAND

WE NEED TO BUY:

- ♦ SPECIALISED ONE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS
- ♦ MINT & USED ACCUMULATIONS OF STAMPS
- ♦ POSTAL HISTORY & POSTAL STATIONERY
- ♦ SCARCE TO RARE SINGLE ITEMS
- ♦ POSTMARKS & POSTMARK STUDIES
- ♦ VARIETIES & ERRORS
- ♦ BOOKLETS & BOOKLET PANES
- ♦ SPECIMENS, PROOFS, ESSAYS & TRIALS
- ♦ FISCAL, REVENUE & CINDERELLA STAMPS
- ♦ PHILATELIC LITERATURE



WHAT CAN YOU OFFER ???

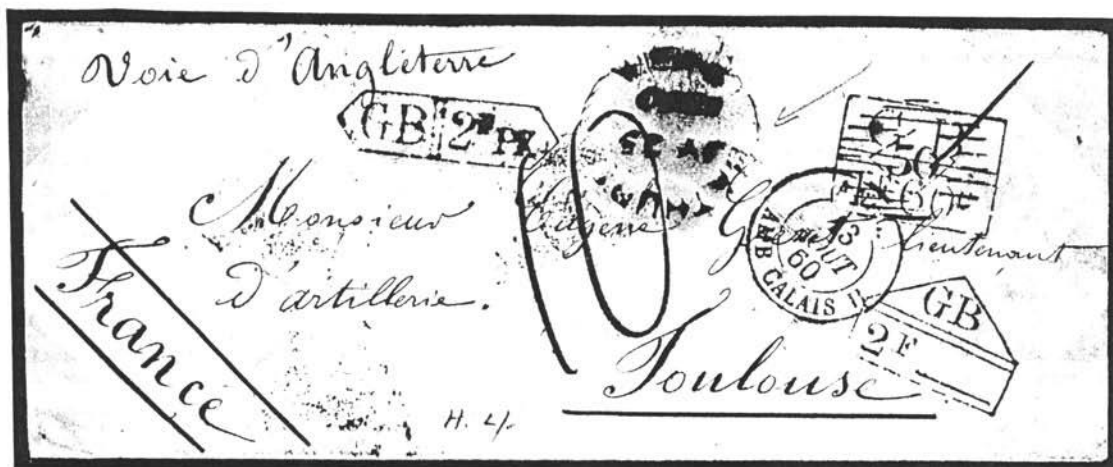
PLEASE ADVISE FIRST BY WRITING, TELEPHONING OR FAXING :



STEVE ELLIS

THE LAURELS, BRISTOL ROAD, CHURCHILL, BRISTOL, AVON, BS19 5NL, ENGLAND
TEL / FAX 01934-852199

THE GAMBIA



The Earliest Recorded Unpaid Cover with a Gambia Postmark

Our January 31st Auction in Derby includes this fine cover.

For those of you who find lots occasionally in our sales and would like an easy way to check the results, try the internet. Access is via:

<http://www.thesaurus.co.uk/cavendish>

We are currently preparing an Africa sale and would welcome your consignments.

Also, our "PACIFIC 97" brochure, for the major international show in San Francisco, is in preparation. If you would like us to offer your rarities to this worldwide audience please contact James Grimwood-Taylor or Ken Baker as soon as possible.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR ALL CATALOGUES -
UK £30 - EUROPE £50 - OVERSEAS £60

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE WRITE, PHONE OR FAX



CAVENDISH HOUSE, 153-157, LONDON ROAD,

DERBY DE1 2SY, ENGLAND

Tel: 01332 346753 Fax: 01332 294440





Warwick & Warwick

Warwick & Warwick deliver – whatever your requirements!

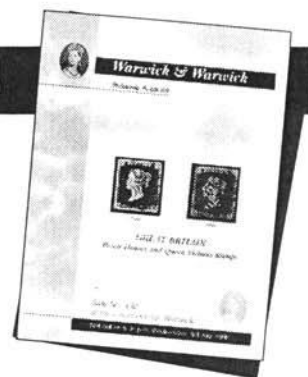
Let our qualified personnel advise and help you come to the right decision concerning your collection. Whether it's through our Auction Service, planning ahead with the Trustee Department or providing you with a qualified, confidential, free valuation on your collection, Warwick & Warwick are at your service.

MONTHLY AUCTIONS

Warwick & Warwick hold approximately twenty – public auctions annually in the Warwick showrooms.

General material, named specialised collections, also postal history, envelopes, postcards and other collectables including medals and militaria are regularly reaching high prices under the Warwick & Warwick hammer.

Send for a complimentary specimen Auction Catalogue.



TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT

Plan ahead by registering details of your collection with the unique and confidential 'Warwick & Warwick Trustee Service'.

The department will ensure the correct method of sale of your valuable collection after your death and in accordance with your instructions.

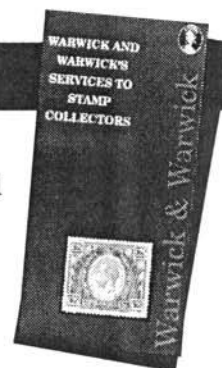
Our 'Trustee Service' Brochure contains full details.

FREE VALUATIONS

Are you considering the sale of your collection? Let Warwick & Warwick help and advise you with a free and without obligation valuation.

We have a valuation team covering all parts of the country ready to call and advise you.

Our 'Services to Stamp Collectors' brochure will help you.



Warwick & Warwick

Warwick & Warwick Limited, Pageant House, Jury Street,

Warwick CV34 4EW. England.

Tel: 01926-499031. Fax: 01926-491906.



For finest service for
BRITISH AFRICA
(1850 - 1960)

- * Our comprehensive **Index** provides a fine reference guide to all issues that we cover.
- * Our monthly **Buy / Bid sale** catalogue covers higher value singles, collections, varieties, Postal History and books. Also, an **updated current list of all stamps held in stock**.
- * We sell all stamps as **singles**, not just as sets.
- * Our **quality and service** is first class and immediate.
- * **Personal attention** is given by Terry Garcia (Trading since 1964).
- * We **BUY** as well as sell, either individual stamps (for each of which we have a buy price), or whole **collections**. Our requirement lists available on request.
- * We **guarantee** satisfaction on every purchase made from us.
- * **French Colonies** fully covered as well, including all **West African** issues.

VISA

TELEPHONE OR SEND TODAY

Mastercard

GARCIA'S BRITISH AFRICA.

80 Willingdon Rd., Eastbourne, East Sussex. BN21 1TW, UK Tel. or Fax. (01323) 721444

Quality British Commonwealth
POSTAL HISTORY

Catering to the discriminating collector

Specialising in pre-1953, non-FDC material
We stock all Commonwealth areas except B.N.A.

If you are not already on our Wants Register, please drop us a line and let us know your requirements. We shall be pleased to send photocopies of available material.

ALWAYS KEEN BUYERS OF
CHOICE POSTAL HISTORY



Willard S. Allman



828 Arrow Lane, Ridgewood

NJ 07450, U.S.A.

Tel. 0101-201-652-4858.



New Year Auction

A selection of interesting items
from our January 28th - 29th
1997 auction.

Fine groups of ASCENSION

Including the John Plant Collection

FRANCE

NEW GUINEA

LONG ISLAND

MAFIA ISLAND

TOGO

MODERN ERRORS & VARIETIES
OF GREAT BRITAIN and
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

and, as usual, World Wide and One
Country Collections.

Complimentary catalogues are
available on request.

Contact Graham Childs, David
Parsons or Dominic Savastano
at the address below for further
details of buying and selling
through Harmers.

ESTABLISHED 1918
HARMERS
of L O N D O N

Stamp Auctioneers Ltd

91 NEW BOND STREET,

LONDON W1A 4EH

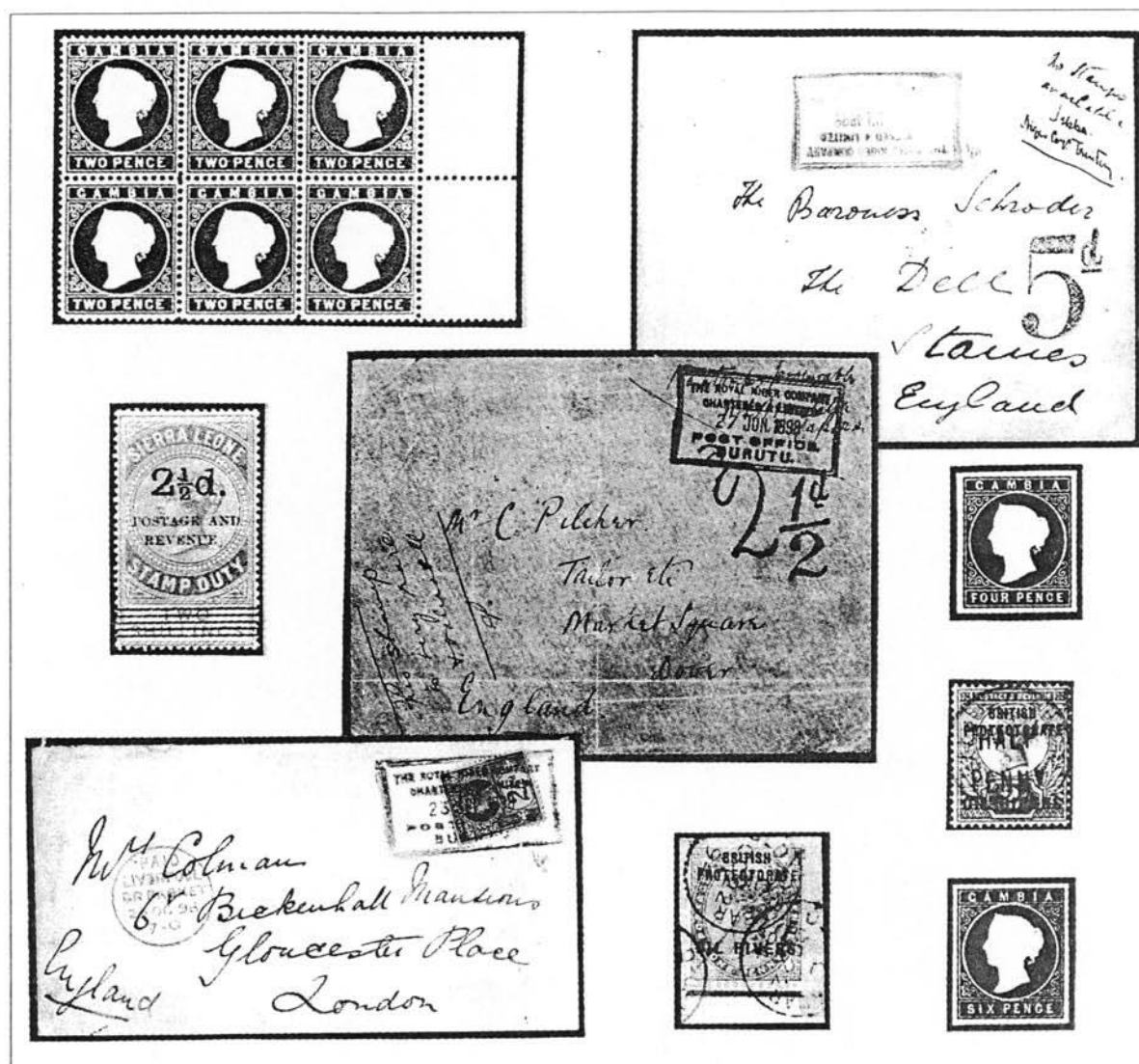
TEL: 0171 629 0218

FAX: 0171 495 0260



SEE US AT STAMPEX - STAND 48

Auctions of stamps and covers are held in London most Thursdays, with many opportunities for the collector of postal history and stamps of West Africa



We are pleased to record your specialised collecting interests, and in the event of an important section coming for sale, we will send you a complimentary catalogue.

For further information on buying and selling through our auctions please contact David Boyd or Brian Cartwright.

Tel : (0171) 629 1877 Fax : (0171) 409 3466

LONDON



Phillips

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

101 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AS